THE WIRE

VOL. 6

January—December 1952



THE WIRE

The Corps Magazine of the
ROYAL SIGNALS
The Official Organ of the
SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

Editor:
Lieutenant-Colonel H. R. FIRTH

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PRICE ONE SHILLING

Editorial

THE December Editorial described how the rising cost of printing had forced the Corps Committee to consider very seriously the future of THE WIRE.

The cost of production of THE WIRE during 1951 has averaged 1/4d. per copy, and this could not continue. There were two obvious courses, to cease publication or to raise the price per copy. Both these are objectionable.

The Corps Committee have decided on what may be a less unpalatable solution.

THE WIRE is to continue to sell at 1/- and is, therefore, one of the few magazines which have not increased in price in the last few years. The only way that this can be done is to decrease the number of pages. To do this requires most drastic overhaul of our present arrangements for securing copy.

During 1951 a WIRE of 32-36 pages consisted of about 25 pages of Regimental notes, about five pages of short stories and articles and five pages of editorial matter. This last includes such as the Personal Column; Births, Marriages and Deaths; notices of Reunions and notification of Employment Vacancies.

The future WIRE must consist of 20-24 pages and, therefore, there will be fewer short stories and articles and less editorial matter. The major cut must be made in Regimental notes. It is thought, therefore, that the best way to achieve this is for Regiments to send their notes six or seven times a year rather than for each issue. A study of Regimental notes over a period reveals that in many cases the "Unit Correspondent" has, with little or nothing to write about, forced himself to 800 or 1,000 words merely to keep up the monthly contribution. If this could cease great economy would result.

As always, what is of real interest to a majority of Royal Signals will be published, and it will help a much harassed Editor if Regiments can forecast to him the space they will need for some special event.

No one regrets the necessity for these economies more than the Editorial staff, and all correspondents are asked to forbear in criticism of necessary cuts in copy sent in.

This, the January issue, is a difficult one. It is necessary to send a proportion of copy to the printer as soon as it is received. About half the contents of this number went to the printer before 8th December. These notes and articles are, therefore, in the scale of 1951. To compensate, copy received after 8th December has in nearly all cases had to be re-written to force it into the compass of the few remaining pages.

Every possible effort will be made in February and March to raise the standard so that THE WIRE, though smaller, will be as worth while as formerly.

Major-General W. A. Scott, C.B., C.B.E., writes to all in Royal Signals:

I should like to make use of the wide circulation of our Corps magazine, which reaches all ranks, past and present, Regular and Reserve, to thank all members of the Corps for the inspiring support they have given me during my three years as Director of Signals. It has been a period of stress such as we have never before known in times of peace, yet in every test the Corps has come through in triumph. Only through "The Wire" can I reach and thank all those, from Signalman to C.S.O., who have made this possible.

Director of Signals becomes Director of Weapons and Development

ON the termination of his office as Director of Signals Major-General W. A. Scott, C.B., C.B.E., has been appointed Director of Weapons and Development. The Corps has been honoured and warmly congratulates him on his new appointment and wishes him every success in this very important branch of the Army. The unsettled conditions in the world today call for constant changes and development in weapons and it is significant that a Royal Signals Officer should have been selected to guide this policy.

During the past three years General Scott has not only strengthened the foundations of the Corps but has also been confronted with a very considerable expansion in the Army, which has probably affected Signals more than any other arm. His method of making his fellow Directors understand, and therefore meet, the requirements of the Corps is a mixture of determination, sincerity and charm. This method has not only ensured that the expansion proceeded smoothly, but has also served to increase the standing of the Signals Directorate in the War Office. Despite this expansion Royal Signals has maintained and enhanced its reputation in work and play. This is largely due to the leadership of the Director. He has travelled widely, visiting his Units in all parts of the world, giving advice and encouragement for increasing efficiency and improving the welfare of the troops.

By precept and example the Director has impressed on all that a Commander's first duty is to his men and that, although he himself combines a full share of both, soldierly qualities are more important than purely technical ability. Outwardly he may appear to some as rather aloof or even forbidding. Beneath this, however, there lies a sympathy and understanding which is particularly evident in his interest in all young Officers passing through Catterick, whose training curriculum he himself designed. Many who had not appreciated this underlying sympathy have been astounded at the end of an inspection or tour to find that every detail has been noticed, as a result of which they have been the recipients of well-merited appreciation or constructive advice. General Scott is renowned for his immaculate appearance on all occasions and has always in every way set himself a very high standard which, if we could all achieve it, would indeed make us a *corps d'elite*.

THE BENEVOLENT FUND

So many are ignorant of the work done by the Welfare Section in operating the Benevolent Fund that we propose to give from time to time typical instances.

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The following are taken from amongst those dealt with in ONE day.

Ex-Regular N.C.O. Twelve years' service and invalided out. His wife has been in hospital for nearly a year, during which time he kept his job AND kept the home going. He has three children all of school age. He has his own house on mortgage. In time he himself became sick and was away from work for several weeks, but has restarted work. During these weeks his income dropped to one-third of the normal.

S.S.A.F.A. reported this case on Saturday and a grant was made on the following Thursday.

Ex-Driver. Six years' war service. He was earning well over £6 a week until he became ill. His income then dropped to under £3 a week. S.S.A.F.A. reported that he had run into debt. The Benevolent Fund paid the debt and he is now back at work.

A Young National Service Man whose wife is expecting a baby. The Fund helped towards the necessary expenses.

Ex-Driver. Three years' war service. Has been in hospital for two years. He pays his very small income over to his mother, leaving for himself nothing. Is a little better. A grant was made to get him some clothes.

A Reservist Home From Korea wrote to the Association on Friday, " Starting work Monday but do not get paid until Friday—broke—expecting final pay and gratuity from Paymaster, but until it comes have no money for fares and lunches."

The Fund sent him a small sum in notes as a grant. First post Monday brought another letter returning the money as the Regimental Paymaster had beaten the Welfare Section to it.

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The total sum involved in all these little stories was only £35. Never was a truer word spoken than " a little help quickly given, etc."

The disbursements of the Fund average well over £500 a month.

ORDER OF DRESS

The War Office have recently approved certain embellishments for wear by two T.A. Regiments of Royal Signals which had a long tradition in the Army before they were transferred to Royal Signals.

The Middlesex Yeomanry (now 16 Airborne Divisional Signal Regiment (T.A.))

(a) All ranks are to wear a green and fawn lanyard in material similar to the rigging line of a Service parachute. This lanyard was adopted during the war by 6 Airborne Divisional Signal Regiment, whose C.O., Lieutenant-Colonel Smallman-Tew, was killed in action. The Middlesex Yeomanry, as the only surviving Airborne Divisional Signal Regiment, have appropriately adopted this lanyard. The " rigging line " lanyard will be worn instead of the normal blue lanyard of the Corps.

(b) Approval has also been given for N.C.O.s of the Regiment to wear Household Cavalry badges of rank. This approval merely makes official a custom of long standing. The privilege of wearing these badges of rank was granted by Queen Victoria when the Regiment (then the Uxbridge Yeomanry Cavalry) performed Royal Escort duties with the Household Cavalry between 1837 and 1851.

(Note: The badges of rank, worn on the upper arm, are:

Lance-Corporal and Corporal	Two chevrons and a crown
Sergeant	Three chevrons and a crown
Staff Sergeant	Four chevrons and a crown).

Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment (Signal Reporting Regiment (T.A.))

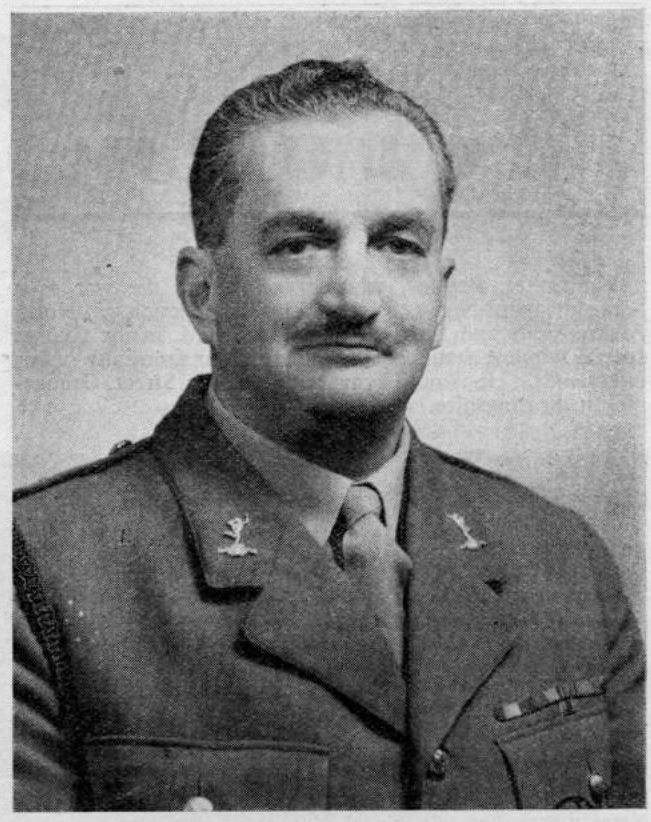
The Regiment was raised as the 4th Middlesex Volunteer Rifle Corps in 1859, becoming the Kensingtons in 1905, and served as Infantry until the last war, when it became a Machine Gun Battalion. In 1947 on the reconstitution of the Territorial Army it was transferred to Royal Signals. The full dress of the Regiment was grey with red facings. A lanyard of these colours has been approved for wear by all ranks of the Regiment in place of the normal blue lanyard of the Corps.

EMPLOYMENT VACANCIES—CANCELLATION

Postmaster General's Department, Australia.—Recruitment of telecommunications personnel from the United Kingdom is suspended until further notice.

VALE

Lieutenant-Colonel H. R. Firth



THE retirement of H. R. Firth (Henry Firth to the Corps at large) which took place on 31st December, 1951, cannot be allowed to pass unnoticed. Though almost too young in years to be part of it, he belongs by temperament and attributes to that vanishing band, the Officers of the 1914-18 epoch and before, when life and outlook in the Army was, dare one say it, a more happy-go-lucky affair than the endless toil it has now become.

Personality, individuality and attention to achieving the objects in hand were the things that counted, and not an exact adherence to regulations and returns. Not even his worst enemy could say that Henry Firth was lacking in the three first. The best judge of a man is the soldier, and, among soldiers, the Indian soldier with his martial tradition behind him. Not least of these, the Pathan from the N.W. Frontier. One had only to see the respect accorded to Firth by his section of Pathans from the Kurram to have proof of his qualities as a leader in his far off subaltern days. These qualities never left him throughout his service. Tough with, and loyal to, those under him, and certainly loyal to those above him when he felt they knew their minds, still loyal when he felt they did not, for he would never hesitate to tell them so.

After Stonyhurst (where he represented the School at football and cricket) and the R.M.A., Sandhurst, he was commissioned in the Lancashire Fusiliers in 1918 and served with them until seconded to Signals in Rawalpindi in 1924. Possibly the unorthodox behaviour of a C.O.'s charger, which may have been traced to the training of Firth, hastened this secondment. On such minor incidents a career is often based, for he never left the Corps and finally transferred in 1926.

After transfer he continued with the 1 Indian Divisional Signals in Rawalpindi until 1930. Among other activities, he was largely instrumental in putting Signals on the map in the Great North of India Horse Show, an annual affair. The Unit began to feature largely in the prize lists and Firth's mules won the championship three years in succession. During his stay in India he was middleweight champion of the Northern Command, and many are the stories of rough treatment meted out to ill-mannered inhabitants, varying from the bearded Pathan of the North West Frontier Province, who found his way into the Kabul River, to the vulgar Babu of Lahore who fell from the foot bridge in the main railway station.

Then to eight years in the U.K., four in the Training Battalion at Catterick, where he trained motor cyclists and had the running of the Royal Signals display team from 1931 to 1934, in the days when motor cycles and horses appeared in the arena together. For the second four years, Adjutant of the 56 (City of London) Divisional Signals, T.A., then back to India again, where the war found him.

The next six years, from early 1939 to the autumn of 1944, were probably the most active and crowded of Firth's career. Beginning as a Major he finished a Brigadier, C.S.O. of a Corps in Burma. During this period he was with a Unit from Pindi actively employed on the North West Frontier, twice mentioned in despatches, in training appointments in the Southern Command (India), leading up to Chief Signal Officer North Western Army in India. From the vast scope of this latter appointment he became C.S.O., 33 Indian Corps, and took part in operations in Assam, at Kohima and at Imphal.

On reversion to the U.K. after this long period of foreign service a few minor appointments came his way, cheerfully accepted without complaint, so it was not long before D. Signals once again made him a Brigadier, this time with the Control Commission in Germany. Here he met with considerable success in dealing with our Allies of those days, obtaining much information and many an agreement over the convivial board when this was impossible at the formal conference table.

So to retirement, through the A.A. Command and C.S.O. London District, for which appointment he was especially chosen as well able to deal with the Horseguards and their many and varied problems. Besides taking these in his stride, he has found time to organise and run a series of Corps Dinner Club functions, acknowledged by all to be the most successful the Corps has ever known.

Though retiring, the Corps is not losing the efficient service Henry Firth has always so readily given. He now becomes Secretary of the Royal Signals Association, where there is plenty of scope and outlet for his boundless energy. We all hope that he will long remain with the Association, and wish him the best of good fortune.

THE SUPPLEMENTARY RESERVE

We were wrongly informed of the addresses of two Commanding Officers shown in the list on page 385 of the November number.

Lieutenant-Colonel W. E. Gill, T.D., M.I.E.E. 55 L. of C. Signal Regiment, S.R.	The Croft, Wynnstay Lane, Marford, Nr. Wrexham.
Lieutenant-Colonel A. J. E. Johnson 52 Air Formation Signal Regiment, S.R.	Westfield Cottage, Winkfield Row, Bracknell, Berks.

PERSONAL COLUMN

Mr. G. H. Bentley, who served during the war as a Sergeant with No. 1 Special Wireless Section in North Africa, Sicily and Italy, and then as C.S.M. in the Cyprus special wireless station, is anxious to hear from any of his old friends. He is now living at 10 Tedder Street, Grangemouth, Stirlingshire.

Promotions

To be Lieutenant-Colonels (*London Gazette*, 9th November):

Major (T.O.T.) E. H. Spindler.
Major (T.O.M.) A. F. Herbert, M.B.E.
Major (Q.M.) J. S. Mitchell.

To be Lieutenant-Colonels (*London Gazette*, 16th November):

Major (T.O.T.) D. Todd, M.B.E.
Major R. B. E. Eraut.

Retirements

Lieutenant-Colonel (T.O.T.) S. C. McGregor, O.B.E., to R.A.R.O. on 13th November (*London Gazette*, 16th November).

Lieutenant-Colonel W. E. Horniman to R.A.R.O. on 6th January.

Movements of Officers

Major B. G. Sell from M.E.L.F. to Allied Air Forces, Central Europe.

Lieutenant-Colonel H. Winterbotham from M.E.L.F. to War Office Signal Regiment.

Lieutenant-Colonel E. P. Blake from War Office Signal Regiment to School of Signals.

Colonel J. H. L. Crighton from School of Signals to East Africa.

Lieutenant-Colonel C. Nettleship from M.E.L.F. to 7 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment.

Lieutenant-Colonel R. C. B. Stuart from Northern Command (M.) Signal Regiment to FARELF.

Lieutenant-Colonel A. Hill from Depot to Northern Command (M.) Signal Regiment.

Major J. K. V. Lee from S.R.D.E. to S.H.A.P.E.

Major J. Dodd from Scottish Command (M.) Signal Regiment to Korea.

Major M. McG. Simmonds from 3 Training Regiment to 3 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment.

Major P. Wolfendale from 3 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment to S.R.D.E.

Major (Q.M.) A. M. Yorke from 12 A.A. (M.) Signal Regiment to A.L.F.C.E. Signal Squadron.

Captain M. Foster, W.R.A.C., from 53 Signal Squadron, W.R.A.C. (T.A.) to 1 Signal Squadron, W.R.A.C.

Lieutenant-Colonel L. J. D. Read from C.R. Signals 7 Armoured Division to be O.C. 4 L. of C. Signal Regiment.

Movements of Warrant and Non-Commissioned Officers

W.O.II D. Davies from 2 Squadron 2 L. of C. Signal Regiment to 7 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment on promotion to W.O.I (R.S.M.).

S.Q.M.S. R. C. Routledge and family from U.K. to 7 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment.

Amendment to November Issue

Delete all reference to S.Q.M.S. S. R. Houghton and family joining 7 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment.

Births

ARTHUR.—To Corporal and Mrs. W. J. Arthur, 7 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment, on 17th October, at B.M.H., Hanover, a son—Victor Bruce.

BALD.—To Sergeant and Mrs. Bald, H.Q., B.A.O.R. Signal Regiment, on 22nd July, a son—Peter Francis.

BROWN.—To Corporal and Mrs. F. J. Brown, 7 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment, on 16th October, at B.M.H., Hanover, a daughter—Doreen.

HIGGS.—To Corporal and Mrs. Higgs, H.Q., B.A.O.R. Signal Regiment, on 26th October, a son—Harold Frederick.

JONES.—To Corporal and Mrs. D. H. Jones, 7 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment, on 17th April, at B.M.H., Hamburg, twins—Harry and Daniel.

NAPPER.—To Major (Q.M.) H. Napper, 1 Commonwealth Divisional Signal Regiment, and Mrs. Napper, on 29th July, at the Married Families' Hospital, Catterick Camp, twin daughters—Amanda Jane and Katherine Mary.

SEARLE.—To Sergeant and Mrs. A. E. Searle, User Trials Squadron, at Catterick Military Hospital, on 20th October, a daughter—Gillian Elizabeth.

SKYVINGTON.—To Corporal and Mrs. H. Skyvington, 50 (N.) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A., a daughter.

SWIFT.—To Private and Mrs. Swift, H.Q., B.A.O.R. Signal Regiment, on 10th November, a son—John Peter.

Marriage

CROCKER—WEATHERILL.—On 1st December, 1951, Sergeant H. J. Crocker, B.E.M., Royal Signals No. 6 (Boys) Training Regiment, Royal Signals, second son of Major and Mrs. A. E. Crocker, 14 Glen Drive, Stoke Bishop, Bristol, to Marjorie, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Weatherill, "Bilsdale," Hull Bridge, Beverley.

Obituary

Their many friends in Royal Signals will be grieved to read of the sad death at the end of December of both Colonel P. R. Bald, D.S.O., and his wife. A fuller notice will appear in a subsequent issue of THE WIRE.

Deaths

DEVENISH.—22228454 S.Q.M.S. (F. of S.) G. Devenish, on 3rd November, at Military Hospital, York.

HAGUE.—22538553 Signalman R. Hague, on 4th November, in B.A.O.R.

HUNT.—22413355 Signalman R. C. Hunt, on 11th November, at British Military Hospital, Fayid.

LEATON.—GD/22068615 Lance-Corporal K. Leaton, on 19th November, in M.E.L.F.

MARR.—22287551 Signalman H. W. Marr, on 1st November, at British Military Hospital, Singapore.

SPILLANE.—22325891 Signalman R. C. Spillane, on 28th November, in M.E.L.F.

Wounded in Action

DALY.—5885016 Signalman R. R. Daly, on 5th November, in Korea.

Injured in Action

BEARD.—GD/22429007 Signalman R. F. Beard, on 10th November, in Ismailia.

H.R.H. THE PRINCESS ROYAL INSTALLED

Chancellor of Leeds University

ON 9th November, 1951, Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal was installed as Chancellor of Leeds University and opened the Parkinson Building of the University.

Behind this simple statement lies a wealth of pageantry, colour and civic and military ceremonial. It was a day which will long stand out in the memories of those who were privileged to take part in or witness the ceremonies.

Shortly before 10.30 a.m., led by the Band and Drums of the West Yorkshire Regiment, the Guard of Honour, comprising three Officers, two Warrant Officers, two Sergeants and 96 Rank and File of the Regiments of the Signal Training Centre, Catterick, marched proudly from Great Fenton Street Barracks to the steps of the Town Hall. Precisely at 10.45 a.m., Her Royal Highness' car turned into the Headrow and a few moments later drew up at the foot of the Town Hall steps, where the Bursar of the University, in cap and gown, awaited her arrival.

At the head of the first flight of steps leading to the Town Hall Her Royal Highness was given a Royal Salute by the Guard of Honour. Accompanied by the Commander of the Guard and the Bursar she then inspected the Guard of Honour and the Band of the West Yorkshire Regiment.

After a short interval the ceremony of installation began within the densely packed Town Hall. After the Pro-Chancellor had declared the congregation open, the Registrar announced to the congregation the election of the Chancellor.

Then followed the actual ceremony of installation. The Vice-Chancellor called upon the Pro-Chancellor to conduct Her Royal Highness to the Hall. The Pro-Chancellor, accompanied by the Bursar and the Registrar, proceeded to the antechamber of the Hall and escorted Her Royal Highness, now dressed in her Chancellor's robes and attended by her page. On her appearance an impressive fanfare was sounded by the Trumpeters of the Royal Corps of Signals and she was received by the Vice-Chancellor. *The whole scene was one of vivid colour and majestic* ceremonial.

Her Royal Highness' first act as Chancellor was to confer



a number of Honorary Degrees on prominent members of the University staff and other civic dignitaries, after which she declared the congregation closed.

The afternoon ceremony of opening the Parkinson Building held the same pattern of colour and pageantry as the morning ceremony. Her Royal Highness was received on the steps of the Parkinson Building by the Pro-Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor, who presented to her the architect and others responsible for the design and construction of that vast and magnificent building. The architect presented Her Royal Highness with a ceremonial key of silver and gold with which she unlocked the Great Door. As she entered the Court a further fanfare was sounded by the Trumpeters of the Corps who, as at the morning ceremony, were dressed in full-dress uniform. The fanfares sounded at both the morning and afternoon ceremonies were specially composed for the occasion by Captain J. L. Judd, M.B.E., Director of Music. Her Royal Highness then moved in procession to the platform and declared the building open.

Finally, as a fitting closure to an impressive ceremony Her Royal Highness called upon the Bishop of Ripon to unveil and dedicate memorials to those members of the University who had lost their lives in the two World Wars. After the ceremony of dedication, the "Last Post" and "Reveille" were sounded by the Buglers of the West Yorkshire Regiment. The Chancellor then declared the congregation closed.

A photograph of the Colonel-in-Chief inspecting the Guard of Honour appeared in the December number.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Army Team Fixtures

Association Football: 22nd February, Final Boys' Army Challenge Cup, at Aldershot.

Rugby Football: 23rd January, Army v. Police; 2nd February, Army v. Cambridge U., at Cambridge; 14th February, Army v. Territorial Army, at Leicester.

Cross-Country Running: 15th February, Eastern Command Championships, at Colchester.

Boxing: 7th/8th February, Army Boys' Individual Championships, Chepstow.

Royal Signals Rugby Football Club

January 23	v. R.A.O.C., at Aldershot.
February 2	v. Durham City, at Catterick.
February 13	v. Leeds University, at Catterick.
February 20	v. Stonyhurst, at Stonyhurst.

Royal Signals Hockey Club

February 2	v. Royal Engineers, at Catterick.
February 20	v. R.E.M.E., at Catterick.

Aldershot Branch

26th January, 1952: Annual Re-union and Dance at 8 p.m. in the NAAFI, Barrosa Barracks, Aldershot. Charge per head per member and wife, or friend, 8s. 6d. Enquiries to the Honorary Secretary, W. J. Abbott, Esq., 42 King's Road, Aldershot, Hants.

"Plain Tales," by Barleux, is on page 13



The above photograph was taken during the farewell party in 11 A.A. (M.) Signal Regiment's Sergeants' Mess on the occasion of the departure of their Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel G. H. T. Shrimpton, who had served so long with the Regiment.

Signal Training Centre

1 TRAINING REGIMENT

A successful dance was held for the benefit of the married families' Christmas party.

Association Football. After a disappointing defeat in the first round of the Army Cup we have won our way to the semi-final of the Northumbrian District Cup.

Corporal Warrender has been awarded his Corps Colours.

Hockey. Playing in the Winter League we have lost two only of the nine matches played.

Shooting. In the Garrison .22 Small Bore League we have won all seven of our matches. Corporal Churchill leads in individual scores with an average of 95.25.

3 TRAINING REGIMENT

The Regiment, consisting of four training squadrons, is now split up into three locations: R.H.Q., 1 and 2 Squadrons at Bourlon Lines, 4 Squadron at Aisne Lines, and 3 Squadron at Gallowgate Camp. Despite the drawbacks of such divisions training is carried out to the best of our ability much as before.

Gallowgate Camp, which is the latest division, is situated on a hill overlooking Richmond and has its only communication with R.H.Q. in the form of a rather doubtful telephone system. It has been suggested that we use heliograph. We are now waiting for the sun to shine.

The following, now serving with the Regiment, have been awarded the L.S. and G.C. Medal: S.S.M. Sims, S.Q.M.S. Ashworth, Sergeant Lewis, Sergeant Harding.

Shooting. The team that was sent to Bisley did quite well. Corporal Dillon (3 Squadron) gave a very good performance by finishing 15th in Class "B."

The Regimental small bore team is again this season competing in the Catterick Garrison League. They have started the season with a swing by winning their first two matches. Led by Second-Lieutenant Grayson, who last season put up a very good average of 93, we hope to maintain this early season standard.

Boxing. The only match we have competed in so far this season was against a Training Regiment, R.A.C., in the first round of the Army Cup, whom we beat by nine fights to two.

We hope to better last season's performance, when we reached the semi-final of the Garrison open Inter-Unit championships.

Football. This season the Regimental football team have so far put up a good performance. The main concern now is team building, as many of last season's players have now left us. Notable of these is Corporal Wragg, who is now doing well with Rotherham United.

We avenged our last season's defeat by 5 Training Regiment, Royal Signals, in the second round of the Army Cup by defeating them in the same round this season by two goals to one.

Hockey. Of the many various sporting teams actively engaged for the Regiment the hockey XI has shown itself well to the fore—at least on the form and results of recent months.

It was rather frustrating to hear that we failed to carry off top honours in the Summer League by the all important .005 of a goal and thus had to be content as runners-up.

After unfortunate setbacks in the two opening matches of the Winter League, due to injuries, the team has now settled down to a reasonable all-round standard of play.

4 TRAINING REGIMENT

Seasonal social activities in the Officers' and in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Messes are recorded.

A Regimental drill parade with the Corps Band at the end of November was an innovation. 3 Squadron is now producing operators instead of operators wireless and line. No. 5 Squadron not only won the Regiment (Inter-Squadron) boxing competition, but have beaten all other Squadrons except No. 4 at rugger.

The Regimental soccer team have won two out of seven games so far. The hockey team have won the third round of the cup, beating last year's cup holders 4—2. In rugger we have had bad luck, the team having been weakened by injury. Games played so far have resulted in four won, three lost. The Regimental boxing team were beaten by a Training Regiment R.A.C. with a formidable reputation.

6 (BOYS) TRAINING REGIMENT

The Michaelmas term is now nearly ended. The last examinations have been held and preparations are being made towards sending 450 Boys on Christmas leave.

At this stage it is possible to assess the successes and failures of the present term. Experience has shown that certain changes will have to be made in the working of the more advanced training programme which was introduced at the beginning of the term. It is, however, felt that the general principles of that programme are sound. A more comprehensive interpretation of military training appears to have captured the interest of the boys, and the initiation of basic trade training has brought to the fore the fact that we are part of a technical Corps.

The outstanding feature of the Regimental sporting activities is the appearance of a cadre rugger team. Last year a scratch team met with monotonous defeat. This year so far, we are undefeated, and on 12th December scored 43—0 against a Training Regiment, R.A.C., in the second round of the Northern Command Cup.

Considerable attention has been paid to the Boys' boxing team. Apart from internal Regimental competitions a contest was arranged with the York Combined Youth Clubs' team, in which we lost only three fights out of 16. In a contest with the Army Apprentices School at Harrogate we were defeated.

The Boys' Regimental soccer team has so far reached the semi-finals of the Northern Command Boys' Challenge Cup and the third round of the Boys' Army Cup. In the Squadrons, "B" Squadron team heads Division III of Hull District Minor League and "A" Squadron are placed eighth in Division I of that League.

A most popular innovation during the term has been a fell walking expedition for a number of the Boys, under the auspices of Durham University Mountaineering Club.



[Courtesy: "Hull Daily Mail"

The G.O.C. in C. presents the British Empire Medal to Sergeant H. J. Crocker

A renewal form for "The Wire" for 1952 is enclosed with this issue.

The annual subscription rate is increased from 10s. to 12s.

All Subscribers who have not paid for 1952 by 10th February must be deleted from the mailing list.

7 TRAINING REGIMENT

The G.O.C. Northumbrian District visited us on 15th November and inspected the procedure on intake from civil life, where he saw what happens to a National Service man during his first few hours in the Regiment.

We are now in the fourth round of the Army Football Cup, having beaten the Mercian Brigade Training Centre by three goals to one. The scorers were Lance-Corporals Webster, Tyrell and Wood.

In the second round of the Northumbrian District Cup we defeated a Training Regiment, R.A.C., by one goal to nil.

This was a very hard and fast game, the only goal being scored by Lance-Corporal Webster during the second half.

Signalman Frear, our clever inside left and the latest member of the team, is to be selected for Command honours.

There are now five members of this Regiment in the Northern Command team which play Southern Command in the Inter-Command final on Leeds United ground on Wednesday, 12th December. They are: Private Snowball, Lance-Corporal Rowlings, Sergeant Cromar, Corporal Foster and Signalman Frear.

When we play the next round of the Army Cup in early January this match will be the last appearance of Corporal Foster, our captain, who is being demobbed. We shall miss him.

THE DEPOT REGIMENT

A contingent, mainly found from Headquarter Squadron under command of Major F. Cosstick and assisted by buglers from 6 (Boys) Training Regiment, took part in the Armistice Day Parade.

Headquarters Squadron are also top of the Regimental football league.

The "machinery" works both ways and it is often necessary to retrieve one or more individuals of the large batches of National Service men moving from overseas to release who have strayed into a similar batch who are being moved from this country to overseas stations.

WAR OFFICE SIGNAL REGIMENT

We recently entertained four senior N.C.O.s of West Africa Signals for a few days while they were awaiting air passage after courses at the School of Signals. Sergeant McMahon, who recently served in West Africa, made an experienced host and they were able to visit the Tower of London, Madame Tussauds, Whitehall and other unusual places.

The Warrant Officers and Sergeants' Mess has been redecorated and refurnished; a great improvement. A house warming party was held on 26th October to bid farewell to R.S.M. Burton, to retirement, and to welcome R.S.M. Medlycott, under whose experienced tuition we expect that our despatch riders will appear frequently in the prize lists at trials next year.

☆

The Regiment does not run its own Rugby football XV, but is entered for the London District "Sevens." Signalman Martin played in an Army trial against Berkshire, scoring a try.

We lost in the second round of the Army Football Cup to a Battalion from Chatham.

HEADQUARTERS, EASTERN COMMAND

Recently having asked all Units under our Command to help to swell THE WIRE notes we feel that we should also ourselves contribute. In June we welcomed our new C.S.O., Brigadier C. A. H. Chadwick, C.B.E., from Headquarters B.T.E., and said *au revoir* to Brigadier R. H. O. Coryton, C.B.E., who was appointed C.S.O. B.A.O.R. This summer we have had a lot of extra work with the calling up of "Z" Reservists and taking part in the various exercises. Because of these our C.S.O. and some of the Staff left their comfortable offices and spent quite a few days in a very draughty 3-tonner at Control Headquarters. On all occasions we represented the friendly and attacking nations, so had the satisfaction of always being on the winning side.

☆

Major G. H. Wotton has recently left us to go on a course at the Air Operations School and staying with us temporarily is Major R. G. Marshall. Captain K. S. Newell is our S.O. (IIIL) and he also administers the A.C.F./C.C.F. network.

Looking after the Signals of the T.A. with the appointment of C.A.G. Royal Signals is Colonel J. W. Gordon and he also "fathers" the A.C.F./C.C.F. Very keen on game shooting, he very kindly helps out the meat ration when he has obtained a good bag.

Recently we have started a training programme at Command Headquarters and this has proved that Signals is by no ways behind any other Corps in .22 shooting. Captain Newell, W.O.I Bilby and W.O.II Vaughan are all members of the Service team and excellent scores have been obtained by all three.



[Courtesy: W. Abernethy, Belfast

A present for Third Divisional Signal Regiment from Northern Ireland District

NORTHERN IRELAND DISTRICT (M) SIGNAL SQUADRON

Early in the month a noteworthy event was the departure of Signalman Joyce to join 3 Divisional Signal Regiment, carrying with him a special consignment for his new Unit.

The consignment consisted of autographed portraits of Their Majesties the King and Queen and of the Princess Royal. These photographs were the prized possession of the Royal Signals Officers' Mess, which under a recent reorganisation was absorbed into the Headquarters Mess, Northern Ireland District. 3 Divisional Signal Regiment Officers' Mess had no portraits of Their Majesties, or of their Colonel-in-Chief, so it was arranged to send over those which had occupied places of honour in the Mess in Thiepval Barracks. As they were too valuable to send in the ordinary way they were entrusted to the care of Signalman Joyce for delivery to his new Unit.

5 CORPS SIGNAL REGIMENT

Although this Regiment came into being in July this year these are the first notes forwarded for publication in THE WIRE.

Stationed at Gloucester, we find ourselves equipped with a good gymnasium and ample scope for Rugby, soccer and hockey this winter. Signalman Holmyard is able to keep up his swimming activities at the local baths.

"M" Troop, with T.O.M. Captain Coleman, Foreman S.Q.M.S. Pollard, Lance-Corporal Fisher and Signalman Currie, have just undertaken the project of preparing their batteries for winter frost charging and the battery shop is a hive of industry.

Lieutenant E. L. Rogers is leaving us shortly to sort out the Egyptian problem and Captain C. Robinson joins us from the T.J.F.F.

Our Commanding Officer is Major T. A. Hall. Our R.S.M., W.O.I G. A. Smith, has worked wonders in the lines and we are now the proud possessors of a flag pole.

We have not been idle on the operational side. Exercise "Semaphore Packet" took place in August, when we provided communications for a token Corps H.Q. and some umpire sets. In Exercise "Surprise Packet" we joined 1 Corps Signal Regiment from B.A.O.R. and provided rear Corps communications.

We don't know what the future has in store for us or where we may go. One thing is evident, however, Command Group have many outdoor schemes in store for us this winter.

2 A.A. (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT

The major item of interest during the month was the annual administrative inspection.

The G.O.C. inspected the Regiment on parade and afterwards presented a British Empire Medal to Staff-Sergeant A. E. Hoar, of the Women's Royal Army Corps.

Our affiliation with the Aldershot Branch of the Royal Signals Association is still thriving.

The W.R.A.C. of this Regiment paraded for the Remembrance Day service at St. George's Church and again for the G.O.C.'s annual inspection.

The citation awarding the medal to Staff-Sergeant Hoar was very long and of great interest. It stated that as well as performing her own duties of Chief Supervisor of the Moascar Telephone Exchange, she had undertaken the responsibilities of Officer-in-Charge, owing to the shortage of W.R.A.C. Officers.

Moascar Exchange is the largest telephone exchange in the Canal Zone manned by the British Army, and Staff-Sergeant Hoar was responsible for the distribution, clearing and checking of all traffic, for liaison with other Exchanges, Army, R.A.F. and civilian, for the efficient training of Service and civilian operators, and for the discipline and well-being of her staff.

Staff-Sergeant Hoar was quoted as being "the mainstay" of the exchange, meeting every crisis calmly and cheerfully, and when communications were disrupted owing to theft and sabotage, she used her initiative in organising a system of clearing traffic.



The G.O.C. 2 A.A. Group presenting Staff-Sergeant Hoar with the British Empire Medal

BRITISH ARMY OF THE RHINE

H.Q. B.A.O.R. SIGNAL REGIMENT

A remembrance service was held on 11th November, the salute being taken by the C.S.O.

The Director of Signals inspected the Regiment on 20th November.

Hockey. We are in the third round of the Army Cup.

Boxing. 3 Squadron won the novices' Inter-Squadron competition with a very narrow margin of points and the Regimental team is in full training.

Rugby Football. So far this season we have played eight games with only one defeat and are in the fourth round of the Army Rugby Cup.

Association Football. We were defeated in the first round of the Army Cup after a replay.

Cross-Country. Despite the fact that Second-Lieutenant Dally, 1 Squadron, was the first man home, 3 Squadron easily won the Inter-Squadron team competition.

Swimming. Lance-Corporal Wright has been chosen to swim for B.A.O.R. against 2nd T.A.F. in Berlin.

1 WIRELESS REGIMENT

The Remembrance Day parade was rained off. A service was held in the chapel.

Association Football. Inter-Troop matches are in full swing and the Regimental team is beginning to play as such.

The Rugby Football XV were knocked out in the first round of the Army Cup.

We have at last found a suitable rendezvous for our Regimental dances. With the help of the W.V.S. and the Ladies' Social Club great preparations are being made for Christmas.

15 MEDIUM REGIMENT, R.A., SIGNAL TROOP

We believe that this is the first time that notes from this Unit have appeared in THE WIRE.

By way of introduction, we are an Independent Troop, tasked with the responsibility of supplying field and to a lesser degree static communications for the Regiment.

We will not bore you with our field activities of the past as we feel sure that readers of THE WIRE are well aware of the work that has taken place in B.A.O.R. during the last training season. Suffice it to say that we had a hand in most of the exercises which took place. The future leads us to believe that Exercise "Kuhle and Jumper Lead II" are looming ominously on the horizon.

By way of interest, at the time of compiling these notes it was confirmed that 85% of the Troop were contributors to THE WIRE.

Our New Year's resolution: To make it 100%.

BERLIN SIGNAL SQUADRON

The Squadron hockey team, ably led by Sergeant Crampton, have reached the top of the B.T.B. League and is in the second round of the minor Units' knock-out competition.

The football team has suffered from injuries and their league position (halfway) is a fair indication of their form.

In the .22 Shooting League we are at present lying sixth.

The structural alterations in the Sergeants' Mess are finished and this was celebrated with a dance.

2 INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

In accordance with higher policy we took ourselves from our warm barrack rooms and spent three days in the field, or should we say various fields, where we went through our first session of toughening for cold warfare. We were all very glad to get back to the Hilden comforts, but at least we were made to realise that war is not always a comfortable sport, a thing which, as soldiers in an almost peaceful world, we tend to forget.

It is with grief that we must put on record for all the old members of the Regiment our defeat in the first round of the Divisional boxing championships. We met a Light A.A. Regiment and witnessed an evening of enjoyable and hard fighting, in which the Gunners came out winners by one point. We cannot blame anyone at all. Each of the contestants put up a very plucky fight and if it had not been for the M.O.'s last minute decision that Signalman Dowling should not box we should have come out victors, having won the first string welter. Still, we now go on to the first round of the B.A.O.R. Signals championship, where we meet the "auld enemy," H.Q. B.A.O.R. Signal Regiment.

7 ARMOURED DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

Lieutenant-Colonel C. Nettleship has assumed command of the Regiment vice Lieutenant-Colonel Read.

The Commander-in-Chief visited the Regiment during a trade board.

The football team has been beaten in the second round of the Army Cup, and the boxing team were beaten in the second round of a Brigade championship by a team tipped as possible B.A.O.R. champions.

S.S.M. Lee, of 3 Squadron, has been presented with the Meritorious Service Medal and R.Q.M.S. Davies and Sergeant Baker have been awarded the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.

11 ARMOURED DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

After a Regimental parade on Armistice Day we were inspected on 24th November by Major-General Scott; as it was raining heavily the parade was in the gymnasium.

The 17th/18th November was a Regimental Week-End which included a dinner in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, Inter-Squadron hockey and football competitions and a Signals Association dance. As a result of the dance and a popular raffle £25 was raised for the Benevolent Fund, and Driver Fowler, of "A" Troop, won a free return air ticket to England.

The hockey team has been knocked out of the Army Cup and the Rugby team suffered the same fate in the second round of the Army Rugby Cup.

British Troops in Austria

KLAGENFURT SIGNAL SQUADRON

The winter seems this year to be slow in coming and the first of the ski courses has had to be cancelled. We hope to produce a really good team in time for the Army ski championships.

Basketball and Saturday morning rambles through the countryside have much increased the physical fitness of all.

12 WIRELESS SQUADRON

The cricket team won the Styria League championship for the second year in succession and this without losing a match. The summer season closed with the annual sports, which were a great success and enjoyed by all.

We are having a very successful football season and have won the Styria League football championship without losing a match. Our goal analysis shows 62 for and 10 against.

The hockey team is very good this year and there appears to be no local side who can compare. After several challenges the best side the local battalion could produce was beaten.

Apart from sports, our clubs are providing useful hobbies and recreation for all those interested. To our Radio, Camera, Arts and Crafts Clubs have been added a Farm Club and Riding Club. The latter has begun with a bay gelding with some fame as a show jumper.

The above, together with P.R.I. bicycles, a travel and entertainments bureau and a Unit library of over 1,000 books, give some indication of the pastimes of our Tommy Atkins, 1951 edition.

BETFOR SIGNALS

A detachment is at present at Rorigo in the valley of the River Po in Italy helping with other troops of the Trieste Garrison in rescue and restoration. As is known, this area has suffered from disastrous floods.

Many members of the Unit are hoping to do ski courses in Austria.

Signalman McIntosh has been selected to play for the Command against the French Forces in Austria.



EGYPT COMMAND SIGNAL REGIMENT

The "Canal Zone News," which is published three times a week, carried a long eulogy on the work of the Regiment. It mentioned the heavy increase of Signal traffic and the very long hours of work of Signal Office staffs and in telephone exchanges. Cable stealing has always been prevalent and owing to attacks of armed Egyptians, linemen repairing cables are now escorted by armoured cars. In addition to technical duties the Regiment has provided its share of guards, picquets and escorts.

Despite all these extra duties five members of the Regiment were able to play in a Garrison water polo team which defeated *H.M.S. Chequers* 8—0.

A most successful concert was organised, talent being found from both Royal Signals and W.R.A.C. Signals.

It is with deep regret that we record the death of Corporal Leaton in a traffic accident at Fayid recently. An unfortunate shooting incident at Moascar has also resulted in the death of Signalman Spillane and injuries to Second-Lieutenant Jones while on their way to repair a cable cut.

Signalman Turner, while at work on cable repairs, received a number of injuries from an armed native but is making good progress in hospital.

Though injured in the face by shots from a native at Kantara recently, Signalman Harding and some fellow linemen put up a stout fight, drove off the thugs and captured their jeep.



Sudan Signal Squadron water polo team

SUDAN SIGNAL SQUADRON

S.S.M. Dignan, our late skipper of the water polo team, steered a very promising pack to glory prior to his departure (on Python), and will, we feel assured, be delighted to hear that the team came up to third place in the Garrison League, our second team gaining fourth place.

We managed, too, to make the grade in the recent postal shoot, despite our selection of a team from so few numbers. What with dazzle, haze and razzle on Burri Range during the heat of the summer all who took part fired extremely well and even left room for a smatter of good humour. We wonder who it was who remarked during "up the next detail," Quote, "I won't shoot myself now. I'll wait till the last detail," Unquote.

The lads are polishing up the bars and studs in their boots for a crack at the soccer league, and we're all hoping they do as well as they did last season. Practice matches have proved promising and what with the encouragement shown by our haggis referee for the lads, it seems we have the First Division team we have been looking for.

With the close of the cricket season yachting seems to be the next craze. The small Units here are fortunate in possessing five sailing boats, and the Squadron being the biggest of the small Units and including in its numbers about half a dozen helmsmen has found itself with three of the boats to scrape and paint. The work is progressing nicely, thank you, and every afternoon during "siesta" time, instead of "siesta-ing" several of the keener members can be seen in the stables working away splendidly and to good effect on "Skylark," "Kisumu" and "Merowe." The Officers have nobly taken on the largest boat and have thus voluntarily accepted a few days' hard labour. It is understood that they are contemplating the setting up of a union to protect themselves from themselves.

16 INDEPENDENT PARACHUTE BRIGADE GROUP SIGNAL SQUADRON

We have been moving about in the Canal Zone, having left our kind hosts of 3 G.H.Q. Signal Regiment. True to form, despite the necessity of finding many guards and escorts, we have carried out several exercises and for one of these came under command of 1 Division.

Major Victor Martin has assumed command of the Squadron.

Since receiving the notes the Press of the United Kingdom has given the story of the excellent operation to open "Pegasus" Road, in which we are sure the Signal Squadron took a worthy part.—Editor.

SIGNAL TROOP, 33 AIRBORNE LIGHT REGIMENT, R.A.

In company with 16 Parachute Brigade we left Cyprus for the Canal Zone and find it a pleasant change to work "live" communications again after so many months of practice.

It is good to be amongst the large number of Signal Units now in M.E.L.F.

2 WIRELESS REGIMENT

We record with pride the following successes:

M.E.L.F. Royal Signals Inter-Squadron postal shooting competition was won by 1 Squadron by 500 points. The Minor Units' hockey competition in our district was won by 2 Squadron and a Squadron athletic competition was won by 3 Squadron.

We lost the district boxing competition final by only one point.

EAST AFRICA COMMAND SIGNAL SQUADRON

As these notes are written, the "short rains" are with us and provide a welcome (?) sea of mud and a cool spell before the heat is turned on for a sweltering summer. We will be enjoying our Christmas dinner bathed in sunshine and perspiration.

We have so often prophesied a good result in our sports competitions here and so often failed to reach the expected standard, that it is with some pleasure we record the fact that we *did* manage to win the Minor Units athletic shield for the second time in succession. And easily, too, our score being 40 points ahead of the runners-up.

It was not the walk-over it sounds—in the early stages, and when Lieutenant Garrett slipped in the relay, things were touch and go. Some marvellous running in the last stretch by one of our A.O.R. gave us the race and the lead and from there we romped home.

Other sports are still being "rained off," so there is little more that has happened.

A "Ruritanian" night in the Officers' Mess and two "occasions" in the Sergeants' Mess have been the highlights of our social activities recently.

In hockey we were beaten 3—1 by a Battalion of the King's African Rifles, in the semi-final, but in compensation we won two matches in the Military League against Field Records 7—2 and Command 6—1.

In the semi-final of the football we were beaten by Command Pay 4—0.

FARELF

19 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT

The Squadron at Ceylon are now housed in a R.A.F. station and have a not unsuccessful football and cricket team.

Considerable engineering work is involved in the laying of cables.

Having taken over a disused hut only three weeks before, they managed to win third prize in a barrack room competition.

ROYAL SIGNALS

Motor Cycle

TRIALS

at Singapore

AFTER some months of suspense, during which enthusiasts spent much of their spare time practising and ever and anon raising the cry: "When *are* we going to have these perishin' trials?" the Corps motor cycle trials were held at Pasir Panjang on 28th October, 1951.

The course selected was a difficult one and some of the hazards were dangerous. It was even suggested that they were chosen by an imbecile supported by a couple of idiots. It was designed, however, to prevent an expert from completing the course with a clear round and to provide that spice of danger which used to attend point-to-point races and handy hunter trials in "the good old days." In these respects the course and hazards came well up to specification.



R.S.M. Thompson approaching the stop/start test



Corporal Durn negotiating the water obstacle

The course was laid out in a rough figure of eight, with spectators gathered on a high hill in the centre of the two loops.

The day was fine but very hot and conditions were trying for riders, officials and spectators. The Officers' Mess tent and the NAAFI mobile canteens did a very good trade.

Of the three Signal Regiments on the Island a total of 36 entries competed:

Singapore District Signal Regiment	18 entries
G.H.Q. Signal Regiment	11 ,,
19 Air Formation Signal Regiment	5 ,,
Signals Branch G.H.Q. FARELF	1 ,,
Royal Australian Signals	1 ,,

Of these entries all but seven completed the course. This was a very creditable performance considering the conditions and the fact that many of the competitors were novices. Singapore District Signal Regiment are to be congratulated on carrying off all three first prizes. G.H.Q. Signal Regiment were a close second. 19 Air Formation Signal Regiment were unfortunate not to feature in the prize list, but they were handicapped by riding "away from home."

The results were:

Team Prizes

1	Singapore District Signal Regiment "A" Team ...	85 faults (out of 360)
2	G.H.Q. Signal Regiment "B" Team	89 faults
3	G.H.Q. Signal Regiment "A" Team	180 ,,

Individual Prizes

1	R.S.M. C. A. Thompson, Singapore District Signal Regiment	19 ,, (out of 120)
2	Lance-Corporal Gay, G.H.Q. Signal Regiment	25 faults
3	Corporal Powley, G.H.Q. Signal Regiment	27 ,,

M.O.R. Individual Prizes

1	Signalman Pilus Bin Sidek, Singapore District Signal Regiment	40 ,,
2	Corporal Jais, G.H.Q. Signal Regiment	52 ,,
3	Corporal Baba Bin Suliman, Singapore District Signal Regiment	73 ,,

R.S.M. Thompson, whom many will remember as a previous member of the Corps display team, is particularly to be congratulated on a very fine performance.

In conclusion, thanks must be given to the very large number of officials and spectators "press-ganged" on the spot, who willingly gave of their time and energies and contributed to the success which crowned the trials.

PLAIN TALES

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

By Barleux with Greetings from Barleux

AS forecast in the December WIRE we are today wishing everyone, well, nearly everyone, A Happy, Prosperous and Peaceful New Year. The last part of the wish is probably the most important. You could be happy and prosperous or happy but poor. If the world is not at peace it is unlikely that you will be either happy or prosperous for very long despite anything you might make on the side. 1951 wasn't too bad after all. If 1952 is no worse we shall get by.

With Feet to Spare

For the last half-hour we have been studying the excellent photograph on the cover of the November WIRE. We have counted the girls in the rank under inspection and at last we have decided that No. 2 does not possess two left feet (to say nothing of two right feet) but has brought a spare pair of shoes to keep a place for her pal who has nipped across to the N.A.A.F.I. Why she should choose such a singularly inappropriate moment to indulge in a char and wad is quite beyond us, but then we never could understand women. Much.

Why Not?

We hear on good authority that several T.A. and S.R. Units are to hold their annual camps in North Wales during the summer of 1952. The wives and sweethearts of the T.A. and S.R. are invited to consider a fortnight's holiday at Mercury House, Colwyn Bay. Probably a bit tricky if the children are still at school but it is up to you girls. Get weaving fairly soon to be sure of a room. Make a note of the telephone number. Colwyn Bay 3402. Seats in all parts. So far. Have you started your holiday money box yet?

Travel Department

We decided to take a look at London a few weeks ago. For five days we lolled in hotel armchairs, threw clouds of pound notes in the air, rang bells for waiters, chambermaids, porters and managers, and listened to the musical sound of dishes being cleared away by someone else. We couldn't leave the Tower of London without seeing Captain and Mrs. Alan Griffin. They are firmly and comfortably settled within the grim walls and send greetings to all friends. We brought back fourpence each and a lasting impression of friendly and polite London shop assistants, waitresses, 'bus conductors and people in the street to whom we addressed enquiries. We also find this happy atmosphere in Wales. You may think that there is nothing unusual in all this, but perhaps you haven't lived in Birming for five or six years. A deep depression was that made by the shabby and often dirty railway stations. We know all about the reason for this, but we still think of the clean and cheerful stations at Geneva, Khandwa, Florence and Muchodour-on-the-Fiddle. They do not drip, drip, drip like Crewe and Chester on wet days. Cheer up. Have a cup of tea. Only 4d. Remind us to tell you how we were nearly run over at the Grand Central Station in Venice.

Uncle Alf: Are you sure it was Venice?

Me: Well, it could have been the little village of Chien de Lier at the foot of the Pyrenees. Who cares?

To Be Continued

Ukann Larfe sat in his luxurious city office twiddling a pencil. He felt that he had the case pretty well tied up. All he wanted to round it off was some evidence and a rough clue or so. He drank a bottle of whisky as though he couldn't care less. Which he couldn't. The business was doing very well. He even had a secretary. He rang for her. She even came in, which shook the great detective more than plenty. Lucia Girdle was an efficient secretary. She had a dead-pan face like an envelope that no-one had bothered to address. Make no mistake, Lucia was dynamite. She only looked like that because she couldn't help it. Ukann Larfe fixed her with a steely stare. The sort of steel that has been left lying on a Ministry of Supply dump since 1945. "Get me a black coffee and a box of assorted clues," he rasped. He leaned back on his seat and went head over heels. Lucia's expression didn't change. "I told you not to use that stool," she said. The door slammed and she was gone.

(A good job, too, because we don't know where she fits in this story).

The attendant will now come round with delicious "Smacko" ice cream.

New Scotland Yard buzzed with excitement and coppers. P.C. 48 wore a self-conscious grin as he ushered in Lord Elpas and his barrow of tram lines. There was some little delay at the gateway until a senior police officer drew diagrams and proved that the tram lines would go through lengthways. No-one noticed the veiled woman standing inconspicuously on the roof of a yellow taxi-cab. The first anyone knew of this sinister figure was when a shot rang out and two men . . . . Now read on.

EDITORIAL NOTICE

IT is very much regretted that notes from those listed below arrived too late for inclusion in this number. Never was the Post Office slogan "Post Early for Christmas" more justified. Owing to the exceptionally long Christmas holiday this year we had to close for copy exactly on 15th December.

Even so, there will be difficulty in getting this attenuated WIRE out to time:—

G.H.Q. Signal Regiment	
Singapore District Signal Regiment	
A.W.C. Signal Squadron	
Signal Training Squadron, F.E. ...	FARELF
Malaya Signal Regiment	
48 Gurkha Infantry Brigade, Signal Squadron	
Gurkha Signal Training Wing ...	
Malayan Scouts (S.A.S.) Signal Troop	FARELF
61 H.Q. Army Signal Regiment, T.A.	
2 L. of C. Signal Regiment	
H.Q. School of Signals	
15 Wireless Squadron, T.A. ...	HOME
Tunbridge Wells Branch.	
Newcastle-on-Tyne Branch.	
News from Australia.	

Do You Remember?

☆

THAT the January WIRE in 1922 contained a review of "The War History of the Signal Service (France)" by Major Priestly. Unfortunately the review does not give the name of the publisher. Can any "much older than I" assist the Editor to trace a copy of this book, which, it seems, was a good one?

Do you remember the Crowborough Camp Comedy Company which performed in 1921 and 1922? You do? Well!

The Signal Company serving in Chanak writes of raising a mast 141 feet long with a derrick. Do you? You don't! Well, you're much younger than I.

There is a graphic illustration of "Types of the Corps the Visual Operator," showing the reader using a telescope and the sender a L.D.S.S.R.

If you know that these initials are no connection with the Southern Railway it dates you a bit, doesn't it?

Signalman Gill, well known as a violinist in Haynes Park and Bedford, was at that time the life and soul of the dance band at Bir Salem. Also from the Palestine Signal Company is a query, "Does anyone know whether Gus could find his way out of the Arab quarter at Port Said, and what is his sprinting time for the 220 yards?" The words might have been written to-day.

Both the First and Second Training Battalions, Royal Signals, were knocked out in the second round of the Army Cup. Did you know that there were two training battalions then? You did? Well!

January 1932 has pictures and story of a journey from Cairo to the Red Sea made by a "C" Set Detachment with a troop of tanks. Yes, they had wireless in those days—do you remember? By the same token we have a grand article on a journey from Tripoli to Cairo awaiting space for publication.

Do you remember Bara Fort and the 1930-31 operations on the North West Frontier of India? You do? Well, borrow or steal a 1932 bound volume of THE WIRE and see it all again in three pages of pictures.

Major D. Ellison, now in FARELF, was then serving in India, and was appointed Lance-Sergeant; C.Q.M.S. C. (Aubrey) Harrison was discharged. Where is he now?

Captain V. C. Holland took over "F" Company in Catterick. Do you remember? Well—you must be an ex-boy.

Do you remember Major R. M. Lunt who was killed so tragically outside Dera Ishmail Khan in 1939? His daughter's engagement was published in THE TIMES the other day.

Do you remember the Christmas entertainments at Catterick in the 1930s? Major Arcedeckne Butler with cinema camera, Major Cary the producer—both now Major-General and retired. The one in 1931 was all about pirates—1933 was Aladdin, with Captain (Colonel) Wilfred Ponsonby losing the Christmas gifts in his "magic" box. Do you remember?

Do you remember that the *Dorsetshire* was "trooping" even in those far off days? C.S.M. Spindler and others came home in it in 1932.

Do you remember the Royal Engineers beat us at Rugger 34-5? Last month we did better, see page 20.

Do you remember that in 1932 detachments of Royal Signals were in Peking and Tientsin and wore fur hats?

The latter detachment left their summer camp in Manchuria in a hurry. Do you remember why? And why did a detachment go to Cyprus in a hurry at the end of 1931?

Scottish Command Signal Regiment dates back to 1860, when its first direct ancestor, the 1st Lanarkshire Royal Engineers Volunteers, was raised. Do you remember? You do? Well, you're very much older than I!

Memoirs of a Junior Officer

By **Lieutenant-Colonel M. C. A. HENNIKER,** D.S.O., O.B.E., M.C., R.E.

ON first reading this attractive book, both I and a brother-in-law of much the same age "could see no reason for the writing of it." A re-reading and discussion with others makes it seem probable that much of the material used has already appeared in Blackwoods Magazine. Indeed, a greater part of what is written is more suited to a "magazine" than to a full scale book. The object, it is judged, is to place on record some facets of the life of the officer between the two wars. Certainly much of what is so well described can never by any stretch of imagination happen again.

It is some years now since the Bertrand Stewart Essay discussed what substitute could be found from the more dangerous forms of sport as a means of incalcating soldierly qualities in the officer.

Henniker himself seems, very cheaply, to have run himself into a lot of experience and some danger while serving at Chatham; at first sight a most unsuitable point for the more gentlemanly sports.

☆

The junior officer of to-day, it is true, has no opportunity of polo and "pig sticking," but bandit hunting and "pig shooting" are by no means a bad substitute. Lest the elders amongst my friends raise their hands in horror at "pig shooting," it must be explained that not the German but the Malayan method is referred to. They are very different.

We live in a changing world, but the young officer of to-day (the best of them) still continues to risk his neck and sometimes his Commanding Officer's reputation. These are the officers who will enjoy Henniker's book.

There are others whose idea of sport is a 2s. 6d. ticket to watch professional football whose normal sporting experience is the risking of a like sum in a football pool; for these the book will have no interest.

The most admirable illustrations by Lieutenant-Colonel C. G. Borrowman will bring no memory to such as they.

In short, why was the book written? I don't know, but I enjoyed reading it.

My brother-in-law, an elderly Indian Army type, enjoyed reading it. My son, a Territorial Army Subaltern, enjoyed reading it. So will, I think, many others.

Published by Blackwoods, price 12s. 6d.

Other Overseas Stations

GIBRALTAR SIGNAL SQUADRON

Our heartiest congratulations are offered to our Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel R. A. Mackintosh, O.B.E., on his having been awarded the Meritorious Service Medal. The award, we feel, is all the more gratifying coming as it does at the end of his long career.

Little has happened since our last notes—except the rain. And how it has rained. The weather has certainly played havoc with all sporting activities so that now, in the third week of the soccer season, we are still waiting to play off our first fixture. Rugby enthusiasts, however, say the rain will do a lot of good towards making their ground more playable.

The wives and families of several of our senior members have recently arrived on The Rock. We welcome them and sincerely hope their stay here will be an enjoyable one. Whilst still on about families, we offer our congratulations to Signalman and Mrs. Howie on the birth of a son at the Military Hospital on Remembrance Sunday. That's one birthday which should be easily remembered.

DOES "JUJU"

(Local Magic) Exist in Nigeria?

By **Lieutenant S. A. ADEMUNLEGUN,** R.W.A.F.F.

I MUST confess to readers right from the start that I realise how difficult it is for the average non-African to be convinced of the effectiveness of "juju." The only way is by trying the thing out themselves, but then that might be too expensive. If, however, I have aroused the reader's imagination regarding the importance of "juju" in the Nigerian's daily life this article shall have achieved something.

I am going to deal mainly with "charms" and with a special bias for the Yoruba tribe's skill in them.

The Yoruba people live in the South-West of the River Niger and come third in population among the Nigerian tribes. Their origin is said to be obscure, but their ancestors definitely had a lot in common with the Arabs and Fulanis who live in North Africa and North Nigeria respectively.

There are many towns in Nigeria today still being dreaded for the skill of their people at charming.

What is charm? Simply, it means "command" in the same way as the Western hynotist commands his subject to do certain things they would not have done in normal circumstances. Perhaps the only difference is that the Africa charmer's method appears, at least to a non-African observer, rather crude and without lucid explanation.

How is charming done? This also is simple. The charmer says to his subject: "You will have a severe headache," and before another 24 hours the latter is in the hands of herbalists to cure a headache. One striking difference here, however, is that the charm has the same immediate effect on both distant and near subjects.

I am told that Western hypnotists (with possible exception of telepathists) have some difficulties over distant subjects.

Perhaps a few examples will show the effect of these "words" on human beings, animals and even trees. I have now come to the controversial point where I am sure readers would say: "Surely if it is the belief of the subject in his own susceptibility that does most of the trick, how can charms have any psychological effect on animals and trees?" To this I would say that the Nigerian "juju" man concentrates more on his own power than on the resistance or indifference of his subjects. His power subdues all.

Once in 1947, while I was home on leave, I had an argument with a friend. He claimed the power, by words, of causing a fresh plantain tree to wither overnight. You can imagine my reaction.

The tree was one of many near a well in the backyard of our house. My friend and I went along and he said a few words in my language (which amounted to stating the origin of the plantain tree and calling it peculiar names, which he claimed were given to it by our ancestors), touched one tree with a copper ring—he wore about ten others on his fingers—and that was all. The time was about midday. The following morning the once fresh tree had withered. The leaves were yellow and dropping and the stem looked as though it had been tapped of its life-giving juice. This experiment cost me something, as my father was annoyed at my being so stupid as to have offered one of our trees.

This explains why no Yorubaman (or any Nigerian for that matter) would allow any stranger on his farm to touch any tree. You never know who wears that copper ring.

The orthodox way of killing a snake is by hitting it on the head. But some Nigerian would do it by "words."

At the approach of a snake, spit on the ground—this is supposed to make it impossible for the snake to spit poison at you afterwards—say some words—special words, but make sure you are at a hearing distance from the snake and your opponent stops, dead. Sounds like magic, but I have seen it done.

The only "ceremony" after performing this feat is that you must tie a rope round the snake and drag it along a patch for about 200 yards, to avoid seeing six other snakes in the next 24 hours. If you do not do this it is believed six others will come your way that day (wherever you may be) and they *must* be killed in a similar way, otherwise will fight for the honour of their lost brother. This brings me to the significance of the charm "words." The words amount to tracing the ancient origin of the snake (presumably the one featured in the story of Adam and Eve) and recounting some of its past mischiefs to mankind, its names and the fact that it originally possessed two "legs" like human beings, but the Creator cursed it never to use the legs as a result of its betrayal of trust. Hearing this, and from man who, according to legend, was junior to it at the Creation, the snake becomes furious and dies "in defence of its honour."

To conclude this article here is one more case. A conservative old man once lived in a village where I was schoolmaster. He had a home in town about 12 miles away, where he usually spent week-ends. But he refused to travel in lorries or cars. One day, however, he was prevailed upon by one of his educated sons to try this "white man's magic." The fare of the 12 miles was 1/6 for a seat by the driver. Full of doubts, he agreed. At the end of the journey he gave the driver 2/-, waiting for a return of 6d. But the driver, knowing that this old man was rich and was not informed on the current fares anyway, refused to return 6d., and he was rude.

The old man considered this act of the driver a barefaced robbery and decided to punish him. On the Monday morning (he travelled on Saturday) he leant over his storey-house window, saw this same driver approach on his way to a village about 40 miles away. The old man quickly got hold of a "prepared" padlock, said some words, pointed it at the truck as it passed, locked it and said: "You will be involved in an accident today, but no-one will be killed." Having done approximately 800 yards the truck somersaulted into a ditch on the right side of the road. No-one, except this driver who had his right eyebrow gashed, was wounded.

A few days later the driver went to apologise to the old man and they became friends. One last word. Although there is no written record of these "words" and "preparations," they are nevertheless "set" words and one single mistake means less or no effect. The knowledge (or as much of it as possible) is passed on from father to son to memorise. And in many cases it is amazing how much is remembered.

The belief in power of "words" as part of the art of "juju" is still great and plays a great part in influencing the Nigerian's social, cultural and economic set-up.

GOLD COAST SIGNAL SQUADRON

We were interested in the article written by the two N.S.S. A.O.R.s posted to England on a drill course, but the comments were quite pointed with regard to dining *a la European* and our A.O.R.s declared that in Accra they know which pieces of cutlery to use.

As these notes are written the Squadron is in the throes of the Command Signal Exercise and it is the fashion to talk of dipoles, rhombics and sky waves as though it made sense. R.Q.M.S. Pavey and W.O.II. (to be congratulated on) Gordon have pushed into the local bush and established a camp with the air of a couple of Stewart Grangers finding Solomon's mines, and left Sergeant P. A. Smith i/c supplies. Lieutenant O'Connor is chivying those whose enthusiasm may die, and Sergeants Gilder and Clayton have taken a station apiece into the more distant bush. Captain (TOT) Pollard is coping with repairs and a mysteriously swollen elbow.

Last month W.O.II Blake left us for U.K. after a regrettably short stay. From a selfish point of view we shall miss him very much indeed, especially in the Mess, where his enthusiasm produced new curtains, cushions and a beer- and clot-proof piano. If Records do their stuff they will post us someone to play it. Our No. 1 character, Sergeant Whitehouse, left at the same time. Harry is due to finish his time soon and his friends throughout the Corps, who must number thousands, will regret the fact. Even here he still had his long evening walks complete with stick and pipe and his energy is a revelation to we young soldiers.

School is very popular with the A.O.R.s and education is the latest thing. One of the Mess boys, wishing to show off his prowess, offered to read a word on a cigarette packet and said that it was "carton"; when asked how he made it, he spelled "w-o-o-d-b-i-n-e-, carton."

Sport. Our sympathy to Nigeria Signals on their defeat in the Command football semi-final held in Accra. The irrepressible Jones and an A/Sergeant from N.S.S. broadcast a commentary to Lagos on the match with great success. At present we are between seasons and no games of importance have been played. However, Sergeant MacEvoy received a mention in the local Press after playing goal for a European side—quote, "diving for the ball like a sea hawk for its prey."

Territorial Army

23 (SOUTHERN) CORPS SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

The Officers gave a dinner in October and the guests included Major-General C. H. H. Vulliamy, Representative Colonel Commandant.

In November we held the first dance of the season, and 2 Squadron held a reunion dinner, which was attended by very many of their Reservists and their wives.

Some of our National Service men were initiated on what was perhaps the wettest week-end of the year, and the Officers selected a dryer but cold two days for a SEWT.

ARMY PHANTOM SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A. (The Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment)

As forecast in previous notes, we have entered a team in one of the London leagues, in which we have been successful enough to command second place after a hard won fight. In passing, it may be of interest to readers to know that we are the first T.A. Unit to enter a team in any league run by the Basketball Association.

Congratulations to Captain A. J. Downes, who was married on Saturday, 17th November.

A very successful Regimental dance organised jointly by the Regiment and Old Comrades' Association was held on Saturday, 8th December.

53 (WELSH) INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

The 21st annual reunion dinner was held on 10th November at Cardiff. This, it is felt, was a unique occasion. R.S.M. Forse, who took the chair, has been active in organising these dinners for many years.

Many of the 50 or so Old Comrades who attended the dinner also took part in the Armistice parade at Maindy Barracks the following day, after which they were entertained in the Sergeants' Mess of the Regiment.

51 (H) INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

Aberdeen. R.H.Q. and 1 Squadron took part in a Remembrance Day service on 11th November and were inspected by the G.O.C. on 28th November. A C.S.O.'s exercise for Officers was held during the week-end of the 30th November. A dance for the Korea Comforts Fund was held on 16th November.

Stirling. The Administrative Inspection of 2 Squadron was on 29th November. In conjunction with the Central Scotland Branch of the Association we are running a children's Christmas party on 29th December.

Dundee. The newest batch of National Service volunteers in 3 Squadron have not missed a drill since joining the T.A. We now have the use of a .22 range and hope to enter a shooting team in local contests.

52 (L) INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

Comrie, the earthquake village of Great Britain, was surely never more peaceful, despite the fact that the Regiment was arriving for annual camp in the picturesque setting of neighbouring Cultybraggan.

The advance party, under Captain (Q.M.) Chidgey, soon had the Unit fitted in and the hutted comfort provided was an excellent start to what was to prove to be an outstanding fortnight.

With many Units sharing the camp, the Regiment organised a sports day and, in both organisation and participation, came through with flying colours. The football team also upheld the honour of the Regiment by challenging and defeating "the world." Praise is due to R.S.M. Justice, S.Q.M.S. Kelsey and Lance-Corporal Dineen for their enthusiasm in organising the various tournaments.

As is our custom, the Sergeants' Mess met the Officers' Mess on the soccer field and despite the added weight of the C.O., both morally and physically, the Sergeants won the day by two goals to nil. The F.D.S. gained valuable training experience after the clash by treating Officer casualties, most of whom recovered on hearing the initial clink of bottles.

To our great pleasure Brigadier R. W. Morgan, O.B.E., paid the Regiment an overnight visit and to our great discomfort he later showed the Officers' Mess the finer points of poker dice.

It is also our pleasure to record visits by the G.O.C.; the Deputy Commander Lowland District; Lieutenant-Colonel Niven, who is our Honorary Colonel; and Sir Victor Warren.

The usual Squadron parties were held prior to breaking camp and if odd headaches had been apparent during camp, there was an obvious abundance present on the last parade. The National Service men, and fine lads they proved to be, expressed their pleasure at this, their first T.A. camp, and the Regiment is hopeful that a considerable number will be volunteering to join the T.A.

It was with obvious regret that the Regiment returned to Glasgow after a most instructive and enjoyable camp.

50 (N) INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

Work on the alterations at the T.A. Centres at Darlington and Gateshead is going on speedily; at Darlington we are gradually moving stores and training equipment into the new accommodation and the new Officers' Mess looks like being ready in early spring. The new men's club and garages are expected to be ready by the summer of 1952.

All the Squadrons took part in Armistice Sunday parades at Darlington, Middlesborough and Gateshead respectively. At Darlington the Commanding Officer placed a wreath on the Cenotaph on behalf of all Territorial Regiments in Darlington. After the service contingents marched passed the Mayor and Corporation.

This month the Officers carried out week-end training on practical cable laying; two detachments were formed and a very energetic and interesting time was spent in the Barnard Castle area. All agreed that not only was the training badly needed and of great value, but also it was most beneficial after a very successful guest night which had been held at Darlington the night before.

The drill and duties courses for junior N.C.O.s have just been completed and the Commanding Officer held a passing out parade for the 18 candidates. R.S.M. Dickens and Sergeant Knight put in a great deal of hard work to make these courses interesting and of value.

42 (LANCASHIRE) INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

The Unit's strength has been greatly increased by the posting in of National Service men and it is hoped to interest a large number of these men in voluntary engagements. To this end an ambitious winter social programme is being developed and plans are laid for the enticement of Reservists by similar schemes.

No effort is being spared to make the homeward-bound National Service men's initial impression of us brief but pleasant, and on arrival from their active Army Units they are rushed through the necessary documentation at top speed to enable them to be on their way home as soon as possible. The "pep-talks" are allowed to wait until their interviews a month later, on the "slowly, slowly, catchee monkey" principle.

Our congratulations are offered to Lieutenant-Colonel S. A. Woods on the award of the second bar to the Territorial Efficiency Decoration.

43 (WESSEX) INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

Despite the absence of the Adjutant and many vehicles on Exercise "Surprise Packet," we have managed to keep in trim. The display team has been at Teignmouth, Dawlish and Paignton.

We have now received official permission for our three principal Squadrons to be named after the towns or cities to which they belong.

Exeter Squadron have taken part in carnivals at Starcross and Heavitree and provided communications for the West of England motor cycle trials.

Bridgewater Squadron did a week-end camp at Yoxter Farm, The Regimental ball at Taunton on 26th October was given to the music of the Royal Signals Band.



[Courtesy: "Motor Cycling"

Major G. S. Dalton in the Army Motor Cycle Trials

The Regimental team finished eighth in the Army motor cycle trials.

53 SIGNAL SQUADRON, W.R.A.C., T.A.

December is here but will be gone by the time anyone reads this, so let's just wish everyone a very happy New Year, and start looking forward to next Christmas. The month started well for all members of the Squadron when they received the remainder of their bounty pay. As a result of this one or two of the newer members were taken on one side and informed that fur coats were not usually worn with uniform and the money received would be better expended on "khaki silk, stockings for the cobbling of" or some such other necessity.

Members of the Liverpool Troop had the honour of taking part in the street lining when T.R.H. Princess Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh returned from their Canadian tour. The weather was very kind and a goodly view was had by all. The bulb growing competition being held by this Troop is going on nicely—the permanent staff have been kept in ignorance as to the blooms that will blossom forth, but it is my guess that "Our Gracie" will have to sing about the second biggest aspidistra in the world shortly.

Plans are going ahead for the children's party being held in Chester. This year the girls have been allowed to invite some of the children from a nearby orphanage, so it is hoped to make it a really slap up "do." The members of the Manchester Troop seem to be doing extremely well lately and always appear after their canteen break clutching complimentary tickets for hot pot suppers and cold pot breakfasts—with the odd dance thrown in for good measure. These tickets are issued by the male Unit they are affiliated to and appear to be creating an air of goodwill all round.

Midst all these social activities we still find time for the usual training which, like Tennyson's "Brook," goes on and on. When next we write we'll let you know which member of the Squadron was lucky enough to win the "Sweeney Todd Special" in the Christmas draw and whether Private Bloggs really told the Sergeant-Major where to put her Christmas pud.

2/20 ARMY SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

The annual Regimental dinner was held on 16th November, after which the Honorary Colonel, Brigadier J. L. French, presented the trophies and awards won during the year.

The despatch riders continue to compete in trials and at Ilford astonished civilian competitors by their ability, riding standard W.D. motor cycles.

Lieutenant-Colonel J. L. Lilley, until recently our Commanding Officer, has been gazetted Brevet Colonel.

Association Notes

Northampton

Once again the writer of this column has changed but, we hope, for the last time in the foreseeable future. Due to changes mentioned last month Scribe Stan Wallen has moved (up, presumably) to Chairman. He finds this a full-time job, and so our Social Committee, which was extended from one person to three at the November meeting, will be helping to make and send on the news.

Stan Wallen, who came to us from Bristol, started the idea of a monthly personality and to continue this we are starring Secretary Geoff Lewis in this issue.

Geoff is a particularly interesting personality because about 18 months ago when he learned that his work was bringing him to Northampton he telephoned Headquarters and asked for the Northants Branch Secretary's address. They informed him that the Branch was more or less extinct —" How would he like the job of Secretary and re-form the Branch? "

His answer apparently was " Yes, please," and so the good work restarted. Oh, yes, about Geoff himself. Former friends will remember him as a ranker in Eastern Command, Lieutenant in 16 L. of C. and Captain in 4 Air Formation Signals, Egypt and Palestine.

Geoff will be pleased to exchange a few lines, but there is a rumour abroad that he'll be a " daddy " by now, so don't forget the congratulations. Write to him at 6c, The Crescent, Northampton.

Greetings to Signals and ex-Signals everywhere and especially to those in the " hot " spots.

East Africa

The annual dinner of the East Africa Branch was held at the Queen's Hotel, Nairobi, on 17th November and was voted unanimously as being most successful. Sixty-one members and their guests sat down to an excellent meal, the table being decorated with the Corps Colours in crepe paper with flowers to match. The Corps Roll of Honour which has been beautifully bound by members of the Signal Squadron was placed in a prominent position on a lectern at the end of the dining room and was draped with a Corps flag.

Our guest of honour was Mr. Garneys, manager of Cable and Wireless, other guests being the C.S.O. R.A.F. and the Secretary of the British Legion.

After dinner our President, Colonel Henderson, proposed the health of the Corps and our guests and briefly spoke of the work of the Corps in East Africa Command and at home; he mentioned the closing of Mackinnon Road, the Baringo exercises (the largest we have held for some years) and the erection of the new Army wireless station in Nairobi. We were all rather shaken by the fact that our small Signal Office has handled over one and a half million groups and over one quarter million S.D.S. packages this year, and were quite impressed. The Corp's successes in sport, both local and at home, made very interesting hearing. Colonel Henderson then spoke of the close association between ourselves and Cable and Wireless and welcomed all our guests and, in particular, Mr. Garneys.

In reply, Mr. Garneys spoke of Cable and Wireless work throughout the world and in particular Korea, where they were handling most of the Press traffic. He also spoke of the famous " Blue Train," which most of us remember, and its journey through North Africa, Italy and Austria during the last war. He recalled amusing incidents caused by red tape when stores were required from the Army and *vice versa* and how the need for such stores had invariably ceased to exist long before official paper work had been done.

The Secretary of the British Legion, Mr. Boddy, then spoke of the work of the Legion and comradeship in general and how the Legion and associations like ours always worked together. He mentioned that the Nairobi and District Poppy Day collection was an all-time record.

Our Chairman, Major Savage, then proposed a toast to all serving members of the Corps, calling for a reply from Captain Hughes.

Captain Hughes replied with a very amusing speech.

Dancing followed the dinner and rounded off the evening very well. This was our third annual dinner and was unanimously voted the best. Next year we hope for even better things and our ambition is to fill the large dining room instead of an annexe.

Birmingham and District

The time has come, ' Brum's Jimmy " said, to talk of many things. Of concerts and of dinners with Sappers shedding " wings."

Apropos of the last. Your historian (*vide* last month's notes) was a guest at the R.E. Southern Telegraph Company's (Cable and Airline) reunion dinner at The White Horse Hotel, Birmingham, on the 12th October. A representative section of this Branch of the Association was invited to attend. A grand evening too. That stalwart of the Royal Signals Association in Birmingham, Joe Carnall, was clearly a prime mover there. (R.E., R.A.M.C. and R.E.M.E. types looking in on these notes are advised that no confusion is intended with any of their major items of equipment). The top table (and several of the side tables) were graced with gents of high degree. I noted through the brilliant glow emanating from those august personages (we dined and wined well) Sir Raymond Priestley, Brigadier E. A. James, Lieutenant-Colonel Danielsen and Lieutenant-Colonel Price. If I tried to list them all the list would read like an excerpt from an R.E. Signals and Royal Signals " Who's Who in the Midlands."

A few attended the Armistice Day service at the Hall of Memory. We would wish that more of the younger generation had the keenness and enthusiasm of Corporal Tom Liggins. He again placed the Branch wreath before the Podium.

Our meeting and concert on the 25th October did show signs of increasing interest on the part of the Branch. A really good evening was enjoyed. Quite a lot of our members lost their deposits. Those were the unlucky ones in the draw for a television set and other prizes. The television set was presented by a good friend. I have it on the highest possible authority that the Benevolent Fund will be at least £50 better off. That's the stuff, " Brum." Show the rest we're not dead or even dying. A little more extra effort and we'll be able to send " Barleux " a present of a new frying pan.

How did he manage to get into this article again? As he is in, here is an excerpt of the details of a new type of bolt action which might well have been designed by that celebrated gentleman.

" It will be noted that the extruder arm of the guffle pin makes contact with the first sear on the leg of the rocking pivot as the action slides forward.. If the action slides backward, fall out, wipe your sword, but don't leave the country."

And if you are in the country and in the Birmingham area, roll up to the Branch meetings at the Crown Hotel, Broad Street, on the last Thursday in every month.

Someone said that "Barleux" might try to visit us one Thursday. If I get enough notice I will try to circularise all members and warn them in time. Or else have the meeting changed to another evening.

☆

I, being modest, shy and retiring, can well appreciate the anguish of my reading public at the omission of Birmingham notes from the last edition of THE WIRE. The notes you have just read should have appeared in that edition. These you are now reading are the current notes. There was some misunderstanding. Our worthy Editor informs me that the notes should have been in his hands by the 12th of the month. I still worked to the old time-table, i.e. the 15th. Result: The meaningless wafflings of "Barleux" were not relieved by the erudite expositions you expect from my pen.

Anyway, I can confirm that the £50 referred to above has indeed materialised and is now on its way to the Benevolent Fund. Well done, Brum. By the time you read this you will doubtless be assuming some semblance of a vertical position after the Christmas and New Year celebrations. I well remember that "Barleux" used to begin to lose that glazed look around about the 5th January. The next week he always spent rushing around shops trying to change the more brilliant neckwear and hose for items that could be worn without the beholder having recourse to sun-glasses to ease the eyestrain. Save and except Aunt Matilda's present, which he had to wear. I was always sorry for him then. A long-sleeved hand-knitted vest (in cable stitch) takes some getting used to.

I must report a tendency to increased interest on the part of our Birmingham Branch members. A good sign. Last meeting there were several faces we had not seen for a long time. Now if you are sensible enough to order THE WIRE and have it posted to you, you would be able to read these notes before the Branch meeting (which you will recall takes place on the last Thursday of every month at the Crown Hotel in Broad Street). Once all members do that then you can prepare little lists of questions and I will arrange to answer them. The questions must be forwarded in writing at least three days before the meeting, in duplicate please, with a copy to Colwyn Bay for information. Also enclose a remittance for £7/19/4. This will be applied as follows: Colwyn Bay, 4d. Balance to me to defray expenses (I have a lot of expenses). See you next month.

FRANK GEEDY

ROYAL SIGNALS BENEVOLENT FUND

	£	s.	d.
Subscriptions received during November, 1951:			
11 Air Formation Signal Regiment	50	0	0
4 Training Regiment	10	0	0
6 Boys Training Regiment	6	1	6
Donations received during November, 1951:			
Mr. P. Denny	2	2	0
Mr. E. Gay	1	1	0
Mr. J. Wheeler	1	1	0
Mr. Wagner	1	0	0
Mr. J. T. Smith		2	6
Major A. T. Burrows		2	0
Receipts	£71	10	0

Expenditure during November, 1951 ... £835 14 4
(Includes: General Assistance; Rent and Rates; Beds and Bedding; Tools; Removals; Clothing; Fares; Convalescence).

Analysis of Cases:

Families of soldiers serving in U.K.	10
" " " " " M.E.L.F.	2
" " " " " FARELF	1
" " " " " BETFOR	1
Widows and Dependants	9
Released and discharged soldiers	64
Total cases assisted	87

Sports Notes

ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL

Result on 27th November: R.E.M.E. 2, Royal Signals 1.

We had an excellent game in which a strong wind favoured R.E.M.E. in the first half and Royal Signals in the second half. The run of the play was in favour of Royal Signals. With the score equal at half-time, R.E.M.E. were lucky to find the Signals' goalkeeper down and injured when they scored the winning goal.

The Royal Signals team was: Corporal Warrender (1 Training Regiment), S.Q.M.S. Andrews and Signalman P. Partleton (2 Training Regiment), Signalmen Bickerstaffe and Sayers (3 Training Regiment), Sergeant Cromer, Corporal Foster and Signalman Freer (7 Training Regiment), Corporal Finnegan (R.S. Wing), Lance-Corporal Gee (10 Wireless Training Squadron).

ROYAL SIGNALS (EGYPT) TENNIS, 1951

The Royal Signals (Egypt) tennis season, 1951, has not been as successful this year as that of 1950. At the outset the fixture list looked imposing, but only six matches have been possible up to date owing to operational emergencies necessitating a number of cancellations—notably R.A., R.A.S.C. and R.A.M.C. Although the team did not begin to find its form until September we can say that matches were closely fought and thoroughly enjoyable.

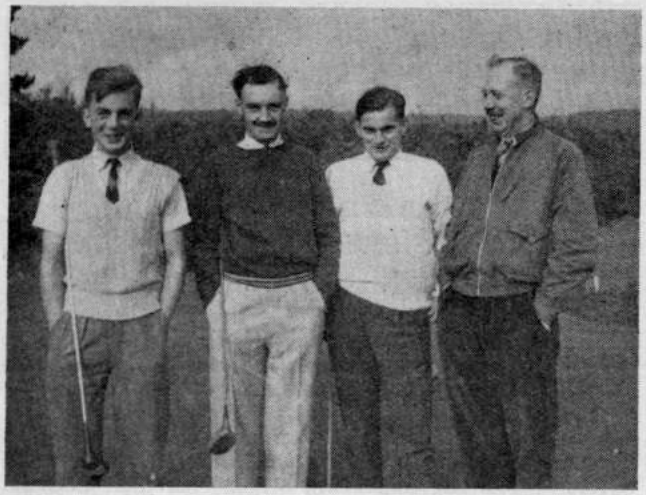
We missed some of our steadiest players of 1950, for example Captain Norman Gordon, owing to leave in U.K., postings or other causes; and it appears most difficult to find keen young blood in these days. By next season more of our regular team will have, unfortunately (or perhaps fortunately for them in these times of no servants, no dhobi and short rations), returned home. However, we will look forward to a better season next year, arrival of new talent and perhaps even a lowering of the average age of the team!

Results of matches to date are:

Date	Opponents	Result (Matches)
11 June	R.E.M.E.	Lost 1 —8
4 July	R.E.	Lost 2½—6½
11 July	R.A.P.C.	Lost 2½—6½
22 August	R.A.O.C.	Lost 1 —8
14 September	R.E.M.E. (return)	Lost 4 —5
28 September	H.Q. Group R.A.F.	Won 5½—3½



Seated: Lieutenant-Colonel P. A. Duke, O.B.E., Major-General W. O. Bowen, C.B., C.B.E., Colonel D. St. J. Hoysted (chairman), Brigadier L. de M. Thuillier, O.B.E., Major F. T. C. Williams (secretary). Standing: Sergeant H. A. Knott, Captain D. Hall, Major B. H. P. Barnes, Major R. Lyall



T. R. S. Blake, J. Y. Ferguson, T. G. Williams, A. R. Morrison

ROYAL SIGNALS GOLFING SOCIETY

At Camberley Heath on 17th October the Cadets of the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, showed great respect to the Royal Signals Officers in the bar and at lunch, but then forgot all about rank and seniority in the afternoon when they trounced their visitors to the tune of 6½ games to 1½. Colonel Winckley had a resounding win of 8 and 6 and we tried hard to count that as two wins, but nevertheless we were well and truly beaten.

The weather and opposition were delightful and the course in excellent condition, so that we all enjoyed ourselves very much. Local knowledge played its part in favour of the Cadets, but it is very obvious when we play them again—yes, we have been invited—that we must put out a far stronger team. The Cadets have challenged us to two matches next year, in the spring and autumn, and Royal Signals Officers who would like to play in these and other matches are asked to send their names and full details to Major J. Norfolk, Royal Signals Wing, School of Signals, Catterick Camp, Yorks, for matches in the North, and/or to Major C. Rhys Few, "Watcombe," Frobisher Close, Eastcote, Pinner, Middlesex, for matches in the South. It is again pointed out that there is no entrance fee or subscription to the Royal Signals Officers' Golfing Society and that ALL OFFICERS, serving, T.A., E.C., etc., past and present, are eligible and will be very welcome.

Details of the match against the R.M.A.:

Cadet R. B. Carroll	3 and 2	1	Major-General C. Vulliamy		0
Cadet T. G. Williams	2 and 1	1	Brigadier A. R. Morrison		0
Cadet M. V. Keeling	4 and 2	1	Brigadier C. A. H. Chadwick		0
Cadet A. J. Riley	1 up	1	Captain G. B. Andrews		0
Cadet R. W. Smart	4 and 3	1	Major C. Rhys Few		0
Cadet M. J. Witt		0	Colonel G. Winckley 8 and 6		1
Cadet T. R. S. Blake	3 and 1	1	Captain Ferguson		0
Cadet P. J. Wookkey		½	Major-General Sir L. Philips		½
		6½			1½

RUGBY NOTES FROM CATTERICK

In the second round of the Army Cup at Pontefract on 6th November 1 Training Regiment Royal Signals defeated a H.A.A. Regiment R.A. by 43 points to 3. Towards the close of the game Second-Lieutenant Durrans had the misfortune to fracture his jaw.

At Oswestry on 14th November the Corps side defeated Royal Artillery after a hard game by 10 points to 0. The Corps side opened brilliantly and scored twice in the first 20 minutes. The Royal Artillery rallied and only splendid tackling kept them out. Early in the second half Second-Lieutenant Roberts was carried off and it was subsequently found that he had slightly fractured his spine.

Despite playing with 14 men the Corps pressed but no further scoring took place and a splendid game ended without any addition to the score.

A weak Catterick Services XV proved no match for 1 Training Regiment Royal Signals on 17th November and a somewhat one-sided game was won easily by 42 points to 3.

In Edinburgh on 24th November a morning game was played, on one of the Fettes College grounds, v. Aberdeen University and gave a Signal 2nd XV an opportunity of showing what they could do. The forwards played particularly well on the muddy ground and Signalmen Hancock, Berry and Hogg were the pick of a good pack. A win for us, by a penalty goal kicked by Hancock and a try scored by S.Q.M.S. Knight, to nil fairly represented the play. After the game everyone rushed off to Murrayfield, where the "Springboks" gave a wonderful display.

On the 26th November at Catterick the Welsh Brigade Training Centre from Brecon played 1 Training Regiment Royal Signals in the third round of the Army Cup. In the last three years 1 Training Regiment have beaten the Welsh twice in the semi-final and last year visited Brecon, where they defeated the Welsh in the quarter-final.

This year we again proved victorious and won a good game by 23 points to 0. Captain T. G. H. Jackson was in good form and his robust running was always a danger to the Welsh Brigade. Our forwards played magnificently in the loose and were better in the line-outs but in the tight scrums the Welsh held their own, with Lance-Corporal Bowen hooking very well for them. Signalman Hughes and Signalman Robbins were an excellent second row and Robbins repeatedly got the ball in line-outs. Scorers for Signals were Jackson (2), Thomson (2), Williams (2); Fletcher converted one and kicked a penalty goal.

A crowd of about 1,000 enjoyed selections played by the Royal Corps of Signals Band before the match.

Two days later a Corps match v. Royal Engineers took place on the Stadium ground. A high wind made play difficult and somewhat scrappy, but the Corps team showed considerable skill in their passing movements and won comfortably by 27 points to 3. Lance-Corporal Sheppard made a welcome re-appearance after his operation for appendicitis at the beginning of the season and played very well. As four of our players, Lance-Corporal Thomson, Lance-Corporal Fletcher, Signalman Hughes and Signalman Harding, were away on tour with an Army team in B.A.O.R. and two others, Second-Lieutenant A. G. I. Wood and Signalman Gittins, were playing for the Army v. Civil Service, the result was very satisfactory. The Engineers had a good pack, which played vigorously and held its own, but the Signals backs were far superior.

On 8th December the Corps XV defeated R.M.A., Sandhurst, by 14 points to 6, and 1 Training Regiment (although without Second-Lieutenant Wood, playing for Yorkshire v. Lancashire, and with five playing for the Corps) defeated the Old Brodleians in the fifth round of the Yorkshire Cup, in a very muddy and strenuous game, by 11 points to 3.

The result of the Corps' Rugger match against the Oxford University Greyhounds, played at Catterick on 20th December, was:—

Royal Signals 6
Oxford University Greyhounds ... 3

This match is noteworthy in that it is the first occasion on which the Corps have beaten the Greyhounds, although they have sometimes been successful against the Cambridge LX Club.

INSURANCE

You are reminded that the General Secretary of the Association at 88 Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1, can put YOU in touch with a most reputable insurance company capable and willing to help you in any insurance you wish to effect. By doing your business in this way there is slight financial benefit both to the Association and to yourself.



THE WIRE

The Corps Magazine of the
ROYAL SIGNALS
The Official Organ of the
SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

Editor:
BRIGADIER H. R. FIRTH

All correspondence and matter for publication for THE WIRE *should be addressed to The Editor,* THE WIRE, *88 Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1. Matter for publication must be received by the 15th of the month preceding publication.*

Remittances should be made payable to: Royal Signals Association. Subscription rates (post free, except air mail): Twelve months, 12/-; single month, 1/-.

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FEBRUARY • 1952

Vol. 6 *New Series* **No. 2**

✡

PRICE ONE SHILLING

His Majesty The King is Dead

The news published in London on the morning of 6th February overshadowed the lives and work of all. The first thought of all was the sudden shock and sense of personal loss. Then of duty and our loyalty to our Queen on Her succession to Her great responsibilities: next of our sympathy to all the Royal Family including our own Colonel-in-Chief.

EDITORIAL

IT was in these circumstances on 6th February that the final work on this the February number of THE WIRE was completed. In its new austerity version the January WIRE, for the first time for many years, showed a slight profit. Such comment as has been received has been generally favourable. It will be possible to print 24 pages at least on alternate months.

We again ask Regiments and Branches to be forebearing if their notes are not printed in full. It will take us all time to settle down to the new style of "notes."

EMPLOYMENT

As some know, there is at 88 Eccleston Square a section which deals with employment.

Fifteen men were placed in employment directly by this section during the quarter ending 31st December, 1951. Many more were advised and given introductions to employers.

This, the Employment Section, has an increasing clientele amongst employers, particularly in London, but all are asked to help this section by reporting the names of employers who require ex Signalmen.

MODERN TIMES NEED MODERN METHODS

As all who are married know one of the great difficulties in the Army, with its constant moves, is the difficulty of finding married accommodation near one's station.

At Blacon, Chester, until recently, the Commanding Officer provided what was usually described as a miniature Mercury House. A surplus hut was divided in two, furnished by good luck and good will, and wives long separated were able to be with their husbands for a fortnight whenever there was a vacancy there.

The waiting list was long, but the provision of this accommodation was greatly appreciated and of great value. It is possible that in other stations this arrangement, or something like it, may be possible; ingenuity and lots of goodwill sometimes overcome the difficulties. What has been done by one Commanding Officer can perhaps be done by others. Certainly from the point of view of the Association anything that can be done to enable families long separated to be reunited for a short time is of the greatest value.

KOREA

There is no news from the 1st Commonwealth Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment in Korea save that the Association has been active in response to an appeal made by the War Office. A series of parcels containing a variety of goods have been sent out, and currently scarves and woollen gloves are being posted every week or so both from Association Headquarters and from many Regiments of Royal Signals in the United Kingdom.

OBITUARY

Major A. H. HORTON, M.B.E., T.D.

All those who knew Alister Horton will regret to hear of his death at Cape Town on 21st December, 1951, at the age of 54. He was a man of great sincerity, methodical and painstaking, with a strong sense of duty. Although of low medical category, resulting from a wound received on the Somme in 1916 when serving with the 60th Rifles, he joined the Territorial Army in 1939 and rendered splendid service in the various appointments he held during the second World War. He never spared himself and his services to his country undoubtedly overtaxed his strength and helped to bring about his early death.

In 1939 he joined the 61 Divisional Signals (the duplicate Unit of the 48 (S.M.) Divisional Signals), and was a valuable experienced officer in a Unit composed almost entirely of recruits. In April 1940, being of too low a medical category to remain with a field unit, he was posted to No. 2 S.T.C. at Prestatyn, where he was appointed Adjutant of No. 2 Holding Battalion and later became Staff Captain at the S.T.C. Headquarters. In June 1942, he was moved to the War Office on appointment as D.A.A.G. in A.G.11, dealing with other ranks' postings. He worked hard and conscientiously here until the end of the war and was awarded a well-earned M.B.E. for his services.

He was a partner in a Birmingham firm of stockbrokers and a member of the Birmingham Stock Exchange.

BERTRAND STEWART PRIZE ESSAY COMPETITION

Subject.—"During the last war a number of unorthodox units were raised for special operations. They included Special Air Service units, the Long Range Desert Group and the Long Range Penetration Group (Wingate Expedition). Discuss the use of these small forces and the value you consider was obtained from their use. Do you consider that such forces will be useful in the future, and if so, discuss the type of operations on which you consider they might be usefully employed either in North West Europe or in Middle Eastern territories?"

Rules.—Essays not exceeding 10,000 words, typed in quadruplicate, are to reach the Editor, Army Quarterly, Little New Street, London, E.C.4, by 20th June, 1952.

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.

EMPLOYMENT VACANCIES

Cipher Machine Mechanics are required for Government post in Delhi or Karachi (location not yet settled). Appointment is of two years' tenure and becomes vacant in February 1952. Single applicants preferred on account of accommodation difficulties, but married men may apply. Scale of pay ranges from £4 4s. per week on entry at age of 20 to £6 on entry at age 25, plus tax-free allowance of £330 p.a. in Delhi or £640 p.a. in Karachi. (Allowance rates quoted are those for single men.) Free furnished accommodation.

Candidates should apply to Commonwealth Relations Office, Downing Street, London, S.W.1, quoting reference Q.2390/5 dated 15th January, 1952.

DO YOU KNOW RAWLINSON BARRACKS, DENBURY, AND WHERE IT IS?

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

6th Annual Meeting of Honorary Secretaries of Branches of the Association will be at Duke of Yorks Headquarters, Chelsea, S.W.3, on Saturday, 29th March.

London and South Eastern Area Rally and Reunion will be held at the Assembly Rooms, Tunbridge Wells, from 5 to 11 p.m. on Saturday, 17th May.

Particulars from Mr. G. E. Paling, Honorary Secretary, Tunbridge Wells Branch, Vale Towers, Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

Annual General Meeting and Old Comrades' Reunion at Catterick on Saturday, 19th July, Sunday, 20th July. Details are being sent out by H.Q., Royal Signals Association, 88 Eccleston Square, S.W.1.

Reunion, No. 1 S.W.G. Royal Signals and Associated Section. 2nd Annual Reunion to be held at the Charter Inn, Epsom, on Sunday, 9th March, 1952, from 6 p.m. onwards. Please contact Mr. A. G. Billington, Hungerford, Berks.

London Branch, Royal Signals Association are holding a dinner and social at their Headquarters, The Crown, 248 Northend Road, Fulham, S.W.6, on Saturday, 29th March (night of Honorary Secretaries' Meeting). Tickets 7s. 6d., apply to Branch Social Secretary, Mr. G. Evans, 43 Hereford Road, W.3.

* * *

Dinner Club

Annual Dinner, Thursday, 10th July. Tickets 15s.

Regular Officers' Tea Party, Friday, 11th July. Tickets 8s. 6d.

Both will be held at the Hyde Park Hotel as formerly.

Details from Honorary Secretary, Royal Signals Dinner Club, Room 97, Horseguards, Whitehall, S.W.1.

* * *

Army Team Fixtures

Association Football: 5th March, Army v. Royal Navy, at Portsmouth; 12th March, Semi-Final Army Cup; 19th March, Army v. Royal Air Force, at Wolverhampton.

Rugby Football: 1st March, Army v. Royal Navy, at Twickenham; 12th March, Army v. North Midlands, at Moseley; 22nd March, Army v. Royal Air Force, at Twickenham.

Boxing: 27th February, Finals Army Inter-Unit Team Championships at Aldershot.

* * *

Royal Signals Rugby Football Club

Feb. 20	*v.* Stonyhurst, at Stonyhurst.
March 1	*v.* Sedbergh School, at Sedbergh.

* * *

Northampton Branch

Annual Dinner, 13th March, 1952. Details may be obtained from Mr. G. B. Lewis, 6 The Crescent, Northampton.

BOUND VOLUMES OF "THE WIRE"

We have available material to bind in book form 20 copies of the 1951 WIRE. Messes and individuals who require bound volumes should please let the Editor know as soon as possible. Price is 30s.

PERSONAL COLUMN

Honours and Awards

Major J. H. E. Panton has been awarded the O.B.E.

Major (Q.M.) J. D. T. Hillman, 51 (H) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, has been awarded the M.B.E.

Movements of Officers

Major J. C. Alcock from Depot to 56 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment.

Major W. J. Cornish from Depot to Scottish Command Signal Regiment.

Major M. G. Hooper from Depot to Scottish Command Signal Regiment.

Lieutenant-Colonel T. A. K. Howe from M.E.L.F. to S.H.A.P.E.

Captain (Q.M.) E. W. G. Cole from 3 A.A. (M) Signal Squadron to M.E.L.F.

Captain R. S. D. Maunsell from Depot to Staff College, Camberley.

Major J. R. Smith from M.E.L.F. to 16 Airborne Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A.

Major J. W. Smith-Ainsley from War Office to 23 (S) Corps Signal Regiment, T.A.

Major J. E. P. Sampson from B.A.O.R. to Staff College, Camberley.

Major J. Knowles from Air Ministry to B.T.A.

Major A. E. S. Jackson from 3 Training Regiment to B.A.O.R.

Major C. E. Bucke from M.E.L.F. to Scottish Command (M) Signal Regiment.

Major S. W. B. Lee from M.E.L.F. to Scottish Command (M) Signal Regiment.

Major W. J. Main from Scottish Command (M) Signal Regiment to FARELF.

Major M. J. Maclennan from Depot to School of Signals.

Captain I. G. Swan from Depot to Staff College.

Major E. McK. Erskine from H.Q. Scottish Command to Staff College.

Major P. F. Pentreath from FARELF to Depot.

Major F. J. Swainson from B.A.O.R. to 5 Corps Signal Regiment.

Lieutenant-Colonel F. H. Pellew from 7 Training Regiment to Senior Officers' School.

Major K. A. Nash from M.E.L.F. to Western Command Signal Regiment.

Lieutenant-Colonel G. H. S. Balmain from B.J.C.B. to R.A.R.O.

Major R. E. D. Matthews from M.E.L.F. to Depot.

Major O. B. G. Shoubridge from M.E.L.F. to Depot.

Major M. D. Price from Staff College to B.A.O.R.

Major R. C. S. Collison from Staff College to M.S. Appointment.

Major J. T. H. Higgins from Staff College to Joint School of Chemical Welfare (for Course).

Major M. P. King from Staff College to M.S. Appointment.

Major C. E. Page from Staff College to M.S. Appointment.

Major J. E. V. Rice from Staff College to M.S. Appointment.

Major (Q.M.) A. M. Yorke from 12 A.A. (M) Signal Regiment to A.L.F.C.E. Signal Squadron.

Major M. McG. Simmonds from 3 Training Regiment to 3 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment.

Major P. Wolfendale from 3 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment to S.R.D.E.

Major T. Farr from Western Command Signal Regiment to C.S.O.'s Staff, Western Command.

Major J. A. S. Fearfield from Staff College to C.S.O.'s Branch, H.Q., Eastern Command.

Lieutenant-Colonel J. L. D. Read from 7 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment to Officer Commanding 4 L. of C. Signal Regiment.

Movements of Warrant and Non-Commissioned Officers

W.O.II McQuade from B.A.O.R. to Western Command Signal Regiment.

R.S.M. Turner from Signal Training Centre to 4 L. of C. Signal Regiment.

S.Q.M.S. Routledge from 5 A.A. (M) Signal Regiment to 7 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment.

* * *

Those who attended No. 8 Foreman of Signals Technical Maintenance Course at Catterick will remember W.O. S. T. Chisholm, Royal Canadian Signals, 47 Union Street, Kingston, Ontario, Canada, who writes that he would like to hear from them.

* * *

News of Major-General D. A. L. Wade, C.B., O.B.E., comes unexpectedly from U.S.A., where he is telecommunications attaché of the British Embassy in Washington. "Signal," the Journal of the Armed Forces Communications Association, announces that on 7th November General Wade was presented with an honorary membership in the Association at a luncheon of the Washington Chapter.

Births

BARRETT—On 18th December to Major E. W. Barrett, The War Office (Signals 6) and Mrs. Barrett, a son, Iain Nigel Manning.

Marriages

CATTON—MITCHELL.—At Birmingham on 4th December, Signalman P. Catton, London District Signal Troop, to Miss Gwendoline Iris Mitchell.

DUFF—McCARTHY.—At Caxton Hall on 24th November, Signalman J. Duff, London District Signal Troop, to Miss Daphne McCarthy.

Deaths

MARSH.—Mr. W. Marsh, life member of the Royal Signals Association, at Sheffield, December 1951.

HORTON.—Major Alister Horton, late of Royal Signals (Prestatyn and War Office, A.G.11), in Cape Town at the end of 1951. *Notice on opposite page.*

TYAS.—22546693 Driver A. Tyas, on 10th December, in B.A.O.R.

Killed on Active Service

WARE.—22371225 Signalman P. P. Ware, on 2nd December, in Korea.

LATHAM.—22451918 Signalman P. N. Latham, on 16th December, in Korea.

Injured on Active Service

FOWLER.—22395715 Lance-Corporal J. A. Fowler, on 2nd December, in Korea.

BUCKLEY.—22539678 Signalman J. Buckley, on 21st December, in Korea.

HUTIN.—22334054 Signalman D. S. Hutin, on 14th December, in M.E.L.F.

UNITED STATES NAVY VISITS THE SUDAN

THE Navy is planning an expedition to Khartoum, in the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan, in early 1952, to make radio observations of a solar eclipse. On February 25, 1952, the sun will be totally eclipsed by the moon for about three minutes, and Khartoum will be directly in the path of the eclipse.

Although this will be the third eclipse expedition for the Naval Research Laboratory of the Office of Naval Research, it will represent the first integrated program for making comparative measurements. Both optical and radio measurements will be made under the overall direction of Dr. John P. Hogan of the NRL.

Radio "telescopes" or radiometers, which have been designed and constructed by NRL., will be used for studying the radio emissions from the sun's atmosphere, using radio frequencies of 35,000 megacycles and 3,000 magacycles, which will correspond to radio wave lengths of 8.5 millimeters and 10 centimeters. This will be the first time that measurements have been made at the shorter wave length.

The optical observations to be made by NRL scientists include a series of photographs of the total eclipse known as coronagraphs, as well as high-speed motion pictures of the full event.

Navy scientists believe that temperature measurements by radio means are more accurate than those which have been made by optical means, since the majority of the energy emitted by the sun's chromosphere is in the radio frequency region of the spectrum, rather than in the visible light region.

The eclipse expedition is part of the Laboratory's overall program of radio astronomy which was begun in 1946. Radio astronomy is of scientific interest since it extends the range of astronomical observations through the use of radio frequencies. The primary objective of this program is to extend man's knowledge of the universe through study of such problems as the composition of the sun's atmosphere, the nature of radio emissions from the sun, moon, and the stars, and the times and nature of solar outbursts or "flares." Such information is expected to be useful in improving long-range radio communications and weather forecasting.

Reprinted from "Signal," the Journal of the Armed Forces Communications Association of the United States of America, by courtesy of the Editor.

* * *

Also in "Signal" is listed the following Units of the United States Army Signal Corps who received the Meritorious Unit Commendation from the Commander, Eighth Army in Korea:—

51st Signal Battalion.
522nd Signal Construction Company.
581st Signal Radio Relay Company.

A MEASURE OF EXPANSION

The United States Army Signal Corps has established a new Training Centre at San Luis Obispo, California. This is the third major Training Centre and is a measure of the tremendous expansion of the Signal Corps.

STOP PRESS

7 Training Regiment defeated the Depot Regiment R.A. 2—0 and are now in the semi-final of the Army Association Football Cup.

Do You Remember?

THAT the February WIRE in 1922 contained a description of Direction Finding by Wireless, so the technical articles that have appeared in THE WIRE until recently are not without precedent. Under the aegis of our late Director, General Scott, the Corps has been making something of a name for itself in the Army Rifle Association. There is nothing very new in this although many of those now competing are almost pioneers. In 1921 we won the "Mhow Challenge Cup." Team—Lance-Sergeants Parsons and Dorrington, Signalmen Cassidy and Martin.

As usual, this, the February number in 1922 (as in 1952), was filled with long descriptions of what people eat and drink and say at Christmas time.

Barleaux in that month had a long and erudite column on "Flies." Do you remember? You do? Good. Then there will be no need to ask him to repeat it. It was nauseating!

Do you remember they had a "Picturesque Fancy Dress Carnival" at Crowborough that year? You do? Well, you must be one of those who have been perpetuating that unsoldierly custom in every Royal Signals station ever since.

The Royal Corps of Signals Athletic Club was formed that year with J. A. S. Tillard as Secretary with the object of promoting cross-country running "from small beginnings." You do remember? Well, who won the Army Team Championship in 1924? You know? Well, look in the diary and see who won in 1949 and 1950.

Do you remember that in 1932 you could buy a bound volume of THE WIRE for 8s.? Today it costs 30s. Do you think they have any left at the old price? Well, why not write and ask, there is no more fascinating reading.

In 1932 Captain, now Brigadier Retired, late of 30 Corps, Harry Bartlett came home from Egypt. Captain Ralph Raynor, now Brigadier and Member of Parliament, arrived in Catterick.

In 1932 it is recorded that Units and Branches had a pleasant habit of getting up dances, etc., for the benefit of the Benevolent Fund. Do you remember? Some still do it, but not all.

Do you remember "D" Divisional Signals—1 Indian Divisional Signals—35 Divisional Signal Company—44 Divisional Signal Company? Do you remember who commanded in 1914, 1925, in 1928, in 1939? You do? Well, you must have a copy of the February 1932 WIRE.

A team from this Regiment won the Rawalpindi O Handicap Polo Tournament—D. A. Brown, C. M. F. White, I. F. G. Hall, J. N. Barker. Do you remember?

Do you remember that on 29th December, 1931, H.M.T. Dorsetshire was 500 miles east of Gibraltar and 70 miles north of Algiers? You do? Well, you must have been trooping outward bound yourself.

Do you remember that the 3rd Divisional Signals was at Bulford and sent off a draft of Sergeant Nokes (we heard from him the other day) and thirty-nine others on this ship?

Do you remember that a description of the voyage of H.M.T. Nevasa was hurled overboard in a bottle on 28th November, 1931, was picked up by a member of Egypt Signals "off the coast of the Suez Canal," was sent home and published in THE WIRE? H.E.G. was the author. Who was he?

In a photograph of the members of a Sergeants' Mess in India about that time the "seated" row included Lieutenant-Colonel R. P. A. Helps, O.B.E., M.C., Lieutenant W. R. Smijth-Wyndam, R.S.M. Wray, R.Q.M.S. C. Caulfield, C.S.M. H. Weston, C.Q.M.S.s R. Marshall, J. Robertson, A. Taylor. Which Unit was it, and where were they stationed? You do remember? You ——!

VALE

Major-General
C. M. F. WHITE
C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O.



ON 1st October, 1951, Major-General C. M. F. White, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., relinquished command of Catterick District and proceeded on retirement leave; in other words, after 36 years on the active list, " Slap " White has left the Army.

Like many Royal Signals Officers of his vintage, Cecil Meadows Frith White was first commissioned in the Royal Artillery in February, 1915, from the R.M.A., Woolwich. His earliest military recollection, however, is appearing on parade without a tie, with the Dogspotters—the Eton O.T.C.

Although wearing Gunner badges, he started his career as a signaller on joining his first active Unit, 68 Field Brigade when he was appointed galloper to the Brigade Commander. For this duty he was given two horses, but as one of them bled at the nose if urged beyond a trot and the other invariably ran away with him, he was often neither as " certa " nor as " cito " as the occasion demanded. Before long, however, he was commanding a Signal Section, with visual equipment and cable; he was already an experienced Signal Officer when, after the war, he was sent on his first signal course and got a "D."

Shortly after this "V" Battery R.H.A. was disbanded, much to his sorrow, and he become a Regimental Instructor at the School of Signals, Maresfield, in 1922. It was here that he first met his wife, Betty, whose interest in Corps affairs and untiring energy in families' welfare have been such a support to him throughout his Army life. From this time, too, his own interest in, and loyalty to, the Corps became fixed, and after completing No. 9 "Q" Course he transferred to Royal Signals in 1925.

From then until 1939 " Slap " spent his time in India or at Catterick. Always a lover of horses, he took to polo with enthusiasm, and one of his happiest memories is that, with Lieutenants D. Patterson, M. Whistler and S. Knox, he was in the Signals' team that won the Abbotabad Spring Tournament in 1934. He also acquired a strong admiration for, and deep understanding of, the Indian soldier. This was to serve him well in later years.

At Catterick he was Brigade Major at H.Q., S.T.C., in 1934-1936, and then with the Depot Battalion. All this time horses were his main interest; he hunted and show-jumped, and there were few days in the year when he was not riding. As a soldier he was conscientious and efficient, but there were few people at this time who would have forecast his outstanding success, for he was certainly not highly qualified technically, nor was he p.s.c., nor did he strike one as being particularly energetic.

Then, quite unexpectedly, instead of moving comfortably placed with the field, he was out in front. In October 1939 he came to Egypt commanding the Signal Regiment of the famous 4th Indian Division, the first Indian Signal Unit to be completely motorised. From then on his progress as a signaller became spectacular. First he won a D.S.O. at Sidi Barrani in 1940, after which he started on a series of appointments of ever-increasing importance. C.S.O. in the East African Campaign 1940-41, C.S.O. 8th Army M.E.F. 1941-43, S.O.-in-C. 21 Army Group in U.K. and N.W. Europe 1944-45, C.S.O. G.H.Q. M.E.L.F. 1945-49. During this time he earned an O.B.E. in 1941, C.B.E. in 1943, and C.B. in 1945. Finally, in 1949, he came home once more to Catterick as District Commander. Here, for the last two years, surrounded by old friends, he has been untiring in his efforts to obtain better conditions and to improve the amenities of the garrison.

It is interesting to try and understand just why he has done so well, and which of his characteristics proved to be that little extra that others are lacking. Personal charm, immaculate turnout, perfect manners, a boyish sense of humour, the gift of inspiring the best service in others—all these have helped; but more important on active service have been the ability to remain calm and completely under control however dangerous or gloomy a situation, a clear mind, a conclusive way of giving a decision, and a very happy knack of absorbing the essential elements of a problem from discussion or conference, even with the eyes closed as in sleep.

His interests—field sports generally, anything to do with horses and dogs, and his family, who are as devoted to the Corps as he is.

His hobby—acting and producing. Throughout their life with Signals, wherever they have served, " Slap " and Betty, and in recent years " Liz," have regularly acted in plays or helped to produce them, thereby contributing a great deal to the interest of garrison life.

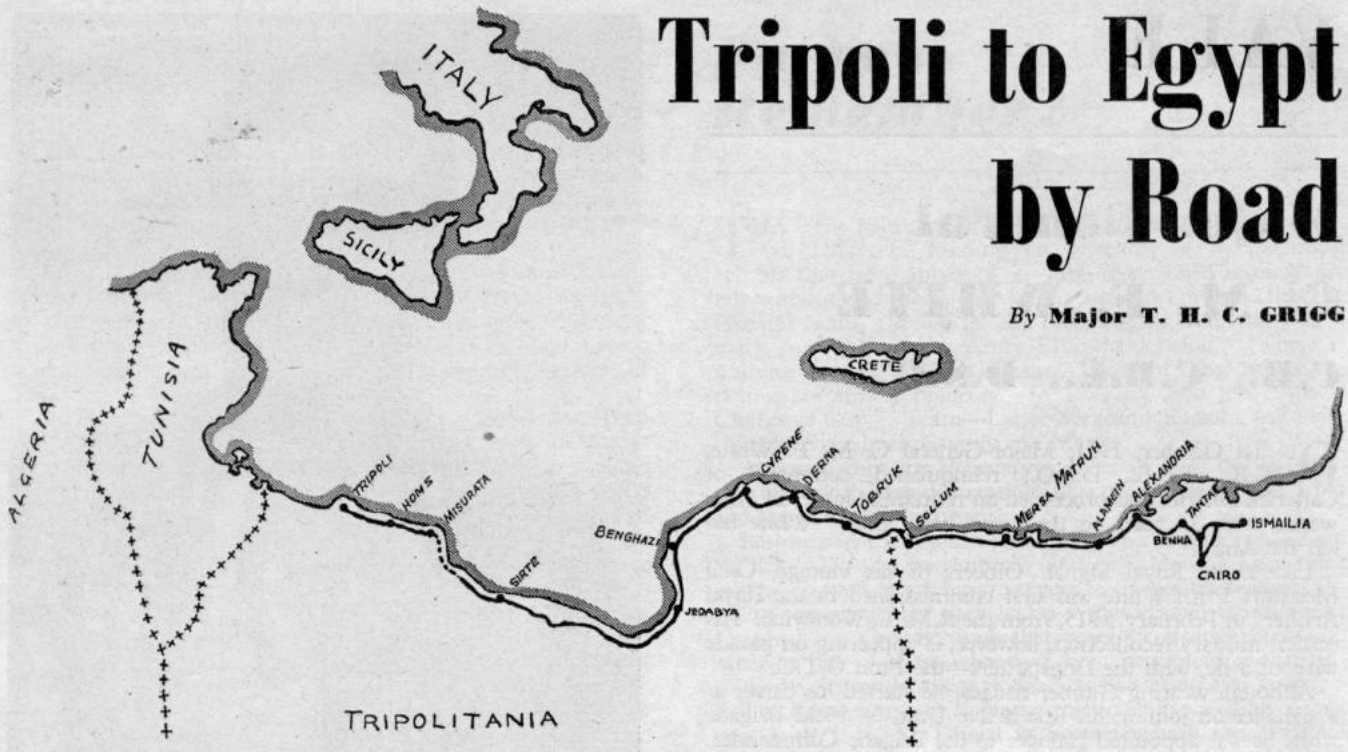
Minor activities—rug making and knitting, to help keep awake after dinner. Musical instrument—the saw.

His advice to the younger generation—go where you are sent, don't bluff if you don't know, and try to get a laugh out of the gloomiest situation, even at your own expense.

Although " Slap " has retired, he is still one of our Colonels Commandant, and his friends at all levels look forward to seeing him when his tour of duty in that capacity comes round, as well as at other Corps' functions; and so, thank goodness, we are not saying " Farewell," but "Au Revoir."

Tripoli to Egypt by Road

By **Major T. H. C. GRIGG**



WHEN I was posted from Tripoli to Egypt I decided that my family and I would make the journey in our 1947 Vauxhall 10 h.p. car, which by then had already done 30,000 miles.

My wife and I are both keen on motoring, and we had several years before toured extensively in Egypt, Palestine, Syria and Transjordan. My wife is also used to travelling "hard," having made her way home from China across Siberia in 1938, and she had been one of the last of the British to escape from Warsaw after the war started in 1939. We had planned to motor home on leave from Tripoli this year, but my posting to Egypt had prevented this.

Some of our friends doubted the wisdom of a 1,700-mile trek across the desert in a small standard type of car with two small girls and a six-month-old baby, but we were confident it could be managed. Having made up our minds there was little enough time to prepare for the journey.

The first part of the trip between Tripoli and Benghazi was to be the most difficult because after Misurata there is really nowhere very suitable to stay until reaching Benghazi, and it was obvious that we could not do the 530 miles over difficult roads in one day. There is, however, a rest house at Sirte which has three beds, so we planned to stay a night there and do a long stretch to Agedabia the following day. We knew in advance that we could sleep on the floor of the telephone exchange there if nowhere else was available. From Benghazi onwards it would be simple as there are Officers' Clubs at Derna and Tobruk and an Egyptian hotel at Mersa Matruh.

We were uncertain about getting petrol at Agedabia, which meant that from Sirte we had to carry two full jerri-cans. We also decided to carry a considerable quantity of food—mostly in tins—and hoped to augment this on the way with vegetables, fresh fruit and eggs.

There were considerable formalities in connection with passports and visas for Cyrenaica and Egypt, but Colonel Hill, the Chief Signal Officer at Benghazi, very kindly arranged these things for us. Money presented no problem as in the event of our running short we could get Egyptian currency from the Army Field Cashiers at Benghazi and Tobruk.

An Italian workman made a very useful luggage rack to put on the top of the car, and two days before starting out we loaded up for a "trial run." Bedding roll and suitcases were piled on top, and in the boot we put the food, cooking apparatus, tools, spare petrol, oil, water, and a few spare parts—none of which were needed. The baby travelled in a karricot strung from the back seat to the front.

We finally set off on the 9th January at about 10 o'clock, and a few friends came to see us off. It was a glorious morning and we were soon heading along the cost road to Homs. Here we lunched under some trees within sight of the old Roman city of Leptis Magna. We stayed that night at a dingy little "Albergo" at Misurata. There was a violent thunderstorm during the night and the weather looked far from promising when we set out for Sirte the following morning. The road runs due south into the desert for some way, and there was no sign of life after leaving the check post at Gioda—except for a few gazelle and hare. Approaching Buerat, the road winds to the east along the coast. The rain held off. It was dark when we reached Sirte.

The rest house at Sirte has about four rooms with three beds, some chairs, a table and a few blankets. An Arab looks after the place. We made ourselves a huge supper and went to bed early.

It was necessary to unload the car completely each day as we did not want to have anything stolen. It took quite a time to load up again each morning, but by the end of the journey I was becoming quite expert at it.

Having got up at 5 a.m., we left Sirte at about 8 a.m. There were some deep sand drifts across the road a few miles from Sirte, but the car sailed through without any trouble. We had our lunch on the roadside at Nofilia. By now the road was getting considerably worse—approaching Marble Arch at about 3 o'clock we passed the first vehicle we had seen since leaving Sirte. Our speed was now down to about 20 miles an hour, and every now and again the car gave a tremendous shudder as it dropped into a pot hole. It was getting dark as we neared Marsa Brega, and here sinister shapes of wrecked tanks, guns, and vehicles loomed up on either side of the road

to remind us of the severe battles that had taken place here. My neck was aching from continuously craning forward to watch the road and avoid the worst of the bumps; and there was still another 50 miles to go. The children were tired and had flopped asleep. It was very dark and the road was atrociously bad.

It must have been about 8 o'clock when a large barrier across the road indicated that we had arrived at the Cyrenraican frontier post at Agedabia. A rather officious Cyrenaican official scrutinised our passports and visas and calmly announced that my family could not enter Cyrenaica. I was in no mood to be baulked at this stage and I persuaded him to telephone to the British Residency at Benghazi as I had a friend there. This did the trick. He quickly became co-operative and then led us in his jeep to the old Italian administrative headquarters—a broken down old building with no light, water or furniture of any kind—and we could stay there for the night. In complete darkness we groped our way upstairs, unpacked the primus, some candles and some food. We gave the children some hot soup and rolled them up in blankets to sleep.

By this time news of our arrival had gone round, and Arabs, who were delighted to welcome the "Ingleesi," brought us eggs, tomatoes and bread. These Arabs were telephone maintenance men and transport drivers belonging to the British Administration. They had been warned of our possible arrival by Mr. Foster—a former Royal Signals Officer and now in Telecommunications in Cyrenaica. They gave us a great send-off the following morning when we left for Benghazi. It was encouraging to see that the British still had some prestige in these parts.

The road is still bad for thirty miles or so after Agedabia, but it is being extensively repaired and we were forced to take some lengthy detours into the desert. A sandstorm retarded our progress. The sand got into everything and coated the car completely, but after a time we ran out of it and we were soon on a good fast road approaching Benghazi, and the trees on either side were a welcome change from the featureless desert.

By now the worst was definitely over, and we felt satisfied with our progress. The car had had a severe testing and done magnificently. We stayed a day and a half at Benghazi as we had friends to see and we needed to get our clothes washed. We stayed at the Officers' Club, which is run by NAAFI, and the staff there went out of their way to attend to our needs.

It was raining and blowing hard on the Sunday morning when we left Benghazi. This was a pity as the country on the way to Derna is quite pleasant. After following the coast for about 40 miles the road turns inland on approaching the Tocra pass, which is a stiffish climb. After Barce we took the northerly route to Cyrene. The heavy rain had made the road very slippery, but except for a few military vehicles there was no traffic. Approaching Cyrene, we crossed the Wadi Kuf,



British Commonwealth War Cemetery at Sollum



Last view of Tripoli with the Cathedral in the background

which the Sappers have spanned with a Bailey bridge—built, I think, by 23 Field Squadron, Royal Engineers.

The Cyrenaican Government have changed the names of villages and towns back to their original Arabic ones, and this made it difficult at times to know exactly where we were. We had lunch at the Officers' Club at Cyrene, and as it was still raining hard it was not possible to have more than a cursory glance at the remains of the Roman city.

From there it was only a short run to Derna, and as we neared the top of the pass the rain cleared. It was a glorious drive down the pass into the town. We spent a comfortable night at the Officers' Club.

The next day's run to Tobruk was only about 130 miles. After climbing the pass there are some fast stretches of road. Between Tmimi and the Gazala battlefields there are literally hundreds of "wrecks" left from the war. In some places they have been collected into heaps. Every now and again one saw an Arab furtively examining a wrecked vehicle. Many of the villagers have made houses out of petrol containers which had been left about. There are still warnings posted up to say that the road is under shell fire. Many unit signs remain where they were left.

Very little clearing up has been done in Tobruk. A few streets have been hacked through the debris and some buildings patched up, but that is all. We stayed at the Ladybird Officers' Club, named after H.M.S. *Ladybird* to commemorate the great part played by this small ship during the siege. The ship's lantern and the wheel were salvaged after she had been sunk and are now prominently displayed at the club. Another ship of H.M. Navy, H.M.S. *Fierce*, was anchored in the harbour, and there were some sailors about.

The next day's run was to Mersa Matruh, roughly 250 miles. We had been warned to expect considerable delay at the Egyptian frontier post at Sollum so we made an early start. The road is monotonously dull to Bardia and is rough in parts. South of Bardia, towards Capuzzo, there are two lengthy detours over rocks and soft sand. At times the car was perched at precarious angles, but it always managed to right itself and took everything in its stride. Even the camels —and there were many of them—thought we looked a strange sight.

It was about midday when we reached the Egyptian frontier post at Sollum, and it was difficult to coach the Egyptians into activity. We filled in countless forms, each of which had to be paid for, and after about an hour's delay we were allowed through. We stopped to look at the very well kept war cemetery at Sollum, where there are several thousand British and Commonwealth graves.

At every village or hamlet all the way from the Egyptian frontier to Alexandria a barrier is drawn across the road. Some quite illiterate Egyptian squats in a hut by the barrier and looks at passports before letting people through.

By now our tails were up—we were on a fast road and in Egypt at last. The children were wildly excited at the thought that we would soon be " there." We stayed at the Palace Hotel at Mersa Matruh; it was full of Egyptian officers from the nearby army camp. They sat round in groups with their hats on.

It had been our plan to drive straight on to Cairo, but we spent longer than anticipated at Alamein. It was exciting approaching the famous battlefields. Enormous amounts of war materials had been collected off the desert and dumped near the road. The positions of the foremost German and British minefields are marked by huge stone plaques and there is still a mass of tangled wire lying about. It was all strangely quiet and moving. The war cemeteries are beautifully kept. The warder of the British cemetery showed us the plans for the permanent memorial. Revisiting Alamein was an unforgettable experience.

It was dark when we reached Amria, which is well on the outskirts of Alexandria. It looked as though the Egyptians were intent on searching the car but their hearts softened when they saw the baby sleeping peacefully in its karrikot. After the quietness of driving across the desert, Alexandria was like Bedlam. We found the Hotel Cecil and stayed in great luxury.

Unfortunately, in my effort to find a short cut out of Alexandria the following morning, I missed the turning and we got on to the Delta road. I had never been on this road before so I decided to carry on. I didn't know that further along the road was up and we were to be diverted across fields, along canal banks all the way to Tanta. This was the worst part of the whole journey. We crawled behind huge trucks with no room to overtake. We got filthy and choked with dust and dirt. We were hungry but couldn't stop. When it got dark it became impossible to see the road—however much I kept behind the vehicle in front a great cloud of dust hung over the ground. Once we nearly finished up in the canal. The children fell asleep and we continued the nightmarish drive in silence. It was about 8 p.m. when we got into Cairo, 150 miles having taken us nearly twelve hours.



The following morning we took the children to the Pyramids and gave ourselves a good lunch at the Mena House Hotel. I explained to the head waiter that we were English and therefore short of cash. He allowed us a considerable reduction on the bill. Many of the residents were amused to see the baby " knocking back " strawberries and cream.

Then we set off to Ismailia along a road my wife and I know well. We reached the Transit Camp there about tea time. This was to be our home for the next week or so. The W.R.A.C. private who opened the gate at the camp informed me that " taxis " were not allowed inside.

The journey had taken eleven days, including a day's stop at Benghazi, and we had covered nearly 1,700 miles. Petrol and oil had cost us about £12 and other expenses amounted to about £34.

Little did we know that within a month we would be on our way home—this time by troopship—but that is another story.

NOTICE

Postal Orders to the value of 12s. have been received as follows:—

1. From Mexborough, Yorks.
2. From Sheffield, Yorks.

No names were forwarded with the remittances, and somebody will find that they did not receive the February, 1952, issue of THE WIRE. Those concerned should write to us, quoting Postal Order numbers if possible.

School of Signals

Officer Training Wing

The Christmas festivities started with Christmas dinner in the Officers' Mess, followed the next night by Christmas dinner and draw in the Sergeants' Mess. It is rumoured that there were many aching heads the following day. Thursday before Christmas saw the children's party, at which all children whose fathers serve with the Unit, and those living in quarters which the Unit administers, were entertained in the Unit NAAFI. Great credit goes to all concerned for the success of this party, especially to R.S.M. Leonard, who even had Father Christmas under Regimental control.

The Officer Cadets celebrated with a Christmas dinner night, the first in the present Officer Cadets' Mess. The Royal Signals String Orchestra played during dinner and the Cadet courses rendered some very fine carols for the entertainment of the Commanding Officer and Cadre Officers of the Unit.

Friday and Saturday saw the break-up of the Unit for Christmas leave, with bus loads of happy people leaving Marne Lines bound for places north, south, east and west.

Those who stayed behind enjoyed a traditional Christmas dinner together, with entertainment in the NAAFI, and by the time this goes to Press everybody in the Unit will have spent some time, either Christmas or New Year, with their families at home.

So much for Christmas festivities, and now for the world of sport.

In rugger there have been two cup matches. One against 5 Training Regiment in the Northumbrian District championship, when we won by 30 points to 3. Our luck turned, however, in the match against the Army Apprentices School, Harrogate, in the Northern Command championship, and we were beaten by 3 points to nil after a tense struggle. The play of Second-Lieutenant P. Miller must be mentioned.

In soccer the outstanding game has been the Northern Command cup match against 5 Training Regiment, where, although beaten 2 goals to 1, the Unit earned itself great credit. 5 Training Regiment played three professionals in their team and were, we think, lucky to win. A draw would have been a fairer result. The goalkeeping of Craftsman Ferry was outstanding.

In hockey the Unit is keeping to the fore, being second in the Northumbrian District League and not having lost a match the whole season.

In squash we are making good progress in the Garrison Squash League, and badminton is making a slow but promising start.



Officer Training Wing Commissioning Parade, 279 Course. Brigadier C. G. Moore, O.B.E., Commandant, School of Signals, and Mrs. Moore talk to relatives of the newly-commissioned officers. On the left are Lieutenant-Colonel M. A. Charlton, O.B.E., Commanding Officer, and Mrs. Charlton, and the Course Officer, Captain O. J. Peck

3 TRAINING REGIMENT

Aftermath of Christmas—but those remaining behind for New Year leave were certainly compensated. The Christmas dinner led to wild rumours that at long last rationing had been abolished. Captain M. Burt, W.R.A.C.—her bevy of helpers, and the spud bashers, of course, excelled themselves at Bourlon Lines and finished " dead heat " with Corporal Aikman and his merry men in the mountain district—three miles from Richmond at Gallowgate as the crow flies—if he flies vertically!

Football. We have an idea that the Battalion R.A.O.C. at Chilwell will win the Army Cup. They should, after beating us 4—0 in the third round—they were worthy winners and, of course, we should have been had we scored five. Should mention we beat a Training Regiment R.A.C. 5—3 (first round) and 5 Training Regiment, Royal Signals, Ripon, 2—1 (second round), whilst Captain " Bob " Wragg and S.Q.M.S. Spence are still working " out " why we are " out."

Boxing. Major G. Bolam is a proud man in a proud Regiment, and despite all kinds of difficulties like trade training, military training, P.T., haircuts and pay, the Regiment is in the final of the Northumbrian District Inter-Unit Team championships. In between, the team travelled to Carlisle with over 250 spectators but lost to a Training Regiment R.A.C.

But the rumour that Major Bolam has a private wire to a bloke called Jack Solomon is malicious—it's an ordinary D.8 cable extension.

Hockey. Under the leadership of Lieutenant P. Robson, who has the fantastic idea all O.W.L.s should be hockey players, the team reached the final of the Northumbrian District knockout competition and are third in the District League. Can't name anyone especially—they are all good, and on the occasion the C.I. turned out even he hit the ball—twice!

5 TRAINING REGIMENT

Rugby.—The Unit Rugby team lost a well fought match with the Officer Training Wing, 33—3. Lance-Corporal Seaman led the pack, and each time the scrum had the ball out without any difficulty. We hope to do well in the New Year, under the guidance of Second-Lieutenant R. A. Hearn.

Soccer.—We were dismissed from the Command competition by an Army Engineer Regiment on replay. It was a good hard game, but we have not yet found a worthy successor to our late inside-right and captain, Lance-Corporal Johnson, now released.

We had more fortune in the Ripon Charity Cup first round, beating a rather weak R.A.F. Dishforth team in a clean but uninspiring game.

Our success in the Ripon League continues. Both the Regimental 1st and 2nd XIs knocked up a " cricket " score in their own matches of the month, 9—1 and 8—2 respectively.

Hockey.—In a match against St. John's College, York, the Regimental team were beaten 6—3, but good experience was gained.

Small Bore Shooting.—Progress in our Small Bore Club has been considerable. Since it was formed in September our marksmen have been hard at practice in the evenings and, from our former position at the bottom of the Catterick Garrison Small Bore League, we have now risen to fifth place. We hope to go even higher before the end of the season.

Boxing.—In a keen fought match with a Training Regiment, R.A.C., the Regiment lost by one point in the Northumbrian Cup match. Signalman Turk put up an excellent show to win on points, and Corporal White's bout was a wonderful exhibition of good clean boxing.

The Christmas party given by the Regiment to the children of Dr. Barnardo's Homes was a great success. A wonderful tea was provided and games consisted of the usual party games plus a slide which was erected for the occasion.

A number of the officers of the Regiment took part in the play " Arsenic and Old Lace " at the Garrison Theatre. We are also attempting three one-act plays within the Regiment, the best of which will be selected for the Northern Command Drama Festival this coming March.

CHRISTMAS RECOLLECTIONS FROM CATTERICK

THERE was the chap who went to bed with his boots on and was reprimanded by the sergeant 'cos he only had eight studs in each boot, and the sergeant who crushed the grapes with the nut cracker and ate the pips—see what I mean? You do? Can't remember a thing? Why—later I went home and I had 12 bottles of whisky in my cellar and was told to empty the contents of each and every bottle down the sink—or else. So I said I would and proceeded with the unpleasant task. I withdrew the cork from the bottle and poured the contents down the sink with the exception of one glass, which I drank. I pulled the cork from the second bottle and did likewise with the exception of one glass, which I drank. I then withdrew the cord from the third bottle and poured the whisky down the sink which I drank. I extracted the cork from the fourth bottle down the sink, and poured the bottle down the glass which I drank. I pulled the bottle from the cork of the next and drank one sink out of it, and threw the rest down the glass. I pulled the sink out of the next glass and poured the cork down the bottle. Then I corked the sink with the glass, bottled the drink and drank the pour. When I had everything emptied, I steadied the house with one hand, counted the glasses, corks, bottles and sinks with the other, which were 29, and as the house came by I counted them again and finally had all the houses in one bottle which I drank. I'm not under the affluence of incohol, but some thinkle peep I am. I'm not half as thunk as you might drink. I fool feelish, I don't know who is me, and the drunker I stand here the longer I get.

That should be perfectly clear to all with a B.I. rating and Barleux!

After all that—a Happy New Year to everyone.

WAR OFFICE SIGNAL REGIMENT

On 10th December, 1951, we said farewell to Lieutenant-Colonel E. P. Blake, who had commanded the Regiment since April 1949. We wish him the best of luck at Catterick in his new appointment of G.S.O.1 School of Signals.

We welcome Lieutenant-Colonel H. Winterbotham, O.B.E., who arrived on 2nd December, 1951, and hope his command will be a long and happy one.

A cocktail party in the Officers' Mess on 11th December, 1951, suitably marked the occasion.

The W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess have been most energetic in their Christmas programme. On 14th December, 1951, a Christmas draw was held providing many excellent prizes. The first, a turkey, bottle of whisky and a cake, going to S.Q.M.S. T. Edgerton's mother-in-law.



On 9th January a Christmas party for the children of the Regiment was excellently arranged and run by them. At a novel little bedroom scene " Santa McClaus," judging by the accent, gave toys to every child.

On 12th January they held their Mess annual dinner with an excellent menu, followed by a cabaret and dance.

The story is being told that an Orderly Officer placed a man under open arrest, and to effect this, put him in a cell and left the door open.

Who was the N.C.O. who wanted a guard put on his quarters to keep his mother-in-law out?



[Courtesy: "Belfast Telegraph"

Brigadier F. Coulshead, C.B.E., T.D., inspecting the Telephone Exchange at Headquarters, Northern Ireland District

NORTHERN IRELAND DISTRICT (M) SIGNAL SQUADRON

The W.R.A.C. were honoured by a visit from their Director, Brigadier F. Coulshead, C.B.E., T.D., A.D.C. During her stay she saw the accommodation occupied by the women, and also watched members of the Squadron at work in the Signal Office. On the completion of her visit she expressed her satisfaction with all that she had seen.

The weather having been kind, the W.R.A.C. have been able to play two hockey matches and three games of netball. At hockey they drew with a Press team but lost to Friends School. In the netball matches they lost to their old rivals, the W.R.A.F. Aldergrove, 15—10; drew with Stranmillis I ten all; and defeated Mountcollyer Past Pupils by fifteen goals to four. The results of these games are very satisfactory, and we are hoping that with further practice and training to do better in future.

Due to the withdrawal of one of the teams of H.M.S. *Caroline,* the W.R.A.C. have now a team in the N.I.D. Small Bore League as they have taken the place of the withdrawn team. They are most enthusiastic and we are hoping that they will do well in the league.

WESTERN COMMAND SIGNAL REGIMENT

Big individual news is again of Signalman Mitchell, who is leaving on a three months' tour of South Africa with a British team of racing cyclists who are training for the 1952 Olympics.

We had the pleasure of entertaining four drafts from the *Empress of Australia* when she was laid up after fouling a propeller in Liverpool.

One of the drafts was about a hundred Royal Marine Commandos bound for Korea.

We enjoyed looking after them and had a particularly hectic football game with the Commandos, which resulted in a narrow win for us.

With the holidays over and the Annual Administration Inspection looming on the distant horizon, the theme song here at Blacon is "Hey ho, hey ho, it's back to work we go."

But before we dismiss the festive season we must record the fact that the children's party, complete with Santa Claus (Captain B. C. Toy), the Officers' Mess cocktail party and the W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess social evening went with their usual swing and reflected great credit on the organisers.

One of the members of the Regiment, Signalman K. Mitchell, has been selected to represent Great Britain in a cycling team now touring South Africa as a preliminary to the Olympic Games.

At this moment Captain George Gibson, M.B.E., has half the Unit down in Anglesey digging 2,500 yards of cable trench for an S.W.S. project. Reports indicate that they are all quite enjoying the "big dig" despite the exposed situation and the weather.

Another news item is that we have thirty-seven cadets in for a week's Signal course from various schools near Chester. These boys are always wonderfully keen and set an example to the grown-ups at times.

4 A.A. (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT

1 A.A. (M) Signal Squadron. Since our last notes quite a number of important events have taken place, and not the least important was the Annual Range Classification and Physical Efficiency Tests. The training period was terminated in a week of feverish activity and the adaptability of the Squadron was thoroughly tested by the Commanding Officer.

The fortnightly "All Ranks" dances have been continued with growing popularity, but the formation of the Unit dance band has been hampered by block leave. It is hoped that we shall be successful in forming a first-class dance band in time for camp.

On the 5th January, 1952, the Regiment acted as hosts to nearly a hundred children at a Christmas party. After tea, several cartoon films were shown, followed by the climax of the party, which was the arrival of Father Christmas (faithfully portrayed by Sergeant Chave).

Bad weather has seriously affected outdoor sport, but we have had some outstanding successes in boxing tournaments held at Padgate and Warrington. As a result of their grand display, Signalmen Ward, Jones, Hoskyns and Johnson have been entered for the Command Championships, and our best wishes go with them.

44 A.A. (M) Signal Squadron, T.A. The Squadron dinner was held at the Langland Bay Hotel, Swansea, on 2nd November, 1951. After dinner a very successful concert induced all but one of those present to do an act of some kind, and Signalman C. C. Price earned our heartfelt thanks and admiration for his skill and enthusiasm as "promoter."

The opportunity was taken to present wedding presents to Corporals Norris and Rees, W.R.A.C.

Extract from the "London Gazette," 28th December, 1951.

BALANCES DUE TO ESTATES OF DECEASED OFFICERS AND SOLDIERS

In pursuance of "The Regimental Debts Act, 1893," notice is hereby given that there is available for distribution amongst the next-of-kin or others entitled the sum of money set opposite to the name of each of the deceased officers and soldiers named in the lists which are published with this notice in the *London Gazette.*

Applications from persons supposing themselves entitled as next-of-kin should be addressed by letter to "The Under-Secretary of State, War Office, Whitehall, London, S.W.1," and marked outside "Effects."

Second Republication of List 757: Effects 1941, Captain K. Mole, £71 7s. 3d.; Effects 1949, S.Q.M.S. C. F. Roberts, £18 17s. 4d.; 3rd Republication of List 753: Effects 1948, Signalman R. S. Scott, £18 11s. 5d.; 6th Republication of List 741; Effects 1942, Driver J. Terry, £67 10s. 11d.

RAWLINSON BARRACKS, DENBURY, NEAR NEWTON ABBOT, DEVON.

The Territorial Officers' Aide Memoire

Compiled by **Major K. H. CALLOW,** T.D.

At 2s. 6d. (postage 3d.) from Gale and Polden, this is the cheapest form of insurance for the hardworking Territorial Army Commanding Officer.

There are 419 questions to be asked on any of 350 days in the year, and 80 which can be crammed into the 15 days of camp.

Adjutants and Quartermasters will view this little book with horror. The wise Commanding Officer will buy it: carry it on his person: consult it secretly and approach any member of his permanent staff with a ready made question that will make him think fast. A quick reading of the 419 questions will reveal a number not strictly relevant, but he should without difficulty be able to produce 150 which at one "searcher" a week will keep everyone on their toes during the Commanding Officers three years in command.

The writer of this review "suffered" from a C.O. who kept a block of paper on the steering wheel of his car. While he drove he thought. The resulting "thoughts" committed to paper appeared all too frequently on the Adjutant's desk. That C.O. had not the benefit of the industry of Major Callow, which is, perhaps, why your reviewer is still alive and in possession of some few of his faculties.



Captain and Mrs. J. J. Adey (née Nicklin) after their wedding at Willenhall on 2nd June, 1951

BRITISH ARMY OF THE RHINE

H.Q. B.A.O.R. SIGNAL REGIMENT

As December approached, our thoughts turned to the festive season and all that we associate with it. The first visible example of the spirit prevailing was the erection of an illuminated Christmas tree at the entrance to the barracks.

The first item in an extensive programme was the children's Christmas party; such events are always successful, and this year's venture was no exception. The highlight of a happy evening was the visit of Father Christmas (by kind permission of R.S.M. Dixon).

On Christmas Day the W.O.s and Sergeants made their customary early rising in order that their troops might partake of the traditional liquid refreshment whilst still in the comfort of their beds.

After an informal gathering of Officers, W.O.s and Sergeants in the Sergeants' Mess, the party attended the men's dinner, where they carried out the duties of waiter in the best continental manner.

The entertainment was concluded by a most successful fancy dress ball held on New Year's Eve.

There is no doubt, however, that the factor which most helped towards a happy Christmas for our other ranks was the reconstructed NAAFI which, we are pleased to say, was completed in time for the celebrations.

Personal. Our congratulations to Captain (Q.M.) Collington on his recent promotion.

1 CORPS SIGNAL REGIMENT

In order to acquaint members with our very new Regiment the following appointments within the Unit are shown:—

Commanding Officer	Lieutenant-Colonel G. D. B. McKean
Second-in-Command	Major R. G. Miller
Adjutant	Captain A. Lamb, M.B.E.
Quartermaster	Captain S. H. Vaughan
T.O.T.	Lieutenant E. Thompson
T.O.M.	Major G. V. Leath
O.C. 1 Squadron	Major R. Evans
O.C. 2 Squadron	Major J. R. Romaines, D.C.M.
O.C. H.Q. Squadron	Captain P. D. Legge, D.C.M.
R.S.M.	W.O.I W. E. Judd
R.Q.M.S.	R.Q.M.S. A. Grant
S.S.M. 1 Squadron	W.O.II F. Burgess
S.S.M. 2 Squadron	W.O.II G. E. Fox

On the 19th July, 1951, the Regiment, less No. 3 Squadron, marched from our first temporary home to Gloucester Station to entrain for the first part of the journey to Germany. On our arrival in Germany we were allotted a part of Harewood Barracks, and thus became the guests of the Rhine Army Signal Regiment, to whom we extend our thanks for their hospitality and assistance. During the months of August and September we took part in various exercises which culminated in "Counter Thrust."

There remained, however, the further trial of "Surprise Packet," which necessitated the return to England of the complete Unit. "Surprise Packet" and the short leave which followed concluded, the Regiment came back to Germany. It is hoped that we will now be allowed to settle down and concentrate on individual training and Unit administration.

DID YOU KNOW THE DEPOT REGIMENT WAS MOVING FROM POCKLINGTON?

7 ARMOURED DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

Harassingly near to Christmas, we have been hedging and ditching on a five days' exercise under the cold North German skies. Communications improved as time went on, particularly when we came out from under dense trees, and by the time we returned to barracks all felt that they had earned their Christmas dinners.

Query—Who decanted four gallons of paraffin into our new Colonel's jeep?

Later—Who decanted the jeep *and* the Colonel into a very wet ditch?

Answer—The Colonel's late driver.

The men's Christmas dinner was as popular as usual. The sight of it was not least enjoyed by our Divisional Commander, who, after proposing the loyal toast, gave all ranks a really heartening talk which was given thunderous applause.

Our first fifteen trounced a Battalion Royal Tank Regiment to the tune of a really well deserved 16—6 recently; when the line is a little less bunched we'll take 'em all on. Lieutenants Marsland and Cook, the former by his eel-like individuality and the latter by his rapid passes, particularly distinguished themselves in a hard-fought game.

2 INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

The Regiment's activities for this month have naturally been centred around the Christmas activities. At least, we were concentrating furiously on preparations for the festive activities when we were rudely shaken by the announcement that we would be moving out on an exercise on the 19th December, 1951, and not returning until the 21st December, 1951. It was very cold. Nevertheless, Christmas started off with a crack on Saturday, 22nd December, 1951, with our Regimental dance.

Various inter-Troop soccer matches were played on Christmas Day. Due to the very hard work put in by Sergeant Hammond and his cooks, a most excellent meal was served up in the traditional fashion.

Christmas in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess has passed with a swing—the writer unfortunately having only hazy recollections of the various functions, but seems to remember a particularly successful Mess Christmas. A draw was held on Christmas Eve, in which there were no less than 110 prizes! Boxing Day saw the Mess Christmas dinner, followed by an extremely good dance in the evening with S.Q.M.S. "Bill" Billington as M.C. On New Year's Eve we had a fancy dress carnival ball.



Lieutenant-Colonel E. C. R. Blaker giving the toast "The Regiment"

11 ARMOURED DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

Returning from the second of our toughening up (?) exercises on 19th December, the Regiment went straight into its Christmas programme. A children's party was organised by R.S.M. Tyers, assisted by the ladies of the Regiment, at which Sergeant Chalker did the honours as Father Christmas. On the Friday night the Sergeants' Mess gave a very fine dance.

The football pitch on Christmas Eve was the scene of a dire battle between the Officers and Sergeants versus the Rest (mainly H.Q. Squadron), fancy dress being the order of the day. With the aid of the referee (our old friend Father Christmas) the Officers and Sergeants upheld their honour (if not their skirts) and the final score was one all.

Christmas Day ran the normal course, Sergeant Johnstone, A.C.C., and the rest of the cooks putting on a first-class menu for the day.

On 29th December an all ranks' dance was held, which was a great success, and one which we hope will be repeated frequently during the coming year.

Exercise "Jumper Lead II" went off without any major hitches, in spite of a large number of changes in Troop Commanders and Troop Sergeants, which the Regiment has suffered recently.

Sport has had to take rather a back seat due to training, exercises and inclement weather. The Rugby team beat a Medium Regiment R.A. 14—0 in the first round of the Army Cup, but went down by the same margin to a Hussar Regiment in the next round.

Inter-Signals Units' competitions are upon us, the boxing team, by virtue of byes, has reached the semi-final and they have high hopes of getting further.

2 L. OF C. SIGNAL REGIMENT

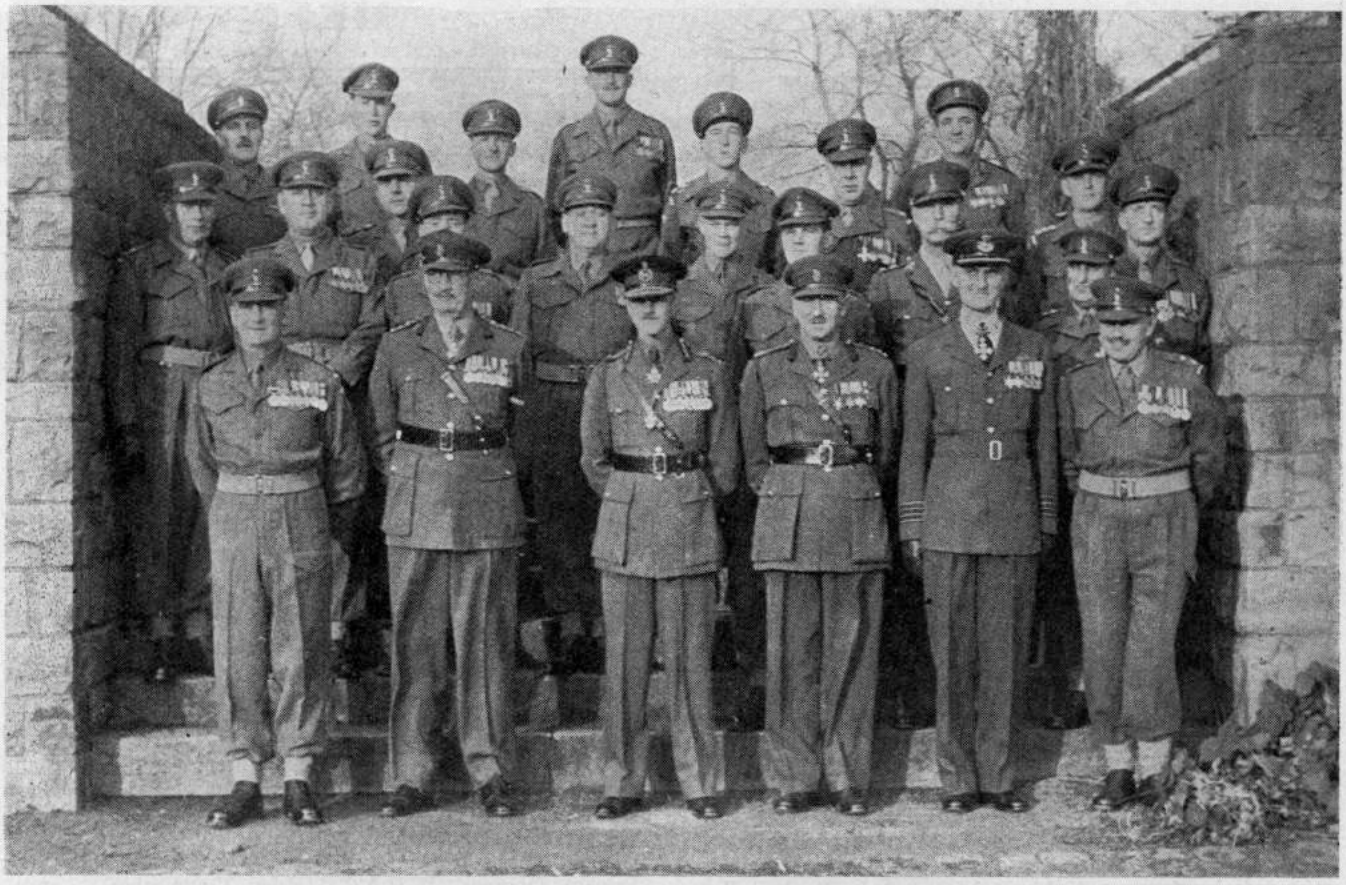
The Regiment, as we go to press, is at long last to divide its responsibilities, and ere long THE WIRE notes should appear under both 2 and 4 L. of C. Signal Regiments.

In consequence, the Squadrons are rapidly deploying to their "peace time" locations, and from all reports, to far more salubrious stations!

Sport. A lot of home work has been carried out by 5 Squadron. In the H.Q. B.A.O.R. Small Bore Rifle League they have finished fourth in a table of ten teams. Congratulations to the team as a whole, and in particular to Signalman Dale, for their consistently high standard. How now, 3 Squadron? "Grins on," "Grins off." Rumour has it that Major Dirs has bought two .22 rifles in lieu of a Riley billiards table, in a gallant attempt to keep his boys at home of a winter's evening. In the world of soccer, 3 Squadron again throw out challenges. 4 Squadron, a very gallant band, led by S.Q.M.S. Humble, have duly performed against all soccer elevens in the Zone and have at last given up the uneven struggle. They are now to combine their efforts with those of their Area H.Q.

The accent this month has, of course, been mostly on thoughts of Christmas and the attendant festivities. 5 Squadron opened in good time, the finest bout being started by the Cipher Group (as usual!).

3 Squadron combined their efforts with Signals' 7 Armoured Division for their Christmas dinner and other ranks' children's party. I am asked to place on record the very sincere thanks of all ranks 3 Squadron to Colonel and Mrs. Nettleship for their very hard work and the great personal interest they took in making the party a really worthwhile effort.



Farewell visit of Director of Signals

Back row (left to right): Lieutenant (T.O.M.) F. Gray, Second-Lieutenant C. A. M. Robertson, Captain (Q.M.) W. J. Robertson, Second-Lieutenant P. Johnson, Captain W. R. M. Dunkley, Lieutenant R. G. Moore, Major L. H. Caldicott, Major G. B. Newman, Captain R. Elsmore. Centre row (left to right): Lieutenant-Colonel (T.O.T.) D. Todd, Major R. C. Dixon, Lieutenant R. M. Callum, Captain S. J. Thompson, Second-Lieutenant S. Phipps, Second-Lieutenant E. Pacey, Lieutenant-Colonel P. B. G. Gambier, Captain F. Barton, Captain (T.O.M.) W. Brewin. Front row (left to right): Lieutenant-Colonel A. C. Galbraith, Colonel T. A. R. Scott, Major-General W. A. Scott, Brigadier R. H. D. Coryton, Group Captain N. G. Goodman, Lieutenant-Colonel R. M. Adams

11 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT

Recent visitors have included the Director of Signals (to whom go our very best wishes for the future) on his farewell visit, and the G.O.C. 11 Armoured Division.

Hockey. The Regimental hockey team has now won four, drawn one and lost three in a local Brigade Area League. Our first match in the Army Cup (2nd Preliminary Round) was against H.Q. 1 Corps away, and, on heavy grass ground, we scored in the first half through S.Q.M.S. (F. of S.) Turner, but in the second half Major P. E. M. Bradley, D.S.O., Royal Signals, scored for the opposition. In the replay at Lemgo, Major Bradley again scored against us (also on the left of our visitors' forwards was Captain J. F. Mitchener), but on this occasion we scored four goals.

Boxing. We are through the first round of the Royal Signals B.A.O.R. Competition and shall be fighting 11 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment next. In 2 T.A.F. Inter-Station Championship we shall first fight R.A.F. Fassberg.

Cross Country Running. The team is running very well and retains first place in the 2 T.A.F. League. Not being used to a flat course, we were only fourth in a Brigade League meeting.

BELIEVE IT OR NOT, THE DEPOT REGIMENT IS MOVING TO RAWLINSON BARRACKS, DENBURY, NEAR DEVON.

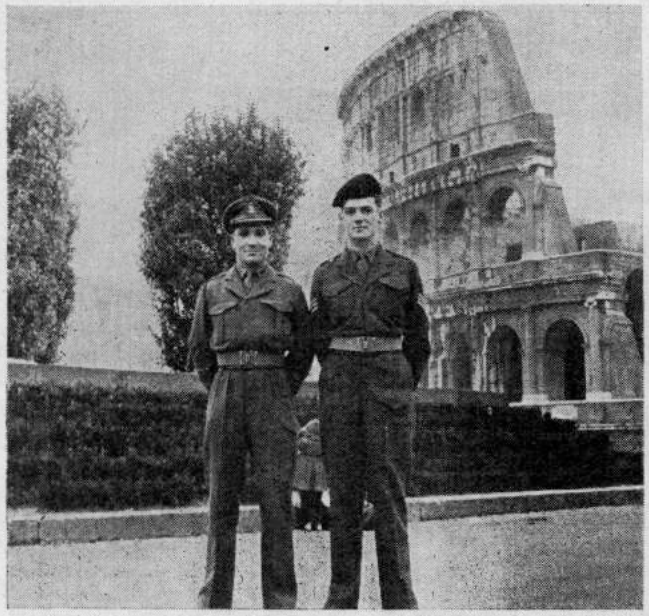
SHAPE SIGNAL SQUADRON (BRITISH)

Four members of the Squadron spent the last two weeks of November in Rome, as part of an international team whose job it was to provide communications for the Conference of Foreign Ministers and Generals of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation. They were Second-Lieutenant Campbell and Sergeant Weir, of Teletype Operations, and Sergeant Derham and Corporal Bradley, of the International Cipher Room.

This was a glamorous occasion and, indeed, we enjoyed rather more diplomatic privileges than one normally meets in Army life. We travelled from Paris to Rome on the International Sleeping Car Express, and we lived in the "Albergo Nord," a modern hotel close to the railway station. Sergeant Weir hardly had the opportunity to enjoy the comforts of the hotel owing to the fact that he started to work at night immediately we arrived, and only slept in the expensive bed once at night during the whole of the assignment. The whole group, as a matter of fact, found it very difficult to get adequate sleep for the first few days because of the amount of work in setting up the installation, but eventually we got our routine organised and settled down as if we were to be there for centuries.

On the return, Sergeant Derham and Corporal Bradley flew to Paris in the "Sunflower," General Eisenhower's plane, and Second-Lieutenant Campbell and Sergeant Weir returned a few days later by train, after two days free in which to see the town, which they did in true tourist style.

Some of the things we are not likely to forget are the free buffet where we rubbed shoulders with diplomats; the free beer served in the buffet; the fountain near the hotel which



Seeing Rome. Second-Lieutenant Campbell and Sergeant Weir

impressed even a Londoner used to Trafalgar Square; St. Peter's and the ancient monuments; the " Foro Italico," a great modern sports stadium where the conference was held—in fact, the whole of Rome.

Ten Medium Wireless Troop have also been seeing Europe; during mid-November a crew of nine men took two 53 sets to Belgium on an exercise, the object of which was to work back to two similar stations at Bordeaux. From all points of view it was a highly satisfactory trip—technically, because we worked QSA 4/5 with twin rods while erecting dipoles, and generally because there was so much of interest in seeing Belgium, where the war damage seems so much less than in France, and where Mons reminded us of Catterick! We saw Brussels, and found it as beautiful as we expected, and all the local people as welcoming as if we were part of the original Liberation, and Antwerp, where we saw a British tank enthroned as a war memorial, in a very good state of maintenance, too—it was the first to enter the city in 1944 it appears. We returned to Paris feeling much travelled and very experienced!

At home in Camp des Loges the Squadron football record is in keeping with the rest of its activities; we are still unbeatable with a goal average in our favour of 38, due largely to the fine performance of Signalman McGrogan, captain and centre-half, and Signalman Goldthorpe, outside-right; five of the players have been chosen for General Eisenhower's XI to play local French teams, and we are at the top of the inter-unit league, so we have no complaints and hope to maintain our standard throughout the season.

KLAGENFURT SIGNAL SQUADRON

The old year finished well with two members of the Squadron, Signalman Brimble and Signalman Orr, winning their fights in the B.T.A. Boxing Finals, a good finish to the hard weeks of training. It is to be hoped the Squadron does as well in the B.T.A. Ski-ing Championships, handicapped unfortunately by the absence of snow a month ago which delayed the start of the Ski Courses some six weeks. Now that the snow and frost is here, at last, winter sports are in full swing with as yet no attendant breakages; the new arrivals to the Squadron can be easily identified as they display a noticeable ignorance of such technical terms as " Christie," telemark 2, snow plough, etc.

EGYPT COMMAND SIGNAL REGIMENT

During the month incidents between the British Forces and Egyptians in the Canal Zone have been fewer, and the Unit has been able to settle down to more or less normal routine though movement outside the camps is very restricted, and each vehicle requires both an armed escort and an escorting vehicle.

All families have been evacuated from Ismailia and the town is now out of bounds, which has produced a noticeable reduction in the number of incidents.

There was a flare-up early in the month, and Captain Simpson and his Detachment of 2 Squadron were in the forefront of the battle at the Suez Petrol Point, and were able to give the garrison commander timely assistance.

Cutting of the main cable routes takes place every night, as the Egyptians find a profitable market for the lead and copper which they obtain from melting down the cable, and our line parties are kept very busy repairing the breaks.

Although the parties occasionally have " Dingo " escorts, there is always the chance of being stranded near a hostile village after dark for Jeeps and arms are coveted prizes, and this repair work is not without its hazards.

Our Christmas festivities began with a most enjoyable concert organised and produced by our C.O.'s wife, Mrs. Beeton, who is an accomplished pianist and singer and to whom we owe a considerable debt of gratitude for her hard work in arranging and playing many of the musical items. Lieutenant Dennis Oakley, Mrs. Beeton and the C.O.'s servant, Hassan, took part in an amusing sketch, " The Christmas Ghost." The show included a musical sketch of " Cinderella " to Walt Disney's music, and Corporal Merrill, W.R.A.C. (Cinderella), Private Douglas, W.R.A.C. (Fairy Godmother), Lance-Corporal Hayes and Corporal Butler (Ugly Sisters), Corporal Davis (Prince) and Sergeant Smith (Footman) made an excellent pantomime cast. An outstanding item in vocal talent was given by Private Ernest Maiden (A.C.C.), who has a very fine tenor voice, and Corporal " Chick " Davies, who entertained us all with his harmonica and saved the situation when the electric lights failed in the middle of the show. Major Whatman and Signalman Wheeler (compères) and Lieutenant K. Davies (pianist) from 1 Infantry Division Signal Regiment joined the cast for the show and helped to make it a very successful entertainment.

The children's party for those of our married families still in Moascar was on rather a reduced scale this year as we could only muster about 30 children. We had games, a good tea, Father Christmas (Sergeant Hughes), who gave out the presents, and even a donkey to ride (lent by Captain Eddie Long), but the torrential rain which fell that afternoon kept us indoors.



3 G.H.Q. SIGNAL REGIMENT

" Auld Lang Syne " has been sung and Christmas 1951 is but another memory. But it will be an event well remembered by those of this Regiment, for everyone, from P.R.I. to cook, went to great lengths to make it a success. It was, as the C.S.O. envisaged, a " family gathering," and for a few hours at least Egypt was forgotten. Communications, of course, carried on, as per usual, *Certo Cito.*

The festive season opened on the Sunday preceding Christmas with a church service at St. Mark's. The Corporals' Mess held their Christmas dinner that evening in their Mess, which looked particularly inviting thanks to a large scale repainting.

The Christmas dinner was more in the nature of a banquet than a dinner. It is easy to say " it was a success," but it was more than that. For those new to the Regiment, it was, perhaps, an initiation into the Regiment. For all of us it was a moment of comradeship.

On Boxing Day the W.O.s and Sergeants challenged the Officers' Mess to a crazy football match. Crazy was indeed the keynote of the " match," and had a reporter from " Al Misri " been present a " story " on the crazy British would have been justified. Captain Ingledow and Mr. Robinson vied for pride of place for craziest costume of the officers, whilst Mr. Cooper wandered aimlessly round the field on stilts, dressed as a fireman (?). An unidentified Santa Claus toured the field, perched precariously on the handlebars of Sergeant Trotman's motor bike. The latter machine presented no difficulty in identifying—it is unique.

In the evening the Regimental variety concert, " Khamsin Kapers," was staged in the NAAFI. Co-produced by Captain Peter Boyle (anyone remember 7 S.R.s " It'll be alright on the night "?) and Captain Len Sharp, the show proved to be a two-hour span of mirth and merriment. Prominent in the cast were Corporal Jack Stacey, Lance-Corporal Bill Hunt, and Corporal Freddy (" Barrer Boy ") Richardson. Music was provided by Captain Sharp, aided by our Regimental Dance Orchestra. We hope to tread the boards again at Easter time.

Came the New Year, and with it the New Year's Honours List. The Regiment is proud and honoured to record that the Commanding Officer has been awarded the O.B.E.

The cross-country season is with us again. Although as a team results have not been outstanding, individually we have been well represented. Signalman Hoyland has done particularly well, coming home first in two district runs. Second-Lieutenant Jardine is a very keen and capable team captain, whilst we expect to hear more of Sergeant Colbert. Those acquainted with British Army athletics will remember the latter.

The soccer team has won its way through the first round of the Army (Egypt) Cup. Unfortunately three of our star players, Corporal Thornicroft, Signalmen Stones and David, are soon to return for demob. Corporal Thornicroft, who has captained the Regimental soccer team very successfully, has, moreover, been injured, and we have been deprived of him for at least another two matches.

The news that Lieutenant Prince may be unable to continue playing rugger this season, also due to injuries, means that yet again we may lose a valuable team captain.

EAST AFRICA COMMAND SIGNAL SQUADRON

Christmas time is busier for this Squadron than for most, as in addition to all the normal activities in B.O.R., Sergeants' and Officers' Messes we have the A.O.R.s to cope with, too.

Up to this year the Africans had their Christmas dinner driven in on the hoof and they killed the beasts in the Unit Lines. Up to last year the cattle were then cut up and distributed tribally, and each tribe made its own arrangement. Now there is a Unit dinner " European fashion."

The festivities started off a little ahead of time with a dance in the B.O.R.s' Mess on 15th December. Practically the entire Unit turned up to this and there was a gratifyingly large attendance of ladies.

The W.O.s and Sergeants' invited the B.O.R.s over to their Mess for the Christmas Draw.

Christmas for the African children started with a visit from Father Christmas. A little scared of this apparition in the first place, they soon recovered when they found he was giving sweets away. They even came back for more!

The A.O.R. had Christmas dinner at eight o'clock on Christmas Day, but owing to wet weather—very out of place at this time of the year—their sports next day had to be postponed. Later they had a dance—" European style " as Ngoma are frowned on these days—and later a concert followed.

The pattern for Officers and Sergeants remained much the same as in previous years. Drinks in the Sergeants' Mess at noon, serving B.O.R.s' meals at 1 p.m., the Sergeants visiting the Officers the following day for a short session, and then each having a dinner and social on the evening of Boxing Day. The Sergeants also provided a very successful New Year's dance.

Apart from those few hectic days around Christmas there were other activities, and we even found time to uphold our unbeaten record in the Army Hockey League by beating E.A.A.S.C. by 8—4 and a Battalion King's African Rifles by 3—1.

FARELF

MALAYA SIGNAL REGIMENT

During the visit of the Colonial Secretary, his safety was entrusted to the Army. Such secrecy shrouded his movements that it was only with difficulty that the wireless vehicles to accompany him made contact with his escort.

Exercise " Robin Hood."—In an effort to solve the problem of mobile R.T. we took to the hills. The problem is to obtain 100 per cent. speech between W.S.19 (one mobile) at all ranges up to 30 miles. The solution, if there is one, seems to lie in aerial and precise frequency selection, possibly varying hourly.

Rugger.—The " blood " match versus Singapore District Signals turned into water, six inches of it by the end of the game. The inevitable result, nil—nil.

Hockey.—H.Q. Malaya, a veteran side, beat us 2—0 in the first round of the cup.

Bandits.—Two officers of the Regiment *en route* to Regimental Headquarters ran into an ambush at "Windy Corner." Heads and accelerator down and they came through. Sergeant Raffan, taking a C.V. to Singapore, ran into trip wires that smashed the windscreen.

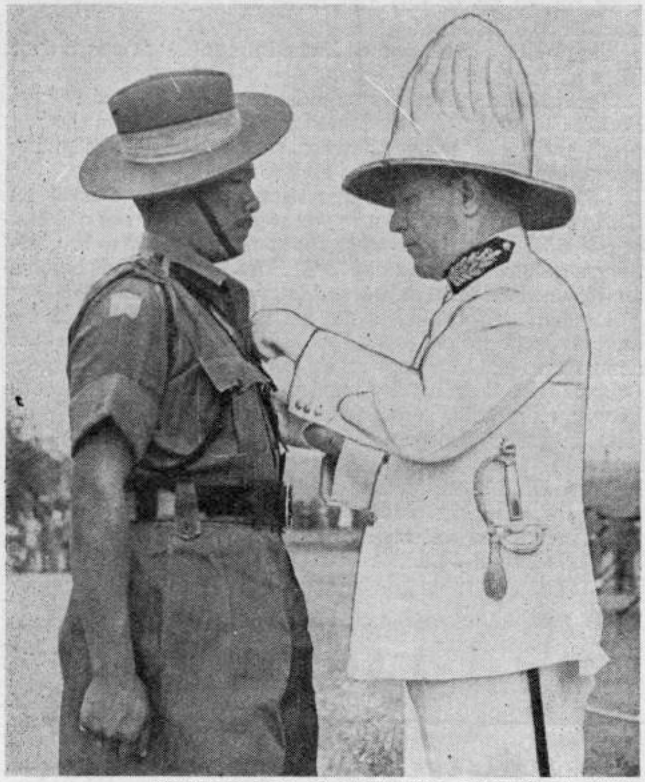
18 INFANTRY BRIGADE SIGNAL SQUADRON

The most outstanding event in the Squadron appears to be the promotion of nine lance-corporals and five corporals. I think this must establish a record within the Squadron—in three days fourteen promotions.

S.S.M. Bates was seen exhibiting all the signs of an " expectant " father, and on further enquiry it was found that his wife had presented him with a son. Craftsman Powell, of the L.A.D., went one better, however, and informs us that his wife has presented him with twin sons.

The hockey team records a victory against Malaya District ladies' team. We all wonder if this is the first of a long line of victories.

Although the Rugby team has not distinguished itself, some of its members have represented the Kuala Lumpur Services XV.



[*Courtesy: Dept. of Information, Federation of Malaya*
Gurkha Major Parsuram Gurung receives the M.B.E.

GURKHA SIGNAL TRAINING WING

R.H.Q. and H.Q. 3 Squadron of the Gurkha Division, Signal Regiment, has now been formed. The R.H.Q. is completely Gurkha, the senior officer being Gurkha Major Parsuram Gurung, M.B.E.

The Training Wing will cease to exist as such on 1st January, when it will become the Signal Training Squadron of the Brigade of Gurkhas Recruit Training Centre. The Training Squadron will then take on the jobs of upgrading and refresher training, R.S.I. courses and refreshers and basic signalling courses for Gurkha infantry signallers.

The new camp, although without the amenities of Kuala Lumpur, is a marked improvement on the present camp. The facilities for outdoor training are much better. Penang Island is quite near and should make up for the loss of amenities of Kuala Lumpur.

19 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT

The physical efficiency tests have produced their usual crop of fun and amusement. A lot of good clean fun can be had from watching a man fail to clear the 8 feet trench, particularly if it is full of very dirty and smelly swamp water. Also men failing to cross a ravine by the horizontal rope always leads to keen anticipation of broken ankles and other amusing casualties.

Christmas itself appeared to pass satisfactorily, a notable part of it being a tour of the Station by 19 Air Formation Signal Regiment, in comic dress, and carrying banners. They were led by Corporal Wade, who appeared to be dressed as a cross between a very senior Russian officer and a Canadian Mountie. Having invaded the Officers' Mess, and then having paraded round the sports field behind some very tattered banners, the party lay low till nightfall. Then they visited the Married Quarters, apparently having a large meal at each. They spent the next day in bed.

The M.O.R.s celebrated with a "Rongggeng," at which the Commanding Officer was a pleasing sight, dancing the local Malay dances with abandon and apparent familiarity. By the end of the evening most of the B.O.R.s were joining in too, though they did not seem to be quite as steady on their feet as at the beginning of the evening.

Territorial Army

51 (H) INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

The year 1952 has begun in fine fashion by the award of the M.B.E. to our Q.M., Major J. D. T. Hillman, in the New Year's Honours. Major Hillman joined the Regiment in 1933 as R.S.M., and has been Quartermaster since 1938. He joined R.E. Signals as a boy in 1914 and saw service in France in World War I and Palestine in 1924. During World War II he was taken prisoner while serving with the Regiment at St. Valery. In 1947 he was appointed to serve with the Regiment again as Q.M. and was awarded the T.D. in 1950.

1 Squadron. At the end of the last training period the Unit had a Commanding Officers' Parade. The standard of turnout was very good and at the end of the parade Lieutenant-Colonel T. P. E. Murray, O.B.E., T.D., presented cups and medals gained by the members of our motor cycle team at the Highland District competition. Sergeant G. Melvin was presented with the Territorial Efficiency Medal.

During the festive season one or two excellent social events were held by the Regiment. The children's Christmas party turned out a great success and was enjoyed by young and old



[*Courtesy: Aberdeen Journals, Ltd.*
Major (Q.M.) J. D. T. Hillman, M.B.E.

alike. There was also a carnival dance at Fonthill Barracks on 28th December.

3 Squadron. We saw the New Year in, in true Scots' style, in the canteen here in Stannergate, with a small but lively party.

Quite a surprising amount of local talent in the entertainments line was displayed, too.

Any members of the Corps on leave in Dundee will always be sure of a warm welcome at Stannergate.

50 (N) INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

December, as always, has produced a feast of social occasions.

Each Squadron held a children's party, and by all accounts the parties were very successful. No. 1 Squadron held its annual dinner, which went off with a bang, at the T.A. Centre.

The sergeants of No. 3 Squadron at Gateshead held their usual Christmas dinner amidst much gaiety and "Newcastle Brown Ale."

The bush telegraph has been working overtime, and we hear rumours that we shall be going to camp at Rolston, near Hornsea, on 21st June.

Meanwhile great strides are being made towards the completion of the new accommodation at Darlington, and the new steel framework for the garages and men's club is now in position.

21 CORPS SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

Since the present writer's last report, the emphasis has been rather on social than training matters.

Since the squadrons are deployed, a Unit dinner is impracticable. However, Squadron Commanders organised their own functions, Nottingham setting the ball rolling on an early date in December for No. 4 and the AGRA Squadrons, followed by Major "Inky" Udell, who organised his No. 2 Squadron dinner at Danescourt, near Wolverhampton, on 15th December.

Chesterfield followed, with Major T. S. Wragg in the chair, at No. 3 Squadron dinner on 5th January.

The annual Officers' ball was successfully held at the Assembly Rooms, Derby, on 9th December.

Unit H.Q. and H.Q. Squadron organised the children's party at Normanton Barracks on 9th January, attended by 20 children and 25 parents. A cartoon film show was followed by a very nice tea with plenty for all. The highlight was a Punch and Judy show, which enthralled young and old, especially when the boxing puppets were named Sergeant Harry Topliss and Sergeant-Major Fred Lathbury!

53 SIGNAL SQUADRON, W.R.A.C., T.A.

The fellow who started wishing folk a happy New Year could never have been a T.A. P.S.I. for what is happy about starting new files, new training programmes, and preparing for admin. inspections at the beginning of a year I've yet to find out. However, if nothing else it means all the cupboards get a good clear out—this year the haul was one Amami shampoo, two old collars, and a meat pie that went missing at our ex. O.C.'s farewell party. Talking of parties, the kiddies' one held here just before Christmas was a great success and the member of the male unit who annually dons a beard flowing down to his knees excelled himself this time by not sending any of the kiddie-winks into hysterics. The fact that this year he wore a mask explains a lot, we feel. After a slap-up feed consisting of a mixture guaranteed to give any adult nightmares for a fortnight the fragile little souls staggered over to the canteen for carol singing and a Punch and Judy show, and a goodly time was had by all.

And that's what we wish all readers of THE WIRE—a very goodly time. And to all members of the W.R.A.C. in this leap year—happy hunting.

1/20 (SM) ARMY SIGNAL REGIMENT (T.A.)

In the T.A.R.A. Small Bore Championships four members of the Regiment have qualified to be among the final fifty competitors: Major R. N. Houston, M.B.E., T.D., Captain R. C. Reid-Jones, W.O.II King and Sergeant Lyons.

The Regiment is also doing well in the T.A. Small Bore League, lying second at present.

The Officers' Annual Dinner held on 14th November, 1951, was attended by over fifty serving and former officers of the Regiment, and among the guests were Major-General C. H. H. Vulliamy, C.B., D.S.O. (Colonel Commandant), Major-General W. A. Scott, C.B., C.B.E. (Director of Signals)), Brigadier E. A. James, O.B.E., T.D., D.L., J.P. (Honorary Colonel), Brigadier E. V. McCormack, C.B.E., and Brigadier J. Gifford, D.S.O.

On 6th December the Officers' Annual Ball was well attended, Lieutenant-Colonel E. R. Price and Mrs. Price welcoming over 150 guests.

The Christmas season saw more social activities in the W.O.s' and Sergeants' ball, the children's Christmas party and the annual dance and social for all ranks.

The Regiment's soccer team continues to flourish under the guidance of Sergeant J. P. James (our Orderly Room Sergeant) and is still second in the Birmingham League. 60 goals against 14 in 13 matches is good going.

61 H.Q. ARMY SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

Exercise "Rakes Progress II" was held at Coldham's Lane T.A.C., Cambridge, in conjunction with Formation, Battery and Battalion staffs.

There was an excellent turn-out (the biggest yet for a week-end exercise) from our seven widely dispersed T.A.C.s, and the "Q" staff and cooks are to be congratulated on bedding and feeding this large number without any outside assistance.

East Anglian District Exercise "Chariot" on Civil Defence was attended by the Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron Officers as part of the Brigade syndicate.

East Anglian District Exercise "Real Approach" on mobilisation planning was attended by a number of officers. We were glad to see there Major Angell Taro, late second-in-command of this Regiment.

In Spartan fashion the Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron held a week-end and signal exercise with some members of 54 Signal Squadron, W.R.A.C., on 15th and 16th December.

The Signal Platoon of a Cadet Battalion has now been definitely affiliated to the Regiment, and arrived with their equipment on 27th November. The Battalion will continue to administer them and give them their basic training. Their technical training will be supervised by the Regiment and carried out at our T.A.C. The idea is that these lads will wear the Royal Signals badge as cadets, N.S. men and, we hope, finally as regulars or T.A. volunteers. We extend a hearty welcome to Lieutenant Pullen and his cadets.

The first social this winter was held on 7th December. There was a good turn-out except from the ladies, who, it seems, were deterred by the appalling weather.

A carnival dance was held on 28th December, a feature of which were the decorations. The ladies attended this time in good numbers.

The annual children's party was held on 5th January, the Commanding Officer deputising in the unavoidable absence of Father Christmas.

All these entertainments were organised by the committee of the Social Club, to whom great credit is due.

ROYAL SIGNALS SUB-UNIT, QUEEN'S (BELFAST) UNIVERSITY TRAINING CORPS (T.A.)

In the summer of 1951 for the first time in three years we held our annual training in Great Britain at Kinmel Park, near Rhyl, Flintshire, in July. For the first fortnight we trained with other Units of the University, and delay in delivery of our Signal training stores was remedied from the resources at the disposal of C.S.O., Western Command. At the end of this fortnight the main body of the University Training Corps returned to Belfast, but a party of about twenty of the Signals Sub-Unit remained and were organised as "N" and "R" Troops of 53rd (Welsh) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A., to take part in Exercise " Red Spider."

After this valuable experience and a long convoy drive we handed over our equipment and returned to Belfast. Since then we have had three week-end excursions. The first (in which we were assisted by several members of the University Company, W.R.A.C.) was to provide communications for the Northern Ireland District motor cycle trials. The second week-end we " mocked-up " a Regimental Signalling Platoon for a battalion of the Royal Irish Fusiliers, T.A., and the third a line and wireless exercise, centred at Amargh, kept us out in the dreadful weather in the second week-end of December.

In the six months under review, therefore, we have certainly been versatile and certainly gained considerable experience.

Commonwealth

NEWS FROM AUSTRALIA

AS these notes go to press the festive season approaches, and on all sides there are preparations to greet the " Old Man with the Beard " in a proper manner.

Surely there is no more fitting occasion than this to send, from the Australian branch of our Royal Corps, to Signalmen throughout the Commonwealth, our sincerest wishes for a happy Christmas and a peaceful and prosperous New Year.

To date, the only Yuletide activities known are those of A.H.Q. Signal Regiment and the Directorate whose Officers' Mess conducted their annual Christmas party on Saturday, 15th December, at the Mess. Both physically and in the abstract it would be impossible to say that the party lacked " punch " and, to judge from the number remaining for early breakfast, it was hard to leave.

On Wednesday, 19th December, Father Christmas arrived to distribute his gifts to all the children of the Regiment and the Directorate, and his entrance, in spite of the weather, was most impressive. Arriving at that critical moment when adult nerves were fraying from the indoor activities of teeming youngsters (with the rain this is both literal and metaphoric), he drove into the Regimental Area in a highly decorated jeep with the base drummer and two or three "hot" cornetists from the Southern Command Band riding with him to add " colour."

Questioned afterwards, Major K. R. Colwill, who had nothing to do with it (?), was heard to remark that in spite of the cold and rain Father Christmas was exceedingly hot. How lucky it was that the youngsters didn't catch the " Old Man " with his nose in an ale as so many others did later.

Those semi-orphans of the Regiment at the Transmitter Site, Diggers' Rest, also had their party during the week, and the assembled throng are said to have enjoyed themselves to the full.

To add yet another to this list of orgies, mention must also be made of the annual Christmas party held by the staff of the Directorate, who, welcoming the faint rays of an unexpected sun, gathered with guests on Thursday, 20th December, in the stately halls of Old Grosvenor and made merry with tales of the year's battle with the Paper.

Countless similar festivities are being held throughout the Commonwealths, i.e. that of Australia in particular and our larger British Commonwealth in general, and we wish to all the gaiety, happiness and good fellowship which have marked those mentioned above.

Central Command. Our ex-U.K. Officers are leaving us after a comparatively short sojourn here since our C.S.O., Major D. A. C. Griffith, goes to the Staff College early in the New Year and Lieutenant J. O'Donnell has moved on to the Line Construction Project Squadron at the Rocket Range. However, to make good one loss we have recently been joined by Signalman Peter Goodchild, whose name is not new to these pages because of his sporting activities in the U.K., whilst with his old Regiment. (What was it, "C" Command?)

Our worries this issue are small; an intake of 24 N.S. men has some very promising material for the Command Squadron and they should provide a good basis for instructional material for those who have recently taken promotion examinations. Just to be on the safe side we have organised a fire-fighting communications detachment so that we will be ready in case of emergency. (What about the " professionals " from Eastern Command giving some clues?)

[*"C" Command, do we take it from this that the A.S. men are hot stuff?—Editor.*]

Vale B.C.O.F. In an earlier issue of THE WIRE we listed the changes in name which B.C.O.F. Signal Regiment has undergone, and now we list yet another. In their latest notes, which were the soul of wit if the old adage still holds, they tell of the change in name to British Commonwealth Base Signal Regiment. However, a rose by any other name, and etc., the Unit can still do well in sport as our photograph shows. Under the capable direction of Major M. A. Bennett, the athletic team won the Hiroshima-Kure 18-mile 18-man relay race and the photograph shows Corporal Doherty carrying the baton over the finishing line.



[*Courtesy: Public Relations, H.Q., B.C.O.F.*

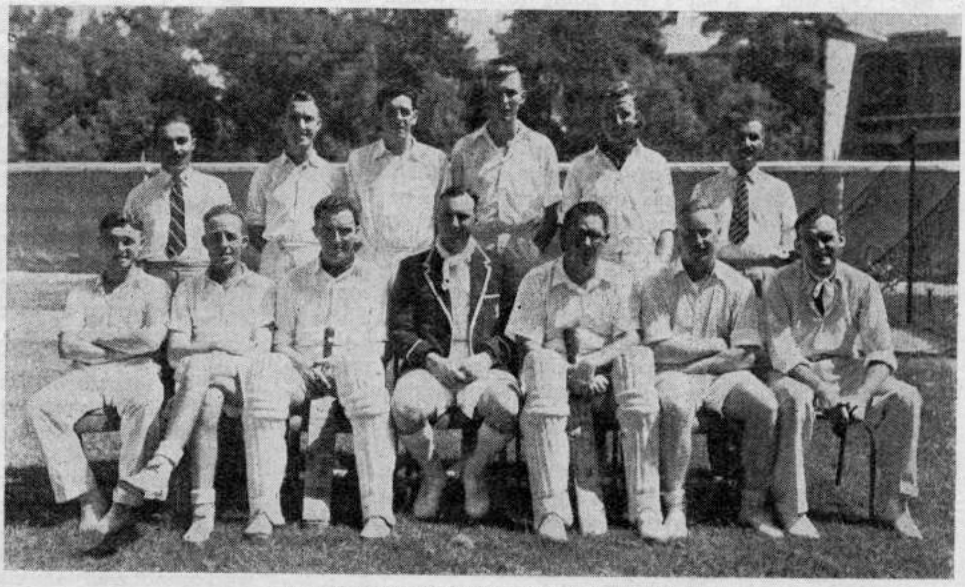
Corporal " Doc " Doherty winning the Hiroshima-Kune Relay, 21st November, 1951

THE ROYAL SIGNALS (EGYPT) CRICKET XI

IN our last notes we said that we still had some good cricket to come and this prophecy has certainly been borne out in recent weeks.

After our success against Gezira C.C. we were looking forward to meeting the Catch-as-Catch-Can Cricket Club—another strong side and one which included a number of former Army XI, R.A.F. XI and County players. Batting first, the " 5 C's " were all out for 185 (after losing their first four wickets for 57 runs). Squadron Leader Doe, a former Devonshire player, then treated us to a display of superb bowling.

Batsmen two, three (a left hander) and four were clean bowled middle stump by three successive balls, and number five was lucky to escape being caught off the next ball. Apart from Second - Lieutenant Bradbeer (31) no batsman was able to withstand Doe's fiery attack for long and, in 50 minutes, he had taken all 10 wickets at a personal cost of 20 runs—most of which were " off the edge." Our total score was 65.



Royal Signals (Egypt) Cricket XI, 1951

Standing : Major F. E. Marshall (umpire), Signalman R. Spillane, Lance-Corporal Pitman, Second-Lieutenant C. Robinson, Captain J. Sturge, Captain A. Pell (scorer). Seated : Signalman H. Griffith, Captain A. Fraser, Captain D. Turner, Major D. Coatesworth, M.B.E. (captain), S.S.M. E. Rider, Second-Lieutenant J. Bradbeer, Major K. A. Nash

Nothing daunted, we next met the Royal Engineers and, batting first, scored 145.

The Sappers started badly, losing their first five wickets for 48 runs, but they then recovered quite considerably. The score was 138 when the last man came in, but our bowlers, despite an all-out effort, were unable to capture his wicket and our score was passed with only a few minutes left for play.

The last game of the season, a two-day one, at Alexandria, was exciting up to the last few minutes. The Royal Signals team, assisted by the inclusion of three players of other arms, scored 229 in their final innings. Alexandria Cricket Club replied with a score of 171, Captain Sturge taking four wickets for 60 runs. In the second innings we made 155 runs and only two and a half hours were left for play.

Scoring slowly but steadily, the Alexandria Cricket Club passed our total with 10 minutes in hand.

It was a good week-end, the hospitality was almost embarrassing, and what has perhaps made us appreciate it all the more is the fact that, owing to the threatened abrogation of the 1936 Treaty of Alliance, Alexandria was placed out of bounds the day after we returned to the Canal Zone.

Who knows, we may have been the last British Army team to play there—but let us hope that this is not so and that next year teams will again have the pleasure of visiting Alexandria.

The Corps' record for the season is as follows: —

Played	Won	Lost	Drawn
9	5	4	—

And the averages are: —

BOWLING

	O.	M.	R.	Wkts.	Av.
Captain Frazer	89	21	195	17	11.5
Captain J. Sturge	70	8	241	19	12.7
Major D. Coatesworth	80	4	328	24	13.7

BATTING

	Runs	Ins.	Times not out	Highest score	Av.
Second-Lieutenant J. R. Bradbeer	569	9	3	137 N.O.	94.8
Major D. Coatesworth	142	10	2	28	17.7
Corporal Pitman	138	9	1	49 N.O.	17.2

RUGGER

Result of Corps' rugger match v. R.A.O.C. played at Aldershot on 23rd January: Royal Signals 11 points, R.A.O.C. 3 points.

Result of Corps' rugger match v. R.E.M.E., played at Catterick on 16th January: Royal Signals 15 points, R.E.M.E. 9 points.

STOP PRESS—BOXING

By defeating the North Irish Brigade Training Centre 19 points to 12 points, 2 Training Regiment are now in the semi-final of the Army Team Boxing Championships.

Plain Tales

ANY QUESTIONS?

HAVE you noticed how the evenings are drawing out? Do you see how THE WIRE is shrinking? Do you buy a copy regularly? Do you go to the meetings of your local branch? Have you written to Mum? Now we are running out of those wiggly things so I will stop asking questions. Perhaps you are embarrassed. Instead, I will TELL you something.

Uncle Alf: Take care not to offend anyone.

Me: Oh, well. What I was going to say would have offended hundreds, so let us drive on. I'll bet they know, anyway.

The Wanderers

Quite frequently I receive letters from old friends in remote parts of the earth. Many of them support my belief that THE WIRE readers are interested in real people rather than in the trivial doings of anonymous unit sportsmen. The latest recruit to my way of thinking is Major Phil Lee, who spends his time catching rats and snakes in and around Singapore. He and his friends are interested in personalities. They want names, especially those likely to "ring a bell" with old comrades. Of course, they also like the technical articles. They are nothing if not broad-minded. Such articles give the magazine "tone," and it is pretty certain that somebody reads them. Come to think of it, I am about due to explain the fluctuations of—Editor. No you're not.

Me: Bah!

Sale of Barrack Squares

Listening to the "Have a Go" programme one evening I heard a woman say that she couldn't stand people who grumbled about rations. Did you ever hear such nonsense? What else is one supposed to do about rations except eat them? Keep quiet until we are all trained to live on two dried peas and a biscuit? Bosh! I'll go further. Poof! At Stanhope Lines in 1914 our ration was three-quarters of a pound of meat a day. A day, did you hear? We groused about it, not because we wanted more but because it was the thing to do. I tell you right here (and just over there as well) that we who remember the wicked past will go right on agitating about rations until there is no such thing in civilian life. If the lady on the radio can't stand us, we shall all go and cry our eyes out in the Basingstoke Canal.

Uncle Alf: What about this sale of Barrack Squares?

Me: Not allowed. When I started to remove the parade ground at Stanhope Lines I made the heartbreaking discovery that no matter how much I had paid Corporal Marchbanks, the ground was not mine.

Psst! Anyone want to buy a C.S.O.'s Pool?

Abridged Version

Ukann Larfe, the phenomenally successful detective, was not a man who wasted time on useless and worn out conventions. He kicked the door off its hinges and strode boldly into the office of Inspector Faceache. "What the old copper?" said Ukann heartily. "When is a door not a door?" The Inspector turned a delicate purple and delivered himself of a vivid spate of words, the gist of which seemed to be "——, ——, ——, and ——."

The Hon. Gloria Munday, who you will remember is usually sick in transit, rose to her not inconsiderable feet and viewed our hero with undisguised admiration. "Take no notice," she said, "the Inspector is jealous of your triumphs." She batted her eyes at him. Ukann caught them neatly and threw her a glance. A clatter outside heralded the arrival of P.C.48, Lord Elpas and a collection of old tram lines. "Bung 'em in the Inspector's office," said the police officer who had been so helpful in getting them through the gate. He stood smiling happily. He was still smiling when a square foot of dampish turf sailed through the window and wrapped itself round his face. "Who done that?" he spluttered, forgetting his old school. A tinkling laugh floated on the breeze and was gone like a gratuity. A twig snapped in the New Forest and a back axle broke in Birmingham. Which proves beyond all doubt that, etc., etc.

Try our Treacle Pudding (Advt.). BARLEUX.

Association Notes



Newcastle, Gateshead and District

Our priority resolution for 1952 was to take a little space in THE WIRE each month. For January, of course, we posted with the Christmas rush and missed the printer. It was a good resolution, however, and it stands for the rest of the year, and we have marked the calendar.

Readers who reach these parts (and who have calendars) may like to note that we meet, by kind permission of C.R. Signals, 50 Division, at his Gateshead Squadron H.Q. at 7.30 p.m. on the first Saturday in each month. The programme depends very much on who turns out, but we are fortunate in enjoying many favours from the P.M.C., Sergeants' Mess, and some quite amazing local talent can usually raise a song to round off our social evening.

Any serving member on leave and any ex-Service member who cannot really leave it all behind can be sure of a welcome.

Our popular Secretary, Mr. R. G. Williams, c/o P.S.I., 50 Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A. Centre, Gateshead, will be glad to hear from prospective new members.

No. 12 Unit Branch

Having read with interest in THE WIRE notes relating to various activities of many local branches of the Royal Signals Association, including notes as far afield as East Africa, No. 12 Unit Branch of the Royal Signals Association, situated in Lagos, Nigeria, now wishes to introduce itself for the first time.

The Branch was formed on 14th June, 1951, and now consists of some 26 members. Although at present mainly a Unit Branch, several ex-members of the Corps have come along to give their support, and it is hoped that many more ex-members who are known to be in civil occupations in Nigeria will come along in the near future. Although impossible for some to come along owing to the size of the colony and scattered districts, arrangements are being made to forward any matter of interest affecting the branch and news of the Corps to those ex-members whose whereabouts are known, and it is hoped that although they perhaps cannot visit us they will at least become members of the Association.

The Association is very fortunate at present in being able to hold its monthly meetings in the B.N.C.O.s' Mess of the Nigeria Signal Squadron, Lagos, whose members so willingly allow the use of their Mess on Association nights, and also for functions held, and to whom the Branch members are grateful.

A dinner for Association members was to have been held in November, but this function had to be postponed due to the arrival of H.M.S. *Bermuda* and H.M.S. *Neride* at Lagos, and all spare time of members was given to being hosts to the Navy. From all accounts a good time was had by all.

The officers of this branch of the Association are:—Chairman, Mr. G. H. Gray; Vice-Chairman, S.Q.M.S. F. Banham, at present on leave in U.K.; Honorary Secretary, Sergeant G. Webster, Nigeria Signal Squadron, Apapa Camp, Lagos, Nigeria, West Africa. Members include Major D. Bond and Captain D. A. Bond, both of Nigeria Signal Squadron.

Northants

It's very interesting, at these meetings, to see the folk getting together for a social evening with the business kept to a minimum.

With the annual dinner due in March, it was the evening's main topic . . . it eventually being left to the Social Committee, which already has a few ideas in mind to make it a night to be remembered. Colonel Firth, who has kindly consented to come, will be very welcome as our guest of honour.

Our President, who is an irregular attender, due to living out of town and being a very busy man, arrived to wish us a Happy Christmas—ah, yes, thirsty work these meetings. Talking of our very popular President brings to mind the fact that he is this month's Personality.

Step forward Major H. E. Knight, please, and be presented. There is no proof to hand, but he says that in 1939 he was in 1 Division followed by 2 Corps Signals in 1941, and was O.C. No. 1 Cable Company in Italy, 1944/5. Major Knight is now with the well known Stewart and Lloyd's firm as Chief Electrical Engineer Tube Works and acts as County Councillor in Northants C.C. A letter c/o Stewarts and Lloyd's, Corby, will find him. Anyway, all that didn't stop him from being found "guilty" at the mock trial held that evening . . . the charge? Not wearing his Association badge.

Exeter

Our Christmas festivities followed the plan of former years —children's party and social. The children of members of the branch, together with those of the Exeter Squadron, had their party on the 29th December, and the social was held on the following Saturday. Both events were exceedingly successful, thanks to the efforts of the Ladies' Committee, presided over by Mrs. Dalton (wife of the Squadron Commander, Major G. S. Dalton, T.D.). Each year the Regiment's Honorary Colonel (Brigadier R. H. Rayner, M.B.E., M.P.) provides the Christmas tree, and a massive one it was, too, this year. We greatly appreciate his kindness, in fact, we should be "sunk" if he had no more trees at Ashcombe Towers !

The Chairman of the Branch (Lieutenant-Colonel J. W. Western, O.B.E., T.D.), in the unavoidable absence of the real Santa Claus, was suitably rigged up for the occasion, and one very observant little girl in a conversation shyly said that a lot of people dressed up as Father Christmas but she still believed there was a *real* one; those acquisitive bigger boys had been "pricking the bubble" we suspect.

Freddie Coles, "our old reliable," was in great form at the social, and organised the programme of dances, games, etc., splendidly. Yes, a good time was had by all!

A very definite request has been made for more gatherings of this sort—a healthy sign which the Committee cannot ignore.

We have decided to drop the old style annual dinner for men only, and later a dinner and dance is to be put on.

Leicester

The third re-union of the Leicester Branch was held on 10th November at the Victoria Hotel, Leicester.

It was a very happy gathering and we were honoured by the presence of the General Secretary of the Association, Lieutenant-Colonel Firth. Major D. Russell, M.B.E. (Branch President) was in the chair and recalled some of the early history of the branch.

A very pleasing ceremony took place at the dinner. Our retiring Secretary (Mr. W. E. Mann), who founded the branch just over two years ago, was presented with an engraved silver cigarette case as a token of appreciation of the energy he had put into establishing the branch on so firm a footing. Mr. Mann (known as "Tom" in the Corps) had wished to retire from the secretaryship when a membership of 100 was reached, and now that the present membership was 108 he felt that his goal had been achieved.

At the Annual General Meeting the following officers were elected: President, Major J. D. G. Russell, M.B.E.; Chairman, Captain Jack Angell; Secretary, Captain F. E. Watson; Treasurer, Mr. A. S. Todd.

Birmingham District

And a happy New Year to you all from the Birmingham District Branch. This will cover, I hope, from myself and all Branch members, the Christmas and New Year cards we forgot to send, and those we ought to have sent and, by the kindness of the Editor were only in these notes by the skin of our teeth. Doubtless by now we are clear of the cold turkey, chicken, goose or what have you and are once again back to "what'll you have." Did I detect then a faint echo with a North Welsh accent saying "Mine's a mild"? I understand that they breed a fairish line in turkeys in Colwyn Bay, at least the ultimate sampling would seem to prove so.

As usual I have to write in reverse. By the time you read this, another successful smoking concert which we are now in the throes of arranging, will have been held at the Crown Hotel in Broad Street on the last Thursday in January. Now if you live in Birmingham or district and are reading this as an ex or serving member of Royal Signals and not a regular attender at the Birmingham Branch, you will not, of course, appreciate what you have missed. As I write this I am only just preparing and arranging your entertainment. Where the heck this gets you or me I don't know, but if you're not satisfied come along on the last Thursday in any month, buy me a pint, and I'll try and help you to sort it out.

Can anyone tell me what the weather is going to be like in April? What a month for camp. I shall be pleased to meet any other Supplementary Reservists enjoying an English spring in the open air at that time. If you are Birmingham and District and not T.A. and want to enjoy yourself with me then, mention it to me and I will use my powerful influence to assist your admission into the S.R.

To change the topic without any intent to discredit brave men, have you ever seen Barleux with a 75 degree list against a bar hanging on and defying the efforts of the mess caterer to get him to the nearest bunk? At least, one can say one thing, no matter what the weather he was never known to ship water.

If I don't seem to have said much about Birmingham Branch activities I'm not sorry. If I keep you in suspense then perhaps some of you non-regular attenders might roll up to find out what you are missing.

W. Metcalfe

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Tunbridge Wells and District

It is regretted that, owing to the Christmas pressure of work at the G.P.O., our greetings to our sister branches and to all ranks of Signals, serving and retired, arrived at Headquarters too late for inclusion in the January issue of THE WIRE. To rectify the omission, those heartfelt greetings are now recorded, and it is sincerely hoped that 1952 may herald an era of peace and prosperity, not only to the Family of Signals, but to all mankind in this cock-eyed world of ours.

Since our last notes appeared in this delectable journal (December 1951), we have built up and formed the Sevenoaks and District Branch. The inaugural meeting was held at the Amherst Arms Hotel, Riverhead, Kent, on Wednesday, 28th November, 1951. The meeting was conducted by the Officers and Committee of Tunbridge Wells Branch with Major W. J. Packman in the chair.

The General Secretary (Lieutenant-Colonel H. R. Firth) attended the meeting and expounded the activities of the various sections of Headquarters administration in a clear, concise and informative manner. We have much for which to thank Colonel Firth, he has given us his solid backing in our prodigious efforts to organise West Kent and East Sussex for the Association. Not only has he been always ready to help with advice and suggestions from the Headquarters angle, he has made it a rule to be present at the birth of each new branch, sometimes at personal inconvenience which he always disregards.

The irons are at present in the fire to forge the last two links of the West Kent and East Sussex chain, viz. Tonbridge and Hastings. We hope to have these two branches on the Address List before the annual general meeting at Catterick in July.

Sevenoaks and District

Best wishes from Sevenoaks Branch to all ranks of Signals, both serving and retired, trusting that 1952 will bring the realisation of their highest hopes.

Sevenoaks Branch meets on the third Wednesday of each month at the Drill Hall, Argyle Road, Sevenoaks, Kent, by kind permission of Major A. H. Coombes, T.D., O.C. "C" Company, Royal West Kent Regiment, T.A. First meeting, Wednesday, 16th January, 1952.

Communications for the Branch Secretary should be addressed to: A. J. W. Garrett, Esq., 15 The Crescent, Seal Hollow, Sevenoaks, Kent.

Edenbridge and District

May we offer our belated, but none the less sincere, good wishes for 1952 to all ranks of the Corps, both Regular and T.A., and to all old comrades wherever they may be. We should explain that the Edenbridge Branch consists, in the main, of all ranks of the personnel of 42 A.A. (M) Signal Squadron, T.A. With only one or two exceptions, the whole Unit are members of the branch, which holds its meetings at The Drill Hall, High Street, Edenbridge, Kent. The Honorary Secretary (Miss Enid J. Laxton), who, incidentally, is a W.R.A.C. member of the Unit, is doing an excellent job of work seeking out ex-Signals in the neighbourhood with the view to enrolling them into the local branch. The Branch Committee has decided to hold a social evening for Association members, their wives and/or lady friends, on the second Friday in each month at 8 p.m. The first of these meetings has been arranged for Friday, 8th February, 1952.

A successful dance was held at The Drill Hall on Saturday, 12th January, 1952, which was attended by members and friends from Tunbridge Wells Branch.

Uckfield and District

Hello, again! Uckfield calling all branches in the British Isles and scattered members in lands beyond the seas.

We send to all ranks of "The Family" our heartfelt good wishes for a happy, peaceful and prosperous New Year, fraught for all with a happy ending to each individual dream and aspiration.

The Branch Secretary (ex-R.Q.M.S. "Spike" May) wishes to thank those old pals who responded to his request, published in Branch Notes for December 1951. The large number of letters received will, he says, all be answered even if he gets writer's cramp in the effort.

Our first branch meeting and social was held at the Bridge Hotel, Uckfield, on Wednesday, 14th November, 1951, when a very happy evening of laughter and song was enjoyed by all.

Tunbridge Wells Branch attended in force as well as a representative party from the W.O. and Sergeants' Mess, Eastern Command Signal Regiment, Maresfield Camp (including R.S.M. "Jock" Morrison).

A further social meeting was arranged and held on Wednesday, 9th January, 1952, which eclipsed the previous one both in entertainment and attendance. Well over 60 members and friends were present (including parties from Tunbridge Wells and Maresfield Camp). A musical programme was arranged by local entertainers and several members and friends contributed. Our genial Chairman (ex-R.S.M. Arthur Brown) kept the company alive in the capacity of M.C., interspersing the musical items with his snappy stories and witticisms.

The occasion was a real "red letter" night and we hope to organise many more of the same calibre.

Uckfield calling! Uckfield calling! Over!

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ROYAL SIGNALS BENEVOLENT FUND

	£	s.	d.
Subscriptions received during December, 1951:			
Depot Regiment	2	2	0
Kent Coast Troop	2	3	6
Singapore District Signal Regiment	20	0	0
H.Q., B.A.O.R. Signal Regiment	3	9	0
Donations received during December, 1951:			
Aldershot Branch	1	1	0
Captain A. McT. Cook (donation for books for Korea)	10	0	0
Captain T. Cook		8	0
Mr. G. A. Lavender		6	0
Mrs. A. Mayhew		10	0
Captain T. G. Simpson		8	0
Mrs. K. Wakeling		2	6
Total Receipts	£40	10	0

Expenditure during December, 1951 ... £492 15 11

(Includes: General assistance; Rent and Rates; Beds and Bedding; Tools; Removals; Clothing; Fares; Convalescence.)

Analysis of cases:	
Families of soldiers serving in U.K.	7
,, ,, ,, ,, ,, B.A.O.R.	4
,, ,, ,, ,, ,, M.E.L.F.	1
,, ,, ,, ,, ,, FARELF	1
,, ,, ,, ,, ,, E. Africa	1
Widows and dependants	7
Released and discharged soldiers	34
Total cases assisted	55



THE WIRE

The Corps Magazine of the
ROYAL SIGNALS
The Official Organ of the
SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

Editor:
BRIGADIER H. R. FIRTH

All correspondence and matter for publication for THE WIRE *should be addressed to The Editor,* THE WIRE, *88 Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1. Matter for publication must be received by the 15th of the month preceding publication.*

Remittances should be made payable to: Royal Signals Association. Subscription rates (post free, except air mail): Twelve months, 12/-; single month, 1/-.

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MARCH • **1952**

Vol. 6 *New Series* **No. 3**

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PRICE ONE SHILLING

"In Decent Mourning"

A quotation from an order issued by the Earl Marshal's Office, 9th February

THE body of His Late Majesty King George VI was brought to London on Monday, 11th February, in that wonderfully British procession from King's Cross to Westminster Hall. The gun carriage of King's Troop Royal Artillery and the bearer party of the King's Company Grenadier Guards were the only soldiers. Lining the route were the Metropolitan Police and the ordinary folk of London. In its simplicity and its homeliness it mirrored one aspect of His Majesty's reign.

To Westminster Hall for the Lying-in-State came people from all the world. Joining the end of the queue on a cold, damp London day, one was at first daunted by the undertaking; two or three hours of acute physical discomfort. For what? The apparently senseless chatter of fellow shufflers, the fool who could not keep in rank, the lurching, muck-splattering traffic; all these were irritations. One or two " of lesser breed " dropped out, conversation ceased, we settled down to it; ten paces forward, halt, four paces, halt again; the cold began to eat in, the damp to work up. In complete, stubborn, but reverent silence, we crept forward. The hours passed. Then quite suddenly we were there; right wheel; up some wide stairs with a dividing rail to split our fours into twos; left wheel, and —! The picture is too well known to need description. Suffice to say that in reverence, in beauty, in mourning, in simplicity, no description can convey what the eye has not seen.

Out into Palace Yard to see coming in the cars of Members of Parliament and their friends; a policeman giving a brief glance at the badge and a perfunctory salute as they drove past him. He halted the fourth car, unbadged; he bent his back to look within and then straightened to a soldier's salute. It was a Guards Officer going to his duty. There were 300,000 of us who made that pilgrimage; five or six thousand in every hour passed through Westminster Hall during the three days and nights.

Came Friday, the troops in the streets, the massed crowds, the cold, the marching men of each of His Majesty's own regiments, save only ours. As always, we had the inconspicuous but the important task. An officer here, a signalman there, quiet, unobtrusive, efficient; their duty was to start the procession, to synchronise the firing of the guns, to watch, to report his last progress. There were perhaps fifty of us, working for Him during these last hours, and three strong regiments lining the streets. There were thousands of us working for Her.

The messages still went through; to Korea and Malaya where we are fighting, to the Canal with its uneasy peace; to Germany, where our formations keep watch and ward; to Catterick, where we train Her Signalmen; to the Depot, whence we send them forth and to which they return. All over the world came and went the messages. We marked those days only by the black on the arms of our officers and for most of us by a thought of who we serve and why we serve.

★ ★ ★

Telegram dated 6th February from the Representative Colonel-Commandant, Royal Corps of Signals, to H.R.H. The Princess Royal :—

All ranks of your Royal Corps of Signals offer their humble duty and beg to express their sorrow and sympathy in your great loss.

★ ★ ★

Telegram dated 9th February from H.R.H. The Princess Royal, St. James's Palace, S.W.1, to the Representative Colonel-Commandant :—

DEAR GENERAL NAYLOR,

I write to thank you most warmly for your telegram conveying the sympathy of all ranks of my Corps at the grievous loss sustained by the sudden death of the King.

It is a great source of comfort to me and to the members of my family to know that the thoughts and prayers of so many people are with us in this time of sorrow.

Yours sincerely,

MARY.

A letter was delivered by hand on 7th February to H.R.H. The Princess Royal at St. James's Palace from the Chairman of the Association expressing the sympathy of all branches of the Association and their affectionate loyalty to H.M. The Queen.

Her Royal Highness, who is patron of the Association, sent a most gracious reply signed in her own hand.

St. James's Palace,
S.W.1.
8th February, 1952. *Whitehall 1422.*

MY DEAR GENERAL FLADGATE,

Please convey to all the Headquarters Staff of The Royal Signals Association and to the members of all Branches, my sincere thanks for their charming message. I am deeply touched by their kindness and thought in this time of great sorrow.

I will take an early opportunity of passing on your expression of loyal duty and affection to The Queen.

Yours sincerely,

MARY.

★ ★ ★

The photograph of the Colonel-in-Chief, reproduced below, is obtainable from Baron Studios, 2 Brick Street, Park Lane, London, W.1

It is in colour.

Dimensions: 19 inches by 15 inches, mounted overall size 25 inches by 20 inches.

The cost is £2 14s. 9d. per copy, plus packing and postage (4s. 9d. in Great Britain).

Her Royal Highness has graciously consented to sign these photographs for regiments of Royal Signals, and this can be arranged by Baron Studios.



PERSONAL COLUMN

Promotions of Officers

London Gazette, 8th January, 1952.

To be Colonels: L. C. C. Harrison, MC., 24th January, 1951. E. L. L. Vulliamy, O.B.E., 15th March, 1951. K. C. O. Bastyan, O.B.E., 12th April, 1951.

To be Lieutenant-Colonels: N. M. Hay, M.B.E., 20th November, 1951. A. M. W. Whistler, 27th December, 1951.

London Gazette, 28th December, 1951.

To be Lieutenant-Colonel: C. H. Barker, 20th November, 1951.

London Gazette, 22nd January, 1952.

To be Colonels: E. D. Good, C.B.E. G. B. Bell, C.B.E. H. L. Lewis.

Retirements

London Gazette, 25th January, 1952.

Brigadier C. Childs, C.B.E., retires on retired pay.

London Gazette, 18th January, 1952.

Lieutenant-Colonel G. H. S. Balmain retires on retired pay 21st January, 1952, and has been granted honorary rank of Colonel.

☆

The following notice has been received from O.C. 1 Squadron, 1/20 Army Signal Regiment:—

"Will Captain (T.M.O.) E. Longhirst, who was P.S.I. in 1939 of No. 31 and 32 Wireless Sections (S.R.) stationed in Coventry, please state at which bank he deposited the four silver cups, the property of the Sections, upon mobilisation in September 1939? The receipt for the said cups cannot now be found by the T.A. Association responsible. Cups now required by the successors to the two sections."

Movements of Officers

Lieutenant-Colonel R. G. Yolland from B.A.O.R. to War Office.

Major D. E. Warren from Depot to M.E.L.F.

Lieutenant-Colonel G. H. Starr from War Office to 3 Training Regiment.

Lieutenant-Colonel G. Rowland from 6 (Boys) Training Regiment to 2 A.A. (M) Signal Regiment.

Lieutenant-Colonel J. G. Oliver from 2 A.A. (M) Signal Regiment to FARELF.

Lieutenant-Colonel P. J. Palmer from 3 Training Regiment to M.E.L.F.

Lieutenant-Colonel N. I. Bower from FARELF to be C.S.O. Northern Ireland District.

Major G. J. C. Sumner from B.A.O.R. to Staff College.

Lieutenant-Colonel G. D. T. Harris to No. 2 War Office Signal Regiment.

Major J. W. T. Snell from FARELF to 23 Southern ("C") Signal Regiment.

Major J. M. Brunskill from M.E.L.F. to 5 Corps Signal Regiment.

Major R. Scrase from B.A.O.R. to Depot Regiment.

Major T. P. Saunders from Depot to BETFOR.

Major D. N. Deakin from 44 ("H.C.") Divisional Signal Regiment to Royal Signals Records.

Major A. H. Costen from Records to B.A.O.R.

Major L. F. Smith has arrived in Gurkha Royal Signals.

Major R. A. Hatcher from Eastern Command Signal Regiment to B.A.O.R.

Major S. W. B. Lee from U.K. to M.E.L.F.

Major (Q.M.) E. G. Strange from 23 Southern Corps Signal Regiment to B.A.O.R.

Major N. D. Farmer from 7 Training Regiment to 50 (N) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A.

Lieutenant-Colonel J. H. L. Crighton from School of Signals to be C.S.O. East Africa Command.

Promotions of Warrant and Non-Commissioned Officers

S.Q.M.S. R. G. Furtado to W.O.II.

S.Q.M.S. A. Harris to be acting W.O.II from 7th January, 1952.

Movements of Warrant and Non-Commissioned Officers

R.Q.M.S. J. Ditchfield from 5 A.A. (M) Signal Regiment to Depot Regiment.

S.Q.M.S. R. Routledge from 5 A.A. (M) Signal Regiment to 7 Armoured Division, B.A.O.R.

W.O.II F. Hoehle from 11 Air Formation Signal Regiment to 11 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment.

W.O.II Lambert from 6 (Boys) Training Regiment to 2 L. of C. Signal Regiment.

W.O.II Haughney from 6 (Boys) Training Regiment to H.Q., B.A.O.R.

S.Q.M.S. Burge from H.Q., B.A.O.R. Signal Regiment to 7 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment on promotion to W.O.II.

Sergeant Phillips from 7 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment to H.Q., B.A.O.R. Signal Regiment on promotion to S.Q.M.S.

R.S.M. Thompson from Singapore District Signal Regiment to U.K.

Births

GOSLING—To Helen, wife of S.Q.M.S. J. G. Gosling, 11 Air Formation Signal Regiment, a daughter, Lilian Cecile, at Rinteln Hospital on 17th December, 1951.

SMITH—To R.S.M. and Mrs. J. Smith, 4 Training Regiment, on 2nd December, 1951, at Catterick Military Hospital, a second son, Christopher James.

SPEAKES—To Captain and Mrs. Speakes at Aldershot on 10th January, 1952, a daughter, Margaret Louise Phyllis.

VAUGHAN—To W.O.II and Mrs. T. A. Vaughan, C.S.O.'s Branch H.Q., Eastern Command, on 12th January, a son, Gordon Williams.

WARKE—To Joyce Felicity, wife of Lance-Corporal Warke, 11 Air Formation Signal Regiment, a daughter, Angela, on 11th December, 1951.

Marriages

BUMBY—SMITH.—On 19th January, 1952, Corporal N. F. Bumby, 4 Training Regiment, Royal Signals, to Private H. Smith, W.R.A.C., Scottish Command (M) Signal Regiment, Glencorse Barracks, Midlothian, Scotland.

COUPLAND—McEVOY.—Lance-Corporal Coupland to Private McEvoy (W.R.A.C.), both of 5 A.A. (M) Signal Regiment.

INGLEBY—HORSFIELD.—Sergeant Ingleby, 5 A.A. (M) Signal Regiment, to Mrs. Horsfield, ex W.R.A.C.

STEWART—MOTTERSHEAD. — Private Mottershead (W.R.A.C.), 5 A.A. (M) Signal Regiment, to Sergeant Stewart, Royal Tank Corps.

Deaths

MOORE—22349672 Signalman E. A. Moore on 11th January, 1952.

MUSGROVE—22472741 Signalman R. D. Musgrove on 15th January, 1952.

SMITH—2549556 Signalman W. Smith on 28th January, 1952, in Korea.

WARMINGTON—22419572 Lance-Corporal M. J. Warmington on 3rd January, 1952, in Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Injured on Active Service

HARRISON—22272174 Signalman E. G. Harris on 8th January, 1952, in Korea.

Obituary

PHILIP ROBERT BALD

BORN 27th April, 1883, died at his home at Camberley on 20th December, 1951. Not many think of him as Philip but as Peter, in which nickname his outstanding kindliness of nature endured him to us. Slow, gentle in speech and thought, reliable in all he did, a typical Wykehamist.

From Winchester he passed to the R.M.A., and was commissioned to the Royal Engineers on 18th August, 1900, joining the 2nd Divisional Telegraph Battalion on July 1902. After serving nine years with Field Companies, four years being spent in South Africa, he was posted from Limerick to the 1st Divisional Signal Company at Aldershot, and in August 1914 was in command of this Unit when it proceeded to France. After taking part in the retreat from Mons and in the first battle of Ypres he was, in March 1915, posted to the United Kingdom to raise and instruct new Signal Units.

He returned to France in November 1915 with the XIII Corps Signals, taking over the appointment of A.D. Signals, with the rank of Major. He remained with the Corps in



this appointment until January 1918, when he was posted to the Signal Training Centre at Bedford. In September 1918 he returned to France as C.S.O. VI Corps. In November 1920 he transferred to the Corps of Signals on its formation with seniority as Major from November 1916. He subsequently held the appointments of C.S.O. Northern Command, O.C. School of Signals, C.S.O. Scottish Command, C.S.O. Egypt.

In October 1935 he retired with the rank of Colonel. Recalled on 1st September, 1939, at the outbreak of the last war, he was appointed C.S.O. Aldershot Command, retiring again on the 29th June, 1940. That his service in the 1914-18 war was appreciated, four Mentions in Despatches, a brevet Lieutenant-Colonelcy, *Chevalier du Legion d'Honneur,* and a D.S.O. are good evidence.

That he left the Corps of Royal Engineers with regret no one can doubt, but like so many others who joined the Corps of Signals on its formation he was heart and soul for the good and well being of his new Corps whether at work, sport and play. In his quiet way he did much to build up the Corps and smooth out its growing pains. One feels sure he looked with pride on its achievements in this last war.

He married in January 1911, Grace Frances. There must be many who partook of their kindly hospitality and remember the happy atmosphere of their home. His wife survived him five days, dying on 25th December, 1951—what better ending to a married life of some 40 years?—but all our sympathy is with his daughters, Mrs. Pyke and Lady Broad.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

6th Annual Meeting of Honorary Secretaries of Branches of the Association will be at Duke of Yorks Headquarters, Chelsea, S.W.3, on Saturday, 29th March.

Army Team Fixtures

Association Football: 29th March, Army v. French Army, at Dulwich; 5th April, Scotland v. England, at Glasgow; 9th April, Final Army Cup, at Aldershot.

Rugby Football: 19th April, Army v. French Army, at Twickenham.

Boxing: 8th-9th April, I.S.B.A. Championships; 24th-25th March, Army Championships (preliminary contests), at Aldershot; 27th March, Finals of The Army Individual Championships, at Albert Hall; 25th April, A.B.A. Championships, at Wembley.

Royal Signals Rugby Football Club

April 5 *v.* Percy Park, at Catterick.

3 good things in one!

Smooth chocolate
Delicious sweetmeat
Crisp wafers



BLUE RIBAND

A GRAY DUNN PRODUCT

2½d.

EMPLOYMENT VACANCIES

GENERAL POST OFFICE

There are vacancies in the London Telecommunications Region for telegraphists and telephonists. Previous experience is not essential, and candidates are paid during training.

Staff are recruited initially on a temporary basis but, subject to suitability, are eligible for appointment to the establishment. These posts are pensionable and offer good prospects of advancement to the supervising grades, and there are additional openings by limited examination to other Civil Service classes. The annual leave and sick pay privileges compare favourably with those of most commercial firms, and there are excellent facilities for sports and recreational activities.

Anyone interested can obtain further information from the Royal Signals Association (Employment Section), 88 Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1, or the Staff Controller (S/A2R), L.T.R., Cornwall House, Waterloo Road, London, S.E.1.

CIVILIAN VACANCIES ON ARMY WIRELESS CHAIN STATIONS

It is expected that vacancies for civilians will shortly occur in certain technical appointments on Army Wireless Chain Stations at home and abroad.

These vacancies will afford an opportunity for retired Officers, W.O.s and N.C.O.s of the Corps with heavy wireless experience to continue their career in telecommunications under advantageous conditions.

Will those who are interested please write to the War Office (A.G. 11), Stanmore, Middlesex, giving details of past experience and stating whether or not they are prepared to serve overseas?

Terms and conditions of service have not yet been finally decided. They are expected to be in the order of:—

Officers ... ... £525—£825 per annum.
W.O.s and N.C.O.s ... £450—£550 per annum.
With allowances for overseas service.

NEW ZEALAND REGULAR ARMY

Vacancies exist in the Royal New Zealand Signals for ex-British Army tradesmen who have passed Class I or II trade tests in any of the following trades:—

Lineman Operator Special Operator Wireless and Line
Radio Mechanic Telegraph Mechanic

Age limits 21—40. Single men preferred, but married men may be accepted on certain conditions. Further details obtainable from the Royal Signals Association, 88 Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1, or from the New Zealand Army Liaison Staff, The Adelphi, John Adam Street, London, W.C.2.

REGIMENTAL TIES

The Association at 88 Eccleston Square has now good stocks of Corps' ties. They are of different qualities, but all good value at the price:—

5s. Artificial Silk; 7s. 6d. Uncrushable; 10s. 6d. Wool. Most excellent value and the best tie we have had since the war. The colour is not perfect.

Regimental Scarves. Artificial silk, long tubular, £1 2s. 0d.

Sports Shirts and Jerseys. These can be provided to order in Corps' colours at reasonably short notice.

ROYAL SIGNALS DINNER CLUB

Annual Dinner, Thursday, 10th July. Tickets 15s.

Regular Officers' Tea Party, Friday, 11th July. Tickets 8s. 6d.

Both will be held at the Hyde Park Hotel as formerly.

Details from Honorary Secretary, Royal Signals Dinner Club, Room 97, Horseguards, Whitehall, S.W.1.

Ski-ing

Courses at Catterick



As a winter recreation, the thrill and excitement of ski-ing is achieving a place of its own amongst an ever increasing number of sportsmen.

Ski-ing enthusiasts at Catterick Camp are particularly fortunate to enjoy the able tuition of Major N. A. C. Clubb, M.B.E., an experienced ski-ing coach who has already commenced a class of instruction.

Major Clubb has recently returned from Norway, where he spent five years, having been invited to build up the Norwegian Signal Training Centre. During this period he became the first Briton to win the Gold Medal of the Norwegian Ski-ing Association and had brought from Catterick every year eight officers for a six weeks' ski-ing course.

At home once again, Major Clubb's enthusiasm continues unabated, and he has every confidence that his course of instruction will help to popularise the sport in the garrison.

The picture, produced by courtesy of "Northern Echo," shows Major Clubb giving a few tips to fellow officers. The article and photograph appeared originally in the "Catterick Express."

Lieutenant-Colonel JOHN W. HAWKES, P.O. Box 3463, Cape Town, writes to the Editor :—

My copy of the December issue of THE WIRE has just arrived, and while taking a few moments from my desk to peruse "Who, What, When and Where" I suddenly had the urge to write to you. Especially after reading your "Do You Remember?" column.

Yes, I remember. I joined 47th Divisional Signals in 1928 on transfer from the local R.A. Unit where I was at that time undergoing a course at the Riding School, Chelsea. Colonel Vigers was at that time Honorary Colonel, with a Colonel Howard as C.O. Company Commanders (as they were in those days) were Major Lloyd (who graciously made me a lance-corporal after many weary courses and who many years afterwards was to be my C.S.O. Naples) and Major Christopher who, I now understand, commands the present Unit in occupation of Fulham House. Major Humphries was then 2.I.C. and later became C.O., and who, I understand, died on active service.

R.S.M. Moorse, C.S.M. Bolton, C.S.M. Fisher, Sergeants Burrows (last seen at Cassino with Indian Divisional Signals), Hobbs, Harvey-Smith, Potter (last seen at Bari, Italy), Watts, Griffiths (the only person I have ever met who hated tomatoes), Pettifor, Franklin (last seen in Cape Town with a travelling circus).

If any of these persons are still around I should very much like to learn of their whereabouts. Taking a leaf from the pages of my old comrade "Barleux," if any among them cannot afford THE WIRE I shall be more than happy to arrange for their subscription.

May I through your pages send my good wishes to Major-General White, whom I first met in Abysinnia in 1940, and who was more than helpful and sympathetic during my period of service under him from 1942 until 1947. There could never have been a more popular Commander. May your retirement, sir, be as happy as you would wish it!

Having read "Barleux" comments about my posting in a recent issue, I hasten to assure all and sundry that the circumstances were indeed quite different. However, for the sake of the records the circumstances are as follow:—

Captain Harry Hawkes (U.D.F.) was on his way out of the line after nearly four years of Infantry Signals. Four years that will always be remembered for the good comrades that he met during that time. Much against his will, he was being posted to a Signal School in North Africa, but with the help of his Divisional Commander and with the blessing of General White, C.S.O. 8th Army, this posting was made to read: "Report to *War House, London, England*"—the land of his fathers.

Harry hesitated no longer and "retired according to plan."

However, upon reaching 30 Corps H.Q., and while enjoying food as served in these sumptuous establishments, he was politely requested to lend a hand with some new scrap someone had thought up. Ever faithful to the Infantry, Harry agreed, and found himself with a choice of Divisions to which he could be posted, having chosen 78th only because he liked the Battle Axe Divisional Signals, and arriving during the heat of the attack upon San Salvo in Lower Italy, he was met by "Handle-Bar Hank," the Australian C.O., and requested once again to partake of tea, and then to get to hell back to the wagon lines and to try to find, and then wake up, friend Captain ("Barleux") Barlow, with an urgent message to the effect that he had better send up some more tea and paint (with a suitable "bod" for spreading same) as "Handle-Bars'" caravan had received a few scratches.

Having been welcomed into the most cosmopolitan and motley crew it was ever his fortune to serve with, he was at once requested to be Adjutant, an office fraught with many dangers, and one for which he certainly had no desire. In fact, most of my time in that office was spent in either arranging for more tea for the C.O. ("Handle-Bar") or giving orders to sundry commanders to do things that had been accomplished days before. Having graduated from this office, it was felt that a man of his calibre would make himself at home further forward, in fact, from that day he never had time to look backward.

He still records that his time with the 36th Infantry Brigade was one that had to be experienced to be believed.

Do You Remember ?

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COLONEL H. LLOYD-HOWARD, M.C., T.D. Some notes on and from him on his ceasing to be T.A.R.O. appear below.

In March 1922 Captain A. W. Roberts was in the S.T.C. at Maresfield Park. In 1932 he shot a tiger in India. He is now in Cape Town. He was general secretary of your association.

Do you remember that General R. T. O. Cary was then a T.A. Adjutant in Cardiff? He was C.S.O. Eighth Army and G.O.C. at Catterick. Do you remember? He now enjoys his retirement in Norfolk. In January this column mentioned "Aubrey" Harrison ("where is he now?"). Believe it or not, he is in Dover with a 100 per cent. disability pension, but still alive and cheerful as is Mary, his wife, and his two sons. We had a letter from him on 23rd January.

Maresfield notes of that month recount that "Barleux" returned from a Refresher Course full of technical knowledge. He is reported as enquiring plaintively "Why contours cannot be joined in series with a buried hop pole route?" You know the answer? Well, you're much older than I.

Egypt Signals were making efforts to form a branch of the Association, and the number contains a striking picture of "The Switchboard Operator" operating a manual board rather like a Welsh dresser, which must be even older than Whitehall 4466, and that is saying something.

March 1922 contains a long account of the Christmas festivities at Constantinople. Do you remember why we were there? You do? Well what was the Commanding Officer's name? Talking of names, "Monty" Hepburn was then in Waziristan. There is a clue in this sentence.

In March 1922 "The Editor, while welcoming the substantial increase in notes from Units this month, regrets that owing to pressure on space he has been compelled to condense many of them." History does repeat itself, doesn't it? Incidentally, in 1922 we had Unit notes from Gross Strehlitz, Upper Silesia. We are still going to strange places in 1952—witness the Depot at Newton Abbot.

March 1922 published the promotions to W.O.II R.Q.M.S. of W. J. Marshall, N. Ramsey, H. S. Shave, R. A. McIntosh, and W. E. Floyd. Where are they now?

In 1932, Aldershot Branch held its first dance; R.Q.M.S. G. Bayliss was M.C. Do you remember? He is still serving. The 10th Divisional Signal Company R.E. held its twelfth annual dinner in Leeds, and Captain H. E. Rance was commanding the Boys Company. T. R. Brett was promoted corporal, and 4th Indian Divisional Signals had their headquarters in Rangoon. Do you remember? You do? Well, you're much older than I.

Writing in 1952 we are reminded of one whose career, mainly in the Territorial Army, is almost a "Do You Remember?" column in itself.

Colonel H. Lloyd Howard, M.C., T.D., who ceased to belong to T.A.R.O. on 28th November, 1951, first joined the Army in 1914 when he was commissioned in 24 Divisional Signals. In 1918 he was commanding 36 Ulster Divisional Signals. In 1922 he commanded 56 (1st London) Divisional Signals on conclusion of which appointment he joined the Artists Rifles as a rifleman in 1926. Promoted sergeant in 1927, he returned to his old Corps in 1928, being appointed Second-in-Command of 47 (2nd London) Divisional Signals, and assumed command at Fulham House in 1932.

Having finished his tour as a commanding officer, he rejoined the Artists Rifles in 1936 as a Major. Ill health cut short his otherwise promising career in that Regiment and he reverted to T.A.R.O.

He writes:—

"In 'Do You Remember?' (January) you ask about the 'War History of Signals Service, France.' Its real title is the 'Work of Royal Engineers in the European War, 1914-1919, Signal Service, France.' It is by Major R. E. Priestley, M.C., B.A., and was published by the Institution of the Royal Engineers.

"Continuing in the vein of 'Do You Remember?' Captain Naylor was my C.O. in 1915 and soon acquired C.Q.M.S. Winton as his C.S.M. (24th Divisional Signals); in 2nd Divisional Signals (1917) we had Lieutenants T. B. L. Disney and M. F. M. Parkes (both 52 L.I.) with C.S.M. H. Gallegher; in III Corps I was Second-in-Command to Major Hitchins, P. E. Nolan being R.S.M. While with 24th Division, an old Sapper who wore the ribbons for Egypt, 1886 or so, showed me his first remustering certificate signed 'J. S. Fowler, Lieutenant, R.E.,' and my own Ack. I Certificate, acquired as a sergeant (O.T.C.) at Bulford in 1913 (under Captain E. F. W. Barker, K.O.Y.L.I., and O.M.T. Frost, Dorset Regiment) is signed 'W. P. E. Newbigging, Major, Commandant, Army Signal School, Aldershot' (Bulford was S.R. and T.A.).

"*P.S.*—Have just heard from 'Curly' Bury (Adjutant at Fulham, 1932-35), who has settled near Wimborne, Dorset."

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Major J. R. WEST, ex O.C. 22/200/201 Guards Brigade Signal Squadron, writes :—

As Major Petts has taken off his hat and scattered some sandy memories so effectively on the pages of your November number, may I be permitted to follow his example and recall the story of Guards Brigade Signal Squadron during the year 1941-42. The Brigade was variously known as 22, 200 and finally 201 Guards Brigade. Many times during this period we worked alongside 7 Motor Brigade. Unlike them, however, we came on the desert scene as an Independent Brigade passing with rapidity from the command of 7th Armoured Division, 7th Indian Division, Desfor, 13 and 30 Corps, 8th Army, and back, until we finally fetched up as the Motor Brigade of 1st Armoured Division in place of 1st Support Group.

During the period August 1941 to June 1942, the Brigade was in continuous contact with the enemy during both battle and lull periods, with the exception of a two-week period for regrouping before occupying the Knightsbridge Box in May 1942. Under these conditions the Brigade Signals developed from a section of 40 strong equipped with five 11 sets, to a Squadron of over 200 equipped with twenty-one 9 sets. This expansion was piecemeal in the extreme and was built round the original nucleus who were at the same time fully committed in keeping operational communications going. Many of the sets had to be fitted into vehicles on an improvised basis, and again many of the sets and vehicles had themselves to be won in our comings and goings. The only A.C.V. we ever possessed had in fact been won from the enemy who had obtained it from some one else the previous year.

We share many memories of those days with Major Petts. Like 7 Motor Brigade, our Command would expand and contract daily, embracing many different Units. At one time we found ourselves with an Indian Brigade as well as a very swollen Brigade of our own under command. Like him, we also found our men preferred to absent themselves from Base and Holding Units in order to rejoin us.

We remember with gratitude the confidence, co-operation and patience extended towards us by the Brigade Commander (now Major-General Sir John Marriott) and his staff. To isolate a few memories of individuals at random one remembers the cheerfulness and energy of Sergeant/S.S.M. Fergusson, matched only perhaps by his prolific fund of stories and anecdotes; the two faithful and inseparable Godleys; Denton and Finlay ("Ernie" and "Paddy"), on the Brigadier's rover

to whom the Brigadier would often attribute his good humour at the end of a tiring day; Signalman Grimment, an imperturbable lineman trudging through the night with the cable in his hand reporting every hour and at the end of 15 miles announcing a fault at the distant telephone without any change of tone! Finally, " Smoky Joe," who saved the day for Signals by blithely shinning up a P.L. pole, where his O.C. had failed lamentably, and so connecting the Brigadier to " Straffer Gott " in the middle of a particularly quick move by night.

And so we come to the climax, May/June 1942. The Squadron in its expanded state had settled down as a reliable team, but badly needed a period of rest and reorganisation. No rest was to be had, and after a short period of regrouping the Brigade moved into the Knightsbridge Box and the battle was on again. After a gruelling fortnight the Brigade still held the Box, but the flanks on both sides had gone. Evacuation to Tobruk was ordered. At last, so we thought, we could reorganise ourselves while employed in a static role, but our days were numbered. Within a week the Fortress had fallen and the majority of the Squadron were prisoners-of-war. It was a sad ending to a year which had been hard but not without achievement.

201 Guards Brigade was re-formed some months later with an entirely new Signal Squadron, which by all accounts carried on and developed a tradition which we had tried to lay.

PLAIN TALES

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By Barleux with Greetings from Barleux

Chester Moment

WHAT a satisfying sight it was to see such a crowd of enthusiastic old soldiers, and a few young ones, at the sixth annual dinner of the Chester Branch, Royal Signals Association. Snow and ice notwithstanding, my wife and I managed to make the forty-mile journey to accept the invitation of their Chairman, Lieutenant-Colonel W. E. Gill, T.D., M.I.E.E., to attend this very pleasant dinner and dance on 25th January. I was dismayed to learn that my name was down to respond to the toast " Our Guests," but in the end contrived to say practically nothing without upsetting anyone. The General Secretary, Brigadier Henry R. Firth, was present, and I hope you will read more about the Chester effort in their notes. I am inclined to agree with the General Secretary when he says that the age level of members is a bit high. Actually he put it a little stronger than that. It is true, however, that the " twenties " and " early thirties " are thinly represented in many branches. There is a reason for this, but as I made a resolution to avoid being rude to almost everyone in 1952 I will lay off remarks about the radio, cinemas, dance halls and cocktail bars. Which is quite noble of me when you realise that I could fill the rest of this number on the subject without sharpening my pencil. Now I will return you to the restaurant at Chester where we will pause a moment to say a hearty thank you to the Chester Branch for a grand evening.

The next paragraph follows almost immediately.

Look You, Bach

It may not be generally known that there is a branch of the Association at Colwyn Bay. We are only likely to get ourselves in the news when something terrible happens, such as having our President remove himself permanently to London. We are indeed sorry to part with Lieutenant-Colonel K. Woodham, T.D., under these circumstances, and wish him the best of luck in a very nice civil appointment. Colonel and Mrs. Woodham will always be very welcome at the meetings in the Park Hotel on the third Friday in the month if they should happen to find themselves in this pleasant seaside town. The present-day occupations of members always intrigues me. Would you have guessed half of them when they were serving with you? In addition to the inevitable G.P.O. men we have grocers, insurance men, furnishers, bankers, hotel managers and split pea joiners. I wonder which branch has the most curious collection of trades? I've a good mind to offer a prize of two small waves from the Bay and perhaps a dead seagull for the best list.

Members of the Firewood Splitters and Kindling Trades are not eligible to compete.

Ukann Larfe Moves

Inspector Faceache's office was a scene of complete chaos. The uproar was deafening. Everyone seemed to be talking and shouting at once. Manners were forgotten.

Uncle Alf: You are wrong somewhere. The office is empty.

Me: O, I forgot. They have all gone for a break.

We will start again. The police canteen was full of enormous policemen buying each other cups of tea and writing furiously in black notebooks. (You can't whack creating the right atmosphere.)

A respectful hush fell on the company as Ukann Larfe strolled in with the inspector, Lord Elpas and P.C.48. One young constable, blushing painfully, bent his seven or so feet of brawn to ask Ukann Larfe a question he had been saving up for weeks. " Excuse me, sir," he said, swinging his truncheon from force of habit. " Is it true that you are one of the world's most famous detectives?" Our hero coughed deprecatingly (if that means what I think it does). " THE most famous," he replied quietly and with great dignity. " And," he added, turning to Inspector Faceache, " I'll thank you not to make that beastly noise."

That night, the head of M.I.92 sat listening carefully to Ukann Larfe. Finally he spoke. " Yes, Mr. Larfe," he said, " everything is arranged. Every airport, all the docks, the roads and the whole coast line is being watched right now. Everything is so secret that anyone could leave and we wouldn't know a thing about it."

Ukann Larfe stood up and extinguished his cigarette on the polished mahogany table. " There must be no slip up," he said. Out in the street he hailed a taxi. " Follow that car," he muttered fiercely.

" What car, guv'nor?" asked the driver.

" Any car, you fool. What does it matter. This is a secret service job."

They sped swiftly into the night. Will Ukann Larfe escape from this grim prison before the flames reach him? Or before the tide floods the cell to the roof? You bet he will.

ROYAL SIGNALS VERSUS bandits

IN answer to a request from the Suffolks, Malaya Signal Regiment provided thirty men and one Officer, acting as an Infantry Platoon, to assist in a large anti-bandit operation over the New Year period. The honour of representing the Regiment in this unusual role fell to "A" Troop, our mobile Wireless Troop.

As the New Year approached the Troop could be seen busily preparing to forget such things as wireless vehicles and aerials for a short while, and learning Infantry tactics and ambush duties with schoolboy enthusiasm.

In spite of some sceptics, who had been overheard to say we would never leave camp, New Year's Day found us in jungle kit and packs on our backs, awaiting the order to move to our positions.

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We left camp at one o'clock in the morning, and after walking about 4½ miles along a track, reached our positions for the first phase of the operation. However, before we could choose our position and cook breakfast there was a river to be crossed. The Sungei Tua, at this point, is fast flowing and the rocks very slippery. With four days' rations in our packs, our task was not an easy one, and many of us did not reach the other side without being soaked to the skin.

Our task was to take up positions on likely bandit escape routes which lead out of the particlar area being patrolled by the Infantry at the time.

Corporals Seare and Nicholson and Lance-Corporals Preece and Fletcher were given command of ambush positions, while the Platoon Commander, Second-Lieutenant D. R. Beadon, Royal Signals, established his Platoon H.Q., with the signaller, in the centre with Lance-Corporal Fletcher's Section. We also had a stretch of jungle in our area which had to be patrolled periodically, and for this the Platoon Commander selected his patrols from the four sections as required.

One's first night in the jungle is an experience which most people will not forget, and for many this was their initiation, and their reactions were no different from the normal. This was confirmed by the reports of the sentries next morning. One sentry swore he saw a white elephant flying about 30 feet above the ground, while another was convinced he had had a nigger boy, dressed in a white shirt, within a few feet of him for at least 10 minutes.

However, the night passed uneventfully, except for the inevitable few who had rather personal interviews with leeches. These abound in a rather swampy area which we had to protect.

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Cooking as usual had a high precedence in our thoughts, and although we all had our own ideas on how "bully" should be cooked, it usually resulted in the inevitable "bully beef hash." However, we fed well, and from the Platoon Commander downwards no one was slow in reminding the cook that it was time for another meal.

When dividing up the rations the old soldier tradition of one for you, and one for me, two for you, one-two for me, was not forgotten, but the young soldiers proved very quickly that they are wise to that one too.

Our first operation lasted 3½ days, and thanks for the expert jungle craft of Private Wray, our Regimental Signaller, from the Suffolks, we were comparatively comfortable in our *bashas* made of wood and ground sheets.

Having returned from this first operation at 6 p.m. on the 4th January, we were moving out to new positions again at six o'clock next morning. Again we had to carry out ambush duties, but this time we were not so lucky in our positions. We had to site ourselves on a jungle covered slope, overlooking a road, for three days. There is an art in sleeping at an angle of 50 degrees which takes some time to acquire, and more than once members of the Troop found themselves rolling down through the jungle in the pitch darkness.

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After trying to remain static all night on slopes, and curling ourselves around tree stumps for nine days, the R.S.M. is still checking the Troop for not standing up straight.

Again, however, we made ourselves quite comfortable with *bashas* of wood and ground sheets, and various other ingenious ideas for making life pleasanter in spite of the mud and rain. This again was mainly due to Private Wray of the Suffolks, who again accompanied us with his 68 set as our Regimental Signaller. It might be said here that never once did we lose contact with control, and in spite of rivers, mud swamps and a fast pace along tracks, never once did the signaller ask for assistance or fail to come up on the air on time.

On the second operation our Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel D. J. Goldsmith, came out to visit us and see how things were going. Although he could not come right into our positions there were very few in the Platoon who did not see him some time during his travels up and down.

Signalman Priest had the foresight to bring a camera with him, but unfortunately many photos failed to come out owing to the heavy rain and bad light of the jungle. However, one or two were successful.

We discovered we had a comedian in the Troop by the name of Signalman Huitson, better known as "Screwky Dook," who made many weary hours in ambush pass rather faster with his lunacy. However, we did have a certain amount of difficulty at times to keep him, and one or two others, from making too much noise.

This operation was a typical anti-bandit operation, which took a great deal of trouble and hard work to fulfil, and which, like so many others, resulted in no bandit contacts. However, it is by operations such as this that the bandits are caught, sooner or later.

As for the experience gained in jungle craft and in taking part in active operations against bandits, this operation was invaluable to us, and next time any of these soldiers are called upon to do a similar job they will have a first-hand knowledge of what is required of them, and a sound knowledge of how to live, eat, sleep and work in the jungle and rubber.

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The Corps has helped in the campaign against bandits in countless ways, since the "emergency" began, but this is the first time a complete Platoon of Royal Signals has actually worked as Infantry in the present emergency.

We fervently hope that in spite of our many other commitments it shall not be the last.

The Foundation 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."

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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. (N. Staffs.), 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 command 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 background. The organisation grew in size and scope and in its final form it consisted of fifteen officers and one hundred and ten 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)), consisting 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 Corps of 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 training of the Hopkinson Mission was carried out with as much thoroughness as the limited time at its disposal allowed. Today, by " Phantom " standards, it would seem sketchy; but " Phantom " was young then. Wireless training, as always, occupied first place; by good fortune the Mission was neither under the jurisdiction of the B.E.F., nor located in its area, and the prevalent wireless silence regulations could be ignored. Movement by road and across country and the setting up of a Mission Headquarters or " Advanced Report Centre " were next in importance. To these were added some instruction in military organisation and message writing and the many other items that form part of any officer's or any soldier's training. This programme was carried out in co-operation with the R.A.F., the B.E.F. and the French Army in order that the wide scope of the coming task could be covered.

After several false alarms, on 7th May warning was received that a German invasion of the Low Countries was likely in the very near future. On the 10th, an entry in the War Diary of the Hopkinson Mission reads: " Crack went the whip and off went the horses."

No. 3 Air Mission and the Hopkinson Military Mission left Valenciennes and by 1000 hours they were across the frontier into Belgium. The Air Mission, with a small detachment of the Hopkinson Mission, went to Belgian G.Q.G. at Willebroeck, twelve miles south of Antwerp. The Hopkinson Mission set up its Advanced Report Centre at Mielen-sur-Aelst, four miles south-east of St. Trond, at 1500 hours. Lieutenant-Colonel Hopkinson sent liaison officers and patrols to the Belgian Cavalry Corps H.Q. at St. Trond, to Namur, to the River Meuse between Liege and Maastricht, and to the Canal Albert. Reports soon began to come in to the Advanced Report Centre, some by wireless, some by despatch rider. A report dealing with the Belgian withdrawal to the Meuse-Canal Albert position was despatched over the wireless link to No. 3 Air Mission at 1745 hours. Information about the failure of the Belgians to destroy the Maastricht bridges was sent over the same link at 1930 hours. A report of the German penetration across the river at Maastricht followed 20 minutes later. Further reports dealt with the German advances towards Liège and into the Ardennes.

Reports during the night and in the early morning of the 11th May brought news of continued enemy successes west of Maastricht and across the Meuse to the south of it. A report from a " Phantom " liaison officer that Tongres had been occupied at 1130 hours was confirmed by a " Phantom " armoured car patrol. Further reports came in during the day of Belgian withdrawals, one west of Hasselt already described as disorderly. The four moves undertaken in the space of fifteen hours during the 11th and early morning of the 12th May fully justified the stress on this aspect of training at Valenciennes, and the interruption in the flow of the information was negligible. The last of these moves found the Hopkinson Mission in the Forest des Soignes, south of Brussels.

" Phantom " had by now established liaison with the French advanced elements, and the same day were to contact the leading British cavalry. With the British and French Armies building up the Dyle position, normal liaison and communication channels were now working, and, for " Phantom," a phase in its task was over—a successful phase—in so far as one can now say that anything was successful in that disastrous campaign. It had tested the ability of the Hopkinson Mission to use its communications and to pass reliable information and the information that was wanted. The next phase demanded more. " Phantom " must now

compete against other sources of information and other channels of communication. Though the gap between the Belgian Army and the British and French Armies was now closed up, the Hopkinson Mission continued to send information to the A.C.A.B. on the progress of the battle on British, French and Belgian fronts. Information had up to date failed to reach G.H.Q., B.E.F., but contact was now established and a steady flow of information passed in to the Commander-in-Chief.

A day by day commentary on messages received and passed on to G.H.Q., B.E.F., and to A.C.A.B. would be merely a repetition of history which can be read elsewhere. As the gravity of the situation increased, the " Phantom " Squadron became more and more useful in a protective and close reconnaissance role. On the 18th May, Lieutenant-Colonel Hopkinson reported to General Mason Macfarlane, offering the services of the Mission to " Macforce," a composite force disposed along the Escaut river westwards from St. Amand. The Squadron carried out a series of patrols under the orders of " Macforce." The Intelligence Section meanwhile continued its work of liaison with British and Allied formations, and the links to No. 3 Mission and G.H.Q. remained as active as before.

On the 23rd May, the Hopkinson Mission received orders to move into G.H.Q. reserve at Premesques, four miles west of Lille. It arrived there at 1700 hours and an hour later the " Phantom " Squadron left under direct orders of the C.-in-C. to clear up an obscure situation west of Hazebrouch. Liaison work continued mainly along the front between Tournai and Gravelines with occasional visits to the Belgian front as far north as the Scheldt estuary.

By the 27th May the battle of the beaches was inevitable. Wing Commander Fairweather sent a signal to Lieutenant-Colonel Hopkinson suggesting that the Intelligence Section, whose importance as liaison officers had waned and whose revolvers and motor cycles were likely to be more of a hindrance than a help in the B.E.F.'s last struggle for evacuation, should be withdrawn to No. 3 Mission H.Q. at Bruges for evacuation at the earliest opportunity.

On the same day the remainder of the Hopkinson Mission provided an escort for the Commander-in-Chief during the move of G.H.Q. to Cassel and from Cassel to Houtkerque. Various tasks were allotted to the Mission between then and their evacuation; they assisted the 48th Division in clearing up the situation south of Berques and in the defence of Wormhoudt, where one armoured car troop covered the withdrawal of the 144th Infantry Brigade.

In the evening of the 20th May, the Mission H.Q. moved to La Panne, and during the night and the following day all available personnel of the Mission were employed in guarding the approaches to the beaches at La Panne. On the 30th May they were relieved of this task by the 12th Lancers and prepared for embarkation. In the early hours of the 31st May the Hopkinson Mission left for England.

The Intelligence Section chose the less attractive but the more fortunate of two vessels which embarked for England from Ostend. The whole of No. 3 Air Mission were on the other vessel, the ill-fated *Abukir,* an overladen merchantman which was torpedoed by an E-boat not far from the Belgian coast.

The value in human life and ability that went down with that ship cannot be measured—conspicuous staff officers, outstanding technicians and splendid companions. One great leader must be given space here. Wing Commander Fairweather was as great a commanding officer as one could wish to have, and was respected alike by the Army and R.A.F. officers and men who served under him. As an officer he expected the best of every man's ability, and, though to the Hopkinson Mission his presence was often spiritual rather than physical, even during much of the training period at Valenciennes, that best was given him unquestioningly. He was as brilliant a staff officer as he was a commander, and he was as knowledgeable in military matters as he was in air strategy. The few who had the good fortune to serve under him would agree that, had he survived to take part in the long struggle of Army-Air co-operation that followed the fall of France, problems which took years to settle might never have arisen, or, if they had, would have been solved quickly with understanding, equity and tact. As a man, he was as old or as young as any officer with whom he served, and seemed to possess more than any man the ability to suit his bearings and his conversation to anyone who happened to be talking to him. Perhaps the greatest tribute one could pay to " Fairy " is to say without flattery that he was worthy and able to command " Hoppy."

First Gurkhas in Signals

INDIAN Signal Companies were originally Sapper units and were first formed as units of the Indian Signal Corps about 1917. These were all mixed British and Indian troops.

In 1921, "G" Divisional Signals, then in Rawalpindi, was ordered to be converted to British and Gurkha. The composition then was a small R.H.Q. and two Companies—No. 2 Company had three Infantry Brigade Sections and three R.A. Brigade Sections (two field and one mountain), whilst No. 1 Company had a number of specialist Sections including " Mounted Visual," Pack Cable (2), Draught Cable (2), Wireless, Permanent Line, etc.

On formation, No. 2 Company was immediately made Gurkha from those already serving in Signals and from transfers from Infantry Battalions (mostly those then disbanding), and shortly afterwards was split into No. 2 and No. 3 Companies—one Infantry and one Gunner. There was naturally some opposition to this innovation, and it was stressed that a Gurkha would never be able to ride a horse, but this was soon refuted by C.S.M. Jones, who most enthusiastically ran a Mongolian riding school which produced equestrians that, although possibly not up to the standards of the Blues, were certainly no worse than many " mounted officers " of the I.A. and who were quite prepared to enter the mounted sports of the garrison and even to win some whilst the " hairies " of the old cable wagons were also mastered.

The Unit did not stay long in " Pindi " but moved up to Kohat where they took over the telegraph office and telephone exchange (as was usual in those days), as well as the permanent lines forward up to Fort Lockhart, and the offices on it. At this time No. 1 Company became largely Gurkha, although some sections remained P.M.

When the Waziristan troubles of 1923 broke out No. 2 Company and the Mountain Gun Section of No. 3 were transferred to the Tochi with H.Q. in Bannu, an Infantry Section accompanying both the Razmak and Razani Brigades. The telegraph office and exchange were again taken over and reinforcements were received from No. 1 Company, although R.H.Q. remained in Bannu.

After the pacification of Waziristan the detachments returned to Kohat, where they spent some years during which

they rebuilt the entire permanent line system in the Khaisora Valley. A move was then made to Jubbulpore which afforded sport to the B.O.s as they took over the Nerbudda Vale Hounds, having with them George Hirst, later to become one of the more renowned Masters of that very renowned pack—the Peshawar Vale. In other ways the move was not so popular, as all practical work was left behind for unadulterated training. It was here that the sad news was announced that the decision not to continue with Gurkhas in Signals had been made owing to the impossibility of maintaining a sufficient trained reserve. The Gurkhas were, therefore, allowed to waste out from 1929 onwards, although the senior Gurkha Officer, Captain Tejsing Gurung, remained as Subadar-Major of the Signal Training Centre at Jubbulpore for many years over his tenure.

A somewhat unique task for a Signal Unit was given to "G" Division in the winter of 1921, when they were ordered to provide a Gurkha Pack Cable Section under a British Subaltern (later to be the first C.R.O. for British Gurkhas) for service under the Nepalese Government on the occasion of H.R.H. The Prince of Wales' shooting trip to that country during his visit to India. A 20-line camp exchange was installed and one 50-mile and one 10-mile line was taken through the jungle. Telephones were T-ed into these at intervals through the jungle where shikaris had been posted to report " kills." The procedure was for each post to ring up early in the morning to report any " kill " (buffalo calves tied up in likely places), a second call would give the approximate position of any tiger found lying up, a third report would give the information that the tiger had been ringed by elephants; plans would then be made for the day's shoot. Although the Camp only lasted for ten days, including Christmas, the Detachment spent two months in addition laying and reeling up. As they were ordered to be unarmed in order not to scare the game they saw plenty of interest in the well-preserved Chitawan Jungle of Southern Nepal—elephants, tigers, rhinos, leopards, were all encountered at close (very close) quarters.

And Now The Gold Coast

By **BEE WICKERSON**

LIKE the proverbial bad penny, here I am again, turning up this time in Accra. Being a brand new " coaster " I can give you only a few first impressions—most of them fogged over by Christmas and New Year celebrations.

We, that is Junior, Juniorette and myself, took the charter 'plane in London and flew via Gibraltar, Gao (in the Sahara), Karno and Lagos (in Nigeria) to Accra Airport. We spent two days and a half on the journey—the longer of two routes used by the charter 'planes. The going was steady and uneventful, everything laid on. We arrived on the Gold Coast during the summer—and that is hot.

Staff work had been admirably executed by my husband, and we soon settled down to yet another way of life.

Do you recall what I said about Singapore and sewing machines? Put your machine on your list of " musts " if you are coming out here. Materials are exciting and cheap. Tailoring is far from exciting and costs the earth. Most of us do our own dressmaking.

Food, when we can get it, is good, but there are periodical shortages and sometimes a complete disappearance of one commodity. But there is always a tin opener. Bananas, which one extracted from the greengrocer in England only on the production of far too many green ration books, are here in plenty. Of course, the ubiquitous coconut is here, and mangoes (not up to Indian standards), papayas (paw-paws in Africa), groundnuts (enough of these, scheme or no scheme), pineapples—all are abundant.

We—the energetic types (the " we " is purely literary)—play hockey, tennis, football and bridge, whist and canasta. There is very little swimming as the coast is a dangerous proposition. The Service families' swimming pool is at Teshi, but, by and large, one goes down to the beach, cooks in the sun for an hour or so; and on odd occasions, rushes into the warm water bearing a surf board, to come skimming back to the water-line on the first big roller.

I have known people who get up at the screech of dawn, travel about forty miles out of Accra and then climb rocks. If you like that sort of thing . . .

Traffic—and roads—are both hair-raising. The Traffic Police, wearing white cotton gloves several sizes too large, stand at crossroads and smile upon the population benignly, while directing streams of wagons, cars and bicycles.

Private accommodation is obtained after the usual struggle. Some of it is rather " bush," much of it is very pleasant indeed, with every modern convenience. Those of us still on " unaccommodated rates " have been busy totting up our points for W.D. quarters under the new regulations. For hope springs eternal in every Service wife!

I can never understand why it is that once a perfectly good radio set is owned by a Signals family it refuses to work as its maker upholds in his advertisement blurb. Willy-nilly, waking or sleeping, ere dawn has flushed the horizon, I listen to the news from London. That in itself is a good thing, one should listen to the news from London. The whole point of the trouble is that our worthy set will operate only at full steam ahead. Any attempts on my part to reduce its volume produces a high-pitched scream which entirely obliterates any other sound, and roughly approximates to the noise of a 'plane rushing earthwards in a fatal spin. However, normal reception is good and the programmes varied and various. Also, our set is about to be repaired.

I ought to tell you about the hair cream fiasco. I had always been assured that one's " boys " invariably ate the master's hair cream, being particularly partial to a very well-known brand. For a long time I watched my husband's supply of this particular variety but never found that it disappeared with undue rapidity. And neither has anyone else around here! So don't believe everything you hear about the Gold Coast!

But it can't all be beer and skittles. There must be some snags, says the pessimist. Mmm . . . I'd been warned about snakes. Poking around in the garage I thought I saw one, a little one. " Sunday," I called (Sunday is our cook-boy). " Come here one-time. I see small, small snake." Sunday came, hot foot, armed with a long pole and ferocious expression. But my " small-small " snake turned out to be a harmless tree lizard whose tail had happened to impinge itself upon my line of vision. Now *I* am the " small-small " one!

Quantity, to the detriment of quality, rather sums up the servants; and there is always a " servant situation " in the

best of regulated households. But from the working housewife's point of view, life is much easier.

Crockery, cutlery, glassware and table linen is expensive. Should you be wondering what to pack for your first West African tour, be sure you manage a modicum of these articles. Also sheets and towels.

I believe I hear a misguided male remarking, "These women invade everything. Not even THE WIRE is free from their nattering." But, you know, where go the Signals—there go the Signals' wives. It isn't a bad idea to let the wives have an innings once in a while.

You may save yourself the expenditure of a small fortune on household goods if your wife reads this. You *may*!

CATTERICK JOTTINGS

ALMOST late this month—I spent so much time laughing at the Sergeant who, when reporting the frost precautions at Gallowgate—the Arctic regions of the S.T.C.—said he had personally inspected all brassieres!

Not funny? O.K. I expect "Barleux" will see it and probably Ukaan Larfe will find it.

And so to "uplift."

The long winter nights present a problem, and this month we devote our limited space to learning Japanese, and we were fortunate in having an interview with Mr. Hoo Flung Itt, who has been three weeks in Catterick trying to get a seat on a bus to Darlington. He says:—

"Some of the folks see simplicity respecting learning languages. I find your English tong easy to mister. One, two and here I was flowing out words and sentences like children's play. I can teach you to resemble Japanese the same easy ways. Before you terminate this inscription I *guarantee* you speak some Japanese—maybe one-two word like little yellow man.

Take "food." Simply, in Japanese, TABERU-MONO. Honestly. Method of memory making like Pulmanism. TABERU (take a bit right up) and MONO from the Japanese phrase, "Don't sausages get MONOtonous."

Now second handy phrase, "Go away." Japanese say "IKANASAL." Very honestly. Simple. Remember please, very please, Japanese meaning of "IKANASAI." Here she is: "Kindly remove honourable presence to distant mountains where goats smell sweet in comparison with honourable presence which emits obvious evidence of unfamiliarity with soaps, waters and bathing salts." In this distinguished phrase you find all letters comprising word "IKANASAI." Very simply—very genuine.

Now memories once more for simple phrases. Here is tabulate:—

English	Japanese
Ha! Ha! Ha!	Hua! Hua! Hua!
Atishoo!	Atishua!!
Ahem!	Ahemm!
Hiccup	Hic-cup.
Tck!! Tck!	Tck! Tck!
Jujitsu	Jujitsu.
Cor!	Kor!
How are you?	Okayta

To make Japanese pronunciation place tong in cheek, distend nostrils, cut throat little bit from ear to ear. Be natural. Very simple. Honestly."

Book Review

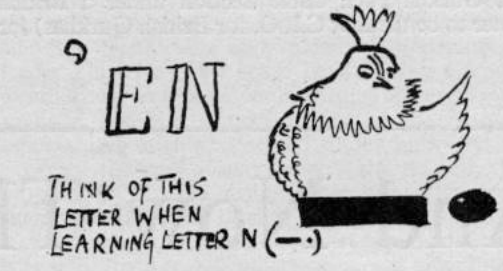
"Mastering Morse in 5 Minutes," by T. Witching Nurves (Dotte and Dashe, 25s.).

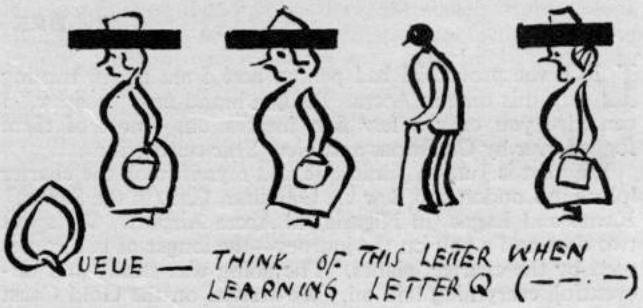
This new publication on memorising the Morse Code (3 Training Regiment papers please copy) introduces a method which might easily revolutionise the Army and reduce T.R.A.s to only 95 per cent.

Like so many other great discoveries it leaves one gasping at its simplicity—why has nobody thought of anything quite like this before? It is so simple and straightforward that instructors can remain on administration and Morse students will be able to do their training at home or at Gallowgate Holiday Camp. The author maintains that memorising the Morse Symbols is made easy by the use of pictures. "Owing to a peculiar psychological factor which is too complex to discuss further here in such limited space," writes Mr. Nurves in his 1,300 page book, "students can memorise pictorial images instantaneously or even quicker than that. I claim that the whole of my Morse diagrams can be learnt in five minutes."

Three of the diagrams—illustrating the letters S, O and B—have been omitted from the first editions of the book because, as Mr. Nurves naively confesses, they have slipped his memory and in any case re-enlistments wouldn't understand them.

To give you an idea of the system we are publishing two of the Morse drawings—those representing N and Q—see how quickly you can remember them.





5 A.A. (M.) SIGNAL REGIMENT

This Regiment had its annual Administrative inspection on the 23rd January, 1952. A parade was held for the occasion, which went off very well.

It is with profound regret that we record the sudden death on 4th February, 1952, of Major J. McCallan, A.P.T.C., Commandant of the Northern Command School of P.T.

We are all very busy with individual training at present. There have been three O.S.T./O.S.B. trade tests held already with the prospects of a fourth in the near future. Linemen and despatch riders are in the midst of an upgrading course.

The spring Inter-Troop Hockey and Football Leagues have started, though the snow has been a nuisance to some extent. The Barracks' side lost in the final of the Scarborough Wednesday League Cup by six goals to one. The game was not so one-sided as the score would suggest.

ARMY RUGBY FOOTBALL FINAL

Played at Aldershot on 2nd April.

As soon as the result of the semi-final is known the Association hopes to buy a block of 20 seats for the final. These will be retailed at 5s. each.

Applications to General Secretary, Royal Signals Association, 88 Eccleston Square, S.W.1.

Signal Training Centre

2 TRAINING REGIMENT

The Regimental boxing team entered the Army Inter-Unit team championships this year determined to justify the reputation they obtained by reaching the final of the championship last season.

Against much keener competition the team have won the Northern Command championship and are due to meet 3 Training Regiment in the final of the Northumbrian District championship. This fixture has been postponed until 10th March as it coincided with matches in the Army championships, in which competition our team has now reached the semi-final. It is hoped that the team will again travel to Aldershot to take part in the final.

There are many newcomers to the team, such as Signalman Gould, who as a lightweight was reputed to be one of the best amateurs in the country in 1950. Such old stalwarts as Corporal Ludlam, A.B.A., Army and I.S.B.A. middleweight champion, Signalman Reece, a bantamweight from Wales for whom a future is predicted, and Lance-Corporal Maloney, who continues to represent the Army as a light-middleweight, are still with us.

A well-known local boxer from Darlington, Lance-Corporal Jeff, has also strengthened our team as a welterweight.

Our final team will be chosen from the following, all of whom are boxers well known in amateur boxing circles: —

Signalman Curtis, Signalman T. O'Shea, Signalman Perkins, Signalman Murphy, Signalman Price, Signalman Newman, Signalman Griver, Signalman Galloway, Signalman Lever, Lance-Corporal Maloney, Corporal Stockdale, Signalman Lamburn, Signalman Gould, Corporal Ludlam, Lance-Corporal Jeff, Driver Winning, Signalman O'Shea, Signalman Cullivan, Lance-Corporal Westerley, Signalman Reece, Signalman Spencer.

Soccer. The main interest in the soccer world has been the Regiment's achievements in the Northern Command Cup competition and the Northumbrian District Cup competition.

A number of new players have joined, but in the main we still rely on the " old hands," S.Q.M.S. Andrews, Signalmen Thomas, Partleton, Forrest, Jones and Hutchison. The final of the Northumbrian District Cup competition against the 1st Training Regiment, Royal Signals, was a very hard fought game and resulted in the Regiment losing in the final of this competition for the second successive year by one goal to nil.

Results—Northumbrian District Cup
1st Round—bye.
2nd Round v. 1 Command Workshops, R.E.M.E. Won 7—2.
3rd Round v. 3rd Training Regiment, Royal Signals. Won 10—2.
Semi-final v. 7th Training Regiment, Royal Signals. Won 1—0.
Final v. 1st Training Regiment, Royal Signals. Lost 1—0.

The Northumbrian District League commenced on the 9th January, 1952, but due to the usual Catterick quota of snow and ice we have only been able to complete one of four fixtures to date. The Regiment defeated a Training Regiment, R.A.C., by 10 goals to two in the only game played to date.

3 TRAINING REGIMENT

Saying goodbye to friends is always a heavy business, especially when one's Commanding Officer comes into that category—and in the middle of February Lieutenant-Colonel P. J. Palmer said goodbye to conquer pastures anew in a warmer climate.

To soften the blow we were fortunate enough to welcome Lieutenant-Colonel G. H. Starr, who is no stranger to Catterick and training problems.

Colonel Palmer's interest was manifest in every activity in the Regiment, and in no small way to the very successful functioning of the Saddle Club, whilst Mrs. Palmer's ready counsel and advice was greatly appreciated by the wives in the Regiment. All ranks extend a " Signal " wish of good health and good fortune to Colonel Palmer and his family.

Old Man Winter has played havoc with our sporting activities, although Lieutenant P. Clague-Quine and his cross-country team did extremely well in the district cross-country championships. He says we'll win the Command race!—and since we are in the final of the Command basketball competition we may have two more trophies adorning the " sideboard."

Only two local league matches have been played and, need we say, four points to us.

6 (BOYS) TRAINING REGIMENT

Although this Regiment is not yet two years old, it is rapidly establishing a reputation for its successes in sports and games. At this stage of the winter season it appears that the successes of last year will be increased.

In boxing the Regiment has suffered only one defeat, against Harrogate in December last year. The Army Championships, not yet held, offer hope of improving on last year's results of two Army champions and one I.S.B.A. champion. Individual Boys who have established a local reputation for their boxing ability are now being invited to take part in charity contests under A.B.A. rules.

One of the Regimental soccer teams has reached the final of the Boys' Army Cup, which will be played against the Harrogate Army Apprentices' School at the Catterick Stadium on 27th February.

Another team has reached the semi-final of the Northern Command Boys' Challenge Cup, again to be played against Harrogate.

But regimental soccer is not confined to Army competitions. Two Boys' teams are entered in the local leagues and are maintaining high positions in the league tables.

This year, too, has seen the advent of Cadre sports, and both soccer and Rugby teams are meeting with some success. The Rugby team has reached the semi-final of the Northern Command Cup; and of the soccer teams, one has reached the semi-final of the East Riding Qualifying Cup and the other the third round of the Hull District Junior Cup.

At this stage, however, preparations are being made for the coming summer season. A nucleus of the Boys Regimental athletic team from last year is still with us, and efforts are being made to arrange more contests with the schools in the surrounding districts. We intend to enter again for the Milocarian Competition for schools, and to improve on last year's position of thirteenth.

7 TRAINING REGIMENT

The G.O.C. Northumbrian District honoured us by taking the salute at the Pass Off Parades on 29th and 30th January in typical Catterick weather. He addressed the recruits who took part, and made the presentations to the best recruits. In spite of a parade ground covered with glassy ice the Squadrons on parade put up an excellent show. As the G.O.C. said: " A very creditable performance."

The latter end of January saw a steep rise in regular recruiting, and 5 (Reg.) Squadron is approaching the days of late 1950 when Regulars threatened to outnumber National Service men.

For the second time in Corps' history the Royal Signals soccer team is in the semi-finals of the Army Cup. In spite of being without three of our old hands—Foster, Burgin and Tyrrel—we managed to beat The Field Wing of the Depot Royal Artillery in the fifth round by 2 goals to nil. On a snow covered ground the Royal Artillery gave us a lesson in football but we won the game. There must be a moral in that. THERE IS. Always have a good goalkeeper. We did. Snowball, our 'keeper, played as an octopus might play, 100 per cent. cover on all fronts. Brilliant is the only word for his performance. Our goals were scored by Freer from a saved shot of Woods, and by Webster, whose shot would have taken the goalkeeper into the net with it—if he could have reached it.

SOUTHERN COMMAND (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT

Since the last time notes from this Regiment appeared in THE WIRE great changes have taken place in the Unit.

The late C.O., Lieutenant-Colonel H. Worrall, Royal Signals, left last August and is now commanding 4 Training Regiment at Catterick. The new C.O., Lieutenant-Colonel A. J. M. Atthill, O.B.E., Royal Signals, arrived back from Malaya in the summer and took over the Regiment early in September.

The Unit has been reorganised to form R.H.Q. and H.Q. Squadron here in Figsbury Camp, and three Out Squadrons for the three Districts in the Command.

July and August were fully occupied with the training of "Z" Reservists, who were visited in Camp by the District Commander. September and October were largely devoted to the formation of a complete Signal Squadron to be employed on Umpire Communications during Exercise "Surprise Packet." This Squadron was disbanded immediately after the exercise.

In mid-November the Units' annual administrative inspection took place. The G.O.C. expressed himself as satisfied with what he saw.

The New Year saw the departure from Figsbury Barracks of 6 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment and their replacement by the W.R.A.C. Driver and Clerks Training Unit. The arrival of the latter at least guarantees a preponderance of four to one between girls and men at Unit dances, a unique experience for most of us.

No. 1 Squadron, Bulford. The F.S.S. Troop was even busier than usual during the months preceding Exercise "Surprise Packet," being responsible for the communication required by Umpires, Observers and the Press. Football, cross-country running, and basketball occupy our spare time, and the Squadron has lately entered the District Small-Bore Rifle League.

No. 2 Squadron, Aldershot. The Squadron is preparing for its annual administrative inspection early in March. W.O.II Timperley has left us for 5 Corps Signal Regiment for employment as R.Q.M.S., and has been replaced by W.O.II Blake. The W.R.A.C. hockey and netball teams are enjoying a successful season, and Corporal Walker and Lance-Corporal Thyer have represented Aldershot District regularly at hockey.

BETFOR SIGNALS

Space does not allow much to be said about our Christmas here; but mention must be made of Sergeant Haigh, our sturdy Orderly Room Sergeant. He it was who bravely accepted the role of Father Christmas at our children's party, and carried his sack of toys and the responsibility of his temporary office ably on his broad shoulders. He it was too who occasionally, through his woolly whiskers, could be heard muttering muffled incantations to his spirituous namesake. The performance was altogether creditable and the incantations did not go unheeded.

We regret to report the sad loss of the Unit's canine friends at the hands of the municipal dog catcher *(il Accalappiacani)*. S.S.M. Day's pet—Happy Little Knuckle Head—and Driver Brain's favourite—the peculiar little fellow with scarcely any legs and gigantic pointed ears—are particularly missed.

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BRITISH ARMY OF THE RHINE

2 L. OF C. SIGNAL REGIMENT

In this issue we say a regretful farewell to our 5 Squadron, who now become part of the 4 L. of C. Signal Regiment. The Squadron has managed to more than hold their own at small bore shooting, and still carries all before them at soccer. We shall probably hear, in the next issue, of their continued success under their new title.

To compensate for the loss of 5 Squadron, our 6 Squadron has at last emerged from a paper state and has taken up position in Belgium. They are still in somewhat skeleton form.

We are still struggling violently to partake of sport on a Unit basis, but the scattered nature of the Regiment proves a great handicap. In the B.A.O.R. Signals Inter-Unit boxing competition we made our exit to 2 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment in no uncertain fashion, but at hockey we only narrowly lost to 1 Corps Signal Regiment.

Our winter training courses at Hamburg are now nearing completion. On the conclusion of the course the premises are being taken over by a Corps Training School under the management (we understand) of Major Drudge-Coates.

11 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT

January has been a month of sleet, snow and hard frost. All Troops and R.H.Q. have been occupied on "exercise mobility." This pursuit, beloved of soldiers since A.D. 1066 or thereabouts, consists of packing everything up, loading it in the cold light of dawn, taking it away from barracks for a distance of 50 miles or more, bringing it back (having sacrificed NAAFI break and goodness knows what else), offloading it, putting it back in the stores and then putting yourself to bed, you being too tired to face that legendary piping hot meal which always awaits soldiers when they return to barracks, however late the hour.

Hockey. We were knocked out in the second round of the B.A.O.R. Cup competition.

Boxing. We beat R.A.F. Fassberg in the first round of the R.A.F. Inter-Station competition by six fights to three.

We beat 11 Armoured Divisional Signals in the semi-final of the Royal Signals B.A.O.R. Inter-Unit competition by nine fights to two, and meet 2 Infantry Divisional Signals in the final at home on 15th February.

Cross Country. We retained our place at the top of the 2 T.A.F. League by beating R.A.F. Rinteln in late January.

We qualified for the Divisional Championship by coming fourth over a six-mile course in the Brigade competition, and came sixth out of eleven teams in the Divisional competition.

1 WIRELESS REGIMENT

We bade a regretful farewell to Lieutenant-Colonel R. G. Yolland, O.B.E., wishing him all the best in his new appointment. We extend a warm welcome to our new Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel S. J. Dagg, M.B.E.

The Christmas and New Year festivities will not be easily forgotten. From the children's party on 23rd December to the strains of "Auld Lang Syne" on New Year's Eve, everything went with a swing in the true Signals' tradition. The Ladies' Social Club were never more active, and our two ladies of the W.V.S. never more unremitting in ensuring that everyone was full of the true festive spirit.

Our hockey team had difficulty at first in finding its form, but in the first round of the B.A.O.R. Signals Inter-Unit Shield all the players pulled out that little bit extra to beat H.Q. B.A.O.R. Signals Regiment 2—0.

Our rugger XV has also been successful. With six new men we beat a combined fifteen from 1 Corps Signal Regiment 17—6 in the first round of the B.A.O.R. Signals tournament.

Soccer. In the Inter-Troop Football League Administration are still on top after a convincing 4—1 win over the runners-up, 33 Troop.

7 ARMOURED DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

The Regiment is going hard at individual training, and a Trade Board early in February will reveal whether it's been worth it. It will not be the fault of Lieutenant D. W. Cox (recently departed for his Part II Course), Sergeants Harrington, Molony and Jenkins if results are not good.

We recently received the G.O.C.'s thanks for our work in making the Divisional Study Period the success it was. During this period we were very pleased to see a lot of Brigadiers Coryton and Burridge, who helped "study" our problems.

We now have our own Regimental Officers' Mess—Headquarters' Mess please note, detailed requests later—we hope this put's you on your "metal" and we hope that's silver.

With the helpful co-operation of Lieutenant (Q.M.) Frank Barry, the Wives' Club are to have their own clubroom. We hope the *décor* (by G.E.) will be to the ladies' taste.

R.S.M. Davies has made a really tidy job of the barracks grounds. The slogan now is—keep off the grass or it won't grow. No, this is not a MICK Unit.

A.L.F.C.E. SIGNAL SQUADRON

Fontainebleau still remains a "little Paris" as it were in that at the moment it is probably one of the most cosmopolitan towns in the world. To walk round the town on a Saturday afternoon is indeed a linguistic education; you hear almost every European language, in addition to which you have that strange tongue—"American"!

THE WIRE readers may be interested to know about one or two peculiarities of French life which we have experienced here. A Frenchman always seems to be shaking hands, and from the physical point of view this "hand-shaking" business is perhaps the most tiring French custom. A Frenchman always shakes hands whenever he meets even a slight acquaintance, and this custom is carried on with great vigour—it is quite fatal to have friends with you in a restaurant—you never eat. There is the instance when the British Duty Sergeant on entering the teleprinter room on taking over shift was almost put on a charge for "Conduct prejudical . . " when he forgot to shake the hand of one of his French colleagues.

It is sometimes amusing to see the look of horror which appears on the faces of new arrivals here when they first cast their eyes on the French military beds. Instead of being flat the bed curves upwards quite fiercely and seems to defy anyone sleeping on it. Needless to say, the boys soon make themselves comfortable on the "beds."

We have now been able to arrange a definite afternoon for sport every week, and this is held on Tuesdays. The main games indulged in at the moment are soccer, hockey, volleyball and the old favourite, or perhaps, more correctly, the soldier's nightmare—the cross-country run. Actually, cross-country running is quite enjoyable here because we can break off into the forest instead of tramping along hard roads as we used to do in Catterick.

2nd February was a big day for the Squadron because on that day we took part in the first H.Q., A.L.F.C.E. ceremonial parade. The setting for the parade was in the "Cour des Fontaines" and the Inspecting Officer was General Dwight D. Eisenhower. It was an impressive parade and we were accompanied by a large military band, whose music was drowned at times by the roar of "jets" flying low over the Palace. After inspecting the Officers and men, General Eisenhower addressed the Parade.

SHAPE SIGNAL SQUADRON

On 15th December, Signalman Olive, of SHAPE Signal Messenger Service, said goodbye to the Squadron, and departed for Naples on courier duties. Travelling by plane and seeing the grandeurs of the Alps and the Mediterranean was a great thrill for him. After completing his duties at Naples, he was informed that he could not return to SHAPE immediately, as the Paris airport was fog bound. The scheduled three-day stay was therefore extended to seven. This gave him an opportunity to see the sights, and any evening now you can walk into his barrack room and watch his room-mates enthralled by his description of Naples, and how he spent one glorious sunny afternoon "as a tourist" on the Isle of Capri.



[Courtesy: International News Photos, Paris

SHAPE Signal Squadron
Lance-Corporal McAvee, Signalmen Hurst and Harrison part of the team maintaining the 1,000 line automatic exchange

FAR ★ EAST LAND FORCES

EAST AFRICA COMMAND SIGNAL REGIMENT

These notes are being written just in time to include the visit of Her Royal Highness the Princess Elizabeth to East Africa.

The Squadron played some part in providing communications in her flight over Kenya, until the 'plane touched down, and also provided about 80 per cent. of the Squadron strength, both African and British, to line a part of the route.

Northern Area Signal Troop (soon to be part of the Squadron) is also providing communications between Sagana and Nanyuki.

The Unit hockey team is going from strength to strength. Results to date are: —

Service League—*v.* E.A.A.S.C., won 8—4.
v. R.E.M.E., won 3—0.
v. H.Q., East Africa Command, drew 0—0.

Craig Cup—*v.* Kenya Police, won 3—0.

(These notes were written and posted before 6th February. They are published as written.—Editor.)

★

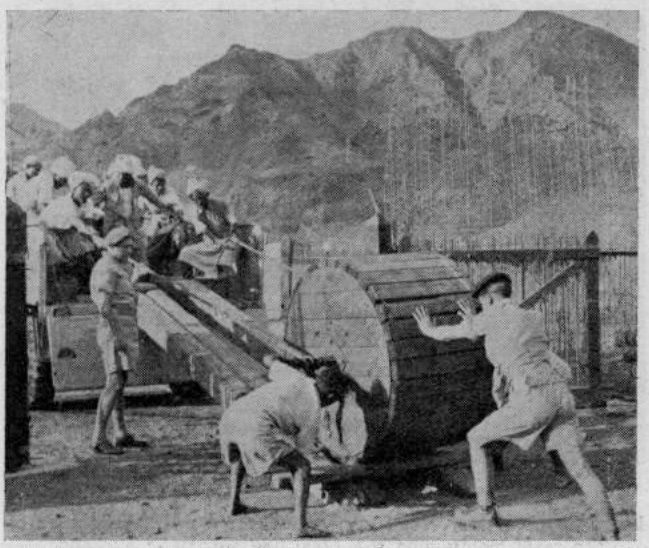
4 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT

Owing to the shortage of labour Fayid looks somewhat down-at-heel, but as is always the case with a busy Regiment, morale is higher than ever. Those whose job it is to pursue cable thieves are getting plenty of exercise, while even those who are perforce chair-bound now get unwonted exercise in burying the contents of their Elsans and performing household chores.

There are a good many shortages to contend with, but making bricks without straw is an occupation not hitherto unknown in Egypt, and we are getting along pretty well with it.

Captain Bennett, Signalman Dale and Driver Hutin were caught in an ambush by Egyptian thugs, and although they opened fire first two were wounded, luckily not severely. On the other hand, Second-Lieutenant Beaver, Corporals Hardy, Knightley and Arnott, Signalman Armstrong, Driver Brown and others have been the decided victors in some spirited affrays. The Air Formation Signals' vehicle flash is looked upon with respect if not with favour by the inhabitants of Abu-Sueir.

Further afield in Iraq, the good work goes on, as shown in the accompanying photograph.



"Wot, no cable trailer"—Driver Campbell does the work

G.H.Q. SIGNAL REGIMENT, FARELF

This month we bade goodbye to our Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel N. I. Bower, O.B.E., who embarked for the U.K. on the 16th December in order to take up a new appointment. He is succeeded by Lieutenant-Colonel G. A. Dutton.

The G.O.C.'s inspection, which is to be held at the back end of February, occupies priority in the Unit at the moment, although the fact that we are having to move out of Tyersall Camp in April and pitch our tents in some desolate spot miles from the city light is a constant reminder of possible future hardships.

For our various radiomaniacs, V.S. I.B.J. is at the moment temperamentally indisposed, and in the evening one can always see two or three men swarming over the B.C. 610 with valves, wires and other paraphernalia. They are very secretive as to when they hope to get the contraption working again, but one night G.H.Q. Signals will announce its presence in no uncertain manner.

Boxing. In a thrilling 11-bout programme in which six fights failed to go the distance and four came to an end in round one, the Unit was unlucky in the first round of the Anchor Cup for inter-Unit boxing against the R.A.S.C. The scores were: G.H.Q. Signal Regiment 14, R.A.S.C. 19. A close margin!

Sergeant Smith, fighting in the light-heavyweight class, made short work of his encounter with Lance-Corporal Bell (R.A.S.C.). In the first round Bell opened strongly, but Smith rallied and in the space of seconds they were both swopping rights to the face. Bell went down for a count of nine and the referee stopped the fight.

Another quick fight was the welterweight meeting between Corporal Reynolds (G.H.Q.) and Lance-Corporal Withers (R.A.S.C.). In the first round Reynolds rushed his man, and in an aggressive tattoo of blows to face and chest, he sent Withers down for the count in the first round.

The closest fight was between Signalman Hendry and Lance-Corporal Smith in another welterweight contest. Both men were swopping punches from bell to bell, and at the end of the fight the referee gave the verdict to Smith. A very close fight indeed.

Results:

Featherweight: Sergeant Hatt lost to Driver Brodsky on points.

Light Middleweight: Driver Robinson lost to Driver Jennings on t.k.o. in round two.

Lightweight: Driver Towner beat Lance-Corporal Boswell on points. Lance-Corporal Reid lost to Driver George Ng on t.k.o. in round three.

Middleweight: Signalman Broadhurst lost to Lance-Corporal Forfar on points.

Light-welterweight: Signalman Powell lost to Private Barnes by k.o. in round one; Corporal Mann lost to Private Hunking on t.k.o. in round one.

Bantamweight: Signalman Hamilton lost to Sergeant Syed Omar on points.

Welterweight: Corporal Reynolds beat Lance-Corporal Withers by k.o. in round one; Signalman Hendry lost to Lance-Corporal Smith on points.



[*Courtesy: "Singapore Standard"*]

Out for the count. Corporal Reynolds stoops to help his opponent in the welter-weight contest against Lance-Corporal Wither (R.A.S.C.)

SIGNAL TRAINING SQUADRON, FAR EAST

Boxing has been the main event on the sporting side, and during the month the finals of the District Signal Regiment individual and inter-Squadron boxing were fought off. The Squadron, which is integrated with District Signals for sport, did very well, and as well as winning several of the semi-final bouts the final of the light-welterweight was won by Lance-Corporal Fidelis and the bantamweight by Signalman Watford. The Squadron also won the Unit Cup with a four-point lead over the runners-up.

This Regiment is in the finals of the Singapore Base District boxing championships, and during the month we fought against 1 Singapore Regiment, R.A., in the semi-finals. The Squadron supplied both strings in the light-welterweight fight and also in the featherweight and welterweight. Lance-Corporal Fidelis again won his weight, and good fights were put up by both Corporal Salter and Lance-Corporal Fernadex, both of whom lost on points. After an evening's fine fighting the Unit won by gaining the greatest number of bouts, total points being even. We therefore go forward to meet R.E.M.E. Base Workshops in the final.

SINGAPORE DISTRICT SIGNAL REGIMENT

We congratulate Major S. G. Bow, M.B.E., and Major J. W. T. Snell on being granted regular commissions.

1 Squadron had an interesting time laying submarine cable across the harbour. The operation was completed successfully and to schedule despite barges dragging their anchors and floating away into the coastal artillery practice target area, and the discovery of a bees' nest in one of the cable drums, much to the surprise and horror of the team.

2 Squadron, with Wireless Schemes and the introduction of a new system of S.D.S., have been quite busy.

Our adopted ship, H.M.T. *Lancashire,* arrived *en route* for Hong Kong. She could only stay a few hours, but nevertheless a large party went aboard. The Master, Captain Fitch, presented the C.O. with a beautiful plaque commemorating our association. The plaque resides in an honoured place in the W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess.

It was good to see our friends again, and it is to be hoped that next time she is our way she will stay longer so that we can return their hospitality.

The Regimental boxing tournament was held during this month. As the press stated, there were many "action-packed bouts." Signal Training Squadron won the inter-Squadron boxing cup. Ten days later the Regimental team met 1 Singapore Regiment, R.A., in the semi-final of the Singapore District Inter-Unit competition, and after much excitement and many thrills emerged the victors.

The closeness of the match can be judged by the fact that the decision was made on the number of bouts won, total points being equal. The final takes place on 29th February.

Captain Frost, our basketball enthusiast, is working hard to raise a Regimental team. He himself is in training for the Army team.

It is with regret that we announce the death of Signalman E. A. Moore, of 1 Squadron, who died as a result of an accident.

Congratulations to Sergeant E. C. Jones and Sergeant L. G. Newton on being promoted S.Q.M.S.

18 INFANTRY BRIGADE SIGNAL SQUADRON

The Squadron had a peaceful and happy Christmas, and is now back at work.

Football has just restarted—we lost the first match of the season.

The Commanding Officer wrote to the parents of all at Christmas and the large number of replies are still coming in.

HONG KONG SIGNAL REGIMENT

At the beginning of January we said goodbye to our first Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel P. M. P. Hobson, D.S.O., on his departure to take up his new appointment as C.S.O. Austria. We would like to take this opportunity to wish him every success in his new appointment and to say how sorry we are to have lost him.

Somewhat belatedly, we wish to welcome our present Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel P. O. J. Nicholson, who arrived with Mrs. Nicholson and their family at the beginning of December. We seem to be having quite a succession of Irishmen to command us!

A notable social occasion at the beginning of December was the marriage of Captain R. C. Walker to Lieutenant Ruth Mitchell, of the Q.A.R.A.N.C., in St. John's Cathedral. The bride was given away by Major W. C. Burke and the Regiment provided a guard of honour of ten Officers ably commanded by Major G. A. Fleming.

A more recent event was a farewell parade for Lieutenant-General G. C. Evans, which we had the honour to hold on



Wedding of Captain R. C. Walker, Royal Signals (Hong Kong Signal Regiment), to Lieutenant Ruth Mitchell, Q.A.R.A.N.C., on December 8, 1951, at Hong Kong

our Regimental parade ground. Every Unit on Hong Kong Island was represented. Our detachment was commanded by Second-Lieutenant D. V. Rayment and its W.O. was S.S.M. Pavey. After the inspection General Evans gave a short farewell speech in which he had some very kind words to say about the way which the Regiment had served him and the Forces under his command. We were given pride of place in his speech.

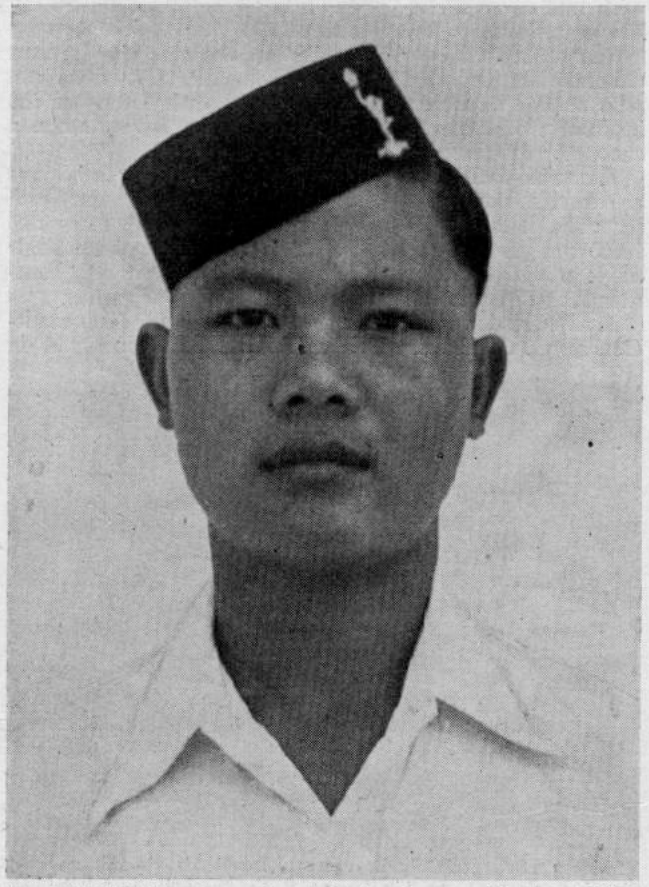
In the field of sport we have had a certain measure of success. Our hockey eleven, with three Regular Army players in S.S.M. Pavey, Sergeant Teyen and Signalman Hammond, have won their league and have just successfully won their semi-final of the Army knockout competition. We meet the Hong Kong Defence Force XI in the final in the very near future. Our soccer eleven, trained by Lieutenant Kerr, although they only finished fourth in the league, have done very well against numerous handicaps. Too many of their players also play for the Regiment at either hockey or cricket. Corporal Osborne has been playing for the Army and Lance-Corporals Bray and Drake have held the Unit side together. The final achievements of the cricket eleven have yet to be decided. They are doing well with Lance-Corporals Tappenden and Andrews as our Army representatives. Lance-Corporal Foster lost his final in the individual boxing competition after a very good fight.

H.Q. GURKHA ROYAL SIGNALS

During his visit to Khatmandu, Major Gregory had the honour of being presented to H.M. The King of Nepal, who showed keen interest and was most enthusiastic over the Gurkha Royal Signals story. It remains now for a representative body of our Gurkhas to visit the U.K. and link up from Catterick to Khatmandu a channel of communication that must never fail.

The Gurkha Signals base remains in Kuala Lumpur, established on a small hill off Maxwell Road (now named Lamjung Pahar) overlooking the Gambuk River and the camp which till quite recently was the training centre and home of Gurkha Royal Signals.

Gurkha Signals Training Wing has taken its final bow, and to all those who built and established the " wing " and finally brought her safely to port, must go the lasting gratitude of all ranks. And to all those splendid British N.C.O.s who gave so much time and patience to training the young Gurkha Signallers comes the best of good wishes and good luck from Lamjung Darbar.



No. 21139137 Signalman Ratnabahadur Sunwar (Trainee OWL) wearing the Regimental mufti hat

1 COMMONWEALTH DIVISION SIGNAL REGIMENT

With seven months in Korea behind us the Regiment can now say " I remember " as well as the inevitable " I wonder." We've got a past—and that alone makes us feel better than we did before.

Even the notorious Korean winter hasn't slowed us down much, although at minus seven degrees the blood does tend to twist a bit, particularly on that last upward stretch to the brain.

But we have our winter woollies—and our space heaters, both elegant issue and utility homemade, the latter guaranteed to keep any soldier alert. Fickle, unpredictable, deceitful and altogether twofaced, they lull one into a diluted state of warm contentment only to belch malignant fire the moment one nods. Eyes open to dust and ashes!

The winter clothing is excellent. We look like rather badly drawn advertisements for Michelin tyres, but we are warm. Embellishments may come later. The odd touch of fur here and there might add that extra gadget which our vanity secretly craves.

The sleeping bags are havens of feathered bliss. One occasionally endures a nightmare in which one is apt to fancy oneself a broody hen, but these delusions are not sufficiently frequent to be regarded as an inconvenience. After three months' use the bag gets that lived-in feeling, a smooth, dark, velvety texture which makes it such a personal item of one's kit.

But enough of the cold and its associated gear. The Regiment was inspected on the 8th December by Major-General A. J. H. Cassels, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., our G.O.C. The guard that day was a living example of our title Commonwealth. British, Canadians and New Zealanders presented arms together. The General thanked us for our past services and said he expected more in the future. This made us feel good.

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Christmas passed in heavy sleet. Officers and Sergeants slipped and slithered to and fro with overloaded mess tins dripping with turkey and pork and pudding. Miraculously, everyone seemed to get his own mess tins back. Spirits, although curbed, were fairly high none the less!

The greater proportion of us have now experienced the delights of five days leave in Tokyo. The Japanese are highly skilled devotees of the art of relaxation for other people. We're learning rapidly and the gift of tongues has nothing to do with it. Bathing is a universal sport, although one tends to be taken aback on discovering the real colour of one's skin again under the magic touch of the masseuse—a Circe turning men into rather pink swine.

But from hot to cold and all that goes with it, we should like to take this opportunity of thanking all those kind people all over Britain who have sent us woollies and cigarettes and books and playing cards and a hundred and one other useful articles. We have appreciated them so much and are more than grateful.



Malaya Signal Regiment

Standing (left to right): Sergeant Hill, Sergeant McCracken, Sergeant Raffan, B.E.M., Sergeant Pennicott, Sergeant Kemeys, Sergeant Stopforth, B.E.M., Sergeant Crabb, S.Q.M.S. Stockdale, B.E.M., F/Sergeant Smith, S.Q.M.S. Callaghan, Sergeant Reynolds, Sergeant Crefourd, Sergeant Wass, Sergeant Faulkes, Sergeant Parker, Sergeant Landless, Sergeant Bradshaw. Sitting : S.Q.M.S. Little, S.Q.M.S. Ham, W.O.II Harrison, S.S.M. Halford, R.Q.M.S. Hewitt, R.S.M. McDonald, Lieutenant-Colonel D. J. Goldsmith, W.O.I Sorfleet, W.O.I Page, B.S.M. Brooks, W.O.II Hesketh, W.O.II Buchanan, B.Q.M.S. Stubbs

MALAYA SIGNAL REGIMENT

Christmas 1951. It may have been exasperation at the dismal Malayan situation but we are all agreed that this Christmas has been on the grand scale. Our thanks are due to the Planters' Association of Malaya, who gave most generously to all Units' funds.

As we write, our present jollity is erecting 97 feet masts. Under the derisive eye of our neighbours, the A.O.P. Squadron, who not without reason regard the upper reaches of the sky as their own, we gave an admirable demonstration of how not to erect a pair of 97 feet masts. To a nervous spectator such as the C.O., the spectacle of the mighty mast hovering over the Sergeants' Mess for many hours was one of sickening suspense. The burly figure of O.C. 1 Squadron thrashing about in the lallang, uttering reassuring cries together with the shocking language of Sergeants Sweeney and Crabb, but added to the richness of the entertainment offered to the A.O.P. These dangers past, we now tackle the forest of 97-footers down in Wireless Village. These, we understand, were put up by men of the 14th Army Signals in 1945. Perhaps you who read this may have had a hand in it, if so, drop us a line!

On New Year's Day "A" Troop dropped their headphones and suchlike paraphernalia, seized their muskets and disappeared into the jungle for eight days with the Infantry.

Rugger. We failed to get into the final of the Malaya Fraser and Neave Cup, being beaten 6—3 in a very close game.

Most of us saw one of the best rugger matches seen in Malaya when Perak State team beat the Combined Services Singapore 29—6.

Our congratulations go to Lance-Corporal Rathmell on winning the Parish Shield for the year 1951, as being the best all-round National Service man of the year. Also to another young National Service man, Lance-Corporal Cullen, for winning one of the Malayan Athletic Association's Mercury Cups for outstanding performances in the high jump and the javelin.

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AN ACCOUNT OF THE OPERATIONS BY "A" TROOP, MALAYA SIGNAL REGIMENT, AGAINST BANDITS IN THE MALAYAN JUNGLE APPEARS ON PAGE 52

SIERRA LEONE SIGNAL SQUADRON

Reappearing in the Command motor cycle trials after an absence of some years, Sierra Leone Signal Squadron narrowly missed the finals at Accra. Despite a well-earned individual second place by Sergeant Donuhue and fourth by Second-Lieutenant Rogers in the district eliminator, the Unit team just failed to qualify.

A more successful sporting venture was when the Squadron football team scored a three to nil win over that raised by the Communications Section of H.M.S. *Bermuda,* flag ship of C.-in-C. South Atlantic, on her visit to Freetown. The man-o'-war's team was entertained after the match by the Squadron. A party from the Squadron spent an interesting afternoon being shown over the ship, with special attention, of course, to the communications layout. A ship-to-shore R.T. link was worked during the cruiser's stay, and successful C.W. until after she left St. Helena on her way back to Simonstown.

The new exchange at Aberdeen has been installed, and Sergeant Scott has been pulling up and down wireless masts at Freetown and Daru so fast it has looked like Navy semaphore. Added to that there has been the annual classification of regimental signallers, courses for potential R.S.I.s, and concentrated efforts to overcome our heavy deficiency of African OWL.

"The Wire" for the month of March consists of twenty-four pages. This has been brought about by your continued support. More subscribers are still needed, however, to ensure that any articles of interest are not omitted from the current issues.



[*Courtesy: Public Relations H.Q., B.C.O.F.*

All the way to Japan this month for our photograph, which shows the guard mounted by B.C.O.F. Signal Regiment on the occasion of the visit by Brigadier-General E. F. Hammond, U.S. Signal Corps, C.S.O., G.H.Q., Tokyo

Commonwealth

NEWS FROM AUSTRALIA

Northern Command. Once again the Display Team has hit the headlines in this Command, and 101 Wireless Regiment are to be congratulated for their two fine performances at the Command Tattoo, and at the Warwick Rodeo. Our sympathy goes to Signalman Vickery, who had the bad luck to take a toss on the way to Warwick for the rodeo and as a result he could not ride.

A welcome goes to those members of the Regiment who have recently arrived from the U.K. These include:—

Corporal John Day, ex Royal Marines.
Corporal Jim Reid, ex Royal West African Frontier Force.
Signalman A. Cockburn, ex 6 Airborne Division Signals.
Signalman E. Parsons, ex 1st Battalion The Worcestershire Regiment and Royal Signals.
Signalman G. Vickery, ex Royal Signals.
Signalman Ison, ex Royal Army Service Corps.
Signalman Munday, ex Royal Signals, and
Signalman Purcell, ex 1st Battalion The Lancashire Regiment.

Our best wishes follow Captain C. J. Cattanach to G.H.Q. Signal Regiment, FARELF, as well as Sergeants Letch and Davis and Signalman Johnson, who have gone to A.H.Q. Signal Regiment.

Central Command. The small Signal Squadron here has been very busy. Answering a sudden call to provide and man wireless sets in the DUKWS of an R.A.A.S.C. Platoon which was operating in the flooded Murray River at Murray Bridge, the Squadron set out and learnt the 101 ways in which a 19 set cannot be installed in a DUKW!

When the rescue work slowed down the Squadron set to to help in the sandbagging of the flooded banks and provided communications for the Battalion of National Service men who were hard at this task. At this stage the C.S.O. ordered the Squadron to " lay cable along the river bank for 10 miles, give everyone in sight an 'L' phone, and come home."

By way of a rest the Squadron ran a Brigade defensive exercise, designed primarily to test "L" Troop 3 Divisional Signal Regiment, and a fine touch of realism was added by No. 24 (City of Adelaide) Fighter Squadron, R.A.A.F., who " bombed " and " strafed " such positions as they could see and then dropped criticisms on our camouflage.

The third big activity of the month was the Command Tattoo, in which our C.S.O. was the Deputy Producer—a situation which earned us many extra commitments. How welcome was the verdict after all was over " The communications could not be faulted."

Incidentally, the Display Team came across from Victoria for the Tattoo, and again, led by Major Aldridge, completed the crash through a flaming wall and the 18-on-one bike (or Aberdeen taxi) in a very polished manner. Captain Tee was quick to take advantage of the opening left by the Police riders, and his humorous antics on the Corgi will long be remembered, together with the commentary of Captain MacLean.

1 Line Construction Project Squadron. For the benefit of those who may not know, the location of this Unit is Woomera, South Australia, and their task is the construction of permanent telecommunication lines for the Rocket Range.

The country there is flat and generally lacks any tall flora, the only thing being saltbush, which grows only a few inches high, with the result that when one leaves the " built up " area (?) one has the impression of being in the middle of nowhere surrounded by nothing.

The ground is a mixture of red sand and red clay—in summer the vehicles are bogged in the sand and in wet weather they become bogged in the clay!

Between this and the " gibbers," which are pieces of ironstone which litter the area in varying sizes, a driver needs to work overtime to find a driveable track.

The Squadron has recently been reorganised and there has been a change in command. Major M. A. Bennet, M.B.E., has gone to B.C.O.F. and Major W. A. Pullar has taken over from him. The Administration Officer may be remembered by many in B.A.O.R. and the U.K. since Captain K. H. Trevan was attached to 5 Division and 7 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiments in B.A.O.R. and later attended No. 4 Telecommunication Course at the School of Signals, Catterick.

Even here, where the temperature is rising daily and will soon be around the 120 degree mark, sport plays a big part in the daily life, and our baseball team won the local premiership. The Australian rules football team were just defeated for this honour, and the soccer team, in spite of a large turnover in personnel, did well but did not quite make it either. Now, with our floodlit courts, tennis is becoming popular, and the cricketers are overhauling their gear.

Territorial Army

ARMY PHANTOM SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A. (The Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment)

Our annual camp this year has been arranged for the first two weeks in June, when we again visit the Folkestone area and hope to renew old acquaintances and make new friends.

Our children's Christmas party was attended by some seventy youngsters who, thanks to the sterling work put in by the ladies of members of the Regiment, did full justice to the food and entertainment provided, a good time being had by all.

Basketball within the Unit continues apace, and although we have not been able to improve on our second position in the league we have at least been able to consolidate it.

44 (H.C.) INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

The Regiment entered two teams in the fourth T.A. Motor Cycle Trials at Bagshot on 20th January, 1952. The 2 Squadron team, Sergeant Beadle, Lance-Corporal Blackford and Signalman Pynn, did well and finished the course sixth out

of eighteen. Unforunately, the 1 Squadron team, consisting of Sergeant Tomey, Signalman Harris and Signalman Twomey, failed to finish the complete course due to tyre trouble, and were disqualified.

Sergeant Beadle obtained a second-class award and was placed seventh out of sixty-four Service riders competing.

The annual children's party held on 5th January was a great success, thanks to the combined efforts of the Committee, the Quartermaster's staff and, last but not least, Sergeant Manuel, who saw that all the children had a variety of good things to eat.

Father Christmas, whose voice had a striking similarity to that of Major F. A. Angell, T.D., arrived by Landrover (due to the rationing of reindeer!) and distributed a present to every one of the seventy children at the party.

The Officers' Mess annual ball on 26th January was a great success, and we were honoured by the presence of our Honorary Colonel, Brigadier L. H. Harris, the Chief Signal Officer, Eastern Command, the Mayor and Mayoress of Brentford and Chiswick, and other distinguished guests. From the gusto with which all joined in square dancing and such old favourites as the Gay Gordons, it would appear that everybody enjoyed themselves.

Because of the death of His Majesty King George VI we have postponed the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess ball and are honoured that a small detachment of the Unit was selected for route lining at the funeral procession and were able to pay our last respects to His late Majesty.

56 (LONDON) ARMOURED DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

We are forming a Motor Cycle Display Team again this year. The team will be available to perform at shows held anywhere in the south of England during the months of May, June, August, September, October. Enquiries regarding engagements should be made to Signal House, Atkins Road, Clapham. Telephone TULse Hill 7051.

H.Q. SQUADRON, 10th ARMOURED DIVISION

Fourth Annual Reunion Dinner, Eccleston Hotel, London, S.W.1, 5th April, 1952.

Apply to Staff-Sergeant F. Harris, R.A.5, Room 314, War Office, Northumberland Avenue, W.C.2.

ROYAL SIGNALS BENEVOLENT FUND

	£	s.	d.
Subscriptions received during January, 1952:—			
School of Signals (Officer Training Wing)	15	1	0
1 Training Regiment	10	0	0
3 Training Regiment	16	18	10
5 Training Regiment	5	0	0
7 Training Regiment	11	18	0
1 AA (M) Signal Regiment	1	1	0
Eastern Command Signal Regiment (Officers' Mess)	1	3	0
Donations received during January, 1952:—			
Messrs. Smith & Lyde (for late Miss S. J. Turner)	100	0	0
Birmingham Branch	50	18	0
3 Infantry Division Signals Re-Union	4	3	3
Mr. D. H. McEwan	14	18	0
Mr. A. W. Wilson	2	2	0
Mr. L. J. Peerless	1	1	0
Mr. W. E. Eastwood	1	0	0
Mr. K. W. Stevens		8	0
Mr. H. K. Stevens		8	0
Mr. H. E. Prater		5	0
Mr. T. H. Stevens		3	0
Total Receipts	£236	8	1

Expenditure during January, 1952 £566 7 5

(Includes: General Assistance; Rent and Rates; Beds and Bedding; Tools; Removals; Clothing; Fares; Convalescence.)

Analysis of cases:

Families of soldiers serving in U.K.	8
,, ,, ,, ,, ,, B.A.O.R.	3
,, ,, ,, ,, ,, M.E.L.F.	2
,, ,, ,, ,, ,, FARELF	1
Widows and Dependants	8
Released and Discharged soldiers	45
Total cases assisted	67

UNIVERSITY TRAINING CORPS (T.A.)

Although the University Training Corps, as part of the Territorial Army, has been in existence for three years, little news about them has filtered out.

There are Signal Troops in thirteen Universities, namely: Aberdeen, Bristol, Cambridge, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Leeds, Liverpool, London, Manchester, Nottingham, Oxford, St. Andrew's and Queen's Universities, Belfast, and each is looked after by a Royal Signals Warrant Officer as the P.S.I.

The Troop at Queen's University is up to full strength and last year took part in a Western Command Signal Exercise. They are closely followed by London University Signal Troop, who expect to reach full strength shortly, with Bristol and St. Andrew's close on their heels.

The P.S.I.s gathered at the Officer Training Wing, School of Signals, for a two-week refresher course at the beginning of January, which proved so successful that the Southern Group of the U.T.C. (T.A.) wireless net really worked well for the first time on 27th January, 1952!

Association Notes

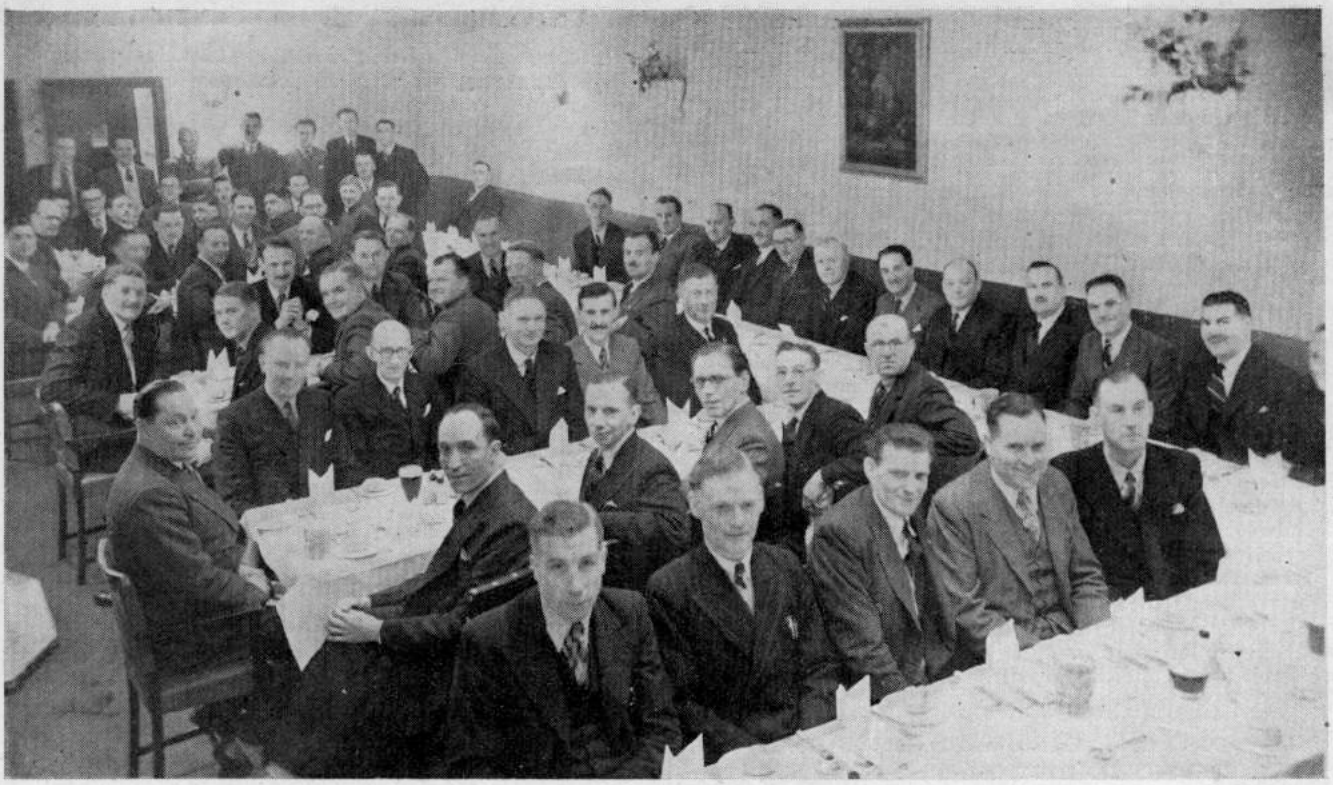
Northants

In spite of inclement weather, the January meeting was one of the best evenings we have had so far . . . the welcome point has been reached where everybody knows nearly everybody. One or two new members were welcomed and quickly became part of the proceedings. This seems to be the right moment to pay tribute to the people who, though holding no office, help to make our monthly gathering reputedly the best and most consistently well attended; they do this by their enthusiasm and " good mixing." Our annual dinner arrangements make good progress, and about 10 more bookings are required to round off the numbers.

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As usual, here is our Personality Picture to complete the month's notes. Incidentally, it was a problem whether to start with the highest or the lowest when we began this series, but it was suddenly realised that the latter would have meant bringing the writer of this column into the limelight . . . so that was scrubbed! Chairman Stan Wallen started his Army career in the 5th A.A. Divisional Signal Regiment in 1939 at Bristol—his home. He reached the rank of corporal in this Regiment, and upon the outbreak of war he was posted to Plymouth. From then onwards saw Stan in one or the other of the Air Formation Signals, 1st, 4th, 6th, 7th, and by now a sergeant—so that's why he's such a stickler for Parliamentary procedure when he's in the Chair. During this time he saw service in North Africa, Sicily, Italy, etc. It is said that after his travels he couldn't make up his mind whether to open a travel agency or come back and work towards his present job as Senior Administrative Assistant to the Borough Architect and Town Planning Officer. Anyway, perhaps his decision was guided by the fact that in 1942 he met "Bubbles" Hill, a teleprinter operator in 8 A.A. Group (Mixed) Signal Regiment at Bristol, where she was stationed until about 1944, afterwards serving in Brussels. They were married in January 1946, and with two children live happily ever after at 32 Kingsley Road, Northampton.

Greetings to Bristol and thanks for sending us a first-class Chairman.



3 Infantry Divisional Signals Reunion

3 (BR.) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment Reunion

Sixty ex-members of the Unit successfully reached Ye Olde Cock Tavern in Fleet Street, London, from all parts of the country during the evening of 12th January. The occasion was the first All Ranks' reunion for World War II members. Some had not seen each other for six years or more and the many thunderous greetings must surely have been heard by the Unit in the Middle East, with whom telegraphic messages of goodwill had been exchanged.

We were most fortunate, and indeed honoured, to have Major-General R. F. B. Naylor, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., Colonel-Commandant, Royal Signals, as our guest of honour. He commanded the Unit from 1931-35, and in an amusing after-dinner speech he reminisced on his many happy times during that period. He put over some very useful "propaganda," as he called it, for the Corps, and explained why it was that some become Colonel-Commandants—as a reward for long service and undetected crime.

Space does not permit a full description of the evening or a list of those who attended, but many well known personalities can be seen in the accompanying photograph.

It may be of interest to some to hear that the organisers hold the last Signal Office flag of the Unit to fly at Dunkirk before the evacuation. It was handed over by Major E. R. Nanny-Wynn at the reunion.

A Reunion Club for *all* ex-members of the Unit is being formed and an announcement regarding this will appear in a future number.

Annual General Meeting and Old Comrades' Reunion at Catterick on Saturday, 19th July, Sunday, 20th July. Details are being sent out by H.Q., Royal Signals Association, 88 Eccleston Square, S.W.1.

London and South Eastern Area Rally and Reunion

The Corps Committee at their 49th meeting on 28th February decided with regret that this must be postponed until the end of the official mourning for His Late Majesty, King George VI, that is, until after 31st May, 1952.

Newcastle, Gateshead and District

In spite of some hard weather, our February social gained a strong and lively attendance. So lively, indeed, that at times the appointed choir needed all that the amplifier could do for them. Mister Transport, as usual, foreclosed on a good evening.

Wives and lady friends now join our parties and have proved good friends, providing sandwiches as well as good company.

Major S. Robinson, who has been our treasurer for years, has had to yield to other interests, and in resigning enjoys our many thanks. Major F. W. Marks has volunteered in succession.

Serving members passing by should note that we meet on the first Saturday of each month at the T.A. Centre, Elmgrove Terrace, Gateshead, by kind permission of the O.C. No. 3 Squadron, 50 Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A., and that they will be welcome. TYNE.

Sheffield and District

It is regretted that news has been so scanty from Sheffield and district of late, but we are now located at Crabtree Lodge, Barnsley Road, with 60 H.Q. Army Signal Regiment (T.A.) and use the men's canteen for our meetings and recreation. Business at the meetings is strictly at a minimum for the various committees are functioning smoothly and facing their tasks in quite a satisfactory manner.

Dances, whist drives, games evenings and the like are the order for our monthly meetings, and Mr. Manterfield will be pleased to place members' suggestions before the committee

for their action. This helps our hard-worked Secretary to carry out tasks requiring immediate action.

Unfortunately we have in Sheffield Royal Hospital Sergeant Bogle from Germany, who seems to be progressing, and our thanks go to Colonel Holland, our President, who has spent a great deal of his time looking after him, and also Mrs. Hague, who had the misfortune to lose her husband in a shooting accident in Germany.

Our dance in November in conjunction with the T.A. Regiment was a great success, and our children's party at Christmas was very entertaining.

We now look forward to the annual general meeting on Tuesday, 25th March, at 8 p.m., and we hope to have a full house.

By this time, Captain J. Gibson, the Adjutant, and Colonel H. E. Middleton, the C.O. of 60 H.Q. Army Signal Regiment, T.A., will have gone to new appointments, but we extend to them both our hearty thanks for the very great assistance they have given to this Branch.

Bournemouth

Whether our members were frightened by swallows when young I wouldn't know, but it does seem that many of them have become migratory in instinct and we are left with only a handful of hardy "ever-presents" to see us through the winter.

Nevertheless, we have held one social event with much success. We visited a pantomime the other week and thought what a good idea it would be if the Display Team appeared on ice this year! No? Perhaps you're right. When this jaunt was first discussed we were having a little difficulty in deciding where we should partake of a meal until Major Dunningham suggested that Mercury House could deal with it providing there were not too many visitors at the time we finally decided upon. What a first-rate idea that proved to be. Major and Mrs. Dunningham had everything laid on for us, a most excellent meal in every respect, leading to discreet easing of belts, and even "Busty" Gregg was forced to refuse an offer of a lump of lardy cake from Bert Gillett. After seeing what a high standard of comfort and catering is set, and attained, we can understand why so many make a Mercury House holiday a habit.

With an annual general meeting due next week we may have some startling news for you soon. Someone might even pay some subscriptions in advance!

St. Albans and District

The absence of our WIRE notes in the past few months has been due to the reluctance of some of our members to leave their nice warm fires to attend Branch meetings. We are hoping (without prejudice, of course) that they may run out of coal sometime and come along for a warm!

The Branch held its first annual general meeting on Monday, 14th January. It was an occasion for us all to feel proud that we had helped to bring our Branch through the first year.

It also gave us an opportunity to welcome our Branch President, Major-General Naylor, who opened the meeting with a very interesting description of his military career.

A vote of thanks was given to our Branch Secretary for the hard work he had put in over the past year, and to show there were no hard feelings we re-elected him for a further 12 months. Bob Francis has taken over the duties of treasurer.

After the Branch business had been disposed of we adjourned to the bar where, after a few pints, conversation soon dropped into the familiar groove—"I wonder where so and so is now?"

In talking of the good old Units of peace-time fame we were wondering what has become of some of the boys of such Units as 1 Cavalry Troop, Rizzy. If any of them ever read THE WIRE perhaps they could assure us of their well-being. We wish to extend a very hearty welcome to the new members of our Branch—Major Freemantle, Messrs. Radcliffe, Chapman, Bush and Bramley. I can assure them that Dick Verney will always be there to relate a "shaggy dog" story to them.

At the moment we are floundering through an old comrades' games tournament—the darts score so far is, played two, lost two. Trouble with our lot is we don't get down to it until it comes to the "gallon." Let's hope we do better at cribbage (eh, Fred?).

York

The annual dinner was held on 17th January, and the following report appeared in the *Yorkshire Evening Press* and is reprinted by courtesy of the Editor:—

Way to Build York Royal Signals Branch.

An appeal to bring in the younger men to keep their organisation alive was made last night at the annual reunion dinner of York branch of the Royal Signals' Association.

"If the Association is to prosper and continue its good work, we must get the younger soldiers," said Lieutenant-Colonel H. R. Firth (London, General Secretary), who pleaded with the York body to get the National Service men association-minded.

"This is the only way we shall succeed in building the Association into a powerful body," he declared.

"What of York?"

Referring to the increasing calls on the Benevolent Fund, he said that, owing to the high cost of living, most families were living right up to their incomes. Therefore, loss of wages through sickness, family problems and housing difficulties became a real headache. These were typical instances where help was provided.

He asked York to send its representative to the honorary secretaries' meeting in London on 29th March. Another important date was the annual meeting and reunion at Catterick on 19th and 20th July.

Tunbridge Wells was putting on the first area reunion on 17th May.

"What of York?" he asked. "Can you not emulate Tunbridge Wells? Let us have a lot of drive by the York Branch. Of course you can do it! What about September?"

Brigadier F. P. L. Gray presided. Colonel W. Clark proposed "The Corps" and Mr. J. E. Newton (secretary) "Absent Friends." Others present included Colonel A. Hill, Mr. W. Jackson (branch chairman), Mr. A. E. Leavesley (treasurer).



[Courtesy: "Yorkshire Evening Press"

Pictured at the annual dinner of the York branch of the Royal Signals Association are (left to right) Brigadier F. P. L. Gray (G.S.O., Northern Command), Colonel H. R. Firth (general secretary), R.S.M. P. H. Johnstone and R.S.M. C. J. Hobbs



[*Courtesy: Gale and Polden, Ltd., Aldershot*

Standing: Captain D. W. Callaghan, Second-Lieutenant F. C. Lettin, Second-Lieutenant A. J. Welch, Lieutenant W. S. Dawson, Sergeant B. Smythe, Second-Lieutenant K. F. Dawes, Signalman B. Mott, Captain W. L. Heward (umpire). Seated: Lance-Corporal R. Bartlett, Sergeant R. D. Angus, Captain D. H. Thursby-Pelham (captain), Captain D. C. Sidney (honorary secretary), Captain L. R. Griffiths, Sergeant T. J. Castle

CORPS' HOCKEY

Fixtures Played

31st October: Catterick Signals v. R.A.C. Catterick, at Catterick. Won 6—3.

14th November: Royal Signals v. R.A.O.C., at Catterick. Lost 1—2.

21st November: Royal Signals v. R.A.E.C., at Catterick. Won 2—1.

5th December: Royal Signals v. R.M.A., at Sandhurst. Lost 1—2.

7th December: Royal Signals v. R.A.S.C., at Aldershot. Won 4—1.

At the beginning of the season we had a convincing victory against a strong R.A.C. Catterick side, and six goals were more than we had dared to hope for. Sergeant Candle, playing on the right wing, proved too fast for his opponents, and his accurate and hard shooting was the key to our success.

Although the R.A.O.C. were only playing ten men most of the match, they broke away twice to score very much against the run of the play.

Our victory against an R.A.E.C. side led by Major Whitmarsh-Knight, the Army captain, was very encouraging. We survived some very anxious moments at the beginning of the game but soon settled down to the hard hitting, long passing game that was required. The defence was stopping the ball well and so took control of the game. About ten minutes from time, when we were leading 2—0, the R.A.E.C. scored!

The Southern Tour began with a match versus R.M.A. at Sandhurst. It had been decided to play as many officers as possible and this, without doubt, weakened the side considerably. Our half line, with Lance-Corporal Bartlett at centre, which had always been pretty strong, was entirely replaced with a much weaker combination. The R.M.A. were a good deal faster than we were. They adopted some extremely effective mid-field tactics with their two inside forwards playing back in line with the centre-half, and one of their backs playing forward in the centre of their two wing halves. They thus had in effect a double half line, which completely dominated the centre of the field. However, we met these tactics by hitting extremely hard, and just before half-time Captain Rowlands, following up in the circle, levelled the score at 1—1. In the second half they scored from a very strong flick just inside the circle.

The R.A.S.C. match began with our opponents attacking strongly, but we soon settled down and were unlucky not to be ahead at half-time, when the score was 1—1. Lance-Corporal Bartlett was playing a strong game at centre-half and at times went dangerously close to his forwards in his desire to attack. Captain L. R. Griffiths, who is playing for Cambridge this season, came into the side at left-back and, after one lapse in the first half, was the rock on which most of our opponents' attacking movements were broken. In an inspired period in the second half we scored three goals and were unlucky not to have more. Sergeant Candle was running in from the right wing (perhaps too frequently!) and scored two resounding goals.

The following have represented the Corps this season in addition to those shown in the photograph: Captain D. P. Garnons-Williams, Captain C. Masser, Second-Lieutenant W. B. L. Palmer, S.S.M. Murray, Lance-Corporal Bartlett.

GOLF

Spring Meeting

The Royal Signals Officers' Golfing Society Spring Meeting 1952 will be held at Catterick Golf Club on Saturday, 19th April, and Sunday, 20th April, 1952.

The programme is:—

(i) 19th April (Morning)—Royal Signals Handicap Challenge Cup (18 holes Stapleford, open to all Officers).

(ii) „ Junior Officers Individual Handicap Challenge Cup (18 holes Stapleford, open to all serving Officers with less than six years' commissioned service on 1st May, 1952).

(iii) 19th April (Afternoon)—Royal Signals Foursome Challenge Cup (18 holes Stapleford, open to all Officers). (Draw for partners.)

(iv) 20th April (Morning & Afternoon)—Royal Signals Championship Challenge Cup (36 holes medal play from scratch, open to Regular serving Officers).

(v) „ Royal Signals Handicap Challenge Cup (36 holes medal play on handicap, open to all Officers).

(vi) „ Royal Signals Open Championship Cup (36 holes medal play from scratch, open to all Officers).

ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL

Army Challenge Cup—Semi-Final

7 Training Regiment, Royal Signals, is to play either Royal Scots Fusiliers or The Black Watch, both of B.A.O.R., in the semi-final of the Army Challenge Cup on 12th March at Aldershot.

* * *

6 (Boys) Training Regiment defeated the Army Apprentices School, Arborfield, on 2nd February, 1952, in the semi-final of the Boys Army Soccer Cup. The score was:—

6 (Boys) Training Regiment 3—A.A.S. Arborfield 1.

Final result: 6 Boys Training Regiment 2, Army Apprentices School 1.

BOXING

In the semi-final of the Army Inter-Unit Team Championship held at Preston on 20th February, 1952, 2 Training Regiment, Royal Signals, defeated the Royal Pioneer Corps Depot and Training Establishment by 20 points to 13 points.

The final of the Army Inter-Unit Team Boxing Championship between 2 Training Regiment, Royal Signals, and 4 Battalion R.A.O.C. took place on Wednesday, 27th February, 1952, at Aldershot.

Result: R.A.O.C. 20, Royal Signals 13.



THE WIRE

The Corps Magazine of the
ROYAL SIGNALS
The Official Organ of the
SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

Editor:
BRIGADIER H. R. FIRTH

All correspondence and matter for publication for THE WIRE *should be addressed to The Editor,* THE WIRE, *88 Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1. Matter for publication must be received by the 15th of the month preceding publication.*

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APRIL • **1952**
Vol. 6 *New Series* **No. 4**

☆

PRICE ONE SHILLING

THE BRANCH OF THE YEAR

tunbridge wells

THOSE of us who are very old will remember G. E. Paling, part founder and first Editor of THE WIRE in 1920. In April 1950 he formed the Tunbridge Wells Branch of the Association. This built up rapidly, securing members from all over East Sussex and West Kent.

The strong committee were not satisfied; they conceived the idea of forming a chain of branches linked by allegiance to the Royal Corps of Signals and by proximity and friendship with each other. Here is a list of their endeavours: —

August 1951	...	Uckfield.
October 1951	...	Edenbridge.
November 1951	...	Sevenoaks.
Projected in 1952	...	Tonbridge and Eastbourne.

Still not content, they had the idea of an area reunion of all branches of the Association. This, the London and South Eastern Area Rally and Reunion, was projected for November 1951 but, as the Corps Band's Middle East tour dates were advanced, this had to be postponed until May 1952, and again, alas, the period of mourning for His Late Majesty King George VI caused a further postponement. Despite these setbacks there is no possible doubt that for service to our Association and to Royal Signals the honour of Branch of the Year goes to Tunbridge Wells. *The Reunion will now take place on 7th June.*

Regimental Branches

During the summer of 1950 Captain R. O. Edwards, on leave from West Africa, had a good deal to do with forming the Slough Branch. So well was this begun that he soon had to honour his promise to present its standard to the Branch when it had fifty members. By this time he was back in West Africa rapidly forming a Branch in the Gold Coast Signal Squadron which, at its inaugural dance raised £53 for the Benevolent Fund. Posted to Egypt Command Signal Regiment in August 1951, he formed a branch in that Regiment, and by February 1952 he had enrolled no less than 153 life members and raised £18 for the Benevolent Fund.

Progress

Besides what is written above, a new form of advancement of our Association has been started in the newly-formed Harrogate Branch. Special arrangements have been made for the boys of the senior term at the Army Apprentices School to become members of the Association. Although attached to and helped by the Harrogate Branch, the boys have their own branch officers and their own meetings.

All Ranks Royal Signals and all members of the Royal Signals Association will join in congratulating our Colonel-in-Chief and Patron, Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, C.I., G.C.V.O., G.B.E., *on the occasion of her birthday, 25th April.*

OBITUARY

Major (T.O.T.) F. J. COOK

His many friends throughout the Corps will be grieved to learn of the death of Major F. J. Cook, who was drowned on 2nd February as the result of a boating accident.

In accordance with his wishes he was cremated on 4th February.

A memorial service was held on 8th February in St. George's Church, Changi, which was attended by all senior Royal Signals Officers in Singapore, the C.S.O. and C.S.O. Royal Air Force, Commanding Officers of G.H.Q. and District Signal Regiment, all the Officers and as many men as could get in of 19 Air Formation Signal Regiment, and large numbers of those, both Service and civilian, who had known, loved and worked with " Cookie."

In a moving address the R.A.F. Chaplain referred to the love of his fellow men, irrespective of race, position or creed, that was the outstanding feature of John Cook's character and, in illustration of the esteem in which he was held by all with whom he came in contact, mentioned that one of the wreaths sent to the funeral was from three Tamil coolies who had worked with him before the war.

His cheerfulness and capacity for hard work, both of which seemed to increase as conditions deteriorated, were an example to his Regiment that will be sadly missed.

" Cookie " and his wife kept " open house " at their seaside bungalow, where all visitors were assured of the friendliest and most hospitable welcome. Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to Mrs. Cook in her grief.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Annual General Meeting and Old Comrades' Reunion at Catterick on Saturday, 19th July, Sunday, 20th July. Details are being sent out by H.Q., Royal Signals Association, 88 Eccleston Square, S.W.1.

Dinner Club

Annual Dinner, Thursday, 10th July. Tickets 15s.

Regular Officers' Tea Party, Friday, 11th July. Tickets 8s. 6d.

Both will be held at the Hyde Park Hotel as formerly.

Details from Honorary Secretary, Royal Signals Dinner Club, Room 97, Horseguards, Whitehall, S.W.1.

Royal Signals " Quicksilver " Trailer will visit:—

Newcastle, 22nd to 26th April.
South Shields, Sunderland area, 29th April to 3rd May.
West Hartlepool, Stockton area, 7th to 10th May.
Darlington area, 13th to 17th May.
York, 21st to 24th May.

Reunion Dinner, Indian Signal Units, will take place at the Charing Cross Hotel, Strand, London, W.C.2, on Saturday, 7th June. Particulars from Captain W. A. Dowley, Mytchett Heath Lodge, Mytchett, Aldershot, Hants.

Harrogate Apprentices' Association. It is intended to form an Old Boys' Association of those who were ex-Apprentices. Those interested should write to the Secretary, Harrogate Apprentices' Association, Uniacke Barracks, Harrogate, Yorks.

ROYAL SIGNALS CORPS COMMITTEE

Major C. H. Golden, Headquarters London District, Horseguards, Whitehall, S.W.1 (WHI. 4466), has taken over Secretary of the Corps Committee.

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

Brigadier R. H. R. Steward writes to the Editor:—

As one who served under General White a great deal during the last war, I think the memoir published omits his greatest quality as a C.S.O.

Everyone who served under him knew that if it was humanly possible he would get all that he needed in men or equipment. Many were the times his own communications suffered through giving all he had to junior formations and units.

The old Army motto " Don't let 'em 'ave it " never existed in " Slap's " repertoire.

Captain P. A. Robins writes to the Editor :—

" Do you know Rawlinson Barracks, Denbury, and where it is?"

The answer is in the infirmary or very nearly. Probably this camp is known to me as well, if not better, than by any other member or ex-member of the Corps.

It first came under my notice in 1942 when serving on the staff of C.S.O. Southern Command (Brigadier A. C. Sykes), being occupied in those days by various details of R.A.M.C. and certain other Field Ambulance Units.

Some time later it was taken over by U.S. Forces as a hospital and I had the job of providing the necessary telephone communications. The requirements, I may say, taxed the G.P.O. facilities to the utmost for exchange lines and private wires.

The camp itself it set amid the rugged (very) Devon scenery, approached by those twisting, turning, high-hedged narrow lanes such as only Devon can provide; approximately one mile from the old world village (one church, two houses, one pub—very small).

The nearest town and railhead is Newton Abbot—how far entirely depends on whether you are returning from a hectic week-end and, having missed the bi-weekly bus, are faced with proceeding at the regulation 120 per minute or whether you are " tired " by Dunlops. In any event the actual distance increases each succeeding time the journey is made.

One thing in its favour is that it is far from the madding crowd.

In 1944 it was taken over by the A.T.S. Signal School as a training establishment—teleprint operators and OWLS—the chief instructor being, in those days, Major Chris Jarvis, of Rawalpindi and Northern Command (I) soccer fame.

One last word, the local telephone exchange rejoices in the unbelievable name of IPPLEPEN.

THE BAND

By Command of Her Majesty the Queen the Band of the Royal Corps of Signals is to play at the Garden Party at Buckingham Palace on 17th July, 1952.

Semi-Final, Army Soccer Challenge Cup, Aldershot, 12th March, 1952.

Result:—7 Training Regiment 4, *Royal Scots Fusiliers (B.A.O.R.)* 1

★

Semi-Final, Yorkshire Rugger Challenge Cup, Harrogate, 15th March, 1952.

Result:—Royal Signals 16, *Roundhay* 3

PERSONAL COLUMN

Promotions of Officers

" London Gazette," 8th February, 1952.

Major E. H. Clarke, O.B.E., to be Lieutenant-Colonel.

" London Gazette," 12th February, 1952.

The late King was graciously pleased to approve that the undermentioned should be appointed Aide de Camp Supplementary Reserve, 22nd January, 1952:—

Lieutenant-Colonel C. E. Calverley, O.B.E.

" London Gazette," 7th March, 1952.

Lieutenant-Colonel G. F. T. Shrimpton, T.D., to be Brevet-Colonel, 1st November, 1951.

Movements of Officers

Major (Q.M.) T. L. Harries from 1 A.A. (M) Signal Regiment to 4 A.A. (M) Signal Regiment.

Major M. S. Hancock from B.A.O.R. to E.R.E. Employment.

Major R. A. Warren from M.E.L.F. to U.K.

Major R. D. Nash from Depot to 1 Signal Park Squadron.

Major T. S. Foster from War Office to FARELF.

Major F. F. Ellis from 50 (N) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment to Malay Regiment.

Major L. V. McNaught-Davis from War Office to School of Signals.

Major J. C. Greene from School of Signals to 3 Training Regiment.

Major J. T. Pearson from Pakistan to U.K.

Lieutenant-Colonel F. H. Pellew from Senior Officers School to 7 Training Regiment.

Major R. M. B. Evans from Depot to Southern Command Signal Regiment.

Lieutenant-Colonel P. M. P. Hobson from Hong Kong to B.T.A.

Lieutenant-Colonel G. D. T. Harris from Depot to 2 War Office Signal Regiment.

Major B. Bevan from Northern Command Signal Regiment to Eastern Command Signal Regiment.

Captain (T.O.T.) W. McCulloch from Eastern Command Signal Regiment to M.E.L.F.

Major G. R. Edwards from B.T.A. to 3 A.A (M) Signal Regiment.

Major J. H. Thompson from 1 Training Regiment to Senior Officers' School (Course).

Major E. C. Collett from B.A.O.R. to M.E.L.F.

Major N. D. Farmer from 7 Training Regiment to 50 (N) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A.

Major A. B. Dryland from M.E.L.F. to U.K.

Lieutenant-Colonel D. E. L. Gardiner from FARELF to 60 H.Q. Army Signal Regiment, T.A.

Lieutenant-Colonel H. E. H. Middleton from 60 H.Q. Army Signal Regiment, T.A., to War Office.

Major P. F. Pentreath from Depot to School of Infantry.

Lieutenant-Colonel L. J. D. Read, M.B.E., from 7 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment to 4 L. of C. Signal Regiment.

Major T. J. Harris, M.B.E., from 2 L. of C. Signal Regiment to 4 L. of C. Signal Regiment.

Major J. H. Dirs, M.B.E., from 2 L. of C. Signal Regiment to 4 L. of C. Signal Regiment.

Major J. Oliver, O.B.E., from 5 A.A. Signal Regiment to 4 L. of C. Signal Regiment.

Movements of Warrant and Non-Commissioned Officers

R.S.M. C. Turner, M.M., from 2 L. of C. Signal Regiment to 4 L. of C. Signal Regiment.

United States Army Signal Corps

Brigadier-General James D. O'Connell is appointed Deputy Chief Signal Officer. He served in 12th Army Group in England, France and Germany until 1945.

Major-General Kirke B. Lawton has taken over Command of Fort Monmouth, New Jersey.

Births

BAYNHAM—Captain D. Baynham, G.M., and Mrs. Baynham, a brother for Simon.

CARPENTER—To S.Q.M.S. (F. of S.) A. Carpenter, Northern Command (M) Signal Regiment, and Mrs. Carpenter, on 9th February at The Towers, Finchley, N.2, a daughter, Mary Elaine.

HOWLEY—To Sergeant W. E. Howley, 38 A.A. (M) Signal Squadron, T.A., and Mrs. Howley, on 19th January, a son, Patrick William James.

GORRINGE—On 29th February, 1952, to R.S.M. A. C. Gorringe, 21 Corps Signal Regiment (T.A.), and Mrs. Gorringe, a daughter, Sheila Margaret.

Injured

CHATFIELD—2547751 Signalman P. Chatfield, in Korea.

LONGTHORNE—22394035 Signalman G. Longthorne, on 6th February, in M.E.L.F.

WILLIS—22246031 Lance-Corporal J. C. Willis, on 18th February, in M.E.L.F.

Death

SWEET—22345305 Signalman D. L. Sweet on 8th February, in Korea.

REPORT ON " THE WIRE "

As readers of the December 1951 and January 1952 Editorials will realise, we have had to cut out pages to suit our income. It is good to report that the policy is being successful. Circulation IS going up despite the parsimony of the Editor. Both the January and February numbers made a slight profit. This enables us to plan. With an occasional economical month of 20 pages we can normally run to 24 pages.

This means a little more latitude to Unit correspondents. It means, as we have shown in the March WIRE, a lot more room for the type of article we all want to read.

So all of you who can, and do, write for THE WIRE please let us have some more. The Editor has a nice little dead sack but like the Troop Sergeant he is loath to part with all of it.

PHOTOGRAPH OF THE BAND

Elsewhere in this number appear most excellent photographs of the Band and the Corps Committee taken on the occasion of the latter's 49th meeting.

As a preliminary to that meeting the Corps Committee met the Band at the B.B.C. Studios above the Criterion Restaurant to approve a revised version of the Corps March.

Known to an older generation, Mr. Ricketts, first Bandmaster of Royal Signals, graced the occasion with his presence. He is standing next to Captain J. Judd, the Director of Music.

The second photograph of the Trumpeters was taken on the same occasion.

These excellent photographs are obtainable from Lawson and Co., 6 Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, London, W.1.

Prices—14 in. x 9 in.: Unmounted 7s. 6d.; mounted 10s. 6d.
8 in. x 6 in.: Unmounted 5s. 0d.; mounted 7s. 6d.

EMPLOYMENT VACANCIES

General Post Office

There are vacancies in the London Telecommunications Region for telegraphists and telephonists. Previous experience is not essential, and candidates are paid during training.

Staff are recruited initially on a temporary basis but, subject to suitability, are eligible for appointment to the establishment. These posts are pensionable and offer good prospects of advancement to the supervising grades, and there are additional openings by limited examination to other Civil Service classes. The annual leave and sick pay privileges compare favourably with those of most commercial firms, and there are excellent facilities for sport and recreational activities.

Anyone interested can obtain further information from the Royal Signals Association (Employment Section), 88 Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1, or the Staff Controller (S/A2R), L.T.R., Cornwall House, Waterloo Road, London, S.E.1.

Civilian Vacancies on Army Wireless Chain Stations

It is expected that vacancies for civilians will shortly occur in certain technical appointments on Army Wireless Chain Stations at home and abroad.

These vacancies will afford an opportunity for retired Officers, W.O.s and N.C.O.s of the Corps with heavy wireless experience to continue their career in telecommunications under advantageous conditions.

Will those who are interested please write to the War Office (A.G. 11), Stanmore, Middlesex, giving details of past experience and stating whether or not they are prepared to serve overseas?

Terms and conditions of service have not yet been finally decided. They are expected to be in the order of:—

Officers ... ... £525—£825 per annum.
W.O.s and N.C.O.s ... £450—£550 per annum.
With allowances for overseas service.

New Zealand Regular Army

Vacancies exist in the Royal New Zealand Signals for ex-British Army tradesmen who have passed Class I or II trade tests in any of the following trades:—

Lineman Operator Special Operator Wireless and Line
Radio Mechanic Telegraph Mechanic

Age limits 21—40. Single men preferred, but married men may be accepted on certain conditions. Further details obtainable from the Royal Signals Association, 88 Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1, or from the New Zealand Army Liaison Staff, The Adelphi, John Adam Street, London, W.C.2.

Officers' and Sergeants' Mess Staff

The following civilian staff are required by a Unit of the Corps in Cheshire:—

(1) Officers' Mess Steward. £6 7s. per week. Self-contained central-heated flat available (2 rooms, bath, etc.). Suitable for married couple without children.
(2) Sergeants' Mess Caterer. £6 2s. per week. Single accommodation available.

Apply to Employment Section, Royal Signals Association, 88 Eccleston Square, S.W.1.

CUFF LINKS: CAR BADGES

The Association has been fortunate in obtaining a supply of admirable cuff links in Signals colours. These are good value at 7s.

It is hoped to resume supply of car badges in the near future. An announcement will appear in THE WIRE as soon as a number are received from the manufacturer.

BOOK REVIEWS

Always Into Battle

By **Lieutenant-General SIR GEORGE MacMUNN**

SIR GEORGE MacMUNN has written some very notable books on military history. "Always Into Battle" is a mixed bag of rather penetrating military studies and some epic short stories. In the latter category are included a perfect gem, "The Saving of Waingmaw Kha," and the hardly less attractive "Zoueetfontein." In the former is an admirable study of the Duke of Wellington and a fascinating account of the causes of the gallantry of the immortal six battalions at Minden. The causes are much less well known than is the gallantry.

"The True Story of the War of American Independence" again deals with the lesser known causes of this affair, and the reading of it certainly improves one's understanding of that particularly inglorious period of our history.

Although by training a "Gunner," and in his time a famous Commander, Sir George himself was no mean Quartermaster, and in "Sir Roger Napier's Campaign in Abyssinia, 1867" he pays a just tribute to the "Q" staff of the Army headed by Major Frederick Roberts, v.c.!

The studies and stories range over the whole history of the British Army. The "pale student" working for the Staff College will find perhaps only one that has bearing on the year's work. The older officer will read them with delight and with pleasant titivation of memory. The young officer may in the reading of them be persuaded that military history is not dull.

Gale and Polden, 10s. 6d.

Guide to Army Officer's Pay Allowances and Financial Affairs

By **Captain W. B. WILTON, M.C.**

WHY! oh, why! did Captain Wilton not publish this admirable book thirty years ago and reprint it, brought up to date, every five years or so?

In those good days, it is true, the Orderly Room Sergeant, if a friend, could make for or save quite large sums for his officers in a year. Now, in very many cases, he has not the time or knowledge to do these kind things, and so an officer must fend for himself.

Any officer who does not buy this book and read it regularly has got more money than sense. There is an old adage "Ignorance of the Regulations is no excuse!" to which may be added "particularly if they concern one's own emoluments."

Published by Gale and Polden, 5s. 4d. (including postage).

THE MERCURY HOUSES

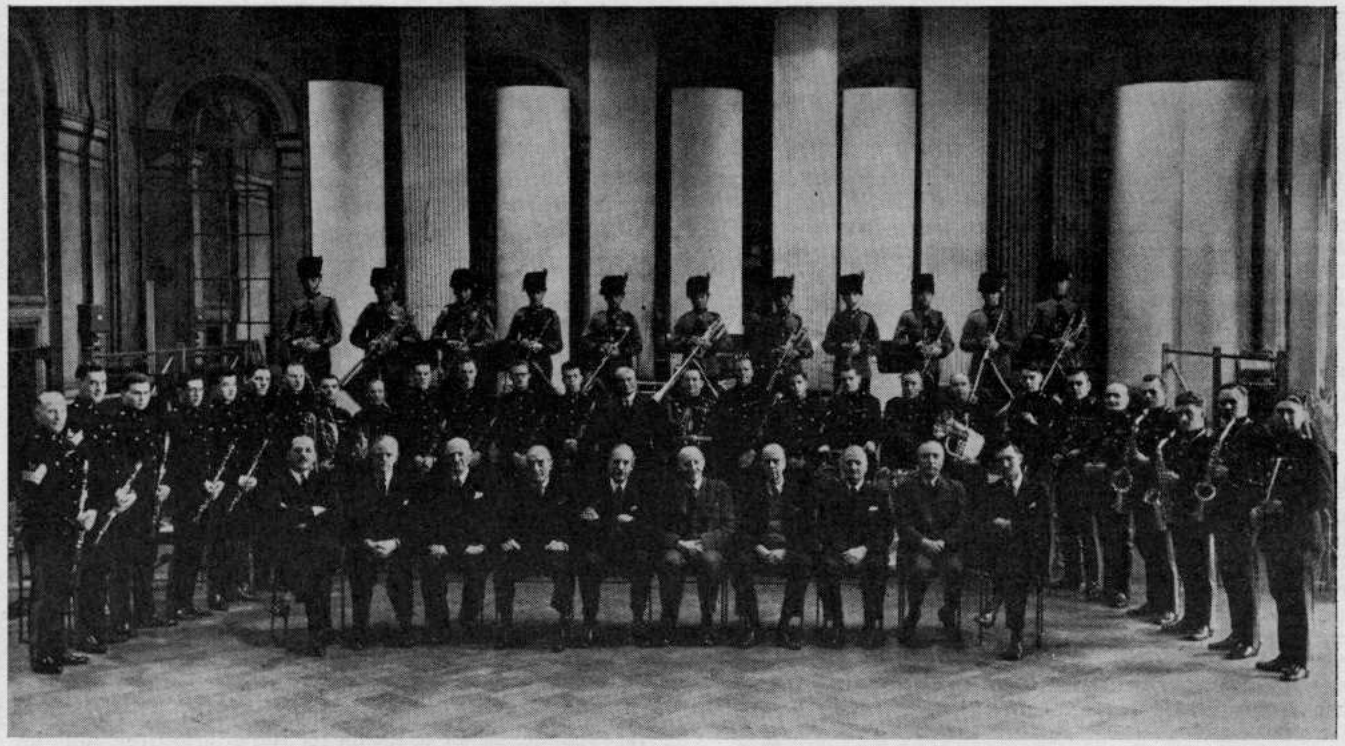
Evidence accumulates that the very existence and certainly the function of the Mercury Houses is unknown to a large number of all ranks now serving. This is a pity.

These houses were provided to enable both those now serving, and those who have served Royal Signals, with suitable holiday accommodation at prices which compare very favourably with similar privately owned establishments.

All Regiments should have notice board information displayed in their Information Rooms on the subject.

Small posters are available either from:—

The Manager,
Mercury House, Brackley Avenue, Colwyn Bay,
Mercury House, 14 Florence Road, Boscombe, Bournemouth,
or from:—
The Royal Signals Association, 88 Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1.



The Corps Committee and the band, see page 71

Do You Remember ?

THE WIRE of April 1922 congratulated Signalman J. Cotterell on his splendid performance in the National Cross-Country Championship on 11th March, and on being selected to represent England in the forthcoming International Championship. Do you remember? And do you know he is still serving?

Also in 1922 there existed in Glasgow the 1st Scottish Corps Signals, T.A. Do you remember? You do? Well, what is the present title of the Unit?

The Belfast Signal Company was once the Ulster Divisional Signals; it is now Northern Ireland District Signal Squadron. W.R.C.P. describes " A first trip to India " in His Majesty's troopship *Huntsend*. Now the interesting thing about this ship is that it was " liberated " from the Germans in 1918 as later were the " Empire " class of troopships now carrying Signals all over the world.

Reverting to 1952 for a moment, do you remember J. Horlacker? He was seen the other day reading THE WIRE in the British Legion Club in Garstang in Lancashire.

In April 1932, Sir H. Colville B. Wemyss, then a Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel, was reported as having been appointed a General Staff Officer, and J. P. G. Worledge as being promoted Colonel. In the Royal Engineers' point-to-point races in March of that year, A. B. McVittie beat H. N. Crawford and C. D. Gardiner in the Clement Smith and Ridley Thompson Cups. E. S. J. Haines volunteered to give any member of the Corps information as to prospects in New Zealand. Do you remember the excellent articles on " Life in the U.S.S.R. " by W. Mycroft, which were published that year? They might have been written today. H.E.G. visited Jerusalem in February, and an account of his journey appeared in April. Do you remember?

R. B. S. Erraut, now commanding 5 Training Regiment, went from Catterick to 1 Divisional Signals at Aldershot on his first posting. In 1932 at Catterick boxing was held in the " Blood Tub." Do you remember? The building still exists in the lines of 7 Training Regiment, is still put to the same use but called by a different name—what is it?

The Training Battalion raised £18 for the Benevolent Fund. Now they call them Training Regiments, but THEY still raise money for the Benevolent Fund. Do you remember " Old Man Blades " of "F" Company? You do? Wasn't he sports storeman and groundsman and gardener? Surely it was he who had defaulters cutting the grass with safety razor blades? Do you remember?

Do you remember Major A. C. Sykes at Tidworth presenting the Long Service and Good Conduct medal to C.S.M. C. Hopkins and Sergeant R. Collyer, M.M.? You do? Well, what was the name of the Unit?

In 1932 Sergeant J. Cotterell had a momentary lapse. He finished thirty-ninth (!) in the National Cross-Country Championships, being beaten by Lance-Corporal Wood (3 Divisional Signals) and four other Army runners. Incidentally, Wood beat Cotterell once or twice that year. Anno domini?

Do you remember the Royal Signals Motor Cycle Display of the 1930s? In 1932 it was being given in Meerut by D.R.s of 3rd Indian Divisional Signals and 3 Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop. In 1932 a C.Q.M.S. was nicknamed " Chota-Maidan." Do you remember? Well! Returning to the 1920s, do you remember " Joe " and " Billy," the two ducks, mascots of "E" Company at Maresfield, who took part in the riding, the duties, the sports and even appeared on the pay table? You do? Well, you're much older than I.

Besides which, you are wrong—they lived in 1921 not 1922.—Editor.

Network of Radar in Europe Mended

By Courtesy of the "New York Times"

SUPREME Headquarters, Allied Powers in Europe, Rocquencourt, France, 18th January.—The United States and its North Atlantic Treaty allies have now established a radar warning net across the entire length of the Command area of General of the Army Dwight D. Eisenhower, which stretches nearly 2,500 miles from Norway across Central Europe down to Italy.

This network is not yet perfect in all aspects. There are still technical improvements to be made in certain sectors; in others there is an overlapping between the radar systems in contiguous countries, though gradually these difficulties are being corrected.

It would be exceedingly unlikely now, however, that hostile aircraft could launch a sudden attack on Allied formations or targets west of General Eisenhower's Command area without running quickly into the co-ordinated defences of the United States, British, French and other Allied air forces of the Atlantic nations.

Allied technical experts fully appreciate that the Russians are aware of this radar warning network; it cannot be kept secret. Modern planes equipped with electronic devices such as the Russians have can quickly detect radar, and moreover can distinguish between "friendly" and "hostile" radar.

Allies Still Hold Lead

Yet by the same token, the Allied air commanders also know a great deal about the radar defences of the Soviet Union and of its satellites. After a considerable study they say there are good reasons to believe that the Western Allies are steadily holding their technical lead in electronic developments—though the Soviet Union has acquired, since the war, the services of many German, Czechoslovak, Polish and other electronics specialists by one means or another.

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The design installation and maintenance of this vast early warning system—without which West Europe would lie open to a sudden attack—constitutes one of the responsibilities of the communications division of General Eisenhower's Supreme Command.

Apart from running the radar chain, this organisation also directs radio navigation aids, manual radio, radio teletype and radio relay wire systems (including cable lines), open wire terminal facilities (including switchboards and repeater installations), plus codes and ciphers.

Apart from codes and ciphers—the most "sensitive" side of the business of war—all the foregoing responsibilities have been divided, broadly speaking, into two main sections. One is "land lines and submarine cables," the other is what technicians call the use of the "spectrum" or all those electronic impulses that do not pass through overland or underwater lines.

Subordinate Groups Named

To co-ordinate the growing demands for communications facilities from (a) military authorities, (b) civilian authorities, (c) governmental agencies of the twelve Western Allies, an agency called the European Military Communications Co-ordinating Committee has been set up in Paris under the chairmanship of Colonel Terence J. Tully, the United States Army Signal Corps.

Colonel Tully himself has been appointed by Major-General Francis Lanahan, General Eisenhower's Chief Signal Officer who, through the international agency, reports to the Standing Group of the Atlantic Alliance in Washington.

The communications co-ordinating group in turn is supported by two subordinate agencies. One is the European Radio Frequencies Agency, which meets in permanent session in London under Lieutenant-Colonel Phillip Greven, of the United States Air Forces. This group receives "bids" from all Atlantic allies for radio frequencies ranging from fifteen kilocycles up into microwaves, and it "cuts the pie" as fairly as it can.

The other agency is the European Land Lines Agency, which is based in Paris under Colonel Armand Joseph Forget, a Belgian communications expert. This agency holds periodic tests to see how quickly the Allies can switch some of their civil land lines into military use.

PLAIN TALES

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Spring in the Air

JUST to cheer you up I should mention that more people commit suicide or die for the fun of it in April and May than at any other time of the year. The strains and stresses of the winter culminating in a grand chaotic shemozzle on 31st March, the end of the financial year, make it a pushover for physical and mental ailments. That is, unless you pull your socks up and get weaving in the garden. You need lots of fresh air and a collection of tools, preferably the ones with long handles. Avoid little forks and trowels unless you do your gardening in window boxes at waist level. Now is the time to plant night scented amnesias. Choose a light sandy soil as far away from the house as possible. Plant the seeds all in one corner and bring the soil back for little Willie. He will enjoy making sand castles in the summer if you can't manage a trip to Mercury House, Colwyn Bay. Telephone 3402 (advert.). Still a few vacancies except in August. Guests are reminded that the manager will not be offended if they happen to use any lawn mowers or shears they find lying about. Well, not much. Quartermasters, invalids and other old codgers are not expected to strain themselves.

Forty Years On

A thrilling tale of St. Jankers College in the early fifties. We must get round to writing it sometime. Don't let us forget. The idea of some real intensive education in the Army has much to commend it. The Army's Public School boys will now look forward to having someone who can learn 'em to talk proper. They will become more articulate. When they are ready to say what they think about young Fogley getting made up to Lance-Corporal in front of them (Fogley not knowing a hypotenuse from a rice pudding) they will be able to do so in a manner that will make Gilbert Harding look to his laurels. What fun we ancients had in those early Army Schools. What pride was ours on receiving the Third Class Certificate of Education with its writhing stems and petals round the edge. We used to frame them and hang them over our beds. My friend Johnny spoilt the effect in our room by having a doctor's certificate framed and hung in the line. It certified that John was under the influence of alcoholic liquor and was not a fit person to throw fireworks at Lewes policemen on Bonfire Night. Guess what year that was. I hope the authorities will introduce a blazer badge or at least a violent hued tie for the public school boys who matriculate at least. Perhaps the clever ones will secure the degree

Bachelor of Fatigues and become entitled to letters after their names. And I hope they like it. Up the Narkover boys! *Certa Cheato.*

Thus Far and No Father

Our dreadful serial goes on and on. We can't think why. The man staggered uncertainly along the muddy track to the Pirate's Inn. It was a dark night. Rain came in great wet sweeping gusts after the manner of Cornish rain in a gale. He struggled on with a fierce determination worthy of a better, etc., etc. See Appendix IV. His progress was not made any easier by the half dozen London tram lines he dragged with him.

In the bar parlour of the inn Ukann Larfe sat at a heavy oak table with a glass of hot rum and a rum looking blonde who was probably not so hot. The detective poked his finger in her eye to attract her attention. " Listen, Elsa," he said thickly as he eyed her narrowly. He was able to do this because he was a very clever detective indeed. " Any minute now I expect a visitor. I want you to hide in that barrel over there and make a note of all he says." The wind howled round the ancient inn and the rain lashed the windows with good intent. They were filthy. The man pushed the door open and dumped his burden by the counter. Miss Elsa Poppin sprang to her feet with a startled cry. Or it could have been a frightened squeal. Nobody cares. " Father," she said. The man flicked the dust from his patent leather shoes with a silk handkerchief. " This is as far as I go tonight, so nuts to you," he said, advancing slowly to their table. Ukann Larfe remained quietly in his chair. He wore an inscrutable smile and pin striped trousers. His finger curled round the trigger of the Webley in his pocket.

He caught sight of himself in the mirror behind the dirty bottles. He didn't think much of his inscrutable smile so he did a sort of impassive mien. He wasn't sure what this was exactly, but thought he would try something.

Uncle Alf: " You said this man had come through —."

Me: " Yes. Yes, I know. It is all part of the mystery."

Uncle Alf: " You're telling us."

Open this end first. Mind your finger, silly. BARLEUX.

I Ride in a Motor Cycle Trial

I SIGNED the entry form. I collected riding kit from the "Q" Stores. I signed for a machine, a 500 S.V., and settled down to serious practice—a fast ride to some broken ground where two short hill climbs were erratically negotiated —a cigarette from a crushed packet of 20 is smoked with an air of accomplishment—I then do a couple of " figure eights " and turn my helm homewards. I hose down the machine, dry off, and spend the evening reading relevant journals.

The day arrives—my machine is thoroughly checked, number plates are fixed, and away to the fray I go. On a quiet stretch of road I move my posterior back to the pillion, with knees and elbows tucked in and chin an inch from the petrol filler cap, I dice *a la maestro.*

I reach the rendezvous. Loudspeakers blare instructions that can barely be heard above the din which comes from the paddock. There, competitors with a knowing air adjust carburettors and blip throttles to and fro. I trundle along to a vacant space and park my machine. I hear someone say " 15 should do it with all this sand "—I release some air from my tyres.

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At last my number is called. I roll the machine forward off the rear stand, turn on the petrol, flick two levers situated on the tiller, jab the kick starter. I am rewarded with a healthy bellow from the exhaust. I ease the gear lever into bottom, release the clutch and I am on the move.

An official waves a sheaf of papers at me. I stop—he explains something. I nod in agreement and make my way to hazard 1—the acceleration test. The object is to get from A to B (30 yards away) with all possible haste.

With my front wheel touching A I stop with feet astride, I pile up the revs until everything vibrates maddeningly and my teeth chatter in sympathy; a handkerchief is waved. I release the clutch, my front wheel aviates, my rear wheel spins in the sand, and I'm away—up into second then throw out an anchor.

I am at B. I grin in triumph. Another official waves me on and after further instructions I am sent off on the course proper.

I follow signs for a couple of miles and arrive at hazard 2. A steep zig-zag hill marked with white tape confronts me. I grit my teeth and go at it. I rise on the footrests and try picking the best path; a small boulder makes contact with my crankcase. I nearly meet disaster but luck is with me. I'm through, surrounded in clouds of exhaust smoke and covered in a film of dust. I trundle along to hazard 3.

It is another hill marked in zig-zag fashion again, but trees abound. Up I go, a tree looms, I make a quick detour; another tree confronts me. I turn left, an official confronts me, he leaps madly, my wheels cross the tape. I'm off the hazard, failure—5 points lost.

With rude adjectives ringing in my ears I carry on to the next hazard. A steep sand-covered descent. With exhaust valve open I go chugging down, my rear wheel slips, I am now broadside on; a quick dab and I straighten up. I get to the bottom with my thighs hard against the handlebars. I am semi-successful—2 points lost.

I arrive at the water splash. 10 inches of water and a muddy bed. I go at it gently. I create a bow wave like a transatlantic liner, something splutters, steam rises from my cylinder—disaster—the sparks department is flooded. I rise from my watery grave and ruefully heave my machine on to *terra firma* with water pouring out of the exhaust. I lean the bike against a tree and empty the squelch from my boots—a survey of the electrics proved that it was only a short in the HT lead that had stopped the engine. I remount and proceed along my way with the exhaust crackling crisply.

Several hazards of lesser intensity succumb to my efforts, and I arrive at No. 10. A short climb, an almost vertical 15-yard descent, and two machine lengths away the procedure is duplicated.

I decide on speed and providence (when they fished me out of an adjacent bed of nettles they said I was murmuring weird incantations, which, being unintelligible, are obviously unprintable). Though the speed factor may have been high, the providence factor was higher—my bike was in one piece and apart from a bruised shin I was still " complete to scale."

I once more climb aboard. After riding along for twenty minutes without seeing any signs I decide to retrace my path and pick up the right trail.

The sun is beginning to set—but what's that in the distance?—a signpost. I put on more speed. Suddenly a jeep wheels out of a turning, a bod leaps out and whips down the sign and drives off into the gathering dusk—the trial is over.

BELT DRIVE.

Editor's Note: Any similarity between the competitor at 0800 and 2000 hours was purely coincidental.

Catterick Jottings

By "NACERBY"

As History Will See Us (London A.D. 3044)

A HISTORY of signalling from primitive times to our own 31st century, with an enthralling chapter on transmission during World War II, has been vividly recorded in a new and brilliant book by Dr. Victor Able Deedar-Deedar published this month.

The volume, illustrated with plates of extinct teleprinters, creed machines and a barbaric instrument called a morsekey, represents a lifetime of extensive research.

Several pages of Dr. Deedar's book are devoted to the almost forgotten legions of the Royal Corps of Signals, and the author illustrates his work with a photograph of the original insignia of this ancient Corps, discovered some years ago during archaeological excavation at Catterick in Yorkshire, where, centuries ago, the Georgian English trained their legions in the mysterious art of signalling.

Dr. Deedar, who supervised the excavations, writes that the insignia of the signals tribe—a delicate, nymph-like God without a loincloth—was unearthed in a mound of old tea leaves 1,600 feet high.

The slogan of the Signals was *Certo Cito,* and whilst the actual meaning is today unknown, it has been suggested by a certain Dr. Ukann B. Well-Larfe, whose ancestors had connections with an itinerant saxophone player named "Barleux" of that period, that it was coined by a then famous orderly called JOCOTERILL, who could deliver a message faster than his contemporary, SAMMORSE.

Yet another aspect of these early pioneers was their primitive paganism, and although historians profess themselves to be vague as to religious rites and customs, they unanimously agree that the Signals pioneers obviously pursued a form of worship akin in many respects to the Ancient Egyptians and Indian Buddhists. This theory is supported by the numerous references which are made to the cryptic "bull" suggesting a cohesion of the two sects.

The most famous of their documents, the Two-Five-Two Manuscript and the TeeArAy Form, are to be seen with the Codex in the British Museum.

During the unhappy period of World War II, Signals personnel were press-ganged into State Service from such diverse occupations as clerking, road sweeping, conjuring, french polishing and sword swallowing.

This incongruous collection of wretched men were then transported by vehicles called trains to Catterick, where they were subjugated to training.

"The Signalmen," he continues, "must obviously have adopted for their tribal mascot the zebra, as records show that any man possessing an aptitude for either of the three S's—signalling, saxophone or sport—was awarded a 'stripe,' which, to his primitive delight, he sewed on his khaki tunic. This denoted promotion and acquired the proud wearer several privileges such as his appointment to guard commander five nights a week.

"Occasionally, too, it brought the compensation of higher pay, although it is known that a man awarded one stripe and designated unpaid-acting-lance-corporal-local accepted the appointment in an honorary capacity, being content to supervise all fatigues and accumulate as many additional duties as posible without financial reward."

The training was rigorous, actual transmission of messages being complicated by a myriad of alphabetical hieroglyphics, "QQX, R, AR, iMi, WA," and all these curious incomprehensible signs were ruthlessly drummed into the reluctant minds of men equipped by nature to function only for clerking, road sweeping, conjuring, french polishing and sword-swallowing.

For nearly five months a prospective operator would be lectured on the various uses and translations of the alphabetical jargon transmitted and received over circuits and not infrequently was he reduced to a nervous wreck or invalided out of the service with a disease called "noysesinthehed" or "singininthelugs."

Yet despite this, warriors from the field were able to confine their procedure to the limits of four simple signals, as follows:—

"Gotta msge for you OM."
"Gee why OM?"
"Dunno OM."
"O.K., make it snappy."

The social signal OM—meaning Old Man—was not included in the curriculum at Catterick so that soldiers who had completed their training were often posted to fighting fronts blissfully unaware of their own importance.

"The Royal Corps of Signals," concludes Dr. Deedar, "belonged to an era which was colourful, gallant, stupid, tough, incongruous, but at all times fantastic. Worshipping their little nude god, stumbling across parched deserts and cold Algerian mountains, dreaming airily of stripes and cursing their lot, these early signalmen were pioneers of a system of communication which ties together our own civilisation."

Hints for Teleprinter Operators

A"ways ENsure th@t yo XX t that your % FingERS £trik/ THe korRe&t Key-s.½.

Signal Training Centre

3 TRAINING REGIMENT

At long last we've got that "halo" out of cold storage, and as one bloke put it—"it don't half fit tight but that only makes it all the more difficult to take off."

Troop sergeants have lost that TRA look—spring is in the air—it hasn't rained for days—my mistake, hours!—and even



G.O.C.-in-C. Northern Command visits 3 Training Regiment

N.F.Q.s are reduced to a standstill (3 Squadron papers please copy).

It all commenced with the Regiment occupying fourth place in the Northern Command Cross Country Championships. True enough, the R.A.C. occupied the first three places, but have you ever tried to make a runner out of an operator (except on a 48-hour pass)? We were the first Signals' team, besides supplying the loudspeaker and broadcast arrangements, and so well was it performed that Colonels couldn't hear themselves speak and Raymond Glendenning will have to sit another trade board.

Then we really shook 'em—and now we are the proud possessors of the Command Basket Ball Challenge Cup.

Cross country, basketball, raising 'owls—sorry OWLs! Oh! Get in there, 3 Training Regiment.

Coached by S.M.I. Wootton and Sergeant-Instructor Caine, and under the enthusiastic leadership of Second-Lieutenant C. Myers, we defeated a Battalion R.A.O.C. at Chilwell by 27—23 points after extra time—and in a "challenge match" versus the Royal Armoured Corps at Carlisle again won by 28—8 points. Now for the Army Championships!

And finally, but most important, the G.O.C. in C. Northern Command paid us a visit, toured the lines and spent a considerable time talking to the trainees. Successful? Didn't I mention that halo?

Overheard at the Corporals' dance: "I don't dance, but I love holding you while you do."

That's how it starts.

4 TRAINING REGIMENT

Our best wishes for the future go with Second-Lieutenant Dennis, of 4 Squadron, and Sergeant Oldfield, of 1/2 Squadron, both returning to civilian life, and a very real loss to the Regiment. On the 9th January, one of winter's worst days, 4 Training Regiment played 1 Training Regiment Giants and held them at bay. The game had to be abandoned owing to impossible weather conditions. The replay took place on the 16th, when the Giants gave us a sound trouncing.

On the 6th February, after a period of shocking weather, we were fourth in the Northumbrian Inter-Unit Cross Country Championships, 1952, and first of the Signal Regiments.

The Regiment was visited by the G.O.C.-in-C. Northern Command, Lieutenant-General Sir Philip Balfour, on 26th February, when he spoke to a large number of fellows, and everything was shipshape and in good order.

Despite fogs and spasmodic rain, birds have been heard singing and buds are about to burst at any time, heralding the promise of athletics and, later, cricket with sunny days—we hope. Squadrons are about to commence eliminating contests to find this year's crack athletes.

5 TRAINING REGIMENT

Since last reporting, the Regiment has achieved success in several spheres, both sporting and otherwise.

Small Bore Shooting. Under the able leadership of Major Macarthur, Royal Australian Signals, great progress has been made by our team. By dint of hard practice they have reached a high standard of proficiency and obtained the best team aggregate for January in the Catterick Garrison Small Bore League. We hope to see them near the top of the league at the end of the season.

Boxing. In the Northern Command Individual Championships held at Ripon on the 5th and 6th March, we provided five semi-finalists and four finalists and, as a result, two Northern Command title holders—Lance-Corporal Snell, the new heavyweight champion, literally smashed his way to victory, none of his opponents lasting more than a minute against him; and Corporal White, the new light-welterweight title holder. Congratulations to them both.

With the approach of spring our thoughts are again turning to cricket. We are fortunate in that we shall have all last year's team with the exception of three, and with some likely new blood in the Regiment we are looking forward to a successful season.

The Mercury Players—the Unit Dramatic Society—entered two plays for the British Drama League Festival of One Act Plays, the first round of which was held in the Garrison Theatre on 27th February. They provided the winning play with an excellent production of "Happy Journey," produced by W.O.II Willis, R.A.E.C.—a good start which promises well for the future.

6 (BOYS) TRAINING REGIMENT

Although considerable hopes had been entertained that the Regiment would improve upon last year's successes in the Army Boxing Championships, these hopes were not fulfilled. A series of mischances robbed us of that. We have, however, the satisfaction of equalling last year's achievements with two Army champions and one I.S.B.A. champion. This aggregate places us second in the list of entrants. Boy Reece, fighting as a flyweight, won both the Army championship and the Imperial Services championship, and Boy Gibson, fighting as a light-heavyweight, won the Army championship, but was beaten in the Imperial Services.

The "B" Troop soccer team met Army Apprentices School, Harrogate "A" Company team in the final round of the Boys Army Cup at Catterick Stadium on 27th February, 1952, and defeated Harrogate by 2 goals to 1. It was a pleasing hard-fought game, equally matched. Not until the last minutes of extra time was the winning goal scored. Commanding Officers of the Training Regiments allowed ex-Boys of this Regiment to watch the game. This gesture was greatly appreciated. At the second attempt, the name of this Regiment now appears on the Boys Army Cup for association football.

Plans had been made to begin athletic training as the boxing and soccer season came to an end, but the notice that the Northern Command Athletic Championship is to be held in May has added a degree of urgency to this training which was not anticipated. A considerable effort will be required if last year's successes for this event are to be maintained.

Little more than four weeks remain before the end of term, and a reorganising of the training programme is in hand so as to provide greater opportunities for outdoor activities after leave. For training purposes use is now being made of the North Yorkshire moors above Scarborough, and it is hoped that this will be extended during the summer term.

OFFICER TRAINING WING

General Sun Tzo said in 500 B.C. of the Art of War: "On the field of battle the spoken word does not carry far enough; hence the institution of drums and gongs." The student of the Officer Training Wing probably feels that his problems are greater than those of Sun Tzo's signal officers. It might not be so. The H.Q. probably had to be set up using mobile gongs. Gong procedure would be necessary and the comparative decibel losses of the gong and drum would have to be worked out. There would be Drum SEWTS and Gong Schemes. No doubt in the background was the dread figure of Brigade Major Rocket Wei. The Wing today teaches the very latest Signal developments—how will they seem after another 2,500 years?

To return to the present . . . The Officer Training Wing's sporting activities have been curtailed by the weather. We have tried hard and kept going to the last possible moment one memorable day when driving frozen snow parallel to the ground brought rugger, soccer and finally hockey to a standstill.

Indoors, the Officer Training Squadron Boxing Competition was held, and many keen bouts were seen. An excellent aggressive spirit was shown by the young Officers and Officer Cadets taking part. One bout in particular will be remembered, that between Officer Cadets R. P. Franklin and J. D. Awdrey. Captain R. J. Massey, R.A., the referee, said it was one of the finest he had ever seen. A special "best loser" prize was awarded. Great determination was also shown by many others.

We wish the Officers of No. 7 Subalterns Part I Course good luck, and welcome No. 8 Course from Sandhurst.

Domestic news is to the front this month. A ceremonial parade of Wing Cadre N.C.O.s and men saw the presentation by the Commanding Officer of the Meritorious Service Medal to S.Q.M.S. W. Grummett—a well-deserved honour. On the same parade the Guard Mounting Competition Shield was presented again to M.T. Squadron. S.S.M. Derrick has been awarded the L.S. and G.C. medal, and we congratulate him. We also congratulate R.S.M. Roake on his promotion on posting to Royal Signals Wing. S.S.M. Chantry has taken his place.

The Unit Film Club continues to give a good evening's entertainment. Technical Squadron reports that, as seems normal these days, there is more work than men, but that the young National Service man is tackling all jobs well—whether these are routine or unusual, pleasant or dull. This Squadron has lost Sergeant P. F. Pyott, and M.T. Squadron misses Sergeant R. Dumont.

There is a sad ending to these notes. Suicide Wood, known to the many who passed through the Royal Signals O.C.T.U. and the Officer Training Wing, is being cut down; the hillside is dotted with white scars where the trees have been.

SIGNAL TRAINING WING, ARMY APPRENTICES SCHOOL, HARROGATE

We have just said farewell to our second batch of line, radio and tele mechanics and operators wireless and line, some of whom went direct to Units, others to the Depot.

We finish our present term with frantic last minute swotting for the trade and end of term tests, and a deal of nervous anticipation. The latter, of course, is coupled, allayed and rested by the dulcet tones of the R.S.M. urging and assisting our great big feet into drill movements which will not disgrace us on the day of the passing out parade—now so near. Happily we can report full success in our trade rating examinations, despite the Grade II theoretical standards which we must achieve before we leave. The latter parade held little fears for us as we, "B" Company, commanded by Major T. Leahy, King's Own Royal Regiment, had already won the inter-Company drill competition by a handsome margin. We also won the P.T. competition and we were runners-up in the Rugby football and barrack room competitions. We were finally beaten to first place by "A" Company by a short head.

On "passing-out" day Major-General W. O. Bowen, the Director of Signals, gave an address after the prize-giving welcoming the newly qualified Apprentices into our Corps.

Prizes were presented by the G.O.C. Northern Command to the following Assistant Tradesmen:—Army Commander's Prize, R.S.M. J. McInnes; the Commandant's Prize, Sergeant K. M. Tamblyn. Signal Wing prizes were won as follows:—Corporal R. Banham, Corporal W. Vickers and Lance-Corporal J. B. Sinclair of passing-out term mechanics and operators. Third term winners were Assistant Tradesmen Simms, B. O'Connor, A. Howrie and B. Abiss. A. Simms also won an educational prize. In the afternoon of the "passing-out" parade day the trades exhibition was well attended, and the Signal Wing stand very popular. Some of the expressions of wonder seen on the faces of the public who recorded their voices for the first time were often comical. The capacity switch consisting of a ball which disappeared through the table when approached with the hand defeated everyone—except, of course, the wretch who knew something of ohmic subjects and arrived before the switch gubbins was completely warmed up.

LONDON DISTRICT SIGNAL TROOP

The Troop commitments for the funeral of the late King were the manning of wireless vehicles at various points along the route, the timing of the first gun in Hyde Park, and the installation of P.A. equipment at the marshalling point.

We have said farewell to our late C.S.O., Brigadier H. R. Firth, welcome Lieutenant-Colonel C. H. Stoneley, his successor, and wish them both every success in their new appointments.

There must be few Signal Units who have the honour of having father and son serving with them. Signalman Edwards arrived on 12th March, 1952, to commence duties with his father, Sergeant Edwards, at the Telephone Exchange, Horse Guards. We extend a helping hand to "junior" and trust that he will follow in his father's footsteps, but not in his waistline.

5 CORPS SIGNAL REGIMENT

The start of the year has been a busy period for this Regiment. After a seven-month stay we have forsaken Gloucester for Colchester; held several trade boards; and taken part, with apparent success, in district schemes. And, perhaps most important of all, we at long last sport a formation sign—that of Eastern Command.

Our strength grows steadily, and among the recent arrivals are our Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel F. J. Swainson, ex B.A.O.R., Major J. M. Brunskill from M.E.L.F., and Captain P. H. Manley, who has been appointed Adjutant.

Rumours regarding the vast wealth of the W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess continue to trickle out. The latest tale is that television sets are to be installed in each room—our source of information is not reliable. Newcomers to the Mess include W.O.II Dickens, W.O.II Ball, Sergeant Powis and Sergeant Burge.

Despite the "new boy" feeling which assailed us at first, we have made a successful start in the Garrison on the sporting side. The energetic efforts of Captain C. Robinson as Unit Soccer Officer have produced a powerful side. Our hockey team is carrying all before them, and although suffering from lack of numbers to raise a Unit Rugger XV we have already supplied men for the Garrison side. Horse riding and sailing also have a keen following in this Regiment.

SCOTTISH COMMAND (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT

Since our last appearance in print we have said farewell to Redford Barracks, which had been the home of the Regiment for the last eighteen months.

We are now settled in Glencorse Barracks, which has for the last eighty years been the home of the Royal Scots.

The actual move, although only one of seven miles, proved to be difficult and at times hazardous owing to the Clerk of the Weather really doing his worst with heavy snow followed by severe frost, which latter, according to the "Met." people, was the worst for a period of seventy years. However, our M.T., under Major Harris and Sergeant Whelan, with the assistance of the R.A.S.C., came through with flying colours, and only minor casualties were reported.

On the 11th February we provided a guard of honour for the Proclamation of the Accession of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in the town of Penicuik.

Needless to say, sporting activities have been almost completely brought to a standstill, and it would appear that our

teams are going to be very busy indeed if they are to catch up with all the postponed fixtures.

Our new home is well fitted for sport and with a good gymnasium, sports fields and tennis and squash courts we are hoping to have plenty of sports news to report in the near future.

Anti - Aircraft Command

4 A.A. (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT

It is with the deepest regret that we record the death of 22275536 Sergeant L. Ryder, R.A.P.C., on 13th February, 1952, as a result of a motor cycling accident.

The funeral took place at Warrington on Tuesday, 19th February, 1952. Before his transfer to the R.A.P.C., Sergeant Ryder was a member of this Unit, and after his course of training returned as Pay Sergeant.

This popular N.C.O. will be missed by all ranks, and our deepest sympathy is extended to his relatives.

Having recovered from "Block Leave Fever," the Unit has been working at full pressure in preparation for the annual administrative inspections, the first of which was held on 20th February, 1952. The next inspection will be on 7th March, 1952.

It is often said that a young man's fancy turns to non-military matters in the spring, but this year we are the exception as the Regiment moves to Annual Camp at Aberporth on 11th April, where a detachment under the command of Captain K. R. Gill has been busy preparing the camp for summer training for use by all A.A. Signal Regiments.

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Trade training is in full swing and each evening Officers are seen wending their way to their various lecture rooms. Shakespeare would find it rather difficult to find his "satchels and shining morning faces," but the upgraders are very keen to improve their knowledge and star rating.

11 A.A. (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

Our Adjutant, Captain P. E. Hutchins, has been posted (?) to M.E.L.F. Naturally the Regiment gave him and Mrs. Hutchins a send-off that they will both remember for quite a long time. Our new Adjutant, Captain A. P. Baker, newly-arrived from M.E.L.F., has now settled down.

Lieutenant (Q.M.) J. G. Bowie has also left us for the warmer clime of Cyprus. At a farewell party given in the W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess, a hush fell upon the assembled guests as our R.S.M., "Chippy" Woods, came forward and presented "Jock" with a travelling writing case, and rounded off with a suitable speech. To our amazement, "Jock" said nothing for quite a while, then he stepped forward and said, "I'm speechless!" Now to many an old soldier who has served with "Jock" in 'Pindi, Merret, B.A.O.R., Cyprus, Chester and Catterick, such a statement was something of a sensation. He eventually completed his speech of thanks, but we all feel sure that he will never be able to live down such an understatement of his character. In his place we welcome Captain E. Glover.

23 Squadron have bid farewell to their P.S.I., Sergeant "Topper" Brown, who has now departed for the sunshine of Gibraltar. Five years with the Squadron has been a long time, and we trust that he will soon settle down to Regular Army life once again.

Group Squadron this month lose two popular T.A. Officers in Captain J. Kemper, W.R.A.C., T.A., on marriage, and Captain A. E. Frost, Royal Signals, T.A., owing to pressure of business. We wish them all the very best wherever they go.

The Regiment netball team are to be congratulated on reaching the final of 1 A.A. Group Netball Competition once again. They have won the cup two years running, so we are all very keen that they will make it three in a row. In spite of the continual changes within the Regiment, the old stalwarts who compose the netball team have stuck to us ever since the Regiment was re-formed in 1947, so we are justly proud to have such fine and loyal girls in the Regiment.

We had the honour to provide 12 Officers and 44 other ranks from the Regiment for the funeral of His Late Majesty King George VI on Friday 15th February, 1952. Lining a procession route in the middle of the winter has its problems, but in spite of a 3.30 a.m. Reveille, and the fact that it was, at first, bitterly cold, we all felt proud to have had the opportunity of paying our last respects to a great King in such a prominent manner.



BRITISH ARMY OF THE RHINE

H.Q., B.A.O.R. SIGNAL REGIMENT

Following the sad news of the death of His Majesty King George VI, this Unit, in common with other Units throughout the world, held a service of commemoration. The service was held in our NAAFI and the lesson read by our Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel J. E. S. Sanders, O.B.E.

The Rugby XV deserves first mention in this month's sports column, as they have been the most consistently successful of our Unit representatives. In the first round of the Royal Signals Inter-Unit Competition they beat 2 Divisional Signal Regiment 13—0, and have drawn a bye in the second round. We have great hope of this XV.

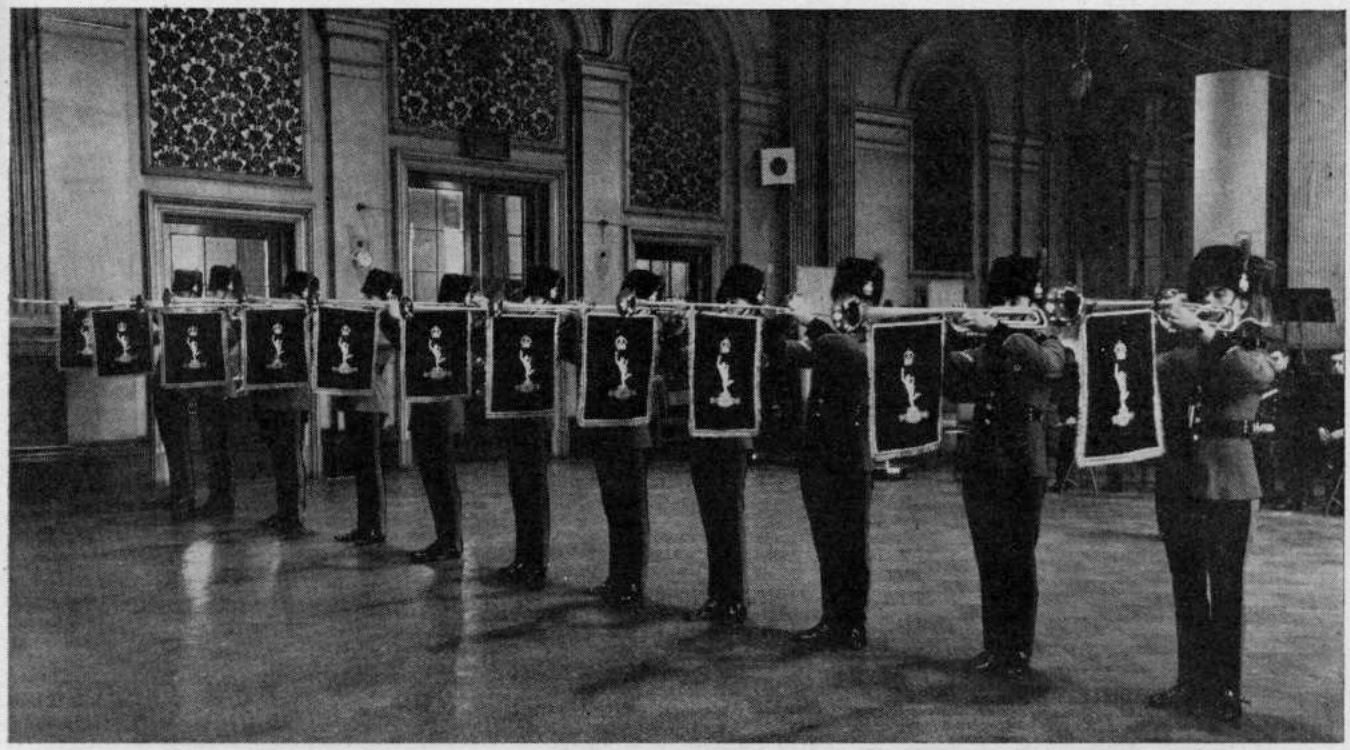
In the first round of the Royal Signals Inter-Unit Competition our small bore shooting team had a good win by 950 points to 887 points over 11 Air Formation Signal Regiment. Our own tally, however, can and will be improved by the friendly matches which are being arranged.

Boxing in the Regiment received a great boost last month when Signalman Quick became 11 Armoured Division individual champion in the light-welter class.

The inter-Squadron cross country championship ended with a win for 3 Squadron. This competition has helped greatly in the selection of our Unit team, which has done very well in the Higher Formation runs. In the Divisional championship we were placed, and in the Armoured Brigade League we were second. In the B.A.O.R. Royal Signal Inter-Unit Championship, in which our own Second-Lieutenant Dally took first place, the team was narrowly beaten into second place by 11 Air Formation Signal Regiment. Our congratulations are extended to Second-Lieutenant Dally, who was selected to run in the B.A.O.R. individual championship and who was placed twelth in that event.

Our basketball team in the first round of the Royal Signals Inter-Unit Competition had a good victory over 11 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment by the convincing margin of 50 points to 7.

Owing to the fact that our football ground has been unfit our Troop League is behind schedule. Our Squadrons, however, have been playing regularly in the ZECO League, and 3 Squadron are well to the fore in their section. Our Unit



The Trumpeters, see page 71

eleven was knocked out of the Royal Signals Competition by 1 Wireless Regiment. It was a thrilling game in which extra time was needed, the final score being 4—2.

We have high hopes of our Unit badminton team, who in the first round of the Royal Signals Inter-Unit Competition beat 11 Air Formation Signal Regiment by 7 games to 2. Our congratulations go to Sergeant Gilbert on being selected to play for B.A.O.R. in their badminton matches against 2 T.A.F.

Our best wishes go with Major Collett on his recent posting to Depot Regiment, Royal Signals.

BERLIN SIGNAL SQUADRON

Individual training is now in full swing and reaching its climax. Several of us have been and will be making a trip down to the Zone with the hope of returning in possession of a higher trade rating.

Route marches, cross-country runs and road work are very much the order of the day, and Officers and men alike are slowly being crippled by these excellent sports! The Berliners gaze in awe at the mad British who pound along ice-clad roads "undressed" in the scantiest of clothes but for ponderous Army boots weighting their feet.

In the sphere of sport we have been rather restricted by grounds being "out of play" due to ice and snow. Two games of football played placed us fourth in the British Troops Berlin Junior Football League. Basketball is played by a small band of fanatics who remain undaunted by phenomenal defeats such as 78—18 against, but we don't talk much about that. At hockey we stand at the top of the B.T.B. League, but our team is slowly losing its good players, although the introduction of Major Elston and Driver Smith into the team has done much to balance this.

The small bore shooting team lie fifth in the league, but with the arrival of two new B.S.A. rifles we hope to improve our position under the guidance of Lieutenant Ratcliffe, team captain.

In a few days Sergeant "Tony" Clegg, who has captained the Unit football team well, leaves Berlin on release leave.

4 L OF C SIGNAL REGIMENT

After an absence of four years from the Royal Signals' Order of Battle, the Regiment has once again begun to re-form. So far we have not received all our Squadrons; but already we number at least two previous members in our ranks, Captain O. Ditchfield and Lieutenant-Colonel Morris, M.C., who is now attached as a Liaison Officer Telecommunications.

In the field of sport we are, for the time being, grouped with 2 L. of C. Signal Regiment. We have, however, already begun to make a name for ourselves on the miniature range as the combined Regimental team is provided by 1 Squadron, with R.S.M. C. Turner, M.M., as captain. In our most recent match the team acquitted themselves extremely well with the defeat of 2 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment by 172 points. The three best individual scores were:—

R.S.M. Turner ... ... 96—83.
Sergeant Copestake ... ... 94—83.
Signalman Dane ... ... 94—73.

We hope that this first success is a good omen and that in future issues of THE WIRE we will be able to report many further achievements, both in our work and sport.

11 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT

The Regiment is busily preparing for all the coming year has to offer in the way of exercises, and social activities have been practically nil. Second-Lieutenant Dixey is to be congratulated on creeping into Gutersloh Airfield unobserved, having run the gauntlet on Exercise "Plutopaddle" (an R.A.F. exercise simulating escape from a P.O.W. camp).

Boxing. We met R.A.F. Station Gutersloh in the semi-final of the 2 T.A.F. competition and were defeated for the first time this season. Score: 7—4. The team later proved

its worth by defeating 2 Divisional Signal Regiment in the final of the Royal Signals B.A.O.R. Inter-Unit Competition by eight fights to three after some exceedingly close decisions.

Hockey. Our activities in this sphere have been restricted due to bad weather.

Only one game has been played in the Wednesday League, and on this occasion we entertained H.Q. 11 Armoured Division. We were not at full strength, but we won a very one-sided match by eight goals to one. In a friendly at Bad Oeynhausen on 23rd February we lost to H.Q. B.A.O.R. by six goals to two. However, as H.Q. B.A.O.R. are perhaps the best side in Rhine Army today, we are not ashamed.

The most notable game of the month was against 2 Division on 16th February in the second round of the Royal Signals (B.A.O.R.) Hockey Knóckout Competition.

We had equally as much of the play as our rivals but just failed to find the net, and by half-time we were three goals in arrears. On resuming it was obvious that the opposing defence was worried by our forwards, and a quick goal resulted (3—1). Almost from the bully-off 2 Division again increased their lead (4—1). But from then on we took charge, and at full-time the score was level at four goals all. After 20 minutes' extra time we scored the odd goal in nine and so emerged winners after a very hard fought game.

Rugby. We defeated 11 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment 12—0 in the first round of the Royal Signals B.A.O.R. Inter-Unit Competition at Detmold.

Soccer. The soccer news is gloomy, lightened only by the fact that No. 2 Squadron are in the semi-final of the "John Rice" Trophy.

Cross Country. We won the challenge cup at Bad Eilsen by defeating all comers (R.A.F.). A magnificent run by our "A" team resulted in 93 points to our credit, with placings Signalman White 6th, Lance-Corporal Izzard 12th, Signalman Rands 14th, Corporal Henderson 19th, Second-Lieutenant Kenning 20th, and Signalman Hayes 22nd out of a total field of 120 runners. At the same time the Regiment was presented with the Southern Zone R.A.F. League Trophy.

MELF

3 G.H.Q. SIGNAL REGIMENT

The sad death of our King overshadows all else. The flag of the Royal Signals fluttering at half mast and the black bands of mourning are silent tributes to his memory as we stand on parade on the day of his funeral.

The chief event of last month was the first general meeting of our Royal Signals Association branch. The meeting was prefaced with a talk by the C.S.O. M.E.L.F. on the work of the Association. The committee was then formed, after which the Commanding Officer, President of the branch, outlined its future.

The soccer team goes from strength to strength. Lance-Corporal Hemphill is now captain, and the team is still a strong contender for the Army (Egypt) Cup. This they proved by an overwhelming victory over H.M.S. *Cheviot*—9 goals to 1. Of these, three apiece were contributed by Lance-Corporal O'Loughlin and Signalman White. Captain A. P. Baker will be pleased to learn that Receiver Troop won the Inter-Troop League competition.

Not to be outdone, our Rugby side has smashed through to the final of the Brigade Cup. They are now awaiting a replay versus the B.M.H. team fielded by the R.A.M.C., after a no-score game played early in January.

Haircutting is now done by two Regimental barbers, who tell us that they learn more about their job each day.

Fast becoming a feature of the regimental scene is the Sunday morning hockey played on the drill square. We find the ladies of the W.R.N.S. and W.R.A.C. no mean opponents.

The Corporals' Mess are at work on an outdoor dance floor. Summer is icumen!

FARELF

G.H.Q. SIGNAL REGIMENT

It was with relief that we heard our removal from Tyersall Camp to our temporary site, Ulu Pandan, had been cancelled. This postponement now enables us to go on living in Tyersall for another three years. By that time it is hoped that our new camp will be built.

Three weeks ago we welcomed a detachment of the Fiji Regiment Signal Platoon to the Unit. During their short stay with us they have proved themselves popular both in the Unit and in Singapore—especially in their sporting functions which now have a large crowd of followers. These husky lads from the South Seas are excellent singers, and every evening one can hear them singing about their homeland in the Other Ranks' NAAFI.

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The Unit entered a team in the S.C.C. Seven-a-Side Rugby Competition, and we managed to get through the first round with a win against the Malayan Universities of five points to nil after playing for extra time. We were not so lucky in the second round, and went down to the Fiji "B" team to the tune of eleven points to nil. Fiji "A" team won the competition, and at the moment are undefeated in Singapore.

The Unit football team played the Fiji XI last week in a muddy game which brought victory to us with a score of five goals to nil. Our win was mainly attributed to the over-enthusiasm of the Fiji backs, who often chased the ball up field leaving their defence wide open. Incidentally, the Fiji team played in their bare feet. One of the highlights was the singing by the Fiji supporters towards the end of the match.



[*Courtesy: "Straits Times"*

Eseroma, the Fijians goalkeeper, gathers the ball from the feet of an attacking G.H.Q. Signals forward in a soccer match in which a Signal Platoon of the Fiji Regiment lost by five goals to nil

Commonwealth

NEWS FROM AUSTRALIA

1 LINE CONSTRUCTION PROJECT SQUADRON

The last month has been very trying to all personnel as the area has been swept with exceptional winds of up to 70 m.p.h. in velocity. These winds have made it impossible to work at times. Some of the buildings in the Unit's Base Camp became casualties by losing their roofs, and the large hut which was used as a recreation room, collapsed altogether. Luckily, everybody was able to dodge the sheets of corrugated iron which were flying around the camp like sheets of paper. The tented area of the camp also suffered, some of the tents and marquees being torn to ribbons. As we are expecting to move to a new camp site soon, only temporary repairs have been made, and generally the camp area presents a rather dilapidated appearance.

The Regimental Ball, which was held in October, was a good show despite the many last-minute hitches. A dance floor was built on the tennis court which was lit with coloured lights. The main attraction at supper was the barbecued pig and sheep.

A recent arrival in the Unit is Lieutenant J. P. O'Donnell, who is an ex-member of Royal Signals. He is now serving with the Australian Army and is the Transport Officer of the Unit.

Our sporting activities are confined to cricket and tennis. In both these sports we have many keen but unskilled players. However, if keen interest in the game counts, we should be carrying off some of the sporting honours soon.

With the many pets about the camp, the place is starting to resemble a zoo. Apart from the normal establishment of cats and dogs which are found around any military camp, we have kangaroos, galahs and an odd eagle or two. The Regimental pigs are also a show piece of the Unit, as well as being a source of revenue to the Regimental Fund.

CENTRAL COMMAND

Farewell. The highlight of the past month was the party given by Major D. A. C. Griffith, formerly C.S.O., prior to his departure for Staff College, Queenscliff.

It was a very cheery and informal affair. Several of the W.R.A.A.C.s prepared an excellent buffet tea and this, together with the " convivial keg," enabled us to have a final chat with the Major and wish him all the best in his new posting.

We also had the opportunity of meeting Major A. E. Berrisford, who has now taken up the appointment as C.S.O. Major Berrisford was formerly Adjutant, 19 National Service Training Battalion at Holdsworthy, N.S.W.

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Personalia. We have another ex U.K. member in Sergeant Reg Polling, who was, during the war, with IV Corps (Burma) and later with S.L. of C., Arakan Coast.

Sergeant Bill Fox, who has been in this Command for several years as a wireless operator at Woomera Rocket Range, and until recently at Darwin, has now sailed on the *Orontes* for England. Bill has been posted to Australian Army Staff, Canberra House, London. His duties will be S.O.2 Clerk. Signal sports clubs over there may be interested to know that Bill at one stage skippered an Army cricket team at Woomera Range.

We would like to record congratulations to our Adjutant, Captain F. Burnard, on his recent triple feat. Foremost, on the birth of a son and heir, Brenton Kipling. Again, on gaining his B.Sc. degree at Adelaide University; and finally, his recent promotion.

Activities. Just now the C.M.F. boys with A.R.A. Cadre are preparing for their big camp at Caloote, the new site on the Murray. We understand there is a strong advance party of " mossies," so things should start buzzing pretty quickly with the troops effectively stung into action.

CARIBBEAN AREA SIGNAL SQUADRON

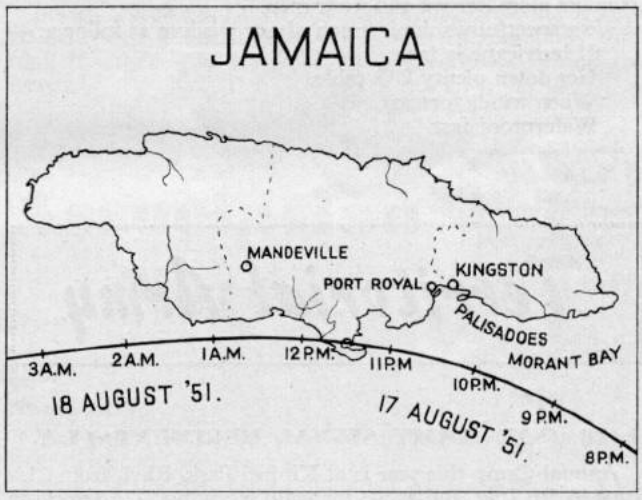
Hurricane Charlie.—Hurricanes are labelled alphabetically during the season of their activity.

First is "A" for Able.

Second is "B" for Baker, and so on.

The hurricane which struck the southern half of the island of Jamaica on the night of the 17th-18th August, 1951, was the third in the 1951 series, and was named "C" for Charlie. Able and Baker occurred in June 1951 and never reached maturity.

Charlie was first located about 50 miles east of Martinique on the 15th August, and by early morning on the following day it was obvious that its track would bring it near and to the south of Jamaica on Friday, the 17th August. The hurricane struck Kingston, a city of about 125,000 inhabitants, at 9.45 p.m. on the 17th August, when the wind suddenly increased to an average speed of over 85 miles per hour, with gusts in excess of 110 miles per hour.



During the passing of the hurricane torrential rain was experienced, and up to 17 inches fell in the Kingston area.

The very widest damage was suffered by the community, and initially, at least, all available military forces were employed in rendering assistance in the worst areas.

Now that the months have passed the complete dislocation of all communications facilities seems like a horrible " Signal nightmare."

The picture on 18th August, when heavy rain still fell, was that severe structural damage had been suffered by the two key buildings; that housing transmitters and that housing exchange and terminal equipment. The waterproofing action was not adequate or in keeping with the incredible penetrating power of rain driven by hurricane force winds. The words " unserviceable " and " down " were the order of the day as slowly the damaged was assessed.

It was, perhaps, fortunate that the cables serving Headquarters Caribbean Area survived, and on this count, plus that of Signals Administrative telephones, we could claim 15 subscribers out of 206.

Within 48 hours it was obvious that the only working

circuits which had survived were those fed in their entirety by underground cable.

Every aerial cable had been interrupted and torn down by falling trees. Open wire lay dangerously across and around the roads. The incredible stresses and strains had twisted and bent poles, giving all routes a drunken and useless appearance.

The submarine cable running across Kingston Harbour between Kingston and Port Royal was dragged and mauled by a ship's anchor, causing partial interruption.

During August, W.S. Nos. 53 and 19 did sterling work in serving outstations of Palisadoes, Port Royal and columns of The Royal Welch Fusiliers at Morant Bay and Mandeville.

Restoration of line facilities followed a normal logical course. August was spent mainly in assessing damage and serving priority subscribers on field cable. This involved the laying of approximately 29 miles of field cable.

The permanent restoration of facilities began in early September under a blazing sun and a confusion of overhead power and rediffusion services.

Eight linemen, assisted by every other tradesman from O.K.C. to draughtsman, entered the tangled mess and took up the challenge of the elements in earnest.

By January, 196 circuits were restored, all interrupted cables were serviceable and working, and approximately 80 miles of open copper wire had been handled in rebuilding wrecked routes.

This is not a report of individual achievement or a detailed account of work and difficulties, but rather a record of a determined team effort by a very small independent Signal Squadron which tackled a difficult job adequateiy and has in its midst more learned and wiser men.

We respectfully submit much of our wisdom as follows: —

If hurricane is fable
Get down plenty UG cable.
When winds forecast,
Waterproof fast.

Territorial Army

1/20 (SM) ARMY SIGNAL REGIMENT (T.A.)

Annual Camp this year is at Kinmel Park, Rhyl, from 21st June to 5th July, and as we are again receiving "Z" Reservists the Regiment will be over strength. All Officers, W.O.s and Sergeants were put in the picture regarding plans for training at camp when a comprehensive exercise was held at R.H.Q. on 1st-2nd March, 1952.

The Regimental shooting teams are still doing well in the T.A.R.A. Small Bore League, and in the local football league the Unit team has just scored its one hundredth goal. (Of course they are top!)

50 (N) INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

The Christmas and New Year festivities are over, and serious training has recommenced.

The New Year started well with a Senior N.C.O.s' week-end, which had an almost 100 per cent. turnout. Practical line work was the subject for training and every N.C.O., irrespective of his trade, was able to have practical experience of the hard work carried out by linemen. On the Saturday evening the Sergeants held a very successful dinner at the Imperial Hotel, Darlington.

Trade boards were held at the end of January, and from then till Camp the accent will be on collective Troop and Squadron training.

Meanwhile, the Officers enjoyed a most valuable weekend at the School of Signals, where they studied on paper the problems of a Divisional Signal Regiment. All Officers were most grateful to the School for the excellent arrangements made for their comfort.

At Darlington, No. 1 Squadron have been busy with ceremonial parades, and provided a detachment for both the Royal Proclamation and the Memorial Service for His Late Majesty King George VI.

We are now preparing for our annual administrative inspection and for a visit to No. 1 Squadron from our Divisional Commander, Major-General H. Murray, C.B., D.S.O., on 18th March.

Owing to the death of the late King, our annual Officers' Regimental Ball, which was to have been held at Darlington in April, has been postponed until October, and by then we hope our new Officers' Mess and the alterations at the T.A. Centre, Darlington, will be practically complete.

We welcome Sergeant Holland to the Regiment as our P.S.I. Line Instructor; he has come to us from Southern Command Signal Regiment.

Sergeant A. V. Ward leaves us on promotion for 90 Agra Signal Squadron, Reading, and we wish him the best of luck with his new Unit. Although he has only been with us a short while, Sergeant Ward has put in a great deal of valuable work, and No. 1 Squadron will certainly miss him.

51 (H) INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT (T.A.)

No. 1 Squadron had a contingent in the parade which took place before the Proclamation on Saturday, 9th February. The weather was bad, but failed to mar the effect of this historic event. Captain Wotherspoon, O.C. 1 Squadron, took a film of the parade with some success.

A number of our N.C.O.s have benefited from courses recently. One held at the School of Signals in Catterick was very successful. There was also a "Q" course at Woolmanhill, Aberdeen.

No. 3 Squadron attendance has been rocketing up this month, no doubt due to some unusually sunny days at Stannergate. A map reading scheme was held locally on cycles, in which most of us happily succeeded in finding our way home after many trials and errors.

After much experimenting with aerials of various types and dimensions a wireless link has been opened up with Stirling. Our young operators are an exceptionally keen bunch of Marconis who have given up a lot of their leisure time to keep their hands in.

56 (LONDON) ARMOURED DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT (T.A.)

It was with very great regret that the Regiment learned of the death of His Majesty King George VI on the 6th February. His hard work and effort no doubt helped to bring about his untimely death.

The Regiment were able to pay their final homage to him when honoured by being asked to line a section of the Funeral Route, our position being in Hyde Park, near the Cumberland Gate. The detail consisted of 80 all ranks commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel F. A. Hue Williams, O.B.E.

Our activities since we last sent in any notes have, I think, run true to form of any T.A. Unit. The Officers' cocktail party on the 14th and the Children's Party on the 22nd December were both very successful functions.

Since Christmas we have welcomed Major J. C. Alcock to the fold. He has undertaken the onerous duties of Officer-in-Charge Training and O.C. 1 Squadron.

The normal training is going ahead very satisfactorily. However, due to the large number of week-end schemes which have descended upon us, the Commanding Officer will soon be obliged to issue certificates of attendance to placate irate wives.

Plans for camp are slowly advancing. This year Wales is the destination.

We regret to report that we were knocked out of the Divisional .22 rifle competition in the second round by the R.A.S.C. Better luck next year. Cheerio.

P.S.—Our social evenings are held on the first Friday of each month. Why not come along and join us in a pleasant evening?

60 H.Q. ARMY SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

It is many moons since this Unit contributed to THE WIRE, and for various reasons. We were shot out of Scotland where we were truly organised, and re-established at Sheffield, where apparently nobody had realised that such a Corps as Royal Signals existed. Originally two very small offices were placed at our disposal at Sharrow Knowle, and from there we commenced Operation "Build-up." It certainly is no mean task to start a new Unit in such a highly industrialised area as Sheffield.

The nucleus of the Unit consisted of Lieutenant-Colonel H. E. F. Middleton, Commanding Officer, Captain I. C. Gibson, Adjutant, Captain (Q.M.) A. Dale, Quartermaster, W.O.I (R.S.M.) Kerr, W.O.II Denholm, W.O.II Brooks (O.R.S.), Sergeant Hunt and Sergeant Millar, M.M.

In January 1951 we moved from our small office to our temporary training centre at Crabtree Lodge, sharing that centre with two R.E.M.E. Units. Gradually a semblance of organisation emerged from the chaos of starting from scratch, stores and equipment arrived and were sorted out, and we began recruiting in earnest.

The Unit proceeded to Fylingdales, near Scarborough, for annual camp. Training at camp was combined with old friends, a Brigade Signal Squadron from Edinburgh, so once more there was much hand (and bagpipe) squeezing.

Camp over, staff leave begins, except for one poor unfortunate who had another six weeks or so camp to do with the C.C.F.

Like most other Units we were represented on that great "Surprise Packet" exercise, but only in a "makeweight" capacity, at Larkhill, filling in a small gap in the establishment of 21 Corps Signal Regiment, T.A., who were responsible for Neutral Signal Communications.

The Regiment's C.C.F. commitments are rather heavy, but we like to think we are assisting in the production of some potential Royal Signals Officers. During late September our first Regimental week-end exercise took place in the Lake District; a very fine exercise too, and even if there was plenty of water (and beer) we cannot say the same about petrol.

Later we had a week-end Wireless and Line Exercise in the Peak District, and I think everybody learned a lot and enjoyed themselves. An excellent billeting arrangement on the Saturday night, when we "kipped" in the Leicester Road Training Centre, Loughborough, leaves us indebted to 17 Wireless Squadron (T.A.), and the general opinion is that we want more of such week-end exercises.

Our Training Centre at Sheffield consists of a series of prefabricated hutments, and doesn't really lend itself to much social life, but in November we held a combined Regimental and Royal Signals Association (Sheffield Branch) dance at nearby Norbury Hall. This proved a financial and social success, profits being shared, and we are hoping that more such functions can be arranged.

The Editor has sufficient material to bind in book form twenty copies of "The Wire" for 1951. Individuals or Messes requiring bound volumes should notify the Editor as soon as possible. The price is 30s.

61 H.Q. ARMY SIGNAL REGIMENT (T.A.)

Advertisement! Since our last notes we have grown two more Squadrons—one for the present at Atkins Road, Clapham, and the other at Cambridge. We now have to raise in London five new troops ranging from line to wireless carrier. We therefore have a large number of vacancies for Officers and N.C.O.s, some of them particularly suitable for older men. If anyone reading these notes is interested, or knows of anyone who might be, we should be pleased to hear from him at R.H.Q., 40 Ashburnham Road, Bedford.

Training. A Regimental Trade Board was held at Bedford at which 35 members of the Regiment were upgraded or obtained trade ratings.

Troop and Squadron training is now in full swing in preparation for formation pre-camp exercises.

No Regimental camp is being held this year, Squadrons and Troops joining their own formations or Regiments. One portion or another of the Regiment will be in camp continuously from May to September.

Social. Norwich, Luton and Cambridge Detachment have all held their annual dinners—very cheerful, smoothly running functions—the result of much good work behind the scenes.

Association Notes



Northants

The February meeting saw a slightly smaller gathering than that of the previous month.

Business for the evening included reference to a member who has been advised that in the event of call-up he will be posted to R.E.M.E. As can be imagined, this is regretted by both the member concerned and the Branch as a whole. Another member, several years a Japanese P.O.W., has learned that he must undergo Class Z training this year although he says that in common with other such ex-P.O.W.s, he is not a Class Z man.

It was intended to feature the Branch Treasurer this time. He, incidentally, is the man who never smiles upon being approached until he is certain that the subject is other than "May we spend some money!" Anyway, he has kindly filled in two foolscap sheets—sorry, one—of his Army career and it will take until next month to boil it down.

So instead, and at last, we come to the writer of this column, ex-Signalman Douglas W. Smith—old friends please note the true meaning of the initials. Isn't it a good thing that when one sets sail for an I.T.C., particularly the Northants I.T.C. at Norwich, that it is, in advance, a closed book. Life was very hard. Three months of this and then to Tunbridge Wells to join 12 Corps Signals, a fine town and a fine bunch of boys in 80 T.O.S., but oh, the mysteries of a Command switchboard at first sight . . . and the amazing idea, too, that

the thing is not to just push the flaps back up! Many a T.S.B.O.'s heart was broken. This Corps was too good to be true, however; strange things began to happen. A posting to 43 O.S. and soon after a move to 1 Corps, which soon visited Hamilton, West Kilbride (there a local girl, Isa Kean, soon got to work and now it's haggis every day for lunch). Down to West Byfleet in Surrey and soon on an L.C.T. for France, Belgium, Holland and Germany, and back to England to join 6th Airborne Divisional Signals, but at this point nearly four years of prayers were answered and in a few months it was "goodbye" to the Army. Back to the family business as a penpusher, etc. Oh, yes, there is one little girl of six. She has left home three times already, but we always know where to look for her—Scotland or the local telephone exchange!

Special greetings to Tunbridge Wells Association. Have you brother Les Smith with you? Also a 12th Corps man, he married and settled down at 27 or 29 Tunnel Road.

News from old friends to 162 Birchfield Road, East Northampton, or, if calling, then telephone Northampton 307.

Newcastle, Gateshead and District Branch

The monthly branch meeting (first Saturday of each month) held at the T.A. Centre, Gateshead, on 2nd March, was well attended, and the Committee was glad to notice that a few "old absentees" turned out and promised to call again.

The available information about the Catterick meeting has been circulated, and it seems likely that a strong party will travel from Tyneside.

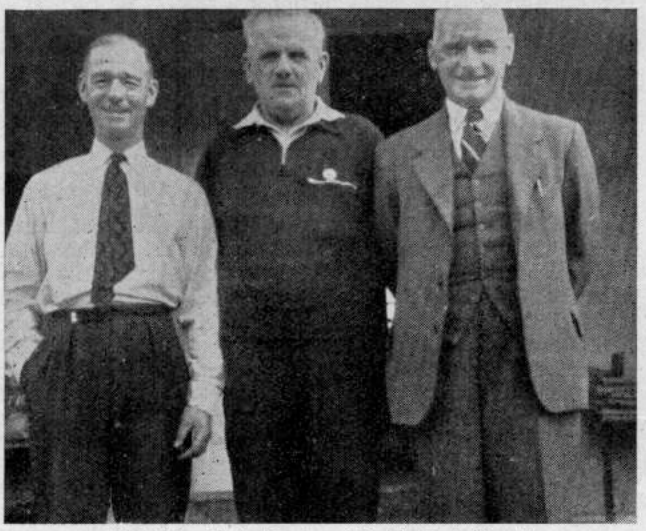
Edinburgh and District Royal Signals Club

Since the writer's last report the emphasis has been on social matters.

The first item was a children's party held in the Club Rooms on Saturday, 22nd December, 1951, which turned out a great success and was enjoyed by young and old alike. Unfortunately, Sammy Cooper collapsed in the Camerons' Club while playing darts, was taken to the Royal Infirmary, operated on, and was unable to give his usual turns. He is back with us once more, on "a Guinness diet." Look out, Alec Nicoll, can't have too many "double Guinness" members.

We saw the New Year in in true Scots' style with a small, but lively party. A surprising amount of talent in the entertainments line was discovered.

Burns' Supper was held in the Club Rooms on Friday, 25th January. A most excellent meal was served up in traditional fashion by our Club Mistress. Thanks once again, Jessie.



Dick (Band), J. Hunter (Club), Ted (Band)

Pipe Major Ross piped in the haggis. Among our guests were Brigadier Morgan, C.S.O. Scottish Command, and Mr. A. J. Fullerton, Relations Officer, G.P.O. Edinburgh. An apology was received from Colonel H. Scarborough. Colonel Gardiner, our worthy president, presided. All these functions were organised by the Entertainments Committee.

Greetings to our Old Comrades from Newcastle. Don't forget the visit to the Club on Hampden Day—give us your numbers—we will cater.

Greetings to The Corps Band wherever you may be, on land or sea. We are preparing for your visit during the Festival of Edinburgh, but Catterick, 19th-20th July, comes first.

Have been raking through my collection of snapshots and found one which was too late for our last notes. It shows Ted and Dick of The Corps Band and J. Hunter, the Club chairman, after the bowls game on Sighthill Green, Edinburgh. Any members of the Corps on leave in Edinburgh will always be sure of a warm welcome at 7 Torphichen Street.

BENEVOLENT FUND CASES

Ex Driver, five years war service, died of tuberculosis in 1946—the Benevolent Fund helped with funeral expenses. In 1952, the Fund again helped his son, who is being brought up by his grandmother, living on a small pension. They are hard up, and through the agency of SSAFA the Fund bought the boy some clothes and will do so again in six months' time.

Ex Sergeant, service in both world wars, died at the age of 64, leaving a widow and a son who also served in Signals. The Benevolent Fund helped to bury him and pay off a few arrears. The son promptly became a life member of the Association.

Serving Soldier passing through London on leave had his pocket picked. He fortunately did not lose his papers, and being easily identified was able to borrow sufficient money to continue his journey. (The money was promptly repaid.)

Signalman serving in B.A.O.R. His wife telephoned the Association on Tuesday to say that his mother had just died and would it be possible for the Signalman to have compassionate leave as there was no one at home capable of taking charge. The Signalman arrived at his home on the evening of Thursday.

From time to time we bring to your notice thus the sort of work done by the Welfare Section at 88 Eccleston Square and the Benevolent Fund.

There are 30-40 such cases each week, and they cost the Benevolent Fund an average of £9 a case.

The income of the Fund from the Royal Signals Regiment is growing, but more is required.

GOLF FIXTURES—1952

19th-20th April	Spring Meeting, Catterick.
7th May	Friendly match v. York G. S., Strensall.
5th-9th May	Army Golf Meeting, Sunningdale.
21st May	Corps match v. R.M.A., Camberley Heath.
4th June	Corps match v. R.A.O.C., Berkshire.
28th June	Friendly match v. Berkshire G.S., Berkshire.
9th August	Corps match v. R.E., Camberley Heath.
16th July	Friendly match v. R.E., Camberley Heath.
10th-12th September ...	Autumn Meeting, West Hill.
22nd October	Friendly match v. War Office G.S., Sunningdale.

ROYAL SIGNALS BENEVOLENT FUND

Subscriptions received during February, 1952:—	£	s.	d.
2 Infantry Division, Signal Regiment	15	0	0
5 AA(M) Signal Regiment (Officers' Mess)	10	0	0
Shoeburyness Troop, Eastern Command Signal Regiment	1	0	0
2 Training Regiment	10	0	0
4 Training Regiment	10	0	0
Royal Signals Corps Funds	49	14	2
Donations received during February, 1952:—			
T. W. Forse		9	0
* 19 Air Formation Signal Regiment (In memory of the late Major F. J. Cook)	50	0	0
Total Receipts	£146	3	2

Expenditure during February, 1952 ... 663 15 5
(Includes: General Assistance; Rent and Rates; Beds and Bedding; Tools; Removals; Clothing; Fares; Convalescence.)

Analysis of cases:—

Families of soldiers serving in U.K.	6
,, ,, ,, ,, ,, B.A.O.R.	1
,, ,, ,, ,, ,, M.E.L.F.	2
Widows and dependants	10
Released and discharged soldiers	49
Total cases assisted	68

* A further donation of £10 10s. 0d. was received from Engineer Stores Depot, Singapore, on 11th March, 1952, in memory of the late Major F. J. Cook, and is gratefully acknowledged.

ARMY RUGBY CHALLENGE CUP

(Semi-Final)

R.A.M.C. Crookham 6 pts.—Royal Signals, Catterick, 5 pts.

The R.A.M.C. Depot and Training Regiment (Crookham) surprised their old rivals, 1st Training Regiment Royal Signals, by inflicting a well-planned defeat by two tries to a goal.

The game was very open in the early stages. Signals were well supplied with the ball from line-outs by R. Robins and from the scrum by J. Williams, and it seemed likely that victory would be theirs. Williams scored the Signals' try after half an hour, making a skilful dodging run through the ruck. D. B. Fletcher converted.

After the interval there was a mood of " no quarter," and the R.A.M.C., having scored their second try 15 minutes after half-time, kept Signals closely held in their half for the remainder of the game. The weather and the ground were ideal for the open game in which Royal Signals excel, but the R.A.M.C. refused to let them play it.

★

There is an interesting comparison with the final of 1951. In that game the 1st Training Regiment Royal Signals v. The Guards Independent Company the going was extremely heavy. Although handling and passing by the Signals' backs was, as always, impeccable, the slippery ground prevented their running with the ball. The Guards Company, on paper a much weaker side, kept the ball close and the issue of the game was in doubt up to the last few minutes.

Possibly the R.A.M.C. were interested spectators on that occasion, and their watchfulness gave them the plan for their tactics in 1952.

Result of Corps Matches played 26th March

Rugby Football: Royal Signals 16 pts.—Royal Military College of Science 5 pts.

★

Association Football: Royal Corps of Military Police 2 goals—Royal Signals 1 goal.

ROYAL SIGNALS BAND

Summer Programme 1952

April 10th—15th ...	Southport
May 4th	Victory Sunday, York Minster
May 15th	Eastern Command Signal Regiment, Maresfield
May 18th—31st	Eastbourne
June 1st—3rd	Bath
June 7th	Tunbridge Wells, South-Eastern Rally
June 8th—14th	Royal Parks
June 15th—21st ...	Victoria Embankment Gardens
June 22nd—28th ...	Eastbourne
July 9th	Bolton
July 10th	Corps Dinner
July 13th	Gateshead
July 17th	Buckingham Palace Garden Party
July 20th	Old Comrades' Reunion, Catterick Camp
July 23rd	Harrogate
July 25th—26th	Southern Command, Aldershot
July 27th—August 9th	Eastbourne
August 10th—16th ...	Glasgow
August 18th—24th ...	Edinburgh Festival
August 24th	Falkirk
August 25th—27th ...	Scottish Command
August 30th—31st ...	Southern Command
September 1st—4th ...	Bedford, T.A. Centre
September 7th—13th	Worthing
September 14th—October 5th	Eastbourne

ROYAL SIGNALS SAILING ASSOCIATION

The Royal Signals Sailing Association have entered for the North West Firefly Team Championship at West Kirby, Cheshire, on 10th and 11th May, 1952. A team of six is required, and members wishing to take part are asked to contact the Racing Secretary.

Skippers and crews are also required for CITO for the Race Round the Isle of Wight on 5th July and for races during Lymington Regatta from 25th to 27th August.

All correspondence on racing should be addressed to the Racing Secretary, R.S.S.A., Colonel W. R. Smijth-Windham, C.B.E., D.S.O., Signals 7, The War Office, Whitehall, S.W.1.

STOP PRESS

The Branch Secretaries' Meeting was attended by the representatives of 38 branches who braved the dreadful weather to listen to a report by General Fladgate, the chairman, to a speech by the Representative Colonel Commandant General Naylor, to an account of the Corps at work; in technical development and in sport by the Director of Signals, General Bowen, and to a resumè of the arrangements made for the reunion on 19th-20th July at Catterick by Brigadier Duvivier, Commander S.T.C.

There was later general and fruitful discussion on a variety of topics.

A full report will be published in May.

CHANGE OF DESIGNATION

No. 2 War Office Signal Regiment (Engineering) was formed from 2 Squadron War Office Signal Regiment on 17th March, 1952.



THE WIRE

The Corps Magazine of the
ROYAL SIGNALS
The Official Organ of the
SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

Editor:
BRIGADIER H. R. FIRTH

All correspondence and matter for publication for THE WIRE *should be addressed to The Editor,* THE WIRE, *88 Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1. Matter for publication must be received by the 15th of the month preceding publication.*

Remittances should be made payable to: Royal Signals Association. Subscription rates (post free, except air mail): Twelve months, 12/-; single month, 1/-.

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MAY • **1952**

Vol. 6 *New Series* **No. 5**

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PRICE ONE SHILLING

Editorial

TRADITION AND SERVICE

IN these two words are bound up much of what makes the British Army what it is and what it has been for many hundred years.

We in Royal Signals have not 300 years of tradition as have some of the older Regiments, we have only 30. It is necessary therefore to make the most of it. As was written in jest in the April number of THE WIRE, an archaeologist of a thousand years hence discovered something of the Signalman's tradition and way of life in present times.

Some of us who are older started our service in the Royal Artillery, the Royal Engineers, the Infantry. On joining, the first and most important task of our seniors was to drive home, by lessons from the past, how great and glorious a Regiment we had joined; and how in all our work and play we must strive to do honour to the Regiment. Of such a tradition comes the great fight of the Gloucester Regiment in Korea, but to be surrounded and to fight against odds is nothing new to men who wear their cap badge "fore and aft."

Royal Signals, a young Corps, was born from and inherited the great traditions of the Royal Engineers, and since 1920 we have added on our own much lustre to those traditions.

It is true that at present what is published of our history is in form not worthy of us, but do we take from that inadequate form the facts and do we learn and teach from our history? Between the two great wars a man was not considered worthy of promotion unless well grounded in regimental history; today it is doubtful if some of those who are teachers give it a thought.

In Royal Signals our discipine and our endeavour in peace and in war is founded on pride. We know that if we give our minds to it we can do as well and usually a little better than any other Corps or Regiment. In the last years we have led the Army in sport, we have satisfied our commanders if not ourselves in work. BUT have we been worthy of our great history? If you, who have read, know your history, you can answer this question.

Life in Royal Signals is, above all things, one of service. We serve our commanders, their staffs and the troops. Without the service of Royal Signals, control in peace or war would be impossible. All of us serve in one way or another. In connection with another form of service, the Representative Colonel Commandant, General Naylor, said the other day: "We in Royal Signals cannot claim, like the Welfare State, that we look after our men from the cradle to the grave, but we do aim to do so from the time they join the Army. A Regiment or Corps cannot claim to greatness if it does less than this." There are three stages in the responsibility for service to the individual in Royal Signals. First in the Active Army, where the good instructor in the Signal Training Centre will illustrate his theme from our history and tradition. Thence to the Regiments, at home or overseas, where, such is opportunity, the individual may make history. Certainly, if well led and well trained, he will enhance tradition. Second, in the Reserve Army, where he may well learn to his own advantage some of the Tradition of Service which is behind the Territorial Army. Third, and for most it is by far the longest period of responsibility, in civil life, where the Royal Signals Association is charged with the duty of service to him. The majority will, it is hoped, have heard all about the Association during their service in the Active Army. In very many Regiments exists a branch of the Association The wise will remain a member or become a member on leaving the Army.

and will thus keep in touch with the great band of Signalmen and ex-Signalmen all over the world. Thus each one will retain that spirit of comradeship and service to others so often lacking in civil life.

Where, now, does duty lie? For those still serving, duty is clear; to learn and teach our history and our tradition and encourage all to knowledge of the Association. Those not now serving have the harder task. Very many at great personal sacrifice of leisure and often of money, labour constantly to continue their service to their comrades. They are the ones in the active branches of the Association.

There remain the others living in small communities where no branch is possible. There are many shining examples also amongst these. Over all is the Association Headquarters, which deals daily with a multitude of problems, and to which come a very great number of ex-Signalmen, and some who are still in uniform, for advice and assistance when they need it.

" Sir—A year ago when I was in great trouble you helped me, you got me a job and put new life into me. I cannot afford much, but the wife and I would like you to accept this . . . in the hope that it will go to help someone whose need is greater than mine."

That is what we try to teach.

Royal Signals Association

LONDON AND SOUTH EASTERN AREA RALLY AND REUNION

★

ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS ASSEMBLY HALL, TUNBRIDGE WELLS, KENT

Saturday, 7th June

PROGRAMME

5 to 6	p.m.:	Assembly. The Royal Signals Band will play. Tea will be available.
6.15	p.m.:	" The Queen."
6.20	p.m.:	Civic Welcome by the Mayor of Royal Tunbridge Wells.
6.30	p.m.:	Entry of Branch Standards. Act of Rededication of Standards. Act of Remembrance of Absent Friends.
7.0	p.m.:	Address by the Representative Colonel Commandant, Major-General R. F. B. Naylor.
7.15	p.m.:	Refreshments. Meeting of Old Friends. The Band will play.
8.30	p.m.:	Variety Entertainment.
11.15	p.m.:	Corps March.

All of Royal Signals, past and present, who possibly can should attend this, THE FIRST of a series of area reunions.

Particularly requested is the support of all those serving and of members of the fifteen branches of the Association located within easy reach of Tunbridge Wells.

But outside of this there must be very many who will only hear of this IF YOU TELL THEM.

Tickets and further information from: Mr. G. E. Paling, Vale Towers, Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

Single tickets 4s. 0d.

Double tickets (including gentleman and lady) 6s. 0d.

PLEASE DO ALL YOU CAN TO TELL OTHERS AND PERSUADE THEM TO GO.

War Veterans' Federation

SPONSORED largely by the United States of America and working in co-operation with the United Nations Organisation, the War Veterans' Federation was inaugurated as an international body in 1950.

Its aims are both spiritual and temporal. In the spiritual plane it is an organisation of the war veterans of all nations, excluding those at present associated with the U.S.S.R., for the furtherance of the following ideals: —

> To establish permanent relations between the associations of war veterans and war victims of all countries.
>
> To defend the material and spiritual interests of war veterans and war victims by all legal and constitutional means through the mutual exchange of information on legislation concerning them.
>
> To preserve the sacred memory of the war dead.
>
> To maintain peace and international security by the application in letter and in spirit of the San Francisco Charter; by respecting the rights of man and the fundamental freedoms set forth in the Universal Declaration of the Rights of Man adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on the 10th December, 1948.

In temporal matters the main plank of the programme at present is rehabilitation.

The writer, amongst others, was privileged to attend a meeting in London which was addressed by Mr. Kurt Jansson, who is Director of Rehabilitation of the Federation. It was astonishing and rather horrible to hear from his experience how, outside of England and the United States of America, very little is, or can be, done for those blinded or who have lost their limbs in war.

In the matter of blindness there is in Europe only one St. Dunstan's. We in England are well accustomed to seeing the men of St. Dunstan's with white stick or large dog, leading useful and healthy lives. They negotiate the hurry and bustle of London rush-hour traffic with aplomb. They, when seen, are obviously going somewhere and often in a hurry to get there.

Outside of England and America it is apparently not commonplace that a man with only one leg can play cricket (very well),. dance (indifferently, but with pleasure), move about in company, as one friend of mine does, without anyone being aware of his disability.

One of the main objects of the War Veterans' Federation is to make the lore developed through years of devoted service in the voluntary organisations of England available to other countries in Europe. This is surely an object which is most worthy of our sympathy and understanding.

We are aware that there are in England and in America a pathetic number of those so severely injured that no appliance or teaching can avail them. Consider, however, the majority and keep a careful lookout when next moving about any of our big towns and cities. It needs a careful and watchful eye to spot these men and women who are blind or maimed.

Through this international organisation the experience and skill which we accept as normal may be made available to the war casualties of other nations. It is understood that St. Dunstan's and Roehampton are to take batches of men blinded or maimed fighting alongside our men in Korea. America, as always, generous, is making her own institutions available, and is providing such simple requirements as Braille watches. Admiringly, one has seen so many blind men moving with apparent confidence about their business—but how do they tell the time?

The headquarters of the War Veterans' Federation is in Paris. The London office has just opened under the direction of Group Captain D. Honor, D.F.C., ex-R.A.F. Battle of Britain fighter pilot, ex Air Attaché, and now man of business and enthusiast for the cause he serves.

It is a cause deserving of the attention and help of all who have shared the comradeship that is a gift of war.

18 Divisional Signal Regiment

18 Divisional Signal Regiment was formed at Enfield in 1939. The Unit trained and served with the Division in England until 1941. During that time Divisional Headquarters were in Norfolk, near Norwich, and the Division was responsible for guarding the Norfolk coast against invasion. At the end of the year we moved to Melrose in Scotland, and in the spring of 1941 to Knutsford in Cheshire. From there No. 1 Company of the 18 Divisional Signal Regiment with the Headquarters only of Nos. 2 and 3 Companies were formed into a new Unit ("O" Divisional Signal Regiment) and sent out to the Middle East where, after picking up Infantry Brigade and Artillery Regimental Sections which were already there, they became 6 Divisional Signal Regiment and served in Syria, which was taken over from the Vichy French. From there the Division went to Tobruk, where they took over from the Australians during the first siege and remained until the break-out from the fortress at the end of 1941. The name of the Division on arrival in Tobruk was changed to 70 Division, and the name of the Signal Unit, of course, was changed at the same time. After further short service in Egypt and Syria the Division, with its signal unit, was sent to India and Ceylon. The Signal Unit subsequently saw service in Burma with the Chindits (Special Force Signals) and they budded off in India a training unit of their own which was known as Special Force Training Signals. Towards the end of the war, when the Burma campaign was over, the Unit became the Signal Unit of 34 Indian Corps.

When the Division left Norfolk the Signal Unit left behind there a small new Unit known as Norfolk Coastal Divisional Signals. It served the newly formed Home Service Coastal Division, which took over the duties of repelling any invasion on the Norfolk coast.

When, as explained above, a large part of the Unit went to the Middle East in the spring of 1941, the personnel remaining with 18 Division, including all the Brigade and Artillery Regimental Sections, were made up to establishment by new postings, and after a few months' further training this Unit went to Singapore with the Division, where they were unfortunate enough to arrive just as the so-called fortress was being occupied by the Japanese. Nearly all of them, therefore, spent the rest of the war as prisoners of the Japanese.

At the end of the war the other part of the original Unit, which was by then named 34 Indian Corps Signals, took a very active part in expelling from Malaya the Japanese who had earlier made prisoners of their comrades.

The 18 Divisional Signal Regiment have a thriving reunion association comprising those who served with: —

18, "O," 6 and 70 Divisional Signal Regiments,
Norfolk Coastal Divisional Signal Regiment,
Special Force Signals (Chindits),
34 (Indian) Corp Signals.

For particulars of annual reunion 1952 see Forthcoming Events on this page.

EMPLOYMENT

New applicants registered during the quarter ending 31st March 59

Men known to have been placed through the Association during the quarter ending 31st March 27

INSURANCE

It is not generally known that the Company for which the Association is agent effects insurance of television sets under terms which are favourable in comparison with other "repair" arrangements.

For a small premium, cover is obtained against risk of electrical breakdown of the set, breakage of components and risk to third party.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Annual General Meeting and Old Comrades' Reunion at Catterick on Saturday, 19th July, Sunday, 20th July. Details are being sent out by H.Q., Royal Signals Association, 88 Eccleston Square, S.W.1.

Dinner Club

Annual Dinner, Thursday, 10th July. Tickets 15s.

Regular Officers' Tea Party, Friday, 11th July. Tickets 8s. 6d.

Both will be held at the Hyde Park Hotel as formerly.

Details from Honorary Secretary, Royal Signals Dinner Club, Room 97, Horseguards, Whitehall, S.W.1.

Reunion Dinner, Indian Signal Units, will take place at the Charing Cross Hotel, Strand, London, W.C.2, on Saturday, 7th June. Particulars from Captain W. A. Dowley, Mytchett Heath Lodge, Mytchett, Aldershot, Hants.

Reunion

The annual reunion of related Units, 18, 6 and 70 Divisional Signals Regiments, Special Force Signals (Chindits), S.F. Training Signals and 34 Indian Corps Signals, postponed on account of the death of H.M. King George VI, will now be held on Saturday, 6th September, in London.

Particulars: Brigadier F. R. W. Jameson, Standwell House, Oxted, Surrey.

4th (Indian) Air Formation Signals

H. D. Jose, 44 Downhills Park Road, London, N.17, is anxious to hear from anyone who would like to attend a dinner and smoking concert in London on Saturday, 15th November.

Royal Signals "Quicksilver" Trailer will visit: —

May 21-24	York.
May 27-31	Nottingham (Bath and West Show, 28th-31st May).
June 17-21	Lincoln Area (Lincolnshire Show, 18th-19th June).
June 24-28	Peterborough (Peterborough Regatta).
July 3 - 4	Market Place.
July 7 - 12	Leeds Area (Great Yorkshire Show, Harrogate, 8th-10th July).
July 15-Aug. 4	Catterick Camp.

Royal Signals Motor Cycle Display

May 14: Press Show, Catterick Camp.
May 17: 6 (Boys) Training Regiment, Beverley.
June 4-21: Royal Tournament, Earls Court.
June 21: Carreras Sports, Stanmore.
June 24: Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst.
June 26: Wembley Speedway, Wembley.

The full programme for the 1952 season will be published in June.

CUFF LINKS : CAR BADGES

The Association has been fortunate in obtaining a supply of admirable cuff links in Signals colours. These are good value at 7s.

It is hoped to resume supply of car badges in the near future. An announcement will appear in THE WIRE as soon as a number are received from the manufacturer.

PERSONAL COLUMN

"*London Gazette*," *11th March, 1952.*

Brigadier W. Scott, O.B.E., M.A., to R.A.R.O., 13th March, 1952.

"*London Gazette*," *1st April, 1952.*

Brigadier J. L. Henderson, O.B.E., to R.A.R.O.

Awarded the B.E.M. for services in Malaya: S.Q.M.S. R. W. Gardiner; Corporal R. E. Weighell.

Mentioned in Despatches for services in Malaya: Major A. M. McGill, O.B.E.; Captain W. R. Pearse; Sergeant R. Rose; Lance-Corporal W. E. Leaver; Signalman T. W. Pollard, Signalman R. M. Turner.

Movements of Officers

Major E. P. Stanton from M.E.L.F. to U.K.

Major H. J. Thompson from Senior Officers School to Staff appointment.

Major J. R. Smith from 16 Airborne Divisional Signal Squadron Regiment, T.A., to R.A.R.O.

Lieutenant-Colonel M. J. Conway from B.T.A. to H.Q., 4 A.A. Group.

Lieutenant-Colonel J. D. L. Morris from 4 A.A. Group to H.Q., B.A.O.R. Signal Regiment.

Lieutenant-Colonel F. S. Whiteway Wilkinson from 1 A.A. (M) Signal Regiment to R.A.R.O.

Lieutenant-Colonel G. D. T. Harris from Depot Regiment to No. 2 War Office Signal Regiment (Engineering).

Colonel J. C. Hardy from Air Ministry to British Joint Service Mission to U.S.A.

Lieutenant-Colonel P. G. Goodeve-Docker, from FARELF to Depot Regiment.

Lieutenant-Colonel D. G. Goldsmith from FARELF to 53 (Welsh) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment.

Major C. H. Howarth from H.Q. Southern Command to Singapore District Signal Regiment.

Major J. L. Tanner from 3 A.A. Independent Signal Squadron to R.A.R.O.

Major R. C. Dixon from 11 Air Formation Signal Regiment to U.K.

Major R. A. Hatcher from U.K. to 11 Air Formation Signal Regiment.

Major F. D. McConnel-Wood from 6 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment to 11 Air Formation Signal Regiment.

Lieutenant-Colonel G. Thompson from Army Apprentices School to FARELF.

Major B. A. H. Bogle from 5 Training Regiment to M.E.L.F.

Major T. V. Mullins from War Office to School of Signals.

Major W. J. Quinn from 4 Training Regiment to 4 A.A. (M) Signal Regiment.

Major A. E. Wood from 4 A.A. (M) Signal Regiment to M.E.L.F.

Captain C. H. G. Allen (T.O.T.) from Gibraltar Signal Squadron to Northern Command Signal Regiment.

Major R. C. Dixon from B.A.O.R. to 5 Training Regiment.

Major T. G. Chambers from BETFOR to U.K.

Lieutenant-Colonel J. P. North from M.E.L.F. to U.K.

Lieutenant-Colonel J. E. S. Sanders from B.A.O.R. to 1 A.A. (M) Signal Regiment.

Major M. J. Maclennan from Hospital to School of Signals.

Births

ALEXANDER.—To Sergeant and Mrs. A. V. Alexander, Klagenfurt Signal Squadron, on 2nd February, a daughter, Elizabeth.

JENKINSON.—To Lieutenant (T.O.T.) T. F. Jenkinson and Mrs. Jenkinson, on 30th December, 1951, a daughter.

LEE.—To Sergeant and Mrs. W. Lee, C.S.O.'s Branch, H.Q. N.I.D., on 24th March, 1952, a daughter, Linda Elizabeth.

McKAY.—To Sergeant and Mrs. McKay, 60 H.Q. Signal Regiment, T.A., a son.

POTTER.—To Sergeant and Mrs. Potter, on 29th December, 1951, a son.

Marriages

EWENS—AVERY.—At Chinnor, on 26th April, 1952, Corporal R. M. Ewens, 5 Agra (A.A.) Signal Squadron, to Miss Sylvia Avery.

GILBERT—PECKHAM.—At Purley, on 19th April, 1952, Lieutenant C. J. Gilbert, 5 Agra (A.A.) Signal Squadron, to Miss Betty M. Peckham.

HANLON—OVERY.—On Monday, 31st March, 1952, Corporal Hanlon, 4 Training Regiment, Royal Signals, to Miss Mary Overy.

HEANEY—McEWAN.—On 3rd January, 1952, Lance-Corporal F. M. Heaney, Royal Signals, to Corporal L. McEwan, W.R.A.C., both of 3 A.A. Independent (M) Signal Squadron.

HUGHES—IRVING.—On 3rd March, 1952, Driver J. Hughes, Royal Signals, to Private P. Irving, W.R.A.C., both of 3 A.A. Independent (M) Signal Squadron.

MEYER—MIDGLEY.—On 22nd March, 1952, Sergeant K. J. Meyer, 3 Training Regiment, Royal Signals, to Miss Mary Midgley.

STEWART—ALEXANDER.—On 29th December, 1951, Driver G. D. Stewart, 3 A.A. Independent (M) Signal Squadron, to Miss E. R. D. Alexander.

WHITEBREAD—MATHEWS.—22265419 Signalman G. Whitebread, London District Signal Troop, to W/365539 Private A. Mathews, W.R.A.C., at Ealing, on 5th April, 1952.

Deaths

HEPPELL.—22547806 Signalman A. G. Heppell, on 16th March, 1952, in M.E.L.F.

HOLT.—22286743 Signalman D. Holt, on 6th March, 1952, in M.E.L.F.

MacDONALD.—21124324 Lance-Corporal D. MacDonald, on 21st March, 1952, in FARELF.

NEWTON.—22360321 Signalman D. J. Newton, on 31st March, 1952, at R.A.F. Hospital, Rinteln, B.A.O.R.

TURNER.—David Ronald Turner, Signalman 1950-51, member of the Royal Signals Association, at his work, on 16th October, 1951. 3 Miles Street, Mardy, Rhondda, Glamorgan.

WILSON.—Hugh Wilson, lately 2967541 Sergeant, Royal Signals, at Rawalpindi, Pakistan, on 30th March, 1952.

Wounded in Action

SCOTT.—22487075 Signalman T. C. Scott, on 16th March, 1952, in Korea.

Injured

FISHER.—214433 Signalman Bernard F. Fisher, on 26th March, 1952, in Korea.

Foreign Travel

H. St. G. E. Fox, a member of the Association, writes that he is working in a Travel Agency which gives attractive terms for "stock" holidays.

The agency also arrange weekly savings schemes so that the cost of holidays may be spread over.

Address: Panglo-Pean Tours, 74 Dacres Road, Forest Hill, S.E.23.

A QUIZ FOR NATU MINIMUS

do you know?

DO you know that the first use of the electric telegraph in war was in 1866, when twenty miles of wire were laid during the Crimean War? The Royal Engineers took over "telegraphs" shortly after that. Did you know that during the 1914-18 war messages in morse were sent by "shutter," a kind of venetian blind which opened and shut on pulling a string? A new invention? Fiddlesticks, it dates from the Napoleonic Wars.

★

Did you know that Royal Signals served and fought in Abyssinia in 1940 and after? You did? Five marks, BUT, do you know that R.E. Signals were at Magdala in 1867?

Have you ever heard of Sir A. W. Mackworth? He commanded "C" Troop R.E. Signals in 1882, and provided communication for a force which landed at and seized Ismailia and advanced on Cairo. Yes, 1882, not 1952, "C" Troop was actively engaged in the battle of Tel el Kebir.

Do you know of Brigadier-General E. G. Godfrey-Faussett? As a captain he was with the 1st Division Telegraph Battalion which went to the South African War in 1899. In August 1914 he was commanding General Headquarter Signals.

Do you know how Sergeant A. C. Rouse, 3rd Divisional Signal Company, won his D.C.M. at Ypres in 1914?

Do you know that "Signals" first took action part in combined operations during the campaign in Gallipoli, 1915?

Do you know of the Agar Memorial prize? It is to commemorate the gallantry of Lieutenant J. W. Agar, Royal Signals, who lost his own life in 1933 in saving the lives of two signalmen under his command.

Do you know that III Corps Signals was formed in the autumn of 1939 by taking half of 46 (South Midland) Divisional Signals, T.A., and filling up with militia men? The Unit landed in France in February 1940 and were involved in heavy fighting in May 1940.

Do you know that in 1943 the 7th Indian Divisional Signals in Burma were awarded one D.S.O., two M.C.s, two D.C.M.s, three M.M.s, and a number of other decorations for ONE night's fighting?

Do you know that a life-sized statue of "Jimmy" stands on a plinth in the foyer of Russell Hall at Fort Monmouth, New Jersey, U.S.A.? It was presented by Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal, Colonel-in-Chief, to Major-General F. H. Lanahan, representing the United States Army Signal Corps.

Thus, "Jimmy," the nimble pagan messenger who is equally welcome in heaven, on earth, and in the nether world, has used his powers of charm and goodwill to help in binding Anglo-American signalmen together in war and peace.

★

What is the name of the Signalman who won the Victoria Cross? Corporal C. R. G. Bassett, New Zealand Divisional Signal Company, for most conspicuous bravery laying lines in Gallipoli.

The Benevolent Fund of the Royal Signals Association is a pre-war fund. It has absorbed the residue of the very large sum of money collected by the Royal Signals Comforts Fund which was started in November 1939.

We always consider the United States of America as a young nation, yet the Signal Corps of the United States Army celebrated, in March, its 89th anniversary. This year Royal Signals will celebrate its 31st, but as you will know, the Signal Service Royal Engineers was first organised in 1870. Thus the Signal Corps of the United States of America is our senior by some seven years.

You know that in 1951 Sergeant Nicolson, 7 Armoured Divisional Signals, won the individual championship and 5 Training Regiment team were second in the Army Motor Cycle Trial. You probably do not know that in 1938 5 Divisional Signals were second in the team championship of the Army Motor Cycle Association Trial. Actually the cross country portion of the trial was won by the School of Signals. Captain T. E. Dobson, Captain W. R. Smijth-Windham, Driver C. G. F. Baker. The 5 Divisional Signals team were Lieutenant Horsfield, Lieutenant Yule, Driver Stowers. Three of these are still serving, although older and much more senior.

Talking of motor cycling, you know, of course, that when the Colonel-in-Chief visited a Signal Regiment it used to be the custom to provide a D.R. escort under command of an officer? This on the open road was easy. The duty was accomplished in crowded London traffic by City of London Signals, T.A., in 1939, when the Royal car was escorted from Chelsea Bridge to Signal House. The first Military Medal to be awarded to Royal Signals in World War II was won by Signalman Thomas Barr.

In 1870, "C" Troop was formed as part of the Royal Engineers. This Troop was the direct ancestor of Royal Signals. It consisted of two officers and 163 other ranks with 25 vehicles. Twelve of these were wire wagons, four-wheeled vehicles each containing six half-mile drums of heavy three-stranded cable. There were also four office wagons, vehicles similar to a heavy tradesman's van fitted with instruments.

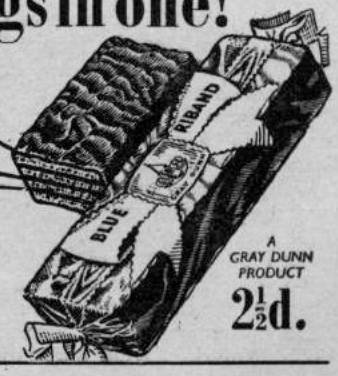
Do you know that Earl Kitchener of Khartoum served as an officer in "C" Troop?

Sir John Fowler, who was Director of Army Signals with the B.E.F. in 1914, died in 1939 just before the outbreak of the last war.

In September 1917, three men of 41st Divisional Signal Company were working in the cellar of a destroyed house in a village near Ypres. The Germans recaptured the village in the early hours of the morning. The Signalmen remained hidden and continued to send messages reporting carefully the enemy dispositions. As a result of this the village was recaptured next day. One D.C.M., two M.M.s.

3 good things in one!

Smooth chocolate
Delicious sweetmeat
Crisp wafers



BLUE RIBAND

A GRAY DUNN PRODUCT

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Do You Remember ?

THE Editorial of May 1922 forecast the retirement of the first Colonel Commandant E. G. Godfrey-Faussett and eulogised his great efforts to build up our new Corps to a standard worthy of that from which we sprang—the Royal Engineers.

Maresfield Notes? Yes, we were stationed there in 1922—congratulated Signalman J. Cotterell in coming second in the international cross-country run at Glasgow. Do you remember?

Also in May 1922 was an account of the completion of the first, yes, the first, overland cable in Germany. It was laid in a special conduit for ease of maintenance and modification.

The route is well known to very many of us—Berlin, Magdeburg, Braunsweig, Hanover, Minden, Dortmund, where it divided, one leg Essen, Mühlheim, Düsseldorf, the other to Köln (Cologne). This is a memory teaser for all generations. The old men of the 1920s, the young men who rebuilt those cables and worked them in 1945-47. The present generation who know of Minden Trunks, but know no history. This article occupies a page and a half of THE WIRE, and the Editor tells me he will reprint it if he gets twenty letters asking him to. There must be a hundred or more of us who know those conduits like we know our own back yard.

THE WIRE jumps from Germany to Baghdad. Do you remember? No, not 1942 when you were there in Tenth Army Signals (Paiforce), but 1922 when we were Baghdad District Signal Section. Do you remember why we were there? Blest if I do!

Do you remember Abbassia, the home of Wireless Company, Egypt and Palestine? And Kantara? Does anyone remember Freddy Moores putting the shot, and "Boy" Mitchell dead-heating in the 100 yards? Do you remember the 2nd Cavalry Divisional Signals? Who are they now and where are they located?

In the Eastern Command Cross Country Championships, 1st and 2nd Training Battalions tied for first place, and in the Army Championship they came second and third. Do you remember? You do? Well, what did 1 Training Regiment Signals do in 1951? What of May 1932? A new pattern of Corps tie was under consideration by the Corps Committee. The Editor was having trouble with correspondents who sent their copy in after the 16th of the month. Malaya Signal Section sent a most generous donation to the Benevolent Fund. Major (General) C. H. H. Vulliamy went from a third to a second grade appointment in the War Office. Egypt Signals undertook a reconnaisance of the Nile Valley; seventeen days, 1,300 miles for the round trip and wireless communication all the way from Alexandria to Assouan and back. Yes, 500 miles on R/T in 1932. Could they do it in 1952?

In 1932, the China group of shortwave W/T stations was established in Tientsin, Pekin, Hongkong, and an article in THE WIRE tells you how the "Hams" of those days made up their transmitters. The writer? F. of S. W. A. West, North China Signal Section. Do you remember? Do you remember that in 1932 there was a "G" Signal Section stationed at Catterick Camp? You don't?

Well, perhaps you were not born then. But . . . try and work it out, the answer is simple.

Do you remember "The Red Shirts"? There was a poem in the 1932 WIRE Where? How? Why?

Do you remember Scarborough in 1932? You do? Well, what was the name of the Unit in Burniston Barracks?

Do you remember the "Barleux" article on "Maurice" in 1922? You do? Well, you're much older than I.

BOOK REVIEWS

Our Men in Korea

By Eric Linklater

Issued by Her Majesty's Stationery Office—price 2s. 6d.

THE author, a novelist and playwright, has written a facile account of some aspects of the work of the British Infantry in Korea from the commencement of the operation in August 1950 until the formation of the Commonwealth Division in July 1951. The work of the Naval and Air Forces of the Commonwealth is also lightly touched on.

It is written for the general public and will, no doubt, be read widely.

The booklet is well illustrated by photographs, many of which have already appeared in the newspapers.

It is hoped that this rather slight work will be followed quickly by a more authoritative account of this extremely interesting and historic campaign.

"The Kensington"

PUBLISHED recently is the history of Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment, 1939-1951.

As most of us know, the famous Territorial Army Regiment, once part of London's "Grey" Brigade, is now the Army Phantom Signal Regiment, Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment, T.A., its drill hall, as before the war, at 190 Hammersmith Road, W.6.

The Kensingtons are an old Regiment and proud of it. In common with the rest of the Territorial Army, they "doubled" themselves in 1939 and, as in 1914-18, both the 1st and 2nd Battalions fought with great distinction in the recent war.

Both Battalions were "divisional," armed with the heavy machine gun and heavy mortar, and in this role all their fighting was done in Groups, later Companies, under command of Infantry Brigades.

This, the 1939-45 portion of the Regiment's history, is therefore of necessity written piecemeal, but it has the merit in that the authors are those who actually commanded the Groups in the actions described.

Particularly in the mortar platoons, their role was analagous to the Artillery, and their dependence on good communications by wireless and line was therefore accentuated.

It is a stirring story of great endeavour and great achievement. The 1st Battalion were in the fighting in Flanders in 1940, and a chapter describes the admirable conduct of two Companies which were captured at Le Havre. Re-formed, the Battalion guarded the Norfolk coast and then to Africa, to the sternest of the fighting in Italy, and with the Eighth Army to Austria and Germany.

The 2nd Battalion, with a slower start, first saw service in Iceland, but were home in time to join 49 Division for the invasion of Europe.

The story ends with the homecoming, the "magnificent" dinner given by the Old Comrades Association to the two prisoner-of-war Companies. The last chapters describe the conversion to the new arm, Royal Signals, to the new role of Phantom, and the formal adoption of the Regiment by the Borough of Hammersmith. Yet in spirit and in tradition the Regiment remains "The Kensingtons." In proud tradition, they retain their own cap badge, buttons and lanyard, and they are the only Signal Regiment to carry colours.

One little vignette strikes a sympathetic memory in all of us, the Corporal Wireless Operator who was temporarily unwell as a result of having for five days and nights continuously operated his wireless set to maintain essential communications.

Published privately for the Regiment, from whom copies are obtainable.

THE DEPOT AT

Rawlinson Barracks, Denbury

A LETTER from Captain P. A. Robins in the April WIRE answered, perhaps facetiously, an innocent query in the Easter WIRE—WHERE is Rawlinson Barracks?

This letter has raised something of a storm. No less person than Lieutenant-Colonel C. H. Patrick, O.B.E., has written strongly on the subject. If it had been twenty years ago he would have added one of his inimitable pen-and-ink sketches.

Lieutenant-Colonel C. M. Patrick, M.B.E., writes:

I read Captain P. A. Robins' letter in the April number in some astonishment and cannot determine if it was intended to be satirical, humorous, or just derogatory. Whichever it was, it is apt to give an entirely false impression.

Having paid two 2-day visits to Denbury, once in the depth of winter, and more recently in April, I would describe Rawlinson Barracks as follows:—

A well-planned hutted camp in good condition, nestling in a hollow in the heart of the glorious Devon scenery (whoever heard of *rugged* Devon scenery?). It is about three miles from the pleasant market town of Newton Abbot, which has excellent rail facilities to London, the North and the West, Denbury is about eight miles from Torquay and Dawlish and six or seven from Teignmouth, all of which places are comparatively easy of access. In the barracks there are good facilities for games and sports, a good NAAFI and a cinema; within a few miles are excellent swimming, boating, yachting and, doubtless, fishing. There is a tennis court in the camp, and others are about to be constructed. Ipplepen is not an unbelievable name: it is that of a nearby village. Denbury is about five miles from Darlington, by the way—but not, of course, *the* Darlington.

I fear Captain Robins must have viewed Rawlinson Barracks with a somewhat jaundiced eye. To those members of the staff and holdees of the Depot Regiment who journeyed down from Pocklington with the Unit, it must have seemed like going to Heaven from that other place! But obviously, Captain Robins has never been stationed at Pocklington Airfield.

Report from Devon

At last, having surmounted the usual trials of a move, coupled with rumour and counter-rumour, The Depot Regiment is installed in its new home.

Any comparison between Rawlinson Barracks and "The Airfield" would be futile. Our surroundings are ideal, compact and trim with all "mod. con.," and are enhanced by the obvious attractions of Torbay! The one complaint that could be voiced in that the term "Sunny Devon" would appear to be an over-enthusiastic publicity manager's "blurb"! Unless, of course, we have unwittingly brought the Yorkshire climate with us.

The Barracks are situated about 3½ miles from Newton Abbot. The Devon General Bus Company maintain an hourly service to the Camp which is augmented at week-ends and during the evenings by extra buses running on the principle "depart when full." The Unit also provides an adequate transport service to and from Newton Abbot Railway Station. Transport facilities ex-Newton Abbot are excellent. Buses run to Torquay every seven minutes, and there are regular train services to London and Bristol.

Since arrival, there has been great activity putting our house in order, and gradually the grass which abounds in the Camp is becoming acclimatised to a "Regulation Trim."

The Regiment was visited by Lieutenant-General Sir Ouvery Roberts, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., G.O.C. Southern Command, on the 24th March, and Brigadier F. J. Mitchell, C.B.E., M.C., Deputy Commander South-Western District, on the 10th March. Both of these officers expressed great interest and satisfaction in all they saw.

☆

BURNDEPT, LTD.

Erith, Kent

A VISIT was made to this firm on 16th April, 1952, and the Editor will, at this date, allow only a few paragraphs. Burndept are employed largely on work for the Ministry of Supply, and in the Electronics Division building, an old flour mill recently converted, prototypes were in production for a number of service wireless sets.

Our old friend the R.F. amplifier was being completely redesigned to simplify tuning and with improved cooling arrangements. The drain on power supply in the new model will be approximately half that of the wartime set.

The transmitter receiver for use in A.A. Command is well advanced, and its designer, an ex-Royal Signals Officer, has concentrated on simplicity for the user, as well as on excellence of technical performance.

Mainly for use by airport control, another transmitter well advanced in design showed the same clean lines, simplicity of operation and ease of access for maintenance which is so typical of the work of this firm.

The design department is almost in itself a branch of the Association. Colonel A. E. Tyler, O.B.E., the contracts manager, and very many others, served in Royal Signals with great distinction.

At luncheon in the King's Head at Bexley (the licensee, incidentally, a Signalman in the Royal Navy, and the third generation of his family to own the house), we met Mr. D. P. Flanagan. Talk about "Do you remember?" He first served in R.E. Signals in 1885. He learnt his morse at the age of 10 and can still send impeccably at 30 words a minute. He served in the South African War with the 1st Division Telegraph Company, R.E. His son is employed in Marconi's, his grandson, after a year on Ascension Island with that firm, went to South Africa, got his B.Sc. at Capetown, and is now a gold assayor in Johannesburg.

After the South African War, Mr. J. P. Flanagan served in the Cheshire Yeomanry, and served as an instructor in the R.E. Signals from 1914 to 1919.

A fuller description of Burndept, a list of the ex-Signalmen who work there, and of Mr. Flanagan's career will, it is hoped, be available for the June WIRE.

MOTOR CYCLING GRAND PRIX

Geoffrey Duke, British world champion motor cyclist, has won the 500 c.c. event at Codogno, Northern Italy. Riding a Norton, Duke covered 97 miles at an average speed of 82 m.p.h. British riders also secured most of the honours in the Grand Prix of Belgium. Anderson, riding a Guzzi, won the 250 c.c. class; Coleman, A.J.S., the 350 and 500 c.c.; and Eric Oliver, Norton, the sidecar event.

Plain Tales

★ *BY BARLEAUX WITH GREETINGS FROM BARLEAUX*

Sporting Gossip

THE annual Boat Race between the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge was held this year on one of the days in March, probably a Friday.

Uncle Alf: " It was a Saturday."

Me: " Thanks. The race was won by Cambridge."

Uncle Alf: " You mean Oxford."

Me: " Yes, that's it, Oxford."

For many years this great sporting event has resulted in a British victory, thus proving beyond all doubt that, etc., etc. The cheering thousands on the banks, gay in their summer clothes, revelling in the abnormal sunshine . . .

Uncle Alf: " There were no cheering thousands on the banks and it snowed like hell."

Me: " You are right. I was thinking of the Southern Command cross-country race in the summer of 1935, or was it the winter of 1934? What a race that was. Who would have expected the result to be: 1st, Barleux; 2nd, Cotterell; 3rd, Garroni."

Uncle Alf: " Nobody."

Me: " You are only saying that."

Days Gone By

Talking of Southern Command reminds me that there was a 3rd Divisional Signals on Salisbury Plain many years before the war. Now I see that someone has organised a very select and exclusive reunion of World War II members of 3rd Divisional Signals. It was kind of them to invite at least one of the well-known members of the old Unit. What a job the organisers would have trying to track down all the eligibles. Let me help. Do you know Ronald Shiner of " Worms Eye View "? In 1927-28 he was the comedian in the 3rd Divisional Signals Concert Party. What happened to Puncher Fee? His wife was a star singer. Barleux played the saxophone in the orchestra. They probably know about Joe Cotterell, who used to do a little running, and Alan Griffin, who occasionally threw heavy things at sports meetings. What a dreadful blow to one's *amour propre* to discover that they had never heard of Barleux and hadn't the faintest idea who, how or what he was or is. Interval while I dig a little hole to crawl into! And now by a process of reasoning known only to me I will take up the question of declining WIRE sales. No. On second thoughts I'll leave it like that.

Uncle Alf: " Smart guy, eh? "

Me: " If you say so, pal."

Never Too Late

At the time of writing, there are still vacancies at Mercury House, Colwyn Bay, for holidays in June, July and September. Why not spend your honeymoon there? The sun shines at Colwyn Bay even when it snows on the South Coast. (Advt.)

Académie Barleux

If your Army Public School doesn't suit you, come to us. Write for free prospectus, and see if you get it. This month I propose to learn you the meaning of multi-entendre words.

Uncle Alf: " The word is teach."

Me: " I can't teach people, but I can learn."

Uncle Alf: " I wonder; but carry on."

Take a simple word like " Ha " or " Ha, ha," or for that matter " Ha, ha ha." " Ha " is capable of carrying a wealth of meaning. It is used by the C.O. when he discovers a dustbin behind a bed on barrack room inspection. This rendering of " Ha " is so expressive that the owner of the bed at once makes a mental note to cancel all his engagements for the next seven days. Now " Ha, ha." If the second " Ha " is raised up to half a tone above the first it is pretty clear that someone has found an error in the P.R.I. accounts. " Ha, ha " is also the name given to a sunken wall or fence surrounding a garden. Not many N.C.O.s know this so I am throwing that in free.

" Ha, ha, ha." In schoolboys' books this is used to denote paralysing laughter. If, however, it is uttered slowly and deliberately in a monotone at the end of your brigadier's funny story you may start thinking about some tropical kit right away. Advanced pupils may now go on to " Hoo, ha," which is a sort of flap or uproar which reaches its climax the day before an administrative inspection. If you are interested, fill up the application form now. Next month I will tell you what to do with it.

Uncle Alf: " Where is this form?"

Me: " Goodness knows. I can't find it myself."

A Rum Do

Ukann Larfe kept his fingers curled round the trigger of the Webley in his pocket and ordered another bottle of rum. He thought that rum by the bottle was a bad thing for his complexion. He drank it. The rum, I mean. The newcomer by this time had seated himself at the table with the detective and Miss Elsa Poppin.

He said: " My name's Fogworthy. I used to be your valet in 1937."

A happy grin spread over Elsa's face. She began to sing quietly, " How green is my . . ."

" Shut up," barked Ukann Larfe. " Let's get some action."

Fogworthy handed him a single sheet of notepaper. " Read that," he said. He drank the remains of the detective's rum. Elsa rubbed a little vermouth into her hair. She was becoming bored. Ukann Larfe handed her the paper with a worried frown. She read it with difficulty, turned pale, and caught the next tram to Fenchurch Street.

Uncle Alf: " Dash it. Even you can't believe that trams run from Cornwall to Fenchurch Street."

Me: " Ah, this is an instance where fiction beats fact hollow."

Open this end first.

WAR OFFICE SIGNAL REGIMENT

No. 2 War Office Signal Regiment (Engineering) was formed on 17th March by Lieutenant-Colonel G. D. T. Harris. As its name implies, it is to deal with the engineering side of the War Office world-wide communications, leaving the original Regiment, now renamed No. 1, to do the operating.

The new Regiment, with its H.Q. in Droitwich, has absorbed No. 2 Squadron of No. 1 War Office Signal Regiment, including Major A. B. Wheeler and all his Officers.

This story of a Gurkha Despatch Rider was written by Major G. C. Wylie, 10th Princess Mary's Own Gurkha Rifles, and is re-published by permission of the Editor of "The Kukri," Journal of the Brigade of Gurkhas

Pune Pun

WHEN he first came down from the hills to enlist he didn't know his name for ever since he could remember he had only been called " Kaila," or Fourth Brother. Such is the custom in large families and small villages of Nepal. So he was given the name of Pune, for he was a Pun. Of all Gurkhas the Pun is the happiest, the densest, the most tomboyish, the toughest, the most irresponsible, the most naive, the most lovable. His nose seems almost to have been pushed through his face, and his eyes disappear into tilted slits when he grins; and he is always grinning. In a word, the Pun is a Gurkha among Gurkhas.

But Pune was different. He was silent and intent. A smile hardly ever crossed his serious, handsome face. He never spoke unless spoken to, and only then replied in the barest monosyllables. He kept to himself, and watched. One would always see him there at a nautch, or a football match, or in the canteen, but standing aside from the raucous throng, quiet and observant. He became somewhat of a problem child. How could one get the best out of him? Would he fit into the happy team of comrades-in-arms now preparing to go overseas? The Adjutant and his Company Commander had their doubts. Was he repressed or shy, or just dumb? Somehow, one knew he wasn't dumb.

Pune provided the answer himself. Volunteers were called for as motor cycle despatch riders in the Signal Platoon, and Pune was the first to volunteer. The Signal Platoon was composed of line boys, lads who had been born with the Regiment in India, and who had had the benefit of education, which the Hill Gurkha lacked. Pune was the only non-line boy to volunteer. He was interviewed by his Company Commander. Did he understand that he would have to drive and maintain a large and complicated motor cycle, be an expert map reader, able to undertake long trips independently? That he must learn Signal procedure and many other things besides? Pune said that he understood. Was he still sure he wanted to be a D.R.? Pune said that he was quite sure, in a way that meant that was what he was going to be anyway, so what was the point in asking further questions?

So Pune joined the Signal Platoon and started training. Those were the days when the Indian Army was very much in the bow and arrow stage, and the mule still reigned supreme. Trucks and motor cycles were wonderful things one read about in the Armies in Europe and the Western Desert, and in India only used with elan in T.E.W.T.s.

Pune began on an Army push bike—a fearsome contrivance with a fixed wheel drive, large thick tyres and as heavy as sin. Its one merit lay in being largely crash-proof. It had to be; for as we all know, a Gurkha can break anything, even a crowbar, with the greatest of ease. Pune used to practice for hours, on parade and off, at first haltingly, steering an erratic course across the football field; then with growing confidence round the big pipal tree and down the slope towards the edge of the nala. Later, with great importance, he would go along the road past the recruits' barracks, ringing his bell ostentatiously to make them clear the road for him. He sat bolt upright in the saddle, with both hands correctly on the handlebars as he had been taught, and never showed off with arms folded as the line boys did.

At last came the great day when Pune was presented with a brand new gleaming 500 c.c. Norton. He gave no hint of his feelings as he took it over, but it was soon evident that this was the apple of his eye, his be all and end all. Even before he had learnt the controls he had the paintwork glistening and the appropriate signs neatly painted on. In a few days he was to be seen plugging steadily round the practice track, stiff and intent. When he was allowed no more petrol he would return to the M.T. sheds to oil and grease and polish till his dungarees were black and his Norton shining and magnificent. As he improved it was clear that he would make an excellent motor cyclist. There was none of the daredevil rough rider about him, but his reliability and keenness were going to count for a lot.

In September 1941, the Second First went to Malaya; Pune's training was over and he became an active despatch rider. Apart from the routine journeys to Brigade H.Q. or the Supply Depot, he would sometimes have to make long runs by himself to detached companies at Kuala Lumpur or Taiping. Once we overtook him, 50 or 60 miles from his base, keeping up a steady 30 m.p.h., correct and immaculate. We waved and shouted a greeting; we knew he was not allowed to salute or use his hands except for signals, so we expected no return greeting; but wasn't that a faint flicker of a smile? Yes, Pune was all right.

In the early hours of the day of Pearl Harbour we learned that the invasion of Malaya had begun. Fighting had started at Kota Bahru and Singapore had been raided from the air. A week of tension was over; the years of waiting were over, too. Europe and Africa no longer held the monopoly of the fighting. We were proud to be part of the first all-Gurkha Brigade ever formed. We knew our role; our Division was to cross the frontier into Siam and occupy Singora, the only port of any size which the Japs could use as a base to attack the western side of the Malay Peninsula. All day long we sat by our trucks, wondering why we were not allowed to get on with the job. It was not until sundown that, weary with waiting, we received the code word that set our trucks on their long drive through the night.

We had only recently received our M.T., and the last of our drivers had just discarded his "L." Their experience of convoy driving was confined to a couple of battalion and one brigade exercise. This was a 200-mile move in the dark, and over unknown roads. All the D.R.s were used to shepherd the flock—blocking side-roads, signposting, keeping touch between head and tail. Pune was there, firmly overtaking the stream of vehicles, to be seen dismounting at the next fork, his white leather gauntlets pointing the way.

When the convoy arrived at its laager next morning, on time and without stragglers, the Colonel gave a pat on the back to the M.T.O., with a special word for the D.R.s. The M.T.O. passed the bouquet to Pune, singling him out as the best of the bunch. Pune hardly seemed to hear as he carried on with the all-important task of getting his beautiful steed clean again.

The laager was where we learned that we were not to go on into Southern Siam. The Japs had landed at Singora almost before we knew the war was on. Already they were advancing to meet us. Instead of operating our original plan, we were to occupy a half completed defence position near the frontier. The Second First was sent forward of this position as an outpost astride the main road.

Of the action which followed, the G.O.C.'s despatch

laconically stated, " This Battalion had 500 casualties." That simple statement summarises a few hours of glorious and desperate battle, with the Gurkha exultant in killing, and the Jap " full of sound and fury," but relying on his armour where his infantry failed. Pune saw it all. Manbahadur knocking out three Jap tanks with our only anti-tank weapon —a Boyes rifle; Jembahadur charging the tanks with his carrier; the young recruit running up to the leading tank to crack a Molotov cocktail on it in the sluicing rain; the sword-waving, screaming Jap officers leading their troops to death at the Dannert wire in front of our slit trenches; the gathering gloom streaked with yellow tracers from Havildar Badi's Bren gunners duelling across the road, and with red from the shells of the Jap tanks massed head to tail only 30 yards away. He saw our trucks set on fire one by one; perhaps he saw his own motor cycle ablaze. He saw the heavy tanks rumbling on, ignoring our battle. If he looked far to the rear he may have seen the red and green verey lights go up, but he probably did not know that the heavy crumps around him a minute or two later were from our own defensive fire. From the noise of battle behind him, he knew that the rest of the Division was engaged. He may not have fully grasped the implications of the noises heard, but he obeyed instinctively when he was told that the Battalion must split into small parties to infiltrate through the battle line and re-form in Divisional position. It was a night of horrors; wading through mangrove swamp, holding the sahib's shoulder with two or three others when it was too deep to wade; lying up, shivering, on the bank by a Jap mortar battery; being sniped; cutting through endless jungle with his kukri; and finally coming through a post of Jap Regiment with the sahib waving his vest on a bamboo. Then back to Brigade H.Q., where they were welcomed as heroes, with a special handshake from the Brigadier, and sent straight out to repulse an attack through the rubber trees.

So it went on, all through the second night. No food, no sleep; there seemed to be Japs everywhere. The Battalion was barely 100 strong. Towards morning the din of battle sank and ceased; the dawn showed us alone; the Division had withdrawn; evidently they had not been able to get in touch with us. It was a case of rejoining them in small parties again, but this time there was no position close at hand for which to aim. After many adventures, playing hide-and-seek with the Japs, and much hard marching, most parties fetched up again in time for the second big battle. A few were never seen again. Pune's party had a scrap with a Jap patrol, and decided that trying to race Japs on wheels was not worth the candle. They planned to make for the coast, pinch a boat, sail to Penang, and thence rejoin their Battalion.

They found a Malay fishing boat near Kuala Kedah, and rejoiced in the success of their scheme. The map showed Penang just down the coast. They didn't know much about boats, for there were no lakes or navigable rivers in their mountains in Nepal. But hadn't they come all the way from India over the sea? And hadn't they watched the fishing boats at Port Swettenham? The wind just blew them along, and you steered with that thing at the back. Boats were easy. They would be in Penang in the morning. They waited until dark and pushed off. A fair breeze took them swiftly along. They had meant to keep awake and steer near the coast, but soon the complete sleep of exhaustion overcame them all. They had had no more than a few hours, snatched, during the past week in brief moments, and then only at the bottom of a weapon pit or on the edge of a padi field, soaked from the daily downpour.

When Pune woke it was broad daylight. There was no land in sight and they were becalmed. The sun beat down from a cloudless sky, and he was incredibly thirsty. There were some palm fronds aboard, and Pune woke his companions to use these as oars. The fronds didn't last long, and there was nothing to do but wait for a wind. They waited all day. In the evening a breeze sprang up and they sailed by the stars back towards land, but in the morning there was still nothing but sea to be seen. Pune had never known thirst could be so terrible, and he had that stabbing pain in his stomach again. They could crawl under the tarpaulin to get out of the sun, but there was no way of escaping thirst. Soon they were too weak to use the sail or move the tiller. Pune dreamt in his delirium of the pure crystal spring near his home, the spring which had given its name to the village—Chispani, cool water. They drifted all that day, and the next and the next. Day after day, till time meant nothing.

The coastguard of the Dutch East Indian Army stood to as the little boat drifted in to the coast of Sumatra. This was the first visible sign after many false alarms. They were expecting a Japanese landing, and here was a boat from across the Straits. Excitement ran high; every available weapon was trained on the craft as the boarding party approached.

At first they could see nothing. When they lifted the tarpaulin they saw nine figures huddled in a corner with lips cracked and swollen, their tongues protruding, they could neither speak nor move, and were clearly near to death. Whoever they were, with their Mongol features, queer weapons and uniforms, this was no Japanese invasion. Stretchers were brought and ambulances summoned. Helping hands lifted the strangers clear.

An hour later, Pune and his companions were between cool sheets in a clean airy hospital, being nursed gently back to life. When Pune regained consciousness he found himself alone; he was being treated for appendicitis and was in a ward by himself. He had no common language with his nurses or doctors, but this is not much of a barrier to Gurkhas, any more than to soldiers of any nationality. His first enquiries were of the fighting in Malaya, but his nurse seemed reluctant to talk of this, and he could get no clear picture. He found out the date of their rescue, and so knew that they had been at sea nine days.

★

Pune stayed in hospital about a month. His companions left as they were passed fit—he knew not where they had gone. At last the doctor said he was strong enough to leave. Where did he want to be sent to—Australia or India? A plane could take him to either.

Pune said simply that he wanted to go back to his Battalion.

The doctor explained that he had been very ill and would need all the rest he could get; there was no difficulty about an air passage, he could easily arrange that.

But Pune was quite adamant. He was going back to the Battalion in Malaya.

Next day a special plane took him to Batavia and thence to Singapore.

As he stepped from his plane at the airport his nonchalant air of the experienced traveller caught the eye of a Brigadier. The Brigadier had lost his batman in the fighting up country and was looking for another. What could be more convenient that a stray, self-assured Gurkha? A few brisk words and Pune found that he was now the batman of an officer he had never seen before. He spent the afternoon in the back of a staff car touring reinforcement camps on Singapore Island. This wasn't what he had returned to Malaya for; by evening he had had enough. He walked out on to the road and hitch-hiked on the next truck going north.

It was Peter O'Neal who first discovered him—in the M.T. Park with "B" Echelon.

" Hello, Pune. Where the dickens have you been all this time?"

" Sumatra," said Pune. It might have been the cookhouse.

" Well, blow me down. How did you get there?"

" By boat," said Pune, simply.

" I see. And how did you come back again?"

" In a plane," said Pune, with the air of one who couldn't be bothered to answer silly questions, as he turned to polish the tank of a newly-scrounged motor cycle. C.W.G.

Catterick Jottings

By "NACERBY"

Inventory—Removal from . . . and to . . .

BEEN wondering for some time 'bout that look in the G III's eye—and now Captain Charles Wardle has left H.Q., S.T.C., for Singapore after (can you do calculus?) a+b+c+z years (if you know what I mean!).

Yes, indeed, it's as long as that—he has worn out pencils (blue) enough to stretch from Land's End to Land's End—on a circular route if you leave out Gallowgate—and really "dug" himself in on the golf course in his leisure moments.

His cheery smile, ready advice on all matters, and sterling work for sport in the Centre will long be remembered. Good luck and *bon voyage*, Charles, and don't forget my stamps.

A glad hand to Captain R. C. Bryson, and was it coincidental the sun shone on your arrival?

Growths, Lip, Upper

The extraordinary spate of the above mentioned item in the S.T.C. reminds me of a very funny story. You've heard it? O.K., but Barleux hasn't, I'll bet.

During World War II a War Office instruction was issued cancelling the regulation forbidding the shaving of the upper lip. The Brigade Major informed all officers commanding Units.

One young officer returned the chit with this minute added: "Am I to understand by the term 'upper lip' that part of the face contained between vertical lines drawn from each corner of the lip and within the space below the nostril?"

The Brigade Major returned the document with another minute: "Yes, but keep your mouth shut."

(Some chaps we know can keep it open.)

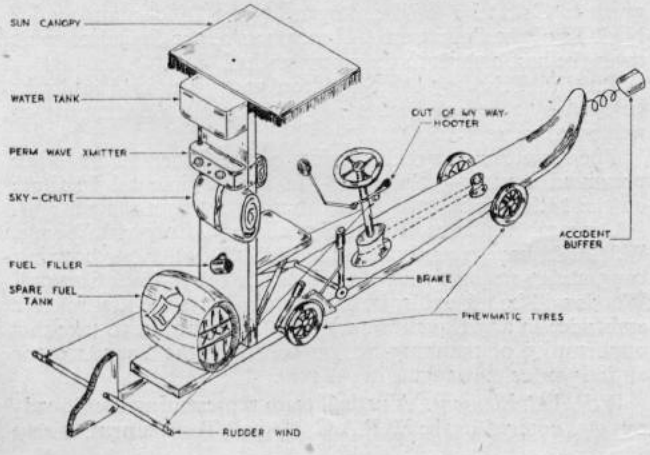
Faces, Brown (Squared) . . . and Gant

That's a brilliant headline, even though I say it as shouldn't—but you know me! You don't? Pity. Which brings me to Major P. H. Brown (H.Q., S.T.C.), Major E. N. L. Brown (1 Training Regiment), Captain S. L. Gant (7 Training Regiment), and ski-ing (pronounced she-ing, with no ulterior motive). Even Barleux couldn't improve on that!

These three spent the early days of March ski-ing in Austria, and returned in one piece (separately, of course), and faces so Brown (you've got that joke now, I hope) that the Commander, being pardonably mistaken, said "Good morning" in Urdu, and was astonished when "Topper" answered in faultless Gaelic—sorry, English!

This sport has become very popular in the Corps, and to assist those sceptics who think it difficult to fly down a slope at 45 m.p.h. with a dirty big tree in the way I have secured the publishing rights of the Treseder ski (Norwegian pattern). Full working instructions and two buckets of snow with each ski. Customers supply their own bandages, call signs and frequencies.

THE TRESEDER SKI



Old Soldiers Never . . .

With all the modesty of a Barleux I can talk easily 'bout 1924, 3rd Division, and "those were the days, old man," but I was a little shaken after I had accepted the invitation to the April meeting of the Catterick Branch of the Association held in 3 Training Regiment W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess.

It appears I needed a slide rule, Pythagoras' theorem, and a couple of lumps of geometrical progression to work out the combined service of the Chairman (Colonel L. R. Hall), Secretary Charlie Childs and, among others, Jim Widgery, Frank Stockton, Polly Perkins (ex Orderly Room, 3rd Division), Bill Bailey, Mick Hunt, Alf Button, Jim Stainer, ex-R.S.M. McClavern, Captain Colin Tucker—could almost say "Uncle Tom Cobley and all"—and so many more, that after I had "revisited" their stations abroad I found I'd been twice round the world and over-spent my foreign allowance!

The enthusiasm and hospitality was tremendous, but I echo Barleux's sentiments about the age level of members. What to do? There are many interesting possibilities—the best is for the present members to bring along new faces as a guest for the first occasion—they'll come back again—and in Catterick *everyone* knows Charlie Childs. In any case, you couldn't miss those ears and nose, could you?

Catterick accepts Colwyn Bay's challenge for the next curious collection of trades and offer as prizes: a couple of days' Catterick weather and a place in the bus queue to Darlington.

Brains Teaser—T.R.A.s and Others

The Union of Chief Instructors (known to Training Officers in Operator Regiments as Constant Interference) and others interested in T.R.A.s may benefit from a perusal of the following general knowledge examination. The candidate in this instance *didn't* want to be a driver (M.T. or slave) or employed on G.D. (The P.S.O. is doing quite well, thank you.)

Examiner: Do you understand what we mean by general knowledge?
Applicant: Yes.
Examiner: Good. That's an excellent start. Keep it up.
Question 1—Lord Nelson wore a patch over one eye. Which one?
Applicant: The left.
Examiner: No.
Applicant: The right.
Examiner: Correct.
Question 2—Points of the compass are mentioned in the quotation ending "and never the twain shall meet." Which points?
Applicant: North and south.
Examiner: No.
Applicant: East and west.
Examiner: Correct.
Question 3—Is caporal a French tobacco or an N.C.O. with an oversized beret?
Applicant: An N.C.O. with an . . .
Examiner: A-a-a-a a-a-a . . .
Applicant: French tobacco.
Examiner: Correct.

Question 4—Is sea water salty?
Applicant: No.
Examiner: No?
Applicant: Yes.
Examiner: Good. Passed with honours.

When interviewed the candidate commented " I did nowt extra"; but we shall retain our opinion that he didn't get that stripe for nothing.

Do You Wish to Go Sick?

Why have the trouble of packing your haversack, kitbag, etc., when the Nacerby Sick Parade Service is at your disposal at reasonable prices?

If you are a subscriber to the Nacerby Sick Parade Service we send a representative to the Squadron Office to put your name on the Daily Sick Report. While this formality is being complied with, breakfast will be served to you in your bed. At the appropriate time a representative (of the N.S.P.S.) in full marching order, will attend the sick parade on your behalf, and will take his place in the queue to see the M.O. until three minutes before your name is due to be called. A runner will then notify you and escort you to the doctor.

With our more EXPENSIVE SERVICE our representative will go right through the M.O.'s examination, thus saving you any inconvenience. A CHEAPER SERVICE, whereby you go on the sick parade yourself, entitles you to collect a respirator, steel helmet and haversack READY PACKED with towel, toilet requisites, spare boots (complete with 14 studs), gym shoes, shirt, socks, denims, iron rations, camp stool, A.B.64 and two sticks of Blackpool rock (with name stamped right through). Easy payment terms arranged. Also Flat Feet.

Ring Scotton 121200 and see where it gets you.

Howlers—1952 Version

1. A.C. currant flows fust one way and then the other. For this reason it can be used twice.
2. The inside of inert cell is contained in a Moslem bag.
3. Velocity is the speed of provocation.
4. A man named Marconi invented the wireless. He is known as the Cat's Whiskers!
5. An artery is where you find a lot of pictures of ladies without their clothes on.
6. We breathe through pores in our skin. This has been proved by sticking out your tongue and catching the breeze on it.

Next Month

Brilliant articles on the W.R.A.C., P.T. and " Umbrellas, rocket resisting? Squadron model."

3 TRAINING REGIMENT

The meteorological blokes have certainly been pushing us around these past few weeks—no sooner had we donned tennis kit—down came the snow! On with the ski kit—down came the rain; so, on with the best battle dress—ceremonial parade!

(Have you noticed how a beret keeps the flippin' rain off one's ears?—if it's four sizes too big!)

But the sun really shone—metaphorically and literally—on the occasion of the G.O.C. Northumbrian District inspection. Trainees murmured " Think we shook him," N.C.O.s looked important and talked about " us N.C.O.s," officers lifted eyebrows, " 3 T.R. you know, old chap," and as for my comments—remember my mentioning that halo last month? You do? It's still a little tight and we hope it will be even more comfortable after the annual administrative inspection.

Highlight of the month's entertainments was the presentation of " Love in the Mist," by the Strand Repertory Company—full house, an appreciative Unit audience, and wistful glances at the leading lady, leading to one trainee talking of an " electro-magnet with blonde coils."

Sports honours continue to circulate. S.Q.M.S. C. Spence and Signalman Sayers represented the Corps at soccer; S.Q.M.S. Smythe, Sergeant T. Cantle, Sergeant Angus and Corporal Bartlett at hockey; R.S.M. V. C. Brassfield and S.Q.M.S. Ashworth in the Command hunter trials; and Major E. Nash, Major N. A. C. Clubb and the M.O. (Captain D. Player) in the military team versus civilians in the Catterick Golf Club's annual match.

Although Command basketball champions, we were narrowly beaten in the Army Championships, but welcome the experience for a win next year.

And finally, we hear that women like a strong, silent man because they think he's listening.

SOUTHERN COMMAND (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT

Captain Massey, destined for Far East, has now vacated the Adjutant's chair, having been relieved by Captain Welsby from the Depot Regiment.

Major J. Waller is also due to leave us in the near future for the Signal Training Centre. He will be replaced by Major M. R. Hewitt.

H.Q. Squadron. R.S.M. Johns has now been posted away and R.S.M. Smith is carrying on the good work.

Sport, which is limited by our numbers, goes on with varying success in a minor way, and our team is now in full training for the District Rifle Meeting.

1 Squadron. The Squadron continues its sporting activities. The Squadron cross-country team were placed sixth in the Salisbury Plain Small Units Competition.

Congratulations to Signalman Watt on reaching the finals of the district boxing.

2 Squadron. The G.O.C. Aldershot District carried out the annual administrative inspection on 4th March. Fortunately rain held off during the parade and inspection of lines, and the programme was completed without interruption.

The Aldershot District Rifle Meeting is again attracting the W.R.A.C. members of the Squadron, who are now busy training. Beware the face powder in the gas vents. It shows up much worse than dust.

3 Squadron. Major R. Evans has just completed taking over command of the Squadron from Major M. R. Hewitt.

NORTHERN IRELAND DISTRICT (M) SIGNAL SQUADRON

We have said farewell to our Chief Signal Officer, Colonel H. C. B. Rogers, O.B.E., and have welcomed his successor, Lieutenant-Colonel N. I. Bower, O.B.E. A farewell party was given to Colonel and Mrs. Rogers by the Officers and senior N.C.O.s of the Squadron. All members of the Squadron wish them the best of luck in their new station.

On 2nd February the Squadron party was held and was enjoyed by all those present. This was our opportunity to welcome the new C.S.O.

The Amateur Dramatic Society of the General Post Office presented a play—" Suspect "—in the Regimental Institute on the 14th March, which was thoroughly appreciated.

Corporal Williams, Royal Signals, and Corporal Woods, W.R.A.C., have recently been married. We offer our heartiest congratulations and wish them luck for the future. Corporal Woods will be missed by us as she was always the first to offer assistance in any Squadron activity. I would like to take this opportunity of thanking her on behalf of the Squadron for all the work she has done in the past.

W.R.A.C. Element. A netball team representing the Squadron was entered in the W.R.A.C. Netball Tournament. Early

in February they went to Scotland and were unfortunately knocked out in the first round.

Due to the recent disbandment of 13 Company, W.R.A.C., the strength of the W.R.A.C. element has been increased. To all those girls who were transferred to us we extend a hearty welcome and hope that they will find the Squadron to their liking.

To Signalman Farrow, Royal Signals, and Private Parsons, W.R.A.C., we extend hearty congratulations on the occasion of their marriage, which recently took place.

3 A.A. INDEPENDENT (M) SIGNAL SQUADRON

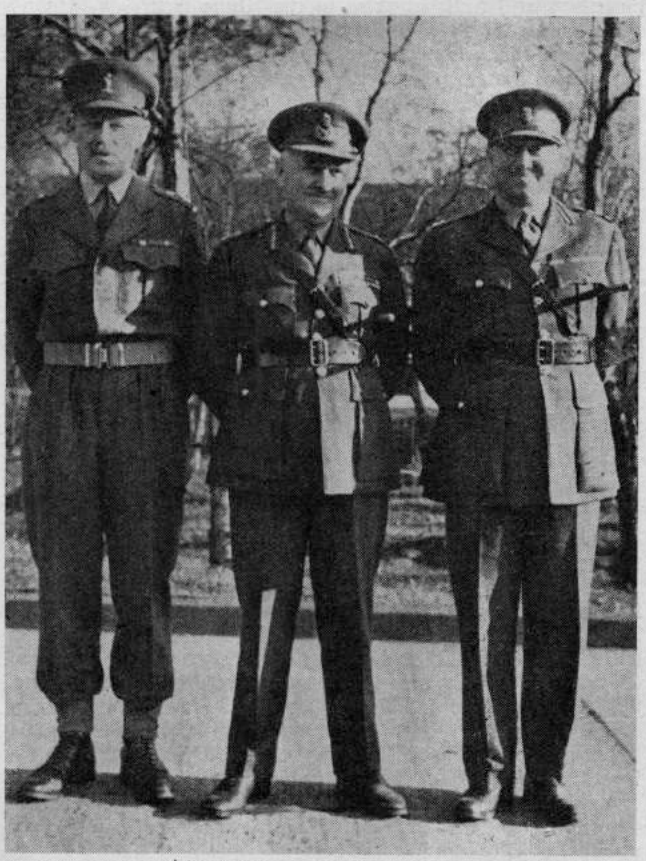
We bid farewell to Major J. L. Tanner, M.B.E., wishing him all the best in the future, and extending a welcome to our new Officer Commanding, Major G. R. Edwards.

In the realm of sport we have had several successes. In particular, Signalman Ward won the welterweight division of the Lowland District Championship and the Scottish Command Championship, but was unfortunate enough to meet the present holder in the quarter finals of the Army Championship, who was rather too good for him. The soccer team averages about two outside games a week and are likely to be runners-up in the amateur league in which they play.

We are at the moment busily preparing for our summer camp, which will be held at Aberporth, and where we should be joined by our "Z" Reservists.

There are rumours of the Squadron moving to a new camp near Renfrew which, by all accounts, should be more comfortable than our present quarters.

VISIT OF
Director of Signals
TO B.A.O.R.



The Director visits B.A.O.R. Lieutenant-Colonel E. C. R. Blaker, Major-General W. O. Bowen, Brigadier R. H. O. Coryton

H.Q. B.A.O.R. SIGNAL REGIMENT

The month of March saw us preparing for two events with great gusto, for later in the month we were to be visited, firstly by our new Director of Signals, Major-General W. O. Bowen, C.B., C.B.E., and secondly, by our C. in C. General Sir John Harding.

The visit of the Director took place on the 20th March and, as is the custom, his first impressions of our Unit were decided by a Guard of Honour. He then inspected the Regiment and took the salute at the march past.

The visit of the C. in C., four days later, however, had a different atmosphere. It had not so much the aspect of a father who is seeing for the first time an addition to his family, but that of a general manager inspecting his charges to see that all is well. As a result, after being met by the same Guard of Honour, his tour took him not to the barrack square but to the workshops and lecture rooms, and we are led to believe he was very pleased with what he saw.

As for later events in March, need we say more than that once again the Unit started " scheming."

We are very pleased to report that two members of our Regiment have been selected to play for B.A.O.R. in their respective sports. They are Sergeant Gilbert, twice selected to play for the B.A.O.R. badminton team and who has done exceptionally well in these representative matches, and Signalman Harris, who was chosen to represent B.A.O.R. at football and who in the course of events put his name among the goalscorers.

The Unit basketball team has done exceedingly well in securing, by beating 1 Corps Signal Regiment in the semi-finals, a place in the final round of the Inter Signals Basketball Trophy.

Our Regimental badminton team have gone one better in winning the Inter Signals Badminton Championship, after a thrilling match in the final round against 1 Wireless Regiment.

1 WIRELESS REGIMENT

The Regiment was honoured on 22nd March with a visit by the Director of Signals, Major-General W. O. Bowen, C.B., C.B.E., accompanied by the C.S.O., B.A.O.R.

The same afternoon we beat 11 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment 3—0 in the semi-final of the B.A.O.R. Signals Hockey Cup. This followed a win of 2—0 over H.Q., B.A.O.R., Signals Regiment in the second round.

The badminton team is rapidly making a name for itself. From quiet beginnings and noisy telephonings it has leapt into prominence with a win of 5 games to 1 over 6 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment in the semi-final of the B.A.O.R. Signals Inter-Unit Competition.

In the B.A.O.R. Royal Signals Tournament our rugger team has been playing very well, but lost by the odd try in three in the replay of the semi-final. Its score card in the tournament has run:—

v. 1 Corps Signal Regiment	Won	16—6
v. 11 Air Formation Signal Regiment	Won	9—6
v. 6 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment	Drew	3—3
v. 6 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment (replay)	Lost	3—6

On the soccer field there is still keen rivalry in the Inter-Troop Competition, with "A" and "Q" well ahead on goal average over their runners-up, 153 Troop. In the semi-final of the B.A.O.R. Royal Signals Inter-Unit Tournament our eleven beat H.Q., B.A.O.R. Signals Regiment 4—2. Signalman Rolfe continues to show his prowess as leader of the attack.

Since the completion of the gymnasium floor, basketball has come on with leaps and bounds. As we write, the final games of the Inter-Troop League are being played off and the Unit team has played a number of " friendlies," winning each decisively.

Thanks to the untiring efforts of two of our operators in their spare time, the extension to the Games Room has now been fully decorated and the regular evening record sessions are increasing in popularity.

11 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT

The highlight of the month was the visit of our new Director of Signals Major-General W. O. Bowen, C.B., C.B.E., on 20th March.

Together with 1 A.S.S.U., the Regiment paraded in ceremonial order, but unfortunately a rain squall soaked everyone to the skin and the Director decided to carry out his inspection in the gymnasium.

During the month Squadrons have been preparing feverishly for Unit Exercise " Flapdoodle," and as we go to press the advance parties are moving out in a blinding snowstorm. R.H.Q. follows in 48 hours. The Regiment will stay under canvas until the Commanding Officer is satisfied with our performance, both tactical and technical.

Murmurs of " rum ration " were heard as the convoys moved out, but like the Yankee battleships, we are dry for the next ten days or so. The modern treatment for exposure to inclement weather, according to the Quartermaster Sahib, is a large mug of strong sweet cocoa. Nelson would turn in his grave.

Sport. We were knocked out of the Inter Royal Signals Unit Rugby Competition in the quarter-final by 1 Wireless Regiment, 9—6.

We won the Royal Signals Inter-Unit Cross-Country Competition at Bad Oeynhausen on 5th March, 1952.

Our badminton team was successful at Wahn in the semi-final of the R.A.F. Inter-Station Competition.

2 Squadron are now in the final of the John Rice Soccer Cup Competition. Sport generally in the Regiment has prospered under the able management of Major R. C. Dixon and we shall be sorry to see him revert to Home establishment in May.

7 ARMOURED DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

All is going well in the world of sport. Our soccer teams are neck and neck for top of the Divisional League, and this week-end we play in the final of the Royal Signals B.A.O.R. Cup. Sergeant Harrington, F. of S. Earl, and our quite excellent " custodian," Corporal Abbott, have served the team splendidly, and we must not forget those others who have helped us to get there and sustained injuries and therefore will not be playing in the final. These include Sergeant Molony, who has a broken leg.

The rugger fifteen are going great guns too, and on 30th April play in the final of the Royal Signals B.A.O.R. Championship. They are also in the semi-final for the Divisional Cup. Lance-Corporal Smith is a great asset to the team now he has returned from his P.T. course, and Lance-Corporal "Woolly" Godden, Lance-Corporal Day, Signalman Richardson, Signalman Colclough and Lance-Corporal Griffiths have also been well to the fore in trouncing all our opponents to date.

BERLIN SIGNAL SQUADRON

We were visited by the Director of Signals during March.

We congratulate S.S.M. Cartledge on the award of the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.

The small bore team, using our new B.S.A. rifles, has almost reached the top of the British Troops, Berlin, .22 League.

Although defeated by 11 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment in the Royal Signals B.A.O.R. Championship, we feel that the necessity of using borrowed rifles contributed to the shooting of our team, which was below their actual standard.

5 AGRA (A.A.) SIGNAL SQUADRON

There have been many changes in 1952, both in personnel and the appearance of our barracks.

Crerar Barracks now boasts a large square, but a hockey ground marked out now gives us a fairer share of the Garrison sporting facilities.

It is said that March " comes in like a lamb " and " goes out like a lion "—not so in these parts—for " lion " read " abominable snowman " (with apologies to Flook!). For our annual administrative inspection on 1st April, by C.A.G.R.A., the barracks were shrouded in snow and our elaborate parade and march past humbled itself to the shelter of the garages. Nevertheless, the Commander appeared pleased with the standard and turn-out, and with the remainder of the Squadron which he visited during the course of the day. The Squadron was granted a two-day holiday afterwards, a just reward for the effort put in beforehand.

In the sporting world the weather has baulked most of our efforts. No. 1 F.C. Signal Troop, however, won the Inter-Troop Sports Trophy for 1951 on indoor games. Lance-Corporal Gennaro won the Agra table tennis singles championships and went forward to the Rhine Army championships, managing to reach the last sixteen.

Our only large exercise so far has been Exercise " Skandia II," where with the aid of the Regimental Signal Troops we were responsible for Brigade Neutral Signals.

S.H.A.P.E. SIGNAL SQUADRON (U.K.)

The ninth meeting of the N.A.T.O. Council took place in sunny Lisbon, city of statues, palm trees, and very little landline communication with the outside world. A small international team from S.H.A.P.E. was sent to establish a Lisbon-Paris radioteletype circuit and to maintain communication day and night. From the Telegraph Operating Troop went Second-Lieutenant Hughes, Corporal Halls and Lance-Corporals Buck and Rumble. The Cipher Troop released Lieutenant Cann, Sergeant Taylor and Corporal Matheson, while Corporal Hoad was the lucky one from the Wireless Troop.

We arrived at Lisbon at noon on the 7th February after a very comfortable journey in the " Columbine," one of General Eisenhower's private planes. As soon as we were settled in at the hotel we were shown our office in the *Instituto Superior Technico,* an engineering college which the Portuguese Government had skilfully transformed into the N.A.T.O. H.Q. We went straight to work, one half of the personnel going on duty at 2100 hours and working until relieved at 0900 hours. We operated on a system of two 12-hour shifts. Corporal Hoad won all the medals with his uncanny knack of operating the receiver under very difficult conditions.

Because of the hours everybody had at least a day or two free during our stay, and we managed to view some of the city's ancient sights. Sergeant Taylor's method of sightseeing —jumping on an open-sided tram and heading for the unknown—proved to be the best.

We were all very impressed by the Portuguese Forces and their guard-changing and flag-raising ceremonies, which were



S.H.A.P.E. Signal Squadron. Left to right: Rumble, Buck, Hoad, Second-Lieutenant Hughes, Lieutenant Cann, Matherson, Taylor, Halls

indeed spectacular. Corporal Matheson was especially impressed one day when as he passed a naval guard of honour the whole outfit jumped smartly to attention as a man, bugles blowing and swords flashing. He explains that this was by no means an error; " they must have known it was a *Scottish* corporal!"

The business of rushed diplomats and busy military representatives was finally concluded, another N.A.T.O. Council meeting was over, and we began to pack up shop; Corporals Buck and Halls with great eagerness, their fingers at least half an inch shorter from incessant typing of messages. Another plane trip and we left the sunshine of Portugal behind, headed for home territory, Paris, and S.H.A.P.E. Signal Squadron.

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C13 Forces Broadcasting Station Vienna B.T.A. 4

THE station, one of three on the British Forces Network in Austria, is situated within Schönbrunn Barracks—very modern and well equipped buildings constructed for Hitler's S.S. troops during the war. The station comprises transmitter hall, control room and studio, record library, store rooms, technicians' rest rooms and the station commander's offices. All are centrally heated and are large, airy and pleasant rooms.

A standard radio broadcast transmitter is in daily use. It is a type M.24 and has a power of 800 watts. A Hallicrafter B.C.610 and its ancillaries is used as a standby. Two A.R.88 receivers provide for reception of the B.B.C. General Overseas Programme and normal B.B.C. type OB/8A amplifiers and MX/18M mixer units are used, together with fast and slow running turntables. There are between four and five thousand gramophone records in the library.

Power is normally obtained from Schönbrunn mains supply, but there is a 15 K.V.A. Lister diesel-electric generator and two P.E. 95 petrol-electric generators for use in the event of a mains failure. The two latter are remote controlled.

The main aerial is a simple "T" suspended between two 90-feet sectional tubular steel masts and radiates on a frequency of 868 kc/s (345 metres). The station has sufficient range to give very good reception in all parts of Vienna city, and has been heard on odd occasions in the U.K. Special modulation and control lines link the station with the other two at Graz and Klagenfurt. There are some 299 miles of these lines and they pass through no less than eight repeater stations, some of which are in the Russian Zone. The stations take it in turn to broadcast either individually or simultaneously throughout the day with two short breaks for tests and servicing.

Programmes are predominantly B.B.C. relays and recordings, and the remainder of our air-time consists of Early Call, Housewives' Corner, Mail Bag, Listeners' Choice, B.F.N. Quiz, Words from the Padre, Children's Hour, Hospital Special and broadcasts from the opera. Outside broadcasts include military events of importance, sports championships and music from the Officers' Transit Hotel, the Park Hotel, Vienna. Occasionally C.S.E. shows are broadcast or partly recorded for future use. Two notable ones this winter were the Piddingtons and the Gracie Fields show. A weekly programme is published in the F.B.S. magazine *Wavelength*.

The officer in charge is Captain R. C. Wilson, M.B.E., Royal Signals, the Station Commander. Other C.13 personalities are Captain H. G. Ferguson, M.C., F.N.F., H/Sergeant J. K. Parsons, ex Royal Signals, and Corporal G. A. Parsons, R.A.F., who combine announcing and production in their daily duties. All other personnel are Austrian, several of whom were officers in the German Army during the war. They are now employed as transmitter or studio technicians, generator mechanics and electricians. There is also a lady librarian.

Technical supervision is carried out by Squadron-Leader A. F. Thorpe, M.B.E., late R.A.F., and of B.B.C. fame. He is the chief technical officer of the network based at Graz. There



Captain R. C. Wilson, M.B.E., Royal Signals, station commander, C13 Forces Broadcasting Station, Vienna

are always openings for ex Royal Signals personnel in Forces broadcasting. Anyone so interested should communicate with the Station Commander, who will be pleased to forward their letters to the proper authorities. Captain Wilson is, of course, extra regimentally employed in this appointment.

Middle East Land Forces

3 G.H.Q. SIGNAL REGIMENT

With the Anglo-Egyptian relations in the Canal Zone showing a turn for the better, there has been a corresponding change in the everyday life in the camp.

Local civilian employees, who walked out on us when the trouble began, are drifting back. The barber, cobbler, tailor and dhobi are once again installed, while the institution of Busty's does a roaring trade in the sale of coca cola. Outside the camp one has no difficulty in dispensing of any surplus ackers!

Well, we've survived being blown away by the annual khamsins (sandstorms) and are well and truly experiencing the baking heat of another Egyptian summer. Swimming, water polo, cricket and boxing are making their seasonal bows and enthusiasts can be sure of being well catered for. At the time of writing the Regimental boxing team is due to meet its first opponents in 10 B.O.D., R.A.O.C., Geneifa. Arrangements are in hand for the Regimental swimming gala to be held on 21st June at the Olympia Stadium.

The Regimental Rugby team was very successful—finishing with victories in two competitions, namely the Army and Inter-Service Seven-a-Side. The team was unchanged in those competitions, and consisted of: Lieutenant Prince, Second-Lieutenant Stevenson, Second-Lieutenant Dixon, Sergeant Rees, Sergeant Steele, Signalman Bowers and Signalman Meil. Unfortunately for us we will not have the services of Lieutenant Prince, Sergeant Rees and Sergeant Steele next season as they are returning to the U.K. The trio have been a backbone to a fine team and they will be sorely missed.

During the season Sergeant Rees made a " hat trick " of appearances for the Army XV.

The hockey team finished with an inspiring record by winning ten of the thirteen fixtures in the Canal South District Major League. Final positions are not yet known, but we can count on being second or third. In the Army (Egypt) Cup the team was knocked out in the second round.

The soccer season was rounded off by the Regimental Knock-out Competition—Operating Troop beating M.T. and L.A.D. in the final.

We would like to thank Corporal Baker, the previous WIRE correspondent, for all the work he put into the notes.

So would we.—Editor.

GIBRALTAR SIGNAL SQUADRON

Since our last notes many of the familiar faces have left the Unit for home. *(Some of these are noted in the personal column of this number.—Editor.)*

While still on about departures, we would like to make a special mention about Captain C. H. G. Allen, our popular T.O.T., who has left us for Northern Command Signal Regiment. We wish him the best in his new station.

Our soccer season is nearly over, and although our team did not reach the high standard of the two previous seasons, the games were thoroughly enjoyed and a certain amount of experience was gained. Results at hockey have been more encouraging and we have reached the semi-final of the Minor Units Knock-out Competition.

In conclusion, congratulations are offered to Q.M.S. (F.O.S.) Dale on his promotion to that rank.

CYRENAICA SIGNAL SQUADRON

Events of the past month here in Cyrenaica have been overshadowed by the death of His Majesty King George VI.

It will be remembered that Princess Elizabeth stopped at El Adem Airfield on her way to East Africa to commence her Commonwealth tour. How many realised that she would next visit this desert airfield as Queen? The Squadron, although unable to claim the privilege of handling her personal message to the Army despatched from El Adem, can claim the honour of maintaining the keying lines over which the message was transmitted.

Social activities in Benghasi were suspended, and the British civilian community joined with the Army in a simple but sincere ceremony to honour the passing of the late King. The newly-formed Kingdom of Libya was represented by notable Arab dignities, and some idea of the sympathy and the loss felt by these people can be imagined by the issue of a Royal proclamation ordering a fortnight's national mourning.

Some of the frustration experienced by our colleagues in Egypt has now become our lot—at least as far as cable thefts are concerned. Aerial gear, cables, P.L. routes, all became " booty " to the local scrap dealers. Since Sergeant Torodes' memorable cross-country ride after two fully mobile thieves —mounted on bicycles—who were seen making away with mast sections, D8, angle irons and stay wire—culminating in an arrest and presumably a stiff sentence—these nuisances have been conspicuous by their absence.

The Unit has had a full programme in the sporting world.

Although a close second in the Football League, we were defeated 1—0 by an R.A.S.C. Company in the semi-final of the cup. Our victors fully deserved their narrow win, but we had trounced the same team 7—1 in last year's cup final!

The cross-country run produced high hopes which, however, were soon grounded when the Libyan Royal Guard appeared on the field. They became easy winners, following this success by winning the annual 17-mile road relay. In this the Squadron was unfortunate as, after lying second for some miles, we finished fourth out of thirteen teams.

Our boxing team met with stiff opposition in the District Boxing Championships, meeting R.E. Establishment in the semi-finals. Laurels go to Corporal Smithard, who outboxed his aggressive opponent, and to Signalman Vaughan, who floored his opponent in the first round.

The local branch of the Royal Signals Association has been almost inactive. It is hoped to stage various social functions in the near future.

FAR ★ EAST LAND FORCES

SINGAPORE DISTRICT SIGNAL REGIMENT

The months of February and March have seen quite a number of changes in personnel of the Regiment, not the least of these being the arrival of our new Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel R. C. B. Stuart.

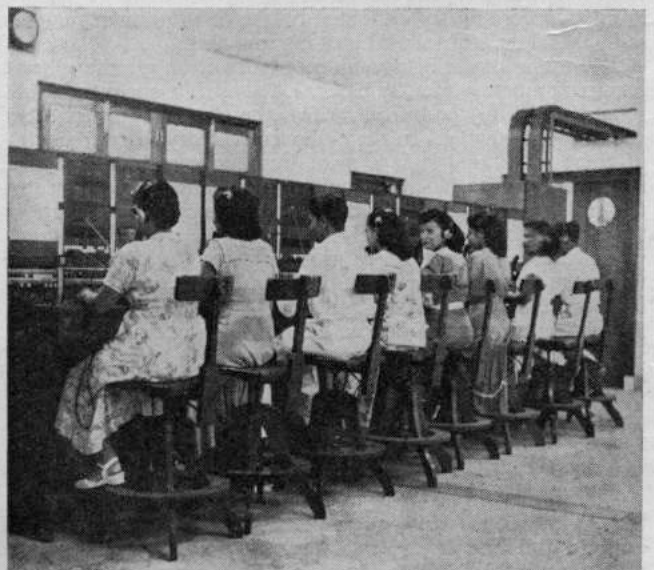
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It was fitting that Lieutenant-Colonel Goodeve-Docker should make the journey home in H.M.T. *Lancashire,* which, as mentioned in previous notes, is the Regiment's adopted troopship. We imagine that a lot of old friendships were renewed on the trip to U.K.

We extend also a welcome to W.O.I Toole, who recently joined the Regiment as R.S.M.

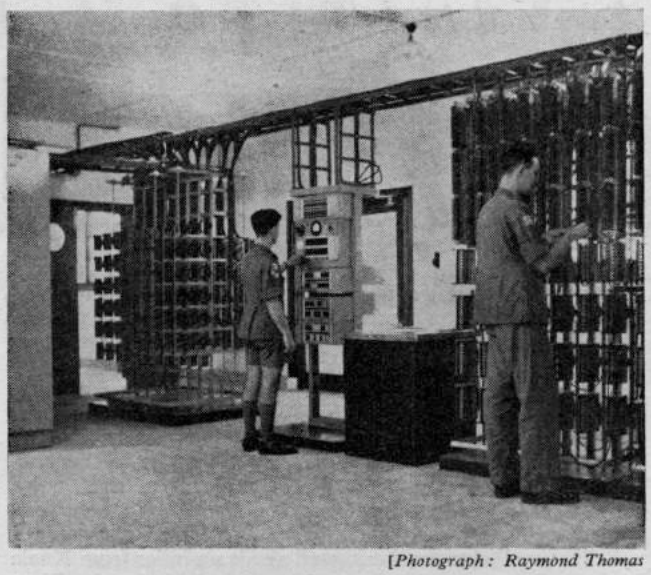
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We are very proud to announce that after seven months' very solid work the new exchange at Pasir Panjang was brought into service in March. This is an 8-position "N" type board which could be expanded to 18 positions. It is housed in a completely air-conditioned "bungalow-type" building and powered by two banks of 300 AH Alton accumulators instead of the normal wireless type 170 AH dags. Much credit is due to Captain (T.O.T.) F. A. Davidson, who directed operations, and to Corporal Rae and Signalmen Crocker, Evans and Ovenden, all National Service men, who were responsible for the internal wiring and installation.



[Photograph: Raymond Thomas

General view of the eight position "N" Type Switchboard recently installed at Pasir Panjang by Singapore District Signal Regiment



[Photograph: Raymond Thomas

Corporal Rae, Signalman Crocker pictured at work in frame and apparatus room at the new Pasir Panjang Exchange

Sergeant Slater and his team of U.G. linemen did some great work outside, and managed to keep to the schedule in spite of Singapore's daily downpour of rain.

In the field of sport the outstanding event was the Singapore District Inter-Unit Boxing finals, in which we were runners-up to R.E.M.E. These were held at G.H.Q. Tanglin, and we saw some very good bouts. At soccer our Malayan other ranks have been very successful, winning their last two games 7—0 and 4—1. The two B.O.R. teams have not been quite so fortunate, having won only one game each this season.

19 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT

The G.O.C.'s annual inspection this year, which was carried out by the C.S.O. in the absence of the General, was a success.

Beneath the heat of a tropical sun we have no need to worry about the seasons of the year from the aspect of sport. We are already in the throes of another cricket season. We played our first match last week and won it. It's the beginning of the season, and we have some promising talent.

Congratulations to our hockey team on finishing the season at the top of the station league. It was disappointing that they should have been beaten in the first round of the knock-out competition.

SIGNAL TRAINING SQUADRON, FAR EAST

This has been a month of P.E. testing in the Squadron, culminating in a 15 mile route march and a 50 yards swim, both in battle order. The 15-miler was a rather hot and sticky affair, but our swimming tests and practices on sunny afternoons at Changi beach were enjoyed by all.

★

Earlier in the month the district boxing finals between R.E.M.E. and District Signal Regiment were held. The Squadron had three members in the Signals team—Lance-Corporals Fidelis, Fernandez and Whatford—unfortunately, all got beaten in their bouts and the R.E.M.E. team had a comfortable win.

The football season has started, and the District Signals M.O.R. team, for which the Squadron supplied five regular players, is doing well once more.

A VISIT TO A PLANTATION IN malaya

DURING Easter week-end I was privileged to spend a few days on a gutta percha estate, and it occurred to me that a few jottings of my impressions and reactions might be of interest to readers of THE WIRE.

The gutta percha estate is known as the Selbourne Plantation, and is a subsidiary of the Telegraph Construction and Maintenance Co., Ltd.; the parent company takes the full output of the plantation for use in its own factory in England. The plantation is the only one of its kind in the British Empire, and there are only two such plantations in the world; the other is in Java and is controlled by a Dutch company.

Selbourne Plantation is situated about six miles from Kuala Lipis in Pahang, and is bounded on one side by the River Jalai and on the other three sides by the Government of Malaya Forest Reserve. The plantation covers an area of approximately 6,000 acres and has thirty-six miles of roads and tracks.

★

To the more technical-minded readers of THE WIRE, gutta percha will be a well-known commodity used in the construction of submarine cables and in various electrical circuits where a high insulating value is required, and especially where waterproof conductors are in use. It may not be generally known that it was Faraday who first suggested its use as an insulation for cables. In those days submarine cables, as we know them today, did not exist. Trials had been made with buried cable, but with indifferent success due to faulty insulation. Gutta percha was at that time obtainable in small quantities, and what supplies there were came from Malaya and Borneo and were obtained from natives who tapped or "bled" the taban tree, a native of South-East Asia, and found in fairly large numbers in the jungles of Malaya. This tapped gutta percha is a white substance and is used today in huge quantities for the outer covers of golf balls.

From Faraday's suggestion it was not a long step to laying the first submarine cable across the Channel in 1850, and the story of the heartbreaking failures and lost cables at sea, together with the initial failure of the cable to work, is a fascinating tale, and certainly one which should be available to all Royal Signals personnel who today take submarine cables for granted. However, despite initial failures, success came at last and cables began to link up all the important countries of the world. It is interesting to note how war gave a lift up to cable laying: during the Crimean War in 1855 some 300 to 400 miles of submarine cable were laid in the Black Sea area.

In 1858, the first trans-Atlantic cable was laid connecting Ireland and Newfoundland. But I digress, let us get back to Selbourne.

The plantation was started in 1915 and about 6,000 acres were leased from the Malayan Government, the area selected being a well drained one with a fair amount of large trees growing over the area. Seeds were obtained from the Java Plantation and the work of clearing the jungle in preparation for the young trees commenced. The large trees were left standing as shade trees; young gutta percha trees do not like the full sun, so the question of shade is treated with great importance. In addition to the seeds, some young saplings were obtained from Java and planted in their new home. In the meantime, factory buildings, offices, houses for both European and Asiatic staffs were built, and the estate rapidly became a self-contained community in the heart of the Malayan jungle.

Before visiting Selbourne I must confess that I was always mistakenly under the impression that gutta percha was a sort of by-product of rubber. It was a great surprise to me to discover that this is far from correct and that the two products have really nothing in common.

As most people know, rubber is obtained by tapping the rubber tree from which flows a sticky white substance called latex, which is rubber in liquid form. Gutta percha, on the other hand, is obtained today for commercial purposes from the leaves of the taban tree.

The plantation at Selbourne consists of thousands of these taban trees planted approximately five feet apart, and the gutta percha is obtained by stripping these trees of their leaves.

The method of collecting is interesting. On the plantation the pruning is done by native labour working in gangs of four, one man, armed with a very efficient saw, cuts off the top of the tree, leaving the main stem bare approximately six to seven feet from the ground; a second worker strips the felled branches of side shoots and generally cuts it up into handy lengths to handle. The other two of the team strip these branches of leaves and sack them ready for cartage to the factory. The pollarded tree, incidentally, starts to produce new shoots in a very short time, and is ready for pruning again after approximately four years.

Lorries cart the sacks of leaves to the factory, where they are tipped out on to a moving belt which conveys them to a machine similar to a chaff cutter, the function of which is to chop the leaves into small segments. The chopped leaves are then conveyed to the roller mills for grinding. I found these mills completely fascinating, and the manager told me that the natives employed on these machines had to be very carefully selected, as several deaths had occurred due to the native minders becoming so fascinated by the continuous revolving mills that they had walked headlong into them.

The mills consist of two four and a half ton granite rollers revolving upon a granite block. A steel bin surrounds the rollers, and into the bin is thrown the chopped leaves to be ground to a powder. In the Selbourne factory there are eight of these mills, and it is a most impressive sight to see the revolving granite blocks clanging round and round. From the mills the powdered leaf is then taken to boilers, where it is "cooked" for a while and then plunged into cold water, which causes the particles of ground leaves and twigs to sink, while the gutta percha floats and can be skimmed off. The final processing consists of pulverising, mashing and moulding the gutta percha into a block weighing approximately seven pounds, which is shipped for further processing at the company's factory in Greenwich. This product is known as Yellow Selbourne, and as the name implies, it is, in fact, yellow in colour.

★

The gutta percha used for the outer cover of golf balls, etc., is known as white gutta percha, and is obtained in an entirely different way. In this case, it is the sap of the tree which produces the raw material. When pruning is in progress, female labourers armed with very sharp knives cut a ring around the larger branches of the pollarded trees. This cutting sets the branch "bleeding," and with a small tool

fitted with a revolving slotted wheel, the girl runs the toothed edge around the cut she has made. The sap adheres to the wheel and grows in a similar way to a snowball. At intervals this ball of sap is removed and is passed to the factory for processing.

The gutta percha is actually the sap inside the leaves and can be seen when a leaf is broken. It looks like very fine cobwebs, and to the touch has quite a sticky feeling. To obtain one ton of gutta percha more than thirty tons of leaves and twigs are required, so it will be seen that to keep the factory going work in the field must never let up.

The employees on this estate are mostly Javanese and Malays; they live on the estate, forming a village community with their own hospital, school and cinema. The whole is presided over by a European manager, who has an engineer and a chemist to assist him. Life on the estate is quite pleasant despite the bandits, and there is plenty of game, including elephant, tiger, pigs, samba and no end of jungle fowl, quail and pigeons.

A European police officer lives with the manager, and he has about fifty auxiliary police, who are responsible for guarding the estate and a neighbouring gold mine from bandits. I was very impressed by the efficiency and alertness of these auxiliaries, living as they do in a place where sudden death may be waiting just around the corner. They have to be alert and ready to get the first shot in if they want to live: from what I saw of these men they would most certainly give any bandits that might be around a warm reception.

★

What is life like for the Europeans on an estate like this?

Well, on this estate there was certainly a very happy atmosphere. Our hosts were the engineer and his wife, who have two children living with them and one boy at school in England. Our hostess had not been off the estate for nine months up to the time of our visit, but she was quite happy and contented. They have a really magnificent garden, and our host is a keen collector of orchids, of which he has about fifty varieties, all of which he has collected in the jungle. Of course, the radio plays an important part in their lives, and local news of bandit activity is listened to with particular interest. Food is plentiful and the planters in this country know how to look after the inner man; there is no eightpenny meat ration here. The work is hard and trying in the heat of the jungle, but the bottle of beer or whisky and soda at sundown is very much appreciated. Nowadays, of course, one has to be constantly on the alert and ready for trouble. The village and the European residences are all surrounded by barbed wire, and guards are always on duty at night. Powerful searchlights are set up at vantage points to offset the possibility of bandits creeping up under cover of darkness.

Most of our evenings were spent in cruising along the many tracks and roads on the estate looking for game. It is very pleasant riding in a jeep in the cool evening air along these grassy tracks and having an occasional shot at a jungle fowl or possibly a pig. Jungle fowl, incidentally, are excellent eating—but it did seem rather a shame to shoot such attractive-looking birds.

The factory on this estate is a model of efficiency. The power house, with its gleaming diesel engine and modern switching gear, would do credit to a small county town in England. The estate is dependent on its own electrical system for lighting, refrigeration, cooking, etc., apart from its innumerable uses in the factory itself. Steam for boilers is obtained from wood fires, of which there is no lack on Selbourne estate. All the machinery is modern, since most of the original fittings in the factory were ruined by the Japs during the occupation. It is interesting to note that the Japs produced about 100 tons of gutta percha during the occupation, of which 60 tons were sent by the Allies to the bottom of the sea. The remainder was found abandoned on the estate when the manager returned there in 1946.

Crossing the river mentioned earlier is a very well-organised affair. The river is about 150 to 200 yards wide and flows at about 4½ miles per hour. Slung across the river there are two wire ropes, and to these wire ropes is attached a ferry capable of taking four jeeps. To get from one side to the other all that is necessary is to push off and turn the nose of the ferry slightly down stream. The force of the current tending to carry the craft down stream causes the runners to slide along the wire ropes, and in this pleasantly effortless manner the ferry soon gets across to the other side.

★

I came away from Selbourne with the very definite impression that despite the emergency, life on a plantation—at least this one—is very pleasant, provided you are not the type of chap who cannot live without bright lights, football crowds and the like. My parting words to my host were to the effect that if at any time he should require a general stooge around the plantation I would gladly take it on.

G.H.Q. SIGNAL REGIMENT, FARELF

The G.O.C.'s inspection, which was held on the 4th March, took the form of a kit inspection and, all round, a very high standard was obtained.

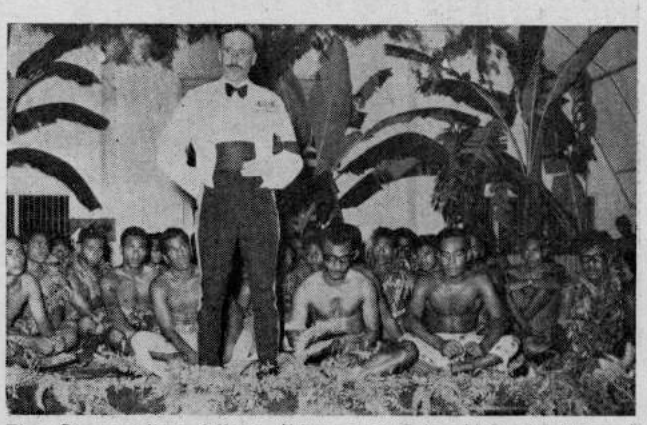
On the 8th March we said goodbye to the Fijians, who had been attached to the Unit for over five weeks. But before they left a concert was arranged by them at very short notice, and staged in the other ranks' dining hall. The concert consisted of a number of songs and dances about the Fiji Isles, and a little humour was added in the way of several little sketches. After the performance the Commanding Officer thanked them on behalf of the Unit and wished them well in their new venture "up-country." A collection was held in the Regiment, which resulted in the sum of 250 dollars being contributed towards the Fiji Relief Fund.

Cricket fans are already contemplating a "bumper" season, and with the element of "Aussies" amongst our ranks we should be able to furnish a good team.

The second Corporals' Mess social and dance was held on the 9th March, and although dancing partners were rather limited, I think I can safely say that a good time was had by all.

The latest venture on behalf of the Corporals' Mess includes provision for the purchase of a radiogram. All being well, we should be hearing our own "Mess Favourites" in the very near future.

Fijians bid Farewell



The Commanding Officer (Lieutenant-Colonel G. A. Dutton) wishes the Fijians well in their new venture in Malaya

Commonwealth

NEWS FROM AUSTRALIA

Eastern Command. Our big occasion of recent months was the first post-war inter-Unit Signal Competition and Ceremonial Parade.

The morning was devoted to the Signal competition, which consisted of teams from each Citizen Military Force Unit, being judged in the following activities: —

(i) Drill movements.

(ii) Despatch rider: Turnout, bearing, riding ability and machine maintenance.

(iii) A selected driver's ability to handle a jeep and trailer, and proficiency in maintenance of the vehicle.

(iv) Message handling and traffic passing.

The competition up to the message handling section was in favour of 2 Divisional Signal Regiment, with 1 Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron running second, and 1 Air Support Signal Unit a close third. However, the position was completely reversed after the message handling and traffic passing test, in which 1 Air Support Signal Unit gained the winning margin. Some say that a sudden deluge during this section of the proceedings brought about the downfall of 2 Divisional Signal Regiment and 1 Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron, but honours must justly go to 1 Air Support Signal Unit, whose team had the foresight (and could be a " met." report) to have had a spare set of equipment on the spot.

The ceremonial parade which followed the Signal competition was reviewed by Lieutenant-General W. Bridgeford, C.B., C.B.E., M.C., who was at the time G.O.C. Eastern Command.

The day was rounded off with afternoon tea served in the Signal Drill Hall, where items of Signal equipment were available for inspection by official guests, as well as relatives and friends of members.



Lieutenant-General Bridgeford presents the Signal Competition Trophy to Major E. B. Starrett, E.D., Commanding 1 Air Support Signal Unit. The trophy was donated by the New South Wales branch of the Royal Australian Signals Association for annual competition amongst Signal Units, Eastern Command

Visit of Father Christmas. On Saturday, 14th December, 1951, C.M.F. Signal Units in Eastern Command held their annual Christmas tree for the children. The Units who participated, 2 Divisional Signal Regiment, 1 Air Support Signal Unit, 1 Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron and Eastern Command Signal Squadron, formed a committee which organised a very happy and successful afternoon. Father Christmas, in the form of a well-disguised Sergeant Rooney, arrived on a decorated motor cycle and neatly circled the training hall before alighting in front of the Christmas tree. The hall and Christmas tree were very attractively decorated with the assistance of Private Cowie, of the W.R.A.C., and the Depot grounds took on the appearance of a children's playground with swings, slippery-dips, see-saws, etc.

Already the children are looking forward to Santa's next visit.

Territorial Army

16 AIRBORNE DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A. (MIDDLESEX YEOMANRY)

A momentous duty performed by the Regiment during the last quarter was the provision of communications at Windsor on the occasion of the funeral of His Late Majesty King George VI.

This should be mentioned here not only because this Regiment is conscious of the honour bestowed upon it, but because it became apparent during the preliminary stages that it was not generally known within the Corps that the Regiment has, by virtue of its position as the Senior Territorial Regiment of the Corps and its past association with the Royal Household, the right to provide the communications for State occasions in London. The response from employers to give men the necessary leave to attend for duty with the Regiment was extremely good, and the Regiment looks forward now to be called upon again in the happier circumstances of the Coronation.

Preliminary plans for parachuting this summer are under way. R.S.M. Marjoram and Sergeant Weatherley have completed Balloon Despatchers' Course and are ready to heave us out over Wormwood Scrubs DZ.

Over 25 per cent. of the National Service intake have volunteered for parachute courses, and all being well, most of them will have their wings before summer is out. Needless to say, chaps that will volunteer for parachuting will volunteer for nearly anything, and most of these National Service men have become T.A. volunteers and will be queueing up at a later date for the parachute bounty.

53 (W) INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT (T.A.)

On the evening of the 29th March, the 53rd and 38th Divisional Signals Old Comrades' Association held their annual " get-together " in the Sergeants' Mess, Maindy Barracks, to which the Officers and N.C.O.s of the Unit were invited, and a very enjoyable evening it was.

The Old Comrades included our Colonel R. C. Seel, O.B.E., T.D., Lieutenant-Colonel V. W. Hawkins, O.B.E., T.D., Q.M. Cummings and ex-R.S.M. Tom Forse. There were about 70 present. Unit representatives included the Commanding

Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel G. B. Stevenson, and Officers, R.S.M. Irvine and members of the Sergeants' Mess.

During the evening R.S.M. Irvine was presented with a pen and pencil set by members of the Sergeants' Mess on the occasion of his pending departure in the near future to take up "Q" duties. Our best wishes go with him and his family.

As a result of a raffle, approximately £10 was raised towards the Colwyn Bay Mercury House Fund.

No. 1 Squadron is to be congratulated on regaining the cup presented by the WESTERN MAIL AND EVENING ECHO for .22 Shooting Competition, open to all T.A. Units in the County of Glamorgan. This cup was previously won by No. 2 Squadron of this Regiment in 1938-39.

No. 1 Squadron defeated No. 284 Squadron Royal Engineers by the narrow margin of two points.

The Regiment has held the 53rd Infantry Divisional Football Cup since 1939, when the competition was last played. The competition is being held again this year. Several Units have challenged us, and we meet the winners of these (1st Hereford Light Infantry) at the end of April.

During March and April the Unit was kept busy providing communications for various exercises. There is a busy year before us.

49th ARMOURED DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

In the past two months the Unit has changed from Individual Training to Squadron Training, each Squadron training in the duties they would perform in war.

The change-over has caused a wave of enthusiasm and rivalry between Squadrons, which is producing a high standard.

Major C. W. W. Smith is commanding the Squadron at Bradford.

The W.O.'s and Sergeants' Club annual ball on the 25th January was a huge success; camouflage nets used to drape the walls and ceiling gave the hall a garden effect.

The Adjutant (Captain B. A. Beattie) and his committee organised the all ranks' ball on the 22nd February, 1952. Pipers in full dress were there to play for the Scottish dances.

Ex-R.S.M. Green has now successfully completed his cipher course and is now Lieutenant R. J. Green.

Annual camp this year is at Hornsea on the Yorkshire Coast from the 7th June to 21st June.

56 SIGNAL SQUADRON, W.R.A.C. (T.A.)

On the 23rd/24th February the four Troops of this Squadron assembled together again for a training week-end, and therefore, as on previous occasions, we come into print.

Since our last report we have said farewell to the Squadron Commander, Captain Molly Cavanagh, W.R.A.C., who is now with the W.R.A.C. Signal Training Wing at Catterick. We were all very sorry to see her go.

The training week-end was organised by Major J. Frame, W.R.A.C., of Southern Command (M) Signal Regiment, and was held at Figsbury Barracks. The greater portion of the time was spent on a Signal Office exercise which was a tremendous success, for a vast improvement was noted, especially in registration.

The teleprinter operators were in their element getting continuous practice on the six teleprinters and, for the first time, on the tape relay perforators.

It was a very inspiring week-end. We should like to record our appreciation to Southern Command (M) Signal Regiment for making this possible and for accommodating us so well.

It is hoped that further training week-ends can be arranged before we depart for Chickerell and our annual camp in August.

Royal Signals

London

and

South-Eastern Area

Reunion

Assembly Rooms · Tunbridge Wells

Saturday, 7th June, 5 p.m. to 11 p.m.

ALL of Royal Signals, past and present, who possibly can should attend this—THE FIRST of a series of Area Reunions.

Particularly requested is the support of all those Serving and of members of the fifteen Branches of the Association located within easy reach of Tunbridge Wells.

But outside of this there must be very many who will only hear of this IF YOU TELL THEM.

Tickets and further information from Mr. G. E. Paling, Vale Towers, Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

Single Ticket, 4s. Double Ticket, including gentlemen and lady, 6s.

★

Please do all you can to tell others and persuade them to go

See Page 90 for Programme of Events

Association Branch Secretaries Meet in London

★ *Minutes of the Sixth Annual Meeting of the Hon. Secretaries of the Branches of the Signals Association held on the 29th March, 1952, at the Headquarters, 16 Airborne Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A., Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea, SW3*

THE meeting was attended by 45 representatives of the following 38 branches: —

Aberdeen, Bath, Bedford, Bournemouth, Bristol, Catterick, Chester, Chesterfield, Chislehurst, Cornish, Coventry, Darlington, Exeter, Glasgow, Harrogate, Jersey, Leeds, Leicester, Liverpool, London, Manchester, Middlesbrough, Norwich, Plymouth, Portsmouth, Salisbury, Scarborough, Sevenoaks, Sheffield, Slough, Southampton, St. Albans, Sutton, Torbay, Tunbridge Wells, York, Glossop and District.

The very inclement weather doubtless prevented many others from attending.

The Chairman, MAJOR-GENERAL C. W. FLADGATE, C.B.E., opened the meeting by welcoming the branch representatives and thanking the Representative Colonel Commandant, The Director of Signals and the Commander, Signal Training Centre, for their presence. He continued: —

The greatest progress in forming new branches has been made by the Tunbridge Wells Branch, which formed itself in 1950, and has founded Uckfield, Edenbridge and Sevenoaks in 1951 and expects to found new branches at Tonbridge and Eastbourne in 1952. I congratulate Tunbridge Wells on this great achievement and counsel other branches to see if they can emulate it. The Harrogate Branch, formed in 1951, has started something new—*The Boys' Branch* at the Army Apprentices School. This enables the senior boys to join the Association during their last term at the school. On leaving, they are full members of the Association with already a grounding in its work. The Boys' Branch is at present not independent, it is run by Harrogate, the parent branch, but the boys provide their own branch officers from amongst themselves. One or two of the branch officers of Harrogate attend meetings of the Boys' Branch to assist the boys, who hold office, in their work.

Two other new branches have been started. Chislehurst, mainly Royal Signals and ex-Signals at the Ministry of Supply, I.E.M.E., and Doncaster.

With regard to Unit Branches, here again we can congratulate ourselves on progress. Mainly due to the efforts of MAJOR-GENERAL BOWEN during his last year as C.S.O. M.E.L.F., six new branches have been formed in Regiments there. In one of these, CAPTAIN R. O. EDWARDS has, during the last few months, enrolled no less than 150 life members.

Too small a sub-unit to have a branch, SERGEANT MCDONOUGH, of G Troop, Royal Signals, attached to 41 Field Regiment, R.A., has enrolled every member of his Troop in the last nine months, and purchases 30 copies of THE WIRE. If all could do as well as this Officer and N.C.O. we should have a magnificent Association.

One other Unit branch has been started in B.A.O.R.—11 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment. At home, two Unit branches have been started—War Office Signal Regiment and 5 Corps Signal Regiment.

I regret to record the loss of two branches during the year —Taunton has ceased temporarily from lack of support, and No. 8 Unit Branch, Singapore, for some reason we at Headquarters cannot quite understand, is also inactive. Of our affiliated Associations, that of 13 Corps Signals has changed its character and therefore has ceased to be affiliated.

Life membership is up by 286, and annual members registered at Headquarters have gone up by 342. Renewals at Headquarters, 1,467. This takes no account of the annual members enrolled or renewed at and by branches.

Last year I spoke to and later circularised all Chief Signal Officers about letting us have names and addresses of all men released or discharged. This scheme is working well and some branches have had good results. Here at Headquarters, in four months, October to March, we wrote to 370 men located too far away to join a branch and 3 per cent. later joined the Association; not a very high figure but better than nothing.

We spent £7,000 on welfare during the year ending 31st December, 1951. This was much the same as in 1950.

It is most encouraging to note that in 1951 repayment of loans and grants reached the total of £924, an increase of £200 on the repayments made in 1950. The total cases assisted during the year was 748 at an average expenditure of £9 7s. Again these figures are much the same as in 1950. The proportion, however, was different. We do not keep accurate statistics by types of service, but a rough estimate shows that of the cases dealt with 67 per cent. were war emergency, 27 per cent. Regular, and 6 per cent. T.A. and National Service. Yesterday the Welfare Section dealt with its 12,000th case.

One most encouraging sign is the increased income from Signal Regiments of the Active Army. 1950, £700; 1951, £1,350, or nearly double.

It is more difficult for branches to raise money, some do and send us quite large sums, other branches do not help at all. Nothing is too small and every little helps.

We used to send round a Caution List of those the General Secretary euphemistically describes as "unsatisfactory clients." This practice, which has lapsed, will be reintroduced and a list will go out from Headquarters in April and October of each year.

In the Employment Section, during the year March 1951 to March 1952, 153 applicants have been registered, of whom 69 are known to have found work through the introduction of the Association. (Last year's figures, 173 registered, 54 known to have been placed.) There was a considerable falling off in applications during the summer of 1951, but numbers have increased steadily since September, and the present average is 16 new registrations per month. Many men who register fail to inform us when they have found work, and it may be assumed that a proportion of these take jobs of which they have been informed by the Association. We hope branches will help us all they can and inform us of any vacancies they are unable to fill from their own members.

1951 was, for THE WIRE, a disappointing year. We started with hope that the balance between costs and receipts would remain reasonably small. After the first four months cost of production rose very steeply. An appeal made by me in August resulted in considerable increase in circulation, but despite this, the loss on the year was about £800.

Representations were made to the Corps Committee that the proportion of THE WIRE readers serving and ex-service

was about 5 to 1. The Corps Committee agreed to pay three-fifths of the loss, the amount to be borne by the Association is therefore only some £250. Steps have been taken to eliminate loss by reduction in the number of pages. At 20 to 24 pages instead of 36 pages the first three months of this year show a small profit, and opinion seems to be that THE WIRE is still a worthwhile paper.

After many vicissitudes the London and South-Eastern Area Rally and Reunion is to be held on *Saturday, 7th June,* at the Assembly Hall, Tunbridge Wells. You will see on your tables a programme, you will also see the price of tickets.

Both C.S.O. Eastern Command and C.S.O. A.A. Command have promised the support of those now serving in the Active Army and in the T.A.

I do hope that all branches in the area, and there are fifteen of them, will organise parties to go with their standards and make the reunion a memorable one.

The Corps Band will give of their best, and in the capable hands of the Committee of the Tunbridge Wells Branch, we confidently hope that we shall have a splendid evening. All that is required is a great effort by branches to produce a bumper attendance. This for the South-East—we hope for similar efforts to be made in the North. York Branch are hoping to organise something in the North-East in the autumn. As we have decided to drop the idea of a reunion at the Albert Hall, I do commend these area reunions to you.

There is a significant movement all over the country for the many ex-Service Associations to join together for social intercourse and exchange of ideas. Since 1950 our own Association has been represented by the General Secretary on the Co-ordinating Committee of Service and Ex-Service Associations. Some of our branches already combine with other associations in their own towns and cities without any loss of independence. Branches in other towns will shortly be asked by the General Secretary to further this movement. I recommend it to you. It is a good thing, and is for the good of all in the end.

The Chairman concluded by referring to the kindness of Lieutenant-Colonel Pease and the 16 Airborne Divisional Signal Regiment (T.A.), The Middlesex Yeomanry, for making all the administrative arrangements.

The Representative Colonel Commandant, MAJOR-GENERAL R. F. B. NAYLOR, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., expressed his pleasure at listening to the excellent report as presented by the Chairman.

Two matters were to him very satisfactory. The upward trend in repayment of loans and grants. The very small number of "black sheep" showed how well the teaching of the Corps was carried on into civil life. This was only to be expected from the type of men who had always served in Signals, but it was good to know of it.

Speaking of THE WIRE, he said that it was unthinkable that we should not have our own paper. In the attenuated National Press there was little room for reports about the Army. THE WIRE is a valued link between past and present.

He strongly urged support of the reunion at Tunbridge Wells on the 7th June.

As the "oldest and senior of your Colonels Commandant," General Naylor spoke of his pleasure at meeting so many members, and thanked Honorary Secretaries and other branch officers most sincerely for the splendid work they were doing in the branches up and down the country. We in Royal Signals cannot claim, like the Welfare State, that we look after our men from cradle to grave, but we do aim to do so from the time they join our ranks until as old soldiers they finally fade away. A Regiment or Corps cannot lay claim to greatness if it does less than this. In most cases, the greater period of responsibility for the individual is borne by the branches of the Association.

Honorary Secretaries are busy men and their duties to the Association came in their free time. They are assured that the work of the Association is of inestimable value to our old comrades and the good name of our Corps. The value of this work is not limited to the Association, it is of the greatest importance to the country as a whole.

In the Corps a man acquires the comradeship and interest in the well-being of others, so often lacking in civil life. By the work the branches are doing in reunions, social functions, job finding and welfare, this spirit is being kept alive and anyone active in this work is deserving of the gratitude of the country.

He (General Naylor) was speaking to all, not only those present, when he asked the Association to continue its work of looking after our men when they leave the Service.

The Director of Signals, MAJOR-GENERAL W. O. BOWEN, C.B., C.B.E., said that after the great expansion which had taken place in the time of his predecessor he hoped for a period of consolidation. This very great expansion had thrown a strain on the regular cadre of Officers and N.C.O.s. Due to the expansion, prospects for the individual were bright. His audience would be astonished when he told them that a man could become a sergeant in three years. Recruiting for the Regular Army was improving but engagement was mostly for three years.

In the United Kingdom last year there were large scale manoeuvres in which the Corps retained the high reputation with which it emerged from the last war.

The Z Reservist scheme had been an unqualified success and was to be continued.

In Korea they had the 1st Commonwealth Divisional Signal Regiment mostly from the United Kingdom but including also the Canadian Brigade Signal Squadron and a New Zealand Regiment Signal Troop. British Troops in Korea were in high morale and were held in high esteem by our allies.

In the Middle East the crisis had its usual effect of very much increased signal traffic and of the increased activity of cable thieves.

The new Signal Squadron serving H.Q., S.H.A.P.E., and H.Q., A.L.F.C.E., were acquitting themselves well.

Our liaison with our friends in the Commonwealth and in the United States of America continued. He himself (General Bowen) was leaving almost immediately to visit the Signal Corps of the United States of America.

The Director gave many details of developments in equipment and technique of inter-communication which were of great interest to his audience but which in some cases should not be mentioned here.

Turning to sport, General Bowen gave a resumé of the more notable achievements of the past year.

Athletics. Imperial Services Cup for 1 mile medley relay won by 1 Training Regiment.

Boxing. Army Inter-Unit Team Championship. Runners-up in 1951 and 1952. 2 Training Regiment awarded Noble

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Trophy and also the first Unit of Corps to appear in the final since 1927. *Individual Army Championship*: Middleweight won by Lance-Corporal E. Ludlam, 2 Training Regiment; welterweight won by Signalman A. M. Baird, 5 Training Regiment. They also won the A.B.A. and I.S.B.A. championships in their weights. *Boys Army Championship*: Heavyweight won by Boy Lance-Corporal A. H. Fish, 6 (Boys) Training Regiment; middleweight won by Boy T. O'Shea, 6 (Boys) Training Regiment. *Boys Inter-Service Championship*: Middleweight won by Boy T. O'Shea, 6 (Boys) Training Regiment.

Rugger. Army Cup: 1951 won by 1 Training Regiment; 1952 runner-up 1 Training Regiment. 1 Training Regiment have also won the semi-final of the Yorkshire Cup.

Soccer. Army Soccer Cup: 1952, 7 Training Regiment have reached the final, which will be played at Catterick on the 9th April. *Boys Army Soccer Cup*: Won by 6 (Boys) Training Regiment.

Shooting—Bisley. Henry Whitehead Cup: Class "C" won by Lance-Corporal T. Elford, 4 Training Regiment, who also won other prizes both in 1950 and 1951.

The Director then referred to *6 (Boys) Training Regiment*. Its establishment of boys allowed was 600 and the present strength 415.

In boys' establishments of all other arms the upper age limit for entry is 17½. In Royal Signals, in order to cut out undesirables who were coming in just before man's service and causing upset in the Boys Regiment and subsequently giving it a bad name, the upper age limit has been provisionally reduced to 16½. They can, however, in special circumstances, still come in up to 17½. The lower age limit is school leaving age (now 15 years).

The boys must be medically fit and must, with certain exceptions, pass a selection test. Parents' consent is essential before boys are allowed to sign on.

The engagement is for eight years with the Colours and four on the Reserve, or for 12 years with the Colours.

The curriculum consists mainly of general education with basic military training. The aim is to pass out all boys with either Forces Preliminary or Army Certificate of Education Classes I, II or III, i.e., with sufficient educational background to enable them to assimilate the technical knowledge required in a signal trade. Sports and physical training play a big part and it is interesting to note the success which has been mentioned. There are also ample opportunities and facilities to pursue a number of hobbies.

Whenever possible ex-Boys are put to " shop " or operating trades. They are all treated as potential N.C.O.s and given a lance appointment as soon as they can be recommended. The career of every ex-Boy is carefully watched by O. i/c Royal Signals Records. They ultimately provide the bulk of W.O.s and senior N.C.O.s, including F. of S. Many should reach commissioned rank, particularly in the Q.M. category.

BRIGADIER J. J. DUVIVIER, C.B.E., Commander, Signal Training Centre, asked branches of the Association to remember that both he and the Band fully realised how desirable it was that the Band should appear at Association functions. The Band had to work to a carefully organised programme. If the cost of travelling was to be avoided it was necessary to fit in visits to the Association with those of an official nature. It was normally necessary to book the Band one year ahead.

The display team was in similar circumstances; it was most willing to give its services to branches of the Association, but again it was necessary to think a year in advance.

He too spoke of the Boys Regiment and of the watchful eye he himself kept on each boy from the time of his arrival in the Signal Training Centre. It was curious that a majority of the boys came from the Channel Islands, from Hull and Brighton.

He asked branches of the Association to keep the advantages of education in the Boys Regiment before parents. Every effort was made by the Commanding Officer of the Regiment to keep parents in touch with the progress made by each boy.

Brigadier Duvivier then spoke of the welcome awaiting the Association when it went to Catterick for the reunion on the 19th and 20th July. He gave details of the programme. These details will be sent out to all branches nearer the date of the reunion.

The meeting then adjourned for luncheon. When it recommenced, the following matters were discussed: —

Christmas Cards and Calendars. The Chairman announced that the supply of these through Association Headquarters would be discontinued. A serious loss had been suffered in the last three years. Such things were readily obtainable from the trade at competitive prices.

Blazer Badges. The Chairman apologised for the delay in production of the Association badge. Every effort was being made and alternative sources of supply were being sought.

Transport to Catterick. Branches were urged to collaborate with neighbouring branches in the matter of hiring coaches for the journey to the reunion in July. Headquarters will endeavour to obtain competitive quotations and circulate this to southern branches.

Branch Secretaries' Meeting. The Chairman announced that this would normally be on the last Saturday in March.

Boys Regiment. He also emphasised to branches the necessity of doing what they could to inform parents of the merits of education in the Boys Regiment.

YORK Branch opened discussion on the quality of the new (small) lapel badges. It was found that the opinion of a majority of branches that there was little to complain of.

ABERDEEN Branch recommended that the annual subscription be increased from 5s. to 6s. in the case of Officers, and from 2s. to 2s. 6d. for other ranks. In the discussion which followed EXETER, TUNBRIDGE WELLS, LIVERPOOL opposed the idea and BOURNEMOUTH agreed to it. SLOUGH pointed out some of the difficulties. The Chairman, agreeing with TUNBRIDGE WELLS, said that the subscription could only be regarded as a registration fee and that income to branch funds could be increased by branch endeavour. On being put to the vote, a very large majority were in favour of keeping subscriptions as at present.

SLOUGH Branch recommended that annual subscriptions became due on the 1st January each year whatever date in the year a member joined; this simplified the work of Honorary Secretaries and the preparation and audit of accounts. There was considerable discussion. TUNBRIDGE WELLS, LIVERPOOL, NORWICH were generally in favour of the proposal. BRISTOL, ABERDEEN, GLASGOW were against it. BOURNEMOUTH and SLOUGH had counter-suggestions. On being put to the vote a unanimous verdict was given that it was purely a matter of convenience and that each branch could make its own arrangements.

ABERDEEN Branch considered that increased publicity should be secured for the Corps and for the Association in the national and local press or in the B.B.C. Many branches joined in the discussion, giving their own experiences and recommendations. From this it emerged that contact with local newspapers was a matter for branches and that branches should use every endeavour to secure publicity in local newspapers. Headquarters would send out " hand outs " to the national newspapers in an endeavour to secure publicity in larger matters such as the Catterick reunion. Headquarters would also endeavour to interest the B.B.C. GLASGOW, MIDDLESBROUGH and the CHAIRMAN all emphasised the advantage of co-ordinating and combining with other Associations both in the organisation of functions and in dealing with the Press. As was mentioned by the CORNISH Branch, it was necessary to differentiate between advertisements which were paid for and news which if accepted was free.

LONDON Branch recommended that the main annual dates in Corps history should be reflected in THE WIRE Editorials and in articles in THE WIRE appearing about that

time. London Branch also complained that matter which appeared in THE WIRE was sometimes "dated." The Editor explained the cycle of production of each monthly copy of THE WIRE and accepted the recommendations.

SALISBURY Branch spoke of some of the difficulties and misunderstandings which may arise in arranging for other branches to attend when the Band or Display Team were giving programmes. It was AGREED that branches should liaise with Chief Signal Officers in the matter. The programme of the Band and the Display Team were published as early as possible. The Chief Signal Officers had all informed the Chairman that they would do all they could to facilitate the attendance of branches at performances of this nature if approached by the branches.

CATTERICK Branch emphasised that insufficient was being done to inform the present-day soldier of Corps history and of the work of the Association. SUTTON, LIVERPOOL, NORWICH, LONDON and others joined in the discussion and the Chairman informed the meeting that he had already spoken to the Director of Signals and would follow the matter up.

CATTERICK Branch requested other branches who wished their standards to be dedicated at the Church Parade on 20th July to inform Headquarters so that arrangements might be made. LEEDS Branch announced that they wished their new Standard to be dedicated. In subsequent discussion the Chairman emphasised the desirability of branches having their own, dedicated, Standards and that these could now be purchased through Headquarters and paid for over a period of three years. LIVERPOOL Branch then asked for a ruling on the position of Standards in the order of march at the Church Parade, and advocated that each Standard should march at the head of its own branch. A variety of views were expressed by other branches. Without any guidance from the Chairman the matter was put to the vote and a very large majority preferred that ALL the Standards should march at the head of the column. No member voted against this, although a very few abstained from voting.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS Branch asked for approval to "federate" a number of branches in Sussex and Kent. The Chairman stated that he was wholly in favour of the idea and most willingly agreed. He urged other branches to see what could be done in their own areas to form federations of branches of our own Association and also to combine without loss of identity with other associations. A number of branches present stated that they were in favour of the idea.

The CHAIRMAN then opened discussion in the matter of whether or not Headquarters should notify branch secretaries whenever a Benevolent Fund grant was made to a man living in the branch area. He made two points. *First*, that an individual asking for help had the choice of appealing through the local branch or direct to Headquarters. If he chose the latter it might be that he preferred that his friends and neighbours did not know of his predicament. In such a case his confidence must be respected. *Second*, that there were advantages in appealing through a local branch. The Welfare Staff at Headquarters, pleading a case to the Committee, always emphasised the recommendation of the branch secretary should this be made and usually this was reflected in the decision of the Committee.

There was considerable discussion, a majority of speakers apparently being in favour of notification. The voting was, however, unanimous that Headquarters should NOT notify branches unless the branch had already made recommendation. A counter-proposal that branches should notify Headquarters of any grants made by them whether or not they wished to be reimbursed was carried by a large majority.

Winding up the meeting, the Chairman thanked branch representatives for coming and for all the help the secretaries had given Headquarters during the year.

GLASGOW Branch, on behalf of all present, thanked the Chairman for his humour and tact in the handling of the meeting.

Torbay

We have been very pleased to welcome Major Scrace and Captain Rooks, from the Depot Regiment, Royal Signals, Rawlinson Lines, Denbury Camp, to the first committee meeting to be held at the premises of the new Combined Ex-Services Club which was opened by the Mayor of Torquay at the beginning of the month (March).

Major Scrace and Captain Rooks, who attended the committee meeting as representatives of the Depot, said that they do all they can to help towards the success of the Association, and that the Depot would support activities in every way possible. They suggested that Association functions might be held, when necessary, at the Depot gymnasium.

Following a discussion, it was decided that :—

1. The Torbay Branch of the Association should be reconstituted so as to include members of the Depot Regiment.
2. A sub-committee comprising members of both the Torbay Branch and Depot Regiment should be appointed to decide on the title of the reconstituted branch.
3. Lieutenant-Colonel J. E. F. Paton should be invited to visit the Depot Regiment in the near future to give a talk on the aims and objects of the Association.
4. An Association dance to be arranged at an early date to take place at Rawlinson Lines.

Major Scrace informs us that the Depot Regiment has bought a yacht (named *Certa Cito*) which would be based at Torquay (Corinthian Club), and that the Corps would be represented in regattas. He hoped that members of the Corps Sailing Club would be encouraged to visit Torquay.

A further word concerning the Combined Ex-Services Club, of which the Torbay Branch of the Association is a founder member. The club, which is decorated with excellent taste, includes a fine roomy bar, large enough for the holding of dances, billiards and general purposes rooms, will stand comparison with any club in Torquay. Association members visiting Torquay are warmly welcome to use the club and should get in touch with the Branch Hon. Secretary, Mr. W. G. Chowen, 6 Magdelene Road, Upton.

Mr. Millan, a member of the committee, and chairman of the Teignmouth Branch of the British Legion, invites all Signals personnel visiting Teignmouth to use the Legion Club at that place.

We offer our most hearty congratulations to Colonel Dicky Webb on his appointment to General Eisenhower's Staff.

ROYAL SIGNALS BENEVOLENT FUND

Subscriptions received during March, 1952:—	£	s.	d.
1 Training Regiment	10	0	0
7 Training Regiment	5	12	1
O.T. Wing, School of Signals	5	5	0
6 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment	10	0	0
S.R. Depot and Training Centre	10	0	0
5 AGRA (AA) Signal Squadron	10	0	0
W.O.s and Sergeants' Mess, BETFOR Signals	1	0	0
Donations received during March, 1952:—			
Army Benevolent Fund	1,500	0	0
No. 3 Unit Branch	50	4	3
No. 14 Unit Branch	17	16	0
Birmingham Branch	23	0	0
Chesterfield Branch	5	5	0
Uckfield Branch	3	3	0
Mr. F. E. Secret		2	0
Engineer Stores Depot, Singapore (In memory of Major F. J. Cook)	10	0	0
Total Receipts	£1,661	17	4

Expenditure during March, 1952 ... £483 1 5

(Includes: General Assistance; Rent and Rates; Beds and Bedding; Tools; Removals; Clothing; Fares; Convalescence.)

Analysis of cases:

Families of soldiers serving in U.K.	2
,, ,, ,, ,, ,, B.A.O.R.	2
,, ,, ,, ,, ,, FARELF	2
Widows and Dependants	3
Released and Discharged soldiers	54
Total cases assisted	63

CORPS' HOCKEY

The 1951-52 Season

Corps matches: Won 2, Drawn 1, Lost 2.

Royal Signals (Catterick) beat Royal Armoured Corps, Catterick, 6—3.

★

Considering the reputation of the teams played we have had a good season. We were fortunate in finding an excellent centre-half who improved in every match, and our defence was a solid one, surrendering only eight goals in the five Corps matches. Our forward line was strong in the wing positions, but we never found a good inside forward combination in spite of individual successes.

Captain D. H. Thursby-Pelham, who will be leaving Catterick after three seasons' hard labour, wishes to record that he has won the toss every time! He hopes to hand over the captaincy to Captain L. R. Griffiths, who has been awarded a Welsh "cap" and has represented Cambridge and the Army. We congratulate him, indeed to goodness!

Our fixture against the Sappers had to be cancelled due to snow. The following were awarded their Corps colours for the 1951-52 season: Captain D. H. Thursby-Pelham, Captain D. C. Sidney, Captain D. P. Garnons-Williams, Lieutenant Dawson, S.Q.M.S. Smythe, Sergeant Castle, Sergeant Angus, Lance-Corporal Bartlett.

Royal Signals v. R.E.M.E. at Catterick on 20th February—Drawn 2—2

Let us begin by saying that R.E.M.E. only had ten men. Hockey players may realise that this is not such a handicap as it sounds; indeed, we recollect times when it produced a decided improvement! Their ten men were giants. Sergeant Conroy (Combined Services and a likely England player) and Sergeant Barker (Combined Services) played at inside-right and inside-left respectively, and their left wing was the Army reserve. Behind this formidable forward line was arrayed a host of ex-Army players. Against this star-studded side, our team included Captain A. G. Smith (Scotland, 1947-8).

In the first half, after ruining a few early and dangerous raids led by Conroy, we took absolute control of the game and camped firmly on the edge of their circle. Sergeant Castle scored a good opportunist goal when, after a confused melee in the circle, he reverse-sticked a ball in the air into the back of the net. A little later Captain A. G. Smith brought a high-flying pass from the inside-left under control and flicked a beautiful goal past the goalkeeper's outstretched stick. But a 2—0 lead at half-time was only a fraction of the score we might have had if we had been a little luckier or a bit more skilful! We seemed to be robbed of certain goals times and time again.

In the second half, with conditions favouring them, R.E.M.E. were the more dangerous side. Conroy was quite outstanding, and was responsible for their first goal. They say he is the most improved player in the country; he is certainly a difficult man to tackle. They equalised off a short corner which both sides would rather have not been awarded. If we had taken more of our many opportunities in the first half we should have won, but a draw was a fair result in view of the fact that they were one man short.

ROYAL SIGNALS SAILING ASSOCIATION

The Royal Signals Sailing Association are offering sailing facilities to Cadets at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, whose first choice of arm is Royal Signals. Cadets will be the guests of members and will not be asked to pay any subscriptions or fees.

Members who are short of a crew are asked to get in touch with Major D. R. Horsfield at the R.M.A. He will endeavour to put the member in touch with a Cadet.

Cadets get week-end leave from 1015 hours each Saturday until Monday morning. The summer leave is from 1st August until 5th September.

Major Horsfield's telephone number is Camberley 1661, Extension 237 (office), or Camberley 1313 (home).

RUGBY AT CATTERICK

DURING January R.E.M.E. were defeated at Catterick by 15 points to 9 points, and at Blackdown R.A.O.C. were defeated by 9 points to 3 points by the Corps side, although in the latter match four players were away playing for the Army against the Police.

After 23rd January continuous snow and hard frost at Catterick and the death of H.M. King George VI caused a long break in Rugby, and on the resumption some of the "snap" seemed to have gone out of the team. Whatever the cause, when 1 Training Regiment met R.A.M.C. T.E. and Depot at Aldershot in the Final (Home Commands), they played much below their proper form. It is true that the R.A.M.C. pack, ably led by Black, the Scotland international, played with great vigour, and their covering and spoiling tactics upset our backs, but the team hardly seemed to be the same as played earlier in the season, and the handling of the backs was deplorable. A close game ended in a 6—5 victory for R.A.M.C.

On 22nd March, Royal Signals defeated Otley 8 points to 3 points at Otley, but sustained a number of injuries, with the result that St. Andrew's University, who were played on the following Monday, defeated us by 11 points to 3 points. The team travelled to Shrivenham on the following day, where they were very well looked after by the Military College of Science, and an enjoyable game ended with the Royal Signals 15 points, Military College of Science 5 points.

In between these fixtures 1 Training Regiment won the Northern Command Cup and the Northumbrian District Cup, defeating the Army Apprentices School, Harrogate, in the final of the former competition, and a Training Regiment, R.A.C., in the final of the latter competition.

On 5th April the last home match was played against Percy Park (16 times winners of the Northumberland Cup) and ended in a fine victory by 22 points to 6 points. The backs were particularly effective, and brilliant tries were scored by Second-Lieutenant A. G. I. Wood and Corporal J. Brooke, who plays for the Army v. Sussex on 9th April.

In the Army v. Navy and Army v. R.A.F. matches, Second-Lieutenant A. G. I. Wood was our only representative, with Officer Cadet R. Gemmill a reserve. Others who have had trials with an Army XV this season are Corporal Thomson, Signalman R. Robbins, Signalman V. J. Harding, Second-Lieutenant P. G. Miller, Signalman J. Gittins, Signalman J. O. Hughes, Corporal G. B. Fletcher, Corporal R. Sheppard, all of 1 Training Regiment, and Signalman Dacres (4 Training Regiment).

On 19th April, at Otley, Royal Signals play Halifax in the final of the Yorkshire Cup, and this match is being looked forward to with keen interest all over Yorkshire. It is the first time ever that any Service side has reached the final of this competition, and if Signals can play their usual open game they stand a very good chance of success. A large contingent of Signals' supporters and the Band of Royal Signals are expected at the match. Royal Signals entered the final by defeating Roundhay at Harrogate on 15th March by 16 points to 3 points. Although Corporal Sheppard (centre three-quarter) was injured before half-time and we had to play with seven forwards for the remainder of the game, with Lewis taken out of the scrum, the team played with great enthusiasm and skill and thoroughly deserved their victory. Signalman R. Robbins and Signalman M. R. Lewis scored tries, one of which was converted by Corporal Fletcher, and Second-Lieutenant Miller dropped a goal. Towards the close, a forward rush at half-way ended in Signalman J. O. Hughes

picking up and passing to Signalman Robbins, who scored after a 30-yard run. Corporal Fletcher converted. One of the features of the game was the excellent half-back play of Lance-Corporal Williams and Second-Lieutenant P. G. Miller.

The record for Corps matches and matches played against civilian clubs this season (exclusive of any Army Cup fixtures) reads:—

Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points For	Points Against
28	23	4	1	451	149

Among the clubs defeated this season are Headingley, R.M.A. Sandhurst, Oxford University Greyhounds, Huddersfield, Percy Park (twice), Roundhay, and Otley, and all inter-Corps matches have been won.

The team engaged in the Yorkshire Cup Final on 19th April have agreed to postpone their Easter leave for practice and training, and on Easter Monday a very attractive fixture has been arranged against Waterloo at Blundellsands.

Yorkshire Rugby Union Cup Final

Royal Signals 11 points, Halifax 10 points.

★

This is the first time that a Service team has won this cup, which has been contested for 73 years.

Association Football Army Championship Final played at Catterick 9th April.

A Training Regiment, R.A.C., 2 goals; 7 Training Regiment, Royal Signals, 1 goal.

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

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ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL

Corps of Royal Military Police 2—Royal Signals 1

The team travelled to Woking to oppose C.R.M.P. on 26th March, 1952. It was considerably weakened by the absence of six players from 7 Training Regiment who had fought their way to the final of the Army Challenge Cup competition and were not available for this game.

The game was played on the sports ground of the R.M.P. Barracks at Woking before a crowd of some two hundred. It was a grand day with the sun shining and a slight breeze blowing across the ground.

Signals kicked off and at once swung into the attack. Forrest sent Sayers away, but the latter's cross was well taken by McCrystal in the R.M.P. goal. Both teams settled down quickly and play swung from end to end. Gee and Sayers were prominent in the Signals forward line, and Cherry and Easton did well for R.M.P. Flockton hit the crossbar with a header which had McCrystal well beaten, and a few minutes later Gee had the misfortune to see his shot strike the woodwork as well. Hollins scored for Signals in the thirty-second minute with a good header.

In the second half R.M.P. took command of the game and scored two goals through Cherry and Easton, running out worthy winners by two goals to one.

★

The team comprised: Of 1 Training Regiment, Corporal Rowbotham, Signalman Flockton; of 2 Training Regiment, Signalmen Forrest and Jones; of 3 Training Regiment, Signalmen Spence and Sayers; of 5 Training Regiment, Signalmen Leonard and Hollins; of Northern Command Signal Regiment, S.S.M. Harding; of 53 Welsh Divisional Signal Regiment, Corporal Finnegan; of 10 Wireless Regiment, Lance-Corporal Gee.

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THE WIRE

The Corps Magazine of the
ROYAL SIGNALS
The Official Organ of the
SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

Editor:
BRIGADIER H. R. FIRTH

All correspondence and matter for publication for THE WIRE *should be addressed to The Editor,* THE WIRE, *88 Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1. Matter for publication must be received by the 15th of the month preceding publication.*

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JUNE • **1952**

Vol. 6 *New Series* **No. 6**

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PRICE ONE SHILLING

Royal Warrant

CORPS OF SIGNALS

George R.I.

WHEREAS WE deem it expedient to authorise the formation of a Corps to be entitled " Corps of Signals ";

OUR WILL AND PLEASURE IS that the Corps of Signals shall be deemed to be a Corps for the purpose of the Army Act, and that the words " Corps of Signals " shall be inserted in Our Warrant of 7th July, 1916, defining the expression " Corps."

OUR FURTHER WILL AND PLEASURE IS that the rates of pay for officers, warrant officers, non-commissioned officers and men of the Corps of Signals shall be as provided in the Schedule attached to this our Warrant.

Given at Our Court at St. James's, this 28th day of June, 1920, in the 11th year of Our Reign.

By His Majesty's Command,

WINSTON S. CHURCHILL.

Reprinted from THE WIRE, *Volume 1, No. 6.*

•

A message from Major-General R. F. B. Naylor, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., Representative Colonel Commandant, Royal Signals.

IT is 32 years since our Corps broke away from its famous Parent Corps, The Royal Engineers, to stand on its own feet, and as one of the foundation members of the Corps it is interesting to look back over the years since 1920.

The Corps started its life at a difficult time shortly after the end of World War I, when the Army was about to enter a period of retrenchment. The country as a whole was hoping and thinking that the war so recently concluded had, in fact, been the war to end war, and the popularity of the Armed Forces was very definitely on the wane.

The Signal Service, Royal Engineers, had established itself as a highly efficient service and the powers that be remembered the key role it had so recently played. So, during the difficult days that lay ahead, when money, equipment and men were hard to come by, the pivotal importance of the Corps was never forgotten, and if our needs could not be met our difficulties were at least treated with sympathy. Our efficiency and development were there for all to see. As in War, so in Peace, Commanders and their Staffs realised that their good name and the efficient operation of the formations they commanded or served were largely in the hands of our Corps

Our progress during those years was continuous up to the outbreak of the recent war, when we were called upon to undergo simultaneously the task of vast expansion and of carrying out our role as Signals. In spite of shortage of equipment and a high proportion of inexperienced personnel we weathered this initial testing period with much credit and emerged at the end of the war as a great and vital Corps which had gained the admiration and respect of the Army.

There is no doubt whatever that a man who by choice or circumstance finds himself a Signalman in the Corps is very fortunate. He has a role to play in peace or war which is of prime importance. By his efficiency or inefficiency he has it in his power to make or mar the successful operation of the force with which he is serving to an extent that no other soldier can. I think it is primarily due to this responsibility he carries that the individual standard throughout the Corps has always been so high.

I cannot omit in a review of this nature the truly remarkable achievements of the Corps, since its formation, in the world of sport. In this we quickly showed our mettle by winning in the first few years of our existence the Army championships of athletics, boxing and cross-country running with our teams from the S.T.C. at Maresfield. Having once established ourselves as a Corps of Champions we never looked back and there is not now a branch of Sport in the Army in which we are not feared and respected.

As one who was seconded to the R.E. Signal Service in 1912 and has seen the remarkable growth and achievement of the Corps since 1920, I can say in all sincerity that there is no finer life for a recruit joining the Army than that provided by the Royal Corps of Signals.

OUR BOYS

THE first paragraph of an otherwise excellent article descriptive of 6 Boys Training Regiment on page 128 of this number gives, perhaps, a misleading impression. The writer of the article, he is in the distinguished company of the leader-writer of the *Evening News,* does not sufficiently emphasise the antiquity of the organisation in which the Boys Regiment has its roots. Shades of our ancestors!

The late Major E. V. Merchant, writing in THE WIRE of January 1949 on the occasion of the temporary loss of "The Boys Company," states that for a period of over fifty years the "tele-boy" has proved his worth. The article by Major Merchant should be framed and displayed for all the present generation to read.

It speaks of the genesis of the boy in the old Telegraph Battalion, R.E., at Chatham, and how the "tele-boy" was envied by the lower income groups: the boy carpenters, draughtsmen and bricklayers. This was because the "tele-boy" qualified after six months for Sapper pay—1s. 1½d. a day. The others, and he at first, received 8d. a day or 4s. 8d. a week, less stoppages—4d. a day messing, 1d. a day washing, which, together with monthly subscriptions for haircutting and library, brought his total to 1s. a week for his pocket.

The boys of those days belonged to "D" Company, 1st Telegraph Battalion. In the pre-Catterick period the boys were in "C" Company of the S.T.C. at Crowborough. On the move to Catterick it became "F" Company.

Apart from turning out generations of good Signalmen, "F" Company annually had the legs of all others, winning the S.T.C. cross-country running year after year.

Ex-boys served Royal Signals well in peace and incomparably well in war. In the 1939-46 war a great majority were granted commissions and served with the greatest distinction.

It is true that 6 Boys Training Regiment does not directly inherit the mantle of the "tele-boy" as a number of "Our Boys" get their technical education in the Royal Signals Wing at the Army Apprentices School. We may be certain, however, that the high tradition of the ex-boy will be as well kept by those of 6 Boys Training Regiment as it was by the product of "F" Company, "C" Company, "D" Company, and even before that.

Incidentally, the Boys Regiment is already producing some fine boxers, Army and I.S.B.A. champions, in the tradition of Boy Viney and others.

KOREA

IT is midsummer and much hotter there than in England, and in June, July and August it seems silly to be knitting woollen scarves, gloves and socks, but that is just exactly what we must do if we are to get these things to our men by early October when they begin to require them.

The Commanding Officer has written:—

"The information you have got through the Press has obviously not been far from the mark. We are now a well provided Force, our clothing is good and our food, by British standards, superb. All the same, as I know you will appreciate, however good normal W.D. issues are there must always be some small things which a man likes to have as his own, things which he knows have not got to be "handed in by . . .," and it is these things which are so sought after. A good number of creature comforts can be bought here through NAAFI and in Japan, but not everything.

In the summer our needs are few apart from reading matter, but in the winter months there are many things which we all like to have to supplement the items we draw from the Quartermaster. These things are, in the main, woollen socks, gloves and scarves. I have yet to meet the soldier who has too many socks, and in the winter here one always has to wear two pairs and they have to be changed at least once a day, the situation being rendered somewhat difficult by the problem of washing and drying, which isn't always easily overcome. Socks, therefore, are a great boon. We all like to have a spare pair of gloves to cover emergencies, and a scarf begins to be valuable early in October, when the nights are cold before winter clothing is issued, and continues to be so up to April. Our clothing is quite adequate and if we had nothing in addition nobody would suffer. The extras make it more so. I recommend, therefore, socks, gloves, scarves and reading material. This shows the need is very great."

Will the ladies of Royal Signals please keep up their efforts, which are so very much appreciated. Parcels should be addressed:—

1 Commonwealth Divisional Signal Regiment, B.A.P.O. 3.

Forthcoming Events

Corps Band

15th-21st June	Victoria Embankment Gardens.
22nd-28th June	Eastbourne.
9th July	Bolton.
10th July	Corps Dinner.
13th July	Gateshead.
17th July	Buckingham Palace Garden Party.
20th July	Old Comrades Reunion, Catterick Camp.
23rd July	Harrogate.
25th-26th July	Southern Command, Aldershot.
27th July-9th Aug. ...	Eastbourne.

Annual General Meeting and Old Comrades' Reunion at Catterick on Saturday, 19th July, Sunday, 20th July. Details are being sent out by H.Q., Royal Signals Association, 88 Eccleston Square, S.W.1.

4th (Indian) Air Formation Signals

It is proposed to hold an all ranks' reunion in London on Saturday, 15th November.

The reunion to meet at 7 p.m. for 7.30 dinner, followed by a smoking concert, and winding up about 10.30 p.m. Possible cost about 10s. per head. If you can attend please let me know early and please tell your friends. You may have a long journey overnight and would prefer to stay with a colleague who can put you up for the night.

If, because of excess fares or for any such reason you cannot attend, write, and confidential arrangements may result in an "assisted passage."

Write to: Harry W. Jose, 44 Downhills Park Road, London, N.17.

23 (Southern) Corps Signal Regiment, T.A. "At Home"

Saturday, 21st June, at 2.30 p.m. Lillie Road Recreation Ground, Fulham. Including demonstration of Unit equipment and motor cycle display. All past members are welcome.

Royal Signals "Quicksilver" Trailer will visit:—

17th - 21st June ...	LINCOLN Area (Lincolnshire Show, 18th-19th June).
24th - 28th June ...	PETERBOROUGH (Peterborough Regatta).
3rd - 4th July ...	NEWARK (Market Place).
7th - 12th July ...	LEEDS Area (Great Yorkshire Show, HARROGATE, 8th-10th July).
15th July-4th Aug. ...	CATTERICK CAMP.

ROYAL SIGNALS

MOTOR CYCLE DISPLAY

★

Engagements, 1952

June	4-21	Royal Tournament	Earls Court.
„	21	Carreras Sports	Stanmore.
„	24	Royal Military Academy ...	Sandhurst.
„	26	Wembley Speedway	Wembley.
July	5	Long Sutton and District Agricultural Society ...	Long Sutton.
„	8	Army Apprentices School ...	Harrogate.
„	12	British Legion Show ...	Swillington.
„	16-17	Staffordshire Agricultural Society	Burton - on - Trent.
„	19	North-East Cheshire Agricultural Society Show ...	Stockport.
„	20	Old Comrades' Reunion ...	Catterick Camp.
„	24-25	Scunthorpe Agricultural Society	Scunthorpe.
„	26	Rainford, Eccleston and District Show	St. Helens.
„	31	Oswestry and District Agricultural Society	Oswestry.
Aug.	2	Perthshire Agricultural Society	Perth.
„	4	Rutland Agricultural Society	Oakham.
„	6	5 Training Regiment ...	Ripon.
„	11	Lancashire and Cheshire A.C.F. Camp	Cark, Lancs.
„	13-16	Blackpool and Fylde Show	Blackpool.
„	18	Glamorgan A.C.F. Camp	Kinmel, nr. Rhyl.
„	20-21	Shropshire Musical and Floral Fete	Shrewsbury.
„	23	Westgate-in-Weardale Floral and Horticultural Society	Westgate - in - Weardale (Durham).
„	27	Whitby Horse Show	Whitby.



[Courtesy: "Graphic" Photos, Watford

The 1952 version of "backwards riding." The gymnast is merely ornimcutal, or does he help to balance?



[Courtesy: "Graphic" Photos, Watford

The "Triumph" shows its robust construction. For the rider it is natural. D.R.s can break anything! !

Sept.	3	Reeth Agricultural Show ...	Reeth.
„	6	Matlock and District Agricultural Show	Matlock.
„	9-11	Combined Services Tattoo	Birmingham.
„	18	Wembley Stadium	Wembley.

Confirmation of other engagements awaited.

Dinner Club

Annual Dinner, Thursday, 10th July. Tickets 15s.

Regular Officers' Tea Party, Friday, 11th July. Tickets 8s. 6d.

Both will be held at the Hyde Park Hotel as formerly.

Details from Honorary Secretary, Royal Signals Dinner Club, Room 97, Horseguards, Whitehall, S.W.1.

3 Divisional Signals Reunion Club

Open to all ranks who have served in the Unit since its foundation in 1921.

Details from: Secretary, 3 Divisional Signals Reunion Club, c/o Lloyds Bank, Ltd., Cox's and King's Branch, 6 Pall Mall, London, S.W.1.

INSURANCE

It should be remembered that all classes of insurance can be placed through Headquarters, Royal Signals Association, 88 Eccleston Square. This benefits materially the funds of the Association and also benefits the insured, as under the arrangement with the Insurance Company the Agents' commission is shared between the Association and the payer of the premium.

PERSONAL COLUMN

Major-General C. M. F. White, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., is now living at Old Edmeades Cottage, Five Ash Down, near Uckfield, Sussex.

" London Gazette," 15th April, 1952.

Lieutenant-Colonel F. S. Whiteway Wilkinson to R.A.R.O., 7th April, 1952.

Movement of Officers

Major I. McAnsh from 1 Training Regiment to 6 (Boys) Training Regiment.

Major P. G. Curry from 6 (Boys) Training Regiment to 42 (Lancashire) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A.

Major L. H. Caldicott from B.A.O.R. to FARELF.

Major F. E. Berry from M.E.L.F. to 5 Corps Signal Regiment.

Major J. H. Brunskill from 5 Corps Signal Regiment to R.A.R.O.

Lieutenant-Colonel R. Webb from Depot Regiment to H.Q. A.L.F.C.E.

Major R. A. B. Brown from J.S.S.C. to B.A.O.R.

Major H. Prince from Ministry of Supply to No. 1 War Office Signal Regiment.

Lieutenant-Colonel P. G. Goodeve-Docker assumed Command of the Depot Regiment.

Major J. H. C. Grigg from S.H.A.P.E. to War Office.

Major F. A. Young from 1 War Office Signal Regiment to M,E.L.F.

Captain R. Hair from 1 War Office Signal Regiment to FARELF.

Lieutenant-Colonel I. F. Micklejohn from War Office to S.H.A.P.E.

Lieutenant-Colonel G. B. Stevenson, 53 Welsh Divisional Signal Regiment to New Zealand Army.

Lieutenant-Colonel D. J. Goldsmith from FARELF to 53 Welsh Divisional Signal Regiment.

Major J. L. Waller from Depot to 4 Training Regiment.

Lieutenant-Colonel F. H. Pellew from 7 Training Regiment to M.E.L.F.

Lieutenant-Colonel J. P. North from Depot to 7 Training Regiment.

Major T. R. Cook from 2 L. of C. Signal Regiment to 4 L. of C. Signal Regiment.

19 Air Formation Signal Regiment

R.Q.M.S. McLennaghan, S.S.M. Sladdin and S.Q.M.S. Bromley have arrived in Singapore from U.K.

Lieutenant (T.O.T.) R. G. Drew from U.K. to the Ceylon Squadron.

They have taken the places of Lieutenant (T.O.T.) W. Cornish, R.Q.M.S. Armstrong and S.Q.M.S. Coventry, who have reverted to U.K.

British Wireless Dinner Club

The 29th annual general meeting and dinner of the British Wireless Dinner Club, founded by wireless officers of the 1914-18 war, took place at the Junior United Services Club on 25th April. Principal guest, Sir John Cockcroft, C.B., F.R.S., the atomic scientist, underlined how much atomic development owed to basic wireless and radar practice.

The president for the ensuing year is Admiral A. J. L. Murray, C.B., D.S.O., O.B.E., who succeeds Mr. G. M. Wright, C.B.E., and the vice-president is Air Vice-Marshal C. W. Nutting, C.B.E., D.S.C.

500 c.c. Car Racing

Stuart Lewis-Evans, driving a 500 c.c. Cooper, won the small car race at Silverstone on 10th May, beating such distinguished drivers as Stirling Moss and Alan Brown. Stuart Lewis-Evans was a despatch rider during his service with Royal Signals. He is beginning to emulate Geoffrey Duke, the champion on two wheels.

Lewis-Evans, Senior, the father, also competed in the same race, and if memory serves, both men were featured in the television programme describing the racing.

★

Paul Burrough, who served in Royal Signals as a Captain in the Far East and was a prisoner of war of the Japanese, is now a missionary in Korea. Before the war he was a frequent visitor to the Aldershot Branch of the Association. He is located at or near Pusan.

Births

HORNER.—On 24th April at B.M.H. Nicosia, Cyprus, to Peggy (née Pickles), wife of Captain G. A. Horner, a son.

DIXON.—On the 28th April, 1952, at 2nd T.A.F. Hospital, Rinteln, B.A.O.R. 1, to Kay (née Symonds), wife of Major R. C. Dixon, a son.

CROSS.—To Captain and Mrs. J. R. E. Cross, at Hanover, on 23rd April, 1952, a daughter, Joanna Mary.

REYNOLDS.—To W.O.II and Mrs. J. Reynolds, at Hanover, on 23rd February, 1952, a son, Thomas John.

FRIEL.—To Sergeant Friel, 2 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, and Mrs. Friel, on 14th March, 1952, at B.M.H. Wuppertal, a daughter, Margaret.

HEPWORTH.—To S.S.M. (W.O.II) and Mrs. Hepworth, 13 A.A. (M) Signal Regiment, T.A., on 11th April, 1952, a son, Stewart.

REESE.—To Signalman and Mrs. N. Reese, 50 (N) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A., on 11th March, 1952, a son.

Marriages

LESTER—JOHNSON.—Corporal H. F. Lester to L.A.C.W. D. R. Johnson, W.R.A.F., on 18th April, 1952, at Church of St. Michael and All Angels at R.A.F. Station Wunstorf.

WILLINGALE—WORLEY.—At Wimborne on 15th March, 1952, S.Q.M.S. Roy Dudley Willingale, Royal Signals, 2 Anti-Aircraft (M) Signal Regiment, to Sergeant Maureen Worley, W.R.A.C.

Deaths

ELLERY.—22441618 Signalman H. A. Ellery, on 6th April, 1952, at British Military Hospital, Singapore.

KIRKLAND.—2866888 Sergeant J. Kirkland (ex Royal Signals) in Edinburgh, 24th March, 1952.

STENBECK.—22265487 Lance-Corporal H. W. N. Stenbeck, in Military Families Hospital, Moascar, M.E.L.F.

TAYLOR.—22212426 Corporal J. Taylor, on 8th April, 1952, at Liverpool.

OBITUARY

Lieutenant-Colonel P. Jennings, O.B.E., M.C.

His very many friends in Royal Signals will be sorry to hear of his very sudden death on Sunday, 18th May, at Llandudno. He left his home in York some days previously in perfect health for a short golfing holiday.

It is hoped to provide a fuller notice in July.

Operation Helsby

SIGNALS ON THE FIRST BRITISH POST-WAR PARACHUTE OPERATION

By **Captain D. D. RANFT,** *Royal Signals*

CHRISTMAS 1951. I was called into the C.O.'s office. "The Special Air Service Regiment will mount an operation in Northern Malaya in five weeks' time, involving a parachute drop," I was told. "The I.O. will give you details!"

Acorn was kneeling over an aerial mosaic in the operations room. "Here's the D.Z. where the parachutists will go in," he said, pointing to a tiny clearing in otherwise thick, unbroken jungle. Moving his finger along a winding river valley he indicated the target area, a valley inhabited by some 200 Malays who were known to be helping the bandits.

In these Malay kampongs, I learnt, the villagers were supplying food to the bandits who, according to Intelligence reports, were not only using the area as a transit camp between Siam and Malaya, but had also built training camps nearby where they trained and rested. No security forces had visited the area for over a year, so the bandits felt pretty secure in this secluded valley, though for their own safety they maintained a rigid check on the locals, who were not allowed to leave the valley. The valley was very difficult to reach, being several days' march by hilly and overgrown tracks from the nearest village.

The plan was to drop one Squadron into the valley by parachute, and for two other Squadrons to walk in and link up by foot. In addition, police jungle squads and a party from 40 Commando were to ambush tracks leading out of the valley, especially those that provided an escape route across the border into Siam. Thus it was hoped to surprise the bandits and force them to come to battle. Eventually all the local Malays would be taken out of the valley to resettlement camps and their former homes and crops destroyed, thus denying the area to any bandits who remained.

Only a few weeks to D-Day (the day of the parachute drop) and much to prepare. Security would be vital, and it was decided that troops would only be briefed at the last possible moment. Wireless communications would be of paramount importance, especially in the early stages, due to the need for co-ordinating the positioning of the foot Squadrons and ambush parties prior to the parachute drop. Some of the ambush parties would have many days' difficult marching through Siam to reach their objective.

As a first priority it was planned to practice signallers in ground to air communications, for a cab-rank of Brigand light bombers would be overhead on D-Day and D plus 1 to provide close support bombing if required. Opposition from the ground would be quite possible, especially if security had been compromised.

Two schemes were arranged with the R.A.F. which gave valuable experience to them and ourselves. It was found that of the few sets which can be carried into, and worked from, the jungle, the 62 set is by far the best for working to aircraft, and on CW can give, from thick jungle, excellent results up to 15 miles, above which range fading occurs. On RT fading occurs above about five to eight miles.

Ground recognition devices for close support bombing were tested at the same time. The 80 smoke grenade is ideal in jungle for indicating a ground position to a circling plane, although the method of throwing the grenade up wind, as tried by a certain officer, nearly suffocates everyone nearby, and is NOT recommended. Afterwards the ground panel code (with white material preferably), combined with instructions on CW to the pilot, gives quick and accurate target indication.

The 88 set was also tested to the Brigands, and reception was adequate while the plane was circling overhead. Noise level was reduced and reception improved by fixing an exterior aerial to the plane and providing the pilot with a throat microphone.

Next came signals problems for the parachute drop. It was decided, due to the possibility of ground opposition, that valuable seconds would be wasted in fixing up an inter-Squadron 62 set net on the DZ. So in addition to the 62 set carried by each troop, one 88 set would also be carried ready for immediate use on the DZ both for contact on the ground and for communication between the first stick to land and the dropping Dakotas.

Practice jumps were made on Singapore Island. The 88 sets were carried ready for use underneath the jumping jacket, and the 62 sets in the parachute kitbag which is strapped to the right leg, and lowered, once the parachute has opened, by means of a rope. Care had to be taken to ensure that the set inside the kitbag was well padded against the shock it would receive on hitting the ground, and each set and each piece of accessory equipment was wrapped in a waterproof bag to keep out the several feet of water in the paddi fields which constituted the DZ.

Two kitbags held everything required for one 62 set. The first, carried by the signaller, held the set itself and the man's personal weapon. The second held the operator's kit, dry battery connector and three 31 set dry batteries which provide power for the modified 62 set we use. The man's personal kit was carried in a small pack strapped on the chest underneath the jumping jacket. Spare sets and kit would also be taken, in case of damage on landing.

The police jungle squads were given 62 sets in place of the 68 sets they normally carry, in view of the longer ranges involved. To instruct them on this set, Signalman Smith was sent poste haste by air to Northern Malaya. He wore civilian clothes (for security reasons) and as usual carried a pistol. As he was about to board the civil airways plane an over-zealous R.A.F. security policeman arrested him for carrying a concealed weapon and he was promptly locked up as a suspected saboteur, despite his protestations!

A week before D-Day the two Squadrons who were to march into the area prepared to leave. The wireless store echoed with the clamour of sets being tested, and inside R.M.s were helping operators to pack spare valves and fuses inside the set, while others were tying sets on to manpack carriers, or pushing code-sign extracts and slidex wallets into waterproof bags.

Tac H.Q. and four liaison detachments were by this time in position in Northern Malaya. Tac H.Q., from where the C.O. would control the whole operation, lived with 3 Commando Brigade, while the L.O. detachments elsewhere were responsible for movement arrangements, liaison with police and Army units, air supply, helicopter and auster movements and rear link to base.

Tac H.Q. settled on a football pitch, which later became a helicopter park as well. The 52 set control station for the Regiment, police control station and an A.S.S.T. station, who were working under us, were close by.

Tension at Tac H.Q. on D-Day was high. The two Squadrons who had walked into the area were less than a day's march from the DZ. All ambush parties were in position. Operators anxiously searched for the first signal. Would

the drop be a success? H-Hour was 0900 hours. Suddenly R.H.Q. piped up on the air, " Signal immediately speedo readings of your vehicles." The reply sent would be quite unprintable.

Much was at stake, especially as this was to be the first British airborne operation since the Rhine crossing, and the first large-scale one in Malaya. Many outsiders were sceptical. There were difficulties, but the men had been trained to land under difficult conditions, and the enthusiasm was immense. The DZ was 400 by 200 yards at the bottom of a valley bordered by high hills, not ideal for low flying, and low clouds often hid the valley. The DZ was flanked on one side by a swift flowing river, while the trees all around rose to a height of 250 feet. The men would jump from a height of 500 feet. Everyone carried a 100-foot length of rope (which afterwards proved invaluable), and the first stick also wore " Mae Wests " in case they landed in the river.

The parachute Squadron emplaned at Singapore in the dark, but on reaching the DZ the pilots found the ground hidden by low cloud and had to touch down near Penang Island. A second attempt was made soon after mid-day and this time was successful. The first signal to be received from the ground read " Drop O.K. No opposition. No casualties."

Later it was learnt that due to bad weather conditions and ground air current, nearly all the men had landed in or through trees. All wireless sets landed safely, though on each 62 set the wheel had bounced off the aerial tuning inductance, but this was soon put back.

RT communications was maintained with the Brigand bombers, but much to the pilots' disappointment no suitable target was found for them.

A few days later the 52 set at Tac H.Q. started to overheat due to the continuous working imposed on it. As P.S.U. replacements were short we switched to a 53 set in a HP CV which gave no trouble. It would appear that the present model of the 52 set is unreliable when required to work continuously in a hot climate. The cut-off in the P.S.U. will operate, and if this is by-passed by modification the coil will burn out.

As the operation continued, reports of bandit contacts and camps arrived daily at Tac H.Q. Helicopters were used extensively for the first time in Malaya on a large scale in a role other than casualty evacuation. The local District Officer and " holy man " were lifted into the valley to supervise the evacuation by foot of the local Malay population, and the G.O.C. Malaya was also able to visit the area for a short time. The C.O. was also able to discuss details on the ground with his Squadron Commanders by using the helicopter. About a dozen of the local Malays who were unable to walk were lifted out of the area by helicopter, much to their consternation, for previously they had never seen a motor car, let alone fly in a helicopter. A C.I.D. Inspector was also flown in to interrogate a captured bandit who later died of wounds.

★

At Tac H.Q. some signallers started building model aeroplanes in their off-duty periods, and the calm of an evening was often disturbed by the roar of a miniature diesel engine. Some signals from the police ambush parties over their own net caused amazement, especially one air supply demand which asked for 19 bottles of Brylcreem! We expected them to add " and 19 dancing girls!"

After six weeks the operation ended with the evacuation on foot of the civilians. This party, with its police escort, totalled nearly 400, plus one captured elephant. Jumbo found some difficulty in keeping up with the main party, but he had previously proved his worth as a crop destroyer. We had by now accounted for a few bandits, obtained much valuable information, and denied the area to the enemy.

Many lessons were learnt from this operation. There is a need, particularly in Malaya, for greater practice between the R.A.F. and Army on ground to air communications, because only when the R.A.F. understand the signal problems of the Army and *vice versa*, can full efficiency be realised. On this occasion all went well, but only after practice and schemes with the actual pilots who later took part in the operation.

But probably the most important lesson, which arises from previous operations as well, is the need for a better wireless set for jungle work.

The 62 set is the best of existing sets for long range work in the jungle. By using the modified set which works off dry batteries, the problems of carrying wet batteries and charging equipment are solved. But the three 31 set batteries required to work the set weigh 9 lbs. each and are an unnecessary weight, because the LT from the batteries is used up long before the HT. Weight is the prime difficulty with the existing set. Most faults occur through the damp of the jungle getting into the set and water from rivers which have to be crossed.

The requirement is for a set similar in performance to the 62 set, but built in a smaller case which must be completely waterproof. To lessen weight the RT facilities could be dispensed with, leaving the set a purely CW one.

It is no fun carrying a set weighing some 40 lbs., plus personal kit, through this jungle for weeks on end, knowing that it is a 50-50 chance that water will get into the set and cause it to break down, just because the set was never intended for use in these conditions, and is therefore not waterproof.

We are now looking forward to our next operation.

A QUIZ FOR NATU MINIMUS

do you know?

THE morse code as applied to flags and to telegraph saw its first active service in the British Army during the Abyssinian War, 1867-8. It was, however, used excessively during the American Civil War, 1860-3. The country was already well served with civil lines, open overhead wires. These were operated on the " continuous current " system. This enables a mounted " telegrapher " to tap in anywhere with a small morse instrument such as he could carry on the saddle. Each Column Commander had his " telegrapher."

During the last two years the resources of Royal Signals have been strained by a very large expansion and by the number of " Units " we have had to send overseas. Do you know this has happened before—many times?

In 1884 the Signal Units were reorganised into a Battalion of two Divisions, the 1st Division formed from "C" Troop and the 2nd Division from 22 and 34 Companies.

Immediately afterwards the Battalion was strained to the uttermost to provide: No. 4 Section, mobilised for the Nile expedition; No. 1 Section went to the Bechuanaland War; No. 2 Section left for Suakin, followed a month later by No. 3 Section.

Cutters v. Jointers

Elsewhere in this number you can read of the activities of cable thieves in the Canal Zone. Do you know that this sort of problem occurred in 1921 and since in the North-West Frontier province? Here the wires are " open " carried on tubular galvanised iron posts. Galvanised iron because wooden poles make roof beams and firewood. Tubular to save weight and to prevent their use except as vertical supports. The method of the saboteur or thief in 1921, as in 1951, employs that useful animal, the camel. In 1951 the requirements are a spade to dig up a portion of cable, a stout rope, a camel and a stick. In 1921, for spade substitute an axe.

Method: Sling the rope over the top of a pole and tie both ends to the camel. Man A hits camel with stick; Man B hits

pole with axe at the exact second when the moment of inertia of the camel is overcome. This brings down the pole with little labour.

Bi-products—tubular poles make excellent water conduits in irrigation systems. Galvanised iron wire makes a good substitute for rope in such things as camel harness, baling of goods and stringing of beds. The insulators. What fun for a boy with a catapult and unlimited small stones. The indigenous catapult was shaped like a bow, discharging a stone instead of an arrow.

Do you know of William Butler? The Council of the Association of Service Newspapers, Limited, presented him with a clock to commemorate his 25 years of membership. Mr. Butler started as a sorting clerk and telegraphist in the G.P.O. in 1896, and enlisted in R.E. Signals for the South African War. He stayed on in the Transvaal administration until 1905, when he rejoined the Royal Engineers, and from 1909 to 1913 he was seconded to the Sudan Government Telegraphs.

Having served throughout the 1914-18 war, being twice mentioned in despatches and attaining the rank of R.S.M., he finally left the Army in 1921 to become general secretary of the newly-formed Royal Signals Association. He had been Editor of THE WIRE for some time. By 1939 he had raised the circulation of THE WIRE to 8,000 copies a month. He drafted the original rules of the Association and negotiated the registration of the association as a Friendly Society. He saw the Association through its first " bombing out " in 1940.

Do you know that during the period August 1939 to November 1940 Royal Signals gained the following awards in Middle East alone: C.B.E. one, O.B.E. two, M.B.E. two, B.E.M. six, Military Medal three, Mention in Despatches 22. This covered the period BEFORE the first British offensive in the Western Desert.

At home, Signalman R. H. Tinto was awarded the George Medal in 1941. Entering a wrecked shelter through a very small aperture, with his bare hands he dug away enough earth to make possible the escape of four people.

Plain Tales

★ *BY BARLEUX WITH GREETINGS FROM BARLEUX*

Don't Start Anything

PROBABLY the best incentive for anyone hesitating about buying a television set is to listen to ordinary radio programmes on a Saturday night. No one will ever convince me that new and, very likely, better turns cannot be found in the provinces than the well known and rather boring collection to be heard but not seen on radio. Music Hall? Huh! I'll go further—Poof!

Uncle Alf: " What's the idea?"

Me: " We cannot do politics or the NAAFI, so let us have a bash at someone."

Pansy Corner

Since reading that Units in Catterick Camp are to concentrate in their own time on beautifying their gardens, I look forward to some interesting news from the green fingers in that part of the country. I have it on good authority that vegetables and, in some cases, even flowers, will grow in the soil around the barrack blocks. An exception seems to be the ground near Sergeants' Messes, where daisies, petunias, neuroses and hydrophobias spring up in the brilliant sunshine, blink stupidly, and fall flat on their faces.

Next month—How to grow flat parsley.

O.C. Unit to See

It is profoundly disturbing to discover that a great many serving and ex-members of Royal Signals are still unaware of the existence of two excellent hotels reserved exclusively for them and their families. There is a Mercury House at Bournemouth and another at Colwyn Bay, between Llandudno and Rhyl. Some people fear that if they do not book in January for the summer they will be too late. This may have been true when there was only the Bournemouth house, but in these days of sudden postings there is always a good chance of taking up a cancellation. Mercury House at Colwyn Bay has many vacancies for June, July and September, with even a few in August. The idea, aired by a recent visitor, that Mercury House is mainly for Officers and ex-Officers is very far from the truth. These houses are for all ranks of the Corps and visitors will be given the same courteous treatment be they Signalmen, quarterblokes or Colonels. Readers of THE WIRE will have seen the full page announcement in the April number, and those serving members who occasionally glance at the Unit Order Board may also find some information about Mercury Houses. It is the non-readers and, alas, there are many, who must be " got at." Members of other arms of the Service frequently say " What a splendid idea for a War Memorial. You must always be full."

How right—and then, how wrong, they are.

Not a Clue

Ukann Larfe and his old valet, Fogworthy, sat in the detective's London office. The time was two o'clock in the morning. There was complete and utter silence. It was so quiet you could have eaten your dinner on the floor. Or off the floor. I am never quite certain . . .

Uncle Alf: " Get on with it."

Me: " O.K. Don't be impatient at this time of night."

The celebrated investigator was worried. Practically all the clues in this case had been stolen from his car. A broadcast had gone out and the two men were waiting for news. Any news. Good, if possible, but they were not fussy. Suddenly the telephone shrilled to life. Its insistent demand went on for several minutes. The two men sprang up, keen and alert as always. Ukann Larfe opened the door and looked into the corridor. Fogworthy searched under the office desk. The ringing stopped as suddenly as it started. Suddener, in fact.

Ukann Larfe poured himself half a glass of rum. He drank it thoughtfully and went to bed. Fogworthy dozed on, one ear alert for news which he confidently expected from Inspector Faceache. In Regents Park, a wonderful bird chorus rose in a crescendo to 40 x 2 (or as we musicians say, ff). Dawn fell with a fairylike tinkle, pp.

Uncle Alf: " Fathead! Dawns always break."

Me: " Well, this dawn was pretty good quality, so it just fell, and what can you do about it?"

Barleaux writes by kind permission of the Fairwarp and Upper Nutley Consolidated Treacle Syndicate Inc. Hic! (Pardon.)

MANCHESTER

radio and television exhibition

By **Ex-Corporal G. FOWLER** *(2 Divisional Signals)*

THE Northern Radio and Television Exhibition opened by Lord Brabazon of Tara in Manchester on 23rd April was the first that the manufacturers had held in the North since 1939. It was, therefore, the first we had seen in which television was a feature in its own right, and contained the first television studio in the North.

Organised by the Radio Industry Council, which represents 95 per cent. of the productive capacity of the radio industry, the whole thing—and there were 47 exhibitors occupying over 22,000 square feet of stand space—was a striking example of the pre-eminence of British craft and workmanship.

One thing was evident from the moment you entered this great hall—television was THE thing; the manufacturers were determined to impress that on the public. No effort was spared to show you how it worked, and if you already had a television set, several exhibitors, such as aerial specialists, went to great pains to show you how to make it work even better. One famous valve manufacturer struck on a novel and interesting method of imparting basic knowledge to the public with a model of a TV set in which the various valves lit up in rotation whilst the " voice " of the valve in question told its name and the purpose it served. In addition, each exhibitor had large supplies of advertising literature which, whilst achieving their initial purpose, were also, in the majority of cases, instructive.

It was through the latter medium that I really came to understand the difference between " Direct " and " Projection " vision, and for the reader who, like myself, knows very little about television, I would explain that direct vision is obtained from a set in which a Cathode Ray Tube of approximately the same size as the picture is used, whilst the term " projection " means that the picture is projected optically from a small tube on to the screen and magnified at the same time. Also, I discovered from the same source that my idea of " the bigger the screen the better " was unfounded, as apparently whilst a big picture allows a better perspective to be achieved, a smaller picture has a crisper look.

The actual sets on show varied from giant television—radiograms through the original table models to a miniature demonstration set approximately 5 inches in height which had been built " just to prove it could be done." A 1 inch tube was used, giving a very clear picture the size of a postage stamp, and as this " tiny tim " was standing on a superb model by the same manufacturer which gave an 18 inch by 14 inch picture the effect was, to say the least, startling. Prices, of course, varied accordingly, the cheapest being a table model at 49 guineas, whilst the most expensive I saw was a projection television-radiogram at just over £556.

Radios and radiograms, whilst having less emphasis placed upon them than in former years, have lost nothing in comparison to their new " rival." But unfortunately no new features that could be called revolutionary to radio were present at the show, although the majority of radiograms being produced now incorporate the auto-change, three-speed motor and, in many cases, pre-selection.

Without any doubt, however, the prize for the two greatest attractions at the show must go to television. Firstly, the B.B.C. Television Studio. This was built by the R.I.C. to B.B.C. specifications and measured 64 feet by 45 feet with a ceiling height of 22 feet. For the first time a revolving stage was installed to allow two sets to be mounted, and for most of each day rehearsals and performances were watched and heard by the public, who also had the opportunity of seeing themselves through the eyes of a TV camera and hearing how their voices sounded when recorded.

Secondly, " TV Avenue." Through this dimly-lit thoroughfare one could stroll and compare 65 television receivers working side by side under identical conditions. But let me warn you; to do this successfully one really requires square eyes!

To sum up, this could have been called " The Northern Television Show," but having seen it one can really copy the member of Ted Ray's cast in saying " If you haven't been to Manchester—YOU haven't lived!"

Catterick Jottings

By **" NACERBY "**

Sport in General

THE splendid performance of 7 Training Regiment in the final of the Army Football Cup and the scintillating victory of 1 Training Regiment in the final of the Yorkshire Rugby Union Cup brought to an end a grand winter sports programme in the Centre—and as if influenced by these victories the spring meeting of the Corps Golfing Society attracted a good entry.

A pleasing feature was the number of young entrants, and it may not be generally realised the splendid facilities the Catterick Course offers to all ranks.

Clubs and balls may be hired and advice given on all aspects of the game.

Which brings me to the cartoon and golfing rule 1: " Addressing the ball."

(Editor: " I can't print that sort of stuff.")



Is It Cricket?

Very topical this!

Corporal Haymaker scored 89 not out for 8 O.T.B. versus 999 O.C.T.U. Here are three different accounts of the innings as they appeared:—

(1) In the pages of our contemporary, *The Times.*

(2) 8 O.T.B. Part I Orders.

(3) In *Good Show,* wall newspaper of 999 O.C.T.U.

★

THE TIMES

All the effortless grace of a Hutton and the consuming fire of a Compton were welded together in a magnificent innings by Jerry Haymaker on the velvet wicket of rural Bourlon yesterday. Such exquisite finesse in cover drives, such audacity in executing the late cut have not been seen for a decade. He coaxed the ball along a reluctant turf like Malcolm Sergeant coercing his strings and brasses through the intricacies of Beethoven's Sixth Symphony or Skotakovitch's symphonic exaltation.

Haymaker was superb, have no doubt about that. He broke the bondage of the boundary lines ten times and he banished one ball from the ground with the sinewy mastery of a Doctor Grace.

Only once was he in troubled waters, when a spot developed three inches from his crease, but he emerged from the crisis Master of his Destiny.

8 O.T.B. PART I ORDERS

Cricket (Sport)

8 O.T.B. met 999 O.C.T.U. on the Regimental Ground. 8 O.T.B. won by one run. 8 O.T.B. scored 142. 2373884 Corporal Haymaker, J., hit 89 not out. To be copied in Squadron orders.

"GOOD SHOW" (999 O.C.T.U.)

Our wizard effort was held up by J. Haymaker, who scored a rather fluky eight something and was alleged to be not out, although "Stinker" Kembrown says he stumped him three times and "Bouncer" Fraser was deuced unlucky with lbw appeals. Haymaker scored with a lot of scratchy, stodgy batting and would obviously have been caught out six times if our fieldsmen had not been absolutely weighed down by tomorrow's "Pass Out." (Good hunting in the latter, you chaps!)

Skipping this fellow Haymaker's tolerably uninspired innings, we should like to say, "Bumper show, chaps, and frightful luck" to our gallant bowlers.

HAYMAKER'S COMMENT

"'Twas nowt!"

Can You Remember?

The Telegraph Battalion in "K" Company? Fenny, Newport, Haynes Park, Biggleswade—those parades on the London Road at Fenny? The Corn Exchange at Bedford? The Operating School at Newport Pagnall with Q.M.S. I. Bill Gallagher on the dais?

And Bobby Benfield—what a drill instructor—what a sergeant-major!

The first flap on the new procedure when it was thought even the Yanks might be interested in the 14/18 scrap?

The first and probably the only strike of military operators at the C.T.O.?

The hardening courses for all regular soldiers at Kempston after the 14/18 scrap? No wonder we are *still* soldiering!

Remember that marching song?:—

"We are the R.E. boys—
We all know our manners,
We can spend our tanners (4d. a week),
We are respected wherever we go;
And when we are marching down the Old Kent Road . . ."

YOU DO?

Then I'm afraid my 28 years isn't good enough! Salaams, Barleux!

Atomic Energy Facts for the Ladies

Judging by my mail you are all frightfully curious about this scientific nonsense. And you know, dears, splitting the atom is really most divinely simple . . . like leatherwork or pokerwork, or just poker. Take a strong enamel bowl—the side of which should be reinforced with a firm wrapping of brown paper—and half fill with hard water (deuterium oxide).

Now take a fairly large slab of pitchblend (obtainable at any chemist in the region of Slave Lake, Canada) and grate into a powder. Sort out all the little black pieces and those remaining will be grains of uranium. Sprinkle into the water, which will immediately start boiling. You now have the nucleus of a perfectly devastating dish.

At this stage it is necessary to pass the mixture through a fine sieve in order to separate the neutrons from the protons. When you have done this pour the neutrons back into the bowl and from a distance of two yards (two strides if you are over 5 feet 6 inches) begin to bombard the contents of the bowl with a handful of protons.

You will have at your disposal about 200,000,000,000,000 protons—but don't be wasteful, just a handful at a time.

Now bake in a hot oven (40,000 degrees centigrade is said to be the correct temperature, but half that will do).

Then take a week-end ticket to Paris, and when you see a sharp flash in the sky to the north you know your atom has been split—so has your enamel bowl unless you followed my advice about the binding of brown paper.

P.T.—Homework

Your morning exercises this month are to develop the big muscles in the lower rhomboid. Firstly, open the window wide—if you have a window that opens. Throw out your chest. Adopt a squatting position and ge...e...e...ntly raise the left leg until you can rest it upon the back of your neck. Now pass the right arm under the right leg and touch the toes of your left foot. Get a friend to spin you around. (You have a friend? Oh! You're unpaid! I see!)

Are you spinning? That's good. You are now in a position of some delicacy. In the next lesson, entitled "On your feet, up!" you are told how to spring smartly to attention from the position just described. Hold it!

Next Month

How to keep happy on pickles, by a famous Commanding Officer. G.D. recollections by Rolon T. Tyme, and "How to become an operator" or "On the Road to Utopia in 20 weeks."

School of Signals



It is with deep regret we report the death of Mr. C. G. Todd, who for many years has been our Chief Ledger Clerk. Clifford George Todd enlisted in the Royal Engineers in 1911

and served as a line telegraphist and lineman during World War I in France and Mesopotamia. He was awarded the Military Medal and was Mentioned in Despatches.

He transferred to Royal Signals on the formation of the Corps and served in "A" Corps Signals and at the School. He finished his service in Catterick with the rank of C.Q.M.S. in 1932. In 1934 he returned as a civilian to look after the ledgers in the Q.M. Office, School of Signals. He eventually became an established civil servant and as a Civilian Clerical Officer worked under many Quartermasters until three weeks before his death on 1st April, 1952. He was a man of fine character and strong personality, keenly interested in sport. He served the Army and the Corps faithfully for well nigh 40 years, and will be greatly missed by all who knew him and worked with him.

Our deepest sympathy is extended to his widow and sons.

Royal Signals Wing

The main event at this time of year is the annual administrative inspection which is being held on 13th May. There are the usual moans about the lack of men and paint but judging by the amount of painting some Squadrons have done there is no shortage of either.

The normal spate of summer courses is just beginning. Two long courses finish in July. They are No. 4 Long Tels. and No. 1 Subalterns Part II. The next Subalterns Part II starts in July and the next Long Tels. doesn't start till November.

No. 1 Foremans—Part I Course finishes in May and another one, No. 3, starts in June. No. 2 Foremans—Part I and No. 1 Foremans—Part II both have some months to do yet.

We have had our first "Z" Reservist Officer Course, which has been a great success. We have a feeling that they quite enjoyed themselves, although some of them didn't like to admit it!

In the realm of sport we entered teams for all the local events and played a lot of friendly matches. Although most of our teams had successful seasons no high honours were won.

Officer Training Wing

In addition to hard training, the Wing continues its successes at sport. Rugger ended well with a 51—3 win over a Training Regiment, R.A.C., and the winning of the District 7-a-Side Competition. The soccer, hockey and squash teams all had a successful season. The Wing also took part in the Garrison Small-Bore League and Basketball League. Stars have been Captain C. N. Le Gassick, Second-Lieutenant R. Gemmill and Officer Cadet Head at rugger; Sergeant A. Hannam at soccer; Lieutenant R. A. King, who has represented England at the épée; and Lieutenant-Colonel M. A. Charlton, O.B.E., and Captain O. J. Peck at golf. We wish Captain Le Gassick good luck on his leaving the Unit. Cricket, athletics, swimming and summer hockey are now in full swing.

THE DEPOT REGIMENT

By now all serving Royal Signals personnel will have read in the May WIRE the spirited eulogy of Lieutenant-Colonel C. H. Patrick, O.B.E., Royal Signals, about our new home. He said all we wanted to say so much better than we could.

Still, there are other aspects of The Depot which we would like to bring to notice of all (and we mean ALL, for everyone comes through our portals some time—for one reason or another).

Are you booked for overseas? Has the long arm of Records reached out and wrenched you from your comfortable quarter or cosy nook? Has a Posting Order with the mystic prefix D/- reached your Unit? It has—then you are now a customer of our No. 1 Squadron, whose O.C. (at present Major G. W. Powell) is ready and willing to answer any queries you may send. You may also like to know that the present policy is for all destined for draft to be given embarkation leave BEFORE joining The Depot Regiment, so that once arrived in our green and pleasant valley in sunny Devon your next journey is to a seaport or an airport.

Movement is much more rapid now—no more long dreary waits for boats—your date of availability is more and more becoming your date of departure, so don't bring a ton of baggage in anticipation of a long stay—find out from us about baggage and save yourself a lot of money and us a lot of worry.

Are you sweating on the top line overseas for an early return on Python to the U.K.? Take note then that your needs are cared for by our No. 2 Squadron (Major F. Cosstick in command) and that so far as is humanly possible you will be informed of your U.K. Unit whilst enjoying your disembarkation leave.

All National Service men overseas have already been customers of ours, and we doubt whether there is one who doesn't know what the drill is on their return to the U.K.—but there might be one who doesn't—so take note, you lonely one, all National Service men releases are handled by our No. 2 Squadron. You will be turned into a T.A. or S.R. man so quickly you will almost forget you are at the same time once more in civvy life.

Have you done your time? Has that little red book begun to loom largely in your overseas life? Then note that within the shortest possible time after disembarkation (sometimes less than 24 hours) you will be on your way home—a civvy once again. But don't expect miracles if you arrive on such days as a Bank Holiday or Christmas Eve—although, if we have notice of your arrival, we can perform even these.

The foregoing concerns other ranks, of course, but we also deal with Officers for whom we perform the same functions as described above—but all Officers are dealt with by an O.C. Officers Wing (at present Captain Norman Gordon), whose 'phone number is Ipplepen 361, Ext. 18. Please, please, will new customers note they must arrive during the hours of daylight, we have a very small Mess staff; and midnight or early morning arrivals start off on the wrong leg—and do please find out about your baggage before you bring it all here—most of you will be going by air and " you can't take it with you."

3 TRAINING REGIMENT

Regular readers will now be fully cognisant of our " halo " and we feel justified in claiming " halo and bar " after the annual administrative inspection.

It's a pity we can't issue one to every member of the Regiment—because team work was the predominant note throughout—truly our Star(r) is in the ascendant.

A very happy note was the presentation by the Commander of the L.S. and G.C. Medal to S.S.M. J. Sims, and we understand the Gallowgate air is so tough that the S.S.M. can pin the medal on his bare chest without a flinch!

It was also the last official parade for R.S.M. V. C. Brassfield, who leaves us for Far Eastern waters. Popular with all ranks—and an enthusiastic member of the Saddle Club—his popularity was in high evidence at the farewell party given by his colleagues in the W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess. It is understood that his now famous " Guinness Sandwich " has been deleted from the Mess lunch menu.

To soften this blow we welcome R.S.M. A. H. Knight from Southern Command, and it's a happy coincidence that the sun has shone every day since his arrival.

Proving that beauty can be allied to brains, Corporal K. Gregory, W.R.A.C., won the Northumbrian District Cooking Championship and also the Northern Command finals—proving that " a rissole by any other name . . ." A wonderful effort and what a cook!

Sport continues to occupy leisure hours. Major (T.O.T.) E. M. P. Nash won the Royal Signals (Spring Meeting)



3 Training Regiment, Bourlon Lines

Handicap Golf Challenge Cup, and Major N. A. C. Clubb was the runner-up—both were selected to represent a Corps golf team versus York at Strensall during May.

Cricket and tennis are in full swing, and under the enthusiastic leadership of Major G. Stretch the results of the Regiment's first athletic meeting on 10th May augurs well for the District and Command championships.

7 TRAINING REGIMENT

The highlight of the month was the final of the Army Association Football Cup.

Luck just prevented the soccer team from making Corps' history when they lost to the 67 Training Regiment, R.A.C., in the final of the Army Football Association Cup on the Central Ground, Catterick Camp. This was the first time that the Army Cup had not been played in Aldershot, but nevertheless, the Central Ground, with its new stand, stood up to the test of staging a cup final. Over four thousand spectators enjoyed a game which provided thrills for the full ninety minutes.

Within twenty seconds of the start the R.A.C. scored from a rebound from the crossbar. From then on throughout the first half our opponents pressed hard, but the defence, backed by Snowball, the goalkeeper, who played a magnificent game, managed to keep them out until just before half-time, when the R.A.C. got another one into the net.

The second half was a different story. Signals settled down to a relentless attack. After ten minutes Fisher centred from the right wing to Tyrrel, who shot the ball into the net. Two-one down. From then on the pace, if anything, increased, with our captain, Cromer, playing an outstanding game at right-half. Good as they were they were not quite good enough, and the game ended without further score.

5 CORPS SIGNAL REGIMENT

In an extremely short period of time 5 Corps Signal Regiment have built up a powerful reputation on the sports field of Colchester Garrison.

Recently we had a field day. The soccer eleven pulled off a close win over the R.A.S.C., former district champions, by two goals to one. The hockey team soundly beat the hitherto undefeated H.Q. District side by five goals to two, while the Unit Rugby XV, playing together for the first time, ran out easy winners against the Garrison XV by 14 points to six. And this was all done a few days after a three-day scheme in which the whole Unit took part in the Stanford P.T.A. This exercise served as a good shakedown for the Regiment, and many useful lessons were learnt.

Within the Unit our W.O.s and Sergeants are walking around with heads downcast. Reason being that they were well beaten at a variety of indoor games when entertaining the Officers at a social evening during the month. Could it be that R.S.M. G. Smith and his Mess are paying too much attention to that television set?

We have now started sending out wireless detachments to assist the Territorial Army in their weekend schemes, and despite a heavy snowfall on the initial weekend the detachments have enjoyed themselves and done a good job of work. More of these T.A. commitments are being received and, coupled with Reservist training, should keep us very busy during the summer months.

WESTERN COMMAND SIGNAL REGIMENT

There have been no notes from us for some months. We are still, at the time of writing, in Blacon Camp, together with H.Q., S.R. Depot, the Command Cashier and 14 Company W.R.A.C., but over the last few weeks we have been having a lovely game of General Post. We have been buzzing around like the proverbial blue-ended flies.

Everybody, except Majors Hall, Newman and Gibson (wait for it), have changed their offices, stores and barrack rooms. Here today and gone tomorrow has been the order of the day (and night). Harassed exchange operators have made desperate efforts to keep up with the moves and, to their resounding credit, have succeeded.

Subscriber: " Extension 38 please."
Operator: " Yes, sir. You want Major Nash?"
Subscriber: " No, Captain McDevitt."
Operator: " Oh, he's not on 38, sir, he's moved."
Subscriber: " But he only moved to 38 two days ago."
Operator: " I know, sir, but today he's 39."
Subscriber: " Oh, well, give me 39."
Operator: " Very good, sir . . . oh, I'm sorry, sir, he's just moved again . . . 27 he is now, sir."

Command Troop are the present holders of the Western Command Rolling Stone Trophy. They have moved their not inconsiderable amount of stores three times this year.

Now let it not be thought that there is no method behind all this movement. There is—but Plans A, B, C, D and E are not for discussion here. They don't coincide with the Editor's economy of space drive.

The outcome of it all is that we are now in the far, or incinerator, end of the camp, while S.R. Depot are in the near, or coal dump, end.

We are all much better off, including the Royal Pioneer Corps, who moved to Saighton to make room for us.

Other fun and games have taken place, too—mostly games.

We beat H.Q. Western Command in the final of the North-West District Hockey Cup Competition after a hard game in " excelsior " conditions. Snow and ice.

We held our own athletic meeting on 5th April—an early date forced upon us by the early date of the District Sports which was forced upon them . . . and so on until you get to Army.

We took part in an exercise. It was called "White Knight." Stand in the corner the chap who said it was a " Black Day " for us.

Actually we did quite well under difficult conditions. We think.

We have got our "Z" Reservists in now—good chaps, and very keen.

The visit of the Corps Band was much appreciated. A great display which made one regret the passing of pageantry.

No. 6 (Boys) Training Regiment

NO. 6 (Boys) Training Regiment, Royal Signals, was formed on 25th August, 1950, from the Boys Training Squadron, Royal Signals, attached to No. 1 Independent Selection Squadron, Royal Signals. The growth to regimental status has been exceedingly rapid. Only ten months previously, in October 1949, the first boy recruits were received at Richmond, in Yorkshire. Today the Regiment numbers some four hundred boys under training. The establishment is six hundred.

It is a truism to say that the British Army has always relied on first-class regular N.C.O.s. But the present structure of the post-war Army, with its constantly changing National Service element, has greatly accentuated that need. Primarily, it is to satisfy this demand that this Regiment was formed. Our purpose is to produce for the Corps a constant supply of young regular soldiers whose early training in boy service pre-selects them as future N.C.O.s.

On entering the Regiment a boy recruit spends his first six weeks in the Basic Military Training Troop. The purpose of this period is to help him make the transition from civilian to Army life. He is taught to make his bed and to fit his equipment. He learns the purpose of the various departments and the ranks and functions of persons within the Regiment. He learns both the history of the Corps and something of his own possible future within that Corps. He is given an educational test, begins his physical training and learns the basic movements of foot and arms drill. Behind all this, however, is the attempt to instil in the individual the rudiments of a self-discipline which often he has never been called upon to exercise.

After six weeks there is a passing out parade before the Commanding Officer. The weak are relegated for further training and the rest pass into the Squadrons.

There are at present two Squadrons, each with two Troops, and provision, when numbers increase, for a third Troop. Squadron Commanders are responsible, in the main, for discipline and administration. Training is carried out by a staff of specialist instructors. Selection of the Squadron to which a boy goes is purely arbitrary, depending upon the numbers required in either Squadron. Boys live in barrack rooms according to age grouping, and within that barrack room come under the control of a Boy N.C.O. and Sergeant of the permanent Cadre. Boys of the same Troop live within the same series of barrack huts, and the first responsibility of the Troop Officer is for the welfare and administration of his Troop. So far as is practicable a boy remains in the same Troop and the same Squadron throughout his service with the Regiment. This ensures that the Officers and N.C.O.s are able to know the boy more intimately and, consequently, are better able to assess his character and capabilities.

During the working day, from nine o'clock in the morning until half-past four in the afternoon, all boys who have passed into the Squadrons come under the direction of the Chief Instructor. This Officer, a Major of the Royal Army Educational Corps, is responsible for the co-ordination of all training, educational, military and physical. Under his control, and with the special responsibility for their own departments, are the Military Training Officer, the Education Officers and the Physical Training Officer, who is a Q.M.S.I. of the Army Physical Training Corps.

No trade training, except for some basic general instruction, is done within the Regiment. This at first may seem anomalous since we are a technical Corps. But one of the purposes of the educational training is to ensure that a boy has the proper background to take the highest class trade of which he is capable. If he were to start trade training at this Regiment, both his general education and his trade would necessarily suffer. The results of this system are satisfactory in that at present over one-third of the boys passing out of the Regiment are selected for Class A trades. This proportion will increase very considerably now that all boys spend a minimum of one year with the Regiment. So far no boy has been rejected as unfit for trade training. Further, since boys leave this Regiment at seventeen and a half, as opposed to 18½-19½ from the Army Apprentices Schools, any disparity between the two types of training is overcome.

Educational instruction is carried out by sergeants of the Royal Army Educational Corps under the supervision of two Officers of that Corps. The purpose is to prepare boys for a series of tests which correspond to the various Army Certificates of Education. These certificates, which have been reintroduced by the Army Council, are one of the necessary qualifications for N.C.O. rank. For example, one of the future qualifications for the rank of sergeant will be the Army Certificate of Education, Second Class.

As a result of the educational test taken whilst in the Basic Military Training Troop, a boy embarks on a certain course of study. It may be that his previous educational background is such that he can afford to omit the Army Certificate of Education, Third Class, and begin studying at once for his Army Certificate of Education, Second Class. Alternatively, it may appear that a boy needs additional instruction before he is ready to begin a course of study for his Army Certificate of Education, Third Class. Although the latter is comparatively rare, provision is made for such cases.

The course of studies includes English, mathematics, general science, map reading, history, geography, citizenship and electricity and magnetism. The aim is that a boy shall have passed at least the test which corresponds to the Army Certificate of Education, Second Class, before he leaves the Regiment to enter man's service, but where a boy can advance beyond that stage preparation is given for the Army Certificate

of Education, First Class, and higher examinations. In the hierarchy of examinations the Army Certificate of Education, First Class, is somewhat lower than the School Certificate or the new General Certificate at the Ordinary Level. For those boys who prepared at school for the School Certificate or the General Certificate and, through force of circumstances, were unable to sit, arrangements are made by the Regiment for tuition and they can sit the examination at a prescribed centre.

Instruction in military training is given by Royal Signals N.C.O.s under the supervision of a Royal Signals Officer. This training includes drill, weapon training, field craft and a course of lectures on both strictly military and general subjects. The course is designed to produce not only the trained recruit, but also potential instructors in these subjects. Field craft, which takes the boys out of the classroom atmosphere, is made as interesting and diverse as possible.

Physical training in all its aspects plays a considerable part in the life of the Regiment. The gymnasium work, which is designed for boys, is progressive and as far as is possible made to meet individual needs. Personal records of each boy are maintained and a careful check on his needs and abilities kept. This, however, is only one aspect of physical training. Sport is the other. During the summer cricket, and in the winter soccer, Rugby, hockey and basket ball are the standard games. In additional to these, great stress is laid on athletics, boxing and cross-country running. The Regiment has already made a name for itself in the last two, both in the Army and Imperial Services Boxing Championships, and the English National Cross-Country Championship.

For athletics, which is made into an all-year activity, three standards—a lower, intermediate and advanced—are laid down. These standards consist of a list of field and track events, for which certain minimum times or distances are stipulated and, in order to gain any particular standard, a boy must achieve the minimum stated for every event. Those standards gained are recorded and contained in the boy's personal documents. As a feature of compulsory training these standards give the individual boy an all-round athletic ability.

Boxing, although encouraged for every boy, is not compulsory. Cross-country runs for the whole Regiment are held periodically during the winter.

Many outside matches are arranged, and inter-Troop competitions are held in all forms of sport. Apart from providing a worth-while activity, this also serves to build up a Regimental and Troop spirit.

For all purposes of instruction the age grouping which is maintained in living quarters is disregarded, and the boys are formed into sections for all training periods, according to ability. These average about twenty boys per section. Throughout the day, from after first works parade in the morning until half-past four in the afternoon, Troop distinctions are disregarded, although the policy is to keep boys from one Squadron within the same group of sections. When the day's training is done the boys again come under the direction of the Squadron Commanders.

Although training falls into distinct departments, the policy is to regard all training as a unity. Otherwise, and especially with boys, there is a constant danger of making progress in one subject and disregarding a weakness in others. Thus plans are in hand for providing set standards, not only in education and athletics, but covering every aspect of training, and a boy will be graded according to the standard he obtains, not in one subject only, but in every subject. At present a boy may not hold any N.C.O. rank without possessing at least an Army Certificate of Education, Third Class.

Within the Regiment full boy N.C.O. ranks from Lance-Corporal to Regimental Sergeant-Major are maintained. This system is regarded as an integral part of training for the better qualified boys. Although these ranks do not carry additional pay the added responsibilities are compensated by additional privileges. For example, only a boy N.C.O. is allowed out of barracks in plain clothes.

The privilege of being allowed out of barracks in the evenings and at week-ends is extended to every boy. He may travel within a twenty-mile radius of the camp, excluding the city of Hull. This rule has consciously been adopted to avoid the frustration which older boys feel when restricted to camp boundaries. The policy is to allow all boys out of camp, but to provide sufficient activities within the camp to discourage their aimlessly parading the streets. The finding of new methods of encouraging a proper use of leisure time receives constant attention.

Within the camp itself, in addition to the usual NAAFI facilities, there is the Boys Club. This provides a library of some fourteen hundred books gathered from a variety of sources, which is shortly to be increased, and includes a reading room, games room, billiards and table tennis rooms, and a quiet room where boys can read and write letters home.

There is roller skating for the enthusiast, and fencing, photography, wireless, film, stamp and model railway clubs. The Regiment possesses its own projector and sound track, which is used both for training and entertainment.

During the winter months lecturers from Hull University run music and dramatic clubs; there is a play reading circle, and last winter the first steps were made towards establishing a choral society.

The gymnasium is always open during the evening, and instructors provided to coach as necessary.

The Regiment possesses no resident Chaplain, but civilian Anglican, Roman Catholic and Nonconformist clergy are attached. These visit the Regiment at their own discretion, and for an hour on Monday or Thursday evenings during the last period of the working day. Every Sunday there is a parade at Beverley Minster for Anglicans, and those of other denominations go to their own place of worship.

Annual fortnights camps are held, at which emphasis is laid on swimming, field craft and other outdoor activities.

Eight weeks' leave a year is granted—a fortnight at Christmas, a fortnight at Easter and a month in the summer.

The pay is ample to satisfy all needs, and boys are encouraged to save. On entering the Regiment a boy receives 17s. 6d. per week. After one year's service this is incrased to £1 4s. 6d. and after two years' service to £1 8s. 0d. per week.

Parents are encouraged to write about any point on their son's welfare or future which may concern them, and also to visit the Regiment if they wish to do so.

Certain days of the year are set aside as parents' visiting days, when displays, etc., are presented.

A boy may join the Regiment at fifteen years, and at the age of seventeen and a half he enters man service. It has recently been laid down that sixteen and a half is the maximum joining age, except in certain circumstances of advanced technical ability or close ties with the Corps. This means that the minimum time a boy normally spends with the Regiment is one year. The aim is that he shall enter man's service with a record of achievement and proved ability which distinguishes him as a potential N.C.O. A Personal Selection Officer decides on the trade most suitable to the boy, taking into consideration his own preference, and he then enters on his full career as a regular soldier.

Anti - Aircraft Command

35 (U) A.A. INDEPENDENT (M) SIGNAL SQUADRON (T.A.)

The winter training programmes have been completed and nothing can now be heard or seen but preparations for annual camp at Aberporth in Wales, and many members of the Unit are brushing up their singing ready for the Welsh hills.

The Unit small bore team have been doing very well and have had several successful matches, the last result being third

in an inter-Service shoot organised by the Antrim Road U.S.C. Rifle Club.

The W.R.A.C. formed a team and entered the Netball League. The first games were more or less instruction for them, but they soon settled down and started to win—but not against the Officers.

The netball team challenged the Officers to a game on Saturday evening and after a very strenuous ten minutes each way and many new tricks, such as moving the nets a little to assist in shooting, the Officers won by a short head.

Recruiting is going ahead quite well and each drill night produces a waiting list for the M.O. Our numbers for camp this year will be quite high.

A very successful weekend camp was held at Ballymacormick, and although early in the year the weather was very kind.

2 A.A. (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT

During the last month everyone has been busily preparing for camp, which this year is to be held at Aberporth. We again have the pleasure of training Reservists and preparing a training programme for them has caused many a headache to some of the Officers and non-commissioned officers. However, we are all hoping that everything will be as successful as it was last year and that blessed with fine weather it will be just as enjoyable.

Practices for the Queen's Birthday Parade have been held quite regularly during the month, and the standard of the drill and turn-out has on all occasions been high.

Soccer. The matches played were keenly contested and enjoyed by all, and considering the fact that we were not able to field a regular side every week in the Aldershot Smaller Units League, the Unit team achieved fair success.



S.Q.M.S. R. D. Willingdale and his bride, Sergeant Maureen Worley, W.R.A.C.

Shooting. This year we have raised a team from 2 Anti-Aircraft Group Signals to participate at Bisley. Under the watchful eyes of Lieutenant Cooper and Lieutenant French the team has been making steady progress.

Swimming. The Unit are now training for the Aldershot Junior Challenge Shield (water polo) League, and if the keenness shown is any criterion we should do well.

Athletics. The Unit team is being combined with the Headquarters, 2 Anti-Aircraft Group for the Group athletics, which are to be held in June. Much enthusiasm for this is also being shown, and quite a number of the team are training hard in their own spare time!

Boxing. We should like to congratulate Signalmen Jones, Robson and Freeman on their performances in the Group tournament recently held at Bulford. Signalmen Jones and Robson reached the finals in their respective weights, while Freeman lost in the semi-final.

4 A.A. (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT

Annual camp was held this year at Aberporth, a well-planned site built right on top of the cliffs in Cardiganshire, South Wales. Except for a couple of days the weather was really glorious, and though only a few were known to have entered the sea, many returned to their native towns most enviably bronzed for the time of the year.

We were, in fact, the guinea pigs of the camping season, and accordingly the one Regular Squadron of our Regiment has had the rather thankless task of rousing Aberporth from its winter hibernation and of installing the signal equipment which will be used during the summer. On the arrival of our T.A. Squadrons, however, each with its quota of "Z" Reservists, everything sprang into life and a most ambitious training programme was immediately undertaken, culminating in a short exercise towards the end of the second week, by which time the problem of co-ordinating our various elements had solved itself. The Reservists, some having volunteered for a second time, certainly enjoyed demonstrating the skills which were so vital to all when they were last in uniform.

An excellent concert by 41 Squadron, succeeded by a dance in the NAAFI, dances organised in the local village hall, individual Squadron parties, a " smoker," and the Regimental dance, encouraged all along by a liberal flow of NAAFI beer, produced the feeling we hoped for, and it was a very happy Regiment that was split asunder at the end of our fortnight.

Sorry in one sense though, for these were the last days with us of Major A. E. Wood, who as 2I.C. and O.C. 1 Squadron, has worked with unflagging zeal and loyalty to fulfil the many and various commitments of this complex Regiment. We extend a hearty welcome to Major W. J. Quinn, who joins us from Catterick. Also departed are R.Q.M.S. Metcalfe and S.S.M. Hayer, who is succeeded by S.S.M. Campion.

The week-end prior to camp the Officers of the Regiment met to consider plans, and on the Saturday ran a coach to Aintree for the Grand National. This was followed by a quiet party in the C.O.'s house.

5 A.A. (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT

The soccer season ended successfully, for our side retained the championship of the Wednesday League by defeating our closest rivals, Castle Rangers, 1—0 in the final league match. A worthy effort as we played the second half with only 10 men, but we just managed to have the edge and avenged our defeat by the same team in the final of the Challenge Cup.

As champions, our side played the Rest and won by 4 goals to 1, Corporal Carmichael, our captain, scoring a hat trick.

With the approach of summer our thoughts turn to cricket. The Regiment has again entered a team in the Scarborough Evening League, and some very attractive week-end fixtures have been arranged.



The team with the Scarborough Wednesday League Shield

Left to right: W.O.I Pudge (a), Sergeants Carrigan (b), Elliott (b), Oxtoby (a), Dixon (b), Malley (b), Corporal Carmichael, Lance-Corporal Moore (b), Signalmen Hurst, Griffiths, McSeveney, Bettany, Private Bywater. All of 5 A.A. (M) Signal Regiment except (a) 631 Light Regiment, R.A., T.A., and (b) Northern Command School of P.T.

12 A.A. (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

Like all T.A. Regiments at this time of year we find the tempo quickening as we prepare to go to camp. We are looking forward to our training at Aberporth from 6th to 20th July, and are interested to hear the views of our R.S.M. K. B. Ulrich, who has been at Aberporth for some time now as Camp R.S.M. He should be a very well known member of the Corps by the end of the camping season when all our sister Regiments have done their annual training.

25 Squadron of our Regiment, located at Southampton, have two new Officers. We congratulate Second-Lieutenant A. S. Gollop, Royal Signals, and Second-Lieutenant C. W. Veale, W.R.A.C., on being granted commissions. We were very sorry to lose Lieutenant Bobby Stone, W.R.A.C., from the Squadron.

Our Bristol Squadron has a new P.S.I., Sergeant F. M. Ridge, W.R.A.C., who has been a T.A. volunteer for two years and has now joined the permanent staff. We expect great things of her.

The "Q" department at R.H.Q. has completely changed within recent months. Major A. M. Yorke left us to go to the Squadron at A.L.F.C.E., and W.O.II R. Landels has gone to Cambridge University Training Corps. In their places we welcome Captain R. O. Cant, recently returned from the Far East, and W.O.II T. C. Cameron, from Scottish Command Signal Regiment. We hope Captain Cant will encourage the Regiment to share his enthusiasm for sport.

B.A.O.R.

1 CORPS SIGNAL REGIMENT

The Regiment is now just over one year of age. It is thought that some just satisfaction can be felt regarding our progress from our early days. Many hard lessons have been learned and we look forward to the training season with more confidence and a determination to give of our best.

Individual training is now nearly completed. Congratulations are extended to the successful candidates who have earned higher star awards and increased pay. Great deeds will be expected of these experts during the arduous ten weeks of exercises we have before us this summer.

At long last we are really going to move into our new barracks. This will be the first home of its own the Regiment has ever had. The effect this good news has had on the morale of all ranks has been tremendous.

Sport. The following is a summary of the main and recent sporting events in which this Regiment has taken part:—

B.A.O.R. Signals Hockey Tournament
6 Armoured Division 3, 1 Corps Signal Regiment 1.

B.A.O.R. Signals 7 a side Rugger Tournament
H.Q., B.A.O.R. Signal Regiment 6, 1 Corps Signal Regiment 0.

Regimental Easter Inter-Troop Competition Soccer Finalists
"B" and "P" Troops (3 Squadron) 5, C 1 Troop (1 Squadron) 3.

Although the results were not encouraging, the standard of play in these matches was high, and with more experience and hard training 1 Corps Signal Regiment should be a force with which to be reckoned in the near future.

We are pleased to bid welcome to our new Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel P. E. M. Bradley, D.S.O. It is hoped that his stay with us will be a long and happy one. To Lieutenant-Colonel G. D. B. McKean and Captain A. Lamb, M.B.E., we say farewell, and many sincere thanks for their fine efforts during some of the difficult periods of our short history.

11 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT

Exercise "Flapdoodle" occupied the first ten days of the month, 6 days "Flap" and 4 days "Doodle," say the Pundits, but we learned at lot. The weather ranged from snow-storms to warmth and sunshine, but adverse conditions had little or no effect on Wing and Construction Troops. The route back to barracks, M.A.L. and spaced D8, roughly 11 miles, was completed in two days. R.H.Q. and Wing Signal Troops used, with varying degrees of success, all terminal equipment on establishment and study groups were held before each phase of the exercise.

We fought (with the aid of R.A.F. thunder flashes—bigger and better than Army ones!) mock battles each night, to the huge enjoyment of all concerned. Black eyes and bloody noses were numerous, and a certain Corporal in 2 Wing Signal Troop put in some good work on the Adjutant in a hand-to-hand tussle.

The local Air O.P. Squadron co-operated very well and our camouflage from the air was "not too bad."

Sport. In the Hockey (B.A.O.R.) Signals Competition we came out the victors by four goals to two after a very keen game with 1 Wireless Regiment. It was a draw two each at full time but we managed to push two more in during extra time. 1 Wireless were handicapped for a good part of the game by the absence of a player who had to go off to have his cheek stitched. This player returned to the field shortly after half-time and was given a big cheer by the crowd.

We lost the John Rice Cup in the final against R.C.M.P. 4—3. Bad luck, 2 Squadron.

Visits. Lieutenant-Colonel Woodland, Major Braine and Major Pritchett, of 50 Air Formation Signal Regiment (S.R.), visited us for ten days during April. They were escorted round our enormous "parish" by Lieutenant-Colonel (T.O.T). D. Todd, M.B.E.

4 L. OF C. SIGNAL REGIMENT

Since the last issue of THE WIRE the Regiment has completed its formation and we now have our full complement of three squadrons.

With the opening of the training season we are finding that our normal work is increasing steadily as we are also having to provide Neutral Signal Detachments for the larger exercises.

The sporting side of our daily life provides the most interesting news this month. 1 Squadron soccer team won the H.Q., B.A.O.R. Garrison Soccer Cup with a very fine win of 7 goals to 1 in the final.

3 Squadron have some very promising swimmers, and they are hoping to provide the backbone of the Hanover district swimming team.

Some steady training has been taking place for the 7

Armoured Division Motor Cycle Trials, which have been postponed until August. Nevertheless, on most half days and Sundays members of the teams from 1 and 3 Squadrons can be seen disappearing into the countryside.

Many old faces amongst our Senior N.C.O.s are disappearing from our ranks daily now due to releases of retained Regulars and reversions to Home Establishment. We are sorry to see them go and wish them a very good future in their new employment.

7 ARMOURED DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

We are sorry to have missed last month, but if the Editor will forbear we have plenty to say about April.

It started off with our annual administrative inspection by the Divisional Commander, and we are modestly pleased to report that it was a success. The guard, commanded by Sergeant Murdoch, set the tone, it was complimented, and the ceremonial parade and march past which followed were equally good. The inspection of the living accommodation aroused admiration for the interior decorational qualities of all concerned, though some misgiving amongst the "Q" staff as to the source of paint supplies was evident. Incidentally, as a free tip to all fellow Signalmen, green painted steel lockers "come up wonderful" when polished with ordinary boot polish.

Signalman (now Lance-Corporal, of course) Colclough's remark to the General that "The *esprit de corps* in this room, sir, leaves nothing to be desired" was well received, though the efforts of other characters to explain just how frequently they had shot their rifles was well meant if not strictly accurate. Please note there are no such things as 11 inch and 17 inch groups. However, the right helpful spirit prevailed.

The hard work of R.S.M. Davies on the exterior of the barracks was well rewarded, our Adjutant, Captain Cattermull's many early morning parades paid a well-earned dividend, and in his able exposition of his stores and duties Lieutenant (Q.M.) Barry practically convinced the Colonel that he's a very busy man.

During the ceremonial parade the Divisional Commander presented Long Service and Good Conduct Medals to R.Q.M.S. Davies and Sergeant Baker (both of whom, alas, have since left us), and we hope there is room in our magazine for a photo of the occasion.



R.Q.M.S. Davies, Sergeant Baker, G.O.C., Lieut.-Colonel C. Nettleship

Just to prove our versatility during this month, we managed to win the Corps Soccer Championship of B.A.O.R. by beating 1 Wireless Regiment 2—1 in a very close match against most sporting opponents. The smart turn-out of our supporters (with gas rattles swung by numbers) was almost as gratifying as the result. The team which brought the shield back was: Sergeant Harrington (captain), W.O.1 Earl, Corporal Thomas, Corporal Abbot, Lance-Corporal Wright, Signalman Elliot, Signalman Entwistle, Signalman Craggs, Signalman Blair, Driver Hallam and Signalman Pettifer.

To put a little competitive spirit into work, what started off as a demonstration of cable laying for the benefit of our friends the "Boffins" became an inter-Unit competition. In case we have inadvertently produced a secret weapon we will say no more than that our "C" Troop Detachment, well trained by Captain Wythe and led by Sergeant Knowles, beat the Corps and all other Divisional Signal Regiments here by quite a handsome margin.

To keep us from getting too cocky, however, we failed to bring off the Corps Rugger Championship in B.A.O.R. by losing 9—12 in the final to 6 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment after extra time. We can't kick as well as we can touch down, and we really shouldn't have risked the possibility of giving two penalties away in guaranteed goal kick positions.

In such a month a successful exercise hardly merits a mention—particularly as there will be dozens to report in the near future.

Until then, *au revoir*.

2 INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

Effort has been almost entirely concentrated on the preparation, the execution and the outcome of 1 Squadron's exercise, which commenced as a purely 1 Squadron scheme, but finished up encompassing practically the whole of the Unit. The object of the scheme was for 1 Squadron to spend a fortnight in the field, carrying out individual training each day, interspersed with route marches, movement by day and night, and a few so-called "sporting activities." Halfway through the 1 Squadron scheme 3 Squadron went out, and as yet we have not heard the result of the pitched battle between the two Squadrons.

Another outstanding feature of recent times was the visit of the Director of Signals, Major-General W. O. Bowen, C.B., O.B.E., who seemed to be well pleased with the parade and the inspection of the troops at work which followed.

In the other field, that of sport, we have only been partially successful, not taking away any of the trophies for the various competitions, but nevertheless giving as good as we took. We have vivid memories of the hockey match versus 11 Air Formation Signals; of the football match versus 7 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment; of the inter-Troop game between "A" and "K" Troops competing for the Regimental Inter-Troop Football Cup; and the final of the Signals boxing competition versus 11 Air Formation Signals. We congratulate the ski team in obtaining fourth position in the Langlauf in the 2 Division Championships. At present S.Q.M.S. Billington is working feverishly in preparing the 2 Division Motor Cycle Trial to be held in June.

BERLIN SIGNAL SQUADRON

The Berlin Branch of the Royal Signals Association has been reincarnated, and in a blaze of publicity the membership was boosted from a mere handful to 80 per cent. of the Squadron. A social evening was held to celebrate this and a jolly time was had by all. A point of note is the amount of latent talent which has lain doggo erstwhile . . . Signalman Wharton, of course, provided us with a brilliant display of

keyboard virtuosity; Signalman Shann demonstrated some sleight of hand tricks and succeeded in mystifying his bewildered audience.

The May Day celebrations in Berlin meant lots of hard work for the Squadron in preparing foolproof communications, each terminal being duplicated by wireless and line. We also fitted wireless sets into Auster aircraft, whose observers kept a watchful eye on the large crowds of Berliners. Long before daybreak wireless vehicles were moved forward into prepared positions, where they stayed all day whilst crowds (a conservative estimate put the numbers at three- to four-hundred-thousand) listened to East and West points of view brought to them through raucous loudspeakers.

Sergeant Crampton and Corporal Briggs were selected to play for the B.A.O.R. hockey team during the Easter Hockey Festival against teams from 2 T.A.F., a R.A.F. U.K. side and Cambridge University. The Squadron also won the British Troops Berlin six-a-side hockey tournament.

Sergeant Firth, Corporal Hale and Signalman Coward represented the Squadron in the British Troops Berlin motor cycle trials. They scored an aggregate of 92.04 points (the highest in the 500 c.c. team class). Signalman Dorrington, riding individual, scored 32 points, a very creditable performance on a 500 c.c. machine.

Sergeant Firth, Corporal Hale, Corporal Dodson and Signalman Coward each won a silver medal in a German civilian scramble meeting. They were mounted on standard W.D. machines.

In the B.T.B. Individual Athletic Championships, Sergeant Crampton won the 220 yards hurdle and was runner-up in the 120 yards hurdles and the hop, step and jump. Corporal Briggs won the hop, step and jump and was runner-up in the high jump. The 220 yards was won by Signalman Derry in 23.1 seconds. He won the same event last year in exactly the same time.

Congratulations to Driver Howitt on his recent marriage.

It is with regret that we record the death of June, six-month-old daughter of Lance-Corporal and Mrs. Leeming.

S.H.A.P.E. SIGNAL SQUADRON

In the May WIRE we gave an account with photograph of the work of the Detachment of this Squadron to provide communication for the delegation from S.H.A.P.E. to the Lisbon Conference. Since then we have received official commendation.

The following are extracts from a letter received from General A. M. Gruenther, Chief of Staff to the Chief Signal Officer at S.H.A.P.E.:—

"I would like to commend to your attention the work of the Signal Detachment which served the S.H.A.P.E. delegation at Lisbon.

Throughout the meeting their contribution was of the greatest importance.

Would you please convey to all your personnel who were concerned in this operation my appreciation for their very effective work."

In forwarding the Chief of Staff's letter, Major-General F. H. Lanahan, Chief Signal Officer, S.H.A.P.E., wrote:—

To personnel concerned,

I take this opportunity to add my personal appreciation and commendation for the conscientious and efficient service you rendered to the staff and personnel who attended the Lisbon Conference.

The sincere effort and enthusiastic approach displayed by you and the other members of the Signal Detachment in establishing and maintaining an effective temporary communications installation is an indication of the excellent morale and *esprit de corps* of the Signal organisation and upholds the ideals of S.H.A.P.E. Your performance has brought honour to the Signal Division, the S.H.A.P.E. Signal Squadron, and reflects credit upon you.

KLAGENFURT SIGNAL SQUADRON

The Squadron welcomed Major and Mrs. J. Knowles, M.B.E., in place of Major G. R. Edwards, who returned in January to England.

They arrived in time for the worst snow of the winter, and on one occasion everyone helped to clear the railway line after the worst fall.

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With spring came the breaking up of both the Officers' Mess and the Sergeants' Mess. They were both amalgamated with other Units. Soon afterwards Captain Millet returned to England.

The snow has retired up the mountains, taking ski-ing with it and leaving in it's wake the spring half of the football season. The Squadron's soccer team, led by Corporal Bicknell, lost their first game to the R.A.S.C. New arrivals strengthened the side, and victories over the R.A.M.C. and R.A.O.C. resulted.

Corporal Bicknell, Signalman Hammil and Driver Loftus have all been selected for the B.T.A. trial game.

The Squadron has combined with several other Units to form a rugger team, but it is hoped to enter individually for the seven-a-side competition.

BETFOR SIGNALS

Spring, we can now officially disclose, has arrived.

Much activity in the Q.M. Stores and much head scratching heralds the annual K.D. hunt, and soon, no doubt, the phrase "Get your knees brown," will ring across the square.

To retrace our steps we announce that Major T. G. Chambers, M.C., has left the Command with his family, and in his stead we have welcomed Major T. P. Saunders. To the first *Bon Voyage* and to the second *Benvenuto*.

R.H.E. and Regular Release are now in full swing, and with the latest batch of regular reinforcements arrived W.O.II Truscott.

Sport, with its subsequent headache of finding members for the various teams, proceeds apace. Enclosed is a photograph of the Rugby team which very gamely kept its end up in the league and finished fourth from top. Basket ball has just commenced, with the Orderly Room staff keeping up its great sporting traditions and furnishing three quarters of the team. Cricket is due to start in a few days, with the cricket fiends even wishing to be back in Catterick (just for the pleasure of playing on real green grass, no doubt). Should we say that the BETFOR Signals Harriers are still running?



Betfor Signals Rugby Football XV

Standing (left to right): Sergeant Morgan, Driver Davey, Lance-Corporal Thomas, Signalman Williams, Signalman Miller, Lance-Corporal Walke; Signalman Andrews, Signalman Wilson. Kneeling: Signalman McIntosh, Signalman Jacobs, Captain J. W. Rayner, Second-Lieutenant E. A. Morris, Driver Bailey, Signalman Pasquill, Signalman Kimmins

Cutters *versus* Jointers

IT is somewhat demoralising and frustrating to do the same thing over and over again, but such was the task of the underground cable parties in the Moascar area during the recent trouble in Egypt's Canal Zone. The whole zone is covered with underground cables covering hundreds of circuits between garrisons, H.Q.s and camps.

Most nights the underground cables would be cut somewhere by the locals—cut by two types of " wog." The types who did it—and still do it—to sell the lead and copper, and the types who did it to make a b—— nuisance of themselves and a b—— nuisance to us.

To start with, the system was to repair the cable as soon as it was cut. By using one pair in each cable as an alarm circuit, a loud droning bell in the test rooms rings as soon as the cable is cut.

On hearing the alarm, the duty jointing party were alerted while the test room staff got a fix on the distance to the cable cut by means of a " dislocator," and, of course, organised a cup of char for the sleepy-eyed linemen.

Then off they moved, taking with them some interruption cable, shovels, torches and what have you. On approaching the area of the fix, the party searched carefully for the tell-tale signs of digging or camel marks on the sand. A common way of digging up the cable by the thieving type of cutter is typical of the crafty and lazy attitude of these locals. They tie a camel to a piece of cable which has been suitably unburied at one place and then entice the camel to move forward. The further the camel moves the more cable is pulled up. In fact, one might say, from a somewhat academic point of view, that the length of cable stolen by this means is directly proportional to the strength of the camel and inversely proportional to the depth at which the cable is buried.

Having found the cut the duty joint party set about repairing the circuits. While some men run out the length of interruption cable, others find and dress the cut ends of the underground cable and start " picking up the battery " from the test rooms—an automatic drill—and then connecting a Tele "L" to speak and give all details to the test room responsible for sending out the main underground repair party—details such as length of cut, exact location, type of cable and such.

The next task for the duty joint party is the interim repair of the circuits—or some of them—by joining the interruption cable to the cable ends, and allowing test rooms either end of the cable to utilise the pairs, under the priority allocation previously laid down.

After an early breakfast, one or more of the main underground repair parties would be briefed and off they would go to the cut, with a lorry load of locals—dirty chaps in long galebeias who were probably the very chaps who that night had cut the cable.

Arriving at the scene of the cut, the duty joint party return for breakfast, the main underground party prepare for jointing and the " wogs " start the unenviable task of digging a trench in the sun-baked sand, while the N.C.O. in charge stands over them with a sharp eye and a loud voice. The trench gets deeper, until it is at least four feet deep—inversely proportional is the length stolen to the depth dug, and longer —longer than the cut-out length since the ends must be dug down to their original level.

As the sun rises higher the trench nears completion and the new cable would be laboriously pulled off the drum carried on the cable trailer—there may be one, two or three lengths of cable stolen. The new cable is then laid in the freshly dug trench.

The jointers then get busy at the ends while the digging party fill in the trench. The pairs are transferred from the interruption cable, and in time the interruption cable is no longer attached. The test rooms check and accept the cable and the jointers plumb the sleeves, the interruption cable is recovered, joints marked and buried and the tired linemen return once again to camp for a meal—a haversack lunch is a bit meagre although brewed char is a help—and a well-earned and even more needed wash. Then rest, sleep and tomorrow a repeat, maybe in the same place, maybe some other place.

This system continued for quite a while until, when the trouble really got under way, three things happened:—

First, the " wog " digging party walked out—" we no work for dirty British." Then the repair parties started being openly attacked on a number of occasions, sometimes by day. And lastly, the cables were patrolled.

The walk-out of the " wog " digging parties was a nuisance since the rate of digging and, in consequence, the speed of repair of the cut, was greatly reduced. In fact, this, coupled with an order that was shortly to come out to the effect that no parties would go out at night, meant that a number of cables had to be abandoned. It was just not possible to keep pace with the rate and quantity of cutting. On one memorable night, one mile of 14/40 underground armoured cable was taken—in this particular route there were three cables, and each were cut in seven places, and a total of 600 yards of each cable stolen.

The escorts for repair parties, when available, were the hard-worked Infantry or Scout cars, or both, and sometimes neither. This latter stage meant that Signals repair parties provided diggers, escorts, and a few, maybe two or three, men employed in jointing. An unenviable task for all concerned



Sergeant J. Christie 22242495, of 3 L. of C. Signal Regiment, awarded B.E.M. for gallantry

since the weather over the winter months was frequently cold, wet and windy, and wind in the desert means sand and dust.

Patrolling was a great help, particularly foot patrols, and without them the situation at one stage would have been impossible. The patrols rarely caught anyone but the threat was a sufficient deterrent. One had to deal more at this stage with the saboteur type of cutter than the thief, and a glistening bayonet and cocked bolt had their effect on them. More glamourous, perhaps, were the lightning patrols—mobile scout cars and armoured cars, in wireless contact with H.Q. When the cable alarm in the test room went off the duty line test clerk alerted the " lightning " operator at the wireless room, who in turn alerted the mobile outstations in the area of the cut. The test room staff in the meantime got a fix on the cut with the " dislocator " and 'phoned the distance of the cut and cable route to the " lightning " operator at H.Q., who immediately relayed the details to the mobile outstations in whose area the cut was taking place. Then lots of movement. Dingos screaming along the flat smelly roads towards the fix area, lights blazing but never any " wogs "—cunning fellows, these " wogs."

★

And so the never ending battle for cable goes on, waged, now that conditions are less warlike, by the thieving cutter rather than the saboteur cutter, but the drill is nearly the same for Signals. The duty joint party leave at first light and the main underground party after parade. The result is the same, the cables are restored, though, perhaps, a little later. But better late than never, and as conditions return to pre-trouble out will go the parties as soon as the cuts occur.

However, it is demoralising to do the same thing all the time if one didn't realise that the only alternative is no circuits, no communications and a frustrated Army. Crafty fellows, these " wogs."

3 L. OF C. SIGNAL REGIMENT

Since our last notes the establishment of the Regiment has been revised, and its name has been changed from Egypt Command Signal Regiment to 3 L. of C. Signal Regiment.

A period of calm has succeeded the era of mob violence and terrorism of the autumn months which culminated in the battle for Police H.Q. (the " Karacol "), Ismailia, and in the retaliation by the Cairo mobs who burnt down many of Cairo's famous hotels, banks and clubs on 26th January, 1952.

Cable cuts have subsequently dwindled and the Egyptian Police have returned to normal patrolling, but the combined effects of cuts and rainy weather in the winter has not improved insulation resistance.

The Regiment has been active in the sporting field. The soccer team reached the quarter-final of the Army (Egypt) Soccer Cup, but was beaten by 2 Base Workshops, R.E.M.E., after a very good game with a score of 4—2. Our hockey team included some very experienced players, including Lieutenant-Colonel Beeton, Sergeant Woodward, and Lieutenant Heyes. The team showed great promise and was only just beaten (score 2—1) by The Parachute Brigade after a replay and extra time.

The C.O., Captain Turner, Lieutenants Gully and Heyes played in the first Army (Egypt) trial match. The C.O. had to retire owing to a knee injury. Lieutenant Heyes was chosen for the Army (Egypt) team against the R.A.F. and played an excellent game.

Twins were born to Corporal and Mrs. Anderson on 3rd January, 1952, and their baptism took place at St. George's Church, Moascar, on 30th March, 1952. The Rev. G. Long officiated and the twins were christened Georgina and Georgette. Mrs. Beeton, the C.O.'s wife, and Mrs. Veitch, wife of C.Q.M.S. Veitch, were godmothers, and Captain P. Silk, 2 i/c. of 1 Squadron, was godfather.

Our sincere congratulations go to Sergeant J. G. Christie, of 2 Squadron, whose award of the B.E.M. for courage whilst



Group taken after the christening of Georgina and Georgette Anderson at Moascar and before the tea party at the Jimmy Club

under fire in Ismailia has just been announced. The citation for this award read as follows:—

" During the afternoon of 18th November, 1951, a serious situation arose in Ismailia when the Egyptian Police commenced firing wildly and without thought at all and sundry.

Sergeant Christie volunteered to accompany Captain Kelsey into the Police Barracks in a gallant effort to stop the Police firing.

No sooner were they inside the barracks than Captain Kelsey was killed. Sergeant Christie, having returned from the barracks, once again displayed exceptional gallantry in returning to the forecourt of the barracks and having handed over his sten gun, pulled Captain Kelsey's body out of danger. Not only did this gallant action save this Officer's body from being grossly mutilated, but Sergeant Christie secured Captain Kelsey's revolver and papers.

This courageous action was carried out under heavy fire with complete disregard for his own personal safety and is worthy of high recognition."

Contributions by the Regiment to the Memorial Fund for Sister Antony—the American-born nun who was shot by rioters in the convent in Ismailia—amounted to £E52. This was a spontaneous and generous gesture by all ranks of the Regiment.

It is with great regret that we say farewell to Captain T. Simpson, who has been commanding our Suez Signal Detachment since July 1951.

Captain Simpson has been posted to the Home Establishment owing to ill-health caused by overwork and worry during the recent disturbances. His departure is a great loss to the Regiment and he will be remembered not only for his excellent work as O.C. Signals Suez, but also for the staunch support that he has always given to our Branch Association, for whom he has obtained many members.

Our best wishes for the future to Captain (Q.M.) Martin Cullen, who has just been repatriated on completion of his tour. We will have difficulty in replacing such an agile and energetic member of the hockey team.

FARELF

SIGNAL TRAINING SQUADRON, FAR EAST

No particular things of interest to the outside world have happened in the Squadron during the month.

The District Signals M.O.R. football team, to which we supply five players, continues to do well, having suffered only one defeat. We also supply the wicketkeeper for the Unit cricket team.

The move to a new camp gets more definite and we now hope to make the move during July. The intention is to provide Romney huts for barrack accommodation which will certainly be much cooler than the present tented accommodation.

Our Muslim troops are in the course of erecting a mosque which should be ready for Ramadan—this also will be a tented structure pending the move.

19 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT

Our Regimental "Empire" continues to expand, for not only do we have off-shoots in Ceylon, but we have also extended the realm, temporarily, to the extremity of our Far Eastern territories, Hong Kong. Admittedly, we have only a handful of Air Formation Signal representatives up there, but they are employed on an important installation job for the R.A.F., and no doubt enjoying themselves at the same time—lucky people!

We have said goodbye to many old friends and welcomed a number of new arrivals during the past two months. We had almost despaired of ever seeing a Senior N.C.O. coming out from U.K.! *See personal column.—Editor.*

Cricket and soccer are in full swing, and we have one or two promising athletes for the station sports meeting. Our first eleven football team is at the top of the Station League, and we hope it will stay there. The cricket team is doing quite well, too, and since last year we have taken some good players into our midst. We hope we shall be well represented in the Corps sides.

We now have an indoor .22 rifle range, built from our own resources. There are one or two teething troubles, but it will doubtless prove a valuable asset. The range is situated in the M.O.R. Camp, and most evenings the crack of the rifle can be heard. We trust that the contestants are making their mark.

1 COMMONWEALTH DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

Winter and the cold, major topics when last we appeared in print, are things of the past. Already the dun-coloured hills are clouded with green. The Imjin's banks are fringed with early bathers, their bodies still pallid from the cocoon of winter.

Spring has brought the return of sport. Basketball is in full swing and the cricket nets, a product of the Quartermaster's industry and the apple of his eye, are a source of intense interest to players and spectators alike. Five o'clock, the fashionable hour, finds a typical cross section of the Regiment demonstrating its talent. Roadmaking hardly has the same charm as a method of keeping fit!



General Salute by the Drill and Duties Course to their Chief Signal Officer



Colonel Murray A. Little, Chief Signal Officer, 1 Corps, inspects the passing-off parade

Due to the protracted nature of the peace talks, our work has consisted of a "ticking over" operationally with a consequent opportunity for raising standards on the training and domestic sides. A series of drill and duties courses has just ended. Carried out in the best tradition with grand passing-off parades and presentation tankards for the best N.C.O. of his course. After the first slight shock at the intrusion of Catterick into the Korean field they were a great success. Colonel Murray A. Little, Chief Signal Officer, 1 Corps, took the salute at the pass-off parade of the latest course and congratulated the students on their high standard of drill and turn-out.

On the 24th April we celebrated "Parkestone Day," the anniversary of the formation of the Regiment, with a regimental day. The name commemorates for ever that place of backward glances, hopes and fears—certainly not beauty—Parkestone Quay, Harwich, our stepping stone to Korea. All our out troops managed to get in representative detachments for the day. There was a church service in the morning, followed by an extra special lunch, with the afternoon devoted to an inter-Troop basketball match won by our Canadian "E" Troop with "M" Troop as the gallant losers. As the Commanding Officer rose at the Regimental dinner in the Officers' Mess that evening a model of the immortal quay held pride of place on the dining table. (*Décor* by "A" Troop.)

All troops have now been subjected to the scrutiny of an eagle-eyed administrative inspection by the Commanding Officer. The suspense was terrible while it lasted. The tiniest crack, or what one fondly imagines to be the tiniest crack, assumes all the blatant qualities of a gaping fissure after a certain amount of probing. However, they didn't seem to be so deep after all.

We have started to lose large numbers of our original National Service men. The wireless sets are looking somewhat lost and it's a case of sitting wider to fill the gaps. Fresh faces are appearing, however, and new voices, as yet unrecognisable, trumpet out the ritual of the netting call.

This can now be done with a certain sense of security. We've been wired-in, that is except for the wet paddy which is still no-man's land, and the Sergeants' Mess which is "without the wire," an outpost of intrepidity, ringing with shouts of "I was there." R.S.M. Cunningham has recently left us. Whether this was due to the exposed position or because he couldn't hear himself speak it would be difficult to say.

Camouflage has come back with the young leaves, and we work under the airy tracery of scrim and net. As the heat increases we look forward to practice PAD alarms when we can dive with alacrity into the cool water depths of our slit trenches. But the summer story must wait until next time.

SIERRA LEONE SIGNAL SQUADRON

Before this Squadron's last issue of notes had appeared in print, members had had to say a regretful farewell to Sergeant " Steve " Donohue, who put up such a good performance in the district round of the Command motor cycle trials. As the result of an accident with a civilian vehicle (whose driver was later fined for careless driving), while riding a motor cycle, Sergeant Donohue had eventually to be evacuated to U.K. for amputation of his left hand. The Squadron sends him and his family their best wishes wherever they may be.

There has been a strenuous and variegated start to the year. The culmination of the training season was reached on an " anti-bandit " infantry bush scheme, " Duntrekkin," where the Squadron provided the neutral signals led by Sergeants Scott and Williams. There were quite a few tender feet and stiff bones in the Squadron for some days after their strenuous bushwhacking, where every item of kit, including 19 sets, was man-packed. The scheme was the culmination for the 1st Battalion, Sierra Leone Regiment of a six weeks on a " trek " of about 350 miles through Sierra Leone. A rear link 19 set detachment commanded by Corporal Gbondo accompanied it throughout the expedition. A second set under Lance-Corporal Lawundeh filled the vital role of serving the rail and water head supply section.

Add to this a mobile scheme from Adaru, where there is a permanent station, intercommunication on Army launches on trips down the coast to the Banana Isles and Sherbro Isles, up river to Pepel en route to the rail/water head, and a link for H.M.S. *Baritone* when she travelled to Lagos, and it will be seen it has been almost an amphibious operation.

The Squadron also provided the P.A. address system for the Myohaung Day Parade, held annually by all Units of the R.W.A.F.F. to commemorate the culmination of their campaign in Burma.

Commonwealth

NEWS FROM AUSTRALIA

Directorate

Two informal social evenings have been held recently by A.H.Q. Signal Regiment and the Directorate Officers' Mess. As a more organised substitute for the Friday night " get-together," they have proved popular and have been well attended by members and their guests.

The grounds of " Grosvenor " are now graced (?) by the sturdy feet of a new wireless tower. Apart from its technical value, the sight of the new structure competing satisfactorily with a chimney stack and a block of flats for control of the Albert Park skyline gives a fillip to the *esprit de corps*.

In the sporting sphere Lieutenant-Colonel R. K. Roseblade was selected for the A.H.Q. golf team in the recent Southern Command Sports Championships.

Central Command

Royal Exhibition. This month our efforts are focussed on the Royal Adelaide Exhibition, which is now well under way at Wayville.

A lot of organisation and toil has resulted in a first-rate display of signal equipment, which we think should give a real boost to recruiting. Our " salesmen " on the stand are Corporal Leo Flanigan and Signalman Ross McAllister. They are ably assisted by members of the W.R.A.A.C., who are adept in demonstrating the practical use of teleprinters. The staff report main interest in the wire recorder and the " Yellevision screen " (you YELL at the mike and see the green line flicker).

It was decided to record a running commentary on the exhibit. The only snag was how to explain all the technical gear in plain simple words for the public. However, a suitable script was prepared, and then came the audition to find the perfect microphone voice. " The Voice " turned out to be S.Q.M.S. Tod Sloan. We were amazed! Could these pure, dulcet tones be the voice that shatters the air and sets men trembling on parades?

The " Hams." We notice that Adelaide " Hams " are active at the exhibition. A typical " Ham Shack " was set up for inspection, with two-day conversations over the amplifier.

Battle of the Dust. "G" and "L" Troops of 3 Divisional Signal Regiment have been doing some real " soldiering on " in the 9 Brigade Camp at Caloote on the Murray River. They tell of the Battle of the Dust. The Brigade put up a determined attack, but were out-manoeuvred by their formidable enemy, whose chief fighting attribute seemed to be " plenty of grit."

We have yet to confirm the report of one battalion wireless operator who declares that operators had to dig down six feet every morning to recover their 122 sets.

Sports. The Central Command Athletics Association has now been formed. Our Adjutant, Captain Burnard, is a committee man, so we should have some sporting activities to report very soon.

Major-General Kendall, G.O.C. Central Command, who is an ex-Signals Officer, is keenly interested in Army sports. Thirty years ago he skippered an Army international hockey team, and whilst serving in U.K. took part in swimming championships at Aldershot and in Yorkshire.

Personalia. Captain D. Lockwood has returned to this Command from Balcombe, and now takes over from Captain George, Communication Section at Woomera.

Major W. G. Harmer has now taken up the appointment of S.O.2 Signals (C.M.F.) at Central Command H.Q.

Britcom Base Signal Regiment, Japan

During the month of February the Regiment had two distinguished visitors.

Colonel William L. Bayer, Signal Officer of Japan Logistical Command. Our photograph shows the guard of honour provided by the Regiment on the occasion of his visit.

Colonel Lothaire, Head of Belgian Military Mission in Tokyo.

U.S. Army Signal Corps—89th Anniversary. A display and field demonstration of Signal equipment was held at the Eta Kima Specialist School on 3rd March, 1952, commemorating the 89th anniversary of the inauguration of the U.S. Army Signal Corps. The display was attended by the Administrative Commandant and O.C. 1 Squadron as official guests, and by six Officers and six N.C.O.s as observers.

Sport. Once again the Regiment was successful in the sporting field, winning the Rugby League and basketball premierships for 1951 and 1952.



[*Photograph: U.S. Army*

Guard of honour of Britcom Base Signal Regiment, Japan, for Colonel William L. Bayer, Signal Corps

THE STORY OF

The Royal Tournament

By **Lieutenant-Colonel P. L. BINNS**

THE publication of the issue of THE WIRE coincides with the 54th Royal Tournament, 4th to 21st June, at Earls Court.

Lieutenant-Colonel P. L. Binns traces the story from 1883, when, at the Agricultural Hall, Islington, there was started a tourney or assault at arms.

In those days the spectacle was limited to contests to decide the Champion at Arms in each weapon, and had at first but little popular appeal. It is interesting that each development that has taken place—and he tells the story of all—was the result of new ideas being put to the test of popular acclaim. After all, it is "show business," and in show business it is the audience that counts.

Thus, the ever-popular Musical Drive by the Royal Horse Artillery was directly the result of popular approval of a peg and post driving competition for horse-drawn waggons. One remembers this item in the Military Horse Shows of the 1920s, but did not realise that this then rather dull competition had been the beginning of what is so spectacular. The bulk of present day audiences does not know that the Tournament is still in 1952 a contest in skill at arms between individuals. These contests are held "off stage" in the mornings and go on throughout the fifteen days during which displays are given to the public.

It is interesting that each new innovation in the displays had a small and difficult start. Even the Royal Navy made an unobtrusive beginning in 1896, when some forty ratings gave a display of cutlass and gun drill. "The guns are brought in and after a short march round the arena are cleared for action and one round is fired . . ." The beginning of what is now perhaps the finest of all the traditional turns.

It is all in this most excellently readable book how each display of what so many thousands of us now know as the Royal Tournament began, developed, and is now stabilised. Ever fresh and ever popular there is, it would seem, NOTHING that human ingenuity and military skill can add. Yet each year there is something new or some old act dug out of the distant past and re-dressed in new guise for the wonder and applause of a modern audience.

The Tournament Committee are apparently unduly conservative and solicitous in that no unproven display may mar the three-hour show. Perhaps our own Royal Signals Motor Cycle Display is the only exception. We should always be grateful to the 1931 Committee who gave us our chance on such slender evidence. Looking back on all the difficulty of that first appearance when we had the nerve to put on an untried show with EIGHT (not six) performers, it is still a mystery that the Tournament admitted us. Their judgment was right—that year we stole the show. It was something new. Then in 1933-35, our greatest years, with twenty-four horses and twenty-four motor cycles and that great showman, Lieutenant (Brigadier) Henry Crawford, leading the combined ride.

But the wonder of it all is the far seeing judgment of the 1931 Royal Tournament Committee.

For those of us who have had the honour of taking part in a display at the Royal Tournament, Colonel Binn's book is one that will be read and re-read. There is not one page that does not bring a new thought or a memory of an old friend and counsellor.

For those who are just the paying public the reading of it will add to their enjoyment of this year's Tournament.

If, unhappily, you are unable to go this year, well—buy the book and from it recapture your memory of "the finest show in London."

Gale and Polden, 15s.—and it is worth every penny of it.

London Army Troops, Signal Companies, Royal Engineers (T)

AN annual dinner which may be of interest to present-day Signals personnel took place in London recently.

A brief history of the Unit is as follows:—

On the formation of the Territorial Force in 1908, the London Army Troops, R.E., was established consisting of an Airline Company, a Cable Company, a Wireless Company and a Balloon Company.

The personnel was found largely from the London Electrical Engineers, R.E. (V), which Unit was the direct predecessor of the 26th and 27th A.A. Battalions, R.E. (T). These Companies had horse transport. The Balloon Company was disbanded on the formation of the Royal Flying Corps.

In 1914, on the outbreak of war, the London Army Troops, R.E. (then commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel E. H. Leaf, comprising 480 all ranks), furnished the Signals of the 3rd (Home) Army and proceeded to form a second line so that they themselves might serve overseas.

Those who volunteered and were accepted for overseas service were transferred to the Regular Army, the officers being seconded and granted temporary commissions. The remainder formed the nucleus of the second line (Home Service Signals) and the Dunstable Depot at the Signal Service Training Centre, which in time became the Depot for training all ranks in front line work, and for the administration course for recruit officers.

In the early days of the 1914 war the Unit sent overseas two Wireless sections, four Cable Sections, two Airline Sections and a Headquarters Section to France, and 9th Corps Signals and four Cable Sections to Egypt and Gallipoli.

The following decorations were awarded:—Two D.S.O.s, two O.B.E.s, seven M.C.s, one M.V.O., two M.B.E.s, eight D.C.M.s, two M.M.s and 16 M.S.M.s. Two Captains, a Lieutenant and a C.S.M. each reached the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel and 27 N.C.O.s and men earned commissions.

The Unit was disbanded by the War Office on 31st December, 1914, and its various sections were absorbed into Corps and Divisional Signals and the remaining Territorial personnel were transferred to the Temporary Kitchener Army. Many of they served again in the 1939-1945 war.

Through the efforts of its very energetic secretary the O.C.A. was formed on 3rd December, 1948, and he has gathered together over 200 members of the old Unit.

The fourth annual dinner (105 present) was presided over by Colonel Leaf, now 85 years of age, and the toast of the President was proposed by one of the original P.S.I.s, C.S.M. Freddy Seymour, who was in Ladysmith during the siege.

The toast of the Association was proposed by Colonel Emley, O.B.E., and the reply was by Mr. Graham Walker, who in 1914 was a D.R. with the Unit. He is well known as the

winner of the T.T. race in 1931 and also as a B.B.C. commentator.

The toast of the guests was proposed by Mr. Harry Whittaker, one of the original members of the Unit, and the reply was by Captain D. Emley, Royal Signals, and Squadron Sergeant-Major H. Barlow, R.E. (T), of the 324th Company, R.E., whose Headquarters at 56 Regency Street, S.W.1, have been lent for the monthly reunion of the Association.

Territorial Army

ARMY PHANTOM SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.
(Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment)

Since last going to press we are pleased to say that we, in conjunction with our Old Comrades Association, have once again run a most successful social and dance. This festive occasion was an informal affair and a thoroughly good time was had by all concerned.

Our congratulations are extended to two very popular members of the Regiment, Captains Bennett and Graham, on their recent marriages. We only hope that their new responsibilities will not mean our seeing them less often.

Our Regimental basket ball team now having played off all of their league fixtures are looking forward to some hard training in preparation for the start of the new season—next September.

23 SOUTHERN CORPS SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

A brief note from Fulham House to let everyone know that we are busy training for annual camp at Bulford. The Display Team starts in earnest this month with the added benefit of yours truly's tips nobbled from the Catterick Stables.

April has seen a distinguished gathering in the Officers' Mess at the postponed dinner. Major-General W. A. Scott was kind enough to be present.

We have now said goodbye with many regrets to Major Freddy Strange, our Quartermaster, and Captain J. W. T. Snell occupies the chair.

50 (N) INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

Troop, Squadron and Regimental week-ends loom up, arrive, and then pass into history with increasing speed. Starting with a preliminary canter on Divisional Exercise "Hollyhurst" at Wynyard Park and Sedgefield on the 8th and 9th March—which was by way of being an instructional effort—the Regiment have done Divisional Exercises "Wensleydale" (22nd to 23rd March) and "Phantom" (26th to 27th April). "Wensleydale" involved a day move, "Phantom" a night move. Without undue bombast we can claim to have given good service. Due to the scope of "Phantom" we had assistance from a number of trainee operators from No. 3 Training Regiment in the S.T.C. They did us well and seemed to enjoy the doing.

Between Divisional exercises, of course, 1, 2 and 3 Squadrons have run their own training exercises, tactical and technical. On the whole the weather has been kind this spring.

Our Training Officer and O.C. 1 Squadron—Major "Fenny" Ellis left us for Malaya (as reported in the movements column in April), his successor, Major N. D. Farmer, arrived from Catterick to relieve him. If Major Ellis follows all the advice given to him he will perhaps become High Commissioner for Malaya, become the Rajah of Sarawak, or more probably "Take felt."

He was dined out and his successor dined in at a Mess Night during a Regimental week-end at Westwick Camp, which was attended by Lieutenant-Colonel R. M. Percival, T.D., one of our former Commanding Officers.

The rebuilding of the Drill Hall is going on well and the lecture rooms and training rooms are already in use. When the alterations and additional buildings are finished there will be few drill halls in the U.K. to compare with it.

Invitations to our "Z" Reservists have gone out and we look forward to seeing them at our annual camp at Rolston in June.

Last year's "Z" men were a great success. It is confidently expected that this year's quota will be the same.

Official authority has been received to raise a Regimental Band, and we are at present on the lookout for a suitably qualified Bandmaster. (Captain Judd has been approached but has had to decline this attractive offer as he feels that the Corps Band would hardly be able to carry on without him!) We will be pleased to hear from any ex-member of the Corps Band living in the Darlington district who are interested in joining.

51 (H) INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

Our Second-in-Command, Major A. H. Reid, T.D., recently transferred to the T.A.R.O. after 29 years' service on the active list of 51 Divisional Signals. Major Reid was a very keen and experienced horseman. In the days when a junior officer had to saddle his horse himself and be in riding school at 0630 hours, he gave many an inexperienced horseman a very welcome helping hand. Major Reid mobilised with 51 Divisional Signals in 1939 and served with the Regiment overseas, being Mentioned in Despatches. On the resuscitation of the T.A. in 1947 he immediately volunteered his services, and as Second-in-Command materially contributed to the building up of the new Regiment. We all miss his genial personality but know that although no longer on the active list he will still take a keen interest in the welfare of the Regiment and visit us frequently. He can be assured of a very warm welcome.

1 Squadron. We were very pleased to have a visit from one or two of the "Z" Reservists, who will be serving their fifteen days' training with the Unit at Stobs Camp this year.

Both Officers and N.C.O.s have been busy during the past month with a weekend exercise at St. Andrews and a T.E.W.T. at Fonthill Barracks.

Promotions are always a cheery subject, and I am pleased to say we have had several in the Squadron lately. Prominent among them are S.Q.M.S. Garrod to R.Q.M.S., and Sergeant Duck to S.Q.M.S.

Our dances are still proving popular items, and the last Sergeants' Mess dance, which was held during the middle of the month, was no exception.

2 Squadron. The Squadron fired the annual range course on 23rd March.

A week-end camp is being held in April. Meanwhile, normal training continues, the linemen, under Sergeant J. Sharp, making particularly good progress. Other N.C.O.s have been imparting instruction to the 7th Argylls and the Lovat Scouts. On one evening the Officers, in preparation for their line scheme on the Officers' week-end at St. Andrews, put in some hammer and jumper practice by the grudging light of street lamps, and watched by the Commanding Officer and Adjutant—an expert critic through watching generations of Officer Cadets at the same task.

The Squadron motor cycle team, consisting of Sergeants Boynton and Welsh and Corporal Sharpe, hope to do well in the Highland Division Motor Cycle Trials.

Finally, we must congratulate Lance-Corporal H. McGilchrist on his recent marriage.

3 Squadron is in the throes of a gigantic spring-clean at the moment. A local wireless scheme was held this month at which the operators in particular put on a good performance.

Our football team, which showed such great promise earlier in the year, has suffered by the loss of two of its best players, Signalmen Malley and Potter, now discharged.

53 (W) INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT (T.A.)

When a farewell dinner was given to Lieutenant-Colonel G. B. Stevenson in the Signals Mess at Maindy Barracks on Saturday, 3rd May, Officers' wives were among the guests.

Colonel Stevenson, who has commanded the Regiment for two years, has been seconded to the New Zealand Army as Director of Signals.

The Command will be taken over on 18th May by Lieutenant-Colonel D. J. Goldsmith, who has just returned from Malaya.

When the Regiment goes to camp this year—troops are going to four different places—we will have with us two "Z" Reservists who hold decorations. They are Sergeant I. E. Richards, of Bedwas, who holds the M.M., and Sergeant E. Faulkner, of Cardiff, who holds the B.E.M. Both men will be going to camp in County Durham in July.

This Regiment, incidentally, recently won the trophy presented by the *Western Mail* for the County .22 Miniature Range Territorial Army Championship for 1951.

61 H.Q. ARMY SIGNAL REGIMENT (T.A.)

A number of week-end exercises have been held both with and without the formations and Regiments to which Squadrons and troops are affiliated. Nearly all troops are now strong enough to provide communications for short exercises without outside assistance. A feature of these exercises has been the high standard of messing and the good attendance—possibly there is some connection.

Our first Squadron goes to camp this month, and final preparations are now being made.

The success of the last social evening at Bedford was greatly enhanced by the magnificent radiogram constructed by Signalman Hood, one of our latest volunteers.

Colchester Castle M.C.C. Trial, 30th March. In a snowstorm Signalman Catling won the prize for the best military rider.

53rd SIGNAL SQUADRON, W.R.A.C. (T.A.)

Flaming June! Could it be that the soul who christened it so was, like this Squadron, setting off for camp then? 1/20 Army Signal Regiment, T.A., are the lucky people to draw us as companions this year, and the topic for the last month has been "Night exercises" and "How to get lost on map reading schemes"—the girls of this Squadron being expert at both. The Squadron is going to camp under the command of Captain A. V. Lappin, W.R.A.C., the Adjutant of 321 (Cheshire) Battalion, W.R.A.C. (T.A.).

Recruiting has continued at the steady rate of one or two new members each month, but spring doing what it does to young men we have lost three members who preferred tripping down the aisle to route marching—can't think why! Rifle shooting has been included in the last month's training, which may explain the reason for the benign smiles that have suddenly appeared on the faces of the permanent staff and also the fact that they won't stand still these days unless their backs are to the wall.

But enough, there are things to be done if only we can remember what they are. Until we write next month giving you all news of our stay at Kimnel Park—well, nearly all—we will leave you with the usual farewell.

Signals Association Branch Notes

Lancashire

In the November issue of THE WIRE the Editor threw out a challenge to Lancashire and asked for more branches in that great county. Lancashire has taken up the challenge.

Bolton

Mr. A. Chapman, Joiners Arms Hotel, Deansgate, Bolton, has already moved far, and authority to start a new branch in Bolton was sent to him in May.

St. Helens

The Prescot Branch are also moving, and Mr. Finney, honorary secretary of Prescot Branch, writes to say that he has every hope of forming a new branch in St. Helens.

We shall all look forward to seeing the red rose adorning two more standards in the not too distant future.

Bournemouth

The annual general meeting is old news but you might like to know that all the Branch officers were re-elected, which may indicate their fitness for their posts, or perhaps there wasn't any opposition.

While we cannot say that the past year was one of outstanding progress, we did gain one or two regular supporters, and we were able to render assistance in several authentic cases of need. It seems inevitable that there should be those cases where the applicants think they are on to a soft touch—one of ours had had assistance previously from a source of which we had never heard—but it is fortunate that both Secretary Rouse and Welfare Officer A. R. T. Wright, as well as being patient have that little extra something which ferrets out the professional beggar type and thereby saves both Branch and H.Q. funds from being mulcted.

Those who served with Major P. J. Chandler will be interested to know that he has now exchanged the Major for Rev. and is curate in charge of St. Swithun's Church, Bournemouth.

One of our personalities, Bert Gillett, formerly of 2 Divisional Signals, Aldershot, has been stung into action by all this "do you remember" business and has provided me with the remainder of these notes. He does remember Chanak 1922, the donkey who drank beer in the canteen, and visits to Constantinople. (After hearing about the latter I know why he's so much older than I!)

He recalls Captains Straight and Bannerman, Lieutenant Odell, Sergeant George Bayliss, Lofty Gunnel, Shoey Back, Bishop Elsey and his A.J.S., Dixon, Hayes, Gilby, Trueman, Innes and Pinkney, and wonders whether he ever figures in their memories. The riding school and Lille Barracks, and the blood and sweat that went with them—in fact, "K" Section in all its glory. So if any of you would like to contact an old buddy you know where to find him.

Bury St. Edmunds and District

Since our last appearance in THE WIRE we have covered a lot of ground by way of a couple of socials, a coach and river trip, an annual dinner and our annual general meeting, at which the following officers were elected:—

President, Captain J. W. H. Knight; Chairman, Mr. D. L. Marsh; Vice-Chairman, Mr. A. E. Peters; Secretary, Mr. R. C. Maccrow; Treasurer and Press Correspondent, Major C. A. de Frece; Committee: Mr. B. Scarff, Mr. A. W. J. Marshall, Mr. Geo. Hayward; Entertainments, Mr. L. W. Harding, Mr. D. B. Ely.

A profound gloom was cast over the branch when the news of the tragic passing of Major F. J. Cooke was received. "Cookie" was held in great esteem and affection, and the

Corps can ill afford to lose such sterling characters. The respectful sympathy of the Branch goes out to his family.

Another loss to the Branch, happily of a different nature, is the posting to M.E.L.F. of Captain McCulloch, who has sojourned in our midst for only a comparatively short time but nevertheless long enough to earn the goodwill and esteem of the Branch. Good fortune to you, Bill, wherever you may go. We shall be delighted to include Mrs. Bill and the boys in our social activities.

We have a pleasant programme before us, and whilst our numbers are small (due largely to apathy on the part of those who are eligible to join us but still remain outside the fold despite all our strenuous efforts), the stalwart band of ever-faithfuls look forward with confidence to the future.

Scarborough

By the time these notes appear in print we shall have passed our fifth year of existence. We had three good years, then followed two lean years. However, we must expect the bad with the good, and now, thanks to Lieutenant-Colonel T. Sladen, O.B.E., and all at Burniston Barracks, we are on the upward grade again.

The C.O. is allowing us the use of the information room for our monthly meetings, and we have a good number of serving members. We held our monthly meeting on Tuesday, 6th May, with a marked improvement in the attendance, especially as it was the kind of night one prefers to keep by the fire. The President, Lieutenant-Colonel S. Goddard, opened the meeting with an address of welcome and expressed the hope that good attendance would be maintained. A resolution was passed that all meetings should revert back to Tuesdays, general meetings first Tuesday in the month at Burniston Barracks, and committee meetings once a fortnight in the Queen's Hotel Vaults. Incidentally, our Chairman, Tim Kelly, is the landlord, so all Signals and ex-Signals visiting Scarborough will be welcomed.

Sport. A sub-committee has been formed with the object of matches between the Association and serving members, and, who knows, a combination of both challenging all comers.

Jews Mail. Jack Skinner and Jimmy Flooks, stamp to follow on receipt of address, Tim.

Tailpiece. After our monthly meeting we were entertained by the Sergeants' Mess, and believe it or not we drank 'em out of beer . . .

Finis. A word of thanks to our hardworking secretary, Major Frank Mansfield, for keeping the flag flying during the lean years.

Bristol

Activities in Bristol are kept together by the interest of the skittle team, which finished sixth in the league last season and are now competing in the local knock-out competition with other O.C.A.s and the " Battle of Britain" (open to all) skittles competition.

The Branch meeting at the Old Duke, Queen Charlotte Street, on 8th May, was well supported by members and wives and fiancées. Bill Glover, our esteemed chairman, conducted a lively and profitable American auction. The whist drive—prizes for nearly everyone—finished earlier than expected after a most enjoyable evening.

The committee hope to arrange as many social events as possible during the summer such as rambles and short train and steamer trips, and hope members will find it convenient to meet together at the time and places arranged, and we shall, of course, always be pleased to welcome O.C.s from other branches who may happen to find themselves in Bristol.

Preparations for our 1952 sweepstake are well in hand for the St. Leger in books of five, and any O.C.s who can help our funds in this way are requested to get in touch with our Social Secretary, Mr. Tom Ruddy, 83 Albany Road, Bristol, 6.

Will all members please note that owing to the price of paper and the cost of postage, the number of circulars we shall be able to send out this year will have to be seriously curtailed, but we shall be " At home " on alternate Tuesdays at the Old Crown for skittles and important business.

Secretary: Mr. V. Savigar, 2 Woodleigh Gardens, Whitecross Court, Whitchurch, Bristol.

Northants.

Has any other branch journalist had the weird experience of sidling up to the chairman and saying, " I, er, I, er, think last month's Association notes missed the boat; er—sorry." Follows an icy glare, " I want action, not excuses." Those eyes will haunt for many a month.

To report the last two months meetings, the first being the annual general meeting, which saw one or two changes of office, but for the rest, like recent British Budgets, the mixture as before. Quite an extensive summer programme is being planned. It is hoped that Leicester Branch will be paying us a visit; they will be very welcome. Another interesting evening out will be a visit to a public house near Northampton run by ex-Q.M.S. White. The chairman and vice-chairman very kindly offered to spend an evening making the first trip out to see Mr. White!

Later in the year our President has promised to take a party to the Corby steel works and then entertain them at his home. Happy memories of last year's trip to Corby still remain.

Does ex-D.R. John Huckle, who served with Jack Knibb, read these notes? They served together in 1940-42 in 50 Divisional Signals, although Jack was first in 12 Divisional Signals, later travelling Cyprus, Iraq, etc., before being captured by the Germans in June 1942 and remaining a prisoner until 1945. Jack forgot to note his address and work, etc. So if any old friends care to write, do so c/o 162 Birchfield Road East, Northampton.

Oldham and District

There has been an interval of years, yes, years, since the Oldham Branch enjoyed the space afforded by the Editor for " Branch Notes."

As May is supposed to be the merry month, though we don't know what there is to be giddy about, there's no reason to put off the writing of these few words any longer, although it will be flaming June when they are in print.

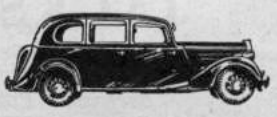
This absence does not automatically make us an inactive group, for though we cannot boast showers of members we can claim a very enterprising group (advt.) which is, nevertheless, a shower just the same, though not quite so big as some.

Where is Oldham? You don't know? Never heard of Owdham Edge, Mumps or the Albion, or Peter Street Flour Mills? If you came amongst us you'd think it was a holiday town, which it is at the moment, for the cotton industry is experiencing a " recession "—temporarily, we hope.

When our branch first formed in 1946 we had outings and social events by the score, but we have since confined these activities to one or two functions during the winter months

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with the prospect of one or two inexpensive affairs during the coming summer. We are decided upon the annual meeting at Catterick this year. If you live in this vicinity you may like to come with us. Which brings me to our monthly meetings. These are held the second Thursday in the month at the Church Inn, Huddersfield Road, Oldham, at 7.30 p.m. You would enjoy yourself, for if there's a lapse in laughter Eddy will bring tears to your eyes. But why cry over spilt milk?

See you at the monthly meeting.

Benevolent Fund

EACH month we publish a brief statement of income and expenditure of the Fund and not infrequently, as now, the Editor is permitted to " raid " the room of the Welfare Section at 88 Eccleston Square and borrow a handful of their current files.

The following is a brief synopsis of six " cases."

Suitably disguised to preserve the anonymity of the recipients, they are a very fair cross section of the thirty or so " new cases " dealt with each week. It must be realised that many " cases " go on for weeks or months.

Ex Regular N.C.O. very badly injured on duty in 1951, he was sent home to hospital in England and his wife and children went to the already overcrowded home of her mother in the Midlands.

The first hospital was twenty miles from the nearest Branch of the Association, but he was visited. Then by good luck he was sent to a hospital in the Midlands nearer his home and most convenient to us. A retired officer visited him at least twice a month as did other Association members. Now, after a year, he is out on maximum pension. SSAFA have been helping us and we have every hope of getting him a house in the near future.

Having always lived in quarters he has no furniture, and the Association has provided a large sum of money to purchase what is necessary. It will be perhaps two years from start to finish before your Association can write " Happily Settled " and put away the file of correspondence. It may be mentioned that neither the man himself nor his wife have ever asked for anything—such is the spirit of brave people.

Ex Regular N.C.O. married a widow and brought up her children as his own, adding two more to the family during the four years of his marriage. Is in a job which he likes, but £7 a week is not much for a man and his wife and four children. Now another child is on its way and for the first time he comes for help, to buy a pram. The old one has been used by the elder children for carting goods and coal and is beyond repair. He asked for a loan secured against his pay in Territorial Army camp, and was visibly shaken when the Committee decided to give him the sum desired but half as a grant.

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Serving Soldier, his wife lives with her crippled mother and much of the husband's pay goes in fares during an occasional week-end visit. What with this and the support of the old lady he got into financial difficulty from which, on the advice of SSAFA, the Benevolent Fund extracted him.

Ex Signalman, aged 50, suffering from an incurable disease. He married over twenty years ago and has a large family. The two elder children contribute handsomely but as he cannot earn the family is hard put to it. We asked SSAFA to look after them for us as there is no Branch of the Association nearby. Recently the Benevolent Fund were able to help a little.

Widow of Regular N.C.O. who was a life member of the Association. He died in hospital during the war. The Benevolent Fund helped with the funeral expenses in 1944 and in 1948 with expenses in moving his widow and children from Army quarters to a new home. The girls are growing up and doing well at school and recently the Fund helped with a grant for clothes. The total income is only £3 10s.

National Serviceman prematurely discharged through sickness. Just before he went into hospital he passed his Class III Trade Test, but through a mistake he was not published in part II Orders. Wisely he appealed for help. After correspondence lasting over four months the Association succeeded in getting him the small sum of back pay due to him.

ROYAL SIGNALS BENEVOLENT FUND

	£	s.	d.
Subscriptions received during April, 1952:			
Depot Regiment	15	0	0
5 Training Regiment	5	0	0
Kent Coast Troop (Eastern Command Signal Regiment)	3	2	9
Eastern Command Signal Regiment (Officers' Mess)	1	11	0
54 L. of C. Signal Regiment	2	0	0
Donations received during April, 1952:			
Kirkburton Parochial Church Council	3	14	9
Royal Signals H.Q. Officers' Mess	1	13	0
Jersey Branch, R.S.A.	1	1	0
Mr. D. A. Bond		4	0
Total receipts	£33	6	6
Expenditure during April, 1952	£501	0	11

(Includes: General Assistance; Rent and Rates; Beds and Bedding; Tools; Removals; Clothing; Fares; Convalescence; Immigration.)

Analysis of cases:

Families of soldiers serving in U.K.	4
" " " " " B.A.O.R.	2
" " " " " M.E.L.F.	5
Widows and dependants	4
Released and discharged soldiers	56
Total cases assisted	71

BALANCES DUE TO THE ESTATES OF DECEASED SOLDIERS

In pursuance of " The Regimental Debt Act, 1893," notice is hereby given that there is available for distribution amongst the next-of-kin or others entitled the sum of money set opposite to the name of the deceased soldier named in this notice in the *London Gazette.*

Applications from persons supposing themselves entitled as next-of-kin should be addressed by letter to " The Under-Secretary of State, War Office, Whitehall, London, S.W.1," and marked outside " Effects."

Thomson, R., Signalman, Royal Signals ... £11 1s. 3d.

Rugby Football Seven-a-Side

1 Training Regiment won the Northern Command Tournament.

Officer Training Wing, School of Signals, won the Northumbrian District Tournament.

The semi-finalists in the Command Tournament are excluded.
—Editor.

RUGBY AT CATTERICK

Yorkshire Rugby Union Challenge Cup

WHEN Royal Signals met Halifax on the Otley ground on 19th April, 1952, it was the first time that any Service side had played in the final in the 73 years of this Yorkshire club competition. A very exciting game ended in a win for Royal Signals by one goal, a penalty goal and a dropped goal (11 points) to Halifax's (who were the holders) two goals (10 points). The tremendous vigour and skill of two first-class sides made it a very enjoyable game to watch for the 3,000 spectators who assembled in the pleasant setting of the Otley ground. Halifax, who had a heavy robust pack, got possession in the majority of the scrums, but the Signals' tackling prevented Greenwood and Bartle from getting far. In the line-outs Harding and Robins were prominent for Signals, while Miller and Williams, at half-back, were superior to the Halifax pair. Miller's kicking in the second half and Williams' tackling and elusive running were a feature; when the Signals' three-quarters got the ball they handled well and their tackling was of a high standard. The scoring opened with a penalty goal kicked by Fletcher, and just before half-time Miller dropped a good goal to give Signals a six points lead. Gerry Wood should have scored previously, but with the line at his mercy he "knocked on" while trying to pick up a rolling ball at the goal post from a neat kick ahead by Thomson. The best try of the match came halfway through the second half when Gerry Wood shook off a tackle by Greenwood and handed on to Thomson, who drew his man and gave Roberts a clear run round behind the posts. Signals remained 11 points up until seven minutes from time, when Halifax put in a storming finish and scored twice, the final conversion being the last kick of the game. The cup was presented to Corporal Thomson by Mr. Simmonds, the President of the Yorkshire Rugby Union, who congratulated Royal Signals in bringing the cup to the north-east district of Yorkshire for the first time in the long history of the competition.

On Easter Monday a fixture was arranged against Waterloo at Blundellsands, and an excellent game resulted in a win for us by 16 points to 3. The final record of a very successful season (exclusive of any Army cup games), reads:—

Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Pts. for	Pts. against
30	25	4	1	477	159

The team throughout the season has been almost entirely composed of 1 Training Regiment, who have been welded into a fine team who know each other's play intimately. Due to constant training together they have maintained a high level of fitness and team spirit.

THE WELSH TWO-DAY TRIAL

A selection sub-committee of the Permanent Executive Committee, Army Motor Cycling Association, met recently to select Army riders for the Welsh Two-Day Trial, the national event which takes place on 23rd and 24th May, 1952, in the Llandrindod Wells area.

The main purpose of the Army entries in this trial is to enable the best Army team to be selected for the International Six Days Trial which will be held in Austria from 18th to 23rd September, 1952.

The following Royal Signals riders were included in the Army thirteen chosen to compete in the Welsh trial:—

Lance-Corporal G. L. Millar, Royal Signals Wing, School of Signals;

Lance-Corporal D. Gray, User Trials Squadron, School of Signals;

Lance-Corporal R. F. Budden, No. 1 War Office Signal Regiment.

In addition, the committee noted (*inter alia*) the name of Sergeant D. C. Rowthorne, 5 Training Regiment, Royal Signals, for inclusion in the Army team which is to be entered for the International Six Days Trial.

SHOOTING

We are indebted to Chislehurst and District Branch for the following details of results in the Army and Inter-Services Small Bore Championships:—

ARMY INDIVIDUAL SMALL BORE CHAMPIONSHIP.

Placed 20th: Captain I. M. A. Jones. Total score 393.
(The highest score was 399.)

THE INTER-SERVICES SMALL BORE MATCH.

Won by the Royal Air Force, the Regular Army coming second.
In the Army team were:—

Major W. J. Thompson ... Total score 197
Captain I. M. A. Jones ... Total score 197
(Highest possible score 200.)

LAWN TENNIS FIXTURES

June 29	...	Catterick Officers' Club (Catterick Signals Fixture)	Officers' Club, Caterick.
July 9	...	R.E.	United Services Club, Chatham.
July 12	...	R.A.S.C.	Officers' Club, Aldershot.
July 13	...	Staff College	Staff College, Camberley.
July 26 — Aug 2	...	Army Championships ...	Officers' Club, Aldershot.
Aug. 18-23		Corps Championships ...	Officers' Club, Catterick.

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Spring Meeting Officers Golfing Society
Catterick, 19th-20th April

THE weather was fine, but a strong wind made golfing difficult. The number competing was the highest for many years and each event was keenly contested.

The Stableford Challenge Cup on Saturday morning was won by Major J. D. Norfolk, with Captain O. J. Peck the runner-up. The Junior Officers Stableford competition, which also had a record entry, was won by Lieutenant R. D. Durrant. Second-Lieutenant C. D. Horton was the runner-up.

A draw for partners for the foursomes competition on Saturday afternoon was held immediately after the morning round. There were some powerful combinations including Brigadier W. C. V. Galwey and Brigadier A. E. Morrison, who were strongly fancied, and Brigadier C. A. H. Chadwick and Lieutenant-Colonel R. Linton, who both play off low handicaps. Lieutenant-Colonel M. A. Charlton and Major W. Holmes won the event, and three pairs tied for second place. Captain S. Gant and Captain O. J. Peck were deemed the runners-up on their score over the last nine holes to beat Brigadier W. C. V. Galwey and Brigadier A. E. Morrison, and Brigadier J. J. Duvivier, the president of the Society, and Major J. D. Norfolk, the secretary.

★

On Sunday the 36 holes medal competitions were played. Lieutenant-Colonel R. Linton, of Scottish Command (Mixed) Signal Regiment, won both the open championship and the Championship Challenge Cup for Regular Officers, with a gross score of 175. This was a fine achievement in a strong wind on the Catterick course, which is far from easy on a calm day. Last year's winner of the open, Lieutenant-Colonel M. S. C. Shardlow, had not quite run into form this season and scored 176 to become runner-up in the open championship. Captain J. Y. Ferguson was the runner-up in the Championship Challenge Cup with a gross score of 177.

The 36 holes Handicap Challenge Cup was won by Major E. Nash with a net score of 139. Major N. A. C. Clubb, also of 3 Training Regiment, Catterick Camp, was the runner-up with a net 145. Two fine efforts.

At the general meeting on Sunday, 20th April, 1952, two important decisions were made. Firstly, that handicaps should be limited at 18 at all the Society's future meetings and, secondly, that the titles of the competitions should be supplied by Spring Meeting to differentiate them from the events at the Autumn Meeting.



Back row (left to right): Major T. J. F. Fuller, Captain J. M. Butterworth, Captain J. Y. Ferguson, Major N. A. C. Clubb, Major E. Nash, Second-Lieutenant C. D. Horton, Second-Lieutenant C. R. Sanderson, Captain O. J. Peck. Third row: Brigadier W. C. V. Galwey, Lieutenant-Colonel H. Worrall, Major E. N. L. Brown, Captain S. L. Gant, Second-Lieutenant R. Gemmill, Lieutenant-Colonel W. Clark, Lieutenant-Colonel R. N. Seddon. Second row: Brigadier C. C. Fairweather, Second-Lieutenant P. C. Blacklaws, Lieutenant-Colonel M. S. C. Shardlow, Colonel J. F. Longfield. Front row: Brigadier A. E. Morrison, Brigadier J. J. Duvivier, Brigadier C. A. H. Chadwick, Colonel C. P. S. Denholm-Young, Lieutenant P. D. Durrant, Lieutenant-Colonel R. Linton, Lieutenant-Colonel M. A. Charlton



Some of the Senior Officers who took part in the meeting. Left to right: Lieut.-Colonel R. Linton (winner of the open), Brigadier A. E. Morrison, Colonel J. F. Longfield, Brigadier C. A. H. Chadwick

CORPS GOLF

A team of 13 players from the Corps played an afternoon match against the York Golf Club at Strensall on 7th May, the match being 13 singles of 18 holes.

The afternoon was fine and the course in good playing condition, although a strong breeze made some of the holes long and difficult.

The teams were evenly matched on handicaps except for Colonel Charlton, whose original opponent failed to turn up and whose place was taken by the assistant professional.

Some players on each side failed to produce their best form, but a very enjoyable match resulted in a win for the York Club by 8 wins against 4 with one match halved.

Amongst our opponents who were beaten were Lieutenant-Colonels P. Jennings and F. N. E. Thompson.

CORPS CRICKET

The secretary of Corps Cricket, Captain Lewis-Barclay, will be pleased to have the names of any cricketers who could play for the Corps this summer.

Unit Sports Officers are asked to send in any names, with full particulars, to:—

Captain Lewis-Barclay,
Royal Signals Wing,
School of Signals,
Catterick Camp, Yorks.
Telephone: Catterick Camp 2281, Ext. 220.

BRITISH LEGION VISIT TO NIJMEGAN

As in former years, the British Legion are arranging for visitors to be the guests of the Netherlands War Graves Committee. The itinerary includes a service in Jonkersbosch Cemetery, the choice of a visit to Arnhem Oosterbeck Cemetery and the open-air museum or a coach tour covering the surroundings of Nijmegan and the Reichswald Forest. The return journey includes a tour of Amsterdam and the canals.

Tours start from London on the following dates, returning on the following Thursday morning:—

27th June	26th September
29th August	3rd October
12th September	10th October

Apply as soon as possible to:—

Director of Employment and Pensions,
British Legion,
Pall Mall,
London, S.W.1.



THE WIRE

The Corps Magazine of the
ROYAL SIGNALS
The Official Organ of the
SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

Editor:
BRIGADIER H. R. FIRTH

All correspondence and matter for publication for THE WIRE *should be addressed to The Editor,* THE WIRE, *88 Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1. Matter for publication must be received by the 15th of the month preceding publication.*

Remittances should be made payable to: Royal Signals Association. Subscription rates (post free, except air mail): Twelve months, 12/-; single month, 1/-.

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JULY • **1952**

Vol. 6 *New Series* **No. 7**

☆

PRICE ONE SHILLING

Editorial

GREAT DAYS

JUNE and July 1952 have been months of great activity, and great encouragement for all in Royal Signals.

On the 7th June was the London and South Eastern Area Rally and Reunion organised by the Tunbridge Wells Branch. This is fully reported elsewhere in this number, but attention must be drawn here to the speech of the Representative Colonel Commandant in which he spoke of the letters of congratulation he had received from General Cassells on the conduct and achievement of the 1st Commonwealth Divisional Signal Regiment in Korea, and from Sir Brian Robertson in praise of the work of Royal Signal Regiments in M.E.L.F.

It is a curious trait of the British Army that the nearer a Regiment gets to what is sometimes described as the " sharp end " the better it becomes, and this is typified by the fact that the men of the 1st Commonwealth Divisional Signal Regiment have found time during the present lull in their fighting to subscribe the magnificent sum of £52 to the Benevolent Fund. As all who have served in M.E.L.F. know, Royal Signals there run their own benevolent fund, which works on a " knock for knock " basis with the Central Fund in London.

In June too, Her Majesty The Queen took the Parade on Horseguards on the first occasion of her reign in celebration of her official birthday. Royal Signals, as an account and picture elsewhere in this number show, took a small but vital part, but why, oh why, when all others were in full dress, were Royal Signals denied the privilege of wearing the Queen's scarlet?

So much for June. In July there is the great assembly of Officers of the Corps for their Annual Dinner and the even greater assembly of those not now serving for the Catterick Reunion. If the spirit displayed at Tunbridge Wells and the ambitious programme of entertainment being arranged by the Signal Training Centre are auguries, the slogan " Let us have bigger and better reunions " will be amply fulfilled.

In the Editorial for July 1951 it was reported that General Fladgate, Chairman of the Association, had spoken to the Chief Signal Officers at the Director of Signals Conference on the desirability of forming branches of the Association in every Regiment at home and overseas. Great things have come from that speech. Up to 1951 we had the branches in all the Regiments in Germany, one in FARELF and not many at home. Now, a year later, there is a branch in every Regiment in M.E.L.F. The increases have been chronicled almost monthly in THE WIRE, and now, as this Editorial is written, we have two great branches being formed in the Signal Training Centre, and one at Beverley, which is to take in with their own organisation some of the boys of 6 Training Regiment. These should bring knowledge of our Association before the young soldiers when they join. To try and interest them as they are leaving or after they have left the active Army is often too late.

We apologise for the rather late date on which the June number of THE WIRE *was despatched to readers. It will be remembered that the Whitsun holiday came, for* THE WIRE, *at a most inconvenient time. This explains the delay in the date of publication but not, perhaps, the dreadful weather experienced during the holiday.*

OBITUARY

Colonel H. M. Sylvester, M.C., and his wife, were both killed in an air disaster at Nice, Southern France, on 3rd March, 1952.

Obituary

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL P. JENNINGS O.B.E., M.C.

PERCY JENNINGS was always a great favourite in the Corps and all who had the privilege of knowing him will grieve at his untimely death.

He was a man at all times actuated by the highest principles and it was his constant endeavour to apply such principles to whatever aspect of life he touched.

When he first touched the Territorial Army as Adjutant of 50 Divisional Signals in 1926, he set about his task with the declared intention of raising the newly re-formed Unit in tone, morale and general efficiency to the standard of the best Regular Army Unit. Backed and sustained by his Commanding Officer, he sowed a seed which ripened into an abundant harvest during the last war, when the Officers, N.C.O.s and men, whom he so carefully trained, created a name for themselves and their Unit which is second to none.

As well as his outstanding qualities as a soldier, he will be affectionately remembered for his willingness and ability to make people laugh. He was a wonderful mimic and an excellent raconteur, and had the knack of being able to pick out humour from even the most sombre circumstances.

In a world too much lacking in light and laughter, he was like a ray of light, and the fact that people would almost invariably smile when his name was mentioned is his best epitaph, as it is evidence that where he went happiness usually went with him.

He had a distinguished career in the Army. Entering it in 1914 in the Royal Fusiliers he was, in 1915, appointed to a commission in the Regiment, and was in 1916 seconded to what was then the Signal Service, R.E.

He was awarded the M.C. in the 1914-18 war, and later granted a Regular Commission in the Royal Corps of Signals when it was formed in 1921.

In 1936, for health reasons, he retired from the Army with the rank of Major. He came back, however, in 1937, and was appointed Brevet Major in 1939. Many years of his war service were spent at York as Commanding Officer of Northern Command Signals, where he will be long remembered by many people. He was awarded the O.B.E. in 1942 and, after the cessation of hostilities, retired into private life.

He never lost his connection with the Corps, however, and not very long ago attended a guest night at the Headquarters Mess at Catterick where he was, as usual, the life and soul of the party.

"The life and soul of the party." Yes, that was Percy as we would all wish to remember him, and no greater tribute can be paid to any man than to be thought of as a purveyor of happiness.

A Tribute to the Late Lieutenant-Colonel P. Jennings, O.B.E., M.C. (Ret.)

During the last war, I had the honour and the privilege to act as military driver to the late Lieutenant-Colonel P. Jennings for a period of four years, ultimately becoming his confidant and friend—four very happy years, which are always fresh in my memory.

He was essentially an officer and a gentleman in every detail. Kind and considerate to all Officers and men under his command, their well-being and comfort was his chief concern, after the efficiency of his Unit, the Northern Command Signals. He was very proud of this Unit, having personally recruited it from Supplementary Reservists. On mobilisation it functioned like an old-established Unit, and his services were recognised with the award of the O.B.E.



Lieut.-Colonel P. Jennings, O.B.E., M.C.

His character earned him the respect of his men at all times; his knowledge of his men and his attention to their welfare gained their love also, especially those at lonely outstations, for whom he often purchased little extras out of his own pocket.

He always believed in a Commanding Officer sharing irksome duties with his Officers and he always took his turn as night Signal Officer.

A God-fearing man, he was never happier than when he was able to help anyone (irrespective of rank or creed) to advancement. He spread happiness and cheerfulness wherever he went and to all whom he came in contact with, and his sense of fairness was unsurpassed.

In the passing of Lieutenant-Colonel P. Jennings we have lost a man of integrity and humour, whose sense of duty and loyalty to the Corps were a tonic to everyone who knew him.

H. J. LEWIS, Lance-Corporal (2588488).

CAR HIRE

If you want to hire a large car, with driver, consider ex-Corporal W. W. Bluestone, 27 Ennismore Mews, S.W.7. He served from 1940-45 mostly as a P.O.W. of the Japanese, by whom he was frequently and severely beaten. He has a disability pension and has just started a car hire business. Telephone Kensington 8365.

CAR BADGES

These are now available from Royal Signals Association, 88 Eccleston Square, S.W.1. Price £1 15s. 0d.

PERSONAL COLUMN

Middlesex Yeomanry

Brigadier B. B. Kennett, C.B.E., has been appointed Honorary Colonel.

Colonel J. Reading, M.B.E., has been promoted to Assistant Engineer-in-Chief in the G.P.O.

Brigadier E. J. H. Moppett, until 27th May, 1952, Chief Inspector of Electrical Equipment in the Ministry of Supply, has retired to join the Pye Group of Companies as a Director of Pye Telecommunications, Ltd., and a senior executive. He hopes to be in touch with many of his Corps friends from his new seat. Although his office will be in Cambridge, he will continue to reside at 38 Langham Street, London, W.1. He is succeeded as C.I.E.M.E. by Brigadier N. A. M. Swettenham, late R.E., as this post alternates between R.E. and Royal Signals.

Captain (T.M.O.) Jack Handford has set himself up at 105 Station Road, Polegate, Sussex, with a private hire business known as "Bradfords Taxi Service." Tel. No. Polegate 233.

In Japanese Hands

John Charles Sharp, Royal Signals, of 30 Esme Road, Birmingham, 11, has compiled a very comprehensive dossier of books and other publications dealing with the war as spent by very many of our comrades as prisoners-of-war of the Japanese. The titles are too long to list here, but those interested should write to J. C. Sharp at the address given.

Change of Address

Southern Command (M) Signal Regiment—now at:—
Beacon Barracks, Bulford Camp, Wilts.

53 (Wessex) Infantry Division, T.A.

We are asked to announce that a sealed pattern of tie permitted to all past and present members of this Division is available at Hawkes and Co., Ltd., 1 Savile Row, London, W.1. Price: All silk, 22s. 6d.; artificial silk, 13s. 6d.

H. Jordan, 24 Thurlow Hill, London, S.E.21, has for disposal pre-war blue walking out dress to fit height 5 ft. 9 in., chest 41 in., waist 35 in., inside leg 32 in., and forage cap 7⅛. Price £3.

Blazers

The Association is in touch with a firm of manufacturers who can supply dark blue blazers of good quality at the following prices:—

34 in. to 42 in. chest,	Single Breasted ...	£3- 5-0
	Double Breasted ...	£3-10-0
44 in. chest,	Single Breasted	£3-10-0
	Double Breasted	£3-15-0

Order forms and self measurement charts can be obtained from Royal Signals Association, 88 Eccleston Square, S.W.1.

"London Gazette," 20th May, 1952

Major (T.O.T.) V. J. King to R.A.R.O.

Awards

S.Q.M.S. R. F. Humphries, of No. 6 (Boys) Training Regiment, Royal Signals, has been awarded the B.E.M.

Movement of Officers

Major T. B. McVicker from M.E.L.F. to 6 Boys Training Regiment.

Major E. Buirski from M.E.L.F. to 16 Airborne Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A.

Major (T.O.T.) B. T. Sherman to Western Command Signal Regiment.

Major J. L. Tanner to 1 A.A. (M) Signal Regiment.

Major G. D. B. McKean from B.A.O.R. to S.R. Depot Training Centre.

Major R. F. B. Paver from School of Signals to No. 2 War Office Signal Regiment.

Major J. E. Anderson from New Zealand to B.A.O.R.

Major J. R. G. Walker from 3 Training Regiment to Gibraltar.

Major W. S. Hotchkiss from 7 Training Regiment to M.E.L.F.

Major D. G. Jones from War Office to FARELF.

Major T. G. Chambers, M.C., from Depot to Nigeria Signal Squadron.

Major D. J. Bond from Nigeria Signal Squadron to Depot.

Major W. Hammond from Army Wireless Chain Installation Team to B.A.O.R.

Major P. A. Worsnop from Army Wireless Chain Installation Team to Military College of Science.

Major A. G. Paris from M.E.L.F. to U.K.

Major A. B. Whatman from M.E.L.F. to R.A.R.O.

Major F. F. Mills from B.T.A. to U.K.

Major D. M. Humphries from School of Signals to Korea.

Major D. A. R. Elliot from School of Signals to 2 A.A. (M) Signal Regiment.

Major A. W. C. Partridge from 1 A.A. (M) Signal Regiment to 4 Training Regiment.

Major L. H. Caldicott from B.A.O.R. to 44 (Home Counties) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment (T.A.).

Births

JENKINS.—To Captain and Mrs. A. E. G. Jenkins, 6 (Boys) Training Regiment, on 9th May, 1952, at Beverley, a third son, Beverley.

RENNIE.—To Lance-Corporal and Mrs. Rennie, London District Signal Troop, on 9th June, 1952, a daughter, Elaine Marise.

RODRIGUEZ.—To Sergeant R. D. Rodriguez, User Trials Squadron, and Mrs. Rodriguez, on 18th May, 1952, a daughter, Lynda Susan.

Marriages

FARNDEN—FARRER.—At Edmonton on 10th May, 1952, Signalman Farnden, 17 London District Signal Troop, to Miss Maureen E. Farrer.

Died on Active Service

SAUNDERS.—22405514 Signalman D. L. Saunders, on 17th May, 1952, in Korea.

Deaths

DAVISON.—Ex 6607720 C.S.M. E. Davison, on 19th May, 1952, in London, killed by a motor cycle.

FIELDING.—22474045 Signalman W. R. Fielding, on 18th May, 1952, in Sheffield Royal Hospital.

McINTYRE.—22242038 Sergeant W. A. McIntyre, on 27th May, 1952, in 33 General Hospital, FARELF.

Forthcoming Events

Annual General Meeting and Reunion at Catterick, 19th and 20th July. If *YOU* haven't sent your name in DO IT NOW. Write to Secretary, Reunion Committee, H.Q., Signal Training Centre, Catterick Camp.

Reunion

The annual reunion of related Units, 18, 6 and 70 Divisional Signal Regiments, Special Force Signals (Chindits), S.F. Training Signals and 34 Indian Corps Signals, postponed on account of the death of H.M. King George VI, will now be held on Saturday, 6th September, in London.

Particulars: Brigadier F. R. W. Jameson, Standwell House, Oxted, Surrey.

"W" (I) L. of C. Signals Officers' Reunion

Ten of us, once in the above Unit (now disbanded), gathered at Yates, Trafalgar Square, on the evening of 17th May, 1952, on the occasion of our first reunion. We had with us K. G. Taylor, who was with the Unit when it was originally formed in Quetta, and Lieutenant-Colonel W. D. Weir (retired), our Commanding Officer from 1943-47.

The whole of Burma must have been covered in the lively conversations during the evening, which included a massive mixed grill at The Curb, Agar Street, finally and inevitably ending up again at the bar in Yates.

It was interesting to learn of the various occupations of those present, varying from metallurgical research and G.P.O. radio operating to law and dress designing. It was good to hear, though, that at least five keep up their association with the Corps through the T.A.

The evening was voted a success with the result that all were agreed that another full-scale effort, embracing many who were unable to come, would take place in 1955.

Others present were: L. Harper, J. Riley, D. J. Mulholland, R. T. Goodwin, N. G. B. Milchem, J. M. Wotherspoon, R. W. de Vere Stacpoole and Captain K. N. Smartt.

Royal Signals Motor Cycle Display

July 16-17	Staffordshire Agricultural Society	Burton-on-Trent.
„ 19	North - East Cheshire Agricultural Show ...	Stockport.
„ 20	Old Comrades' Reunion	Catterick Camp.
„ 24-25	Scunthorpe Agricultural Society	Scunthorpe.
„ 26	Rainford, Eccleston and District Show	St. Helens.
„ 31	Oswestry and District Agricultural Society ...	Oswestry.
Aug. 2	Perthshire Agricultural Society	Perth.
„ 4	Rutland Agricultural Society	Oakham.
„ 6	5 Training Regiment ...	Ripon.
„ 11	Lancs. and Cheshire A.C.F. Camp	Cark, Lancs.
„ 13-16	Blackpool and Fylde Show	Blackpool.

Royal Signals "Quicksilver" Trailer

July 15 - Aug. 4	...	Catterick Camp.
Aug. 6 - 9	...	Leicester (Leicester Show and Festival, 6th to 7th August).
„ 12 - 14	...	Sheffield.
„ 15 - 16	...	Barnsley.
„ 20 - 23	...	Wakefield.
„ 26 - 30	...	Bradford Area.

WAR OFFICE CIVILIAN WIRELESS SERVICE

VACANCIES exist in the War Office Civilian Wireless Service in the grade of civilian radio operator. The Service is expanding and offers prospects of a steady career to ex-Royal Signals tradesmen, particularly operators. There are a few posts for which men are required who are trained to maintain wireless and line equipment.

Basic qualifications for entry are British birth, general fitness for service at home and overseas, and an ability to receive morse at 20 words per minute. If you are an operator, the training you have received in the Army will help you to qualify for entry. If you are not an operator, do not let this qualification requirement put you off, as a scheme has now been introduced whereby if, after an interview, you appear likely to be trainable as an operator, you can receive training to bring you up to the required standard whilst receiving a special trainee rate of pay.

Full details of the conditions of service, pay, accommodation, leave, etc., are given in a pamphlet entitled "War Office Civilian Wireless Service." Serving personnel who are interested should apply to their Unit Orderly Room for a copy of the pamphlet.

Ex-members of the Corps may obtain a copy of the pamphlet on application to the Headquarters of the Royal Signals Association, to which copies have already been supplied.

★

If you are unable to obtain copies by any of the above methods, you should make written application to:—

The Under-Secretary of State,
The War Office (C.4.(a)),
Room 221, Northumberland House,
Northumberland Avenue,
London, W.C.2.

Remember, the War Office Civilian Wireless Service offers to you, whether or not you have had previous operating experience, the opportunity of a steady career with prospects of establishment and pension when you reach the normal Civil Service retiring age. There are already many ex-Royal Signals personnel in the Service and we want more!

Major D. R. Horsfield writes to the Editor :—

In a recent issue of THE WIRE I was interested to learn that the Middlesex Yeomanry were once known as the Uxbridge Yeomanry Cavalry. In 1796 my great-great-great-grandfather, Sir Christopher Baynes, Bart., was appointed "Commandant of the Uxbridge Gentlemen and Yeomanry Cavalry," and was presented by them with an elegant and costly sword in 1801.

The Regiment was, circa 1921, renamed 2nd Cavalry Divisional Signals, and in 1947 16th Airborne Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A., Middlesex Yeomanry.

Reduction in Rates of Insurance Premium

What is succinctly described as "the continuing improvement in the mortality of policy holders" has enabled the company for which your Association is agent to reduce its rates of premium for many types of policy. Amongst the classes of policy affected are:—

Whole Life and Endowment.
Family Protection.
Children's Policies.

For details apply Royal Signals Association, 88 Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1.

We Go On Exercise

★ BY "OLD BILL"—THE AUTHOR EMPHASISES THAT ALL CHARACTERS IN THIS LITTLE STORY ARE ENTIRELY FICTITIOUS

THE ugly rumour had been around for weeks. In hushed references it had been discussed by those in the know in the Mess. Admittedly, their knowledge came by telegram despatched from the office marked "Gents." But there was no doubt at all that something was, quite certainly, "up." Batmen were to be seen digging out long forgotten camp kit, the Q.M. was being treated to drinks as a preliminary to getting on the Old Boy net, wives were discussing the possibility of sharing quarters for a while, and even the Second-in-Command was looking distinctly operational. Over all was an air of forced gaiety which was only made the more obvious when questions of G 1098 were discussed. There was then a general tendency to be called away on urgent business.

After all, this was no small blot on the horizon (or should that be cloud). We were a static Unit and the emphasis had been quite definitely on the static for longer than even our oldest inhabitant could recall. Now to be faced with the awful possibility of having to wander over the countryside arranging communications, which you were certain wouldn't work anyway, having to sleep in tents and generally undergo hardships which you would probably shudder to think about later; well, it just didn't seem right.

But it was right. The fateful day came when the initial briefing was dished out. The long forgotten phrases of wartime echoed again in our uncomprehending brains. "Unit will move out . . .," "Lines will be laid to . . .," and, probably worst of all, "Night moves can be expected." What was this, we wondered. After all, few if any of us were in the prime of life or, at least, in that stage of youthful exuberance where such things are enjoyed and even looked forward to. But all this had to be, and yours truly, well known as a man of peaceful nature and slothful disposition, was involved far too heavily to be pleased with life. "She" was also somewhat, to use a colloquialism, niggled. This had come along right at the time when we had believed we should be on leave. And the Rhine in spring is a very tempting proposition.

Came the day to move. Now that sounds a simple phrase, certainly it doesn't writhe with all the agony that went into the preparation for being able to write it. Cookers that didn't, teleprinters that wouldn't teleprint a word, key men who, with malicious intent, got themselves crippled at soccer or crowned at cricket, and frantic indents that came back from Ordnance marked with the mystic symbol "N.A." But there we were at last, engines running, convoy flags waving in the breeze, battle order everywhere in evidence and hypocritical commiseration from the rear party. But we moved out. Admittedly, O.C. Telep. found he'd left his batteries behind, Cipher had brought neither message pads nor pencils and the Cook Sergeant didn't bring any fuel for the cookers. Worst of all, the convoy leader had got hold of the wrong map reference for first location and didn't discover it until we'd taken two wrong turns. Still, we got there.

Once there life began in earnest. Signal Office to be sited, lines to be run out, headquarters and sleeping quarters (that was unintentional) to be fixed and the cookhouse to be got into action forthwith or faster. Two points about the cookhouse made we wonder—would the stoves stand it and how was the T.O.M. going to account for all that petrol. Apparently both they and he did. Actually, there wasn't too much confusion, although Signalman Langley was heard to remark that he considered Signalman Wallace lacking in the care necessary to allow him to use a hammer properly—or words to that effect. Somehow things did get settled down, and in the Mess that night stories of bygone days of the "When I was in Cyrenaica" type were much in evidence, and your author, moved to sentiment by the occasion and a beer, uttered the profound comment, "The old hands can still do it." At which point all the lights went out, there was a loud screaming sound and bits of Generator P.E. 95 deposited themselves gently on the floor of the Mess. Some clot had forgotten that besides P.O.L. a genny also needs water. Which only goes to show.

But did we do what we set out to do? What would you think? You'd think not! You'd be surprised—through to everywhere we had to be and all the time, too. As I said, the old 'uns can still do it. But I'm still stiff.

SCHOOL — ENTERPRISE

Mrs. M. Steward, Old Brewery House, Netheravon, Wiltshire, widowed during the war, started a small school at the above address in 1946.

The children, aged 4 years to 11 years, are taught the usual school subjects up to and including the standard of entrance to Grammar School with or without scholarship. They can also do handwork, nature study, ballet, music, singing, riding, bathing.

The usual "Froebel" methods of teaching are used and there is a sound film projector for teaching and pleasure. Food is good, boarders put on three to five pounds each term.

Day pupils have reaction in proportion to the meals taken.

Fees (basic):—

Boarders	£55 0s. 0d.	
Day	£15 15s. 0d.	+ lunch 2s. 0d. *per diem.*
Half Day	£10 10s. 0d.	

The school, which is fairly full, can take 18 boarders and up to 30 day pupils. The children's parents are mostly Service families, Royal Artillery and Royal Air Force predominating. There are two American children but at present no Royal Signals, which is curious because Mrs. Steward spent all her married life in the Corps.





[Courtesy: "Graphic" Photos, Watford

The Royal Tournament 1952

AS is the excellent and very kindly custom of modern times, the Commander, Signal Training Centre, Brigadier J. J. Duvivier, C.B.E., and the Display Team, entertained a small and distinguished gathering to dinner and at the tournament on Friday, 6th June.

The company included Sir Leslie Philips, representing the Colonels Commandant, Major-General W. O. Bowen, the Director, and Brigadier R. J. Moberly. Mr. Turner, of the Triumph Co., who, if memory serves, negotiated the first arrangements made between the Triumph Co. and the S.T.C. Display in 1930, has, like the Display Team, gone from success to success and is now managing director. Brigadier Henry Crawford, who brought the horses and motor cycles together in 1932, made a welcome reappearance from Fife in Scotland.

To say that the Royal Signals Display 1952 is better than ever is seemingly to propound what is impossible, but the combined experience of those in the party, and it was very great, agreed that it was better than ever.

There was nothing very new, it was very slick, very well put on, the arena was always full, the pace was greater than usual, and the drill in the combined movements was most excellent.

Each year at the tournament the Display Team varies slightly. These variations, like those between vintage wines, can only be discerned by the connoisseur. Last year perhaps the accent was on humour, this year it was undoubtedly on the jumping. There were, if memory serves, five jumps, and each of these in its way was outstandingly spectacular. Perhaps the neatest, slickest, most spectacular, and indeed the biggest, was that where the jump is taken over a land-rover, not sideways on, but from tail to bonnet. Think it out, it is quite a big one. You have got to get height and you've got to go far, and there isn't a great deal of room to pull up before you hit the audience at the far end! This jump would not have been possible at Olympia; in the slightly larger arena at Earls Court it was possible and is a very fine effort.

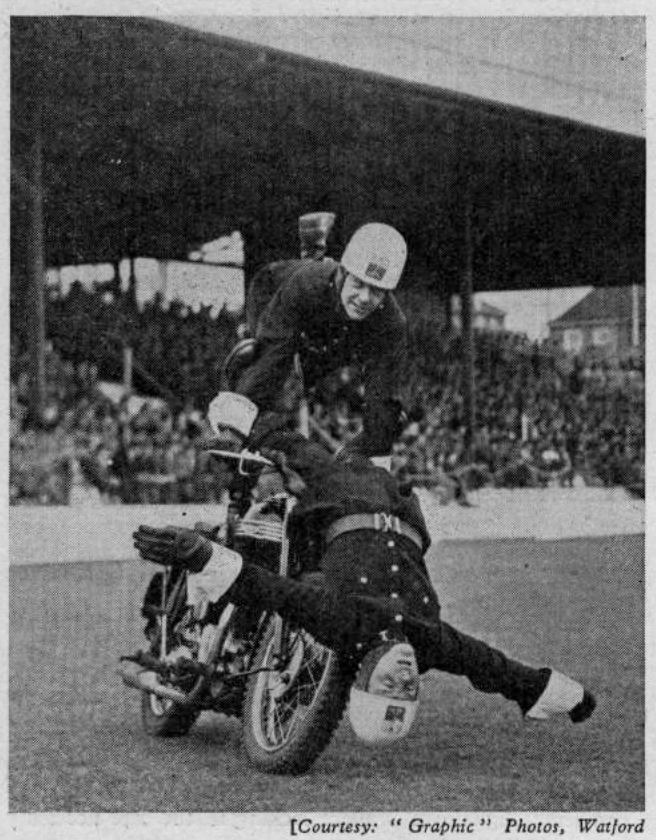
We pictured the "wall jump" in last month's WIRE, a tribute, it was said, to the strength of the Triumph motor cycle, the parenthesis adding, that D.R.s can break anything, including walls! It was indeed a splendid crash, and the arena clearance party had an active couple of minutes picking up the bricks.

The rest of the tournament is, as always, excellent in every turn. Competing against very strong opposition, the cliff scaling by the Royal Marine Commandos, a good activity ride by the R.A.S.C. Mounted Depot, and such guaranteed "top of the bill" turns as the Musical Ride, The Drive, and the Royal Navy's Field Guns, it is still fair opinion that the Royal Signals Motor Cycle Display in popular esteem remains a favourite.

Incidentally, this opinion was confirmed by an overheard conversation between three "barrow boys" during the lunch hour of the day in which this article was written.

The quality of the Motor Cycle Display was borne out particularly when it was seen through the eye of the television camera. A connoisseur watching the other turns on television, particularly the Musical Ride of the Household Cavalry, noticed a lot of "riding school" faults, but watching the motor cycles, fault could not be found, rather, indeed, the neatness of the drill was brought to notice.

Incidentally, in full view of the TV camera, the jump over the land-rover was very nearly a catastrophe. There was very slight engine failure at a critical moment in the acceleration to get the necessary speed to raise the machine a clear seven feet from the ground in the jump, and lack of pace caused the motor cycle to touch down lightly on the driver and on the bonnet of the land-rover. Again this was not noticed except by the skilled eye, and we understand that the driver took it as "just one of those things that happen to drivers."



[Courtesy: "Graphic" Photos, Watford

A QUIZ FOR NATU MINIMUS

do you know?

DESPITE the title of this column we find it is read not only by the very young. Brigadier E. A. James, O.B.E., T.D., D.L., points out two errors made in May. He writes:—

THE WIRE for May 1952.

Do You Know?

I think you have two errors here.

1. *(Para. 1.)*
   The morse code was invented about mid-19th century, so it rules out the morse shutter in Napoleonic wars. Perhaps some confusion with the Semaphore system which was used at this period with arms on towers and posts.
2. *(Para. 2.)*
   The story of 3 Corps Signals is mixed up. In 1936 the 46th (*North* Midland) Division was broken up, for *A.A.* expansion. The 46th (North Midland) Division Signals then became North Midland Corps Signals and on the outbreak of war became 3 Corps Signals. They duplicated in April 1939, throwing off another Corps Signals (4, I think), and this may explain the Militia men. They went to the B.E.F. early in 1940.
   The 46th T.A. Division was re-formed in April 1939 as the duplicate Division of the 49th *(West Riding)* Division, T.A.

I thought you would like this information in the interest of historical accuracy.

★

Do you, who are now serving in 7 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment, know that the Regiment was formed from the Cairo Cavalry Brigade Signals in 1938? Its first title was "Mobile Division (Egypt) and Abbassia District." Captain H. N. Crawford, the first Adjutant, Lieutenant-Colonel (Brigadier) F. A. H. Matthew the first C.O. Lieutenant-Colonel Crawford was promoted to Command and in his turn handed over in 1942 (October) to Lieutenant-Colonel S. A. Maxwell, a Territorial Army Officer. That brought them to the eve of the battle of El Alamein. Consider in terms of effort by the Divisional Signals of that battle and the subsequent fighting advance of 2,000 miles in six months. Then they left North Africa for England, France, Holland, Germany.

Do you know that the 7th Division was raised in August 1914 and fought in Belgium, France and Italy until 1919?

Do you know that in 1921 General Sir Charles Harrington, C.-in-C. British Army in Constantinople, spoke thus:—

"It gives me great pleasure to be here today, as I have always taken a special interest in the Royal Corps of Signals, and before coming out here did my very best to get it started on a firm footing.

Lots of people were doubtful of its success, and were very firmly of the opinion that you cannot make any success of a newly-formed corps that has no traditions at the back of it. That is true in a sense, but you have made a tradition for yourselves during the Great War.

I can testify to the extraordinarily good and useful work done by you in France, and during my time out there I never came across a bad Signal Officer, N.C.O. or man. You are a self-supporting Unit in the Army out here, and your cricket, football and hockey teams, and other efforts started by yourselves and run by yourselves, all foster a spirit of good feeling in the Corps."

Do you know that Royal Signals once owned a "Fleet"? There may have been other instances, but Major I. McAnsh writes:—"After the surrender of the Dodecanese on 9th May, 1945, a detachment of Force 281 Signals went up to Leros. It was in Cos that I took over the *Aura,* destined to be Royal Signals first and possibly last cable ship. Operation 'Acquisition' might be a fitting term for the means by which she was fitted out. By varying methods she acquired ropes, winches, cable, flags, masts, in fact, all the gear necessary for a small cable repair ship. She was employed at this work in the Mediterranean until the end of 1946 or early in 1947.

Do you know that the 1st Divisional Signals fought in France from 1914-1918? It returned to France in 1939 to leave again in 1940 via Dunkirk. Lieutenant-Colonel (now General) Nalder was commanding. In 1943, under Lieutenant-Colonel (Colonel) L. T. Shawcross, they went into action in North Africa under command of the French XIX Corps. Victory there brought them to the bloodless capture of Pantellaria and thence to Italy through the beaches at Anzio. Then on to Rome with Lieutenant-Colonel C. H. Stoneley in command to their final victory, 'The Gothic Line.'"

Two O.B.E.s, two M.B.E.s, one M.C., three B.E.M.s, 10 M.M.s seven Mention in Despatches, and three American Bronze Stars. The Regiment went east again soon after and until the "trouble" in the Canal Zone was stationed in Tripoli.

The East African Divisional Signals in 1941 contained a large number of Royal Signals as well as Africans. Do you know that during the Abyssinia Campaign the Division, between 13th February and 6th April, advanced 1,687 miles, opened a new headquarters 21 times and fought eleven battles? After the capture of Addis Ababa it was calculated that the despatch rider section of the Divisional Signals was averaging 1,000 miles a day on normal runs. Almost immediately after this a Training School was set up to train young Abyssinians into Signalmen so that they could eventually run the telecommunications of their own country.

Do you know that 3 Training Regiment was raised in Whitby in Yorkshire in November 1939? In November 1940 it was visited by the Band and a dance was attended by the Mayor and other notables. The following year 3 Operators Training Battalion moved with others to Prestatyn to form the Second S.T.C. Disbanded in 1943 or early 1944, it was hurriedly re-raised—where do you think? Whitby in November 1944. It was visited by the Band in May for three great days for Whitby. A concert in the Pavilion and a dance in the ballroom of the Royal Hotel. The Battalion moved to Catterick in 1947 under its present name—3 Training Regiment.

Do you know that the Corps of Signals was created in June 1920, and that the distinction of the title "Royal" was granted in August of the same year? The Signals Association was formed in December 1920. THE WIRE, however, preceded the Corps as it was first published in February 1920.

Plain Tales

★ *WITH GREETINGS FROM BARLEUX*

The "A" Has Had It

ONCE upon a time I stayed at a little French village called Monchy Cayeux. I was not alone. There were about eight hundred others. I stayed there because if I had left on my own I would have been court martialled. As courts martial in those days ended at times rather quaintly in firing parties, I stayed at a little village called Monchy Cayeux. Any questions?

There were not many civilians because there were not many houses, but one lady and her daughter clung to the shell of a cottage and did a little laundry for the troops. The girl's name was Paulette and she was seventeen, which may explain why I found out her name. She pronounced my name as though it rhymed with Cayeux and not chevaux. When I learned to write I signed myself Barleux. You guess why? I'm too busy to explain. Paulette, if she is alive, will be fifty-two years old. She would, if she can read, be most upset to observe the "a" in the second syllable of Barleux as printed by an obvious newcomer to our well respected WIRE producers.

Remind me to tell you sometime why I was at Monchy Cayeux.

On Being Earnest

You will observe that I am only writing serious paragraphs this month. I have a great sense of the fitness of things, whatever that may mean. The reduction in the size of THE WIRE persuades me that sufficient space must be left for Unit and Association notes, and one or two pages for funny columnists. One of these days I may let you have some extracts from my remarkable book, "R.E. Boy to Hotel Keeper in Forty Years." A meteoric career in two bashes. In fact, one of these days I may even start writing it. I have already had some very handsome offers from people who wish to be included out of it, if Mr. Goldwyn doesn't mind my poaching on his vocabulary. Like Donald Peers, I shall probably have Frank Shakespeare in my book somewhere. The things that man gets tied up with.

Holidays

Mercury House, Brackley Avenue, Colwyn Bay. Telephone 3402. For all ranks of Royal Signals, serving or ex-members, and their families. Children welcomed. High chairs, cots, trams, roundabouts and low tides. Four cinemas and a pier. Eleven pubs. Adults five guineas a week. Reduction for children under 12 years. Write today for vacant dates.

More About Children

I have personally visited an excellent house at Prestatyn, run by a charming and capable lady, a State Registered Nurse, where parents may safely leave their children any time they find it necessary to park them for a week or a month. I recommend this house to parents who may be wondering how they can arrange this sort of thing in an emergency. Anyone interested? Write and ask for address to General Secretary or to me at Mercury House, Colwyn Bay.

Our Stupefying Serial

Lord Elpas rode his bicycle into Ukann Larfe's London office, ringing his bell furiously. He had a flat front tyre and carried a tram line on the handlebars. One needs no vivid imagination to appreciate the difficulties he must have encountered on his journey from Fenny Stratford. A Chinese deck-hand and a professor of Latitude clung to one end and the top half of a cement mixer marked St. Albans Corporation was impaled on the other.

Uncle Alf: "What is a Professor of Latitude?"

Me: "A bloke with a broad mind."

Ukann Larfe rose to his feet and welcomed the noble lord with old world courtesy. He gave him a right woundy wallop with ye olde bunne from ye olde tea shoppe. "That," he said grimly, "will ferve to remind ye to feek audience af per ye fcript." Lord Elpas dismounted carefully and fell flat on his back. "Blimey," he gasped, "you've gone all Middle Ages and Wally Raleigh."

The piercing shriek of tortured tyres and a shuddering crash announced the arrival in the street of Hermione Larfe, Ukann's large and lovely wife. The harassed detective smiled sickly and started looking for his insurance policy. Lord Elpas hid in the filing cabinet. "This," he muttered, "should bring him back to the twentienth century." In the Pwllycrochan Woods an owl hooted dismally. An American Girl Piper blew a piece of chewing gum into her chanter and a barge sank slowly off Chatham Pier.

Uncle Alf: "Does all that affect the story?"

Me: "No, but it may give Nacerby some ideas."

Another serious and thoughtful article next month.

Barleux is now appearing at the Crowborough Garrison Theatre in "Carry on Sergeant-Major." Or are we thinking of 1921?

No matter. Press on, chaps.

The British North Greenland Expedition

THE British North Greenland Expedition, which has been formed under the leadership of Commander C. J. W. Simpson, D.S.C., R.N., sailed for Greenland in early July.

The Expedition, comprising 26 members, sailed in a Norwegian sealer, M.S. *Tottan*, and plans to disembark at Young Sound on the east coast of Greenland.

There they will be joined by a squadron of Sunderlands from Coastal Command, R.A.F., who will fly the party into Queen Louise Land (77 deg. north, 24 mins. west), where the main base hut will be built within 800 miles of the Pole. A small hut with a three-man team will also be set up in the centre of the icecap (78 deg. north, 40 mins. west). The provisions for the latter station will be parachuted by aircraft of Transport Command, R.A.F., who will be working from Thule on the west coast of Greenland.

The primary object of the expedition is the scientific survey of the North Greenland icecap, and 13 scientists, comprising geologists, geophysicists, glaciologists, surveyors and meteorologists, will carry out the main part of the work, subsidiary to which will be a programme of ionospheric research.

The radio team consists of one Royal Signals officer and two operator/technicians from the Royal Navy.

Unfortunately, lack of funds has made it impossible for any ionospheric sounding equipment to be taken, but an extensive monitoring programme is being prepared and over a period of months this should yield some picture of the behaviour of the ionosphere under disturbed conditions in polar regions.

Radio communication in these regions, close to and slightly north of the auroral belt, where two months of continuous darkness during the winter are matched by two months of continuous daylight during the summer, present no easy problems, and it is difficult to do any forecasting for frequency selection. The experts say, with regard to the ionosphere, that the usual is the abnormal and the unusual the normal—if you understand what they mean!

The radio communications include a direct channel to the Admiralty and links between mobile "weasel" and "dog"

teams, apart from "met. reports" to the Danish weather stations, Danneborg and Danmarkshavn.

The equipment that was taken by the expedition included wireless sets 53, C.52, 19 H.P., 62 and 88. Some valuable experience should be gained in the use of these equipments in arctic conditions.

The expedition will remain in Greenland for two years, and for eleven months will be completely cut off from the rest of the world, apart from the radio. The party is due to return to this country in August 1954.

It is very encouraging to know that many other ranks from the Corps volunteered for the expedition, and it was with the greatest regret that, due to a late change of plans, it was impossible to take any of them.

Captain J. S. Agar informs THE WIRE that the expedition's HAM Call Sign will be G3, AAT/OX working on the 7 and 14 megacycle bands.

Signal Training Centre

6 (BOYS) TRAINING REGIMENT

On Saturday, 17th May last, the second annual Regimental Parents' Day was held. Invitations to all parents had been made during the Easter leave period and some two hundred of these were accepted. So great a response was not originally anticipated and arrangements had to be somewhat extended to cater with the increased numbers. Those having farthest to travel came by the night trains, arriving at Beverley in the early morning, so that Parents' Day began in fact at 0600 hours.

The number of parents arriving during the course of the morning constantly grew, and since work was not scheduled to end until 1230 hours the reception committee was able to show parents something of the working of the Regiment. Lunch was provided for these early arrivals and the full programme of events was held on the playing fields in the afternoon.

This was opened by the Boys' Regimental Band, whose marching and counter-marching was greatly appreciated by the visitors. The individual athletics meeting which followed provided a continuity of events until shortly before tea, when the Regimental P.T. Display Team gave their exhibition. Tea was provided in marquees around the perimeter of the field, and the tea interval was welcomed by parents and those concerned in the training of their sons as a better opportunity of meeting.

Proceedings after tea were opened by the Corps Motor Cycle Display Team, but the fine weather which had held during the day now changed to rain, and to the hazards inherent in such a display was added the danger of a greasy turf. Such things, however, merely served to increase the appreciation of the onlookers.

It was evident by this time that the athletics would have to be curtailed and parents and Boys went to the NAAFI Hall where prizes were presented by Mrs. J. J. Duvivier. We were much honoured by her presence and that of Brigadier J. J. Duvivier, C.B.E., our Commander, for Parents' Day.

After the presentation of prizes parents were able to watch the Beating of Retreat by the Boys Band on the Drill Square.

During the course of the afternoon and until the final event, incidental music was provided by the Corps Band, which added much to the success of the afternoon.



[Courtesy: T. Hollingsworth, Beverley

The Boys' Regimental Boxing Team which had such a successful season 1951/52

The letters of appreciation since received from parents indicate how much the day was enjoyed. Parents' Day, which began as an experiment in 1951, is now confirmed as an integral part of the Regimental year.

The individual athletics meeting served as a final rehearsal for those boys competing in the Northern Command Athletics Championships. Since the date of these championships had been brought forward to 20th and 21st May and only one boy of last year's Regimental Athletics Team was still with us, it was felt that we should have a difficult task in maintaining last year's performance. It is pleasing to note, however, that the Regiment gained first, second and third places in the long jump, first and second in the discus, second and third in the high jump, and second and third in the hundred yards, giving an aggregate of seventeen points as compared with thirteen points of the Army Apprentices School at Harrogate.

Unfortunately, due to an alteration in the age limit for the Army Championships, only one boy was able to go to Aldershot for these championships on 3rd June. Boy Miller did, however, succeed in winning the boys' hundred yards event in 10.7 seconds.

Owing to the number of other activities included in this summer term, it has been found necessary to cancel the athletics meeting with other schools. All efforts are now being made towards a good result in the Milocarian Competition which is open to all schools in the United Kingdom.

The first Squadron leaves for the summer camp on Monday, 16th June, to be held this year at Bèlford, near Berwick-on-Tweed. Although farther removed than last year from the amenities of a seaside town, the camp is nevertheless eagerly awaited as a break from Regimental routine.

EASTERN COMMAND SIGNAL REGIMENT

Our first intake of "Z" Reservists for this year reported on Saturday, 17th May. The last man arrived soon after nine o'clock in the evening, having cycled over 160 miles from his home in Birmingham. The Reservists soon settled in and many seemed surprised at the ease with which they picked up their old trade again.

With the arrival of the "Z" Reservists, the "campaigning season" opened, and the Wireless Training Squadron, under Captain Lloyd, have been out on several exercises, putting into practice the skill acquired in the training rooms during the winter months.

Captain Longman has taken over as Adjutant from Captain Smith, who is now arranging the Regimental Sports Meeting to be held in July.

The Corps Band, including the Fanfare Trumpeters, visited us from 14th to 16th May. They played Retreat and later in the evening metamorphosed into a dance band to play at the all ranks dance. The Band reappeared the following afternoon to give an open-air concert. Unfortunately, soon after the interval and the tea provided by the NAAFI (paid for by the P.R.I.), a large proportion of the audience was doubled away to fight a fire which turned out to be nothing more than a farmer burning some straw!

The Band also played at the ceremonial parade on which the C.O., Lieutenant-Colonel P. H. Smitherman, presented R.S.M. Morrison with his L.S. and G.C. Medal.

The Regiment is normally very scattered and the All Ranks Conference and Dance provided a good opportunity for the majority of those working in the Out Troops to come to R.H.Q. and meet one another.

The cricket team, captained by Signalman Beech and numbering Captain Smith and Second-Lieutenant Morgan among its members, has started well by beating Eastbourne Old Town by 44 runs and Isfield Village by nine wickets.

3 TRAINING REGIMENT

We are beginning to feel as satisfied as an income tax refund and, of course, the weather has been more than a contributory cause. In fact, it has made quite a monkey out of the weather man—several times he forecast "Rain, N.E. England," and each time Jupiter Pluvius had been on leave. Result?—nothing but sunny days.

In consequence the cricket team is off to a flying start—two victories out of three games—and the athletics team, under the very able guidance of Major G. Stretch and Lieutenant P. Claque-Quine, has done extremely well in the Northumbrian District championships. No "gladiator stuff" here—just the odd second and third to confound the critics and sometimes the participants.

In fact, the only shadow is the impending departure of the Second-in-Command, Major J. R. G. Walker. Popular with all ranks, his ready advice and paramount interest in all things pertaining to the Regiment will always be remembered, and I echo the sentiments of everyone in wishing Major and Mrs. Walker "good luck and *bon voyage*."

To soften the blow, Major G. Bolam has moved from the mountain passes of Gallowgate and is now Second-in-Command . . . and still functioning as a stand-in for Jack Solomons!

By the time these notes appear we shall have had a Regimental week-end and a full report will follow in next month's issue. Just one final thing—the only person to rave about an empty nylon stocking is, of course, a woman.

SOUTHERN COMMAND (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT

The appearance in print of our notes this month will see R.H.Q. and H.Q. Squadron of this Regiment in their new location at Beacon Barracks, Bulford, where they will join up with No. 1 Squadron.

Former Officers of 3rd Infantry Divisional Signals will be glad to hear that we have reoccupied their old Officers' Mess in Kiwi Barracks. The mosaic Jimmy in the hall and the oak panelling in the Mess room are much appreciated as links with the past.

R.H.Q. and H.Q. Squadron. Our main activity this month has been centred on the District Rifle Meeting and the first "Z" Reservists training with the Regiment this year.

No trophies came our way at the meeting, but the team did quite well.

Although the first batch of Reservists was a relatively small one, we were glad to see them and hope their stay with us has proved to be an interesting and a happy one.

2 Squadron. As usual we have been kept very busy preparing communications for the various events of this time of year, including the Pentathlon Horse Show and the District Rifle Meeting.

However, we have found time for a little preparation for the cricket season and are looking forward to a victory or two.

3 Squadron. The chief event of this month was the transference of one of the Squadron's detached Troops at Gloucester to the War Office Signal Regiment.

SCOTTISH COMMAND (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT

Once more the summer is with us and our actual at home strength is already being depleted as the camps open up with a steady call on our personnel, from Officers downwards.

In barracks, outside our normal Command duties, we are receiving a regular small quota of "Z" Reserve trainees. We have so far completed one course of these men, and from the remarks at the final "tick" session, we were led to believe that the fourteen days had been very well spent. From our own point of view we felt that, should the need arise, we had indeed some good men in reserve.

We are hoping to enter a team for Bisley this year, and the chosen few are now spending all available time running about with rifles and generally getting fit under the able leadership

of Lieutenant Thorman. We did send a small team to the Highland District shoot at Barry but had no success except on the .22 Pool Bull, at which Lieutenant-Colonel Britton and Sergeant Ledger each managed to collect a small amount of cash.

Our cricket team is getting well into stride under the captaincy of Second-Lieutenant Blake, and their record to date is as follows: —

Played 6. Won 4. Lost 2.

The ladies of the W.R.A.C. are playing a lot of rounders at the moment, but we never seem to hear of any results. Whether this is due to shame or modesty is the burning question.

During the period of Court Mourning social events were naturally out, but we are hoping to get things moving from now on and the Corporals made a start with a dance on Friday, 6th June. Although the attendance was not as great as had been hoped for, the event went very well.

NORTHERN IRELAND DISTRICT (M) SIGNAL SQUADRON

This month has been an exceptionally busy one for all members of the Squadron. Our main commitment was the preparation of a Public Address System for use in connection with the presentation of new Colours to the 1st Battalion South Staffordshire Regiment by His Royal Highness The Duke of Gloucester.

The area to be covered was very large and at first it seemed doubtful whether we could produce an effective system from our limited resources. For obvious reasons we were keen to carry out the job and eventually after much trial and tribulation felt satisfied that we were ready and able to cope efficiently with the situation. On the day all went well and we were well content with the result of our hard work.

It is felt that a few words about the parade would not come amiss and would be of interest to many of the Corps who may never be lucky enough to witness the presentation of new Colours.

The ceremony of marching off the old Colours and receiving the new is most impressive. Before the ceremony commences drummers of the Regiment pile their drums in the centre of the parade. It is on these drums that the new Colours are placed in readiness for their consecration. On completion of this movement a request to "Troop the old Colour for the last time" is made to the Colonel of the Regiment by the Commanding Officer. Permission having been granted the old Colours are trooped. When they reach the left flank of the parade and turn down behind the rear rank the Colours are gradually lowered and at the same time the band plays "Auld Lang Syne" in slow time. As the Colours approach the point where they will be cased they disappear completely from sight. This is the most moving part of the ceremony and very few people can watch it without being visibly affected.

After the casing of the old Colours the new ones are brought on parade by a party under command of the Quartermaster of the Regiment. They are carried cased to the pile of drums, where the Quartermaster uncases them and places them on the drums. The Colours are then consecrated and after a simple service are taken from the pile of drums.

The Queen's Colour is taken by the Senior Major of the Regiment and the Regimental Colour by the Junior Major. These Officers hand the Colours in turn to the presenting personage, who presents them to the Officers of the Colours. The first Colour presented is the Queen's, and this is given to the Senior Subaltern, who receives it kneeling on one knee. The same procedure is adopted with the Regimental Colour, which is presented to the Junior Subaltern. After the presentation they both rise and rejoin the Regiment, where the Colours are received with a general salute. This completes the ceremony.

The Colours presented on this parade by H.R.H. The Duke of Gloucester replaced those presented by H.M. King George V at Gibraltar on 31st January, 1912.

It is interesting to note that the Adjutant on that parade was our Representative Colonel Commandant, Major-General R. F. B. Naylor, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., who was also present on this occasion.

5 CORPS SIGNAL REGIMENT

A busy and varied programme of training assistance during the summer months lies ahead of this Regiment. Territorial Army units on week-end exercises and, at annual summer camps take priority and, as a result, personnel have an opportunity to travel all over the country. Already some engagements have taken us as far afield as Cornwall and the South Coast. As arrangements stand at present, it seems probable that we shall be in attendance at camps in the North of England and Wales during either June or July.

A second two-day Unit exercise was held recently north of Bury St. Edmunds in which the whole Regiment moved out into the field. It was pleasing to see that many of the lessons learnt on our first occasion in the field in the Stanford P.T.A. had been successfully absorbed.

Major Brunskill has retired to civilian life and we wish him all the very best for the future. In his place we welcome Major F. E. Berry, T.D., who joins us from C.A.F.S.O. Staff, M.E.L.F. Among other departures during the month was W.O.II J. V. Needham. He, incidentally, at first attempt won the Colchester Garrison W.O.s' and Sergeants' Club Snooker title before he left.

The Unit cricket team has been most successful and is at present unbeaten. A hearty knock by W.O.II J. Ball and Signalman T. Frame managed to give us victory by 12 runs against a strong Headquarters, East Anglian District, side. Other members of the side to impress include Corporals Burton and Downing and Driver Duddle (five wickets for six runs) against a Command Workshops, R.E.M.E., eleven.

2 A.A. (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT

All effort and interest this month has been concentrated on annual camp, which was held at Aberporth, near Cardigan, from the 10th to 25th May.

In the quiet of a Welsh Sunday evening hundreds of well-dressed men descended upon us—the "Z" Reservists had arrived. However, our reception, documentation and clothing machinery was well oiled and all worked very smoothly.

The Commanding Officer's opening address put everyone in the picture and proved to be a foundation stone of firm understanding between Regular, Territorial and "Z" men which, as the camp progressed, showed up as a fine team spirit.

Of course, trade training was the main theme of our programme, at the same time endeavouring to put all trades in the Anti-Aircraft Signals picture. This was made easier by a visit to a fully equipped Anti-Aircraft Operation Room in which the Reservists were keenly interested.

As a grand finale to training we held an Anti-Aircraft Signals exercise in which all trades played their part. Traffic through the Signal Offices was heavy and in 24 hours Group Signal Office had cleared 1,000 messages.

We had at our disposal a small full-bore range and managed during the fortnight to "fire" 90 per cent. of our Reservists.

Divine service was held in the open on the Sunday. This was conducted by the Reverend Lieutenant-Colonel J. W. R. Hunt, Deputy Assistant Chaplain General, Headquarters, 2 Anti-Aircraft Group. During the service a thick sea mist crept up and surrounded the congregation. If nothing else it served to give us an ethereal atmosphere.

After the service the Warrant Officers and Sergeants were entertained by the Officers in the Officers' Mess. This was followed on the Monday evening by the Officers return visit to the Warrant Officers and Sergeants.

Sport was by no means neglected, and a very successful six-a-side knockout football competition was run. Each Squadron supplied teams and the final was between 2 Squadron "B" Team and 2 Signal Office Squadron (T.A.) "A" Team, the former winning by 2—0.

As a challenge, the Officers, Warrant Officers and Sergeants played the " rest " and, thanks to the fine goalkeeping on the part of S.Q.M.S. Craddock, the " rest " lost by 2—0.

A most enjoyable cricket match was arranged between Cardigan Town and the Unit. The good bowling of Lance-Corporal Few and Signalman Skimmings dismissed the home team for 52 but, even so, we failed to exceed this and lost by 20 runs.

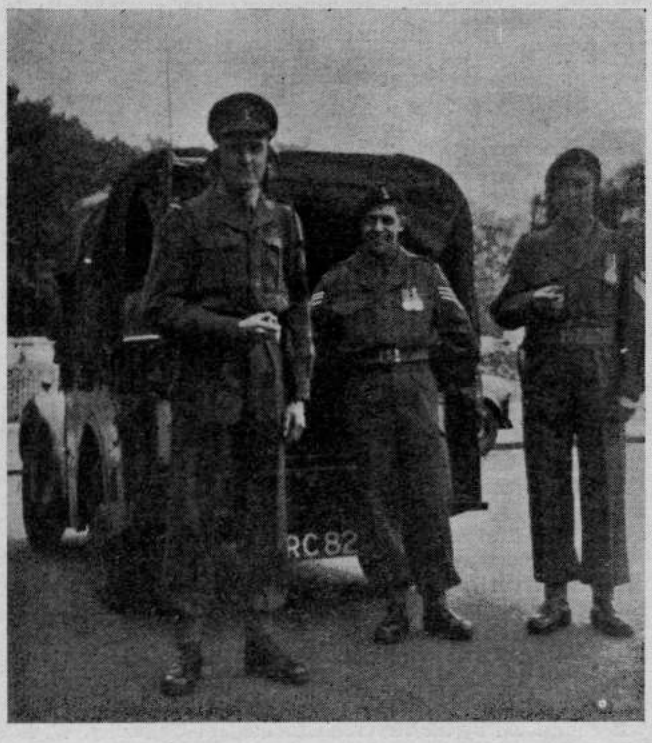
The weather, although a little unpromising at first, proved to be excellent for the fourteen days and this, combined with a marvellous crowd of Reservists, resulted in a jolly good camp. We were indeed sorry to see them go.

During the month we said farewell to Major D. L. Hyde, who has been with us for some years, and welcomed as his replacement Major J. J. Pearson.

LONDON DISTRICT SIGNAL TROOP

Of the many and varied yearly commitments of the Troop, one of the most important is the timing of the procession from Buckingham Palace to the Mall during the occasion of the " Trooping the Colour."

The honour of operating the No. 31 sets fell this year to Second-Lieutenant Whitehead and S.Q.M.S. (F. of S.) Bayfield. They can be seen in the photo ready to move into position, one inside the gates of Buckingham Palace and the other in the Mall. Sergeant Lockie, " stand-by operator," is also shown.



It will be noticed that the three representatives of Royal Signals are wearing battle dress. They are the only soldiers in the parade not in full dress.—Editor.

Jupiter

MANY will remember the creation in 1939 of London District Signal Regiment which was founded, in the main, from the second line of London Divisional Signals (City of London Signals). This Regiment had, during the 1939-45 War, a fine reputation for service and adaptability. As time went on, the Regiment was made into two halves, the second half being formed by the Auxiliary Territorial Service. This Regiment has now been reborn under the new name, London District (Mixed) Signal Regiment, S.R., and exercise " Jupiter " was held to celebrate.

The Regiment is commanded by Colonel G. Shrimpton, T.D., who will best be remembered in A.A. Command, for he commanded 11 A.A. Group (Mixed) Signal Regiment from 1947 until 1951. For this service he was made a Brevet Colonel.

For exercise " Jupiter " the Regiment was assembled from its components, the small nucleus serving in London District Signal Troop, its regular content who are located outside London, the W.R.A.C., T.A., and a number of Reservists.

The exercise took place on the 4th and 5th July to test out the tele-communications of the Army and control of the Armed Forces in London in the event of war. The various Headquarters were fully manned and the communications, both wire and wireless, were provided. It is one of the most remarkable things about the British Army, and especially of the Royal Signals portion of it that, all trained on the same mould, all with the same ideals of service, it is possible for a Regiment to shake down and become effective in a matter of hours, not days. The exercise took place on a Saturday and Sunday because the majority of the staff and signals taking part have other work to do on weekdays.

The Civil Defence Services of London Region co-operated fully and it is astonishing what a high pitch of efficiency has been reached by these services in a comparatively short time. The Metropolitan Police, with their super-efficient system of inter-communication, also co-operated fully and a most realistic try-out of the communications system resulted.

As the exercise continued, a " variety of situations " were created and these resulted in appropriate staff action at all levels.

It will be seen, therefore, that the tele-communication system was fully exercised.

Sergeant F. G. Edwards, so well known in M.E.L.F., and for more than two years " manager " rather than supervisor at WHI. 4466, came into his own with a new switchboard and a team of W.R.A.C. to staff it.

Amongst the uniformed W.R.A.C. one noticed Corporal M. V. Snell, better known as Miss Snell, supervisor at WHI. 4466. Their standards are very high and, if the switchboard operating did not quite reach the exacting standard of 4466, it was clear that only a few more hours were needed.

apology

We overspent in May and June so very reluctantly

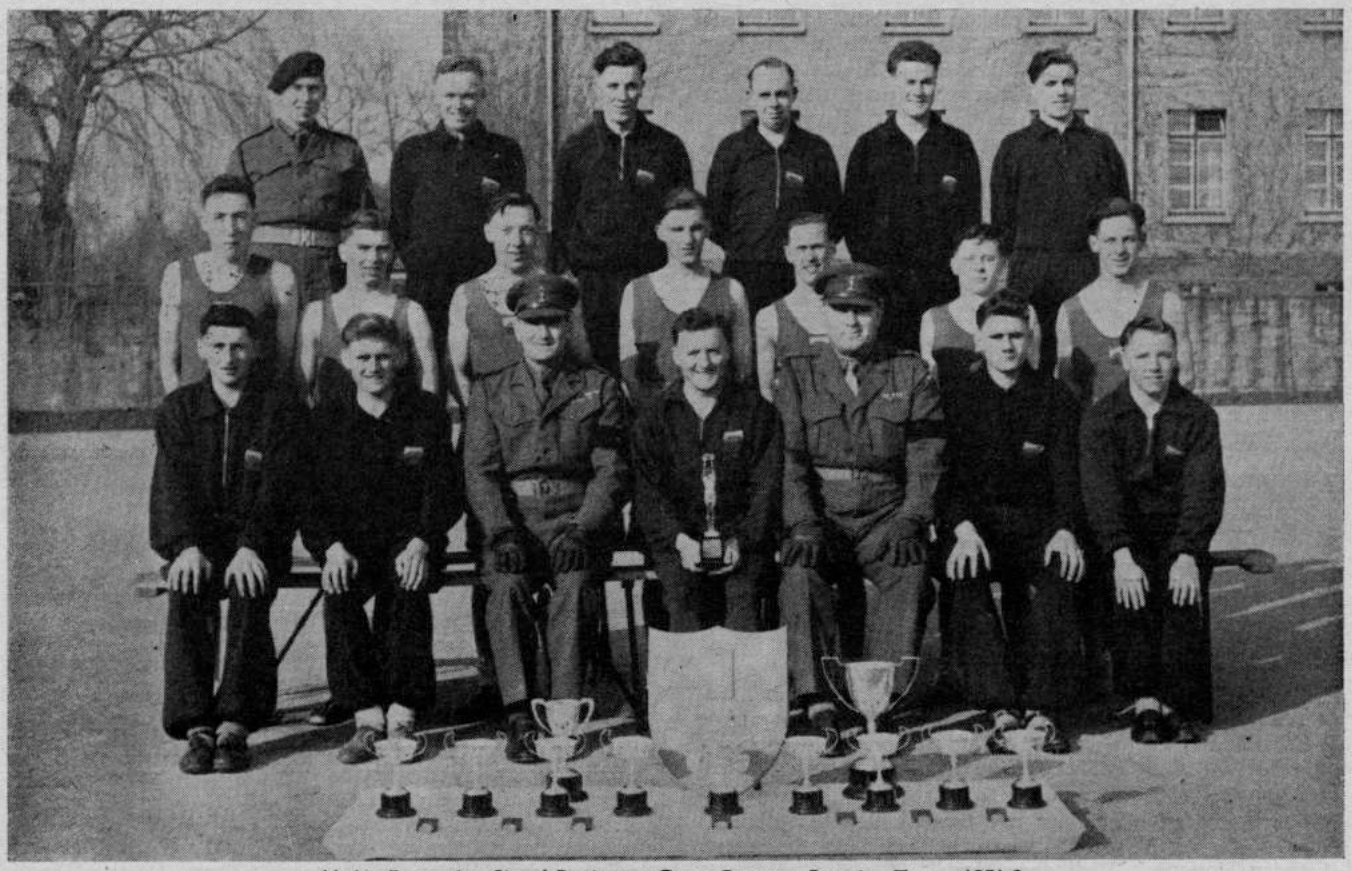
CATTERICK JOTTINGS *by* **NACERBY**

is left over to August and

DO YOU REMEMBER ?

is a shadow of its former self

See opposite page



11 Air Formation Signal Regiment Cross-Country Running Team, 1951-2

Back row (" A " team): Corporal Dickens (Recorder), Lieutenant M. H. L. Kenning, Lance-Corporal Coney, Sergeant Judges, Signalman White, Lance-Corporal Rogers. Middle Row (" B " team): Signalman Alcock, Lance-Corporal Gough, Signalman Rogers, Signalman Pelling, Signalman Hicks, Signalman Rogers, Corporal Thompson. Front row (" A " team): Signalman Lock, Signalman Hayes, Lieut.-Colonel A. C. Galbraith (Commanding Officer), Corporal Henderson (R.E.M.E.) (Team Captain), Major R. C. Dixon (Regimental Sports Officer), Signalman Rands, Corporal Izzard

Winners:—2 T.A.F. Inter-Station Championship, 1st March, 1952. Southern Section 2 T.A.F. League, 1951-2. Royal Signals B.A.O.R. Shield, 5th March, 1952.
Legend of trophies: Southern Section 2 T.A.F. League—Royal Signals B.A.O.R. Shield—2 T.A.F. Inter-Station Team Championship Cup. Nine cups for members of winning team 2 T.A.F. champion, 6 medals for winning team and 1 medal for 3rd in race (Lance-Corporal Coney)

Do You Remember?

☆

IN June 1922 THE WIRE contained the "Vale" of Brigadier-General E. G. Godfrey-Faussett, C.B., C.M.G., who formed the 1st Telegraph Battalion at Aldershot in 1891. Later he had service in the West Indies and with the 2nd Telegraph Battalion employed on constructional work with the G.P.O. Then with the 1st Telegraph Battalion to South Africa, a Captain, he succeeded to command on the voyage out. He remained in South Africa until 1902.

Because of his great experience he was appointed secretary of a committee formed to consider the reorganisation of " Signals " in the Army, and on the recommendation of this committee, Divisional Signal Companies were formed.

During the 1914-18 war, in which he began by commanding G.H.Q. Signals, he was D.D. Signals 1st and 5th Army. He reorganised the Signal Training Centre and moved it to Maresfield. Do you remember?

"B" Corps Signals ran the Summer School at Upper Topa in 1932. The move up of the marching (!!!) party from Rawalpindi is thus described: " The complete column consisted of a vanguard of about fifteen dogs, the main party and a baggage party doing escort to fifteen lovely camels . . . On the third day, tea (!) was waiting at the Murree Brewery!" Gosh, how times had changed even by then. Only a very few years before then the Brewery was reached on the SECOND day and provided free beer. Do you remember? You do? Well, you're much—wait a minute, here is a better one!

Do you remember "K" Signal Company with its headquarters at Aldborough House, Dublin, which was disbanded in 1922? You do? Well, you're much older than I.

11 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT

The month has not had much to offer in the way of news. Exercise " Team Spirit " is behind us with no reputations lost. 4 Construction Troop is still " reeling in " as we go to press. It is whispered that a dead horse is being flogged, but as usual the speed of recovery is regulated by the state of the weather—enough said.

Fishing enthusiasts who have experienced the joys of the River Emmer will be interested to hear that a 4½ lb. trout was landed last month, caught on a home-made fly—resembling no known bird, beast or insect. This has been a good season so far and the Emmer is yielding good baskets of both trout and grayling. The grayling run up to 5 lb. in weight.

Congratulations to W.O.II Gosling and S.Q.M.S. Oglanby on promotion to substantive rank, and to S.Q.M.S. Walker (acting).

SHAPE SIGNAL SQUADRON (BRITISH)

Saturday, 17th May, 1952, was the occasion of an athletics meeting held for the troops of SHAPE. The weather was

hot and admirably suited to the occasion, the refreshment tent provided by the Sergeants' Mess being perhaps the most popular feature of the afternoon. The day began by the Squadron winning the 100 yards, discus and putting the shot. Thus we were well ahead of all challengers. But by degrees the Royal Military Police began to creep up until, at the end, the result of the whole meeting depended on the final pull of the tug-o'-war. It was amidst scenes of feverish excitement that this took place. The tug-o'-war team, admirably coached by Captain G. D. M. Pocock, finally won the struggle and the meeting was ours. Great was the jubilation in the Squadron that evening and the celebrations produced almost the same excitement as the actual meeting. Prizewinners in the Squadron were as follows, but a considerable amount of the credit goes to our newly-joined Sports Officer, Second-Lieutenant E. A. Simmonds, who coached and trained the team.

100 yards	1st Serjeant Watling
	2nd Lance-Corporal Shelley
220 yards	1st Second-Lieutenant E. A. Simmonds
1 mile	3rd Signalman Dumville
Shot Putt	1st Corporal Stowe
Discus	1st Captain G. D. M. Pocock
	3rd Serjeant Watling
High Jump	3rd Signalman Matravers
Long Jump	1st Second-Lieutenant E. A. Simmonds

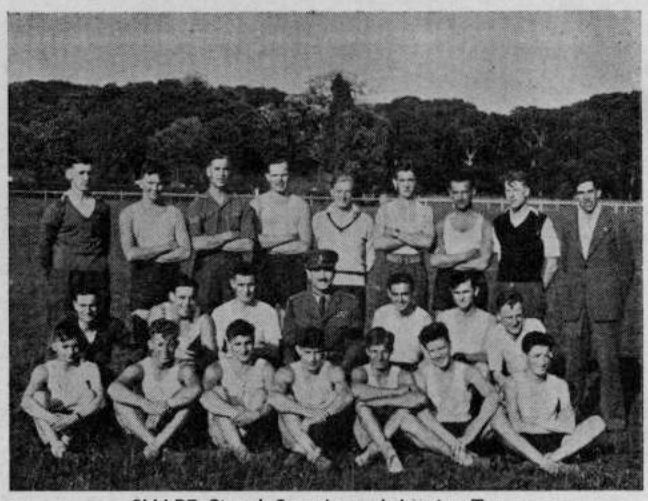
A.L.F.C.E. SIGNAL SQUADRON

The highlight of the past month was the parade held in the courtyard of the Chateau of Fontainebleau in which Marshal of France Juin bade farewell to General Eisenhower on behalf of the Staff and Support Units of the Allied Headquarters.

The Squadron offer their congratulations to Captain J. McD. Glass on his acquisition of a M.B.E. in the recent Birthday Honours. Well done, Jock!

The long-awaited American Signal Company has at last joined us. In consequence of this, our attempts at speaking French have dwindled, owing to an all-out effort to master "American" and to explain "English" to our Trans-Atlantic Allies.

In the field of sport we have met with a certain amount of success. The Squadron won an outstanding victory over the Royal Air Force and the Rest of the Army in the British Inter-Services cross-country competition. In the British Inter-Services football knockout competition, we were narrowly defeated in the final after a very hard fought game by the Rest of the Army team. Sporting events in the near future include an athletic meeting with SHAPE Signal Squadron and the British Inter-Services athletic meeting, to be held at the local stadium in July. Here's hoping the Squadron will maintain its fine reputation in the field of sport.



SHAPE Signal Squadron Athletics Team

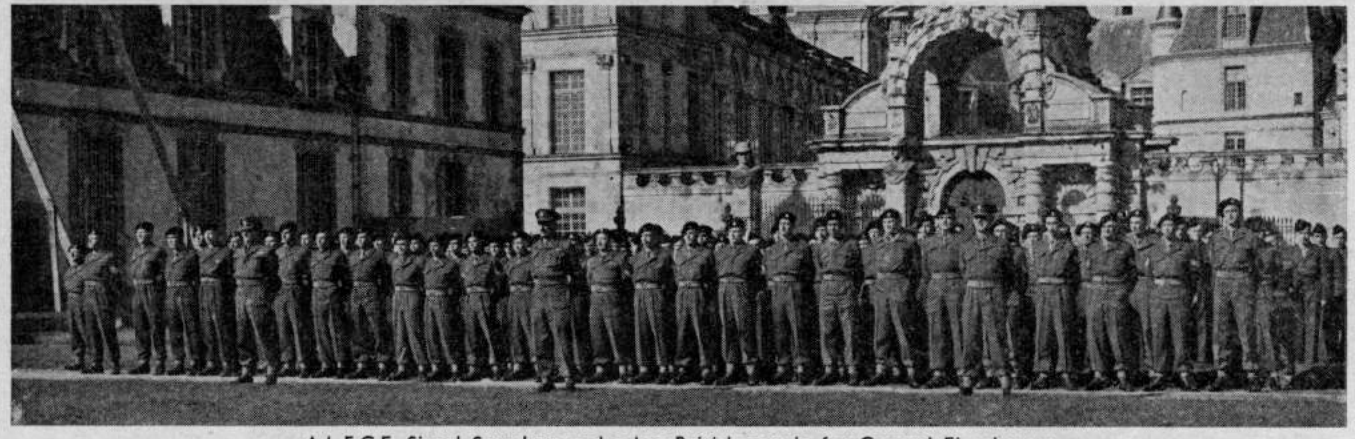
Left to right. Standing: Andrews, Matravers, Corporal Green, Corporal Stowe, Captain G. D. M. Pocock, Lance-Corporal Stretch, Miller, Lance-Corporal Cudmore, Second-Lieutenant Simmonds. Kneeling: Lance-Corporal Hurst, Bailey, Sergeant Taylor, Major H. B. de M. Hunter, Smith, Orr, Mills. Sitting: Dumville, Atkins, Lance-Corporal Shelley, Sergeant Watling, Williams, Jennings, Yeudall

KLAGENFURT SIGNAL SQUADRON

After a scheming month of inclement weather, a hot Whitsun cheered us considerably. A Squadron dance and cabaret was very successful, with drinks served outside. The popularity of the evening can be measured by the number of glasses broken!

After the holiday we went into K.D. and the Squadron tailor worked day and night to fit 60 men for the Queen's Birthday Parade. Captain Grant led the contingent, which acquitted itself well, a reward of beer afterwards being most welcome.

Our football team was knocked out in the second round of the B.T.A. cup, a last-minute penalty in a replay against R.A.S.C. finishing the hard struggle. A team is now playing in the Klagenfurt Cricket League, captained by Second-Lieutenant Palmer. In addition, a Signals Austria side is being organised. The first match in the league against the B.M.H. was won comfortably, mainly due to Lance-Corporal Harrison, who took 7 wickets for 15 runs. The next game against an R.A.S.C. side was lost by a very narrow margin. We scored 149 for 4, Corporal Bicknell's share being 51 not out. However, the R.A.S.C. opening pair made a firm stand, as a result of which they made 161 for 5, the winning run coming in the last over. There is promise of a good team this season.



A.L.F.C.E. Signal Squadron and other British parade for General Eisenhower



MELF

16 INDEPENDENT PARACHUTE BRIGADE GROUP SIGNAL SQUADRON

Since last writing in THE WIRE much water has flowed under the bridge and it would be impossible to retrace our steps over the last three months.

It can be safely said that never has the Squadron been so well "air" trained. A large proportion is perfectly capable of crating a jeep or trailer for parachuting or of loading and lashing the same equipment into aircraft. W.S. 52s have now been parachuted in a trailer no less than on six occasions with 100 per cent. success. It is perhaps noteworthy to say that the set has never been parachuted by a Signals Formation before and that the two previous attempts were by Research Establishments. Furthermore, 12 jeeps bear a well earned parachute on the Unit sign. Every man in the Squadron has recently made two aircraft descents and the majority a much larger number.

Numerous small exercises have taken place recently on each of which a small Signals element took part. These exercises culminated in Exercise "Leap Year" which took place in Transjordan. Nearly 60 men of the Squadron were able to take part in what proved a good experience and tonic.

The Brigade parachuted about 1,400 men and 40 pieces of heavy equipment in an area between Amman and Mafraq. The exercise involved a march of about 20 miles throughout the heat of the day and perhaps the most heartening sign was the good heart and bearing of every single man under extremely difficult conditions carrying loads of 60 lb. After 36 hours all men and equipment were flown back into the Canal Zone within 12 hours.

SUDAN SIGNAL SQUADRON

As far as the weather is concerned this summer the Sudan has remained true to form and so far we have had one day with 117 degrees F. and two days with 115 degrees F., all shade temperatures. So far the humidity has been rather high for this time of the year. This is the month for "Haboobs," the dust storms which blow from the south, covering everything with a fine brown dust, and to date we have had our share.

★

A series of general strikes recently have kept both "O" Troop and "M" Troop busy. We have also assisted public utilities in maintaining services, of which we hope to give more details in later WIRE notes.

As all who have ever read travel books about the Sudan will know, the Blue and White Nile are renowned for their fish. The Nile perch, to name one variety, have been caught weighing up to 200 lbs. weight.

Having such excellent sporting facilities right on our doorstep, it was decided to form a Squadron angling club, and this now meets once a week. So popular has this section of the Squadron activities become that it is almost impossible to provide enough fishing tackle.

At a meeting held at the end of May it was decided to run a competition for the heaviest total catch, a prize being given to the winner. This was won by Lance-Corporal Tait who, among his catch, landed a fine boulti weighing 3½ lbs. The next outing is to be in quest of really large game, or should we say fish! Three murkab, or native boats, have been hired by the club, complete with native crew. Extra strong tackle has been procured. We hope to be able to report later that we actually caught the "one that always gets away" and, what is more, we have decided to take photos to prove it.

The Squadron has been taking a large part through the winter in the British Services Sailing Club at Khartoum. The Officer Commanding has been Rear Commodore and the R.S.M. House Member. In all the big events the Squadron has been well placed, our main opposition this year being the R.A.F.

The sailing season being now over, we have started cricket and water polo. At cricket we succeeded, with some outside assistance, in defeating the Khartoum Cricket Club. Having less members to choose from than any of the other teams, we have not won all our matches but, however, we have a reputation for being one of the best fielding sides.

Water polo has just started, and we have a keen team led by Lance-Corporal Degnan, but their main task now is to learn to shoot goals.

CYPRUS SIGNAL SQUADRON

Cyprus had more than its fair share of publicity in the first few months of the year, so we did not waste valuable space in THE WIRE repeating what had already appeared in the U.K. press. The situation is now back to normal with the island looking its best at this time of the year.

Considering our relatively small numbers and the fact that practically everyone is on shift work, the Squadron has done very well in recent sporting events. We were runners up in the island six-a-side hockey tournament and runners-up in 2 Wireless Regiment six-a-side hockey tournament. This was largely due to the expert play of Corporal Todd and the push of the remainder of the team, many of whom had never played hockey before.

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The island individual boxing tournament was held in May at Nicosia. Twenty per cent. of the Squadron entered, but only two reached the finals. Lance-Corporal Lee put up a very good show but was beaten in the light-middleweight final by a much superior boxer—Corporal Becket, of 2 Wireless Regiment. Signalman Castle was unfortunate in coming up against a really tough fighter in the welterweight final, but nevertheless, he brought home a runners-up cup.

We reached the final of the Nicosia area tug-of-war but were beaten by a superior R.A.F. team, who were obviously better trained. They had the advantage of greater numbers to choose from, and more time for training. Incidentally, the R.A.F. are now the island champions.

Seventy per cent. of the Squadron entered for the island individual athletics. Although we did not bring home any prizes, two members of the Squadron are worthy of a mention: Lance-Corporal Lee, who came fourth in the mile, and Signalman Clarke, who made a very good effort in the final of the 880 yards.

We are looking forward to the forthcoming motor cycle trials which should be held in June or July. This time we intend to win the team event as we have quite a few budding "Geoff. Dukes" in the Unit.

All past members of the Squadron will be pleased to learn that at long last Mr. Carlettides, the Admin. Officer, has announced his engagement to Androulla.

Signalman Ellis has opened up his station using call sign ZC4BN. Let us know if you hear anything.

GOLD COAST SIGNAL SQUADRON

Shamed into print by a Corps wife's efforts in the March issue, we feel that economy in syllables should be effected " smthing like tlprintr tlk."

People come and go so rapidly that it is impossible to record them all. Even three months' leave produces a fat pink cheeked stranger not the least like the sunburnt Empire Builder that left us. Sergeant Markey moved to Freetown with a crown and S.S.M. Spencer joined us in the cross posting. Sergeants Newton, Tennant, Cotgreave and Readman are now in the Squadron, and a painful extraction produced Sergeant Stark from the Depot.

Sporting life, Accra variety, is limited to hockey, the team captained by Captain Baldwin. We note that successes only are published in Unit Orders; centre-half, Sergeant Wilson, O.R.S. Sergeant Cunningham received a ball in the ribs recently, and the M.O. scribbled " ribinjury " all in one word on the sick report. The hospital read it as " rheumatism " and treated him accordingly. Andy says it was a damp ball.

We have combined Sergeants' Messes with the R.E.M.E., and it is quite a success. Now there are two types of shop talked. But it was odd to hear one of our junior juniors telling a hairy chested fitter about the senior Corps. A shakedown booze in the form of a games tournament solved all the amalgamation troubles, and now they tick about the chop just like true Signals.

With a rattle of cords and a minimum of dislocation the new 200 line switchboard burst into life—midwives, Sergeants Morrison and Gale. The board is a real improvement. Sergeant Quartey, the Unit carpenter, noticed the new candlestick telephone and asked if it was the type where you could see the other person through the hole in the centre. Still, you couldn't make furniture!

A happy rainy season to one and all from the Coast of Gold.

FAR EAST LAND FORCES



S.S.M. Hicks receives the cup for 1 Squadron, G.H.Q. Signal Regiment, from Mrs. G. A. Dutton



1 Squadron Team (left to right): Lance-Corporal Godley, Signalman Bishop, Signalman Pole, S.S.M. Hicks, Lance-Corporal Slade, Signalman Scott, Sergeant Mohd Hussain, Lance-Corporal Chipling, Signalman Gray, Signalman Ashworth and Signalman Tait

G.H.Q. SIGNAL REGIMENT

The Regimental Athletics Meeting was held on the 17th May, and against a background of gaily coloured bunting and refreshment stalls, the scene was set for a good afternoon's sport. No records were broken, but nevertheless, the competitors, many of whom were taking part at very short notice, may well feel justly proud of the grand performance they gave us.

Results were as follow: —

Hurdles	Sergeant Severs, Lance-Corporal Saxton
100 yards	Corporal Evans, Sergeant Mohd Hussain
220 yards	Corporal Evans, Sergeant Mohd Hussain
440 yards	Signalman Scott, Signalman Pole
880 yards	Lance-Corporal Perry, Signalman Bishop
1 mile	Lance-Corporal Kibbler, Corporal Mann
3 mile	Signalman Foulds, Driver George
High Jump	Lance-Corporal Slade, Lance-Corporal Godley
Long Jump	Lance-Corporal Slade, Sergeant Severs
Pole Vault	Lance-Corporal Slade, Sergeant Severs
Shot	Lance-Corporal Slade, R.S.M. Murray
Hammer	Captain Uttley, Signalman Grant
Discus	Signalman Grant, Lance-Corporal Godley
Javelin	Sergeant Kemp, Lance-Corporal Perry
Hop, Skip & Jump	Lance-Corporal Slade, Sergeant Severs.

The positions of the three Squadrons at the end of the competition were: 1 Squadron, 116 points; AWC Squadron, 107 points; 2 Squadron, 43 points.

Rehearsals for the forthcoming Queen's Birthday Parade have kept the R.S.M. and Sergeant Gill extremely busy, and thanks to their expert " coaching " our contingent for the parade promises to be a good one.

NIGERIA SIGNAL SQUADRON

The month of May has just finished and with it our old O.C., Major D. J. Bond, said farewell to the Unit and the Army. After twenty-two years in the Corps he has left the Service to take up a civil position in Nigeria. We wish him as much success and happiness as we know he had in the Army, particularly in this his last Unit which he had commanded for over four years.

At the same time we welcome our new O.C., Major T. G. Chambers, M.C., late BETFOR Signal Squadron, who has just joined the Unit.

On the 30th May the African ranks gave a farewell party to our late O.C. Apart from their own concert party—which was excellent—they hired the Udi native dancers who won the all-Nigeria native dancing competition in 1951. We undoubtedly saw some real Ibo dancing.

The Unit football team is off again, being unbeaten up to date, so here's hoping we will be able to scoop the board for the fourth time in succession.

Territorial Army

62 H.Q. L. of C. Signal Regiment

THE Regiment, commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel T. W. Boileau, O.B.E., attended its annual camp at Blacon, Chester, from 10th to 24th May, 1952.

Being a Chester T.A. Unit the move to Blacon Camp did not involve any major Q (Mov.) organisation, in fact, we only moved a distance of some four miles to camp, where we were joined by two of our Squadrons—1 Squadron from Birmingham and 16 Wireless Squadron from Northwich.

The Commanding Officer arranged a most ambitious training programme, starting in full swing on the first Monday, Saturday having been spent drawing stores, vehicles, etc.

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The Troop were as follows:—Medium Wireless, Terminal Equipment, Line and Construction and Wireless Carrier. Each of the Wireless and Terminal Equipment Troops carried out short range tests for the first week whilst the Line and Construction Troops were laying lines (carrier quad) at near record speed: obstacles such as main line railways and tidal rivers being taken in the stride. In our final exercise we succeeded in working a successful net of Medium Wireless and a chain of 10 sets for a distance of 70 miles.

16 Wireless Squadron carried out successful monitoring tasks, not only on our own schemes but of a large scale signal exercise which took place during our camping period. In sport they were the worthy victors over 1 Squadron in an 8 goals to 1 soccer match. They must also be congratulated for the way in which they carried out the many routine tasks allotted to them during camp.

On the weather side we were most fortunate; except for the first few days of rain we were lucky to have almost perfect training weather.

The Regimental spirit throughout the whole camp was of the highest level. This was most noticeable, enabling us to dispense with many written orders.

On the last day of camp Corporal Aubusson was unfortunate to be involved in a bicycle accident within the camp, but we are pleased to report that he is now well on the road to recovery.

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In closing we would like to pay tribute to all "Z" Reservists who served with us. They worked hard, kept a smile on their faces and, in short, showed us that they will be fully capable of carrying out their respective tasks if they are called upon to do so.



[*Courtesy: Photographic Prod. Ltd., Liverpool*

Back row (standing). Left to right: Lieutenant C. N. Cooke, Captain J. D. Crawley, Captain J. H. Baylis, Captain H. C. Ackroyd, M.C., Lieutenant K. D. S. Adams, Lieutenant A. F. Gardner, Lieutenant J. R. Gell. Front row: Captain C. E. M. Bramham (T.O.T.), Captain W. E. Newsom, Major A. S. Learmont (O.C. 1 Squadron), Captain H. Rothwell (Adjutant), Lieutenant-Colonel T. W. Boileau, O.B.E. (C.O.), Captain R. J. Hoar (Q.M.), Major B. T. Love (O.C. 16 Wrls.), Lieutenant T W. Dunning, Lieutenant E. F. Steventon



[Courtesy: Photographic Prod. Ltd., Liverpool

Wireless Carrier Troop, 16 Wireless Squadron

QUEEN'S (BELFAST) UNIVERSITY TRAINING CORPS (T.A.)

Since our last contribution went in, the most notable happenings have been the firing of range courses at Ballykinlar and two exercises. The first exercise began with a night convoy run to Ballykelly, County Londonderry, followed by a Saturday and Sunday of wireless and line work between Ballykelly and the northern end of the Sperrin Mountains. On Monday, 17th March, shamrock was duly distributed and donned by all ranks, after which a short wireless scheme took some of our sets to Derry City while the linemen recovered what they had laid on Saturday and Sunday. The return to Belfast was made via Glenshane in the evening. At nights the troops were accommodated in farm buildings and a vacant cottage (would-be tenants please note that it is a "tied" one), except for the party from Queen's University Company, W.R.A.C. (T.A.), attending the exercise as wireless and teleprinter operators, who were allowed to use civilian beds in a farmhouse. We regret to say that one W.R.A.C. private returned to Belfast with a black eye, acquired on Patrick's Day. We have had great trouble in explaining credibly just how this happened.

Hot news concerns our P.S.I., S.S.M. T. McKirgan. Word of his posting to FARELF has just come in, and he will have to leave just after our annual training ends in July. We always seem to be lucky in our P.S.I.s, and have been singularly fortunate in having S.S.M. McKirgan, who has not only put in a lot of hard work in our training, but has also done nobly for the finances of our "B" Mess and has helped our rifle teams to victory again and again.

We have at last had a S.S.M. added to the establishment of our "volunteer element." Sergeant Kirkpatrick has been promoted W.O.II (T.A.) to fill the post.

On 27th May, notification was received that Major J. H. A. Patton, M.C., T.D., had been awarded a second clasp to his Territorial decoration, and then on Her Majesty's birthday, in the following week, the same officer was gazetted M.B.E. If traditional customs are followed by the Officers' Mess, his next bill should establish a record for the Unit.

126 WIRELESS TROOP, T.A.

The Unit was sorry to learn last winter that it was shortly to lose its founder and first O.C., Captain J. H. Offord, who was leaving for a Regular Commission. It was somewhat of a surprise to us—and, we gather, to John Offord himself—when this proved to be not in Royal Signals but in R.E.M.E. Once the news was out our Social Club lost no time in organising, in secret session, of course, a farewell party and presentation ceremony in his honour.

The Troop, with its wives and fiancées, mustered in strength and we were very glad to welcome once again Mr. and Mrs. Offord and several friends from other Portsmouth and Havant T.A. Units. A fuller account of the evening's activities will be given in a later instalment of these notes.

The next notable event was the Troop's pilgrimage to Plymouth for the D.R. Trials organised by 15 Wireless Squadron. The Administrative Inspection by the Garrison Commander took place early in the New Year and passed off very successfully.

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Details of our other varied activities must be held over until next month, but meanwhile, if these notes should catch the eye of any readers in the Portsmouth area who may be unaware of our existence, it is hoped they will get in touch with us.

Our annual camp is being held at Weymouth in the first half of August.

22 CORPS SIGNAL REGIMENT (S.R.)

22 Corps (S.R.) which, though only formed last year has already earned a reputation for smartness and efficiency, set up annual camp this year in the tented area at Blacon—the S.R. Depot and Training Centre.

Most of us arrived before 2200 hours on Saturday, 31st May, and had to find our way through pouring rain to our tents. The downpour and subsequent discomfort were soon

forgotten in general introductions and reminiscent conversations.

Our C.O., Lieutenant-Colonel R. F. Knight, the second-in-Command, Major R. J. Mitchell, and Captain T. Waugh, the Adjutant, spent many months working on Exercise "Black Knight"—a seven-day scheme which gave the 800 members of 22 Corps valuable insight into the present-day mode of collective training.

The majority of the "Z" men hadn't touched a wireless set or worked in a signal office for years. Despite this initial handicap, the veterans readily picked up the new methods and passed on some very useful hints to the National Service men.

There are a hundred and one little stories that could be told of the fifteen days at Blacon. Unfortunately, shortage of space prevents elaborate details.

But one all important point must be outlined. We were only in Blacon for 15 days and many had never met before the day of arrival. And in less than two days we were a Corps, 800 strong, eager and willing.

From a collection of names drawn from cities and towns and villages throughout the British Isles there was created a force equipped and capable of establishing communications.

This was no miracle or a touch of organising genius. There were hitches which were inevitable under such conditions. The 800 merely made up their minds, accepted the facts of the case, and got down to work.

In a congratulatory address the Commanding Officer admitted that Exercise "Black Knight" had been an ambitious venture. It had been planned that way to discover just what the Corps was capable of doing.

SATURDAY, 7th JUNE, 1952

London and South-Eastern Area Rally and Reunion

THIS reunion was organised entirely by the Tunbridge Wells Branch of the Association, and reflects great credit on that Branch, particularly on Mr. G. E. Paling, a very well-known figure, who is the energetic hon. secretary of the Branch.

Tunbridge Wells did Royal Signals a great honour. They allowed us to use their magnificent Assembly Rooms and the Mayor of Royal Tunbridge Wells, Councillor J. Crabtree, J.P., bade us all very welcome.



[Courtesy: "Tunbridge Wells Advertiser"

General R. F. H. Nalder, General C. W. Fladgate, chairman Royal Signals Association, Councillor J. Crabtree, J.P., Mayor of Royal Tunbridge Wells

The reunion started at 5 p.m. and for an hour we assembled to selections by the Corps Band. Those present included Regulars, National Service men, Volunteers of the Territorial Army, and a great number of Old Comrades ranging from those who are indeed old to very young ones, still awaiting with mixed feelings the next come-round of the call-up of the "Z" Reservists.

Tea was served during this time.

The official part of the programme included the arrival of the Representative Colonel Commandant, Major-General R. F. B. Naylor, with General C. W. Fladgate, Chairman of the Association. Also on the platform were Major-General W. R. C. Penney and Major-General R. F. H. Nalder, and Colonel F. K. Wilson, President of the Tunbridge Wells Branch, newly back from spending Whitsun with the C.S.O. in Austria. The arrival of the Colonel Commandant and His Worship the Mayor was preceded by fanfares by the trumpeters and the fanfare named after our Colonel-in-Chief preceded the National Anthem.

Councillor J. Crabtree, J.P., welcomed the assembly to Royal Tunbridge Wells and reminded us of some of the more ancient instruments of signalling used in World War I.

Five branch standards then entered and were rededicated in a short but very beautiful service conducted by the Reverend Charles E. Reid, Chaplain to the Tunbridge Wells Branch of the Association. After the act of remembrance an address was given by the Representative Colonel Commandant.

General Naylor said :—

"I feel very proud that it has fallen to my lot as your Representative Colonel Commandant to address this splendid gathering tonight.

Let me begin by reading to you the following most gracious message from our Colonel-in-Chief, H.R.H. the Princess Royal:—

> 'I am so glad to know of the Rally of Old Comrades and serving members of my Corps at Tunbridge Wells on 7th June. This new venture shows that the Association is in a healthy and flourishing condition, and I hope very much that it will be well supported by members from southern England.
>
> Such gatherings do much to foster the spirit of good comradeship which is so needed today, and I hope many past members of my Corps will take home happy memories of this occasion.
>
> Please give all those present my best wishes.'

I have sent this reply on your behalf:—

> 'The Colonels Commandant, Royal Signals, and all serving members of your Corps and members of your Association assembled for the London and South-Eastern Rally and Reunion organised by the Tunbridge Wells Branch Royal Signals Association, send their humble duty to their Colonel-in-Chief and thank Your Royal Highness most sincerely for your gracious message.'

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I am sure it will interest you to know that I have had letters recently from General Sir Brian Robertson, G.O.C.-in-C. Middle East, and from General Cassels, G.O.C. Commonwealth Division in Korea. Both speak in the highest terms of the work of the Corps.

I am sure that had I heard from Malaya I should have had the same tale to tell.

In the field of sport I also have the most satisfactory record for you.

During the past 12 months we have featured prominently in practically every field of sport. To quote a few of the more outstanding achievements:—

Final of Army Association Championship.

Winners of Boys Association Championship.

Semi-final Army Rugby.

Winners of Yorkshire Rugby Cup.

Final of Army Team Boxing.

We have also had many individual victories and have had representatives in practically every team representing the Army as well as several Imperial Service Champions.

One may well ask oneself why does the Corps always do so splendidly at work or at play?

The reason is that it is made of such good material!

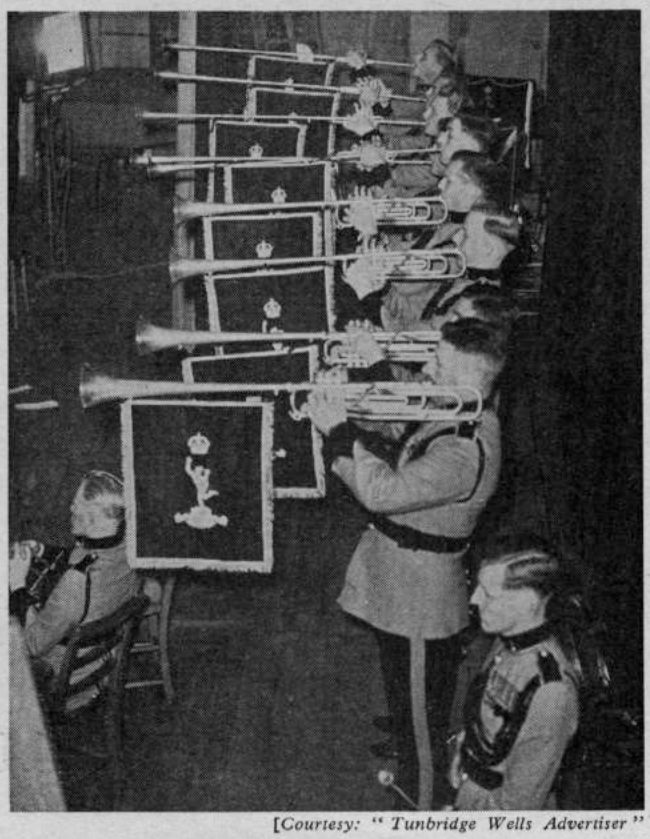
But again, why is it that the material is so good?

I think the answer lies largely in the nature of the work of the Corps. It is absolutely vital to the fighting efficiency of the Army. This is realised both by Commanders and their Staffs and by all ranks of the Corps. This knowledge brings with it a feeling of responsibility both in Units and individuals, and there is nothing like responsibility for bringing out all that is good in a man.

Then, too, our efficiency as a Corps is perhaps more in the hands of individual members of the Corps than is the case in any other branch of the Army, on the D.R., the lineman, the operator, to quote a few who's work is often so lonely, so unsupervised. So it leads to individual effort, and again Britishers have always shone most highly when working as individuals.

From this we get Units of first-class material—dependent on the individual effort of their members and yet working as a team.

And this in turn produces the splendid *esprit de Unit* and *esprit de corps* which exists in the Corps and which is responsible for this fine gathering tonight.



[Courtesy: "Tunbridge Wells Advertiser"

The Trumpeters taken from the wings during the rally at Tunbridge Wells

For we have come together because of that splendid sense of comradeship which we learned whilst serving in the Corps; the value of which as Her Royal Highness said in her gracious message is of such great importance in this distraught age in which we live.

Now I have three requests to make to you tonight.

Firstly—Do all you can to get additional members for our Association which as you know does such a grand job of work for our old comrades. I understand that at present a large proportion of the ex-Signalmen who apply to the Association for assistance are not, in fact, members of it. I am sure that you who are members can do much amongst your friends to recruit them for the Association.

Secondly—My request is in regard to enlisted Boys.

Ex-Boys have in the past helped largely to form the backbone of the Corps. A few years ago a change was introduced in the training of Boys and we were no longer allowed to train our own boys. That has, I am glad to say, now been changed and we once again have our own Boys Training Regiment and we need good boys to join it. They are splendidly trained and cared for and you can, with complete confidence, recommend your friends to send their sons to this fine Regiment.

Thirdly—I would draw your attention to your Holiday Houses—the Mercury Houses at Bournemouth and Colwyn Bay. They offer you first-class accommodation at a comparatively low cost, and you are sure of a cordial welcome from their excellent managers. The one at Bournemouth is the better known to you in the south, but I can assure you that Mercury House, Colwyn Bay, is very well worth the journey. I was there recently and it is a splendid place for a holiday. So don't forget them and see that all your friends of the war know of them, too."

There was then an interval for refreshments, during which vast quantities of liquid were consumed and the stories of what happened at —— in 19— got bigger and better. Old battles were refought, including one little group who appeared to be continuing the famous "B" Corps Signals—1st Divisional Signals—Rawalpindi engagement. The writer was able from first-hand knowledge to scatter a few insults among the protagonists.

Long before the end of this, an admirable variety entertainment was given, and then again Captain Judd brought on the Band. The effect was magical. The bar practically emptied and all too soon, at 11 p.m., the evening ended with a very short speech by Colonel F. K. Wilson and the playing of the Corps March.

A generally expressed opinion was, if this is the first Area Reunion, let's have another one as soon as we can.

Again all credit must be given to Tunbridge Wells Branch, who in face of great difficulties and two postponements brought off such a resounding success. The total present was in the region of 400.

Northampton

Idly sitting on the beach in sunny Jersey and scanning the local paper, the magic words Royal Signals, Jersey Branch, leapt out. Reading further, it said: "Meeting first Wednesday in each month." Well, this was the week, and tomorrow was the day.

Rolling up to the Cosy Corner, Halkett Place, a very friendly welcome was awaiting—special greetings to Jersey Branch and many thanks for an interesting evening—and was the beer good at 6d. a bottle and cigarettes at 20 for 1s. 6d.!

Northants' last meeting was a busy one as usual, last arrangements having been made for an evening out to a village pub, run by ex-Q.M.S. White, Royal Signals. Talk also centred around the proposed visit by Leicester Branch.

The evening was rounded off with a quiz and a game, compèred very efficiently by our slightly balding Secretary, Geoff Lewis—how heartbreaking it is when one starts to look closely into the mirror and seeing the light shining through!

Newcastle-on-Tyne

Our monthly Branch meetings have continued on the first Saturday in each month at the Drill Hall, Gateshead, and patronage has been well maintained even though our May meeting clashed with the Cup Final.

Our June party should be largely taken up by the "I was there's" for we have our quota of magpie fanciers who have followed the wee bird and helped it peck its way through all its Cup bottles!

July will be a busier month, with our monthly party on the 5th, the Corps Band playing in Saltwell Park on the 13th, and the annual rally at Catterick on the 19th and 20th. The Branch will be well represented at all three.

The "Mercury" recruiting outfit visited Newcastle during May and enjoyed a more prominent site than it had on its last visit. A magnificent escort of Guardsmen in full dress attracted much attention and prompted the thought that one of our trumpeters might usefully go on tour, though by the same token it might be as well to staff the exhibits from our W.R.A.C. element—then we might see more of our lads looking at the equipment displayed.

The "Switchboard F. and F." looked a bit of an old comrade beside the wireless equipment, and I wondered if the Association could gain a recruit or two by squeezing in an exhibit including details of the organisation in each locality visited. Certainly, many of the visitors were better qualified for the Association than for service!

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Prescot

Prescot had its annual hot-pot supper on the 14th June at the Drill Hall of 87 Agra Signal Squadron. A majority of those present were ex-members of the Squadron when it was a Company of 55th Divisional Signals. It was the privilege of 70 of us to be the first in Royal Signals to drink the health of THE QUEEN, DUKE OF LANCASTER.

Major K. D. Paterson (33rd Indian Corps, etc.) is the chairman of the Branch and commands the Squadron.

After supper a most excellent entertainment was arranged by Mr. Stan Briscoe, well known in Prescot. Amongst the cast, Eileen Thomas and Rex Collins proved that it was only a matter of time before they were "spotted" as being worthy of the professional stage.

PRESCOT BRANCH ENTERTAINS



Prescot branch entertains 165 C.C.S., R.A.M.C., T.A.

Royal Signals Benevolent Fund

Also on this page is a simple statement of income and expenditure. Below an attempt is made to describe with suitable anonimity six cases taken at random from the office of the Welfare Section at 88 Eccleston Square.

N.C.O. Serving in B.A.O.R. British Railways sometimes cause their passengers to miss a connection, and in this case the N.C.O. and his family were stranded overnight in London on the return journey after leave. A loan was made to cover the unexpected expenditure.

Widow of Regular soldier who died on active service. She writes: "Thank you very much for the £10 you sent me for clothes for my two girls. I have bought school coats with it which is what I needed most." She has a small pension (£3 5s.) and for a year has been unable to work as she has been nursing her aged and ailing mother.

Widow of Warrant Officer. The Warrant Officer who had a magnificent war record, was earning a good wage in civil life when he was killed by a motor cyclist whilst crossing the road. A grant was made to cover immediate necessities, and in conjunction with SSAFA the Association will endeavour to put her in the way of earning a small living for herself and her two children.

Ex Driver (1920-1924). Suffering from cancer. SSAFA report that they are an extremely nice family, and of the six children the two elder contribute all they can. Perhaps because of this contribution the State only provides a very small sum for maintenance of the family, and despite careful housekeeping they have fallen behind with rent and rates. The Benevolent Fund has helped.

Ex Signalman (a Cook), but he served Royal Signals throughout the war in the Regiment that from 1943 until the end was 33 Corps Signals. In 1945 he was invalided back to England and transferred to the A.C.C. Now, after two years in a sanatorium with tuberculosis, wanted help to start again and to set up a home again with his wife and family. The Fund did what was necessary.

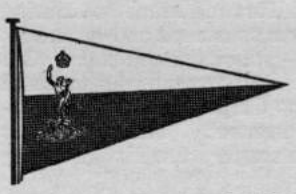
Signalman, serving in B.A.O.R., married, one child, invalided home with tuberculosis. Wife returned home to live with relations some distance from the sanatorium. The Fund is helping her with fares to visit her husband.

	£	s.	d.
Subscriptions received during May, 1952:—			
2 Training Regiment	10	0	0
3 Training Regiment	16	13	0
4 Training Regiment	10	0	0
Allied Land Forces Central Europe Signal Squadron (O.Rs.)	6	0	0
Donations received during May, 1952:—			
Mr. G. W. Hogarth	2	14	0
Mr. J. W. Flack		1	0
Anonymous	1	0	0
"W" (I) L. of C. Signals Officers' Re-Union	1	1	0
Total Receipts	£47	9	0
Expenditure during May, 1952	£657	7	9

(Includes: General Assistance; Rent and Rates; Beds and Bedding; Tools; Prams and Cots; Removals; Clothing; Fares; Convalescence; Hire Purchase.)

Analysis of cases:

Families of soldiers serving in U.K.	9
" " " " " B.A.O.R.	2
" " " " " M.E.L.F.	2
" " " " " FARELF	1
" " " " " East Africa	1
Widows and Dependants	4
Released and Discharged soldiers	55
Total cases assisted	74



THE FIRST of the season

"WHAT about a sailing trip at Whitsun?" said an old acquaintance of mine on the 'phone. "Yes," I said, "but I'd better make it the Saturday and Sunday only." He sounded a bit disappointed, but we finally agreed on that. A week or so before that date we conferred together again to arrange details. "What about food?" "I can bring a tin of steak," I said. "Hey! what's that?" called my wife from the kitchen. "Are there any blankets on board?" I asked. "There are two, but I take a flea bag." I said I could do that too, having in mind my old Boy Scouting flea bag which had become the youngster's eiderdown—it would only need sewing up the side again. What glorious weather we had just before Whitsun—not enough wind was my main thought—I do hope we get a bit more wind.

The evening before came along, and I was faced with the inevitable question of what to take and how to stow it. I had done a bit of dinghy racing during and just after the war and had had a trip in "Certa" two years ago, and I found myself wondering what to take as I had never been out in "Cito" before. A change of clothes and the flea bag seemed the answer, also a towel and shaving kit. My wife dutifully produced tea, sugar and a tin of milk, the steak and an apple pie—the latter with doubts as to its travelling ability—some hard boiled eggs and some cooked sausages were added in an inspired afterthought.

The day arrived windless, overcast and drizzly. I duly met the skipper in Salisbury and after the last minute purchase of a pair of gym shoes off we went. He had brought along Adlard Cole's book, "Creeks and Harbours of the Solent," which I was invited to have a look at as we went down to Lymington. We computed that low water at Lymington would be about 10 o'clock, and as we would get there about 11.30 we should have the flood tide all afternoon. Now this would help us up the Solent and I said I would like to see Cowes and if possible get up the Medina River. The Skipper said that getting past the big buildings at Cowes town would be a bit tricky as the outboard engine which "Cito" usually has would probably be out of commission. We worked out that the tide would be high at Cowes at 5.30 p.m. and so provided we got there before this we would have its help in getting up the river. So much for the plan.

When we got to the R.L.Y.C. it started to rain properly and the wind dropped completely—so did my spirits. We also found that the outboard was definitely out of commission and so we sat around and waited for the rain to stop a bit.

The bar opened at 12 and at the same time the sky lightened and the rain slackened. We were given a row out to the coffin by a friendly club member—the coffin is a longish box-shaped dinghy, the property of the R.S.S.A., which is used to ferry bods and kit to and from "Cito." We changed and put our sea-going kit in the coffin with some fresh water and rowed off down river in search of "Cito." Sea-going kit sounds good—all I left behind was a pair of leather shoes and a trilby and my best slacks—anyway, I should get home respectably dressed.

After about 75 yachts we came across " Cito." " She certainly is lovely," I said. She hadn't been out of the yard's hands long, and her dark blue hull shone admirably, finished off by a light blue line near the deck—I never can remember what they call it—and red anti-fouling below the waterline. Her overhangs are just right to my eyes, not too racy but enough to give her that extra length when heeled over.

★

We were on board and the wind had reappeared. We got everything stowed—this took time as the Skipper had to show me where things were as we went along. " Hand me out the burgee, please, it's in the long locker under the starboard bunk." I found it and its hoisting announced formally that we were aboard. We got the sails bent on her and were ready to go by about 1.30. We decided to get going straight away to avoid the flood tide up the Lymington River, which had started. The coffin was duly tied to the mooring float, and having got the boat on the right tack I was told to " throw it overboard " and we were off. We went down the channel in an easy reach and found the wind fresher than we had thought. We could see there was more rain coming so when I had got my oilskins on—I had borrowed some from the Skipper—I relieved him at the helm and he put his on. Glancing up at the sail I saw that the top batten was coming out of its pocket and I'm sure I had tied a reef knot. I pointed it out to the Skipper and now we had a good look at it we found we had missed putting in the lowest batten. The Skipper said we would have to lower the sail and get them right. We rounded up into wind and he lowered the sail. I headed her down wind under foresail alone while he fixed the battens. When he was ready I luffed up as much as I could and he hauled the mainsail up again.

On we went down the Solent, aiming roughly between Newtown and Yarmouth, with the wake hissing to show we were travelling quite fast. The headland we were aiming for got blotted out and shortly afterwards the rain hit us. "Lucky it's warm weather," I thought, as the bottoms of my trouser legs and gym shoes and socks got soaked very quickly. When the squall was over the Skipper served lunch—bread and butter and meat loaf, and bread and butter and jam. By now I could see Egypt Point and Cowes in the distance. I had a good look at " Creeks and Cracks " to memorise the channel up to the Medina River. Red bouys to starboard and red and white chequered to port seemed the answer, but as we were coming up with the flood the Skipper wasn't so worried about mud banks as he might have been. We rounded the Point and found the Royal Yacht Squadron with its flag staff just to starboard and straight ahead up the channel—the bouys are enormous conical steel things—was Saunders Roe with a large flying boat on the slipway to prove it. We tacked easily up the harbour, although there were a number of yachts about. The Skipper got visibly more confident as we approached the narrow bit of the river mouth between the large blanketing buildings. The floating bridge scuttled across the river just ahead, we did a couple of quick tacks and were past it while it loaded up for the return trip. The wind was dead ahead, and with the tide helping us we got past the buildings and several large Naval craft moored to the shipyards. When we had passed the gasworks and a coal wharf—with a filthy collier called the *Prestatyn Rose* being unloaded—we found that dirt gave placed to fields and a pretty countryside opened up. Two miles up river we dropped anchor near a cluster of other boats at the Folly Inn. Supper was the steak and potatoes, apple pie and smelly cheese and biscuits and large mugs of tea. I washed up by sitting on the counter and mopped the crumbs into the river. While we were having supper a curious rasping started. I asked the Skipper what it was and he said: " It's the man with the file, I'll just go and kill him." He departed on deck and the rasping stopped. When he came back he said: " I've killed the man with the hammer too, in case he starts." He had tied back the halyards to stop them rasping on the stays or banging on the mast.

We woke about 7 o'clock and heard the wind in the rigging for the first time. Yes, the wind was up all right and the glass half a point down. We had breakfast and cleared up and sailed down river under foresail alone, ready clothed in oilskins. All went well until we poked our bows beyond the harbour, then we started feeling the weather and it became rougher as we got further over towards Calshot. The previous day we had noticed that we had taken in a lot of water and the Skipper decided that he would have a look at the bilges to see if he could discover where the water was coming in. He took his look just as we struck a nasty patch and I don't think his breakfast felt too secure for a few minutes. He decided that it would take us all our efforts to get back to Lymington with this wind and sea. The wind was straight up the Solent and the tide was against us too, until the evening.

" Cito " was behaving like a very sprightly dinghy in the waves. The way a quartering wave lifted the counter and swung it round was very disturbing to start with. We went about and hauled both sheets tight (we had four rolls reefed). By sailing close hauled we got back to Cowes. We went about and started beating up the Solent. We tried long tacks and short tacks with varying success. Now and again we had to heave to—a manoeuvre I had only read about up to now—and pump out the bilges. On one of these spells of being hove to the Skipper went on to the foredeck to get the anchor and put the cap on the chain pipe. I watched him to start with and then looked down to fix my oilskins more firmly over my soaking trousers. When I looked up he had gone. I looked under the boom to leeward—no sign of him. I had heard no shout. Had he gone overboard? I left the cockpit and crawled along the deck; the sloping, slippery foredeck was deserted. I heaved a sigh of relief when I saw the forehatch open. The Skipper was stowing the anchor and checking the sea cocks on the lavatory.

About 1 o'clock the Skipper said that we might have to run for the Beaulieu River if we didn't do better than this. The beating we were taking, spray was coming aboard continuously (my eyes smarted with it), was taking it out of us, and we were worried by the amount of water getting into the boat. So very soon after the Skipper's suggestion we turned and ran for the Beaulieu River. It can't have taken us more than 20 minutes to cover the distance we had taken an hour or more to cover against the wind. The Skipper took over the helm as we approached the river entrance. As we went over the bar a wave broke under the counter and carried us into calm water. We hardened the sheets and tacked up the channel. The higher we got the closer the moorings were to each other and the narrower the channel. We more than once blessed " Cito's " ability to go about quickly. Finally we couldn't get round a large boat with a large bowsprit, moored

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in the middle of the river, and had to pass under its stem, gybe, and pick up an unoccupied mooring just below. On it was painted "Maid of Islay." The sun came out and we unrolled the mainsail and left it and the Skipper's trousers on deck to dry while we were having cold sausages and tea below in preparation to meet the Harbour Master on the "Maid of Islay." We finished lunch about 3.30 and the Skipper set off to find the Harbour Master in our dinghy while I cleared up. The sails were drying very nicely.

★

The Harbour Master arrived and towed us nearer Buckler's Hard and moored us between two nice solid piles. We got the sails off and stowed them, now quite dry. We disembarked and left "Cito" in the Harbour Master's charge. Our first trip of the season was over and we hailed a taxi back to Lymington.

North-West of England Firefly Team Championships

THE Royal Signals Sailing Association again entered a team for the North-West of England Firefly Team Championships held at West Kirby on the 10th and 11th May, 1952.

This is a knockout competition between teams of three boats, each match of two races, one on a shallow lake walled off to retain the high tide and the other on the Dee Estuary when the tide was high enough. There was a fresh wind when the first races began on the lake on Saturday morning, and four boats had capsised before the first gun. The Corps team found that this first race was to be on the Dee so set off as soon as possible to get the feel of the wind and look at the course, twice round the triangle about a quarter mile off shore. We were drawn against the Bristol Corinthian Yacht Club, who were unfortunate in having one of their boats damaged so that they could only race two. Six races started at three-minute intervals, ours the fourth, so there was a tricky few minutes jilling about the starting line with 36 boats all moving fast in the strong breeze. In spite of the apparent confusion the races each drew away in turn and we found that the Bristol Corinthian crews were more than we could cope with. Their two boats established a comfortable lead which gradually increased to the finish.

★

Our second race was on the lake, and by this time the wind had strengthened until capsizes had become very frequent and considerable damage was being done to boats. Consequently racing was stopped for an hour and then restarted with reefed mainsails. Bristol Corinthian had three boats this time but we started off in better style, holding second and third places for the first time round the course, with Captain Bardell covering their second boat which was fourth. However, at this stage Captain Barker had to retire after putting a starboard tack boat off her course and Captain Bardell was passed by the second and third Bristol Corinthian boats which, working together, were too much for him. So with one boat retired and the other two fourth and fifth we were knocked out of the competition.

On the second day of the meeting the wind was even stronger and frequent squalls made sailing a wet and violent business which the Corps team were able to watch from a convenient window, their criticism untrammelled by the necessity to go out and do better themselves! The team consisted of Major A. J. Leahy, M.B.E., with Captain L. D. Line as crew; Captain E. J. Bardell with Captain F. R. J. Lewis; and Captain M. M. Barker with Captain P. H. Manley.

ROYAL SIGNALS GOLFING SOCIETY

On 21st May, revenge was very sweet and history made when the Corps team defeated the Cadets of the R.M.A. at Camberley Heath by five games to three. It is true that we were helped by Colonel Oborne, Officer i/c Golf, Sandhurst, who took the place of Major-General C. H. H. Vulliamy, who most unfortunately was taken ill at the last moment, but nevertheless we won and became the first Corps team to lower the colours of the Academy. Even more gratifying was the news that their No. 4 man, Officer-Cadet M. V. Keeling, is joining the Corps in July and that in November we are getting their No. 1 man, Officer-Cadet R. B. Carroll and their usual No. 6 man, Officer-Cadet R. W. Smart, so that prospects for our team for next year are very bright. Could it be that the pep talk the writer gave them last October is bearing fruit?

R.M.A., Sandhurst

Officer Cadet R. B. Carroll	0
,, ,, N. P. Dobbs	0
,, ,, T. H. Sanders	0
,, ,, T. G. Williams	0
,, ,, M. V. Keeling 5 and 3	1
,, ,, P. D. Clarke 7 and 5	1
,, ,, M. J. E. Witt	0
,, ,, J. H. Bampfield 4 and 3	1
	3

Royal Signals

Lieut.-Colonel G. S. K. Maydon 3 and 2	1
,, H. Lewis-Barclay 1 up	1
,, J. E. S. Walford 3 and 2	1
Colonel Oborne (R.M.A.) 2 up	1
Major C. Rhys Few	0
Captain G. B. Andrews	0
,, J. Y. Ferguson 1 up	1
Major-General Sir L. Phillips	0
	5

The first game between the Corps and the R.A.O.C. was a rather depressing affair for the Corps as we lost 10 to 2. Colonel Tredinnick, the R.A.O.C. captain, apologised before the game that he had no knowledge of the ability of his team and was therefore taking a chance in the various positions, and how right he was! After the game, we apologised! Major-General Sir L. Phillips found he was playing the 1951 amateur champion of Germany, and it says much for his skill that he was only beaten 6 and 4. In the afternoon, partnered by the writer, he found himself up against a Second-Lieutenant Hepburn, who is probably the longest hitter of a golf ball that either of us has ever seen, which coupled by some deadly work around the greens by Colonel Barry resulted in our downfall. Our stalwart, Major-General C. H. H. Vulliamy, having recovered from his indisposition, was back again and saved us from total annihilation by winning both his games.

R.A.O.C.

Major Thompson	0
,, McGregor 7 and 5	1
Lieut.-Colonel Tredinnick 2 and 1	1
Colonel Tarrant 6 and 5	1
Second-Lieutenant Mills 5 and 4	1
,, Hepburn 1 up	1
Lieut.-Colonel Barry 2 and 1	1
,, Jackson 6 and 4	1
Thompson & McGregor	0
Tredinnick & Tarrant 8 and 6	1
Jackson & Mills 5 and 4	1
Barry & Hepburn 3 and 2	1
	10

Royal Signals

Major-General Vulliamy 3 and 2	1
Brigadier Chadwick	0
Colonel Winckley	0
Captain Andrews	0
Brigadier Morrison	0
Captain Ferguson	0
Major Rhys Few	0
Major-General Sir L. Phillips	0
Vulliamy and Winckley 3 and 1	1
Chadwick and Andrews	0
Morrison and Ferguson	0
Phillips and Rhys Few	0
	2



THE WIRE

The Corps Magazine of the
ROYAL SIGNALS
The Official Organ of the
SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

Editor:
BRIGADIER H. R. FIRTH

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PRICE ONE SHILLING

Editorial

WORLD VETERANS' FEDERATION

AT a Press conference on 22nd July, 1952, the news was given out that Great Britain was to become a member of the World Veterans' Federation, being represented by, amongst others, the Royal Naval Association, the Royal Air Force Association, the Royal Artillery Association, the Grenadier Guards Comrades' Association and the Royal Signals Association.

Mention was made in THE WIRE (May, 1952) of the aims, both spiritual and temporal, of this international organisation. Membership includes the British Commonwealth, Veterans' Association of Canada and Pakistan, and other member nations are the United States of America, France, Belgium, Holland, Denmark, Greece, Norway and many others.

Your association is, therefore, now a member of a World Federation which works in close co-operation with the United Nations Organisation.

The World Veterans' Federation is pledged to further the following ideals:—

To establish permanent relations between the associations of war veterans and war victims of all countries.

To defend the material and spiritual interests of war veterans and war victims by all legal and constitutional means through the mutual exchange of information on legislation concerning them.

To preserve the sacred memory of the war dead.

To maintain peace and international security by the application in letter and in spirit of the San Francisco Charter; by respecting the rights of man and the fundamental freedoms set forth in the Universal Declaration of the Rights of Man adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 10th December, 1948.

In temporal matters the work of the Federation is mainly directed to improving the lot of those wounded in war by making the techniques brought to such efficiency in this country and in America available to all other member countries.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND REUNION

A full report of the extremely successful reunion at Catterick, which included the Annual General Meeting of the Association, will appear in September, but we feel it is necessary for the Editor to disobey his own rules here in making mention of the very great success of the reunion and giving briefly the thanks of all members of the Association to all in the Signal Training Centre and School of Signals who performed such prodigies for our entertainment.

BRITISH EMPIRE MEDAL

Belated, but very sincere congratulations to R.S.M. H. Jones on the award in the Birthday Honours of the B.E.M. As well as continuing his connection with the 42nd Lancashire Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A., Mr. Jones is even better known as the popular secretary of the Manchester Branch of the Association, of which he became a life member in 1921.

ROYAL SIGNALS

annual dinner

1952

THE Royal Signals Annual Dinner was held at the Hyde Park Hotel, Knightsbridge, S.W.1, on Thursday, 10th July, 1952. One hundred and twenty-four officers attended, of whom 15 were General Officers.

After the healths of Her Majesty the Queen and Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal had been drunk, the Representative Colonel Commandant, Major-General R. F. B. Naylor, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., rose to propose the health of Absent Friends. Before doing so he first read out a number of messages which had been received: —

From *Private Secretary, Buckingham Palace:*

The Queen sincerely thanks the Colonels Commandant and officers of the Royal Signals dining together this evening for their loyal good wishes which Her Majesty deeply appreciated.

From *Princess Royal, Harewood House:*

I appreciate so much the telegram of loyal greetings from the Colonels Commandant of my Corps sent on the occasion of their Annual Dinner. I send best wishes for a most successful reunion, and hope that all present will enjoy a very happy evening.

From *Chief Signal Officer, M.E.L.F.:*

On the occasion of the Annual Corps Dinner the officers of Royal Signals, M.E.L.F., send their best wishes to you, the Colonels Commandant, and all members of the Corps present. They hope this evening will prove as pleasant and successful as ever.

From *Chief Signal Officer, B.A.O.R.:*

Very much regret owing to exercise commitments unable to be with you tonight. A very enjoyable Signals Dinner was held here on 30th June. Can only hope yours is as pleasant and convivial as ours.

From *Director of Signals, Australia:*

On the occasion of your Annual Dinner all members of the Royal Australian Corps of Signals welcome opportunity express warmest regards to our respected parent Corps and reaffirm pride in the closeness of our traditional associations. Best wishes for an enjoyable gathering.

From *Colonel A. Tozer,* C.B.E., M.C., T.D., *Kenya:*

Best wishes for a successful Royal Signals Dinner and regrets that I shall not be there. If any member of the Corps comes out here to explore Kenya as a residence, I shall be very pleased to put him up.

★

General Naylor then went on to give a resumé of the highlights of Corps achievements during the past year. Units of the Corps had won fresh laurels on Active Service in Korea, Malaya and Egypt, and letters received by the Colonel Commandant from the Commanders-in-Chief in these Theatres had spoken in high terms of the service rendered by Royal Signals Units. In the realm of sport we had more than held our own. Although the Army Rugger Cup had passed into other hands we had made history by winning the Yorkshire Cup, and in Egypt two Units of the Corps fought out the rugger final, which went to 3 G.H.Q. Signals. This showed that we did not keep all our best rugger players at Catterick! 7 Training Regiment were runners up in the Army Soccer Cup, and 6 Boys Training Regiment won the Army Boys Cup. At boxing we were finalists in the Army Unit Championship, and at swimming Sergeant Beale had scored numerous successes in Egypt and at home. Lieutenant Sutton-Pratt had gained the Army and Inter-Service Ski-ing Championships, and at shooting we had achieved a number of successes, notably that of Captain Anderson in finishing third in the Army Hundred and winning the Whitehead Cup.

The Corps Sailing Association's yacht *Cito,* skippered by the Commodore, General Scott, had finished 15th out of 69 starters in her class in the Round the Island Race.

Our Motor Cycle Display Team had carried the Corps' flag up and down the country, and their standard of performance had remained amazingly high. The Corps Band had won the highest praise, and had received a Royal Command to play at the Garden Party on 17th July at Buckingham Palace.

Proposing the toast of absent friends, the Representative Colonel Commandant said that it was very appropriate that we should have present those from Australia, Canada, India and Pakistan and Southern Rhodesia who could pass on our thoughts to members of their respective Signal Corps on their return. General Lanahan, United States Signal Corps, had unfortunately not been able to attend owing to a conference in Washington.

★

The Director of Signals, Major-General W. O. Bowen, C.B., C.B.E., then gave a brief summary of Corps developments, a look into the future, and extended a hearty welcome to the guests.

Two years ago General Scott, then Director of Signals, had stated that the Corps was extended almost to the limit, but in spite of this he had succeeded in meeting even further commitments. All this had involved a great strain, particularly on Officers and N.C.O.s. Now was a period a consolidation, as the Adjutant-General, who was present, could well affirm. It had been necessary to take measures to increase the number of officers at regimental duty; fortunately the number and quality of officers coming from the Royal Military Academy was improving, and regular recruiting was on the increase.

It was a period of great activity for the Corps, especially in B.A.O.R., where there were constant exercises. The Supplementary Reserve Depot at Chester had a constant succession of S.R. Units passing through for training. These Units, which numbered seven at the end of last year, would reach a total of twelve by the end of 1952. The Royal Signals Depot had recently moved to Newton Abbot in a part of the West Country which was well known as a holiday resort. The strength of our T.A. Units was growing rapidly, and these Regiments were all carrying out realistic training, in spite of some shortages of equipment. The Director of Signals expressed his admiration for all ranks of T.A. Units who devoted so much time to achieving these excellent results. In Korea, the Commonwealth Signal Regiment had made history by uniting the Signals of the Commonwealth, and had achieved an efficiency and high morale in the finest traditions of the Corps. During the past year we had sent Signal Squadrons to S.H.A.E.F., A.L.F.C.E. and N.A.T.O. Turning to more academic achievements, General Bowen mentioned Captain Strover, who had, in his third year at the University, won the Charles Lamb Prize, which was normally only allotted to a student in his fourth year. The Royal Signals Institution had been inaugurated, and would undoubtedly prove to be a great asset to the Corps.

In proposing the toast of the guests, General Bowen mentioned each of them in turn.

General Sir John Crocker, the Adjutant-General, was a great friend of the Corps; and there were many of its members who had served under him.

General Cariappa, Commander-in-Chief, India, was also the Colonel-Commandant of Indian Signals.

Captain Foster-Brown, R.N., was Director of Signal Division, Admiralty.

Colonel Lockhart was Director of Signals, Canada.

Lieutenant-Colonel Suleman represented Signals, Pakistan.

Major Mabin represented Signals, Southern Rhodesia.

Replying to the toast of the guests, General Sir John Crocker said that he had been intimately connected with Royal Signals for many years. He had gained a great admiration for Signallers during the First World War, and later he had followed the birth and growth of the Corps at all levels. He had received great support from the Corps both at home and overseas. Mentioning his fellow guests, General Sir John Crocker said that Signals provided the invisible bonds which alone enabled the Army to become a strategic whole.

★

General Cariappa then briefly outlined the way in which Indian Signals was carrying on the great traditions in which Royal Signals had been so largely instrumental, and gave some examples of its recent achievements.

PERSONAL COLUMN

Officers' Subscription to Corps Fund

There is a certain amount of confusion in the minds of Officers, but briefly, Officers normally pay three days' pay to Corps Funds which covers all obligations to:—Band Fund, Games Fund, Dinner Club, General Purpose Fund, Officers' Silver Fund, Royal Signals Institution, Royal Signals Association, Benevolent Fund (O.R.s), Officers' Benevolent Fund, General Fund.

There is in addition the statutory payment of one day's pay under Q.R. 1469 and Corps Memo No. 8.

These payments, however, do NOT include:—THE WIRE at 12s. a year; THE GAZETTE at 18s. a year.

For these it is necessary to pay by Bankers Order or cheque/cash direct to the Association, who do the sales of both these publications.

Reunion Dinner, C.S.O. Branch, S.H.A.E.F.

The fourth reunion of the former Staff of the Chief Signal Officer, S.H.A.E.F., was held on Saturday, 21st June, at the Waldorf Hotel, London. For the first time, Officers from S.H.A.P.E. Signal Division, who were formerly with S.H.A.E.F., were present. The chair was taken by Major-General L. B. Nicholls, C.B., C.B.E., and the guest of the evening was Major-General F. H. Lanahan, U.S. Army, Chief Signal Officer of S.H.A.P.E.

Others present were Brigadier L. H. Harris, C.B.E., Colonel M. N. Ralph (U.S. Air Forces), Colonel H. L. Lewis, Colonel John Reading, Lieutenant-Colonel J. R. Ross, Lieutenant-Colonel E. C. H. Organ, Lieutenant-Colonel R. R. C. Rankin, Lieutenant-Colonel J. L. Reading, Major Donald Bruce, Major Barnett, Major R. S. Ouvry and Major F. de la C. Chard.

First Army Signals—16 L. of C. Signals All Ranks' Reunion

Over 100 attended the first reunion last autumn and a larger party is expected for the second dinner, which will be held on a Saturday evening in November. Full details may be obtained from D. J. Harris, 45 Prior Avenue, Sutton, Surrey.

Movements of Officers

Major D. J. Bond from West Africa to Reserve of Officers.

Major M. R. Hewitt from H.Q. South Western District to Southern Command (M) Signal Regiment.

Lieutenant-Colonel R. B. Ridley Martin from War Office to G.H.Q., M.E.L.F.

Major (T.O.T.) W. F. Berry from Depot to Southern Command (M) Signal Regiment.

Major (T.O.T.) H. A. Fuller from Southern Command (M) Signal Regiment to Ministry of Supply.

Major G. I. Williams from 4 Training Regiment to 7 Training Regiment.

Major C. Worrin from H.Q. South Western District to Signal Training Centre.

Major F. F. Mills from Depot to H.Q. South Western District.

Major A. G. Paris from M.E.L.F. to Northern Command (M) Signal Regiment.

Captain D. H. Baynham, G.M., from Army Apprentices School, Harrogate, to 1 Training Regiment, Catterick.

Movements of W.O.s and N.C.O.s

S.Q.M.S. T. A. Vaughan from C.S.O.'s Branch, Eastern Command, to M.E.L.F., 16th July, 1952.

S.Q.M.S. G. McIntosh from B.J.C.B. (M.E.) to C.S.O.'s Branch, Eastern Command.

S.S.M. W. Bradbury from Army Apprentices School, Harrogate, to War Office Signal Regiment.

S.S.M. F. A. Venner from Army Apprentices School, Harrogate, to Depot Regiment.

S.Q.M.S. C. Baalham from Army Apprentices School, Harrogate, to B.A.O.R.

The undermentioned, having successfully completed No. 1 Foreman of Signals (Pt. I) Course at the School of Signals, have been promoted to S.Q.M.S. (F. of S.) and posted to the Units shown:—

2547264 Sergeant D. A. Bowden, No. 11 Signal Park Squadron, Donnington.
2549473 A/Sergeant W. G. Davies, Western Command Signal Regiment.
2699785 Sergeant C. G. Hooper, 4 A.A. (M) Signal Regiment.
2458945 A/Sergeant N. Ribchester, No. 2 War Office Signal Regiment.
2548647 A/Sergeant D. E. Rye, Amphibious Warfare Signal School.
22212742 A/Sergeant R. Shelley, No. 2 War Office Signal Regiment.
2572732 Sergeant R. C. Stiles, London District Signal Troop.
2323699 A/Sergeant R. Thompson, R.A.C. Centre, Bovington.
22212313 A/Sergeant H. Morrison, 4th Training Regiment, Catterick.

19 Air Formation Signal Regiment Arrivals

R.S.M. McDiamid from Hong Kong Signal Regiment.
Sergeant Licence and family from inter-tour leave in Idea.
Sergeant Finney from U.K.

Departures

Captain Hill and family to Hong Kong Signal Regiment.

R.S.M. Brakenberry and family to Hong Kong Signal Regiment.

Shield of Royal Signals Crest

The Association can supply on order wooden shields bearing the Corps crest, which are suitable for presentation to clubs, messes, etc. Size 12in. x 9½in., price £5 10s. Manufacture takes four to six weeks.

Births

ASHLIN.—To S/Captain and Mrs. P. Ashlin, at Queen Mary Maternity Home, Derby, on 5th June, 1952, a son, Stephen Peter.

RICHARDS.—On 8th May, 1952, to Sergeant and Mrs. G. Richards, 3 A.A. Independent (M) Signal Squadron, a daughter.

CONSTANTINE.—On 18th May, 1952, to Corporal and Mrs. Constantine, 3 A.A. Independent (M) Signal Squadron, a daughter.

JACKSON.—On 5th June, 1952, to Sergeant and Mrs. R. H. Jackson, 3 A.A. Independent (M) Signal Squadron, a son.

WEAVER.—To Corporal and Mrs. Weaver, Berlin Signal Squadron, a son.

(All of 50 (N) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment).

WOLFE.—To Lance-Corporal and Mrs. G. F. Wolfe, on 28th April, 1952, a daughter, Sheila Winifred.

MULLEN.—To Driver and Mrs. L. Mullen, on 24th February, 1952, a son, Michael Laurence.

CROMPTON.—To Signalman and Mrs. T. Crompton, on 3rd February, 1952, a daughter, Ann.

WATSON.—To Lance-Corporal and Mrs. W. H. Watson, on 3rd June, 1952, a son, David.

THOMPSON.—To Major and Mrs. G. R. Thompson, on 22nd June, a son.

Engagement

SEYMOUR—HARRIS.—Q.M.S. (F.O.S.) G. D. Seymour to Miss E. Harris, of Harrogate.

Marriages

DALEY—CLUNIE.—On 12th April, 1952, Signalman E. A. Daley, Royal Signals, to Miss C. W. P. Clunie, at Glasgow.

GALLOWAY—THOMPSON.—On 2nd May, 1952, Driver R. G. Galloway, Royal Signals, to Private K. Thompson, W.R.A.C., 3 A.A. Independent (M) Signal Squadron, at Edinburgh.

JONES—OWEN.—On 29th March, 1952, Signalman E. Jones, 50 (N) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, to Miss Joyce Owen.

STAINTON—DOBBS.—On 7th June, 1952, Corporal Stainton, Royal Signals, to Miss V. Dobbs, of Lisburn, in the Garrison Church at Thiepval Barracks.

THOMPSON—LIVESTON.—On 20th June, 1952, Driver J. Thompson, Royal Signals, to Miss B. C. B. Liveston, at Dundee.

WALKER—HAYDEN.—On 29th March, 1952, Corporal J. J. Walker, 50 (N) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, to Miss Vera Hayden.

WALSHAW—MULLIGAN.—On 17th May, 1952, Driver L. Walshaw, 50 (N) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, to Miss Patricia Margaret Mulligan.

Injured

BAKER.—22574622 Driver N. A. Baker, on 21st June, 1952, in Korea.

NICHOLSON.—22305882 Signalman S. Nicholson on 29th June, 1952, in Korea.

Deaths

COWBURN.—2549536 Driver E. E. Cowburn, on 29th June, 1952, at Oxford.

DEWIS.—22515375 Signalman H. Dewis, on 1st June, 1952.

McCORMACK.—22265243 Lance-Corporal McCormack, on 10th June, 1952, in U.K.

SCRIVEN.—22494881 Driver A. H. Scrivin, on 21st June, 1952, in B.A.O.R.

WHELAN.—22201277 Driver P. J. Whelan, on 9th June, 1952.

WHITTLE.—22296016 A/Sergeant J. Whittle, on 8th June, 1952, in B.A.O.R.

WOOD.—22201930 Driver M. Wood, on 21st June, 1952, at Chester.

Forthcoming Events

Royal Signals Motor Cycle Display

Aug.	18	... Glamorgan A.C.F. Camp ...	Kinmel, near Rhyl
Aug.	20-21	... Shropshire Musical and Floral Fete	Shrewsbury
Aug.	23	... Westgate-in-Weardale Floral and Horticultural Society	Westgate-in-Weardale (Durham)
Aug.	27	... Whitby Horse Show	Whitby
Sept.	3	... Reeth Agricultural Show ...	Reeth
Sept.	6	... Matlock and District Agricultural Show	Matlock
Sept.	9-11	... Combined Services Tattoo ...	Birmingham
Sept.	18	... Wembley Stadium	Wembley

Royal Signals "Quicksilver" Trailer

Aug.	20-23	... Wakefield.
Aug.	26-30	... Bradford Area.
Sept.	2-6	... Huddersfield—Halifax Area.
Sept.	16-23	... Carlisle Area.
Sept.–Oct.	26–4	... Scarborough—Malton Area.

Royal Signals Band

Aug.	18-24	... Edinburgh Festival.
Aug.	24	... Falkirk.
Aug.	25-27	... Scottish Command.
Aug.	30-31	... Southern Command.
Sept.	1-4	... Bedford, T.A. Centre.
Sept.	7-13	... Worthing.
Sept.–Oct.	14–5	... Eastbourne.

Radio Show

The Radio Show is to be held this year at Earls Court from 27th August to 6th September.

War Memorial—43 (Wessex) Infantry Division, T.A.

A war memorial to 43 (Wessex) Infantry Division (T.A.) similar in design to that standing on Hill 112, near Caen, Normandy, has been erected at Wynyard's Gap, Dorset (on the road Dorchester-Crewkern). It is proposed that the memorial should be unveiled on the 20th September, 1952, the ceremony being performed by General Sir Ivor Thomas, who commanded the Division throughout the campaign in North-West Europe.

Details of the ceremony cannot yet be given, but it is anticipated that the service of dedication will begin at 3 p.m.

EMPLOYMENT VACANCIES

The following are required by Burndept, Ltd., West Street, Erith, Kent. Applications to the Personnel Manager:—

1. WIREMEN AND ASSEMBLERS for work on prototype electronic equipment. Should be versatile and able to build and wire apparatus from models and circuit diagrams.
2. DRAUGHTSMEN: (a) Senior Jig and Tool required for radio and domestic appliances, preferably with multi-stage tool experience; (b) to work with Development Engineer and assist in initial design work for Ministry contracts, including V.H.F. communications and nucleonic measuring apparatus.
3. RADIO ASSEMBLY SHOP FOREMAN, with good experience and knowledge of radio line production, component assembly, transformer and coil winding; ability to control women labour essential. Prospects for right man.
4. TESTERS for Electronic Division, with good all-round communication experience.

★

There will be a few vacancies in the near future for retired Royal Signals Officers in Royal Signals Records. For particulars, apply to Officer i/c Royal Signals Records, Reading, Berks.

★

An important British company are producing a large range of line transmission equipment including single-channel carrier, multi-channel carrier, coaxial terminal equipment as well as V.F. and H.F. telegraph equipment.

In addition, there is expanding production of V.H.F. single- and multi-channel radio equipment with large installations in the course of erection in Middle East and Africa.

This company is expanding its staff and is anxious to get in touch with ex-Officers, Royal Signals, who have experience in carrier or V.H.F. equipment.

There is also a requirement for those experienced in the writing and editing of operating and/or maintenance handbooks.

Apply through Royal Signals Association, 88 Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1.

SEGRAVE TROPHY AWARD

DAILY TELEGRAPH, 4th July.

The Royal Automobile Club announced last night that the Segrave trophy for 1951 has been awarded to Geoffrey Duke "for upholding British prestige before the world." The award recognises his winning, in 1951, the Junior and Senior Tourist Trophy races among other races, and becoming the world's champion racing motor-cyclist in the 350 and 500 c.c. classes.

The trophy, first awarded in 1930, was instituted in memory of the late Sir Henry Segrave and is awarded to the British subject who accomplishes the most outstanding demonstration of the possibilities of transport by land, air or water.

Letter to the Editor

Bandmaster G. King, Northern Rhodesia Police, writes from P.O. Box 17 (Lilayi), Lusaka Sub/Division:—

"Kind regards to the famous Signals Band and its celebrated conductor, Captain J. L. Judd, M.B.E., etc. How is also my ex-Band President, Major Rickson, of Signals (H.Q.) Catterick Camp. Must now conclude, off to Kitive for a week's scouting (Band) tour."

INDIAN SIGNAL UNITS, 1911-1926 O.C.A.

The fifth reunion of the above O.C.A. was held at the Charing Cross Hotel on 7th June, 1952. Seventy-three members, some accompanied by their wives, attended. Brigadier H. I. Allen, C.B.E., D.S.O., presided.

Several new members attended for the first time and stated they had had a very good evening and would come again. One we had not seen for 35 years, and except for a larger waist line and perhaps a little thin on top, he was as we knew him in his younger days.

We held our annual general meeting from 5-6 p.m. After that we moved into the lounge for a drink and chat before dinner; here we were joined by the ladies. At 7 p.m. it was announced that "Dinner is served," and we moved into the dining room. (We had all seen the seating plan previously, so had no difficulty in finding our places at the tables.)

The dinner was excellent, after which the Chairman read messages to, and from, H.R.H. The Princess Royal. This was followed by toasts and speeches, which were very amusing. One speaker said: "The modern Signaller did not get the KICK out of it as we did when we had mules and horses. All paid tribute to our Indian comrades with whom we worked years ago. It certainly would have been interesting to the modern Signaller to have seen us laying cable from the back of an obstinate mule, and comparing it with the modern method of laying it at (we believe) 30 miles an hour, and no W/T. to help, only the heliograph. Those were the days."

Dinner over, we moved back again for a drink and chat. It was noted that everyone was enjoying the evening, and towards 10 p.m. we began to thin out, as many had to catch the late night trains home. By 11 p.m. all were gone, so that ended another very successful reunion.

As eligibility for membership is not generally known, we give particulars: Open to all those who served in any Indian Signal or Wireless Unit in or out of India between 1911-1926. The subscription fee is, Officers 5s., B.O.R.s 2s. annually, due 1st January. Further particulars may be obtained from the Secretary, who will be pleased to forward a list of all our members (173 all ranks) on application. W. A. Dowley, Captain (Retired), Secretary, 153 Mytchet Road, near Aldershot, Hants.

WHAT SHALL WE DO WITH THE CHILDREN?

This question arises amongst all of us who are married on some occasion, usually when discussing whether a wife can join husband in an overseas station. It will be remembered that THE WIRE, Volume 6, No. 7, carried mention of the small school run by Mrs. M. Steward at Netheravon. Here is another possibility:—

Miss K. P. Ellison,
"Gretton," Meliden Road, Prestatyn, Flintshire.

Fee—Five guineas a week, or less for the very young, or for numbers. "Gretton" has a high reputation and may in some cases be the answer to the problem.

OF INTEREST IN THIS NUMBER

The August WIRE of 28 pages gives you the important speeches by the Representative Colonel Commandant and the Director of Signals at the Annual Dinner—page 170.

A powerful article, "Exercise Hecate I and II," is on page 175.

A description of the new piece of silver in the Headquarters Mess is on page 174.

Lack of space has caused the popular "Do You Know?" column to be severely pruned.

For the rest, this number is much as its predecessors despite an unhappy shortage of notes from M.E.L.F.



Asokan Lion Capital at Sarnath, Banaras. Polished sandstone. Mauryan Period, 3rd century, B.C.

The Lion Capital of Asoka

THE silver Lion Capital replica, presented to All Ranks of the Royal Corps of Signals by All Ranks of the Indian Corps of Signals, represents the State Emblem of the Republic of India. A short historical background of the Lion Capital is given below.

The greatest convert to the Buddhist Faith was Emperor Asoka who reigned from B.C. 272-232 over the whole of India except the southern extremity of the Peninsula. During the course of his reign, Asoka erected several shrines, columns and rock edicts in various corners of his Empire with a view to fostering the Buddhist Faith amongst his people.

Of these monuments, the magnificent monolithic pillar at Sarnath, four miles North of Benares, Uttar Pradesh (late United Provinces) in India, is, perhaps, the most famous. It was erected to commemorate the reputed spot where Buddha preached his first sermon. Originally, the pillar, hewn out of a single block of polished sandstone, was fifty feet high, surmounted by the lion capital (now the State Emblem of the Republic of India) and a crowning wheel. All that remains of the original pillar is the lion capital, a few fragments of the crowning wheel and a stump 5ft. 6in. high.

The lion capital measures 7ft. high, is bell-shaped, reeded perpendicularly with a circular abacus supporting four lions set back to back. On the abacus are carved four animals in high relief, viz., an elephant, a bull, a horse and a lion, each separated by a wheel containing 24 spokes.

The proper significance of the Asoka capital is a subject of controversy, but it is generally accepted that it is the symbolic representation of the great religious events of Buddha's appearance and the promulgation of his doctrine which was first preached at Sarnath.

The following interpretations have been given to the individual symbols on the capital:—

The "bell" represents an inverted lotus with 16 petals, the lotus in later days being invariably used as seats of all gods and goddesses. The four symbolic animals on the abacus represent the four principal events of Buddha's life. The elephant stands for the conception of Buddha as in a dream just before his conception, his mother, Mayadevi, saw a white elephant entering her womb. The bull represents the Zodiac sign, Tarus, in which the nativity of Buddha occurred. The galloping horse depicts the great renunciation as it was on the renowned horse, Kanthaka, that he left his father's imperial palace in search of truth. The last symbol, the lion, probably represents Buddha himself, the lion of the Sakya race. The four wheels represent Buddha's doctrine, which he set in motion to the four quarters of the globe, the 24 spokes being the 24 modes of principal casual relations treated in Buddhist philosophy. The four roaring lions probably represent the monks proclaiming the glories of Buddha and his teaching to the four cardinal points as Buddha, when addressing his disciples, instructed them to let their voices ring out like a lion's roar, when preaching the doctrine of Buddhism.

A QUIZ FOR NATU MINIMUS

do you know?

THIS column continues to incur just criticism from those now not very young. Colonel D. St. J. Hoysted writes:—

"May I point out that the Crimean War took place in 1854-56, and not in 1866. If, however, the writer of the Do you know? Vol. 6, No. 5, contends that first use of the electric telegraph in war was in 1866, then may I also point out that the first news of the Indian Mutiny was telegraphed from Delhi to Peshawar (and other Punjab stations) on 11th May, 1857. I remember seeing a facsimile of the message concerned in a work on the Mutiny in the Imperial Delhi Gymkhana Club library. I am also quite sure that both contending forces in the American Civil War in 1861-65 made extensive use of the electric telegraph.

I assume that the writer meant that the British Army laid the 20 miles of wire he quotes in the Crimean War? As, however, the force sent to the Crimea to fight the Russians was an allied one, I should be glad of confirmation of this point."

★

"In 1922, Sergeant Swanborough received a handsome cheque sent by the Government of India, in recognition of valuable work done with the British Mission in Kabul. Before making the presentation, the following extract of a letter received from India was read: 'Sergeant Swanborough was in charge of the Wireless Station at Kabul. He contended with astonishing success with the many difficulties which beset him, and was absolutely untiring. He seemed hardly ever to sleep, and extorted the admiration of the

Afghans by constantly furnishing them with copies of telegrams addressed to them by representatives in Russian territories which the Russian operators at Kabul had themselves been unable to pick up. The Afghan Minister once said to me of him: "This superiority is an example of the difference between the two nations." The telegraphic work with which Sergeant Swanborough had to deal was very important and heavy, and was made more difficult by constant atmospheric disturbances.'"

Do you know that "A Wireless Detachment of four British ranks with arms and equipment and two followers, with their technical equipment and kit carried on elephants and by coolies, marched for several days and nights through thick jungle with a column of Indian troops. When halted, they installed their wireless station and kept continuous watch throughout the night, and were thus able to send and receive situation reports of rebel activities over many miles of jungle in a few minutes. This greatly assisted commanders to track down rebel gangs," and do you know that this was in 1932 and not in 1952?

Do you know that the officers held their Annual Dinner on 10th July at the Hyde Park Hotel? The cost to each was 15s., had they gone to the 1922 Dinner it would have cost them 17s. 6d. This must be the only case of something costing less in 1952 than 1922.

Do you know that a Royal Signals Boxing Team under Lieutenant H. A. Spencer first won the Army Championships in 1923?

Exercises Hecate I and II

JUST to remind you Hecate was a member of the Underworld Directing Staff, who encouraged the witches in *Macbeth* at their efforts to concoct hellish brews for other folk to sample. You may also recall their forecast of any major signal exercise: "Double, double, toil and trouble."

At this time of year exercises are too frequent to warrant much space in THE WIRE, but these two deserve mention. In the first place they were highlights of a very modest U.K. Collective Training Season, 1952. Secondly, they provided, for the two T.A. Signal Units concerned, the culminating test of five years' building up, and a chance to assess the results of the leisure time sacrificed, and hard work put in, by a large number of T.A. volunteer Officers and men during that same period. Thirdly, they gave the War Office the answer to a vitally important question; here it is:—

> Gather together hastily, as for mobilisation, about 650 Signalmen of all ranks, who have never previously met, 25 per cent. T.A. volunteers, 25 per cent. T.A. non-volunteers, 50 per cent. "Z" Reservists; issue them, even more hastily, with their W.E. of equipment and vehicles (or mock-ups in lieu); garnish with a few exhortations from V.I.P.s, stir briskly, and leave to settle for a few days; then label the mixture "Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment" and despatch it on a realistic exercise, for four days (and nights), to serve the staff of a Formation Headquarters that has been equally hurriedly thrown together under similar conditions. QUESTION: Can the result be anything but chaos, and if so, what?

This short description is to give the answer to anyone who is interested, on either side of the Iron Curtain.

The aim of each Hecate was the same; to test the machinery of command, and to practice the techniques of movement and concealment in the field under conditions of enemy air superiority. For Signals there was an additional strain in that it had been decided that, to give maximum training to the staff in the use of wireless, there would be no wireless silence (*planned* wireless silence, anyhow) either during moves or in concentration areas.

Briefly, the main sequence of events went as follows. A move by day (in Hecate II under unforeseen tropical conditions, which wrought havoc amongst the engines of a number of brand new vehicles) from camp to any Army Concentration Area near Aldershot, almost immediately followed by a night move to a Corps Concentration Area near Winchester and a day spent in recces and planning. A second night move to the assembly area near Stockbridge was followed by a further day of detailed recce and the laying out of operational communications. The battle, an attack over a river obstacle to make a hole for an armoured breakout, started on the third night and raged for 36 hours, by which time the Directing Staff at Control were whacked, and forced to call a halt just as our side were winning.

In order to fix anyone who thought of putting in a few hours sleep, there were two night raids, made by regular troops, on Divisional Headquarters; the first during a move, and the other just when battle routine was getting nicely organised on the second night of the conflict. To discourage anyone who might have hoped for a quiet spell as a prisoner, it was ruled that no signal vehicles should be put out of action other than for a very short time; hence the rather pathetic report from the operator on CV2 to Advance Headquarters, 42 Division: "Captured—following on in 10 minutes."

The exercise was carried out twice, in successive weeks—first by 43 (Wessex) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment (T.A.) (Lieutenant-Colonel W. G. Daubeny), and then by 42 (Lancs) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment (T.A.) (Lieutenant-Colonel C. H. H. Lingard). Comparisons, as well as being odious, are difficult. Both Units made initial mistakes—who could expect otherwise!—and both exercises started shakily with rear link wireless badly stretched and very little touch with Corps (Control Headquarters). Both had the time, and the determination, however, to put things right and finished with 100 per cent. wireless communication forward and back, with lines laid ready for the next moves of formations, and with the stamina to go on with the war as long as they were required to do so.

Their common weakness, which might have been less evident with fuller resources, was to concentrate on forward and "G" communications, at the expense, especially at the outset, of administrative requirements and communications with higher authority; and there is no doubt that it takes more than a few days' acquaintance to get the best results from a 53 set! But, by and large, the ANSWER to our question is: "YES; given the right spirit it can be a great success."

The G.O.C.-in-Chief, Southern Command, General Sir Ouvry Roberts, said, in his summing-up, that he considered the work done and the standard achieved, especially by Signals, was little short of marvellous; and it is not his habit to give praise undeservedly.

At a lower level, one T.A. Officer remarked that it seemed so much like the real thing that it was hard to realise that he was only on an exercise.

At an even lower level, a "Z" Reservist lineman from the North summed up to C.S.O., Southern Command: "We coom 'ere to be boogered around, and we're *being* boogered around; but the grub's fair and we doant mind owt." And with that administrative lesson in mind, we will leave it.

It would be unfair, however, to omit mention of three other factors which made it possible to hold these exercises at all. First, the G.P.O., who, by providing liaison officers and teams to set up special control circuits, and allowing free use of civil telephones in the exercise area (Codeword, "Macbeth"), helped us to renewing a form of liaison which has been invaluable in the past.

Next, Signals B.A.O.R. who, from no less than 16 different Units, provided elements for a Neutral Signals Squadron which set an exemplary standard of wireless communications for control and umpires.

Lastly, our old friends in need, the Royal Marine Signal School, who once more helped us with control communications at the expense of their normal training. B.B.K.

Plain Tales

★ *BY BARLEUX WITH GREETINGS FROM BARLEUX*

Kinmel Park Shuiti

ONE of the finest T.A. Signal Units in the country is 1/20 (SM) Army Signal Regiment, T.A., Birmingham . . .

Uncle Alf: THE finest.

Me: Sorry. THE finest.

I know, because they told me so when I was privileged to visit them during their annual camp at Kinmel Park in June and July. The Sergeants' Mess said so and emphasised their point with very large pints of excellent beer. On that particular evening visit the annual Boat Race was won by the Officers. The only resemblance to a boat race borne by this event is the extreme dampness of the course. A contingent of W.R.A.C. was attached to the Unit for annual training and turned out to be jolly good types. As they contribute notes to THE WIRE you may be able to identify them. There were some I specially wanted to meet, but Sergeants' Messes these days appear to be full of handsome young men with thick wavy hair, which, you will agree, if you are so rude, puts me at a distinct disadvantage.

The Officers' Mess said so. Their enthusiastic "Z" Reserve Officers said so, and long before I reached the end of a most excellent dinner, at which I was honoured to be a guest, I also said so. The Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel E. R. Price, T.D., agreed with me. He should know. The fact that a young Subaltern who was told to get his stores up to G.1098 was found studying maps and protesting that he would have to convey them to a point four miles N.N.E. of Puffin Island in no way alters my opinion. A very nice shower and a happy crowd.

Most of the Unit, and at least one attractive W.R.A.C. Officer, managed at some time or other during camp to pay a visit to Mercury House, Colwyn Bay. I hope they will talk about it to their friends. My only disappointment was when I found that I was not eligible to enter for the Western Command half inch relay race. It was computed by the handicappers that, if I had been given my proper start, I would have finished three weeks before the others started. Which is absurd, and has no place in a serious contribution. Skip it.

Register Today

When you eventually leave the Army you may wonder what sort of a job you will drop into. Perhaps you already have this little problem neatly tied up. On the other hand, you may be glad to be put in touch with a company about to be floated by a well-known senior officer. The company will have palatial offices in the West End of London (all being well) and will handle most of your problems. An unknown firm of solicitors will deal with the company's business. They are likely to find it a full-time occupation. They are also likely to become rather better known. There will be certain subsidiary companies, notably The Q.M.s Mutual Fiddle, Ltd., which will bring together Quartermasters who are deficient of Blankets G.S. or Barrows Drum W.D. for example, with Quartermasters who are (don't ask me how) surplus in these items. A small commission will be collected from the P.R.I. The company will also insure Q.M.s against Administrative Inspections and will ensure that any Inspecting Officer who suggests that the Q.M. has time on his hands, will be proceeded against with considerable energy. This remarkable organisation will even make money out of British Railways by assembling parties of eight at stations, obtaining the cheap rate and charging the mugs full fare. The difference will be pouched by the chairman who may eventually be persuaded to refloat our old company, The Hole Sale and Aperture Benders (1925), Ltd., which crashed in the early thirties when manufacturers refused to buy square holes for collanders. Now that people are refusing to strain spinach through old socks, the shareholders look hopefully to the future. How do YOU look to the future?

Ukann Larfe

The world-famous detective sat on the floor of his office and picked pieces of turf out of his hair. He felt dreadful. He poured himself a half pint of rum and tossed it off with a gasp. He felt worse, which is exactly what he expected. Lord Elpas crept fearfully from the filing cabinet. "Why does your wife always throw lumps of turf at everyone?" he asked peevishly. Ukann Larfe looked up in surprise. "Why not?" he asked, by way of reply. "Everyone has a hobby. Some knit, some play tennis, others pull corks out of the bottom of boats. My wife throws turf. So what?" There was silence for a moment. Ukann Larfe looked at Lord Elpas with interest. "Some people," he continued, "prise up Corporation tram lines." At this moment, or it may have been a little later, there was a furious knocking on the door. Lord Elpas looked at the tram line he had thrown carelessly on the office floor. He turned pale but kept his head. With one mighty heave he sent the heavy tram line hurtling through the open window into the street five storeys below. The crash of glass had scarcely died away before Inspector Faceache strode into the office, a grim look on his face and a box of assorted clues in his hand. He spoke. His voice seemed to hold a satisfied grin somewhere. "Anything you guys say will be taken down, rebuilt and tucked in at the corners, so shut up."

Uncle Alf: You said the tram line went through the open window so why did . . .

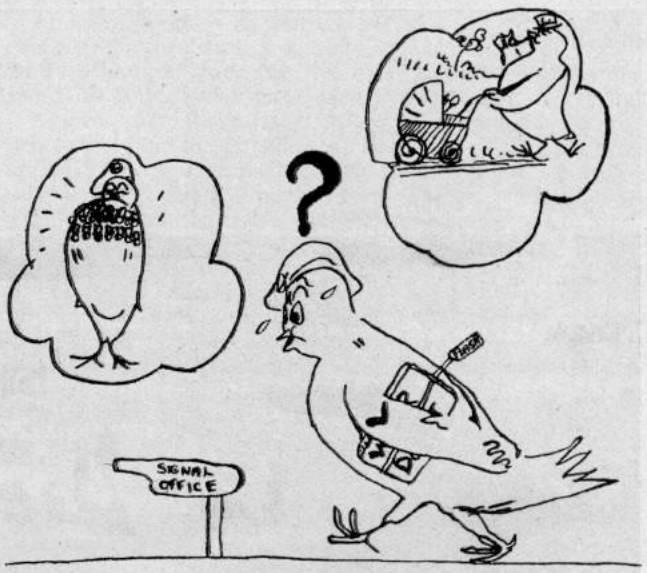
Me: Yeah. I'm sorry. It was shut.

Don't miss this. Go back to the beginning and read it again. What else have you got to do?

PIGEONS

By 56 Signal Squadron, W.R.A.C., T.A.

OF all our feathered friends surely the one claiming closest relationship to us, at least in habits, is the pigeon. It is the only bird which drinks as we do, in contrast to the otherwise universal habit of birds sucking their liquid refreshment and jerking up their heads to swallow it. It also has the habit, like many humans, of puffing its chest out; whether for the same reason as us has not yet been discovered. It is quite likely, though. It follows, therefore, that their other likes, dislikes and pre-occupations are akin to ours. Witness that most patriotic of birds, the carrier pigeon. Even he, though loyal and duty conscientious as he may be, must be subject to those distractions which visit the poor humans. Ponder upon the carrier pigeon on duty, winging its way steadfastly through cloud, rain, snow and, during wartime, even bullets. Surely there are moments when its thoughts must return to the warm, snug loft it has left and if, perchance, another carrier crosses its vision is it beyond the realm of improbability that the spirit of friendliness, particularly if the other be of the opposite sex, does not impel it to attempt to at least engage its chance acquaintance in such conversation as the circumstances warrant? Surely in its leisure moments conflicting emotions travel over that rather blank-looking face as the thoughts of a quiet loft in the country, with little pigeons clustered around, clash with the stern call of duty with only the negative reward of promotion, medals and the best perch in the Pigeon Mess? Is it for us to cavil if, when spring arrives and Mother Nature must take her course, flash messages or no flash messages, there are signs of unwillingness to speed directly to the ordered goal, and many dally on their path with fair damsels of their kind, and even occasionally turn their tails on the life militant and go forward to the life amorant?



Editor's Comment:

It is interesting while sending this article on "Pigeons" to be printed in THE WIRE *to read in* SIGNAL, *the Journal of the Armed Forces Communications Association of America, that pigeons are being used extensively by the Signal Corps of the U.S. Army in Korea, where they have been used operationally for distances up to 35 miles. As always, the major hazard of this means of communication is the hawk.*

Do You Remember?

DO you remember the evacuation scene at La Panne? The photograph on next page was taken by Commandant A. G. Méric who was attached to the Staff of the C.S.O. II, British Corps, in 1940. He will be delighted to hear from, or of, old friends. His address is:—

Administrateur délégué de la Société Navale du Maghreb,
106 R. Chevandier de Valdrôme,
Casablanca,
Morocco.

Do you remember that in 1922 at the same time as the annual dinner of the Corps was being held in London, a similar reunion was taking place in Constantinople, with Major-General Sir Graham Bowman-Manifold in the Chair?

The following officers met at dinner in the Signals Mess overlooking the Bosphorus: Lieutenant-Colonel Barker, Major Perkins (late 28 Divisional Signal Company), Captain Ritchie (late 21 Divisional Signal Company), Captain Henderson, Captain Hayes, Captain Lycett, Lieutenant Kernich (late 28 Divisional Signal Company), Lieutenant Cunynghame, Lieutenant Morgan, Lieutenant Duvivier, Lieutenant Davey, Lieutenant Ogden and Lieutenant Tozer.

Do you remember 3 Divisional Signals at Bulford? You do? Well you will be glad to know that we are back there again. Southern Command (M) Signal Regiment has the honour.

Do you remember Sir Stanley Angwin who was Engineer Chief of the G.P.O. during the last war? Well, in 1922 he was commanding 44 Home Counties Divisional Signals and first President of the Chiswick and District Branch of the Association which was formed July of that year.

Do you remember a photograph taken in 1907 of "Irish Group" Telegraph Companies, Limerick, which appeared in THE WIRE in 1932? The "caption" contained such historic names as Meopham, Hewett, Oakley, Bray, Macintosh, Owen, Hildehand, Heymann, Hawtrey, Osborne.

It's a nice test of memory. Do you remember these names? You do? Well what rank did they hold in '07 and with what rank did they finish?

Do you remember the S.T.C. India Concert Party in 1932? "Then, from each side of the stage, emerged two Indian babus—a collision—and lo! they were our old friends Pechchi Lal and Fateh Ram, otherwise known as Captains B. L. Herdon and W. C. V. Galwey; and their tips on making an impression on the fair sex were too funny for words . . ."

Do you remember the Aden Signal Section? You do? Well, what unit of the Corps is stationed in Aden now?

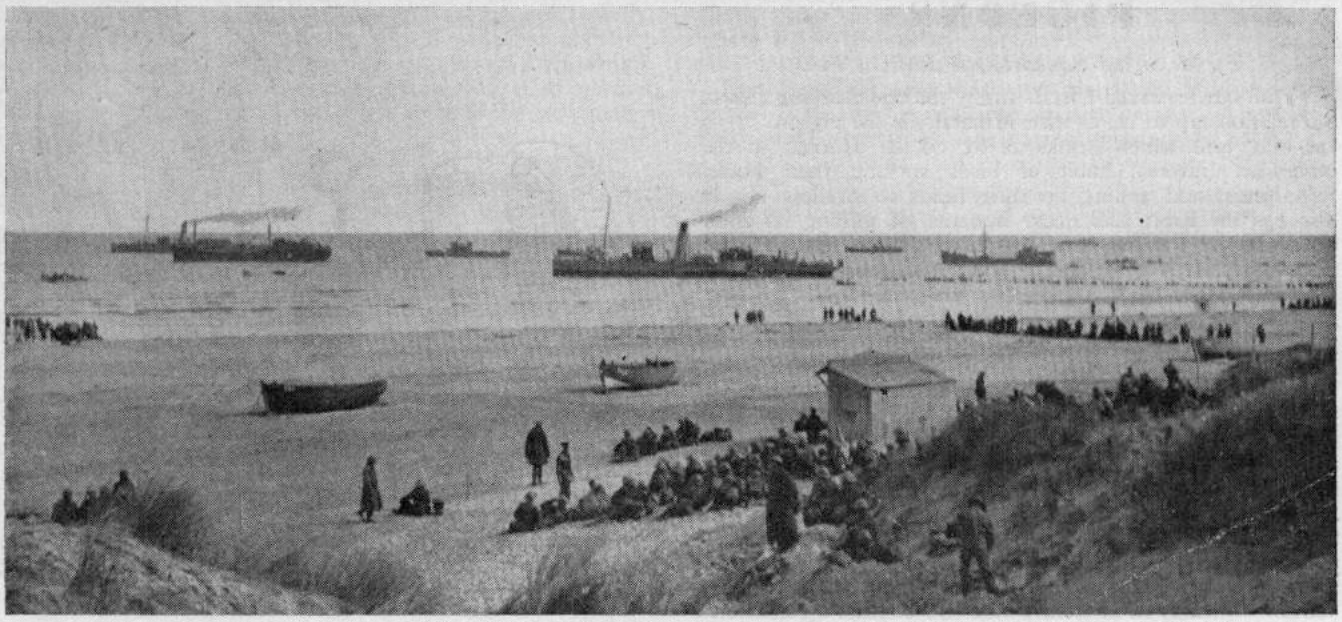
Do you remember that *annus mirabilis* in 1932, when Sergeant-Major Young and the Depot Battalion Team won the Army Team Jumping Competition at the Royal Tournament and the "Tidworth" Display Team represented the Corps on motor-cycles?

Do you remember THE WIRE of August, 1932, published the Accounts of the Association? THE WIRE made a profit of £100 in 1931. In 1951 THE WIRE made a loss!

Do you remember that in the 1930's practically everyone bought THE WIRE?

In Births, Marriages and Deaths in 1922, THE WIRE published such as "Signalman 'Jimmy' C.C.—without leave, to Miss A. T. Service."

Do you remember the significance of the words "without leave?" You do? Well, you're much older than I.



The embarkation at La Panne, 1940. (The photograph includes troops of the 2nd (London) Corps of Signals)

Catterick Jottings

By "NACERBY"

Leave—by Kind Permission of . . .

THE meteorological blokes have again "worked us a flanker"—we had, as we thought, the Catterick ration of "summer and sunshine" in May and, convincing the Medical Officer we were overworked (and what Chief Instructor isn't!—Advt.) and wearing a T.R.A. look whenever the Commanding Officer appeared—off we popped to the Sunny South and paid a call on Major Stan Dunningham, mine host at Mercury House, Bournemouth, firmly convinced that we'd need that rubber dinghy on return to Catterick.

Ha, ha, my friends, never again shall we quote "Catterick is a dismal stretch of country which seems specially created merely to be on the way to some other place." There has *positively* been no rain, snow or hail—nothing but sunshine and sunshine, leaving Captain Jim Adcock, now the popular manager of the Garrison Cinema, muttering: "It's never happened before, old boy. Summer always came on 21st July from 0900 hours to 1245 hours and was announced on regimental orders."

Which brings me to the display of flowers to be seen and admired throughout the Garrison, and I asked Major Ernie Nash, of 3 T.R., whether fertiliser would stimulate a certain plant's growth. "Can't say for sure," he replied. "I've never been able to figure out whether the stuff stimulates the plants or whether it's just so downright repulsive that they strive to grow away from it."

That's what I thought!

Incidentally, one of the nicest things about gardening is that if you put it off long enough, eventually it is too late.

Old Soldiers Never . . .

With the characteristic forthrightness and perspicacity that has exemplified our leading articles on military affairs, I am able to reveal, despite the penalties of the Official Secrets Act, a hitherto secret clause within the framework of the Atlantic Pact and, insomuch as this clause—or the ratification thereof—will affect so many of our leading citizens (potential or otherwise), I feel it my bounden duty, indeed privilege, to make the contents of this clause public.

Our aforesaid leading citizens (Sergeants, Sergeant-Majors and the majority of husbands) can rest assured no stone will be left unturned to maintain the rights so valiantly fought for on every parade ground.

Briefly . . . all military commands and orders are to be standardised by the signatories of the Atlantic Pact and a time limit has been set for this revolutionary measure . . . January, 1965.

For English-speaking personnel, as distinct from the American language user, it is known that the School of Signals will be requisitioned by the military authorities and Other Ranks (up to and including Lance-Corporals and down to and including Sergeant-Majors) will undertake an "uplift" course of two years' duration. The reason for two years will be clearly understood by a perusal of the suggested revised drill orders reproduced below (copyright reserved and film strip rights strictly forbidden).

Old Version	New Version
"As you werre"	"Kindly revert to the position you were adopting prior to my last utterance."
"Order Arrrms"	"Please place your firearms on terra firma without unnecessary gesticulations or facial contortions."
"Jump to it"	"Would you fulfil my request at your earliest convenience—please."
"Dismiss"	"Pray proceed if you will to your respective engagements and/or appointments. Good hunting, chaps!"

"Atten—shun"	"Without undue strain, please coax your relaxed limbs into a position of rigidity."
"Ease Springs"	"Would you be good enough to loan me your musket in order that I may replace bolt mechanism for you. Thanks most awfully."
"Open Order—March"	"In order that the centre shall not experience claustrophobia, will the front and rear ranks place themselves a little less . . . shall we say . . . adjacent. Thank you."

One of the distinctly unfair conditions of this course is the premature retirement to reduced pension of all personnel experiencing difficulty in the employment of the word "Please" and "Thank you."

It is known that S.F.T.P.O.S.M.R. (Society for the Protection of Sergeant-Majors' Rights) is strenuously contesting this secret clause and intend to sponsor candidates to Parliament to raise the "matter on the adjournment."

Since the matter is really *subjudice,* and I couldn't care less, anyway, it is significant that Sergeants and Sergeant-Majors are agreed on a major point in this fight for freedom. When interviewed, all made the profound remark—"Peace is Hell."

More Howlers . . . Still 1952

1. Velocity is the answer to anything.
2. Velocity is the amount of voltage used.
3. To get modulation is to get enough power to use anything.

More Atom Stuff . . . Saddle Club Version

We cannot assess the true form of the new factor, Atomic Energy, without a perusal of its antecedents.

Atomic Energy is by Gamma Rays out of Neutron and comes from the Rutherford stables. Gamma Rays, always hard to beat or stop, even on hard going, had incredible speed for considerably more than five furlongs.

Neutron has always run his stable companion, Proton, very closely on the circular Nucleus course. Experts who are qualified to judge these matters say that it was somewhat difficult to separate Neutron from Proton when chasing together. Now the stable companions have been separated, and whether this is a good or bad thing only future civilisation (if any) will be able to testify.

Apparently, Atomic Energy was very much an outsider until it was given a special treatment of Uranium . . . and then, if we may say so . . . it went a hell of a gallop. Whoooof! Just like that. Over 12 square miles there is no catching it.

Stories, Very Funny, Very Definitely . . .

1. I know an Officer who had some difficulty with his flock and wrote to the Ministry of Agriculture: "Something is wrong with my chickens. Every morning I find two or three lying on the ground, cold and stiff, with their feet in the air. Can you tell me what is the matter?"

After a while he received the following reply: "Dear Sir, your chickens are dead."

★

2. You have three cards—Ace of Hearts, Jack of Diamonds and Two of Clubs—when you are handed a priority message. Would you play the Ace? Why?

England—as She is Understood

Drinking Etiquette. First you put in a whisky to make it strong, then you add water to make it weak; you put in a lemon to make it sour, then you put in sugar to make it sweet; you say "Here's to you"—and then you drink it yourself.

See what I mean?



3 Training Regiment W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess (see column two, page 180) [*Photo: Sergeant Mawston*

Tailpiece

WHY NOT BE YOUR OWN BARBER?

Think of these vital points:—

* Saving of time.
* Saving of money.
* Choice of your own site.
* Choice of your own "cut."
* Reduction in inconvenience.
* Prospects of promotion as a result of being constantly WELL GROOMED.

WHY RELY ON OTHERS? . . . THINK IT OVER.

The preceding portion of this column was unfortunately held over from July because of lack of space in that number. —Editor.

Apologies I'll Accept

MORTIFICATION was indeed my lot for the July issue—and I have an idea the Editor must have seen the jottings submitted through "morose coloured glasses." So many of my readers telephoned (reversing the charges, of course), and the majority, I feel, had hoped it was a posting!

Bitter?—No! No! No! Why, even now my shoulders are shrugging their indifference.

How right you all are!—They just didn't appear and you'll probably be very facetious and murmur "can understand the Editor's point of view."

Bah! And being very magnanimous I'll accept all the apologies in advance.

The Ladies—Bless 'Em

"The sun is ashining to welcome the day,
With a heigh-ho, Come to the Fair."

And, of course, I needn't add that the Fair organised and run by the 3rd Battalion W.R.A.C. to raise funds for the W.R.A.C. Benevolent Fund was a huge success! But then the French would say, "ça va sans dire"; the Scandinavians "stralaende dag" and even the Americans would have added 125 to their normal 100 per cent.

You will have gathered that the afternoon was a hit—'twasn't hard to see why.

Combine the enthusiasm of the Commander (Major E. Sykes) with a hard-working committee and the unstinted support of the whole Battalion; order sunshine and make certain it's there; tastefully lay out the stalls as only the fair sex can; garnish with a first-class magician, pony rides, coconut shies and a "peep into the future" stall—and, as the large crowd of visitors found, even the most reluctant sixpences were trickling away to finally swell a handsome profit to the Benevolent Fund—but I still have a suspicion it wasn't Army glue that held down the coconuts!

Brigadier R. H. R. Steward and Mrs. Steward were among the host of distinguished visitors, and their happy smiles were symbolic of my opening remarks—"The sun is ashining . . . ."

Association Notes—S.T.C. Branches

On the wrong page, are we? Never mind—just listen to this! Two branches of the Association have been formed within the Centre—an S.T.C. North Branch embracing 3 and 4 Training Regiments and an S.T.C. South Branch covering 1, 2 and 7 Training Regiments.

Both are in the embryonic stage, but you can be sure we shall be very much "on the air" in the coming months.

Can talk a little of the North Branch. Lieutenant-Colonel H. Worrall is president, Major Jerry Gourlay treasurer, S.S.M. J. G. Robertson the secretary, and, to finally make sure the branch has "nothing but the best," I'm chairman.

I have a feeling the social programmes in the Centre will be strongly augmented during the winter months by branch activities and functions—and if the initial enthusiasm is fostered and maintained—but then, of course, it will be! Just watch this column for epoch-making progress.

Photographs—Happy, One of—

The photograph should really be under 3 Training Regiment notes, but feel such a bevy of happy faces should be seen by all readers.

Have been to many functions in the Centre, but must admit I was shaken out of my normal lethargy as I walked into 3 Training Regiment W.O. and Sergeants' Mess dance. Sergeants are normally depicted as grim, hoarse-voiced individuals who spend all their time reading manuals and practising facial contortions in the mirror. Dear me, how wrong that is—laughter, gaiety and spontaneous fun were the ingredients—just look at those faces! And if that doesn't make you juniors strive for promotion nothing will. The Commanding Officer and Mrs. Starr are in the centre of the group. I tried to get in but my foot stuck in the bar rail.

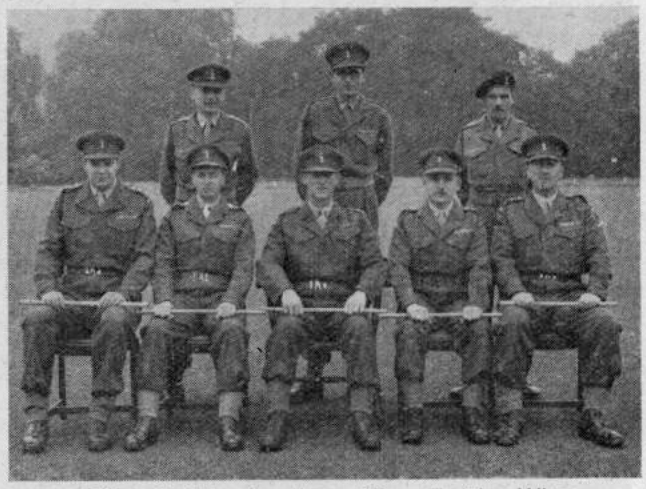
School of Signals

Officer Training Wing

A keen interest has been maintained in athletics under the guidance of Captain J. H. Pearce. Second-Lieutenant B. Wells won the Northern Command individual 800 yards championship and Second-Lieutenant Hill was a close second in the one mile. At the Northumbrian District Inter-Unit Athletic match the Wing won the one mile team race. The team were Second-Lieutenants L. H. Hill and J. M. Savage, Signalmen H. W. Gowan and T. J. Lucas. On a course here from the Union of Burma, Officer-Cadet Tint Lwin, jumping with a badly-spiked hand, gave us second place in the pole vault.

Inter-Squadron athletics placings showed Technical Squadron the leaders. Lance-Corporal Reynolds, of H.Q. Squadron won both the Shot and the Hammer and Signalman Hill, of Technical Squadron, the 440 and 880 yards. A most spectacular tug-of-war team came from M.T. Squadron.

The Wing has seven members in the School of Signals team competing at the A.R.A. annual meeting at Bisley. They are Second-Lieutenants M. C. Barrett, J. H. Hild, I. M. Horsley, A. W. M. McKinnon, J. A. Montague and P. Wetherill from No. 8 Subalterns Part I Course, and Corporal



Officer Training Squadron, Officer Training Wing

Standing (left to right): Captain D. W. Sherrard-Smith, Captain J. R. Ellis, S.S.M. K. Hardwicke. Sitting: Captain F. M. S. Winter, Captain W. W. Cock, Major B. A. Gomm, Captain D. H. Scarfe, Captain O. J. Peck

Sherriffs. They have practised hard and we hope they will achieve the success they deserve.

Exciting Unit cricket matches have been seen and the Sergeants' Mess heads the Inter-Squadron cricket league. After a successful winter season, summer hockey is now keenly played. Swimming practice continues and we hope for success in the District Championships.

H.Q. Squadron reports: "During the month of June the squadron has been preparing for the annual administrative inspection. Much hard work has gone into the 'titivating' of the billets and kits and the standard of drill of the troglodytes of the cookhouse and other 'hidey-holes' has risen by leaps and bounds. At the expense of a few aching limbs and some heavy breathing, the squadron has completed its physical efficiency tests. We are glad to report that S.Q.M.S. Beasley has been posted back to us from MELF and are sorry to say goodbye to S.Q.M.S. Attwell on his posting to FARELF. Sergeant Baxter has just arrived from MELF, and Sergeants Baker and Child have now settled in after their tours in MELF and Germany. We congratulate S.S.M. Derrick on the award of the L.S. and G.C. Medal."

Technical Squadron's wireless and line construction troops are fully occupied with exercises and are seldom to be seen in the lines. Sergeant Harvey has recently married and Sergeant Drane is missed by cadre and students.

On the social side the Wing's Catterick record of TV set holdings remains unbroken, the Unit Film Club thrives and a visit by the Strand Repertory Company was much enjoyed. A most successful evening was held in the Officer-Cadets' Mess on the occasion of the play-off of the finals of the Indoor Games Tournament. Their Squadron Commander, Major B. A. Gomm, was a finalist in all games except darts. Golf has been played regularly by Major T. J. F. Fuller, Captain O. J. Peck and Second-Lieutenant H. U. M. Adler; the latter has played most consistently to his handicap.

A successful Sports and Fete has been held in aid of S.S.A.F.A. Besides the Inter-Squadron sports, the afternoon was devoted to sideshows and amusements of all kinds, and especially popular was the Jumble Sale organised by Mrs. M. A. Charlton. At the close of the afternoon, Mrs. C. G. Moore, wife of Brigadier C. G. Moore, O.B.E., presented the Sports Trophies and Medals and prizes to the lucky winners of the raffle. In all, the sum of £80 was raised for S.S.A.F.A.

We wish Captain and Mrs. P. H. Palmer good luck and a pleasant tour in India.

Lastly, good news for the Officer-Cadets of the Wing. They are now allowed to use the Officers' Club.



The Officer Training Wing Football XI, 1952

Back row (left to right): Mr. F. Button (sports storeman), Signalman G. H. Ashcroft, Signalman A. Pickering, Signalman T. MacEwan, Signalman C. Dunkley (capt.), Signalman R. Taylor, Signalman D. B. Wood, Sergeant R. T. Hannam. Centre row: Captain D. W. Sutherland, M.M. (soccer officer), Lieut.-Colonel M. A. Charlton, O.B.E. (C.O.), Captain B. W. A. Collins. Front row: Signalman C. Naylor, Signalman H. J. Feltom, Craftsman J. Ferry, Signalman R. Stockdale

C.S.O.s BRANCH, H.Q. EASTERN COMMAND

Once more Royal Signals have proved that rifle shooting is not confined to Infantry Units only. W.O.1 Bilby and S.Q.M.S. Vaughan of this branch brought the Corps to the fore in the W.O.s and Sergeants' Mess Annual Rifle Small Bore Championships by gaining places in the first three. S.Q.M.S. Vaughan was placed second with a score of 92.2, which was only one point behind the winner. W.O.1 Bilby was placed third with a score of 91.1 There are 70 Mess members.

4 TRAINING REGIMENT

The summer progresses all too quickly, but everyone, despite the normal all-day turmoil of a Training Regiment, has enjoyed some very lovely weather, with the usual spasms of rain. Between these spasms we had an infantry exercise with two Squadrons staying out overnight, a rather unusual experience for young Empire builders of a few weeks' service. Marching, night patrolling, no tents, cooking their own breakfast, etc., made a difference from the classroom.

The Inter-Squadron Team Athletic Championship was won by No. 4 Squadron in very convincing style. One of the high spots was the Squadron Headquarters Race, with normally gentle moving Squadron Orderlies going like the wind and Squadron Commanders pounding to a mighty finish, amid plaudits and hoots of dutiful trainees.

Captain Potter, Corporal Gateley, Lance-Corporal Boyle and Lance-Corporal Whiteman represented the Corps Athletic Team in their meeting against Durham University. They competed in the 120 yards hurdles, pole vault, 3 miles and 220 yards respectively. Lance-Corporal Boyle was an easy winner in the 3 miles after a splendid race. He also represented S.T.C. in the 2 miles race at Bradford City Police Sports in June.

The 4 Training Regiment cricket eleven started off their season with a convincing win over 2 Training Regiment. Corporal Radford (5 wickets for 7 runs) and Webb (4 wickets for 5 runs) distinguished themselves as bowlers, while Signalman Hay made a good innings of 41, and 4 Training Regiment were victorious by 69 runs.

Congratulations to Major and Mrs. J. P. Hewitt on the birth of a first son, Michael John. Ever since, the Chief Instructor has been so benevolent and even tempered it has been a pleasure to do business with him.

Congratulations must also be given to the confirmed bachelor R.Q.M.S. Harding, who was married on the 21st June and soon hopes to leave the W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess for the pleasant atmosphere of his own quarters.

It is with regret that we announce the death of Mrs. O'Meara, wife of Sergeant O'Meara. She died peacefully on 3rd July after a long illness and will be greatly missed as a staunch supporter of all Unit social activities.

24th June was noteworthy for the Corporals' Mess Social which went with great swing. The presence of the ladies, the cheering glass and cabaret turns, including Lance-Corporal Johnstone, the Korean nightingale, made it a most pleasant evening.

7 TRAINING REGIMENT

After nearly two years with the Regiment, Lieutenant-Colonel F. H. Pellew has left and has been succeeded by Lieutenant-Colonel J. P. North, M.B.E. Lieutenant-Colonel North has recently returned from Egypt where he was a G.1 in X Branch, G.H.Q., M.E.L.F.

Major A. B. Dryland also is a recent arrival and has assumed the appointment of Second-in-Command. Other changes are imminent. Major R. O. Wilson, commanding 5 (Regular) Squadron, is going to Malaya, and Major W. J. Hotchkiss to M.E.L.F. Their replacements have not yet arrived.

Fourteen young Regular Officers from No. 8 Part I Subalterns' Course were attached to the Regiment during June to gain experience in man management. They each commanded a troop of Regular recruits or National Servicemen from intake day until the pass-off parade.

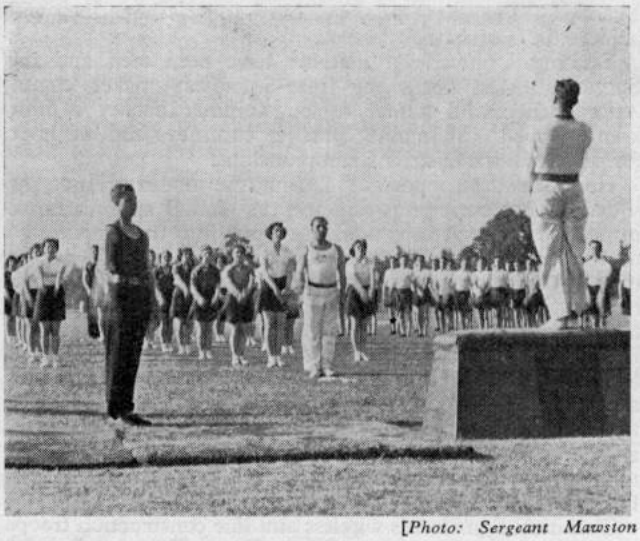
At the end of May, as an innovation, the Regiment started to invite parents to come to see their sons' pass-off parades. These visits have been most successful, and the complimentary remarks passed by parents after they have seen their sons on ceremonial parade and when they have met them face to face are surprising and gratifying. This practice should be most beneficial to the Corps in particular, and for the Army and National Service in general. Fortunately, the weather since May has been kind, which has helped a great deal.

On 20th June the Regiment was inspected by the Secretary of State for War. He was accompanied by the G.O.C.-in-C. and the G.O.C. After inspecting a Guard of Honour, found by 5 (Regular) Squadron, he saw National Servicemen, some of whom had arrived the previous day, on the drill square, at P.T. and on weapon training. He spoke with many of the permanent staff and recruits. It was interesting to note that he also discussed conditions overseas when he met anyone who had recently returned to this country.

It is perhaps safe to assume that he got more informative answers than the gruff, "It's all right, Sir," which would probably have been the answer if he asked the same question on the spot!



The Rt. Hon. Antony Head, Secretary of State for War, with the new C.O. of 7 Training Regiment, during his visit to the Regiment on 20th June



[*Photo: Sergeant Mawston*

The Rhythmical P.T. Display, 3 Training Regiment

3 TRAINING REGIMENT

It's inviting trouble, I know, but I just can't think of suitable superlatives to describe our Regimental weekend held at the beginning of July. I use the word "superlatives" deliberately because the two days activities gave continued evidence of a grand Regimental team spirit besides reviving nostalgic memories of sports days at Bulford, Aldershot and Canterbury.

King Sol had obviously been detailed to produce of his best and he very nearly overdid it! Brilliant sunshine both days, and the ladies loved it. So many lovely summer dresses and it only needed someone to have shouted "They're off" for one to conjure up visions of Ascot.

Why, we even had to take off our "halo" 'cos of the heat.

'Twould be invidious to single out any particular individual for special praise, sufficient to say the Regiment combined to make the weekend a terrific success.

Performances and times were good and it was, perhaps, significant that 3 Squadron from Gallowgate were worthy team winners. There must be something in that mountain air after all!

Final results were:—

3 Squadron (Major G. Walton)	93 points.
2 Squadron (Major K. Brown	75 points.
4 Squadron (Major G. Stretch)	58 points.
H.Q. and 1 Squadrons (Major J. Mathewson)	42 points.

and it was particularly pleasing that the Commanding Officer's wife (Mrs. G. Starr) cantered home in the Ladies' Race, balancing a definitely non new-laid egg precariously in a spoon. I suspect secret training.

In a lax moment I tried to add up the combined service of the competitors in the Old Soliders' Race. Ha! Ha! I just figured out that Major Ernie Nash and Captain Tommy Ball would have to run backwards. It nearly happened that way and the latter only won by a "collar stud" from Majors Nash and Bolam, and even these would have been challenged by Brigadier J. Duvivier had he not pulled a muscle with the winning post elusively beckoning a few yards away.

Combined service?—Phew!

Outstanding features were the clever acrobatic display by S.S.M. I. Wootton, A.P.T.C., and his permanent staff and a mixed rhythmical P.T. display by members of the Regiment and W.R.A.C. This was an amazing spectacle. Trained and led by Captain K. Witt, the applause could have been heard in Richmond, and there was 100 per cent. agreement that it was worthy of the Royal Tournament. Add to these things the music of the Corps Band under the direction of Captain J. L. Judd, round off a memorable, happy and excit-

ing afternoon with Mrs. J. Duvivier presenting the prizes and there you have a *must* annual affair.

An all-ranks dance followed in the evening and there was infectious gaiety everywhere. Regimental Church Service in the morning and finally, in a challenge cricket match in the afternoon we defeated a Medium Regiment, R.A., on the lovely Hipswell Ground by a handsome margin.

Tired? Yes, a little, but we'd do it all again this week.

Pause for hearty congratulations to that proud man Major (T.O.T.) E. Nash on the award of the Meritorious Service Medal. I'd tell you of his long Corps service if the Editor would give me a complete column.

Our Bisley representatives have returned—very brown and although no prizes, gave a very creditable account. S.Q.M.S. Smythe and Sergeant Dillon were selected to represent the Corps. Well done, chaps.

We end on a very sad note, indeed. Mr. R. (Bobby) Dawson, one of the senior civilian clerks in the Regiment, died on 8th July after a short illness. A native of Richmond he was a distinctly lovable personality, patient and understanding and a glutton for work. In fact, he always seemed happier when giving assistance to others. I remember his cheery smile at the end of a gruelling day and often felt a little ashamed that I couldn't emulate that personality. He will be sadly missed by all ranks.

THE DEPOT REGIMENT

It is with great regret that we have said "Bon Voyage" to Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. R. Webb. During the past two years, Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. Webb have borne with the Regiment the many vissicitudes that befell us at Pocklington, and were to all ranks and families a constant, cheerful tower of strength. Before departing they had the satisfaction of seeing the Regiment settled in its present ideal surroundings, a fact which must have given them great pleasure.

Lieutenant-Colonel P. G. Goodeve-Docker has succeeded to the command of the Regiment and all ranks join in wishing both Mrs. Goodeve-Docker and himself a happy tour in South Devon.

The work of the Regiment continues on its normal pattern, the flow to and from overseas—the continual flow of changing faces, many new, leavened with the old and bold, all combine to liven our existence with their problems and queries.

The Unit has joined with Southern Command (M) Signal Regiment in sending a team to the Army Rifle Association meeting at Bisley. We wish the team every success and hope that in the next issue of THE WIRE we may have the pleasure of reporting the arrival of a new trophy to the Corps.

The summer sporting activities of the Depot are in full swing. The cricket team, we are happy to record, have enjoyed a greater proportion of victories than defeats although some of the batting feats may be said to be more optimistic than professional.

New arrivals to the Regiment include Captain A. Mottershead from Korea and Lieutenant T. Hutton from East Africa.

Departures and impending departures are Captain R. Rooks and Lieutenant J. Tucker, M.C., during the next few weeks to FARELF, and our worthy Orderly Room Sergeant, Sergeant Brough, to B.A.O.R., and in his place we welcome Sergeant Bain, ex 4 L. of C. Signal Regiment, B.A.O.R.



[*Courtesy: "Herald Express," Torquay*

Torquay's 1952 Carnival was noteworthy to us in Royal Signals for the spirited tableau entered by the Depot Regiment which was awarded 4th prize.

The tableau was designed by R.S.M. P. H. Johnston and constructed in the Regiment.

The central figure of the Signalman in Service dress depicts the product of the Signal Training Centre leaving the Depot for his overseas service, and surrounding him are other figures showing what he will look like whilst serving in various commands overseas.

It is understood that a substantial sum will come to the Benevolent Fund as a result of this admirable effort.

The tableau was also entered in the Paignton Carnival, where it was awarded the second prize, and the Dartmouth Carnival, where it was awarded first prize.

It is, perhaps, not fully realised by all in Royal Signals that about 1,000 men, mainly National Service men, go out from the Depot each month and a corresponding number return from overseas via the Depot Regiment. The scene depicted in the tableau is, therefore, no exaggeration.



Royal Signal Display. "Mr. Magnetron" in the foreground. East Anglia District Summer Show

5 CORPS SIGNAL REGIMENT

Our Command vehicles have been in great demand as have the jeep wireless stations and we have ranged from Hounslow to the South Coast and up to the Stanford P.T.A. The whole regiment have been to Bellerby for exercise "Gearbox" with 44 Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A. We complete our T.A. exercises at the end of July and then look forward to our three intakes of "Z" men in August and September.

The Regiment obtained a special commendation for their display in this year's East Anglian District Summer Show. Under Captain Maxfield, we displayed a CV, our only TEV C, and a tent full of equipment. Certain Troop officers suffered acute discomfort when they were forced to watch small boys "operating" 19 sets and teleprinters. The greatest attractions were a wire recorder and "Mr. Magnetron," who answered questions. His "brain," however, was somewhat dismayed when one visitor asked him to explain the operation of a mine detector. In the motor-cycle and 3-tonner smartness competition we obtained a third place and came nowhere respectively.

Our sporting activities have been rather curtailed by exercises. Our cricket team have both won and lost, under the captaincy of Corporal Downing. We have, potentially, strong athletics and swimming teams and are entered for the District Games and Swimming Gala. If only we had more time to train!

R.S.M. Smith recently ran an excellent all-ranks dance and next week we are having another which happily coincides with the monthly Signals Association Meeting.



General view of wireless stand at Royal Signals Display

N.I.D. (M) SIGNAL SQUADRON

June has been an outstanding month in the history of N.I.D. (M) Signal Squadron in that the Squadron was honoured by an Inspection by our Colonel-in-Chief, Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, C.I., G.C.V.O., G.B.E.

On Sunday morning, 22nd June, 1952, a Church Parade attended by detachments of the N.I.D. (M) Signal Squadron, 107 (U) Independent Infantry Brigade Squadron, 35 (U) A.A. Independent Signal Squadron and W.R.A.C. Units in Northern Ireland was held in Thiepval Barracks. The Parade, which was under the Command of the C.S.O. (Lieut.-Colonel N. I. Bower, O.B.E., Royal Signals) was inspected by the Colonel-in-Chief, who afterwards attended the Church Service which was held in the Gymnasium.

In the afternoon a detachment under the command of the T.O.T. (Captain E. G. Brice) went to Newtownards where they provided a Public Address Equipment for use of Her Royal Highness during the presentation of colours to the County Down Branch of the British Red Cross.

On Monday, 23rd June, Her Royal Highness, accompanied



[*Courtesy: W. Abernethy, Belfast*

Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, accompanied by the Representative Colonel Commandant, Major-General R. F. B. Naylor, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., and the C.S.O. N.I.D. (Lieut.-Colonel N. I. Bower, O.B.E.), inspecting N.I.D. (M) Signal Squadron at Thiepval Barracks, Lisburn

by the representative Colonel Commandant, Major-General R. F. B. Naylor, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., carried out an Inspection of the Squadron. The Squadron, under the Command of the C.S.O., was drawn up on the square, with the R.A. Band (Plymouth) in the rear.

After the Inspection and March Past, the Colonel-in-Chief inspected the W.R.A.C. billets and Signal Office. Despite many anxious moments, the weather was perfect and the Inspection was carried out under ideal conditions.

WESTERN COMMAND SIGNAL REGIMENT

GRASS. Ten acres of it.

In between the blades—Western Command Signal Regiment.

During these Summer months there is only one piece of equipment which *really* must *not* fail. The Autoscythe.

When we come to think back . . . we knew there was something attractive about Fayid.

No grass.

We used to dream about those lovely green English meadows as we looked despondently over those miles and miles of Fanny Adams in Egypt.

But, my masters, we missed the whole truth—YOU DON'T HAVE TO CUT SAND.

So think again all you chaps looking wistfully out over the Bitter Lakes and counting the days.

The past two months have been uneventful in a way. Nobody has moved—far.

True, by the time you read these notes (you do?—we're so glad) R.H.Q., the Q.M., the Regulator, the Equipment Officer and Officer Commanding 1 Squadron will all have moved to Blacon Point House, a most desirable residence about ¾ mile away. With their staffs and their stores.

Leaving 2 Squadron in proud possession of the incinerator end of Blacon Camp, where you may remember, we were situated when last we wrote.

Except that last time we wrote 2 Squadron was 1 Squadron and 1 Squadron was S.W.S. Troop.

We trust that makes things clear.

Mention must be made of the District Sports in which Signalman Smith ran his guts out in the mile, Lance-Corporal Charlesworth came second in the long jump and Captain Davidson performed most admirably on the Public Address equipment.

The chaps enjoyed the outing and considering everything put up a very good show.

We came fourth in the District Swimming Sports on a bitterly cold day at Southport.

Sergeant Beale won the 100 metres and was second in the 200 metres.

Cricket is going strong and some very enjoyable games have taken place.

Captain Bill (Tweaker) Millett, newly-arrived from Austria, has added considerable weight to the team.

The Director of Signals paid us a visit on 23rd June, and was entertained to lunch at the Officers' Mess.

SOUTHERN COMMAND (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT

On 27th June the Regiment had to supply the couriers for an experimental Air Despatch Service, which started within Southern Command and will be running for a month.

The service is being run by 657 Air Observation Post Squadron, stationed at Middle Wallop, using Auster aircraft, and has been running daily between Headquarters, Southern Command, Bulford, Bicester and Aldershot and back to Wilton. Twice a week the plane goes to Taunton and Bovington.

The Auster aircraft lands in a field not far from the Headquarters of Southern Command; it also uses a field at Bulford. At Bicester the aerodrome is used, and at Aldershot the plane has been landing in the playing fields beside Queen's Avenue. On the first flight, the pilot and the courier were rather shaken to see, when doing their run in prior to landing at Aldershot, a fire engine and ambulance waiting for them!

The S.D.S. services in the Regiment are being cleared at such speed that one Staff Officer was heard to remark: "It is quicker than by telephone." We feel this is rather hard on our switchboard operators.

There has been no lack of volunteers to do plane courier, and the W.R.A.C. at Wilton are becoming very air-minded, as some of them have now taken their turn as plane couriers.

The experiment so far has been a great success, the weather has been kind, and the flights, except on one day, have not been cancelled and have been up to time.

The local newspapers took a great interest and took the enclosed photograph on the first day.



[Courtesy: "Salisbury and Winchester Journal"

Delivery of the first despatches to Wilton. Sgt. Wright, Glider Pilot Regiment, Signalmen Algie and Munro, Driver Kean, 2/Lieutenant Roach, W.R.A.C., and Major Frame, W.R.A.C., who did courier on the first day

Anti-Aircraft Command

1 A.A. (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT

In the beginning of April the Regiment welcomed our new Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel J. E. S. Sanders, O.B.E., and our new Quartermaster, Lieutenant (Q.M.) G. R. Thornton. A little later in the month we were joined by Captain F. K. Crowe, W.R.A.C., who succeeded to the onerous duties vacated by Captain D. E. Aylen, W.R.A.C.

The Regiment then departed to the wilds of South Wales for annual camp. There we were joined by our "Z" Reservists. Suffice it to say that the weather was excellent until we arrived and directly after we left, but the intervening period!

After camp we were joined by Major J. L. Tanner, M.B.E., but he soon left us on his well-earned retirement. During his short stay he brought the experience and wisdom of 30 years of soldiering, which helped the Unit tremendously, and we were sorry to see him leave. Not the idle life for one so energetic as Major Tanner, for five days after leaving he commenced work at the Ministry of Defence. We join with all members of the Corps who knew him in wishing him the very best of fortune and health in the future.

One of the outstanding events of the last three months has been the inauguration of the Orsett branch of the Royal Signals Association and under the auspices of Lieutenant W. S. Dawson.

On the day of enrolment no less than 70 members were captured; surely this must be a record for a day's recruiting! The inaugural meeting was held on 26th June. Our membership is now 93.

We have had rather varying success at cricket so far this season. The main fixtures and results are as follows:—

22nd May, v. R.A.F., Tilbury, home, R.A.F. 81 (Lieutenant-Colonel Sanders, 4 for 16); Royal Signals 70 (Lieutenant-Colonel Sanders 32). 11th June, v. R.E. Movement Control, Purfleet, home. Royal Signals 47; R.E. Movement Control 81 (Signalman Lyon 7 for 29, Second-Lieutenant Ross 2 for 5). 18th June, v. 6 Company R.A.S.C., home, R.A.S.C. 103 (Second-Lieutenant Ross 3 for 16, Lieutenant Dawson 2 for 14); Royal Signals 105 for 5 (Captain Hall 41, R.Q.M.S. Needham 40). 19th June, v. Thames Board Mills, away, Royal Signals 93 (Captain Hall 21; Thames Board Mills 100 (Lieutenant Dawson 4 for 33). 22nd June, v. Cooper Scrutton, Tilbury, away, Royal Signals 81; Cooper Scrutton 88 (Signalman Lyon 4 for 23).

2 A.A. (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT

It was with no little pride and pleasure that this Regiment took part in the first Birthday Parade of Her Majesty The Queen at Aldershot on 5th June. In glorious weather, the parade was faultlessly carried out and the spectators were most complimentary on our turn-out and bearing. The General Officer Commanding Aldershot District also gave us a very good commendation for our performance.

The annual camp for the training of "Z" Reservists was a great success and a credit to those who made the preparations for it. Aberporth is a very comfortable camp and the weather could not have been better. Indeed, it is not too much to say that a good time was had by all, including the local innkeepers. In case they should feel slighted, let me hasten to add that 2 Signal Office Squadron (T.A.) also joined us at camp and did their full share of work and play.

Lieutenant E. Cooper is busily engaged in training the Anti-Aircraft Command Signals team for the forthcoming competition at Bisley. "Dead Eye Dicks" have we none, but we are not so bad and some good scores have been obtained which we hope to see repeated in the competition.

3 A.A. INDEPENDENT (M) SIGNAL SQUADRON

The Unit has recently returned from Annual Camp at Aberporth, where we were joined by our "Z" Reservists, for training. Together in camp were 13 A.A. (M) Signal Regiment, and 35 A.A. Independent (M) Signal Squadron (T.A.) from Ulster. Both the training and recreational aspects proved a great success, although rain unfortunately caused the abandonment of the sports afternoon.

The Unit soccer team have reached the final of a local Amateur Cup Competition, although the date for playing it off has still to be notified.

S.Q.M.S. Latham has been discharged to civilian life and S.Q.M.S. Ellis has taken over from him. We also welcome Sergeant Norwood who recently joined the Unit.

Congratulations are extended to Sergeant Richards and Corporal Constantine on an increase in their respective families, and to Driver Galloway, Driver Thomson and Signalman Daley on their marriages.

4 A.A. (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT

As summer advances so our military activities increase. Over the weekend 14th-15th June, we played our small, but vital, part in "Flamingo," a 4 A.A. Group exercise. R.A.F. co-operation was enlisted and, if the number of visitors and umpires be any criterion, it was indeed a momentous occasion.

Ambitious schemes of upgrading, weapon training and P.E. tests have had to be curtailed owing to this and other commitments of our one regular Squadron.

The cricket team, however, continues with a very full programme, an average of two fixtures a week, and is experiencing a variety of fortunes.

The first of our social activities since emerging from Court mourning was a most enjoyable dinner-dance, held at Swansea by 44 Squadron on 6th June.

The monthly dance in the Gymnasium at Peninsula Barracks was enlivened this time by a visit from the Liverpool Irish Pipe Band.

14 A.A. (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT (T.A.)

The Regiment proceeded in good order and high spirits on 21st June, 1952, to annual camp at Aberporth. The "Z" men arrived the following day and quickly settled down to the old routine. In particular we were impressed by the efficiency of the A.C.C. Reservists—who believed in Napoleon's famous statement—which helped to make the camp go so well. During camp we were visited by the G.O.C., 4 A.A. Group, who seemed quite impressed by the quickness with which the reservists remembered their Army trades and their ability to do the job required.

A bit of excitement occurred on the night of 27th-28th June when a "Z" man, Signalman K. A. Hilton, became stuck on the cliff face near the camp. Rescue from the cliff top was essayed but proved too difficult, and the Aberporth Police Force, in the person of P.C. Jones, called out the lifeboat from Newquay to lift Hilton by sea. When the lifeboat was on its way, Signalman J. J. R. Burnside, another reservist, climbed down to Hilton and helped him to the cliff top. This was a most brave and courageous action on Burnside's part. Lamp communication was established with the lifeboat by Corporal H. Brown and it returned to base. By 4 a.m. all was over and everybody back in bed.

The sum of £10 14s. 6d. was collected for C.S.O. A.A. Command's Fund to provide comforts for Signals in Korea. Collections were also taken for S.S.A.F.A. and Royal Signals Association, and a cheque for £5 was sent to R.N.L.I. as a gesture of thanks for launching the lifeboat for the cliff rescue.

B.A.O.R.

2 INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

For us, this has been a very quiet month, indeed, in fact, we can record that we have spent at least sixteen days in barracks. The most important feature of the month has been in the field of sport where our cricket team has met with considerable success. We have played six matches so far, all of which have been won by quite wide margins. The most recent match being against a Field Regiment, R.A., in the semi-final of the Divisional Knock-Out Competition, in which we batted first and scored 161 in 33 overs due to a very quickly-scored 64 by Captain P. D. Parker; the opposing side managing to score 130 in the same number of overs. We are due to play the Final of the Divisional Cup in a few days' time and hope that in next month's issue we will be able to report our success. It should be noted that the four Divisional winners become Semi-Finalists in the B.A.O.R. Cup. We are fortunate in having such a well-balanced side this year, the batting of Captain P. D. Parker and Signalman D. Hopkinson being noteworthy, and the bowling of Major P. C. Williams, Sergeant J. B. Tiffin (R.A.P.C., ex Royal Signals), Signalman R. W. Trasler and Signalman M. Harrison, the latter having been chosen for the second year in succession to represent B.A.O.R.

★

There has been a considerable change of personnel in the Unit, the following having departed or are due to leave us early next month: Major G. R. Bishop, Major R. J. Harvey, Lieutenant L. A. Welton, Lieutenant (Q.M.) E. C. Lonton, R.S.M. W. E. Boon, S.Q.M.S. W. Cloughley and J. T. Smith, Sergeants R. Ryder, B.A.R. Yates, W. J. Hogan, F. J. Warren and W. R. S. Kennedy.

We are glad to welcome a great number of new arrivals: Major R. A. B. Brown, Captain (Q.M.) R. G. August, Captain J. Kavanagh (T.O.T.), R.S.M. N. A. Richardson, S.Q.M.S. D. Galbraith, Sergeants J. Wilson, R. F. Clemson and C. E. Moore. The departure of R.S.M. Boon and the arrival of R.S.M. Richardson was carried out very ceremoniously with the tossing of both of them fully clothed into the lake adjoining the Sergeants' Mess.

We had a very successful eight-day scheme during the month, with bouquets from all quarters; unfortunately our enjoyment was short lived, for we deeply regret the loss of 22494881 Driver H. Scriven in a fatal accident.

11 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT

There is little of general interest to write about this month. We lose our R.S.M., W.O.I. Rockall, G.D., early in July, after a short but very harmonious term of office, and W.O.II Harris goes in the same month from 2 Squadron.

Exercise " June Primer " was, from all accounts, a success. I was the fortunate witness of a mass " scramble " (R.A.F. term meaning " get airborne P.D.Q. ") from one of the northern airfields. The raid warning was given four minutes before the first raider appeared over the airfield and, in the meantime, every aeroplane on the field was airborne. Eighteen U.S.A.A.F. Thunderjets dived on the airfield at 600 m.p.h. from all points of the compass hotly engaged from above by the waiting Vampires.

I have never before seen anything approaching the intensity of this attack. Planes were screaming over the field at ground level, skimming hangars and seeming to miss the pine trees bordering the airfield by inches. One was thankful that it was only make-believe. These modern aircraft certainly move fast. They seem to float soundlessly into view and the screaming din only hits one when they are actually overhead. I had attended a briefing previously in the Squadron standby room. The Squadron Leader was a wartime product, thin, tough, aged about 35, his pilots averaged 19 or 20 years, yet he seemed somehow to be of the same generation. It is an odd thing, but senior R.A.F. Officers who have been pilots seem to retain an air of perennial youthfulness.

I was impressed anew by the noisy efficiency of the ground staff, a motley unshaven (after three days of continuous duty) bunch of pirates, each knowing exactly what to do, the proof of the pudding being that at the " scramble," from apparent chaos, dozens of aircraft appeared suddenly from their Squadron dispersal areas and were airborne in neat formation of pairs in a matter of seconds. It seemed remarkable to me that no one took cover when the raiders came over. The attacking pilots must have seen a sea of staring faces, but I was assured on inquiry that the b——s would dig like b——y badgers when the need arose. Let us hope so. We brown jobs have to dig like what I said before, at the slightest provocation!

7 ARMOURED DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

Fortunately we have plenty of time to write THE WIRE notes this month. We have just successfully completed a Divisional Exercise, are starting a larger one and planning for two more, so apart from taking a large part in the local Garrison Church fete in two days time, we've practically nothing to do.

Between exercises we managed to lay on a very creditable Queen's Birthday Parade. The Commanding Officer presented the parade, formed of detachments from Divisional H.Q. Squadron, R.E., R.A.S.C., R.E.M.E. and ourselves, to the General Officer Commanding, and afterwards the march past was assisted by the band of the Queen's Bays. There were many American and German guests, all of whom were suitably impressed. Salutes were fired by the R.H.A. and it would have taken a good infantry battalion to beat our performance with such a composite party.

Congratulations to S.S.M. Lee of 3 Squadron on receiving the award of the Meritorious Service Medal.

That's all for now, you'll see us again much browner or more browned off after the big exercises looming ahead.



S.S.M. Lee receives his Meritorious Service Medal

BERLIN SIGNAL SQUADRON

In accordance with custom, Engineer and Signal Units in Berlin marked the 32nd anniversary of the birth of the Corps with reunions and celebrations.

Highly successful dances were held in the Officers' and Warrant Officers'/Sergeants' messes, respectively. The highlight of the celebrations undoubtedly lay in the Corps' fete day, which took place on 28th June. A gathering of nearly 300 people included, besides the two Units, their wives and families, a representative party from the Engineer and Signal Corps of the United States Army, representatives from C.C.G. and 4 L. of C. Regimental cricket team from the Zone.

The programme started at 2.30 p.m. with a continuous selection of races. These included races for children, ladies, husbands and wives, the band, and numerous events open to all. The Inter-Unit race was hotly contested and all ranks delighted in seeing their respective Commanding Officers, Sergeant-Majors and others rushing madly about on bicycles, drinking bottles of beer and blowing up balloons.

Signalman Tainsh won the pop and bun race and was quite incapable of giving in his name at the winning post.

The obstacle race was won by Signalman Lowk after a disastrous scramble over a football goal post which collapsed.

The old soldiers' race was won by S.S.M. Hall, of 4 L. of C. Signal Regiment, a member of the visiting cricket team.

Numerous sideshows included coconut shy, spinning dart board and Aunt Sally. By far the most amusing sideshows were the greasy pole and tilting the bucket. Much raucous laughter was heard whilst defeated contestants plunged into

the water tank beneath the greasy pole. Signalman Hallett and Driver Jones (500) had an amusing bout.

After a spirited softball match between British and Americans, the prizes were given away by Brigadier and Mrs. Coryton.

On Sunday, 29th June, a cricket match was played at Berlin against 4 L. of C. Signal Regiment, who won with 203 for 5 wickets against 97 all out.

The Squadron, together with R.E. Troops, entered a team in the Inter-Unit Athletic Competition on the 25th. Although the team came last, the points scored were not far behind the other places. Our competitors, who had acquitted themselves in glory in the individual championships, were unable to do so well in the heavy rain which persisted the whole afternoon.

We have heard that Sergeant Richardson, who left us recently, has joined the Australian Army in their Signal Corps.

2 L. OF C. SIGNAL REGIMENT

Since last reporting, those strong, month by month rumours of a move by R.H.Q. have finally materialised. Early this month R.H.Q. said farewell to the North, and have taken up residence with our No. 1 Squadron in the Ruhr.

The Unit met H.Q. B.A.O.R. Signal Regiment in the B.A.O.R. Royal Signals Cricket Tournament and were beaten by 52 runs.

Our team was captained by Second-Lieutenant D. Yates and included representatives from all Squadrons. The usual difficulty of drawing people from far and wide was encountered, but we managed to assemble likely starters at Lübbecke.

The team put up a very good show, our opponents were only 67 for 7 at one time, but their tail wagged to good purpose.

We had a disastrous start to our innings, losing 3 wickets for 5 runs—including those of our star batsmen, Lieutenants Creedy and Yates. Despite a gallant innings of 28 by Signalman Boyce and a gallant knock of 15 by Signalman Archer, we never recovered and were dismissed for 65.

4 L. OF C. SIGNAL REGIMENT

Now that Exercise "Team Spirit" has passed and the "inquests" completed, we have reverted once more to our static communication role, but not for long. Preparations are well under way for our next sortie into the field for "Grande Alliance," when we will again provide neutral signal communications. Being static "types," exercises are not normally part of our job, but all enjoy living hard with the other components of the Corps as long as the weather remains fine and the Signal Office is in a building!

Particularly good work has and is being done by young National Service men who have joined the Regiment straight from home, and who have been placed into jobs for which they have received limited training, yet struggle manfully, carrying a responsibility that not so long ago was only entrusted to the selected few with many more years' service, and, in spite of difficulties, these lads are producing really good results.

Our G.S.O. Construction Troops, which those of you who are not in B.A.O.R. may not know are mainly composed of Germans, have been doing splendid work, both on exercises and on range communication commitments. Their skill, efficiency and cheerfulness under often trying conditions are much appreciated by all who come in contact with them.

Our sporting activities have been going on apace. 1 Squadron came second in the Headquarters B.A.O.R. Garrison sports which, considering the relative size of Units involved, was most creditable. 2 Squadron are progressing well in the Hamburg District Cricket League and 3 Squadron continue to be the mainstay of the Hanover District Headquarters swimming team and to give battle on the basketball pitch with the local German teams with good results. Our Regimental rifle shooting team, under the able supervision of R.S.M. Turner, M.M., has been practising assiduously for the Inter-Signal Unit Competition and great things are expected.

Our social activities brightened up considerably when two American destroyers visited Hamburg recently and most of 2 Squadron went aboard for supper and a film show which was given to organised parties on each night of the stay. Cordial relations were established and the ice cream was voted first-class.

BETFOR SIGNALS

Farewells are always regretted occasions, and there was no exception when recently we said goodbye to our Adjutant, Captain J. W. Rayner. He will be remembered here for a long while, and his "crowning glory" will not be forgotten so easily either. If, in the future, anyone sees a large, ginger (?) moustache somewhere near Herford, B.A.O.R., guard it and its owner well—they are entertaining and invaluable. In his place we welcome Captain D. C. Newman, and hope that he and his wife will enjoy their stay in Trieste.

Our cricket ventures have now found our team placed near the top of the league table, and for this good position we are indebted to Major T. P. Saunders, Lieutenant (T.O.T.) A. G. Pritchard and Lance-Corporal Wilson (R.E.M.E.), whose half-centuries come with monotonous, but pleasing, regularity. Another innovation in the Unit has been the opening of an amateur radio station, operated chiefly by members of Wireless Troop. If any of the readers of this magazine hear our callsign, MF2AG, on the air, have a QSO with us; we shall be more than pleased.

GIBRALTAR SIGNAL SQUADRON

The Unit has been having its share of ceremonial parades in the last few weeks. During May a street lining detachment was provided for the arrival of the new Governor, His Excellency Lieutenant-General Sir Gordon H. A. MacMillan, K.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., D.L. A fortnight or so later, a similar detachment was provided for the visit of His Excellency the Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Algeciras. In June, a detachment joined with Fortress Engineer Regiment, Royal Engineers, for Her Majesty The Queen's Birthday Parade.

With the advent of the better weather, swimming and cricket are in full swing. We still combine with the R.A.M.C. for the latter and already the eleven is showing very good promise. At swimming, it is still a little early to say much about our prospects, although the enthusiasm is much in evidence. Several of our members "had a go" in the individual events of the Command Sports held in May, but they just didn't have that little bit of extra effort to get amongst the winners. During June, a welfare trip was run to Cadiz, and it is hoped to pay visits to Ceuta and Tangier during July and August.

The annual fair is on just now. Judging from first reports, it is on a bigger scale than in previous years and is, apparently, much more cosmopolitan in its appeal. At least, the Baghdad Circus and the Chinese Theatre would suggest so.

It was with regret that we read in the June WIRE of the death of 22212426 Corporal J. Taylor, at Liverpool. Corporal Taylor was with this Unit for three years, returning to United Kingdom in December of last year. Our sympathies are extended to his next-of-kin.

We take this opportunity of welcoming to the Rock Major J. R. G. Walker who has come to take over our Unit, and we sincerely hope that his stay here will be a happy and a pleasant one.

3 G.H.Q. SIGNAL REGIMENT

On 14th May the Regiment was visited by Admiral Earl Mountbatten of Burma, the new C.-in.-C. Mediterranean. He inspected the general living conditions of the naval personnel attached to us; toured the Other Ranks' Mess hall and the W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess. Equipment at transmitters was also seen by him.

The branch of the Signals Association confined its efforts to a Derby sweepstake. 'Tis said that Officer Commanding 2 Squadron would produce a book of tickets every time he gave a lift in his car. No wonder he sold so many! On several paydays 2 Squadron Office resembled a bookie's office, with Lieutenant Cohen enticing us to "Have a go." The lucky winner was Corporal Dodds, of 1 Squadron.

The tennis season started rather behind schedule. It has only been possible to use the reconditioned courts at Olympia Stadium, but nevertheless a Regimental doubles championship was held. An exciting final resulted in a victory for Captain Trudgett and Mr. Haydock over Signalmen Chatterton and Harvey. Credit must be given to our R.E.M.E. personnel, the twins Craftsmen Dennis, who were beaten in the semi-final by the winners.

Training the Regimental swimming, water polo and basketball teams continues apace, and cricket is now in full swing. In water polo we are at the head of the league on goal average, having won all our matches except against our old rivals, the R.A.P.C. After a very exciting game we drew 4—4.

FAR EAST LAND FORCES

19 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT

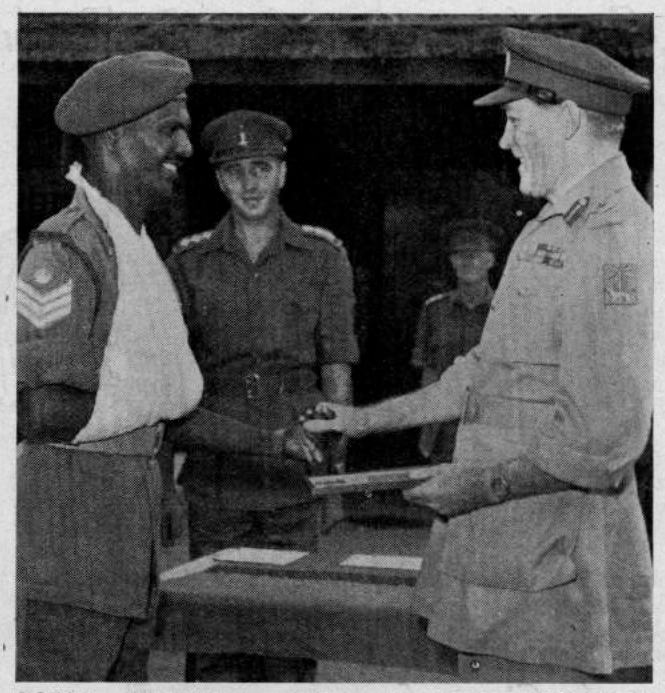
During the past few weeks the event which has caused the most eager anticipation within the Regiment has been the feast of Hari Raya. In fact, no conversation would have been complete unless the discussion had turned to Hari Raya, marking the end of the Muslim fasting month. The weather was perfect, the coloured lighting exquisite, the Makan Besar (Big Meal) lived up to its title, and although the band and Malay dancing girls arrived late, they certainly made the evening go with a swing. All the Officers and the S.N.O.C.s were put through their paces and at one time the Commanding Officer, C.A.F.S.O., and two senior R.A.F. Officers held the floor—or should we say the floor held them. The evening was a great success and we hope to be able to repeat it next year.

We congratulate S.Q.M.S. Viswanathan and Sergeant Khalid on being awarded Commander-in-Chief's Certificates for Good Service. These were presented by the G.O.C., Singapore Base District, during a special presentation parade held on 10th June.

A church parade was held on Sunday, 29th June, to commemorate the 32nd birthday of the Corps. We marched to the very excellent pipes and drums of the Gordon Highlanders.

Our football team is trying for first place in the Station League, with two more matches to play. We learn that Ceylon Squadron has also been doing well in the soccer world, and we are glad to see they are holding their own against their R.A.F. opponents.

Cricket is going well, too. In the first round of the District Knock-out Cup, we beat District Signals after a very closely-fought game.



S.Q.M.S. Viswanathan receives his Commander-in-Chief's Certificate for Good Service

HONG KONG SIGNAL REGIMENT

Obituary.—It is with profound regret that we announce the sudden death in 33 General Hospital of Sergeant W. A. McIntyre of 27 Brigade Signal Troop on 27th May, 1952. He was buried with full military honours in the Military Cemetery. The Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel P. O. J. Nicholson, the officers and representatives of 27 Brigade and the Regiment attended. The bearer party, consisting of Warrant Officers and Sergeants of the Regiment, was commanded by his Troop Commander, Captain P. Malins, Royal Signals. "Mac," as he was affectionately known by all, will be sadly missed by his many friends and comrades.

There are many new faces in the Regiment. New arrivals are Major (Q.M.) S. G. Bow, M.B.E., Captain R. W. Hill and W.O.11 Brackenbury from Units in Singapore; R.S.M. Holmes, S.Q.M.S. Taylor and Sergeant Galt from U.K. We have said goodbye to Major (Q.M.) E. C. Collins and W.O.2 E. Call who proceeded to the U.K. on the *Dilwara.*

On 30th June the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess



Hong Kong Signal Regiment six-a-side Hockey Team

held a special social evening which was a great success. Our new R.S.M., W.O.1 Holmes, with family, have arrived and are now settled in. We wish them three very happy years with us.

The Regimental team has won the Colony six-a-side hockey tournament played at Sookumpoo. We scored a total of 14 goals to nil, of which Hammond netted nine. The G.O.C.'s shield is now safely housed in the Officers' Mess. S.S.M. Pavey, Sergeant Teyen and Signalman Hammond have been awarded FARELF Corps Colours.

The soccer season has just finished and players are enjoying a well-earned rest. During the past month, all games have been friendly and we have more than held our own. Corporal Osborne, our popular captain and the Army left-half, has been awarded FARELF Corps Soccer Colours for the season 1951-52. Highest goal-scorer for the season was Corporal Drake, closely followed by Signalman Chisholm.

Running: We are proud to record the performances of athletic achievements of Sergeant J. McMahon, Royal Signals, in the past season.

International Harrier Road Race, January, '52. Placed 7th out of 189.
St. Joseph's College sports open 1,500m. to the Colony. 1st.
Combined Services Team, January, '52. 1,500 m., 2nd.
Hong Kong University, open to the Colony, half mile, February 23. 1st (2min. 6.5sec.). Ground record.
R.A.M.C. Sports open one mile, March, '52. 1st (unofficial record 4min. 38.8sec.).
Y.M.C.A. versus S.C.A.A., 16 March, '52. 1st in 800 m. 1st in 1,500 m.
Signals v. R.A.S.C. 1st in 1 mile. 1st in 3 mile.
Army Individual Championships, 22nd March, 1952. 1st in half-mile. 1st in 1 mile colony (record 4min. 35.3sec.).
Colony Championships on 13th April, 1952. 1st in 800 metres. (New record 2min. 2sec.). 1st in 1,500 metres.
Army v. R.A.F. v. S.C.A.A. v. Y.M.C.A. 1st in 800 yds., 2min. 3.8sec. 2nd in 1,500 metres.

It is not surprising that after this great record of running, Sergeant McMahon was chosen as "Sportsman of the Month" on Radio Hong Kong.

SIGNAL TRAINING SQUADRON, FAR EAST

Two sets of football kit were purchased during May and enthusiasts have been busy clearing the football pitch in their spare time. We hope to have the pitch playable by the end of this month.

Ramadan ended this month with the coming of the new moon and we all celebrated Hari Raya Puasa. The Muslims had a holiday for it, and in the evening we had a big Hari Raya curry supper with band and singers.

The District Signals M.O.R. football team, for which we provide five players, won their first round in the knock-out competition by defeating R.A.S.C. School 3—1.

During May, Captain MacCreadie joined us from District Signal Regiment, and Corporal Hehir, who has been with us for a long time as "A" Trades Instructor, got his third stripe. Congratulations.

We also welcome S.Q.M.S. H. C. Nix fresh from U.K., who is taking over from S.Q.M.S. Leeson, and Sergeant Mitchell, who has come from Brigade Signal Troop on the mainland.

Commonwealth

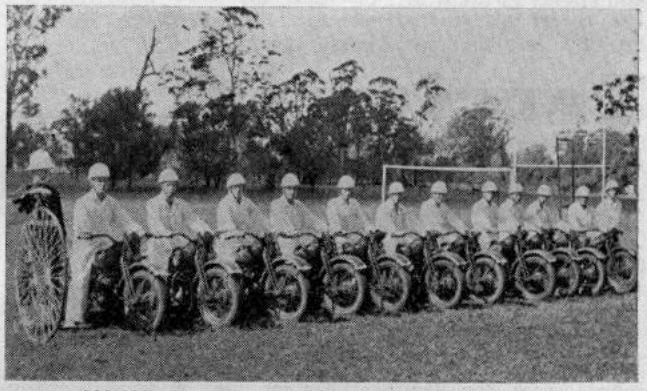
NEWS FROM AUSTRALIA

Britcom Base Signal Regiment, Japan. An interesting note this month concerns the arrangement that has been made with the formation headquarters concerned for the interchange of Royal Signals Officers of 1 Comwel Divisional Signal Regiment, Korea, with Royal Australian Signals Officers of Britcom Base Signal Regiment, Japan. The purpose of the exchange is to enable Officers of the Divisional Signal Regiment to gain experience in a large signal office handling the traffic of a combined headquarters, whilst the Base Signal Regiment Officer is able to add to his field experience. The arrangement is being limited to a "one Officer" exchange at present. The exchange of O.R. personnel between the two Regiments is also being carried out on a limited scale.

Northern Command. 101 Wireless Regiment. The motor cycle display team has again taken part in the Toowoomba Agricultural Show. Three performances were given and, from Press reports and local comment, the team lived up to its reputation of giving skilled and thrilling entertainment. We are now busy training for the Ipswich Show. Our photograph shows the team. It is not true that Signalman Hoad rides to and from Toowoomba daily on his "penny farthing."

We have welcomed back from Singapore Sergeant Richards, Corporals Morgan and Gracey, and Signalmen Sear and Kelly. One member just couldn't get himself out of jungle green—obviously trying to put certain characters with sand in their shoes in their proper place.

The Unit football team, captained by Signalman Tarleton and trained by Captain Seager, is now settling down, and we anticipate a good showing in the Toowoomba competition. Our table tennis team, under Signalman Clarke, is also well under way, and aims to show the Toowoomba players how to really hit the celluloid.



101 Wireless Regiment Motorcycle Display Team

Central Command. Adelaide Exhibition. Our stand is still attracting great interest at the Royal Adelaide Exhibition. It assisted the Army in the winning of a gold medal in the Commonwealth Section of the Exhibition.

As a matter of general interest, one of the crafts exhibits is the famous "Whispering Broom" of Changi Camp. It is the ingenious work of Lieutenant Russel Wright, of Adelaide, whilst P.O.W. in the hands of the Japanese. A miniature receiver built into a cavity in an old broom brought in daily news of the outside world. Two screw-drivers were used as controls, and two pieces of rubber tubing for earphones.

The "Hams" of the Wireless Institute of Australia are still entertaining the crowds. They have built a special transmitter for the Exhibition, operating on wavelengths of six metres down to fractions of a metre. Official station is VK5WI.

Since our last notes it has been announced that Major-General R. Kendall will retire about the middle of the year. Many readers will remember General Kendall as a Royal Australian Signals Officer during the earlier part of his career.

At a recent investiture at Government House, Captain

D. George, of Communications Section, L.R.W.E (Army Component), Woomera, was awarded the M.B.E.

W.R.A.A.C. Swimming Championship. Private Peg Pyne, of the Signal Squadron Orderly Room, won a measure of fame for Signals by sewing up the local W.R.A.A.C. swimming championship. Congratulations to you, Peg, for "scooping the pool."

Western Command. A note this month to attract the attention of "Hams" wherever they may be. Two members of the C.M.F. in Western Command operate amateur wireless stations. They are: VK6MK, Major H. T. Mulder; VK6KU, Sergeant R. Campbell, both of 13 Infantry Brigade Signal Troop. Both stations operate regularly in the 7, 14 and 28 megacycle bands on both C.W. and phone.

Major Mulder saw service with Royal Signals during the period 1940-46, when he served with the 31 Indian Armoured Divisional Signals, 5 L. of C. Signals, and 5 British Infantry Divisional Signals. He is anxious to renew old friendships and is very active on the 14 mc. band, usually being found at the high end on phone.

Northern Territory Command. Corporal Hodson and Signalman Conlon, members of Detachment 101 Wireless Regiment, represented the Army (N.T. Command) in the recently completed Rugby League season. It is interesting to note that sporting seasons are reversed at this "front line" station—football is played in the summer or "wet" and cricket in the winter or "dry."

Territorial Army

ARMY SIGNAL REPORTING REGIMENT (Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment), T.A.

After an annual camp, successful in both military and social senses, the Regiment has returned in good heart to its London headquarters. During the first two weeks in June the Regiment has been based at St. Martin's Plain Camp, Shorncliffe, and has ranged afar on its exercises into East Sussex and across to Thanet. In addition to its own volunteers and National Servicemen, a number of "Z" Reservists were equipped and trained during the fortnight. On the middle weekend a party from the Regiment's active Old Comrades' Association was welcomed into the fold and a more social atmosphere descended on the camp. One of the entertainment highspots was undoubtedly the performance at the regimental social of a hitherto unpublished episode in the life of "Little Nell." Among several distinguished visitors to the camp, the Regiment welcomed its Honorary Colonel and the C.S.O.s of Eastern Command and London District.

50 (N) INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT (T.A.)

We salute the (almost) conclusion of another successful training year. Annual Camp and the Northern Command Exercise "Red Beetle" have passed across the screen into the limbo and all that remains to do is to record it, wrap up the pieces and start thinking about the next one.

Let the epitaph of "Red Beetle" be in the words of the General Officer Commanding 50 (N) Division—Quote... I am well content... Unquote.

We expressed a fervent wish in our last contribution that this year's crop of "Z" Reservists would be up to 1951 standards. They were! After 24 hours they might never have been away from the Army. Like the crop of Dragons Teeth they sprang fully armed into the fray — armed with pencils and message pads, hammers and jumpers, perhaps, but the ease with which these erstwhile civilians slid into a groove of smooth efficiency might serve as a grim warning to any would-be aggressor.

An electrical storm of a severity previously unknown to the writer, even in a large assortment of mid and far Eastern countries, provided a very realistic accompaniment to the battle of the Wolds on Tuesday, 1st July. As many as four simultaneous lightning flashes were visible at one stage and for a short spell there was blessed peace in the exchange as shocked subscribers cowered on their stools, camp G.S., nursing scorched ears.

The odd intervals at Camp were filled in by competitions, the following Trophies being competed for and nobly won:

The Guard Cup, No. 2 Squadron.
The Troop Efficiency Cup, "M" Troop and L.A.D.
The Football Cup, No. 3 Squadron.
The Regimental Inter-Squadron Musketry Shield, No. 2 Squadron.
The Young Soldiers' Musketry Challenge Cup, No. 1 Squadron.

The best individual shots were:—Corporal Howell, 2 Squadron; Signalman Cox, 1 Squadron; Signalman Millington, 2 Squadron.

On Saturday, 28th June, a Ceremonial Parade was held and our Honorary Colonel, Brigadier T. T. J. Sheffield, O.B.E., T.D., A.D.C., D.L., took the salute at the March Past.

A Regimental Musketry Weekend at Whitburn on 10th/11th May, resulted in the newly-presented James White Musketry Trophy going to 2 Squadron.

Another Regimental Weekend at Marske-by-the-Sea, at Whit-weekend provided the occasion for a Regimental Wireless T.E.W.T. in Eskdale with Divisions and Brigades and Battalion H.Q.s staffed by Regimental Officers. The object (Tactical) of the Exercise being "To sweep the enemy into the sea." An energetic advance resulted in loud splashes off Whitby as the object was attained.

Whit-Monday saw 3 Squadron win the Athletics Trophy before some 350 guests and relatives who had travelled by coach from Newcastle, Darlington and Middlesbrough.

We have now enlisted a Bandmaster and are looking for keen instrumentalists to fill the remaining vacancies.

Finally, a War Memorial is to be erected to those Officers and Men of this Regiment who gave their lives during World War II. The Memorial is to take the form of a bookcase, to be installed in the Parish Church of St. Cuthbert, Darlington, and containing an illuminated Roll of Honour Book. It is hoped that the Memorial will be ready for the unveiling ceremony by October.

Should any ex-member of the Regiment wish to associate himself with this tribute to his former comrades his contribution will be accepted by the Regiment at Larchfield Street, Darlington.

61 H.Q. ARMY SIGNAL REGIMENT (T.A.)

Most Squadrons and Troops have now completed their annual camps with the parent Formation or Regiment, but the last Squadron camp does not end until the middle of September.

A number of Troops, having received "Z" Reservists, have been able to turn out as complete Troops and to provide full-scale communications for formation exercises in the second week of camp.

Squadrons and Troops which have not been made up with "Z" Reservists have had to work very hard on exercises to make up for their lack of numbers. We are grateful to 5 Corps Signal Regiment for assistance with operators on occasions.

To date, communications on all exercises have been satisfactorily maintained.

The Regiment has been busy during the past two weeks seeing the departing Adjutant off the premises. This

Regiment's parish is somewhat large, stretching as it does from Norwich to Balham and from Bedford to Ipswich, so to bid farewell to each sub-Unit has occasioned much journeying and no small amount of elbow lifting. The farewell parties arranged in his honour will, we feel, live in his memory for years to come.

We all extend a welcoming hand to the new Adjutant, Captain P. E. Mott, ex-B.A.O.R.

107 (U) INDEPENDENT INFANTRY BRIGADE, SIGNAL SQUADRON (T.A.)

June has been a month of great activity within this Unit. Firstly, the annual camp came upon us and this was very closely followed by an inspection by the Colonel-in-Chief.

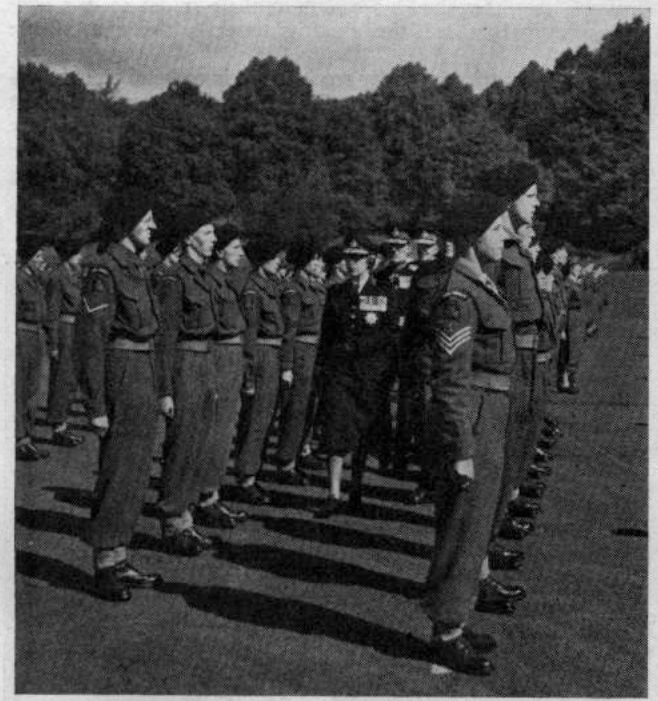
This year the Squadron remained in its native island and went to camp at Ballyedmond, on the shores of Carlingford Lough. The weather was not too kind, but we all came back refreshed from our experiences.

On Sunday, 23rd June, H.R.H. the Princess Royal inspected a mass paradé of Royal Signals and W.R.A.C. personnel at Thiepval Barracks, Lisburn. The rehearsal on the previous Saturday was conducted mostly in the rain, and it was with great relief that we saw the sun shining on the Sunday morning.

The Squadron had also the very interesting task of providing communications at the International Ulster Trophy Motor Car Race on the Dundrod circuit. Two B.R.M.s appeared but unfortunately failed to finish.

Some time ago we said farewell to S.Q.M.S. R. Arnold, who had been with the Squadron since its inception. We hear he is now basking in the British Forces Network in Hamburg. S.Q.M.S. Sanford has taken his place.

We have recently had a new wireless room built at the top of our four-storey building, which we hope will give us better results on the T.A. Wireless Network.



[Courtesy: W. Abernethy, Belfast

H.R.H. The Princess Royal, Colonel-in-Chief, inspecting 107(U) Independent Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron, followed by the G.O.C. N.I. District and the Representative Colonel Commandant Royal Signals, Major-General R. F. B. Naylor

1/20 ARMY SIGNAL REGIMENT (T.A.)

Annual Camp was held this year at Kinmel Park, near Rhyl, from 21st June to 5th July, in excellent weather and with a full Regiment, including " Z " Reservists.

Training was concentrated on setting up and working a main Army H.Q. Signal Office and line construction of a main artery. In the second week an exercise involved the move of Main Army H.Q. and establishing communications in a new location.

Over 50 D.R.'s competed in trials in which Signalman P. E. Rose and Sergeant G. V. Woodcock finished first and second. In the Regimental Sports, Craftsman J. I. Harris ran well to win both the quarter and the half-mile races.

At a parade of the Regiment the Inspection and Salute was taken by our Honorary Colonel, Brigadier E. A. James, O.B.E., T.D., D.L., J.P.

The Annual Commemorative Dinner was held on 27th June, when the Honorary Colonel and Lieutenant-Colonel E. R. Price, T.D. (Commanding Officer), welcomed Brigadier F. C. Nottingham, D.S.O., O.B.E., and Major R. F. Barlow, T.D. (" Barleux "), as the principal guests.

53 SIGNAL SQUADRON, W.R.A.C. (T.A.)

The last bed counted, the last blanket recovered from the dustbin, the last eyelash fluttered at the Regimental Quartermaster when the subject of deficiencies arose, and with the usual cough and splutter the tilly was started up, the dust of Kinmel Camp shaken from our feet, and yet another camp ended.

We were extremely fortunate with our accommodation this year due to the kindness of the Commanding Officer of a Training Regiment, R.A., who not only placed one of his hutted blocks at our disposal, but fitted the whole place out complete with bedside lockers, carpets, and a rest room that would bear comparison with that of a regular Unit. His example was followed by all other members of the Regiment, so it is not surprising that all women of this Squadron have returned with a soft spot and a very high regard for the " Gunners."

Once the pieces began to fall into place, faces became names and names became—well, let's not go into that—the girls settled down and enjoyed their training, which was done with 1/20 Army Signal Regiment, T.A. How much their enjoyment was influenced by the fact that all the Duty Signal Officers were personable young Lieutenants I wouldn't like to say, but one young Miss was heard to remark: " Lieutenant ——— told me off this morning and I enjoyed every minute of it." Trade testing boards were held at the end of the second week, resulting in a further 21 women passing their tests, a goodly total considering the strength of this Squadron.

All members were very thrilled when they learned they were to have a very welcome visitor in the person of ex-A.T.S. Sergeant Molly Fitzgerald. Many will, no doubt, remember her broadcast in a Wilfred Pickles' show and recall that she was very badly wounded whilst serving with an ack ack unit in the early part of the war. She is unable to walk and was spending a week at Prestatyn Holiday Camp before returning to hospital at Roehampton. For all feeling sorry for themselves, a meeting with Molly is thoroughly recommended for she just bubbles with good spirits and humour. After a tour around camp, during which she met most of the notables and drank enough tea to float a battleship, Molly was entertained to tea in the R.A. Sergeants' Mess and, after a presentation of fruit and flowers by the girls, returned to Prestatyn taking with her the admiration and good wishes of every member of this Squadron.

The sun shone often enough for the odd nose to start peeling—and some very odd noses there were, too—and all in all the general verdict was, as usual, " We've thoroughly enjoyed it. Roll on next year."

Harrogate

This is the first time we have submitted our notes to THE WIRE, although the branch was formed towards the end of 1951. Our first President, Lieutenant-Colonel G. Thompson, had a very short stay with the branch before being posted to Malaya. Lieutenant-Colonel Thompson was succeeded by Captain W. W. Webb, who now seems to have the situation well in hand.

The branch meets on the third Friday of each month at the Drill Hall, Strawberrydale, Harrogate. The majority of our members are serving personnel, but we are slowly getting more ex-Signals members. One of our old ex-Signals members, Captain McKee, who, by the way, is branch secretary, has once again gone back into khaki to become Captain/Adjutant of the local Home Guard.

We must congratulate Sergeant T. Blades on his having received a second long service and good conduct medal, having completed 36 years.

In their last term, apprentices of the School are invited to join a junior branch of the association, meetings being held monthly, which is run by members of the term selected by popular vote, although presided by an association member —Mr. Tyrie, our honorary treasurer. At the end of each term we lose these boys, who join their Units on reaching man's service age, and each successive senior term carries on where they leave off.

So far we have held a number of social functions, including a ladies' night. This was a great success and, later on in the year, we hope to hold a dance.

We say goodbye to our Chairman, Captain D. H. Baynham, G.M., who is leaving us to go to 1 Training Regiment.

The branch will welcome any ex-Signals in Harrogate and they can be sure of a good evening's entertainment at our meetings.

Prescot

Our Branch held a very successful supper and concert on the 14th June, 1952. Our guest of honour was the General Secretary, Brigadier H. R. Firth; also present were Colonel R. Baron, O.B.E., T.D., Dr. I. O'Ryan, M.O. to our local Signal Squadron.

The Chairman, Prescot U.D.C., was unable to attend the supper but was present for the concert.

We have a very heavy social programme which I hope to have ready for publication in the next issue.

Slough and District

A telegram of good wishes sent by a founder-member now stationed in the Canal Zone, Egypt, was read by the Chairman, Mr. George Knowles, at the first annual dinner of the Slough and District Branch of the Royal Signals Association held recently.

The "good luck" message came from Captain Bob Edwards, whose wife, Mrs. Mary Edwards, Whiteford Lane, Slough, returned from Egypt when rioting broke out there early this year. She was among the 60 members and friends who attended this dinner and party in the Slough Naval Club premises.

Major-General W. R. C. Penney, branch president, who welcomed representatives of the Slough Naval Club and Slough R.A.F. Association, said how important it was that men of the three Services who had fought and suffered together in war should unite in times of peace to look after those comrades who had fallen on difficult days.

Brigadier H. R. Firth, National Secretary of the Signals Association, congratulated the Slough Branch on "beating the pistol" by bringing into practice inter-Service social comradeship of the type so far only planned by Service chiefs at national level.

Guests included Mrs. Penney, Mr. R. I. Clayton and Mr. S. A. Keirle, chairman and secretary respectively of the Slough R.A.F. Association, Mr. Manson and Mr. G. Williams, chairman and secretary of Slough Naval Club. Mrs. Penney received a bouquet from Mrs. George Knowles.

Northants

Last month's business was over in record time in order to be ready to welcome our Leicester guests who started to arrive about 7.30. Although Northants Branch has had several get togethers with other local associations, this was the first with an out-of-town Signals Association.

We couldn't resist including housey-housey in the evening's entertainment, intermingled with a raffle for a box of fruit and another for a hand-embroidered tray cloth. What a relief when at least one prize went to a guest! Leicester insisted that they had no talent in their midst so our own "Snowey" Birr led the singing towards the end of the evening.

Last year's trip to Corby steel works is to be repeated during August, and once again the ladies will be entertained at the home of Mrs. Knight, wife of our president, until the men return from the tour to join them.

PRESCOT BRANCH ANNUAL DINNER



Royal Signals Benevolent Fund

Also on this page is a simple statement of income and expenditure. Below an attempt is made to describe with suitable anonimity seven cases taken at random from the office of the Welfare Section at 88 Eccleston Square.

Ex-Signalman, four years pre-war Territorial Army and six years' war service. Has not worked for some years as he had tuberculosis. He lives on his post office pension and national health insurance. The family have recently been granted a council house and the Fund helped with removal expenses. Recommended by SSAFA.

Wife of Ex-Signalman, six years' war service, has to go into hospital. They have five young children and the income is only £6 per week. The Association, on the recommendation of SSAFA, is helping with the cost of sending the children to relations while their mother is away.

Ex-Signalman, a widower with three children, his wife died suddenly recently, just as they came to the top of the waiting list for a house. Now he has to disperse the children to relatives. The Benevolent Fund made a grant to help.

Ex-Corporal, five years pre-war Territorial Army, five years' war service. Receives a 40 per cent. pension and because of his disability cannot work much. He has five children, they are out-growing clothes and beds. The Benevolent Fund paid for some blankets.

Ex-Signalman, six years' war service, was killed in an accident leaving wife and five children. The Association, through SSAFA, is helping his widow.

Ex-Regular, 1914-34, widowed in 1948, died in 1951. He left two children and the Benevolent Fund and the British Legion have both helped the guardian of the two orphaned children to clothing.

"Z" Reservist, severely injured during training in July 1951, and was discharged from hospital to pension in May 1952. Until May he received emoluments from Army Funds and the Association has helped him to tide over the short period between his discharge from hospital and the commencement of his disability pension.

	£	s.	d.
Subscriptions received during June, 1952:—			
1 Commonwealth Divisional Signal Regiment	35	0	0
1 Commonwealth Divisional Signal Regiment (28 and 29 Brigade	17	0	0
Depot Regiment	15	0	0
1 Training Regiment	10	0	0
7 Training Regiment	10	0	0
Anonymous	2	0	0
H.Q. Officers' Mess		14	6
Royal Signals Wing, School of Signals (Sergeants' Mess)		7	3
2 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment	15	0	0
Malaya Signal Regiment	4	19	0
BETFOR Signals (Sergeants' Mess)		11	6
Donations received during June, 1952:—			
Depot Regiment (Married Families)	10	0	0
No. 3 Unit Branch 11 Air Formation Signal Regiment	14	1	8
Prescot Branch	2	10	0
Bournemouth Branch	2	2	0
S. J. Nowell		10	0
E. Ormond		2	0
Total Receipts	£139	17	11

Expenditure during June, 1952 ... £482 6 9
(Includes: Beds and Bedding; Rent and Rates; General Assistance; Tools; Prams and Cots; Removals; Clothing; Fares; Convalescence; Hire Purchase.)

Analysis of cases:

Families of soldiers serving in U.K.	4
" " " " " B.A.O.R.	3
" " " " " FAREAST	2
" " " " " MELF	0
Widows and Dependants	5
Released and Discharged soldiers	50
Total cases assisted	64

ROYAL SIGNALS OFFICERS' AUTUMN GOLF MEETING, 1952

The Royal Signals Officers' Golfing Society autumn meeting will be held on the links of the Westhill Golf Club, Brookwood, Surrey.

10th September:—
- Event 1: Senior Officers v. Junior Officers (Singles in the morning).
- Event 2: Senior Officers v. Junior Officers (Foursomes in the afternoon).

11th September:—
- Event 3: Royal Signals Challenge Cup, 18 holes (Stableford).
- Event 4: Royal Signals (Junior Officers) Challenge Cup, 18 holes (Stableford).
- Event 5: Royal Signals Foursome Challenge Cup, 18 holes (Stableford).

12th September:—
- Event 6: Royal Signals Open Championship, 36 holes (medal).
- Event 7: Royal Signals (Regular Officers) Challenge Cup, 36 holes (medal).
- Event 8: Royal Signals Handicap Challenge Cup, 36 holes (medal).

Entry forms may be obtained from the General Secretary, Royal Signals Association, 88 Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1, or from the Hon. Secretary, Royal Signals Officers' Golfing Society, School of Signals, Catterick Camp, Yorks.

ROYAL SIGNALS (SINGAPORE) R.F.C.

The 1951-52 season started with a reasonable number of willing recruits to the game, but very few seasoned players.

Our team would have been very weak had we not received some very welcome additions to the field from the Royal Australian Corps of Signals. Captain Cattenach and his men, attached to G.H.Q. Signal Regiment, certainly brought new blood into the team. It was a severe blow when Captain Cattenach had to retire early in the season with a dislocated shoulder. We most sincerely hope that our Australian friends will be available to play for us next season.

It was, therefore, with many unblooded players that we started the season's fixtures, and accordingly we could not expect other than average results. Of the 16 matches played, we lost eight, drew four and won only four; not a successful record, but we can claim success in that many new players were introduced to the game, and that many more had their knowledge of the game improved.

The season's fixture with Royal Signals (Mayala) R.F.C. was held on 24th November in Kuala Lumpur. Our opponents, after making every effort in the various messes to sabotage our training, gave us one of the best games of the season. No quarter was asked and none granted, and a fitting end saw no advantage to either side; the result, a draw. We look forward with pleasure to next season's fixture in Singapore when we, as hosts, will have an opportunity of returning the hospitality shown to us.

Captain Clayton, the secretary, is to be congratulated for arranging a most comprehensive fixture list for the club, while experiencing all the difficulties of having no home ground. We congratulate him in qualifying as a Class I referee in the Singapore Association of R.F. Referees; he has taken over the duties of secretary to this association for the coming season.

CRICKET

The result of the Corps cricket match—the Corps v. R.E.—at Aldershot on 4th and 5th July, 1952, was a draw.

The scores were: Royal Signals 77 and 111 for 8 wickets; R.E. 125 and 128 for 8 declared.

THE WIRE

The Corps Magazine of the
ROYAL SIGNALS
The Official Organ of the
SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

Editor:
BRIGADIER H. R. FIRTH

All correspondence and matter for publication for THE WIRE *should be addressed to The Editor,* THE WIRE, *88 Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1. Matter for publication must be received by the 15th of the month preceding publication.*

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☆

SEPTEMBER • 1952

Vol. 6 *New Series* **No. 9**

☆

PRICE ONE SHILLING

Editorial

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND REUNION AT CATTERICK, 19th-20th JULY, 1952

BRIGADIER J. J. DUVIVIER, C.B.E., and all ranks of the Signal Training Centre adopted the motto of "bigger and better," and assisted by Brigadier C. G. Moore, C.B.E., and the School of Signals they succeeded beyond all expectation.

The hospitality, the organisation, the displays and, last but not least, the Band, were beyond compare.

It was the opinion of all that this, the 1952 Reunion, was the best we have ever had.

All members of the Association will join in most grateful thanks to the many hundreds of all ranks of the S.T.C. and School who worked so hard for our entertainment. And dare we say it, to the great edification of some thousands of young soldiers, training there, who recorded perhaps their first impression of the greatness of Royal Signals.

Space in this magazine is precious and much is written elsewhere, but some of the highlights of what was for us ex-Signalmen a very happy two days must be recorded.

The long hours of travel by coach, by car and by train concluded for many on the Saturday afternoon, and at 7 p.m. we gathered for the playing of Retreat by the Band. It was blowing a full gale, chairs flying, hats held on, backs braced against the wind.

The task of many, including that of the trumpeters, seemed impossible. All was impeccable and the precision of the drill and the excellence of the music were beyond praise.

Then to supper, and the Band, now split into FIVE, and on to the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Messes dedicated to our entertainment and to a long, happy evening of talking, dancing, talking—talking.

Despite the prodigious potations of the night before, the old comrades mustered 280 to Church Parade; eight standards and two strong Squadrons.

As always, the marching of the "old 'uns" was a little better than the marching of the "young 'uns."

A tremendous church service, the dedication of four new standards, the singing of hymns, the partially completed and already very beautiful Royal Signals Chapel, the lesson read by General Fladgate, a real soldier's sermon by the Chaplain, the Rev. T. O. Sturdey, another record collection for the Benevolent Fund, amounting to £23 10s., an all-time high, and we were marching past, the salute being taken by our chairman, General Fladgate.

A momentary pause on the parade ground for C.S.M. "Bill" Hibbert to receive his Meritorious Service Medal and then to the annual general meeting which is reported on pages 223 and 224.

In the afternoon—fine, not too warm, with little wind—a wonderful programme of displays, an Eighth Army Command vehicle "Alamein to the Alps," friend meeting friend, and so to the end of a very happy day.

At 5.30 the loudspeaker said goodbye to the Old Comrades; not goodbye, but "*Au revoir* until 1953." In the minds of all the Old Comrades was the thought: "We WILL be back, but how, oh, how can we THANK them." Perhaps the man who put it best was the one who said: "I don't know HOW they can make it better next year."

A fuller account of the reunion by "Nacerby" will be found on pages 202, 203 and 204.

Interleafed in this number will be found the Statement of Account and Balance Sheets of the General Fund and the Benevolent Fund (Other Ranks) of the Royal Signals Association.



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COLONEL A. D. MOLLOY

Royal Australian Corps of Signals

ON 6th May, 1952, Colonel A. D. Molloy relinquished the appointment of Director of Signals, A.M.F., being succeeded by Colonel L. J. Bruton, and was appointed Australian Army Representative and Military Attaché, Australian Military Mission, Washington.

All ranks of the Royal Australian Corps of Signals are unanimous in their congratulations to Colonel Molloy on his new appointment and are proud of the honour bestowed on the Corps by the selection of its Director for the important Washington post. It is hoped that this active severance from the Corps may be of a temporary nature only.

It is perhaps unusual for space in this magazine to be given to record the service history of serving officers other than those of Royal Signals. In this case, however, it is felt that Colonel A. D. Molloy is so well known by other Corps interested in this publication that this exception is warranted.

As the officer is still serving and is far from reaching the brink of retirement, it is not appropriate at this stage (unfortunately) to eulogise on his virtues and personal characteristics to the extent desired. This article therefore must necessarily be confined to a resumé of his service.

Colonel Molloy has given distinguished service to the Corps since he was first commissioned at Duntroon in the Australian Staff Corps in December 1930.

During his pre-war service he served as a Brigade Signal Officer with Peshawar Brigade, India, 1934-1935. He saw active service in the Mohmand and a number of minor operations in the North-West Frontier area. He returned to Australia as a young but experienced officer wearing the Indian General Service Medal.

On his return to Australia he served as Adjutant/Quartermaster, Signals 4 Division, until 1936. His next appointments were to Army Headquarters, Melbourne, where he served a period as assistant to the G.S.O. Signals.

Colonel Molloy was one of the first members of the Australian Staff Corps to join the A.I.F. when war was declared in September 1939. As VX18 Captain A. D. Molloy he was the first Adjutant of 6 Divisional Signals and he sailed with that Unit for the Middle East early in 1940.

He was soon promoted to the rank of Major as O.C. 1 Company, 6 Divisional Signals, during the North African campaign, and subsequently administered command of the same unit for a period. From April to September 1941 he held an appointment as G.S.O. 2 H.Q., 6 Australian Division. It was in this appointment that he saw service in Greece.

Probably one of the most important contributions the officer made during his service in the desert was connected with the growth and development of Air Support Signals. His initial association with 1 Australian Air Support Control (A.I.F.), which was one of the two new organisations raised in the Middle East towards the end of September 1941, enabled him to play quite a large part in the formulation of the future accepted policy for Air Support Control.

The present close co-operation which is possible between ground and air forces, and the current Air Support Signals techniques have developed from a very small beginning with which the name of Major A. D. Molloy will be linked always as one who played a part in the early history of this new aspect of Signals' employment. The origin of Air Support Signal Units in the A.M.F. can be traced back to the foundations laid by 1 Australian Close Support Bomber Control.

During his service as G.S.O.2 with 1 Australian Close Support Bomber Control, Major Molloy spent a short time as a "guest" of Rommel's Afrika Korps. He managed to escape, thus avoiding the fate of a long term P.o.W., and consequently was spared to render the A.I.F. and the Royal Australian Corps of Signals much more valuable service during the Second World War.

Back in the South-West Pacific Area as a Lieutenant-Colonel, he held various staff appointments and qualified for his P.S.C. at the Australian Staff School.

Then he held a succession of senior Signals staff appointments such as C.S.O. 2 Australian Corps, C.S.O. 1 Australian Corps, C.S.O. New Guinea Force, and C.S.O. 1 Australian Army. He was promoted to the rank of Colonel during this period.

Tangible evidence of official recognition of his service during the war is registered by the fact that he was mentioned in despatches five times.

Colonel Molloy's appointment at the close of the war was as Signals' representative on the Australian Army Staff, London, from January 1945 to January 1946. This appointment could be referred to as the highlight of his wartime service as it was during this period that he became so closely associated with Royal Signals and established so many firm friendships with members of that Corps.

On his return to Australia from England, he was promoted to the temporary rank of Brigadier and appointed Deputy Signal Officer-in-Chief, H.Q., A.M.F. A few months later he succeeded Major-General C. H. Simpson, C.B.E., M.C., V.D., as Signal Officer-in-Chief.

He faced a very difficult phase in the history of the Corps occasioned by the run down from war- to peace-time strengths and commitments. During this period his appointment was converted to Director of Signals, H.Q., A.M.F., and he thus had the unique distinction of being the A.M.F.'s first bearer of the title Director of Signals. In March 1947 he reverted to his substantive rank of Colonel.

He had a further opportunity to visit England and the U.S.A. in mid 1951, when he attended the British Joint

Communications Electronics Board Conference in London and returned to Australia via the United States of America.

During that visit he made a formal presentation to our Colonel-in-Chief, Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, on behalf of the Royal Australian Corps of Signals.

It is well known that he was particularly pleased to receive his present Washington appointment with the promise of renewed association with the United States Signal Corps as a small charter of his new and wide scope of duty. Also, he was especially happy about the prospect of visiting England once again on his trip to U.S.A. to assume his duties.

When Colonel Molloy, accompanied by his charming young family, sailed from Melbourne on 6th May last, all who farewelled the travellers wished the Colonel a happy and successful tour of duty in America. The same sentiment is echoed by all members of the Royal Australian Corps of Signals, who at the same time record their appreciation for all that Colonel Molloy has done for the Corps.

It is a source of pleasure to the Corps to be able to report that since leaving Australia Colonel Molloy has been informed he is to assume his new appointment in the rank of Brigadier.

The Band

Fresh from its triumphs at the reunion in Catterick, the Band went to Eastbourne for a long stay.

It is of interest that their performances on Bank Holiday Monday, which, incidentally, was broadcast, was attended by the record figure of 23,825, to say nothing of the very many thousands who later listened to the broadcast.

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THE ROYAL SIGNALS SLOW MARCH

It will be a source of great pride to all of us that our Colonel-in-Chief has been graciously pleased to inform the Corps Committee of her consent to the naming of this excellent and inspiring march by Mr. Ricketts, late Bandmaster, Royal Signals, after her. She has chosen the name "HER ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCESS ROYAL," and the tune was heard by very many for the first time when the Band played Retreat for the Old Comrades Reunion on 19th July, 1952.

THE COLONEL - IN - CHIEF VISITS BLACON CAMP

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See story on page 214



[Courtesy: F. R. Jones, Chester

At Shotwicklodge Farm. In the picture will be seen Major Goodanew, Lieut.-Colonel S. J. Lovegrove and Brigadier E. V. McCormack, C.B.E.

PERSONAL COLUMN

THE BLUE BOOK

Many who are older will remember the pre-war Seniority Roll of Warrant Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers. At long last the Officer in Charge of Records has been able to settle the final post-war seniority of all, and so for the first time it is possible to publish the Blue Book.

It will be much larger than in the pre-war days, and will consist of about 136 pages inclusive of covers, 6½in. x 4⅛in. It will sell at 2s., and amendments will be published monthly in THE WIRE.

It is hoped to have this book ready for despatch in October, and it will be of the greatest assistance if Regiments of Royal Signals could forward their requirements, accompanied by the necessary cheque, to reach the Editor of THE WIRE at 88 Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1, by the 1st October, or sooner.

Sufficient copies have been printed to supply every N.C.O. down to lance-corporals, and the turnover of Warrant Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers is so great that it will probably be necessary to reprint the book annually.

Movements of Officers

Major J. de D. Yule from Ministry of Defence to M.E.L.F.

Major J. L. Tanner from 1 A.A. (M) Signal Regiment to R.A.R.O.

Major D. M. Humphries from U.K. to c/o Depot, Japan.

Major R. F. B. Paver from School of Signals to 2 War Office Signal Regiment.

Major (Q.M.) E. R. Collins from FARELF to U.K.

Captain (T.O.T.) E. G. Brice from Northern Ireland to FARELF.

Captain (Q.M.) E. G. Chidgey from 52 "L" Divisional Signal Regiment to FARELF.

Major (T.O.T.) H. V. Wattley from Southern Command (M) Signal Regiment to R.A.R.O.

Major (T.O.T.) G. R. Bishop from B.A.O.R. to Eastern Command Signal Regiment.

Major N. D. Shaw from School of Signals to War Office.

Captain (Q.M.) C. Rolls from M.E.L.F. to U.K.

Captain (T.O.T.) K. E. White, from M.E.L.F. to N.I.D. Signal Squadron.

Lieutenant-Colonel J. H. E. Panton from M.E.L.F. to War Office (Signals 3).

Major C. S. Kidd from 2 A.A. (M) Signal Regiment to Malta.

Major E. A. Knott from School of Signals to 7 Training Regiment.

Major E. A. Sinnock from 2 Training Regiment to 3 Training Regiment.

Major J. H. St. G. Hamersley from R.M.A. to Staff Appointment.

The following Officers are posted "on first Commission":—

Lieutenant (Q.M.) R. E. Guest to 52 "L" Divisional Signal Regiment.

Lieutenant (T.O.T.) F. R. Pedley to S.H.A.P.E.

Lieutenant (T.O.T.) W. D. Crofts to M.E.L.F.

Lieutenant (T.O.T.) R. Marsh to M.E.L.F.

Lieutenant (T.O.T.) A. C. Earl to FARELF.

Lieutenant (T.O.T.) J. Harwood to B.A.O.R.

Movements of W.O.s and N.C.O.s

W.O.I Knight from Nigeria Signal Squadron to 4 Training Regiment.

Sergeant Burke from Nigeria Signal Squadron to U.K.

W.O.II Venner from Apprentices School to Nigeria Signal Squadron.

Sergeant Williams from Sierra Leone Signal Squadron to Nigeria Signal Squadron.

Sergeant Guthrie from Gold Coast Signal Squadron to Nigeria Signal Squadron.

United States Army Signal Corps

The following paragraphs are taken verbatim from News Letter No. 25 issued by the Armed Forces Communications Association:—

New Commander for Sacramento Signal Depot

Colonel Sidney N. Storbraaten, presently assigned to the Munitions Board in Washington, will become C.O. of the Sacramento Signal Depot on 15th August, according to present plans. A graduate of the Industrial College of the Armed Forces in 1946, the Colonel has spent the greater part of his nearly 32 years' Signal Corps service in supply work.

General Pulsifer Retires from Signal Corps

After 38 years of Army service, Brigadier-General Arthur Pulsifer, Chief of Personnel and Training, Office of the Chief Signal Officer, retired on 31st July. Although commissioned in the Infantry upon his graduation from the U.S. Military Academy in 1918, he transferred to the Signal Corps in 1925 and has served in that branch for the past 27 years. He filled a number of responsible assignments—during World War II serving in both the European and Pacific theatres—and has been Chief of Personnel and Training, OCSigO, since 1950.

Lenzner Appointed Brigadier-General

Emil Lenzner, Chief of the Signal Corps Plans and Operations Division, recently received a recess appointment to the temporary rank of Brigadier-General. We are glad to note this recognition of his long and outstanding service in the Signal Corps since graduation from the U.S. Military Academy in 1924.

Births

EDWARDS.—To Captain and Mrs. V. Edwards, at Rinteln, B.A.O.R., on 11th May, 1952, a son, Nigel Patrick.

HUGHES.—To Captain and Mrs. E. P. Hughes, at Old Court, Ealing, on 29th May, 1952, a son, Simon Patrick.

KNOTT.—On 12th August, 1952, at York, to Major and Mrs. E. A. Knott, a daughter, Correen Clare Acheson.

Engagements

BOWDEN—DAY.—The engagement is announced between S.Q.M.S. (F. of S.) D. A. Bowden, 11 Signal Park Squadron, Donnington, and Betty Eileen Day, of Bridgewater, Somerset.

Marriages

NEWMAN—WELLS.—At Thurrock on 2nd August, 1952, Lance-Corporal A. Newman to Private Doreen May Wells, both of 1 A.A. (M) Signal Regiment.

Deaths

COWBURN.—2549536 Driver Cowburn, on 29th June, 1952, at R.A.F. Hospital, Wroughton.

HILLIER.—22212115 Driver R. D. Hillier, on 19th July, 1952, in B.A.O.R.

HOLLOWAY.—22248167 Signalman J. T. Holloway, on 19th July, 1952, in B.A.O.R.

NEWTON.—22360321 Signalman D. J. Newton, on 31st March, 1952, at R.A.F. Hospital, Rinteln, B.A.O.R.

VICKERS.—22607445 Signalman L. D. Vickers, on 14th July, 1952, in B.A.O.R.

Forthcoming Events

Royal Signals Motor Cycle Display
Sept. 18—Wembley Stadium, Wembley.

Royal Signals " Quicksilver " Trailer
Sept. 16-23—Carlisle Area.
Sept. 26-Oct. 4—Scarborough-Malton Area.

Royal Signals Band
Sept. 14-Oct. 5, and after Oct. 19—Eastbourne.

44 Division 1939/42 Old Comrades Rally : Forbes House
Halkin Street, Hyde Park Corner, London, S.W.1, 5 to 6 p.m., Friday, 24th October. Tickets 3s. 6d. from the Adjutant, 257 (H.C.) Field Regiment, R.A., Church Street, Brighton.

El Alamein Reunion, Empress Hall, Earls Court, London, 24th October

T.A. OFFICERS' "AT HOME," 1952

The tea party for Royal Signals Territorial Army Officers and their wives will be held this year at the Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, W.1, on Saturday, 6th December, 1952, at 4 for 4.30 p.m. Dress: Lounge suits.

The Colonel-in-Chief, H.R.H. The Princess Royal, C.I., G.C.V.O., G.B.E., has graciously accepted an invitation to be present.

Tickets (8s. 6d. per person) may be obtained from the Honorary Secretary, Royal Signals Dinner Club, Room 102, Horse Guards, Whitehall, S.W.1. Cheques should be made payable to Royal Signals Dinner Club.

OFFICERS' BUFFET SUPPER AND REUNION

The Royal Signals Officers' Buffet Supper is to be held this year at the Territorial Army (11 (M) Anti-Aircraft Signal Regiment) Drill Hall, 206 Brompton Road, London, S.W.3 (adjacent to Brompton Oratory Church), on Saturday, 6th December, 1952. Time: 7 to 11 p.m. Dress: Lounge suits or uniform.

A well-known London catering firm is providing the buffet, and drinks will be available at normal Officers' Mess prices. This arrangement, which is being tried out for the first time, should reduce the costs to officers attending, and it is hoped that it will prove popular.

All officers who have served or are serving with Royal Signals (i.e. regular and retired, T.A., T.A.R.O., S.R. and W.E.C. officers) will be welcome at this reunion, which will be quite informal. Membership of the Royal Signals Dinner Club is not necessary. It is hoped that all who are able will attend and make the reunion a success. All Signal Regiments, T.A. in particular, are asked to assist in publicising this reunion to the numerous officers not now serving.

Tickets (12s. 6d. per person) may be obtained from the Honorary Secretary, Royal Signals Dinner Club, Room 102, Horse Guards, Whitehall, S.W.1. Cheques should be made payable to Royal Signals Dinner Club.

DINNER AND "AT HOME," 1953

The dates for the Dinner and Regular Officers' "At Home" are 20th and 21st May respectively.

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

London
and
Home Counties Reunion

SATURDAY, 18th OCTOBER, 1952

Will be held from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m.

at

THE DRILL HALL
190 HAMMERSMITH ROAD
LONDON W.6

by courtesy of

THE ARMY PHANTOM SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.
Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment

THE BAND OF THE ROYAL CORPS OF SIGNALS
will play throughout the evening

REFRESHMENTS

BAR

Tickets
4s. Single, 6s. Double including a lady, from
Royal Signals Association
88 Eccleston Square, London S.W.1

'Best Ever' Reunion

by NACERBY

YOU probably know the story of the recruit who, on his very first parade was asked by an inspecting General just what he wanted to be and was staggered by the reply: "An Old Comrade, Sir." Yet the more I think about the annual Old Comrades' reunion at Catterick Camp on 19th and 20th July the more I realise that recruit "had something."

The atmosphere—the *esprit de corps*—and the embracing comradeship associated with the reunions is contagious, and it seemed on this occasion as if that spirit had enveloped Old Comrades, serving members and young recruits into a unity that not only ensured this reunion the label of the "best ever," but added a deeper and lasting significance on those Corps loyalties and comradeships born and fostered during Service days and nurtured by the branches on return to civil life.

Delegates converged on the Centre from all points of the country from Chester, Manchester, Oldham, Aldershot, Leeds, York, Middlesbrough, Liverpool, Orsett, Leicester, Birmingham, Huddersfield, Newcastle, Bournemouth, Scarborough, Stone, Chesterfield, Beverley, Tunbridge Wells, London, Edinburgh, and from all Commands, the local Catterick Branch and from the newly-formed S.T.C. branches. It would perhaps be invidious to single out the old familiar Corps names—those ever-present faces at these reunions—for special mention, because age, dialect and service were swept away in common knowledge and understanding that the words "*esprit de corps*" and "comradeship" were to assume an even deeper meaning during these two days. That is, of course, precisely what happened, and it was particularly heart-warming because all branches had a blending of old and young members, and it seemed as though the younger element had been infused with the realisation that 1952 would be the "best ever" in every respect.

Royal Signals, Catterick, had, with co-ordinated effort, given the reunion a flying start—the magnificent administrative arrangements under the chairmanship of the Commander S.T.C. (Brigadier J. J. Duvivier, C.B.E.), the perfect host, accommodation, and the W.O.s' and Sergeants Messes Saturday evening smoking concerts and dances fitted as keystones into a programme that was as exciting and thrilling as memorable.

"Retreat"

Appropriately enough, the ceremony of playing Retreat in the cool of the Saturday evening heralded the programme—and even the overcast skies merely served to accentuate the uniforms of the Corps Band and the multi-coloured flag of the Corps and School of Signals, H.Q., S.T.C., and Regimental Standards. It was a most inspiring spectacle. The Corps Band, under the direction of Captain J. L. Judd, M.B.E., with their marching and counter-marching, rendering of the Corps March, "Begone Dull Care," and other well loved selections and marches, the prevading stillness during the playing of "Abide with me," the lowering of the flag and standards during Retreat by senior N.C.O.s, impressive in their blue uniforms, and the salute taken by the Chairman of the Association (Major-General C. W. Fladgate, C.B.E.), brought back nostalgic, heart-stirring memories to the huge gathering of old comrades and serving members, and provided the large crowd of young recruits from 7 Training Regiment and other Regiments with a spectacle that will live on for ever.

The ceremony of playing Retreat, as presented by the Band of the Royal Signals, is derived from the old practice of Beating Retreat. This latter ceremony, like that of Trooping the Colour, is a link with the past. The first reference to the Beating of Retreat appears in Bland's Treatise on Military Discipline (1727), which says that half an hour before the gates of camp are shut "The drummers of the port guards are to go out upon the ramparts and beat a retreat to give notice to those who are without." In those days it was customary, both in peace and war, to close the gates of towns and barracks at sunset, and the roll of the drums across the countryside was a warning to those without to retreat to the shelter afforded by these places. In war, when armies "lived on the country," it was a warning to foragers to return to camp; it was also an indication to cease the day's fighting. In another book, published in the early 1800s, it is stated that the drum major and all drums of the battalion, except those on duty, beat the Camp from the colours on the left to those on the right of the encampment. The drummers with the guards had also to beat, and the trumpets were sounded at the heads of the respective units. The object of this was "to warn the soldiers to forbear firing and the sentinels to challenge until break of day." At "break of day" the drummers were out again to beat Reveille.

Another account says that "a corporal and four 'rank and file' marched with the drums and fifes; the corporal in the rear covering off the drum major, who marched in front, while one private marched at the front, one on each flank and one at the rear."

The necessity for using drums and bugles to pass orders or warnings has passed with the advent of modern communications, and so the Beating of Retreat, developed into a ceremonial exercise performed by the complete band and drums, now remains as a piece of traditional pageantry to remind us of those long past and more colourful days. The actual detail of the ceremony varies according to Regiments and Corps. In keeping with the mounted tradition of the Corps, the Royal Signals does not maintain a Corps of Drums and, in consequence, designates the ceremony as "Playing Retreat."

W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess Entertainment

Even now I'm a little hazy about the evening. In an optimistic frame of mind I had planned to wander around the Officers' Training Wing, Royal Signals Wing, 1, 2 and 7 Training Regiments W.O.s' and Sergeants' Messes, to greet old and new friends.

Ha! Ha! How right you all are!

The hospitality of the Catterick Messes is traditional, but never before have I seen such spontaneous gaiety and jollity or heard such happy laughter. Add to this "lubrication" of varying hues (and sizes), with every serving member the perfect host; garnish with stories that not only grew bigger and better but would have shamed any fisherman describing his catch; sprinkle in "Do You Remember?" "He's a bit fat now, but what a drill instructor," "Marching, old boy, just watch us tomorrow," "Why, I sent faster with my foot," and you have some idea just what developed. Campaigns were refought (and invariably won!), places and stations "revisited," and it would not only need an atlas to pin-point that "outpost of Empire," but even Joe Cotterell couldn't have run the distance under a "pontoon." Am still not certain when it all broke up—someone said dawn had broken, and one Old Comrade remarked: "If the Q.M. won't pay for *that* one, send Ukann Larfe to find the culprit!"

Church Parade

That it had at one time been hoped to have the Royal Corps of Signals Memorial Chapel in St. Martin's Garrison Church, Catterick Camp, ready so that it could be dedicated at the reunion service, was revealed by Senior Chaplain the Rev. T. O. Sturdy, when he addressed a congregation of more than a thousand people, old comrades, young soldiers and civilians, at the reunion service at the church on Sunday morning.

Drawing attention to the partly completed chapel in the north aisle of the church, which is being erected to provide a more suitable and dignified setting for the Corps memorial tablet, already placed there, and consisting of an altar, curtained reredos, communion and side rails, and a wall panel for the tablet and roll of honour, Padre Sturdy said that phase one of the work was complete.

Phase two, the furnishing, had begun, a curtain was to be provided, and books, communion vessels and the roll of honour were yet to be put in place. The three windows along the length of the chapel were to be of stained glass bearing the Corps crest.

Then would come phase three, the dedication, at which it is hoped the Colonel-in-Chief, the Princess Royal, will be present.



[*Courtesy: "Courier," Catterick, Richmond*

March Past. The Standards

"It is a pity," said Padre Sturdy, "that phase three could not have been carried out today. But you know it takes a long time to get things done these days. As a nation, we are in grave danger of accepting restrictions and frustrations as part of our life. Shortage of manpower, shortage of materials, priorities and permits threaten to kill our very ambition.

"Had those responsible for making this chapel a reality accepted these excuses, and often they are merely excuses to cover up shortcomings, the completion of this memorial would be much further away."



[*Courtesy: 'Courier," Catterick, Richmond*

Branch Representative

On the day of the dedication he hoped that each branch of the Association would consider sending a representative. St. Martin's was the spiritual home of the Corps. The church had played an important part in the history of the Corps. They opened the church in 1925, when a five-year-old Corps first came to Catterick, and it had been theirs since. The memorial chapel was a fitting tribute to the comrades who died in the last war and its dedication would be another great event in the annals of the Royal Corps of Signals.

At the outset of his address Padre Sturdy welcomed the members of the Old Comrades Association. It was most



[*Courtesy: "Courier," Catterick, Richmond*

C.S.M. Hibbert receives his Meritorious Service Medal from General Fladgate

encouraging to see so many present. The fact that their loyalty to, and affection for, the Corps were not dampened by long distances was indicative of a healthy Association.

Turning to the young National Service men of the local Signal Training Regiments who were in the church, Padre Sturdy said: "You serving signalmen should take inspiration and encouragement from your elder brethren who have paraded with you this morning. They are those who have kept alive, and added in no small way, to the great heritage and respect the Corps has built up for itself. There is much you can learn from them. You have taken their place and the great traditions of the Royal Corps of Signals are now in your keeping, so protect them and remember that men have died to preserve them."

To the Old Comrades he said: "And you, learn from your younger brethren. They have much to give but they need all you've got, too. Keep your branches the happy and useful places they are, go on welcoming these younger brethren into them."

Prior to the service, Padre Sturdy dedicated the standards of the Aldershot, Leeds, York and Birmingham Branches, and all other standards were received by him and stood by the altar throughout the service.

The Corps Band accompanied the singing, the lesson was read by the Chairman of the Association (Major-General C. W. Fladgate, C.B.E.), and a fanfare of thanksgiving by the Trumpeters concluded the church ceremony.

The march past followed, headed by the Old Comrades, followed by the young recruits of the Training Regiments. It was taken by Major-General Fladgate, who was supported at the saluting base by the Commander S.T.C. (Brigadier J. J. Duvivier) and the Commandant, School of Signals (Brigadier C. G. Moore), and this spectacle, always so awe-inspiring—medals proudly displayed, banners flying, arms swinging in perfect unison, martial music from the Corps Band—seemed to portray a special significance and inspiration to those who took part and who lined the route.

Presentation

Flanked on all sides by Old Comrades and young recruits, the Branch standards waving in the breeze, and a huge and representative crowd, Baghdad parade square presented a perfect setting as General Fladgate decorated ex-C.S.M. W. Hibbert with the Meritorious Service Medal. C.S.M. Hibbert served 25 years in the Corps and was a founder-rider of the motor cycle display in 1930, being a constant performer until 1934.

Needless to add, he is an enthusiastic member of the Tunbridge Wells Branch (see the July issue!).

The proceedings of the annual general meeting are reported elsewhere, and so to round off this "best ever" reunion, Messines Lines Sports Field was the venue of thrilling and eventful displays in the afternoon.

The setting might well have been Olympia and the Royal Tournament.

The band of the 6 (Boys) Training Regiment opened the proceedings, followed by a drill display by 3 Training Regiment.

A P.T. display by the Boys, mast erection competitions by 4 Training Regiment, a breath-taking display by the Motor Cycle Display Team, and finally a unique exhibition of Swedish drill by 3 Training Regiment.

You will have realised by now that I have used up all the possible superlatives, and yet I don't feel I have done justice in describing these two days. As Jimmy Emblem remarked to me as he departed: "Bigger and better reunions. Yes, indeed, but 1952 occupies a special place in my Corps memories."

And so say all of us.

A number of most excellent photographs were taken of the Old Comrades marching to and from Church on Sunday, the 20th July, and also of the Band playing Retreat on the previous Saturday evening.
Proofs can be seen at Association Offices in London or by Branches who care to write and ask for the proofs to be made available to them. Branches who do this may hold the proofs for three days.
The photographs, which are price 1/3 each, will also be on display at the London and Home Counties Reunion on 18th October.

The Signal is—

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W. V. F

Mr. Elliott H. Newcomb, Secretary-General of the World Veterans' Federation, spoke at a Press Conference in London in July.

THE decision of the Royal Naval Association, the Royal Artillery Association, the Grenadier Guards Comrades Association, the Royal Signals Association and the Royal Air Forces Association to join the World Veterans' Federation is a most important event in our history. In my opinion it is just about the most important milepost that has been passed by the World Veterans' Federation since its founding. I say this with the full knowledge of all the important events that have happened since the World Veterans' Federation started in 1950 its great—I might even say dramatic—growth.

Since then we had won the support of 15½ million veterans in 15 different countries; we had gained recognition by the United Nations; and we had launched many programmes in many different countries.

But we were still up against the fact that millions of veterans inside the British Commonwealth and in other countries did not have full confidence in us so long as the British ex-Service men were not contributing to our active leadership.

If you could have seen the enthusiasm shown by delegates who attended our council meeting at Istanbul last week when I told them that we might anticipate the joining of the British groups you would know why I feel as I do that this is perhaps the most important milestone we have passed.

I know that no international movement is satisfactory without the active participation of the British. A great feeling of confidence will flow from the announcement of this decision.

I don't care where you go, or on what side the people you meet might have fought in the various wars, somewhere in their conversation the question is always quietly asked: "Where are the British?" The answer we now can give them is that: The British are with us.

In this month, July, twelve years ago, the Battle of Britain began. One free nation after another had toppled before the armies of the German dictator. At that time only the fighting men of this island stayed to challenge Hitler's thirst for world domination. And they stayed and stayed and stayed.

The world has not forgotten, nor will it ever forget, the stubborn heroism of the British people at that time.

But today we are seeing evidence that the airmen, the sailors, the gunners and signalmen who fought alone then remember that the Second World War could not have been finally won alone. And in the same way the ideals for which the war was fought cannot be maintained without the support of other former soldiers, in other countries, who stand for the same ideals.

That is why five British ex-Servicemen's associations—the Royal Naval, the Royal Artillery, the Grenadier Guards Comrades, the Royal Signals and the Royal Air Forces Associations—have decided to join the World Veterans' Federation.

I, personally, have been looking forward to the day the British join, and I assure you that veterans leaders in our other member nations—Canada, Norway, Denmark, Belgium, Luxembourg, Holland, France, Yugoslavia, Italy, Greece, Turkey, Israel, Pakistan, the Philippines and the United States—were equally enthusiastic when they voted unanimously to admit these five British organisations.

The W.V.F. leaders were also happy to accept the invitation by British ex-Service men to hold their next General Assembly in London, and I am glad now to accept officially the generous invitation extended by the British member organisations.

Our assembly will be held in December from the 8th to the 11th in the Church House at Westminster.

The British associations have seven hundred thousand members, and so our total membership now totals approximately fifteen and a half million in sixteen nations.

We are one of the largest non-governmental organisations accredited to the United Nations, and I also think it can be said, objectively, that we are one of the most influential.

You see, the World Veterans' Federation has this great advantage in its work: It has policies, but it does not get involved in politics. Unlike most of the other non-governmental organisation—as they are called in United Nations circles—the W.V.F. does not represent any one political party, or any one religion, or racial group, or class. We represent the men in each nation who have fought and suffered in wars and who, having shared a common experience, can now agree on a common programme for peace and for the rehabilitation of their disabled comrades, wherever they may be.

The rehabilitation programme is by far the most important programme we have. It has long been obvious that the rehabilitation of the war-injured should be tackled on an international scale, so that the best training or surgical techniques developed in any part of the world would be made available to the doctors, psychologists, vocational guidance experts, limb-fitters, in the rest of the world.

We are doing just that, and with the aid of men like Dr. Harold Balme, British chairman of the United Nations' working party on rehabilitation, and Dr. Ludwig Guttmann, head of the Stoke Mandeville Spinal Injury Centre, who serve with other rehabilitation experts as advisors on our programme, we expect to help raise standards for rehabilitation throughout the world.

Let me point out one significant fact in conclusion. I spoke of 1940, when British fighting men were being injured. In that summer, many hundreds of miles away, a young Finnish captain received a shell splinter in his right lung and narrowly escaped death. After months on his back in the hospital he began to study rehabilitation and eventually became head of the Finnish Disabled Ex-Servicemen's Association. I have just seen the work done by that country and that association and I could not have been more impressed.

This Finnish captain was Kurt Jansson, who is now chief of the W.V.F. international rehabilitation programme, and I think that the British will find, as we have found, with Mr. Jansson, that the coming together of men injured in 1940—or 1914—will mean a happier life for many millions of ex-Service men.

★

Coming Events of Interest to the World Veterans' Federation

A course on the rehabilitation of the disabled adult is being arranged by the United Nations and will take place from 8th September to 8th November, 1952. The training will be given partly in Sweden, partly in Finland and partly in Denmark. Mr. Kurt Jansson, W.V.F. Director of Rehabilitation, will give two lectures. Dr. Harold Balme, chairman of the United Nations Working Party on Rehabilitation and consultant to the W.V.F., is organising the course.

The next International Congress of Physical Medicine will be held in London from 14th to 19th July with Dr. Henry Kessler and Dr. Harold Rusk, both consultants to the W.V.F., attending. The Sixth Annual International Conference of Social Work will take place in Madras, India, from 14th to 19th December. Dr. Henry Kessler will take part.

A World Congress for Occupational Therapy will be held in London from 7th to 12th September.

A QUIZ FOR NATU MINIMUS

do you know?

DO you know "Willance's Leap" near Richmond, Yorkshire, and do you know the story? Here it is, taken from THE WIRE of 1932. "Willance's leap is so called from the wonderful escape of a hunter. Robert Willance was a successful merchant. The greater part of Clints, in the parish of Marske, passed into his possession. He was a native of Westmorland, and came through the dales to settle as a draper in Richmond. There he pushed his fortunes with great success and soon became possessed of a comfortable income. He was greatly interested in hunting, and in the year 1606 he was hunting near his own estate on the high ground between Clints and Richmond on the northern bank of the Swale. The party was surprised by fog. Willance was mounted on a young and fractious horse, and to his horror it ran away with him and made straight for the precipitous Whitcliffe Scar, which looks down upon the Swale. The horse, no doubt, would as it neared the verge, become conscious of its peril, but as is frequently the case, the danger that paralyses the rider only makes the steed more fearless. As soon as it left the level platform above, three bounds, each covering 24 feet, brought it to the verge of the cliff, down which it sprang. About a hundred feet from the top of the Scar there is a projecting mass of rock and earth, upon which the horse alighted, only to rebound to the ground some hundred feet farther down. It was killed by the fall, and Willance's leg was broken. With wonderful presence of mind he disentangled himself from the dead horse and, drawing a clasp knife, he slit open the belly of the animal and laid his fractured leg inside to protect it from the cold till help arrived. This precaution in all probability saved his life. His leg, however, was amputated, and he could hunt no more. As a memorial of his wonderful escape, he marked with an upright stone each of the three bounds which his steed took before it sprang over the cliff. On two of them he put the following inscription: "1606. Glory be to our merciful God who miraculously preserved me from a danger so great." He had, indeed, great cause to be thankful, for no one can look up at the grey cliff over which he was carried without a shuddering feeling of astonishment that anyone could survive so fearful a fall."

Do you know that in 1923, 400 all ranks of the S.T.C. at Maresfield visited the Royal Naval Barracks, Portsmouth, for a day's sport? Results:—

Association football, a draw.
Rugby football, won by R.N.B. 24—nil.
Hockey, won by R.N.B. 2—1.
Boxing, won by Royal Signals 13—7.
Shooting, won by R.N.B.

Do you know that Royal Signals once worked as Dock Labourers? Yes, 1,300 of them in 1949—Where?

Do you know the N.A.A.F.I. Club in Catterick? When was it opened, and who by? What is the name of the famous "Signalman" who was Commander of Catterick District at that time?

Do you know of the 1st Lancashire Royal Engineers Volunteers? They saw service in South Africa, 1901, in World War I as 55 Signal Company, R.E., in World War II as 55 Divisional Signals, their present title, 22 Corps Signal Regiment, T.A., and, believe it or not, they have a "Second Line" in the Army Cadet Force. Signal House, Score Lane, Liverpool, 16, is the address AND do you know the Liverpool Branch of the Association has its own "Pub" in the building?

There is at present no 5 Divisional Signal Regiment in the British Army, although its historic home, Burniston Barracks, Scarborough, is occupied by 5 A.A. Group (M) Signal Regiment. BUT do you know 5 Divisional Signals was formed in 1907 and was stationed in Ireland? It fought in 1914-18 in France and Belgium.

In 1919 the Regiment lost its identity for a time, but was soon re-formed at Scarborough and became "Signals" to 5 (Gardening) Division. This sobriquet was earned in the 1930's when Sir Walter Kirke, the G.O.C., embarked on an ambitious project to beautify Catterick. During the 1939-45 War it became 5 (Travelling) Division. The Divisional Signals travelled far and fast for their fighting: Dunkirk and Norway, Scotland, Western Command, Northern Ireland, Madagascar, India, Sicily, Italy, shipborne to Anzio, England, Normandy, Holland, Germany.

The very large number of Troops now stationed in M.E.L.F. and FARELF has prevented the re-forming of this famous Division.

28 Independant Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron won considerable fame in Korea. Its first "battle" was, however, against women. Do you know When? Where? Why?

★

DEVONSHIRE men serving in Royal Signals will be interested to know that Her Royal Highness Princess Margaret recently opened a new NAAFI Club in Plymouth.

Plain Tales

★ *With Greetings from Barleux*

Defaulters' Lullaby

Hush-a-bye kid, stay awake if you'd rather,
Thirty days hath September and so has your father.

Recitation

Ten little puppy dogs straining on a line,
Ten dogs can pull a sleigh. Canine?
(Republished under great pressure, with no apology.)

Advertisement

Do not turn up at Mercury House, Colwyn Bay, without booking your room. The place is full of people who have been before. Wise guys. They know when they are on to a good thing.

You Wouldn't Remember

When I was Mayor, or rather Maire of Ligny St. Flochel in the Pas de Calais, I often gathered a few friends in the evenings, such as two sanitary men, the C.O.'s batman and a half-witted accordion player to accompany me on a little walk to St. Pol, which was eight kilometres distant. True, I was only nineteen years old, but as we were all fond of vin rouge or vin blanc, not to mention cafe methylated, and transport as we know it today was non-existent, we walked to St. Pol. More than that, we walked back again, though maybe it took a little longer because my friends kept dropping me. Imagine my surprise then when I heard that members of the Chester Branch took exception to my claim that Colwyn Bay has eleven pubs. Must I explain that they are all within what may be regarded as fair walking distance? Can it be that the old boys are losing the use of their feet? As a special concession I am prepared to bring the number down to ten. Remember, if you see it in "Plain Tales," it is so. Or if it is not, then I can explain everything.

The Forecast

I live in the hope that one of these days we shall hear of a ridge of high endeavour sweeping the country. Only something like that will put us back where we were in pre-war days. Imagine the effort necessary to reach the luxury of pre-World War I days, when cigarettes were ten for 2d. and for another fourpence you could have a couple of pints of beer and perhaps see a variety show as well. You don't believe it? Then you were never in the "Gaff" at Aldershot and must be a weeny bit younger than I. No doubt we shall eventually have a few bright periods, probably when they de-ration meat or do away with the Food Office, though there will undoubtedly be an occasional deep depression consequent on a further increase in the price of rug wool or petrol. Almost certainly there will be a little light drizzle here and there. Mostly there, I hope. Until the younger generation appreciates the urgency for hardwork, enterprise and get-in-there-buddy, we shall stay right where we are. In the—well, never mind. The fact is, we do not work hard enough. Or rather, you don't work hard enough. All we, I mean all you, think about is getting £75,000 for 6d. Which is a bad thing in some ways but has a ray of hope because anyone with that much optimism cannot be completely lost. Now I forget what I was going to say. Hand me my coupon. They've started again.

★

Do We Remember?

The July WIRE asks: "Do you remember "K" Company, Aldborough House, Dublin?" Does anyone want to answer this question or are you leaving the work to me? You 1913/14 boys should be ashamed of yourselves. Why don't you speak up and tell the readers what headaches you were to O.C. "K" Company and Corporal O'Keefe. Where are you hiding these days? Charlie Wakeley, Nobby Nobes, "Dub" Hales (last heard of as a Major in R.A.O.C.), Bob Barlow. What happened to him, as if we don't know. The boys were accommodated in Ship Street Barracks, on the second floor, and were attached to the Buffs for rations and a certain amount of discipline (they thought). Sunday morning was always great fun. We would stay in bed until 10 a.m. unless someone tipped ashes in our beds and then perhaps we would get up because, well, have you ever had cinders in your pyjamas?

The infantrymen had a habit of throwing our enormous joint of roast beef through the window in a usually vain effort to impale it on the spiked railings. Fortunately, someone was in the street waiting to catch the joint. Quite often he caught it. When this jollity palled we all sat down to dinner, R.E. boys, Buffs, West Kents and sometimes a Cherry Picker. Maybe the joint wasn't so hot by then but there was still plenty left, and in those days germs hadn't been invented.

Do we remember Aldborough House? Ask us sometime. We might even tell you how eight of us did a kit inspection with only one spare pair of boots between the lot. And who did we think we were kidding?

★

What, No Serial?

For three very good reasons which we will (with our mania for efficiency) call a, b and c, in that order, the Adventures of Ukann Larfe are held over until next month. I have just thought of another excellent reason which after some consideration I have decided to call d, but as I have forgotten what it was you may call it x, y or z, and I shall remain completely unmoved and outside this foolish discussion.

Uncle Alf: "What about me this month? I haven't had a line in this script."

Me: "More fool you. Why didn't you speak up on the "K" Company issue?"

Look out for our Christmas number—probably in December.

August Bank Holiday

A PLEASANT scent of sun-warmed stubble greeted us as we emerged from the packed car park, and the sound of a band came faintly through distant loudspeakers. It was August Bank Holiday, and the Rutland Agricultural Society's summer show was getting into its stride.

All round the outskirts of the field horses were tethered awaiting their turn to perform, and in a far corner a patch of scarlet and black-and-tan announced the presence of the Cottesmore Hunt. I found a seat on the fence overlooking the ring, next to a bay pony which rolled a distrustful eye at me before deciding that I was harmless. I had forgotten all about my "in" tray at Association Headquarters, and the Royal Corps of Signals seemed a thousand miles away.

But it wasn't! The deep drone which had been going on almost unnoticed behind a nearby marquee suddenly swelled to a musical roar, and there was a burst of applause as sixteen white crash helmets flashed past into the ring to the strains of "Begone Dull Care." Impossible to mistake them—the Royal Signals Display Team, on top of their form and delighting the Rutlandshire crowd with their feats. It was like meeting old friends in a strange country.

I had seen the display several times before, but never in surroundings like these. The rough turf must have provided a few anxious moments for the performer of the ladder ride but, like all the others, he completed his circuit triumphantly. The fire jump created a sensation, and I noticed members of the local Fire Brigade standing by at a discreet distance, but there was little need for their services. And so to the final ride, and the cavalcade swept by out of the ring to enjoy, we hoped, a well-earned rest before going on to their next engagement.

Somehow, after all that excitement, even the hunt seemed tame.



[Courtesy: "Graphic" Photos, Watford

THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE IS PRODUCED THROUGH THE KINDNESS OF THE OFFICE OF TECHNICAL INFORMATION, OFFICE OF THE CHIEF SIGNAL OFFICER, THE PENTAGON, WASHINGTON

lighting without wires

MAN - MADE LIGHTING WONDERS OF ELECTRICITY SHOWN SIGNAL OFFICERS

CAMP GORDON, GA.—Officers of the Signal Corps Training Centre (S.C.T.C) were treated to an amazing demonstration of some unusual uses of electricity at their command conference recently. They watched Private Richard Colmery (1223 Shorb Avenue, N.W., Canton, Ohio), 21, formerly an industrial electrician with the Timken Roller Bearing Co. in Canton, grasp an ordinary fluorescent light tube and bring it to a shining brilliance without using a single wire. In another demonstration, the Signal Corps officers were shown the tremendous power and damage potentialities of man-made lightning.

Private Colmery, Student Co. 22, The South-Eastern Signal School, who has made a hobby of ferreting out seemingly magical electrical phenomena since his high school days (Lehman High School, Canton) arranged the demonstrations himself and was aided by Pfc. Don M. Evans, Instructor Co. A, T.S.E.S.S., who acted as narrator.

Colmery regards lighting without wires as a big possibility for the future. His demonstration works with high frequency, high voltage A.C. current, which is scattered in the air and picked up by the body, acting as an antenna. When a fluorescent tube is touched, the current on the body surface is strong enough to cause it to light, and when contact is broken, the tube remains lighted because its reflector becomes the antenna.

In the lightning demonstration, Colmery showed what might happen to a house struck by a bolt from the sky. A model building with a properly grounded lightning rod showed no ill effects from a Colmery-made thunderbolt. However, when the ground connection was broken, the lightning destroyed the structure's paper roof with a blinding flash.

Other parts of the show, which attending officers said was one of the most enjoyable and interesting they had ever seen, included demonstrations of the properties of ultra-violet light and transmission of sound over light waves.

WANTED

Active, middle-aged man, unmarried or widower, of exemplary character, to live in private residence and look after retired officer and wife. Should be all-round handyman, capable of handling grass cutting and light gardening machinery, driving a car occasionally (or willing to be taught) and doing simple cooking when necessary. Should be fond of country life.

Excellent separate accommodation available consisting of large bedsitting room and private bathroom, etc., on ground floor. Seven miles south-east of Salisbury, Wiltshire, midway between the villages of Pitton and Farley.

£150 per annum salary plus full board and normal holidays with pay.

Applicants to apply in writing in first instance to Royal Signals Association.

THE DEPOT REGIMENT

At long last the fruits of our labours since arrival in Devon are beginning to show.

The barracks are assuming a trim and well kept appearance and the gardens are the object of high praise and envy from all quarters.

A fact which, until we left Pocklington, was considered a fallacy has now been proved—the sun does still shine in England, the members of the Regiment, both Cadre and Transitees, taking full advantage of this during their leisure hours by besporting themselves in the fleshpots of Torbay!

The Regiment has gained a further success in the local carnivals, the tableaux representing the work of the Regiment being awarded first prize at the Dartmouth carnival. Full praise is accorded to the personnel who manned and prepared the tableaux. They have been instrumental in doing noble work publicising both the Corps and the Regiment in the district.

The cricket team have had a full month of fixtures and although victories have been in the minority some very close and enjoyable matches have been played. The most notable match during the month was versus the Iraq Petroleum Company Cricket Club. This resulted in a win for the Regiment by 109 runs (Sergeant Cross 82, Signalman Clements five for 26).

★

Local meetings of the Signals Association have been attended by members of the Regiment who are taking a keen interest in the local activities of the area.

The Regimental Sailing Club is gaining strong support, and many are learning the art, some choosing the hard way. To wit, two W.O.s of the Cadre who were becalmed about four miles off shore! (Paddle, my lads, paddle!)

The W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess held a very successful social evening on 10th July. It was heartening to hear snatches of the stimulated conversation as old acquaintances really got down to reminiscences.

At the time of closing, our minds are occupied planning for a Regimental Week-end on 30th-31st August, when we are fortunate enough to have the Corps Band visiting the Regiment. A detailed report of what promises to be a memorable week-end will follow.

It is with regret that we have said *au revoir* to S.S.M. J. Westbrook to civilian life, S.Q.M.S. F. C. Johnson to 5 Training Regiment, and Sergeant A. J. Richmond to the Boys Regiment. We wish them well in their new surroundings. Newcomers to the Regiment include S.S.M. A. Judge, S.Q.M.S. G. Scott, Sergeants P. J. Earl, R. Ryder and P. Cross.

EMPLOYMENT VACANCIES

Messrs. Racal, Ltd., 41 Kingsway, London, W.C.2, have vacancies for radio mechanics at Blackbushe, Surrey. Standard rates of pay plus considerable overtime. No age limits.

In addition to test bench installation and major repairs there is a great deal of work on aircraft installation. A large amount of this equipment is standard service type, mainly ex-R.A.F.

There will be facilities for those interested to study for the Ministry of Civil Aviation Radio Engineer's licence. This would bring successful candidates into the higher income group.

Those interested should telephone TEMple Bar 9781 and ask for Mr. Anslow or Mr. Rees.

★

"T" Scheme vacancy exists in T.A. Regiment at Plymouth for P.S.I. (Sergeant) as Signals Instructor on Wireless. For details apply Adjutant, 256 L.A.A. Regiment, R.A. (T.A.), Raglan Barracks, Devonport.

★ Signal Training Centre

3 TRAINING REGIMENT

The visit of the Representative Colonel Commandant, Major-General R. F. B. Naylor, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., gave us an inner feeling of satisfaction and pride and everything—including the weather—conspired to make the visit a great success.

The General toured classrooms, including the W.R.A.C. switchboard room, conversed with trainees of both sexes, and a pleasing feature was the number of Officers and N.C.O.s who were presented to the General and had served with him in the past—including 3rd Div-ites of 1927-28! Shades of Barleux again!

Under the presidency of Mrs. G. H. Starr, wife of the Commanding Officer, a Ladies' Club has been formed in the Regiment, and the following officials elected:—Vice-President, Mrs. F. G. Bolam; chairman, Mrs. D. Knight; secretary, Mrs. J. Frazer; treasurer, Mrs. E. Nash; and a representative committee.

An ambitious social programme has been tentatively arranged for the summer and winter months, including outings to the many beautiful and interesting spots in the district.

Cricket, tennis, golf and summer hockey have occupied our leisure moments—and the cricket team are to be congratulated on reaching the semi-final of the Northumbrian District Cricket Competition—being narrowly beaten by O.T.W., School of Signals.

Again we report the departure of an old stalwart in Captain W. Kay, of 2 Squadron, to civilian life. Extremely popular with all ranks, he carries the best wishes of everyone; is now training chickens to be operators, i.e., lay eggs!

5 TRAINING REGIMENT

At present the training load on this Regiment is heavy, there being 340 National Service men and 250 Regulars under training. The vehicle position has considerably improved of late and we are now able to maintain a large number of vehicles and motor cycles on the road for driver and despatch rider training.

The new trade of driver/electrician is being taught here—the course is of 19 weeks' duration with a one-week mid-course break. The first three squads of 10 trainees each have now passed out and will shortly be arriving at their new Units. Reports on their progress will be welcome.

We welcome to the Regiment Major R. C. Dixon from B.A.O.R., also R.Q.M.S. Blackman, S.Q.M.S. Morris and S.Q.M.S. Baxter. Those who have recently left us are S.Q.M.S. Ford to the O.T.W., R.Q.M.S. Lumber to Embarkation Staff, Southampton, and Sergeants Clark, Fawcett and Marchant.

The Unit athletics team entered for the Northern Command Inter-Unit team championships and came fifth. Good performances were put up by Lance-Corporal Alexander in the shot putt and Signalman Toms in the javelin, the latter with a throw of 138 feet 6 inches.

In the Northern Command individual championships, Signalman Green came fourth in the mile and Lieutenant Hearn was runner-up in the two-mile steeplechase. The Regiment had five representatives in the Corps' match against Durham University.

The zonal inter-Squadron summer league basketball competition is in full swing. There is a great deal of talent in the Unit and the interest taken promises good results.

The smallbore team has maintained its standard during the summer months and is meeting with an appreciable amount of success in the Yorkshire Small Bore Association Summer League, despite the fact that the standard pattern No. 8 rifle is at a disadvantage matched against civilian competition rifles.

This year, for the first time, the Regiment sent a team to A.R.A. meeting at Bisley, where it performed very creditably, obtaining the second highest score of all the Signals' teams competing, being bettered by School of Signals. As it is the first attempt at this form of competition, congratulations go to the team and Major Mcarthur, who so ably led them.

Captain Hayes, Signalmen Mason and Pettigrew played in the Army water polo trials.

Captain Watts, Lance-Corporal Lee and Driver Rowlands took part in the Corps tennis trials at Catterick.

The Regiment held a Public Day on 6th August with demonstrations by trainees and the Cadre. The highlights were the display by the Royal Signals Display Team and the speedy assembly of a land rover by workshops staff.

The Regiment organised a car and motor cycle rally for the Ripon Motor Club. Sergeant Harris won the individual motor cycle competition with 72 points out of 80.

In the field of cricket we have not been quite so successful as we were eliminated from the Northern Command and Northumbrian District competitions early in the series, even though our team is stronger than in previous years. However, we have been having considerable success in friendly matches and we are building up a team which we have no doubt will cause great concern to the cricketing Units of Catterick and Northern Command.

Royal Signals Corps Flag

Corps Memorandum No. 1, paragraph 9, states "Mercury should face away from the hoist." From information received from the Inspector of Regimental Colours, The Royal College of Arms, it is clear that in Heraldry this is wrong and Mercury should, in fact, *FACE the hoist*.

Existing flags should be corrected by reversing the hoist.

LD/0231/CSO(CC) of the 24th July, 1952, from the Secretary, Corps Committee, refers.

WHY I SHOULD JOIN THE ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

A pamphlet on this subject should have already achieved wide circulation. If YOU have not had one write and ask. Royal Signals Asssociation, 88 Eccleston Square, London S.W.1

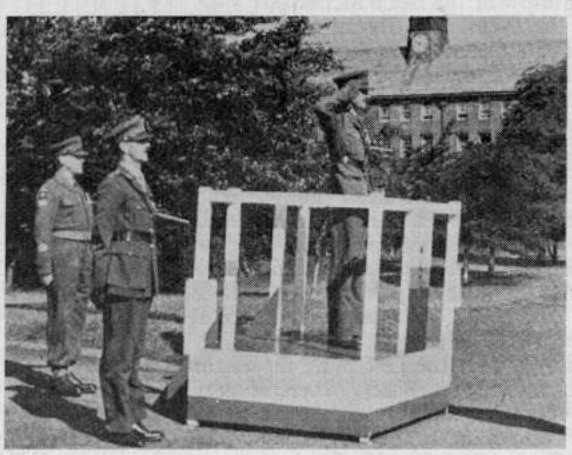


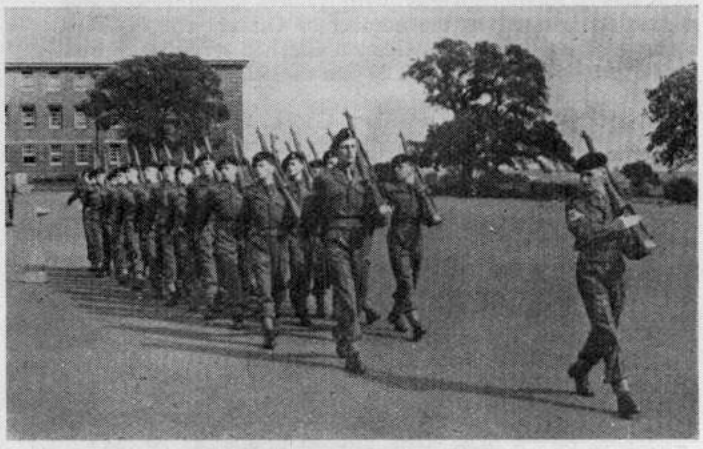
7 TRAINING REGIMENT

recruits pass-off parade

13th AUGUST, 1952

Top left: Parents of recruits watching March Past. Bottom left: The C.O., Lt.-Col. J. P. North, M.B.E., takes the Salute. Bottom right: No. 4 Troop of No. 1 Squadron Marching Past.





ON 9th July, the annual cricket match between the Officers and Sergeants of the Regiment took place in brilliant sunshine and before a large gathering. On this occasion the Officers entertained the Sergeants and their families. The match was won, by a narrow margin, by the Officers. Although the R.S.M. took six wickets the Adjutant made 55 runs, which provided the basis for his side's victory.

The Regiment did its share of entertaining during the Old Comrades' Week-end. On the evening of 19th July, the Sergeants' Mess held a most successful social. Sergeant King, of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, was present and stayed with the Regiment for a week. Resplendent in his scarlet coat and medals, his presence in the lines impressed both National Service and Regular recruits. Sergeant King left the Corps more than twenty years ago after a long and distinguished career.

Since the last issue, two further National Service Pass-Off Parades have been held. At the first there were 85 parents and at the second there were 78.

SIGNALS BRANCH SCHOOL OF ARTILLERY, LARKHILL

The existence of this outpost of Empire is perhaps little known, so we thought some of the Corps might be interested to hear of it.

The old All Arms Wing of the School of Signals was disbanded in the spring of 1950 and their work was taken over by the Arms Schools themselves. In so far as R.A. was concerned this was the School of Artillery at Larkhill.

The first R.S.I. course was started here in May 1950, and since that approximately 110 Officers and 350 N.C.O.s have passed through.

The branch also inherited an existing commitment of giving signal instruction to numerous R.A. Officers and N.C.O.s during their specialist courses in other wings of the School.

The branch is run by a Senior Instructor who is a Royal Signals Lieutenant-Colonel (at present Lieutenant-Colonel G. Mellor). At first it also included a Royal Signals Captain (Captain J. C. Green). Owing to the Templar cuts in 1951, however, this vacancy was lost.

Other Royal Signals personnel include a R.Q.M.S. with a few technical storemen and a Foreman of Signals with a staff of mechanics. Personalities past and present include R.Q.M.S.s King, Clackett, Tant (now commissioned) and Percival, F. of S. Martin and Lees, Sergeants Bowden, Gillman and Bryan (radio mechanics), Wilson (OWL), Short and Goodrum (L/M).

A word of praise must go out to the "Q" and Maintenance Staff who look after some 450 wireless sets and vast arrays of batteries and line gear. The R.E.M.E. inspectorate who have recently completed their periodical reign of terror gave us an " Excellent " report. A nice feather in the hats of those responsible.

The rest of the branch consists of R.A. personnel. The R.A. and Royal Signals personnel work in wonderfully well together and make an excellent team.

Last year we nearly won the School cricket competition, being just beaten in the final. This was somewhat due to the boss who, usually due for a least a couple of quick sixes, was out for a duck. This year we have great hopes of winning it. We have also done very well in hockey and football again, nearly winning both. The trouble about the football was that the crossbar was too big!

Catterick Jottings

By "NACERBY"

NOT very much this month—leave interfered seriously with my thoughts, mainly because I discovered that, when working, a 24-hour day normally extends to 30 hours and when on leave it shrinks to about 8 hours. You've discovered that? Ah, well! 'Twas just an idle notion.

Inventory—Addition/Deletion

Father Time (War Office copy) marches inexorably on and plays havoc with well ordered inventories—yet he contrives always to soften the departure of A by the posting in of B.

Reduce my algebraical letters to personalities and—a regretful farewell to Captain Arthur Dowell and a glad welcome to Captain Peter A. R. Ashworth to Staff Captain A duties at H.Q., S.T.C.

From Egypt to Catterick and to find the same sunny weather—that smacks of good staff work already.

Association Thoughts

You've read of the magnificent Old Comrades' Reunion, haven't you? And you remember last month I spoke of potential recruit progress of the S.T.C. North Branch? You have and you do?

Good!

The July monthly meeting of the North Branch, held in Ypres NAAFI, 4 Training Regiment, was well attended and recruiting proceeds at a steady pace. You'll be hearing more of this next month.

Tail Piece—Confessions of a G.D. Man

Latest recruit to the general duties staff is Rolon T. Tyme, the distinguished novelist, who possesses five university degrees. We asked him to write an article revealing some details of the life of these G.D. men, whose activities are shrouded in such mystery. He said: "I do not write without payment, but you can ask me questions like you do with other members of the Brains Trust." We agreed, though we haven't the slightest idea what this Brains Trust thing is.

The revelations in the following question-and-answer article are astonishing. Hold on to your seats, grit your teeth and watch your pockets.

"Well, Mr. Tyme, suppose we consider a typical day in your Army life. How about breakfast?"

"Never heard of it. To obtain a meal in the early hours of the morning would mean rising before eight o'clock. Can't be done, old boy."

"But rising late means missing the first parade."

"I am excused all parades—except pay parade. Fallen arches, you know. Simply can't stand."

"Of course, you are responsible for cleaning out the billets, so an early start . . ."

"Yes, we are responsible for the job you fellows do. So it's up to you not to let us down. We can hardly fit in the actual cleaning ourselves. You see, we have our first break for tea at 8.30, and if we want to get tea again at 9 and 9.30 before going for morning break, we have all our work cut out to dodge the sergeant-major who is usually pestering us for a brew of tea. We have nothing against sergeant-majors as long as we are just left alone."

"That seems to dispose of most of the morning. Any additional tasks in the afternoon?"

"No. We are rather conservative, as my friend Brown would say. The same old routine suits us fine and we find we are able to get out for tea more often in the afternoon. We are usually sipping tea from two to three and then we have a really hectic hour of pressing our suits, ironing—and sometimes washing—our collars and ties, polishing our shoes and so on before knocking off for the day."

"Don't you find all this fatiguing?"

"Not really. We always take a nap some time during the afternoon and then we are not over-tired when we return to our billets just after midnight."

"Some evenings, I suppose, you will be on some sort of duty?"

"Duty? My dear chap, don't print that, you'll be giving people ideas. Have our evenings ruined by stupid duties? After the day we've put in? Have a care, old man."

"One last question, please. Have you any ambition?"

"My ambition, dear boy, is to get out of the Army, away from this daily grind. I want to get into a job where you don't have to go for your own tea . . . And now, excuse me, I have a date with a cup of char. Peace is Hell."

SOUTHERN COMMAND (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT

R.H.Q., H.Q. Squadron and 1 Squadron are now settled down in Bulford, and Beacon Barracks, after much hard work, is taking on a new look.

Our second and last batch of "Z" Reservists completed their training with us on 2nd August. We hope they have enjoyed being in uniform again, and that their stay with us has been a pleasant one.

New faces come and old ones go. Major C. Worrin, Major H. A. Fuller, Captain J. H. Lane and Captain W. Sawyer have now left us, and their places have been taken by Major F. E. Mills, Major W. Berry, Captain L. Sharpe and Captain T. Simpson. Major (Q.M.) "Pop" Gardner is also leaving us, and the Service, in the near future to start life anew in Australia. All ranks extend to him their very best wishes for the future. Our new "Q" Captain K. Parsons is already taking on the "haven't got any" look.

Various sporting activities have been carried on in a minor way by all Squadrons with varying success. Unfortunately the Regiment is too scattered to achieve anything spectacular. Still, we are good losers!

The visit of the Corps Band to Aldershot provided 2 Squadron with an opportunity to hear two very excellent band concerts as a change from the normal routine of merely providing communications and P.A. equipment for the many and varied functions there.

Tailpiece. Who remembers the "Big Dig" of 3rd Divisional Signals? It is now covered with lovely Sandhurst Blocks.

EIGHT YEARS LATER

Would you be kind enough to assist me in locating a British soldier I knew in North Africa in 1944? He is Mr. Ted Drake, formerly a sergeant in the Royal Corps of Signals. We were both stationed at St. George's Hotel in Algiers during 1944 while I was serving with the American Forces. We were very good friends and I think Ted would be glad to hear from me. I have not seen him since.—Technical Sergeant Tommy Wray, U.S.A.F., Bushy Park, Middlesex.

Taken from THE EVENING NEWS, *Wednesday, 13th August, 1952.*

have you made a special note

of the Royal Signals Association London and Home Counties Reunion on Saturday, 18th October?
See announcement on page 201

EASTERN COMMAND SIGNAL REGIMENT

The Regimental sports meeting was held at Maresfield on Tuesday, and Wednesday, 1st and 2nd July. The phenomenal heat wave, which made athletics on the Tuesday a great trial of fitness and stamina, was fortunately relieved by a fresh breeze on the Wednesday, providing a perfect day for the finals. Each Squadron entered a team to compete for the Athletics Trophy, which was won last year by 1 Squadron.

R.H.Q. Squadron, benefitting perhaps from steady training on the home ground, gained the lead early on Tuesday and held it to win by 14 points. The final scores were:—

R.H.Q. Squadron	128 points.
2 Squadron	112 points.
1 Squadron	42 points.
3 Squadron	32 points.

The Commanding Officer's wife, Mrs. P. H. Smitherman, presented the trophy to Captain R. D. Smith, captain of the R.H.Q. team, and presented each winner with a medal.

With the results of the sports meeting as a guide, a team was picked to represent the Unit in the Home Counties District Sports at Shorncliffe. The team did well, considering the size of the Regiment and the weight of the opposition, to win two events—the 220 yards "B" relay final and the 440 yards "B" relay final.

The cricket team tied with Eastbourne Old Town on 18th July, and each side scored 53 runs all out. Sergeant Drake was one of the opening pair and was last man out. Signalman Beech took 5 wickets for 16 runs.

On Thursday, 24th July, the team drew with Hadlow Down: Hadlow Down 127 for 4 declared, E.C.S.R. 87 for 7 declared (bad light stopped play).

After church parade on Sunday morning the Regiment marched past the Commanding Officer. There the week-end officially closed, but there was, however, a cricket match in the afternoon, played under local rules, in which the Officers, W.O.s and sergeants played the junior N.C.O.s and men. Briefly, each player received 18 balls and bowled three overs, with the result that the junior N.C.O.s and men won by the rather surprising margin of 4 runs per wicket. One Lancastrian spectator was seen to have apoplexy but the M.C.C. may care to borrow some of the laws of a game which, if not entirely serious, does allow enjoyment and relaxation in a team effort, which is as a Regimental week-end should be.

Our branch of the Royal Signals Association, in their first function since being formed and in the grand response to appeals to join, can certainly give themselves a large pat on the back.

The results of the Regimental cricket team's matches in the last four weeks are:—

16th July v. R.A.F., Tilbury. Won by 82 runs.
1 A.A. (M) Signal Regiment 174 for 8 wkts. declared.
R.A.F. Detachment, Tilbury 92.

27th July. v. Coubory and Scruttons, Tilbury. Lost by 43 runs.
1 A.A. (M) Signal Regiment 49.
Coubory and Scruttons 92.

30th July. v. Depot Essex Regiment. Lost by 3 wkts.
1 A.A. (M) Signal Regiment 77.
Depot Essex Regiment 78 for 7 wkts.

6th August. v. 75 HAA Regiment, Gravesend. Lost by 3 wkts.
1 A.A. (M) Signal Regiment 91.
75 H.A.A. Regiment 94 for 7 wkts.

Private Lewis, W.R.A.C., won the 50 metres breaststroke and 50 metres backstroke in the 1 A.A. Group Swimming Championships, 1952.

Anti-Aircraft Command

1 A.A. (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT

On Saturday, 9th August, the Regiment held its first Regimental week-end in Orsett Camp. When the rain did eventually clear after lunch it was found that the sports field had taken on a festive air. Fortunately the marquees stood firm, and the flags fluttered bravely when the first race for the Inter-Squadron Silver Challenge Cup took place. 1 Squadron won by 10 events to five and an iniquitous scoring system, according to 2 Squadron. Some very determined athletes were seen undeterred by a continuous high wind which maliciously blew down an array of sideshows provided by the W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess. After a hurried but undismayed evacuation our sergeants, even more extraordinarily dressed than usual, took our money with a long practised skill. When they turned to the athletic side they caused an almost Olympic protest as two ladies were seen to enter together for the mixed three-legged race. The S.Q.M.S. won his case by proving his moustache to be real and peace was restored. Various individual events brought to light much hidden talent in the art of running in sacks, egg and spoon racing and knocking an opponent into the water in a greasy pole pillow fight. The circus could not produce such a display of simian cunning as two linemen who insisted, albeit unwillingly, in fighting from the underside of the pole. In was an encouraging sight, too, to see our Commanding Officer hotly pursued by his veteran men in the old soldiers' race, which he won convincingly. Mrs. Sanders graciously presented the medals and prizes.

In the evening an all ranks dance was held in the NAAFI organised by the newly-formed Orsett Branch of the Royal Signals Association. Several old comrades were able to attend, and Sergeant King, of the Royal Chelsea Hospital, lent colour and a great deal of gaiety to the occasion.

11 A.A. (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

The Regiment commenced its annual training at Aberporth Camp on Sunday, 20th July. The advance party had arrived at Aberporth on 14th July, and by a great deal of hard work had prepared the camp for the main body. Training with the Regiment were a number of "Z" Reservists.

The camp is situated some six miles from Cardigan and is virtually " in the country," is therefore ideal for training purposes, is brick built with the amenities of NAAFI, a cinema and a sports ground, of which full use was made.

Normal training was carried out according to the training programme, the "Z" men proving that with a little refreshing they hadn't " lost their touch," even when it comes to drill. The drill competition was held on Wednesday, 30th July, and 97 Agra Signal Squadron are to be congratulated in getting home by a narrow margin, the standard of drill and turn-out being very high.

Unit sports afternoon was held on Thursday, 24th July, and those taking part gave a good account of themselves. In the evening the corporals were entertained by the sergeants. There were many would be artistes from both Messes volunteering to show their paces, thus providing a most enjoyable evening.

On Thursday evening, 31st July, the Officers were entertained by the sergeants in the Mess, and it was voted a most excellent party, the buffet, provided by A.C.C. "Z" Reservists, being of a very high standard. Beer, etc., flowed freely, as did entertainment, both by guests and members.

Friday, 1st August, saw the de-kitting of the "Z" men who, with sighs of relief, " donned " their civvy suits, although generally speaking it was felt that really they had enjoyed their stay—some were even going to volunteer to come to camp with us next year—quite a tribute in spite of their good natured moans and groans which, after all, is a soldier's privilege.

Prior to camp, the W.R.A.C. netball team again won the A.A. Command Netball Cup by beating a (M) H.A.A. Regiment, R.A. (T.A.), in the final—17 goals to 13 goals.

H.R.H. THE PRINCESS ROYAL

Visits Blacon Camp

S.R. DEPOT AND TRAINING CENTRE

ON the invitation of 51 L. of C. Signal Regiment, S.R., then in camp for its fortnight's annual training, H.R.H. The Princess Royal visited Blacon Camp on 21st July, 1952. Advantage had been taken of the visit to get all the huts in the camp repainted, while the preceding week's hard work by the limited permanent staff of the S.R. Depot and Training Centre to get all gardens and the area spick and span were rewarded by a bright sunny day.

Her Royal Highness, accompanied by her lady in waiting, Lady Paynter, Major-General R. F. B. Naylor, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., representative Colonel-Commandant, and Brigadier McCormack, C.B.E., arrived on the main square at 10.45 a.m. Here, Lieutenant-Colonel R. H. Copeland, Commandant, S.R. Depot and Training Centre, Lieutenant-Colonel S. J. Lovegrove, O.C. 51 L. of C. Signal Regiment, S.R., and Lieutenant-Colonel N. de la P. Tate, O.C. Western Command Signal Regiment, were presented to her. Her Royal Highness then inspected a guard of honour commanded by Major James, and mounted by 51 L. of C. Signal Regiment, commenting favourably on the turn-out and bearing of the men.

From the square the party proceeded to the training rooms, where the remaining Officers of the permanent staff were presented to Her Royal Highness, Major G. D. B. McKean, Major L. G. Warren and Captain H. R. Williams. Her Royal Highness, accompanied by the Squadron Commander, Major Loadsman, spoke to a number of reservists whilst going through the training rooms, where she saw teleprinter operators, a working signal office and mechanics wiring up line carrier equipment in the terminal equipment room.

Next followed a general tour of the permanent camp, where great interest was shown in the Reservists' NAAFI and din-



[*Courtesy: F. R. Jones, Chester*

The Colonel-in-Chief inspects the Guard of Honour of 51 L. of C. Signal Regiment, S.R., commanded by Major James. Also in the picture are Lieut.-Colonel S. J. Lovegrove, Major-General R. F. B. Naylor, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., and Brigadier E. V. McCormack, C.B.E.

ing hall. This part of the programme finished with a visit to the technical stores, where sufficient equipment is held to fit out a complete L. of C. Signal Regiment, Army Signal Regiment, Corps Signal Regiment or Air Formation Signal Regiment according to which type is in camp, and the system of equipping a complete Unit during its first Sunday in camp so that it can start training on the Monday was explained by the Q.M., Captain Ryan.

The party were then driven out some six miles to Shotwicklodge Farm, where a mobile signal office, fitted out in technical vehicles and intended to serve an L. of C. Area Headquarters, was displayed. Major Goodanew, the Squadron Commander concerned, conducted Her Royal Highness round the vehicles, which included a signal office, cipher office, teleprinters, terminal equipment and wireless detachments operating 53 and 10 sets.

After lunch in the Officers' Mess of Western Command Signal Regiment, the party were driven to the top of the sports field, where Lieutenant-Colonel D. E. L. Gardiner, O.C. 63 H.Q. Signal Regiment, T.A., conducted Her Royal Highness round technical vehicles of his civil assistance squadron, also in camp for the fortnight.

In conclusion, Her Royal Highness drove to Western Command Signal Regiment, where she spent half an hour inspecting the Sergeants' Mess, the men's barrack rooms and various offices and stores. Her Royal Highness afterwards expressed herself very satisfied with all that she saw.

B.A.O.R. *and* EUROPE

B.A.O.R. ROYAL SIGNALS OFFICERS' DINNER

The Royal Signals B.A.O.R. Dinner was held on 30th June, 1952, with Brigadier R. H. O. Coryton, C.B.E., in the chair.

One hundred and fifty Royal Signals Officers attended the dinner—our guests were Brigadier J. H. Beattie, C.B.E., D.S.O., the B.R.A., Brigadier E. C. Colville, D.S.O., B.G.S. (Operations and Training), both of H.Q., B.A.O.R., and Group-Captain H. B. Wrigley, C.S.O., 2nd Tactical Air Force.

The evening, despite the intense heat, was enjoyed by all.

The Inter-Signals Unit Sports Competition was held at Bad Oeynhausen on Saturday, 26th July, 1952, at the Sports Stadium, resulting in a win for 7 Armoured Divisional Signals, with 11 Air Formation Signal Regiment second and 1 Wireless Regiment third.

Outstanding performances were given by Second-Lieutenant L. A. Hill and Corporal Churchill.

H.Q. B.A.O.R. SIGNAL REGIMENT

" Summertime and the living is easy." George Gershwin would certainly have changed his tune had he spent a summer with our Regiment, for it is without a doubt the most industrious season of the year. July saw us preparing for, working on, and returning from the ALFCE Command Post Exercise " Grand Alliance," in which, in addition to maintaining communications at Army Main and Rear H.Q.s, we also sent detachments to our 1 Corps, to the Belgians, and to the Dutch troops. But the weather as everyone knows can make or break an exercise, and although it has treated us on the whole rather well this summer, it has been clearly noticeable that during scheme periods sunshine has been sadly lacking.

Even now that the Regiment is back the barracks has a depleted air with so many detachments out, mainly on the 1 Corps Exercise " Spearhead."

Despite schemes, we always find time for our sport, and though we recently had one great disappointment, results have been encouraging.

Our disappointment came in athletics. Earlier in the season we had our Regimental competition, which was won after a keen struggle by 3 Squadron. This meeting helped a great deal in the choice of the team to represent the Regiment in the B.A.O.R. Signals Athletic Championship, for which we had great hopes. The championship was held on the 26th July and we were hosts to five other Regiments. At the end of the day it appeared that H.Q., B.A.O.R. Signal Regiment were worthy champions. On later inspection, however, it was seen that we had not kept to the rules of the games and when the relevant points had been deducted 7 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment took our place at the head of the table.

Our cricket eleven has done very well in a number of friendly matches this season, but the outstanding match so far has been the first round of the Royal Signals Inter-Unit Championship, in which our opponents were our keen rivals, 11 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment. Our team took first knock and made 201 all out. Sergeant Middleton, our opening batsman, scored 41, and Second-Lieutenant Mason 30. In reply, 11 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment could total only 24. Here Lance-Corporal Othen did the damage, taking six wickets for 11 runs.

Swimming is a sport which many people practice in the summer in order to keep cool, but the participants in our Regimental championship showed us that there is more to it than the pleasant Sunday afternoon plunge. After a grand afternoon's sport 3 Squadron emerged champions, winning by just one point from H.Q. 1 Squadron.

We express our deepest regret and sympathy on the deaths of Signalman Holloway and Driver Hillier, whom we lost on the last exercise.

7 ARMOURED DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

In our haste with last month's notes, we omitted to record our farewells to certain distinguished members of the Regiment who have departed for other spheres.

Our late Adjutant, Captain David Cattermull, having successfully filled this onerous appointment for so long, has gone away to complete his education as a Royal Signals subaltern. We wish him and his wife, who was a pillar of strength to the wives' club, every success.

Departing at the same time were Captain and Mrs. Townson and, together with the Adjutant, the former was speeded on his way at an excellent guest night at which we fortunately were also able to entertain Brigadier Coryton, C.S.O., B.A.O.R. Farewell and thanks too to R.S.M. Davies, who departed for a cipher commission.

The Divisional Field Engineer Regiment entertained us at the annual " Sapper/Signals " get together this year. They beat us hollow at watermanship, but then mere Signalmen are apt to forget (at 0200 hours) that rivers flow and our boat remained static beating against a five-knot current in the middle of the river for some twenty minutes before we cottoned on. Some good swimming in No. 1 dress and George boots was excellent training for certain exercises to come. It was a pretty wet night—inside and out.

At the Garrison Church Fete the Signals ladies' stall topped all the others, and the Regiment played a great part in extracting £250 from the customers.

11 ARMOURED DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

In recent months we have been able to realise more than ever the part we have to play in NATO forces. The Commanding Officer and Captain Armstrong spent three weeks with the French and Danish Armies, and in return we have had a Danish and Norwegian officer to stay with us for a few weeks.

At the same time we have been taking part, with other formation Regiments, in the NATO exercises. In fact, in common with most other Signal Regiments, we are finding that life in B.A.O.R. at the moment consists in the main in trying to fit in sports fixtures with the many exercises that are taking place.

We have heard of a gentleman who recently went without sleep for three days and two nights just to show TV audiences what it is like. We could provide a number of people prepared to air their views on this matter, though it might be a good thing if the B.B.C. could arrange for the sound to fail during the interviews. Nevertheless, we have managed to indulge in less serious activities and offer our congratulations to Captain Walsh and his shooting teams on retaining the Royal Signals B.A.O.R. Shield both for small bore and open range shooting.

The cricket team is doing well, having won three matches out of the four played. The difficulty here is the local shortage of grounds, and there is said to be a move afoot to change the league rules to enable the home team to claim an extra point if it contrives to get a ground on the right day.

Lance-Corporal Biggar won the 100 metres in the Divisional Swimming Championships, and by the time these notes appear we hope he will have repeated his success at the B.A.O.R. championships.

On the 19th June (even this date was governed by exercises) six officers were entertained to dinner by the Divisional Engineer Regiment. At the same time they were able not only to renew acquaintanceship with Royal Canadian Signal Officers but also Canadian Engineer Officers.

11 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT

Command exercises interfered of necessity with preparations for the Royal Signals inter-Unit shooting and athletics competitions, but we managed to gain fourth place in the shooting and were narrowly beaten (by one point) into second place in the athletics competition by 7th Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment.

Both Construction Troops were attached to H.Q., B.A.O.R. Signal Regiment for Exercise " Grand Alliance," and assisted in the construction of a 35-mile trunk route.

We welcome Major W. Hammond, our new second-in-command. Major Boyland is not leaving the Regiment, having taken over command of No. 3 Squadron.

Also welcome is W.O.I Irvine, who arrived on 31st July to take over from W.O.I Rockall.

VIENNA SIGNAL TROOP

Since 1st May, 1952, we ceased to be a Squadron and, instead, became Vienna Signal Troop. O.C. Troop is Captain A. B. Kennett, late of the C.S.O.'s Branch H.Q., B.T.A.

Having become a Troop we have lost many of our old friends, and we would like to take this opportunity of wishing all past members of this Unit all the very best of luck and success, either in civilian life or in their new Units wherever they may be.

With the reduction in the number of personnel, one might expect to see a little confusion reigning within the Unit but, if anything, we are working even more efficiently than before. We are still able to hold our own in sporting circles here in Vienna as the following brief notes will show.

Our cricket team, ably captained by Captain K. F. J. Mogridge, is at present holding second place in the Vienna Garrison Cricket League.

An international table tennis championship was recently held in Vienna, and teams from the American, French and British Sectors, together with an Austrian team, competed. Lance-Corporal Saunders was chosen to play for the British team, and thanks to some hard playing on his part, assisted the British team to finish as runners-up. Three members of this Troop took part in the Bastille Day celebrations held on 14th July. After a very fine performance they finished in second place in an international athletic team event.

We are now reduced to six sergeants, all of whom are married and have their wives present with them. However, any replacements will have to be single men as Vienna is now a non-family station.

Our late O.C., Major F. F. Mills, is now in Southern Command, and knowing that he is a very keen reader of THE WIRE, we take this chance to send him our warmest regards from Vienna, and hope that he has now got his new Squadron running as efficiently as he left this one.

KLAGENFURT SIGNALS

A change of scenery is a refreshing, if exhausting, operation at times. In moving from the School to Camp H.Q. we have exchanged rather old buildings for compact and more modern ones. There is less space, but this, too, has its advantages. All the stores are to be found in a converted stable, and there has been serious discussion as to the best way of utilising horse troughs.

The Squadron provided the bulk of a Signals Austria Cricket Team, who now stand a very good chance of winning the cup. A pass in the first round, and victory over the R.A.O.C. by ten wickets, put the side into the semi-final, where we met the R.A.S.C. in a two-innings match. We opened with 243 runs, top scorer being the O.C. with a fine innings of 62. Lance-Corporal Harrison and Signalman Watford, backed by excellent fielding, had the R.A.S.C. batsmen in trouble from the start and forced the follow-on. The final victory was by an innings and 90 runs.

Despite the enthusiasm shown for swimming, our team was placed sixth in the B.T.A. Sports, the high spot of the afternoon being first place in the 200 metres free-style relay.

Many eyes are turned to the running track, where Signalman Page is busy coaching several promising athletes for both the Unit and B.T.A. Sports, which are to be held during the next three weeks.

12 WIRELESS SQUADRON

Since the notes from this Squadron last appeared in print, few changes have taken place. " Shadow ranks " have caught up with us. Congratulations go out to R.Q.M.S. Cross on his attaining the rank of W.O.I, and to the ones who reverted we extend our sympathy.

The annual range classification was fired and P.E. tests completed before the warmer weather arrived. The flat countryside around our camp was appreciated by all who undertook the tests.

An all ranks' dance was held on Saturday, 5th July. A cabaret presented during the interval by the Amateur Dramatic Society received a splendid welcome, and the Unit is looking forward to its next production.

The Squadron again finished top of the Styrian Football League, which ended in May. In the B.T.A. 6-a-side hockey championships we were runners-up to the same Infantry Battalion which beat us in the 11-a-side competition. On the courts, Sergeant Godfrey and Lance-Corporal Williams were B.T.A. representatives against the French Forces at a tennis tournament held at Innsbruck in June.

After a temporary absence, MB 9 BJ is back on the air, and Q.S.O.s with far flung Signal Units will always be welcome.

The camp swimming pool has opened and is very popular. Due to its small size, however, competitive events cannot be held. The annual sports day will be held in August this year, and the old rivalry is expected between Administrative personnel and operators.

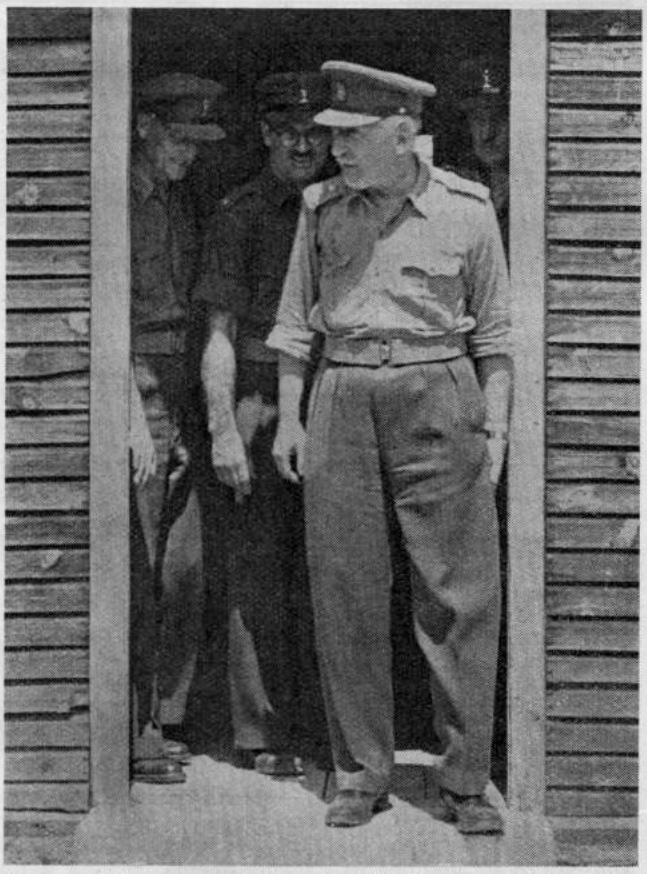
SHAPE SIGNAL SQUADRON

During the last month we have been honoured by a visit from Brigadier C. A. H. Chadwick, who saw us at work at SHAPE and Camp des Loges on probably the hottest day of a very hot summer, and was later entertained at a Squadron Guest Night with General Lanahan and Colonel Lewis. In spite of the heat we hope he enjoyed his visit to SHAPE and A.L.F.C.E.

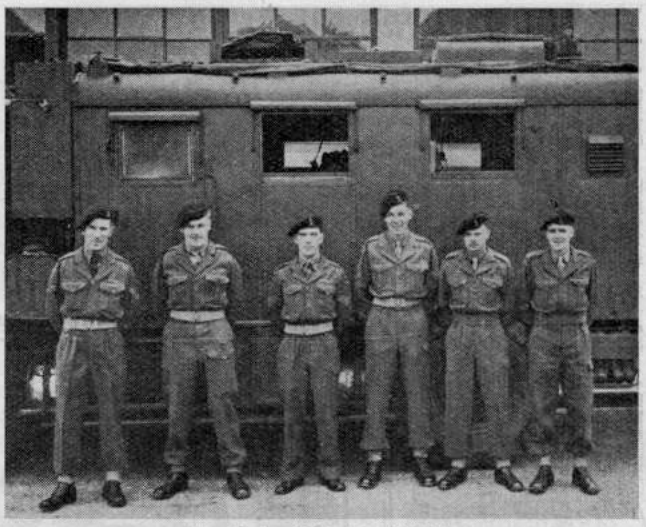
★

July has also been notable for the return from Naples of six of the Unit who had been in Italy for seven weeks in what amounted to a tropical temperature. They went down with a 53 set wireless vehicle via Lyons, the French Riviera—where such a military outfit must have caused quite a stir among the holidaymakers—Pisa, and Rome. They lived in a hotel in Naples, and when not actively engaged in providing links to Athens and Ankara, the purpose of their stay, they enjoyed the view of Vesuvius across the Bay and visits to Pompeii, Sorrento, and Capri. They also did a good deal of sunbathing and returned to SHAPE full of the stories of their travels. Join SHAPE Signal Squadron and see the world!

★



Brigadier Chadwick inspecting the Wireless Troop Stores Hut.
Left to right: Captain Pocock, Major Hunter, Brigadier Chadwick, Captain Leyson



No. 53 Set Wireless Vehicle
Left to right: Corporal Hoad, Signalman Copley, Sergeant Lovell, Corporal McAree, Signalman McGrogan, Signalman Goldthorp

MELF

3 G.H.Q. SIGNAL REGIMENT

Our Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel J. H. E. Panton, O.B.E., who has been with the Regiment for the past four and a half years, left us at the end of June to return to the War Office. We all wish him the best of luck and success in his new appointment. His successor is Lieutenant-Colonel L. E. Thorpe, who is no stranger to these parts having come to us from 4 Air Formation Signal Regiment. We extend a hearty welcome to Colonel and Mrs. Thorpe and hope their stay with the Regiment will be long and successful.

Since last writing great things have been achieved in the sporting field, and much keenness has been shown in inter-Squadron and Troop games of basketball, cricket and hockey. With the thermometer reaching the heights just now perhaps the most popular (and most cooling) sport is swimming. In June the Regimental Swimming Gala was held with 2 Squadron finishing on top with 31 points, 1 Squadron scored 16 and H.Q. seven. Added attractions to the usual run of events were an Officers versus Sergeants Mess challenge race (won by the Officers), an invitation relay race (won by R.A.F. Abyad), and an inter-Squadron chain of command novelty event (won by 1 Squadron). Three " doubles " were obtained, namely, by Lance-Corporal Hill (100 yards back stroke and 220 yards free style), Signalman Ashworth (440 yards and 1 mile), and Signalman Glegg (100 yards breast stroke and diving). The Regimental team has had outstanding success lately, winning both the Royal Signals (Egypt) Gala and the Canal South District Championships in the face of stiff opposition.

★

We have had several players included in the Corps cricket team—Second-Lieutenants Blacklaw, Stevenson and Lunn, and Signalmen Flower, King, Higham and Jolley.

Recently a party of 20 from 2 Squadron, under Captain Klosser, paid a visit to H.M.S. *Manxman,* which anchored out in the Great Bitter Lake, and an instructive afternoon was had by all.

A reminiscence of Catterick route marches are the order of the day, and already the camp can boast of a three and four and a half mile, and there's still more to follow!



Far East Land Forces ★

G.H.Q. SIGNAL REGIMENT

" Sophie " has changed hands again, and this time "Q" Troop is the proud recipient. For readers who are not acquainted with " Sophie " perhaps a brief explanation as to her origin and purpose in the Unit would not be out of place. SOPHIE the TROPHY was presented to the Regiment by Major W. Pagett, Royal Signals, Chief Malaya Recruiting Officer. As will be deduced from the name, the trophy takes the form of a female figure. She was " born " in Bangkok (Siam). She is awarded monthly to the Troop which shows the best barrack room and kits on the monthly kit and barrack room inspections. Well done, "Q" Troop, on an exemplary kit layout last month.

A Regimental Red Cross Appeal Fund dance was held on 24th July and an enjoyable evening was had by all. The band was supplied by the Gordon Highlanders. After deducting expenses for the dance the grand sum of $124.44 was paid to the Red Cross Appeal Fund. In case the General Secretary of the Royal Signals Association reads this, may we hasten to add that our next " appeal " dance will be in aid of the Association. *(It had better be.—General Secretary.)*

The Unit is holding a swimming gala on 13th August at Tanglin Swimming Pool. Consequently, the pool is now frothing with eager participants doing a spot of preliminary training. Results will be given in next month's notes.

1 MALAY INDEPENDENT INFANTRY BRIGADE SIGNAL SQUADRON

These, I think, are the first notes submitted by the Squadron, so it might be of some interest to readers to let them know who we are and what we do.

Brigade H.Q. is situated at Kuala Lipis in the State of Pahang—in other words, right in the centre of Malaya and a long way from the bright lights and fleshpots. The Brigade is responsible for the security of the whole of the State of Pahang, and the Signal responsibilities are therefore many and widespread.

The Brigade has under command two battalions of the Malay Regiment, two battalions King's African Rifles, and one battalion Gurkha Regiment, and in spite of language difficulties we all get along famously.

All British personnel of the Signal Squadron are seconded to the Malay Regiment, and at present they are Major F. F. Ellis, M.B.E., T.D. (O.C.), S.Q.M.S. Sawyer and Sergeant Goulden. We hope a second officer, a sergeant-major and another sergeant are to come. The remainder of the Squadron are all Malay soldiers who, in the case of operators, radio mechanics and linemen, have done a Regimental Signal course at the Malay Regiment Depot.

We are now very busy making ourselves into our newly-formed Independent Squadron and trying to cope with the paper work which this entails. In addition, of course, our drivers and couriers are " dicing with death " on the Pahang roads, and we'll let you know when we get our first bandit!

SIGNAL TRAINING SQUADRON, FAR EAST

A welcome is extended to Major R. G. Blackman, Royal Signals, our new Officer Commanding, who took over in July from Major P. A. Toombs on the latter's " reversion to home establishment."

We are also bidding a very sad farewell to S.Q.M.S. Leeson, who will be " Blighty-bound " by the time these notes appear in print. Another " old-stager " who will be leaving the Squadron soon is Corporal Larkins, who hopes to obtain local release.

Congratulations are offered to W.O.II (S.S.M.) Nix, who will be known to many WIRE readers, on his recent promotion.

The Squadron continues to effect a fairly steady output of Malayan other rank tradesmen. We have a good quota of potential "A" tradesmen under training at present who will later be helping to maintain the network of line and wireless communications in the colony of Singapore.

The weather has been reasonably dry in recent weeks, and the Squadron's football team has acquitted itself quite well. In the field of athletics Lance-Corporal Fidelis is to be heartily congratulated on being chosen to represent the Army in the 440 yards at the forthcoming Inter-Services Athletics Meeting. We wish him the best of luck and hope that the going is good.

BRITISH COMMONWEALTH COMMUNICATION ZONE SIGNAL SQUADRON

Reading through our copy of THE WIRE the other day, we suddenly realised that, due entirely to our own negligence, the world as a whole and the Signals world in particular, was probably completely ignorant of our existence, and so, to correct this failing, we now put pen to paper.

The history of the Squadron goes back to the days of the formation of the Commonwealth Division, when we were entitled the BRITCOM Independent L. of C. Signal Squadron, and consisted mainly of Reservists and "K" type volunteers supplied by 29 BRITCOM Independent Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron under the command of Captain R. I. Osbourne. Our task was to serve a host of Base Units which appeared, disappeared and changed titles and functions overnight. Also, of course, we had to ensure that the " Sharp-end Signalmen " did not suffer, sweat and freeze in vain to keep in contact with base in Japan.

The Squadron has a finger in many pies throughout the Commonwealth Base Areas, from Pusan right up to the area where contact with Division is joined—can someone PLEASE tell us just exactly where the line between " Base " and " Combat " zones should be drawn?—we even (Shhh!) extended our far-flung line to the notorious island of Koje-do when Commonwealth troops were added to the garrison there.

The base areas being now more or less stabilised, we continue to function with relatively few upsets caused by the war, under the command of Major J. McK. Lamb, who joined us in January, assisted by Captain D. J. Strong, who joined us more recently. Discipline and related responsibilities have long been under the all-seeing eye of Sergeant "Bill" (the Sheriff of Shrewsbury) Corfield. We think it is only fair to deny, on behalf of the Sheriff, the story that on coming to this theatre his attire has included six-guns and star, though it must be admitted that on numerous festive occasions a star has twinkled from his breast.

We are, of course, more fortunate than our brothers in the Divisional Signal Regiment in that our accommodation and sport and recreational facilities are far better than theirs, although the somewhat static nature of operations out here has allowed them to make themselves fairly comfortable and to construct cricket, soccer and basketball pitches. Up to the present, soccer has been our main competitive sport, and the Squadron eleven has been returning home successful from the majority of its games, though they have had to admit

themselves second best to such opponents as the Korean Olympic eleven and the team of the Belgian contingent of the United Nations Forces. Early morning sees a P.T. squad in function, and on most evenings of the week basketball and gymnastic enthusiasts can be seen having a work-out on our sand pitch and open-air gymnasium, while others put in some practice at the cricket nets. Having produced the basketball pitch, gymnasium, cricket nets and sports store we feel quite pleased with our efforts and not a little amazed at the possibilities of improvisation.

Lest it be said that all these sporting activities leave us little time for work, wireless operators can point with pride to three magnificent examples of fully rigged wireless aerials (folded dipoles, for those who may be interested) which span the sky like gargantuan spiders' webs strung from trees and rooftops, whilst the D.R.s can inform you that normal working entails runs amounting to 200 miles per day.

On the subject of co-operation within the Commonwealth, we have some cause for pride, for working as part of the Squadron is the New Zealand Base Signal Troop, under the command of Second-Lieutenant R. M. Burrows, of the Royal New Zealand Signals, and until recently we included in our numbers three Canadian signalmen who we were sorry to lose when they went home on "rotation." We are now running an exchange scheme with the Britcom Base Signal Regiment, a largely Australian Unit, and a group of eight "Diggers" are at present living and working among us while a like number of our own personnel of like trades and ranks have, for a while, exchanged the rather limited joys of life as a Korean Base "wallah" for the hidden fruits and delights of the promised land of Japan. While we do not pretend to ourselves that our small efforts will do magnificent things for international relations, the general opinion of the Squadron is that if greater understanding within the Commonwealth will give some of us a tour in Japan we are all for it.

Commonwealth

AUSTRALIAN NEWS

Central Command. This week Captain W. F. Burnard leaves to take up his new appointment as S.O. (Signals) 3 H.Q., B.C.F.K. and B.C.O.F. The locality, however, will not be new to him as Captain Burnard served in Japan in 1947. His 18 month stay with this Unit was rounded off in rousing fashion at a bright little get together. Buffet tea and other refreshments set the mood for some merry singing to ukelele music. A final chat with our guest completed a very jolly send-off.

One of our tasks this month was to provide wireless and line communication for the opening of Parliament in Adelaide. As in past years, Signals made possible that split second timing of the 19-gun salute which the authorities have come to expect.

We record our congratulations to Corporals Peg Pyne and Peter Goodchild on their recent promotions to that rank.

BRITCOM Base Signal Regiment, Japan. In Japan, the month of June introduces Summer—and the wet. Sporting fixtures are usually either suspended, played in the rain, or not organised at all until later in the season.

BRITCOM Base Signal Regiment defied the weather and organised a sports meeting to be held on 14th June. The main purpose was to find the Regiment's "champion athlete." This was accomplished by running a "Decathlon," a contest of ten events to be completed on one day. Naturally, it rained, but the show went on under a host of Japanese umbrellas. In keeping with current policy, the Japanese employees were invited to attend and to participate in some events.



These "Japanese" Belles were not unduly perturbed by the clown poking his nose into their picture. Cpl. Fitchett, Lt. B. Smith (Royal Signals), and Lt. K. Hill (Royal Australian Signals)

The "Decathlon," open only to members of the Regiment, was won in decisive fashion by Major M. A. Bennett, M.B.E. His results were:—

800 yds. run	1st
100 yds. dash	1st
1 mile bicycle race	1st
90 yds. hurdles	1st
Shot Putt	3rd
Throwing Grenade, unplaced	—
Tossing the Caber	2nd
Broad Jump	2nd
½-mile walk	3rd
50 meters swim, free style	3rd

The meeting was reported in the local (Japanese language) press and "Japan News," an English language newspaper.

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101 Wireless Regiment. The Director of Signals, Colonel L. J. Bruton, paid us a visit recently. He stayed the night in the camp and strangely enough appeared none the worse for the experience. He inspected the Regiment, dined in the Mess and attended a small party arranged in his honour. His visit coincided with the arrival of Captain Tattam who, having jettisoned his water wings on leaving Melbourne, enjoyed his short stay in sunny Queensland.

Congratulations to W.O.II Mispelhorn on his promotion.

Captain O'Brien has been posted to Melbourne. As virtually the oldest inhabitant he will be greatly missed. We wish him luck at Diggers Rest or wherever it is he is going. As a Queenslander he views the prospect with misgiving.

Other postings include Sergeant Richards to Darwin; we are looking forward to crocodile, skinned, of course, from him; also Signalmen Buckton, Fincher and Harris to Malaya to assist in holding back the bandits.

The Officers held a very successful dance recently. Despite a foggy night most of the invited guests turned up, and strangely enough the fog didn't look so bad in the early hours of the morning.

This was followed by a Regimental all ranks' dance, a most enjoyable occasion and a credit to the committee.

The R.S.M., W.O.I Bissett, motored off to Melbourne on leave. The Q.M., Lieutenant Findlay, is also on leave and reported pulling in giant fish somewhere on the coast. Major Ballard (Royal Signals) spent a couple of weeks jackarooing in New South Wales and amusing himself by tearing chunks out of the sump of his car. It is not true that Major Blackburn used the bonnet of his car as an aileron to get a bit of extra lift.

SIGNAL CORPS CONTACTS

australia by teletype

AS PLAQUE PRESENTED

The following article is produced through the kindness of the Office of Technical Information, Office of the Chief Signal Officer, The Pentagon, Washington.

WASHINGTON, D.C.—A new high in integrated communications was marked by U.S. Army Signal Corps communicators on July 26, when teletypewriter equipment at Fort Monmouth, New Jersey, was linked over a 25,000 loop mile distance with similar equipment at Melbourne, Australia. The long-distance communications took place in conjunction with ceremonies honouring the U.S. Signal Corps by the Royal Australian Corps of Signals.

The teletypewriter contact was established through Signal Corps facilities at Fort Monmouth, Washington, Seattle, Honolulu, Tokyo and Yokohama into Australian facilities at Kure, Japan. From Kure, Australian facilities were used to reach Melbourne. The circuit, over which traffic could be transmitted and received simultaneously, is believed to be the first instance of such complete integration. The equipment was in continuous operation for one hour and forty-five minutes.

The occasion prompting the establishment of the communications was the Australian presentation of a plaque commemorating the co-operation and close association between the Signal Corps of the two countries during the Pacific campaigns of World War II. A running commentary, describing the ceremonies, was sent to Melbourne over the duplex circuit, and several messages of congratulations were exchanged. A total of over 4,000 words were transmitted.

Major-General George I. Back, Chief Signal Officer, U.S. Army, accepted the plaque from Brigadier Archie D. Molloy, formerly Signal Officer-in-Chief of the Australian Forces and now Australian Army Representative and Military Attaché in Washington, D.C., following a review of U.S. Army Signal Corps troops.

NIGERIA SIGNAL SQUADRON

During the month of July the Unit has once again been honoured. Lieutenant S. Ademulegun, one of the Unit Officers, was chosen as A.D.C. to the Governor.

Lieutenant S. Ademulegun is the first African Officer to be posted to the West Africa Signals.

The Unit soccer team remains undefeated, which gives the Unit the soccer league shield for the fourth time in succession. It is hoped to win the knockout shield also at a later date.

Despite the fact that two of the best cross-country runners were not available for the district competition, the Unit succeeded in obtaining third place.

Territorial Army

16 AIRBORNE DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A. (MIDDLESEX YEOMANRY)

Since our last notes appeared there have been a number of changes in the Regiment.

We have said goodbye to Major J. R. Smith, who has retired to the " peace and quiet " of civilian life, and Captain W. P. W. Robertson, who has gone to B.A.O.R. and once again joined forces with Lieutenant-Colonel P. E. M. Bradley, D.S.O. Rumour has it that the barracks have been renamed BEACON. We wish them all the very best of luck.

Major E. Buirski has arrived as second-in-command from East African School of Signals. Captain G. Proudman from The Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, and Sergeant Pellant from the Parachute Brigade Group Signal Squadron.

There have been a number of promotions including Sergeants Wylie, Judd, Evans and Scarlett to S.Q.M.S. The others are too numerous to mention, but to them all we offer our best congratulations.

Preparations are now well under way for the annual camps. There will be four this year as the Regiment has formed three Parachute Brigade Troops who will go with their parent Brigades.

Parachuting, including dropping land rovers and trailer with wireless sets 52 and 62, has combined with the more technical signal training.

We have just heard that Captain Beazley, a Territorial who took over "L" Troop at such short notice, has been granted his T.A. Commission. We wish him the best of luck.

Brigadier B. B. Kennett, C.B.E., has accepted the responsible post of Honorary Colonel. He has first-hand knowledge of the Middlesex Yeomanry and Airborne Signals so we welcome him as an old friend.

43 (WESSEX) INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

Since the last notes appeared in THE WIRE much has been done by the Regiment.

At the commencement of the year the Officers' Annual Dinner was held at the Castle Hotel, Taunton. Guests included Brigadier F. A. H. Mathew, O.B.E., Brigadier J. F. Charlesworth, O.B.E., Colonel C. E. Lewin-Harris, secretary, Somerset T. and A.F. Association. We were very pleased to see our Honorary Colonel, Brigadier R. H. Rayner, O.B.E., M.P., in spite of his busy times at the House.

On 8th March an innovation was the W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess dinner held at Bridgwater. The dinner was well attended and was a great success. It is intended to make the dinner an annual event. The month wound up with a trade test board held at Exeter, where a good proportion of upgradings were obtained.

During April, C.S.O. Southern Command held a T.E.W.T. for Officers of the Regiment and of 63 H.Q. L. of C. Signal Regiment at the School of Infantry, Warminster. Although the weather was unfavourable a good deal was, however, learnt about the Infantry Battalion. Later on the Regiment provided communication for the Divisional R.A.S.C. Column at an exercise held in the New Forest area.

In May and June "Z" Reservists reported for duty with "E" Troop at West Down, Wilts., and at Windmill Hill, near Tidworth, with the Regiment. We had a very successful and enjoyable camp, although strenuous. The culmination of camp was an exercise set by H.Q. Southern Command called " Hecate." Although one or two " boners " were made, the exercise went off very well and earned us a good chit from the G.O.C. The keenness and enthusiasm shown by the "Z" Reservists during the whole of their training went a long way to ensuring the success of the camp and we were extremely sorry to lose them so quickly.

August sees the departure of Brigadier B. B. Kennett, C.B.E., C.S.O. Southern Command, who has been our guide and comforter over the last four years. All ranks of the Regiment wish him all happiness in his retirement.

162 INDEPENDENT INFANTRY BRIGADE GROUP SIGNAL SQUADRON (T.A.)

Our annual camp this year was the first in which we have taken our place in the Brigade Group.

The camp was extremely successful from our point of view, and the Squadron was specially commended after the exercise during the second week of camp.

The Squadron also won the sports trophy for Administrative Units, and the Victor Ludorum prize was won by Captain J. Riley, who was attached to the Squadron for the camp period from 1 Squadron.

The Squadron is now girding its loins in readiness for the individual training programmes scheduled for the winter months.

Recruiting programmes are under consideration, and we are most happy to report that 32 per cent. of our National Service men are now volunteers.

The Regimental Band is visiting 61 H.Q., Army Signal Regiment, during the first week in September, and this Squadron will turn up in full strength on Tuesday, 2nd September.

24 ENGINEER GROUP SIGNAL TROOP, T.A.

The 24 Engineer Group, commanded by Colonel A. H. M. Morris, D.S.O., M.C., G.M., held its annual camp at Trawsfynydd, North Wales, with 107 Corps Engineer Regiment, T.A., from 28th June to 12th July, 1952.

The Signal Troop, commanded by Captain F. G. Henretty, Royal Signals (T.A.), and 107 Engineer Regiment Signal Troop were brought up to war establishment with "Z" Reservists.

Quick revision of essentials and then as much practical work as possible was the keynote of the training. 107 Engineer Regiment Signal Troop did three 36-hour schemes in conjunction with the three Squadrons of 107 Engineer Regiment, who were competing for a Regimental Cup given on the best result for Exercise "Get On"—a tactical scheme involving wire laying and cleaning, bridge and road demolitions.

24 Engineer Group Signal Troop held a 36-hour Signal Exercise "Ground Wave" during the first week—a preliminary to the Engineer Group exercise of the second week. These schemes placed emphasis on leadership and initiative of the N.C.O. detachment commanders, and the Reservists measured up excellently. Communications were well transmitted in spite of hilly country which made the siting of wireless sets all important.

A "treasure hunt" with a prize for the winning syndicate was a welcome change from the general run of training. The "Sergeants' Syndicate," even without the handicap they had, would not have won, which shows the keenness of all ranks over the mile course.

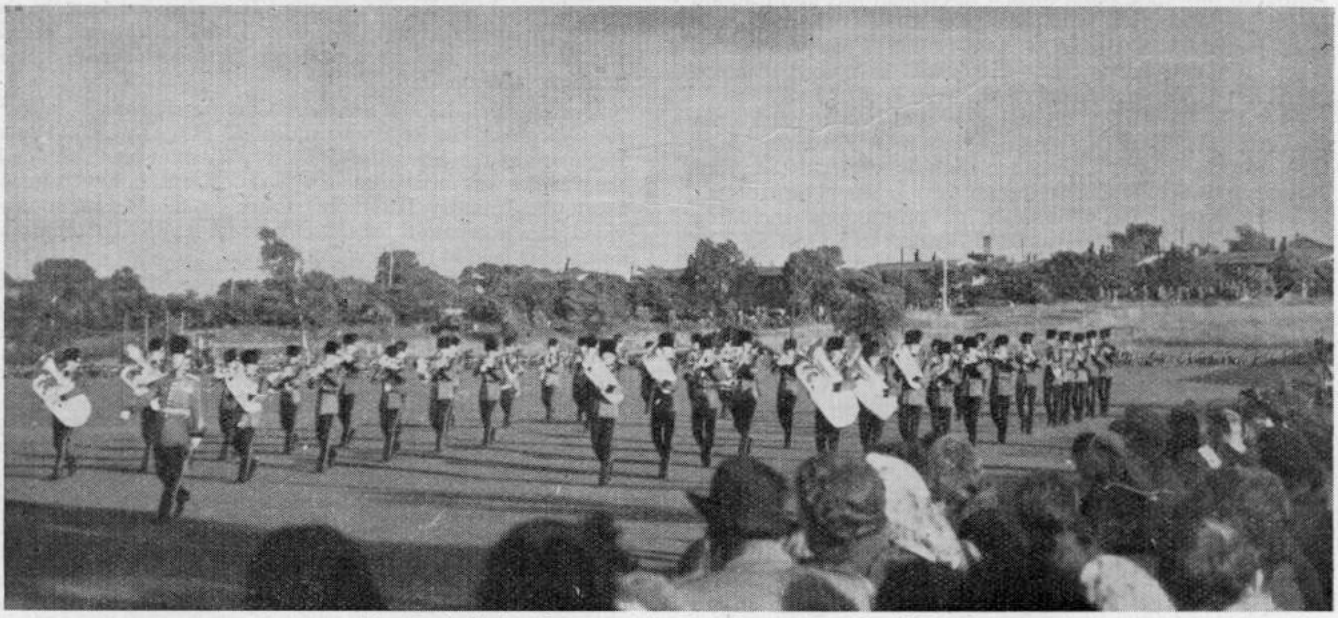
All personnel fired a course on Towen Ranges—firing abruptly ceased, however, when some real bulls strayed across the course.

In all, every effort was made by this Independent Troop to give the Reservists and National Service elements as complete a training as fourteen days would allow.

QUEEN'S (BELFAST) UNIVERSITY TRAINING CORPS (T.A.)

Annual training took place from 21st June to 5th July at Ballyedmond Camp on the north shore of Carlingford Lough, probably the most beautifully situated camp in the United Kingdom if one thinks in terms of scenery. As well as carrying out normal Signal training, the Signals Sub-Unit took part in a contingent exercise with other arms on Rocky Mountain, one of the lesser peaks of the Mournes.

After camp a Signals party went off on a mobile scheme which took us through five of the six counties of Northern Ireland. We had with us Captain T. G. H. Jackson, from Catterick, who contrived a most interesting exercise, from which we learnt not only Signal tactics but something of the way in which other arms work. Based on a battalion-brigade-division layout, our war took us from Ballyedmond and Armagh round the western side of Lough Neagh, ending with a Fantasian rout in the Sperrin Mountains, near Dungiven—without doubt one of the heaviest defeats that ubiquitous army has suffered. We returned to Belfast on 11th July by a route going north and east of Lough Neagh. For many of us this trip provided the first experience of "living rough," fending for ourselves in small parties, "sleeping out" and feeding on "compo" rations.



The Band playing Retreat at the Reunion on Saturday, 19th July

Three of our number, S.S.M. Kirkpatrick, Corporal Graham and Lance-Corporal Rutledge, are back from a three-week spell in B.A.O.R. with 7th Armoured Division, but we have not yet had time to extract their impressions of life in Germany.

The commissioning of Sergeant H. H. Montgomery has provided us with a new second-lieutenant.

May we appeal for news of other U.T.C. Signals in these columns? Do other Units suffer from a dearth of news or a lack of correspondents—which?

Annual General Meeting

HELD AT CATTERICK CAMP ON 20th JULY, 1952

About 350 Members Attended

Brigadier J. J. Duvivier, C.B.E., *Commander, Signal Training Centre,* opened the meeting, saying that it was his privilege, honour and pleasure to welcome the Old Comrades to Catterick. He spoke of the profound impression made by the reunion on the minds of the young soldiers starting their Army life in the S.T.C., and emphasised the ties of loyalty that join us all.

Major-General C. W. Fladgate, C.B.E., *Chairman, Royal Signals Association,* read the most gracious message from our Patron and Colonel-in-Chief:—

The following reply was sent:—

"The Chairman and 350 members of Royal Signals Association gathered at Catterick for their annual reunion present their loyal duty to your Royal Highness and thank their Patron and Colonel-in-Chief for your most gracious message."

The Chairman then spoke of our gratitude to Brigadier Duvivier, Brigadier Moore, the Commanding Officers and all ranks of the Signal Training Centre and School of Signals for their hospitality and for all they were doing to make the reunion a success.

THE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

"I am pleased to report a year of very great progress. Twenty-two new branches formed since July 1951—nine ordinary branches and 13 Regimental branches, of the latter six are in the Middle East, thanks to the enthusiasm shown by our present Director of Signals, Major-General Bowen, who was then C.S.O. M.E.L.F., and two at the Signal Training Centre, thanks to Brigadier Duvivier.

I would like to make special mention of the Harrogate Branch with an associated 'Boys' Branch at the Army Apprentice School, and also the Beverley Branch, which will have a 'Boys' Branch at 6 Training Regiment.

I should like to emphasise these Regimental branches for, as you know, they are rather my 'pet hobby.'

I do feel that there is a good chance of keeping the Association alive in the minds of serving soldiers if we can get them interested when they first start.

Life membership has increased by 473, and annual members enrolled at Headquarters alone have increased by 894. This latter figure includes 131 by the School of Signals and 229 by 5 Training Regiment.

Harewood House
Leeds

I am very pleased to know of the Rally of Old Comrades of my Corps at Catterick on July 19th. Please give all those present my best wishes for a happy gathering. The Association is doing a most valuable piece of work, in keeping touch with Royal Signalmen past and present, and in holding out a helping hand when needed, and I am glad that a similar Rally was held recently at Tunbridge Wells, and it is my hope that these meetings will enable many Members to renew friendships made during the time they served in my Corps.

Mary.

Colonel in Chief.

Welfare Section. The working of the Benevolent Fund was almost the same as in 1950. There was an increase of £350 disbursed. On the credit side, these two factors are significant, refunds and 'conscience money' brought in £920, or £280 more than in 1950, while income from the Regiments of the Active Army nearly doubled. I am glad to say this tendency has been continued in 1952.

Despite this, and the subsidy of the Army Benevolent Fund, we again had to realise £2,000 worth of investments.

In March, when I addressed the branch secretaries' meeting, I mentioned that the Welfare Section had dealt with 12,000 cases since their work started. By 10th July the serial number had gone up to 12,229, and your General Secretary wishes me to mention that concurrently with these new cases very many 'old' cases are still being dealt with. There are, in addition, some 4,000 cases dealt with where we ourselves do not pay out any money but give advice or put the applicant in touch with another organisation such as the British Legion.

You are to be asked later to consider the appointment of a new vice-chairman, but as the work of this office is concerned mainly with assisting with the Adjudicating Committee I will mention it here. Major-General Vyvyan has been forced by pressure of his other work to resign and we thank him for all that he has done. Major-General Nalder has offered himself and will put up for election in his place.

There are also on the Adjudicating Committee two Warrant Officers, staff sergeants or sergeants whose knowledge and advice is invaluable to the committee.

Employment Section. As will be readily understood, the work of this section is increasing, and so indeed is the percentage of applications known to have been 'placed'—42 per cent. against 39 per cent.

The Wire. After a successful first four months in 1951, the sudden increase in the cost of printing caused a deficit of £550 during the year. However, three-fifths of this is being met by funds controlled by the Corps Committee, so the loss to the Association is the smallest since the war—£220. You will all be glad to hear that during the first six months of 1952 THE WIRE actually made a profit!

Area Reunions. The first area reunion organised by Tunbridge Wells was a great success, 400 being present. Those of you who were there will, I know, agree with me that it was a very pleasant evening, the success of which was in no small way due to the Corps Band, who gave of their very best. It is proposed to repeat this in London during the winter. Like that at Tunbridge Wells, it will be an 'Albert Hall' in miniature, but it is hoped to get 600 together. This business of area reunions is a good thing and other areas, Lancashire, Yorkshire, Scotland, where the Association is strong, should be able to emulate. Requirements are simple. A hall, the Band, refreshments.

I now wish to mention the World Veterans' Federation, which was the subject of an article in the May WIRE and will be referred to again in August and September.

After very careful consideration, the Royal Signals Association are to join with the Royal Artillery Association and the Grenadier Guards Comrades Association. These of the Army, together with the Royal Naval Association and the Royal Air Force Association, have joined the World Veterans' Federation. This will provide a strong nucleus of what it is hoped will be a much larger British representation. I would, however, mention that in common with the Royal Artillery Association and the others we are determined that there shall be no discussion of political matters, and if politics are discussed we will withdraw from the World Veterans' Federation." ALL ATTENDING THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING SIGNIFIED THEIR APPROVAL OF THIS STATEMENT IN NO UNCERTAIN MANNER.

"The World Veterans' Federation includes many nations, including the United States of America and Canada and Pakistan of the Commonwealth.

Although in print the aims of the Federation may sound a trifle idealistic to an Englishman, I am persuaded that it has a chance of being a great influence for good. One of its most practical objects is to persuade other countries to provide the same facilities as are available in St. Dunstan's, the Star and Garter Home, and others in this country and similar institutions in America.

In proof of their interest in us I will read you a telegram received this morning: —

> 'I should be grateful if you would convey to your President, delegates and to all members of the Royal Signals Association sincerest good wishes for a successful annual general meeting and reunion from the World Veterans' Federation.—Elliott Newcomb, Secretary-General.'

I think you will all agree that thanks should be given to branch officers, particularly to honorary secretaries, for all they do to advance and extend our work, and to this I must add my tribute to the work of those at Association Headquarters; all sections there work so very hard, and as you will judge from the report, with some success."

The accounts were then presented.

Benevolent Fund proposed by Brigadier Jones (Birmingham) and seconded by Mr. Smith (London).—PASSED.

General Fund proposed by Mr. Paling (Tunbridge Wells) and seconded by Major Mansfield (Scarborough).—PASSED.

* * *

Brigadier Duvivier then proposed and various members seconded that: —

(a) Major-General C. W. Fladgate, C.B.E., be re-elected chairman and honorary treasurer.

(b) Major-General R. F. H. Nalder, C.B., O.B.E., be elected vice-chairman.

(c) Brigadier G. H. Walton, C.B.E., T.D., D.L., be re-elected non-regular officer member of the Central Committee.

(d) That the two other ranks, R.S.M. W. Lowe and S.S.M. D. Grace, nominated by C.S.O. London District to serve on the Adjudicating Committee which assembles weekly in London, should automatically be members of the Central Committee.

All the above resolutions were carried unanimously.

* * *

Under the heading "Any Other Business," a member of the Chester Branch asked about Mercury House, Colwyn Bay.

The Chairman informed the annual general meeting that despite the excellence of the situation of the house and of its suitability and comfort, Mercury House, Colwyn Bay, had got off to a bad start.

There were two main difficulties to be overcome. Colwyn Bay had a short summer season and at present there was a lack of "trade" in the winter. This year, as last, money is very short and people, even if they can afford a holiday, will not undertake long journeys.

Mercury House, Colwyn Bay, had been discussed by the Corps Committee only last week, and they were keeping the house under careful review. It was idle to deny that to date the house had lost a considerable amount of money.

* * *

Brigadier Walton then proposed that the members of the Association express in no uncertain manner their very great appreciation of the work of General Fladgate during his years as chairman of the Association. The Chaplain only that morning had urged them to give service without counting the cost and General Fladgate had set them an outstanding example of arduous and unselfish work for them.

The ensuing applause continued for many minutes.

Letter to the Editor

Sergeant G. H. King, ex Royal Signals, now in-pensioner, Royal Hospital, Chelsea, S.W.3, writes to the Editor:—

I would like to send to all Officers, Warrant Officers, N.C.O.s and Signalmen of the Corps at Catterick my heartfelt thanks and appreciation for what they did to ensure my comfort and happiness on the occasion of the Corps reunion this year.

I was privileged to spend seven very happy days with them, and the beautifully organised arrangements could not have been more perfect had I been a Field Marshal, and that is saying a great deal. Everything I saw (and I saw a great deal) has charmed and thrilled me to such an extent that words seem hardly appropriate.

In addition to seeing the technical abilities of the Corps, I saw drill with clockwork precision, which I very much doubt could be surpassed by any other Unit in our Army.

May I add, in conclusion, that the brotherly kindness shown to me by all ranks from the highest to the lowest, is a very strong proof of the feeling of the Corps towards its veterans.

I pray that I may live many years to have the honour of seeing it all over again. I am very proud to have the honour of having once been a serving member of the Corps.

Birmingham and District

For the past few months any news from this branch has been noticeable by its absence, but this month we have got something really good to write about—in fact, I think we might say " shout about "—because we want many more of our members to know about the Old Comrades' reunion which was held at Catterick Camp on Saturday and Sunday, 19th and 20th July.

The party, which consisted of 22 of us, left Birmingham by motor coach on the Saturday morning under the guidance of Mr. Joe Carnell and, after picking up our President, Colonel F. E. B. Jones, at Four Oaks, set off for Nottingham and the north. Nottingham, however, was not reached without a halt at Castle Donington as several of the party were beginning to feel thirsty. Another break for lunch, when we had our sandwiches and sampled the local brew, and then on the road again through the delightful Nottinghamshire and Yorkshire countryside en route for Catterick Camp.

We arrived there right on schedule at 1730 hours and, believe it or not, from that time onwards we never had a dull moment.

We were accommodated by No. 2 Training Regiment, who also acted as our hosts, and they had obviously had much experience in this capacity. After being shown to our living quarters, with the regulation two-tier bunks, we soon began to feel we were serving soldiers again.

The first real event after tea was at half-past seven, when we assembled on the Baghdad Main Square to witness the Band of the Royal Corps of Signals playing Retreat. This was a truly magnificent spectacle and was staged with full ceremonial—the Band in their dress uniforms and accompanied by the trumpeters. The ceremony started with the Royal Signals Fanfare, at the completion of which the Corps flag and the standards of Headquarters, Signal Training Centre, the School of Signals and the seven Regiments of the Signal Training Centre were broken at the mast head. The Band then marched and counter-marched in slow and quick time, and during the playing of Retreat, the flag and standards were lowered. As I heard one of our members remark, " to see such a sight in the ordinary way, one would have to go to the Royal Tournament or similar function, and here we are seeing it for nothing."

About 9 o'clock there was a general drift towards the W.O.s' and Sergeants' Messes, where a variety of entertainment had been arranged. In the case of No. 2 Training Regiment, this consisted of a dance, smoking concert and other musical events and, let me not forget to add, there were two bars and literally masses of food.

As the evening wore on, the regular soldiers and the Old Comrades had become firm friends, and reminiscences were being exchanged on every side. Some members of the party, however, had found other interests in the dance and were thoroughly enjoying themselves with the Catterick ladies.

The party broke up soon after midnight after a most enjoyable day.

Sunday morning dawned bright and cheerful—but I doubt whether all members of the party were feeling in the same form. However, it is creditable to state that no one refused breakfast—and who could refuse such a breakfast as bacon, two eggs, kidney, sausage and tomato.

0950 church parade, and all members of the party present complete with our standard, ably carried by Mr. L. R. Yates and supported by his two escorts, Messrs. Parsons and Bowcott. It was an inspiring parade comprising some 350 Old Comrades and detachments from each of the Training Regiments, the whole parade being commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel E. J. F. Heap, O.B.E., Commanding Officer of 2 Training Regiment. The service was in St. Martin's Garrison Church and was particularly impressive as our branch standard, in conjunction with those of the branches of Aldershot, Leeds and York, was dedicated.

The service over, we took part in the march past, and Major-General C. W. Fladgate, C.B.E., took the salute. It was a great thrill for we old soldiers to be marching again, particularly with the Band of the Royal Corps of Signals.

Following the parade came the Royal Signals Association general meeting, and then time to eat again (and drink).

After lunch, the rendezvous was the Messines Sports Field, which was gaily decorated, and during the afternoon a number of Regimental displays took place which included the Band of 6 (Boys) Training Regiment, drill, P.T. and Swedish drill, and a mast erection race. The Royal Signals Motor Cycle Display Team gave us a most spectacular show as recently given at the Royal Tournament. It was astounding what these young soldiers did with their motor cycles, and they rightly deserved the terrific applause they received.

Around the field there were also various exhibits, which included one of the old cable wagons on which so many of us had been trained. It was interesting to hear such comments as " I well remember when I was doing No. 6 " and " Have you forgotten to test the earth connection?"—they were good days. In a marquee were displayed many of the old types of signal equipment, some of which was quite unheard of by the younger members of our party but received a lot of praise or otherwise from the older ones who had used it in the 1914-18 War.

The time was now getting on, and Joe Carnell was beginning to look very worried in case any of the party had got lost. However, he need have had no fear as it was getting near tea time and they all turned up.

Soon it was time to say our goodbyes and to thank our hosts for the truly marvellous time we had had. We left Catterick about 1700 hours, and after a very good run reached Birmingham around 2300 hours.

From these notes, those of you who did not accompany the party will see that you missed something really good—so make a special date to come next time.

Newcastle, Gateshead and District

Fair weather has damped down attendance at our regular monthly meetings—held on the first Saturday in each month at 7.30 p.m. in the T.A. Centre, Gateshead—but the date has been kept alive by the Committee and some sun-proof supporters. No doubt the cooler airs of winter will revive indoor enthusiasm.

The expedition to Catterick for the July reunion has returned delighted and full of praise for the organisation and goodwill which made such a splendid week-end.

Royal Signals Benevolent Fund

Also on this page is a simple statement of income and expenditure. Below an attempt is made to describe with suitable anonymity seven cases taken at random from the office of the Welfare Section at 88 Eccleston Square.

Driver called to see the Association with a load of trouble. His wife has been ill and he was behind with his hire purchase. Association put the case to his Commanding Officer and on his recommendation made a grant to help his financial difficulties. It is of interest that prior to seeing his C.O. the applicant and six of his pals called again at Eccleston Square—this time to join the Association.

Ex-Regular N.C.O. who lost his wife and all his furniture during the war. His widowed mother made a home for him and his two children in a nissen hut. Now he has a council house but his mother's furniture is finished. The case was sent to the Association by the British Legion. The Benevolent Fund helped him to replace some of the worn out furniture.

Serving Soldier, married, with three children, drafted to active service and in debt so could not make a voluntary allotment. On recommendation by SSAFA the Benevolent Fund helped to keep his family going until his voluntary allotment could be started.

Ex-Signalman in quite good position was sick for two months, lost his job and got another. On recommendation of the branch of the Association in his town the Benevolent Fund helped with rent, hire purchase, etc., for period he was "off work."

Widow of Signalman Killed on Service. Her three children are in schools in south of England (arranged by Association). The Benevolent Fund paid the children's fares for the long journey to spend summer holiday with mother in north of England.

Ex-N.C.O., badly maimed in accident on duty, granted 100 per cent. disability pension but suffered from long delay between discharge from hospital and commencemnt of pension. He refused financial help but was grateful for action by Association to hasten matters with the Pension Authorities.

Ex-Signalman, discharged from hospital after three years with tuberculosis, granted a pension. Benevolent Fund bridged the gap between stopping of Army allowance and commencement of pension, and is active in effort to get him admitted to Vocational Training Centre to learn work suitable to his disability.

	£	s.	d.
Subscriptions received during July, 1952:—			
5 Training Regiment	5	0	0
Officer Training Wing, School of Signals	15	13	0
Scottish Command (M) Signal Regiment	19	1	2
Eastern Command (M) Signal Regiment	1	4	0
1 Wireless Regiment	10	0	0
14 A.A. (M) Signal Regiment	2	7	6
Kent Coast Troop	3	0	6
Donations received during July, 1952:—			
Army Benevolent Fund	1,500	0	0
Church Collection—Catterick Re-Union	23	10	0
Leicester Branch	2	2	0
East Africa Branch	4	0	0
Lieut.-Colonel P. A. Chubb	17	0	
Total receipts	£1,586	15	2
Expenditure during July, 1952	£670	2	9

(Includes: Beds and Bedding; Rent and Rates; General Assistance; Tools; Prams and Cots; Removals; Fares; Clothing; Hire Purchase.)

Analysis of cases:—	
Families of soldiers serving in U.K.	6
,, ,, ,, ,, ,, M.E.L.F.	2
,, ,, ,, ,, ,, FARELF	3
Widows and Dependants	10
Released and Discharged Soldiers	65
Total cases assisted	86

BALANCES DUE TO ESTATES OF DECEASED SOLDIERS

In pursuance of "The Regimental Debts Act, 1893," notice is hereby given that there is available for distribution amongst the next-of-kin or others entitled the sum of money set opposite to the name of each of the deceased soldiers named below.

Applications from persons supposing themselves entitled as next-of-kin should be addressed by letter to "The Under-Secretary of State, War Office, Whitehall, London, S.W.1," and marked outside "Effects."

Maley, H., driver, Royal Signals ... ... £32 17s. 0d.
Butler, J. H., driver, Royal Signals ... £59 9s. 9d.

Round the Island Race, 1952

ON Saturday, 5th July, the Corps yacht "Cito" took part in the annual race round the Isle of Wight organised by the Island Sailing Club of Cowes. The skipper was Major-General W. A. Scott and crew Lieutenant-Colonel E. Y. Nepean and Major G. W. Blackburne. The following is an "eye-witness" account of the event.

We awoke to a fine morning with some cloud and a moderate to fresh breeze from the north-east. The barometer was high and steady. Not knowing what opportunity there would be for preparing a proper meal before the end of the race a really good breakfast was made. When this was cleared away all was made secure below and the dinghy secured to the mooring buoy.

By this time there was great activity in the roads, over 100 yachts making sail and working out to windward of the line, which was two marks in line on the Island Sailing Club. Thinking it likely that the wind would freshen we started with the number one jib and the mainsail reefed two rolls. At 9.30 the large boats in Class I were sent away and we checked our watch from their guns. As they went away we slipped our moorings and joined the rest of the fleet jockeying for position. We were sent away at 10 o'clock and "Cito" was over the line a few seconds after the gun.

The first leg of the course was a dead run through Hurst Channel to the Bridge Buoy. We started with the wind on our starboard quarter and boom to port and worked our way out to mid Solent to take advantage of the ebb tide. Once we were clear of the start and had comfortable sea room we set our spinnaker and found ourselves in the middle of the fleet going well. As we sailed further to the west we edged over to the island side to pick up the strong tide off Yarmouth.

By the time we reached the Shingles we found that we were being set too far to the north so we gybed over to the port gybe and worked our way back into the main channel. By this time we were approaching the Bridge Buoy, our next mark, so in came the spinnaker preparatory to rounding up into the wind. We rounded the Bridge Buoy at 11.37 having held our position well.

Once clear of the shelter of the island the seas increased and there was more weight in the wind. The ebb still had two hours to go so we kept close in to the island in Freshwater Bay to keep out of the strongest of the tidal stream. Even so, although we were travelling fast through the water on the port tack we made little progress over the ground for the first hour. It seemed a long time before the Needles Lighthouse began to fade astern. After two hours the slackening tide enabled us to make better progress and as we approached St. Catherine's Point there was more weight in the wind and the seas increased. It was soon evident that "Cito" was being over driven and was labouring in the seas. Another two and a half rolls were taken in the mainsail, which eased her for the time being. By now the fleet was well spread out and it was apparent that a number of smaller boats astern had given up and turned back.

The wind was still freshening and the sea increasing so that "Cito" was labouring once more. The working jib was

too much for her and it was clear that it would have to come in and the storm jib go up in its place. At this time the wind was seldom less than force five and gusting up to force six, referred to in *The Times* as strong to gale! It was the sea as much as the weight of wind that made it necessary to reduce speed. She was still leaking more than was pleasant despite the plate fitted over the place where the new planks were working and the pumping was an irksome labour. The crew therefore went forward and handed number one jib. We jogged along for about ten minutes with no jib. We made but poor progress but the motion was much easier and we pumped her out and rested before setting the storm jib and standing close hauled across Sandown Bay. After this sail changing operation both members of the crew were soaked to the skin from head to foot, as in addition to heavy spray the fore deck was frequently awash when she dipped her bow into the heavier and more irregular seas. Despite appearance, " Cito " was handling very well and making excellent progress.

The crew now went below one at a time to change into dry clothes. One member who up to that time had just managed to survive, was overcome by the motion and committed his soul to the deep, and continued to do so at intervals for the next two hours.

On this leg, which was to the north-east, we could not lay our course but first stood out to the east on the port tack and then stood in to Sandown Bay on the starboard tack. We kept fairly well out from the land to take advantage of the flood tide.

As we approached Bembridge Ledge both the sea and the wind were easing and we were able to reset the number one jib and make better progress. It was with great relief that we rounded Bembridge Ledge buoy and were able to lay our course to the Forts on a close reach on the starboard tack and no longer be punching into the seas, which were now on our beam.

This leg soon brought us to the Forts and the last leg, a run to the finishing line. There was still a fair weight in the wind and we noticed that several people were having trouble with their spinnakers. We therefore decided not to set ours but goose-winged our jib to starboard with the spinnaker boom. This proved most effective and we found that we were making as good speed as those who were carrying their spinnakers successfully and better than those who were having trouble with them. It was comforting at this stage to see a number of bigger boats still astern, which indicated that they had also suffered from the buffeting round St. Catherine's Point and probably had not made such skilful use of the tide as "Cito." Seaview, Ryde, Wootton Creek and Osborne House slipped by as we rounded North Sturbridge Buoy on the last leg of our course, and we crossed the line in good order and excellent spirits at about twenty past eight. On corrected time of 7 hours 6 minutes 5 seconds we were fifteenth in our class. We finished the race with the conviction that " Cito " can be driven harder than has been thought. In a big sea she is wet but is safe and will sail. Her average of six knots over ten hours in this race was good.

Having cleared the line we took off the jib and jogged into the harbour and picked up our mooring under mainsail alone. Having put out a stern line the skipper and one member of the crew went ashore to report while the other member set about preparing a much needed supper to which, with pints of " home brewed," due justice was done.

We turned in at midnight and with but a brief disturbance by a thunderstorm at 6 a.m. slept through till 8.45. After a leisurely breakfast the other member went ashore to get Sunday papers and collect the pewter tankard which is presented to each boat that finishes the course.

The wind was light to moderate from the south-west. With the ebb tide under us we had a comfortable beat down to Lymington. During the sail the wind freshened so we took two rolls in the mainsail. We left Cowes about midday and picked up our moorings about three o'clock, when we had a late lunch. Having squared up we arrived back at the club at five o'clock after a most exhilarating week-end. The hard and less pleasant interludes were soon forgotten, leaving good memories of a grand sail.

Sailing, B.A.O.R.

The third triangular regatta was held at Mohne See Sailing Club on Thursday and Friday, 24th and 25th July, the Royal Artillery being the hosts this year.

The wind was light and fluky on the first day, and the wily R.A. helmsmen, many of whom were sailing on home waters, were not slow in taking advantage of this and in exhibiting their knowledge of the idiosyncracies of the lake. They drew away to a comfortable lead, though the Sappers, who had held their own regatta on the lake a few days previously and sorted out their team carefully, by some good team work in the sharpie class races, did something to close the gap towards the end of the day. Royal Signals had some individual successes in the star class races, but lacked cohesion and experience and were clearly at a disadvantage on this first day in capricious light winds on unfamiliar waters.

The first evening concluded with a ladies' race, during which the wind suddenly improved. The first three places in the ladies' race went to the Sappers' ladies for the second year in succession, Miss Daphne Beach repeating her win of last year. Mrs. Lane was second, and Mrs. Foley again finished in third place. Mrs. Flash finished in fourth place for the Gunners, and Mrs. Morton in the fifth place as the leading Royal Signals lady.

On the second day the wind, though still variable, was stronger. This tended to even things up, and the weight and length of the Royal Signals team began to tell, particularly in the star class. The Sappers continued to excel in the sharpie class and closed the gap further with the Gunners who, nevertheless, had secured a formidable lead and had been trying out second string helmsmen. In the last race the Gunners put all their first string helmsmen in again and made their victory decisive. R.A. (the holders) therefore retained the shield with a total of 255 points; R.E. this year took second place with 221 points; and Royal Signals, with 157 points, had to be content with third place. The teams therefore finished strictly in Regimental order! Although the issue was never much in doubt, there were some good exhibitions of team work and some good individual efforts, and the winners did not have things all their own way.

In the Gunner team, Major Howard and Captain Hyde-Smith proved formidable adversaries. Lieutenant-Colonel Gregory and Major Snow put in some particularly effective team work for the Sappers.

In the Royal Signals team Major Morton scored a first, two seconds and a third; Major Glanville a second; and Captain Holbrook a third in the star class races; and Lieutenant-Colonel Rowett a first in the sharpie class races.

Lieutenant-Colonel S. R. M. Hamblin, Dorset Regiment, again acted as judge and referee, but protests were few this year and his shrewd judgments were not so much in demand. Colonel L. G. Beach again functioned competently on the bridge.

Tabulated results were as follows:—

Race.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	Totals
Team Points															
R.A.	25	21	14	17	17	25	23	23	8	13	14	17	18	20	255
R.E.	13	18	11	23	13	10	7	16	25	23	20	16	12	14	221
Royal Signals	8	6	15	6	15	11	16	7	12	10	11	13	15	12	157

Royal Signals: Lieutenant-Colonel W. B. Rowett (team captain), Major M. A. Lloyd, Major A. D. Brindley, Major A. R. Glanvill, Major P. H. Morton, Major A. J. Woodrow, Captain R. S. Holbrook, Captain R. M. Bircumshaw, Lieutenant B. M. Ratcliffe, Lieutenant F. C. Goodley, Lieutenant R. Barrett, Lieutenant R. D. Whitehead, Second-Lieutenant T. E. Grice and Second-Lieutenant M. G. Richards.

BRITISH ARMY TEAM FOR THE INTERNATIONAL SIX-DAY MOTOR CYCLE TRIAL

Selection trials were held in July at Bordon to select the "possibles" from which the two Army teams will be chosen for the International Six-Day Trial in Austria in September.

Royal Signals got one into the nine "possibles," Sergeant D. G. Rowthorn (5 Training Regiment, Royal Signals).

Royal Signals Lawn Tennis Fixtures, 1952

The Royal Signals lawn tennis team has achieved quite good results this year in addition to having a very pleasant time. On 10th June we took on the R.E.M.E. team in the delightful surroundings of the Roehampton Club. We lost six matches to three, but not without a struggle—five matches went to three sets. This was our first attempt on grass courts this season. The next day we went to Camberley and defeated the R.M.A. 6—3 after being three all before tea—we each lost one match to a different pair. We were glad to see a number of the Royal Signals representatives at Sandhurst, although we felt that we were always at our worst when they were watching.

From 9th to 13th July we had four fixtures in a row with a one-day break in the middle; the weather was perfect throughout. It was perhaps unfortunate that we played the R.E. first—in so doing we suffered a narrow defeat by five matches to four. Only our nominal third pair, Second-Lieutenant D. R. Gregory and Signalman D. C. Cook, found their form right away and won all their matches—the so-called first pair found no form at all. That was at the United Services Club in Chatham. After that we did not look back; we lost only one match to the R.A.O.C. at the Officers' Club, Aldershot, two to the R.A.S.C. at Buller Barracks, Aldershot, and we whitewashed a depleted but not insignificant Staff College team at Camberley. It was very pleasant to play against J. St. C. W. Robinson, Royal Signals, a student at the college, who specially stayed back from a long week-end for this fixture. For the last three days a number of the team stayed in the R.A.S.C. Officers' Mess at Buller Barracks and we were looked after very well indeed.

The following played in these matches:—Major P. A. Watts, H.Q. School of Signals, Major E. N. L. Brown, 1 Training Regiment, Major P. H. Brown, H.Q. Signal Training Centre, Major T. H. G. Fletcher, Ministry of Supply (A.D.E.), Second-Lieutenant D. R. Gregory, 1 Training Regiment, Signalman D. C. Cook, 4 Training Regiment, Captain T. Richards, Royal Signals Wing, Second-Lieutenant C. Spencer, Officers Training Wing.

★

There is no doubt that Royal Signals could raise a better team than this, but it would only be possible to do so if potential players will come on the trials at the beginning of the season, or if this is impossible the President of the Lawn Tennis Sub-Committee must be informed of their existence and given some indication of their form. Units could probably help to do this as the individual is very often too shy.

Some special mention must be made of the partnership of Second-Lieutenant Gregory and Signalman Cook. Since playing together they have not lost a match, they are both left-handed, an awkward enough combination to take on at any time, but in addition they produce all the energy and enthusiasm necessary, plenty of confidence and very adequate skill. They are playing together in the Army Championships, where we wish them every success.

A final note of thanks is due to the weather this year. For the first time in living memory it has allowed the poor unfortunates in Catterick to get a reasonable amount of practice.

GOLF

Royal Signals Golfing Society versus Royal Engineers Golfing Society, at Camberley Heath Golf Club, on 16th July, 1952

Royal Signals

Lieut.-Colonel G. S. K. Mayden	0
Major Leese 7 and 5	1
Lieut.-Colonel T. E. S. Walford	0
Captain Schofield 2 and 1	1
Major-General Vulliamy 4 and 3	1
Colonel J. F. Longfield 3 and 1	1
Colonel G. C. Winckley 2 up	1
Brigadier C. H. A. Chadwick 1 up	1
Maydon and Leese 1 up	1
Walford and Schofield	0
Vulliamy and Winckley 6 and 5	1
Longfield and Chadwick 3 and 2	1
	9

Royal Engineers

Staff Sergeant Munro 2 up	1
Lieut.-Coloned Oborne	0
Major Huyshe 5 and 4	1
Captain Jenkins	0
Major Spary	0
Brigadier Wickham	0
Major Sleigh	0
Brigadier North	0
Munro and Oborne	0
Huyshe and Jenkins 1 up	1
Spary and Wickham	0
Sleigh and North	0
	3

The weather was kind and the course in excellent condition when the Royal Signals defeated their "parents" by nine matches to two at Camberley Heath on 16th July. We were delighted to meet Lieutenant-Colonel Oborne, Officer i/c Golf, Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, again and to find that he is still a Royal Engineer at heart, but he was no match for Major Leese, a newcomer to our team. Captain Schofield, another addition to our regular team, also started off his career with a win, and these two morning victories made our afternoon foursomes much easier. Colonel Winckley, who knows every blade of grass on the course by its christian name, had his usual morning win and, coupled with Major-General Vulliamy in the afternoon, continued the good work.

It was a most enjoyable day and the only fault that could be found by one Royal Signals Officer, who shall be nameless, was the discovery that the bar did *not* open at 10 a.m.!

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CORPS CRICKET

Result of match at Aldershot on 17th July:—

Royal Signals v. R.A.S.C.—a Draw

R.A.S.C. 302 all out, Royal Signals 117 and 294 for 6 wickets.



THE WIRE

The Corps Magazine of the
ROYAL SIGNALS
The Official Organ of the
SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

Editor :
BRIGADIER H. R. FIRTH

All correspondence and matter for publication for THE WIRE *should be addressed to The Editor,* THE WIRE, *88 Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1. Matter for publication must be received by the 15th of the month preceding publication.*

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OCTOBER • 1952

Vol. 6 No. 10

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PRICE ONE SHILLING

Editorial

THE RADIO SHOW, 1952

THE Army stand this year at the Radio Show was a very considerable improvement on previous years. Both in its site and size, it equalled the stands of the Royal Navy and of the Royal Air Force. In previous years, the Army exhibits have been rather tucked away in an obscure corner. This year it achieved a prominence equal or better than the other two Services.

As in former years, the exhibits were provided by Royal Signals, and Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers.

Based on a working Signal Office, the Royal Signals' half of the stand had none of the customary frills and definitely benefited thereby. Flanked by an ASSU Terminal on one side and by the popular Recorder on the other, the stand contained, as its centrepiece, a model working Signal Office from which it was possible to send a message or maintain a teleprinter conversation with a variety of other Signal Offices, including the main Signal Office in M.E.L.F. To prove that it worked, a member of the staff of your Association visiting the Exhibition handed in a message addressed to the office on a matter of some importance, and this was duly received the following morning. The old addage that a message handed in to "Signals" will be delivered was justified.

Prominent were some of the more modern, almost futuristic in design, means of radio propagation, and perhaps the finest development in post-war telecommunication engineering was the miniature 10 set (the true title was not noted), designed to carry 1 plus 4 channels over a gap in land line. It is capable of being carried by two or three men over rough country, was compact, rigid, and appeared completely serviceable. One of the attentive staff of the stand volunteered the information that it had been highly successful and popular during its troop trials.

In this matter of staff, as always, Royal Signals scored. Visited by members of the Headquarters Staff of the Association on a variety of days throughout the run of the show, the contrast between the staff of the Royal Signals' stand and those of a majority of the civilian attendants at trade exhibition stands was most marked. The Royal Signals staff kept their enthusiasm, politeness, smartness, attentiveness, despite the constant inane questions, mixed with that most difficult of people, the expert "who goes to try and catch you out," and there is always a host of small boys whose sole object in life appears to be the destruction of somebody else's property.

It is perhaps the best example of the training given to our young soldiers, and most of them were very young, that they maintained their pride and their enthusiasm to the very end when all around them were those of less training and less pride who lapsed into bored chain-smoking inattentiveness. As always, such an exhibition makes one very proud of being a Signalman.

EMPIRE FIELD OF REMEMBRANCE

The Empire Field of Remembrance will be held from 6th to 12th November, between 9.30 a.m. and 6 p.m., at Westminster. It will be opened at 12 noon on Thursday, 6th November. The Royal Signals plot is No. 203, as in previous years.

As in former years, the London, and London (City) Branches provide the official representatives of the Association at the opening.

If any other member of the Association is in London on Thursday, 6th November, and wishes to attend the opening, he should notify Headquarters.

All correspondence and applications relating to the Field should be addressed to the Secretary, British Legion Poppy Factory, Surrey, and cheques made payable to British Legion Poppy Factory, Ltd.

It is regretted that is is impossible at present to provide a photograph.

Vale

BRIGADIER K. H. TRESEDER, O.B.E.

KENNETH TRESEDER joined the Corps direct from the Royal Military College, Sandhurst, on 30th August, 1924. After passing the usual courses at the School of Signals, it was not long before he decided that he would like to see Africa before submitting himself to a routine posting to one of the more stereotyped countries overseas. In consequence he was employed with the Royal West African Frontier Force from 25th January, 1928, to 28th October, 1933, becoming a temporary captain for his last three years in that country.

Having been promoted to substantive captain in 1935, he went to India and subsequently became adjutant of Corps Signals in Karachi. Here, apart from a successful tenure in his appointment, he interested himself in sport, and many of his friends will remember the success of a certain Irish mare, imported by his wife, on the Karachi racecourse. It was at this time, too, that he succeeded in passing the Staff College examination, and he spent 1939 at the Staff College, Quetta.

From Quetta he was posted to Army Headquarters, Delhi, and there, at first in the Staff Duties Directorate, he found himself responsible for the arrangement of supply of technical equipment to the Indian Signal Corps. Mechanization and wireless may both be stated to have been in their infancy in India at the time, and it required all the ingenuity which he personally possessed, and the blarney which he had acquired, to produce the countless items which were required to equip both the existing units for service overseas and those in embryo.

It was with difficulty that, early in 1941, one who recognized Ken Treseder's ability was able to squeeze him from the Staff Duties Directorate into the Signal Officer-in-Chief's "technical advisory" branch which too slowly, but nevertheless surely, became a large directorate itself a year later. Here he was given full scope, and it is no exaggeration to say that the fast expanding Indian Signal Corps, and the many Royal Signal Units which were drafted into and through India, owed more than a great deal to him and his co-worker, Tommy Thompson, on the other side of the passage. They both became G.S.O.I (Signals) as time went on.

It must not be thought though that no time was found for "play." Admittedly, playtime was meagre but, in the Winter, Ken and others reserved the hours from five to ten a.m. on certain Sunday mornings for shooting in the Delhi area, and many a successful morning was so spent with gun and rope—and Sam, the fox terrier retriever. Mrs. Treseder, too, when she did not accompany the guns, or was not working in an office in G.H.Q. (India) as it became, took part in the field of sport as a popular joint-master of the Delhi hounds which also met in the early hours on Sundays.

The Treseders said goodbye to India in October, 1943, and sailed for England. Their ship called at Sicily and embarked 30 Corps Signals, which he was destined to command throughout the fighting in Europe until early in 1945.

He was appointed to the Control Commission for Germany just prior to cessation of hostilities, and here again his flair for high level staff work brought him rapid promotion, as by November of that year he was Chief Secretary in the office of the Deputy Military Governor. Then followed a short period as the Commandant, Signal Training Centre, and at the beginning of 1948 a well-earned change when he was made Military Attaché at His Majesty's Embassy at Oslo.

After what he himself described as a pleasant and most interesting appointment, he succeeded, in October, 1950, as A.A.G. in A.G.II at the War Office. In this appointment he continued the tradition of his immediate predecessor in doing all that he and his staff could do to get the individual officer a suitable posting and some security of tenure of appointment. That he did not always succeed was due more to the action of the King's enemies than to any lack of forethought by the staff concerned.

On his retirement in May 1952, Brigadier Treseder acquired a farm in Ireland, where he intends to settle. It would be difficult for their friends to think of a more appropriate combination than the Treseders as newcomers to the farming fraternity, particularly in Ireland. Between them they possess many of the necessary qualifications and most of the desirable characteristics and, last but by no means least, a thorough knowledge of the country and its people. Our best wishes go with them.

The Commander-in-Chief in India

General K. M. Cariappa, Commander-in-Chief of the Army of the Dominion of India, recently in England, has written to the Representative Colonel Commandant:—

I have at last been able to find some time after my return from England to write letters. However, I am sorry to have taken so long writing to you. I write this to thank you and the Officers of the Royal Signals for the honour you did me in inviting me to attend your annual dinner in London and also your tea, when Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal came. It gave me great joy to meet so many of my old friends there, all looking so well and still taking such personal interest in the doings of the Indian Signal Corps, for the training of which they were mostly responsible. I am only sorry that I was not able to stay long enough after the dinner or the tea to meet more of my friends there but, unfortunately, my stay in England was so short and my programme was also so rushed that I could not find enough time to meet all my friends.

It was indeed a great honour, and definitely such a pleasure, to have had the opportunity of meeting and talking to The Princess Royal. I was most impressed with her glorious simplicity and friendliness.

Once again, my very best thanks to you all. May I repeat what I said in the short talk I gave at the end of the dinner, i.e., I do hope some of you would come out here to see how the "lads" are carrying on.

*

Mr. D. B. Harrison, of 17 Fennyhills Close, Oxhey, Watford, writes:—

"May I take this opportunity of expressing my views on the holiday guest house at Boscombe.

"My wife and I spent a very pleasant week there last year and this year we extended it to a fortnight. We both think it a very excellent idea, and I am sure that my old fallen comrades of the Hong Kong Signal Company, if they were here today, would think the same. May I add that no one would wish for better management than that given by Major and Mrs. Dunningham."

SHIELD OF ROYAL SIGNALS CREST

The Association can supply on order wooden shields bearing the Corps crest, which are suitable for presentation to clubs, messes, etc. Size 12in. x 9½in., price £5 10s. Manufacture takes four to six weeks.

Forthcoming Events

RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

1952-1953 Fixtures

	Date		*Opponents*	*Ground*
	1952			
	Sept. 6	...	Huddersfield	Huddersfield
	„ 13	...	Middlesbrough	Catterick
	„ 20	...	Billingham	Catterick
*	„ 22	...	Melrose	Melrose
	„ 27	...	Halifax	Halifax
	Oct. 25	...	Durham City	Durham
	Nov. 8	...	Huddersfield	Catterick
*	„ 15	...	Cambridge University LX Club	Cambridge
	„ 22	...	Leeds University	Leeds
*	„ 26	...	R.A.O.C.	Catterick
	Dec. 6	...	Percy Park	Tynemouth
*	„ 13	...	Military College of Science	Shrivenham
	1953			
*	Jan 7	...	R.E.M.E.	Aborfield
*	„ 14	...	R.M.A. (Sandhurst)	Camberley
	„ 17	...	Otley	Catterick
*	„ 21	...	Royal Engineers	Chatham
	„ 24	...	Middlesbrough	Middlesbro'
	„ 28	...	Rossall	Rossall
	„ 31	...	West Hartlepool	Catterick
	Feb. 7	...	Otley	Otley
	„ 11	...	Leeds University	Catterick
*	„ 14	...	Oxford University Greyhounds	Oxford
	„ 21	...	Waterloo	Blundellsands
*	„ 25	...	St. Andrew's University	St. Andrews
	„ 28	...	Sedbergh School	Sedbergh
	Apr. 11	...	Billingham	Billingham

** Corps Representative Matches*

OFFICERS' BUFFET SUPPER AND REUNION

The Royal Signals Officers' Buffet Supper is to be held this year at the Territorial Army (11 (M) Anti-Aircraft Signal Regiment) Drill Hall, 206 Brompton Road, London, S.W.3 (adjacent to Brompton Oratory Church), on Saturday, 6th December, 1952. Time: 7 to 11 p.m. Dress: Lounge suits or uniform.

A well-known London catering firm is providing the buffet, and drinks will be available at normal Officers' Mess prices. This arrangement, which is being tried out for the first time, should reduce the costs to officers attending, and it is hoped that it will prove popular.

All officers who have served or are serving with Royal Signals (i.e. regular and retired, T.A., T.A.R.O., S.R. and W.E.C. officers) will be welcome at this reunion, which will be quite informal. Membership of the Royal Signals Dinner Club is not necessary. It is hoped that all who are able will attend and make the reunion a success. All Signal Regiments, T.A. in particular, are asked to assist in publicising this reunion to the numerous officers not now serving.

★

Tickets (12s. 6d. per person) may be obtained from the Honorary Secretary, Royal Signals Dinner Club, Room 102, Horse Guards, Whitehall, S.W.1. Cheques should be made payable to Royal Signals Dinner Club.

T.A. OFFICERS' "AT HOME," 1952

The tea party for Royal Signals Territorial Army Officers and their wives will be held this year at the Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, W.1, on Saturday, 6th December, 1952, at 4 for 4.30 p.m. Dress: Lounge suits.

The Colonel-in-Chief, H.R.H. The Princess Royal, C.I., G.C.V.O., G.B.E., has graciously accepted an invitation to be present.

★

Tickets (8s. 6d. per person) may be obtained from the Honorary Secretary, Royal Signals Dinner Club, Room 102, Horse Guards, Whitehall, S.W.1. Cheques should be made payable to Royal Signals Dinner Club.

DINNER AND "AT HOME," 1953

The dates for the Dinner and Regular Officers' "At Home" are 20th and 21st May respectively.

Television Pre-View

HAVING had years of experience as a television viewer, I was always interested to know what actually went on behind the scenes. It was with some pleasure, therefore, that as the possessor of a ticket to a dress rehearsal of "Top Hat Rendezvous" I went to the Earls Court 1952 Radio Show, where the B.B.C. have erected their new £20,000 television studio, and became one of the 1,000 spectators.

When the curtain lifted we beheld a nightmare of cables, wires, cameras, microphones, with operators, directors, artistes and chorus girls standing in apparent confusion.

The introductory piece was delayed whilst the place of an absent soubrette was taken by a middle-aged scene shifter. This obstacle overcome, the scantily-clad Twelve Toppers chorus swung into their first number.

The Beverley Sisters, who followed, began their first song by smiling sweetly into the wrong camera, to the accompaniment of Eric Robinson's Concert Orchestra and frantic semaphore signals from the producer. What with watching the red camera indicator light, remembering their lines, and trying not to be distracted by the "mike," which hovers like a giant bumble bee just over their noses, the television artistes certainly do have fun.

The compère, Johnny Lockwood, in introducing the two young contortionists, Betty and Pam Clark, managed to successfully tie himself into a human reef-knot. Quite oblivious of the cameras and other distractions, these two youngsters seemed equally at ease moving about the stage, upside down, and almost inside out. The audience, at the end of this act, seemed quite unable to know whether to applaud or shudder at the postures they had witnessed.

A very handsome cat, assisted by the slightly inebriated Robert Carne, proved to us that our dumb friends are not so dumb as we think.

Enter the drill sergeant. Enter Nat "Rubberneck" Jackley and his comrades, who showed how the simplest drill manoeuvres can be brought to the most farcial conclusion. The audience, previously rather sparing with their applause, apparently stunned the producer, who had been giving imploring actions at the conclusion of earlier turns.

The Masqueraders and Twelve Toppers, once again arrayed in scanty but much-bejewelled costumes, swept across the stage for the grand finale.

The dress rehearsal for a 75 minutes' television show had lasted almost two hours, with the set adjustments, alterations and positioning, but when I watched the show the next evening in my own home I marvelled at the extra polish and split second timing that had been added overnight.

The Blue Book

AS readers of the September WIRE know, the Post-War Seniority Roll of Warrant and Non-Commissioned Officers is now in course of production and may be obtained, price 2s., from Royal Signals Association (bulk orders from Regiments are preferred).

On 3rd September, Major-General W. O. Bowen, C.B., C.B.E., visited the Record Office and himself started the punched card tabulating machine on the task of producing Corps Promotion Order No. 1 to be printed in the Blue Book.

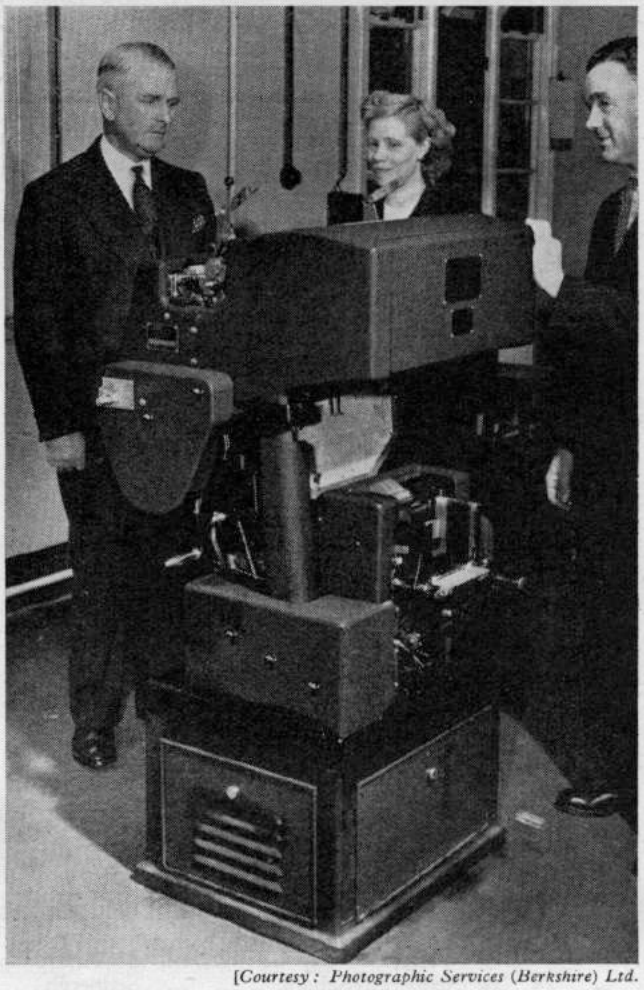
We are reminded elsewhere that the Blue Book was first published in 1932, twelve years after the formation of Royal Signals. Records are to be congratulated that the extremely complex task of re-starting it has taken only six years since the end of the 1939-45 War.

The Seniority Roll has already caused argument, and even before publication we have received a letter which merits consideration and reply.

Fair Play

"May I be allowed, through the medium of THE WIRE, to bring to notice a subject which I am sure must have been discussed in many Sergeants' Messes throughout the Corps, and one which has not yet, to my surprise, appeared in print. I refer to the Shadow promotion scheme. Let me say at the outset that I appreciate how difficult it must have been to produce the first Shadow Roll, and to have satisfactorily ironed out the various queries that must have been raised. Once that had been done, I and many others understood that promotion, provided a man was recommended and held the necessary qualifications, would be by seniority. An exception to this rule was accelerated promotion, for which a man had to hold certain qualifications, be recommended by his Commanding Officer, and could be accelerated ONE rank at a time. In Shadow Promotion Order No. 9 we find that a number of Sergeants have been promoted to W.O.II, some of whom do not possess the necessary qualifications as laid down by Officer i/c. Records. I think I am correct in saying that most of these N.C.O.s were War/Sub. W.O.Is, and that I am right in saying that if a man was in the right place at the right time during the war and was suitable, it was not difficult to obtain quick promotion. I understood that one of the objects of the Shadow promotion scheme was to level out the element of luck that existed during the war, and to bring EVERYONE up or down to their correct seniority. There must be many cases of Senior N.C.O.s who, through no fault of their own, were not lucky enough to become W.O.s during the war, and who again find themselves being 'jumped' by men who are junior to them on the roll. I cannot see any justification for this, and have no doubt that in many cases the N.C.O.s who have been jumped are in every way suitable for promotion to W.O. rank. Perhaps someone in Records would be good enough to give us the reason for these sudden jumps, and thereby allay some of the dissatisfaction they have caused."

"Fair Play's" letter was sent to the Officer i/c Royal Signals Records and Colonel H. D. Mountford, C.B.E., has done us the kindness of providing the reply.



[Courtesy: Photographic Services (Berkshire) Ltd.

Major-General W. O. Bowen, Mrs. D. F. Snashall, senior machine operator, Captain C. Small, i/c Machine Wing

Records Replies to Fair Play

"I welcome the opportunity which you have given me of answering 'Fair Play's' letter, and thus of explaining a matter which is obviously of the greatest interest to the whole Corps.

"'Fair Play' is right in his understanding of the general situation regarding promotion and accelerated promotion, but what is probably not so widely known is that the War Office ordered a 'one time only' form of special accelerated shadow promotion, which caused the jumps mentioned. This special accelerated promotion was primarily for the benefit of the Corps, the advantage to the individual being only of secondary consideration. Its object was to ensure that the Corps did not lose the services of outstanding Warrant Officers, who might one day make first-class Quartermasters, because their position on the Corps roster was too low to give them a reasonable chance of promotion to W.O.I before they became age-barred at 40. I feel sure that all Warrant Officers and N.C.O.s will agree with this principle, however hardly they personally may have been affected.

"The conditions for consideration were that the individual must:—

"(a) Hold the Acting or War Substantive rank of W.O.I and must have held such a rank for a total of at least four years on the date of recommendation.

"(b) Have a P.E.S. of F.E.

"(c) Be recommended for such accelerated promotion by both his Commanding Officer and C.S.O.

" No educational or trade qualifications were required and acceleration could be from any shadow rank to W.O.I or such intermediate rank as might be recommended by a Board of Officers. The names of those fulfilling the conditions were then put before the Board, which was instructed to restrict its recommendations to those considered to be really outstanding as W.O.sI.

" The number of individuals accelerated as a result of this procedure amounted to 1.1 per cent. of the total W.O.sII, S.Q.M.S. and Sergeants on the Corps establishment. The Board only recommended a very small number to be accelerated to W.O.I. The rest were advanced sufficiently on the roster to give them a reasonable chance of becoming Substantive W.O.sI before reaching the age of 40. It is to be noted, however, that owing to a recent War Office ruling some further adjustments to the positions on the roster of some of those granted this special accelerated promotion may still be necessary. They will be very few in number.

" It is good to see from ' Fair Play's ' opening remarks that the difficulty of fitting everyone equitably into the post-war roster has been appreciated. The production of this roster has been a truly titanic task, involving the individual consideration of each Warrant Officer's and N.C.O.'s case. While it would be idle to pretend that everyone is completely satisfied, every possible endeavour has been made to achieve a fair deal throughout the Corps."

ROYAL SIGNALS DIARIES, 1953

Diaries are expected to be available in October 1952.

Order forms are available from all Chief Signal Officers, hon. secretaries of local and Unit branches, and from Association Headquarters. Orders from Units and branches should be despatched in bulk. Purchase tax is not charged on overseas orders.

Prices are as follows: —

(a) REFILLABLE WALLET, with pockets.

	s.	d.
Published price	11	0
Purchase tax	4	11
	15	11

(b) IN GREEN LEATHER.

	s.	d.
Published price	3	6
Purchase tax		9
	4	3

(c) IN GREEN PLEXIDE.

	s.	d.
Published price	2	8
Purchase tax		7
	3	3

(d) REFILLS (for (a)).

	s.	d.
Published price	1	9
Purchase tax		5
	2	2

All intending purchasers should note that cash must be sent with orders and that postage at the following rates should also be included.

United Kingdom	s.	d.
1 copy		3
2 copies		4
3 copies		5
4-6 copies		8
7-12 copies		10
Over 12 copies	1	0

H.M. Forces Abroad	s.	d.
1 copy		4
2 copies		6
3 copies		7
4 copies		9
5-6 copies	1	0
Over 6 copies	1	3

EMPLOYMENT VACANCIES

Wireless Station Staff in the Falkland Island Dependencies

Vacancies exist for lucrative appointments under Crown Agents for the Colonies for Wireless Operator Mechanics, Diesel Electric Mechanics, Junior Wireless Operators.

The requirement is for men, preferably unmarried, but a generous family allowance is given for those married. Details in the first instance from the Royal Signals Association, 88 Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1.

CORRIGENDA

Through a typographical error on page 170 of the August WIRE, the Representative Colonel Commandant is reported as saying that " Captain Anderson finished third in the Army hundred . . ."

The Officer referred to was, of course, Captain K. E. P. Andrews, Royal Signals Wing, whose successes at Bisley this year include: —

A.R.A. Meeting.

(a) Winner of the Henry Whitehead Cup.
(b) Third in the Army Hundred Cup Match.
(c) Fifth in the Army Hundred.
(d) Fired in the Army VIII.
(e) Fired in the Army XX.

N.R.A. Meeting.

(f) Third in the Queen's Prize.
(g) Fourth in the Duke of Gloucester's Cup. Nine competitors, including Andrews, tied for first place and Andrews came fourth when they shot off the tie.

THE WIRE *apologises to Captain Andrews and thanks the Commandant, School of Signals, for this correction.*

COST OF " THE WIRE "

In January, 1952, it was necessary to cease the concession by which annual subscribers received 12 copies of THE WIRE for 10s. Each WIRE now costs 1s.

A very few have not altered their Banker's Order and most reluctantly we have been directed to withhold the November and December numbers. Will all subscribers, who do so by Banker's Order, please check and if in fact they are still on the basis of 10s., send a further 2s. *before the end of October* so that they can get on the Mailing List for November and December.

This step is taken most reluctantly, but orders are extremely clear. THE WIRE *must not be run at a loss.*—ED.

WORLD VETERANS' FEDERATION

As is now known to readers of THE WIRE, the Association, in conjunction with others, has become a member of the World Veterans' Federation. In connection with this, it has been necessary to set up a number of committees to co-ordinate the work of the British Associations which have joined the Federation. The Chairman of the Association, Major-General C. W. Fladgate, C.B.E., is a member of the Council of British Associations who are members of the World Veterans' Federation, and he is also one of the British delegates to the W.V.F. Third World Assembly which is being held in London between the 5th and 11th December, 1952.

mercury house
bournemouth
will be closed
from December 23rd to 31st
Both dates inclusive

PERSONAL COLUMN

THE BLUE BOOK

Page 232 contains information about the Blue Book, and both on this page and in the September WIRE it is forecast that the book will be ready for issue during October. Unexpected delays and pressure of work in the Record Office render this unlikely. Suffice to say that the earlier Regiments place their bulk orders, the earlier the Blue Book will be despatched to them. We hoped to get it published in late October; it will now be late November.

"London Gazette," 19th August, 1952:

Lieutenant-Colonel (T.O.T.) R. A. Mackintosh, O.B.E., retired 12th August.

W.O.I R. E. Guest to be Lieutenant (Q.M.), 12th July.

Following are awarded the Territorial Efficiency Decoration:

Major E. P. J. Pegg.
Major J. O. M. Williams.
Captain S. W. B. Lee.
Captain C. C. Chichester.

Movements of Officers

Major C. Worrin from 3 Training Regiment to 5 Training Regiment.

Major J. C. Green from 7 Training Regiment to M.E.L.F.

Major (Q.M.) E. R. Collins from Depot to 3 Training Regiment.

Major (T.O.T.) G. V. McDowall from FARELF to Southern Command (M) Signal Regiment.

Major (T.O.T.) R. E. Rickard from M.E.L.F. to 2 War Office Signal Regiment.

Major M. McG. Simmonds from 3 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment to B.A.O.R.

Major R. H. E. Robinson from U.S.A. to B.A.O.R.

Major H. E. H. Clements from M.E.L.F. to B.A.O.R.

Colonel L. T. Shawcross from FARELF to R.A.R.O.

Major B. C. Bovey is posted to 3 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment.

Major R. J. Harvey from B.A.O.R. to Joint Concealment Centre.

Major D. M. Hazelhurst from M.E.L.F. to A.L.F.C.E.

Lieutenant (Q.M.) J. J. Brown from 3 Training Regiment to War Office A.G. 11 (O).

Major P. A. Toombes from FARELF to S.T.C.

Major J. M. Glass, M.B.E., from A.L.F.C.E. to U.K.

Major B. H. P. Barnes from M.E.L.F. to U.K.

Lieutenant-Colonel E. J. C. Harrison from FARELF to B.A.O.R.

Lieutenant-Colonel R. C. Yule from 4 A.A. (M) Signal Regiment to R.A.R.O.

Lieutenant-Colonel P. A. Watts from School of Signals to 4 A.A. (M) Signal Regiment.

Major N. Pidsley from FARELF to School of Military Engineering.

Major S. H. McKay from War Office to 2 War Office Signal Regiment.

Lieutenant-Colonel M. A. Charlton from O.T.W. School of Signals to FARELF.

Lieutenant-Colonel G. S. K. Maydon from Ministry of Defence to O.T.W. School of Signals.

Major H. C. Daniel from War Office to M.E.L.F.

Major A. N. Griffiths from School of Military Engineering to War Office.

Major J. M. Sawers from B.A.O.R. to Korea.

Lieutenant-Colonel A. L. Atkinson from 1 Commonwealth Divisional Signal Regiment to U.K.

Captain E. M. T. Crump from 1 Commonwealth Divisional Signal Regiment to U.K.

Captain D. J. Strong from 1 Commonwealth Divisional Signal Regiment to Britcom Communication "Z" Signal Squadron.

Captain S. C. Finch from 1 Commonwealth Divisional Signal Regiment to U.K.

Major P. W. Lonnon from Malaya Signal Regiment to 1 Commonwealth Divisional Signal Regiment.

Captain S. W. Brackenbury from War Office to 1 Commonwealth Divisional Signal Regiment.

Captain H. Scott from 12 A.A. (M) Signal Regiment to Korea.

Movements of W.O.s and N.C.O.s

R.S.M. V. C. Brassfield from 3 Training Regiment to 1 Commonwealth Divisional Signal Regiment.

Departures:

W.O.I G. D. Rockall from 11 Air Formation Signal Regiment.

W.O.II A. Harris and family from 11 Air Formation Signal Regiment.

22242887 Corporal K. Burke from Gibraltar Signal Squadron to U.K.

Arrivals:

W.O.II J. Farquharson to 11 Air Formation Signal Regiment.

W.O.II F. Mason to 11 Air Formation Signal Regiment.

S.Q.M.S. T. Walker to 11 Air Formation Signal Regiment.

Births

CLOKE.—On 4th July, 1952, to Sergeant and Mrs. A. L. J. Cloke, 1 Corps, Signal Regiment, a son, Andrew.

LINFORD.—To Corporal and Mrs. Linford, Berlin Signal Squadron, a son, on 23rd July, 1952.

BUDDEN.—To Sergeant and Mrs. Budden, Berlin Signal Squadron, a daughter, on 21st August, 1952.

PEARSON.—On 19th April, 1952, at Oldenburg, to Mrs. J. Pearson, wife of W.O.II J. P. Pearson, 5 Agra (A.A.) Signal Squadron, a son, Ian David.

The following all of 4 L. of C. Signal Regiment:

LOCK.—To Corporal and Mrs. E. C. Lock, at Hanover, on 3rd July, 1952, a daughter, Barbara Mary.

BROWN.—To Lance-Corporal and Mrs. J. Brown, at Hamburg, on 6th August, 1952, a daughter, Shirley.

HASTINGS.—To Lieutenant and Mrs. J. Hastings, at Catterick Camp, on 12th August, 1952, a daughter.

Marriages

CARTER—BAILEY.—At St. Laurence's Church, Upminster, Essex, on 9th August, 1952, Corporal P. G. Carter, 5 Agra (A.A.) Signal Squadron, to Miss Aileen Bailey.

The following all of 4 L. of C. Signal Regiment:

CHAMBERS—BALL.—On 28th June, 1952, at Ripley, Yorks, Corporal D. Chambers to Miss N. E. Ball.

MARDLE—ZIMMERMANN.—On 12th July, 1952, at Hamburg, Corporal A. E. Mardle to Miss B. L. M. Zimmermann.

WHALE—SZILINSKI.—On 31st July, 1952, at Hamburg, Signalman T. G. Whale to Miss H. E. Szilinski.

LAMBERT—BERGNER.—On 28th June, 1952, at Bad Oeynhausen, Corporal K. J. Lambert to Mrs. I. D. Bergner.

Injured

PIERCE.—22603986 Signalman W. A. Pierce, on 23rd August, 1952, in FARELF.

Deaths

EDGAR.—22230367 Driver G. R. Edgar, on 3rd August, 1952, in M.E.L.F.

AVENELL.—2548696 Driver G. P. Avenall, on 3rd August, 1952, in U.K.

PRINCE.—21005369 Corporal H. E. Prince, on 28th August, 1952, in FARELF.

The following both of 4 L. of C. Signal Regiment:

VICKERS.—22607445 Signalman L. D. Vickers, in a traffic accident whilst on duty at Hanover on 14th July, 1952.

BEADMAN.—22450409 Signalman J. B. Beadman, in a traffic accident at Hanover on 28th August, 1952.

Obituary

Mr. J. P. Flanagan died peacefully at his home in Bexley, Kent, at the end of July, 1952, at the age of 86.

He was probably the oldest living Signalman, who first served in R.E. Signals in 1885; went to the South African War with the 1st Divisional Telegraph Company, R.E. He also served in the Cheshire Yeomanry, T.A., and in the 1914-18 War was an instructor in R.E. Signals.

Although he spent 40 years in the Civil Service, he always had a great interest in Army matters, and even during the Second World War he was able to instruct a class of Naval Reservists in telegraphy.

As a final gesture of kindness, shortly before he died he sent us the 4th Edition of a List of Telegraphists withdrawn from various Postal Telegraph Offices in Great Britain, who were members of the " L " Company, 24th Middlesex (P.O.) Rifle Volunteers (Royal Engineer Reserves). This list gives, as far as is known, a complete list of those withdrawn from the G.P.O. to serve during the South African War.

He was a man of great personal charm and had a profound interest in all that affected the Signal service, and we are delighted to say that during the last few months of his life we were privileged to send him copies of THE WIRE.

★

We learn with regret that Sapper A. C. Chatwin, R.E. (Signals), died on the morning of Monday, 8th September. Cremation took place at Cheltenham at 11 o'clock on Wednesday, 10th September, and this was followed by a burial service at Harvington Church, near Evesham, at 2.30 in the afternoon. At this service, Major J. A. Cooper (late R.E. [Signals] and Royal Signals) represented the B.B.C. Engineering Division, Major H. Casey, O.B.E. (Midland Regional Executive), represented the staff of the B.B.C.'s Midland Region, and Mr. A. C. Timbury, with whom Mr. Chatwin had been closely associated during most of his B.B.C. work at Birmingham, was also present.

A. C. Chatwin was appointed to the staff of the Birmingham station of the B.B.C. on 25th February, 1924. For some years prior to 1914 (and again after 1919) he had been a keen wireless amateur, having his own transmitter and receiver. From 1915 to 1919 he served with the Royal Engineers (Signals) as operator and electrician, seeing service both in East Africa and the Middle East. When first appointed to the Birmingham station of the B.B.C., he undertook duties both at the transmitter (5 IT), then at Summer Lane Power Station, and at the studio (105 New Street, Birmingham). Subsequently, his main activities were concerned with outside broadcasts. In this connection he assisted with the broadcasting of the Olympic Games in July and August, 1948.

On 3rd April, 1939, Mr. Chatwin was transferred to Newcastle as Assistant Engineer-in-Charge, returning to Birmingham on 19th May, 1941, as Acting Assistant to Engineer-in-Charge. After the war, Chatwin reverted to outside broadcast and control room duties.

Mr. Chatwin was, for many years before 1939, a member of the Committee of the R.E. Wireless Signals (1914-1918) Association.

We Go On Leave ☆

By Old Bill

AMONGST those of you whom, with typical modesty, I refer to as " my public," may be some who remember that last year I became the reluctant possessor of a machine. To wit, one motor cycle. The reason for the purchase of this Mephistophelian instrument of torture will be known to my aforesaid public. For others, not so fortunately enlightened, a brief summary will have to suffice (we could do without it, anyway. It's nothing to do with the story). Briefly then, this was acquired at the express insistence of " She " during the almost fatal illness which our car suffered last summer. In all fairness, it must be said that she does not normally suffer from this form of mental abberation (this sentence refers, incidentally, to " She "—not the car), but there were other outside influences. Suffice it to say the vehicle was purchased. It was used during the summer to a considerable extent and, during the winter, with the full recovery of our more civilised mode of conveyance, was allowed to languish in the garage. I had visions of it being forgotten and even of being able to sell it to anyone mad enough to want to buy it. Please don't get me wrong. I am not disparaging motor cycles or motor cyclists. Just this motor cycle.

Now imagine yourself esconced in the breakfast room, Chez " Old Bill," one recent Sunday morning. Two dressing gowned figures, one slight and yet sufficiently endowed with the gifts of Nature to make the other, corpulent and unshaven, wonder how " She " could possibly have married him, and, even more, how she could possibly stay married to him. The sun is shining, birds singing and bacon making a noise as if it really liked being fried, to say nothing of the aroma of fresh coffee and the tang of cool morning air. An island of peace and contentment in an overstrained world. Even the fact that the master of the house is not at his best, either physically or mentally, does nothing to disturb the quiet charm of the scene. You onlookers would have envied my lot. Then you might have changed your mind had you stayed a few minutes longer. But, being persons of gentlemanly habit, you would have left quietly, feeling, no doubt, like intruders on a perfect peace. Therefore you wouldn't have been witness to the next scene. A lovely voice breaks the silence:—

" Darling, I've been thinking."

The remark doesn't register. " Uh? " " I said I've been thinking, darling, about leave."

A certain feeling can be seen stealing into the face of the said corpulent figure. It is still too early to register any deep emotion, but you can see a certain wariness become apparent. You would not know the reason for that, but the face does. It thinks slowly back over the other times " She " has thought. The wariness becomes more pronounced. Still another non-committal " Uh? "

" Yes, I think that we should go touring."

This is better; the face relaxes a little and breaks into coherent speech, a difficult task before breakfast is properly and reverently consumed.

" A good idea, my sweet. Where shall we go? "

" I think the Rhine would be lovely, especially on the motor cycle." Panic. Sheer, unadulterated panic becomes more than obvious on the face. The corpulent figure crouches back in its chair. A forkful of bacon falls from nerveless fingers. As has been said, the figure is not at its

best. Even if it was, this is enough to shake it completely. And it is shaken. Still, it fights back. Arguments are produced against it (the proposition, not the figure). But to no avail. I point out that we have a car which would be far better should the weather be inclement. The argument is dismissed airily by the complicated twist of feminine logic that, as the weather is so lovely it must be grand when we go on leave. It couldn't possibly change before then. How this is assured I am not sure, but it doesn't really matter. She has decided to go on leave. On the Rhine. On a motor cycle.

So another bright day is shattered. And if you don't hear from Old Bill for a month or two you'll know why. Meanwhile, do you know of any impoverished burglar who could use a motor cycle? If you'd put him in touch with me I'll promise to leave the garage door open.

Plain Tales

★ *With Greetings from Barleux*

Autumn Fantasy

NINETEEN FIFTY-TWO is getting a move on. It seems only a few weeks ago that I started on my new calendar, and now here we are switching lights on at tea-time and wondering what happened to the summer. It is indeed difficult for we ancients to refrain from talking about past summers, especially those spent in foreign parts. I remember when I was—

Uncle Alf: Here he goes again, the liar.

Me: Don't be rude. I was going to say how well I remembered the summer of 1928. In July of that year I was in charge of an expedition to the Macaroni Plantations of Señor Don Cartorze. His mother was a Duscarte, you may recall. We had to have very special leave to make this trip. The War Office wouldn't touch it with a barge pole, even if they had possessed a barge, so we finally got permission from a high official of London Passenger Transport. Personally, I think he was an admiral in full dress, though I have been unable to verify that there was H.M.S. Odeon at that time. After a hazardous journey, my party of four, including three charming girl stenographers, arrived at a tiny village high up in the Pyro-Pyra—in the Alps. What a wonderful summer that was. We lived in one of those quaint little houses so common to that altitude. Single storey. No chimneys. It was too cold in winter for that. The occupants took turns in carrying the smoke out in old milk tins and tipping them down the mountain side. During the long summer days we studied the various complicated methods of growing macaroni and the delicate operation necessary to obtain the curved piece at the top. During the beautiful summer evenings we—well, you will hardly believe me but I can't remember what we did with those.

Uncle Alf: Could I just make one remark here?

Me: No!

★

Winter's Dream

What with buttered crumpets for tea and the firelight flickering on the ceiling before the children are even home from school, it is no wonder that some of you will be thinking that winter is on its way. How right you will be, too. I have it on the best authority that winter is right round the corner and that Christmas Day will fall on 25th December. Do you go home to your parents for Christmas? Why? Have you thought that you can have a trouble-free, care-free festive season at Mercury House, Colwyn Bay? At a guinea a day? Don't wave the idea away lightly. Let it sink in. What a party! What company! If you are in time to book, I mean. Give the wife a break. She cooks and washes up all the year round. Let us do your worrying for you. What to buy for dinner. How to cook it. Who will wash up. You just worry about the fare and that trifling guinea a day each (even less for children under 12), and leave the rest to Bob Barlow. You want hot water bottles? We have 'em.

★

Clothes and the Man

The Army is changing again, as we knew it would. There are hardly any men strolling the streets of country towns with open battle-dress blouses, hands in pockets, berets under shoulder straps. The accent now is on pride of appearance. What a difference it makes all round. People turn to have another look at that straight back, the purposeful walk, the all over clean impression. Not so long ago there were many mutterings from the old retired soldiers when they saw some of the apparitions slouching aimlessly along the streets where red-caps never tread. The old boys remembered the days when to have one button undone, or one hand in a pocket in public meant a certain "seven days." They liked it that way, so you don't have to be sorry for them.

Perhaps the little touches of colour are helping. The lanyards, coloured berets, formation signs, and so on. One of these days the No. 1 dress will be issued all round.

Uncle Alf: So what? The troops will probably all wear civvies.

Me: Yes, I didn't think of that. Scrub round it.

★

He's Back Again

Our astonishing serial. Every word a stark fabrication. New readers keep to the left.

Inspector Faceache waved Ukann Larfe and Lord Elpas to the settee and deposited his box of clues on the desk. He threw his hat on the sideboard and rested his feet on a small coffee table. The Inspector found this a trifle uncomfortable, so he sat down as well. On the edge of the bed.

"Now listen, you two," he said. "I've just about got this case in the bag, but I want to know one or two things from you."

Lord Elpas moved uneasily and back-heeled another tramline under the settee. "You've got nothing on me, copper," he said, preparing to rise. Ukann Larfe pushed him back into the depths of the settee and whispered something into his ear.

"Have a drink, Inspector," invited Ukann Larfe. "The cocktail cabinet is behind you. Help yourself."

"Thanks. Shall I get you one?"

"Yes, please do. I'll have two large rums, a packet of twenty, a box of matches and the rest in money." The two friends winked at each other as the Inspector turned. With a speed and precision born of desperation, or something, they grasped the edge of the huge rug and whipped it from under the policeman's feet. The Inspector fell heavily and knocked his head on the leg of the massive oak dining table. His whistle rolled under the piano, which served him right. He should have had it on a piece of string.

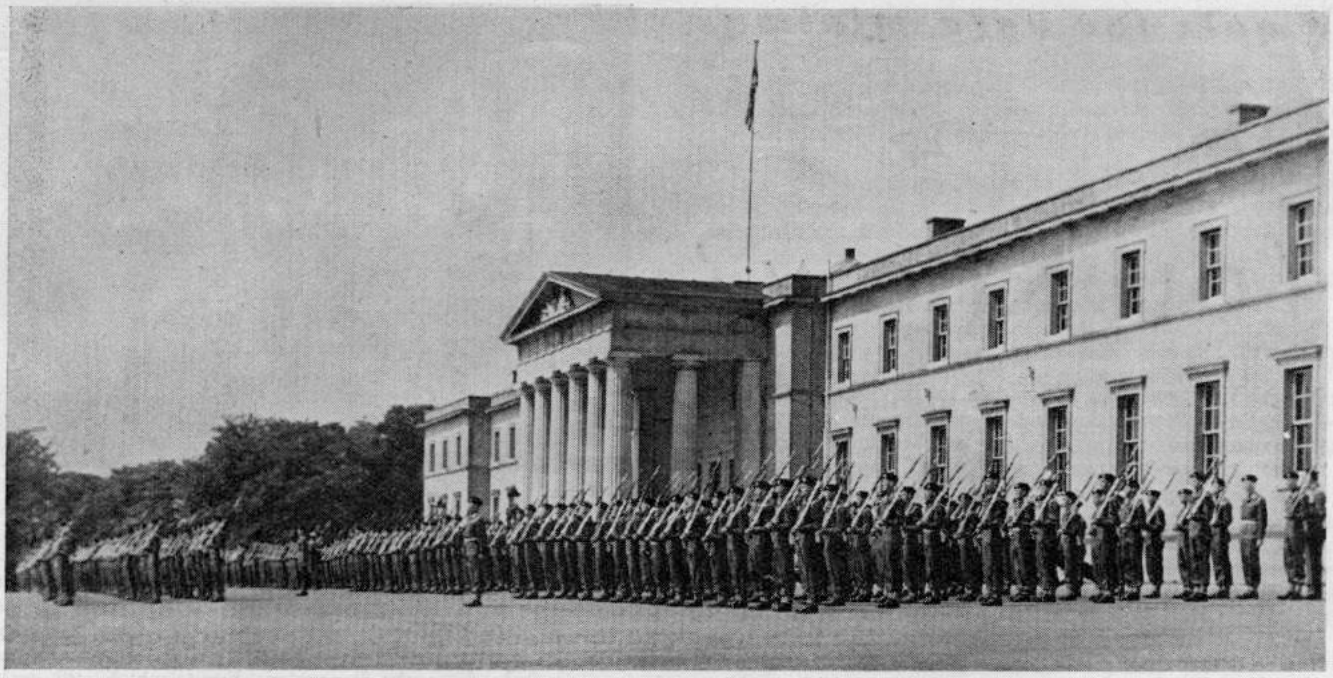
Uncle Alf: What IS this? An office or a furniture store?

Me: Quiet! Don't ruin things at this stage. Nobody will guess who done—I mean who did it.

Uncle Alf: Who did what?

Me: Ah, that's it. Nobody knows yet.

TUCK THIS END IN FIRST.



sandhurst

THE Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, came into being in January 1947, the offspring of two distinguished forbears, The R.M.A., Woolwich, which was founded in 1741, and the Royal Military College, which opened 58 years later at Great Marlowe and moved to Sandhurst in 1812.

The main difference is that before the war the R.M.A. and R.M.C. were Military Colleges to which parents prepared to pay fees could send their sons, whereas today, an Officer Cadet is a Regular Soldier and the cost of his training is borne entirely by the State.

There are two main methods of entry. The deliberate, or "R" Cadet who has decided as a schoolboy to make the Army his profession. He takes the Army Examination, unless exempt from it, and goes before the Regular Commissions Board (R.C.B.) on leaving school. He then serves four months in the ranks before entering Sandhurst. The individual, or "E" Cadet must, if a Regular soldier, pass an R.C.B., and show that he attains a minimum educational standard. If he is a National Service soldier he must be selected for Officer training at an O.C S. Whilst at an O.C.S. he may apply for training for a Regular Commission. If he passes an R.C.B. he will then be sent to Sandhurst. Type "E" Cadets who are weak educationally are sent to a special Company at Sandhurst for up to five months' training before starting on the Sandhurst course proper.

The R.M.A., Sandhurst, is organised to train about 1,000 Cadets in three stages, something over 300 entering each half year for the eighteen month course. Officer Cadets are grouped in three colleges, each of four Companies. Each intake is divided amongst the twelve Cadet Companies. The Company is the important group, and there is intense inter-Company rivalry in sport, and in various competitions, to decide which shall be the Sovereign's Company for the ensuing term.

The Charter of Sandhurst is to produce a young Officer with a sound education in appropriate subjects; with a wide interest in current problems of world affairs, and the enthusiasm to continue to increase his knowledge by his own initiative. He must be firmly ground in the British Officer's traditional code of behaviour, responsibility and reliability and his powers of leadership must be developed.

In the first two months of a Cadet's training the stress is on drill. A very high standard is attained for ceremonial parades, and this cannot be done without hard work. Overall, the time spent on military training is approximately the same as that spent on academic studies. As is to be expected, there is considerable stress on mathematical and scientific instruction, but a Cadet may choose to specialise in his intermediate and senior terms in modern languages, modern subjects or special military history.

On the physical side there is fitness training and all the usual games. In addition, Cadets are encouraged to develop an interest in extra mural activities such as sailing, climbing, ski-ing, motor sports, gliding, archery, rowing, riding, shooting and others that they will be able to follow throughout their service. Such pastimes also help to develop the powers of leadership, the sense of comradeship, and the self-reliance of those who participate.

Apart from the mental and physical education whose scope I have described, the Cadets gain a great deal from the strong traditions of Sandhurst, and the beautiful surroundings. Cadets come from all parts of Great Britain, and their parents follow a wide variety of occupations. As a result, they have a great deal to learn from each other and, in mixing together, widen their knowledge of humanity as well as their interests.

" Choice of Arm " is obviously a matter of great importance to Cadets. They are taught something of the work of each Arm, and make their choice according to where their interests lie. Each term the vacancies by Arms and Regiments are made known, and if there are too many candidates for one Arm the places go to those highest in the order of merit, the remainder being allotted to their second or lower choices.

a quiz for natu minimus

Do ☆ You Know?

MANY of you DO know that in July, 1952, there was a Royal Signals Association reunion and many of you for whom this column is written worked hard to make the reunion the great success it was. BUT, how many of you know the names of some of those included in the group and for what they were famous? A clue is given on page 248.

Do you know that during the war nearly £40,000 was subscribed to the War Memorial Fund and that the bulk of this money was invested in two Mercury Houses—one at Colwyn Bay and one at Bournemouth? These hotels are available to all ranks of Royal Signals and their families, and very many of those serving, as well as ex-Signalmen, spend their holidays there. The charges are considerably less than at similar establishments, which are run for profit. The houses are "Signals" run, which means they are efficiently run and very many have enjoyed their stay. The houses are also used by the Benevolent Fund to give a free holiday by the sea to those who, because of sickness or other cause, would benefit by it.



[Courtesy: S.T.C. Studio, Catterick Camp

Do you know that an average of 78 letters and nine personal callers are received at the Headquarters of the Royal Signals Association every day? These enquiries range over the greatest variety of subjects. Quite a small number concern help from the Benevolent Fund, which still deals with well over 20 new cases every week.

Do you know of the Yeomen Warders of the Tower and the Yeomen of the Guard? The Yeomen Warders claim unbroken descent as keepers of the Gate of the Tower from the 14th century in the reign of Edward III. Royal Signals are proud to note that two of their members, G. A. E. Gavey and A. Griffin, are Yeomen Warders.

Do you know of the Signals Research and Development Establishment where most of the signal equipment you use is designed? It is staffed mainly by civilians, many of whom have had service in Royal Signals, and has a small number of serving Signalmen in the Military Experimental Establishment.

Do you know that Aldershot once boasted THREE Signal Units?—1 Corps Signals, 1 and 2 Divisional Signals. They lived mainly in what is now known as Mons Barracks, where the National Service Officers of Cavalry, Royal Artillery and Royal Signals receive their initial training.

Sandhurst continued from page 237

Vacancies for the Woolwich Arms, Gunners, Sappers and Signals are double the pre-war figures, though the overall officer output is much the same. As a result, the Corps vacancies are not automatically filled with Cadets of the right qualifications. The only way in which Cadets can be influenced to join Royal Signals is by making sure that everything they see connected with the Corps is of the highest possible standard. We must select officers for Sandhurst of the right seniority so that we do not miss opportunities of providing Company Commanders; the Royal Signals demonstration must be first-class; and pre- and post-Sandhurst training must appeal to those taking part so that they make the Corps sound attractive to others whose choice is undecided.

The military staff for Sandhurst is selected from all Arms of the Service in proportion to the strength of those Arms in the Army. In this way Royal Signals Officers periodically fill all the appointments at Sandhurst. At present it so happens that we probably have maximum representation by numbers, representatives being:—Assistant Commandant, Brigadier G. B. Bell, C.B.E.; Commander, Victory College, Lieutenant-Colonel D. A. Pringle; Company Commander, Inkerman Company, Major D. R. Horsfield; Company Officer, Somme Company, Major A. J. Deane-Drummond, M.C., Rhine Company, Captain L. R. Griffiths; C.I., Signal Communications Wing, Captain J. C. Clinch, Major J. D. G. Brett.

Of the 250 to 350 Cadets commissioned every six months, fifteen to twenty go to Royal Signals. They, like their contemporaries going to other Arms, complete their general training at Sandhurst, and then go forward to "Special to Arm" training. For Y.O.s of the Corps this consists of a primary signalling course of six months. This is followed by two and a half years soldiering with a field unit before the Part II Y.O. Course of one year, which completes, in about six years total, the basic training of the Regular Signals Officer. Thereafter several Officers are allotted vacancies at Cambridge University each year, and a Degree Course is also available to others at the Military College of Science.

Catterick Jottings

By "NACERBY"

Beginnings . . . Lightheaded/Hearted

IT was my own fault, of course, and not only did I ask for it but got it right in the neck as well.

Impulsive, that's me!

I was dodging the traffic in the Camp Centre—on a Saturday afternoon I hasten to add—and literally bumped into a queer character who told me confidentially he knew Barleux in 18-something or other and Ukann Larfe when he was pounding a beat.

Since the only date I can remember is when King Alfred burnt the cakes in 1066, I put on the same expression as one does when attending a Commanding Officer's conference, when this character suddenly burst forth with . . .

"Promulating your esoteric cogitations or articulating your superficial sentimentalities and amiable, philosophical or psychological observations, beware of platitudinous ponderosity.

"Let your conversational communications demonstrate a clarified conciseness, a compact comprehensibleness, no coalescent conglomeration of specious garrulity. Eschew bafflement and assinine affectation. Let your extemporaneous verbal expatiations have lucidity, intelligibility and veracious vivacity without rodomontade or Thespian bombast.

Sedulously avoid all polysyllabic profundity, pompous propensity, pusillanimous vacuity, ventriloquial verbosity and vaniloquent vapidity. Shun double entendre, obnoxious profanity, observable or apparent."

Naturally I told him not to be filthy, and it wasn't until long afterwards that I realised he was trying to tell me (and other correspondents) to say what we mean and don't use big words.

As if I do—or could! Which makes Barleux and I on friendly terms and somewhat spoils my next headline. . . .

Lonerica Periclymenum

And I bet that's got you all dizzy!

Wouldn't have minded so very much but had been gargling with gin and smoking a cigar at the same time (incidentally, that's a good way to learn Russian) in order to pronounce such shockers as *Ranunculus bulbosus* (nothing to do with the Sergeant-Major's nose and merely means buttercup, if you get the connection!), *Scilla nutans* (not silly ideas—bluebells), and *Digitalis purpurca* (not the P.R.I.'s finger—but foxglove), only to find the programme for the annual Catterick Flower Show, held at the end of August in Le Cateau Gymnasium, contained such prosaic and simple names as sweet pea, carnation, gladioli, etc.

Which just proves there's no justice in this world today, and honeysuckle by any other name is still honeysuckle except to Major Ernie Nash, of 3 Training Regiment, who prefers the easy sounding name—*Lonerica periclymenum* (and I'll try and get him to pronounce it after the next guest night).

With a galaxy of gardeners on the committee—Brigadier R. H. R. Steward (Northumbrian District), Major E. Nash, Captain R. C. Bird (1 Troop), Captain L. H. Littlejohn (68 Troop, R.A.C.), G.S.M. R. B. Nix and Captain Charlie Childs (who almost won a prize in the vegetable section with his cauliflower ears)—I needn't talk of the splendid organisation and arrangements.

The whole show in fact left me a little bewildered, and even as a visitor I somehow had a feeling of pride in realising such beautiful flowers and magnificent vegetable displays had been "coaxed" out of the hard, unresponsive earth of Catterick.

That wasn't all by any means. The domestic produce display left me hungry and a little frustrated; the bottled fruits looked *and* tasted like bottled fruits, and the cakes were definitely of the "what-mother-makes" variety.

3 Training Regiment won the Unit table display cup, award of merit and a special cash prize, which probably means their halo will now be garnished with cucumbers and tomatoes . . . *inter alia!!*

With Apologies to 5 Troop

It occurred to me in an idle moment—and, of course, every trainee wireless operator will confirm it without the least encouragement—that there's something in this driving business.

But no less an authority than George Blackburn, who drives a dirty big Wolseley and has an Austin Seven as an ash-tray, tells me there are some very peculiar snags about it all.

For instance, to repair a puncture or change a wheel in the pouring rain gives as much pleasure in Catterick as it does in Plymouth, and it's not much more fun trying to start up a cold motor with the handle in Oslo than in Barnard Castle.

The 30-mile-an-hour speed limit is particularly intriguing and this fight against reckless drivers is directed skilfully and carefully in accordance with the best British police traditions.

It is practically impossible to discover whether you are being followed by a police car or not, but to drivers of extraordinary intelligence and keen powers of observation there are a few indications.

The police always use a 21 h.p. blue Wolseley; two and sometimes three uniformed policemen recline in it; and on these cars you can read the word "Police" (in capitals) written in large letters in front and rear and brilliantly illuminated at night. A delicate point is that you must still leave your lights on even if you park in a brilliantly lit street. This has the advantage that your battery gets run down, you cannot start up again, and consequently the number of road accidents is greatly reduced.

Safety First and all that.

It may not be generally known that the Army introduced a 16-point task system for the maintenance of vehicles and N.C.O.s i/c such tasks are sometimes known as task-masters in addition to other printable/unprintable (cross out anything inapplicable) epithets. And so to my friend Brown.

Driver Brown who, on the whole,
Was quite an amiable soul,
Neglected—when he had the chance
To do his daily maintenance.
In fact, he was so very lazy
That even on the coldest days he
Never drained his cooling system,
And, as for drain cocks—simply missed 'em.
One freezing winter night
He left his truck—he thought all right—
And when the following morning came
His truck was looking just the same
Until he came to look inside,
And then poor Brown broke down and cried.
Said he: "Oh dear, what can I do,
The engine's gone and cracked right through."
And so it had; no engine block
However strong can stand the shock
And pressure of expanding ice.
The whole affair was far from nice,
And Brown, relieved from M.T. duty,
Now works at something much more fruity,
He now applies his brawn and brains
To emptying other sorts of drains.
Next month—The sad tale of the Highway Code.

Let Me Be Your Pen Pal . . .

Dear Sir,

Thanks to the quite unnecessary instructions I received upon my arrival at Catterick, I am now leading a double life. I was told that my address was C/o G.P.O., Catterick Camp, and I notified my wife of same.

She has now jumped to the hasty conclusion that I have been appointed C.O. (Commanding Officer) to the General Post Office. She thinks, in consequence of this misapprehension, that I am now having my pay made up—and she wants more money. She no longer puts stamps on her letters, she wants a job as a supervisor, and she is now enquiring if it is possible to "let" any rooms in the Catterick Camp G.P.O. as she has innumerable relations.

Can't you have a few words with the Brigadier to sort out this tangle.

Yours, etc.,
Signalman Jekyll.

I have had a few words with the Brigadier and will finish my C.B. in 12 days' time. Thanks for writing.

School of Signals

Officer Training Wing

The Officer Training Wing wishes the Regular Officers of No. 8 Subalterns' Part I Course good luck in their future careers after a most successful course here. They held a very enjoyable farewell party, at which Brigadier C. G. Moore, O.B.E., Commandant, School of Signals, and Instructors of the Wing were present. We welcome No. 9 Subalterns' Part I Course.

Cricket interest has centred round the semi-final and final of the Northumbrian District Cup Competition. In the semi-final we played 3 Training Regiment, Royal Signals, who, on a rather easy wicket, batted first and were all out for 143 runs. Improved fielding could have reduced this score by 25 runs. Slow but sure batting by the Wing gave us a five-wicket victory and made us finalists for the second year running. 1 Training Regiment, Royal Signals, winners of the Northern Command Cricket Cup on the previous day, opposed us in the final, and, in spite of our determined efforts, were successful. We can only echo the remarks of Brigadier C. G. Moore, O.B.E., who said at the prizegiving, "The best team won." Major B. A. Gomm is at present captaining the Army Cricket XI on tour in Germany.

In invitation mile medley relay races, held by both the R.A.F. Regiment and 2 Training Regiment, the Wing team was second. The Wing also helped form the successful Royal Signals' team that won the triangular athletics match, R.A.C.-Royal Signals-R.A.F. Taking part were Lieutenant R. A. King, Second-Lieutenants E. Wells and H. A. Johnstone, Officer-Cadets D. W. Veall, F. M. B. Fisher, Sergeant G. Berry and Signalman L. W. Smith.

The Unit soccer team has started well, and Captain D. W. Sutherland, the Soccer Officer, anticipates an even more successful season than the last. Unbeaten at present in the District Hockey League, Captain J. W. W. Cock and his hockey players also look forward to further triumphs. Swimming instruction continues and many non-swimmers are now potential life-savers. Basketball thrives and a high standard of play is being reached.

Two teams of four players were entered for the Northumbrian district golf meeting, each playing 36 holes medal. Our first team was Lieutenant-Colonel M. A. Charlton, O.B.E., Major T. J. F. Fuller, Captain O. J. Peck and Second-Lieutenant R. N. Graham. The second team, Second-Lieutenant C. J. Copestake, Signalmen J. Rimmer and J. Walkinton, was completed by Colonel L. A. E. Tozer, from H.Q. School of Signals, who kindly agreed to play for us. After a very good day's play our second team finished two strokes behind the winners in the handicap competition and 10 points behind in the scratch event. The best individual scratch score of the day was Second-Lieutenant Copestake—75 and 74.

Technical Squadron reports:—

Providing technical instruction for young Officers and Cadets is our primary role, but in addition the Squadron finds time to win the Inter-Squadron Athletic Competition, muster for Padre's Hour, drill smartly for the R.S.M., and cut the Unit grass incessantly. Efficiency in athletics is credited to Captain J. Pearce, Lieutenant R. A. King and Signalman W. H. Gowan. Lieutenant King reached the last eight for pentathlon selection in Olympic Games; Signalman Gowan, formerly of Sheffield United Harriers, is one of the best one and three milers in Catterick.

H.Q. Squadron are sorry to say goodbye to Sergeant "Chippy" Wood, A.C.C. S.Q.M.S. E. Jones is now esconced in the Quartermaster's Stores and at present is on a fire-fighting course, after which he hopes to get married. So far as we know there is no connection.

In addition to the intensive training at the Wing and the great interest in sport, success has been reached in yet another direction. As a result of a concerted drive by all Squadrons, the membership of the Royal Signals Association has increased by leaps and bounds. H.Q. Squadron leads, with over 85 per cent. of all ranks in the Squadron being members.



Officer Training Wing Cricket XI, 1952

Standing: Officer-Cadets Harris, F. M. B. Fisher, A. C. Fisher, West, Second-Lieutenant Harper, Officer-Cadet Crawford, Second-Lieutenant Revill, Second-Lieutenant Williams, Officer-Cadet Lazenby, Sergeant Gatward. Seated: Major B. A. Gomm (team captain), Lieut.-Colonel M. A. Charlton, O.B.E. (Commanding Officer) and Captain D. W. Callaghan (Adjutant)



Officer Training Wing, No. 8 Subalterns Part I Course [*Courtesy: A. J. Glover, Richmond*

Standing : Second-Lieutenants E. Wells, D. F. B. Anthonisz, I. M. Horsley, H. A. Johnstone, J. G. Fleming, D. J. Mendum, P. Wetherill and J. H. Hild.
Seated : Second-Lieutenants W. L. Wood, J. F. Lucey, A. W. M. McKinnon (Senior Young Officer, runner-up for the King's Medal at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst), Captain F. M. S. Winter (Course Officer), Second-Lieutenants N. C. Barrett, D. B. Carnie and J. A. Montague

★ Signal Training Centre

1 TRAINING REGIMENT

The summer, on the whole, has been a quiet one for the Unit.

On 14th August we were very pleased to welcome Major-General R. F. E. Naylor, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., Colonel Commandant, on an all-too-brief visit.

On 19th and 20th July the Regiment took an active part in the arrangements for the annual reunion of Royal Signals Old Comrades, which was such a rousing success. We were hosts to contingents from Leeds, Newcastle and Aldershot, and many old friendships were renewed.

This has been a very successful season for the Regimental cricket team as we won both the Northumbrian District and Northern Command knock-out competitions.

In the final of the Northumbrian District competition we defeated the Officer Training Wing, School of Signals, by 206 (Signalman Holdsworth 67, Second-Lieutenant Roberts 40) to 106 (Lance-Corporal Draper 6 for 46, Second-Lieutenant Roberts 4 for 25), and in the final of the Northern Command competition we defeated The Depot of The Duke of Wellington's Regiment by 205 for 9 wickets (Second-Lieutenant Roberts 56, Second-Lieutenant Miller 53, Signalman Robins 49) to 99 (Lance-Corporal Draper 6 for 49, Second-Lieutenant Roberts 3 for 21). Seven members of the Regiment have represented the Corps this season.

Cycling is a new sport in the Regiment, and ably "skippered" by Corporal Miles the newly-formed Regimental cycling team scored a good win in the recent Northern Command Inter-Unit 15-mile Trial, the team taking third, fourth and sixth places, the remainder all being in the first twelve. In the Northumbrian District 50-mile road race on 27th August the team once more carried off the trophy, Corporal Haynes taking second place and Corporal Miles and Signalman Muckett being joint fifth.

3 TRAINING REGIMENT

August will be a quiet month, we told ourselves—with dreams of leave, bathing belles and sunshine, with the occasional guard and orderly officers' duties thrown in for luck. Dear me!

The annual Catterick Flower Show (see "Catterick Jottings") began the excitement. For a long time our T.O.T. (Major E. Nash), and now I come to think of it the Commanding Officer as well, had been acting a little mysteriously, and I'm always very suspicious of their Mona-Lisa-like expressions. However, what does Major Nash do? Almost "clears the board" of prizes, and, I hasten to add, dutifully aided and abetted by Mrs. Nash.

Listen to this:—

Two firsts and four seconds in the floral displays; one first and three thirds in the vegetable displays; three firsts and two seconds in the domestic produce displays; the cup for the best garden in the Garrison, and first prize for the best pre-war garden. Not satisfied with all this, he arranged the Unit table display to win the Unit cup, award of merit and special cash prize.

An amazing record—small wonder his experience and advice is constantly being sought.

Should mention Captain J. Francis won second prize and Major J. Matthewson third prize for the best post-war gardens, and Major G. Stretch took second prize in the potato display.

Corporal D. Sykes and Corporal W. Walker followed up these successes by reaching the final of the Corps tennis championship regimental doubles, and Corporal Sykes reached the semi-finals of the Northumbrian District General Stopford cup and Other Ranks singles championships.

The hockey team, under Lieutenant P. Robson, occupy third place in the Garrison Summer League tables, and if

enthusiasm counts for anything, the football team, under Captain H. Wragg, seem certain to carry on where the successful cricket team left off (but with a football, of course!).

The newly-formed Ladies' Club, with their President (Mrs. G. H. Starr), had a highly successful outing to Saltburn, and it appears to me that the ladies should organise all outdoor functions for the Regiment—they always have such wonderful weather.

A regretful *au revoir* to Lieutenant (Q.M.) J. Brown; a glad welcome to Major (Q.M.) E. Collins.

7 TRAINING REGIMENT

The Regiment has been very active this month but, apart from the visit of the Representative Colonel Commandant, Major-General R. F. B. Naylor, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., there is little to report.

General Naylor inspected the Regiment on 14th August. He saw all aspects of training and spoke to many Regular and National Service recruits as well as to older members of the Corps.

The Commander, Northumbrian District, came on 4th September to see National Service intake of that day.

Major E. A. Knott came to the Regiment in early August from the School of Signals and has taken over command of 3 Squadron. Captain J. W. Ingledow (from Middle East) has taken over 4 Squadron in succession to Captain J. E. Gray, who has gone on a pre-technical Staff College course.

The Regimental swimming team reached the finals of the Northern Command swimming competition and were placed third. Last year it will be remembered that the Regimental soccer team reached the final of the Army Cup. It is early yet to predict success in this sphere this season and as yet the team has not done too well, but a great effort is being made to train another first-class side.

5 TRAINING REGIMENT

In August the Regiment opened its portals to the outside world and held a Public Day. Local dignitaries, parents, friends and the general public were invited to come and see the Regiment at work. The visitors, estimated to number 4,000, were first shown men being given driving instruction by use of static driver trainers and then men at a more advanced stage manipulating their vehicles through a series of obstacles. Demonstrations could be seen of the training of driver electricians, a new trade in the Corps, and including battery charging, working models and field lighting. Visitors were then taken to see classroom instruction and could see a driving instruction film in the training cinema. This was followed by a visit to the D.R. circus—a traffic layout complete with road signs where despatch riders in their first week of training were getting the feel of the machines just issued to them, and from there to a demonstration by more experienced trainees undergoing training in cross-country riding. At 4.30, all the visitors congregated on the sports field to see the two final demonstrations—rapid vehicle assembly of a Landrover by a detachment of the R.E.M.E. personnel of the Regiment, and the full demonstration by the Royal Signals display team.

Among the many visitors was a group of disabled ex-Service men from a nearby British Legion Home. They were very impressed. One old soldier was heard to say: "They seem to have an interesting life these days, all these motor cycles and lorries. I hope they haven't forgotten how to march!"

We welcome to the Regiment Major Worrin from the position of S.O.II, Salisbury Plain District, S.Q.M.S. Maskell and Corporal Quincey, from Trieste, also S.S.I. Dixon, A.P.T.C., from Aldershot. We wish them a happy stay in the Regiment.

Those who have recently left us are Major Macarthur, Royal Australian Signals, who will be returning to Australia in November, S.Q.M.S. Hornby for Korea, and Sergeant Hesselwood for Germany. The Regimental cricket and shooting teams have lost a great coach and mentor in Major Macarthur. Out of the 44 cricket matches played last season, 27 were wins, 15 lost and two drawn. Sergeant Hesselwood was a guiding light in the coaching of the Regiment's soccer team. Our good wishes go with them.

The Corporals opened a new Mess last week and in celebration they held a dance in the Garrison Theatre. It is hoped to have an official opening of the Corporals' Mess in a month's time.

The Sergeants' Mess, too, felt that they should hold a dance, and amid the novelty atmosphere of an imitation thatched cottage hung emblems of all Corps working within the Regiment. A jolly good time was had by all.

In the Northern Command Swimming Championship, the Unit team excelled themselves in obtaining second place. Our hearty congratulations to Captain Brock and the swimming team.

Rugger and soccer are once again in full swing, and with the hope that they may do better this season we will close our contribution from the 5th Training Regiment.

THE DEPOT REGIMENT

Have you found the fourth dimension? No? Do not be disheartened, for the fifth bend has recently been discovered here in the Depot. It came to light during the feverish last minute preparations for the Regimental Week-end, and several of the harassed organisers who discovered the phenomenon were afflicted with a permanent list to port, which affects those closely connected with the "bend."

Despite this peculiar happening, the week-end was undoubtedly an enormous success and went well from start to finish.

We were fortunate to have with us the Corps Band, whose efforts and versatility put the seal on the functions and were to all members of the Regiment a source of inspiration and pride. Saturday morning the Regiment paraded for an inspection and march past, which was taken by Brigadier E. S. Cole, C.B.E. What satisfaction there is to march past to the strains of the Corps March played by the Corps Band.

The afternoon saw the finals of the Unit Athletic Competition for Cadre personnel and, after some excellent contests, the Unit cup was won by No. 1 Squadron Cadre. The final placing of teams was:—

1st—"F" Team (1 Squadron Cadre), 92 points.
2nd—"A" Team (R.H.Q. and H.Q. Troop), 84 points.
3rd—"B" Team (M.T. Troop and Sergeants' Mess Staff), 35 points.
4th and 5th—"D" and "E" Team ("D" Team O.R.s Cookhouse and Officers' Mess Staff), 34 points; "E" Team Remainder of H.Q. Squadron, 34 points.
6th—"G" Team (2 Squadron Cadre and Officers' Wing Staff), 32 points.
7th—"C" Team (Q Troop and Sanitation personnel), 28 points.

The highlight of the afternoon, the "Old Soldiers'" race, was very appropriately won by Brigadier E. S. Cole, with Major G. W. Powell and Captain A. Mottershead chasing him past the tape.

The prizes and cups were kindly presented by Mrs. E. S. Cole.

Saturday evening the Officers' Mess held their first cocktail party since arriving in Devon, whilst in the gymnasium a lively All Ranks' and Torbay Royal Signals Association dance to the music of the Corps Band was held. Sunday, after the previous day's exertions, the Regiment paraded for a church service, where we were very pleased to have on parade with us members of the Torbay and Exeter Branches of the Royal Signals Association, including Lieutenant-Colonel Paton, Lieutenant-Colonel Western, O.B.E., T.D., Major Fegan, M.M., Messrs. Back, Ellis, L. Southcott, K. Southcott, Friend, Bennett and Denford. The march



Mrs. E. S. Cole presenting the Regimental Athletics Cup to Lance-Corporal F. S. Osbourne, 1 Squadron Cadre, watched by Brigadier E. S. Cole, C.B.E., Lieut.-Colonel P. G. Goodeve-Docker, and Major F. Harris

past after the service was led by the Corps Band and the salute taken by Brigadier E. S. Cole.

The Old Comrades and their ladies were entertained to lunch in the respective messes, where reminiscences poured forth fast and furious.

During the afternoon the battle at cricket was resumed between the Officers and W.O.s and Sergeants. By this stage, however, reactions were noticeably impaired and, despite a noble stand by Captain J. K. Rogerson and Second-Lieutenant A. Linny, the W.O.s and Sergeants triumphed again.

The week-end closed with a band concert, held in the Unit Cinema, which again demonstrated the polished versality of the Corps Band, whose presence had largely contributed to the success of the week-end.

Before the Band departed they played at the opening of the new 35 m.m. service in the A.K.C. Cinema in the camp. This new service will provide for the Regiment a first-class service of the latest films and supporting films at very reasonable prices.

The cricket season has now closed, the team having played 20 matches, won nine and lost 11. The outstanding averages were:—

Batting. Captain J. K. Rogerson, T.D., 236 runs 11 innings; highest score (60) average 21.4. Lance-Corporal Earless, 108 runs 12 innings; highest score (32) average 9.0.

Bowling. Signalman Clements, 53 wickets, 415 runs, average 7.8. Sergeant Chesterman (R.A.P.C.) 59 wickets, 470 runs, average 7.9.

The Regiment supplied an entry in the Army Sailing Association Regatta at Cowes, comprising of Sergeant Sanderson (R.A.E.C.), Lance-Corporal Crabtree and Signalman Seeman. In the final placings the Regiment was placed third—well done!

Now, with the shorter evenings, colder days, our thoughts are turning to rugger and football, broken limbs, black eyes and all that are associated with these rough winter games.

5 CORPS SIGNAL REGIMENT

The Regiment in its entirety spent an interesting two weeks in South Wales during July. We supplied neutral signals for 56 (London) Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment (T.A.) on their Exercise " Cat's Whisker." Our communications worked very well and everyone enjoyed themselves in the unfamiliar surroundings of vast acres of tented camps.

Every available man is now away for two weeks with Western Command on Exercise " Crown Derby," under our Second-in-Command, Major Berry.

Our resources are still stretched to their limit. During the summer training season practically all leave was stopped and now we are trying to fit in everyone who wants to get away. On top of this and an almost continuous series of small exercises of various kinds we have found time to train the first of three batches of "Z" Reservists. Our first hundred, formed into three Corps Delivery Squadron Signal Troops, left us on 23rd August. All ranks enjoyed their stay here and a grand spirit of co-operation was obtained. Their last three days was spent fighting an armoured battle across the plains of Suffolk and on up into the foothills of Norfolk.

During their stay here, the "Z" men were able to share our first Royal Signals Association dance. The chairman, Captain (T.O.T.) Coleman, tells me that over £7 was raised. We have a small but flourishing branch of the Association here. Older readers will remember Colchester as the stronghold of 4 Divisional Signal Regiment in the thirties. Younger readers will be interested to know that we are the first Regular Signal Regiment to be stationed here since those days.

We have two finalists in the Army swimming. Lance-Corporal Holmyard, who won the Command 440 yards free style by 30 yards, has a good chance of a gold medal at Aldershot, while Signalman Osmond obtained a place in the final after being disqualified in one dive in the Command preliminaries. Good luck to them in September.

One Sunday afternoon recently the Officers' and Sergeants' Messes combined their left-handed might and joined battle with their wives at cricket. We are glad to say that the ladies, God bless them, won by four wickets. Personalities amongst the ladies were undoubtedly their captain and vice-captain, Mrs. Squadron Sergeant-Majors Dickens and O'Malley. An excellent tea and social followed in the Sergeants' Mess.

We are in the process of organising a Regimental week-end at the end of September. It will include our athletic finals, sports and games for allcomers, including children, stalls, a dance and, in fact, all the fun of the fair. Your faithful scribe will devote more space to it next time.

SCOTTISH COMMAND (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT

Once again autumn creeps upon us and we are able to look back on a summer that has been busy and at times hectic.

The various summer camps and schemes took their usual toll of our strength, and for a period of two to three weeks during July the Barracks appeared to be almost empty.

The last of our " Z " Reservists left us at the end of August. We hope that they and others who have been with us this summer will take back happy memories of their stay, which was made the more pleasant for everybody by their own keenness and co-operation.

During July the W.R.A.C. had the honour to provide a drill squad to demonstrate before Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal at a large W.R.A.C., T.A., camp, held in the area.

On Monday, 1st September, we were paid a flying visit by the C.I.G.S. Our small guard of honour was commended for its smartness.

On the 25th and 26th August we were visited by the Corps Band. This event was celebrated by a very well-attended all ranks dance on the Monday and by a concert at an Officers' Mess cocktail party on the Tuesday.

Our sincere thanks to the Band for two very good shows.

And now to sport.

We must place on record the achievement of our cricket team who won the Lowland District Cup by beating the K.O.S.B.s in the final and also for the excellent record of only two lost games out of a total of 14 played.

Our motor cyclists also have been successful and, at the

3rd A.A. Group motor cycle trials, they carried the team prize by a margin that could have been better still if a matter of tyre pressures had not been overlooked.

The team is now training for the Lodis Trials, which are to take place in the near future.

Our rifle team returned from Bisley without laurels but with a fund of experience gained and a quiet confidence that we shall put up a good show in the Lodis shoot in October.

And now the winter sports are getting under way. The football and hockey teams are already settling down. Also, this year, under the guidance of Major C. E. Bucke, we are hoping to raise a cross-country team.

Lastly, we must congratulate Sergeant Porter on being selected to fight in the Army Boxing Championships.

Anti - Aircraft Command

1 A.A. (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT

August has been quite a busy month for us with preparations for two large-scale exercises, but we have found the time to display ourselves in the sporting world with a fair amount of success.

At the 1 A.A. Group Motor Cycle Championships, for which, in addition to providing two teams, we set up a recording system of wireless and telephone stations, the "A" team gained 5th place out of a total of 35 entries and were selected to compete in the Eastern Command Trials held on Sunday, 31st August. The competition in the Command Trials was, however, a bit too stiff for us, and we failed to bring home any prizes. The team are to be congratulated on the keenness and enthusiasm shown for, owing to operational commitments, they were not able to put in the full amount of practice necessary.

The cricket team has played a number of matches, the results of which are given below, and the Unit soccer team has been putting in some practice in preparation for the coming season, in which we have entered the Essex Mid-Week League and the 1 A.A. Group Small Units Knock-out Competition. In the latter, we carried off the championship last season.

Our W.R.A.C. have produced an excellent swimmer in Private Jeannette Lewis, who won the 50 metres breast-stroke and 50 metres backstroke in the 1 A.A. Group Championships, came third in the Eastern Command Championships and, at the time of writing, has been selected to represent the Command in the Army Championships at Aldershot. We wish her the best of luck.

A contingent of W.R.A.C. from 1 A.A. Group includes a party of women from the Regiment in the Battle of Britain Parade in London in September, and the whole contingent will be commanded by Captain F. K. Crowe, W.R.A.C.

Departures during the month have been numerous, leaving large gaps in our ranks at a critical time. Among them were Sergeants Bailey, Byard, Crabtree and Weller.

Sergeant Bailey for a long time was our king-pin at Weybourne A.A. Practice Camp, where he worked with great credit to the Corps. We wish him and Mrs. Bailey every success in civilian life.

Sergeant Weller will be sadly missed by the cricket team, of which he was a stalwart member.

Results of Cricket Matches

6th August. 75 H.A.A. Regiment, 94 for 7 wickets. Royal Signals, 91 (Second-Lieutenant Fletcher, 38).

13th August. Royal Signals, 208 for 5 wickets declared (Lieutenant-Colonel Sanders 81 not out, Second-Lieutenant Braybrook 42. Stanford-le-Hope C.C., 173 for 5 wickets.

20th August. Royal Signals 126 (Second-Lieutenant Fletcher 43). Depot Essex Regiment 51 (Signalman Pinckney 9 for 17).

23rd August. Royal Signals 84 ((Second-Lieutenant Fletcher 31). Harrogate C.C. 75 (Signalman Pinckney 5 for 32).

13 A.A. (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

Since last appearing in print the Regiment has had a full six months' activity, including training week-ends, annual camp and several pleasant social evenings. Camp was rather earlier than usual this year—and we think winter just a little long drawn out. Our fifteen days' training, held from 25th May to 8th June, were spent in the heart of Welsh Wales, and according to many a weary traveller, just too far south of the border. Aberporth to all was only a place on the map until, with 3 A.A. Independent (M) Signal Squadron and 35 (U) A.A. Independent (M) Signal Squadron, T.A., we arrived prepared to take both training and mess life in our stride. Our "Z" Reservists came from every corner of the country, and by the second evening old friendships had been renewed and new ones firmly cemented. A comprehensive training programme had been planned and it ran very well to schedule. There is no doubt that everyone improved as a result of their intensive efforts, and the Reservists came up to the high standard that we experienced the previous year. One Reservist at least enjoyed his recall to Army life as he decided to join the Regular Army without returning home. The camp concert produced a surprising amount of talent under the tender guidance of the Entertainments Officer—Captain "Paddy" Neil, of the Ulster Squadron—and many a happy evening was spent at dances and cinema shows arranged. Bus tours to local beauty spots were very popular, and on returning home, we found we were a little more conversant with the Welsh countryside—to say nothing of our operational roles.

★

The Officers' annual dinner and dance, held in the Royal British Hotel, Edinburgh, was well supported and proved to be a memorable evening. This event happily coincided with the visit to this country of our Honorary Colonel, Sir Harold and Lady Mitchell, who took the opportunity of once more honouring the Regiment by presenting, on behalf of their infant daughter, the "Mary-Jean Mitchell Trophy," which will be the annual sports cup. All Squadron Commanders are now on the lookout for recruits with an Olympic tendency.

A Regimental sports week-end, held at Stirling in July, produced a good attendance. Competition was keen and the newly-acquired sports trophy gallantly claimed by 29 and 30 Squadrons combined efforts. Stirling will see us again in September when a week-end training exercise is scheduled to take place.

Enthusiastic Scottish country dancers in the Regiment—unfortunately, at the moment, only the fair sex—had the privilege of performing before H.R.H. The Princess Royal at Glencorse Barracks on 28th July. This gave us an insight of future possibilities with the team, which is at present practising new dances, and we hope the lure of the footlights may have the desired effect on the male element before very long.

5 A.A. (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT

August found the Regiment at annual camp in the wilds of South West Wales. We had with us our quota of "Z" Reservists, who were a jolly good crowd of chaps, who soon settled themselves in and became part of the Regiment. What a fortnight it was! It poured down for 10 days and nights and how glad we were not to be under canvas. We pressed on, however, with training, and both the G.O.C. of 5 A.A. Group and C.S.O. A.A. Command seemed satisfied with what they saw. During our period at camp we learned of the disastrous news of the Lynmouth floods, so on return to barracks the Colonel's wife, Mrs. Sladen, made a collection and raised the sum of £20 towards the relief fund. A large proportion of the Regiment is at present enjoying a bit of leave prior to checking on equipment and stores for the autumn exercise.

Royal Signals Leave Maresfield Park

It was sad to hear that, after only a short stay in our historic home, Eastern Command Signal Regiment were moving to Crowborough Warren Camp.

The Uckfield Branch of the Association will miss them.

But don't you remember in the 1920's the Signal Training Centre was split; half at Maresfield, half at ———? Crowborough!

So they have not gone so far from home after all.

B.A.O.R. *and* EUROPE

H.Q., B.A.O.R.

The Signals Inter-Unit Swimming Gala was held on 16th August at Bunde Swimming Pool, under the auspices of 6 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment.

Despite the fact that many Units were on, or about to depart on, exercises, most Regiments were able to enter a team for most events. The winners of the shield were 1 Corps Signal Regiment team; runners-up, 11 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment.

To add to the pleasure of the spectators, a water ballet, high diving events and comical diving exhibitions were highlights of the afternoon, and thanks are due to Major McNeil, of 6 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment, for his excellent organisation of the occasion.

1 CORPS SIGNAL REGIMENT

The Regiment has had a summer of hard and interesting work and has achieved a standard of training such as one rarely finds in peace time. Between 1st May and 1st September it has taken part in some eight Corps exercises, ending up with the Corps manoeuvres, Exercises Spearhead One and Two. We are rather proud of the fact that, during this period of five months, we have been in barracks for only 39 days. Now, as we write, only B.A.O.R. manoeuvres remain of the collective training this year. After this we look to an intensive individual training programme

The character make-up of a Regiment is often of interest to readers of THE WIRE. We therefore list some of the better-known of our characters. Lieutenant-Colonel P. E. M. Bradley, D.S.O., commands, with Major R. G. Miller as second-in-command, and Captain W. P. W. Robertson as Adjutant. The R.S.M. is R.S.M. Judd. The Squadron Commanders are Captain P. D. Legge, D.C.M., Major J. N. Congdon, Major J. R. Romaines, D.C.M., and Major A. H. Costen. Their Sergeant-Majors are S.S.M. Newsham, Fox and Harding. The Quartermaster's department includes Captain S. H. Vaughan, R.Q.M.S. Grant and S.Q.M.S. Digweed, Russell and Hockley, whilst in our telecommunication world are Major G. V. Leath, Lieutenant E. Thompson, S.S.M. Hogan and Dolbear.

The Regiment achieved a major success by winning the B.A.O.R. Royal Signals swimming competition. Eight Regiments competed and, of seven events, we were not entered in one and in the other six obtained two firsts, two seconds and two thirds.

Although the Officers' team did particularly well in the Royal Signals Rifle Meeting, as a whole the Regiment was placed only fifth out of eight competitors.

1 WIRELESS REGIMENT

The west of the British Zone offers very little in the way of attractive scenery, but it can boast a very fine network of canals. Realisation of the Englishman's inherent desire for "boat trips" has created the latest form of enjoyment which has become extremely popular with the troops and the families. It is now listed as one of the Garrison activities and parents are finding it a very good way of getting rid of the children—though the mother of the one who nearly fell in did not share the same enthusiasm.

A stores check seems imminent because we are wondering what the Quartermaster used to convince the R.E. that Block 3 needed redecorating. Nevertheless, the result is a pleasant one and we can face the annual administrative inspection with a little more confidence.

The recent permission for all ranks to wear plain clothes has been most welcomed and bears out that the "grapevine" is still the finest form of communications—within 24 hours of the order being published, the Guard Room resembled the showrooms of a West End tailor!

Through lack of practice it was not surprising that we did not excel in the Royal Signals B.A.O.R. Inter-Regimental Swimming Competition, but a word of congratulation is due to those who tried so hard. The Inter-Troop Cricket League has just finished with 151 Wireless Troop this year's champions; the points so gained will help them towards the annual presentation of the "Yolland" Cup. Runners-up were 152 and 153 Wireless Troops.

The annual P.E. tests have come round again and the "nine-mile bash" is proving as popular as ever. To date no one has staggered back at 0100 hours and been charged with "Absence."

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The M.T.O. has just gone on leave, ostensibly to spend a month on Bournemouth's beach, but we who know him better are quite convinced that he's looking for a demobilised driver selling wheel-rims and ashbins. His motto, "Keep 'em rolling," was perhaps carried a little too far!

A few days ago the Adjutant had a purge on stray dogs. The result was a Guard Room full of yapping hounds, with S.S.M. Rawlinson i/c. kennels. Corporal Collins and Corporal Dickson have managed to produce leads for their puppies—probably whilst the T.O.T. was not looking.

Mysterious notices appear on orders announcing "Scenes 2 and 3 will be rehearsed tomorrow." Dare we expect a pantomime? Probably based on the A.F.G. 1198?

11 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT

Our sporting reputation has suffered some minor setbacks this month. 6th Armoured Division Signal Regiment found us rather "easy meat" in the first round of the Royal Signals Inter-Unit cricket competition and we finished fourth in the swimming competition on 16th August. 6th Armoured were the hosts and furnished all concerned with a well-run gala and delightful social occasion.

Old friends met and competed for the Grippers shield, whilst wives fidgeted under a barrage of "shop."

Incidentally, the ladies were very well turned out; the "enclosure" at Ascot could not have produced a brighter display of summer frocks. The local German swimming club produced for our entertainment a faultless water-ballet and diving display; the children especially were immensely diverted by the comic antics of some pyjama-clad gentlemen on the high diving board. No. 4 Construction Troop had no less than five representatives in the Regimental Team, and that mighty all-rounder, Sergeant Webb, was mainly instrumental in gaining the Regiment fourth place.

The Station Summer Hockey League, organised and run by the Regiment, is still going strong. Sappers' "B" team are at the top, but we hope to tumble them before long. This league has raised immense enthusiasm and interest in the Station and all manner of weird things have crawled out from under their stones to take part. Pale, lean, erstwhile blanket bashers now spend their free *(sic)* time dribbling a hockey ball around the square and knocking chunks off the shins of the experts. We offer our sincere condolences to those members of the Regimental team who have suffered damage in the interest of the sport and hope sincerely that they will be recovered in time for the first winter fixture.

The Officers had their half-yearly games tussle with the W.O.s and Sergeants towards the end of the month. The W.O.s and Sergeants were hosts and combined the occasion with a last farewell to R.S.M. Rockall. The Officers won by a short (brass?) neck. A most unusual occurrence this, uncomplicated by the fact that the Officers were soundly thrashed on the hockey field the previous day. This may possibly have repercussions throughout the Corps but, nevertheless, it must be placed on record that the Officers swept the board at darts, snooker and liar dice, and the boat race resulted in a dead heat!

4 L. OF C. SIGNAL REGIMENT

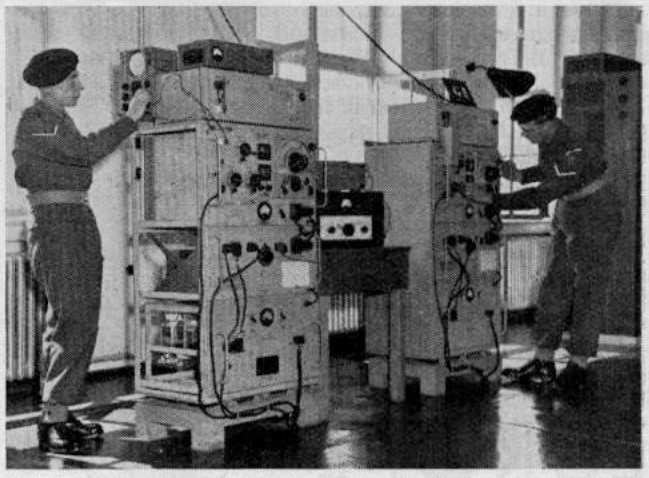
The past two months have been exceptionally full of both sporting and military events. The Regiment has provided detachments of all types for the three recent major Exercises—Grande Alliance, and Team Spirit One and Two. Our Medium Wireless Troops have, in particular, had a very active life. They have rarely had more than a few days' break between Exercises, but all the same their wireless sets and vehicles have kept going with very few breakdowns, and even then of only a temporary nature.

Participation in Exercises to such a large extent means that the personnel left to man our normal L. of C. commitment are depleted to the bare minimum necessary. Nevertheless, the machine ticks over well and complaints are never heard about long hours of work or little leave. This period is especially proving the efficiency and value of our National Service men, and a remark of one of our Squadron Commanders is well worth quoting: "A more efficient and cheerful crowd would be hard to find."

The Regiment has produced teams for all the finals of the Inter-Regimental Royal Signals summer sports.

Our most successful result was at the Royal Signals Small Arms Meeting. The Regimental team came second and the W.O.s' and Sergeants' team were first in their match. Our main congratulations go to Signalman Griffiths who returned the best score for a National Service man.

The General Practitioner and the Specialist



Royal Signals and Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers

2 L. OF C. SIGNAL REGIMENT

R.H.Q. have now settled themselves more comfortably, but negotiations are still going on for a home of our own. A building has been acquired for use as an Officers' Mess, and by the time these notes are in print the Mess should be functioning.

The Regiment is still valiantly competing in the sporting world, but due to the dispersive nature of our Unit and the difficulties of getting in any team practice, we have so far captured no gold medals.

The Regimental swimming team made up for their lack of experience by their enthusiasm and effort in the Inter-Signal Unit Gala, Corporal Raby, Signalman Wainwright and Signalman Mould giving good displays in the free style events, and Corporal Lane is to be complimented on his diving. We also competed in the Signals Rifle Meeting and Athletics.

Our Detachment at the Hook came well to the fore in the Garrison Championships, the 1,500 metres being won by Lance-Corporal Howe and the javelin by Second-Lieutenant D. J. Yates. The latter also won the Victor Ludorum Cup for the best individual performance.

5 AGRA (A.A.) SIGNAL SQUADRON

With the summer training season in full swing, we have found ourselves among the fields and farmhouses of Germany more often than within the bounds of our barracks.

So far we have participated in Exercise June Primer, surely the wettest Exercise on record—(who said C.V.s don't get bogged down?)—followed immediately by Exercise Fireball.

After a brief respite were committed to battle (the blunt end) on Exercise Spearhead I, from which we have just returned, a rather weary collection of men.

We are about to embark on the Agra Cricket Festival, where we shall at least get into the second round (yes, we have a bye in the first).

Congratulations to W.O.II Pearson on his promotion from S.Q.M.S., a post in which he has nobly served us in our first 18 months. We welcome in his place S.Q.M.S. L'Homme.

BERLIN SIGNAL SQUADRON

July and August have passed quickly, due to the numerous exercises in which the Squadron has been engaged. Field communications hardly comparable with a Brigade Signal Troop have been stretched unmercifully to provide links both to higher formation and to the Services.

A Unit cycle club has been formed and four brand-new Hercules cycles have been purchased. Two more will soon be delivered. Corporal McNamee has been appointed chairman of the committee.

Corporal Walton was chosen to represent British Troops Berlin in the Rhine Army knock-out quiz, which was broadcast on B.F.N. He is due to leave us soon on release, but we do not know whether he is accepting that B.B.C. contract or not!

Together with R.E. Troops Berlin we entered a swimming and water polo team in the Inter-Unit swimming sports. Signalman Wharton won the open diving, whilst Signalman Eachus and Private Murtagh (A.C.C.) were the mainstay of the water polo team. The combined team came third.

BETFOR SIGNALS

We probably all shared to a greater or lesser extent in last month's widespread heat wave. Trieste was by no means an exception to the rule. In fact, we are privately of the opinion that the whole thing was centred on us. Anyway, we were receiving it at something better than strength five.

The highlight of the month was a visit on 14th July from the G.O.C. in C. British Element, Trieste Force. He was met on his arrival by the C.S.O., Lieutenant-Colonel J. S. Wise, and invited to inspect the guard, which received congratulations from the General on its drill and turn-out.

During his inspection of the parade the General was heard to remark that you could certainly tell the men who went swimming from the ones who didn't! To which the Colonel replied that this phenomenon might also be observed among the Officers.

The inspection completed, the G.O.C. was taken on a tour which included the Signal Office, the R.T.T.Y. transmitter site and 24 Infantry Brigade Signal Troop. The last mentioned paraded in battle order, drawn up in front of their vehicles, with equipment displayed. The G.O.C. in C. showed a very keen interest in all he saw and expressed his satisfaction.

Our sporting activities during the month have been confined to cricket and water polo. In the cricket league we are lying third, and have produced no less than four Command trialists including our Second-in-Command, Major T. P. Saunders. Among the water polo enthusiasts we had two aspirants for representative honours in Sergeant Morgan and Corporal Reynolds. These two played an extremely solid game in their trial and we must record that it was only in jest that, as they emerged dripping from the water, someone said "What a wet pair of N.C.O.s."

Visit of the G.O.C. in C. British Element, Trieste Force



[Courtesy: G. Avanzo, Trieste

Do You Remember ?

DO you remember the days when we of Signals wore the blue and white armband? This privilege ceased in Rhine Signal Company in September, 1922. Yes, we were in Germany even in those far-off days!

Do you remember that in October, 1922, the following were appointed to the Committee of the Benevolent Fund: — Vice-president, Major R. Chenevix Trench, O.B.E., M.C., Captain and Brevet Major L. G. Phillips, M.C., C.S.M. J. Cussens? Major-General R. Chenevix Trench was Signal Officer-in-Chief of the Expeditionary Force in 1939-40 and Major-General Sir Leslie Phillips was Director of Signals during the latter part of the war.

The present Pattern of Royal Signals Tie was authorised in 1932 and was sold by the association at 3s. 9d. first quality, 2s. 6d. second quality? It just shows how the cost of living has risen in 20 years.

Do you remember the Blue Book? The Corps promotion roster was first published in 1932 and that amendments thereto were published in THE WIRE. The top names in the October, 1932, amendments were C.S.M. J. Adcock and C.Q.M.S. R. Pearce (14). Well, in December's WIRE you will see amendments to the Blue Book again. An interesting speculation who will be the top two names.

Do you remember A. G. Brightmore, of "D" Company Training Battalion and Motor Cycle Display Team about 1931? Well, he is now in the Colonial Service in Basutoland in South Africa as an agricultural expert and called on the Association for advice as to how to get his eldest boy into Royal Signals.

Do you remember the S.T.C. (British) at Mhow, The Signal Training Centre, Jubbulpore, 4, 5, 19, 25 Indian Divisional Signals, The Madras Signal Company, Z and Y L. of C. Signals? You may be surprised to hear that all still exist in the Signal Corps of the Dominion of India, save only that the S.T.C. (B) is no more. It is now the Signal School of the Indian Signal Corps. Additionally, they have a Command Signal Regiment in each of the old Commands, a "boys'" Regiment, and the Corps of Signals Association Dinner which, this year, was held at New Delhi, graced by the presence of their Colonel Commandant, General Cariappa, who, incidentally, was a welcome guest of the Officers, Royal Signals, at dinner in London not so long ago.

Do you remember that "for their good work done in Association interests the following were granted honorary life membership:—C.S.M. M. Hepburn, Sergeant F. V. March, C.S.M. F. Craig, Sergeant P. Molyneux"? You do? Well, you're much older than I, but I bet you don't know where this good work was done and what year.

VIENNA SIGNAL SQUADRON

Ex-members of this Unit may be interested to how that we have recently received a visit from two very well-known and popular ex-members of the old Vienna Signal Squadron, namely Sergeant E. A. White, B.E.M., *alias* "Knocker," and Sergeant George Parsons.

Sergeant White is at present serving with the Depot Regiment, and Sergeant Parsons was, at the time of visiting us, stationed in Fayid, although he was, we understand, expecting a home posting very shortly after returning from leave.

Despite the fact that many N.C.O.s (notably Lance-Corporals) and Signalmen of this Troop seem to be suffering from a severe attack of "home sickness" or "leave fever," we are still managing to challenge all comers in the field of sport. Our sporting events during the past month are outlined below.

August was a good month for the sportsmen of this Troop, because we came out on top at the three main events of the month.

Our first success came at the Vienna Garrison swimming gala, when our swimmers collected 19 of 28 prizes. The highlight of the afternoon came when we won all of the three relay races with a team made up by Captain Mogridge, Second-Lieutenant Fells, Corporal Brown and Signalman Perkins. The Commander, Vienna Garrison, Brigadier Knowles, who presented the prizes, was obviously gratified to see his Corps doing so well.

Next we turned our attention to cricket and, by winning our last four games, we are now top dogs of the Garrison League, and hoping for great things in the forthcoming knockout competition.

Our third success came at the Garrison Athletic Meeting, where we were easily the winners of the overall competition. Amongst our best performances was in getting four of the first five home in the 5,000 metres and winning the 4 x 200 metres relay.

We have entered a team for the winter .22 shooting competition and hope to show that Signals can do as well in this field as in any other.



The Clue

The picture on page 238 includes four who were famous in Sport whilst serving in Royal Signals. Who are they?

A prize of £2 0s. 0d. will be given to the Serving Signalman (N.C.Os. excluded) who sends to the Editor by 10th November, the names of all four, and the best account of their exploits.

Photograph by courtesy of S.T.C. Studio, Catterick Camp



First take-over in the 4 x 200 relay, minor events—Page handing to Rannow

KLAGENFURT SIGNAL SQUADRON

Heavy rains have washed away the summer, and a sudden drop in temperature sets everyone thinking of battledress and skis. The change is not limited to seasons.

There has been much sport to occupy everyone's mind in the last month. The Royal Signals Austria team reached the final of the B.T.A. Cricket Championship and went to Graz to play an infantry battalion team. They won the toss and batted to make 167 (W. C. Harrison 5 for 64). Our innings was finished on the next day with the total at 100; the Officer Commanding scored 31. The infantry were well on top, but the weather was bad and six wickets had fallen for just over 50 runs at lunch time. Once again, however, their hitters connected and they took the score to 116 (Wilson 4 for 23). With 184 to make we started badly, but then D.M. Whitehead and S.S.M. Godfrey put on 60 for the fourth wicket before Godfrey ran himself out. The game slipped away and we were all out for 141, having lost by 42 runs.

In the field of athletics, the Squadron sports served as a good trial for the B.T.A. athletic meeting. It was, perhaps, a trifle unfair that the children and the ladies who ran so well in the Unit meeting were not given their chance in the later sports. The age-old potatoes were rapidly ferried from point to point, the S.S.M. was very popular with the children, and the meeting was generally a great success.

Two weeks later, Royal Signals Austria started the B.T.A. Sports well by winning six out of 13 individual events, Signalman Rannow winning the 100 metres in 11 seconds., a B.T.A. record. The weather deteriorated steadily and the track became extremely heavy, but, despite this, the Signals relay teams set up new records in the 4 x 100 metres and 4 x 200 metres. The team was Second-Lieutenant Donaldson, Signalmen Dodds, A. D. Page and Rannow. Second-Lieutenant Young and Lance-Corporal R. J. Irwin won the discus with a new record aggregate throw of over 200 feet, and throughout the day Signals won all their events. Signalman D. J. Speed won the mile in fine style to complete the afternoon, and the Signals team won the Minor Units' competition. A party followed that evening and Second-Lieutenant Williams was thanked by all for the work he had done in organising the winning team.

CYPRUS SIGNAL SQUADRON

This past month the D.R.s brought honour to the Squadron by taking first and second team places in island motor cycling trials. Of eight trophies awarded, six were captured by the Signal Squadron. First place went to the "A" team, consisting of Lieutenant R. Hirst, Sergeant Young, Corporal Burford, and second place to "B" team consisting of Lance-Corporal Atkinson, Signalmen Humphrey and Ripley.

Our Officer Commanding, Major Waite, has been working hard at the swimming pool instructing personnel for their bronze medal in life saving. As most of his class gained their medals he now becomes a qualified swimming instructor.

Troodos leave camp, the mecca of all leave personnel in the Middle East, is now operating and, as always, the task of operating the telephone switchboard falls on this Unit. Signalmen Scott, Kane and Ferrie have all had experience of serving on the detachment, and it is rumoured that they are quite prepared to spend the rest of their service there.

★

The cricket season has not been a good one for the Unit, nearly all league fixtures ending in defeat and all friendlies in success. The team will miss the services of Lance-Corporal Gartside, now on his way to United Kingdom.

Queries regarding boxing and soccer are now trickling into the Unit Office. No doubt Signalman Castle and Lance-Corporal Lee are wanting to add to their collection of boxing trophies.

Perhaps some reader can tell me why it is that so many other trades wish to be D.R.s and drivers. Requests for instruction in driving and riding motor cycles give the impression that a detachment of 5 Training Regiment should be sent here to cope with this demand.

We have now constructed our own basketball pitch, not the regulation size, but it is something where that extra practice that gets the goals and wins the games can be had.

Now that the basketball season is now coming to an end, all personnel are looking to the preparation of soccer boots. We hope, too, to get some of our players into the Island Combined Services XI.

GIBRALTAR SIGNAL SQUADRON

The main item of news is of the hand-over of the Unit from Lieutenant-Colonel R. A. Mackintosh to Major J. R. G. Walker.

Water sports have been the favourite recreation during August. Early in the month we competed in the Garrison Aquatic Championships. In the individual events, Signalman Richardson did well to finish third in the 400 yards free style. But it was in the team events that the main interest lay. As in last year's championship, this year's resolved itself into a struggle for supremacy between ourselves and H.M.S. *Rooke*—a shore-based naval establishment. The Navy beat us by 10 points. But for a most unfortunate technical infringement, which automatically disqualified us from that event, with subsequent loss of points, the final result might well have been different. It is gratifying to record, however, that in the 3 x 50 yards medley relay race our team broke the existing Garrison record. All credit to Q.M.S. Dale and his pack of trained seals for a very fine performance.

★

Older members of the Corps who served here in pre-war days will be pleased to learn that great interest has been revived in rowing, particularly in the gigs. Two Unit crews entered in the August competitions and, to the surprised delight of us all, "A" Crew was only narrowly beaten

in the final. Wait until the September competitions come along; we'll show 'em.

During July, a successful outing was made to Ceuta, in Spanish Morocco. This was the first time that any of the Unit had been there. Opinions about Ceuta varied, but it seems there's a desire to go again.

We welcome to the Rock the wives and families of Sergeants Brown and Cornthwaite, and sincerely hope their stay will be a happy one.

FAR EAST LAND FORCES

G.H.Q. SIGNAL REGIMENT

The highlight of the month has been the Annual Swimming Gala, where most of the Unit gathered at Tanglin Baths to see, firstly, A.W.C. Signal Squadron romp away with the challenge cup, and, secondly, to witness Lieutenant H. E. Luker, smartly dressed in k.d. and acting as one of the judges, wallowing in the water, having been inadvertently urged in from the rear. Someone thought he was a competitor!

Signalman Renshaw, of A.W.C. Squadron (whose second name is understood to be Weismuller!), scored a maximum of points (18 in all) for his Squadron, followed closely behind by Signalman Waterfield with 17 points.

Distances to be swum were not of the lengths required for recording times and the like, so full results are not published. However, the most exciting events to watch were the plunge, the diving, and lastly the medley relay. The plunge was taken by Major Gibson, of A.W.C. Squadron, 44ft. 7in., but most of the other competitors were at a disadvantage, Major Gibson standing well over 6ft. in his socks. S.S.M. Hicks, 1 Squadron, gave a beautiful display of diving to win this event, and then, much to the surprise of us all, amidst much shouting and cheering, 1 Squadron ran away with the medley relay.

Mrs. G. A. Dutton kindly presented the prizes and we all went back to the camp feeling it had been a delightful afternoon.

Team results: A.W.C. Squadron, 120½ points; 1 Squadron, 98½ points; 2 Squadron, 26 points.

Sergeant Martin, who has only been with us since June, has been taking the athletics' world by storm, so far having carried off the mile at the following meets:—

Singapore Base District Athletic Championships;
Inter-Services Singapore Athletic Championships;
Singapore A.A.A. Championships;
Malaya A.A.A. Championships.

Only a few days ago we heard the good news that he had been awarded his Corps Colours (FARELF-Athletics) for this splendid record.

The cricket and football season has almost come to an end and now it's the turn of the rugby, hockey and boxing fans.

Appropos these notes, it's not all fun and games out here. Between times we work (and perspire).

BRITISH SIGNALS IN KOREA

The following was extracted from News Letter No. 26, issued by the Armed Forces Communications Association of the United States of America:—

A shipload of fresh troops recently arrived in Korea to reinforce the more than 20,000 troops forming the First British Commonwealth Division. Nearly all of the newcomers were from London, their clipped accents mingling with those of men from every other part of Britain, from Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and India.

Busiest Unit of the Division is the Royal Corps of Signals. A teleprinter link sends off vital messages to Japan, Singapore, and the War Office in London. A call from any point with line trouble will quickly produce a team of linemen, a large number of whom are Kiwis (New Zealanders), who methodically check all along the faulty cable. These Signalmen have already laid almost 10,000 miles of cable for the Division.

1 COMMONWEALTH DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

Summer has seen the Regiment "done to a turn." Shocking pink has mellowed to old mahogany and only in the cool solace of the Imjin is it apparent that one's real colour is white.

The rains came at last, fulfilling the direst predictions of the "old hands." The river rose 41ft., sweeping away all bridges in the Divisional area save one, which shuddered horribly but settled down to grin and bear it. The Regiment braced itself for Operation Noah's Ark. The T.O.T., with an intrepid band of radio mechanics, seizing the golden opportunity to demonstrate the mobility of the repair system, forged across the torrent to establish a forward maintenance post. The S.D.S., with a passing regret that the Army had failed to include a proportion of DUKWs in the G1098 of "D" Troop, managed, by "picking their way," to deliver their despatches almost on time. But the crowning triumph of the flood season remained to "C" Troop's Test Point "B.D.," which, although completely submerged under 6ft. of water, treated its inundation with disdain and worked uninterruptedly without hindrance. Frogmen were alerted in case any emergency jumpering would be required! Steps are being taken to patent this latest development in amphibious test points for eventual employment in combined operations.

In June, "A" Troop set up wireless communication between the mainland and Koje Island Prison Camps to serve our infantry, who had assumed the Division's share of the guard duties.

In July, Lieutenant-Colonel A. L. Atkinson left for home. As he said himself on his last parade, "Leaving the Regiment was one thing, leaving Korea was another," a sentiment we could heartily endorse. He took all our best wishes for his future. In Lieutenant-Colonel F. P. Johnson, M.B.E., his successor, we welcomed an old friend.

On the 24th July the Officers of 28th Field Engineer Regiment entertained all Signal Officers in the Division at dinner to celebrate our long standing associations. It was a very good party, although some difficulty was experienced by certain members of our Officers' Mess in negotiating the hazards of the local defences on their homeward journey!

The season's bathing culminated in a regimental swimming gala, and in August we held a regimental sports meeting, which was a great success. Sport takes no account of season in this part of the world, and cricket, rugby, soccer, basketball and volleyball are all played simultaneously and enthusiastically.

At a recent presentation of honours and awards by Major-General Cassels, we were proud to number among the recipients of decorations a brave showing from the Regiment.

Next month the first batch of Terminal men will be leaving for home, viewed, with a certain amount of envy, by those of us allotted to the second flight. The time has passed very quickly, though none of us, we feel, would have wished it any slower. By the time the next edition of these notes is due I also hope they will be penned by a hand other than mine!



Brigadier T. W. R. Hill, O.B.E., presenting the Knockout Competition Shield to Sjt. Odili, the team captain

NIGERIA SIGNAL SQUADRON

Great news! The Unit soccer team has again won the Garrison African League and Knock-out Competition for the fourth year in succession.

The final of the knockout was played on the King George Vth Stadium. It was loaned by the civilians and is the best ground in Lagos. The Unit met Command Workshops, who fought valiantly, only to be defeated 2—1. Sergeant Odili (see photograph), the team captain, scored the winning goal with a magnificent shot.

Commonwealth

AUSTRALIAN NEWS

A.H.Q. Signal Regiment. W.O.II F. McD. Murray was included in the last Birthday Honours List. He was awarded the B.E.M. for services performed in a meritorious manner with the Regiment during the war and post-war periods.

Captain P. F. W. Gahan, Royal Signals, who is serving on exchange duty with the Regiment, became the proud father of a daughter, born in Melbourne on 2nd June, 1952.

Signalman D. S. Sadler, formerly 1st Essex Regiment, now serving with us, was married in Melbourne on 28th June.

Another addition to the Unit was Signalman D. S. G. Cadle, late of 1st Indian Armoured Division Signal Squadron, who is now a member of the Australian Regular Army.

The enlistment of W.R.A.A.C. continues and at present 83 are serving with the Regiment. As anticipated, they are proving just as capable as were the A.W.A.S. in the war years.

W.R.A.A.C. members worked hard to decorate the hall for a cabaret ball which was held in the Unit lines on 4th July. The large number that attended had a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

The Regimental football team (Australian Rules) is having only fair success in the 1952 Southern Command Football Association competitions. So far five games have been played and we have won one and drawn one.

However, three of our players, Lieutenants McPhee and McGreevey and Corporal Henshall were selected to play with the combined Army team in the Inter-Service games. Each of the three played well and received favourable mention.

A basket ball competition, to commence shortly, is being organised by the W.R.A.A.C. members. It is expected that some good keen games will take place between the teams.

101 Wireless Regiment. Corporals Lovell, Gracey and Stewart attended a Command Staff course and all obtained Above Average passes. Captain Seager to School of Signals for a refresher course. (He will certainly be freshened by the Victorian gales if nothing else!) And finally, Corporal Burow, who successfully completed a parachutist's course. Rumours that he has been seen jumping off hotel verandahs in Toowoomba for practice are quite unfounded.

The addition of a Lambretta to the motor cycle display team is a new innovation. In the capable hands of Corporal Lovell it should be made to do things that its makers never dreamt of. Apparently, it only speaks Italian, as Corporal Lovell was seen having a word with one of the Italians building the new prefab. housing estate at Harlaxton. Next engagements include the tattoo in Brisbane and the rodeo at Warwick.

The Regiment recently provided the communications for the annual motor racing at Leyburn. A good day's outing was had and it is rumoured that one or two old crocks around the camp are due for some tuning up as a result. The R.S.M. is still trying to get the smell of Castrol "R" out of his hair!

Signalmen Shepherd and Peacock went off to Sydney for leave. They returned after a few days to complete it in Toowoomba. Why? Six inches of rain fell in Sydney in one day! Lieutenant Findlay is not amused.

Britcom Base Signal Regiment, Japan. The outstanding event for July was the two-way radio teletype hook-up on 26th July from Washington to Melbourne on the occasion of the presentation of a plaque to the U.S. Army Signal Corps by Brigadier A. D. Molloy, on behalf of the members of Royal Australian Signals. The hook-up, unique in its scope and organisation, was from a field teletypewriter on the parade ground at Fort Monmouth, N.J., where the presentation was made, by line to Washington, by radio teletype to Tokyo, Japan, then by line to Kure via Yokohama and from Kure (Britcom Base Signal Regiment Signal Office) to Australia by radio teletype. Equipment used at this centre comprised:—

Kure-Yokohama line circuit—Two Model 26 reperforators for both send and receive channels.

Kure-Melbourne R.T.T. link—Two SWB8 (E) transmitters, one on frequency shift and the other on on-off keying transmission. Terminal equipment consisted of two Model 26 reperforators.

Patching facilities were through a teletype switchboard BD 100, thus enabling the Yokohama line circuit to be patched through to the Melbourne R.T.T. link as a direct relay channel for both send and receive circuits.

It was feared that ionospheric conditions on the Kure-Melbourne link would not be favourable at that hour of the day for 100 per cent. copy. However, the circuit was ZHN1 both ways for the entire transmission period. The channel was a great success and is a good indication of the communications of the future and of the probable extent of Allied co-operation in that field.

The Britcom Base Signal Office is once more a Commonwealth concern as it was in the early days of the Occupation in 1946-7, with members from Australia, Britain, Canada and New Zealand working side by side. In addition, the office is now assuming a truly Allied aspect, with members of the U.S. Army Signal Corps working on shifts with

Commonwealth personnel. A considerable number of Japanese operators and technicians from the Japanese Bureau of Telecommunications is also employed. The benefits of such "combined ops" in promoting co-operation, and the team spirit that has developed from the friendships and friendly rivalries between the members of the various nations give promise of even closer Commonwealth and Allied ties in the future.

A comedy revue, "Sweet and Lovely," was presented by members of the Regiment and Britcom General Hospital at the Theatre Royal, Kure, on 7th July, 1952.

The month's sporting events saw the Regiment with an unbroken run of successes on the cricket field, while on 5th July all members of the Regiment joined in a tabloid sports meeting. Emphasis was placed on teamwork, and the competition was keen and well-sustained throughout the afternoon, as indicated by the points scored: Tem.-Technical Maintenance, 197 points; H.Q. Squadron, 194; Cipher, 184; Odds and Ends, 178; Wireless Troop, 172; Operational Troop "B" Shift, 162; Operational Troop "D" Shift, 154; and Operational Troop "A" Shift, 143.

Territorial Army

ARMY PHANTOM SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A. (Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment)

As hosts to the London and Home Counties' Royal Signals Association Reunion Rally, to be held on Saturday, 18th October, we are looking forward to a pleasant gathering of the clans at our Hammersmith Headquarters, close to The Broadway. The evening will include a programme by the Corps Band and other top-line entertainment.

Shooting has been in the news for us lately, with Sergeant Ceazar winning the T.A. Signals Individual Shoot at Pirbright on 24th August. More recently a combined Regimental and Old Comrades' Rifle Meeting was held at Bisley on a very wet Sunday. The standard of shooting suffered somewhat, but a mobile bar helped to maintain the spirits of the moist marksmen. With the memory of that day still quite fresh, it is to be hoped that the watery title "Octopus" is not a bad omen for our next outdoor activity—a long-range wireless exercise with some patrols in Norfolk and others in Somerset.

23 (SOUTHERN) CORPS SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

The climax, indeed the purpose, of our year's training took place on Salisbury Plain in July. This Unit was privileged to provide communications for H.Q., 2 Corps—an ordeal we faced with trepidation but overcame, though we say it ourselves, with at least some success. That it was possible in 15 days to make first a Unit team out of 540 all ranks, including "Z" Reservists, and then go out on exercise as part of a Corps Headquarters put a great strain on the volunteer element, and any complimentary words that may have been spoken do them credit indeed.

When we arrived at Carter Barracks, Bulford, the sight of the M.T. park was enough to send most of us home on the first train—more than 200 vehicles, motor cycles and trailers, and there were rumours of mountains of stores and particularly cable. However, after shooting all the "Zs"—or perhaps we should more accurately say classifying them on the open range—we moved out on Tuesday on our own signal exercise. With so many learners loose amongst so much technical equipment, communications were decidedly sketchy for 24 hours—and perhaps that is being over-complimentary. Twenty-four hours later we had completed a short move and the teething troubles were beginning to disappear. Another 12 hours and we found ourselves in an Ordnance Depot midst guns of every sort. Now there was a feeling of confidence and we made a night move most successfully, though Romsey seemed to have a fatal fascination for our R.E.M.E. friends. And so the inevitable tally-ho and gallop back to Bulford. To sit on the main road near Salisbury and try to listen to Test Match and direct traffic whilst the chase was on was frightening in the extreme.

On Saturday our Corps Commander inspected us, transport and all, and gave us a heartening talk. Sunday morning, after a drumhead service, we marched past him, and during the afternoon he was kind enough to come up and see our sports gathering, which included numerous races, not forgetting the children, a tug-of-war, mast-erecting, and concluded with a motor cycle display, which went with a real swing, and that in spite of very restricted opportunities for practice.

From Monday onwards we became part of the Corps H.Q., and away into the blue we went. Things began to work straight away and we became almost too confident. There were the inevitable mistakes, some big, some small, but nothing could hide the fact that a remarkable amount of progress was achieved. We came back tired, some very tired, but with a feeling of satisfaction that it had all been very much worthwhile.

To our "Z" Reservists, and particularly the Senior N.C.O.s, we extend our thanks for their enthusiasm and hard work, and open invitation to visit us, if only socially, at Fulham House.

The Regiment made its mark at the London District T.A. Royal Signals Rifle Meeting held at Pirbright on 24th August by winning the Unit Challenge Trophy (a magnificent "Jimmy"). This success was scored by the Unit "A" Team, comprising Captain L. J. Burrows, Captain W. B. Davis and Lieutenant E. Barker. The L.A.D. have good cause to feel proud as the Young Soldiers Individual Competition was won by one of their National Service volunteers, namely, Craftsman Ryan.

51 (H) INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

The annual training camp of the 51st (H) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment (T.A.) was held this year at Stobs Camp, near Hawick, from 28th June to 12th July, under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel T. P. E. Murray, O.B.E., T.D. Although there was some rain at the start of the second week, the weather on the whole was ideal and training and normal camp routine were carried out in blazing sunshine.

This year, as last, there was in addition to the normal T.A. complement attending camp a number of "Z" Reservist Officers and men, some of whom were called up last year and enjoyed their period of service so much that they volunteered to attend again this year. After the initial strangeness of finding themselves back in the Army, the "Z" men settled down quickly and worked well with their T.A. comrades. The first day or two in camp was necessarily spent in kitting out the "Z" men, issuing technical stores and transport to the various signal troops under the eagle eye of the Quartermaster, Major J. D. T. Hillman, M.B.E., T.D., and fitting personnel in their working detachments. As soon as this was completed, the Squadrons got down to serious training.

For 2 Squadron, camp this year was a new peacetime experience. On Tuesday evening of the first week the

Squadron moved across the Border to Otterburn and Redesdale R.A. Firing Practice Camp, where the Troops joined their respective Field Regiments, R.A. The first scheme began at 0645 hours the next day. The short time available for drawing stores and for installing wireless sets in vehicles put a great strain on everyone, and particular praise is due to S.Q.M.S. Blair who sorted things out very quickly. But it was not all work. The highlight of the first week was a very successful tabloid sports meeting on the Saturday afternoon. The sun shone brightly, rivalry between the various Squadrons and Troops was keen, and there were present a number of friends of the Regiment, including Lady Hunter and Lady Edwards. The prizes were presented by Mrs. Third, wife of the Regiment's popular Medical Officer, Major J. R. S. Third, T.D. The inter-troop sports cup was won by "J" Troop of 1 Squadron, and the tug-of-war was won by a team from 1 Squadron after some strenuous pulling against 3 Squadron. In the evening, after the sports, an All Ranks' dance was held in Hawick, at which the men entertained some of the many friends they made in the town since their arrival at camp.

On Sunday the Regiment attended church parade in the Y.M.C.A., which was followed by a ceremonial march past, headed by the Regimental Pipes and Drums. The salute was taken by the Divisional Commander.

The Chief Signal Officer, Brigadier R. W. Morgan, O.B.E., and the Honorary Colonel, Colonel E. Birnie-Reid, O.B.E., T.D., visited the camp during the middle week-end and attended the Regimental Guest Night in the Officers' Mess.

Later in the day the annual drill competition and communications race took place, both of which were judged by Colonel E. Birnie-Reid and won by 3 Squadron. The Pipes and Drums travelled to South Shields, where they gave a performance in the public parks there.

So much for the first week in camp. On Monday of the second week the Regiment moved down to the Otterburn area in Northumberland as part of a Divisional Exercise. 2 Squadron remained with the Divisional Artillery during this exercise. A number of "Uncle" targets were shot and the "Z" Reservist operators proved that they had mastered artillery procedure. The Squadron performed its task well and everyone was pleased. Unfortunately, the weather broke down temporarily, and the linemen and despatch riders particularly had a very wet time on the first night. There were few grumbles, however, and the sun came out again on the second day of the exercise. Everyone—operators, D.R.s, linemen and drivers—were on their toes throughout the exercise and, though there wasn't much chance of sleep while it was on, the Regiment returned to camp at a late hour on Wednesday having the satisfaction of knowing that they had fulfilled their exacting function of providing the considerable wireless and line communications required in these days by a Division in the field.

The Regiment extends congratulations and best wishes to Major J. M. Wotherspoon and Captain G. Louden, both of whom have been married since camp.

53rd (W) DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

The blousy old lady in Worcester town said: "It's two miles to Norton Camp, dearie, but is it worth it?" Such was our rather sinister introduction to our home for the next fortnight. However, the two miles was well worth it, and Norton proved to be by far the best camp site we have had post-war.

The mixture was the same as last year. Take "Z" Reservists, National Service men and a hard core of T.A. types and permanent staff, mix well and cook in an even temperature for four days and viola! A signal regiment which performed miracles on two exercises, lasting seven days.

Lieutenant-Colonel Goldsmith, our new "chef-de-cuisine," established a happy and business-like atmosphere from the start, and the only recorded grumble we heard was from an umpire who insisted there was no output in an aerial and, having seized it, later returned to earth with burnt fingers and a certain respect for the Regiment.

The priceless gift of glorious weather made the exercises most enjoyable.

The two main social activities were the Officers' Mess guest night and a similar function at the W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess. We have at last found a use for our doctor, and this year, as P.M.C. of the Officers' Mess, Major Mullen has done a great job.



53rd Welsh Divisional Signal Regiment Annual Dinner

A distinguished company, which included our Honorary Colonel, the Chairman of the Glamorgan T.A., the C.R.A. and the C.S.O., sat down to what was the best Mess dinner we have had in years.

The W.O.s' and Sergeants' guest night was held in Worcester and was on a lavish scale. The Commanding Officer and R.S.M., relying on the Second-in-Command's map reading, lost the way and arrived late. In a matter of seconds the Commanding Officer caught up with the beer consumption; he was offered a pint of beer in one hand, whilst at the same time a waiter deposited a further pint by accident in his hat. The hat will take some time to recover!

Our "O" Troop won the inter-troop soccer cup, and our Adjutant, Captain Hesketh (an abstemious man), ran away with the Officers' revolver competition.

I wish there was time to tell you about "Flossie," but her story must wait. . . .

61 H.Q. ARMY SIGNAL REGIMENT (T.A.)

Squadrons and Troops of this Regiment have attended 10 different camps this summer with their parent formations or regiments. As the camps have been as widely separated as Felixstowe to Penhales, in Cornwall, and Chester to Shorncliffe, the Regiment's vehicles have done an enormous mileage. In spite of this, only one accident has occurred, which reflects considerable credit on the drivers.

Thanks to the posting of "Z" Reservists, every Troop was made up approximately to war establishment, consequently most valuable full-scale training has been carried out. A notable feature has been the speed with which the "Z" Reservists got back their skill at their old trades.

Priority is now being given to practice for the Regimental Small Arms Meeting, to be held at Barton Mills range shortly.

East Anglian District Motor Cycle Trial.—The Regiment entered four teams. 161 Brigade Signal Squadron's team was 4th (best T.A. team), R.H.Q. "A" team was 6th. Twenty-seven teams competed.

In the individual event, Captain Johnson was 6th and Unit riders also took 9th, 11th, 12th, 16th and 23rd places out of 104 competitors.

Regimental Motor Cycle Trial is this year being held near Luton on 19th October.

T.A.R.A. Small Bore League.—Each of the six T.A.C.s has entered a team for the league this winter.

The monthly square dance at R.H.Q. has now become an established and popular function.

No. 1 Squadron, 63 H.Q., L. of C. Signal Regiment (T.A.) (Civil Assistance Squadron)

This Unit was made up to strength with "Z" Reservists and took up residence for two weeks at Blacon Camp. It was the first time that we have had to fend for ourselves and the experience was very salutary.

191 Line Troop were detached to a distance of 85 miles to lay lines for Exercise Crown Derby, and in order to keep in touch, a daily pigeon service was instituted. The birds were borrowed from a homing society in Chester and, after a few initial misunderstandings (the Secretary of the society was called Mr. Tite), the service worked smoothly.

Exercise Satanic, devised to establish six 10-set and 53-set stations on adjacent hills, worked far better than anyone could have hoped, but such was the keenness of the outstation personnel that the 48-hour exercise turned into a 72-hour one. Our 10-set Officer, Len Tweeddale, drove from set to set clearing faults and achieved 100 per cent. communication and the record mileage of the Squadron. As no breakdowns occurred, two mock bombings were needed to ensure the necessary panic.



Lieut. Page-Phillips receives a pigeon message from Lieut. Beck, W.R.A.C.

134 Constructions Troop laid a successful line over the River Dee, with no casualties at the crossing.

A fight-to-the-finish cricket match against 51 Air Formation Signal Regiment was lost by four runs, but the highlight of the sporting programme was a baseball match against the United States Air Force at Sealand. Fortunately, the word "rounders" was only whispered! Owing to lack of comprehension of the scoring, it is still uncertain who won, but we can guess!

There was a great spirit of co-operation between T.A., N.S. and "Z," and camp, 1952, finished with an impromptu firework display (outside the camp area).

A memorable two weeks and no regrets.



Signalman "Taffy" Griffiths strikes a "home run"

63 H.Q., L. OF C. SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

The Regiment attended annual camp at Chickerell, near Weymouth, for the period 2nd to 16th August. The weather was reasonably good throughout the period and everyone voted the camp an outstanding success.

The two-day exercise during the second week in camp proved of great value. Keenness was shown by all ranks, both in the field and in camp.

A very successful farewell dance was held at the T.A. Centre, Weymouth, on Thursday, 14th August. Credit is due to Captain Hawke and his helpers for the arrangements so well organised.

★

Our final ceremonial parade was held on Friday, 15th August, at which the C.S.O. Southern Command took the salute. This parade was almost marred by rain, but fortunately the rain stopped within ten minutes of the appointed hour, and all went well.

We are very grateful to the various committees who attended to the social side of camp.

We were very pleased to have Captain Cavanagh, W.R.A.C., attached to us as training officer for 56 Signal Squadron, W.R.A.C.

It is with regret we have to record that this is the last T.A. camp for Major Field and Captain Spearpoint. We will miss them both next year.

35 (U) A.A. INDEPENDENT (M) SIGNAL SQUADRON (T.A.)

The Unit held its annual camp in the early part of the summer months, and without doubt had the best of the weather. The "Z" Reservists turned up in full strength and soon settled down to their soldiering with the Squadron and did a real good job of work; we only hope that some of the chaps can get with us again next year, for many expressed their wishes to that effect and stated that they had had an excellent fortnight and felt very much at home.

This year at camp an annual dinner was held at one of the local hotels. This proved a great success and it is hoped that the committee will make this a regular feature for coming years.

We wish to congratulate S.S.M. J. Walsh and S.Q.M.S. P. McNaughton on getting one rung further up the ladder.

We are hoping to take part in the usual motor cycle trials again this year with two of the old team and a replacement for Corporal C. Carter, who has now left us and emigrated to Australia.

FULHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL HONOURS ITS TWO T.A. REGIMENTS

To wind up an annual holiday I strolled over Putney Bridge and through Bishops Park. On entering the park I noticed that a large crowd was looking at the flower garden immediately inside the gates, and being of an inquisitive nature I naturally had a peep myself. Imagine my surprise when I found myself looking at a replica of the Royal Signals Badge and the inscription " 23rd (S) Corps Signal Regiment, T.A.," all in growing plants and without a single plant growing in the wrong direction. As an ex-Regular soldier of pre-war vintage, I was very proud to see such a wonderful reproduction of my old badge, and it took my mind back to the days of long ago in Catterick, Aldershot, Iraq, India and Bulford, when similar things were attempted by serving soldiers, but not such a wonderful attempt as this one.

Also in the same garden there was a replica of the Royal Artillery Badge bearing the inscription " 264 Field Regiment, T.A."

W. J. EVENDEN.

56 Signal Squadron, W.R.A.C. (T.A.)



Signal Office Staff, H.Q., 1 Army, resting after night duty

★

Another camp is over and once again a good time was had by all and a very interesting 15 days, too.

Our new Officer Commanding, Captain K. W. Samuels, arrived only six days before we left for Chickerell Camp, Weymouth, and her plaintive cry of " I know nothing about Signals " was very quickly lost as she found her way around and began to pick up all the technical jargon.

Once again we camped with 63 H.Q. L. of C. Signal Regiment, who were a tower of strength with their liaison.

For 48 hours we were out in the field on Exercise Rabbit. 10 A.S.S.U. and 15 Wireless Squadron were included in this, and Signal Offices personnel were kept on their toes watching for saboteurs. The exercise was voted a great success; experience was gained by faults found, and satisfaction from the final conference when it was discovered we " did quite well."

436 Tele. Op. Troop (Southampton) won the efficiency cup for the third year running. Keep it up, Southampton!

476 T.S.B.O. Troop (Bridgwater) won the Squadron netball cup. It was brawn that did it!

Apart from that, our other exercise was P.T. every morning, and how hard it seemed at first to " rise and shine " at 0655 hours.

Our P.S.I., W.O.II Buckle, seemed to be everywhere—in the Signal Office—first on P.T., playing netball (falling down, too), and " in the field."

Colonel E. S. MacFie, T.D., D.D.W.R.A.C., Southern Command, paid us a visit on 14th August. In the evening a dance was held for the whole camp in the Drill Hall. The Squadron turned out in full force. Brigadier E. S. Cole, C.B.E., and Lieutenant-Colonel S. F. Pipe-Wolferstan joined the merry throng and the evening was voted a great success.

On 15th August we had our ceremonial parade. Brigadier E. S. Cole, C.B.E., took the salute and complimented everyone on their smart turnout.

Then came Saturday, 16th August, and the weather was in sympathy with our mood. The heavens opened, and there were very damp and rather downcast W.R.A.C. climbing into transport as the permanent staff waved them goodbye.

Now all that was left was checking stores (deficiencies? no, of course not—at least we hope not!), and with a last look at the Chesil Bank we said goodbye to Chickerell Camp and began to look forward to the camp of 1953.

ARMY WIRELESS RESERVE SQUADRON, ROYAL SIGNALS, S.R.

The formation of the above Squadron has now been announced. It will be of special interest to radio amateurs and others with technical or operating experience. Officers and Other Ranks may be recruited from anywhere in the United Kingdom. The training liability is 15 days annually. Further details are available from the Commandant, H.Q. S.R. Depot and Training Centre, Royal Signals, Blacon Camp, Blacon, Chester, or the Officer Commanding Squadron, Major D. W. J. Haylock, 230 Devonshire Avenue, Southsea, Hants (Amateur Radio G3ADZ), to whom you are invited to write without obligation.

Association Notes

Eastbourne

Mr. Paling and Tunbridge Wells brought off another success on Saturday, 13th September. A well-attended meeting successfully launched the Eastbourne Branch. Chairman, Captain J. A. Handford; treasurer, Mr. Walters; committee, Messrs. J. C. R. Cook, L. C. B. Frere, D. D. Williams. The Hon. Secretary, Mr. P. J. McKeown, 120 Northbourne Road, is ready and eager to enrol new members.

Chester

Our meetings are well attended, with an average of 35 members at our monthly meetings, held in the Cross Foxes Hotel, Chester, on the first Thursday of each month.

Our annual summer outing was held this year on Sunday, 17th August, when two coaches full of smiling Signals types and their families left for the sands of Pensarn, North Wales. The weather was kind to us at first but turned to rain during the late afternoon, consequently more than one of our members were wet inside and out, due to their excursions to the rear of one coach, where Major Cooke admirably looked after the "liquid refreshments." Being in Wales on a Sunday, complete with glasses, we were the envy of all passers-by.

It was during this trip that we learned of the departure of our Chairman, Lieutenant-Colonel W. E. Gill, from Chester. Lieutenant-Colonel Gill had been our chairman for the past five years and this news of his departure came as a great shock to all present.

On Thursday, 28th August, at the Highfield Hotel, Blacon, 35 members enjoyed a farewell "stag" party given in honour of our Chairman, at which he was presented with a table lighter, to remind him each time he used it of the enjoyable hours he had spent with the Chester Branch.

The Chairman officially said farewell to the Branch at the September meeting, when all present stood and drank his health.

Exeter

We had a very memorable day on Sunday, 31st August, when quite a good number of our members with their wives accepted the kind invitation of Lieutenant-Colonel P. G. Goodeve-Docker, Commanding The Depot Regiment at Denbury Camp, near Newton Abbot, to spend the day there on the occasion of the visit of the Corps Band. We attended the church service, paraded and marched past with the troops, had a splendid lunch, enjoyed a very lively cricket match between the Officers and W.O.s and N.C.O.s of the Depot, partook of an excellent tea in very pleasant surroundings, listened with delight to the Corps Band concert, and altogether spent a most delightful day. We shall long remember the kindness we received at Denbury, and we are extremely grateful for the welcome given us. We left hoping that the Depot Regiment will stay on at Denbury for many years and that we may have the opportunity of another such visit.

We met members of the Torquay Branch there, and it was a red-letter day, for several of our older members, who met old friends of the Poona, etc., days, had a very busy time indeed! The weather was good and we liked the camp's lovely situation.

The outing reminded some of us old hands of what we term the "Bulford days," when we used to take a bus load for the week-end to the 3rd Signals for a reunion.

Prescot

At the half-yearly general meeting, held in August, a committee for social affairs was elected, and their first effort was to entertain the Prescot Police on the evening of 12th September. We have also a darts team in the local "301" League, which begins its season on 26th September.

We have also elected a visitor of the sick, his duties consisting of visiting members of the Branch who are on the "sick list" and taking a few small comforts to them.

No. 14 Unit Branch

(H.Q., 3 L. of C. Signal Regiment, M.E.L.F.)

Major R. O. Edwards proudly reports that over 200 have joined the Association as *life* members during the first year of the Branch's existence. *This is indeed a magnificent report.*—ED.



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Orsett

(1 A.A. [M] Signal Regiment)

Three months have quietly, but very quickly, rolled by since the birth of this Branch. Many members have left us, and it is hoped they have taken our good advice by joining their nearest local Branch.

More have joined, and our total membership is now in the region of 90.

The Branch Secretary and 24 members paid a visit to the rally held in Tunbridge Wells. This was the commencement of many applications for membership. The youngsters saw for themselves the wonderful spirit of comradeship which existed. Old friends shaking hands, perhaps for the first time in 15 or 16 years, and the wonderful performance of the Corps Band did a full share in showing the meaning of our Corps spirit.

The next Regimental Week-end and Old Comrades' Reunion is being held in November. Any nearby branches or individuals will be more than welcome. For information, please write to the Secretary, Lieutenant W. S. Dawson.

The next event, the London Rally and Reunion in October, will have the fullest possible support from this Branch. Lieutenant Dawson and S.Q.M.S. Raymond attended the Annual Reunion at Catterick.

By the time these notes are published, the Branch St. Leger draw will have taken place, and cries of " I've got a horse! " will probably be heard resounding through the Unit lines.

Our monthly meetings are held on the last Wednesday of each month. Members of Royal Signals or ex-members are cordially invited to call on us, should they be around this area.

Royal Signals Benevolent Fund

Also on this page is a simple statement of income and expenditure. Below an attempt is made to describe with suitable anonimity seven cases taken at random from the office of the Welfare Section at 88 Eccleston Square.

Ex-Sergeant, wrongfully accused and discharged by his employer, exonerated by court but unable to find other similar work, wrote after 15 months to the Association. Within one month the Benevolent Fund made him a small grant and through one of the branches of the Association found him a job.

Ex-Driver. Eldest child fell ill, wife in hospital for second child's arrival, everything went wrong all at once. Husband lost two weeks' work so the Benevolent Fund and SSAFA helped them with a pram and arrears of mortgage on the house. We have since heard from Driver X that the family is now happily reunited and that he will repay the Benevolent Fund.

Wife of a serving Signalman wrote in great distress that one of her children was dangerously ill in hospital and she could not afford the not inconsiderable fares to visit him. Signalman makes an exemplary voluntary allotment. SSAFA recommended and the Benevolent Fund made a grant.

Wife of a serving Signalman has been in very bad health and on recommendation of Commanding Officer the Benevolent Fund is paying for her to receive some assistance with housework and the care of the four children.

Widow of Ex-Signalman who died very suddenly recently. The Benevolent Fund and the British Legion, who are now watching over the bereaved family, helped with the funeral expenses.

Elderly widow of Ex-Signalman who died recently. On the recommendation of one of the branches of the Association the Benevolent Fund has paid the considerable cost of fares to her home in Ireland for a holiday. The Branch also put her case to the Royal Patriotic Fund, who have granted her a small addition to her pension.

Ex-Signalman with chronic bronchitis and asthma. He wrote; SSAFA investigated; the Benevolent Fund paid his arrears of hire-purchase. The concerned Branch of the Association are now trying to find him some means of mechanical propulsion as his house is entirely surrounded by hills and he can't get out. He writes: " I feel humble but proud to have served in a Regiment which has the welfare of its ex-members at heart."

It is emphasised that these cases were selected from those current on ONE DAY in August, 1952.

ROYAL SIGNALS BENEVOLENT FUND

Subscriptions received during August, 1952:—

	£	s.	d.
3 Training Regiment	18	19	11
4 Training Regiment	10	0	0
15 AA (M) Signal Regiment	6	0	0
1 War Office Signal Regiment (Traffic)—"Z" Reservists	2	3	6
BETFOR Signals	10	0	0
Hong Kong Signal Regiment	5	0	0
H.Q. Mess	42	14	2

Donations received during August, 1952:—

D. Bevis	1	1	0
P. G. Ashcroft		19	0
H. Stevens		18	0
Total Receipts	£97	15	7

Expenditure during August, 1952 £467 16 0

(Includes: Beds and Bedding; Rent and Rates; General Assistance; Tools; Prams and Cots; Removals; Fares; Clothing; Hire Purchase.)

Analysis of cases:—

Families of soldiers serving in U.K.	6
,, ,, ,, ,, ,, B.A.O.R.	2
Widows and Dependants	6
Released and Discharged Soldiers	40
Total cases assisted	54

London District (T.A.) Rifle Meeting

ON Sunday, 24th August, Territorial Army Signals Regiments in London District assembled their best rifle shots on the Pirbright Ranges for the second London District Royal Signals (T.A.) Rifle Meeting. Much to the relief of all concerned, the weather was warm, visibility was good, and conditions for shooting could hardly have been better.

At 10 a.m. the meeting opened with an egg pool, which continued for about an hour and provided an excellent opportunity for zeroing rifles, even if no financial benefit resulted. In spite of a good deal of accurate shooting, there was only one " pay-out "—to Sergeant Holden, of 44 (H.C.) Divisional Signal Regiment.



London District (T.A.) Rifle Meeting, 1952—Unit Challenge Trophy Winners: 23 (S) Corps Signal Regiment (T.A.) Captain W. B. Davies, Royal Signals (T.A.), Lieutenant E. Barker, Royal Signals (T.A.), Captain L. J. Burrows, Royal Signals (T.A.) (team captain)

Then followed a competition for young soldiers under 24 years of age, whose period of service with the T.A. did not exceed two years. This was won by Craftsman Ryan, R.E.M.E., attached to 23 (S) Corps Signal Regiment, with Signalman Wrate, 56 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment, second, and Lieutenant Harding, 16 (A.B.) Divisional Signal Regiment third.

The next event was the Open Individual Competition, which consisted of two practices at 300 yards—the first being five rounds application, the second being 10 rounds (maximum) fired on a target exposed for 45 seconds. This was won by Sergeant Cezar, Signal Reporting Regiment (The Kensingtons); S.S.M. Griffiths, 2/20 Army Signal Regiment, was second, and Sergeant Hall, 23 (S) Corps Signal Regiment, was third.

★

After an interval for lunch, the first teams to fire for the Unit challenge trophy took their places on the firing point. This competition, which produced a great deal of friendly rivalry between the opposing teams, gave a good opportunity to spectators and those not actually firing to follow the fortunes of the respective teams. In each detail, the three competing teams (each of three members), having loaded their rifles (and applied safety catches), laid these on the 300 yards firing point and retired to the 400 yards firing position. The appearance of three snap targets in the butts opposite each team was the signal for teams to run forward to the 300 yards position and engage; not until all three snap targets had been hit and lowered did the 4ft. target appear on which the teams could register shots to count for the competition.

The winning team came from 23 (S) Corps Signal Regiment, with The Kensingtons second and 16 (A.B.) Divisional Signal Regiment (last year's winners) third. The third place was decided by a further shoot, after a tie between 16 (A.B.) Divisional Signal Regiment "A" team and 23 (S) Corps Signal Regiment "B" team.

The last event, which was very popular amongst the onlookers, was a pool competition for the ladies who had come along to the meeting.

Brigadier Firth was present to present the individual challenge cup and the Unit challenge trophy. In addition, the winning individuals and teams in each competition received silver plaques, and those placed second and third received silver and bronze medals respectively.

Lieutenant-Colonel Stoneley, Chief Signal Officer, London District, thanking Brigadier Firth for so kindly coming to present the prizes, said that he hoped that this meeting, which had been very well supported and provided an excellent opportunity for members of the T.A. Signal Regiments in London to meet each other, would continue as an annual fixture.

Two Second Prizes for "Cito"

THOSE who follow R.S.S.A. affairs will know of the committee's policy to enter a representative Corps crew in certain important sailing events. The primary object was, of course, to put the Corps on the map (or perhaps one should say on the chart) in the sailing world; but first it was necessary to build up a body of members with racing experience, particularly with experience of handling "Cito" in races.

This policy paid its first dividends last week when, by winning two second prizes of £3 each, "Cito" more than recovered all her entry fees for the season.

The following are some details of the racing in the West Solent week:—

25th August, Royal Lymington Y.C. Regatta, 20-30ft. Handicap.—Results: 1st, "Josephine II"; 2nd, "Cito"; 3rd, "Glory." (Six started.) "Cito's" crew was Colonel Smijth-Windham (skipper), Majors Rayner and Wolfendale, and Mrs. Smijth-Windham (in place of the Commodore, General Scott, who was prevented from taking part).

26th August, Royal Lymington Y.C. Regatta.—Results: 1st, "Josephine II"; 2nd, "Cito"; 3rd, "Red Gauntlet." (Six started.) "Cito's" crew was Colonel Smijth-Windham (skipper), Majors Eerskine, Sumner and Elliott.

27th August, Lymington Town Sailing Club Regatta. Strong wind. (Six started, only two finished.)—1st, "Cosette"; 2nd, "Saluki." "Cito" retired owing to starboard runner slide pulling up from deck. Crew: Major Eerskine (skipper), Colonels Smijth-Windham and Mountford, Major Sumner.

28th August, Royal Solent Y.C. Regatta, Yarmouth.—In this race, "Cito" finished third to "Josephine II" and "Sachse," having wasted time by mistaking one of the marks in the course. Crew: Colonel Mountford (skipper), Major Rayner and Lieutenant Roach (W.R.A.C. attached Southern Command Signal Regiment).

29th August, Royal Solent Y.C. Regatta.—"Cito" only just failed to get a winning gun. She was leading within 60 yards of the finishing line when the wind died; two of her rivals then found a breeze and finished ahead of her. Hard luck on her crew, which was Lieutenant-Colonel Nepean (skipper), Major Wolfendale, Captain Bardell and Lieutenant Haslett.

30th August, R.A.S.C. Regatta, Yarmouth.—"Cito" gave up owing to lack of wind. Crew: Major Wolfendale (skipper), Lieutenant-Colonel Nepean, Captain Bardell.

Stop Press.—Major Felton is in the process of handing over his secretaryship of the R.S.S.A. to Major E. H. M. Rayner, H.Q. Southern Command.



THE WIRE

The Corps Magazine of the
ROYAL SIGNALS
The Official Organ of the
SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

Editor:
BRIGADIER H. R. FIRTH

All correspondence and matter for publication for THE WIRE *should be addressed to The Editor,* THE WIRE, *88 Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1. Matter for publication must be received by the 15th of the month preceding publication.*

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NOVEMBER • 1952
Vol. 6 No. 11

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PRICE ONE SHILLING

Editorial

NOVEMBER is very especially the month in which we remember our fallen comrades. There is the ceremony at the Cenotaph in Whitehall and all over the country in towns and villages ex-Servicemen gather round the War Memorials to remember. Many of us take part in these little parades or services, but all too many of us forget the other part of our obligations. There are widows, children, those physically handicapped as a result of war, and those who largely because of service with and for us, and the disability caused thereby are unable to make a go of it in civil life.

As readers of THE WIRE know, the Benevolent Fund exists to ensure that those in need are helped. It is an obligation, however, on us to help the Benevolent Fund to help them. The income of the Fund comes from many sources, including subscriptions and donations from Regiments both in the active Army and in the Territorial Army, from branches of the Association, and from individuals. Some Regiments of the active Army contribute magnificently, others contribute nothing, or very little.

LONDON AND HOME COUNTIES REUNION

While this number of THE WIRE is being printed, the Drill Hall of the Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment, T.A., will be filled with Signalmen and their wives and friends gathered to renew old friendships, making new ones and listening to a band concert such as only the Royal Signals Band can give.

There will be a speech by Major-General Sir Leslie G. Phillips, K.B.E., C.B., M.C., instead of by the 1952 Representative Colonel-Commandant, General Naylor, who is visiting Regiments of the Corps in Germany.

A full account will appear in the December number of THE WIRE.

"THE WIRE" FOR 1953

Enclosed with this number, and also in the December number, is an Order Form, and readers should consider the advantage of completing this form so that THE WIRE may be posted direct to them.

During 1952, for the first time since the war, THE WIRE has not lost money. It has been reduced in size, but many have been kind enough to say that it has not been reduced over-much in quality. This has been possible because the circulation figure has kept up, and also by most careful budgetting. Another contributory factor has been an increase in income from advertising. There is, however, each year an awkward period in January and February because very many delay in filling in the Order Form. This has two effects. Firstly, those who do not send the Order Form in before the end of December do not get the January number; secondly, the subsequent drop in circulation causes a loss in income from advertising. The scheme under which advertisements in THE WIRE are paid for relates a substantial portion of the revenue to the number of copies sold.

This, the November number, is by design a small one. We have been overspending in August, September and October, and we must save up for the Christmas number.

KOREA

THE WIRE has frequently recommended its readers to do what they can, by knitting and providing books, to make the winter a little less unpleasant for men of the 1st Commonwealth Divisional Signal Regiment. Your Association has done its small part in this worthwhile act.

It is right to emphasise that the Signal Regiment and also Britcom Base Signal Squadron are well provided for in the matter of clothing. At the same time we should not relax our efforts. Our men may be well clothed but it is the personal possession that makes the difference. Their morale is very very high but books do help during long winter evenings.

The British Forces in Korea include also men from Canada, Australia, New Zealand and India. There is little we can do to show our pride in our men. Let us continue to do that little. Socks, scarves, gloves, books should be posted to either the Regiment or the Squadron. The address: B.A.P.O. 3.

"Little and often" should be our motto so that we do not lag behind others in thoughtful generosity.

Incidentally, the 1st Commonwealth Divisional Signal Regiment is amongst the best "GIVERS" to the Benevolent Fund.



Vale

BRIGADIER B. B. KENNETT, C.B.E.

"BILL" KENNETT belongs to that now very diminished band of Officers of Royal Signals who started their Army career in another branch of the Service. We of Royal Signals owe a great deal to the fact that such as he brought to us something of the traditional outlook of other Regiments and that most valuable of assets to a Signal Officer, an understanding of the work of other arms of the Service.

Commissioned in 1917 in the Royal Artillery, he was Mentioned in Despatches for gallantry whilst with the Australian Corps, and their standards were high.

He, like all of his contemporaries, transferred to Royal Signals in 1924, and brought with him the habit of thinking first of his job, then of his men, and long after that of himself, which was to make him an example to all with whom he served.

For the next eleven years his life took a normal course. He spent much of it in Egypt, but there was little to mark him out as one who was to do us great service. There was one attribute not given to a majority. He was then, and, indeed, still is, completely imperturbable. However well or badly things go Bill Kennett remains very much the same: a meeting, a jest and then to business, but always with a twinkle in those very clear eyes which inspires such confidence in those who serve with him.

His first official mark was made as Staff Captain at the Signal Training Centre. In these days of inflated staffs that does not mean much. In 1931 there were only two staff officers and this appointment meant that the officer who held it had been marked for advancement.

In 1935 he went back to the Middle East, where he was to do some of his best work. He served the Egyptian Frontiers Administration in 1935 and 1936 and went on to similar work in Palestine and Trans-Jordan in the latter part of that year. His friends guessed there was more to it than the bald statement shows and this guess was verified when he was appointed a member of the Order of the British Empire in 1936.

These two years especially cast a shadow before them. He had previously had service in the Middle East, learning and speaking Arabic and all in preparation. Promoted Major in 1937 he gained a year on the great levelling of the Belisha promotions in 1938.

The Second Great War did not come to him early, for his promotion to Lieutenant-Colonel in 1942 found him still in England on the staff of Headquarters, Northern Command. He had been an acting Colonel since March of that year.

He was C.S.O. 12 Corps from 1942 during the years of preparation and then of achievement in the great battles from Normandy to the Rhine. It is given to few to be with a Corps Headquarters throughout its training and throughout its fighting. His promotion to Commander in the Order of the British Empire came in June 1945.

As soon as the war in Europe was over Kennett moved back to the Middle East. Nine months as C.S.O. in Persia and Iraq and then for two arduous years, 1946-48, as C.S.O. in Palestine. He then had leave! But not for long as he became C.S.O. Southern Command in England in November 1948. This used to be as pleasant and peaceful an appointment as one could wish for at the end of one's service, but things have changed since then.

As C.S.O. 12 Corps he had been building up his resources, and left before these resources ran down to nothing. In Palestine his means were small for the size of the task, but he did have men and equipment. In Southern Command in 1948 there was very little of everything. The Territorial Army which was perhaps his main pre-occupation, composed then of a few enthusiasts, was his main asset. There was a deal of planning, many exercises without adequate means, and much travelling.

Being Kennett, it was no surprise to find that his "nights at home" were few. Even the smallest Squadron or even Troop of the Territorial Army was sure of frequent visits. Invitations to functions held by branches of the Association were seldom if ever refused, and then only because he had another duty. Southern Command is large geographically. The success of Mercury House, Bournemouth, owes much to his leadership of the House Committee and to his careful overseeing of the business side.

As always he "built," and a measure of his success is the fact that his last training season included Staff and Signal exercises for two Divisions and of the Headquarters of the Second Corps.

Now, after 35 years' service, what sort of a memory does he leave behind him?

During his long service he came into contact with very many, both of the Regular Army, the Territorial Army, and those who served for the war only. The writer, who has considerable acquaintance with all of these, has never heard anyone speaking of Kennett except in terms of affection and esteem. Affection first, because being himself entirely without thought of self aggrandizement he put first the job, and second the men and women who worked with and for him. Entirely without conceit he invariably appeared to be in sympathy and on a level with all whom he came in contact from Signalmen to Generals. He gained the confidence of his men easily. They always gave their best to him. His gaiety and his way of getting on equal terms with all conditions of men remained with him until the end of his service, and he is perhaps the least pompous of any senior officer that any of us have met. Indeed, it has not been unusual to find Bill Kennett, although senior in years and in rank, quite easily and quite without it being noticed going under orders of "the man on the spot," and when the affair or small crisis was settled, largely by his assistance, then only did he resume the mental position of being the one who gave the orders, and not the one who received them.

Royal Signals have been, and are, well served by the Kennetts. The above brief sketch of his career is enhanced

by the knowledge that his wife, equally a friend to very many, served in A.T.S. Signals in the rank of Junior Commander, and that his son is even now a Regular Officer in the Corps keeping, we are sure, the tradition of his father. Above all else, Kennett was a traditionalist in his devotion to duty: nothing ever interfered with that, and in his devotion to, and the affection he inspired in, those who had the honour of serving him.

He has retired but he will not be Kennett if we do not see or hear more of him by way of helping Royal Signals to retain the proud position which we now occupy, largely because of the work of such as he.

PERSONAL COLUMN

Obituary

His many friends will be sorry to hear of the death of Lieutenant-Colonel P. E. Nolan at his home on 8th October.

A fuller notice will appear in December.

★

Lieutenant-Colonel (T.O.T.) R. A. Macintosh, O.B.E., M.S.M., retired in August 1952.

His service was long, commencing as an enlisted boy in the Royal Engineers in 1907. He passed the first Foreman of Signals Course in 1922, and in 1936 was granted a commission as Inspector of Permanent Communications. His many friends in the Corps will be glad to hear that he is still serving as a retired officer in Gibraltar and that his Meritorious Service Medal was awarded shortly before he retired.

Congratulations to

Lieutenant-Colonel W. E. Gill, T.D., on his promotion to Telephone Manager. By contrast the Chester Branch, of which he was chairman for five years, are extremely sorry that he has left. The Headquarters of the Association, however, take a longer view, and confidently expect the formation of a new branch in Peterborough in the not too distant future.

London Gazette

5th September, 1952 ... Brigadier B. B. Kennett, C.B.E., to R.A.R.O.

9th September, 1952 ... Lieutenant-Colonel L. T. Shawcross, O.B.E., to R.A.R.O., and granted honorary rank of Colonel.

Movements—Officers

Major F. T. C. Williams from M.E.L.F. to U.K.

Major T. V. Mulliss from School of Signals to East Africa.

Major W. C. Burke from FARELF to B.T.A.

Major D. L. Pounds from M.E.L.F. to B.A.O.R.

Major A. J. Leahy from Ministry of Supply to 1 Wireless Regiment.

Lieutenant-Colonel A. L. Atkinson from Korea to J.S.S.C.

Major B. C. Pigg from M.E.L.F. to U.K.

Major (T.O.T.) A. F. Goat from Western Command Signal Regiment to 2 War Office Signal Regiment.

Major (T.O.T.) R. E. Rickard from 2 War Office Signal Regiment to Western Command Signal Regiment.

Major (T.O.T.) E. A. T. Marchant from M.E.L.F. to Ministry of Supply, Bromley.

Captain (Q.M.) H. Russell from M.E.L.F. to 63 H.Q. L. of C. Signal Regiment, T.A.

Lieutenant (Cipher) P. Troft from Royal Australian Signals to 1 War Office Signal Regiment.

Major G. A. Flemming from FARELF to U.K. Hospital.

Major J. B. Birkett from Ministry of Supply to M.E.L.F.

Major H. C. Daniel from U.K. to M.E.L.F.

Major F. A. Felton from Amphibious Warfare H.Q. to Korea.

Major E. W. Barrett from War Office to M.E.L.F.

Major W. G. Holmes from School of Signals to B.A.O.R.

Captain (Q.M.) F. Spearpoint from 63 H.Q. L. of C. Signal Regiment to M.E.L.F.

Lieutenant-Colonel P. A. Duke from M.E.L.F. to School of Signals.

Lieutenant-Colonel D. White from School of Signals to War Office, A.G.5.

Major B. H. P. Barnes from M.E.L.F. to U.K.

Major A. P. Johnson from Ministry of Supply to FARELF.

Major E. G. Day from H.Q., S.T.C., to M.E.L.F.

Major P. A. Toombes from FARELF to 7 Training Regiment.

Major H. K. Milward from M.E.L.F. to School of Signals.

Movements of W.O.s and N.C.O.s

W.O.II (F. of S.) Pickering from Southern Command (M) Signal Regiment to London District Signal Troop.

S.Q.M.S. (F. of S.) Bayfield from London District Signal Troop to Malta Signal Squadron.

19 Air Formation Signal Regiment

Arrivals

Captain R. Hair, M.C., from War Office Signal Regiment.

Lieutenant (T.O.T.) A. C. Earl from 7 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment.

S.Q.M.S. Grummett from U.K.

Sergeant Moffatt from U.K.

Sergeant McCullough from U.K.

Departures

Lieutenant J. R. Garratt to U.K. for Subalterns Part II Course.

Lieutenant R. G. Thomas to U.K. for Subalterns Part II Course.

Sergeant Gallagher to U.K. for inter-tour leave.

7 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment

Arrivals

Captain W. A. T. Morecombe from M.E.L.F.

Lieutenant G. E. Thomas from 4 L. of C. Signal Regiment, B.A.O.R.

Lieutenant M. J. Hart from U.K.

Births

LAINE.—To Sergeant and Mrs. A. W. Laine, at Edinburgh, on 3rd September, 1952, a daughter, Heather Janis.

ROBERTS.—To Lieutenant and Mrs. Roberts, at Crowborough, Sussex, on 26th September, 1952, a son, Richard John Stephen.

WATKINSON.—To Signalman and Mrs. Watkinson, at Croydon, on 9th September, 1952, a son, Martin Trevor.

BUTT.—To Sergeant and Mrs. Butt, at Victoria, on 4th July, 1952, a daughter, Ena Cathrine.

(all the following are of 7 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment)

WARREN.—To Lance-Corporal and Mrs. R. F. Warren, at Hannover, on 25th May, 1952, a daughter, Susan Mai.

GRAINGER.—To Sergeant and Mrs. A. Grainger, on 18th July, at Hannover, a daughter, Kathleen Margaret.

WOODHEAD.—To Lance-Corporal and Mrs. Woodhead, on 5th August, 1952, a son, Jack.

Marriages

HUGHES—SPARY.—At Feltham, on 27th September, 1952, Lance-Corporal Hughes, London District Signal Troop, to Miss S. Spary.

GILLAN—MARSHALL.—On 19th July, 1952, Corporal W. Gillan to Miss M. J. Marshall, at Tranent.

SAWYER—MARKHAM.—On 25th July, 1952, Signalman D. Sawyer to Corporal G. N. Markham, 23 Independent Company, W.R.A.C., at Edinburgh.

MARTIN—SUTHERLAND.—On 23rd August, 1952, Signalman M. Martin to Miss T. Sutherland, at Glasgow.

JOHNSON—FROMANT.—On 6th September, 1952, Signalman A. Johnson to Miss B. Fromant, at Southwark, London.

Deaths

PARKER.—22559554 Signalman R. Parker, on 15th September, 1952, in B.A.O.R.

DAVIS.—Mrs. D. Davis, wife of Driver D. Davis, on 27th September, 1952, at B.M.H., Hannover.

CORONATION PROCESSION

The Association is NOT in a position to give ANY assistance in obtaining seats to view the Coronation Procession.

Application has been made to the War Office for facilities for ex-Servicemen. IF any facilities are made available to the Association, notification will be made immediately in THE WIRE and NEWS LETTER.

CORPS PICTURES

In response to numerous enquiries the Association has arranged for photographic reproduction to be made of:—

THROUGH MENIN GATE (The Despatch Rider).

THE CABLE WAGGON.

These 24in. x 18in. with 3in. white border are obtainable from:—

Captain L. N. Lloyd,
36 Hampton Road,
Worcester Park, Surrey.

Price £1 12s. 6d. each.

Forthcoming Events

T.A. OFFICERS' "AT HOME," 1952

The tea party for Royal Signals Territorial Army Officers and their wives will be held this year at the Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, W.1, on Saturday, 6th December, 1952, at 4 for 4.30 p.m. Dress: Lounge suits.

The Colonel-in-Chief, H.R.H. The Princess Royal, C.I., G.C.V.O., G.B.E., has graciously accepted an invitation to be present.

Tickets (8s. 6d. per person) may be obtained from the Honorary Secretary, Royal Signals Dinner Club, Room 102, Horse Guards, Whitehall, S.W.1. Cheques should be made payable to Royal Signals Dinner Club.

DINNER AND "AT HOME," 1953

The dates for the Dinner and Regular Officers' "At Home" are 20th and 21st May respectively.

Royal Signals Rugby Football Club—Fixtures

October 25	...	Durham City	Durham
November 8	...	Huddersfield	Catterick
November 15	...	Cambridge University LX Club	Cambridge
November 22	...	Leeds University	Leeds

Royal Signals Hockey Club—Fixtures, 1952-53

1952—Date		Opponents	Ground
October 22	...	Trial	Catterick
November 22	...	R.A.E.C.	Beaconsfield
November 22	...	R.A.C., Catterick ...	Catterick
November 26	...	R.E.M.E.	Aborfield or Aldershot
December 3	...	R.M.A., Sandhurst ...	Sandhurst
December 4	...	R.A.O.C.	Blackdown
December 5	...	R.A.S.C.	Aldershot
December 6	...	Military College of Science	
1933			Shrivenham
January 31	...	Royal Engineers ...	Chatham

4th Indian Air Formation Signals

The Sixth Annual Reunion Dinner will be held in London on Saturday, 29th November. Those Officers who have not received personal notices but would like to attend are asked to get in touch with Lieutenant-Colonel H. V. Hayfield, 3 Valentine Avenue, Bexley, Kent, as soon as possible.

No. 24 Unit Branch

1 A.A. (M) Signal Regiment, Orsett Camp, Grays, are to hold another reunion of past and present members of the Corps on 29th-30th November. A full programme of entertainment is being prepared, which will include a church parade on the Sunday morning. Will any Branch members who wish to stay the night please contact the Hon. Secretary as soon as possible. All will be welcomed.

This Branch now has its own permanent (fully furnished) home in the camp, complete with all recreational amenities.

★

The Malayan Campaign Officers' Reunion will take place on Friday, 5th December, 1952, at the Mayfairia Rooms, 32 Bryanston Street, W.1. Tickets, price 17s. 6d., and particulars are obtainable from B. K. Castor, c/o Surrey County Cricket Club, Kennington Oval, S.E.11.

Note.—The rooms are on the corner of Bryanston and Quebec Streets, behind the Cumberland Hotel, W.1.

SENSE ABOUT SIGNALS

Sanctified by Red Tape, they can be more menace than help, and a case is presented for their alteration.

This very apposite paragraph in THE FIELD, 25th October, actually referred to road traffic signals—a pity!

mercury house
bournemouth

will be closed

from December 23rd to 31st

Both dates inclusive



WORLD VETERANS FEDERATION

In connection with the announcement that a number of British ex-Service Associations had joined the World Veterans' Federation, a reception was given in London in July. Our picture shows:—Left to right: Major-General C. W. Fladgate, chairman of the Royal Signals Association; Major-General R. F. H. Nalder, also of Royal Signals; Admiral of the Fleet Sir John Cunningham, president of the Royal Naval Association; Air Marshal Sir Richard H. Peck, president of the Royal Air Forces Association; Mr. A. Vautin, vice-president of the Australian Air Force Association; Group Officer Lady Seton, member of the Executive Committee of R.A.F.A.; Commodore Sir Roy Gill, vice-president of the R.N.A. The World Veterans' Federation is holding their 3rd General Assembly in London between the 5th and 11th December, 1952, and as mentioned in the October "Wire," Major-General C. W. Fladgate, C.B.E., the Chairman of the Association, is to be one of the British delegates to the Assembly

aldershot

1952

I FEEL certain the name "Aldershot" brings back memories to many present-day readers of THE WIRE.

I do not expect they would find much outward change. The playing fields and open spaces, especially round Queen's Avenue, are as green and well cared for as of old. The horse chestnut trees lining Queen's Avenue and Prince's Avenue (leading down to Mons Barracks) have, no doubt, grown bigger. They are a blaze of colour in spring and just now even the large juvenile population is unable to cope with the colossal crop of conkers.

Mons Barracks is now occupied by the Officers' Cadet School. As is to be expected, it is looked after extremely well.

"The Compound" (old wireless station) in Queen's Avenue is the Headquarters of Aldershot District Signal Squadron. It has not its pre-war importance but its gardens are among the most attractive in the station. The Officers' Club is as good as ever and is the best value for money in the country. The golf course was halved by the enlargement of the R.A.E., Farnborough, but is still a pleasant place to while away an hour or two on a Sunday morning. Three excellent holes were added in the old Government House grounds.

The Hippodrome presents its weekly "bright" shows. The names of the visiting companies are as seductive and racy as ever and, I believe, the audience is as "selective" as in those long past days. Phyllis Dixie still pays periodic visits and causes many hearts to flutter with her revelations of life in general and her study of form. The Royal has had a new lease of life owing to expert management and the efforts of the Aldershot Repertory Company.

There are still as many pubs and most of them seem to be doing well in spite of grouses by their managements about the change in temperament of the modern soldier. "The Princess," with tattoo artist and honky-tonk piano, still bashes away at week-ends.

I pass 22 pubs between "The Compound" and my home at Normandy. The wonderful new NAAFI Club, with its many amenities and attractions, is a serious rival to the "locals."

The Palais-de-Danse, R.E. Dance Hall and the R.A.S.C. dances are still going strong, and many of you old Aldershot "wallahs" will remember happy evenings spent there.

The "Gaff" Cinema at the corner of Prince's Avenue, and the Wellington, are in existence but are not showing films these days. The old cross-country run from Mons Barracks along the canal bank, past Ma Scruff's shack (where some used to stop for a cup of "char"), and across the playing fields is still open but is not such a popular circuit as when we were young.

The main change in Aldershot is the extinction of the horse. Except for an occasional patrol of the R.M.P. or an exercise party of the R.A.S.C., one seldom gets a thrill. Jets from the R.A.E. and strings of buses are the main noises, and one does miss the clipperty-clop of our equine friends.

EMPLOYMENT VACANCIES

Vacancies exist with the Ministry of Supply (I.E.M.E.), "Aquila," Golf Road, Bromley, Kent, for Departmental Examiners (Electronics). The following are eligible:—

(a) Ex-Line, Radio or Telegraph Mechanics, Class I; Ex-Foremen of Signals.
(b) Men who have had at least 3 years' trade experience in electronics (Service or civilian).

Pay ranges from £8 8s. 6d. (commencing rate) to £9 10s. 6d. per 5-day week of 44 hours. Examiners will normally be based at Bromley but may be required to travel anywhere in U.K. (subsistence allowances and payment for travelling time admissible during periods of detached duty).

Apply to above address.



Catterick Jottings

by nacerby

Field Marshal Sir W. Slim arriving on 4 Training Regiment's Parade Ground

History in the Making . . .

THIS soldiering business is a strange, paradoxical thing—we grumble at this and that, make horrific threats to the sergeant-major (out of hearing, of course), are convinced blanco and brass cleaning is the invention of a retired Q.M. who won first divi on the pools, and absolutely certain most C.O.s don't know any figure under 14 when awarding (lovely word that) C.B. . . . yet when on parade and especially when marching to the band our chests subconsciously expand that "little extra the others haven't got" and that inner glow of pride in the Army and one's Corps is intense.

Won't embarrass you with details of my service—just in case any of you joined up before . . . well, it doesn't really matter, and what's a "roohti" gong and two stars, anyway!

It was the farewell ceremonial parade in honour of Field-Marshal Sir William Slim, C.I.G.S., on Gaza Sports Field that set my pulses racing and chest expanding, and the fact that by his arriving by helicopter and landing on 4 Training Regiment's parade ground, Signals again cut a niche in Catterick history.

The General inspected Detachments of the R.A.C., Royal Signals, R.E.M.E. and W.R.A.C., delivered a racy, warming speech that will be remembered by all who were privileged to be present and I feel I must reproduce the following:—

"Most of you," he said, "are young soldiers just starting your life in the Army. I am an old soldier. I am just ending mine and I have had a jolly good innings—and there is no reason why you should not . . ."

And talking of the importance of discipline:—

"In the British Army discipline does not consist of being roared at by sergeant-majors and field marshals. It means you don't let your comrades down. It is the old Christian virtue of thinking more of your neighbour than you do of yourself."

Profound words indeed, and now to apply them with a little more zest.

For Old Soldiers Only . . . !

Who remembers the "Big Dig" of 3rd Divisional Signals, asks Southern Command (M) Signal Regiment in the September WIRE.

Ha! Ha! Are they kidding? Dimmed as those memories are with some of my more thrilling war experiences at Scotch Corner, the Royal Hotel, Scarborough, etc., who will ever forget the terrific number of County Council foremen we turned out—where everyone (below the rank of lance-corporal) worked like slaves for five minutes on end and everyone above the rank of lance-corporal didn't care how much work they had to watch!

Who can forget Barleux strolling nonchalantly (as was his wont) from Charlie Manton's office and almost offering to push a barrow? Who will forget Puncher Fee hitting his foot with a pickaxe and exclaiming, inter alia: "Dear me, how careless!" (or words to that effect)?

Who can remember the "Big Dig?" Me! And I've still got corns on my hands to prove it. Oh, the mortification of it all—all that sweat for Sandhurst blocks.

Adcock Plus Adcock ad infinitum . . .

Brilliant headline that and brilliant indeed is the record of the Adcock family.

Curious?

Captain Jim Adcock (3rd Division and "Big Dig" fame and now the popular host of the Garrison Cinema) began his service with the Royal Fusiliers, transferred to R.E. Signals in 1914, to the Corps in 1920 and retired after the war (remember him as T.O.M. of 1 Operators Training Battalion?) with 37 years' service, gave three sons to the Corps and last month saw his grandson enlist as a Regular.

But then Jim always knew what was best for his family.

This Driving Business . . .

The success of my last article—over 500 trainee O.W.L.s unselfishly offered to become drivers—and the stirring announcement under 5 Training Regiment September notes that they have a strength of 590 trainees, brought a lump in my throat.

'Tisn't fair, I told myself. 590 indeed! Why, that's almost the strength of one of our Squadrons (not including the Cadre, of course).

Which Regiment? Can't tell you, official secrets act, habeas corpus, and for fear of raising "owls" and all that!

Nevertheless, I'll continue with my thrilling serial. Sit back in that chair—arm, Windsor, Mk. II and . . .

"This is the tale of Walter Wood,
Who thought his driving very good,
And quite ignored the Highway Code
And all good manners on the road.
He'd always boast about the speeds
That he'd put up from here to Leeds.
He'd retail with a cheerful grin
How he had managed to cut in
Or overtake on corners blind,
Or how when feeling not so kind
He'd hugged the middle of the road
And thereby had contrived to goad
To anger, drivers who had tried
To overtake on the right side.
To park his truck upon a curve
And cause a trolley bus to swerve
Was really quite a favourite trick
Of his. It was a bit too thick.
He liked to jump the traffic lights,
And give the dear old ladies frights,
And thought it very fine and grand
To steer his truck with just one hand.
Young Walter though was much too clever
—His sort of luck can't last for ever.
One day he rushed a right hand bend
And met a really dreadful end."

Anyone want to buy a Mercedes—one owner, one speed, brand new air in tyres, allergic to hills and flat country, otherwise perfect condition. Can be converted into a greenhouse or chicken run—or will exchange for a 1952 Morris. (Only Royal Signals personnel need apply.)

Old Comrades Again . . .

Each occasion I visit an O.C.A. function I have that proud feeling of still being a serving Corps member and paradoxically a longing to be an Old Comrade.

I mentioned this *esprit de corps* in the annual reunion notes and, of course, was prepared for a happy evening for the Catterick District Branch's annual ball in Le Cateau Gymnasium. Yet even my expectations were far surpassed and I " merged " into an atmosphere that left me weak with laughter and tingling with contentment.

Maybe it was the happy mixing of old comrades and serving members—the support given by Brigadier and Mrs. J. J. Duvivier and the C.O.s and their ladies of the Training Regiments—the magnificent music of the Corps Band—the perfect host arrangements of Colonel L. R. Hall, Captain Charlie Childs and Committee—all I know is that the word " monthly " should be substituted for " annual " and only one small thing marred my evening. Was dancing dreamily and sedately (as I thought) when my partner exclaimed: " You must have been a very good footballer in your day."

That puzzled me 'cos I only played hockey!

(*Continued on page 269*)



6 (Boys) Training Regiment

THE Regiment returned from summer leave on 28th August.

After a few days spent as a necessary settling in period, the training programme for the winter term was begun. This shows no drastic alterations as compared with the previous term, but a general uplift in the standard of training is evident. There are now forty-seven boys studying for the Army Certificate of Education First Class—a big advance on previous figures.

★

This Regiment has established a reputation for its successes in both boxing and athletics. With the approach of the 1952-53 boxing season efforts are being made to ensure that this reputation will be strengthened. A nucleus of last year's Regimental boxing team is still with us, and in order to find replacements for those who have left the Regiment, a novices' competition has already been held. From this competition it was evident that the Regiment is not lacking in potential boxers of good quality. A series of matches with local youth clubs are being arranged to give the Regimental team experience for the Command and Army competition.

Having won the Army Association Football Cup last season, it is perhaps presumptuous at this stage to entertain hopes of repeating this success a second time. Nevertheless, we are anxious that this season's performance shall at least bear comparison with last year, and hard training has already begun.

Boys' rugger is now firmly established as a Regimental sport, due to the efforts of R.S.M. G. J. Bevan, M.M. A full list of fixtures with local schools and clubs has been arranged for this season.

The band, trained by S.Q.M.S. R. F. Humphries, B.E.M., and the gymnastic display team, trained by Q.M.S.I. R. Jameson, were in great demand for various shows and functions during the summer, including the Old Comrades' Reunion at Catterick Camp.

An amateur Boys Mercury Radio Club licence has been applied for, and the call sign will be announced in the next notes.

The results of the Milocarian Trophy have now been published, with this Regiment placed thirteenth. Considering the nature of this athletics competition, which is a national one open to all public schools, such a result is not displeasing. Halton Apprentices School, R.A.F., were placed fifteenth. No other boys' services establishments gained a place in the first fifteen.

Last year the Regiment was again placed thirteenth, but at that time we had a nucleus of outstanding boy athletes who, in addition to establishing new records in this competition, in many instances equalled previous records. This year, with the exception of Boy Millar, the 100 yards Army champion, we had no outstanding athletes. A comparison between the two results therefore shows a considerable gain in the average athletic ability of the Regiment.

SOUTHERN COMMAND (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT

Work and more work is the order of the day. To this, of course, we add the normal day to day training, trade tests and preparation for annual inspections. Needless to say this keeps us all well occupied.

Operation "Flood," to provide assistance for the Lynmouth disaster, included detachments from the Regiment. Linemen, Owls, D.R.s and equipment were immediately provided and gave a good account of themselves in assisting to maintain and restore communications.

Second-Lieutenants Law and Bedford have now left us to return to civil life and the university studies. We wish them every success.

We welcome Major G. M. McDowall and Second-Lieutenant Unsworth on posting to the Regiment.

Lieutenant Nancy Smith, W.R.A.C., has also been posted away. We wish her good luck in her new Unit and welcome her relief, Lieutenant Davies.

Football and soccer are now in full swing in the Regiment, and although nothing spectacular has yet been achieved in the way of results we are hoping for future successes.

3 TRAINING REGIMENT

It appears I have been guilty of a frightful indiscretion in neglecting to report the resounding defeat in August of the Officers' Cricket XI by the W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess. Can justifiably claim overwork, and after all, what's 150 runs between colleagues—despite the "rank" display.

Nevertheless, I'm glad to recount our entrants in the Northern Command Golf Championship (Majors E. Nash and N. A. C. Clubb and Second-Lieutenants J. Bryant and P. Blacklaws) did extremely well, the last three just managing to score a century before lunch! And it's quite true that Major Nash holed a chip shot from 20 yards. I saw it just before I swooned!

The Strand Repertory Company again delighted the Regiment with brilliant performances of the comedy "Love's a Luxury"—full houses each night, wistful glances at the lovely ladies and an application from eight chaps for T.R.A. to the Rep. Company.

Ah. well! I thought they shifted the piano very niftily. That'll teach 'em!

The ambitious plans of the Regiment's Ladies' Club reached yet another important stage this month when the wife of the C.O. (Mrs. G. H. Starr) opened the delightfully furnished club rooms in Aisne Lines—and what planners the ladies are—glorious weather for their outings and now with Catterick pretending winter has already arrived, cosy, happy surroundings for the long, dark evenings. As Major G. Stretch so aptly remarked: "Nothing but the best for the ladies . . ."

Congratulations to Mr. S. (June) Knight, of the Civilian Instructional Staff, on successfully passing W.O.S.B. (T.A.) from 50 Northumbrian Division Signal Regiment, T.A. Mr. Knight joined the Corps as a boy in 1924, and retired in 1949 after service in various parts of the world.

Must soon remember to call "Sir"—"Sir."

Again we emerged with a feeling of pride after the visit of the D.D.M.T., and his manifest interest in all aspects of trade training gave immense personal pleasure to all ranks—including the W.R.A.C. trainee switchboard operators.

The hockey team finished in fourth place in the Garrison summer hockey league, and in company with the Rugby XV has begun the winter season in fine style. The soccer XI got off to an indifferent start and then confounded the critics (and Captain F. H. Wragg) by defeating a Medium Regiment, R.A., by 4—2 in the preliminary round of the Army Cup.

The basketball team's initial victory versus 4 Training Regiment by 52—10 indicates we mean to hold on to the Command Cup, and if enthusiasm counts for anything then the squash team should add to our winter sports laurels.

ROYAL SIGNALS WING

Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. After the Old Comrades' Reunion in July we relaxed for a while, and those present will no doubt realise that we needed a rest. Functions are coming into their own again and 4th October brought us a very special dance. We were saying *au revoir* to our Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel D. White, O.B.E., and welcome to Lieutenant-Colonel P. A. Duke, O.B.E., who is relieving him. Members of the Mess express their very best wishes to Colonel and Mrs. White in their new station and will endeavour to make Colonel Duke's stay with the Wing a very happy one.

We frequently have visits from old friends, and I hope that in the next issue of THE WIRE I will be able to give a few names. If you are in this area pay us a visit—our able caterer, Ex-R.Q.M.S. Bill Bailey, will make you welcome.

EASTERN COMMAND SIGNAL REGIMENT

For many months it had been rumoured that the Regiment was moving from Maresfield. No one seemed quite sure where we were going, but the selection of camps seemed pleasantly large. Richmond had been suggested as a possibility. Even the attractions of Brighton had been dangled before our eyes. Having toured in spirit at any rate most of the southern counties we landed with a bit of a bump in Crowborough, only a few miles away. Thus the Regiment maintains its attachment to the old haunts of the Corps and certainly, few would disagree that Warren Camp has since proved greatly preferable to Maresfield.

The move itself entailed a lot of work for an extremely harassed "Q" staff, who were frantically trying to account for bath plugs, coat hooks and chains G.S. Indeed, by the end of the move we had quite lost sight of the Quartermaster. He was almost added to our list of deficiencies until some lucky chance discovered him recovering a tubular heater from a coal cellar back in Maresfield. The aftermath remains—long faces on pay parade when a levy for barrack damages is announced.

In the sphere of power politics we have been the witnesses of what might be termed "the Lloyd Meteor." By a series of shrewd and calculated strokes Captain P. J. C. Lloyd is now seated firmly in the Adjutant's office, besides retaining control over 2 Squadron and holding an influential position in the Officers' Mess. He appears busily engaged in filling key positions, such as the Pay Office and the Officers' Mess Bar, with his henchmen. The Commanding Officer has taken immediate action to curb this lust for power, and 2 Squadron is shortly to be placed in other hands.

With the return of the soccer season the football team is in training. In their most recent match, against Eastbourne Old Town, they unfortunately lost 4—2. It has been said that there is too much individualism amongst our players, and that they are too slow in passing the ball. These imperfections will doubtless be eliminated in the course of the season.

Some account should be made of the visit of the Army Commander within three days of our arrival in the new camp. It was only two days before the visit that R.S.M. Morrison discovered, in between intervals of searching for his voice, that there was a suitable parade ground in the camp. Needless to say, a certain section of the community had long known of the existence of this lonely concrete glade but had unsportingly concealed the knowledge. During the parade the G.O.C.-in-C. presented Sergeant Lambert with the L.S. and G.C. Medal and called on him to stand on the saluting base during the march past. After the parade followed a lightning tour of the camp, finishing with a visit to the vehicles of the Command Wireless Troop. The C.S.O. accompanied the G.O.C.-in-C. and remained to lunch.

For the future, rumours of camp cinemas, television rooms and giant floor-polishing machines are rife, but the details of these must await future jottings.

Catterick Jottings

(Continued from page 267)

Inventories . . . Plus and Minus, Continued

Am beginning to suspect there's a conspiracy afoot in the War Office—no sooner do I get the Jottings nicely sealed up when in comes a posting to disturb the inventory and take away an old friend—this time no less a personage than Major Edward Day, Brigade Major at H.Q., S.T.C.

And at this stage one recalls so easily his ever ready advice on all matters and especially his tact, patience and understanding with all whom he came into contact.

A blow indeed and only offset by the posting in of Major D. L. Sylvester-Bradley.

Tailpiece . . . Out of the Mouths of . . .

Teacher: "Children, I want you to write an essay about King Alfred. But don't waste time about the burning of the cakes."

One essay read: "King Alfred went and knocked on the door of a lonely cottage in a forest and was admitted by the housewife. What happened after that I'm not allowed to say."

1 A.A. (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT

At the time of writing the Regiment is fully deployed on the major autumn exercise, the preparation for which has kept all our tradesmen busy during the past few weeks.

On 18th October the Officers' Mess held their first cocktail party since the new Mess opened.

By the time we go to Press for the next month's contribution, one of our leading personalities will have bid us farewell. Captain John Hall has finally decided to try his hand in civil life. For many years Captain Hall has been a well-known personality in the sporting world of the Corps. He will be remembered for the sterling games he played at Harrogate in 1939 when the team of 1 A.A. Militia Training Battalion were showing the people of Yorkshire how soccer should be played and also the famous Wanderers football team in the Middle East which he managed in the team's hey day. Captain Hall also played for the Corps at cricket. His presence and cheerful personality both at work and play will be sadly missed by this Unit, where he has been a stalwart for such a long time. From all here and no doubt all who read these notes and knew Captain Hall, we wish him all the very best of luck, good health and prosperity always.

We offer our hearty congratulations to Captain and Mrs. West-Watson and Lieutenant and Mrs. George on the recent additions of baby daughters to their respective families.

From the 26th August to the 6th September we provided two Officers, namely Captain C. West-Watson and Captain I. Gram-Hansen, and Corporal Caldicott, Lance-Corporal Jones, both of the W.R.A.C., and Lance-Corporal Wortley, Royal Signals, on the Royal Signals Section of the Regular Army Stand. Several messages of congratulation on the hard work and sterling qualities of those concerned have been received.

During the past month the Regiment has been a hive of activity in the sporting world. The same two teams, R.H.Q. and 3/4 Line Maintenance Troops, took part in both the inter-Troop hockey and soccer finals. The Line Maintenance Troop were victors in the soccer final by three goals to two after a well fought game. The hockey final was a complete reversal of the soccer result, R.H.Q. winning by six clear goals.

Only one Regimental hockey game has been played. This we lost by two goals to nil to a Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment, R.A. The team, with only three experienced hockey players, put up a really good show. The soccer team, winners last year of the Group Small Units competition, are sadly depleted this season.

Lieutenant W. S. Dawson has this season been recommended for any Army hockey trial.



Finalists in the Finlayson Cup

3 A.A. INDEPENDENT (M) SIGNAL SQUADRON

Training has continued and all are very busy at present preparing for exercises.

The Unit motor cycle team gave a creditable showing in the recent 3 A.A. Group Motor Cycle Trials when Corporal Gillan and Signalman Sawyer gained first and second places respectively, while the team, although first in the Group, were second in the open competition to Scottish Command Signal Regiment, who beat us by five points.

Shooting was carried out recently in the Group Non-Central Competition, but the final results are not yet published. A team is also entered in the .22 league which starts shortly.

Soccer has started again, and the Unit has a team entered in a local amateur league. In the final of the Finlinson Cup, a local competition, the Unit lost by three goals to nil. The inevitable releases, etc., led to changes in the original team that reached the final.

LONDON DISTRICT MOTOR CYCLE TRIAL, 1952

The fifth annual London District Motor Cycle Trials were held on Sunday, 21st September, and the Royal Signals were again well to the fore amongst the prize-winners, as well as being largely responsible for the trials organisation.

There were 150 competitors in the trial, which consisted of a combined road and cross-country course over a wide area of country from Richmond Park to Pirbright, with a number of stiff hazards en route.

Line communications were found by London District Signal Troop. The important work of recording the scores was done entirely by 23 (Southern) Corps Signal Regiment, T.A.

2/20 Army Signal Regiment, T.A., who carried off the team championship last year, came second. The Guards Training Battalion were the winners.

Individual Royal Signals placings in the first 30 competitors were:—

8th	Sergeant Newton, 2/20 Army Signal Regiment, T.A.
10th	Signalman Rouse, 2/20 Army Signal Regiment, T.A.
15th	Signalman Aldsworth, No. 1 War Office Signal Regiment (T.F.C.).
16th	Corporal Vassar, 23 (Southern) Corps Signal Regiment, T.A.
17th	Corporal Ives, 2/20 Army Signal Regiment, T.A.
26th	Corporal Millar, 23 (Southern) Corps Signal Regiment, T.A.



The Officers of combined A.L.F.C.E. Signals. The British are Major Rutherford, Major Yorke, Lt. Turner, Lt. Ashford, 2/Lt. Smolizanski and 2/Lt. Holms

A.L.F.C.E. SIGNAL SQUADRON

In the field of sport we should like to congratulate Lieutenant Turner on his fine performance at the British Inter-Services Athletics Meeting at Fontainebleau. In addition to running in team events, he won the discus, javelin and shot, was runner-up in the high jump and was declared Victor Ludorum. At the same meeting our tug-of-war team scored a resounding victory. We are providing six members of the Inter-Services Hockey XI, and also a strong representation in the Inter-Services Rugby team.

The Director of Signals, Major-General W. O. Bowen, C.B., C.B.E., visited the Signal Division, H.Q., A.L.F.C.E., and A.L.F.C.E. Signal Squadron on the 1st October. He was greeted by an international guard of honour, composed of representatives of the Signal Corps of Britain, France and the U.S.A. The Director inspected the Squadron on parade and the Officers and Senior N.C.O.s were later introduced to him personally.

Socially, the Squadron is actively engaged in a series of dances and social evenings. Particularly popular is the Scottish and old time dancing which is run by Sergeant Davidge.

Plain Tales

★ *With Greetings from Barleux*

Still Looking Back

MANY people ask me why I write so much of the past. I can only answer that I know far more about my past than about my future. Then they have the impudence to suggest that as I either don't know what I am writing about or tell the most outrageous whoppers, I might as well write about the future. Maybe I could predict their future with some accuracy, but I will resist this temptation. In the meantime, I like to recapture some of the experiences that can never be enjoyed or endured again. Such as sitting under an almond tree while a battery of 4.5s fired over our heads at Centurippe. It was Sunday in the 78th Division, and probably in several other less well-known formations, too. Eric Holdaway who, alas, is a long term hospital patient these days, brought me loads of grapes from a nearby vineyard. I could not read the newspapers from home because every time the guns fired the blast took them out of my hands. So I acquired a taste for grapes and eventually the local wines. Dick Cuthbert, who was a R.E.M.E. type, and Harry Hawkes, who is now in Capetown, will bear me out when I tell you that our battle-dress blouses had so much wine spilled on them that we never bothered to send them for cleaning. We had them trampled on by the local peasantry. Next month: How I became a burgher of Brussels—to the dismay of the other burghers.

★

Civilian Conscience

No sun, no moon, no stars. It's better abroad. Remember?
No clubs, no friends, no parades.
But wait! There's a parade in November.
Did you do the parade with the Legion or Branch?
Or is memory a dying ember?
Did you think of the thousands who never came back?
Among them, your friends. Remember?

★

For Sale

One hundred and sixty-two tea coupons. Or would exchange for one handlebar moustache. At last I have managed to get tea de-rationed for you. If there is anything else you would like fixed, just say. At the moment I am busy arranging for the amalgamation of the Agriculture Borough Planning and Admiralty Division with the Iron Steel Divorces and Fish Control Department. This should release 768,000 clerical staff to swell the strikers in heavy industry. Or not. According to whether or no the interzonal implementation of sub-section 3 (c) is amended prior to *je ne sais pas*. Or even *sauve qui peut*. While you are waiting drink your tea and be happy.

Have You Read This?

An expensive looking limousine pulled up exactly opposite the entrance to Ukann Larfe's head office, with a silent screech of brakes. Hermione, the celebrated investigator's large and lovely wife, stepped on to the pavement. It shook gently. As usual, she was magnificently dressed. Her well tailored costume kept the onlookers onlooking. She carried a fair sized piece of soggy turf in her massive hand. The expression on her face indicated large quantities of bad luck for somebody. One might even say that it boded ill, if one knew what a boded ill was like.

In Ukann Larfe's office all was peace and concord. Lord Elpas emptied a bottle of rum over the inspector's head in an effort to bring him round. Ukann Larfe himself was frying liver and bacon on the gas ring. He felt peckish. Suddenly the telephone rang. There was a furious banging on the door and a stone with a piece of paper attached arrived via the plate glass window.

"Listen," said the detective, "did you hear anything?"

Lord Elpas placed a cushion over the frying pan to deaden the sound of sizzling bacon. He listened intently. "Not a sausage," he declared with profound gravity.

The banging on the door ceased abruptly as Hermione Larfe kicked it off its hinges and walked in. The three men turned pale as railway tea. The inspector was the first to recover his composure which he had left on the window sill. "The telephone is ringing," he said. Ukann Larfe grasped the situation in a flash, ate his liver and bacon with some new crusty bread, and picked up the receiver. "No," he said quietly. "There will be no one here. Come along at about eleven tonight. You'll find the key under the mat."

Hermione placed the turf carefully on the dining table and poked a well manicured forefinger in her husband's ear. "Who was that?" she asked.

"I dunno, dear. They didn't say."

★ comcan

As a preliminary to the introduction of Tape Relay technique in the Commonwealth Communication Army Network (COMCAN), five N.C.O.s attended an eight weeks' course at the United States Communication Centre at H.Q., E.U.C.O.M., in Heidelberg. These N.C.O.s will now be spread over the Tape stations of COMCAN to assist in the training of operators in the new technique. Major Mulliss visited the course for one week and our photograph records the scene before his departure. The Editor is always pleased to receive evidence of the invariably cordial and ever-growing co-operation between Royal Signals and the U.S. Signal Corps, and to record our gratitude for the generous way in which our American friends make their experience available to us. The visit was marked by the dispatch to Heidelberg of a plaque with the Corps crest which, it is understood, now occupies a position of honour in the U.S. Signal Battalion Mess Room



Back row: Corporal D. Woodward (Eastern Command), Major T. V. Mulliss, Royal Signals, Sergeant L. M. Ross, B.E.M. (2 W.O.S.R.). Kneeling: Corporal J. Hawkshaw (Southern Command), Corporal H. Cooper (1 W.O.S.R.), Corporal J. Rose (4 Training Regiment)

H.Q. B.A.O.R. SIGNAL REGIMENT

We had learnt one vital lesson before Exercise "Holdfast" was even given a name, i.e., " get a flying start and prevent 'flap.' " Consequently, we were in our exercise locations by 5th September, the P. and T. circuits started coming in on 6th September, and the staff did not arrive until the 15th. If the weather had been kinder we could have enjoyed those 10 days. As it was we got soaked to the skin, but had the satisfaction of knowing everything was working properly before "D" day. We also had the pleasure of using communication systems which had settled down and were, virtually, trouble-free throughout the exercise.

As usual, we were representing two Army Signal Regiments and had to be reinforced, very largely from U.K. We hope the reinforcements enjoyed the visit as much as we appreciated having them. From Lieutenent-Colonel to Signalman they mucked-in well and did jolly good work (even by our standards!).

★

In the world of sport it looks as though we shall not be able to win the Royal Signals Inter-Regiment Cricket Shield this year. We are in the field against 2 Divisional Signal Regiment, but the cricket field is full of goal posts and the weather is enough to keep all good cricketers in the pavilion.

The usual comings and goings have been made unusual by the arrival of a draft from the Army Apprentice School at Harrogate. To these " Badgies " and to all other new arrivals we extend a hearty welcome. To those who have left us we wish the best of everything in their new surroundings.

Three of our sergeants have taken the plunge into matrimony, and we wish them and their brides every happiness in double harness. The heroes are Sergeants A. V. Hales, S. Middleton and D. Clarke.

1 WIRELESS REGIMENT

Uppermost in our minds at the moment is the Annual Administration Inspection of the Regiment, which takes place on 7th October. A comprehensive programme has been arranged and at the moment all the skeletons are being removed from cupboards and the manual " Drill, 1951," has never been so widely read.

The latest " D. and D." course has just ended, and the Regiment is now bristling with lance-corporals (vintage '52). Sergeants Robins and Gomm, who gave most of the instruction, should feel justly proud of the standard of drill attained by the course.

There was great excitement in the cookhouse one day last week, and neither the Messing Officer, Orderly Officer or Orderly Sergeant could be found for hours. Sergeant Reed, A.C.C., was making the Christmas puddings and, of course, you do really need four to stir the Christmas puddings!

At the same time Mrs. Reed is going ahead with her Christmas preparations and has started dancing classes for the children of the Garrison. It is hoped that they will participate in this year's pantomime.

A sightseeing trip to Cologne is being arranged by the W.V.S. and is proving very popular. A German bus is being hired and after a three-hour journey there should be plenty of time to look round the famous city.

Thursday evening is tombola evening and all ranks gather in the NAAFI to try their luck. Signalmen Ehlert and Hearn as " callers " leave no doubt as to their true vocation in life. We of the uninitiated remain puzzled by the phrase " Five and nine, the Brighton line."

It is too early to report very much in the way of sports, but this week has seen the P.R.I. dig deep into the coffers and produce a very satisfying amount of new kit.

We have entered for all the competitions possible and at present it is chiefly practice and more practice until the first league matches begin.

7 ARMOURED DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

September saw the end of the collective training season with ourselves acting as enemy on Exercise " Holdfast." (As this has been in the National Press we assume we can mention it.) Like all the main exercises this year, communications were perfect and we received still another " shabash " from the Divisional Commander.

We have been very considerately treated for the winter months and should have a grand opportunity to get in some really consecutive individual training and wholesale upgrading.

The winter is almost upon us. In fact, it was instrumental in getting us two rum issues on " Holdfast." We are therefore all looking forward to colder weather.

Now we are in barracks for a bit, a drive has been started on resuscitating our old No. 5 Unit Branch of the Royal Signals Association. As a result of the first canvass 34 other ranks have started to pay instalments towards their life subscriptions. We aim at 100 per cent. membership, and hope Sergeant Ashton, the treasurer, will soon be overwhelmed.

The rugger and soccer teams, the former under the leadership of Second-Lieutenant Peter Jackson and the latter under the expert management of Captain Bill Gillett, are getting into fettle and we hope to have good things to report of them soon. Tomorrow two teams which include Sergeants Slaughter, Edwards and Boyle, compete in the Divisional motor cycle trials, and neither dare lose.

Back to universities have gone Second-Lieutenants Cook and Dailey, both of whom helped considerably to win for us the Corps B.A.O.R. Athletics Championship this year.

We regret to announce the sad deaths of Signalman Ron Parker in a civil road accident, and the wife of Driver Davis in hospital recently.

11 ARMOURED DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

Since our last appearance in these columns we have been out on exercises almost all the time except for an odd moment in September when we took our August Bank Holiday. Culminating in the much publicised " Holdfast," these have been very interesting, bringing us into contact with many new types of work. We do not normally expect to handle 100-line auto exchanges or quad H routes. Nor for that matter does our cipher officer normally expect to have the camouflage blown from his tent by the arrival of a helicopter. At the same time we were able to see Airborne Troops in action, both as friend and foe, and on " Holdfast " we also met Belgian and Dutch Units.

Now, with exercises over for the time being, individual training will keep us busy for some months, but in addition far more time can be spent on sport than has been possible during the summer.

Our golf team, having won the Divisional championship, is now all set for the B.A.O.R. semi-finals and the Royal Signals B.A.O.R. tournament.

At swimming we came second to 1 Corps Signal Regiment in the Royal Signals B.A.O.R. championships. This was largely due to the efforts of Lance-Corporal Biggar and Sergeant Beale. The latter came second in the 100 yards free style at the Army championships.

On 2nd October, G.O.C. 11 Armoured Division spoke to all members of the Divisional Headquarters and complimented all on the hard work put in during the training season. It was pleasing to note that "C" Troop received a special " pat on the back."

A successful concert party was held in the Y.W.C.A. on the evening of 1st October, in which members of Divisional H.Q. and Royal Signals personnel stationed in Herford took part. It was well put on and all who saw it, including the General, were very pleased with the show.

2 INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

The past two months has seen the culmination of the training season with Exercise " Spearhead One," where the 2nd Infantry Division forced a crossing of the River Rhine in the face of a spirited defence by 7 Armoured Division. The exercise devolved largely into a line battle as far as the Regiment was concerned, some six hundred and fifty miles of cable being laid in approximately a week. This line layout produced problems of line maintenance which were largely overcome by the forming of officer line maintenance detachments involving all officers of R.H.Q. and 1 Squadron at various periods.

Exercise " Spearhead One " was followed by Exercise " Spearhead Two," where a proportion of the Regiment found itself simulating a small Corps Signal Regiment.

Exercise " Spearhead Two " was quickly followed by Exercise " Holdfast," where 7 Armoured Division, representing Greenland Army, attacked Northern Army Group, consisting of 1 (G.B.) Corps, 1 (N.L.) Corps and 1 (B.) Corps. On this exercise the Regiment, commanded by Major P. C. Williams, found itself in strange surroundings indeed, faced with the task of providing neutral communications. No fewer than two hundred and twenty wireless stations had to be married up with umpires and control staffs. The worry of line communications was largely removed from the shoulders of the Regiment and placed firmly in the lap of the P. and T. Officers, who produced absolutely first-class line communications at all times.

The Regiment produced no fewer than eleven signal offices, the largest of these serving the Higher Control H.Q., who, together with R.H.Q., were based on the All Arms Training Centre, Sennelager. In this instance the formation level was something quite new, and one Officer of R.H.Q., when answering the telephone, was heard to announce his identity as " Supreme Headquarters, Neutral Signals." We shall surely miss our lines to Fontainebleau and many other higher formations on our next Divisional exercise.

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We should like to record our appreciation of the co-operation and assistance afforded us by various Signals Regiments of B.A.O.R. and the Royal Marine Signal Detachment commanded by Major E. F. Knight, which travelled from England to take part in the exercise. Rumour has it that no neater line laying has been seen in B.A.O.R. than that produced by the Royal Marine line detachments. We should particularly like to thank—and for the members of the Regiment the outstanding feature of the exercise was the complete co-operation and tremendous assistance afforded us by—4 L. of C. Signal Regiment.

Turning to the field of sport we are happy to record our success in the 2 Infantry Division cricket knock-out competition, the Regiment winning the cup by defeating the Irish Guards in the final. We were defeated in the semi-final of the B.A.O.R. cricket knock-out competition, finally losing by the narrow margin of nineteen runs after a staunch innings by Major P. C. Williams.

Soccer and Rugby football are still at the Regimental trial stage, but we are pleased to record our success in the first hockey fixture of the season by four goals to two against a Field Regiment, R.A.

We welcome our new Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel E. J. C. Harrison, O.B.E., who has assumed command on his arrival from Singapore District.

We should like to bid farewell to Lieutenant-Colonel E. C. R. Blaker on his leaving the Regiment, and wish him every success in his active command of No. 1 Commonwealth Divisional Signal Regiment.

We also bid farewell to Major R. J. Harvey, and wish him a speedy recovery from his injuries received in the John Derry Jet Air Crash. Farewell also to Captain J. G. James, M.C., and Captain R. S. Holbrook.

1 AIR SUPPORT SIGNAL UNIT

Now the " exercise season " has finished we once again put pen to paper. Eleven exercises since April—not bad for a " minor " Unit.

Since our last notes appeared there have been many changes in the Unit—a new O.C., Major A. J. Woodrow, who has come from the School of Infantry; a new Second-in-Command, Captain A. L. Dowell, who have come from H.Q., S.T.C., at Catterick.

We have said goodbye to Major L. H. Caldicott. S.Q.M.S. Davies and Sergeant Hindley, the " old hand," have also left. The latter is now " Mr." Hindley.

During the summer the " Red Hand of Ulster," our Unit sign, has become a familiar sight on all the " better " exercises in Germany, and it is not unknown in Holland and Belgium, where we were lucky enough to go on Exercise "June Primer." Many detachments had a taste of the old wartime standards of hospitality from the warm-hearted people who live in these countries.

On the 1 Corps exercises, Spearhead One and Two, we had the satisfaction of seeing ground attack aircraft carrying out strikes that we had helped to lay on. These chaps fly very low and after complaints of damage to an aircraft we lowered our telescopics.

We won the Royal Signals Minor Units Shooting Competition for B.A.O.R., beating the favourites, Berlin Signal Squadron, by an uncomfortably narrow margin.

On the social side we have had a tombola evening and a most successful dance. We had a coach trip to our local " standards," Hermann the German, Externstein and the Eagles of Berlebeck—the scene of the film " Valley of Eagles."

83 GROUP AIR FORMATION SIGNAL SQUADRON

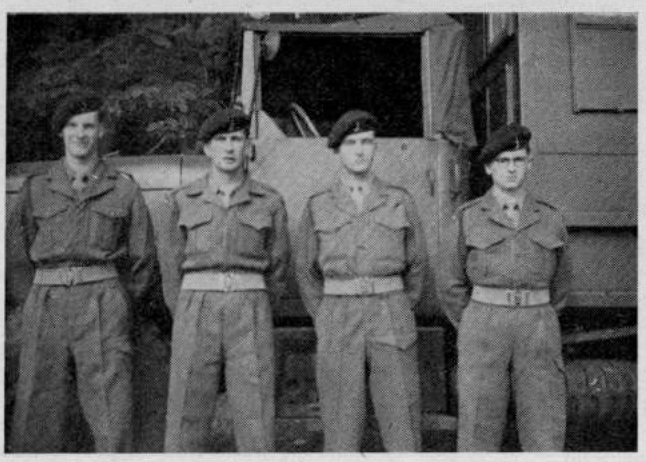
As this is the first time this Unit's notes have appeared in THE WIRE I will explain something about ourselves. 83 Group is a joint R.A.F./Belgian Air Force Group recently formed in the Rhineland of Germany and Belgium. To serve that Group a new Air Formation Signal Squadron was formed at Lemgo in B.A.O.R. by 11 Air Formation Signal Regiment. This Squadron is still forming, but it is now independent and situated with Group H.Q. at Wahn, a few miles from Cologne. The Squadron will consist of the following troops: 13 T.E., 9 T.M., 7 Line, 13 Construction, L.A.D., 18 Wing and 19 Wing Signal Troops. The latter two Troops have been posted over complete from 11 Air Formation Signal Regiment.

The following are already at Wahn: —

Major J. N. Boyland, O.C. Squadron, from 11 A.F. Signal Regiment.
Lieutenant M. H. L. Kenning, ditto.
S.S.M. Farquharson from School of Infantry.
S.Q.M.S. Walker from 1 Special Communications Regiment.
S.Q.M.S. (F. of D.) Pollard, 4th A.A. Aberporth Camp.
A.Q.M.S. Kelly (R.E.M.E.) from 61 Lorried Infantry Brigade.
Captain F. Barton, M.B.E., O.C. 18 Wing Signal Troop.
Sergeant Joseph, Troop Sergeant.
Lieutenant T. B. Renouf, O.C. 19 Wing Signal Troop.
Sergeant Bolton, Troop Sergeant.

A party consisting of the O.C., S.S.M. and 50 men, mostly straight from Training Regiments, arrived at Wahn in August with the object of setting up communications for the Group H.Q. in time for Exercise " Holdfast." There were plenty of troubles and difficulties, but the Operations Room was ready just in time, the only casualties being numerous hairs from the O.C.'s head and the S.S.M.'s voice. The S.S.M. was given an aeroplane trip to two Dutch Airfields on duty during the exercise, and recovered his voice later in expounding technical details about flying machines.

In regard to sports we have not yet been able to organise teams, although in our first football match we defeated the R.A.F. of Group H.Q. by 4—1. It is our aim to make an impression in the R.A.F. sports this winter and to go in for bigger stuff next year.



Members of SHAPE Wireless Troop proceeding to Greece and Turkey. Left to right: Signalmen Dutton, Dyer, Dixon and Cardew

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SHAPE SIGNAL SQUADRON

The past month has seen a variety of interesting activities within the Squadron. Two of our Owls, Signalmen Dyer and Dixon, have gone to Athens, where " Jimmy " will doubtless feel at home on the Olympian heights of the Acropolis. Yet two more Owls, Signalmen Cardew and Dutton, have proceeded on temporary duty to Turkey, where they will, in traditional fashion, savour the delights of *chiche-kebab* and *baclava.* Operation " Mainbrace," the Naval exercise undertaken by the N.A.T.O. Powers, further sees the temporary attachment to Oslo of Sergeant Derham, Corporal Gracey, Corporal McBain and Corporal Shaw. We are confidently expecting tales of the Northern Lights, the Midnight Sun, and memories of old sagas when the fame of Erik Bloodaxe spread even to the shore of the American Continent.

Meanwhile, at home, international co-operation continues as normal. Recently we have been working with the Americans and French in the laying of an underground cable.



[*Courtesy: " Shape " Photograph*

Cable laying. Signalman Orgar and Signalman Bailey

MELF

2 AGRA SIGNAL SQUADRON

We have no excuses to offer for our absence from these pages over the last few months, but hope to become regular members forthwith. Firstly, then, a slight recapitulation on our Squadron strength. Our O.C. is Major L. C. P. Jaggard. W.O.II Butler has gone to 1 Infantry Divisional Signals on his promotion to W.O.I, and his place has been taken by W.O.II (S.S.M.) Haydon, from 2 A.S.S.U.

Other mentionables include S.Q.M.S. Hesketh, just completing his fifth year in the Canal Zone, Sergeant London, late of War Office, Sergeant Fenner, from 3 L. of C. Signal Regiment, and the Squadron Editor, Sergeant Swabey, " late of Catterick." We have few achievements worth recording from the last few months, the most notable being our U.M.I. Report, which even in the most critical eyes was most favourable.

The cricket season being nearly over, we are looking forward with eager anticipation to soccer, hockey and basketball during the coming winter.

However, it would be unfair to close without mentioning that we have a very enthusiastic cricket team and that Second-Lieutenant C. N. Summers gained distinction for us by representing the Corps on various occasions.

With plenty of schemes and exercises to keep us busy over the next few months, and a few more fortunate members soon to be joined by their families, we can but say *au revoir* until December.

FARELF

19 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT

Singapore has the honour, at the time of writing, of being visited by H.R.H. The Duchess of Kent, and members of this Regiment had the opportunity of seeing her during her tour of Army Units. So, at an early hour, soldiers and their families piled into 3-tonners and set off for the City of Singapore. The Malayan families in their traditionally colourful dress formed a brilliant contrast to our jungle green. We lined the route and waited, in fact we waited quite a long time, but with such an air of expectancy, the time passed quickly. Just when we thought that Her Royal Highness was arriving, it would turn out to be a dust cart or a civilian contractor with a load of bricks. This kept everyone amused. However, about mid-day, heralded by cheers from the line of troops, she appeared riding, quite unexpectedly, in a jeep, and looking very charming and radiant.

It was all over too quickly, but each of us had a good close-up, and those of us who were not there have a good chance of seeing Her Royal Highness when she visits Changi.

In collaboration with the R.A.F. we have started a fund for the welfare of the families of Malay servicemen at Changi. The problem was how to raise money for the fund, until someone hit on the idea of organising a fun fair. After a great deal of work from all ranks, the fun fair came into being one day in September and was a rattling success. The fair was opened by Mrs. Bates, the wife of the Station Commander. Never had anyone realised that there were so many children on the station until the afternoon of the fair when they flocked in their hundreds. The stalls were operated by men from this Regiment and the R.A.F. Regiment (Malaya), and they must all be given credit for very conscientious attention to the job in hand. Only when the twilight faded into darkness and the prizes ran out could the fair be declared closed.

Hockey has started with a swing, and we look like having a good team this season. So far we have won all our matches in the Station League and have the surprising goal average of 35 for, 1 against.

Three of our men have just returned from Hong Kong, where they installed a 4-position switchboard at Kai Tak. Their diligence and behaviour was the subject of a very gratifying letter of commendation from Air Headquarters, Hong Kong.

SIGNAL TRAINING SQUADRON, FAR EAST

The chief topic of conversation in Singapore at the present time is the visit of H.R.H. The Duchess of Kent and her son, H.R.H. The Duke of Kent. On the occasion of her visit to the British Military Hospital, Singapore, personnel of the Squadron had the privilege of lining the route. They looked very smart in their Regimental mufti and gave Her Royal Highness a special cheer as her car passed.

During September we said farewell to Second-Lieutenant J. K. Scott, who left the Squadron with a Medium Wireless Troop for duty in the Federation of Malaya. We wish them good luck and happy hunting.

A very sad loss indeed is that of Sergeant Newton, our senior O.W.L. instructor, who left us on reversion to U.K. in September. We sincerely hope to see him out here on a second tour.

Congratulations are due to Corporal Cox on two counts. Not only did he represent the Corps at soccer against the R.E. in the final of the Parker Cup (we lost 1—0 after a very exciting game), but he was very successful in the Singapore District Motor Cycle Trials.

Congratulations are also due to Sergeant Chan Leong Choon on his recent promotion.

By the time these notes appear in print the Squadron will be safely settled in Calcutta Camp, which has recently been vacated by Singapore District Signal Regiment. We are looking forward to the move as not only can the tents be handed to the Q.M., but we are having brand new lecture rooms built.

The following account of the 1st Commonwealth Divisional Signal Regiment appeared in "The Times" of 2nd October, 1952, and we are most grateful to the Editor of "The Times" for permission to republish.

Signals' Work in Korea

EMPIRE REGIMENT'S RECORD

From a Correspondent

THE Royal Corps of Signals element in a division or other military formation, providing by day and night as a matter of course the comunications by which the formation lives and moves and fights, is liable to be taken for granted. But the 1st Commonwealth Divisional Signal Regiment in Korea certainly should not be thus regarded.

Its composition is probably unique in the history of the Corps. More than half the strength is drawn from the United Kingdom, but about one-sixth comes from Canada, another sixth from New Zealand, and a small remainder from Australia, and this Imperial mixture seems to generate just enough of the competitive spirit to ensure the highest possible standards and morale.

The Regiment was formed with the Commonwealth Division at the end of July, 1951, by Lieutenant-Colonel A. L. Atkinson, Royal Signals, who since then has been its commanding officer. He took with him to Korea a nucleus of about 450 Officers and men of the Corps from Royal Signals establishments in the United Kingdom and from the Army in Germany, and to this body added the Signal Units of the British and Dominion contingents already in Korea.

"Enviable Reputation"

Since its formation the Regiment has been continuously and strenuously employed, and has won for itself an enviable reputation both within the Division and among the United States forces. Its Officers and men are distributed by troops and smaller detachments among the brigades and individual units, and they work down to the regimental headquarters of the armoured and infantry units and to battery headquarters in the Artillery.

A proud claim of this Signal Regiment is that during the Commonwealth Division's offensive battles to the north of the Imjin River last October and November, commanders at all levels were at all times in touch with the operations in general and with the Units engaged. The control of the Divisional artillery in particular, chiefly through radio, was especially well maintained. Preparing for that offensive, known as Operation Commando, had involved long working hours for signalmen, particularly the linemen, since the comparative freedom from air attack of the allied troops in Korea has made possible the extensive use of field cable for operational and administrative communications.

Radio-telephony is, of course, the chief medium for battle messages. The equipment in use includes some of the types of sets which became well known during the last war, still giving good service, and also some post-war modifications and new types. Royal Signals operators also work the radio teleprinter sets at rear and forward bases, transmitting Press messages which in the first stage pass to a British Forces Headquarters in Seoul.



Amongst the Imjin Hills in Korea a few days before leaving to take up a new post in Germany, Major-General A. J. H. Cassels, the Commonwealth Division G.O.C., decorated 37 soldiers for gallantry and meritorious service. Here Major G. S. Fenton receives the M.B.E. ribbon for his outstanding leadership with the Divisional Signal Regiment



ROYAL SIGNALS

AND THE ARMY CADET FORCE

THE photograph on this page is one taken at Northwich, Cheshire, during the inspection of the 8th Cheshire Regiment, A.C.F. (Royal Signals), in June of this year. About 120 Cadets were on parade. The Inspecting Officer is Lieutenant-Colonel T. W. Boileau, O.B.E., Royal Signals, who commands 62 H.Q., L. of C. Signal Regiment (T.A.), to which this Army Cadet Unit is affiliated. He is accompanied by his Adjutant, Captain H. Rothwell, and Major R. Johnson, who commands the Cadet Unit.

The photograph in itself may not be of particular interest to anyone not closely connected with these particular Cadets, but it is thought that the story behind it may be of real interest to many in the Corps. It may not be generally realised that there are Units of the A.C.F. which are affiliated to Royal Signals T.A. Regiments. These A.C.F. Units wear the badges of Royal Signals and, to the public, they appear to be part of the Corps.

It seems logical, therefore, that they should be treated as such and developed in such a way that they may become a real asset.

The Official Manuals of the A.C.F. make it very clear that the A.C.F. is primarily a youth movement and that its main object is the development of character and leadership.

However, to quote an extract from a recent letter received from The Director of Cadets :—

> " It will be noted that the main object of affiliation is to try and ensure that the boys in a Cadet Unit absorb the traditions and *esprit de corps* of the T.A. Unit, or Sub-Unit in the same locality, so that there will be no break in their training or Regimental or Corps loyalty throughout Cadet Service, full-time National Service and compulsory part-time Service with the T.A. Unit located near his home."

There is surely no better way to fulfil the object of affiliation than by giving a boy training in the vital work of the Corps during his Cadet Service and by letting him feel that he is " part of the show." There are also, in the work of Royal Signals, infinite opportunities of developing powers of leadership and initiative.

A wonderful opportunity exists to give the affiliated Cadets some trade training before they are called up for National Service and thus to ensure them a flying start.

The plan that this particular T.A. Parent Unit has adopted is to aim at training its affiliated Cadets up to the standard of Class III Owl. The trade of operator has been chosen as being one that is vital to the Corps, interesting to the Cadets and a stepping stone to other trades. "A" trades have not been considered in view of instructional difficulties.

This scheme is not a " flash in the pan " but a serious effort to implement the object of the affiliation of the Cadet Unit to the T.A. and to go a step further.

It is well known in Royal Signals how lamentable is the shortage of tradesmen and, in the T.A., that many of the National Service men joining for their part-time service are of the wrong type of trade or have no trade at all.

This is especially true in Cheshire where operators are needed badly and, more so, operators special. Coming from an agricultural and labouring district, the majority of National Service men joining the T.A. Signal Units concerned are G.D. or drivers.

By training during the Cadet stage it is intended to provide an artificial supply of potential tradesmen.

There is no doubt that, once this scheme is in full swing, the finished product, having passed through advanced training during National Service, will return to the T.A. as useful and established tradesmen. An operator so trained

should have little difficulty in making the grade of even operator special before the termination of his part-time Service.

The whole plan has been submitted in detail to the Director of Cadets, who has given his approval for trade training to be given to those Cadets who have passed for Cert. "A" Part 2. He will not, however, yet give his approval to the full scheme which is to train the Cadet after he has passed Cert. "A," Part 1, and to allow him to take Certificate "T" in lieu of Cert. "A," Part 2. (Certificate "T" in this case was to take the form of passing the test of Class 3 Owl.) However, by ensuring that the Cadets realise that there is interesting and profitable training waiting for them as soon as they pass their Cert. "A," Part 2, an incentive is provided for them to make the necessary effort.

This has the double effect of helping the A.C.F. to fulfil its own role and to provide a supply of Cadets eligible to undertake trade training.

To make the training a success, instructors must be provided from the T.A. and all equipment held and maintained in the T.A. Centre.

Anyone who has had any dealing with boy training will know how boys will respond to interesting training and how quickly they can absorb the subjects so offered.

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Proof of enthusiasm has been quickly forthcoming in the case of the 8th Cheshire Regiment, A.C.F. From the time of the suggestion being made that real Signal training would be given to as many Cadets as possible depending on their progress with Cert. "A," the recruitment to the Unit increased rapidly and many Cadets who had resigned returned to the fold.

For the annual Cadet Camp this year it was decided to send equipment and instructors from the parent T.A. Regiment and, accordingly, R.S.M. Boyton, from the Permanent Staff, and a T.A. volunteer, Sergeant Smith, a radio mechanic, went to camp with the Cadets, taking with them a fully equipped 15 cwt. wireless truck, some 62, 31 and 88 sets, and a training set universal.

The camp only lasted one week, but during that short period four Cadets who had already passed their Cert. "A," Part 2, were trained up to the standard of being able to man the 15 cwt. wireless as a crew on their own, to open and close communication, to change frequency by complete re-tuning and to charge their batteries with the chore horse. Many others reached a lower standard.

The Chief of Staff, H.Q., Western Command, who visited the camp, was given a practical demonstration of this and was most enthusiastic about the whole idea.

It is hoped that this article may persuade other T.A. Signal Units to adopt the plan which, as a long term policy will be of great benefit to them and to the Corps.

An appeal is also made to ex Royal Signals Officers, W.O.s and N.C.O.s to come forward and help in existing A.C.F. Units affiliated to Royal Signals or to help to form new Units for affiliation.

T.W.B.

ARMY PHANTOM SIGNAL REGIMENT (Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment), T.A.

Presentation to H.R.H. The Princess Royal

H.R.H. The Princess Royal as Colonel-in-Chief of the Royal Signals has graciously consented to receive a presentation copy of the Regimental History of the Kensington Regiment during the Second World War.

The presentation was made privately at St. James's Palace on Wednesday, 1st October, by a deputation consisting of the Honorary Colonel, General Sir H. Colville Wemyss, K.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel D. C. Cocks, and representatives of the Kensington's Old Comrades' Association.

The volume is beautifully bound in blue leather and bears an illuminated inscription from all ranks and old comrades of the Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment: ". . . with their humble duty and grateful acknowledgement of the gracious interest bestowed on the Regiment by Her Royal Highness and in loyal and affectionate remembrance of their titular chief Her Royal Highness Princess Louise, Duchess of Argyll."

The Regiment, originally the 13th Battalion, The London Regiment, became Princess Louise's Kensingtons in 1913, and gained battle honours and distinction in France and the Near East during the First World War. From 1939 to 1945 the 1st Battalion served with the B.E.F. and later throughout the entire Italian campaign. The 2nd Battalion served in North-West Europe as support Battalion in the 49th Division. The Kensingtons have now the role of a Phantom Signal Regiment and have become a part of the Royal Corps of Signals.

23 (SOUTHERN) CORPS SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

The aftermath of a strenuous camp has occupied most of our time during September at Fulham House, and training only begins in earnest this month. Out of doors, however, we have been more than active. Our team (Captain Oliver, Corporal Vassar and Lance-Corporal Miller) finished seventh in the London District Motor Cycle Trials and subsequently competed in, but were forced to retire from, the Eastern Command trials. Captain Oliver is to be congratulated on winning the individual award in the London District T.A. Rifle Meeting, though our team was prevented by something highly technical called a " jam " from winning the team prize.

In September we said goodbye to Captain Penn, and very sorry we were to see him go. His Troop bade him a vociferous farewell at a party in the redecorated canteen. Which reminds yours truly, we have a very handsome canteen, which is proving a centre of cheerful gatherings.

FARELF Presentation



The above photograph shows the presentation of a Royal Signals plaque by W.O.I S. K. Miller to R.S.M. J. Borland, M.B.E., president of the Warrant Officers' and Serjeants' Mess, G.H.Q., FARELF. The plaque was donated by the four Royal Signals who are members of the G.H.Q. Mess, namely W.O.I S. K. Miller, W.O.II J. E. Gill, W.O.II R. N. Howells, and Serjeant C. A. Wood, and will remain as a permanent fixture

Accra Cameos

By **BEE WICKERSON**

NOT to be outdone by the descriptive eloquence of "soldier" feature writers, nor to be chivied from my self-appointed task of a Signals chronicler by left-handed references in a certain Squadron's notes to Signals' wives, I shall now attempt to hold your interest with a few discursive paragraphs.

Consequent upon the discovery that vegetables out of a tin have not the same succulent flavour of vegetables culled from a back garden, many of us have taken to a little light tilling of the ground. Having blinded with science the African garden "boy," who has spent his life in cultivating the soil of Africa (and who, by-the-by, transplants everything from radishes and onions to paw-paws and morning glory shrubs), we proceeded to sow lettuce, onions, tomatoes, cabbages, cauliflowers, beans, peas and turnips. From then on, late afternoon jaunts to the vegetable plot brought forth eulogies upon growing plants—eulogies which are sometimes repeated at the dinner table when the cabbage is properly cooked . . . or when spring onions and radishes are served *au naturel*.

As has frequently been described, explained and often condoned, the African carries his burden upon his own head. An atempt was recently made to inform a young man, who persistently appeared wearing an Anthony Eden hat upside down on his head, how exactly this elegant piece of headgear should be worn. With admirable restraint and forbearance, the youth-under-instruction expounded to the would-be fashion experts. He was not, repeat not, he said, wearing the hat. *He was carrying it!*

When one has been in West Africa for eighteen months or thereabouts, according to the exigencies of the Service, recuperation leave looms large and expensively upon one's immediate horizon. Battle dress and overcoats are brought forth in the light of day; and cockroaches, ants and similar creepy-crawlies are expunged from all afflicted garments. Also, one dashes down to the beaches in a last-minute attempt to collect a healthy tan—same being for display purposes along the highways and the byways of one's home town, and begins making board and lodging arrangements for three months in the U.K.

Bodies just returned for their second tour are welcomed into the bosom of one's family and plied with questions about the relative prices of every possible purchaseable article, both here and there. The merits and the demerits of air travel are discussed, the question is posed as to whether children under five are particularly prone to *mal-de-mer* when travelling by sea, and the much-maligned charter planes are subjected to fresh scrutiny.

The amusements afforded by Accra enable one to make the rounds in a comparatively short space of time. A new cinema, recently opened, is a variant on those of more ancient lineage, as it is an indoor show. During the unusually long spell of wet and cold weather from which we have been suffering (while England has sweltered in sunshine) it has proved extremely popular.

The hotel at the airport is a great night spot—especially so for the mess-bound bachelors and the temporary grass-widowers, while the European Club manages to get "hep" on a Saturday night to British swing, American jive and African "high life."

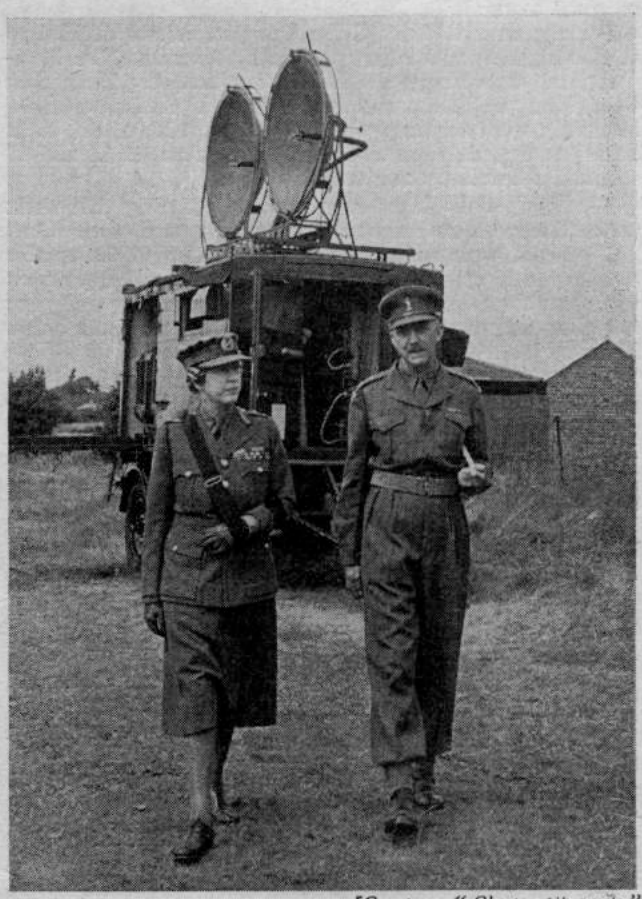
The various Units stationed in Accra and its environs, periodically in turn enliven the social strata with with a grand ball or a high-class hop. All in aid of a good cause! The Royal Corps of Signals' money-spinning device touched down in August. Balloons, inflated at great personal cost with an amazing display of lung power, were held aloft until a crucial moment (how crucial no one "on stage" will ever know). They were then allowed to fall sleekly upon the masses of ticket holders toiling below in the throes of a samba. The balloons were then assaulted with gay abandon and all manner of sharp instruments, while the band, with humour aforethought, played a sprightly tune-of-the-moment called "Careless Hands." From then, until the end, hot dogs (not to be taken away) were cooked and served on the premises.

None of us is really surprised, often we are hugely delighted, particularly if our role is host, when guests arrive at a dinner party bearing with them a dish of hot, mashed potatoes. There has been a potato famine. Yes, again—and we are eating yams and rice in lieu of. And paludrine pills on a plate with early morning tea is a choice matutinal morsel.

There are small matters of ju-ju that are apt to catch one out of step with life on the Gold Coast. There was the most unholy row going on in the nether regions of the quarter the other day. Venturing to investigate, I saw my "nannie" skipping around a pile of the childrens' smalls. In attendance was a collection of male servants from near and far, and practically all stations in between. Then I noticed, in an olfactory way, a mildewed and decayed paw-paw lying in juxtaposition to the washing. Obviously someone did not approve of the "nannie" and had put a paw-paw in the works.

It caused a bit of a to do when I gingerly removed the thing on the tip of a shovel (G.S.) Actually it was in such a state that, given time, it would have walked away of its own accord, anyway.

When you think about it Christmas is a long way off; but if you look again it is just around the corner, so, happy Christmas everyone.



[*Courtesy: "Chester Chronicle"*

Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal and Lieut.-Colonel D. E. L. Gardiner during the Colonel-in-Chief's inspection at Chester in July



51 L. of C. Signal Regiment, S.R. Camp photograph of Officers

Australian Notes

Britcom Base Signal Regiment—Japan

At 1300 (Z) hours, 3rd August, the radio teletype link between Kure, Japan, and Melbourne, Australia, changed over to " Tape Relay Procedure," and by the end of August, after some minor " teething troubles," the new system was operating efficiently. During August the total number of groups handled by the Kure Signal Office was 2,923,193, 1,324,754 of which were passed over radio teletype circuits to Yokohama and Melbourne using Tape Relay Procedure.

The Regiment maintained its good record in the local sporting world by winning the B.C.F.K. "B" Grade tennis competition and, after a hard tussle, by taking the lead in the "A" Grade cricket competition.

The second monthly Regiment tabloid sports meeting was held on 16th August. The outstanding competitor was Corporal Duncan, Royal New Zealand Signals, who scored the possible of 26 points.

At a swimming carnival held in the Signal Barracks pool on 27th August, eliminations were conducted to select entrants for the B.C.F.K. Swimming Carnival to be held on 5th and 6th September. A number of good times were recorded, members of Britcom Base Signal Regiment winning the majority of the events contested.

Central Command

A recent acquisition to "C" Command Signal Squadron as Adjutant and Quartermaster is Major R. Aldridge, of Tattoo Motor Cycle Team fame. We have no doubt that he will apply the same enthusiasm to his new posting as he did in making the motor cycle team such an outstanding success.

" Operation Plughole," as the name suggests, was a call to help in the stemming of the Murray River floods by building levees of sandbags to protect the homesteads and farms along the banks. Signals were called upon to furnish the communications and did so manfully by supplying a radio network and line communications on the spot, as well as a rear link to Keswick Barracks.

The Royal Adelaide Show has passed us again after having afforded Signals another opportunity to demonstrate their usual high degree of efficiency. This involved provision of communications necessary for the split second timing of a full-scale Army display, including the guard, three colour parties, three bands and approximately 2,500 personnel.

51 L. OF C. SIGNAL REGIMENT, S.R.

Since the Regiment last appeared in these notes it has been disbanded as T.A. and re-raised as S.R. It seems to have survived this operation " Phoenix," judging by its recent annual training which was carried out at full strength.

Last year we were the guinea pigs. We were the first S.R. Regiment to go into the tented camp at Blacon; we re-learnt a great deal and this year we seemed to know the form quite well.

Ten officers, including the C.O. and two Squadron Commanders, and four N.C.O.s, came over to the S.R. with the Regiment from the T.A. There was a six months' gap between the disbanding and the re-raising that discouraged some people, otherwise the numbers of other ranks would have been larger.

In December we held our first Officers' Annual Dinner at the Junior United Service Club, and this was voted a great success and a very good start to the Regiment in its new form.

In May, about twenty Officers of the Regiment attended the C.S.O. Eastern Command's exercise at Hounslow. We had an interesting and enjoyable day and only wished that there were more of such occasions in which we could take part. (Most readers will probably know that officially the S.R. only meets for 15 days' training a year. This comes rather hard on people who have been used to T.A. life with its frequent meetings.)

Major-General Sir Hubert Rance has continued as our Honorary Colonel. We were very pleased when we knew that he was coming home for a long leave which would enable him to spend a few days in camp with us. Unfortunately, he had to return to Trinidad at short notice and he was unable to join us at Chester. In a great hurry the C.O. arranged a cocktail party for the General to meet the Officers and about 20 managed to attend.

Our annual training this year was a very busy fortnight, but the highlight was the Colonel-in-Chief's visit. She spent the whole morning with us and then lunched with the Officers before leaving. We are the first S.R. Regiment to be visited and inspected by Her Royal Highness, and we are very conscious and proud of the honour.

We are now hibernating and shall not see very much of each other until next year. The Officers will meet at their annual dinner in December and probably in the New Year for a T.E.W.T. But for most of the Regiment it's " See you next camp."

ARMED FORCES *communications* ASSOCIATION

Extracts from News Letter, 1st October, 1952

U.S.A.F. General Becomes Chief Signal Officer in Europe

FOR the first time, the Chief Signal Officer of S.H.A.P.E. has been selected from the U.S. Air Force. Major-General Francis L. Ankenbrandt, who has been Deputy Chief of Staff for Communications of the Central European Allied Air Forces for the past year, assumes the position of Chief Signal Officer of S.H.A.P.E. on 1st October, as announced by General Matthew B. Ridgway, Supreme Allied Commander.

He succeeds Major-General Francis H. Lanahan, who has been recalled to an assignment with the U.S. Army Review Board Council at the Pentagon after serving for the past year and a half in the position of Chief Signal Officer of S.H.A.P.E.

Signal Corps Aviation Centre H.Q. Established

Monmouth County Airport will be the headquarters for the recently activated Signal Corps Aviation Centre as of 1st October. The Army Aviation Unit which has been based at the Red Bank Airport since 1944, will transfer its personnel and equipment to the Monmouth County field at about the same time. The Aviation Centre was organised in July to meet the growing needs for aircraft in modern communications missions for the Signal Corps. A weather station will be operated by the Centre in co-operation with the Evans Laboratory Meteorological Branch. A radio beacon and a control tower with complete radio facilities are also being installed on an experimental basis.

Signal School Library at Fort Monmouth

The Fort Monmouth Signal School Library, now completing its first year, is desirous of obtaining out-of-print books, periodicals and other material to make more complete its historical and research files. Donation of such material would be a valuable contribution to the library, which has as one of its missions the supplying of informational material to Signal Corps Officers and personnel no matter where they may be stationed. If the material cannot be donated to the library, it will be reproduced by the library staff and returned to the owner.

Television by Armed Services Subject of Address

Major-General George I. Back, U.S. Army Chief Signal Officer, will address the Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers on 6th October during the group's two-day convention in Washington, D.C. His address will cover the use of television by the Armed Services. There will also be an exhibit of the Signal Corps' mobile television system.

"Communications College" Four Years Old

1st October marks the fourth anniversary of the founding of the Signal Corps Training Centre at Camp Gordon, Ga. Located twelve miles west of Augusta, it is the world's largest signal training centre and is vital to our nation's strength—its graduates playing a critical role in the arduous Korean campaign and manning of our Army's communications lifeline on every global rampart. Graduated from the Centre have been 40,000 signal technicians, now members of all the U.S. Services as well as of the Armed Forces of five foreign allied countries. The Commanding General of the S.C.T.C. at Camp Gordon is Brigadier-General Robert A. Willard, who has been guiding its development since he returned from command of the Berlin Military Post in 1949.



[*Courtesy: U.S. Army*

Signalman J. Adams, of Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, England, operates a field switchboard in the British Brigade Message Centre, Korea

Korea

Lieutenant-Colonel A. L. Atkinson, M.B.E., who until lately has commanded the Commonwealth Divisional Signal Regiment, called at the Association Offices and asked that through THE WIRE he might express the very real gratitude of all ranks of the Divisional Signal Regiment in Korea for the gifts which had been sent to them from so many in Royal Signals.

He was asked "What is wanted at present?" He replied that while the issue of winter clothing is excellent the men do like to have some articles of clothing which were their own.

Socks are always very welcome. No soldier has enough.

Gloves and scarves. Men take great pleasure in having their own gloves and scarves, while the latter should be khaki or in neutral colours the men do appreciate a distinctive mark such as a bar of coloured wool at the end.

To these must be added books. Colonel Atkinson was very proud to say that the Commonwealth Divisional Signal Regiment was the FIRST in the Division to have an adequate supply of books sent out to them.

The best way of sending books is to arrange with one of the firms dealing in paper backed books at 1s. 6d. or 2s. to send out a list of selected books.

Association Notes

Boys Branch, Harrogate

"Hello, all stations." The first members of this Branch have been posted. The new team has taken over, all 25 of them. A/T. Sergeant Harries, secretary, A/T. Lance-Corporal Fell, treasurer (he does "chase" those elusive "bobs" for THE WIRE every month) and A/T. Humphreys as scribe.

We are nicely settled, thank you, up in "G" Spider Recreation Room, the second Thursday every month. There is a whisper that we are to be allowed to attend the senior branch meetings in the Drill Hall on the third Friday every month.

We've heard from Paterson, ex-badgy of this Branch, somewhere on the Continent. His C.O. is "chuffed" as he has nearly all that intake, 49B. We'd be glad to hear more about those exercises you write about. We are pleased you have all got off to such a good start.

At long last we've moved over to our new classrooms—just the job! There are one or two changes on the Military Staff Instructors, but the " well kent " faces of the " civvies " are still with us.

School boxing will have reached its climax by the time these notes appear in print, but more of that in next month's notes.

The Radio Club is under way, run by the Signal Wing. Once all the gear is fitted and teething troubles over, look out you " hams " for G3HKR, we'll give you a blow.

All for now. Must give a hand with the station. Yes, 49B, we are on a day stunt. Does New Park, Pateley and Blubberhouses strike a chord?

No. 24 (Orsett Branch)

There is very little of note to report this month. Members come, members go, but this little secretary seems to be going on for ever.

Once more we are preparing for our Regimental and Social Reunion week-end. Details have been published in the Headquarters monthly news sheet.

By kind permission of the Commanding Officer, who is also the Branch President, we are purchasing the whole of the amenities of the " Jimmy Club," so from this day forward is born the new home of No. 24 Branch, which we hope will continue to flourish and go from success to success.

On 18th October, 38 members of the Branch are proceeding to the London Rally and Reunion. We are looking forward to a very happy and pleasant evening. Forearmed is forewarned they say—it is a fact that several members of the Branch are preparing the biggest " grip " in history.

In conclusion, we extend a hearty and cordial welcome to all members of the Corps, past and present. The big hand of comradeship awaits you in Orsett Camp. Please do pay us a visit whenever you can.

Royal Signals Benevolent Fund

Also on this page is a simple statement of income and expenditure. Below an attempt is made to describe with suitable anonimity eight cases taken at random from the September files still current on 15th October in the office of the Welfare Section at 88 Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1.

Widow of Corporal, service 1941-46, mostly Middle East, who died of T.B. in 1950. She lives with two children on a widow's pension and the Benevolent Fund helped her, not for the first time, to keep the home together.

Widow of Signalman, service 1924-45. He died in May 1952 and through the British Legion the Benevolent Fund paid her arrears of mortgage caused by change from comfortable income to widow's pension.

Ex-Sergeant, 1941-46. For two years he has been in hospital and his wife and four children are having a hard struggle. The Fund, on recommendation of SSAFA, has cleared off their debts and the Employment Section are seeking light work for him as he is now just leaving hospital.

Ex-Corporal, 1942-47. Egypt, France, Belgium, Holland, Germany. He was working in London but badly housed. Now he is diagnosed T.B. and sickness benefit and Assistance Board contribution is only half what he was earning. The Fund is helping.

Ex-Signalman, 1938-46. He has been in a T.B. sanatorium for 12 months and his wife and three children are living on a subsistence income. The eldest child has a scholarship to a Grammar School but had no suitable clothes. SSAFA reported, the Fund provided.

Ex-Signalman, 1939, invalided out 1943. The Benevolent Fund helped in 1951 with the cost of materials for Occupational Therapy. He died in 1952 and his widow and two young children live with his parents. A playpen was provided to keep the children out of mischief.

Ex-Signalman, 1937-46. Four years P.O.W. of Japanese. The Fund helped in 1948. Early in 1952 all was fairly well. He had a small pension, was working, had a wife and two young children. Then his ex-A.T.S. wife was diagnosed T.B. He was off work for three weeks while he was nursing his wife and getting children boarded out with neighbours. The Fund helped a little. He is now back at work but has, after long waiting, been given a decent house. His wife is recovering and he is anxious to have the new house ready when she comes home. SSAFA told us and he now writes in gratitude that thanks to a fairly substantial grant for furniture and furnishings he has a good home and all he needs is his wife and family to live in it. She comes home next week-end!

Ex-Signalman, 1942, invalided out 1947. He has T.B. and so has his daughter. He writes: " I must express my gratitude for your Committee's generosity in granting me the sum of £10 in order to get some clothes after my long stay in hospital. My health is now so much improved that I am at present attending a rehabilitation course at a commercial college."

It so happens that the first eight files in the tray which are reproduced above deal with widows and ex-Signalmen mostly suffering from T.B. Readers of this column will be aware that the Fund is equally available to help those still serving.

Subscriptions received during September, 1952:—

	£	s.	d.
Depot Regiment	66	8	9
Depot Regiment	7	4	4
1 Training Regiment	10	0	0
2 Training Regiment	10	0	0
3 Training Regiment	13	2	0
7 Training Regiment	10	0	0
Kent Coast Troop	3	0	0
Gold Coast Signal Squadron	49	12	6

Donations received during September, 1952:—

Mr. J. B. Thompson	1	2	3
No. 15 Unit Branch	2	13	10
Total Receipts	£173	3	8

Expenditure during September, 1952 £568 17 8

(Includes: Beds and Bedding; Rent and Rates; General Assistance; Tools; Prams and Cots; Removals; Fares; Clothing; Hire Purchase.)

Analysis of cases.

Families of soldiers serving in U.K.	3
" " " " FARELF	1
Widows and Dependants	12
Released and discharged soldiers	51
Total cases assisted	67

Bournemouth

To those of you who are anxious to know how we are faring down here, my apologies for being a little behind with these notes, but I just haven't been able to fight my way through the crowds of happy holidaymakers to get at the typewriter. No doubt many of those happy holidaymakers were from Mercury House, which has been, and still is, showing " full house " notices, but we cannot help remarking that we see very few Association badges knocking around, apart from those worn by our own stalwarts.

Of course, among the thousands who do come here for holidays (if this advertising goes on I shall have to apply to the local council for a small fee) our Association members are thin on the ground, but I cannot help wondering whether the badge is displayed as prominently as it might be.

We were very pleased indeed that four of our members were able to get to Catterick for THE week-end. They were practically back to normal when we saw them the following Friday. Perhaps next year we may do even better.

Our first social of the season marked the occasion of our saying goodbye to one of our members who has taken up residence in America and had been paying her folks a visit for a month or two. We did our best to keep her here but apparently after three years of married life she still loves the guy. Anyway, the evening was quite successful after we found that we didn't have to climb up and down the lift shaft but that there was a box arrangement on a rope—no, we've

got no one called Waiter in our branch. Mesdames Rouse and Gillett put in a lot of work on sandwiches, etc., so much so, in fact, that Sammy reckons he'll be eating his Christmas dinner early in the New Year!

And that reminds me. In case you don't hear from us for a month or two, a very merry Christmas to you all.

Sport

Royal Signals

SINGAPORE

Soccer

THE soccer season opened in April, and after a few trial matches a promising Corps team was built up. The difficulty of not possessing our own ground was overcome by playing away matches and by borrowing grounds.

In our first match against a very strong Nee Soon Garrison XI we were unfortunate to lose. However, it was an excellent test for the newly-created team and they soon settled down to play good, fast-moving football. The Garrison was so pleased with the game that we were asked for a return match, but due to the large number of Regimental games it has had to be put off until next season.

Other matches were played against the R.A.P.C., R.A.O.C. and the R.A.F. Station (Changi). This latter match was against the winners of the Singapore Inter-Services League and was in the nature of a severe try-out for the Parker Cup.

In the Parker Cup we had a bye in the qualifying round and beat R.A.P.C. on their own ground in the semi-final. This was probably the most thrilling game of the season and a very large crowd were kept cheering until the very end of the game.

The final was against the Royal Engineers, who had won the cup three times in the last four seasons. The game started with fast, clean football, the play swinging from end to end. In one of the goalmouth tussles the ball was passed back into our own goal. However, the whole team fought back extremely hard, but despite hitting the goalposts several times they were unable to equalise. The game was summed up by Colonel Parker, the donor of the cup and medals, when he said: "It was a game in the finest traditions of Army football."

The Corps Colours Soccer (Far East) have been awarded to:—

Sergeant A. Bligh, Singapore District Signal Regiment.
Signalman R. M. Tait, G.H.Q., Signal Regiment.
Signalman B. J. Worthington, 19 Air Formation, Signal Regiment.

Results:

Royal Signals v. Nee Soon Garrison	Lost 1—2
Royal Signals v. R.A.P.C.	Won 3—1
Royal Signals v. R.A.O.C.	Won 3—1
Royal Signals v. R.A.F. Station (Changi)	Lost 1—2
Parker Cup—Semi-Final:	
Royal Signals v. R.A.P.C.	Won 1—0
Final:	
Royal Signals v. R.E.	Lost 0—1

Cricket

Eight fixtures had been arranged for this season but for various reasons we only played five. We were very disappointed that Royal Signals (Malaya) could not visit us owing to operational commitments. Against the Sappers we had to postpone our fixture twice before the weather allowed us to play.

Our team was very much stronger than last season. Newcomers included Captain C. J. Cattanach, Royal Australian Signals, our wicketkeeper-batsman, who also played for the Army, Combined Services and Singapore; Corporal Hughes, another Australian, a mighty hitter and an accurate bowler; and Captain S. A. Frost and Corporal Towner, both of whom started the season bowling well and finished it in a blaze of glory. Colonel G. S. Knox, our captain, playing his third season of cricket in Singapore, also played for the Army.

We won two matches, drew two and lost one. Against R.A.E.C., both sets of batsmen were on top and we drew. We lost to R.A.S.C. because of the inexplicable failure of our batsmen. We drew with R.E.; we should have won but we just could not break their last pair before stumps were drawn. We soundly beat R.A., thus avenging an equally sound beating they gave us last year. The quotation of the season was made at this match. The G.O.C. (who is a Gunner) as he walked away after the match said: "Of course, the advantage of being a G.O.C. is that one can say 'I'm glad to see my Signals beat my Gunners'!" We beat R.E.M.E. fairly easily.

Match results were:—

V. R.A.E.C. Match drawn. Royal Signals 241 for 8 declared. R.A.E.C. 125 for 4.
V. R.A.S.C. Lost by 8 wickets. Royal Signals 81, R.A.S.C. 82 for 2.
V. R.E. Match drawn. Royal Signals 227 for 9 declared, R.E. 148 for 9.
V. R.A. Won by 238 runs. Royal Signals 285 for 4 declared, R.A. 47.
V. R.E.M.E. Won by 109 runs. Royal Signals 197 for 7 declared, R.E.M.E. 88.

The best averages in the team were:—

BATTING

Captain C. J. Cattanach	64.00
Corporal Hughes	39.38
Corporal Quickmire	29.33
Colonel G. S. Knox	24.20

BOWLING

Corporal Towner	52.2	8	135	13	10.38
Corporal Hughes	28	7	72	5	14.40
Major T. S. Foster	29	6	74	5	14.80
Captain S. A. Frost	42	13	121	6	20.16

ROYAL SIGNALS GOLFING SOCIETY

The autumn meeting of the Royal Signals Golfing Society held at Westhill Golf Course last month will go down in Signal's history as "Keeling's Meeting." This latest addition to the Society entered for four events and won the lot! Anyone who can do this 18-hole course in a gross 76 in the morning and a 74 in the afternoon (bogey 75) on the third day of a meeting proves himself a great golfer, and we in the Society salute Second-Lieutenant M. V. Keeling.

The meeting opened on the Wednesday with the annual event between the juniors and seniors (Lieutenant-Colonels and above) and this year the tables were turned and the juniors triumphed.

On Thursday morning the Challenge Cup and the Junior Officers' Cup were competed for Stableford fashion, and during lunch partners were drawn for the Foursomes Challenge Cup. Major A. A. Baldwin was again successful, this time in company with Captain J. Ferguson. They opened quietly and then had a brilliant spell in the middle of the round to finish up the eventual winners.

After tea the annual meeting was held and the officers for the year were elected. The only important change was that of Captain O. J. Peck for Major J. Norfolk as hon. secretary, as Major Norfolk is due to leave the delights of Catterick in the near future.

By Friday some of the competitors were beginning to show signs of wear and tear, but Keeling was still improving and quite rightly he became the new Corps champion.

Owing to the dryness of the summer the course was not up to its usual state of perfection, but everyone enjoyed themselves and that after all is the chief ambition of the organisers of the Royal Signals Golfing Society.

Winter Sports for the Services

THE five schemes detailed below are available to Regular, Territorial and Reserve personnel of the three Services and their families. All have been run at least three previous winters.

(a) *St. Moritz in Switzerland* (Combined Services Winter Sports Association).
16 days from £35 5s. (part payable in sterling), which includes hotel, all taxes and gratuities, ski school, funiculars, ski-lift, and third-class return rail travel from London. (£20 5s. without travel.)
Air travel by chartered aircraft or second-class rail travel are optional at slight extra cost. There are six consecutive periods of 16 days beginning on 19th December, 1952, 2nd, 16th and 30th January, 13th and 27th February, and 13th March, 1953.

(b) *Badgastein in Austria* (Army Ski Association).
17th to 31st January, 1953 (14 days). Terms are from 18s. to 22s. a day, including four meals and extras in the hotel, not including travel which is being arranged for Service rail parties from £11 15s. 10d. return (including meals and couchettes). The Army Ski Championships will be held at Badgastein from 27th to 30th January, 1953.

(c) *Obergurgl and Hochsolden in Austria* (Royal Naval Ski and Mountaineering Club).
16 days from £29 (part payable in sterling), which includes hotel, all taxes and gratuities, ski school, ski-lifts and third-class travel. Departure dates: Hochsolden 27th December, 1952, 10th January, 1953; Obergurgl 3rd January, 1953.

(d) *Chamonix in France* (R.A.F. Winter Sports Association).
10 days for £37 12s., which includes hotel, gratuities, ski school, ski-lifts, ski equipment and third-class travel. Departure dates: 5th, 15th, 25th January, 4th, 14th and 24th February, 1953.

(e) *Scheidegg and Wengernalp in Switzerland* (Combined Services Winter Sports Association).
Any period from December to May. Special service terms from 21s. a day, including extras.

Those interested in these and other ski schemes should apply for membership of the Army Ski Association (annual subscriptions: Regular Officers 5s., Territorial and Reserve Officers 4s., other ranks 2s. 6d.). The Association badge costs 2s. 6d., the Association tie (white lion and crown superimposed on crossed ski-sticks on a blue background) costs 10s. 6d. Special terms are available for the purchase or hire of ski clothing and the hire of ski equipment, and for Winter Sports Insurances to save currency. Application forms and further details of the schemes can be obtained from: The Army Ski Association, A.S.C.B., The War Office, London, S.W.1.

Royal Signals

AUSTRIA

UNDER the above title the three Royal Signals Units in Austria combine to do battle in Command sporting events, and it is proposed to report these sporting activities under this heading in THE WIRE.

Swimming

The annual swimming championships were decided in the lovely setting of the Other Ranks' Leave Hotel on the Ossiacher See in Carinthia. Team and individual championships were decided simultaneously. Royal Signals won the 200 metres free-style relay and were third in the 200 metres medley relay. In the individual events the best we could do was to get third places in the 100 metres free-style (Signalman Knapp) and the 5 metres fixed board diving (Signalman Melia). Our final placing was sixth, but it should be pointed out that only 24 points separated us from the winners and 8 points from the runners-up.

Cricket

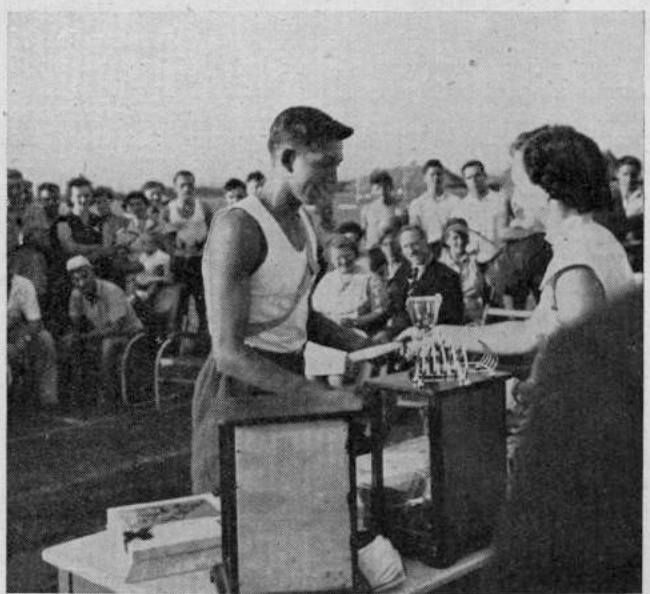
After convincing wins in the preliminary rounds and semi-final, we found ourselves against the full might of The Royal Warwickshire Regiment in the final played at Graz on 30th-31st August. Space forbids a full description of what proved to be an exciting match with hopes on both sides alternately rising and falling. Who can tell what might have happened if Sergeant Godfrey had not attempted to hit a six from the last ball of the first day's play, and was caught in the attempt? Who can prophesy, even in retrospect, the difference that Sunday's heavy intermittent rain showers made to the second day's play? Let it suffice to say that we were beaten by the narrow margin of 42 runs and the issue was in doubt to the very end.

Royal Warwickshire Regiment. 1st Innings, 167 (Sergeant Godfrey 3—20, Lance-Corporal Harrison 5—64); Royal Signals 100.
2nd Innings. 116 (Sergeant Godfrey 3—12, Sergeant Wilson 4—23). Royal Signals 141.

Athletics

To quote from the B.T.A. Weekly Journal—"The Unit which took most of the glory—and the trophies—was the Royal Signals. In individual and team championships alike, they proved outstanding." This is a very fair and not exaggerated summary of our successes in the Command athletics meeting. As in previous years, the championships were divided into two meetings; individual events on 2nd-3rd September and team events on 5th-6th September. In the individual championships Royal Signals gained six first places, two seconds, and three thirds, out of fourteen events. We took all places in the 200 metres. Special mention must be made of the brilliant sprinting of Signalman Rannow, who won the 100 metres in a new B.T.A. record time of 11 seconds, and the 200 metres.

Before the team championships it was a foregone conclusion that Royal Signals would win the Minor Units Shield,



Signalman Rannow, who broke the B.T.A. record for 100 metres at the Command Meeting, was the Victor Ludorum of 12 Wireless Squadron Sports and is seen here receiving his trophy from Mrs. M. Stonestreet, wife of the O.C.

and we made an effort to be allowed to compete with the Major Units, but the committee would not alter the rules for the meeting. As was expected, we literally ran away with the Minor Units Championship, winning every track event except the 5,000 metres, in which we were third. In the field events we won the javelin, discus, long jump, were second in the hammer, shot, high jump, and third in the pole vault. The Royal Signals teams broke the existing Command records in the following events:—

4 x 100 metres—45 seconds.
4 x 200 metres—1 minute, 33.4 seconds.
Discuss—202 feet 9 inches.

A comparison of the times, distances and heights achieved by the Major Units and Royal Signals indicated that we may well have won the senior trophy if we had been allowed to compete for it. Perhaps next year the committee will revise its definition of Major and Minor Units and give us a chance to show our heels to the Infantry Battalions, Royal Army Service Corps and Royal Engineers.

Cycling

This year the Command started a new venture in the formation of a Cycling Club, with the Chief Signal Officer as its president and Captain G. A. Weedon as secretary. Only one competitive event was staged in the form of a massed start road race round a 30-mile circuit on 15th September. The large number of entrants, which fully justified the formation of the club, were divided into two classes for the race, Class A for racing cycles and Class B for ordinary pushbikes. Any Unit with three or more competitors in Class A became eligible to enter for the team championship. We are pleased to be able to record that "Royal Signals, Austria," will be the first name to be engraved on the new trophy. We did not have the first man home but by getting 2nd, 7th and 8th places in Class A we were easy winners of the team event. Corporal Jobbins was the first Royal Signals entry to finish.



Royal Signals Austria Cycling Team. Corporal Jobbins has just received the team trophy from Mrs. G. A. Weedon

A.S.Y.C. Gold Cup Race

ON 13th September the Royal Signals Sailing Association entered for the Association of Service Yacht Clubs' Gold Cup Race at Seaview. This is a race between clubs of all three Services for a very fine cup presented by the Royal Yacht Squadron.

Since 1947 the meeting has been held at Seaview, Isle of Wight, using their mermaid class boats. These are small bermuda rigged keel boats, club owned and practically identical. Sixteen clubs had entered and the race was run in two heats and a final. The Corps crew were in the second heat and after a moderate start managed to work up to third place at the finish. There was a moderate breeze and a short steep sea, but we found we could sail well to windward compared with other boats, though we were slower off the wind.

The final was sailed immediately after the second heat. Unfortunately we were over the line at the gun and had to gybe round and recross it, losing valuable time getting to the first mark when the course gave a beat. The fleet split up on different tacks and there was considerable place changing before rounding the next mark and running back to the outer limit of the starting line. The second round was in the reverse direction and again the fleet split, each boat trying to find favourable winds and tides. We rounded the weather mark fourth and were very disappointed to find that the next boat, sailed by a Royal Artillery crew, slipped past through our lee and pulled out a few lengths lead before crossing the line, leaving us to finish fifth.

On 14th September the same crew were chosen for the Army team of three boats for the Coningham Cup race, which was won by the Royal Air Force. The crew consisted of Captain M. M. Barker (skipper), Major R. E. D. Mathews and Captain L. D. Line.

Bisley, 1952

AT the A.R.A. Central Meeting at Bisley this year the Corps was well represented. A total of eleven Unit teams entered and the total number amounted to 100 personnel of the Corps.

As a whole the Corps did not do well in any of the team matches. In the Unit rifle match the team representing the School of Signals was the highest placed Signals team, being placed 25th out of a total entry of 52 teams.

In the Methuen Cup match a series of unfortunate breakdowns in weapons led to loss of points and the Corps was placed last in a field of 28.

In the individual field, however, some of the leeway was made up. Second-Lieutenant Hallas, 5 Training Regiment, was placed 9th in the Roupell Cup with a score of 95 ex 105. Captain Andrews, of the School of Signals, won the Henry Whitehead Cup with a score of 182 ex 200. In this competition there was a record entry of 1,000. Captain Andrews also gained a place in the Army Hundred, the Army Twenty and the Army Eight.

★

At the National Rifle Meeting which follows the Army Meeting, the Corps was represented by Major J. C. Green and Captain K. E. P. Andrews. In these competitions, Captain Andrews gained a place in the Queen's Hundred and finished third in the final. Second-Lieutenant T. Elford (Supplementary Reserve) shot extremely well in the Regular and T.A. Cup, being the highest scorer on behalf of the T.A. and winning the prize reserved for the T.A. in this match.

The Corps has shown by the large attendance at these meetings that its interest in shooting is second to none, but the main lesson to be learned from this year's meeting is that teams must be selected early in the year and must have plenty of practice before arriving at Bisley, since the standard of shooting is steadily going up among our rivals.

THE WIRE

The Corps Magazine of the
ROYAL SIGNALS
The Official Organ of the
SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

Editor :
BRIGADIER H. R. FIRTH

All correspondence and matter for publication for THE WIRE *should be addressed to The Editor,* THE WIRE, *88 Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1. Matter for publication must be received by the 15th of the month preceding publication.*

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DECEMBER • 1952

Vol. 6 No. 12

☆

PRICE ONE SHILLING

Editorial

THIS, the December number of THE WIRE, will reach its subscribers in England before Christmas, and to them THE WIRE sends all the good wishes traditional at that season. It will arrive overseas too late for that, but to all its readers THE WIRE offers its hopes that 1953 will bring health and happiness.

To many overseas this will mean a return to their homes and families. Particularly at this season we should think of those whose duties are concerned with the Queen's enemies. In Korea, in Malaya and, no one can forecast the future, perhaps elsewhere, our men will be fighting. All over the world Signalmen, be it Christmas or any other season, will be maintaining the communications without which our Army cannot exist. For those of us who sleep each night in bed it is worth thinking of the very many who keep watch by night in the service of Signals. Christmas is a season of giving, and books and any other little thing such as a pair of socks or a scarf may well be consigned to the 1st Commonwealth Divisional Signal Regiment, BAPO3. It is as easy as that!

* * * *

While this WIRE is being printed, the representatives of ex-Servicemen's Associations of 18 countries will be meeting in London for the Third General Assembly of the World Veterans' Federation. General C. W. Fladgate, the Chairman of the Association, is one of the British delegates to this assembly.

* * * *

The year 1952 has been one of great progress for the Association. The most significant factor in this progress has been the realisation by nearly all of the importance of informing the men now serving of the work done by the Association. In the hurry of the immediate post-war years too many were allowed to leave the Royal Signals unaware that there was, and is, a Royal Signals' Association. During 1952 immense efforts have been made to ensure that this does not happen again.

The New Year is traditionally a time of making resolutions and the first three months usually marks the breaking of most of them. A suitable resolution for all of us in the Royal Signals might well be to do all we can to inform others of the work of the Association and to see if we can persuade them to make further enquiries about it.



Left to right : A. W. Smith, A. E. Stead, F. Steel, Colonel V. Barber, two representatives from Grays, F. H. Gray, R. W. Fennimore, A. G. Adcock

The photograph shows the Royal Signals Plot on the 6th November, 1952, the day the Field of Remembrance was opened. On that day crosses, sent by the following branches of the Association, had been planted: London, London (City), Doncaster, Catterick, Sutton, Aldershot, Sheffield, Prescot, Liverpool, Orsett (Grays), Scarborough, Bath.



Vale

BRIGADIER C. KNOWLES, C.B.E.

BRIGADIER CYRIL KNOWLES retires from the Army after 34 years' service, 26 of them with the Royal Signals. Joining the Rifle Brigade in 1918, he went to France and was wounded five days before the Armistice. Returning to his Regiment, he served with them in England, Mesopotamia and India until 1923, when he attended the "Q" Course. He was seconded in 1924 and transferred to the Corps in 1927. From 1925 to 1928 he served with the Mounted Wing of the Depot Battalion and attended the Equitation School at Weedon with "Black Buttons"—probably the only case on record. A keen and accomplished horseman, he soon became well known around Catterick, in the hunting field, show jumping and riding in point-to-points. On leaving the Depot Battalion in 1928 he went to Egypt and started a career in the Middle East, which lasted, except for a spell in the United Kingdom as Adjutant, 2nd Divisional Signals, until 1943.

From 1940 on he commanded various Signal Units, including 7 Armoured ("The Desert Rats"), and was later C.S.O. 13 and 10 Corps in the desert until 1943, when he came home to take over C.S.O. 8 Corps for the Normandy landing, after which he became C.S.O. 2nd Army. After a spell at the War Office and then as C.S.O. Palestine in 1946 he finished his time with Signals as C.S.O. Scottish Command.

Thinking he was then to retire he made all arrangements to this end, but was selected Commander and C.C.L.D. H.Q. Vienna Garrison.

Brigadier Knowles came to the Corps when it was comparatively young, and served it mostly in Regimental appointments for many years. It is to such as he that the Corps owes a deep debt of gratitude for helping it through some difficult times. Among the more junior ranks the Corps has always been lucky in having an ample supply of those who not only did their job well, which was their duty, but who also gave of their best in the field of sport, thus establishing its reputation in the eyes of the rest of the Army. It is among these that we should include Cyril—a keen sportsman and a versatile one—his activities embraced hunting, rugger, tennis, according to the station in which he was serving—he was always ready to help wherever he could in building up the reputation of the Corps.

Much of his war was spent in the Western Desert, where he gained a reputation as a C.S.O. both from the staff whom he served and from the units which served under him, of which anyone might be proud.

The Corps will miss him and will wish him all possible good fortune in his retirement. The older generation will say "Thank you," and the younger generation should realise that it was due to the quiet and unassuming efforts of such as Brigadier Knowles and many others with him that the Corps gained the high reputation which they have inherited.

NATIONAL MEMORIAL TO HIS LATE MAJESTY KING GEORGE VI

Arrangements have been made for a subscription to be forwarded to the Lord Mayor's Fund from Royal Signals.

Should any serving, T.A., or A.E.R. Officer or other rank wish to contribute to the Royal Signals Subscription and not already be paying through his Unit, or should any retired Officer or other rank wish to subscribe, donations will be gladly received by the General Secretary, Royal Signals Association, until 10th January, 1953.

Obituary

AS briefly announced in November, Lieutenant-Colonel P. E. Nolan, M.B.E., died at his home in Reading in early October. There were few of his generation who were better known. He enlisted in 1903 and served in all ranks from Private to Lieutenant-Colonel.

After five years as R.S.M. he gained his commission as Lieutenant in the Special List of Quartermasters in the Indian Army Special List.

He retired in 1939 in the rank of Major, having been awarded the M.B.E. in 1934.

In 1940 he was re-employed as a Major and appointed to the Royal Signals Records, where for the next five years he and (be it added) his two daughters continued his life work of service to the Corps. He was appointed Lieutenant-Colonel in 1942. His service to the Royal Signals ended in 1945, but soon he was re-employed to guide the Record Office of a new Corps, the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, along the path he knew so well.

Ill health made him end in 1947 a long innings of 43 years, 41 of which had been to Royal Signals.

His very many friends will extend their sympathy to Mrs. Nolan and her two daughters.

Major-General W. R. C. Penney, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., represented the Royal Signals and the Association at the funeral.

PERSONAL COLUMN

London Gazette

14th October, 1952

Brigadier (Temporary Major-General) M. S. Wheatley, C.B.E., is promoted Major-General.

* * * *

The following, of interest, was in the "*London Gazette*" *dated 30th September*, 1952:

Major (Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel) D. White, O.B.E., to be Lieutenant-Colonel.

Major H. Winterbotham, O.B.E., to be Lieutenant-Colonel.

Major R. A. Conner to be Lieutenant-Colonel.

Major D. E. Harrison, O.B.E., to be Lieutenant-Colonel.

Major P. M. P. Hobson, D.S.O., to be Lieutenant-Colonel.

Major H. E. F. Middleton to be Lieutenant-Colonel.

Major E. Y. Nepean to be Lieutenant-Colonel.

Major G. Mellor to be Lieutenant-Colonel.

Major (T.O.T.) H. V. Wattley, B.E.M., to R.A.R.O.

Major J. C. Ireland, M.B.E. (Supplementary Reserve) to be Lieutenant-Colonel.

Movements—Officers

Major W. C. Ramsay, FARELF to U.K.

Major J. A. Catch from School of Signals to Cyprus.

Major G. W. Blackburn from War Office to FARELF.

Major D. L. Sylvester-Bradley from B.A.O.R. to H.Q. Signal Training Centre.

Major A. B. Wheeler from 2 War Office Signal Regiment to M.E.L.F.

Major (T.O.T.) W. H. Pagett from FARELF to Western Command Signal Regiment.

Major (T.O.T.) B. T. Sherman from Western Command Signal Regiment to West Africa.

Captain (Q.M.) T. Williamson from Army Phantom Signal Regiment, T.A., Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment to East Africa.

Major R. S. Campbell from Eastern Command Signal Regiment to 15 A.A. (M) Signal Regiment, T.A.

Major B. C. Pigg from M.E.L.F. to Eastern Command Signal Regiment.

Major W. E. Jelf from M.E.L.F. to Course at Ecole Supericure de Guerre.

Lieutenant-Colonel A. L. Atkinson from 1 Comwell Divisional Signal Regiment to Signals Wing, School of Infantry.

Lieutenant-Colonel D. E. Harrison from Signals Wing, School of Infantry, to War Office.

Colonel D. St. J. Hoysted from C.A.F.S.O., M.E.A.F. to U.K.

Colonel J. W. Gordon from H.Q. Eastern Command to C.A.F.S.O., M.E.A.F.

Major J. C. Green from School of Signals to H.Q. 205 Group, R.A.F.

Captain J. W. F. Church from Singapore District Signal Regiment to R.A.P.C., Malaya.

Major (T.O.T.) J. F. Thorpe from Ministry of Supply to M.E.L.F.

Major E. N. L. Brown from 1 Training Regiment to M.E.L.F.

Lieutenant-Colonel E. C. R. Blaker from 2 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment to 1 Comwell Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment.

Major J. Shaw from War Office to B.A.O.R.

Movements—Other Ranks

1 Corps Signal Regiment, B.A.O.R.

Arrivals:

Sergeant Dunn from 3 Training Regiment.
Sergeant Head from R.Signals Training Wing.
S.Q.M.S. Hulme from 2 W.O.S.R.
W.O.II Harding from 4 Training Regiment.
Sergeant Emburey from H.Q. B.A.O.R. Signal Regiment.

Departures:

Sergeant Grimmer to N.S. release.
Sergeant Brown to F. of S. Course.
Sergeant Grout to release.

Singapore District Signal Regiment

Arrivals:

3959580 S.Q.M.S. A. Petit from 7 Training Regiment.

2326303 Sergeant J. Latimer from 7 Training Regiment.

2325394 Sergeant J. Lightfoot from 5 A.A. (M) Signal Regiment.

Captain J. B. D. Lane, M.B.E., from School of Signals.

S.S.M. O. G. Appleton from inter-tour leave.

S.S.M. H. C. Nix from N.I.D. Signal Squadron.

S.Q.M.S. Bowman from Army Wireless Chain.

Sergeant M. C. Buesnel from 11 A.A. (M) Signal Regiment (T.A.).

Sergeant J. Chater from 3 Training Regiment, Royal Signals.

Sergeant J. Sarfaty from No. 1 Special Communication Regiment (T.A.).

Sergeant L. McGuinness from No. 6 Boys Training Regiment.

Sergeant S. Hosey from School of Signals.

Corporal N. Waterhouse from Depot Regiment.

Corporal J. Allison from Depot Regiment.

Departures:

Major S. E. Miller to C.S.O. Branch, H.Q. Singapore Base District.

Captain (Q.M.) E. E. T. Bennet to U.K.

Lieutenant J. M. Clayton to School of Signals.

S.Q.M.S. G. Foster to U.K. and release.

S.Q.M.S. T. Leeson to U.K.

Sergeant A. Slater to U.K. and release.

Sergeant L. Newton to U.K. inter-tour leave.

Sergeant S. Kefford to U.K. and release.

Sergeant L. Patch to U.K. and release.

W.O.I (F. of S.) D. Barry to H.Q. Malay District on first Commission (T.O.T.).

2323378 W.O.II W. Toole to Chinese Training Unit, Hong Kong.

* * * *

Mr. C. Goffe, 19 Allman Road, Erdington, Birmingham, 24, who was one of those who started motorcycle displays of the 48th Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A., about 1937, still, it appears, continues an enthusiast for this type of motorcycling. He is chairman of a team of amateurs known as the Pyramid Display Team, who give performances mainly in the Midlands.

* * * *

Mr. J. Thracker, 129 Towngate, Leyland, Lancs., is anxious to get in touch with a friend described below. If anyone knows him will they ask him to write to Mr. Thracker.

MARTIN, J.

Up to 1940 lived in Newcastle-on-Tyne. Joined the Royal Signals in May or June 1940. Served at 2 S.T.C. Prestatyn, 1940; 9 Corps Signals, 1942. In hospital, Fenham Barracks, Newcastle-on-Tyne, 1941. Married, R.C. Church, Prestatyn, 1940.

Births

DUNKLEY.—To Captain and Mrs. W. R. M. Dunkley, a son, William Roderick.

BREWIN.—To Captain and Mrs. W. Brewin, a son, Robert Allan.

WILSON.—To Driver and Mrs. Wilson, Berlin Signal Squadron, a daughter.

GARLAND.—To Sergeant and Mrs. M. F. B. Garland, at B.M.H. Munster, on 15th October, a daughter, Maureen Myfanwy.

MACKINNON.—To Corporal and Mrs. J. M. Mackinnon, at B.M.H. Munster, on 21st September, 1952, a son, Graham McDonald.

DAVIDSON.—To Captain and Mrs. F. A. Davidson, on 17th September, 1952, at B.M.H. Singapore, a son, Paul Francis.

DOUGLAS.—To Sergeant and Mrs. G. Douglas, on 29th September, 1952, at B.M.H. Singapore, a son, Gerald Luke.

CULLEY.—To Signalman and Mrs. J. D. Culley, No. 2 Squadron, 50 (N) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A., on 5th September, 1952, a son, John Daniel.

HARDY.—To Sergeant and Mrs. Hardy, No. 3 Squadron, 50 (N) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A., on 6th September, 1952, a daughter, Susan Elizabeth.

O'SULLIVAN.—To Sergeant and Mrs. D. O'Sullivan, Western Command Signal Regiment, on 13th August, 1952, a son, Kevin.

Marriages

REED—GRIMMER.—On 18th October, 1952, Signalman Reed of No. 3 Squadron, 50 (N) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A., to Dorothy Grimmer.

Deaths

THORNE.—22265375 Corporal E. L. Thorne, on 5th October, 1952, at the Royal Herbert Hospital, Woolwich.

CLACKETT.—22454808 Signalman B. J. Clackett, on 9th October, 1952, at British Commonwealth Medical Unit, Korea.

BANKS.—4449961 Corporal J. H. L. Banks, on 27th October, 1952, at the Military Hospital, Catterick Camp, Yorks.

PARIS.—On 19th September, 1952, at 16 Kenners Dene, Tynemouth, Northumberland, Maisie, beloved wife of Major Geoffrey Paris, Northern Command Signal Regiment, after illness.

* * * *

Post-War Credits of Pay

When Army pay was increased in January 1942 a proportion was withheld until the end of the war. Those who were released from the Army with their normal age and service group had this credit (6d. a day) included in their gratuity. Some of those who were discharged *before* the end of the war did not receive this credit. Any in doubt are advised to write to Central Moribund Accounts, Royal Signals, Droitwich, BEFORE 1st January, 1953.

* * * *

The following was extracted from News Letter No. 28 issued by the Armed Forces Communications' Association of the United States of America:

General Farman Succeeds General Ankenbrandt in S.H.A.P.E. Post

BRIGADIER-GENERAL IVAN L. FARMAN, Deputy Director of Communications, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, has been named to replace Major-General Francis L. Ankenbrandt as Deputy Chief of Staff-Communications in the organisation of the Supreme Headquarters, Allied Powers in Europe. Last month's News Letter advised of General Ankenbrandt's new job as C.S.O. of S.H.A.P.E. General Farman has held many responsible assignments in Air Force operations and communications since his military career began in October 1929, and is particularly well fitted for his new position.

* * * *

Trial Use of Transistor in Telephone System

The tiny electronic amplifier called the transistor has been installed in the Englewood, N.J., telephone system for a trial of dial switching which will enable customers there to dial direct to telephones in many distant cities. These new transistor units generate the electrical signals by which the numbers of the called telephone are sent from one central office to another, at much less cost than has been possible by use of vacuum tube units heretofore used. The Bell Laboratories, where this tiny amplifier was invented, says that these transistor units will also be used in other telephone equipment within the next few months. This includes the equipment known as card translators, which will be used to signal the automatic switching systems, telling them what route the call should take, the type of electrical signalling to use and what to do if the first route is found busy. Almost uncanny, isn't it?

Forthcoming Events

Royal Signals Rugby Football Club Fixtures

Nov. 26	R.A.O.C.	Catterick
Dec. 6	Percy Park	Tynemouth
Dec. 13	Military College of Science ..	Shrivenham
1953		
Jan. 7	R.E.M.E.	Aborfield
Jan. 14	R.M.A. (Sandhurst)	Camberley
Jan. 17	Otley	Catterick

Royal Signals Hockey Club Fixtures

Dec. 5	R.A.S.C.	Aldershot
Dec. 6	Military College of Science ..	Shrivenham
1953		
Jan. 31	Royal Engineers	Chatham

3 Divisional Signals Reunion Club

Reunion Dinner, 10th January, 1953, Duke of York's H.Q., Chelsea, 1900 hrs.

Dress: Lounge suits. Cost: 11s. 6d. per head.

Applications to the Secretary, 3 Divisional Signals Reunion Club, c/o Lloyds Bank Ltd. (Cox's and King's Branch), 6 Pall Mall, S.W.1.

DINNER AND "AT HOME," 1953

The dates for the Dinner and Regular Officers' "At Home" are 20th and 21st May respectively.

mercury house
bournemouth
will be closed
from December 23rd to 31st
Both dates inclusive



General view of the stand

National Radio and Television Exhibition, 1952

WALKING round the enormous Earls Court Exhibition Hall two days before the National Radio and Television Exhibition was due to open, it was hard to believe that it would be ready on time. Everywhere one looked was apparent chaos. Pots of paint, rolls of lino, planks, beams, wheelbarrows and empty teacups lay everywhere, whilst workmen were busily hammering like battle noise simulators. Yet on the opening day it was a veritable Radio City.

Once again the Radio Industrial Council invited the three Services to exhibit. The Army stand, as in previous years, was run by the Royal Signals and the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers. The stand was a single exhibit under the general direction of the War Office with members of the Royal Signals and R.E.M.E. working as one team.

The three Services vied with each other to produce the most attractive stand, the Royal Air Force in particular making a specially big effort this year. The stands were decorated and designed by members of the Services assisted by professional display companies. Those attempting to obtain licences to build their own house would have been green with envy. The B.B.C. booked half the first floor and, it is said, spent £14,000 on the construction of a special studio for the period of the exhibition only. Some of the big commercial firms on the ground floor must have spent several thousand pounds on their displays too. It can be seen, therefore, that competition was high.

The Royal Signals exhibited seven displays on the stand. They were chosen to attract the ordinary members of the public. Only one display was for the interest of radio technicians—the aerial display. It was found that very few people asked truly technical questions (luckily!). Most of the visitors to the exhibition like listening to the B.B.C. and watching television programmes, and they had come to see the latest receiver models and to gloat over £350 radio-televisio-cocktailgrams.

The principle exhibit in the Royal Signals half of the stand was "Comcan" (the new name for the Army Wireless Chain, being a contraction of Commonwealth-communications-Army network). A large map of the world, 10 ft. high, with little lights radiating from London to all the wireless terminals overseas was a backcloth to two teleprinters, operated by members of the W.R.A.C., and a desk for receiving messages. Messages were accepted from members of the public to near relatives serving overseas. These were sent to the War Office from the stand and transmitted during slack periods at night. At fixed times during the day one teleprinter was working direct to Egypt (Fayid) and visitors were invited to hold teleprinter conversations with their friends. This proved to be particularly popular, as Mum, that most important person to all soldiers, was able to "talk" to her son 2,000 miles away, watched by a large and inquisitive crowd. This personal contact was almost too much for some mothers. One girl received a telegram from her fiance in Egypt, "Meet me on the Army stand at 3 p.m. tomorrow." The poor girl arrived, looking her best, and searched in vain for her boy until she realised he was working the teleprinter at Fayid. This display proved so popular that the ropes broke on two occasions.

The next most popular exhibit was voice recording on the latest tape recorders. To overcome shyness, a member of the W.R.A.C. interviewed visitors in true Audrey Russell style. Most people were profoundly shocked by what they heard—their own voices! We managed to persuade some members of the team to give up crooning by making them hear their "singing" played back to them.

A very striking exhibit was an A.S.S.U. tentacle consisting of a brand new Rover and trailer as used by Air Contact teams to bring down close air support. The potential destructive power available by means of this little vehicle much impressed the public. It was also an easy way of demonstrating three types of wireless sets and ancilliary equipment for remote control working.

For obvious reasons, the very latest signal equipment was not shown, but the wireless set B.70(X), which is still undergoing field trials, was demonstrated. This is a two-way ultra high frequency radio telephone which can be used with carrier telephony apparatus. The C44/R220, which includes a system of selective calling, was considered to be magical. To the average citizen an automatic exchange system which does not require operators is a clever engineering feat, but an automatic exchange system which does not require wires either is too good to be true! The apparatus had to be switched off at frequent intervals to detract the swarms of small boys. Incidentally, they made it do things the designers never did or could have imagined!

A static display of portable wireless sets was there to re-

mind the "old stagers" of their war-time experiences of "humping" heavy sets and to show them their modern lightweight replacements.

We held one special display up our sleeves for "tiresome" technical visitors, the type who said, "Oh! I see you are still using built-in crystal calibrators" This was the aerial display of the latest (unpatented) omni-directional and directional folded di-poles with earth assimulators. It was easy to discover whether or not the "technician" had any knowledge of these. We only met one who fully understood this display. The others were suitably deflated, as we intended they should be, the usual reply being, "Well, of course, this is not really my subject."

The Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, in their half of the stand, showed as their centrepiece a working model A.A. site. The predictor and computor actually operated the "firing" of the model gun. They also showed the latest radio-guided missile amongst other modern electronic equipment.

Amongst our distinguished visitors who signed the Visitors' Book were Lord Burghley, who opened the exhibition, Lord Alexander, Minister of Defence, Field-Marshal Slim, C.I.G.S. and Sir Robert Watson-Watt. Nearly a third of a million people visited the exhibition in ten days, of which three-quarters must have passed through the Army stand.

The Royal Signals team was provided by units of A.A. Command. It was under the direct control of No. 1 A.A. Installation Troop, Aldershot.

Major J. C. Green, i/c team, Major J. J. Pearson, Captain I. Gram-Hansen, Lieutenant Runeckles, Captain E. C. W. West-Watson (nominal roll held by O.C. 1 A.A. Installation Troop, Barrosa Barracks, Aldershot).

The stand was a success due to the very hard work of Captain Gram-Hansen and Lieutenant Runeckles of 1 A.A. Installation and the splendid co-operation of all ranks. It was at times hot and arduous work.

* * * *

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Head-Dress

Ever since the general issue of the beret I have waged a continuous "hot war" for the beret to be worn properly with "Jimmy" in the *upright* position.

Because of having had the good fortune of first-class Squadron Sergeant-majors to assist me I have, on the whole, been reasonably successful.

The publication in THE WIRE of unit photographs depicting 20 odd ways of wearing the beret, with "Jimmy" at all angles, is not of great assistance to my crusade.

May I, Sir, respectfully suggest that one of the conditions of publication should be "head dress" being worn correctly.

Should this not be possible I regret to inform you that in the interest of this Squadron I shall be left with no option but to censor the offending issues!

"CADUCEUS."

* * * *

Signal Master

May I through the columns of THE WIRE plead for the return of the titles "Senior Signal Master" and "Signal Master" in place of the horrid and non-descriptive D.S.O. (an abbreviation that to my mind should be reserved for the Distinguished Service Order).

I was informed (not authoritatively) that the reason for the introduction of D.S.O.s was to avoid embarrassing the W.R.A.C.

Now that W.R.A.C. officers carry the titles Captains, Majors, etc., surely some return to sanity is indicated.

J. H. DIRS, Major.

Plain Tales

★ *With Greetings from Barleux*

Recitation

'TWAS Christmas Day in the barracks,
The soldiers were all in bed;
There would be no Christmas pudding
I forget the next line. Am I red?

Enter chorus of giants, footmen, peasants, cement mixers and Quartermaster's clerks. All sing:—

Down in the meadow there's a C.S.O.s pool
With a lot of little teleprinters, drum barrows too,
"Grab," said the Adjutant, "Grab all you can,
We'll make up our deficiencies and save the firm a lot of money, ain't that a good plan?"

Uncle Alf: I don't like that. Adjutants do not usually say "ain't."

Me: Don't niggle. It rhymes. Is it my fault if the Adjutant uses too many words?

Uncle Alf: Well, get on with it.

As forecast in these columns, Christmas is due to arrive very soon after this copy of THE WIRE reaches you. I have not often been wrong about this and so, with all confidence, wish you a Merry Christmas.

'Twas Christmas night in the barracks.
The soldiers had gone to bed.
They were sorry about the pudding,
They shouldn't have said what they said.

Exeunt omnes (and all the people as well).

* * * *

Social Register

Engagement. Captain Richard Fulford, lately of 1/20 (S.M.) Army Signal Regiment, T.A., to Miss Hazel Alexander of Edinburgh. Congratulations, both of you.

* * * *

The Snifter

I first made the acquaintance of a very attractive aperitif called Pikina in a little cafe at Dourges, which is near Henin Leitard. Pikina has a distinct flavour of orange peel, and you will probable not be satisfied with just one glass. Fred Bromhall and Joe Powell were not at all satisfied with one each. They bought it by the bottle in this little cafe at Dourges. Fortunately for the 48th Divisional Signals, they felt a lot better by the time the enemy invaded Belgium. Pikina is widely advertised all over France. So is Dubonnet. I can buy Dubonnet anywhere, but do you think I can find Pikina in England? When my treble chance in the football pool comes up, as of course it will, I have every intention of furnishing myself with a bottle of Pikina and going off to the beach at Sidi Feruch. There I propose to do precisely nothing and have a good rest afterwards. Which all goes to show that it is a small world, although on second thoughts I am not sure if that is what I meant to say.

* * * *

A L'Etranger

The wind howled and screamed round the ancient heap of Little Stench Castle, the residence of the wealthy investigator, Ukann Larfe. It was Christmas Eve on or about the 24th December. One of the wildest and coldest eves that the oldest inhabitant of Stenchley could remember. I don't know why I mention this unless it is to give this page a seasonable flavour. See Appendix 3A for snowflakes.

Ukann Larfe, as is his wont, and Lord Elpas, as is probably his wont too, were spending Christmas on the French Riviera. They were comfortably ensconced in a corner of

the Cafe Chaud-Chein, each with a large glass of hot rum, as is their wont. Ukann Larfe leaned forward and spoke rapidly in English. Lord Elpas grew restive and after fidgeting with his collection of tram lines, from which he refused to be parted, produced a large stone wrapped in paper. He banged it down on the glass-topped table. Ukann Larfe rang the bell and ordered another table, in French. He thought the stone looked like the one that came through his office window. He thought it might be a good idea to find out what message the paper carried. He looked exhaused after so many thoughts.

" ' Elpy,' ole boy," he said quietly, " What does it say ?"

Lord Elpas rose to his feet with great dignity. He walked firmly to the door. As he reached it he turned and faced Ukann Larfe with steely eye, iron resolve and several other things for which patents are still pending.

" Go fry an egg," he said.

In the Surrey woods an owl hooted, in English, and night fell with a choking gasp. Defense de cracher.

* * * *

The Horse Guards Telephone Exchange

(Headquarters LONDON District)

THERE are many new things under the sun nowadays. The very atoms are now exhibiting most unwonted and unwanted behaviour patterns.

There is, then, special satisfaction to be found in those things that do stay constant in time. And one of these, the Horse Guards building in Whitehall is a steadfast example.

But on 1st December, the new and novel burst upon the Horse Guards itself with something of the harshness of the Monte Bello atomic test.

In short, the old telephone exchange closed and the new exchange opened. Six venerable CB9's retired and six factory-fresh PMBX 1A's came into use.

Exchanges, like whisky vats, become imbued in the course of time with the qualities of their contents and surrounds, and the old Horse Guards boards had the maturity of the fullness of years:—

Seventeenth Century

Three centuries ago, in 1652, there stood beneath the exchange flooring a part of the old Whyt-Hall Palace Tiltyard. By then jousting had become very formalised for a wooden barrier stretched down the middle of the lists. The combatants could no longer inflict mortal prods with their lances.

There were, of course, more full-blooded spectacles:—

> " Her Majesty says she is very well . . . tomorrow She hath commanded the bears, the bull and the apes to be baited in the Tiltyard. On Wednesday she will have solemn dancing."

It is pleasing to the fancy to trace the continuity between jousting then and switchboard operating now.

For switchboard operating, calling as it does for an alert eye, firm grip and a sustained accuracy in the lodgment of plugs, has marked affinities.

Twentieth Century

Before World War I there stood a lone 20-line board; the veritable Neanderthal Man of switchboards.

Then 1914 and the Battle of Mons, and three 50-line boards took possession.

By 1916 the exchange had grown to five positions.

Then there was peace and an economy cut. Two positions were pruned.

The years 1933-35 were revolutionary; modified boards suitable for auto were installed and then replaced in turn.

World War II and the exchange expanded to four positions, then five and then six.



Left to right : Mrs. P. Beck, Mrs. G. White, Miss K. Ricketts. Back : Mr. H. Richardson, G.P.O., Mr. L. H. G. Warrington (ex-Sergeant, 3 G.H.Q. Signal Regiment, M.E.L.F., 1941-45), Mr. F. W. Thoms and Miss M. V. Snell (supervisor)

Indeed, from the Corps viewpoint, war might fairly be defined as " the continuance of chatter by all conceivable means."

All this time the exchange had been staffed by the G.P.O. But in 1942 the London A.T.S. Signal Company took over, to be absorbed by the London District (Mixed) Signal Squadron in 1945.

From 1950 the London District Signal Troop carried on with Miss M. V. Snell, the civilian Supervisor, and her team side by side with Sergeant Edwards and his Signalmen.

In 1951 the exchange contracted chronic ventricular paroxysmal tachycardia. B.L.R., in fact. It had been choked by the plentitude of words over the last half century.

But the words must go on, of course. The new Horse Guards exchange will see to that.

* * * *

"Golden Arrow"

By BRIGADIER M. R. ROBERTS, D.S.O.

ALL who served in India and Burma during the war and who fought in Assam or Burma from 1943 onwards will remember the fame of the 7th Indian Division. Some who served during the 1914-18 War will remember that Division in Mesopotamia. Those who read THE WIRE will know that the 7th Division still lives as a powerful force in the Pakistan Army. Brigadier Roberts' history covers the formation of the Division in 1940 until its return to India from Siam in October 1946; six years almost to a day.

The Division remained in the Attock Campbellpore area of the Northern Punjab until 1942, and as has been stated, was a real " Cinderella." The Brigades originally composing it were removed or taken away for long periods for special employment, their names were altered and even well on in 1942 the Divisional Signals existed as a body of men still doing elementary training.

This review is written for readers who are preponderately of the Royal Signals, and those who knew the Division during the years of its glory will hardly credit that even after two years of its existence it was necessary to remove complete Infantry Brigade Signal sections and replace them by drafting from the Signal Training Centres.

Originally designed on an all M.T. basis it was not until 1942 that the Division was re-organised on an establishment, half M.T., half mule, which was to be so suitable for the war they were to enter.

Leaving the Northern Punjab, they had a year of training, albeit with many anxieties that those trained were to be taken away from them, in the jungles of the Central Provinces of India. General Frank Messervy joined them here with considerable war experience in the Western Desert, and it is to his remarkable knowledge, ability to take a calculated risk and capacity for appreciating what his enemy would do, that the Division owes much of its fame.

In August 1943 the Division was moved to the Arakan Peninsular in Burma and began the fighting for which they had trained and which, for this Division, was to continue without respite for two years. Perhaps no division fought so hard for so long continuously, and few divisions earned such a high reputation.

The great Japanese offensive in the first months of 1944, which was to take them to the very edge of India, was met first by the 7th Indian Division. By all the cannons of war the Division was defeated, the Japanese cut through them, surrounded them in comparatively small groups, cut their communications and even drove into the Divisional Headquarters. We, in Signals, know of the gallantry and the decorations which rewarded it, of the Divisional Signals during those days. Despite all endeavours, and you cannot maintain communication when you are actually fighting at close quarters, the Divisional Commander was " off the air " for perhaps 12 hours. The 7th Division refused to admit defeat and emerged from the " battle of the boxes " victorious, battle hardened and with a reputation.

It was unusual in those days to move complete formations by air, but the 7th and 5th Indian Divisions were lifted complete—horse, foot and guns—by air from the Arakan into Assam. In the process they each exchanged one Brigade with each other. The 7th Division, arriving piece-meal in Northern Assam, was put into the ferocious struggle, the Battle of Kohima, the 33rd Brigade leading. Indeed it fell to that Brigade to have the honour of the last of many, but this time victorious, assaults on the Kohima Hill. The position had been assaulted again and again by the troops of the 2nd British Division. The 2nd Battalion The Dorset Regiment and others were, in fact, inside the Japanese position when the final assault took place.

All this time General Messervy was sitting quietly at the Headquarters of the 33rd Indian Corps. He had no part in the battle at this stage, his one Brigade was under the command of the 2nd Division, but the result of his sitting and plotting became apparent. His Division, completed by another of his own Brigades and one of the 5th Division, set about the Japanese in a series of " left hooks " which carried his men and mules, leg weary though they might be, to the relief of Imphal as quickly as the hard-fighting but heavily-motored 2nd Division, who were hammering down the only road. After the briefest of pauses the Division went on through the monsoon and through malaria-infested areas to the crossing of the Irrawaddy.

It is not unusual for a Divisional Commander to be known and admired by the men of his Division, but probably no commander was so well-known and so well-loved as General Messervy. The writer had the privilege of being on the same roads as he was during and after the Kohima battle, and it was a true illustration of the tremendous pride that all ranks had in their Division to see the way in which their Divisional Commander, dressed no differently from them, driving like all others a very battered jeep, occasioned in his passing such demonstrations of loyalty and affection. Men marching or working would immediately break their ranks, stand at the salute and then, with the broadest of smiles, continue whatever they were doing.

It is not within the bounds of a review to tell the full story which is told so well in the book. Suffice that sometimes under the command of 33 Corps, sometimes under the command of 4 Corps, General Sir Frank Messervy was now a Corps Commander; it was the lot of that Division to be the anvil on which the remnant of the Japanese Army in Burma was battered.

One last paragraph, and this a quotation from the Preface of the book. " Throughout this book you will find little about Signals. They are such an integral part of the headquarters of every formation and unit of every army that except in very unusual circumstances their story is inseparable. It is no exaggeration to describe their function in a modern division as similar to that of mortar in a well-built house. They hold the whole structure together."

To Colonel P. M. P. Hobson and his men, both British and Indian, our thanks for the great reputation they gained.

The book is published by Gale & Polden Limited at 25s. and should be in every library.

* * * *

Do you know?

THAT there was until very recently in Hong Kong a Chinese lineman called Chan Tong. He had served " Signals " for 35 years. His knowledge of the underground cable system was profound. On hearing of a project to put in a cable from A to B last year, he spoke " Why put in a new cable? There is a perfectly good cable which was laid by me for Lieutenant Power " (Brigadier G. S. O'N. Power retired from the Army early this year).

Do you know that on 17th October 80 members of the Association met for dinner in Southampton? The majority were men who before the war belonged to 2 Company, 43 Wessex Divisional Signal Regiment. On the same evening there was another great gathering at Exeter, and on the 18th October well over 400 met in London for a reunion and to listen to the Royal Signals Band. They came mainly from in and near London, but there were coach loads from Tunbridge Wells, Aldershot, Orsett and Woolwich. It just goes to show that the Association is a living thing and that very many are proud to belong to it.

Do you know that on the Sunday nearest the 23rd October a service is held each year in the British Cemetery at El Alamein and the same name is commemorated each year by a monster rally at the Albert Hall in London? This year the speakers included Lord Montgomery, Viscount Alexander, General Ridgeway and Mr. Winston Churchill. Perhaps you know of this, but how many of you who are young know of the importance in British history of the words " El Alamein?"

Have you heard of the " Golden Arrow?" Oh, yes, I also know it is the name of train and boat services, between London and Paris, but there was also a famous Division of that name. The 7th Indian Division fought in the First World War in Mesopotamia, Siege of Kut El Amarah and after. It fought again in the Arakan Campaign in Burma, then alongside the British 2nd Division in Assam with the Battle of Kohima, the relief of Imphal, and reconquest of Burma. Do you know the present C.S.O. in Austria, Colonel Pat Hobson, commanded the Divisional Signal Regiment during almost all its fighting?

Do you know that the Pakistan Signal Corps have a Boys Regiment and a D.R. Display just like we do, and, believe it or not, the 7th Division still exists in the Pakistan Army?

Do you know that one of those referred to in last month's quiz was Sergeant Jimmy Emblem who, as a boxer, helped to put the Corps in the forefront of Army Boxing from 1922 to 1932? He retired from Southern Command (M) Signal Regiment after 33 years' service in 1949. His most notable achievements were as follows:—

Army Championships Light-Heavy, 1923, 1924 runner-up, 1925 winner.

Eastern Command Championships: 1921 to 1923, Middle, winner.

Represented the Army as a light-heavy, 1921 to 1926.

Next time you go to a reunion keep your eye open for a big man still looking very fit with a " boxer's " nose. He'll be there. He never misses anything that concerns Royal Signals.



[*Courtesy: "Northern Echo," Darlington*

Lieut.-Colonel C. Hull (W.R.A.C.), Colonel I. Schledermann (Denmark), Major N. Christy (W.R.A.C.)

Catterick Jottings

by nacerby

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.

And with that message ringing out to everyone—at home and abroad—may I wish you all a very "Nacerby" Christmas and a terrifically "Signal" New Year, with your (and my) hopes and ambitions attaining fulfilment. If you wait until January I'll list some good resolutions you haven't an earthly chance of keeping.

But this Christmas business has me a little dazed—'cos apart from my C.O. mentioning (in a delicate W.R.A.C.-like whisper) about Christmas leave, a few odd goose pimples here and there, and my batman gleefully exclaiming that the moths had had a four-course summer meal off my long pants, I had no idea 12 months had tripped by. However, I've since discovered that the Army have made no fundamental change in the normal calendar for the Garrison and that Barleux was absolutely right in declaring Christmas day will fall, this year, on the 25th December. (I've always suspected that he had friends in the War Office.)

And I can—very informatively—tell you chaps who are staying behind that the fare and fun arranged for you will be something to remember and I shall be hard put in January to find superlatives enough to describe it all. Ought to just mention that aspirins are *not* a free issue.

Let me be your dentist . . .

Reminiscent of musical chairs in that we try and grab the most comfortable seat in the Mess after dinner—there was a most frightfully devastating television half-hour the other night on teeth. Very entertaining and just the job for a laugh—if it isn't your teeth the bloke is yanking out.

However, it occurred to me I could possibly assist your chaps with new dentures, and by repeating this elocution lesson before and after meals you'll have "them" snugly fitted in within six months—honestly! Here we go.

"Soldiers sobriety shakes Saltburn society. Saltburn swells say: 'Such superb soldiers—such self-control, simple souls seeking solitude, scorning scurrilous speech, spurning sordid songs. Such sensitive sensible sentinels—such sedate, seraphic sergeants. Soldiers? Say saints surely.'

"Saltburn supremely sympathetic.

"Soldiers surveying Saltburn's seashore, smile smugly, some sheepishly, some sarcastically. Such sham shames soldier supermen. Seems sensitivity, sobriety, saintliness, silly sentimental story. See. Soldiers squander shekels Saturdays. Sundays—some shows, some succulent suppers, some smokes, some slightly sozzled, squiffy . . . sublime!

"Sequel. Slender supply soon spent. Slump, sensationally swift. Some save solitary sixpence (scarcely sufficient) . . . soon skint, stony. Some scrounge, some starve, some smile stoically. Such sadness."

And the most extraordinary things is I haven't mentioned S for Signals once—and that'll save you all writing in to tell me.

No Names . . . No NAC or TOT

Like most beginners he managed to hit one magnificent long drive during the 18 holes. When the round was over he couldn't stop boasting about that particular shot. "Wasn't that drive marvellous?" he asked a friend for the twentieth time.

"Yes," was the bitter reply, "It's a shame you can't have it stuffed!"

French Without . . .

Heard that one 'bout the operator bloke who spent a year in Paris with S.H.A.P.E., returned to civilian life and opened a tobacco shop in a small provincial town?

He proudly displayed a sign: "*Ici on parle francis.*" A complete year went by with his customers talking just plain English, until one day an excited and very homesick young Frenchman burst in. "Who is it," he demanded joyfully, "that speaks French here?" Lifting his eyes from the packet he was wrapping and straightening his tie and blushing, the linguist exclaimed: "*Je!*"

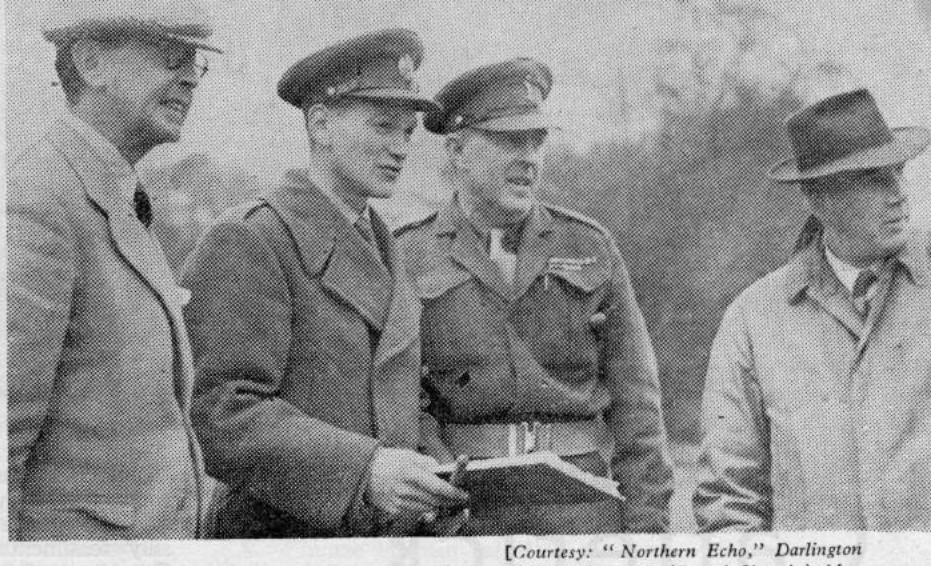
Again the Ladies . . .

Maybe it's 'cos they perform their duties so unostentatiously—no show or fuss—that the W.R.A.C. are so seldom in the news, but we in Catterick are constantly reminded of the vital part the 3 Battalion W.R.A.C. play in the Garrison, and especially with the Signal Regiments—so, whilst her compatriots, a group of Danes touring the country at the invitation of the Foreign Office, were visiting a coal mine, Colonel Inge Schledermann, Director of Denmark's Lotte Korps (Women's Home Guard) last month visited the Battalion and spent a whole day touring barrack rooms, stores, sick bay and lines.

Accompanied by Lieutenant-Colonel C. W. Hull (A.D., W.R.A.C. Northern Command), Major N. Christy (D.A.D., W.R.A.C. Northumbrian District) and Major E. M. Sykes (Commanding 3 Battalion W.R.A.C.), she was especially interested in the Quartermaster's store where the Q.M. (Captain N. Keay, W.R.A.C.) displayed the new bottle green walking out dress now in general issue, and told how 20 different sizes are issued.

Continued on pp. 294 and 295

Coronation ★ Park



[*Courtesy: "Northern Echo," Darlington*

Mr. W. Mellows (D.C.R.E.), Major A. Low (R.E.), Major E. Nash (Royal Signals), Mr. A. Carter

Every time you and I return to Catterick (and we always do, of couse) after a tour away, the first things that hit us are the "changes" in the Garrison—gardens here, bus shelters there, and all things to improve after-work amenities —and I'm not at all certain we are fully conscious and appreciative of the enormous amount of work done by "those up top."

All right! Don't hide your heads in shame 'cos here's something for everyone and a "something" to give you a feeling of pride—a Catterick Garrison Park.

D'you remember that 3½ acres of scrubland behind the G.P.O. that would have been ideal for bush warfare training? T'aint there any more!

Sponsored by the G.O.C. Northumbrian District (Major-General H. Murray) and with Colonel A. C. Man (Northumbrian District) as president and Major Ernie Nash of 3 Training Regiment as chairman of an enthusiastic committee, a meeting was held on 22nd July, and within 24 hours bu ldozers were doing their damnedest, as only bulldozers can. I was fascinated! Dirty, big, weed-laden scrubs vanished quicker than a Quartermaster can say no, and enough dirt to fill all those holes my car finds, shifted quicker than a trainee going on leave.

And now, with barely four months gone, lawns have been sown, herbaceous borders, shrubs and saplings planted, and this, in reality a five-year project, is scheduled to be opened as a Coronation Park in honour of Her Majesty's crowning in June, 1953.

Had as I thought half an hour spare and talked to Ernie Nash about it all. Half an hour! Ha! Ha! 'Twas nearly three hours before he finished and it is easy to see with such enthusiasm prevailing just how "the difficult can be done at once and the impossible takes a little longer."

Everything has been planned to develop the lovely natural surroundings, the trees have been chosen for their colours and autumn tints, and when those flowers begin to appear in the spring there's going to be such a riot of colour that'll make Jacob's coat look like a denim jacket.

And don't think that's all—'tis planned to link up with the hospital and the picture shows Mr. Mellows (D.C.R.E.), Major Nash, Major E. Lord and Mr. Carter all with speculative and approving eyes watching the "shape of things to come."

Might mention I saw some delightful natural "arbors" for you people who walk, *inter alia*, hand in hand!

That Driving Serial . . .

Have you ever noticed whenever you stop your car—anywhere—at least two policemen rush up to you to tell you that you must not park it *there*. Where may one park? They shrug their shoulders so nonchalently. Apparently there is a couple of places just outside Catterick Bridge where three cars may park for half an hour on alternate Sundays.

Maybe the police are right. After all cars have been made to run so they shouldn't stop. And so to my serial—the chronicle of Cuthbert Carter.

A lazy fellow Cuthbert Carter
Badly treated his self-starter,
For when he started up from cold
He never did as he was told,
And turned his engine first by hand,
His explanation calm and bland
Was quaint. Poor man, he "could not face"
Such labour; it was "not his place."
Though very quickly undeceived
By Sergeant Kellem (he was grieved),
This nasty habit still persisted.
It never entered Cuthbert's twisted
Ersatz substitute for brain
That starters cause a heavy strain,
And draw great quantities of juice
From batteries and hence their use
Must be restricted. Cuthbert chuckled
Far too soon, his plates he buckled
And batteries were in short supply,
So he was left both high and dry.
On all occasions with a groan
He starts up now by hand alone.



See page 295

Old Soldiers . . .

You all remember that best ever Old Comrades' Reunion in the summer? There's a picture just to hand of a real old soldier—Sergeant G. H. King, D.C.M., M.S.M., late Royal Signals, who retired in 1924 ex A Corps Signals, Aldershot. The group was taken outside 4 Training Regiment W.O.s and Sergeants' Mess, and I could tell you a lot about this party.

W.O.II Bain: " You just dare! "

Tail Piece . . .

To my friend and fellow scribe, Bob " Barleux," a Ukann Larfe Christmas and a New Year full of superlatives.

School of Signals

OFFICER TRAINING WING

The Officer Training Wing said goodbye to Lieutenant-Colonel M. A. Charlton, O.B.E., and welcomed Lieutenant-Colonel G. S. K. Maydon at a most successful cocktail party. On the following night the Officers of the Wing dined out Lieutenant-Colonel Charlton. Major T. J. F. Fuller presided and expressed the feeling of the Unit when he said how much we had to thank the Commanding Officer for, and wished him the best of luck in the future.

At the end of the evening the S.S. *Charltonia* appeared. It is impossible to describe what a magnificent ship this was, and the combined efforts of the Emett scholars, Major P. F. Yeatman, M.B.E., and Captain A. A. Griss, and their helpers, produced a really remarkable pole carrier craft complete with lights, bells, cymbals and what have you. To the accompaniment of Captain D. W. Sutherland, M.M., on the bagpipes, torches carried by the Student Officers, and the shouting and cheering of the Cadre, Colonel Charlton was escorted home in the early hours of the morning. This dinner night was also an opportunity of saying goodbye to Lieutenant R. A. King, who is leaving for Korea. We wish him God speed and good luck. His pentathlon training will be of great assistance to him when mountaineering in Korea!

Earlier entertainments were a most pleasant dance and the visit of the Strand Repertory Company.

Besides our social successes, the Wing has continued to maintain its excellent sporting record.

Since the commencement of the season we have played two friendly rugger matches against a Training Regiment, R.A.C., and 4 Training Regiment, Royal Signals, winning both comfortably, 38—0 and 45—3 respectively.

In the first round of the Northumbrian District Cup we had a draw, whilst in the first round of the Northern Command Competition we defeated a Training Regiment, R.A.C., 46—3.

*

This year we are fortunate in being able to provide a strong nucleus of Cadre in the side, amongst them Captains D. W. Callaghan, E. M. T. Crump, J. H. Ellis and Sergeant L. J. Crispin, who have represented the Army in various overseas theatres, Captains N. R. F. Mackinnon, J. V. Dearden, Second-Lieutenant D. H. Williams, Lance-Corporal D. I. Bell and Signalman R. Bolsh. Though we lose Sergeant Crispin shortly on release, we welcome Captain J. B. Prince, another player with Army experience.

At soccer the Unit team are congratulated on their performance to date. They have won every one of their seven games with a goal telling of 37 against 13. Hockey, too, has had its successes. We headed the District Summer Hockey League, having won 10 games out of 11—the eleventh being drawn. Goals scored, 43 against 5. There were no prizes—only honour and glory.

EASTERN COMMAND SIGNAL REGIMENT

Since our last notes the Regiment has completed the settling-in process at Crowborough and is now established in the camp and town.

The principal events of the past month have been the inauguration of a monthly series of dances, the holding of a Remembrance Sunday church parade, and the re-introduction of a drill and duties course for potential N.C.O.s.

The church parade was the first public appearance of the Regiment in Crowborough. Two troops (a total of about 60 bodies) marched to All Saints Church for a combined service with H.Q., A.E.R., R.A.S.C.

The dance was held on Thursday, 23rd October, and is the first of many which it is hoped will be held on the third Thursday of every month. The fair sex turned up in reasonable numbers, but the bold desperadoes of the Regiment were in the main either sorting out the bar or squirming self-consciously beside the dance floor. However, we can truthfully say that we all learned something, even if it was only that port and sherry do not mix.

The peace of the camp has been rudely disturbed by raucous voices and the tramp of heavy feet. We refer, of course, to Corporal Beilby's ballet classes for aspiring N.C.O.s.

The Sergeants' Mess is to hold a house-warming dance on 26th November, and we shall report on the revelry in our next notes.

Finally, we must place on record the appearance of a mysterious and anonymous camp magazine which has " sturred " up many sections of the community.

3 TRAINING REGIMENT

Whilst we haven't yet been detailed to produce snow for the festive season we can—and do—wish you all, whether at home or overseas, a happy and joyous Christmas and an 'OWLing New Year.

Am not at all sure whether leave is a good thing or not at this time—especially after chatting with the Messing Officer (Captain M. Burt, W.R.A.C.) and Major J. Matthewson, the Entertainments Officer—but to those staying behind can just echo Tommy Trinder's words, " You lucky people." And see Catterick Jottings re aspirins.

Talking of snow—Captain K. Witt returned to the Regiment after spending four weeks as joint leader of the British Exploring Society's public schoolboys' expedition to Iceland. I suppose I could make a crack about the Abominable Snowman . . . but the things he did with a 19 Set as Officer i/c communications . . . I only wish you could all understand technical language!

Following the very impressive Armistice Day church parade and march past on Sunday, 8th November, R.Q.M.S. W. Timbrell, Sergeant W. Ferguson and Sergeant H. Gratton were presented with the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal by the G.O.C. Northumbrian District (Major-General H. Murray, C.B., D.S.O.). Proud men indeed, and proud we are of them.

November has been a hectic month for sport and without climbing to any heights of brilliance. We have had our " moments " and certainly enhanced the Regiment's reputation for being good triers and sporting losers. This was especially so in the Inter-Unit Army Boxing Competition, where we narrowly lost by 1 point to a Training Regiment, R.A.C.

The hockey team under Lieutenant P. Robson has been very consistent, but the soccer XI has been reminiscent of the little girl—when they are good they are very, very good . . . and they are the converse—down to the Green Howards in the first round of the Army Cup by 8—3, although I must admit the team gave a terrific display of determination against a superior side, and these displays have marked the performances of the rugger XV, indoor rifle team and squash teams.



Some of the Cadre Officers of Officer Training Wing through the eyes of one of the student Officers

THE REGIMENTAL WEEK-END

ONE summer afternoon in June, the Colonel called us all together and addressed us. " Gentlemen, I intend holding a week-end—a Regimental week-end." He smiled at our disbelieving look and continued, " The Adjutant will be sending out the bumph in a few days time." We were dismissed, each to his own thoughts. What was a Regimental week-end? When would it be? What part would I have to play in it and would it interfere with my leave? We weren't kept in suspense for very long. A few days later each of us received a folder twelve pages thick. Splashed across the front were the brave words: —

5 CORPS SIGNAL REGIMENT REGIMENTAL WEEK-END, 27th, 28th, 29th SEPTEMBER.

Our first feeling was one of relief. A whole three months before we had to do anything. Next came a feeling of curiosity. After all, I wasn't in the Army before the war when these things occurred annually. Let me read on therefore and find out what horrible jobs the " Old Man " has detailed for me.

The 27th is a Saturday and the block programme shows that a garden fete will be held on the playing fields and that during this fete the finals of the Regimental athletics will take place. At 1800 hours the Colonel's wife will present the prizes. Then the Officers will repair to the Mess for a cocktail party and the other ranks to the gymnasium for a dance. The following day being a Sunday, the Regiment will march to church in the morning and will watch an inter-Squadron football match in the afternoon. Monday morning will be devoted to inter-Troop competitions and the afternoon to seven-a-side football. The week-end will finish with a performance by the concert party.

There, then, is the idea and the programme, and as one reads one's folder one sees remarks such as " Captain Jones will co-ordinate these items." " Captain Smith will organise this." " Captain Robinson will have sole responsibility for these activities." Poor old Robinson, it's the equivalent of a week's extra orderly officer. This, then, is the plan by which our week-end will be carried through, we hope, successfully.

We made our first fundamental mistake immediately. We didn't start our preparations early enough. After all we had three months. Many of us, I am sorry to say, did very little for the first ten weeks. Our second mistake was the weather. Owing to exercises and training commitments we were unable to have our week-end any earlier in the season. A damp and windy day in late September is no day on which to hold a garden fete. We had some difficulty, too, in co-ordinating our planning as we were handling "Z" Reservists up to and including the day the week-end began. No trained soldier will ever willingly fight on two fronts unless ordered to do so.

Let us now go over to the garden fete on the playing fields on the afternoon prior to the commencement of the week-end. The fields were empty earlier to-day, but now little men scurry around with wood and nails and small shelters are appearing in various shapes and colours. There is a strong East Anglian north wind blowing and all erections are braced against it except one forlorn contraption that has succumbed to its strength and now lies shattered and ugly on the grass. Here, what is this? A shelter of tin and canvas painted green with gaping mouths and hung around with hurricane lamps. The cable troop Aunt Sally, you say. That complicated electrical set-up over there will be the T.O.T. and his stall. It's very cold and there is a head wind on the track, but in the distance I can see the heats of the sports being run.

The Saturday dawned clear but cold, with a hint of rain. The fete was scheduled to commence at 1130 hours but very few people turned up before lunch. Immediately after lunch the Commanding Officer's wife judged the stalls. Each Troop in the Regiment had produced a stall and the winners were Rear Headquarters Wireless Troop, who produced a goal-kicking competition. A contraption looking like a five barred gate was supported by boards on each side. You had to kick two balls out of three through numbered holes and score a sufficiency of points to win a prize. At 1400 hours the finals of the athletics commenced. There were some half-a-dozen good athletes and they took the prizes. However, the remainder were keen and amassed points for their Troops for anyone placed in an event won two points at least which went towards the Troop Championship Cup. Halfway through the afternoon a diversion was caused by some novelty races. Veterans with over fourteen years' service ran for eighty yards. Our Commanding Officer has as much service as anyone but he looked back and started laughing so couldn't maintain the pace. The ladies had a race to themselves. Slim ankles and flying skirts. An outsider won but to our delight Mrs. R.S.M. came second and Mrs. S.S.M., 1 Squadron, third. The children were none too enthusiastic. The four-year-olds tottered fifty yards to a prize of a box of sweets.

The prize-giving delighted us. Our very charming Commanding Officer's wife gave away the prizes. Though many went to the same runner, a number of strange faces came forward to collect a bronze medal suitably inscribed. Running a garden fete and awarding prizes costs money. The hardest part of the organisation is deciding just how difficult the various competitions should be and how expensive the missiles. Here we were inexperienced and made some errors. The Wireless Troop ran a coconut shy. Their painted jam tins nearly engulfed the coconuts so that only the tufts remained visible. Along came some little local boys and removed these coconuts legitimately and very quickly. The Maintenance Troop had a bucket of water connected up to an electricity supply. To win a prize all you had to do was put your hand in the water and withdraw a coin. One young man was reputed to be 4s. 6d. better off before he was barred from competing any more.

Saturday evening was devoted to an all ranks' dance. The gymnasium was turned into a dance hall by our R.S.M., who is an expert at these things. Sharp at 1930 hours hoards of the local Colchester ladies descended upon us. The troops trickle in in twos and three until a rush hour at 2200 hours. Some men have their own partners, some don't dance, but somehow very few " wallflowers " remain in this unenviable state for long.

Sunday was a comparatively quiet day. Church parade took up most of the morning. The Regiment made up almost the whole of the congregation in the garrison church. Afterwards we marched past the General, proudly including in our ranks some old comrades. In the afternoon an inter-Squadron football match took place. Being a " blood " match it wasn't very good. Individual glory was the order of the day, and some appeared keen to wipe off old scores.

Monday dawned grey and damp. This, the last day of the week-end, was to be devoted to inter-Troop competitions. Scheduled to commence at 0900 hours, the first competition eventually started somewhat later. Four line detachments laid four cables alternately on the ground and on poles. After completing a certain distance they had to get "through" back to base. A certain amount of difficulty was experienced here. Next, two detachments erected, at great speed, two signal offices, complete with signs, pent-houses, camouflage, switchboard, snakes and so on. The winners, who had had no previous practice, manned their positions in twenty minutes.

Four 53 set crews followed next. All had trouble in erecting their 36 feet aerials, and when complete one looked very wobbly whilst another had a very definite " dog-leg " in the middle. The winning crew were the first to tune up their set and report themselves ready for working. The greatest enthusiasm and perhaps skill was shown in the peg-driving competition. This took place on the drill square and consisted of two drivers from each Troop taking their three-ton vehicles around a course marked out with white bricks. The time taken was, of course, all-important, and not too many of the bricks were to be displaced. The morning was rounded off with jeep and motor cycle hazards. Each driver or rider



Mrs. Swainson presenting 2/Lt. W. H. Tavener with his cup

had to complete certain repair jobs in as little time as possible. Removing a wheel, the carburetter and battery and so on. At the end of the dismantling tests all had to be reassembled and the vehicle driven away. The C.O. delighted everyone by riding each motor cycle around the square when its hazards were completed. The C.O. still lives! Prizes were then distributed to teams and individuals.

Monday afternoon was devoted to seven-a-side football. Real enthusiasm was shown here and great deeds witnessed. After a long and bitter struggle the Cable Troop emerged as winners. They were fresher as they had had a bye into the second round whilst their opponents had been playing continuously for nearly three hours. On Monday evening we all attended the first performance of our new concert party. This party had only been formed a few hours before they gave their first performance. They were very keen and their audience was wildly enthusiastic. In a few hours they had managed to practice several small dramas including a glamorous spy. Singing and dancing acts followed slapstick comedy, and even a hypnotist performed. With the strains of "The Queen" dying away ended our first but not our last Regimental week-end.

Our advice to any Regiments thinking of doing the same thing: Do so by all means but start your preparations early and choose your weather.

* * * *

We have now settled down to our winter routine. Individual training is being given to tradesmen who will be taking trade boards later in November. We are helping neighbouring Signal Units in this by including their personnel in our classes. Many of our technical vehicles have been put into a state of heavy preservation preparatory to being used for a demonstration at the R.M.A., Sandhurst, next year. We are assisting War Office Signal Regiment in building feeder routes for new wireless transmitters.

We are preparing for two exhibitions. At the Radio Society of Great Britain Exhibition in November we have the centre stand.

At the Schoolboys' Exhibition in early January we are also organising something. A lot of thought and spadework is necessary in preparing for these things.

We are looking forward to the inspection of the Regiment by the Representative Colonel Commandant which will take place on 19th November.

In the world of sport we have done very well at Rugby Union by winning our way into the third round of the Army Cup. This we achieved at the expense of a Heavy A.A. Regiment, R.A. (11—9), and a Field Regiment, R.A. (13—6). At hockey we remain undefeated by local teams and now have five of our players in the Colchester Garrison Hockey XI.

Throughout the winter, under the energetic eye of the Second-in-Command, Major Berry, we are organising a strenuous entertainment programme. The play, "French Without Tears," is being produced on our own stage in December. There is in existence a music circle and a concert party. An amateur radio club is in the process of being formed. They have been told, however, that before they can consider themselves a going concern they must first build their own station and cannot use Army equipment.

On the evening of Saturday, 8th November, we are holding the inaugural dinner of the Unit Branch of the Royal Signals Association. This is reported in 22 (Unit) Branch notes on page 317.

Anti-Aircraft Command

1 A.A. (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT

On Thursday, 6th November, 1952, the Unit was visited by the Chief of the Imperial General Staff, General Sir John Harding, G.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C.

He wished to see the Unit at work and inspected the junior N.C.O.s' drill and duties course, an upgrading course for O.S.B.s, and the W.R.A.C. at drill. Afterwards the Officers attended an informal tea at the R.A. Station Mess.

After the travails of Exercise "Ardent" the Regiment seems to have settled under an air almost suggestive of hibernation. Certainly in the gathering dusk obscure figures are seen scurrying away to the barrack rooms clutching coal



1 A.A. (M.) Signal Regiment Motor Cycle Trials team at the recent Eastern Command Motor Cycle Trials. Team captain, Sgt. Weston

that there are two sides to a hockey stick, of which in the academic game only one is used. Those troglodytes, too, who hitherto only blinked their eyes in the light of day on pay parade may now be seen on Thursday afternoon playing a robust type of soccer.

The Regimental soccer team has aspirations in the Thurrock Mid-Week League, which are only offset at the moment by our opponents ability to score as many, if not more, goals than ourselves. The hockey team is also keen and only lacks experience at the moment. However, both teams feel that given fine weather and provided we can score more goals than our opponents we should win a few matches.

The title of our Regiment is no idle boast for we report three marriages within the Unit this month. We offer our congratulations to Corporal Buhler and Lance-Corporal Crowe, Signalman Kirk and Private Coley, and Driver Crossley and Private Evans, and wish them all joy.

* * * *

The following notes belong properly to the section devoted to B.A.O.R. commencing on page 301 but are inserted here for reasons of make-up.

11 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT

We moved out of barracks *en masse* for Exercise "Holdfast," leaving behind only the Second-in-Command (to prepare for the Annual Administrative Inspection). We spent ten extremely dull days under canvas in a dense forest; it rained most days and sleeping tents and places of work were very widely dispersed, the gentle reader can imagine the rest!

The co-census of opinion was that whereas "Holdfast" provided the Staffs with logistical and movement problems *par excellence*, it was on such a grand scale that the ordinary Signalman in a Headquarters location felt rather like a mole —he just burrowed and slept and slept and burrowed. The total blackout had no military significance to Signalman Circuit S. He thought it was a "cover plan" to facilitate closer liaison with the W.R.A.C. The ladies, bless 'em, were always bright and cheerful and worked with a will. I hold no brief for a mixture of the sexes in what would be a battle location, but one must hand it to the W.R.A.C. Their morale remained at a constant high level, despite the mud and damp.

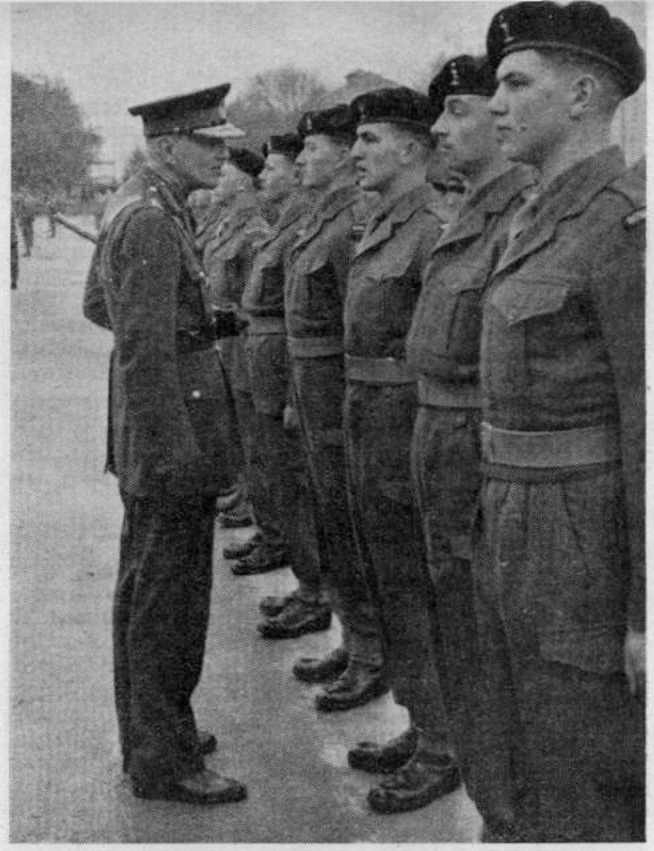
Our Commanding Officer (previously an enthusiast) is now rather doubtful of the wisdom of flitting from airfield to airfield in an Auster. On "Holdfast" the propellor flew off at 1,000 feet above the deck and the aeroplane made a very "forced," one might even say a "pushed," landing in a field full of cattle. The only good thing about the business is that the Colonel is now able to talk "prangs" and "belly flops" with the pilots when he visits an R.A.F. Mess.

Having put "Holdfast" and the Administrative Inspection behind us, we went into strict training for the Colonel Commandant's visit. This is the second time that the Regiment has been host to the other Signal Units for a visit by Royalty or its representative, so we are able to re-hash one or two previous plans. The mass parade was a success and by dint of scraping the pot we were able to provide tea and buns for all concerned. General Naylor was introduced to the families at tea in the NAAFI canteen and later attended a tea party in the Officers' Mess. We were very pleased to see among the guests a distinguished visitor, Major-General G. G. Rawson, C.B., O.B.E., M.C.

The Regimental hockey, soccer and Rugby teams have completed several fixtures and the new blood is of the right consistency.

The R.S.M. has taken the boxing team under his wing and they are busy sweating off surplus poundage in preparation for a busy season.

On the entertainments side the Warrant Officers and Sergeants threw an excellent party in October and our new Second-in-Command is a veritable "ball of fire" when it comes to organising. He has already persuaded the Garrison Engineers to equip a really first-class quiet room and education and amenities centre. He has also organised a children's party and a stage show. An all ranks' dance is planned for November, and Christmas promises to be one of the best for years.



General Naylor inspects

We are laying a firm foundation of friendship with the local German sports club. The Garrison hockey team, plus three British reinforcements for the Lemgo Town hockey team, piled into a bus on Saturday last and travelled down to Hamborn in the Ruhr, where they competed in an international hockey tournament. Both Garrison and Lemgo teams won their games, and Lance-Corporal Smith had the distinction of scoring the only goal for the German team in their second game. There was great jollity and speechifying after the tournament. Corporal Brown's reply in his best broken German was a masterpiece and was greeted with a tremendous ovation.

2 A.A. (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT

After a successful summer season of cricket and water polo the Regiment got away to a flying start in rugger by defeating 1 Battalion R.A.O.C. by 8 points to 3 in the first round of the Army Rugby Cup. Signalman Freeman scored all our points, and played magnificently throughout with first-class support from the whole team.

In the second round we met the Royal Horse Guards and lost 24—0 to a heavier and better team.

In recording the very first entry of the Regiment in Army competitions, we are conscious of the great enthusiasm shown by Second-Lieutenant G. Davies, who has left us recently.

Of our boxers, Signalman Freeman and Signalman Robson were selected to accompany an Aldershot District team to London. Both lost their fights, and Freeman sustained an injury to the ribs, much to the consternation of the rugger fans. Certainly he was not fighting fit for the game against the Royal Horse Guards, and this was reflected in the result. or coke to their bosoms. Nevertheless, an inter-troop soccer and hockey league has been formed and keenness is making up for any lack of skill. We are slowly realising

Captain Judd has done so much to make the Corps Band known throughout the country that the announcement of a visit by the Band was a source of joy to everyone. This was amply justified by the performance at Aldershot on 25th July.

Movements to and fro have been numerous. Major C. S. Kidd is now in Malta, where we wish him a pleasant stay. In his place we welcome Major D. A. R. Elliott, M.C., and hope to see him now and again.

A.A. Command Signal Units were prominent among those that manned the Signals stand at the Radio Exhibition, and this Regiment was given the task of preparing the Royal Signals contingent.

The Regiment played its part in Exercise "Ardent," and results were most satisfactory from the Signals aspect.

14 A.A. (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

An event worth recording took place on 28th January, when the Regiment was in camp at Aberporth. On this day the Hon. Colonel of the Regiment, Colonel F. J. Behn, O.B.E., T.D., presented the Meritorious Service Medal to Sergeant F. W. Jacob. Sergeant Jacob first joined in 1920 and served in all ranks up to W.O.II on a regular engagement, being discharged in 1945. He was this Regiment's first post-war T.A. recruit, joining on 1st May, 1947, as an S.Q.M.S. In 1949 he re-enlisted on a Regular Army type "T" engagement and served as a Squadron P.S.I. before his appointment as Orderly Room Sergeant in 1950.

★

A new arrival since our last notes is Captain M. A. Riley, W.R.A.C. (T.A.), who has joined us as W.R.A.C. Adviser on consolidated rates on transfer from R.A. (T.A.). Captain Riley served in A.T.S./W.R.A.C. Signals from 1943 to 1949, and will be well-known to many in the Corps. We hope that she will enjoy her stay with this Regiment.

Our 96 Agra (A.A.) Signal Squadron, T.A., this year was engaged in manoeuvres in Norfolk with its parent Agra H.Q., and had a lively time, parachutists not being the least of their troubles. Major F. Gibbons, who commanded the Squadron, has been moved out of the area by his employers, and has unfortunately had to transfer to T.A.R.O., but we are fortunate in having secured Captain D. R. Robinson to take over the Squadron.

Exercise "Ardent" has come and gone and once more we played our vital part in the defence of N.W. England and obtained valuable training for war, which we hope will not come.

5 A.A. (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT

Exercise "Ardent" brought the Regiment to full operational standing and much valuable experience was gained over the period. Communications were of a high standard and credit is due to our linemen and switchboard operators, whose keenness and ability were acknowledged by the Gunners.

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In the field of sport winter games are in full swing. Headquarters Troop, strongly reinforced by the Commanding Officer and Second-in-Command, rattled four goals in against 21 Fire Command Troop at hockey. Second-Lieutenant Callander, one of our keen young golfers, was successful in the finals of the Northern Command Foursomes with Lieutenant-Colonel Novis, S.O.I. (P.T.) as partner.

The W.R.A.C. are taking a keen interest in fencing and have commenced serious training. They hope soon to be prepared to meet any challenge!

15 A.A. (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

Despite his heavy responsibilities as Lord Chamberlain, in connection with the Coronation, the Earl of Scarborough, K.G., G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., T.D., honoured the Officers of 15 A.A. (M) Signal Regiment (T.A.) on Saturday, 1st November, by attending their dinner dance at the Masonic Hall, Headingley, Leeds.

Lord Scarborough, who was accompanied by Lady Scarborough, is Honorary Colonel of the Regiment. During dinner he presented to the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel L. Hayes, T.D., on behalf of the Officers, a bronze statuette of Mercury in appreciation of Colonel Hayes' tenacious and successful efforts to have returned to its rightful place with the Regiment a life-size "Jimmie," which belonged to the Mess in pre-war days.

Lieutenant-Colonel Hayes, in reply, thanked Lord Scarborough for his unfailing interest and encouragement, and assured him of the Regiment's appreciation of the high honour bestowed upon them by the presence of the Honorary Colonel and his Lady, especially in view of the present very heavy demands upon their time.

In thanking the Officers, Colonel Hayes said that without their loyal support and co-operation his task in commanding a Unit with Squadrons as far apart as Nottingham and Newcastle would be an impossible one. In this connection he wished to pay a sincere tribute to his wife (and, indeed, to all "T.A. wives") for her understanding acceptance of the long hours he was obliged to spend away from home.

About 70 Officers, wives and friends were present.

The occasion provided an excellent opportunity for an enjoyable "get-together" for Officers who in some cases had not met since annual camp, and the visitors from Squadrons in Newcastle, Rotherham and Nottingham stayed overnight in the same hotel; an Officers' conference being held the following morning.

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The Regiment has recently lost W.O.I Irvin, who has left us for duty in Catterick, and Sergeant Ray to civilian life. To them both we offer our best wishes. We welcome in their stead W.O.I Cunningham and Sergeant Larson.

Major R. S. Campbell has also recently joined us for duty as second-in-command.



The bronze Statuette of Mercury

35 (U) A.A. INDEPENDENT (M) SIGNAL SQUADRON, T.A.

We entered a team in both the 3 A.A. Group and Northern Ireland District Motor Cycle Trials, and considering the team was different from the previous years they did quite well.

On the 27th September the Unit paraded in Belfast with other T.A. Units, and took part in the Adoption Ceremony, when all T.A. Units were adopted by the Belfast Corporation.

The presentation of Unit Plaques was carried out with due ceremony, and each Unit received a plaque from the Lord Mayor in return.

A week-end camp was held in late September, and once more proved a great success, especially the cricket match held on Saturday evening. Our only crib is that two days pass far too quickly.

The netball team have succeeded in winning the 3 A.A. Group, T.A., Inter-Unit Netball Competition in this Brigade. They are now looking forward to going over the water and playing in the 3 A.A. Group Competition.

They were presented with the cup, and we hope they win many more during the coming season.

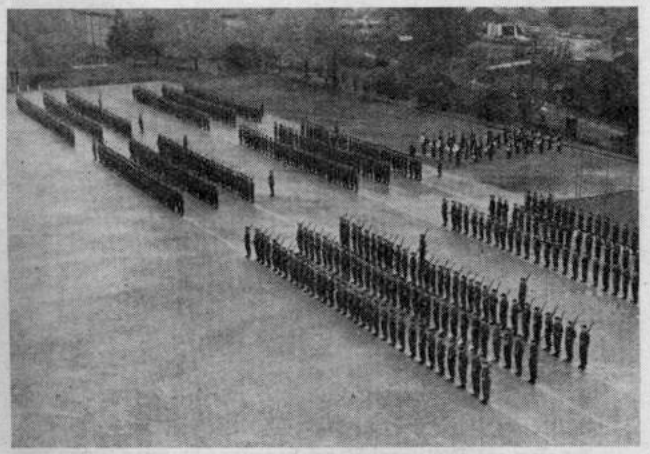
EUROPE

SX BRANCH

Headquarters, British Army of the Rhine

We were all very delighted at the visit of the Representative Colonel Commandant to B.A.O.R. which took place from 7th October to 17th October, 1952. The highlight of the visit was the combined Signals parade at Lemgo. The parade was commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel J. M. S. Tulloch, O.B.E., and on parade were squadrons from H.Q. B.A.O.R. Signal Regiment, 1 Corps Signal Regiment, 6 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment, 11 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment, 2 L. of C. Signal Regiment, 4 L. of C. Signal Regiment and 11 A.F. Signal Regiment.

The Band of the 9 Queen's Royal Lancers played for this parade. General Naylor visited most of the units stationed in B.A.O.R. who will, no doubt, be reporting his visit in their own notes.



The combined Signals parade



Major-General R. F. B. Naylor, C.B., O.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., Representative Colonel Commandant, presenting the Meritorious Service Medal to Lieut.-Colonel A. Trapmore at H.Q., B.A.O.R. Signal Regiment, on the 13th October, 1952

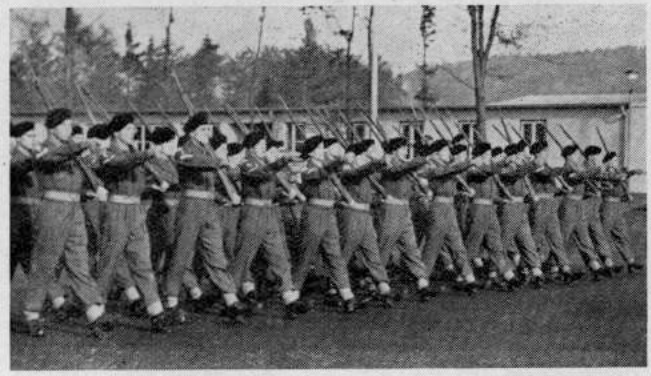
H.Q., B.A.O.R. SIGNAL REGIMENT

On 13th October we were visited by Major-General R. F. B. Naylor, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., and the occasion was used to present the M.S.M. to Lieutenant-Colonel (T.O.T.) A. Trapmore, Royal Signals, and the L.S. and G.C. to S.Q.M.S. Knowles and Cartwright. Before presenting the medals, the Representative Colonel Commandant told us how fortunate we were in having such a distinguished member of the Corps in our Unit. During his 39 years' service, Lieutenant-Colonel Trapmore has held every rank from Boy to Lieutenant-Colonel and has served in no less than eleven countries stretching over three continents. He has been a great asset in the field of sport, representing the Corps in cricket, soccer, Rugby, athletics and boxing. In the latter sport he had the distinction of being the first Army heavyweight champion Royal Signals produced. Although he has retired from the playing world, he is a very keen cricket umpire, and whenever there is a game being played you will find him there giving sound advice to the youngsters.

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This month has been spent in recuperating from a somewhat busy exercise season and preparing for the inevitable Annual Administrative Inspection which has just taken place. The weather was not in our favour, but the District Commander was able to satisfy himself that we were abiding by all the rules and regulations.

In the sporting world our hockey team, containing 6 Corps players, remains unbeaten and have a goal average that looks like a Rugby team's. Our rugger side have also got off to a good start, and with a team consisting of a strong regular element prospects are bright. This year we are running three soccer teams in the local league, and all of them are progressing favourably, thanks to our soccer representative, who has worked wonders in getting so many games played on so few grounds.



Junior Leaders Course, 1952, passing-out parade

1 CORPS SIGNAL REGIMENT

The Regiment has now been back in barracks for over a month. We have found barrack life to be almost strange after our nomadic existence during the last training season.

Individual training started on 1st November. Careful plans and preparations have been completed and a busy time is forecast for all.

A junior leaders' course has just been completed with very satisfactory results. The Commanding Officer congratulated the course on their drill and turnout, emphasising how impressed he was with the spirit and enthusiasm shown by all ranks taking part.

On 9th October we were honoured by a visit from our Corps Commander. The General addressed all ranks of the Regiment and spoke most kindly of our efforts during the training season. The General later lunched at the Officers' Mess.

On 14th October we were further honoured by a visit from the Representative Colonel Commandant, Major-General R. F. B. Naylor, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., who was accompanied by Brigadier R. H. O. Coryton, C.B.E., and Brigadier D. W. R. Burridge, C.B.E. The General inspected the barracks and was introduced to the married families who had been invited to lunch by the Regiment. After lunch at the Officers' Mess, the General departed in order to take a parade of representative Squadrons of B.A.O.R. Royal Signals Regiments in which, of course, this Unit took part. We were gratified by the keen interest the General showed in the affairs of our Regiment and sincerely hope he enjoyed his tour of B.A.O.R.

One of the most outstanding features of the month was a debate on the motion that " this House will join the Regular Army," in which the Officers' and Sergeants' Messes took part. This was well attended by the families.

The debate was opened by the Commanding Officer, who explained that the object was to ascertain why some Senior N.C.O.s left the service after so many years with the Corps. The proposer suggested that for the purpose of the debate " this House " was a Service family, and he then put forward all the advantages and attractions of Service life.

The opposer gave what he thought were the reasons why so many Servicemen were choosing to return to civil life. The debate was then opened to the house and all were welcomed to say their piece. This part of the debate was without doubt the most interesting. Opinions and suggestions were put to the chairman by the dozen. Good sense, good humour and fairness marked the meeting throughout.

The ladies kept up their end extremely well and we found that no debate of this nature could successfully be held without them.

In conclusion, the proposer and opposer summed up their respective cases and the meeting was finally closed by the Commanding Officer, who thanked all who attended and assured us that the points raised would be checked and forwarded for action.

Since returning to barracks every effort has been made to provide us with as much sport as possible. There is unfortunately a bad shortage of playing grounds and progress is slow. Football, Rugby and hockey fixtures are taking place, and though we have no outstanding results to report we are still trying very hard.

7th ARMOURED DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

On the 8th we were honoured by a visit from the Representative Colonel Commandant, Major-General R. F. B. Naylor, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C. Although unfortunately of short duration, the Colonel Commandant was kind enough to complete a very packed programme. After complimenting Sergeant Murdoch on the Guard of Honour commanded by the latter, he gave a heartening talk to the men and then attended a families' tea party. Although time was short, General Naylor was able to have a few minutes' chat with the majority of the families, who were most appreciative of his very real interest in their problems.

In the evening at a cocktail party in the Officers' Mess, the Colonel Commandant met the Divisional Commander and, in addition to our own Officers and their wives, met most of the leading personalities from Divisional Headquarters. After an inspection of our new cookhouse the following morning, General Naylor left for his next visit in a very full programme. Throughout the visit he was accompanied by the C.S.O., B.A.O.R., Brigadier R. H. O. Coryton, C.B.E., whom we were very glad to see amongst us once again. A photo of the inspection of the Guard is shown below.

It was roses all the way at the Divisional Motorcycle Trials. Our team, Sergeants Edwards and Slaughter and Corporal Haire, won the Divisional Team Championship and Challenge Cup, and Sergeant Edwards won the Individual Championship with Sergeant Slaughter as runner-up. The team is one of two selected to represent B.A.O.R. in the British Army Trials next month in the United Kingdom. Well done and good luck.

We received many bouquets for the excellence of the communications at the Army Hunter Trials held here this month. The Commanding Officer was our only representative, and it has been suggested that his team be given a special prize for the most simultaneous (to coin a phrase) refusal at the drop fence.

The Association. We are resuscitating the nearly moribund No. 5 Unit Branch. In three weeks we have 57 chaps subscribing towards life membership, of whom 17 have fully paid up. The campaign continues.



7 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment Quarter Guard

1 WIRELESS REGIMENT SIGNALS

With the leaves fallen and swept from the parade ground, the Regiment prepares to face the Westphalian winter. The season's sports are under way. Football started with a disappointing reverse for the Unit team. They had the misfortune to lose, by one goal to two, to a Cavalry Regiment in the first round of the Army Football Cup. Our opponents scored the winning goal only in the final minute of this keenly-contested game.

The Rugby and hockey teams have still their league matches to come, while the Unit is preparing to embark on an extensive and probably exhausting series of inter-Troop boxing contests. At the moment modesty about pugilistic achievements is still the order of the day. A bulky rugger player has just discovered that he has a weak heart; other infirmities are expected. However, we have the recent example of a prize fighter from New York called Marciano to encourage the diffident—he is said to have begun boxing whilst in the Army. At the time of writing it is still a moot point of military law whether the plea that one is punch-drunk will be held to excuse minor delinquencies.

Lieutenant J. O. Douglas-Beveridge has taken over the post of Regimental Recruiting Officer. It is by now a commonplace that everybody is somebody in the Army today, though some soldiers don't know just who. Most have seen the force of the argument (put forward in "The Gondoliers") that when everybody is somebody, nobody is anybody. We have enquired without receiving any definite answer what methods the new Recruiting Officer will use. Old recruiting posters used to call on all those "who suffer from pinchfist masters or too much wife" to come along and meet Sergeant Blunderbus at the White Horse Inn, where he will give a pint of beer and the Queen's shilling. It will be interesting to see if the new Recruiting Officer favours this alcoholic approach to possible recruits.

On the 7th October, S.S.M. T. Rawlinson was presented with the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal by the Commander, Lubbecke District, on the occasion of the Annual Administrative Inspection.

BERLIN SIGNAL SQUADRON

The months of September and October saw many exercises. Although not of the same duration as those in the zone, Exercise "Mainline," which involved the whole of B.T.B., lasted for four days. The Squadron was heavily committed and provided maximum communications for Staff, enemy and umpires. A further three-day inter-sector exercise was held in mid-October, when Allied Staffs took to the field for three days. During this latter exercise we were honoured by a visit from Major-General Naylor, the Representative Colonel Commandant, who was accompanied by the C.S.O. and Lieutenant-Colonel Adams from H.Q. Rhine Army. The party visited the Squadron area and quarters, including the married quarters of S.Q.M.S. and Mrs. Thompson.

In the field of sport we are training almost a completely new hockey team. Few of the permanent members of last year's team remain. Sergeant Crampton has left us after only a month of the season. We wish him luck on his return to civil life.

The football team has already visited the zone in the first round of the Minor Units Competition, B.A.O.R. Unfortunately it lost 3—1 in a spirited match against a Field Ambulance. Signalman Wharton scored for the Squadron.

We have taken out our rifles once more for the Berlin Small Bore Competition and have high hopes of success.

We had a visit in November from Richard Dimbleby in the "Down Your Way" programme, which was given on Sunday, 16th November.



S.S.M. T. Rawlinson receiving his L.S. and G.C. Medal

3 SQUADRON, 4 L. OF C. SIGNAL REGIMENT

With the end of the summer training season, which culminated in Exercise "Holdfast," the Squadron is now settling down to its normal daily routine. No more demands are being made for personnel to assist the Field Regiments in carrying out their operational roles. We have made quite a name for ourselves during the past year both for the promptness with which people were supplied and for the excellent service they gave.

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In the field of sport, the Squadron still finds time to make its mark. The soccer team played its first three matches without loss of a point and is still top of the Hannover District League. This in spite of the loss of several of our last year's "strong men" due to release. S.S.M. Mayhew and Sergeant Dady have both had a trial for the B.A.O.R. Hockey Team, and the general opinion seems to be that they will make the grade. We hope they do—and think they will. We also entered a team for the 7 Armoured Division Motor Cycle Trials which, considering it was entered and training in less than a fortnight, did well to finish in the top half of the field.

BETFOR SIGNALS

Dense fog and, later, heavy rain heralded the arrival of the "Fall Manoeuvre" this month, but we rapidly acclimatised ourselves and were ready, if necessary, to resort to amphibious means to get through. On the second day the R.A.F. treated us to realistic ground-strafing attacks, controlled, we believe, by our tentacles.

During the exercise we welcomed Captain Irwin and a detachment from Klagenfurt Signal Squadron, who provided mist-assisted wireless communication for the umpires, and we bade farewell (temporarily) to our T.O.T., Lieutenant A. G. Pritchard, and to Sergeant McKie who, it is said, now have a healthy respect for "Aggressian jeep patrols and P.W. cages.

Before he left us for his T.A. Unit at the end of September, Second-Lieutenant J. G. F. Watt sailed for the Command in Austria against B.T.A., and finished the season by winning the B.S.C.T. Sailing Championship.

The autumn sports season has begun well with two convincing wins for the Rugby team against the Royal Engineers and the Nomads, and promotion to the "A" league for the hockey team, who won their first game against the Royal Military Police by 8 goals to 2. Sergeant Haigh and Driver Davey have played in Command Rugby Trials.

SHAPE Signal Squadron



The Director of Signals inspects Mobile Signal Office Trailers at SHAPE. Left to right, Major H. B. de M. Hunter, O.C., SHAPE Signal Squadron, Major-General W. O. Bowen, Colonel Fettig, Signal Corps

[*Courtesy : SHAPE Photograph*

DURING the last month we have been honoured by a visit from the Director of Signals, who saw us at work at SHAPE and Camp des Loges on a cold, wet autumn day. In spite of the weather we hope he enjoyed his visit.

October has also been notable for the return from Norway of Sergeant Derham, Corporals Gracey, McBain and Shaw, who we hope will contribute to the next issue of THE WIRE.

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On 29th August, Corporal Coleman, Signalman Dutton and Signalman Cardew left S.H.A.P.E. Signal Squadron to assist in the setting up of communications for Lieutenant-General Willard Wyman, Commander Land Forces, South-East Europe. They travelled via Rome, Naples, Piraeus, Istanbul and Izmir, where the headquarters was to be set up.

It has not been all work and no play. They were greeted by Miss Europe, the beauty queen, as our photograph shows, and were delighted to find that even in Turkey it is possible to brew a good beer. Neither is it necessary to go behind the Iron Curtain to find Vodka, which can be used as a base for some very exotic drinks.

Rumour has it that National Servicemen are prepared to sign on if promised a trip to Turkey. What next?



[*Photo published by courtesy of Keystone Press Ltd., of London*

Cpl. Coleman, Sgmn. Dutton, Sgmn. Cardew, Miss Europe (1952), and a Turkish soldier on their arrival in Turkey

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KLAGENFURT SIGNALS

Autumn manoeuvres have kept the Squadron busy since the beginning of October, when praise was heard all round of the communications provided in the field. Since then, there have been a series of small exercises and a trip to Trieste for the BETFOR manoeuvres. Everyone is shivering at the thought of a week in the snow during the next Command exercise.

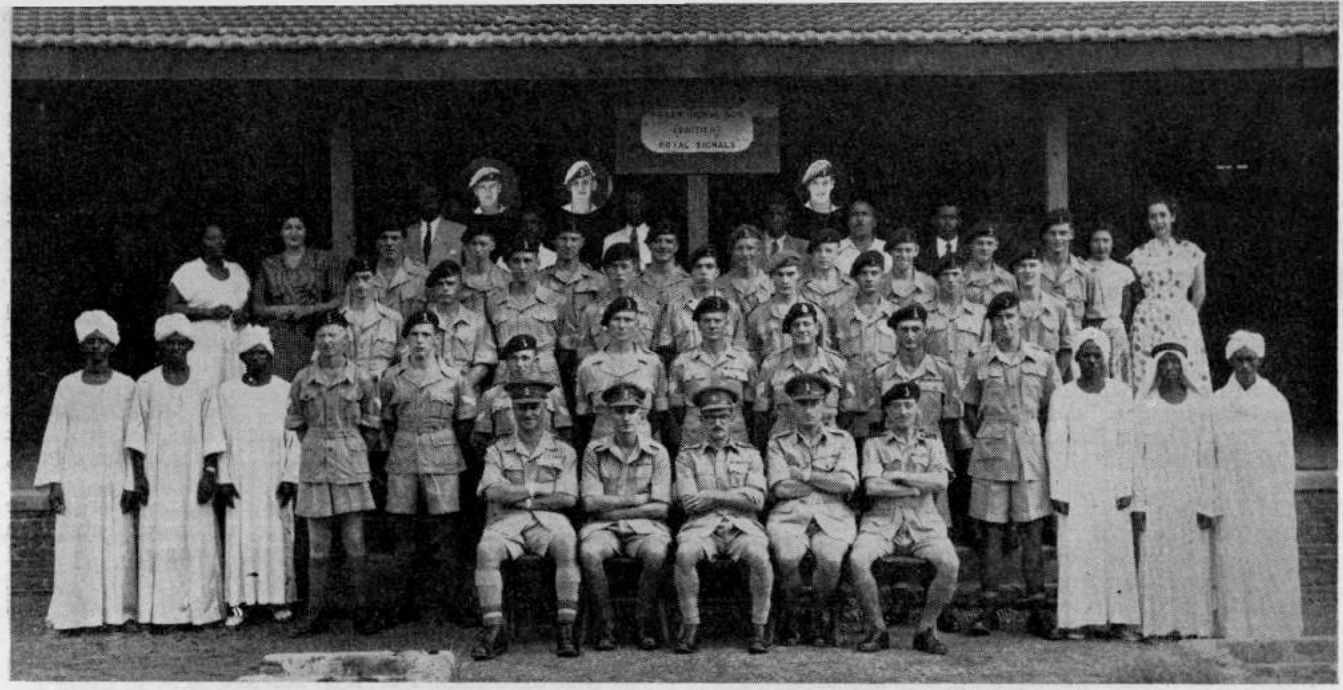
The G.O.C. in C. visited us in mid-October and inspected the Unit on parade, and all the vehicles. He commented favourably on both, showing great interest in everything and asking many questions.

There have been a number of changes recently and we have said goodbye to Major and Mrs. R. White and Captain and Mrs. F. C. H. Walker; in their places have come Major W. Burke and Captain S. P. Irwin. Also we have welcomed Captain and Mrs. C. Rolls from M.E.L.F., and S.S.M. and Mrs. Godfrey who have made a short journey down here from 12 Wireless Squadron.

The football team lost an exciting game to the Camerons by 2 goals to 1. The B.M.H. were beaten on their own ground by 3 goals to nil, and Sergeant Bicknell, Driver Loftus and Driver Wilson have all been chosen for the B.T.A. soccer trials.

The rugger team also lost to the Camerons in an exciting game by 9 points to 6. Since then most of the matches have been won. Corporal John, Signalman Driver and Signalman Brent all contributing towards the building of a strong Unit team. Second-Lieutenant Wood and Second-Lieutenant Smythe have both been chosen to play for the B.T.A. team against the French Forces Austria.

In a Klagenfurt area rifle meeting the sten team, captained by S.Q.M.S. Weaver, came fourth. The rifle team also took fourth place. Signalman Quinn came second in the individual competition by 11 points to a member of the Queen's Hundred, a truly fine performance.



The last photograph of Sudan Signal Squadron

16 INDEPENDENT PARATROOP BRIGADE GROUP SIGNAL SQUADRON

Many men have been on leave over the last three months. Fancy has either taken them to the freedom of Cyprus or to the renewal of life with their families in the U.K.

Training has been pretty continuous throughout the summer. Exercises have taken us over into the Sinai or down the west coast of the Gulf of Suez until it meets the Red Sea. It would have extended further only the Command Secretariat accused us of " over-spending our mileage." Recently we had the privilege of providing personal communications for the G.O.C. B.T.E. on exercises in Transjordan. The party included Second-Lieutenant Robertson, Sergeant Blow and 12 others.

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Air training has recommenced true to style—0330 Reveille, parachuting cancelled at 1230.

May we, as these notes will reach most readers near to Christmas, wish all our families and friends, particularly our ex-Squadron friends, a very happy Christmas, expressing the fond hope, yet again, that Christmas 1953 will see us home.

2 AGRA SIGNAL SQUADRON

All of us here at Ferrypoint wish all our friends in the Corps a very happy Christmas and New Year. The large-scale exercises " way out in the desert " are now behind us, but in passing we must mention the magnificent work of our line party under the supervision of Corporal Burt, who have been tending the C.M.A. for the last eight weeks. We have but sand-chapped lips and the P.1954s remaining, but like all other branches of the Corps we learnt a great deal from the manoeuvres regarding communications peculiar to the climate. On the sporting side, hockey and basketball have taken priority, especially the latter as we have our own league inside the camp, and have even ventured further afield, as 16 Independent Parachute Signals know to their cost.

The Sergeants' Mess, after a great deal of industrious activity by S.S.M. Haydon and others, have built a fish pond complete with fountain at the end of the courtyard, much to the delight of an otherwise rather harassed messing member!

SUDAN SIGNAL SQUADRON (BRITISH)

These are " goodbye " notes as far as we are concerned.

A short time ago our sister Troop in Eritrea closed down and a final convoy of vehicles was brought by their Troop Officer, Lieutenant Poole, by road and rail from Asmara to Khartoum. Included in their convoy were Sergeant Berezai and a number of large pigs (no disrespect meant to Sergeant Berazai, who has recently received the B.E.M.). The Sudan is very hot at this time of the year, even hotter than usual, and we had visions of the pigs bought by H.Q. British Troops, Sudan, Welfare for Christmas turning into bacon on the way. However, all was well, as O.C. Troop pointed out " their ears are up and their tails have still a curl in them, so they must be all right."

Recently we have produced a very fine basketball team, consisting of the following: Sergeant Allison, Lance-Corporals Sandes, Degnan, Rogers, Kelly and Driver Hopson. In the final of the basketball competition in a ding-dong struggle they just lost by one point (28 to 27) to the Medicals after being in the lead most of the time. We have no conclusive proof, mind you, but we suspect the Medicals of having doped themselves at halftime.

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We have said goodbye to a number of our civilian staff, amongst them our Chief Clerk, Negm El Din—not in the photograph we regret—who has served us long and faithfully. The ladies are our exchange operators, with Miss Jessie Hamilton, extreme left, the supervisor. On the extreme right of the back row is Tamim, the wireless supervisor, whom we expect many of those who have been to the Sudan will know.

R.S.M. Colombo and S.Q.M.S. Bourke will be leaving for the Canal Zone shortly, and we are glad to hear that thanks to the efforts of the C.S.O. M.E.L.F.'s staff their families will be going with them or following them in a short time. Sergeant Hammond leaves shortly for the Somaliland Scouts, where we wish him luck. Captain Mawson, we understand, is intent on visiting Southern Sudan and has now joined S.D.F. Signals.

We wish the best of luck to Lieutenant (T.O.T.) Holton and his family, W.O.II Rice, Sergeants Constantine and Allison and the rest who are remaining. We hope they take good care amongst other more important items to bring the Signals boat in first in the Sailing Club races, whose season is just beginning.

Air Formation Signals, Middle East Air Force

CHIEF AIR FORMATION SIGNAL OFFICER,
H.Q., 4 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT,
H.Q., 18 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL SQUADRON

THE arrival of a new C.A.F.S.O. seems a good opportunity to give a general review of the activities of Air Formation Signals in the Middle East.

Colonel D. St. J. Hoysted having completed his tour has returned to London, and Colonel J. W. Gordon, late C.A.G. Royal Signals Eastern Command, has taken his place as C.A.F.S.O. Major A. T. Burrows is his S.O.2 (lines) with Major S. W. B. Lee, now on leave in the U.K., as his G.S.O.II. They live in a palatial office in Headquarters, M.E.A.F., the envy of all staff officers in the Command, though to be honest it is more like a meat safe than a palace. S.O. A.F. Signals are attached to Headquarters of R.A.F. Commands from Malta to Aden. Major C. S. Kidd has recently arrived from A.A. Command to relieve Major N. C. B. Clevely as S.O. A.F. Signals, Malta. Captain J. P. Edwards is S.O. A.F. Signals, Iraq, and Captain V. F. L. Hazlewood is S.O. A.F. Signals, Aden. Captain Hazlewood is about to start his third tour there, and is apparently anxious lest he be posted anywhere where the temperature drops below 100 degrees F. However, he recently went on leave to Nairobi, where he learnt to fly and obtained his private pilot's licence. When last heard of he was flying in an Anson, heavily loaded with cable for an unknown destination—no doubt somewhere near the Equator. He and his twenty men from 13 Wing Signal Troop are responsible for R.A.F. line communications over an area the size of Europe. 4 Air Training Signal Regiment (Lieutenant-Colonel G. H. K. Hewlett), with 18 Air Formation Signal Squadron (Captain E. C. Collett), are responsible for an equally enormous area stretching from the Persian Gulf to Malta, and includes Arabia, Iraq, Egypt, Libya and Cyprus.

Being so scattered it has been almost impossible for Air Formation Signals to compete in sport on a Unit basis, but individuals and Troops have upheld the Corps traditions. In the August Bank Holiday Regatta, Ismailia, Major A. T. Burrows won the Bordeaux Handicap Race. Lieutenant-Colonel G. H. K. Hewlett and Lieutenant-Colonel P. J. Palmer ("X" Branch, G.H.Q., M.E.L.F.) won the two "White Cup" Handicap Races, sponsored by the Royal Signals Sailing Club, Fayid, and the Officers' Sailing Club, Fayid, in their jointly owned "Caillin."

Colonel D. St. J. Hoysted represented the U.S.O.S.C., Ismailia, in the Snipe Team in the triangular match between the Cairo Yacht Club, Cercle du Voile d'Ismailia, and the U.S.O.S.C. held on 31st August, which was won by the U.S.O.S.C.

Signalman Finnie, C.A.F.S.O. draughtsman, is "Captain of Boats," Moascar Other Ranks' Sailing Club, and won a silver cup for the month of August. This cup is awarded for the person obtaining most points in the weekly races.

4 Air Formation Signal Regiment was placed third in the Canal Zone Royal Signals Swimming Championships.

Signalman Webb was placed 2nd in the Open diving.
Lance-Corporal Heaton was placed 1st in the 400 yds. free style.

Probably in no other theatre do Signalmen travel so much. The competition for jobs in strange places is so keen that it proves that "soft jobs" are no longer sought after.

GIBRALTAR SIGNAL SQUADRON

In our last notes we promised victory in the September Garrison Regatta. Regretfully we now report that again we just failed in the final round of the September Gig Competitions. If ever a best losers' prize is instituted for this event, we feel we shall automatically qualify for that award.

Hockey and soccer are now in full swing again, and already several games have been played—both friendlies and league—at both sports. The hockey XI have taken four out of a possible six, whilst the footballers have taken three out of four. At each sport several of our members have been picked to play in trial games for the Combined Services XI, and we sincerely hope to see some of them in the final selection.

On Remembrance Day (Sunday) the Unit provided detachments at various church parades, in addition to the working parties on communications for the public ceremony held at the Cross of Sacrifice.

At the moment we are in the throes of preparing for the annual inspection by the Officer Commanding Troops. The usual precautions are being taken. The results, we hope, will be happy.

At this time of the year all ranks of the Unit join in wishing to all members of the Corps, at home and abroad, a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

FARELF

G.H.Q. SIGNAL REGIMENT

The outstanding event of October, 1952, for Singapore was the visit of H.R.H. The Duchess of Kent and her son, H.R.H. The Duke of Kent. Their numerous activities during their very strenuous visit were well covered by press reports, so only two events of direct interest to this Regiment will be referred to. On 3rd October, 1952, H.R.H. The Duchess of Kent visited Army installations in Singapore Base District, and a detachment of the Regiment under Major R. H. Farlow, M.B.E., helped to line the route of her procession. The day was hot and the troops and their families had a somewhat trying wait in the sun, but their patience was rewarded by the sight of Her Royal Highness as she drove through the cheering lines of troops.

On 10th October, 1952, the G.H.Q. Signal Office was honoured by an informal visit of H.R.H. The Duke of Kent. After he had seen the various instruments in use, in which he showed great interest, a Corps Shield to commemorate his visit was presented to him.



H.R.H. The Duke of Kent watches a teleprinter message being received by Pte. Doris Conway, W.R.A.C.



H.R.H. The Duke of Kent being presented with a Corps Shield by Lieut.-Colonel G. A. Dutton. Looking on are Major W. A. Woods, T.D., and Lieut. H. E. Luker

SINGAPORE DISTRICT SIGNAL REGIMENT

A squad of M.O.R.s from the three Signal Regiments on the Island of Singapore recently completed a two-weeks' D. and D. Course with this Regiment.

On Saturday, 18th October, the squad passed off; their final exhibition of arms and foot drill, being well-nigh perfect, in spite of a 92 degrees temperature.

The new W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess will be officially opened on Saturday, 29th November. Any old member of the Mess who would like to see the new Mess will be welcomed any time. The Comet now provides a 24-hour service, twice a week, to and from the U.K.

The soldier has always been noted for having a ready excuse. We lost our favourite one recently: "When we move to the new barracks." This has been officially replaced by "we have just moved into our new barracks." This may only be used for non-submission of returns, absence off parade, or no labels on rifles.

Activities have been mostly fatigues lately. We now have a new trade in the Squadron—"Concrete slab putter downer." All applications for courses in this trade should be forwarded to 6 Wireless Troop.

Some of our young Officers are due for a tour in the Federation to learn how to catch bandits.

We are still waiting for the grass to grow on our new sports field. When it is ready we hope to get a good running track—even though it will be eight laps to 440 yards.

May we congratulate Sergeant Bligh on gaining his Corps Colours at football.

"Operation Occupation," the move of the Regiment into Princess Mary Barracks, has now been completed. The move had been put off for so long that when it did occur most people could not realise it. Even now, if it rains, B.O.R.s may be seen wandering around looking for tent walls. The accommodation is most definitely the most modern occupied by troops of the British Army, even the bed lights work, and the chains do "pull," but we must confess that the recent rain storm did find the weak links of construction.

The Wireless Troop of 2 Squadron has been active lately. A detachment went "jungle bashing" to assist the Royal Artillery in their annual shoot. Communications were maintained during the whole month under trying conditions, and congratulations are offered to the detachment.

The U.G. linemen of 1 Squadron have been particularly busy, as bulldozers on the new Paya Lebar airport seem to take a delight in ripping up the cables.

Alexandra Exchange and Fault Control have now been closed down, and the cables jointed through to Pasir Panjang Exchange, which is now serving the whole area. The recent rains caused partial breakdowns and much bad language from the linemen who had to work night and day, very often having the joint in waterlogged pits.

Sergeant "Charlie" Surch and his gang performed wonders under trying conditions, and have the hearty thanks of us all for a good job done. The national pastime of cable looting seems to have abated a little lately. It is the considered opinion that the lull is only of a temporary nature and will no doubt be revived with the increase in price of lead and copper.

In conclusion, may we wish all former members of the Regiment a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year, "Monty."

Australian Notes

Britcom Base Signal Regiment

The Regiment's cricket team continued its run of successes by winning the first semi-final in the "A" Grade Competition and will meet the R.A.A.F. team in the Grand Final.

The system of semi-finals and finals is worked out on the "Page" plan, an explanation of which might be of interest to non-Australian readers of THE WIRE. Under this system the four top teams at the end of the competition play two semi-finals, 1st v. 2nd and 3rd v. 4th. The losers of the 1st v. 2nd match then play the winners of the 3rd v. 4th game in a final, and the winners of the 1st v. 2nd game play the winners of the final in a grand final. Thus, the Regiment's team, having defeated R.A.A.F. in the first semi-final, now play the same team in the Grand Final, R.A.A.F. having been successful in their game against "J" Reinforcement Base Depot, the winners of the second semi-final. Naturally, we are fully confident of defeating the Air Force team a second time.

EXPLORATION IN THE COLONY OF *Hong Kong*

OR MIRS BAY OR BUST!

PART 1

HONG KONG lies just within the tropics, on the south-east coast of the province of Kwang Tung and east of the Pearl River estuary. The Colony, in addition to Hong Kong island, includes the ceded territory of Kowloon (3¾ square miles), Stonecutters Island (¼ square mile) and the New Territories, which consist of the remainder of the mountainous peninsula of Kowloon, together with 75 adjacent islands of which a large proportion are uninhabited (in all 335 square miles) which was leased from China on 1st July, 1898, for 99 years. A large proportion of this area is steep and unproductive hillside country.

The journeys of the Hiking Club have all taken place in the "New Territories," a peninsula with a section of land jutting out on the right hand side called the Sai Kung Peninsula. The Territories, as a whole, are made up of mountainous country with peaks ranging from 1,500 to 3,000 feet. The west side of the area is mainly barren except in the valleys where paddy fields are abundant, thus the main occupations of the natives of this area is, of necessity, farming and fishing. The east coast, including the Sai Kung area, is made up of peaks covered in dense brush, making travel somewhat hazardous. These peaks are mainly decomposed or volcanic rock which crumble easily when they are being scaled. Exploration in these areas has proved to be very interesting as structures such as old Japanese pill-boxes and obscure Chinese temples are often encountered.

Preparations for these trips began back in 1950 when as 40 Divisional Signal Regiment the Regiment was situated at

Cafeteria Camp and the idea of trekking through Sai Kung area was first thought of. The preliminary stages were week-end treks into the hills behind the camp trying out various types of means of manpacking the necessary equipment for such an undertaking.

The intention of the first treks was to reach Mirs Bay. This large bay separates the eastern shores of the New Territories from Communist China territory. The bay was a notorious haunt of Chinese pirates, and even now cases of piracy in these waters still occur.

The first of the four ill-fated attempts to reach Mirs Bay was undertaken by Sergeants Harfield and Baron. They left Sai Kung early on a Sunday morning and moved off striking inland leaving the last " white sahib " behind. Setting off in a northerly direction which caused them to encounter the side of an extremely rugged hill, and so the first setback was met. In this part of the New Territories the vegetation is very dense and in parts impassable, the undergrowth consisting of long grass, China pine trees and a thorn-covered bush, and when all this is well mixed up it presents somewhat of a problem. It is noted that a large number of the trees found in the Colony, with the exception of Lan Tao Island, were originally imported. A mist settled in and the party wandered for a number of hours along well trodden paths leading from one small Chinese shack, or village, to another, until the goal of the first day's trek was reached. The party discovered that in order to camp a trek of another two miles up a stream bed in order to get above the level of paddy fields to reach drinking water was necessary. Camp was made that night in a China pine wood. The next morning the party moved off northwards again. By *tiffin* time the " heavens " had opened up and a really hard driving rain had set in. It was impracticable to camp on the spot as no water was available—so reluctantly the party turned back and headed for a sheltered cove. On entering the cove a " cave-like " place was observed and it was at once turned into a shelter. No sooner had the party taken possession of these quarters than centipedes of no mean size appeared out of the rock sides, which virtually made the place dangerous! By this time all the kit was soaking and it was decided to return to base.

The second and more daring attempt was made by a party of three, Sergeant Garner (R.A.D.C.), Sergeant Harfield and Signalman Boxall. The party set out from Tide Cove in two canoes. Tide Cove is a large cove which separates the western coast of Sai Kung peninsula from the mainland of the New Territories. The party crossed Tide Cove and paddled up the west coast of Sai Kung peninsula. All went well until a torrential downpour commenced. A dash was made for the coast and the canoes were eventually navigated between razor-sharp rocks and brought to rest on a sandy beach. In driving rain a crude shelter was erected—this consisted of two canoes and two ponchos. The storm, which was practically a small typhoon, lasted all the remainder of Sunday, all Monday and eventually died out on Tuesday morning. By this time the situation was looking serious as no water was available and all the food had to be eaten cold as it was just not possible to light a fire in such a storm. This meant at one stage eating tinned stead and kidney pudding cold! Once the storm had abated a recce was made of the beach and large sea slugs of approximately six inches in length were found by the score. When the storm had abated there was no option but to return to base as all kit, including socks and underclothing had been used to try and keep the rains out of the primitive shelter during the hours of the storm. A dash was made for Sha Tin—during this one canoe ran on to a sandbank studded with sharp rocks, but by careful navigation it was safely recovered. Then one canoe broke adrift while the party were ashore, so it was necessary for one of the party to wade out to retrieve the boat. During this trip a large assortment of interesting fish were seen, many of these brightly coloured, the most common being an orange coloured fish which the locals assure are good for eating.

To be continued. Part II will appear in January.

The Mercury Houses

By the same post we received from quite independent sources the following accounts of the two Mercury Houses.

Bournemouth

WHAT a very apt and live memorial to those who gave their lives in Signals during the wars is that of Mercury House in Bournemouth! And for that matter its counterpart in Colwyn Bay as well.

" All very well," say the sceptical (always the cynical opponent of something new), " but when I go away I want to get right out of the barrack-room atmosphere. I like my fellow men in Signals very much, thank you, but on holiday! "

How silly all this is! Because you see these people are quite wrong—and more's their loss! But being a reasonable person, not over selfish, who prefers to share his joys with his fellow men, I must state the following quite categorically and without apology. Mercury House is a comfortable private hotel with all the amenities and atmosphere the name implies. No Part 1 orders with breakfast, and no spit-and-polish for luncheon—and as for lights out, I'm not exactly an early bird but I never did quite find out!

Rank consciousness? Very difficult you say. All depends on whether YOU are rank conscious when you are on vacation. As for me, I tend to forget such vague formalities! Sitting next to my table were a bright young couple on their honeymoon. And what better place to spend it than in the Bournemouth area! Considerably later I learnt that the young man's rank was Signalman. If he knew of mine, or remembered the introduction, it was lost in the easy but pleasant informality engendered by Major and Mrs. Dunningham, who manage the Boscombe establishment.

Mercury House first opened in 1948, and officially opened by The Princess Royal in July, 1949, is a bold new experiment which is rapidly overcoming prejudice. Major Dunningham's object of spreading informality and giving the guest a complete break from any kind of military atmosphere is most admirable, and at this time of year, for the Officer or man who feels in need of a " pick-me-up," Bournemouth and Boscombe awaits with all its attractions —and the prices at Mercury House, as might be expected, are ridiculously low. So why not try it! You'll certainly go again!!

J.L.W.

Colwyn Bay

It was a shock to learn from the chairman's report that Mercury House, Colwyn Bay, is not enjoying the popularity it deserves, and I can only conclude that this is due to lack of knowledge.

No doubt quite a number of readers have " never 'eard of it," so for their benefit I will state that it lies on the North Wales holiday coast. Yes, that's it, at the top left-hand corner of the principality. What's that? You've been there? You were at the 2nd S.T.C.! Forget it chum, we're talking about holidays.

Our much maligned British Railways provide a very good service of trains from London and Birmingham via Crewe, and also from Manchester, while Crosville Motor Services have buses running all over the area with a direct coach service from London in the summer months. For those fortunate enough to own one, a car or motorcycle is the ideal means of getting about, and there is accommodation for a limited number at Mercury House.

Choice of a holiday resort depends largely upon what kind of a holiday one prefers, and I think Colwyn Bay can cater for most tastes. It is the largest town in North Wales and entirely devoted to holiday visitors, having the normal quota of theatres and cinemas.

For the family man there are the beach, pier and a fun-fair, while close to Mercury House are the beautiful Pwllychrochran Woods, above which is a height appropriately known as "The View." When the amenities of Colwyn Bay are exhausted, Llandudno is easily reached by train, bus or a somewhat primitive tramway.

Lovers of scenic beauty will find the Welsh mountains hard to beat. Beautiful lakes and tarns, rugged passes, historic castle and waterfalls justly famed for their beauty abound within easy reach. These mountains provide some of the finest climbing grounds in Britain, but although old 'Pindi Wallahs may tell you that the summit of Snowdon is only half as high as Murree, please treat our Welsh crags with respect. Adventurous amateurs lost in mountain mists or risking unknown tracks sometimes come to grief and cause inconvenience and danger to their rescuers. Personally I have always found the Snowdon Mountain Railway from Llanberis a safer, if less adventurous, route to the summit.

Garden lovers will be interested in Lord Aberconway's famous Bodnant Estate, now presented to the National Trust, which is only five miles away, and is open on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday afternoons.

At the same distance lies the picturesque old town of Conway, with its narrow streets and ancient castle. The Conway Estuary, together with the nearby Menai Strait, is a famous yachting centre, and if the Royal Signals Sailing Association ever decide to form a section in Western Command, Mercury House should prove a very convenient headquarters.

Travelling through the cathedral city of Bangor and the village of Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwryndrobwllllantysiliogogogoch brings one to the Isle of Anglesey, which with its comparative flatness presents a contrast to the mountains

Those who are familiar with Mercury House, Boscombe, may be assured that the one at Colwyn Bay is quite as comfortable, and that they will receive as hearty a welcome from "Bob" and Mrs. Barlow as from "Stan" and Mrs. Dunningham.

L.N.L.

* * * *

Retrospect

PRESTATYN, who had every heard of it?—at any rate I had not until September 1941. Those grey hills, bleak chalets, the dining hall that always smelt of food, those awful N.A.A.F.I.s and the local people that were already tired of so many soldiers.

Amazing, but I spent a holiday there in October this year. This time I had a seat on the train but it cost 90s. 4d. return. A porter gave me a welcome on my arrival; the old footbridge was still there and the "Vic" (shades of nights after I had finished "square bashing"). Gracious, is that the parade ground?—weeds growing everywhere—how those drill sergeants would squirm. No lineman's poles either. Yes, the milk bar was there, a bit tidier, and the camp all very white, but not a soul about—it was closed—and not even an anxious moment going past the Guard Room.

The Ffrith, with an extra pool and a children's playground added, was still there, but the cafe was closed—and no matter how strict the Regimental Police there always was somebody in there. So over the sand dunes. Really was all that sea there way back in '41? Well, of course, most of us only went near the barbed wire on fog pickets and the like. And so along to Bastion Road, with the Beach Pavilion closed —had some good evenings there. Joan's Milk Bar was still in the High Street but Joan was now Mrs. Forte. The W.V.S. (bless them all), our great comfort, was back to a cinema cafe. Yes, the fried fish shop was there, and so to the Cross Foxes and on to the New Inn at Dyserth. Nothing much changed but somehow it did not seem so grey or bleak, in fact I liked it. I wonder why? "ANDY."

Territorial Army

ARMY PHANTOM SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.
(Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment)

As 1952 draws to a close the "Phantoms" can look back on a year of considerable activity and achievement. Perhaps the memory of our 15 hectic days at Shorncliffe stands out most clearly, enlivened by the recollection of all the pleasant "Z" types which the War Office kindly sorted out for the occasion.

Gazing into the mists of the future, our supernatural powers produce a vision of heavy training activity, particularly for the operators, in preparation for an early camp somewhere in Dorset.

The social calendar has been and promises to be well filled. Since camp there have been two Regimental dances, two Officers' dinners, and no less than two reunions: one sponsored by the Royal Signals Association, the other by the Princess Louise's Kensington Old Comrades Association. We look forward to the New Year to our Children's Party, an annual event, and, on the far horizon, to our Coronation Dinner and Ball next June.

This month, unfortunately, sees the departure of our Quartermaster, Captain T. Williamson, on posting to Kenya. We wish him a pleasant tour in East Africa.

51 (H) INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

On Sunday, 9th November, an Armistice Service was held at Fonthill Barracks. We were pleased to see several ex-members and their relatives. An excellent service was given by the Reverend McIlwraith.

It was with regret that we heard of the retirement of Major A. H. Reid to the T.A.R.O. He saw service with the Regiment in France and was 2 IC of the Unit during the difficult post-war years. All ranks wish him well.

A social evening was held at Fonthill Barracks on 30th October. It proved a popular event and it may be that a similar evening will be held at a later date.

61 H.Q. ARMY SIGNAL REGIMENT (T.A.)

Individual training is now in full swing and there are a satisfactory number of entries for the March trade board.

The Regimental Rifle Meeting was held at Barton Mills range on 4th-5th October. Competition for the Hawtin Cup was very close, and Corporal Whiteside is to be congratulated on winning with 13 consecutive bulls.

Eastern Command Motor Cycle Trial. The Regiment was invited to provide two of the five teams representing the district in this Trial. Our "A" team was 5th out of 27.

162 Brigade Group and 61 H.Q. Army Signal Regiment Motor Cycle Trial. This year a combined trial was held, organised by the Regiment. We again struck appalling weather, but nevertheless there was a very good turn-out. 162 Independent Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron won the open team event, and Signalman Webb the open individual and Battcock Cup.

A very successful social was held on 8th November at Luton to bid farewell to Captain Franks, whose business commitments force him to transfer to the T.A.R.O.

50 (N) INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT, (T.A.)

Unveiling and Dedication of the Regimental War Memorial

IN the North Transept of St. Cuthbert's Parish Church, Darlington, now stands a memorial to men of the 50 (Northumbrian) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment (T.A.) who died during the last war. The memorial itself is an oak bookcase on the door of which are carved the crest of the Royal Signals and the " Double T " of the Divisional sign, while in a glass-covered compartment at the base of the case is the Regiment's Book of Remembrance containing the names of more than 100 Officers and men.

As the poignant notes of Last Post rang through the quiet church in the afternoon of Sunday, 26th October, Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, our Colonel-in-Chief, unveiled the memorial " To the Glory of God and to the everlasting honour of those men of the 50 Divisional Signal Regiment who laid down their lives for their King and Country in the recent war."

In the heart of the town, which men of the Regiment have come to regard as their headquarters, soldiers, ex-soldiers, mothers, widows and orphans, many of whom had travelled from distant parts of the country, watched and waited as The Princess Royal released the Union Jack from the memorial and turned the first page of a Book which, for them, tells a tragic story.

For them the words of the hymn they had just sung, " O Valiant Hearts who to your Glory came," held a special meaning that day, as did the words of the Senior Chaplain to the Division, the Reverend W. E. Wright.

" Their unshakeable steadfastness and calm courage under all, even the worst circumstances, were vital to the success of fighting in which they were engaged for so long," he said. " Of them also might the oft-quoted words have been written, ' To strive, to seek, to find and not to yield.' "

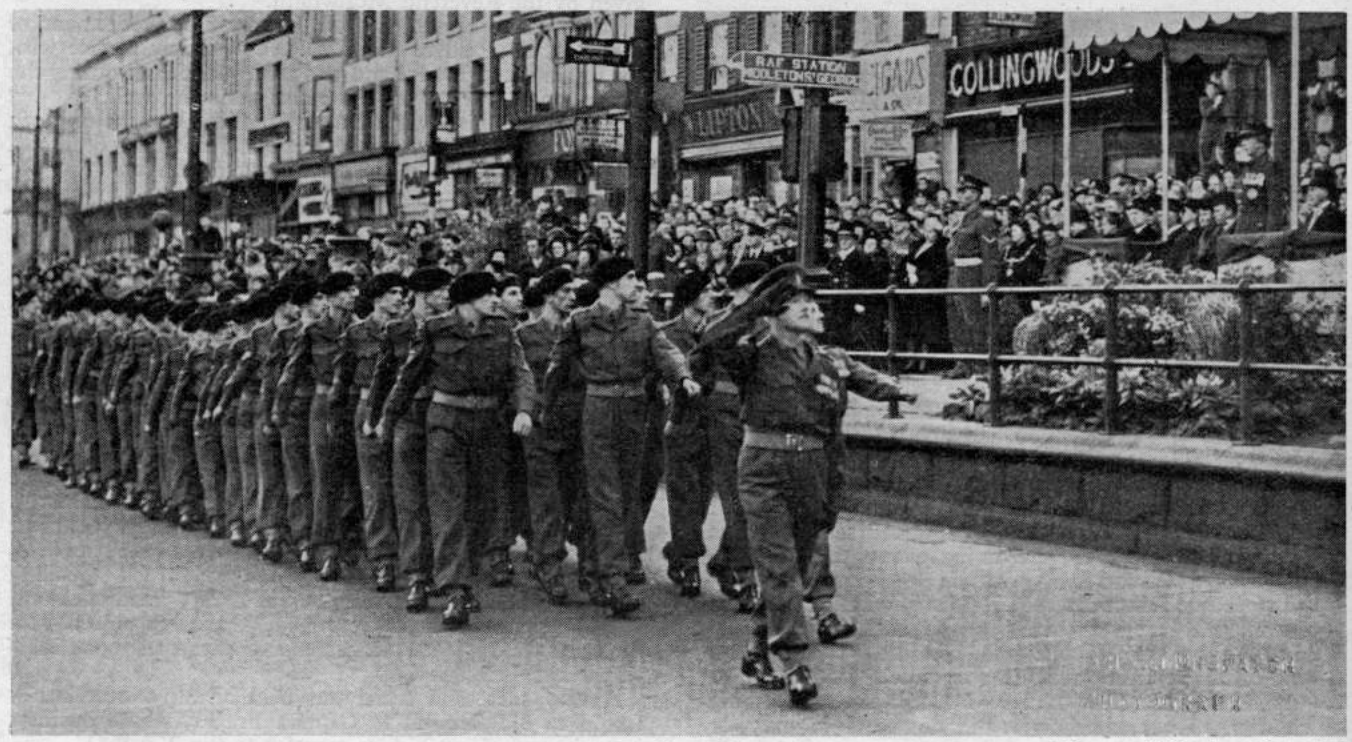
In his address the Senior Chaplain traced the history of the Regiment from its mobilisation in the early days of the war. Thirteen years ago, he said, the call to uphold the banner of freedom and to defend all that we held dear, brought together men from the cities and towns, villages and tiny hamlets to join in the comradeship of arms against a confident enemy, who rapidly pressed home his initial advantage in heavily armed and armoured mobility.

Before the close of 1939 the 50 Territorial Infantry Division crossed the Channel and embarked on the arduous journey that was to take it in successive stages to Africa, the Middle East, Sicily and across Europe.

" In the six long years from 1939 to 1945 it fought the enemy wherever encountered. On the beaches, in the deserts, in the streets, in the fields. The foretold blood, toil, tears and sweat were often the portion of those who served, but they paid the price of fame without demur, as their fathers of the Division did in their day."

Mr. Wright continued: " All of us who now are proud to carry the Double T sign of the 50 Division on our battle-dress find inspiration in the heroism of those who upheld with the utmost valour our country's and their own honour in those dark and perilous days."

" No part of the Division," he said, " carried out its allotted duties more valiantly or steadfastly than the Divisional Signal Regiment, whose measure of sacrifice could be seen in the long roll of the names of the Officers and Men of Other Ranks inscribed in the Book of Remembrance." " It was sufficient, perhaps, to say," he added, " that all who served in the Regiment upheld in the highest degree the standards of honour and duty of the Royal Corps of Signals both in peace and war. All hearts were filled with gratitude for their gallant self-sacrifice."



The March Past

[*Courtesy: " Northern Despatch "*



[*Courtesy: "Northern Despatch"*

Brigadier Sheffield, the Colonel in Chief, Lieut.-Colonel W. A. Lee, the Commanding Officer

The dedication service was conducted by the Reverend G. E. Holderness, Vicar of Darlington and Deputy Assistant Chaplain, Territorial Army, Northern Command.

Accepting the Book of Remembrance from Lieutenant-Colonel W. A. Lee, O.B.E., T.D., Commanding Officer of the Regiment, for safe keeping in the Parish Church, the Vicar gave an assurance that it would be kept "for all to read while this ancient Church stands."

The lesson was read by Major-General H. Murray, C.B., D.S.O., G.O.C. Northumbrian District and 50 (Northumbrian) Infantry Division (T.A.), and at the conclusion of the service Trumpeters of the Corps Band sounded a Fanfare for Heroes.

The service was attended by the Lord Lieutenant of Durham, Lord Lawson, the Mayors of Darlington, Gateshead and Middlesbrough, robed and preceded by their Mace Bearers, and members and officials of Darlington Corporation. The congregation also included many ex-members of the Regiment.

Escorted by the Mayor of Darlington and leading a procession of civic and military dignitaries, the Princess Royal left the ordered calm of St. Cuthbert's Church for the busy streets of the town. There a crowd of many thousands watched her take the Salute when 300 men of the Regiment, including a number of much decorated veterans who served with it throughout the war, marched past led by the Corps Band under Captain Judd. These men represented the Regiments' Squadrons from Darlington, Gateshead and Middlesbrough. Later the Princess Royal was entertained to tea in the Officers' Mess.

For the Commanding Officer and the Honorary Colonel, Brigadier T. T. J. Sheffield, who led the Regiment when it went overseas at the beginning of the war, and the permanent staff, the simple church ceremony marked the end of a year of planning and work.

To produce a list of the Regiments' dead meant months of searching through Regimental records; in this much assistance was given by Royal Signals Records Office. Then came the problem of deciding what form the memorial should take.

In conference with the Vicar of Darlington, the Regiment's Memorial Committee, consisting of representatives of all ranks past and present, agreed that a bookcase which could contain ancient parish records would be both practical and effective. To raise money for the project the Committee appealed to past and present members of the Regiment, and within a matter of months the amount required had been contributed.

The Book of Remembrance is bound with hide and its 12 pages are of vellum; it has been beautifully inscribed by a Darlington artist.

On Remembrance Sunday the Commanding Officer began what is likely to become a Regimental tradition, when he went to the Parish Church to turn one page of the Book, which remained as the Princess Royal left it on 26th October. This ceremony will be performed each month by a serving or past member of the Unit.

* * * *

The post-camp period passed quietly as regards Regimental activity until the unveiling of the Regimental War Memorial and Dedication of the Book of Remembrance by H.R.H. The Princess Royal on 26th October. Her Royal Highness, attended by the Representative Colonel Commandant, Major-General R. F. B. Naylor, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., our Honorary Colonel, Brigadier T. T. J. Sheffield, O.B.E., T.D., A.D.C., D.L., and the C.S.O. Northern Command, Brigadier F. P. L. Gray, D.S.O., O.B.E., took the salute at a March Past. Later, in the Officers' Mess, the Princess Royal had presented to her Officers, ex-Officers, civic dignitaries, and their wives. After tea in the Mess Her Royal Highness left, cheered by a large crowd who had waited almost two hours.

A separate report on the ceremony, by Mr. Landers, an ex-Officer of the Corps and now a journalist, is on page 310.

An Officers' Training Weekend was held on 27th-28th September, embracing an extremely interesting and efficient gunnery demonstration at Otterburn given by two T.A. Field Regiments of the Division, together with a T.A. Light Battery and a Regular Medium Regiment.

The opportunity was taken of dining out the retiring Deputy District Commander, Northumbrian District, Brigadier R. H. R. Steward, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., A.D.C. The Brigadier, as most Corps men know, is one of the original founder members of the Corps. This and his long-standing acquaintance and friendship with this Regiment made us proud of the honour of dining him out. Good luck, Sir!

The Officers' Annual Regimental Ball, held in the T.A. Centre on 17th October, was an unqualified success, the Dance Band of the Corps Band, together with the fanfare of trumpets, lending colour, glamour and life to the affair. The Dance Band incidentally were terrific.

A new innovation of the Commanding Officer (Lieutenant-Colonel W. A. Lee) is specialist mountain troops, which are proving surprisingly popular when you consider the object is to climb great mountains on Sunday morning, having slept in an artic bivvy and cooked your own breakfast. The weather, always fickle in the Lake District, damped their enthusiasm on the last trip, but the call of the high hills will lure them out again soon.

Through the Kindness of the Editor, and Author, we are
priveleged to reprint the following article which appeared in "The Observer" of 28th September, 1952

Z-Man's Notebook

Soldier for a Fortnight

By a Reservist

FROM spring until now the British Army has been engaged in the biggest mobilisation exercise that it has ever known. This year 250,000 "Z" Reservists were originally planned for; 163,000 had actually reported for their fortnight's training by mid-September.

The idea was not simply a general re-training of everyone in the wartime Army. "Z" men are trained as definite teams, attached to, or bringing up to strength, definite Units, to which they would report immediately in an emergency.

The call-up notices were received with varying emotions. I heard of one man who wrote "Dead" across his in red ink, and sent it back. Some thought that a fortnight was too short to be of any use, especially in a technical or semi-technical Corps, although few of these were so altruistic as to suggest a longer period.

Many, although they would have died rather than admit it, rather looked forward to a renewal of Army comradeship, with the full-scale pleasure of a second demobilisation earned by a mere two weeks' service.

* * *

AND there must have been many Officers and N.C.O.s who, like myself, wondered how on earth they would remember anything after six years, let alone direct others. Early this year I wrote to the Unit to which I had been directed, saying that I did not wish to be quite useless, and asking which of the numerous specialities in the Royal Corps of Signals it would be advisable to brush up. In the light of my recent fortnight I now see that the reply I got was eminently sensible. It said, in effect, not to worry. Everybody else would be in the same boat; but if I really wanted to refresh my memory I should get in touch with a Territorial Unit in, if I remember, Pinner.

Another worry, prompted by newspaper reports of "Z" men running wild and alarming the inhabitants of spinsterish Norfolk coast resorts, was that everybody would be mutinous and unco-operative. Nothing could have been further from the truth, in the Signals at any rate.

On the first Sunday of our fortnight, twelve Officers and 180 men gathered in the gym for an address by the C.O. It was clear from the start that they were on his side. They laughed at his jokes—a great rumble of laughter. It was my first inkling of the wonderful spirit that these men, mostly in their thirties, slightly embarrassed at being in khaki again, were to show.

* * *

THE C.O. said: "The Army cannot hope to *train* you in such a short time. We shall give you classroom refreshers in your various trades (morse, wireless operating, cipher work, line laying, etc.) on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. On Thursday, Friday and Saturday there will be three one-day exercises which I regard primarily as a shakedown. If the communications *work*, so much the better." (As a matter of fact they did, except for some teleprinters whose state of repair provided lively debating material between "Z" and Regular technicians.) "The idea is to get you moving quickly and efficiently, paying attention to camouflage and defence."

There was more classroom work on the second Monday and Tuesday, with emphasis on a new high-powered wireless set—an enormous thing five feet high, covered with dials, in a special truck, which had come into use after the war and which none of us had ever seen before. The last three days were devoted to a wide-ranging communications exercise using this set.

Back in March I should have been even more alarmed if I had known that, while the operators and others of whom I should be in charge during the exercises were getting at least some theoretical training, I should be in charge of the butts party at the rifle range, or examining swill tubs as orderly officer. The only lectures *I* got were half an hour on military law and half an hour on Quartermaster's work (in peacetime).

I read pamphlets and training instructions feverishly, of course. But the Army is wiser than one thinks, and I like to think it knew all the time how generous and loyal the "Z" men would be in imparting to me and to one another what old things they remembered and what new things they had learnt.

It was astonishing how it all came back. It may have been rather like the alleged notice in an American cafeteria—"Courteous and Efficient Self-Service"—but the fact remains that my operators, one of whom is a bricklayer in civilian life, kept our complicated wireless set in communication, sending morse at a reasonable speed, for three days and two nights. Our drivers drove, our cipher corporals enciphered, our cooks cooked.

* * *

WHERE there are loyalties there are frictions. There were certain muddles over drawing transport and stores from the Unit, due largely to the lack of time for these details in so intensive a programme. There was, naturally, a tendency for some "Z" men to say loudly that the Army is not what it was—as if drawing stores had ever been simple; in peacetime it is more than ever wrapped about with mystical ritual. And one could pardon the Regulars, for their part, for looking with a certain tiredness at the enthusiasm of what was to some of them just another wave of holiday-making amateurs.

But neither side really meant it. Underlying it all there was a sort of mutual fascination. What strange creatures these were, with their exotic civilian ways, buying pliers themselves if they had none issued. What a curious thing the Army life was, so ghostly, out of the past, yet irrevocably a part of oneself. The Army, in its sphinx-like fashion, was doubtless pleased to have us; but in a more personal and moving way we were invited, any time we were near the Unit, to drop in . . .

In the end, the important question is, did it work? Did one learn anything? Does one now feel capable of doing one's job in an emergency? I can only say, Yes, I did, and I do.—*Copyright.*

CORPS PICTURES

There are, of course, three Corps pictures of which reproductions were offered for sale on page 264 of the November WIRE. They are: THROUGH, MENIN GATE, CABLE WAGGON.



With hand outstretched for his change, "Gravel" Graves stands a round, while Association Accountant Bill Evenden stands around!

London *and* Home Counties Reunion

THE most excellent arrangements made by the "Kensingtons" enabled a very large number of "Signalmen" of all ranks and ages and their ladies to enjoy the band and to meet old friends.

They began to assemble at 6 p.m., and by 6.45 the hall was half full and the bar was solid.

The formal part of the evening began with the arrival of the "Platform": Major-General Sir Leslie G. Phillips, taking the place of the Representative Colonel Commandant who was not yet back from his tour of B.A.O.R. and Austria, General Sir H. Colville B. Wemyss, Honorary Colonel of the Kensington Regiment and President of London (City) Branch, Major-General C. W. Fladgate, Chairman of the Association, Major-General W. R. C. Penney, President of Slough Branch, Major-General R. H. Nalder, Vice-Chairman of the Association, Lieutenant-Colonel D. Cocks, Commanding the Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment.

There was a brief, but memorable service, conducted by the Reverend R. W. Fitzpatrick, M.A., C.F., Assistant Chaplain-General, London District. Five standards of the Association accompanied him in his procession from the back of the hall to the stage.

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Major-General Sir Leslie G. Phillips presented the Meritorious Service Medal to R.S.M. S. A. Rose.

He then read the following message from the Colonel-in-Chief and the reply which had been sent:—

"I am very glad the recent Rally of Members past and present of my Corps at Tunbridge Wells was so successful that another large scale reunion is to be held in London today. This shows that the branches of the Old Comrades' Association are doing excellent work in keeping alive the spirit of good comradeship amongst their members, which is so apparent in the Units of my Corps and which is of such inestimable value in the life of the nation. I trust that you will all spend a very happy evening.

MARY,
Colonel-in-Chief."

"Four hundred past and present members of your Corps assembled at the Drill Hall of the Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment in London present their loyal and humble duty and thank their Patron and Colonel-in-Chief for Her most gracious message."

★

He continued: "The Representative Colonel Commandant, Major-General Naylor, has been visiting Regiments



Award of the Meritorious Service Medal to Sergeant Rose. General Phillips makes the presentation

of the Corps in Germany and Austria. He returns tonight, but too late to come to this gathering.

"It is a most pleasant duty to visit Regiments as Colonel Commandant in a spirit that is purely fraternal and in no way an inspection.

"Many of those present tonight could look back over 40 years of their service with 'Signals' and can see the very great strides made in the technique of intercommunication during that relatively short period.

"In 1914 our means were meagre, we had a few telephones and a little wire; visual was soon found to be too dangerous. We had one asset in that commanders and staffs were delighted if on occasion they were in communication with anyone. Now they are rightly peevish if they are not in communication with everyone all the time. We little dreamed in 1914 that in 30 years' time we should be back in Europe running a continental system of communication.

"The speed and range of operations in the last war was possible only because of good telecommunications. In 1914 we could never have moved so far or so fast. There is not an instrument or vehicle remaining from those days except the motor-cycle. Perhaps in future the Despatch Rider Troop will be equipped with helicopters, but there will have to be a private arrangement between the War Office and the organisers of the Royal Tournament, for a tournament would not be the same without the D.R. display!

"When the Corps was formed in 1920 it was composed of all arms of the Service with the 'Sappers," our parent Corps, predominating. We also had Royal Artillery, Cavalry and Infantry. It is interesting that all of us save one on the platform served first in the Infantry. The Band was by origin Cavalry.

"Each of us was brought up in the tradition and custom of his own particular Corps or Regiment, yet from the beginning there were no squabbles or friction, and everyone was determined to work as a team to put the new Corps on the Army map.

"Apart from work, we concentrated on sports and games to give our new Corps the necessary publicity in order to get a good standard of recruits anxious to join us. We excelled in boxing, athletics, cross-country running and in nearly every other game. History repeats itself and the Corps is again predominant in all forms of sport. We do not now need the resultant publicity but it teaches all the team spirit which is so very essential to our work.

"A chain is as strong as its weakest link, and so it is in the Army Signal System, where one man may jeopardise the whole system by not doing his bit. Linemen, as an example, often work unsupervised in conditions of the greatest discomfort, and visiting Commanders are often amazed at the cheerful fortitude with which they do their work. This is one example of the team spirit.

"THE WIRE had, for a good many years since the war, been running at a loss because of the rising cost of printing, but had continued to sell at the reasonable price of 1s. It is very good value for 1s., and anyone who does not subscribe to THE WIRE should do so.

"The Mercury Houses. After much consideration it was decided to purchase these two hotels as the best form of war memorial we could provide. Bournemouth, with its favourable location, had never looked back. Colwyn Bay was up to now not doing so well. The terms offered were most attractive and all intending to take a holiday should consider carefully the advantage of going to one of the Mercury Houses.

"Their Association was a very live one and had helped countless ex-members of the Corps. We live in a Welfare State but, as many know, immediate and sympathetic help from their own Association was worth a great deal to those in difficulty.

"The hardest task was to find good branch secretaries. The thanks of all are due to them for the great work they are doing. The Benevolent Fund was built up during the war, but large sums were expended annually and there was no more worthy cause to which to subscribe.

"Their Association was in a very healthy condition, due to a great extent to the work of the Chairman, General Fladgate, and it was to be hoped that he and the Secretary will continue as such for a long time to come.

"We should all be grateful to the Army Phantom Signal Regiment for allowing us the use of their Drill Hall and for the excellent arrangements made.

"They would now refresh themselves, talk over old times and later be entertained by Captain Judd and the Corps Band, of which we are so justly proud."

All then dispersed to supper and to talk, and at 9 p.m. reassembled for a magnificent concert such as only the Royal Signals Band can give.

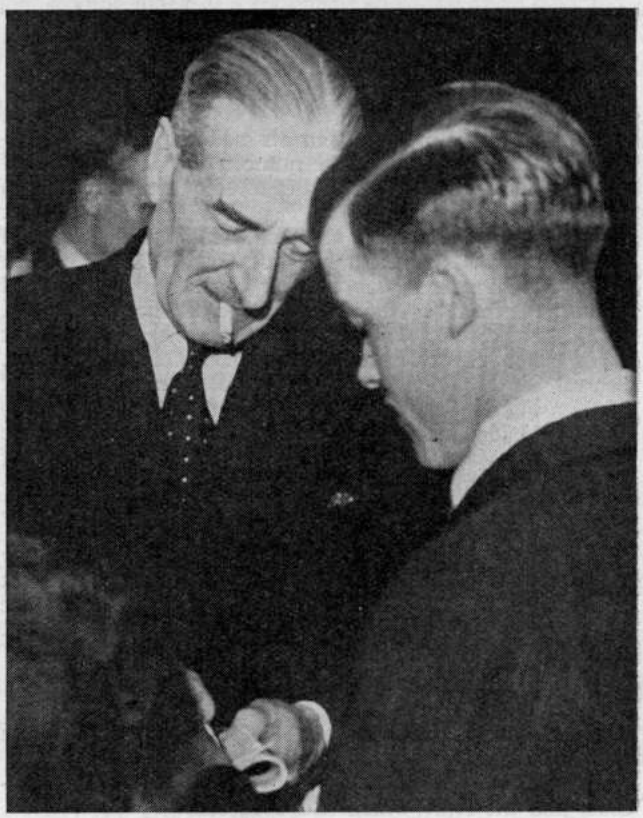
★

At the conclusion, Major-General C. W. Fladgate, Chairman of the Association, expressed the thanks of all of us to Colonel D. Cocks and the Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment, T.A., for all the arrangements entailing, as he knew, very many hours of work, and our thanks also to Captain Judd and the Band. The Band had just played "Wings," which brought back memories to a majority of those present. They were about to play the new slow march, "H.R.H. The Princess Royal," composed by Mr. Ricketts, the first Bandmaster of Royal Signals.

So, with "Begone dull care" and then "One for the road," ended another memorable reunion.

It was clear that all had enjoyed themselves, and all asked expressed themselves as well satisfied with the arrangements.

Sale of tickets and the extortions of the raffle ticket sellers brought in, after paying all expenses, a nice sum to the Benevolent Fund.



General Fladgate autographs a programme for an Association member



Ex-C.Q.M.S. Harry Cousins had the most fantastic story of the evening. At the age of 75, and at that time a Chelsea Pensioner, he had the laugh of his life on the day when his " Z " Reserve call-up papers were delivered by the postman. Picture shows (left to right): Fred Steel, Harry Cousins (and he does not usually drink tea!) and Bill Parks. The Roll of Honour and Battle Honours of the Kensington Regiment in the background

Some who were there and did not buy a programme, and many who read the account, will be mystified by allusions to the Kensington Regiment. The following, taken from the programme, will allay their curiosity:—

ARMY PHANTOM SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

(Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment)
1859-1952

In 1859 Lord Truro founded the 4th Middlesex Volunteer Rifle Corps; a volunteer battalion of the 60th King's Royal Rifles. The uniform was grey with red facings and the belts were black with silver appointments.

The Royal Borough of Kensington accorded the Battalion the right to wear the Arms and Motto of the Borough as a cap badge in 1905, and four years later permission was given for it to become a Line Battalion—the 13th Battalion, The London Regiment. At this time (by the express wish of H.M. The King) H.R.H. Princess Louise, Duchess of Argyll, allowed her name to be borne by the Battalion. Under her leadership the ladies of Kensington worked the Colours for the Regiment and these were presented at Windsor by King Edward VII. They were last trooped before the Regiment at Annual Camp, 1952.

During World War I, as an infantry battalion, it formed part of the Grey Brigade, whilst in World War II two battalions were raised, initially as machine-gun battalions and latterly as support battalions in the 49th and 78th Divisions.

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On re-forming the Territorial Army in 1947 yet another change took place; the Regiment became Royal Signals in the specialised " Phantom " role. With General Sir Colville Wemyss as its Honorary Colonel it soon absorbed the feel of " The Corps," and for good measure added its own traditions and Colours. We are now proud, therefore, to call ourselves The Army Phantom Signal Regiment (Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment), T.A.

To Lieutenant-Colonel D. Cocks, to the Adjutant, Captain E. Bardell, and last, but not least, to R.S.M. L. Bray, M.S.M., and all ranks of the " Kensingtons," our grateful thanks.

3 Holding Battalion and Mobilisation Centre (Royal Signals) Reunion Club

THE seventh annual dinner of the above Association was held at the Masonic Hall, Kirkburton, near Huddersfield, Yorks, on Saturday, 11th October.

There were 82 members and friends at dinner, and approximately 150 people were present at the dance which followed.

A telegram was received from H.R.H. The Princess Royal, in which Her Royal Highness expressed her thanks for the loyal greetings and good wishes extended to her by all members on the occasion of their seventh reunion.

An innovation at this year's reunion was the presence of a number of Kirkburton residents who had rendered many services to the Unit whilst it was stationed at Kirkburton.

Many messages were received from members, who, due to various reasons, were unable to be present, amongst which was one from Colonel Roberts from South Africa in which he expressed his regret that he was unable to be present and stated that he would be with us for the 1953 reunion.

A special church service was held at Kirkburton Parish Church on Sunday, 12th October, for members. This was followed by the annual general meeting, at which details were arranged for next year's reunion. Members will be notified individually during the early part of 1953 of the arrangements made.

London (City)

The first social event of 1953 will be a grand dance to be held at " The Westminster Arms," 75 Page Street, Westminster, S.W.1 (near Westminster and St. James's Park Underground Station; 88 'bus stops at the door), on Friday, 16th January, at 7.30 p.m.

A hearty welcome will be extended to all serving and ex-Service members of the Royal Signals, who are invited to apply for tickets (4s. 6d. including buffet) to: W. H. Parks, Esq., 29 Oakmead Road, Balham, London, S.W.12. Tel.: BALham 4631.

Exeter and District

For the first time ladies attended our annual dinner, which was held at Exeter on Saturday, 18th October, and the feminine touch was decidedly welcome. The party numbered 65 and we were pleased to have as our guests Brigadier E. S. Cole, Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. Goodeve-Docker and Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. Daubeny. In the unavoidable absence of our President, Major-General W. G. Michelmore, the Chairman of the Branch, Lieutenant-Colonel J. W. Western, lead the way. The toast list was a short one and the speeches were just the thing. It was very inspiring to hear Brigadier Cole in his reply to " The Corps " say that the Royal Signals was a Corps held in high esteem in the United States and by its American counterparts. The " old hands " were proud to know this. After the speeches two hours' non-stop dancing took place in which everybody cheerfuly joined. Mr. Fred Cole, a former Honorary Secretary of the Salisbury Branch and who later held the same office in our Branch, was the life and soul of the party, and his remarkable energy and enthusiasm caught on from the beginning. Often affairs like these just begin to " warm up " when it is time to go home, but thanks to Freddy's astonishing efforts it was a very bright party.

Once again the Salisbury Branch brought down their beautiful banner which was, with becoming ceremony, handed to the Chairman to be placed in position behind the Chair. We *do* appreciate this gesture Salisbury.

Cardiff

News from Cardiff, its taken a long time but we are now moving.

On the 1st November, 1952, an All Ranks' Mess was opened in Maindy Barracks, Cardiff. Lieutenant-Colonel D. J. Goldsmith is the prime mover in this great enterprise. The Mess is open Monday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Branch night is held on the first Friday of each month in a room kindly allotted by Lieutenant-Colonel Goldsmith.

All ex-Signals and R.E. Signals are welcome to the Mess, and there are plenty of amenities—billiards, darts, television and, on Saturday nights, there is a Unit dance band in attendance for those who wish to shake a nifty leg. We hope to give you more news next month.

New members are coming in every week from as far afield as Pembrokeshire. One of our latest being R.S.M. E. Evans (a life member).

Calling Treveathan, ex-Sergeant of 1 Corps, 10 Corps and 30 Corps fame. Your old pal "Taffy" Breeze calling, would like a word from you, please write c/o 53 (W.) Infantry Divisional Signals, Maindy Barracks, Cardiff.

To all members of the Corps, past and present, we wish you all the season's greetings.

Birmingham

At out usual monthly meeting on Thursday, 30th October, we had a particularly good gathering and it was very pleasing to note that several of our members had brought their wives with them.

It was a rather special evening as Lieutenant-Colonel Price, commanding 1/20 Army Signal Regiment, had kindly arranged for us to see the films showing some of the work and social activities of his unit at their annual camps in 1951 at Llanbedr and in 1952 at Kinmel Park, near Rhyl. The films gave us all a very good insight into the present-day workings of an Army Signal Unit and the type of equipment employed and was obviously of great interest to everyone.

We are extremely indebted to Lieutenant-Colonel Price for giving us this opportunity and to Major Houston, who was also responsible for taking much of the films and showing them at our meeting.

During November we must mention the Armistice Day Ceremony in which some 20 of us took part at the Hall of Memory in Birmingham. There was a large assembly which included representatives of all the Armed Services, British Legion Branches, Old Comrades Associations, and other organisations. The ceremony was attended by the Lord Mayor and other officials, and after the two minutes' silence and the short service many wreaths were laid.

As in previous years, our wreath was entrusted to the care of Tom Liggins, who ably carried out this duty. Owing to his long-standing disability he was attended by the small grandson of Sergeant Vale. While making reference to Tom, everyone will be delighted to know that since he had recent treatment he is now able to see just a little, which is a joy to him, although we all know his invariably cheerful outlook.

After the ceremony we went along to the Imperial Hotel to accept the kind invitation of the 1914-18 Overseas Club, who entertained us to coffee and biscuits. It was a very nice gesture on their part and it is strongly suspected that Joe Carnell was instrumental in arranging this; let us hope that on some future occasion we may be able to invite them back to join us.

Many of you will know that in the past it has been the practice, prior to our monthly meetings, for the management of the Crown Hotel to put on for us at about 6 o'clock a high tea for those who intimated that they wished to have it, and these have been attended by several of us quite regularly. In future, however, it will not be possible for the high teas to be continued, but the management have indicated that they can arrange to provide an assortment of sandwiches at the usual prices instead—and, of course, there will be the local brew from 6 o'clock onwards. Will any who are interested in joining in on this and intend to come regularly please let Ralph Ironmonger know, so that adequate arrangements can be made.

By the time these notes are in print Christmas will almost be upon us, and your Committee would like to send best wishes to all our members for a very happy Christmas and prosperous New Year. We hope that everyone will make a good New Year resolution to support the Branch regularly and to bring other likely members along too. Incidentally, do not forget there will be no meeting on the last Thursday in December—it is Christmas Day!

Uckfield

Formed in November 1951, the Branch put on its FIRST anniversary dinner on 12th November, 1952, and scored a very considerable success. Covers were laid for 70 and the company began to arrive an hour before the stated time.

Major-General C. M. F. White, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., was the guest of honour. He is to be Representative Colonel Commandant in Coronation Year. Mr. C. E. Paling, who had been mainly responsible for forming the Branch, proposed the toast of the Association. After dinner there was a smoking concert, the entertainment being provided almost entirely by members of the Association, aided by mine host of the Bridge Hotel with some most remarkable stories in the Lancashire dialect. Major Nix, Mr. Brown, Mr. May, the hardworking Secretary, and the Committee of this young but prosperous Branch must be very proud of this year's work.

Jersey

Much water has flowed through the usual channels since we last wrote to you, and it may be that some have assumed that the branch is dead. Not so! Our meetings take place at 2000 hours on the first Wednesday of each month in the Cosy Corner Hotel, St. Helier, which overlooks both the Royal Square and the conduct of the older members.

The meetings follow a simple traditional pattern. Mary Ann is invariably there on time. Thirteen minutes later the Honorary Secretary arrives, liberally supplied with brief cases and long excuses. After five minutes the Honorary Treasurer pants in, makes a wholly impracticable suggestion about the stairs, and sinks exhausted into a chair. The Honorary Auditor and the Chairman reluctantly suspend their flow of personal reminiscences and the meeting begins.

The Honorary Secretary reads the Minutes whilst the members check the spelling mistakes on the agenda sheet. Then comes the highlight of the evening—the reading of correspondence. Whether the blame rests with the Signals Association, the Post Office, the Honorary Secretary or some combination of the three, no one knows, but the official notices have a faintly musty odour by the time that they reach us. Even if distance didn't prevent us from attending many Signals functions on the mainland, space-time would be something of an obstacle—for at the November meeting we are sometimes invited to be present at the reunion of the Nth Light A.A. Signals, held in Oswestry on 17th October! However . . .

The Honorary Treasurer's report follows, and it is seldom very loud. With the air of one inured to disappointment he mentions that he still has three badges for sale. He then briefly criticises the Honorary Secretary's postage account and relapses into a brooding silence broken only by ingestive noises.

The rest of the meeting is, by common consent, not recorded. The Vice-Chairman is apt, on the slightest provocation, to launch into an interminable saga about an unlikely character called Albert Sugden; the well-built motor cycling member explains that but for him and his fellow linemen the

local telephone service would be even worse than it is—a statement treated with some reserve by those who have telephones —and so it goes on.

Attendance is seldom large but, as we say in Jersey, "*Un bon temps est eu par tous.*" If any member of the Corps should chance to reach this island paradise, let him at once communicate with Captain Leslie Flaws (telephone Central 2744) or any Police Station. We shall be overjoyed to see him.

No. 22 (Unit), Colchester

Founded as a Unit branch, our first gathering brought along three ex-Service members, who became a base upon which we are building an ex-Service contingent of growing importance. This has been dovetailed firmly into the general structure of the branch, adding to its strength.

Each month brings in more of those former members of the Corps. Many served with the old 4 Divisional Signals; several are of the 1914-18 R.E. Signals vintage. As enrolment cards were received and dates of enlistment given receded further into the past, one speculated idly on the arrival of any proving service in this region with Boadicea and the Iceni. There must be many more still to come, but through long residence they have apparently acquired the characteristics of the local oyster, and require to be prised out of their shells.

★

We held a tentative social evening to introduce members, followed by a dance to raise funds. Considering ourselves established, an inaugural dinner was launched, attended by some 86 guests. The guests of honour were the Mayor and Mayoress of Colchester, and should have included Colonel G. E. Sampson, who for a time commanded the pre-war 4 Divisional Signals, but ill health, unfortunately, prevented him from attending. Summing up the feelings of the older members, Captain "Bill" Cowell, responding to speeches made by the President (Lieutenant-Colonel F. J. Swainson) and the Mayor, said: "The branch extended its sincere good wishes to Colonel Sampson, and felt he was nevertheless present in the hearts of those who know him."

Our previous meetings have been held in Cherry Tree Camp, our Unit lines. In common with other Signals locations, this camp is the remotest barracks in the area, a fact which must have made the place eminently suitable for "planting Signals there." We hope in future to hold our meetings in the town.

Future notes will give details of branch personalities who are well known in the Corps and are desirous of sending "salaams" by way of an agony column.

Best wishes for the festive season and New Year to all branches and Signals everywhere.



Committee and group of older members

Royal Signals Benevolent Fund

Also on this page is a simple statement of income and expenditure. Below an attempt is made to describe with suitable anonymity nine cases taken at random from the October files still current on 13th November in the office of the Welfare Section at 88 Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1.

* * * *

Those who read will find the examples given generally rather dull. They are in fact the first nine out of an armful of 20 files. It may be noted that no less than 40 new cases were dealt with during the period 10th-13th November. Calls on the Benevolent Fund are therefore increasing.

Signalman, died of wounds, his children are being cared for by foster parents and the fund provided for clothes for the two boys.

Signalman, killed in action, the fund paid the fare for a long train journey to enable his widowed mother to attend the unveiling of the Regiment's War Memorial.

Ex-Signalman, 8 Army, 30 Corps, 14 Army, had been in hospital for a year, called at Association offices on his way to try for a job. He had no money and was hungry. He was provided with money and confidence, and got the job.

Ex-Signalman, post-war service in Greece and Palestine, married, one small child, small wage. The child was admitted to hospital some distance from their home and the fund helped with the considerable cost of bi-weekly visits to the hospital by the mother.

Ex-Signalman, post-war service in FARELF, died in September. The fund helped his mother with the expenses of the funeral.

Regular Reservist, decided to re-engage for a further period of colour service. The fund lent him a small sum to clear up his affairs before rejoining.

Sergeant, 1942-47, now in Territorial Army. The fund paid a small sum to enable his two children to go to a convalescent home after illness.

Ex-Signalman, 1939-47, living with his parents, sole income 100 per cent. pension, tuberculosis and deafness. The fund paid for an overcoat for him.

Signalman, ex-M.E.L.F., returned U.K. for release and luckily secured separate accommodation for his wife and child. They had been living with her mother. The fund helped to furnish their new home.

ROYAL SIGNALS BENEVOLENT FUND

	£	s.	d.
Subscriptions received during October, 1952:—			
2 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment	15	0	0
4 Training Regiment	10	0	0
5 Training Regiment	5	0	0
Officer Training Wing, School of Signals	11	2	0
Eastern Command Signal Regiment		7	0
H.Q. Officers' Mess	40	10	7
Donations received during October, 1952:—			
Lieutenant-Colonel C. L. Day (from "Wire" Account)		2	0
Total receipts	£82	1	7
Expenditure during October, 1952 (Includes: Beds and Bedding; Rent and Rates; General Assistance; Tools; Prams and Cots; Removals; Fares; Hire Purchase.)	£564	6	5

Analysis of Cases:	
Families of soldiers serving in U.K.	5
" " " " " M.E.L.F.	1
" " " " " B.A.O.R.	1
" " " " " F.A.R.E.L.F.	1
Released and Discharged Soldiers	53
Widows and Dependants	9
Total cases assisted	70

BALANCES DUE TO THE ESTATES OF DECEASED SOLDIERS

In pursuance of "The Regimental Debts Act, 1893," notice is hereby given that there is available for distribution amongst the next-of-kin or others entitled the sum of money set opposite to the names of the deceased soldiers named in this notice in the *London Gazette*.

Applications from persons supposing themselves entitled as next-of-kin should be addressed by letter to the Under-Secretary of State, War Office, Whitehall, London, S.W.1, and marked outside "Effects."

	£	s.	d.
Holt, D., Signalman, Royal Signals	4	0	3
Atkins, E. T., Signalman, Royal Signals ..	56	5	5
Holmes, R. S., Signalman, Royal Signals ..	14	2	6
Nathorny, H., Signalman, Royal Signals ..	13	16	10

MERCURY HOUSE, COLWYN BAY

The following will be the charges from 1st January, 1953.

	October-May	June-September
Adults:	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Weekly Rate	4 10 0	5 5 0
Daily Rate	17 6	17 6
Bed and Breakfast ...	12 6	12 6
Children:		
4-12 years	2 15 0	3 0 0
1-3 years	1 15 0	2 0 0
Under 1 year	No charge except for laundry and extras. Rate to be at Manager's discretion.	

Christmas Week

Adults	£5 5s. 0d.
Children ...	Appropriate June-September rates shown above.

The XXVII International Six-Day Trial

THE International Six Days' Trial is the most difficult test of both rider and machine in the field of international motorcycling. This year found a total of more than 260 competitors drawn from 12 different nations competing for team awards and individual honours.

The British Army was represented by:

"A" Team:
Captain E. Dow, R.A.S.C. (team captain) (gold medal).
Sergeant R. Rhodes, K.R.R.C. (gold medal).
Lance-Corporal J. S. H. Bray, R.A.O.C.

"B" Team:
Captain D. C. Osmond, R.A. (team captain) (silver medal).
Sergeant V. Monk, R.M.P.
Sergeant D. Rowthorn, Royal Signals (bronze medal).

Individuals:
Sergeant F. Gamwell, R.M.P.
Fusilier H. Neild, Lan. Fus. (bronze medal).
Captain D. Miles, R.A. (gold medal).

Reserve:
B.S.M. A. Langford, R.A.

On arrival at Klagenfurt, which was used as base camp, routes were carefully studied, and a plan of campaign mapped out in order that the greatest benefit could be gained with the time at our disposal. Since the routes of the trial covered nearly 2,000 miles of Austria, the circuits being in varying parts of the country, it was necessary to shift camp in order to avoid "dead mileage," and one of these moves entailed living with an American unit at Salzburg. The American standard of hospitality was extremely high, and after our first meal of cold roast chicken in the enlisted men's mess, a number of enquiries were made by the teams as to what was the easiest method of transfer to the American Armed Forces!

The machines with which the teams were equipped were provided by B.S.A. and were a 500 c.c. Gold Star of an entirely new design, incorporating a duplex type frame with "swinging arm" rear suspension. The machines were capable of speeds in excess of the 100 m.p.h. mark, and were a very different proposition from the W.D. machines with which we were more familiar. All team men thought very highly of their mounts, and within a very short time complete confidence was established between man and machine.

A few days before the trial was due to commence on the 18th September the teams moved to the Post Hotel, Bad Aussee, which is in the central lake centre of Austria.

The day prior to the trial commencing was weighing-in day for the Army entries, and once the machines were handed in to the Closed Control, they were only available to riders 15 minutes before the start each morning; during this time the rider must carry out all adjustments and servicing. Time and motion study plays quite a part in deciding the quickest method to be applied to carry out necessary repairs, and "drills" were applied to all the more commonly found faults such as punctures, brake-linings change, chain changes and adjustments, and cable replacements. For instance, it was found that it was possible to replace worn brake-linings with new in less than 3½ minutes, and was actually done twice during the trial.

Some 300 miles of mountain road made greasy by continuous rain faced the competitors on five of the six days of the trial. Road surface, described as "black ice" by a journalist, caused the first Army casualty. Sergeant Monk, after a collision with a timber lorry, completed the day with a sprained ankle and defective brakes. Lance-Corporal Bray retired at the end of the night run on the second day with a collapsed rear wheel. Sergeant Gamwell sustained a "broken" leg on the fourth day, but continued the trial with his leg in plaster-of-Paris. Halfway through the fifth day he had to be lifted from his machine in great pain. This, the fifth day, was the worst in all the trial; one section described as a "hill of mud" was found impassable by all and was eventually discounted, but not until much damage had been done to men and machines.

The sixth day, a short but difficult run, led to the Autobahn for the final speed trials. Here Sergeant Rowthorn, Royal Signals, having ridden 2,000 miles under dreadful conditions without loss of marks, lost his gear lever. He had to ride over quite a steep hill without being able to change gear, and in order to do this had to slip his clutch which burnt out within 10 miles of the finish, and late arrival cost him his gold medal.

* * * *

Out of the 262 entrants for the trial, more than 100 failed to complete the course. Out of the 67 British riders, only 17 qualified for gold medals, and 11 of this 17 were gained by manufacturers' professional riders.

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ROYAL SIGNALS RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

Result of match between Royal Signals and Cambridge University LX Club:—

Royal Signals 6 pts.; Cambridge 11 pts.

★

CORRIGENDA

In the notes of the Royal Signals Golfing Society on page 282 of the November WIRE, Vol. 6, No. 11, Major A. A. Baldwin was mentioned. This should, of course, have been Major A. A. Bradshaw, to whom the apologies of THE WIRE and, we hope, of the Secretary, Royal Signals Golfing Society, are extended.

Royal Signals Lawn Tennis Championships, 1952

1 Training Regiment and 4 Training Regiment together cleared the board of the Royal Signals Lawn Tennis Challenge Cups this year. The standard was quite high, particularly among the other ranks. For the first time on record an O.R. won the Newbiggin Open Singles Challenge Bowl. Furthermore, the other finalist in this event was Corporal F. C. Smith, of Southern Command. The winners of the various events were: —

Regimental Doubles: Major E. N. L. Brown and Major P. H. Brown (1 Training Regiment).
Open Singles: Lance-Corporal D. J. Cook (4 Training Regiment).
Open Doubles: Second-Lieutenant D. R. Gregory (1 Training Regiment) and Lance-Corporal D. J. Cook (4 Training Regiment).
Other Rank Singles: Lance-Corporal D. J. Cook (4 Training Regiment).
Other Rank Doubles: Sergeant A. Crawshaw and Corporal J. L. Matthews-Lane (1 Training Regiment).

Lance-Corporal D. J. Cook is to be congratulated on his achievement—he won the two singles events very easily and went on to win the Stopford Cup for the Northern Command Open Singles. It is hoped that he will continue his successes and will be heard of in more important tennis circles.

The weather was fine throughout the championships. The wind was there, of course, but the sun shone right up to a very pleasant finish of the week when the cups were given away by Mrs. Duvivier. We were lucky, the Catterick Officers' Club Tournament found it very wet and cold during the next two weeks.

A number of those who played in the Corps team this year are going abroad, including, unfortunately, Major E. N. L. Brown, Chief Instructor of 1 Training Regiment, who has played for the last four years. Anyone who would like to be considered for the team in 1953 are asked to get in touch with Lieutenant-Colonel H. Worrall, commanding 4 Training Regiment, who is now the president of the Royal Signals Lawn Tennis Sub-Committee.

ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL

Royal Signals v. R.E.M.E.

BOTH Corps fielded strong teams in which professionals predominated. Royal Signals were prominent in the opening minutes and a grand movement led to Freer, the inside left, striking the bar with the R.E.M.E. keeper well beaten. The ball rebounded into play and was well cleared by the R.E.M.E. defence. R.E.M.E. setted down and their wing halves began to take command of the game. Anderson, their Scottish amateur international, combined well with his namesake and led to the latter scoring a good goal after 18 minutes. Clarke on R.E.M.E. left wing was prominent hereabouts, and getting possession of the ball he beat Rawlings and Harvey and scored a fine goal from 25 yards. Half-time came with the score 2—0 in favour of R.E.M.E.

In the second half Signals came more into the game, but the inside forwards were not as effective as their R.E.M.E. opposite numbers. Barker, on Signals right wing, was playing brilliantly but many of his centres were wasted by the ineffective inside men. Howells switched to centre and began to worry the R.E.M.E. defence. He got clean away and R.E.M.E. centre half conceded a penalty to prevent him scoring. Rawlings made no mistake with the spot kick. Wood, Signals left half, put in some good work and continually got the better of their Scottish international inside right, and from one of his passes Sayers hit the R.E.M.E. crossbar with a terrific drive. Webster in R.E.M.E. goal was kept very busy and brought off some good saves.

Just before the end R.E.M.E. again broke away and Anderson was brought down by Cameron. From the resultant penalty Clarke scored for R.E.M.E., who ran out worthy winners by 3—1.

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