

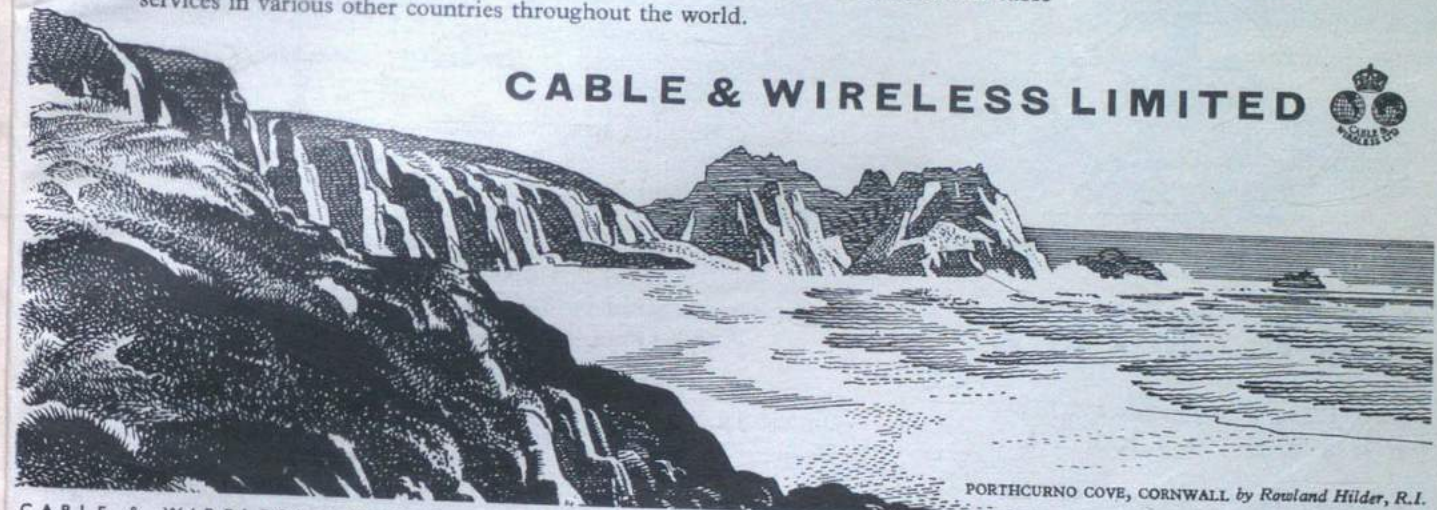
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THE WIRE

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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★
JANUARY • 1957
Vol. 11 (New Series) No. 1

★
PRICE ONE SHILLING

Editorial

"THE WIRE" takes the greatest possible pleasure in recording the congratulations of all of Royal Signals to Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, C.I., G.C.V.O., G.B.E., R.R.C., T.D., D.C.L., LL.D., on Her promotion to the Honorary rank of General.

Major-General Sir Hubert E. Rance, G.C.M.G., G.B.E., C.B., the Representative Colonel Commandant at once sent a telegram on behalf of us all.

"All ranks your Corps send you with loyal and humble duty their warmest congratulations on the honour that has been bestowed on your Royal Highness by Her Majesty The Queen in the promotion of your Royal Highness to the Honorary Rank of General."

Her Royal Highness was most graciously pleased to reply.

"I thank you and All Ranks of my Corps most warmly for your congratulations on the honour bestowed on me by Her Majesty The Queen.

I am very proud of being promoted to the rank of Honorary General, and feel this would not have happened but for the high standard attained by my Corps.

With renewed thanks to you all."

WELFARE

On 2nd January, 1956, the Signal Officer-in-Chief appealed to all ranks serving in Royal Signals for support for the Welfare Section (Benevolent Fund) of the Association. He set as a target one penny per man per week. The response has been admirable and the Association is duly grateful.

The exact sum received from this source in 1956 will not be known until after this number of THE WIRE has started printing but it is already clear that the Corps will have given at least £1,000 more than the record total of £3,500 in 1955.

This is as well because the fund has already paid out more than in 1955.

This is due in small part to the necessity for helping the families of a small number of reservists but also to a generality of circumstances in the second half of the year.

There are already signs that the year 1957 will make increasing demands on the Association.

"THE WIRE"

During the latter half of 1956 very serious consideration has been given to the question of making a slight increase in the cost of each copy of THE WIRE. There has been no increase in price since it was re-started in 1946. In these ten years the cost of nearly every other publication has increased. The cost of printing has gone up by 30% and of postage by a considerable amount.

After a good deal of wise opinion had been sounded and analysed, the advice of the Corps Committee was sought on 1st December. Decision has now been reached that THE WIRE is to continue to sell at 1/- during 1957.

It is, however, highly probable that pressure of costs will enforce an increase in price in 1958.

In the meantime the Editor has written to all Units explaining some small economies that will have to be made and asking for help in maintaining the general standard and indeed it is hoped to achieve some improvement.

THE DISPLAY TEAM

It is with regret that we have to inform all ranks of the Corps that the War Office has reluctantly decided to cease the activities of the Display Team during the present shortage of petrol. The Team, which was reorganised in 1947, has become an event of great national importance. Displays have been given in many well-known and also little-known places, ranging from Ripon, Denmark, Olympia, Bermuda, Germany, and all parts of the British Isles. They will be greatly missed during the coming season but we sincerely hope that international events will enable the Team to resume as soon as practicable.



THE "CAIRO" DINNER was held on Tuesday, 20th November 1956, at Williamsons Tavern, Bow Lane, E.C. and was presided over by Major J. Baker, T.D.

In the photograph, reading clockwise from bottom centre are:— Mr. R. Watson, Lieutenant-Colonel W. Hawkins, Messrs. C. F. Adams, P. K. Edwards-Ker, Brigadier H. R. Firth, Major-General R. H. R. Steward, Major J. Baker, Brigadiers R. A. Bagnold, W. C. Galwey, D. T. Bastin, Major-General W. R. C. Penney, Messrs. E. J. Prichard, R. W. Bailey, Brigadier H. G. Henderson, Messrs. H. M. Wells, W. F. Hickox, C. B. Wooster, A. P. Mead, D. C. Blair, Lieutenant-Colonel A. J. Hannah, Major-General C. H. H. Vulliamy, Brigadier J. B. Adams, Colonels R. B. Ridley Martin, J. Reading, Major-General L. de M. Thuillier, Colonel K. B. Baldwin, not in the picture, Mr. A. F. E. Evans

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

May I beg a small space in "The Wire" to convey my grateful thanks to all those members of the Corps and W.R.A.C. Signals who helped to provide communications for Operation "Musketeer." I think I can safely say that once more the Corps has come through with flying colours and, to my knowledge, there was not one single occasion where the operation was hampered by lack of communications.

Regulars, National Servicemen and Reservists were all thrown together for this operation, but they soon settled down as an efficient team. They gave of their best and produced excellent results. The Corps have every right to be proud of them.

I would like to give a special thanks to the Reservists who took part. We all realised how annoying it was for them to have their civil life upset and how they longed to get back again. However, they got down to the job and did it well. I wish them the best of luck for the future, and I hope they will have many happy memories of those last few weeks they have had in the Army.

Yours sincerely,
A. E. MORRISON,
Major-General,
Chief Signal Officer,
Allied Force Headquarters.



A GRAND LIFE FROM EVERY ANGLE

Prepared for the War Office by the Central Office of Information and printed for H.M. Stationery Office by Sun Printers, London and Watford.

This most admirable illustrated booklet about the Army is perhaps the best recruiting pamphlet ever published. It is beautifully illustrated in colour, black and white and cartoon, and not only gives details of the work of each Corps or Regiment but also an indication of how service in the Army fits a man for a career in Civil life. Royal Signals has a double page feature.

BUFFET SUPPER AND REUNION

The Annual Buffet Supper and Reunion was held on 1st December at the Territorial Army Centre, 206, Brompton Road. One hundred and seventy serving and retired Royal Signals officers from the Regular Army, Territorial Army and Army Emergency Reserve attended the function. Major-General Sir Hubert E. Rance, G.C.M.G., G.B.E., C.B., the Representative Colonel Commandant, read out messages of greeting from Her Majesty The Queen and Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, after which loyal toasts were drunk to Her Majesty The Queen and Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal.

All present appreciated the excellent administrative arrangements made by officers and O.R.s of Eastern Command (M) Signal Regiment, T.A., which contributed so much to the success of the Reunion.



T.A./A.E.R. "AT HOME"

The Annual T.A./A.E.R. "At Home" was held at the Hyde Park Hotel on Saturday, 1st December, 1956. Eighty-six officers and their ladies attended the function. Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, C.I., G.C.V.O., G.B.E., R.R.C., T.D., D.C.L., LL.D., received all the guests as they arrived, and after tea had conversations with many of the guests.



Memorial Roll of Honour of the Officers of the Commonwealth Armies, 1939-46, in the Chapel of the ROYAL MILITARY ACADEMY, SANDHURST.

A photostat copy of the Roll has been specially prepared so that photographic copies of the pages can be made available to relatives applying from any part of the Commonwealth. Copies of the pages and of the frontispiece can be obtained from:

The Secretary to the Chapel Council,
The Royal Military Academy,
Sandhurst, Camberly, Surrey, England,

quoting the Corps or Regimental list required, or in the case of enquiries concerning individual officers, the full name and Regiment of the officer concerned.

The cost is 6d. per page, plus postage.

Obituary

Major-General O. P. Edgumbe, C.B., C.B.E., M.C.

It is with deep regret that we have to report the death on 11th December, 1956, of Oliver Edgumbe, and offer our very deep sympathy to his widow.

Born in 1892 he went to Sandhurst in 1910 and was gazetted to the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry in 1911. In 1914 he was seconded to the Signal Service Royal Engineers and went to France with a Divisional Signal Company. He served in France until 1917 and transferred to the Corps on its formation in 1920.

After a period as C.S.O. Eastern Command, 1937-38, he was in 1939 appointed Inspector of Signals, the first incumbent of that post. On the outbreak of the 1939-45 war he went to the War Office as Assistant Adjutant General (A.G.11). He served in the War Office from then until 1943 having become Director of Organisation and Chairman of the War Office Committee for the formation of the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers. In 1945 he headed the British delegation to the Allied Control Commission in Hungary, remaining in this appointment until his retirement in 1947.

On his retirement he settled down near Canterbury, where his address was "Friendly Hall." This, to his many friends in the Army, must have seemed an appropriate name for they will mourn the loss of one who had a cheery greeting for all and was a most charming host. The Corps has lost a staunch friend who after his retirement took over the Chairmanship of the Royal Signals Institution where, as in everything else he did, he threw himself heart and soul into the work. For some long time before his death he had been in failing health, but this in no way diminished his spirit. In fact, only 10 days before he died he took the chair at the Annual General Meeting of the Institution.



Major-General O. P. Edgumbe, C.B., C.B.E., M.C.



Brigadier H. D. Beadon, O.B.E., M.C.

Brigadier H. D. Beadon, O.B.E., M.C.

The death of Brigadier Beadon on 10th December at the early age of 61 will come as a great shock to his host of friends in and out of the Corps.

Herbert Dacres Beadon ("Sam" to many) after a successful career at Marlborough, was commissioned in 1914 in the Infantry and shortly afterwards was serving on the N.W. Frontier of India in the Green Howards. Later in 1916 to 1918 he served with the Regiment in France with a rifle platoon, the Signal platoon, and acting as Adjutant. During this service he was awarded the Military Cross.

Returning to India with the Regiment after the War, his technical bent asserted itself (Beadon had been destined for the engineering profession) and he was seconded to Royal Signals.

After a course at Jubbulpore he was posted to the Wireless Unit in Rawalpindi on whose strength he remained for over four years, a goodly proportion being spent on active service on the N.W. Frontier. During the time in Rawalpindi Beadon designed and produced in the Unit Workshops what was undoubtedly one of the first arrangements for working wireless on the move. The light motor sections of the Unit (120 watt sets in 15 cwt. Crossleys) were so equipped and took part with great success in the Army Manoeuvres in India at the end of 1925.

Service at Home included a full tour as one of the senior instructors at the School of Signals. This was followed by a return to India to command a Field Army Unit, the 3rd Divisional Signals. On the outbreak of War in 1939, Beadon was saddled with the task of resuscitating the 5th Divisional Signals in England, the Unit having in the years prior to the War been scattered over the world. Under Beadon's command the 5th Divisional Signals was built up so well that within a few months it took an effective part in France and he was awarded the O.B.E. Promotion followed with a series of the higher Signal appointments in rapid succession: 1940, C.S.O. L. of C., Norway, and C.S.O. XI Corps; 1942, D.D. Signals War Office; 1944, C.S.O.

Northern Command and Home Forces; 1945, D.D. Signals, A.H.Q., India; 1946, C.S.O. Southern Command, India; 1947, Signal Officer in Chief, India. Retirement came in 1948.

"Sam" Beadon, soldier and technician, a faithful friend, a loyal subordinate, was just and far-seeing when in the highest positions. He was the soul of honour and completely incapable of a mean action. Married during his early service with Signals in Rawalpindi, he was blessed with a particularly happy family life. Our sympathy will go out to his widow, daughter (Mrs. Neil Lockhart) and son (Captain Dacres Beadon of the Corps).

Colonel G. E. Sampson, D.S.O.

Colonel George Ellis Sampson, D.S.O., died at Lexden, near Colchester, on 16th November, 1956, at the age of 69.

He was born in 1887, the son of Captain George Dennis Sampson, of Scariff, Co. Clare. He joined the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers in 1907, and five years later was attached to the 2nd Signal Company, Royal Engineers, and continued in that service until the formation of the Royal Corps of Signals, in which he became Lieutenant-Colonel in 1929. During the 1914-18 War he served in France, commanded the 22nd Divisional Signals in the Balkans, was mentioned in despatches six times, received the brevet of Major in 1917, and was awarded the D.S.O. He was Chief Signal Officer, Eastern Command, at the end of the First World War and then served in Egypt, commanded the 4th Divisional Signals at Colchester and was Chief Signal Officer, Aldershot Command, from 1934-38, when he was appointed Officer-in-Charge of Records. He retired in 1942. During his active career in Royal Signals he was a famous horseman and horsemaster.

The Late Major W. H. Grigg, D.C.M., M.M., M.S.M.

It is with deep regret that we have to report the death of Major W. H. Grigg, D.C.M., M.M., M.S.M., which took place on 8th November, 1956, at the age of 66 years, at his home, Reeds Farm, Wilmington, Honiton, Devon.

"Jimmy," as he was known to hundreds of officers and men of the Corps, had a record of service second to none. He was a Devonshire man, having been born in Plymouth on 4th August, 1890, and enlisted as a telegraphist in the R.E. Signals on the 4th April, 1910. He certainly was above average in intelligence and education, so much so that within twelve months of enlisting he obtained his First Class Army Certificate—a feat that very few of his generation



A.F.H.Q. 1943. Major W. H. Grigg (with telephone), and Captain M. J. Moonan, Royal Signals

could equal. He was appointed paid Lance-Corporal on 16th August, 1912, and after progressing through the usual non-commissioned ranks, finally retired to pension as a W.O. Class I on 3rd July, 1935.

During this period he served in the First World War, where he was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal and the Military Medal for several acts of gallantry. He was attached to the British Military Mission in South Russia and the Army of the Black Sea from November, 1919 to January, 1923, when he was awarded the Russian Silver Medal of St. Stanislaus. After a short period at home he was appointed an Instructor in Wireless to the New Zealand Army and remained in that country for three years, from May, 1925 to May, 1928. Another short period at home as a School of Signals' Instructor and with "A" Corps Signals, and then to India as R.S.M. from 1929 to 1931. He returned to the School of Signals in May, 1931, and remained at home until his retirement in 1935.

He rejoined Royal Signals in 1939, serving first at Catterick and then in London preparing with the American Forces for the landings in North Africa. Here in 1943 Major Grigg was in charge of British Signal stores at Allied Force Headquarters. In this year he became attached to the Intelligence Corps. His duties took him to very many countries in Southern Europe and the Middle East and on one occasion to India.

He married after the War and settled down in his native Devonshire as the "complete" retired gentleman. He enjoyed occasional days shooting; he and his wife carried off many prizes at horticultural shows and mead of his brewing was as good as any of medieval times.

The award of the Meritorious Service Medal a short time before his death was to him an honour well deserved and gave to his friends the greatest pleasure.

To Mrs. Grigg our very deep sympathy.



Heads of the Indian Signal Corps - 1911 onwards

It is thought that this list of those who were the leaders of the Indian Signal Corps at the Headquarters of the Army in India in Delhi will be of interest to those who are older. The list is published by courtesy of THE SIGNALMAN, the Journal of the Signal Corps of India, October, 1956.

- 21.10.10 Lieutenant-Colonel S. H. Powell, R.E.
- 26.10.14 Lieutenant-Colonel W. O. Grant, 127th Baluch L.I.
- 23. 1.17 Lieutenant-Colonel J. Day, D.S.O., R.E.
- 16. 9.19 Lieutenant-Colonel R. G. Earle, C.M.G., D.S.O., R.E.
- 3. 6.21 Colonel R. G. Earle, C.M.G., D.S.O.
- 1.11.24 Colonel C. J. Torrie, D.S.O., O.B.E.
- 11. 2.26 Colonel H. C. Hawtrey, C.M.G., D.S.O.
- Brigadier H. C. Hawtrey, C.M.G., D.S.O.
- 17. 2.30 Brigadier H. Clementi-Smith, D.S.O.
- 17. 2.34 Brigadier C. J. S. LeCornu, O.B.E., M.C.
- 17. 2.38 Brigadier E. N. F. Hitchins, D.S.O., M.C.
- 16. 1.41 Brigadier R. E. Vyvyan, C.B.E., M.C.
- 20. 1.42 Major-General R. E. Vyvyan, C.B.E., M.C.
- 23. 5.45 Major-General C. H. H. Vulliamy, C.B., D.S.O.
- 11. 5.46 Major-General R. F. H. Nalder, C.B., O.B.E.
- 30. 3.47 Brigadier H. D. Beadon, O.B.E., M.C.
- 15. 7.47 Brigadier C. H. I. Akehurst, C.B.E.
- 17. 3.54 Brigadier A. C. Iyappa.

PERSONAL COLUMN

London Gazette

The undermentioned Lieutenant-Colonels to be Colonels:
Temporary Colonel W. B. Rowett, 12th January, 1956.
Temporary Colonel P. M. P. Hobson, D.S.O., 20th February, 1956.
The undermentioned Captains to be Majors:
Captain E. F. Mathew, 11th May, 1956.
Captain W. G. Neilson, 26th November, 1956.
Lieutenant (T.O.T.) J. A. Pyper to be Captain (T.O.T.), 28th November, 1956.

Movements — Officers

The following have passed out of the Staff College (12th December, 1956):
Majors A. Begg, P. D. Warren, Captains D. M. F. Barker, R. H. Borthwick, J. B. Burrell, D. P. Garnons-Williams, D. C. Newman, P. H. F. Webb, J. A. D. Francis.
Major T. C. H. Fletcher, M.E.L.F., to Depot (HS).
Major W. Nicholson, B.A.O.R. to Depot (HS).
Major S. W. B. Lee, A.F. Signals (Staff) to 5 Training Regiment.
Major G. M. L. Claridge, M.E.L.F. to School of Signals.
Major C. Mitchell, War Office to B.A.O.R.
Lieutenant-Colonel M. D. Price, Senior Officers' School to Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment.
Lieutenant-Colonel F. J. Swainson, Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment to School of Signals.
Lieutenant-Colonel E. J. C. Harrison, School of Infantry to Depot (HS).
Major D. P. R. Rennick, M.E.L.F. to Depot (HS).
Major I. H. A. Illingworth, Ministry of Supply to FARELF.
Major C. J. A. Chapman, 2 Training Regiment to Depot (HS).
Major J. H. Dirs, B.A.O.R. to 5 Training Regiment.
Major (Cipher) L. J. Sharp, Southern Command to FARELF.
Major R. Hair, School of Signals to 7 Training Regiment.
Major C. M. Jenkins, M.E.L.F. to Senior Officers' School and thence to B.A.O.R.
Major (T.O.T.) F. Speakes, Depot (HS) to H.Q. A.E.R. Royal Signals.
Major (Q.M.) L. J. Boshier, Infantry Divisional Signals to B.A.O.R.
Major W. T. A. Collyer, B.A.O.R. to M.E.L.F.
Major B. J. Walker, War Office to War Office Signal Squadron.
Major W. N. Sutcliffe, to retirement.
Major W. E. Brock, M.E.L.F. to Depot (HS).
Major (Q.M.) G. E. Atkin, FARELF to 7 Training Regiment.

Arrivals and Departures

2 Training Regiment
Arrivals: Lieutenant-Colonel Young, Captains Hartnett and Philp.
Departures: Lieutenant-Colonel Lang, Major J. Chapman, Captain W. C. Barber.
ALFCE Signal Squadron
Departures: Major F. Dymond.
1 Training Regiment
Departures: Majors J. C. Alcock, B. A. H. Bogle, Sergeants P. J. Clegg and T. N. Watson.
Hong Kong Signal Regiment
Departures: Major Evans, Sergeant Palmer.
1 Wireless Regiment
Arrivals: R.S.M. Wilderspin, Staff Sergeant Pearce, Major V. C. T. Honor.
Departures: R.S.M. Barnes, Staff Sergeant Tiffin and Major Potesta.
12 Air Formation Signal Regiment
Arrivals: Lieutenant-Colonel J. McNeill.
Departures: Lieutenant-Colonel A. H. Costen.
11 Air Formation Signal Regiment
Arrivals: Major R. S. Campbell, Captain H. A. Johnstone.
Departures: Captain E. C. Collins.
6 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment
Arrivals: Lieutenant-Colonel J. H. St. G. Hamersley, W.O. II Ham and Staff Sergeant Horsley.
Departures: Lieutenant-Colonel P. G. Curry.
2 L. of C. Signal Regiment
Arrivals: Major L. B. H. C. Baker.
Departures: Major J. L. Waller, Captain A. P. Hughes and Lieutenant (T.O.T.) J. U. Wolfenden.
10 Army Group Signal Regiment
Arrivals: Majors P. H. Brown and J. C. Alcock, Sergeants Glendenning and Merry.
Departures: Major T. Harris, Major (Q.M.) H. Stickley, Captain C. B. Mercer, W.O.I. K. B. Ulrich, Sergeants W. Cooper and M. Cull.

Births

BUTT.—To Sergeant and Mrs. Butt, a son, Andrew Colin, born at the British Wing, Fontainebleau, on 29th November, 1956.
HICKMAN.—To Sergeant and Mrs. Hickman, a daughter, Jacqueline, born at the British Wing, Fontainebleau, on 27th November, 1956.
FOAKES.—To W.O.II (F. of S.) and Mrs. P. W. Foakes, a daughter, Amanda Jayne, on 12th November, 1956.
FISHER.—To Sergeant and Mrs. B. Fisher, a daughter, Barbara Ann, on 13th November, 1956.
STEVENSON.—To Sergeant and Mrs. Stevenson, a son, Russell Clive, born at Eastbourne, on 6th December, 1956.

All the following of 10 Air Formation Signal Regiment
BALDWIN.—To Sergeant and Mrs. S. Baldwin, at B.M.H., Hostert, a son.
LOGAN.—To Sergeant and Mrs. J. Logan, at B.M.H., Hostert, a son.
BROWN.—To Signalman and Mrs. J. Brown, at B.M.H., Hostert, a son.

All the following of 19 Army Group Signal Regiment
LEE.—To Corporal and Mrs. Lee, at B.M.H. Hostert, on 26th October, 1956, a son, Steven Harold.
GARDNER.—To Corporal and Mrs. Gardner, at Hull, on 30th October, 1956, a daughter, Karen Elizabeth.
WILSON.—To Signalman and Mrs. Wilson, at Guisbrough, on 20th October, 1956, a daughter, Kathryn Joyce.

Marriages

NOAKES—KNIGHT.—Staff Sergeant J. Noakes to Miss Pauline Knight, at All Saints' Church, Crowborough.
COTTEE—PAYNE.—Sergeant A. F. Cottee to Miss Joan Payne, on 10th November, 1956.
MORGAN—PINE.—Colonel F. S. Morgan, C.B.E., E.R.D., D.L., J.P., to Lieutenant-Colonel M. H. Pine, M.B.E., T.D., at St. Mary-without-the-Walls, Chester, on 15th August, 1956.
MILSON—BENNISON.—Corporal Milson to Miss Dorothy Bennison, at Grangetown, on 10th November, 1956.

Deaths

GOODALL.—23094834 Lance-Corporal G. W. Goodall, on 11th October, 1956, in the Harrogate General Hospital.
POND.—Ex-Corporal R. Pond, of 32, Andrews Drive, Waiouru, New Zealand, on 1st November, 1956, aged 34 years.
PARNABY.—Ex-Signalman A. E. Parnaby, of 101, South Lawn Avenue, Oshawa, Ontario, Canada, aged 34 years. He emigrated to Canada in 1953.
CATTRELL.—Ex-Signalman K. G. Cattrell, of 58, Victoria Road, Tranmere, Birkenhead, on 6th October, 1956, aged 24 years.
ARKELL.—Mr. K. O. Arkell, of 133, Abbots Gardens, London, N.2, on 21st July, 1956.
BEADON.—Brigadier H. D. Beadon, O.B.E., M.C., on 10th December, 1956, at The Gables, Mytchett Road, Farnborough, Hampshire.
EDGCUMBE.—Major-General O. P. Edgcumbe, C.B., C.B.E., M.C., on 11th December, 1956, at Flat 3, Heathfield, Reigate Heath, Surrey.
SPRAGG.—23104522 Driver K. H. Spragg, on 4th November, 1956, in Cyprus.
TROWBRIDGE.—22591993 Staff Sergeant D. B. C. Trowbridge, on 9th November, 1956, in Cyprus.
BENEFIELD.—22559604 Corporal J. Benefield, on 13th November, 1956, in U.K.

Battle Casualty (Wounded)

PADDICK.—Signalman D. J. Paddick, on 5th November, 1956, in Suez.

PROMOTIONS

The following substantive promotions were authorised during the month of November, 1956:—

TRADES ROSTER

TO WARRANT OFFICER I

555452	A/W.O. I	(2040)	Broadhead, L. C.
2326303	A/W.O. I	(3700)	Latimer, J. R.

TO WARRANT OFFICER II

2329515	Staff Sgt.	(4230)	Webb, R. A.
4537819	Staff Sgt.	(4280)	Evans, R. W.
2317764	A/W.O. II	(930)	Stratton, L. V.
2326875	Staff Sgt.	(4310)	Loates, C. L.
14454126	Staff Sgt.	(4340)	Lewis, P.
5349171	Staff Sgt.	(4360)	Cox, J. E.
2380573	Staff Sgt.	(4380)	Findlay, I. M.

TO STAFF SERGEANT

2328521	A/Staff Sgt.	(1080)	Alexander, A.
5249437	A/Staff Sgt.	(2410)	Hatt, E. E.
2547760	A/Staff Sgt.	(2860)	Granger, G. A.
5617044	Sgt.	(3370)	Finch, E. R.
14364917	Sgt.	(6170)	Bews, J. H.
2316675	Sgt.	(6180)	Hamilton, F.
19056979	A/Staff Sgt.	(6190)	Gubler, G. I. D.
14483785	Sgt.	(6230)	Marshall, D. W.
22271152	A/Staff Sgt.	(6240)	Jepson, J. W.
22212247	Sgt.	(6250)	Rawson, A. N.

TO SERGEANT

22265935	Cpl.	(35070)	White, J. R.
22212057	A/Sgt.	(11520)	Bell, H.

ROYAL SIGNALS INSTITUTION

December, 1956.

It is with deep regret that the Council have to report the sudden death of their Chairman of Council, Major-General O. P. Edgcumbe, C.B., C.B.E., M.C., at Reigate on 11th December, 1956.

The Council also regret having to report the death of Brigadier H. D. Beadon, O.B.E., M.C., in December, 1956.

Obituary notices are published in this issue of THE WIRE.

W. T. HOWE, Brigadier,
Secretary.

Forthcoming Events

Branch Representatives Meeting ... 13th April, 1957
Corps Dinner ... 29th May, 1957
and
Regular Officers' "At Home" ... 30th May, 1957
at the Hyde Park Hotel.
Catterick Reunion ... 29/30th June, 1957

Croydon and District Branch

Croydon and District Branch will hold its Annual Dinner on the 2nd February, 1957, at Queen's House, West Croydon (near West Croydon Station), at 7 p.m. Tickets, 14/6 per head, from C. Sedgewick, 15, Tudor Road, South Norwood, London, S.E.25.

The Sixth Electrical Engineers Exhibition at Earl's Court, will be opened by the Minister of Education, the Rt. Hon. Sir David McAdam Eccles, K.C.V.O., M.P., at twelve noon on 9th April, 1957.

Radio and Electronic Component Show

Grosvenor House and Park Lane House, London, W.1., 8th to 11th April, 1957.

ROYAL SIGNALS RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

1957				
Jan. 26	Billingham	...	...	Catterick
Feb. 6	King's College	...	...	Newcastle
" 9	Waterloo	...	...	Blundellsands
" 14	Oxford U. Greyhounds	...	...	Oxford
" 23	Durham	...	...	Catterick
Mar. 2	Morley	...	...	Catterick
" 9	Wakefield	...	...	Catterick
" 13	Leeds University	...	...	Leeds
" 20	Northern Command Cup	...	...	Catterick
" 23	Galashiels	...	...	Catterick
" 27	Northern Command Sevens	...	...	Catterick
" 30	Sandal	...	...	Catterick

* Corps Representative matches.

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL CLUB

1957				
Jan. 30	Manchester University (A)	...	...	Manchester
Feb. 13	Bede A.F.C. (A)	...	...	Durham
" 27	R.A.O.C. (H)	...	...	Catterick
Mar. 6	R.A.C. (H)	...	...	Catterick
" 20	Durham College (H)	...	...	Catterick

(provisional)
All above are Corps representative matches.

ROYAL SIGNALS HOCKEY CLUB

1957				
Mar. 9	Durham University	...	...	Catterick
" 20	Welbeck College	...	...	Welbeck
" 29	R.A.E.C.	...	...	Aldershot
" 30	Aldershot Services	...	...	Aldershot



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1 TRAINING REGIMENT

The Regiment have now, for the first time in its history, an Officers' Mess of its own. We have changed places with the Royal Signals Wing, and are now occupying a western portion of Helles Mess.

Completely unsung, it would appear, has been the work of the Wives' Group. This energetic little band of fair helpers achieves a great deal of success month after month, and this has culminated in their receiving the appreciation of the British Legion for their Poppy Day collection. This was the highest in Catterick.

In more than one department of the athletic world we are acquiring a name to be conjured with. The XV play in the 5th round of the Army Cup later this week, and since the season started, they have scored 400 odd points, and have yet to have their line crossed. The Cross Country, Badminton and Basket Ball teams are also undefeated, while the Soccer XI, knocked out in the 1st round of both the Army and the Northern Command Cups, still survive the District Cup, and have only been beaten twice in the Garrison League.

Of our athletes, a number have played in higher formation or trial games. These include:

Soccer.—Lance-Corporal Taylor, Signalmen Porter, Richards, Hewitt, Canavan, Jones.

Rugger.—Corporals Baldon and Sayer, Lance-Corporals Benson, French, Owen and Scotland, Signalmen Fidler and Williams.

Hockey.—Captain Dawson, R.S.M. Harding, Signalman Peters.

While on the subject of athletes, it would be appropriate to wish Second-Lieutenant Dalton—our best long distance runner—a complete recovery from the serious accident in which he was involved some weeks ago. He has been Y-listed as a result of it.

Small bore shooting, under the energetic leadership of Major T. A. Halsey (Retd.), is experiencing a successful season. H.Q. Squadron have won the Inter Squadron Competition, but 2 Squadron have, so far, supplied the majority of the Regimental team which has entered the Garrison Small Bore League.

2 TRAINING REGIMENT

The task of describing life and events in Singapore to the one of describing life here in Catterick, although pleasant has only one drawback, in that everyone knows Catterick so I'll have to dig deep for material—so is my lot.

To our new Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. Young and Punch, we say welcome and may your stay be pleasant and enjoyable. To our late Commanding Officer and Mrs. Lang, now comfortably settled in Salisbury, we send our very best wishes and festive greetings.

Events have been few but interesting; our interest in the Army Cup has gone, beaten by 3 Training Regiment after a very exciting game by three goals to two—well done, 3 Training Regiment and lots of luck in the future.

This is really news and it concerns Golf, and this regiment has certainly planted the tree of success within in the District. Signalman Kirkby won the Northumbrian District Championship, was placed second in the Northern Command Championship. One team finished fourth in the District Championship, but probably our greatest achievement was drawing twice with 1 Training Regiment. Who said "Hammer and Jumper didn't improve your swing"?

Boxing is still one of our bastions and we are hoping for great achievements in this field. Future notes will give our progress—because we have a good team.

In the gardening world in spite of Mr. Percy, of TV, B.B.C. fame, the unit won first prize in "Unit Competitions"; it appears that Lieutenant-Colonel (Q.M.) Beverley just stands on the edge of the gardens, and talks to the soil, and puts in his seeds—it's just magic.

Rugby has made a fresh start, and we have now a keen and energetic team, who seem to get a vast amount of pleasure from wallowing in the Catterick mud, in addition to the inevitable injury.

The face of the Regiment has had an uplift—R.H.Q. has changed around its administrative offices, and at last a new



Boxing Team

"Square" has been laid, so it's good-bye to "Shuffle Drill"; we can now get down to it good and properly. Even the Corporals have extended their domain, and have now a larger and better Corporals' Room—it's just progress.

Wedding bells will be ringing soon for Captain Hartnett, to him and his future bride we send our congratulations and every good wish for the future.

For information of all ex 2 Training Regiment, we are glad to inform you that there have been no changes in our civilian staff except the typists. "Jim Stainer, our Chief Clerk, is still holding the fort admirably." Christmas preparations are going full steam ahead, and we are all looking forward to a happy time.

To all—the compliments of the season from 2 Training Regiment.

4 TRAINING REGIMENT

Even in the northern wastes of Catterick the Suez crisis has left its mark. Captain Rayment, our M.T.O., is watching the petrol pumps very carefully and doles out the precious fluid to those whose journey is really necessary. The Chief Instructor is busy re-designing the schemes for training wireless operators so as to save mileage, whilst the Quartermaster tries to make two loads go into one.

Private cars are more scarce than they used to be and even the Second-in-Command has been seen walking.

Despite these disadvantages we keep pretty busy, especially now that we are responsible for the training of six trades, including the new upgrading commitments.

From our southern branch we hear that Brighton is a popular spot with the cryptographers and they have settled down nicely. The move introduced Royal Signals to the natives, many of whom met the Corps for the first time. An excellent relationship has been established with the civil authorities, so much so that a detachment was invited to take part in the Armistice Day Service, and a most complimentary letter was received congratulating them on their performance. The O.C., Major A. E. Wood, has made an important contribution to the reputation of the Corps in that area.

There are two items of sporting news which are worth recording. Our Hockey team, led by Captain J. C. Herbert, has won its way through the first round of the Army Cup by beating an Infantry Battalion 1-0 in the wind and rain of a particularly horrible example of Catterick weather. Our small bore shooting

team is shaping extremely well. In a recent postal match only one of the team failed to get a score of over 90, and the commanding officer, Lieutenant-Colonel R. J. Western, missed a possible by only one point. An inter squadron shield is shortly to be instituted in an effort to improve the general standard and find new talent.

In conclusion, we would like to extend to everyone our very best wishes for 1957.

5th TRAINING REGIMENT

In accordance with the request made by the Editor last August, this Unit has decided to condense Monthly WIRE Notes into a Quarterly Review, while the present high cost of printing the magazine exists.

Until the majority of subscribers agree that a fair price for THE WIRE is greater than the present 1/-, and until all ranks of the Corps buy more copies and encourage many other past and present members to subscribe, it is inevitable that the size and standard of our magazine must deteriorate.

All members of Branch 36 within this Regiment ask everyone in the Corps to make every effort to preserve the high standard of THE WIRE by increasing the sales by every means, and also assuring the Editor that we shall back him and the magazine by being in agreement with a reasonable increase in price to cover printing and distributing costs.

During the past three months this Unit has pressed on with D.R. and Driver training, maintaining the standard of output in spite of increasing difficulties. We are proud to hear through the National Press, etc., that men of the Corps (including personnel who have recently been trained by us) have acquitted themselves creditably during the Suez crisis. Instructors in Training Regiments have a hard task training recruits up to a required standard within a time limit, so to hear that many of the young men we have trained have proved equal to the strain of a "crisis" in the field is, to say the least, encouraging.

During the latter half of September this Unit, under our Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel E. W. Townsend, organised a most successful shoot at Bellerby for all Training Units of the Brigade. This Unit was successful in winning the Falling Plate Competition and the W.O.s' and Sergeants' Team event. Lieutenant-Colonel Townsend won the Officers', W.O.s' and Sergeants' individual competition.

Our Regimental Shooting team are pressing on with continual practice with high hopes of a successful year during 1957.

It is regretted that we cannot announce a repeat of last year's successes in the Army Motor Cycle Trials. Our team had to be content with fourth place but as a consolation prize we did gain three individual awards.

Lance-Corporal Horne gained a 1st Class award; Sergeant Steele gained a 2nd Class award, and Staff Sergeant Slaughter came in 3rd in the individual placings.

We record that three most popular Officers of the Corps left us upon retirement during October, and are now happily settled in civilian life. They are Major J. S. Routledge, Major L. F. Smith, and Major J. W. Simpson, M.B.E., all pre-war members whose service in the Corps totals 100 years—a proud record.

By the time these Notes appear in print, our Commanding Officer and Mrs. Townsend will have left us for the War Office. All Ranks very much regret the posting, as the C.O. and Mrs. Townsend have worked very hard in the smooth running of the Regiment and have taken a great interest in the welfare of young soldiers and married families. We wish them and their family good luck, good health and good shooting in their new Station.

We welcome Lieutenant-Colonel A. H. Costen and his family to Ripon, and have high hopes that his tour will be as successful as his predecessor.

Jottings

by NACERBY

Whitehall Festivities

Don't run away with the idea we don't have fun in Whitehall because we don't. But we really went to town this festive season—'twas easy enough to persuade the Treasury balloons were essential. We asked for 200 and received five and only got this generous allocation because the official concerned lacked imagination and was promoted for it.

But filling the things was a different kettle of cold tea—the finance boys were adamant that in view of essential economy new air couldn't be used. They advised minuting Ordnance Vehicle Depots to ascertain if any punctures were envisaged. Permission would then be granted to utilise the escaping air for filling the balloons providing the pressure did not exceed 4lb. per square inch, the finished product was subjected to user trials, there was no charge to public funds, and that on the conclusion of hostilities—I mean festivities—(to be officially notified in Orders) the balloons were stored for future use.

In view of the fact no specifications were to be issued we agreed with alacrity, only to discover on New Year's Eve that we couldn't hang 'em up because we'd forgotten to ask for a User Handbook!

The odd thing is, we attended a committee meeting the day before and the "hot air" recorded in the minutes would have filled an airship.

Eheu fugaces!

There was no difficulty in providing the paper for paper chains, in fact six chaps working during the official tea break for five days produced a chain to stretch from Whitehall to Manchester—which I might add is a helluva lot of tea.

Dress, Distinguishing. . . .

It has long been the contention of Staff Officers, especially the lower grades, that it would make for greater efficiency if, when attending the office in mufti (or plain clothes) some means could be effected whereby the general public, the hoi-polloi, the plebeians could become aware they were passing by, speaking to or were in the same locality as the aforesaid Staff Officers.

Apart from the fact they all wear dark suits, black shoes, white collars, regimental ties, bowler, chamois gloves and umbrella (furled, carried) and the dinkiest of moustaches there's absolutely nothing to distinguish him from the City Man who wears a dark suit, black shoes, white collar, regimental tie, bowler, chamois gloves, an umbrella (furled, carried) and the dinkiest of moustaches.

It's all too, too! and really frightfully infra dig, *honi soit maly pense* . . . and I believe nil desperandum.

We understand, however, this sorry state of affairs is to end, and we have been fortunate to secure an advance copy of "flashes, dark suit, shoulder for" which we humbly reproduce. These will be secured by the means of press studs to the right shoulder (for transferring to coats, rain and/or over, in the event of inclement weather) and for Top Grade officials will be impregnated with phosphorus paint for night work.

And the very best of British luck.



Brigadier K. C. O. Bastyan, C.B.E., presenting a 1st Class Army Certificate of Education to Boy/Sergeant Jones of 'B' Troop

6 (BOYS) TRAINING REGIMENT

The Christmas term finished in a deluge of rain which, unfortunately, caused the Presentation Parade for only the second time in its history to be held indoors. However, the bad weather did not materially affect the ceremony, as the two winning troops were paraded in the Gymnasium for inspection by Brigadier K. C. O. Bastyan, C.B.E., who had very kindly consented to take the parade and make the presentations.

For the information of ex-Boys, the major trophies this term were won by:—

- "G" Troop in the Senior Competition, and
- "A" Troop in the Junior Competition.

The Commandant's Trophy for the best all-round Boy was won by Boy/Sergeant Markie.

Unfortunately, the bad weather continued on the next day when "R" Troop had arranged their own "Pass Off" Parade, which also had to be held indoors, but the standard of turn-out of these recruit boys and the kits which they had laid for inspection were well up to standard and a credit to the Troop.

In keeping with the new trend of WIRE Notes we will not report the usual round of visits to the Regiment, other than one important visit by Major-General K. Bayley, C.B., C.B.E., Director Boys' Training; nor will we report on the sporting activities of the Regiment, which, as usual, were all too numerous to relate here. Suffice it to say that Soccer, Boxing, Hockey, Cross Country Running, Basket Ball and Rugger have all been played with skill and enthusiasm, and we look forward next term to winning the Boys' Army Rugger Cup, under the skilful and able direction of Major T. G. H. Jackson, M.B.E., who now commands 1 Squadron.

All ex-Boys will be sorry to learn that Major F. Williams is leaving the Regiment after just over two very successful years commanding 2 Squadron, and at the same time, that old stalwart, S.S.M. Holt, is leaving 1 Squadron for Malta.

Sailing and Boating Club

Although the White Ensign has not yet taken the place of the Corps Flag on the mast at 6 (Boys) Training Regiment if our fleet of boats continues to increase, cries of 'Aye, Aye, Sir' and 'All Hands on Deck' will be supplanting the more down to earth military expressions. Our fleet of six boats was started when, on taking over the camp from the Depot Regiment, three Redwing sailing dinghies were more or less included in the inventory. Two of these yachts belong to the Royal Signals Yacht Club and the third is the property of the Army Sailing Association. Our move from Beverley took place in September at the end of the sailing season but as Torquay, our sailing base, was such a delightful spot one or two officers used this as an excuse to make numerous visits to see if our boats were: clean . . . afloat . . . still in one piece . . . still there, or for any other excuse that they could think of at the time. Eventually, after one or two afternoons in Torbay the Redwings were brought back to camp for maintenance during the winter months.

In December last year a letter was received in the Unit asking if any use could be made of 16ft. Pulling Dinghies, built origin-



ally for the Royal Engineers. A request was made for two of these craft and in June this year a little chit was received by the Q.M. from British Railways, Newton Abbot, to the effect that there were two boats at the station for collection. It must have been child's play for the Egyptians to build the Pyramids compared with moving 16ft. boats out of railway trucks and on and off a T.C.V. As usual, fully comprehensive equipment was supplied for the job, namely, Ropes, U.S. one, and Soldiers, Strong, six. However, they reached camp without a scratch and were taken to Teignmouth at the beginning of this term. Since then, Boys of the Regiment have been rowing twice a week on the Teign Estuary and also out to sea. They have taken to this sport, if you will pardon the expression, "like D.U.K.W.S. to water" and although initially there is usually some confusion in the boat with boys waving 12ft. oars about and trying to cleave the Coxswain's head open, after a few minutes they settle down to a steady stroke. By the time that they have had an hour afloat they are working like a Naval crew and when finally, on coming alongside the Jetty to disembark they "Toss Oars" into the vertical position, local fishermen watching have been heard to murmur "***** marvellous."

The sixth boat of the fleet is a 15ft. sailing craft built for fishing, which was purchased from funds provided by the W.V.S. Being broad in the beam she is safe and ideal for teaching boys. She has been repainted and re-rigged and was launched at the beginning of October, her maiden voyage taking place recently. We are happy to say that she behaved herself very well under sail and although rather aged, is skittish enough to give the boys an exciting trip.

In conclusion may we say: Haul up the ladder, Jack, we are inboard.



EDUCATION

Practically everyone who is serving and many who have served know that there is a Boys Regiment, Royal Signals. Comparatively few really know of the very favourable conditions of entry, education, and prospects.

A new illustrated pamphlet is being prepared at the War Office but it will not be available for some time. With this in mind THE WIRE has acquired the following basic information which, if not authoritative, is reasonably accurate.

6 (BOYS) TRAINING REGIMENT Newton Abbot, Devon

CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

AGE. Boys can join at the end of the school term in which they reach school leaving age. The Boy enlists to serve until he is 18, and then for six years with the colours and three years with the reserve. He can, if he so wishes, go on until he qualifies for a pension.

HEALTH. The Boy must be medically fit, at least 4ft. 7in. in height, and not less than 5st. 4lb. in weight.

THE OBJECTS OF EDUCATIONAL TRAINING

Educational Training plays a large part in the work of the Regiment and its object is the same as that of the Regiment—to train Boys to be future N.C.O.s and W.O.s of Royal Signals.

The attainment of this aim in Educational Training falls into two channels: firstly, in the general development of character, perseverance and initiative in the individual and, secondly, in the education of the Boy to pass the examinations which are required as a qualification for promotion to the ranks of Sergeant and Warrant Officer. About 80% of Boys leaving the Regiment are qualified educationally for promotion to Sergeant, by having passed the equivalent of the Army Certificate of Education Second Class, and of these about half have obtained further qualifications up to the level of the Army Certificate of Education First Class, and G.C.E.

While the Educational Training is of a general character, special attention is paid to training in Mathematics, General Physics and Map Reading, so that a sound basis of knowledge is provided on which training in the Royal Signals trades can be built.

PAY

The weekly pay for a Boy is:

On Entry	31/6d.
After six months	31/6d. to 52/6d.*
After one year	38/6d. to 59/6d.*
After two years	45/6d. to 66/6d.*

*Depends on progress in Education and Military Proficiency.

When on leave a daily rate of ration allowance is paid.

LEAVE

There is a generous allowance of leave each year on full pay. Part of it is at Christmas, part at Easter and part in the summer. Free travel warrants are provided each time.

COST

It will be seen that this Education is absolutely without cost. The food is good and plentiful, a complete issue of clothes (including shirts, underclothes and pyjamas), and bedding is provided.

THE OBJECT OF CORPS TRAINING

The objects of Trade Training in the Regiment are as follows:

To assist the boy to choose the trade which will give him the most satisfaction in life.

To teach the boy the rudiments of several trades as required by a future N.C.O. in a Divisional Signal Regiment who has to command men of various trades. To satisfy the demand by boys who enter the Royal Signals to learn a trade.

To add interest to the Training curriculum.

All boys of the Regiment undergo this Corps training and all get a chance to ride a motor cycle. In future, boys who join the Regiment at an early age will be given the opportunity to do further trade training in their last one or two terms. The scope of this training will largely depend on the Educational achievements of the boys concerned.

GAMES

Cricket, Athletics, Rugger, Soccer, Basket Ball, Boxing, Cross Country Running, Swimming, Softball, Fencing, Gymnastics, Hockey.

LIST OF HOBBIES, CLUBS, ETC.

Hobbies—Outdoor Activities, French Classes.

Clubs—Art, Aero Modelling, Canoe Construction, Photography, Woodwork, Printing, Stamps, Model Railways, Radio Club, Boys' Club, Boy N.C.O.s Club, Dancing Classes.

BOY SERVICE

A Few Recollections and Comparisons by An Ex-Boy, "F" Company

Life in "F" Company was on a rather different pattern from that in the present Boys' Regiment of today. No hot water in ablutions, no large steel lockers in which to keep our kit. We did have a small locker, fixed to the wall at the head of the bed—in just the correct place—on which all without exception banged our heads. But so many Lance-Corporals were always prone to say "Where there's no sense there's no feeling!"

Spring beds were unheard of. The good old sliding iron bed, built like a battleship, was universal issue. These, besides their lawful purposes were very useful for pressing our tunics, slacks and breeches (electric irons had not yet been invented, I think). And going to bed was at times like a mountaineering expedition. The mattress was of the three biscuit type, quite comfortable, the sheets of unbleached linen, the pillows—well, these resembled a small log, and were just as soft.

As for central heating, we had a central fireplace, and seemed to spend quite a lot of time painting the blessed thing. Hobbies were unheard of and, as for having our own N.A.A.F.I., we had No. 8 Hut, "S" Lines, called "The Boys' Club," and across one end near the bunk was a counter from behind which the long suffering N.A.A.F.I. assistant dispensed tea and wads (the latter known as "Chest Protectors" and "Double-deckers"). The tea—well, it was simple—N.A.A.F.I. tea.

We ourselves were a happy bunch of lads, and life was never dull. Raids with crab apples and snowballs on the Men's Lines were part of camp history.

Sledging in the winter was very popular. I'll always remember twenty of us using a large strip of lino as a sledge. It was excellent. We acquired it from—? Outside! I always wondered if anybody missed it.

Leave periods: 3½ weeks summer, two weeks Christmas; Easter and Whitsun were spent in the Lines—mostly on the sports field.

We got no Free Rail Travel, but I seem to remember a cheaper rate of rail fare for Boys.

We also had a pastime, in common with the remainder of Catterick Camp, known as Spring Drills, which was: Every other morning we paraded at 0615 hrs. in Drill Order and spent about an hour on the Square. The other morning was spent scrubbing out our barrack room, this all leading up to a Brigadier's Inspection, rather on similar lines to the

Administrative Inspections that take place in present days. Now for the other side of "F" Company. Tech Training was not done within the Company itself, but down in "E" and "D" Company lines.

The reason that all ex-Boys Operator Signals were so good was that the Band Practice Room was close to the Operators' Training Room. Well, the din created by the Corps Band was beyond description. Hence, the reason "Interference" held no terrors for our Boy Operators. (O.K., Major Judd. All this was before your time!)

THE DEPOT REGIMENT

With the easing of the International situation the flood tide of reservists became an ebb tide, reaching a peak in numbers with the docking of the *Empire Orwell* on Thursday, 6th December. Over two hundred and thirty of them came in a batch, arriving after 11 p.m. on the 6th. After sorting out kit and a meal, release procedure started at 0100 hours. The last man left at 12.55 hrs., that is, less than twelve hours later. We can't say it of course, but I'm sure some "clued up" reader will—"Not bad!"

It was quite a surprise to see the different destinations on their Rail Warrants. From the length of their hair it was odds on they were all for Chelsea or the left bank of the Seine. The long sea voyage I expect.

On the way out, as on the way in, however, the reservists behaved like good soldiers which made our job much easier.

Highlights in the month were a visit of the new Chief of Staff H.Q. Western Command, on the 21st November, and the firing of the last batch of Annual Range Classification on 29th November. Both events went well, although the results of the musketry were rather more obvious than the results of the visit. Is that a good sign?

An observation on a 30% cut in transport brought the reply that "troops can march," which remark shows that Whitehall knows a thing or two. Nevertheless the thought of a hundred odd soldiers marching through Chester at 3 a.m. en route for foreign places is enough to make the strongest man blanch. "Bless 'em all" would NOT be the marching song.

Stop Press. Apropos of our opening remark the following letter came in this very minute. The original is available for scrutiny.

Surrey.
9th December, 1956.

Dear Sir,

During my service with the Army, I have made more than my fair share of complaints but on this occasion I wish to congratulate you and your staff upon the speedy and efficient way in which the reservists from the *Empire Orwell* were demobilised.

From the comments of my reservist colleagues I feel sure that they all would wish to be associated with this appreciation of the unselfish efforts of all concerned in returning the reservists to civilian life without delay.

Yours sincerely, (Signed) EX-SIGNALMAN

A good note, I think, on which to end.

U.K. COMCAN SIGNAL REGIMENT

R.H.Q. and 1 Squadron. An audible sigh of relief swept Robinswood Barracks, Gloucester, at noon on Tuesday, 27th November; the annual Administrative Inspection was over and the Unit had emerged with distinction, but we will not bore you with the usual details.

Brigadier L. P. Twomey, D.S.O., was the Inspecting Officer and in his tour of Robinswood he inspected the finely equipped new Training School for upgrading instruction, and the recently converted cinema which projects both military training films and the adventures of Messrs. Dors, Karloff, Russell, Flynn, Mouse, Duck and Pluto, etc.

It is, however, a cause of some distress to instructor Corporal Kent that the majority of his subjects know more about the vital statistics of certain Hollywoodian figures than the mathematical intricacies of Ohm's law.

It is some time now since the Squadron saw its open-class Boxing team in action but a pre-Christmas engagement has been fixed with the neighbouring R.A.F. Innsworth—a long-awaited and oft-postponed meeting. Welterweight Signalman Jim Bird, who makes a welcome return to the team, recently scored a magnificent points victory over an experienced civilian amateur in a tournament at Yeovil.

Meanwhile the Rugby XV continues its fine run of successes

and is certainly proving a worthy successor to last season's Championship side.

From the W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess comes the news that future monthly meetings will be followed by a dinner, and that over the new bar now are displayed four embossed shields, representing the Royal Signals, the R.A.E.C., the R.E.M.E., and the R.A., presented (respectively) by R.S.M. Hipperson, Sergeant Jones, Staff Sergeant Day and W.O.II Thomas.

The Ladies' Club stopped chatting at their last meeting to enjoy an X film—one of the rare devices, be it noted, capable of silencing the fair sex for any measurable interval.

The Unit bids farewell to W.O.II Newman, W.O.II Ferguson, Sergeants Hill, Ravenscroft and Parr, while welcoming Sergeants Pollard, Wagstaffe and Willoughby. Sergeants Younie, Barnett, Nelson, Martin and Hoare are congratulated upon their promotion and are heartily welcomed into the fellowship of the Mess.

In its four months of turbulent existence "The Arrow News," a weekly publication, has reported the sporting and domestic life of Robinswood Barracks, kept its readers informed of Gloucester's somewhat unpretentious night life, and roused the masses to enthusiasm for beans, Administrative Inspections and other such essential ingredients of Army life. It has revealed the ladies of S.H.Q. as the Quiz Queens; "Uncle Doug" has lent a sympathetic ear to the love-lorn in his Heartbreak Corner; and National Service group 5423 proved through its pages to be the most ruthless and intolerable "grippers" ever known.

The editor, demobilised with 5423s, hopes that the Arrow will not be allowed to cease publication. It serves a very real need.

The same man (36 hours to do) concludes this, his final despatch to THE WIRE after 18 months' correspondence, and takes this opportunity to wish the Royal Corps of Signals, on behalf of Robinswood Barracks, a Very Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

The Commanding Officer thanks Corporal Emmett for his excellent services in connection with R.H.Q. and 1 Squadron WIRE Notes, and wishes him every success in the future in civilian life. He hopes that a volunteer will come forward as a worthy successor to Corporal Emmott.

2 Squadron. This month has seen the departure of our retained regulars, just managed to get away before the Administrative Inspection. We wish them luck in their belated return to civilian life. The Administrative Inspection is now a thing of the past for another year, so we turn our thoughts to Christmas, which we are told will be on 20th December this year, when the Commanding Officer will visit the Squadron and assist in the serving of Christmas dinner.

Petrol rationing is viewed with considerable concern by our married members living at Norton. It looks as if the Sergeant Major will have to buy a bicycle to be able to be on parade in the mornings.

The Sergeants' Mess ran a dance at the beginning of the month to raise funds for the Christmas party for the Oaklands children. This produced £20, which is now represented by a mounting pile of presents for the children in the O.C.'s office.

3 Squadron. Having purchased a coach for recreational purposes, we have just got used to the idea of being able to go where we wanted when we wanted, when the petrol shortage descended upon us like the plague (commonly attributed to Pharaoh!).

However, we are still able to accept the generous invitations to us by 3920 Op. Squadron U.S.A.F., at Brize Norton, to their weekly "Jam Session"; incidentally, it has been suggested that the United Nations delegates be replaced by "Skiffle Groups."

Again these notes must be brief as the writer, along with the rest of the Squadron, is working hard towards our all too imminent Annual Administration.

EASTERN COMMAND SIGNAL SQUADRON

We are very pleased to announce this month the return of Captain Spafford, after a very long illness in hospital.

During the first week in November the Squadron's newly formed basketball team paid a friendly visit to our Intelligence Corps neighbours at Maresfield. No-one seems to remember the score, but we have heard that the score was somewhere in the region of 54 points to 7 against us. This has not discouraged the members of the team and we hope to do better against Lewes Prison later this month.

The Squadron soccer team are doing a little better. To date they have played five games, won two, drawn one and lost two, and they now occupy third position in the Hastings and District Wednesday League. In early November we played Eastbourne Police in one of the toughest games of the season, although our team were small compared to the Police, we managed to draw 3-3. We hope next month to record our first appearance in the final of the Elca-Hillier Shield, having got into the semi-final by winning 3 goals to 1 against Old Town Eastbourne.

On 11th November the Squadron took part in the Remembrance Day Service at All Saints' Church, Crowborough. Our O.C., Major R. Carlyon, laid a wreath on the memorial outside the church. We were fortunate to have Corporal Dineen to play the "Last Post" during the service, which seemed to impress the local civilians who were present.

Our Wireless and Operating Troop still carry out their weekly exercises (just to keep the cobwebs off), and our linemen were still as cheerful as always when turned out in the early hours of the morning to locate a "creeping dis" in one of their lines. The reason it took so long, they say, was the fact that Signalman ("Johnnie Haynes") Jenkins was not "available." Maybe the International soccer match at Wembley the following day had something to do with this. We would all like to congratulate Signalman ("Paddy") McQuade on his recent marriage and wish both the very best of luck for the future.

Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess

Our most recent notable event was the marriage of our Foreman of Signals, Staff Sergeant Johnnie Noakes, to Miss Pauline Knight, at All Saints' Church, Crowborough. The reception was held at the Sergeants' Mess and was attended by relatives and friends of the couple. A rare old time was had by all. We all wish the Foreman and his bride the very best for the future and, as the best man said, "May all his troubles be little ones, that don't make too much noise."

We are now preparing for our Christmas Draw, on which we shall report next month. It really looks as though it's going to be a bumper, and we hope to "sell out" the 1,000 tickets that are available. We congratulate Staff Sergeant "Paddy" Carlin on his recent promotion. Well done, Pat!

We have now said farewell to Sergeant Curtis, who has left for Cyprus; he has been with the Unit for over four years and was its oldest member. All the best Dave, drop us a line.

That's all for this month, but we would like to send our greetings to all members of the Mess and all ranks of the Corps, wherever they may be.



CAREERS AND OPPORTUNITY

(IMPORTANT: Anyone obtaining employment through answering advertisements in THE WIRE MUST notify the Employment Section, Royal Signals Association, 88, Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1.

Members are reminded that they can ensure prompt notification of any vacancies likely to suit them by registering with the Employment Section. Jobs advertised in THE WIRE are only a small proportion of those received).

Sperry Gyroscope Company, Ltd., has vacancies for the following:

- G. W. Trials Engineers to lead teams preparing guided weapons for firing and to supervise firing trials. Permanent pensionable posts based at Feltham (Middlesex), Coventry and Aberporth (Wales). Experience in light electrical engineering and electronics desirable; professional qualifications an advantage but not essential.
- G.W. Trials Assistants with qualifications of National Certificate standard.
- Aero-Service and Marine Service Engineers for work on aeronautical or marine equipments in U.K. and occasionally overseas (based Brentford, must be prepared to travel in U.K.). The former must be under 40 and fit for flying as test observers. Should have knowledge of electronic theory; experience of electro-mechanical devices useful.
- G.W. Service Engineers (based Feltham) and Fire Control Equipment Service Engineers (based near Stroud, Glos.). Travelling is required to H.M. Dockyards, etc., also occasional participation in trials.

(e) Design and Development Engineers to work on development problems in Electronic, Electro-Mechanical, Mechanical, and Hydraulic Engineering. A.M.I.E.E., A.M.I.Mech.E. or degree essential, with a recognised engineering training. Also openings for Physicists.

(f) Laboratory Assistants (O.N.C. required) and Technical Assistants (H.N.C. required) to assist Engineers in construction and use of experimental equipment, etc. Apprenticeship or similar engineering training desirable.

(g) Trainee Draughtsmen, aged under 35, with apprenticeship or good machine shop experience, educated to O.N.C. standard. Training at Brentford for subsequent progressive posts at Brentford, Feltham, Sunbury (Middlesex) and Stonehouse (Glos.).

Apply to Personnel Manager, Sperry Gyroscope Company Ltd., Great West Road, Brentford, Middlesex.

The Automobile Association requires an experienced Teleprinter Operator for work in Nottingham; man with knowledge of the local geography preferred. Post vacant in March, 1957; preliminary training in London could start any time after mid-February. Good wages. No fixed age limit, but young man preferred. Write to Automobile Association (Communications Department), Fanum House, New Coventry Street, London, W.1, marking letter "For the attention of Major Funnell."

Inspectorate of Electrical and Mechanical Engineers

The Inspectorate has vacancies for skilled tradesmen ex Royal Signals in Bromley (Kent), London, N.W.1, London, S.W.9, Sheffield, Birmingham, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Manchester, Glasgow, Bristol. Further information from I.E.M.E., "Acquila," Golf Road, Bromley, Kent, or Employment Section, Royal Signals Association.

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E. K. Cole Ltd. are manufacturers of Ekco Radio and Television Receivers. In addition, a large part of the Company's activities are devoted to the development and production of electronics equipment covering a wide field.

There are considerable opportunities at both the Southend-on-Sea and Malmesbury, Wilts., factories, for ex-service personnel, particularly those with communications or radar experience. Vacancies exist for all types of experienced men at all grades, from instrument makers and repairers, to design and development engineers.

The Personnel Managers at both these factories will be pleased to discuss the possibilities of employment with any service personnel about to complete their engagement with the Forces. This also applies to females.

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Applications to Personnel Officer,
International Aeradio Ltd.,
40 Park Street, W.1.

EUROPE

19 ARMY GROUP SIGNAL REGIMENT

The month has been notable for the departure of four very long serving members of the Corps, two to the vagaries, but not we hope, the uncertainties, of civilian life, and two to new appointments. Good-byes were therefore said to the Deputy Chief Signal Officer, H.Q., NORTHAG, Colonel Barker, who is taking up a new appointment in U.K., and to Major T. Harris and Major (Q.M.) H. Stickley, who after a lifetime in the Corps are now civilians. Two stalwarts whose vast experience the Corps can ill-afford to lose, and both who indeed felt the wrench when finally the time arrived for them to say good-bye. To both of them, the good wishes for success in the future come not only from the Regiment, but undoubtedly from all Royal Signals personnel both past and present who have, over the years, served with them in all corners of the world and have reason to be grateful for their never failing help and timely advice.

The last notable departure was R.S.M. Ulrich, who has left on promotion to Lieutenant (Q.M.). The best of luck to him and Mrs. Ulrich for the future. Finally, on the debit side of the strength return, good wishes too, go with Captain C. B. Mercer, Lieutenant A. J. Hill, and Sergeants W. Cooper and M. Cull.

On the credit side a warm welcome is extended to Major P. H. Brown, who on his arrival has taken over as Second-in-Command of the Regiment, and to Major J. C. Alcock who assumes O.C., H.Q. Squadron. It is hoped that the simultaneous arrival of Majors Alcock and Brown does not, in this modern age, presage intense "rocket" activity within the unit. The welcome too, is extended to Sergeants Merry and Glendenning.

Congratulations to Sergeants D. Bushnell, A. McGowan and L. Tucker, on their well deserved promotion to Staff Sergeant.

In the sporting world, the Soccer team played a Provost Company in the second round of the Army Cup, losing three to nil to a very good team, who have the potentiality of being a dark horse in the B.A.O.R. Division. Interest now is centred on the Royal Signals Cup.

The Rugger team reached the final of the Rhine District zone of the Army Cup but 18 Army Group Signal Regiment put paid to any further progress. It was a most enjoyable game played on a rock-hard ground, and after a very close first half they romped away in the second half to win 23 to nil. During the month Lieutenant Ward and Lance-Corporal Myatt were awarded "bars" to Jimmies won last year, and Jimmies were awarded to Signalman McLaren and Signalman Healy.

The Hockey players have averaged about two games a week, and with graded fixtures it was possible to exercise the less skilled players as well as the Regimental "Gladiators," enabling about twenty members to play regularly. The first team seems to be nicely balanced and is winning most of its matches, with one outstanding exception when the local rivals, H.Q. NORTHAG struck really brilliant form and run up a cricket score against us. Looking ahead to threatened postings there will soon be room for a couple of star inside forwards, so if there are any around who feel like a change of air, what about moving in this direction? To be statistical, the most recent success was a crisp 5-0 victory over a Field Regiment R.A. in the first round of the Army Cup. We meet H.Q. NORTHAG in the next round!

The Regiment has a number of keen boxers, both experienced and novices. W.O.II Sandham has assisted in their training and two matches have been fought. Owing to lack of people in the correct weights both the meetings, one with a Vehicle Battalion R.A.O.C. and the other with H.Q. 2 T.A.F. Unit, have had to consist of "matched" fights. Though defeated on both occasions valuable experience was gained. Corporal Pengilly, Signalmen Coyle, Mathews and Trimble are among the members of the team who have trained hard and had the satisfaction of winning a fight for the Regiment.

The members of the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess have invited two Chelsea Pensioners to be their guests over the Christmas period.

Consequently Corporal Porter and In-Pensioner Pratt will arrive at Dusseldorf Airport on the 17th December. Until the 4th of January they will attend all Mess functions, and they will also be invited out to various Married Quarters. It is hoped that they will enjoy their visit and no doubt they will be busy comparing Christmas in the modern Army with that in the Army of their day.

1st Signal Squadron, W.R.A.C. Those readers of these columns who are accustomed to follow the chronicles of the life of the W.R.A.C. Squadron of the Regiment will no doubt have remarked upon the shroud of mystery which has been wrapped around us for the past three months. The reason is not hard to find: Lieutenants Presswell and Senior have descended upon the flock with the result that Captain Ruston and W.O.I Bayliss have fled to Catterick and Paris respectively. Luckily for the hapless survivors both are due back in the not too far distant future and in the meantime we wish them both an enjoyable stay on detachment. Meanwhile our two new acquisitions have settled in remarkably quickly; both have obtained transport of one form or another—Lieutenant Presswell now is the proud owner of a distinctive red bicycle, while Lieutenant Senior appears to be waging a losing battle with an ancient car (known to all and sundry as "The Mantrap"). Both too have their recreational training obligations, one having been saddled with the arduous duties of second-in-command of table tennis, whilst the other's well-meaning but misguided efforts on the hockey pitch have at least made certain that no selector in her senses would put her in any team whatsoever. However, the honour of the Squadron has been salvaged by Sergeant Cassford and Corporal Lyons of the Cipher Troop, who are to represent B.A.O.R. at the Net Ball festival at Aldershot in the near future. We are also very proud of the achievement of W.O.II McCue who gained first and third prizes in the B.A.O.R. dress-making competition; her work has now been sent over to England to be entered for an Inter-Services competition there.

1 WIRELESS REGIMENT

It is very difficult for the poor writers of WIRE notes to respond to the exhortations of the Editor and others to make contributions from Units of more universal appeal. To give an account of affairs in a Unit, particularly an isolated outfit like this one, almost inevitably means that the material available is parochial. On the other hand, how many readers turn first to their own notes and having refreshed their memories they



The Representative Colonel Commandant, Major-General Sir Hubert E. Rance, G.C.M.G., G.B.E., C.B., talking to R.S.M. S. G. Barnes. Behind, Major-General R. J. Moberly, O.B.E. and Lieutenant-Colonel P. W. Lannon, M.B.E.

then turn to the writings of others? They want to recall, for example, a red letter day in the life of the Regiment when General and Lady Rance came to call and charmed everyone with their great interest in the various activities and with their delightful informality with all ranks. This was at the beginning of October, when even the weather for once co-operated in making the visit a great success.

Since we must clash with other Regiments on the sports field, then news of successes and failures can hardly be just local. The most exciting battles have been at rugger, where after a number of victories in minor games we were defeated in both the B.A.O.R. and Royal Signals B.A.O.R. Competitions by our old enemies, 18 Army Group Signal Regiment. After being Signals Rugger Champions for two years in succession we have at last had our colours lowered. The second half of the match in the Signals' competition will long remain in the memories of those members of both Regiments who saw it or who played in it. Almost non-stop attempts to level a score of five points were of no avail and although a first round match, very cleanly fought, it was more like a cup final. We now wish the victors every success in their future games.

Our luck at soccer has been better and we are now in the last 16 of the B.A.O.R. Cup. The next round is against the Royal Ulster Rifles and hopes run high. An account of the match may be broadcast by B.F.N. and so spread our fame.

At hockey we are still in the running in the Signals' competition, having won our first round against 12 Air Formation Signals. The next round against 19 Army Group Signals will be a tougher proposition.

The basketball team is training hard for its first competition game in the near future and success will be merited.

The other activities of the Regiment will not be so widely known and will certainly not be broadcast on B.F.N., but we are so pleased with them that we think they merit at least publication in THE WIRE.

First of all there was a very fine performance by the Theatre Club of a farce called "Almost a Honeymoon," complete with a very racy bedroom scene. A pantomime will be produced later in the month.

Then the indefatigable Wives' Club ran a "Christmas Fair" in November, which was even more successful financially than last year's "Fancy Fayre," that is, with the exception of Sergeant Dubois's venture. With great courage he ran a roulette table but he came up against such a hard school of gamblers, who must have studied hard at Monte Carlo, that he ended up a sadder and poorer man. However, a number of charities will benefit considerably from the more profitable pursuits of the Fair.

Much more could be written of events in a crowded regimental life, but the fear of the Editor's displeasure and the indifference of the public bring these notes to a close with some news of departures and arrivals of well-known members of the Corps. (See Personal Column.—Editor).



General McLeod with the
Warrant Officers
and Sergeants
6 Armoured Divisional Signal
Regiment

2 L. OF C. SIGNAL REGIMENT

R.H.Q. and 1 Squadron. November has been a very quiet month here in Dusseldorf. We have said good-bye to Major J. L. Waller, who has handed over No. 1 Squadron to Major L. B. H. C. Baker. Two other departures have been Captain A. P. Hughes and Lieutenant (T.O.T.) J. U. Wolfenden.

Our Rugby team is still doing well, despite the fact that we are only of Squadron strength. We have beaten the Grenadier Guards and the Rhine District teams, but unfortunately we were not able to beat 18 Army Group Signal Regiment.

2 Squadron. The calm of the post-administrative relapse was shattered by the return of 18 Construction Troop, who had been permanently detached at Hohn, laying cable on NORTHAG ranges. Accommodation was stirred into a sort of St. Vitus' dance, became a medley of stray lockers and sudden homeless refugees, and settled down again within a few days, rather denser and unexpected, but quite happy. We have already forgotten that queues for lunch were ever shorter, and the sight of 18 "Con" on parade ten minutes before anyone else is an integral and reassuring part of the everyday scene.

The hard German winter has not yet set in properly, though there have been many glimpses and threats of a longer stay. There has been only one fall of snow, but nights are frosty, and WD transport has already begun to turn—travelling upside down has become quite the vogue. Other recreations also flourish. Although, as everywhere, the favourite and most practised sport is Soccer, we hear much of the select minorities devoted to Hockey and Ski-ing. Restrictions on recreational transport are leading to flurried changes in the Hockey fixture list, and on many a Saturday morning the harassed secretary of the Garrison side can hardly leave his telephone, but in spite of all they still seem happy and successful. Skiers are more resourceful, and two parties are to spend a week at Winterberg.

Hanover itself (ten minutes walk, 25 minutes swift cream-coloured tram to the centre) is preparing for Christmas, like everywhere else. It lost much of its individuality during the war, when the centre was laid flat; the most prominent building to survive was the great dark opera-house, stately in the heavy nineteenth-century manner.

A huge formal park has avenues leading up to the site of the palace of the Hohenzollern, home of the House of Hanover, from which comes our own Royal Family. Otherwise the town is much like other modern German towns, full of brilliant plate glass, elegant window dressing, and hook-nose Volkswagens.

A party was invited by the Hanomag lorry and tractor factory to view the works. Most lasting impressions were the cleanliness and modernity, and the warm welcome extended by our hosts.

3 Squadron. Once again our monthly contribution must begin with reference to our Soccer team, which continues to perform admirably. As prophesied two months earlier we are now at the top of our local league table. We lead only by a slender advantage in goal average but we hope to establish our position more firmly with our next few matches.

Our Small Bore team does not top any league table but they are trying hard to improve their present moderate position under the leadership of Captain Sawyer.

The Unit Branch of the Royal Signals Association is still thriving and our usual monthly social went off successfully again. Many of the Squadron are now busily engaged during their evenings in producing a Christmas show which the Branch is hoping to stage in aid of the Association Benevolent Fund. Sergeant Yates is the man most concerned with this production and if all goes according to plan it should be successful in spite of the many difficulties which have to be overcome before its presentation.

6 ARMOURD DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

November has seen the departure of Major-General McLeod, known throughout the Corps for the Committee he headed, and also of Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. P. G. Curry.

Those of us in Birdwood Barracks much appreciated hearing the General in his farewell address pay the whole Regiment some pleasant compliments for their work and say that without us he would not have done his stuff successfully as Divisional Commander!

We said farewell to Colonel and Mrs. P. G. Curry in our several ways and on various occasions—the Farewell Dance in the W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess being in particular a great success. We wish them all the best of good fortune for the future.

At the same time we welcome as our new C.R. Signals, Lieutenant-Colonel Hamersley, who with Mrs. Hamersley, has joined us from our good friends 4 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment. We hope their stay here will be a happy one. Likewise we welcome W.O.II and Mrs. Ham, and Staff Sergeant Horsley.

We have had few visitors this month, but quality has made up for quantity and it has been a real pleasure to have W.O.II (Bill) McInnes of the Royal Canadian Corps of Signals, incidentally the oldest Corps of Signals in the Empire. His stay has been all too short, and we shall miss his cheerful self and his infinite capacity. We welcome a longer visit next time.

The Barracks was rudely "buzzed" by Canberra jets one afternoon. This was an "inside job" by Captain J. R. Clarke, Royal New Zealand Corps of Signals, our O.C. "B" Troop. With the co-operation of a fellow Kiwi serving with the R.A.F., he arranged air trips for several officers, which included a bird's eye view of our Barracks and back to the airfield via Bremen and Amsterdam—all incidentally in less than 40 minutes. Their flight at zero feet was plainly audible and caused some of the hardest members of the Regiment to dive for cover (Chief Clerk being particularly burned up); several meaty expletives were overheard.

We are now publishing a regimental standing order to forbid Dominion Officers flying in Canberras at heights likely to disturb the peace.

We heartily congratulate Sergeant E. F. Scott upon the announcement of his engagement.

Our photograph is of the W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess members, unfortunately less most of 4 Squadron who could not get away from the final spasms of their inspection season. It was taken upon the occasion of Major-General McLeod's farewell visit.

Finally, the best of luck to those deferred regulars, whose departure has now been sanctioned and our thanks for their cheerful acceptance of the delay suffered.

11 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT

Work gets slack for the R.A.F. at this time of year as the cloud-base gets gradually lower, so, while the pilots (having nothing else to do) spend the day watching squadron film shows, we Signalmen step in and get ahead with those projects which involve the sacred Runway and the venerable Crash Landing Strip. To live with the R.A.F. is not a thing one takes to naturally. Firstly one has to learn to speak their language which is quite as abstruse and riddled with initials as our own Corps tongue: "... RT, so that was the GCA, only the old CRDF ... followed you 5 G all the way round ..."; then you have to get used to their parties: if, on any suitable night (which is frequent) no one happens to be being demobbed, posted, having a birthday or even celebrating five years in the R.A.F., then it's bound to have been some time since the last Squadron, Wing, Flight, Section—or any other denomination—party, and that is accordingly arranged. If there is no party, you may spend your evening either at the station cinema or, perhaps, listening to your long-playing records, of which most people have a very respectable collection, but the visitor must remember that it would be in the worst possible taste to talk about or criticise either of these.

If you go down to the town and mix with the Germans that is your own affair and you are a bit of a crank. Such an excursion, however, is, especially at this season, most rewarding, for the Germans are proud of their Christmas as the English of their April. Today (6th December) is St. Nicholas' Day (Santa Klaus) and in many families the children will have found their stockings full this morning, the latter part of the season being left for singing, eating, devotion and the thousand little traditions of Christmas. For the children Christmas is almost a festival of song, and nothing will please Herr and Frau Schmidt more than to go to the Church Hall or the Aula des Gymnasiums and hear their children at their *Weihnachtslieder*. The Messiah, too, is an essential part of Christmas here as it is at home. It was most refreshing to hear a performance with German inflections and out of the Sargent tradition and, though held more often in the Church than the Concert Hall, the Germans clearly enjoy their Messiah—as they do their Shakespeare—quite as much as we do.

12 A.F. SIGNAL REGIMENT

Our paragraphs of this month will be rather shorter than usual to give the Editor a fair chance to include our second dissertation entitled "Those posted to us."

Work goes on as usual, and apart from the weather becoming increasingly damp one cannot complain.

Our Wives' Club went on their first outing on the 28th, which was to the Stollwerk Chocolate Factory, Cologne. We hope they enjoyed it—no doubt they came back with large boxes of chocolates.

We have got a boost in promotion, seven of our Sergeants becoming A/Staff Sergeants because of the change in establishment. This oddly enough, has resulted in a number of headaches.

Regretfully we have to report that we were knocked out of the Royal Signal B.A.O.R. Hockey competition by 1 Wireless Regiment, to whom we wish the best of luck for the remainder of the competition.

The P.R.I.'s heart was gladdened by receipt of a letter telling him that his hard luck story was successful and the Unit had been given a grant of £70 to buy Ski-Equipment. He is now spending it as quickly as possible before the powers that be change their minds.

It is pleasant to report that we received an unsolicited testimonial of our turn-out, etc., on the Remembrance Day parade. The efforts of Captain Walton and Staff Sergeant Halbert produced very fine results.

Our new Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel McNeil, is now in the process of taking over. Lieutenant-Colonel Costen expects to leave on 6th December. However, more about this in our next month's Notes.

And now to the article for which you have been eagerly awaiting.

For Those Posted To Us

My last effort in these notes was about shopping, etc., in Germany—may I now add a few lines about holidays.

Camping is a national pastime for the Germans, Swiss, French, etc., with the result that it is highly organised in Western Europe. It was considered non U by the British, but more and more are being converted to the tent. As a camper of many years standing I can recommend camping in Europe as the cheapest and most pleasant way of spending your leave. Before you lose interest may I give you one fact: for a family of four with a car, from any Station in B.A.O.R. and with a supply of tinned food to supplement local buying, you can spend three to four weeks at any Camp Site on the South Coast of France (Nice-Cannes Area) for less cost than for the same period at an English seaside resort. In addition, I will guarantee the sun each and every day. The summer of 1956 has been consistently bad, and Cannes last winter had snow for the first time in living memory. Even so, this summer has still been kind to the French coast. If you consider such a holiday this year there is no need to rush out and buy camping gear. Most Camping Shops in Germany hire the complete outfit at very reasonable rates, requesting a returnable deposit. I would suggest you take a few days in the early summer, say at the Bodensee (Lake Constance) or in the Black Forest area to see if you are a natural camper or not. German Tents have built-in floors, and are light weight and easy to erect. With sleeping bags and bottled gas for cooking, nothing could be finer. To encourage the troops to take their leave in Europe instead of rushing home, our P.R.I. purchased tents, which are hired out at a very low rental—and more and more are now seeing the Rhineland, Switzerland and other areas which at one time were only for the monied few. (Other Units may like to consider this).

Cheap Handbooks in three languages are available at Camping Shops, showing every organised Camp in Europe, also adequate maps. All sites have W/Cs, Showers, Shops, etc. and in the better ones (Florence-Rome-Naples-Venice) batteries of gas stoves and showers, where for a few pence in the slots, you can cook a full meal or have a hot shower. All are guarded and safe. Husbands can give a hand at cooking or you can eat out for the odd meal. You will find that salads, fresh fruit and cold meats are sufficient and not only add to the enjoyment of the holiday but also reduce the waist line that has grown whilst you have been sitting at the desk during the winter. Interested? Then don't hold back by considering it is non U. I can recommend it as a wonderful pastime and cheap.

To conclude, a few don'ts:—

Don't buy ex WD tents—too heavy—no floors.

Don't go to the expense of purchasing a lot of equipment until you have had a trial week or two under canvas.

Don't be put off by the thoughts of living for a few days with strangers around you. No one takes the slightest interest in what you are wearing or what you look like first thing in the morning.

So much for this month. Next month I'll talk about the P.R.I. Bus.



Report has just come in of the 83 Group Boxing effort in the 2 T.A.F. Individual Championship. Although our chaps did not represent their Stations because of the service angle, they put on two special fights for the benefit of the R.A.F.

A special Middleweight contest was first on the programme, and we saw Signalman E. Wood (Wahn) in action against Driver R. W. King (Gutersloh). Wood was leading on points when King went down for the count in the last round after a plucky display.

A special Welterweight contest began the second half of the evening's programme, and in this Signalman T. Drew (Gutersloh) met Signalman A. Brown (Laarbruch). Both boxers were ultimately congratulated on a keenly-fought bout, which Brown won on points.

10 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT

We were delighted to have Major E. A. Sinnock walk back into R.H.Q. with sand still pouring out of his ears. Having now despatched the retained regulars, we expect to hear "all the bull" from other returning warriors.

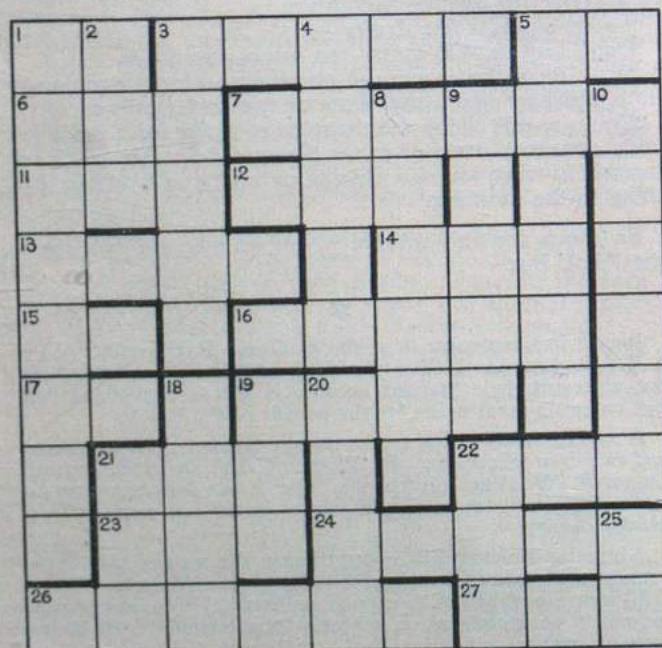
Christmas this year will be a sad affair because as a Regiment we are so split up. However, we offer our Special Crossword Puzzle, no medals except glory, compiled by Corporal Biddlecombe, the Acting Orderly Room Sergeant. Solution will appear in the next issue.

ACROSS

- 1 and 5 Fifty fifty. (2, 2).
- 3 You are very lucky if you are this home for Christmas. (5).
- 6 Thy Roman girl in actually. (3).
- 7 In a bunch they would make an expensive Christmas present. (6).
- 11 This comes from Mobile. (3).
- 12 Code for a lofty poem. (3).
- 13 Together with man this makes a fine coach. (4).
- 14 Attend in the midst. (3).
- 15 Together with 25 down this gives a safe means of saving. (4).
- 16 Many bold deeds were done in this. (5).
- 17 See 3 down.
- 19 Royal Artillery group in paragraph. (4).
- 21 An unpleasant hill this. (3).
- 22 Rocky height. (3).
- 23 Cool, in fact very cool. (3).
- 24 They had a successful tour in S. Africa. (5).
- 26 You may well get lost in this, and if you add a shilling you will be surprised. (6).
- 27 Bin for a fountain pen. (3).

DOWN

- 1 Not the sort of train to travel home on leave on. (8).
- 2 Is your French good? (3).
- 3 and 17 across. A baby may well do this by the riverside, a recruit does it automatically. (5, 2).
- 4 May well be given direct. (5).
- 5 A form of message. (6).
- 8 Usually follows et, etc. (6).
- 9 An eastern coin inside an expletive gives a jovial animal. (5).
- 10 You may be regarded as a shirker if you visit him too often whilst on leave. (6).
- 18 Cain for an ancient people in S. America. (4).
- 19 Participate at the end. (3).
- 20 Storm in H.Q. B.A.O.R. (4).
- 21 Precautionary word of command before "Fire!" (3).
- 22 Not a heavy weight. (3).
- 25 See 15 across.



INTERNATIONAL PARADE

by O.C. SHAPE Signal Squadron

Early in September, 1956, I was invited to take command of a Farewell Parade for General Gruenther, to be held at SHAPE on 20th November. There were no details at that time of what form the parade would take, for the simple reason that little had been decided, apart from the fact that a British officer should command. My first reaction was that the Commander of the SHAPE Royal Military Police Company, a well-built officer, was the obvious choice. However, it appeared that he had already been approached and had declined on the grounds that his traffic and crowd control duties on the day would fully occupy him. I should have seen the red light then, but like the proverbial fool tripping in where angels fear to tread, I accepted.

As is not unusual in such a large H.Q. as this, I heard no more about the handover ceremony until I made enquiries some ten days before the event. I then learned with some apprehension that I was to command the following mixed bag: 66 men of fourteen different nationalities drawn from the armies, navies, air forces and marines of the four major subordinate Commands of Allied Command, Europe; 51 policemen from the Royal Military Police, American Military Police and French Gendarmerie, including a colour party; and the band of the Garde Republicaine.

The Ceremony was to take the form of a parade drawn up for inspection by General Gruenther at the main entrance to SHAPE, speeches by General Gruenther and General Norstad, followed by translations in French, the lowering and raising of the SHAPE flag to signify the handover of SACEUR'S command, a fly-past of British, American and French jet aircraft, and finally a march past. There was also an alternative wet-weather programme.

Within this general outline I was left to my own devices to get my polyglot parade in the right place doing the right thing at the right time.

The detachments from the four subordinate commands were available for 3½ working days before the ceremony; the policemen and the band for one dress rehearsal; and the aircraft were supposed to make one practice fly past but were unable to do so because of poor visibility.

The most entertaining part of the whole proceeding was drilling the command detachments. Only about a quarter of the men spoke English and they all naturally had different ideas on drill. Through a host of interpreters flurrying in the background I told them they would all have to learn the rudiments of British drill, and started them off under the tender mercy of my S.S.M., W.O.II Gilhooly.

In a surprisingly short time we achieved some uniformity and then proceeded to practice our unprecedented manoeuvres on the appointed spot. The back entrance to SHAPE was closed for road repairs, so we caused glorious traffic jams at the main entrance, thus adding to the fun. The S.S.M. and I practically lost our voices and I enlisted the aid of my 2 i/c, Major R. H. Blizzard, to deputise for me in case mine was reduced to a croak.

On the day the weather was fine and the command detachments knew their moves so well that it would scarcely have mattered if I had given the wrong command. The number of senior officers from Field Marshal Montgomery and Marshal of France Juin downwards assembled on the steps with General Gruenther, and General Norstad was only equalled by the number of press men. I very nearly succeeded in stepping on one photographer while General Gruenther was inspecting the parade, but he just eluded me.

The fly past was timed to perfection and was most impressive; so much so that those spectators who weren't expecting it thought the Russians had come to take advantage of the assembly on the steps.

Thanks to SHAPE Public Information Department, who co-ordinated the whole ceremony, films of it were shown on French and British television that night, and later on the cinema news reels.

ALFCE SIGNAL SQUADRON

The highlight of our news this month was our success in winning the ALFCE Football competition, played on the Embury Stadium on 27th November against British Army Element. I must add that, as this is our only major competition in France, it is as important to us as the Army Cup Final at home, and what a Cup Final it was! With all the Air Force teams eliminated it was left to the two Army teams to fight it out. We shall never have a harder battle, but I think the team deserves all the praise we can give them—they fought as one man—good solid English football—no quarter given or asked, but sportsmanship on both sides.

Highlights of the game—a missed penalty by Lance-Corporal Jackson, quite a change that, followed by repeated attacks on our goal, which kept our hearts in our mouths, but our staunch rearguard of Sergeant Irons, in goal, Lance-Corporals Whitehill and Garrod, as backs, kept them at bay. We went wild with delight when Signalman Farrell's shot hit the crossbar and rebounded to Signalman Hamilton, who promptly put it in the net.

Play swung from end to end, and at last the Element equalised. Let us whisper that one "cert" goal is alleged to have been saved by Whitehill, but the referee didn't see it and for that matter—nor did I.

After 90 minutes one goal all, and although the Element objected to extra time the referee insisted, and we started the battle afresh. It seemed just a matter of time before we would notch the winner, but a word of praise for the Element 'keeper, who brought off some impossible saves. Jackson finally got the winner a few minutes before time, a redemption, no doubt, for his miss earlier in the game. And so the cup presented by Colonel Rampling, of 1936 Olympic fame, carries the inscription, "ALFCE Signal Squadron" once again.

It is befitting to mention that this win was a grand finale to our Administrative Officer, Major Frank Dymond, who has managed the team during the current season. His hard work and perseverance was justly rewarded. He has now left the Corps to retirement. All ex-Boys please kindly note. All Ranks of the Squadron extend to him and his family their best wishes. In his stead we have Captain R. F. Brown, and we sincerely hope his stay with us will be a pleasant one.

In the operational rôle we have recently completed "Trix VI." One of the many exercises where poste mobile is brought into practice. The weather was not too kind to us on this occasion and the duration of the exercise was spent in torrential rain; however, more about that later when we have heard the post mortem.

A very successful social evening was held within the Squadron lines on Saturday, 8th December, and I think we can boast of having produced one of the most enjoyable evenings in Fontainebleau for a long time. The object of this social event was to produce funds in order to give our own children a Christmas treat, and the cause was very well supported.

MELF

3 G.H.Q. SIGNAL REGIMENT

In our last account of the development of the New Joint Headquarters, Middle East Forces at Episkopi, we described the geography and climate of the island and the lay-out of the Headquarters itself.

Since then the Suez Emergency has loomed, dominated our existence for three hectic months, and is now receding.

As I said in our last notes, we had become used to "flaps" of one kind or another over the past two years in the Middle East. We therefore accepted the Suez crisis in the ordinary course of business. Considering it quite dispassionately, in retrospect, however, we must admit it was in a class by itself. To begin with, one doesn't often have THREE C.S.O.s to contend with—to say nothing of their staffs, in one Headquarters at one time, for one operation; not that we were not delighted to see Major-General Morrison again at A.F.H.Q.—he had only left us a few weeks before, or Brigadier Tucker at H.Q. 2 Corps, but the fact remains—three C.S.O.s all at Episkopi! And besides dealing with the

C.S.O.s for Allied Forces H.Q., H.Q. 2 Corps and G.H.Q. M.E.L.F., we were dealing with the requirements of the Navy, the R.A.F. and the French, and rebuilding the Signal Centre. No, that's an exaggeration—we were only moving System Control into a separate room, made available by moving the W/T room into half of what was the S.D.O. We won't count the re-arranging of the Traffic Hall, VF Room and Rear G.H.Q. Tributary!

We ended up with over a thousand rank and file of the three Services of two nations—plus the W.R.A.C., eating in our mess room designed for five hundred. We still don't know where everybody slept. No doubt the three shift system made it possible!

Our daily Traffic totals rocketed to three times the normal. We absorbed over one hundred Reservists into the Regiment and within a matter of days they were part of the machine. When one considers the inconveniences and even hardships that most of them suffered by their recall, the conduct of nearly all was beyond reproach; we simply could not have done the job without them.

Working the three shift system, with the odd guards and fatigues thrown in, they put in a grinding sixty-six hour week with every third night flat out from eight p.m. to eight a.m., with scarcely time for a "cuppa," yet there was not one serious complaint.

We did have one casualty from overwork however. Captain Bill Cornish, M.B.E., a key man in our System Control Room, was taken to Akrotiri Hospital on the 19th November suffering from Coronary Thrombosis; he is still seriously ill, and will have to rest for many weeks to come.

Undoubtedly, one of the main reasons for the physical and mental health of the unit is our attitude to sport. We play a large part in the organisation of sport in the Cantonment and Sub District area, run the Cantonment sports magazine, take part in Inter-Troop, Squadron and Regimental Leagues and knock-outs at Hockey and Soccer and play as much Rugger as the bone-hard pitch will allow. Our greatest success has been our Regimental Hockey team, which is unbeaten in the Sub District area, and romped away with the Cantonment Cup.

1 Squadron (tfc) has consistently topped the Minor Units Soccer League and the Rugger team has just scored its most resounding (and, it must be confessed) its only win—over the Rear G.H.Q. side.

In all our sporting successes too, our Reservists have featured. We shall sadly miss Mackereth, Phipps and Laye, to mention but a few of the giants who will soon return to civilian life.

On a sadder note, we must mention our first Regimental death at the hands of EOKA. Staff Sergeant Trowbridge, a promising young Foreman of Signals who was a superintendent at our Receiver Station, was shot in the head and killed by EOKA gunmen, whilst driving his car through Limassol accompanied by his wife. We are, needless to say, doing all we can to ease the burden on Mrs. Trowbridge, who has now returned to her family in England; a unit fund has already accumulated over £240 on her behalf.

This cowardly and senseless attack, so typical of EOKA methods, was only one of a number of wanton killings by electrically detonated mines, bombs and bullets, carried out in the area of Limassol at the height of the Suez Emergency. When you remember that virtually every Officer, Warrant Officer and N.C.O. of the Regiment living in Limassol had to leave his family unprotected when on duty every third or fourth night, it says a great deal for the fortitude of the service wife in Cyprus during these troubled times. Not that the terrorists ever got anyone down, despite the following verse ascribed to the Assistant Adjutant on the removal of the barbed wire from around R.H.Q. and the Signal Centre:—

They've taken away the Dannert Wire,
I wish they'd built it Higher and Higher,
Now there's nothing between ourselves and EOKA.
But the Adjutant's pistol and the Orbat for OP POKER!

Yes, we've had our little moments. Some of them not so little, like the time the M.A. to the C.-in-C. waited for four hours on a windy aerodrome to meet General Burns of U.N.O.—who'd sent a signal (unhappily originated too late) cancelling the trip! I should have mentioned that in the end we were working to the United Nations Truce Supervisory Organisation in Jerusalem and Cairo, whose civilian procedure incidentally, caused the little episode mentioned above.

We had even achieved the dream of all Signal Despatch Riders—a 100% air despatch service with Austers, one Helicopter and an unspecified number of Pembroke and other aircraft committed to it.

An interesting technical achievement was working an ordinary AN/TRC from Episkopi to the top of Mt. Olympus then over to Port Said—some two hundred miles away, and for a brief and stimulating period, clear as a bell.

We are now settling down to attempt to return to normal, to analyse the errors or achievements and to learn the lessons.

The signal planning side of it, like everything else, was badly hit by the change of heart at home. Technically, a number of points have arisen which will merit study for future operations of this nature. But of one thing there can be little doubt. The whole-hearted effort put into the communications network by every man and woman, whether Regular, National Service or Reservist, and whatever his or her rank or unit, was a credit to all concerned.

Morale and *Espirit de Corps* have seldom been higher.

In conclusion, the following lines of doggerel sum up our feelings on the Suez business:—

RECESSIONAL — 1956

Ghost of our fathers, shades of old,
Sires of our Empire's battle line,
Beneath whose able hands, and bold,
We governed over palm and pine,
Draw nigh and weep a special tear,
For MUSKETEER, for MUSKETEER.

The tumult and the shouting dies;
Hugh STOCKWELL'S force must now depart,
And all our ready sacrifice,
Leaves NASSER but in better heart,
We have no friend to raise a cheer,
For MUSKETEER, for MUSKETEER.

Far flung, RESERVISTS fade away,
And here in M.E.L.F. fast dies the fire,
Lo! all our strength of yesterday,
Is Fostered up in DULLES ire,
From OVERLORD and TORCH, oh dear,
To MUSKETEER, to MUSKETEER.

(With acknowledgments to the staff of Rear G.H.Q., M.E.L.F.).

CYPRUS DISTRICT SIGNAL REGIMENT

In the last few weeks the Regiment has been involved in the Suez Canal operations as well as the more familiar EOKA gang warfare. Only a few of us have revisited Port Said, but all traffic figures were greatly increased and everyone worked harder than ever. Living close to the Airport as we do we had a fine view of the impressive air fleets that set out like D-day in miniature. From here it looks as if the fires of war have been damped down by the "police action" but are not yet out. What will happen now will be old news by the time this is printed. Whatever happens we may be sure that Signals will be there.

While the French were here we were able to seize the opportunity for improving l'entente cordiale, an enterprise in which the French co-operated to the full. We wish them the best of luck in the future.

At home in our camp we have managed to get nearly everyone into tents with concrete bases before the winter rains begin, although this has meant doubling up to the scale of eight men in an EP/IP with double-tier beds. The Navy with us must find a familiar note in their upper and lower bunks.

A camera club and a model aircraft club have started and are in full swing. A new cinema is being constructed and is nearly complete; the P.R.I. is considering installation of a new wide panoramic screen.

Up on Mount Olympus the snow has started to fall and the winds are already approaching gale strength at times. Our "cold war" troops are becoming expert in going up aloft on the ten-set towers after the manner of windjammer sailors rounding the Cape.

Sport has suffered a setback in that our football field has been taken over as a Transit Camp, but we hope this will only be a temporary deprivation.

The feeling in the Regiment is serious and responsible. We are too close to the great surge of the mighty forces of history not to feel something of the importance of the moment. We all realise that a lot depends on our work in Signals in keeping through and passing traffic accurately and fast. We hope that next month's letter can be written in lighter vein. Meanwhile, as an example of the dangers of corruption we print a message as received in the Signal Centre:—

P RGQAB
DE LINI 202/24
P 240 900B
FM 5 GEN HOSP
TO ADMS CYPDIST
BT
UNCLAD MD/37
BEDSTATE 2359 HRS 23 OCT 56PD
OCCUPIED PD A 6 (MALE) 1 (FEMALE) PD B57 PD C1 PD 65 PD BT

Another message, which unfortunately is not available for quoting verbatim, requests a Liaison officer from the War Office to bring here copies of all signals he has NOT received.

We attach to our letter an artist's impression of part of the visit of H.E. The Governor mentioned in our previous letter.



SHADES OF LIBERACE

4 L. OF C. SIGNAL SQUADRON

Since writing our last notes in the late summer a considerable amount of water has flown under the bridge. The Squadron has been called upon to perform various tasks, both technical and non-technical. An example of the latter was to construct a barbed wire perimeter around Tymbou Airfield, to prepare it for occupation by the French Air Force. This monumental task, which is some 9,000 yards in extent and looks rather like the Great Wall of China, was originally intended to be done by various Units, but on the third day devolved entirely upon this Squadron. Despite the fascinating language it gave rise to, the chaps employed looked brown and fit, and when it was finished General Ricketts very kindly sent a signal thanking us for a job well done.

A substantial detachment (Wireless, Line and Siggen), under Sergeant Thorn, was despatched to provide communications for the Tobruk Garrison, on the commencement of the recent flap. Originally intended to stay for three weeks, it was in fact used for three months, and performed very satisfactorily. In the latter stages it was commanded by Lieutenant Walmsley, who evacuated the detachment at the end of November, having handed over to another Signal Unit. In addition to this, the Squadron has assisted with small detachments during the period under review, at Benghazi, Persian Golf, Episkopi and Akrotiri.

Sunday, 11th November, brought Remembrance Day, with our first Church Parade and Service in the Camp. The canteen was transformed into a chapel and a most successful service taken by Padre Hinton, of the Royal Horse Guards. Despite the lack of music, the singing of the hymns was a highly satisfactory performance.

The weather at the time of writing (mid-December) is very good indeed; occasional rain, but still with generous periods of sunshine, and not really cold. Already there are bulb-like plants popping up all over the camp; they look very like tulips and daffodils, but it is unlikely that they are.

Our football team entered in the local league plays doggedly, but unfortunately has so far sustained a number of defeats. It is great fun, however, and we play against teams from Units considerably stronger than ours.

At the end of the cricket season we had achieved modest success, having got to the final of the Nicosia Garrison Minor Units Knock-out Competition and only missed winning the competition by 12 runs.

By the time these notes appear in print Christmas will be a further memory. All arrangements have been made for the proper sustenance and refreshment of the Empire Builders in this Camp. It is hoped that in our next notes we do not have to report that the Camp is a smoking ruin. The troops have decided to entertain the children of the local Greek Orphanage to tea, which should go with a swing. The invitation does not include the adjacent mental hospital, which is just as well, as there would bound to be confusion between guests and hosts.

A belated Merry Christmas and happy New Year to you all.

7 AGRA (A.A.) SIGNAL SQUADRON

It is one thing to provide Signals administrative facilities, and fatigues, for Territorial Army and Cadet Force Training Camps but quite another to provide Anti-Aircraft Communications in an operational roll in an overseas theatre; when the time taken to re-equip and move is just a few days more than it takes a ship to sail from the United Kingdom to the Middle East. That is precisely what happened to 7 AGRA (A.A.) Signal Squadron.

Before leaving England part of the Squadron had to be brought up to higher establishment. This, together with the replacement of personnel not fit for overseas service, was achieved by making up the strength with Reservists who now constitute almost half the Unit. It is quite a wrench from "Civvy Street" to active service conditions; however, the newcomers soon settled down and their experience has been invaluable in helping to overcome many of the problems which have presented themselves.

Upon the arrival on the ground it was evident that H.F. wireless sets provided on the establishment for Control and Reporting purposes were unsuitable and that the provision of orthodox line communications was quite out of the question. As a result, it was decided to plump 100 per cent for V.H.F. wireless, an initial number of sets being provided from Middle East resources, which supplemented the small amount of V.H.F. equipment brought to the theatre by 6 Control and Reporting Signal Troop from United Kingdom.

The use of V.H.F. presented several immediate problems which had to be solved. Namely, a suitable relay site of sufficient altitude, the training of radio technicians and other personnel in the use and maintenance of the equipment, and the provision of sufficient crystals of the correct frequency, to mention only three.

A relay station was established on a mountain peak at an altitude of almost 3,000 feet. As a track suitable for Landrover only reached part of the way, the problem was how to transport the heavy equipment, generators and so forth, to the top. The Royal Air Force assisted in providing the answer and the station was set up by helicopter. Considerable help in training personnel has been given by the Cyprus District Signal Regiment and by R.E.M.E., and crystals have been manufactured in the United Kingdom and flown out. As a result of the excellent results attained, the Unit is extremely V.H.F. minded at the moment, and as far as Anti-Aircraft Control and Reporting Communications are concerned look upon H.F. wireless rather as we used to consider the "cat's whisker"!

Our camp, of course, is a tented one and although conditions are not exactly "Ritz," we have managed to make ourselves as comfortable as conditions allow. It is quite surprising the number of skilled hands who have made themselves evident.

A large number of the Squadron are away on detachment, these being changed round on a roster basis. In spite of the rough conditions, the most popular detachment is the relay station, which provides plenty of hard work, excellent scenery and a chance to indulge in soldiering of a less orthodox nature!

Sport to date, rather due to shortage of time available and not to shortage of facilities, has been somewhat limited. However, we already have the makings of quite a good football team, and the basketball enthusiasts are hard at it whenever the opportunity presents itself.

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2 PRESS COMMUNICATION SIGNAL SQUADRON, M.E.L.F.

We are pleased to send our first notes for publication in THE WIRE. In Camp this year, as Army Wireless Reserve Squadron, A.E.R., we hardly expected to find ourselves on active service in M.E.L.F. The "Suez Emergency" quickly upset our civilian life and we were soon called to renew our acquaintance with Catterick Camp. In traditional style we were welcomed by the continuous rain and cold that only a Catterick Summer can know. The natives regarded groups of blue men in K.D. as the latest secret weapon. A friendly Training Regiment did everything possible to help us and having fed and watered us, filled us with many vaccines, and translated into basic English the obscure meanings of Army forms long forgotten; turned out the Corps Band to play us on our way South. They showed great restraint in not making a general complaint about the drill square being full of M.T., and mountains of packing cases blocking the sports field and keeping the air off the C.O.'s fruit and veg!

Following a spell in a remote and very old camp in Southern Command, we made our way by air and sea to M.E.L.F. Before departing, a few of us managed to snatch a couple of days' leave, and all of us express our thanks to those who supplied our essential needs; not forgetting British Railways, Swindon, the B.B.C. and others who arranged some most interesting training visits during our stay.

We just had time to look at a sunny Mediterranean island when our O.C. together with most of the Operators and certain key staff, were whisked away to join the Navy, leaving the rest of us to wallow our way through a rough sea in an L.S.T. The story of how we learnt our knots and wrinkles and dashed up the beaches pursued by an angry Golden Arrow must await another edition.

Meanwhile, we are providing communications for a large Press camp, buying doubtful postcards, teaching cooks that they do not serve compo in the tin, and making vast profits for P.R.I. from the canteen—such is the varied life of Signals whilst they dream of home and a glass of fresh water.

The Squadron is commanded by Major D. W. J. Haylock, who has with him many of the original volunteer Operators and N.C.O.s from Army Wireless Reserve Squadron, together with a team of new friends, who have combined to make an excellent Unit. We hear that the old A.E.R. Squadron has also adopted our new title, and those of us with Reserve time still to serve look forward to rejoining them very soon.



F.A.R.E.L.F.

13 SIGNAL PARK SQUADRON, SINGAPORE

On this, our first appearance in THE WIRE, the accent is mostly on sport.

Being only a small Unit, we had a hard time getting a presentable football team together, however we succeeded through the tremendous enthusiasm of our lads, and have since annexed two trophies; the Mercury Challenge Cup, which was presented by Captain (Q.M.) G. W. Nation, to be played for annually between teams representing 13 Signal Park Squadron and 3 Sub-Depot 3 B.O.D.

(It might be interesting to note that the civilians have a strength of over 500, whilst our team consists of ten B.O.R.s and one civilian, from a total strength of approximately 50 personnel).

The other trophy was the Arundel/Gill Cup, played as an Inter-Group competition, with civilians and R.A.O.C. personnel.

We have had two of our Squadron playing football for the "Corps" and also representing us in the 30 Battalion R.A.O.C. team (to whom we are attached), and in boxing we have Lance-Corporal Manser, who has been picked for the R.A.O.C. team.

In July this year we bade farewell to our O.C., Captain (Q.M.) G. W. Nation, and his family, who has returned to the U.K., and we welcome his successor, Lieutenant (Q.M.) B. Sellar, who represents us in the cricket sphere, playing for the Corps and also 3 Base Ordnance Depot.

We were happy to hear of the promotion to W.O.II of S.Q.M.S. Golding, who has now gone back to the U.K. with his wife and family.



13 SIGNAL PARK SQUADRON, F.A.R.E.L.F., FOOTBALL TEAM
Standing, left to right: Signalmen Colley, Lance/Corporal Cunningham, Sultan, Lance/Corporal Rossiter, S.Q.M.S. Pendleton. Seated, left to right: Sergeant McDonough, Signalmen Dootson, Lieutenant (Q.M.) B. Sellar, Signalmen Edwards and Dye. Front Row, left to right: Signalmen Moul and Douglas

19 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT

As reported in our last notes (or didn't you read them?) the Regiment decided to make a little money in aid of various causes. (We can imagine the Secretary pricking up his ears, or should it be raising an eyebrow with a view to learning something to his advantage).

The Regimental Ladies' Club held their annual Sale of Work and Jumble Sale on 8th November in Trinity Hall (No, we didn't meet our doom), and the buying and selling was fast and furious. A very great effort had been put in by all the ladies concerned—and we are proud to record that the sum realised by their efforts was 1,140 dollars or in Sterling equivalent £133.

As a result of this, the children's Christmas party this year should be a bumper one. The Jumble Sale was a very worthy effort and reflects most creditably upon our ladies. N.B.—Not a few husbands breathed a sigh of relief after it was all over, because for days previously the words "Jumble Sale" were sacrosanct in many a household—and you know how exasperating it can be to find you have lost your favourite hat/pipe/or what have you, and then have to redeem same at a stall manned (?) by a charming but relentless lady!

The evening of Saturday, 8th December, proved wet and not at all conducive to attending any form of function, but we are glad to report that a goodly crowd turned up to attend our All Ranks' Dance. Held in a hangar, one could imagine it as being too big and barnlike, but with the walls tastefully draped with U/S parachutes of various colours, the Dance Band in the centre and the games-of-skill stalls surrounding the dance floor, together with three bars and a supper bar there really was little room to spare. Indeed, it could well have been called



Mrs. R. Seddon and Mrs. P. C. Williams presenting the prizes. R.S.M. G. Symonds and Major C. Allen on the left

Monte Carlo modified for Changi—if one excuses the Jiving and Rock 'n' Rolling, to say nothing of the fish and chips, complete with real genuine newspaper.

Common opinion was that it was a very enjoyable evening. Mrs. Seddon, wife of Col. R. Seddon, CAFSO, together with Mrs. Williams, wife of the Commanding Officer, kindly did the necessary at the Raffle Drawing. Our photograph depicts them in action. Financially, it was most successful, since we learn from the Treasurer that we shall be forwarding £150 to the Corps Association. (So the Secretary has heard something to his advantage!).

Naturally, charity begins at home—so, in addition, a little is being put to one side to help our own regimental commitments, such as the MOR Hari Raya celebrations of 1957. Naturally, a function of this magnitude called for a lot of helpers and many willing hands got busy. It would be invidious to select any particular person for praise, but we feel the Commanding Officer should get mention for mooted the idea of the Dance together with its attendant attractions in the first place, and Major Charles Allen, his right and left hands, R.S.M. and Mrs. Symonds, and the Committee for carrying out the plan. As anyone who has had to organise a function of this nature will realise, it means a deal of hard work. We are grateful to Group Captain K. J. MacDonald, O.B.E., D.F.C., the Station Commander, for his great kindness in allowing us to hold the function, and also for the use of the hangar.

All being well, we reckon to put on a bigger and better show in 1957.

We were honoured by a farewell visit from C.S.O. FARELF, Brigadier E. D. Good, C.B.E., on 30th November. Brigadier Good made a whistle-stop tour of the Regiment, saying farewell to all he met en route. All Ranks join in wishing Brigadier and Mrs. Good *bon voyage* and the very best of luck in the future.

By the time these notes appear Christmas will be of the past, so we wish all our fellow members of the Corps a happy New Year—and we do hope you all had a happy Christmas notwithstanding, for our U.K. friends, petrol rationing and the price of drinks being what it is. See you in 1957.

HONG KONG SIGNAL REGIMENT

2 Squadron. Since our last appearance we have grown. Besides the gunner communications of 40 Division we are now responsible for the communications of Kowloon Garrison which means that we operate the Kowloon Signal Centre, the Kowloon Switchboard and clear traffic throughout the New Territories.

This new venture is carried out by the Kowloon Garrison Signal Troop which we are very happy to welcome into the Squadron. The O.C. is now Captain D. Herberts.

Since we last wrote, our own headquarters and the C.R.A. Signal Troop have exchanged a somewhat rugged existence up in the "Territories" for the soft (?) lights, sweet (?) music of Kowloon. In spite of the so-called attractions of the big city a number of us feel a considerable regret at leaving our old home in the country.

At the moment we are engaged on "Whizzbang," which the followers of our doings will know is the Annual Royal Artillery fire power demonstration. For this we run a command net, a Chief Safety Officer's net and a launch safety net (the range area includes an arm of the sea).

We are all on our toes for this as we know that the success of the demonstration absolutely depends on our communications.

Thanks largely to the efforts of Sergeant McSorley, of C.R.A. Signal Troop, we have managed to produce a lively Hockey team. They had their first match the other day and were narrowly beaten 1-nil after a brisk tussle with Line Squadron.

The riots in Kowloon gave us four very hectic days as we were responsible for the whole communication set up and we are glad to say that we came through with flying colours. Special mention should be made of the D.R.s who were often in distinctly unhealthy areas, and always managed to get through.

We are happy to record in our column the remarkable prowess of the Signal Park at shooting. They finished second in the individual averages of the Colony Inter Unit Small Bore League for the 2nd consecutive year, the overall average for both seasons being 98.71. They represented 6 C.O.D. for three years at the H.K., Bisley, represented the Army for two years in the Colony Small Bore League and finally represented the Colony of H.K. in both Small Bore and Full Bore in November, 1956. Well done, the Signal Park.

East Africa Command

C.S.O.'s Branch

With the end of the Emergency in sight and the control of operations now handed over to the civil authorities, a word about Signals (apart from sport) would appear timely.

Apart from fixed communications, an area of several thousand square miles had to be covered (in some cases literally!) by the Command Signal Squadron, based in Nairobi and three Brigade Signal Troops, based where and how they could!

Some Signals services in the war against Mau Mau were, of course, normal for jungle warfare, which meant that each man had to use his tail as well as his head, hands and feet, but with assistance and co-operation from the East African Posts and Telecommunications, the Corps motto was upheld.

The civil police and the Army worked hand in glove and the air/ground technique was quite efficient, even though a pilot sometimes had four wireless sets to deal with in his Piper Pacer.

You may think that the static troops, such as the gentlemen in the photograph, have sat on their polar-regions in Nairobi all the time—well, you may be right in some cases, but we should mention that some of them have taken part in local "sweeps" through Nairobi and its environs. One clerk we had was known to have acted as the G.H.Q. I.S. Battalion control wireless operator, but there is no record of any messages being passed at the time!

Hidden away in the Command we find members of the Signals species scattered all over the place. There is Major Skelly, D.A.Q.M.G. at H.Q., 70 (E.A.) Infantry Brigade, Captain Lucas in G (S.D.) at G.H.Q., and Major (Q.M.) Collins, who surfaces occasionally from the Command Ordnance Depot.

Major Donaghy has left the Branch to attend the first Traffic Officers' Course at the School in January. 49 (Independent) Infantry Brigade Signal Troop disbanded itself in a blaze of glory, as someone set the Troop Office alight on the last night. It turned out to be entirely unnecessary, as all stores had been returned to Ordnance. Nevertheless, it was a near thing for S.S.M. Gordon (S.Q.M.S. at the time), as he nearly found himself re-writing the Troop ledgers from scratch.

It is hoped that Captain Kemp, the last Troop Commander, will not arrange a repeat performance when he assumes command of 70 (E.A.) Infantry Brigade Signal Troop in place of Major R. T. Sharp, who becomes G.S.O.II of this Branch next March.

The whole story of the Emergency is being written elsewhere—let us just record that Signals played no small part in the elimination of Mau Mau.



Front Row, left to right: Lieutenant-Colonel (Retd.) E. R. Laurence, Major J. H. Cooper, Colonel C. W. M. Young, O.B.E., Major P. R. P. Donaghy and Captain N. C. Moody
Back Row, left to right: Signalmen T. P. K. Wrenn, Signalmen A. Clenton, W.O. II O. R. Bilby, W.O. I S. Wahome, Signalmen J. S. Burden, Signalmen R. J. Bunn and Private M. Mue



AFTER THE EXERCISE

Left to right standing: Captain D. W. Allen, R.E.M.E., Captain P. M. Antrobus, Captain R. C. Hodgkins, Captain (Q.M.) A. V. Storey, Captain P. Morrison, B.E.M., Colonel A. H. Woodland, E.R.D., Lieutenant-Colonel D. J. Braine, E.R.D. (Commanding Officer), Colonel F. S. Morgan, C.B.E., E.R.D., D.L., J.P. (Honorary Colonel), Lieutenant P. D. Jackson, Major J. Pritchett, E.R.D., Lieutenant P. Kirby, Major F. S. Beckett, E.R.D., Major A. Heaton, E.R.D. Sitting: Lieutenant S. Kaiser, Captain G. J. Pleydell

50 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT, A.E.R.

Leaving Blacon Camp to itself in 1956 we took ship for the Hook of Holland en route for Germany, there to do our annual training with 2 A.T.A.F. Our hosts—to Air Formation Signal Regiment—provided stores and transport and erected a tented camp for us on a disused airfield on the Dutch border. In this place—deserted but for a few frontier guards and a solitary estaminet—we delved into the intricacies of line communication for a Tactical Air Force. The weather was both kind and unkind, but at least we had no snow.

The flat countryside thereabouts was strangely familiar to some who had only known such towns as Goch and Geldern as piles of rubble in 1945. Battles of long ago were fought again when it was discovered that one member of each Regiment had taken part in the Chitral Relief in the nineteen-twenties, although not on the same occasion. Another member, who had served with 13 Corps H.Q. in Trieste in 1946, was surprised to find 10 Air Formation Signal Regiment in proud possession of a trophy from BETFOR—whose progenitor had been his old Unit.

Our Honorary Colonel (Colonel F. S. Morgan, C.B.E., E.R.D., D.L., J.P.) and our first Commanding Officer (Colonel A. H. Woodland, E.R.D.—now Colonel A.E.R.) flew over to spend a few days with us and during the exercise we were visited by Major-General R. J. Moberly, O.B.E., C.S.O., B.A.O.R., Colonel J. W. Gordon, (C.A.F.S.O.) and C.S.O., R.A.F., 2 A.T.A.F.

To sum up, we may borrow from Jerome K. Jerome's translation of a "Bummel"—singularly appropriate for a sojourn in Germany. "We have been much interested, and often a little tired. But on the whole we have had a pleasant time, and are sorry when 'tis over."

Many thanks roth—we hope we may meet again!

Soon after our return the recall of one of our number on account of the Suez crisis coincided with the performance of a very pleasurable duty—the provision of a Guard of Honour at the wedding of our Honorary Colonel to Lieutenant-Colonel M.



[By courtesy of the 'Chester Chronicle']

The marriage of Colonel F. S. Morgan, C.B.E., E.R.D., D.L., J.P. and Lieutenant-Colonel M. H. Pine, M.B.E., T.D., at Chester on 15th August, 1956. St. Mary-without-the-Walls

H. Pine, M.B.E., T.D., W.R.A.C. Our Commanding Officer (Lieutenant-Colonel D. J. Braine, E.R.D.) was best man and General Sir Lashmer G. Whistler, K.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O. (G.O.C.-in-C., Western Command) gave the bride away.

EASTERN COMMAND (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT (T.A.)

As yet, no successor to Colonel Hyde has been appointed and we are not certain when he will be; meanwhile, Major Garlick, our regular Training Major, is acting as C.O.

Once more the regiment has suffered a reorganisation, so far comparatively minor. 3 Squadron has been moved from Brompton Road to Chatham, where it is now commanded by Captain M. Seys-Phillips, and 4 Squadron is now concentrated at Canterbury under Captain Gardiner. Members of the former 3 Squadron have been posted for the moment to H.Q. Squadron.

The Christmas season brings, as usual, its round of entertainments, the first of which was the annual Christmas show at Brompton Road. An audience of nearly two hundred, including the C.S.O. Eastern Command, Brigadier Burrbridge, his deputy, Colonel Pantton, the Deputy Lieutenant of the Royal Borough of Kensington, Brigadier Chichester Cooke, and many other notables, saw a revue called "Bull in a China Shop," produced by Lieutenant I. H. Cohen. It was preceded by a cocktail party in the Officers' Mess and followed by parties in all the Messes.

Work continues with installation at various places, including the 1 Squadron lay-out in Crowborough, and at the various drill halls. The next Regimental week-end is early in January and should be followed by a series of schemes until camp. This may include a return match of the Message Race which was a draw between 1 Squadron and the combined forces of 2 and War Office Squadrons.

There have been a number of moves of personnel. We welcome a new W.R.A.C. adviser, Major S. Puckle, who comes to replace Major Nalder. We are very sorry to see Major Nalder go after such a short stay, and trust she will enjoy her time with Scottish Command Signals; we in our permanence do not envy our regular staff who so frequently have to change stations at the instance of a higher authority. We have also lost two of our W.R.A.C. Sergeants, Sergeant Murray on her marriage, and Sergeant Croucher on posting to Northern Ireland. We wish them both the best of luck.



No. 2 Squadron, Eastern Command (M) Signal Regiment (T.A.), Hackbridge, held a demonstration of vehicles and equipment at Wallington Town Hall on 17th November, 1956

[Courtesy: 'The Wallington & Carshalton Advertiser']

Welfare Section

Below an attempt is made to describe with suitable anonymity nine cases taken from the Welfare Section files current during the first week in December, 1956. Also on this page is a simple statement of income and expenditure.

Widow of Signalman who died "on service." She owns her own house, which also contains her married daughter and her children. The balance between income and expenditure is in a good year met by taking lodgers in the summer. After a bad season she needed help with the mortgage. She got it.

Signalman, 1942-47. His wife died suddenly in childbirth and he is left to manage the three other children. 5 London Corps Signals Trust provided what was necessary to cover the extra expense until he can make permanent arrangements.

Corporal, 1950. Reservist. He is serving in Middle East, his wife and family suddenly rehoused. The fund paid for the cost of the move.

Signalman, 1940-46 (F.E. P. of W.). He has been ill for a month and now to hospital for at least a year. Until ill he had a good income. The fund relieved immediate financial anxiety and S.S.A.F.A. will do what is possible to increase income from the State.

Signalman, 1940-46. Married, two children. Illness halved his income. All his affairs are in order except for his rates, which the fund paid. He will be ill for a year.

Signalman, 1942-47. Married, one child. He has been ill for two years and will never work again. His wife has kept the home together on only State benefit, half the previous income. They have no debts BUT had no winter clothes. The fund and S.S.A.F.A. provided.

Son of deceased Signalman. The British Legion and the Royal Signals Association provided the tools to start as an apprentice plumber. His father died, whilst serving in 1940.

Widow of Signalman who died in 1950. She has a fairish income, which covers essentials only, and lacked money for warm clothes for self and his children. The fund helped.

Signalman, 1938. Serving. His wife died and on recommendation of Commanding Officer the fund helped.

Subscriptions received during November, 1956

Western Command (M) Signal Regiment, T.A. ...	£ s. d.
52 (L) Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A. ...	2 2 0
Berlin Signal Squadron (4 Unit Branch) ...	16 0
Cyprus District Signal Regiment ...	12 0 0
Cyprus District Signal Regiment (Sergeants' Mess) ...	25 0 0
Tripolitania Signal Troop ...	7 6 0
	4 0 0

Donations received during November, 1956:—
Cyprus District Signal Regiment (Harvest Festival Church Service Collection) ...

Major C. A. de Preece ...	5 15 6
Major J. L. Judd ...	7 10 0
W. Staff, Esq. ...	5 0
P. Mitchell, Esq. ...	1 0 0
	10 0

Total receipts ... £66 4 6

Expenditure during November, 1956 ... £503 4 5

(Includes:—Rent and Rates; Beds and Bedding Furniture; Cots and Prams; General Assistance).

Analysis of cases:—	
Families of Soldiers serving in U.K. ...	9
" " " " " B.A.O.R. ...	1
" " " " " M.E.L.F. ...	1
Widows and Dependants ...	46
Released and Discharged Soldiers ...	6

Total cases assisted ... 63

37 cases of Soldiers who served during the 1939-45 war ...	£313 9 1
26 cases of Soldiers who did not serve during the war ...	£156 3 0

LIGHTER FUEL PACKS

The following amounts were most gratefully received during the months of October and November, 1956:—

Box No.		£ s. d.
4 ...	Berlin Signal Squadron (4 Unit Branch) ...	6 0
6 ...	1 Wireless Regiment ...	10 8
16 ...	SHAPE Signal Squadron ...	19 0
18 ...	3 Squadron 2 L. of C. Signal Regiment ...	3 10 0
29 ...	Royal Signals Wing, School of Signals ...	16 4
33 ...	H. R. Strawn, Esq. ...	6 0
34 ...	2 Squadron, U.K. COMCAN Signal Regiment ...	7 6
38 ...	Mr. Low, The Turners Arms, Mortimer West End, Berks ...	12 1
42 ...	H.Q. A.E.R. Royal Signals ...	8 3
67 ...	43 (Wx.) Inf. Div. Signal Regiment, T.A. ...	16 8 9
88 ...	Mercury House, Bournemouth ...	17 0
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Association Notes

Loughborough Branch

Plans are proceeding apace for our Annual Dinner and Dance to be held on 14th January. By way of experiment, we are leaving our somewhat limited dining accommodation at the Beaumanor Headquarters and holding the event at a Loughborough cinema ballroom.

The Branch are looking forward to the visit to this area next May of the Corps Band, and we are co-operating with 10 W.T.S. in a week-end programme of events to cover the visit.

This month we say au revoir to Frank Smith, a Life Member, who has given regular and encouraging support to all that we have tried to do. Frank was in the Signal Service Royal Engineers and during the last war at a War Office Wireless Station, and is now headed for a well-earned retirement after completing 42½ years with the Post Office. Our loss, however, will be Chester Branch's gain, for he intends to continue Association activity there.

Birmingham Branch

On 2nd November, 1956, Birmingham Branch held a Social and Ladies' Evening at their H.Q., Cateswell House, Hall Green, Birmingham. We were very pleased indeed to welcome our General Secretary, Brigadier H. R. Firth, first to a small Dinner Party and thence on to the Social. Brigadier Firth himself was far from well on this evening; he arrived with a shocking cold and a voice reduced to barely a whisper. Birmingham Branch are happy to report that by the time he left for his hotel, we had managed to revive him somewhat, his signals from being strength 1, improved to strength 2!

During the evening Brigadier Firth made two presentations on our behalf. One was to Colonel F. E. B. Jones, O.B.E., T.D., J.P., who retired in March, 1956, after holding the office of President of the Birmingham Branch for four years, and the other to Major Ralph Ironmonger, who had held the office of Secretary to the Birmingham Branch for ten years. Brigadier Firth spoke for us all in Birmingham when he thanked both Colonel Jones and Ralph Ironmonger for all the very hard work they had done over the years to keep the flag flying for the Birmingham Branch.

ROYAL SIGNALS HOCKEY

The results of Corps matches so far played this season are as follows:—

22nd September, 1956	Thistles	...	...	Drawn	1-1
25th October, 1956	R.E.M.E.	...	...	Drawn	3-3
26th October, 1956	Royal Engineers	...	...	Lost	2-3
4th December, 1956	R.A.S.C.	...	...	Won	2-0
5th December, 1956	R.M.A., Sandhurst	...	...	Won	4-2
6th December, 1956	R.A.O.C.	...	...	Won	2-0

Three members of the Corps Team have played for the Army in some matches this season. They are:—

Captain K. Kirkby
Lieutenant P. Wetherill
Second-Lieutenant I. Cook

Corps Jimmys have been awarded to the following:—

Major T. L. Richards
Major P. S. Westmacott
Captain M. A. T. Hartnett
Captain K. Kirkby
Lieutenant P. C. Tripp
Lieutenant A. J. Welch
Lieutenant P. Wetherill
Second-Lieutenant J. Cook
Second-Lieutenant C. N. Last
Signalman C. G. Peters

The following have been selected to play for Northern Command:—

Major P. S. Westmacott
Captain M. A. T. Hartnett
Captain K. Kirkby
Lieutenant P. Wetherill
Second-Lieutenant J. Cook
Sergeant S. B. C. Peberdy
Signalman C. G. Peters



ROYAL SIGNALS CORPS HOCKEY TEAM, DECEMBER 1956

Back Row: Signalman Peters, Captain M. A. T. Hartnett, Lieutenant A. J. Welch, Captain K. Kirkby, 2/Lieutenant C. N. Last, Lieutenant P. C. Tripp, 2/Lieutenant J. Cook

Front Row: Major T. L. Richards, Major P. S. Westmacott (Captain), Colonel J. E. S. Sanders, O.B.E. (President), Lieutenant P. Wetherill (Secretary), Major K. M. Evans

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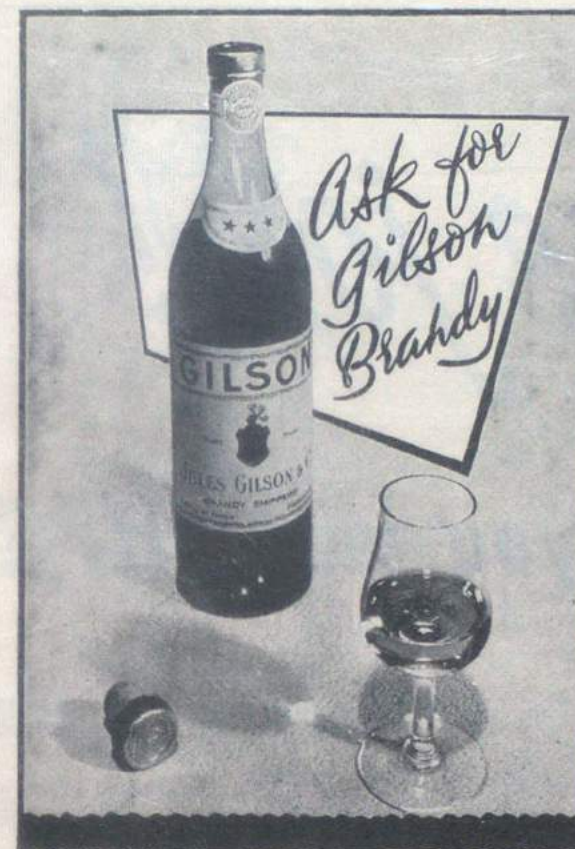
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The Official Organ of the
SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

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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FEBRUARY • 1957

Vol. II (New Series) No. 2



PRICE ONE SHILLING

Editorial

THE ASSOCIATION

IT is normal in this the February number of THE WIRE to give some account of the work of the Association during the year.

Membership continued to increase but not as rapidly as in 1954 and 1955. Life Members increased by 864 and Annual Members by 3,775. This is all very satisfactory but the increase of Life Members was only half what it was in 1955 and of Annual Members only about one-third.

The Work of the Association. Although in public opinion the work of the Association is centred in Welfare, the amount of work done has very little parallel in the amount of money given away in benevolent grants. During 1956 this work, unconnected with financial aid increased very considerably. It is a healthy sign that financial aid only increased a small amount in comparison.

Welfare Section. As said in the January WIRE the response to the Signal Officer-in-Chief's appeal of 2nd January, 1956, has been most remarkable. Those now serving in Royal Signals gave the splendid sum of £4,969/11/7 to aid in the work of the Association, and all are very grateful for it. In all 561 members of Royal Signals, their families, widows and dependants were aided financially and perhaps three times this number were aided by advice or information.

Employment. During the early part of 1956 the Employment Section at Association Headquarters continued as in 1955 to broadcast as much information as possible about employment to many and to supply detailed information on specific matters to a large number of enquirers.

As in previous years the number of those who actually registered with the Section for Employment was small, being confined mainly to older men and those with some physical or mental handicap. A high proportion of these were found employment.

During the last months of the year there was a significant change and a far larger number of young and fit men are now formally registering to be helped to employment.

These are not by any means confined to men displaced by the temporary recession in the motor car and allied industries.



THE TERRITORIAL ARMY

As this is written it is announced that men doing the reserve portion of their National Service engagement will not be called for training with their Territorial Army Regiments during 1957. This is probably a portent that hereafter the Regiments of the Territorial Army will have to rely on the volunteer.

Many Regiments are below establishment. Many are planning how the deficiency may be made good.

The problem is not a new one. 1945 to 1957 is twelve years. 1918 to 1934 was sixteen years. In the middle nineteen thirties came the resurgence of the Territorial Army.

As far as the Regiments of Royal Signals were concerned, many at that time were several hundred men below establishment. By 1938, in four years, most were a hundred or more above establishment. How was it done? Many

wise commanding officers of those days took the view that a few who were really good were worth more than many not so good. Accordingly they made the conditions of entry so high that the pessimists thought that none would apply.

Where the Drill Hall (now called T.A. Centre) was attractive, well furnished with amenities but more importantly with first class facilities for training; where the standard of attendance demanded of all was very high; then the young men of Britain came eagerly to pay a donation on entry and to pay an annual subscription to unit funds for the privilege of being Royal Signals Territorial Army.

It is thought that the men of 1957/59 are not so very different from those of 1934/38.



COLONEL E. BIRNIE REID, O.B.E., T.D., D.L.

On page 52 the 51st Highland Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A., mentions that Colonel Reid has ceased to be their Honorary Colonel. It is the end of a very long chapter in the history of the Regiment and indeed also of the Aberdeen Branch of the Association. Colonel Reid served the Regiment for many years, commanded it from 1934-39 and since then has been a guiding force in the Association. During the 1939-45 War his wife, Mrs. Reid, gave greatly of her time and energy in looking after the families of men who had gone to war.

They will both, we are sure, continue to work for Royal Signals as opportunity occurs.

THE "ROYAL SIGNALS" BOOKLET

A booklet prepared under the direction of the Signal Officer-in-Chief and published by the Royal Signals Institution, with the title "Royal Signals" will be published this month.

This illustrated booklet, which is attractively printed on art paper and produced in magazine form with a coloured cover, describes what the Corps is and what it does, for the benefit of all ranks of the Corps and their families.

It contains a brief History of the Corps from the earliest times up to 1945, a number of interesting articles, and photographic illustrations of the Corps at work and play and Signalmen of all the Commonwealth Signal Corps.

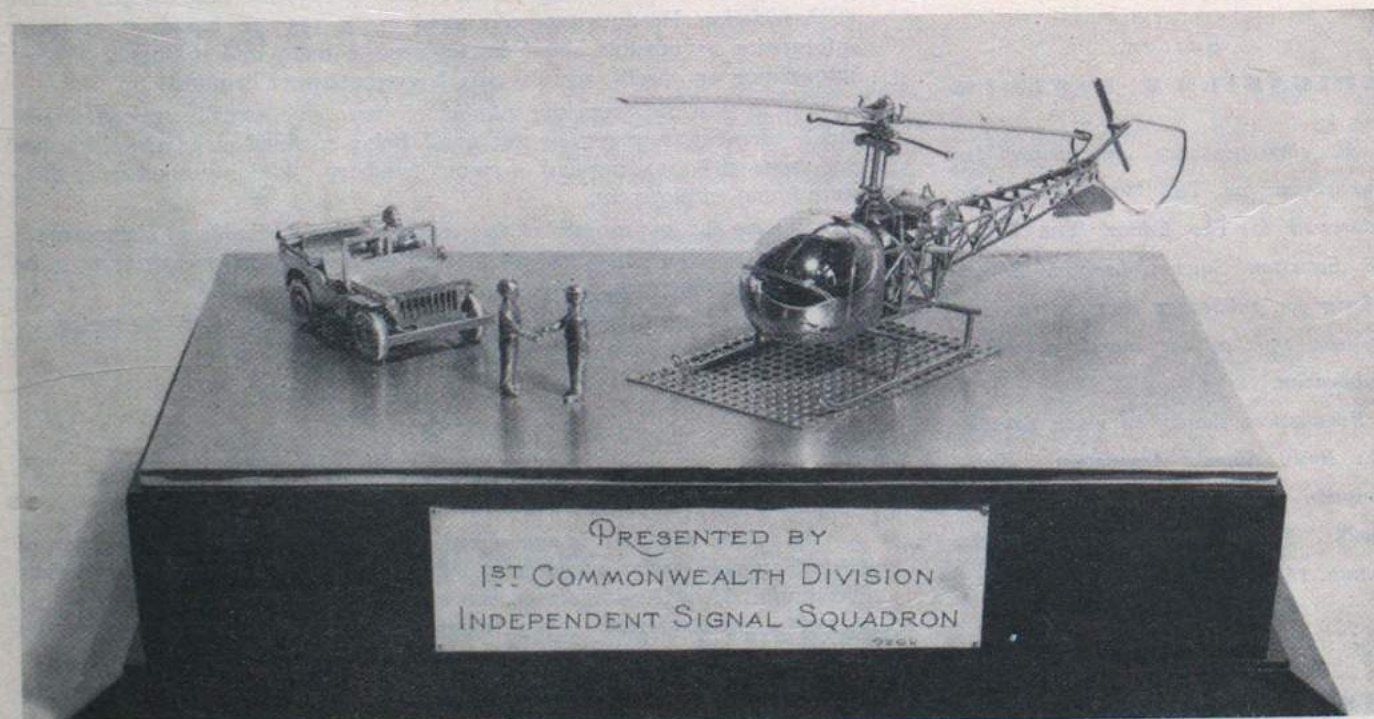
The articles include descriptions of the work of the Signal Training organisations, Signals in the Territorial Army and A.E.R., and notes on Corps sports, with the names of those who have won distinction.

There is a section containing the latest information on career prospects, rates of pay and promotions; and a description of the various activities of the Corps such as THE WIRE, the Journal, the Museum and Corps Funds.

This booklet gives us for the first time a really good "shop window," and will be invaluable as a reference book for all ranks, as well as an introduction to the Corps for new entrants and their parents.

The cost of the booklet is only 1/6.

Bulk orders should be placed by Regiments and Units with the Secretary, Royal Signals Institution, 88, Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1, as soon as possible. A very large printing has been put in hand but this may not meet all demands and late applicants may have to wait for the second edition.



The photograph is of a piece of silver presented by all ranks of 1st Commonwealth Division Independent Signal Squadron to the Corps. It represents a Royal Signals despatch rider taking over packages from a United States Signal Corps helicopter pilot in Korea. It is normally kept in the Headquarters Mess Royal Signals, but will be on view from time to time. The next occasion will be the Old Comrades Week-end, which is being held at Catterick Camp on 29th and 30th June, 1957.

The Corps Committee wish to take this opportunity of thanking all ranks of the squadron wherever they may be for their generosity in presenting this magnificent piece of silver to the Corps

PERSONAL COLUMN

New Year Honours List

- C.B.E. Brigadier M. G. A. Hepper.
Colonel E. R. Price, T.D. (late of Royal Signals, T.A.).
- O.B.E. Lieutenant-Colonel F. J. Swainson.
Lieutenant-Colonel P. G. Curry.
- M.B.E. W.O.I.E. R. Gay.
W.O.II J. E. Dods.
Captain F. Mansfield, T.A.
Major W. G. B. Wright.
Major G. W. Shepherd.
Major T. B. S. McMain.
- B.E.M. S.Q.M.S. J. Cassels.
S.Q.M.S. J. Daw.
S.Q.M.S. R. W. McDonald.

- K.C.M.G. Colonel Sir (Arthur) Stanley Angwin, K.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., T.D., Chairman, Commonwealth Communications Board.

- B.E.M. Mr. W. J. Cutts, G.P.O. Engineering Inspector, Royal Signals 1938-45.

Royal Australian Corps of Signals

- B.E.M. Corporal (Temporary Sergeant) Desmond Crane.

London Gazette

- Regular Brigadier (Temporary Major-General) R. J. Moberly, O.B.E., to be Major-General.
Lieutenant-Colonel F. C. Seely, O.B.E., to retirement.
T.A. Lieutenant-Colonel G. F. H. Walker, O.B.E., T.D., to be Colonel.

Honours and Awards

- B.E.M. 2243566 Lance-Corporal (Acting) Roy Hadfield.
For gallantry in attempting to save the life of a comrade who was in contact with a vehicle that was receiving the force of an electric current of 33,000 volts in consequence of its wireless aerial resting against an overhead cable.

Movements — Officers

- Major T. J. Harris, B.A.O.R. to retirement.
Captain (T.O.T.) J. Spafford, Depot H.S. to Eastern Command Signal Squadron.
Captain (Cipher) W. T. Newton, FARELF to B.A.O.R.
Lieutenant (T.O.T.) J. U. Wolfenden, B.A.O.R. to FARELF.
Major M. A. Philp, L. of C. Signal Regiment to 2 Training Regiment.
Lieutenant (Q.M.) D. C. Dickens, Army Phantom Signal Regiment, T.A. to FARELF.
Lieutenant (Q.M.) A. M. French, L. of C. Signal Regiment to 2 Training Regiment.
Lieutenant-Colonel A. J. Deane-Drummond, Airborne Forces Depot to Depot H.S.
Major R. I. A. Hughes, School of Signals to B.A.O.R.
Major S. F. Dunkley, Staff to 6 (Boys) Training Regiment.
Major (T.O.T.) A. Juniper, H.Q. A.E.R. Royal Signals to FARELF.
Major C. H. Golden, FARELF to Records.
Major A. L. Galloway, Records to B.A.O.R.
Lieutenant-Colonel P. H. Smitherman, War Office to London Communications Security Agency.

Births

- WILLIS.—Son, Timothy John, born to Mrs. F. Willis, wife of 22246031 Sergeant J. C. Willis, at B.M.H., Hostert, on 3rd January, 1957.
All the following of 24 Independent Infantry Brigade Signal Troop
- GODBEER.—To Sergeant and Mrs. Godbeer, at Barnard Castle, on 27th September, 1956, a daughter, Susan Lilian.
- WRIGHT.—To Corporal and Mrs. L. Wright, at Molton, on 14th September, 1956, a daughter, Karen Ann.
- HULME.—To Corporal and Mrs. J. Hulme, at Prescott, on 9th December, 1956, a son.
- FRANCIS.—To Signalman and Mrs. R. Francis, at London, on 27th December, 1956, a daughter, Kim.

- LUCEY.—To Lieutenant and Mrs. J. F. Lucey, a son, Mark, on 28th November, 1956, at Lincoln.
- CASSIE.—To Lance-Corporal and Mrs. Cassie, a daughter, Elizabeth Agnes, on 7th November, 1956.
- SKILL.—To Corporal and Mrs. Skill at B.M.H. Hostert, on 7th December, 1956, a son, Kenneth George.
- LOACH.—To Lance-Corporal and Mrs. Loach at B.M.H. Hostert, on 17th December, 1956, a son, Stephen Derick.
- SHORTMAN.—To Staff Sergeant and Mrs. L. P. Shortman, Malta Signal Squadron, on 27th November, 1956, a daughter, Kirsten Joan.

Marriages

- FILBY—MITCHELL.—Signalman B. R. Filby to Miss Brenda Rose Mitchell, at Birmingham, on 22nd December, 1956.
- SARGENT—TURNER.—Signalman R. Sargent to Miss Sylvia June Turner, at Woolwich, on 22nd December, 1956.
- All the following of 24 Independent Infantry Brigade Signal Troop
- LANG—BUTLER.—At Cardiff, on 13th October, 1956, Lance-Corporal A. Lang to Marjorie Pauline Butler.
- BANKS—CLARKE.—At Gorton, Manchester, on 3rd November, 1956, Signalman D. A. Banks to Beryl Cynthia Clarke.
- BYRD—BROOM.—At Bournemouth, on 10th November, 1956, Signalman B. W. C. Byrd to Pamela Eileen Grace Broom.
- BEESTON—PARR.—At Barnard Castle, on 12th November, 1956, Driver G. J. Beeston to Joan Parr.

- DAINES—BAUCH.—Sergeant Daines to Miss Margaret Bauch at Rheindahlen on 10th November, 1956.
- AUTON—SHERATON.—Lieutenant Neville Auton to Angela Mary Sheraton, at Ellingham Parish Church, Hampshire, on 14th December, 1956.

Deaths

- WEST.—Ex-Signalman R. C. West, of 177, Warwick Avenue, Whiteleigh, Plymouth, on 13th October, 1956.
- QUINN.—Ex-Corporal J. J. P. Quinn, of 24, Methvin Street, Salford, 3, on 2nd September, 1956, aged 50 years.
- JONES.—At his home, 9, Norton Street, Old Trafford, Manchester, on 22nd December, 1956, 2306181 R.Q.M.S. H. Jones, M.B.E., Life Member of the Association and member of the Manchester Branch.
- RICHARDSON.—Ex-W.O.II F. P. K. Richardson, on 28th November, 1956.
- BUTLER.—2233410 W.O.I F. E. Butler, of 23, Bourne Road, Corby, near Grantham, Lincolnshire, on 5th January, 1957. He was a Life Member of the Association and a member of the London Branch.
- MOORE.—Major (Q.M.) J. W. Moore, served in Royal Signals from 1920-1952 and then transferred to the Home Guard from which he finally retired in March, 1956. He was killed in a road accident in September, 1956, leaving a wife and two children.

Arrivals and Departures

- Royal Signals Wing, School of Signals
- Arrivals: R.S.M. S. G. Barnes.
- Departures: R.S.M. A. F. Stubbs.
- Officer Training Wing, School of Signals
- Arrivals: Sergeant G. H. Jeanette.
- Departures: Captain R. T. Hone.
- ALFCE Signal Squadron
- Arrivals: Captain J. A. King, W.O.I K. G. McIntyre.
- Departures: Captain L. D. Edinger.
- 3 Training Regiment
- Arrivals: Major F. M. S. Winter, Captain A. H. Tant, and Staff Sergeant Chater.
- Departures: Staff Sergeant Ewens.
- 19 Army Group Signal Regiment
- Arrivals: Major (Q.M.) L. J. Boshier, W.O.I (R.S.M.) J. Holdsworth, Sergeants Merry, Bowles and Glendenning.
- Departures: Major R. C. K. Baron, T.D., W.O.II Pendock, Sergeants Barden, Radbron, Warren, Gillingham.
- 12 Air Formation Signal Regiment
- Arrivals: W.O.II (R.Q.M.S.) M. Ham.
- Departures: Lieutenant-Colonel A. H. Costen, Sergeants Chauden, Wright, Smith and Rowson.
- Berlin Signal Squadron
- Arrivals: Captain N. L. Baker, W.O.II (Cipher) J. C. Pendock, Sergeants A. A. E. Hunt and G. E. Tompkins.
- Departures: Major J. R. Ellis, Sergeants W. G. Best, T. F. Jackson and B. F. Strange.

ROYAL SIGNALS (Catterick Camp) CHORAL SOCIETY

A Choral Society has recently been formed in Catterick Camp and meets during the winter months for weekly rehearsals, culminating in a performance. The Easter period is being devoted to Handel's "Messiah" (Parts 2 and 3).

Wives and children down to the age of 12 will be most welcome.

Anyone posted to Catterick who is interested in taking part can obtain further details from Orderly Rooms on arrival.

OBITUARY

Ex-2310946 W.O.II F. P. K. Richardson, retired, died suddenly whilst on duty as a War Department Policeman at Woolwich Arsenal on 28th November, 1956.

Born 2nd January, 1901, son of a Long Service Naval Pensioner, he enlisted into the Royal Flying Corps on 13th October, 1917, by a misrepresentation of his age, but after arriving in France he was discovered and placed on "Boys' Service" and continued in the Royal Air Force until 5th February, 1920.

He re-enlisted on 5th May, 1920, into the Royal Engineers and was transferred to the Royal Signals on its formation. He served in France, Italy, Turkey, Russia, 1919, India 1920, Persia 1926, Malta 1936, Egypt 1936, India 1938, Cyprus, Iraq, Syria, Egypt and India 1939-1945, and was Acting R.S.M. prior to retiring on pension in November, 1945, after 28 years' service.

He was well-known for his prowess in hockey, football and boxing, and always took a keen interest in all sports. He accepted service in the War Department Constabulary on release from Army service and served for 10 years as a Police Constable at Woolwich Arsenal.

He leaves a widow but no children.

ROYAL SIGNALS AND THE A.C.F.

by COLONEL T. W. BOILEAU, O.B.E.

I have now come to the end of my three year tenure of appointment as County Commandant of the Army Cadet Force of Cheshire and have handed over to my successor. It is most appropriate, I feel, that almost the last public engagement that I had was to make a Gallantry award to a Cadet of a Unit that has always been affiliated to a Royal Signals Unit (16 Wireless Squadron, T.A.).

Cadet Raney, to whom I made the award, saved a boy's life by diving into the river nearby and having got him out applied artificial respiration.

This is a further proof of the good type of boy that can be attracted to the Army Cadet Force and, subsequently, to the Regular Army. I am more than ever convinced that there is a great future for really good liaison between Royal Signals and the A.C.F. Just show these boys what an interesting and useful life there is in the Corps . . . and make sure what you show is good . . . and the response will surprise you.



[Photo: Lawrence A. Sands, Northwich] Colonel T. W. Boileau, O.B.E., County Commandant, presenting Award to Cadet Raney, 2 (Independent) Squadron, A.C.F., Royal Signals

MAJOR B. FENWICK, ROYAL SIGNALS (T.A.)

His many friends will be sorry that Major Fenwick was very badly injured in a serious accident during training in April, 1956, when an aerial of a wireless vehicle came into contact with power lines. Two of the crew of the vehicle were killed, and Major Fenwick, at first unhurt, was very seriously electrocuted during an attempt to rescue another.

He is now being fitted with an artificial arm and leg, but his main complaint appears to be that petrol rationing, etc., restricts him in practising for and taking a driving test.

DISPLAY TEAM

The needs for petrol economy and the fact of petrol rationing have made it necessary to consider the position of the Display Team. It has been decided that in the interests of national economy the Display Team will be put into suspended animation for the 1957 season. The Team looks forward to greeting all its friends again in 1958.



Mr. H. E. F. Taylor has been appointed Executive Secretary of the Radio Communication and Electronic Engineering Association, 11, Green Street, W.I.

In 1941 he was commissioned in Royal Signals in India and in the latter part of the war was concerned mostly with long distance telecommunication projects in the South-East Asia Command. He retired in 1945 with the rank of Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel.



PROMOTIONS

The following substantive promotions were authorised during the month of December, 1956.

TRADES ROSTER

TO WARRANT OFFICER II

2325815 Staff Sgt. (3990) West, K. S.

TO STAFF SERGEANT

21005409 Sgt. (6000) Jackson, D.
2580903 Sgt. (4520) Tipton, N.

F. OF S. ROSTER

TO STAFF SERGEANT

14452076 A/Staff Sgt. (2900) Chidley, R.
2549785 A/Staff Sgt. (4760) Mingaud, S. R.
21015573 A/Staff Sgt. (8920) Craze, T. L.
14469928 A/Staff Sgt. (11550) Moxon, B. R.
22772128 A/Staff Sgt. (12230) Kimber, B. A.
22309256 A/Staff Sgt. (12450) Price, G. A.
22212650 A/Staff Sgt. (12790) Donkin, B. C.
2296112 A/Staff Sgt. (14110) Willis, G. D.
22309273 A/Staff Sgt. (14780) Johnson, K.
19175119 A/Staff Sgt. (7911) West, K. J.
22526359 A/Staff Sgt. (24770) Simms, T.
19044093 A/Staff Sgt. (7610) Davies, D. H.

CORPS TAILORS

The following have been appointed Corps Tailors:—

Messrs. Rogers and Co.
Messrs. Bernard Weatherill, Ltd.
Messrs. J. Daniels and Co.
Messrs. Hawkes and Co., Ltd.

Forthcoming Events

Branch Representatives Meeting ... 13th April, 1957

The Band in South Wales

On 21st, 22nd, 23rd and 24th May the Band will be in Cardiff and Port Talbot, fuller details in March.

Corps Dinner ... 29th May, 1957

and
Regular Officers' "At Home" ... 30th May, 1957
at the Hyde Park Hotel.

Catterick Reunion ... 29/30th June, 1957

West Country Reunion

It is hoped to hold a Reunion for West of England Branches, by the kindness of 6 (Boys) Training Regiment, at Newton Abbot on 28th and 29th September. Confirmation and fuller details will appear later.

Radio and Electronic Component Show

Grosvenor House and Park Lane House, London, W.I., 8th to 11th April, 1957.

The 3rd Divisional Signals Reunion Club are holding their next reunion at The Victory Club, 73/79, Seymour Street, London, on Saturday, 16th March, 1957. All ranks will be welcomed. The Hon. Secretary, W.O.II Bayley, will be pleased to send details to ex-3 Divisional Signals, past and present members. Enquiries to A.G.II, The War Office, Stanmore, Middlesex.

Ex-Boys' Fourth Annual Reunion

The Suez annoyance has meant that many of our ex-Boys (serving and reservist) would not be available for a reunion in the Spring. The 1957 dinner will therefore be held on Saturday, 5th October, at Williamson's Tavern, Bow Lane, E.C.4. (One minute from Mansion House Underground Station). Assembly and cocktails 6.30 to 7.15 p.m. Dinner at 7.15. Dress, lounge suit or Uniform.

Applications for tickets, with remittance please, should be addressed to Treasurer, Ex-Boys' Reunion, c/o 54 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment (T.A.), 40, Ashburnham Road, Bedford, as soon as possible.

Cheques and postal orders should be made payable to "F. W. Jacobs, Royal Signals Dinner A/C."

Ex-Boys, serving or retired, 16/6 each. Wives or other guests 15/- each.

It will be of considerable help to the Committee if remittances are sent at an early date.

ROYAL SIGNALS RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

1957
Feb. 23 Durham ... Catterick
Mar. 2 Morley ... Catterick
" 9 Wakefield ... Catterick
" 13 Leeds University ... Leeds
" 20 Northern Command Cup ... Catterick
" 23 Galashiels ... Catterick
" 27 Northern Command Sevens ... Catterick
" 30 Sandal ... Catterick

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL CLUB

1957
Feb. 27 R.A.O.C. (H) ... Catterick
Mar. 6 R.A.C. (H) ... Catterick
" 20 Durham College (H) ... Catterick
(provisional)

All above are Corps representative matches.

ROYAL SIGNALS HOCKEY CLUB

1957
Mar. 9 Durham University ... Catterick
" 20 Welbeck College ... Welbeck
" 29 R.A.E.C. ... Aldershot
" 30 Aldershot Services ... Aldershot



Close Harmony

Perfect judgement and cool confidence in each other and in the machine they ride is needed by these members of the Royal Signals Display Team. It is significant that the motorcycle is a Triumph. Follow the lead of the experts. Choose the machine that is world-renowned for its ease of handling and complete reliability.

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A Week-End in Brussels

by Major-General C. W. Fladgate, C.B.E.

The Belgian Army Signals Association (Federation Nationale des Anciens des Transmissions de Belgique) hold their annual reunion on or as near as possible to the Feast of St. Barbara (5th December). This year the reunion was held during the week-end of the 8th/10th December, to which they invited representatives from the French, British and United States Signals. There were 34 French ex-Signals present, led by Lieutenant-General R. Brygoo, who is well-known to many readers who have served with N.A.T.O. since the War; Brigadier-General Baer represented the U.S. Signal Corps, and I was fortunate to be asked to go from the Royal Signals Association.

After a delay of two hours at London Airport on account of fog, we eventually got off and arrived at Melsbroek at 19.30 hours instead of 17.30 hours and Brussels about an hour later. Accommodation had been reserved at an exceedingly comfortable hotel, with a good restaurant probably comparatively unknown to the tourist and about half the price of the ordinary run of hotels in Brussels. There I met General Kestens, who is Vice-President of the Belgian Signals Association, and later in the evening the French delegation arrived from Paris.

8th December. We left at 09.00 hours in a 'bus to rekindle the flame and lay wreaths at the Tomb of the Unknown French Soldier at Laeken—where there was an assembly of various Branches of the Belgian Signals Association with Standards. We then went to the Belgian Signal School at Vilvorde, where we attended a ceremonial parade for St. Barbara, at which there was a presentation of medals and the ceremony of taking the oath of loyalty to the Crown by all Signal Officers who were shortly going on the Reserve. This is a somewhat impressive ceremony, as each has to take the oath before the whole School on parade. One could not help noticing in particular the marching and arms drill of the troops on parade who, like most Signal Units, had only a short time to spare on drill but on this occasion were quite excellent.

The parade was followed by the laying of wreaths on the Signals Memorial and a reception by the Commandant of the School with the "Vin d'honneur."

From Vilvorde we proceeded to the Belgian Signal Training Centre at Malines, where the banquet for St. Barbara was held in the Officers' Mess.

This was something of a gastronomic test for the average Englishman. The banquet started at 14.00 hours and was still going strong at 18.00 hours when we were due at the Hotel de Ville for a reception by the Burgomaster of Malines; shortly before 18.00 hours therefore we broke off to go to the reception, were received by the Burgomaster with the usual speech-making on both sides, had a glass of wine and then returned to the Mess to finish our ice and coffee! We finally broke up the party about 20.00 hours!

Sunday, 9th December. At 10.00 hours we attended a Ceremony of Rekindling the Flame and laying of wreaths at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at the Colonne du Coupe.

At 11.00 hours we attended a Service in the Chapel of the Royal Military School. After this we attended a "talk" by the Signals Instructor at the School, who is a Professor of Electronics at the University. From what he told us, I gathered that the Belgian Army give their Officers of all arms very useful grounding in Signal work.

We then set off to the "Club Prince Baudouin," an All-Ranks' Club, somewhat similar to the Victory Club in London—here we attended a second banquet in honour of St. Barbara, this time attended by some 400 "Anciens



General Humé, President of the Federation Nationale des Anciens des Transmissions de Belgique, Major General C. W. Fladgate, C.B.E., and Brigadier General Baer of the United States Signal Corps

Combattants," the Allied representatives being the guests of the Belgian ex-Signals.

Once again it was a long meal, though this time we were finished by 18.00 hours.

Our hosts then put themselves to no small trouble to show us the Christmas decorations of the principal streets of Brussels, which are certainly truly magnificent.

On Monday, 10th, a sightseeing tour was arranged, which I had to miss, as I had to get back to England.

On looking back one feels that even in the present disturbed state of the world, it is extraordinary how one can get away from such troubles in the company of "anciens combattants," and above all of "anciens combattants" of Signals, and it speaks volumes for the general atmosphere that no-one ever spoke a word of politics! The French and Belgians in particular are very anxious to be invited to an Old Comrades' Reunion in England and I can but feel that such reunions must do good. Certainly our hosts went out of their way to give us a very warm welcome and a most enjoyable week-end.



Janette Scott is thrilled with the Fanfare Trumpeters at the opening of the Independent Television Authority's new centre at Leeds in November, 1956

Visit of Moderator to Catterick Camp

Scottish members of the Corps will be interested to hear that on Sunday, 20th January, 1957, the Right Reverend Dr. R. F. V. Scott, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, visited St. Aidan's Garrison Church at Catterick Camp and dedicated a Royal Signals window.

St. Aidan's already had various other regimental windows but there was previously nothing to commemorate the innumerable Royal Signals officers and men who have worshipped there during the past thirty years. The new window has been presented partly by subscription amongst Royal Signals units now serving in Catterick Camp and partly by the Royal Signals Corps Committee.

Major-General W. R. C. Penney, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., Colonel Commandant, visited Catterick with Mrs. Penney to take part in the dedication service.

The Moderator, who stayed with Brigadier and Mrs. Smijth-Windham at Druggon House, filled a busy week-end of other engagements as well. These included a united service of all denominations in St. Martin's Church on Sunday evening, visits to various units and headquarters in Catterick including 1st and 7th Training Regiments and the Headquarters Training Brigade Royal Signals, and he also honoured the Headquarters Mess Royal Signals by a visit on Sunday morning.

2 TRAINING REGIMENT

Being a sponsor unit for a Regiment and seven independent Troops, and also its "unmobbing" agency, has been the main task of this Regiment for the last few weeks, and the gigantic task has been achieved of sending back to civilian life "52 L. of C. Signal Regiment." As can be imagined, this necessitated a well geared organisation, with the fixed aim, that no person would remain in the "Unmob Centre" more than 24 hours; this was more than achieved and in many instances it was only a question of in and out. Perhaps the hardest task, though as usual unspectacular, was the long, hazardous journeys of the drivers and convoy commanders who, from various ports, in the worst possible weather, collected vehicles, brought them to Catterick and finally disposed of them to the various Ordnance Depots, all without incident. The cold nights waiting for convoys, train parties, the all-night efforts of the cooks, the endless checking of G 1098 stores, are now far behind us, and on looking back the whole operation has been very worth while, insofar that much has been learnt, practical experience gained by trainee technical storemen and drivers, "Q" and Administration staffs fully exercised and a great revival of "a sense of urgency has been achieved." The efforts of all personnel engaged in this operation were more than appreciated by our Commanding Officer, and as a result the "Welfare" side was more than catered for, and a long week-end the final "reward" for a job well done. Now life is back to normal.

Christmas and New Year was spent in the traditional manner, as far as was possible, unfortunately "unmobbing" came right in the middle of the season; however, it is nice to note all enjoyed themselves and considered, if even for a fleeting moment, Catterick is not such a bad place after all.

Sport. Boxing and, of course, the Army Championship is still very much to the fore. Last week we beat the 5 Inniskilling Dragoon Guards in the final of the Northern Command Championships and on the 24th January we compete in the semi-final of the U.K. Championship. Our opponents are not yet known. We are keeping our fingers crossed and the boxers are training hard. Naturally we are all excited and all eyes are turned towards the "Mecca of Boxing." Hockey and Rugby are still being enthusiastically played, but we have no major successes to report. Like so many other Regiments, we find A.D. is predominant in the hockey world, and the future shows no change. However, prospects for the summer are high and we hope to field what is surely one of the things that keeps the "Empire" together, "a good cricket team."

Calamity has at last overtaken our Q.M., Lieutenant-Colonel Beverley. It was only a question of time before the rabbit

world spread the news of his successes in the "Garden Circle." His province is now invaded and apart from vegetables his prize wallflowers are disappearing. Adding insult to injury, he has not even got a signature for the missing goods.

The Ladies' Club, thanks to Mrs. Young, is a very much alive community these days and what is more "prosperous," and if the pace is maintained will be able very soon to relieve the Commanding Officer of the burden of sponsoring the P.R.I. The last meeting was a great success and very well attended, in spite of forgetful husbands who left meeting notices on their office tables. It is requested, however, from the poor males that the sale of *Ideal Home* and *House and Garden* be curtailed—the Garrison Engineer still insists on rooms being cream coloured.

3rd TRAINING REGIMENT

And so our first Christmas in Lincoln is over. And a very happy Christmas it was, with all the usual parties and socials. The children's party was held at Newark, where most of our families are accommodated. About 100 kiddies, with their parents, gathered for a splendid tea, arranged by NAAFI, and then fun and games prior to Santa's arrival. This year he arrived in a modern style by freight Comet, or so the "noises off" would have them believe. One precocious child thought Santa's voice sounded very much like S.S.M. Waller's, but maybe he was mistaken. Anyway, he arrived safely, complete with very large sack and a beaming smile and kindly words for every child present—and lots of the mummies. The rascal. All went exceedingly well and Mrs. Weedon and her Committee of willing helpers must have felt amply rewarded by all the happy shouts and excitement.

This year's Regimental Concert was run on the lines of Television's "Top Town" Competition, with "H.Q." 1 and 2 Squadrons each providing a team, and the judging carried out by the C.O. and a small panel. There was little to choose between any of the teams, but 1 Squadron gained the verdict by greater variety. The concert was followed by a Smoker with beer for all and eats galore.

Great credit is due to our A.C.C. cooks who worked so hard throughout the Christmas period and produced such a really first-class dinner on Christmas Day. Waited on in traditional style by the Officers and Senior Ranks, the men had a really grand meal.

So much for festivities. And now we go on to another year of progress. We are settling in firmly in our new barracks. Since our arrival here No. 2 Squadron has been re-organised into six Troops, each containing five sections as follows:

Three Training Operators, one Signal Centre Clerks, one Exchange Operators.

Each Troop has been named after a former Colonel Commandant and so now these illustrious names are seen and heard every day by our trainees: Willan; Osborne; Naylor; Rawson; Wemyss; Clementi-Smith.

OFFICER TRAINING WING, SCHOOL OF SIGNALS

These notes consist entirely of reports on Christmas activities and it is to be hoped, therefore, that Christmas, 1956, will not be forgotten when they appear in print. The fact that it was the first white Christmas for 20 years might help in this respect.

A stranger walking across the road from the very successful Corporals' Club dance on Thursday, 13th, might have wanted again to consult his location map as he approached what he thought was the Officers' Mess. He would have found himself drawn into one of the most exclusive French Night Clubs, taken over for the evening by Officer Training Squadron. If he had arrived early enough he would have been able to have watched the cabaret, the highlight of which was a shortened version of the television programme "This Is Your Life." Potential subjects were very worried as our very French Master of Ceremonies, Officer Cadet Sylvester, moved around the tables. The Colonel in particular was observed to be restive but was relieved when finally our chosen victim, Major Leyson, our Chief Instructor, was gently escorted (in handcuffs) to the stage. There his past and present were so vividly represented that for his own peace of mind we had to shoot him. After this sad event spirits were raised by a section of the Royal Signals Dance Orchestra, led by Lance-Corporal Greaves, which played dance music for us for the remainder of the evening. These gentle-

men played excellently and were largely responsible for the success of the evening.

On Tuesday, 18th, the Other Ranks' "smoking" concert took place. At this "smoker" much talent emerged and this was exploited to the full by Driver Ritchie, the Master of Ceremonies, who was also an artiste in his own right. From an impromptu concert to a carefully prepared full-length revue, this was organised by 4 Squadron and it took place on the same evening. Nothing had been spared in its production and it catered for all tastes from those who liked the Brains Trust to those who preferred "Rock and Roll." The leading light in this show was Signaller Henderson-Tate, who not only was one of the producers but also entertained us all with his singing, dancing, impersonations and straight acting.

On Wednesday and Friday of this same week the Warrant Officers and Sergeants held their Christmas Draw and Ball respectively. Both functions were very successful and were well supported but the writer bemoans the fact that he was singularly unsuccessful himself in the Draw.

On Thursday it was the children's turn. A short film show was followed by an excellent tea and a sing-song. At last Father Christmas Palmer arrived on his sledge with a sack of toys, the size of which broke all existing records. The happy kiddies were finally sent on their way with sweets, fruit and balloons.

The weather now took a hand and it was not surprising that snow came to Catterick on the 23rd. It persisted and we had our white Christmas. Dinner was served as usual in Marne Cookhouse and once again the Cooks did not let us down. The usual greetings were exchanged but with no less sincerity, and with a final "Happy New Year" still ringing in our ears, we end these notes.

ROYAL SIGNALS WING, SCHOOL OF SIGNALS

We live our usual humdrum life. If the sun shines, it is a matter for rejoicing, if not, it is situation normal. We have our share of car crashes on roads of ice and our share of postings in and out.

One of the latter we would like to record is the change of R.S.M. We bid farewell to R.S.M. and Mrs. A. F. Stubbs and wish them well, and welcome R.S.M. and Mrs. S. G. Barnes. As soon as R.S.M. Barnes arrived he had to organise the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess Christmas party; if the resulting excellence is a guide to his efficiency we may congratulate ourselves and him.

If any Officers visit us socially will they note that we are now in the Headquarters Mess. We took over a couple of months ago and, besides Royal Signals Wing, the Mess houses H.Q. School of Signals, H.Q. Training Brigade, and the Planning Wing.

We would like to give a brief summary of sporting results, in spite of the objections from some WIRE contributors.

The hockey team is still good, having won seven league games and lost one, and having won their first Army Cup game. Two of our players, Captain Kirkby and Second-Lieutenant Cook, play for the Army, and two more for Northern Command.

The rugby team is still average, having won five and lost seven games. This is better than it sounds, as five of the losses were in the first six games, showing some improvement over the weeks. Two players regularly represent Northern Command.

The football is also average—a slightly higher average—having won five of the last nine games, and scoring twice as many goals as our opponents.

The Wing was visited on 29th November, 1956, by Major-General R. J. Moberly, O.B.E., C.S.O., B.A.O.R. He gave a lecture to some Officers of the Wing, and presided at a Corps Guest Night in Headquarters Mess.

On 22nd November, 1956, there was a District meeting of the I.E.E. in the Headquarters Mess, where two new papers were read. It is good to note that such meetings would seem to be a regular occurrence now.

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THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF AN EX-BOY HOW TO DO IT

by Captain (Q.M.) "Bert" Stokoe, Royal Signals



Astounding! Fame at last! I've been requested to jot down a few of the happenings of my career since enlistment, as a boy. One consolation, chaps—you are not forced to read it!

In the winter of 1927 I arrived at Catterick Camp, aged 14 years. It was, as usual, cold, damp and dismal.

The 'bus conductor showed me where the Guard Room was in Baghdad Lines; then the home of the Depot Regiment.

From the Guard Room I was escorted to the Reception Hut and handed over to the Signaller in charge, who chivvied me around somewhat. (Positions were slightly reversed when I met this character again and I was a Lance-Corporal. A pleasant time was had by all!)

The following day I was taken up to the famous Boys' "F" Company, and within a few hours the comradeship that existed within "F" Company made itself felt. I had drawn my kit, and having just time to drop it on my bed, was called away, later to come back and find the whole of my kit folded up and put neatly in my locker. This had been done by the other Boys—a really noble gesture.

Life with "F" Company was a happy one, under the command of Major F. R. Cobb, who I am sorry to say has now "passed on."

Major F. R. Cobb was a grand Company Commander and I am sure all ex-Boys who had the honour to serve under his command will always remember him with affection.

Later the command of "F" Company was taken over by a Captain Rance, who, as you all no doubt know, is now Major-General Sir Hubert E. Rance, G.C.M.G., C.B.E., C.B.

Captain Rance used to affect gauntlet fur gloves with uniform—I often wondered how he got away with it.

Technical training was not done actually with the Company but in "D" and "E" Company Lines. The "Operator Signals" Training Hut was next to the Royal Signals' Band Training Room—hence the fact that ex-Boy Operator Signals could read through any interference. The din from the Band Room was awful. (O.K., Major Judd—this was before your time).

Sport and education were a large part of our training. The chief sport being Rugby at the time; though we still made our presence felt in all other aspects of the sporting world.

I must not forget to mention our C.S.M.—C.S.M. Gibson, known affectionately to all the Boys as "Hoot, the Flying Cowboy." It was considered a great thing to stand outside the door of his bunk (when he was not in residence) and say "Come on, Hoot, come out and fight!" When he did actually come out one day all the Boys could say was "Is it overcoats on parade, Sir?" (It was August, 1928—really a warm one as well!).

Eventually I reached the age of 18 and was posted to Aldershot, 2 Divisional Signals, Mons Barracks—a fine Unit.

There I was involved in the numerous exercises the Division partook in. I noticed the Divisional H.Q. was always situated as close as possible to the largest Pub in the training area. (Strategy).

Suddenly I was up for the Indian Draft and after I had bid fond farewells to my girl friends I found myself parad-

ing early one morning on the Square in the snow. I was wearing a topee! I must have looked like "England's last hope." Thank goodness we've got a Navy!

Eventually I landed at Karachi, after a fairly placid passage of 22 days on H.M.T. *Somersetshire*. From then on life changed—Boot Boys and Bearers saw to that! Not forgetting "Ginger," the Char Wallah, who used to haunt the area of the barracks day and night—I don't think many got away without paying him.

But life in India was good—sports of all types, tennis "at homes," tin and bottle tournaments, swimming—and, yes, we did do some work!

Comradeship was of the highest standard and *esprit de corps* was second to none. From Karachi I was posted to Western Independent District Signals and whilst there I pulled Lance-Sergeant and became a Pukha Sahib! After a short stay there I found myself on a ship (at least I think it was) called S.S. *Verela*, bound with "E" Section, attached to 4 Field Regiment, R.A., 4 Indian Division, for Egypt. This was June-July, 1939. The Section Sergeant was Sergeant Fairclough, a good scout. But we had to get a respirator made to fit him. Some unkind types used to say it actually looked like "Fairy"—as he was affectionately known to all and sundry.

After a while in Egypt I was invalided home to the rather bewildering atmosphere of England at war. Then across to France. I left rather hurriedly, not wishing to be a hero, posted to 3 General Trades Training Battalion Royal Signals at Whitby. We later moved up to Dewsbury, Yorkshire.

Life at 3 Training Battalion as a S.Q.M.S. was hectic but enjoyable. One instance always remains with me. I was down with a bout of malaria when a note arrived from my O.C.: "Q, this will kill or cure you. You now have an A.T.S. store girl!" Well, I must confess that up to the arrival of the pleasant young lady I always had a job to contact Training Officers and Sergeants. Now I found I almost had to book a seat in my own office. Still, it was worth it.

Later I was once again on my way, to the middle of Scotland, looking for my new Unit—101 Force—it later became 1st Army Signals. After travelling the length of that barbarous country, I discovered my Unit tucked away at Pollock, near Glasgow. We moved, I mean, marched, from there (32 miles in one day) to Largs, and set up a training camp in Brisbane Glen. Brother, did it rain. We almost got webbed feet!

Once again I found a grand Unit. Lots of the chaps were T.A. and certainly knew their stuff. After many false scares I was again in convoy on the High Seas, and finished up by landing at Algiers. The African Campaign had begun. As you know, we all finished up at Tunis. An amusing incident I always remember was the R.Q.M.S. struggling for the first time in his life to creep under a mosquito net. I still don't know if he made it, but his flow of language was lovely! I wonder where you are now, Len.

Whilst in Tunis I was posted to 3 Company 11 L. of C. Signals, near Sfax. I was C.S.M. by that time. After a stay there, off to Italy and travelling up and down the country in fine style. I actually spent almost a year in Rome! It was from that city I was granted "LIAP" leave, and, lo and behold, I found myself back in England on 56 days' leave.

After leave, back to Italy, where I found I was appointed R.Q.M.S. in my old Unit, 1st Army Signals, now called 16 L. of C. Signals. A short stay with them in Florence, back to 11th L. of C. Signals, now in Naples, as R.S.M. My wife joined me there for the last few months of my overseas tour. We finished up in Venice and came home from there in 1946.

After leave I was posted to No. 3 Intelligence School, Harrogate. It was here I saw the sad break in the Corps tradition. "F" Company became part of the Army Apprentice School.

I was invited to the first Passing-Out Parade from Boy Service to Man Service. It was a truly impressive parade.

An incident I've not forgotten occurred when the R.S.M. of Army Apprentice School remarked to a friend of his: "There. That's how we train Boys and get this high standard to take them on to Man's Service!" Quick as a flash came a reply from a Signals Sergeant who was nearby: "Don't kid yourself. Those chaps were trained by Signals!"

After Harrogate, back to a short stay in Catterick Camp, then off to Cyprus, then the Mecca of all overseas postings, to join No. 2 Wireless Regiment Royal Signals, a bustling Regiment of backroom boys, etc.

Work for the Operators was shift work. The Operators were either Off Duty, waiting to go On Duty—or sleeping, having just come Off Duty. It was a good, clean life, with again lots of sport, which included sailing with the Unit Sailing Club.

From there in 1952 I went to Egypt to 3 G.H.Q. Signal Regiment. It was in this Regiment I met many ex-Boys who had been with the Boys' Company after I had left it. These ex-Boys were all members of the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. Also all showed great prowess on the sports field and were A.1 Tradesmen—they had all the usual signs of a misspent youth—very good at billiards, snooker and darts!

Within the Mess grounds we had an illuminated fish (?) pool, and it was quite the thing (after our WREN guests had left (!) to swim round the pool. Well all right.—O.K., Red! I won't say any more!

From this Regiment I was commissioned as Lieutenant Quartermaster and joined 3 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, then at Mackworth Camp, Moascar, a really good, hardworking Regiment, spending most of our time on exercises out in the Blue.

The mysteries of Officers' Mess life were there revealed to me. Comradeship in the Mess and the work of this Regiment was of the highest degree, and I certainly enjoyed my short stay with them, as I was due home. *Tour ex plus*. (Quiet, Cripp!)

Back to home and beauty, after serving a year with No. 7 Training Regiment, Catterick, living in that spot of Officers' Married Quarters, Whinney Hill, a place I often used to gaze at as a Boy in "F" Company, but dare not venture near.

Now I'm here with No. 6 Boys' Training Regiment. My career having performed a complete circle.

Well, there you are chaps. I've tried to give you a brief outline of my life from Boys' Service up-to-date. There are many ex-Boys in the Corps now commissioned, at least one of whom holds the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel. Strangely enough, it was an ex-Boy who came to take my place in 3 Divisional Signals.

Now don't run away with the idea, you chaps, that life was all beer and skittles; it was far from it. So it's up to you.

Before I finish, may I say, Don't forget: We may not have Colours on which abound umpteen Battle Honours, etc., but the Corps is *Second to None!*

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WESTERN COMMAND SIGNAL SQUADRON

Whenever Chester is mentioned to a member of the Royal Signals, his mind flashes to the winding red walls and the peering Tudor houses; it ambles past the 365 public houses, lingers lovingly over that brown and mild sitting on the table in the "Swan," and strolls along by the beautiful river frontage beneath the shady avenue of trees; then blinks in the bright lights of the River Park Dance Hall. His face lights with a reminiscent smile and is only periodically creased by a frown as his imagination marks time on the verandah at Blacon or draws its last issue of Kits Tropical from the Q stores at Saughton. Then the "Rake and Pikel" looms large, and smiles once more wreath the scars obtained by coming down the Signal Centre steps the quick way.

An occasional thought is given to The Cheshires, that proud Regiment which gained so many honours in India and North America, and to whom the Freedom of the City has been awarded. But something he may not realise is that long before either the Signals or The Cheshires came to Chester, the 20th Roman Legion (Valeria Victrix) chose a low sandstone hill on which to build one of their three fortresses which guarded the newly-conquered island of Britain. Long before Signalman Jones or Private Smith grumbled that it was "blinkin' could oop 'ere" Legionnaire Casus Belli was earning a gold medallion by padding the walls of Chester. As they were a race which saw long rule for their Empire, the Romans built to last, and the City has still many Roman remains. (We may add at this point that the belief that the Roman barracks are still inhabited by the Royal Signals is entirely untrue).

The Romans built a wooden fort which was later converted to a castle in 1069, and they also began the original walls which, although they have in the main been rebuilt, still show remnants of their stone and soil ancestors. These walls are a favourite walk for tourists and couples who enjoy the views of the City and surrounding country which are to be seen from them.

Inside the North East wall is situated the Cathedral which was first built as an Abbey, and nowhere else in England is it so easy to capture the atmosphere which must have surrounded those long-dead religious men as in the Cloisters with their quiet seats. Although not so renowned as its sisters at Winchester and Salisbury, Chester Cathedral is nevertheless both beautiful and interesting to the discerning visitor. Here hangs the flag of The Cheshires which wrapped the body of General Wolfe, that great English General who showed his prowess in Canada and finally fell in the Battle of Quebec. This same flag was proudly carried at the Battle of Bunkers Hill against the American Rebels.

Here also, the seeker may come across a small portrait of the Virgin and Child which shimmers and glitters as though it were woven from jewelled silk. This portrait came from Innsbruk, and is the product of a family who held the closely-guarded secret of weaving spiders' webs into fine filigree of cloth. Upon this cloth is painted the portrait, looking itself for all the world as if it had been spun by the spider.

Nearby is the King Charles Tower, where Charles I of England watched his troops being defeated in the Battle of Rowton Moor.

That Chester was a Royalist town is to be seen from the names of the streets and inns. In such inns as "Ye Olde King's Head" there are murals of Royalists' Duelling scenes decorating walls which are hung with swords, guns and daggers. For its obdurate fealty Chester was besieged and badly damaged.

Besides being a City surrounded by walls, Chester is also surrounded on three sides by water—this water is now the canal on one side and the river on the other two. These same quiet waters of the Dee, with their pleasure steamers, row boats and swans, used once to run into a great harbour, which at one time was the principal source of income to

the population and when, in the 15th Century, it silted up and Chester lost its most important breadwinner, the then small fishing village of Liverpool took over the trading. This silting-up drained the land around the small island of Rood, leaving a large stretch of land which was temptation itself to those who loved to hear the thump of hooves on green turf, and as early as 1540 races were being run around the Roodie (Rood-cross e(y)e-island), a "bell of Sylver" being presented to the winner and imprisonment for those who cheated. These races are still run in the first week of May each year, and many a signalman has bought himself out of the Army in the second week!!! Along the walls which edge the racecourse are still marks which puzzle visitors—these were made by the boats which used to tie up at them.

One of the most strikingly attractive features of the old part of the City is the Rows, which are a double layer of shops, having its own footway. The upper ones are set back and covered by the second storey of the buildings. The origin of these rows has never been satisfactorily explained, but one of the most interesting and likely theories is that when the buildings made by the Romans crumbled and were in other ways destroyed, the Cestrians, having neither the time nor the wish to clear away the rubble, rebuilt on top of it, then finding that with the growing population there were insufficient houses inside the walls of the City, they burrowed into the street level rubble and planted new houses, thus building beneath the upper ones.

Today, we find that Chester is a town of booming small industries, with modern hospitals and a refreshing lack of smoke. There is, however, a great traffic problem in the old City, as many an Army driver will have discovered, for the narrow, often winding, Tudor roads were never built to contain the present surfeit of cars, lorries and motor cycles.

Fortunately, Chester has an intelligent City Council which does not allow the defilement of the City's long-established character by cheap ultra-modern constructions, and wherever possible, an effort has been made to blend with the predominant Tudor style while utilising such modern methods as are nowadays deemed essential to every building.

Above all else, the visitor to Chester can be sure of at least one word which will be on the lips of all who meet him—"Welcome."

U.K. COMCAN SIGNAL REGIMENT

R.H.Q. and 1 Squadron. The All Ranks' Dance was very well supported, being by far the best this year. Sergeant Williams was the presiding genius for the evening. Despite many groans from the more senior members, the "Bunny Hop," "Conga" and "Hokey Cokey" type dances occupied a great part of the programme.

The Christmas dinner was a roaring success (literally) and all hands were exceedingly merry. The Officers, Warrant Officers and Sergeants paraded to the Cookhouse, under the direction of Lance-Corporal Smith, and on arrival were warmly applauded by everyone. The Commanding Officer had an air of "Maitre d'Hotel" whilst serving the traditional meal, for which, incidentally, a vote of thanks is due to our cooks, whose culinary prowess surpassed all expectations. In fact, a good time was had by all.

The children's party was held on 22nd December in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. The guests included four children from a Gloucester orphanage, who had been invited by the Mess. A large tea had been laid for the children, including a cake with a farmyard scene as a decoration. The children were treated to a film show and they then enjoyed party games. Afterwards Sergeant Willoughby, dressed as Father Christmas, presented each excited child with a present.

The yearly Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess Christmas Draw, run under the direction of R.S.M. Hipperson, proved extremely successful. When the Draw was completed it was found that over 85 per cent of the prizes had been won by the junior N.C.O.s and Signalmen. "Up the Line they went." The prizes ranged from spirits, cigarettes to nylons, electric blankets,

clocks, coffee percolators, plus the usual seasonal fare of poultry, wines and spirits. A total of over 1,200 tickets were sold. Another, but this time free draw was held during the men's Christmas dinner. Many prizes were provided from P.R.I. plus a large number of excellent Christmas cakes baked by Sergeant Ferret and his cookhouse boys; all went to junior ranks and were enthusiastically received. One Signalman, on being informed that he had won a prize, was heard to say that he had not bought a ticket. Apparently he was not aware that the Army do give something away free, besides guards and picquets, particularly at Christmas. All names, including those on duty and leave, went into the drum. We now face 1957 with a feeling of goodwill towards all. May we also take this opportunity of wishing All Ranks of Royal Signals, wherever you may be, and members of the Association and THE WIRE a happy, prosperous and successful year.

2 Squadron. Christmas festivities being over, we now take up the task of recording the highlights. The Christmas dinner was served on 20th December and this was preceded by a football match—Officers and N.C.O.s v. The Rest. The result was in some doubt, S.S.M. Bibby claimed a victory for his side and The Rest claimed it, and to prove it tried to throw the S.S.M. into the river. This proved impossible, as the S.S.M.—at 16 stone plus—proved too heavy to carry! A dance was held in the Transit Room in the evening to finish off the day's celebrations.

The children's party the following afternoon was a great success. A special chimney had been constructed for Father Christmas (S.Q.M.S. Creigh). His appearance delighted the children, but almost ended in disaster, as he seemed to have increased his already considerable girth to such an extent as to come very close to getting stuck!

The season closed with a New Year's Eve Dance to welcome in the New Year.

Finally, our congratulations are extended to W.O.II (Foreman of Signals) Dods on a much deserved award of the M.B.E. in the New Year's Honours List just published.

3 Squadron. December came in with a roar. Harsh winds and frosty mornings making the countryside look like a Christmas card come to life. We had Christmas leave and our annual Administrative Inspection to look forward to. Readers can imagine which was most eagerly awaited.

Administrative Inspection came on the 17th and we think a good show was put up by the Squadron with the minimum of panic one usually associates with these occasions. The Inspecting Officer, Brigadier Meynell, presented our S.S.M., Fred O'Connor, with his Long Service and Good Conduct Medal. Well done, Sir. What do they say? "Eighteen years of undetected crime."

Our Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel W. Hammond, M.B.E., came down from Gloucester on the 19th for the All Ranks' Christmas dinner, and after proposing a very nice toast, replied to by Lance-Corporal West, he listened while Corporal Taylor entertained on the accordion.

Major E. Nash, after 41 years in the Corps, is now with us as A.O. (R.O. III). May his stay be long and happy. He and Mrs. Nash were soon in action with the children's Christmas party and a good time was had by 75 parents and children. Lieutenant Metcalfe donned the Red Suit and performed well. Rumours have it that he intends applying for the job at a well-known London store on his demob.

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[Photo: Leicester Evening Mail]
Corporal J. O'Callaghan after being presented with a bar to his L.S.G.C. Medal

10 WIRELESS TRAINING SQUADRON

The notes this month cover two interesting happenings in the Squadron, the one general, and the other domestic. The Home Life Exhibition at Leicester is the largest of its kind in the Midlands, and always has a Regular Army Recruiting Stand as part of its attraction. The 1956 stand was allocated to the Corps and we were asked to design and man it. A very attractive stand was produced and a novel and popular "Gimmick" brought more trade than the civilian manufacturers enjoyed. Being in Leicester, and knowing the 1st Battalion Royal Leicesters to be in Cyprus, we hit upon the idea of sending messages from near relatives to their sons and husbands out there. Fond ones were encouraged to make a short recording on a tape, and when the tapes were full, they were sent to Cyprus where arrangements were made to play them back to the Battalion. In all some 310 messages were sent over, and from what we hear, were very welcome. A total of over 150,000 people visited the show in the 10 days during which it was open, and a large proportion were shown the Regular Royal Signals Exhibits.

On the occasion of the Annual Administrative Inspection on the 12th December, 1956, Major-General R. Younger, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., presented Corporal J. O'Callaghan with the bar to his L.S.G.C. Medal after a total of 43 years' service. Corporal O'Callaghan must be one of the few with this great distinction, and no doubt his many friends will be pleased to hear about it. Incidentally, he has been granted a further extension of service which will give him eight years towards his second bar.



[Photo: Leslie J. Groves, Leicester]
The Army Stand at the Home Life Exhibition at Leicester

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Careers and Opportunity

(IMPORTANT: Anyone obtaining employment through answering advertisements in THE WIRE MUST notify the Employment Section, Royal Signals Association, 88, Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1.

Members are reminded that they can ensure prompt notification of any vacancies likely to suit them by registering with the Employment Section. Jobs advertised in THE WIRE are only a small proportion of those received).

Large Commercial Security organisation offers progressive employment in the Greater London area to physically fit men aged 25-55. Work (mainly at night) entails guarding industrial premises while these are closed down and maintaining contact by telephone with the Control Room during hours of duty. Assignments are arranged as near to employees' homes as possible. Pay on joining, including bonus and allowances, £8 to £9/11/0 according to hours worked; after one year's service, £8/16/6 to £10/9/6. Free uniform and upkeep thereof, assistance towards travelling expenses, pension scheme, sick benefit scheme. Apply to Personnel Manager, Securicor Ltd., Old Swan House, 17, Chelsea Embankment, London, S.W.3.

The INSPECTORATE OF ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL EQUIPMENT has vacancies for Electronic and Mechanic Examiners. Applicants must have served a full trade apprenticeship or have been employed in a Service trade such as Foreman of Signals, Radio, Telegraph or Line Technician. Rates of pay for 44-hour, five-day week: London, 214/10 rising to 226/10; Provinces (except South Wales), 212/10-224/10; South Wales, 227/5-239/5. An additional 10/- may be earned on certain work. Good prospects of promotion for men who possess qualifications such as City and Guilds Telecommunications, Ordinary or Higher National Certificates or are prepared to study for these.

Amongst other things, the Inspectorate is responsible for the inspection of Signal and Radar equipment, electronic fuses and electrical components used by the Services. Work includes the inspection of newly produced equipments, investigation of defects and their causes, assistance in preparing specifications and construction of test equipment for special purposes. Much of the work is of a non-routine nature and it often offers scope for originality and initiative.

Apply to Ministry of Supply (I.E.M.E.), "Aquila," Golf Road, Bromley, Kent, or to the Regional Inspection Officer, I.E.M.E., at any of the following addresses:

29, Chester Terrace, Regents Park, London, N.W.1.
361, Clapham Road, London, S.W.9.
Market Buildings, 2, Moat Lane, Birmingham, 5.
Crete Hill House, Cote Road, Bristol, 9.
Montrose House, 187, George Street, Glasgow, C.1.
Fourth Floor, Sunlight House, Quay Street, Manchester, 3.
Clarendon House, Clayton Street West, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, 1.
Fargate House, Fargate, Sheffield, 1.

Employment Figures for Quarter Ending 31st December, 1956

New applicants registered	...	...	...	...	22
Placings confirmed	...	...	...	...	21
General queries answered	...	...	...	...	62

Other advertisements affecting employment are on the inner pages of the cover and page 30.

CORPS REEL

A 12 inch gramophone Record of the Corps Reel can be obtained from:

The Hon. Secretary,
The Royal Signals Band,
H.Q. Officers' Mess, Royal Signals,
Catterick Camp, Yorks.

Price 10/-, plus cost of packing and postage.

Oswald the Operator

or

The Chief Instructor's Nightmare — A Fantasy

Quite a guy Oswald! At least that's what they said at 7th Training Regiment amongst other things. Sighs of relief were breathed when he left for 4th Training Regiment, along with his new kitbag, several deficiencies and his two left feet. Oswald was ready to become a wireless operator. The Chief Instructor called on his Maker to witness such a phenomenon and the Quartermaster said well, he'd never!

The Squadron then started training Oswald under a Civilian Instructor, normally a kindly man, who was much surprised to find that his new pupil loved Morse—such a pleasant chirrupy sound like the birdies! So much so in fact that Oswald went racing away from the remainder of the Squad before he'd even learnt to send rhythmically. In consequence, communication with Oswald at the key was a chancy business. He could never be made to understand that it was useless to send bad Morse at 10 words a minute to someone who could only read six.

Despite lectures on security, Oswald could never see why he should not use the nice wireless set he had been given. It was so pleasant to chat with your friends—and so it was not long before he was picked up by the monitor service of a Foreign Power. Fortunately no damage was done because the Power in question spent a long time investigating what they thought was a new British cipher until they discovered that Oswald had merely been asking for help with the *Daily Mirror* crossword puzzle.

Voice Procedure provided another stumbling block for our tyro, who could not see the reason for such complications. His marked accent did not help and so it was not long before you could identify Oswald on any net. He

thought this was a good thing and was much surprised to learn that his Training Officer did not agree. Whilst on extra training he tried hard to learn the correct procedure but found, like others before him, that a bad habit is hard to break.

Then they came to Theory. Oswald simply gave this up before he started. He could not see why he should have to learn about how it worked and so he dreamed the idle hours away. Came the final scheme—every detachment was working beautifully except that which had the misfortune to have Oswald as a crew member. In fact there was no joy at all until the N.C.O. discovered that Oswald, with his wet boots firmly planted in the United Kingdom, was leaning against the truck with his hand on the aerial. After the Sergeant had told his fortune, a chastened Oswald was instructed to change frequency and re-net. Although he could extract answers from the outstations by retuning for each call on the new frequency he never produced a net as such and so had to relay messages. By this time his procedure was adequate, so he thought he had done well. His Civilian Instructor had a nervous breakdown, his Sergeant said . . . well, perhaps, I'd better not repeat it . . . and the Chief Instructor posted him as NOT Fully Qualified. In his new Unit they found a job for him—they made him a "battle casualty" on the first Exercise so that he could provide practice for the Stretcher Bearers.

Of course, you never do silly things like Oswald, do you? Or do you?

EUROPE

18 ARMY GROUP SIGNAL REGIMENT

WIRE notes bristle with problems; first someone must be found to write them and then something interesting must be found to write about. We like to think the Regiment has had a good year militarily, socially and athletically but apart from ex-members of the Regiment not many people will be very interested in that. We are at present having our establishment re-written and it might be an idea if we asked for the inclusion of "Authors, interesting articles, Regimental Magazines, for the use of—1." However, the establishment committee would probably delete it.

Our Unit Branch of the Signals Association has taken on a new lease of life. Regrettably it had been a bit moribund for some time, which was a little disgraceful for a branch with a one figure number. However, under the energetic direction of R.Q.M.S. Conlon much is now happening; membership is going up and frequent functions are held. The present writer wonders whether this branch couldn't produce the "author interesting articles, etc" we were talking about; a tactful approach to the Secretary is obviously indicated.

R.Q.M.S. Conlon also runs one of the Regiment's spare time activities in the form of a Camera Club. Germany bristles with shops stocked with every description of camera from the simple but very efficient cheap ones that you just point and press to the more expensive highly complicated affairs requiring a high degree of skill and an amount of ancillary equipment almost as large as the "station list" for a wireless set. When the R.Q. is really on the war path you can hardly see him behind the apparatus he carries. Photography seems to be developing into a popular pastime in the Regiment and people who have never aspired to anything more than a box Brownie are progressing by stages to more advanced techniques. A popular subject in the last week or two has been the illuminations in the town; the city fathers having decided to turn Essen at night into a kind of illuminated Arabian nights. It really is most attractive and an unusual subject for a photograph.

Another spare time activity now coming to the fore is, of course, Winter Sports. The P.R.I. can provide either skis or skates on loan and although there is insufficient snow and ice locally as yet one or two of the more adventurous (and possibly well off) have set off for Bavaria and Austria. Later, both sports should be possible reasonably near by.

DIPLOMATIC WIRELESS SERVICE

Applications are invited from candidates (male and female) qualified in Cypher Work for vacancies in the Cypher Section of the Diplomatic Wireless Service at the Foreign Office.

Commencing salary (male) £460 (at age 25 years or above) rising to £690. Extra allowance for Night, Sunday and Shift duties, which are conditions of service.

All first appointments are on a temporary basis, with possibility of establishment subsequently.

Applications, giving details of qualifications by 10th March, 1957, to:—

Chief Signals Officer,
Diplomatic Wireless Service,
Foreign Office,
London, S.W.1.

19 ARMY GROUP SIGNAL REGIMENT

With the passing of 1956 best wishes go out from the Regiment to all members of the Corps both past and present for a happy and peaceful New Year.

The traditional, and most excellent, Christmas dinner was visited by the Chief of Staff, Northern Army Group, Major-General J. D'A. Anderson, C.B.E., D.S.O., whose words of commendation for the hard work put in during 1956, and encouragement for 1957, were received with acclaim.



[Army P.R. Photograph by R. Naumann]

The Pensioners meet the youngest soldier in 19 Army Group Signal Regiment

Left to right: Corporal George Porter aged 73, Driver David Pankhurst aged 19 (his brother William is serving with Royal Signals in Hong-Kong), Sapper "Wally" Pratt

A most successful children's party on the 21st December, 1956, resulted in all the children beaming happily after an excellent tea and a present from Father Christmas. Signaller Preston pleased the youngsters with his conjuring tricks although everyone was disappointed when he made the black rabbit disappear. This he did to the mystification of them all, despite being surrounded by children.

To replace Major (Q.M.) H. G. Stickley we welcome Major (Q.M.) L. J. Boshier, and we hope too, that R.S.M. and Mrs. Holdsworth who recently arrived will enjoy their stay in the Unit, while Sergeants Merry, Bowles and Glendenning also arrived in time to celebrate the festive season. Arrivals are



[Army P.R. Photograph by R. Naumann]

Left to right: Staff Sergeant R. Smith, S.Q.M.S. J. McGrath, Sapper "Wally" Pratt, Corporal George Porter, S.Q.M.S. A. Warner

always offset by departures, and good luck for the future to Major R. C. K. Baron, T.D., W.O.II Pendock, Sergeants Gillingham, Barnden, Radbron and Warren. Many congratulations to the hard working Orderly Room Sergeant, who is now Staff Sergeant Donovan.

Sport proceeds apace, and the Unit soccer team, whilst remaining about half way in the Rhine District League, are still interested in the Royal Signals B.A.O.R. Cup by beating 2 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment by 6 goals to 3. A Unit "Jimmy" was presented to Lance-Corporal Crawford whose departure for civilian life will leave a gap hard to fill.

The Rugby team although not playing many matches this month, won comfortably against 12 Air Formation Signal Regiment in the Royal Signals B.A.O.R. Cup. Unfortunately Signaller Firth, the scrum half, was injured and as in any case he is shortly to be released the talent spotters are now out in full force looking for a replacement. The departure too, very shortly, of Lieutenant R. K. Ward will leave a hard-to-fill vacancy in the forwards.

The Hockey team are still in the Army Cup! To everyone's astonishment we defeated H.Q. NORTHAG who are the Theatre giants. Three weeks earlier they had beaten us 13-0 in a friendly, but on the day our entire team played larger than life and after a most exciting match, we ran out winners by 2-1, the winning goal coming in the dying minutes. We have to travel some 70 miles to meet our next opponents, a tough Gunner Regiment. If we get over that hurdle, then, from our reading of the draw and known form in B.A.O.R., the future is bright indeed.

In the Royal Signals Cup tournament we have reached the semi-final after a hard fought match against 1 Wireless Regiment; the score being 2-0, as holders of this Cup we are hoping for another successful season.

Now there is snow on all the pitches and a bitter wind blowing straight from the Iron Curtain. Winter has arrived. Until he decides to move on or at least go on holiday, we shall not get any more hockey.

The Boxing team, supervised by Captain N. R. F. MacKinnon, are in training for the Royal Signals B.A.O.R. Cup. The first match against a Vehicle Battalion R.A.O.C., the Rhine District Champions, resulted in a 6-4 defeat despite good wins registered by Signaller Mathews and Captain MacKinnon. The next match against H.Q. Unit 2 T.A.F. resulted in the same score, although the bouts were more even. Corporal Pengilly, in the best fight of the evening, won by a knock-out. A Vehicle Battalion again defeated us by 8-2 in the final of the Rhine District Championship, with Corporal Pengilly again winning on a knock-out after two hard fought rounds. Unfortunately the date for the match was advanced by two weeks, and so the team missed the last spell of concentrated training. However, training continues in off-duty hours in anticipation of the visit to 18 Army Group Signal Regiment.

Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. As is usual at this time of the year social activity has fallen thick and heavy. Our guests throughout the festive season have been Corporal Porter and Pensioner Pratt from the Royal Hospital, Chelsea. They have been Sergeants' Mess members in all respects except that they were excused from Mess subscriptions although residing for more than 14 days!

Thursday, 20th, heralded the Christmas Draw and Dance in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. Ninety-two prizes were on display and by a "strange coincidence" the two pensioners both won a German Beer Mug.

On Sunday, 23rd, the R.S.M., P.M.C. and living-in members sat down to their official Christmas dinner.

On Christmas Day we were privileged to entertain the Chief of Staff, Headquarters, Northern Army Group, and the Garrison Commander together with our Commanding Officer and other Officers of the Regiment to drinks before the Other Ranks' Christmas dinner. We, in turn, visited the Officers' Mess on Saturday, 29th. It has been debated at length, which visit produced the greater in liquid refreshment. As it took almost three-quarters of an hour to evict us from the Officers' Mess we think we have many potential commissioned officers among our numbers.

The festive season closed with the Ball on New Year's Eve. Here we are fortunate (or is that the word) of being able to celebrate two New Years, that of Central European Time and Greenwich Mean Time. The first new year was ushered in by Corporal Porter of the Royal Hospital and Howard, the son of Sergeant Copestake, the latter suitably attired in nappy and candlestick. The second New Year was accompanied by the nostalgic chimes of Big Ben direct from London.



[Photo: Jul. Sohn, Düsseldorf]

● Lieutenant-Colonel W. C. Burke and the Officers, W.O.s and Sergeants of 2 L of C Signal Regiment with Colonel H. H. Dean, D.S.O. (Inspecting Officer) on the occasion of the Annual Administrative Inspection, 6th December, 1956

2 L of C SIGNAL REGIMENT

R.H.Q. and 1 Squadron. December has been a busy month here in Düsseldorf. We welcome a new Adjutant in Captain C. J. Gilbert who takes over from Major W. Dermit. We also welcome Major H. Dewhurst, Captain (T.O.T.) E. Thompson and Second-Lieutenant M. Mortlock.

Earlier in the month we had our annual Administrative inspection, which was brightened by the presence of the Band of the Royal Canadian Corps of Signals on the parade. We believe this is the first time the Canadian Signals Band has played for a British Signal Regiment.

On the evening of the 21st we held a Jazz Band Ball in the men's dining room. We all thoroughly enjoyed ourselves and we thank the effervescent Second-Lieutenant Frazer Payn and his able committee. The Sergeants' Mess held their Christmas Draw and Dance on the 22nd December. Two children's parties were organised—one for the families and one for the German orphans from the Anna Kloster in Düsseldorf.

Our Hockey team is in the doldrums at the moment having been knocked out of the B.A.O.R. Signals Hockey Tournament. However, we look forward to an improvement in the new year.

2 Squadron. Last month lorries and tractors at the Hano-mag factory! This month beer—a visit to the Gilde Brewery. But alas, though the 2IC confidently asserts that many went, the writer is unable to find any of them, and can only conclude that all were either drowned or passed into blissful oblivion shortly after arrival.

The weather has been so mild that the ski-ing party were thwarted: there was no snow at Winterberg.

The Squadron has been more active in indoor entertainment, for several have helped in the latest production of the local forces dramatic society. The play was "Off the Record," a farce by Ian Hay and Stephen King-Hall, and after long months of labour was brought for for two nights at the White Horse Theatre, in a nearby G.S.O. Camp. Signals were conspicuous on the night, for the bar was supported from both sides by several of our ablest Senior N.C.O.s. We know, however, how hard Signals had worked behind the scenes. The only one actually to appear before the public was Second-Lieutenant Roger Grant, who embellished the stage in the minor rôle of a Naval Sub-Lieutenant; but the scenery might be said to have been ours, for our Second-in-Command, Lieutenant Pat Massey, the moving theatrical spirit in the Squadron, himself designed it, and Signals made it, painted it, lighted it, and shifted it.

A Short History of 3 Squadron. In the palmy B.A.O.R. days of 1950, when "S" Day was hardly contemplated and L.O.A. within Germany was completely unnecessary, there dwelt in Hamburg a group of Royal Signals known as Hamburg Independent Signal Squadron. It was a contented unit doing well the work required of it and enjoying all that the city of Hamburg had to offer. It seemed and, in fact was, too good to last. By January, 1951, the nucleus of 2 L of C. Signal Regiment had made its home in Hamburg, the independent unit

● The Band of the Royal Canadian Corps of Signals with Lieutenant-Colonel W. C. Burke and R.S.M. Bevan, M.M., on the occasion of the Annual Administrative Inspection, 6th December, 1956

[Photo: Jul. Sohn, Düsseldorf]



was absorbed into R.H.Q. and 1 Squadron, drill parades and inspections became the order of the day and it was the end of an epoch.

Soon 2 L. of C. Signal Regiment had five Squadrons stretching from Hamburg to Bad Oeynhausen. Things settled down and the regiment got on with the task of providing its contribution to the telecommunications network in the Western Zone of Germany. Then, at Hamburg, in the Spring of 1952, 6 Squadron was formed. This was our original title.

In the beginning the Squadron consisted of S.Q.M.S. G. Green, Driver Fever, a 1 ton Bedford and mountains of G 1098 stores, all Belgium bound to provide communications for a British base which was being established near Antwerp.

Eventually the newly formed Squadron, now at about half strength, arrived in Belgium. The great expectations that they all had were soon crushed when they set up their home in a dark M.T. shed which served as dining hall, barrack room and NAAFI. They were lucky enough to have running water even if it was only cold, and in many ways they were more fortunate than other units in the area who lived under canvas. Thus, in spite of good rates of L.O.A., 6 Squadron was quickly branded as the "punishment posting" of the regiment.

Later in 1952 there followed a period of absolute confusion and for some weeks our designation changed even more frequently than the weather, and from it all we emerged as 3 Squadron 2 L. of C. Signal Regiment, and so we have remained.

Improvement came in 1953. The Squadron moved into a newly built modern camp and Signal Centre block. The base became more organised as a whole, tentage was packed away in the stores and water trailers were idle, the construction of playing fields and the introduction of sporting league and cup competitions did much to strengthen morale generally. Life for the Squadron began to follow a regular pattern which has not changed a great deal to this day. Naturally our commitments and numbers increased rapidly although the latter has never quite caught up with the former.

One thing is sure, we are no longer the penal colony of the regiment that we once were, in fact we are just the opposite, and perhaps the spirit of Hamburg District Signal Squadron did not perish entirely.

BERLIN SIGNAL SQUADRON

Although we have nothing really to compare with the recent example in Egypt of allied co-operation, our own international "get-togethers" in Berlin merit notice.

Allied exercises here are carried out either in the Berliners' playground, the "Grünwald Forest," when Giles' cartoons come to life, or in the form of Tactical Exercises without Troops. From the Signals angle the latter are by far the better—no damp beds or line faults in the middle of bramble thickets—but the language difficulty is more pronounced.

During our latest telephone battle the language problem was met in three ways; our Squadron Commander, Major R. J. Tyrrell-Gray, was able with no difficulty at all to translate French and American demands for more and bigger telephones. "Non" and "Naw" sound somewhat alike. Our Exchange Operators, under the able leadership of Lance-Corporal Lamond, did remarkably well after only two lessons from their counterparts on the French exchanges. But whether their operating phrases complied strictly with communications procedure is somewhat doubtful, as the French operators are most attractive damsels with voices to match their Gallic charms. Corporal Joy and his linemen met all complaints about broken diaphragms with an international "O.K.: will fix."

The Exercise was voted a great success by all participants and we have all had the chance to look at each other's methods and equipment.

In our autumn exercise those of us who have served in Egypt were reminded very forcibly of the cable-removing tactics of the local inhabitants. In the case of Berlin, however, it was the local youth who found quad and D8 admirable for making swings and lassos!

In the Brigade Novices Boxing Competitions, although heavily outnumbered by the competing major units, we are glad to record the following successes:—

Winner—Light-Heavyweight: Signalman Hicks.
Runner-up—Welterweight: Signalman Dooley.

Our congratulations to both boxers and to Corporal Dean, their trainer and second.

In the Berlin Minor Units Soccer Competition we have con-

cluded the present series by heading our league. At the time of writing several inches of snow obliterate the sports grounds and have called a halt to our successes.

The Squadron has some keen Hockey players. No less than five players recently played in the Brigade Headquarters team, while Sergeant Hammond-Haley and Corporal Treloar have played for the full Brigade team.

Christmas activities here followed much the same pattern as usual and we do not propose to elaborate on them. It may be of interest, however, that seven of our members were entertained by German civilians—three at a party given by local artists in one of Berlin's lavish night-clubs and four in private homes. They all returned with glowing reports of the hospitality of their hosts, two of whom were prisoners-of-war in England.

10 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT

The usual R.A.F. Christmas festivities were held at R.H.Q. in Goch and the arrival of the season so soon after our detachment's arrival in Butzweilerhof has really helped them to get to know their R.A.F. counterparts well. The celebrations started in mid-December with the Sergeants' Mess dinner. The howler of that evening was a remark passed by a R.A.F. Warrant Officer who, seeing the Royal Signals Officers in Mess kit, asked "Who invited the huntsmen?" The Corporals' Mess had their own Christmas dinner, as well as the usual Christmas dance. After the dinner all members and their guests adjourned to the Corporals' Bar which was run by the Army and R.A.F. and proved a very successful combined operation. On 20th December an all ranks' dance was held.

The Station Commander held a competition for the best decorated barrack room and the L.A.D. won third prize.

After the normal R.A.F. Christmas Day programme, on Boxing Day a comic football match was staged between the "10th Army Foot Sloggers" and the "R.A.F. Rock 'n Rollers." The "Rock 'n Rollers" wore pyjamas!

The Sergeants' Mess auctioned a cake made in the shape of a church and so made over £17 for the "Wireless for the Blind Fund."

There were two children's parties on the station, one for the under fives and another for five years to 12 years. Santa Claus was in attendance at both.



Captain "Grippingham" Malins, Lieutenant "Tim" O'Hare and Staff Sergeant West, L.A.D., R.E.M.E.

Crossword Puzzle

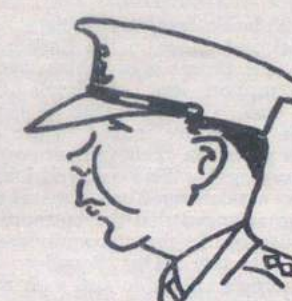
Solution to Crossword Puzzle by 10 Air Formation Signal Regiment appears on page 48.

11 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT.

STRIVING,
AS ALWAYS,
TO BE
ORIGINAL,
WE ARE
SUBMITTING
THIS MONTH'S
NEWS IN
PICTURE FORM
—STARTING WITH RSM McDONALD
WHO BURST A BALLOON EVERY
TIME HE TURNED HIS HEAD AT XMAS



IN THE FAR NORTH, IN SEMI-ARCTIC
CONDITIONS AND WINTER CLOTHING
AN AUGMENTED 1 WING SIGNAL TROOP
GOT DOWN TO SOME HARD DIGGING.



LT SCOTT-KERR ARRIVED
BACK WITH 4 WSTP - AFTER
NOT GOING TO PORT SAID

AND A SPIN GOT INTO THE OFFICERS'
MESS DANCE AND NEARLY FLOGGED
THE CHRISTMAS TREE.

IN A
VERY
EXCITING
MORRISON
CUP MATCH
AGAINST
4 INF DIV
SIGNAL REGIMENT
AT HERFORD
WE FORCED
A
GOAL-LESS
DRAW.

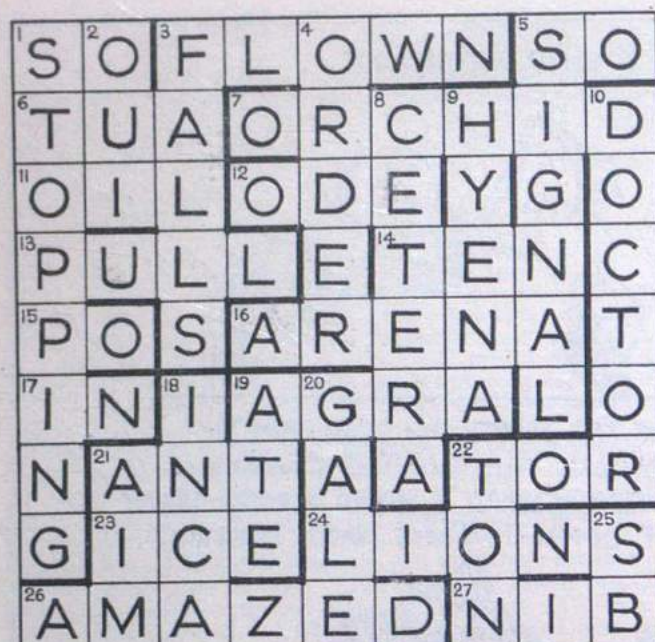


A GOOD
DEAL OF
THE CREDIT
GOES TO

SGT
JACKSON
(CAPT)

AND
GOALKEEPER
SIGMUN WARRENER





Solution to Crossword Puzzle by 10 Air Formation Signal Regiment, published in Vol. 11, No. 1, January, 1957

12 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT

"Christmas Festivities" are over and everyone enjoyed themselves; need we say more. The one venture peculiar we believe to Air Formation Signals, was the competition laid on by the R.A.F. in which we took part, for the best decorated and most original "Bar" in a Barrack Block. Although we put up a good show and produced bars from 14 Construction Troop, and 7 Line Troop, 8 Line Troop and M.T. Troop, we did not win any prizes in the station competition at Wahn. Nevertheless, the efforts were extremely good and the Commanding Officer awarded prizes to them all. 14 Construction Troop won the regimental competition with a bar and approach which looked very much like a Bistro on the Left Bank.

In sports there are two highlights, firstly the Regimental Hockey team survived the first round of the Army Hockey Cup by beating the Grenadier Guards by 2-0, and secondly the departure of the Regimental Ski team to Winterberg for training in preparation for the B.A.O.R. Championship in February. Special P.T. is being given to the Ski team which undoubtedly accounts for the looks of suffering on their faces. As one member of the team put it, "the P.T.I. uses muscles which I did not know I had got." And now our next article.

★

"For Those Posted To Us"

As I said last month, I would talk about the P.R.I. Bus. When the use of W.D. transport in B.A.O.R. for recreational purposes was restricted to short runs, this Unit was faced, because of the distance away from other military units, with a large bill for train fares, so the P.R.I. Committee got down to facts and figures of a proposition to purchase a Unit Bus. After an exhausting study of the local markets, enquiries were made in England with the result that the L.P.T.B. made an offer of a Green Line 34-seater. This was purchased and, with the help of the A.A. and Captain Walton, brought over to Germany. After a few short runs and based on the journey from U.K. a Hire Charge was fixed at "A Bob a Mile for the Coach."

It has proved to be a very popular buy and I'm pleased to report that in one year it has not only covered the initial outlay from P.R.I. but it has covered its running costs,

driver's wages and insurance. The Bus Account is now in the black and mounting steadily.

The only snag about the business was that because of its age it was difficult to get Full Comprehensive Insurance, but we have succeeded in getting third party, fire and theft, plus passenger and driver cover, which is all that is necessary to cover the Unit in case of an accident.

Other Units may be interested either in hiring our bus or in purchasing one for themselves and we will be pleased to pass on the "Gen." Don't buy your bus without first making sure that you can get it insured, and in B.A.O.R. this is dependent upon its age. I stress this because one R.A.F. Unit, that shall be nameless—bought two old buses and no Insurance Company would insure them, and they are just rusting away. So be warned!

With regard to last month's talk on Camping—I expect to see our Green Line Bus in the South of France in 1957 with a batch of the Lads camping out in grand style.

ALFCE SIGNAL SQUADRON

Our notes this month comprise mainly the activities over Christmas and the New Year and quite a full programme we have to report.

We started our Yuletide festivities with a "warming-up" in the form of a social and dance in the Squadron Mess Hall on the 8th December, the proceeds of which were devoted to the Wives' Club to support our children's Christmas party. The evening was such a success that it was voted the best to date and it was a pleasure indeed to see our friends from neighbouring Units giving us their full support.

A second such evening was held on 22nd December. For this occasion the scenery was changed somewhat; camouflage netting and tentage were so arranged that the entrance was transformed into a grotto, whilst inside the decorations, lighting and the bar were equally attractive. Our Squadron Christmas Draw was part of the evening's attraction and with the kind assistance of our ladies, who took turns in drawing the lucky numbers out of the drum, the prizes were fairly evenly distributed, with the exception of our S.S.M., who—not content with winning a substantial sum at Bingo the previous evening—walked off with no less than five of the prizes. Some people have all the luck!

As in past years, we entertained our children to their Christmas party and this was a bigger success than ever. Starting at 15.30 hours, they were given a film show, tea, games and the distribution of toys by Father Christmas, suitably equipped with reindeer and sleigh.

Christmas Day was celebrated in the usual traditional manner, the men being served with rum and coffee at 07.30 hours by the Warrant Officers and Sergeants. Drinks were taken at mid-day by the Officers, Warrant Officers and Sergeants in the Squadron Canteen, where we had our rendezvous, prior to serving the men's dinner. Having partaken of dinner, we drank toasts to our Queen and our Colonel-in-Chief. Many thanks are due to Sergeant Purser and his merry band of cooks; their efforts were justly rewarded. We say thanks to Colonel Harrison and all the other Officers of our Corps, who though not part of our Squadron came along and helped to serve dinner and make the occasion the success it undoubtedly was.

The December photo competition between 298 Signal Service Company, U.S. Army Signal Corps, 8651 SHAPE Detachment, and ALFCE Signal Squadron was a highly successful affair. The contest consisted of two sections, i.e. black and white and colour sections. The black and white section being further divided into landscapes, portrait and still life.

The winners in these sections were as follows:

Black and White: W.O.I. Whitham, ALFCE Signal Squadron, for his portrait of a Cypriot farmer.

Landscape: Specialist Third Class P. Calos, 298 Signal Company, for his night shot of the Place de la Concorde.

Still Life: Corporal Collins, ALFCE Signal Squadron, for his still life shot of ivy leaves on a rock.

Colour: Two prizes of equal merit were offered in this section—both prizes were taken by Major P. Tousley, 298 Signal Service Company.

Some 50 black and white prints were entered and approximately 90 35mm. colour slides. The colour slides covered practically every major city in Europe and ranged from snow scenes in Switzerland to sunshine in Venice.

SHAPE SIGNAL SQUADRON

This month we would like to give readers a brief outline of how personnel of the Squadron are employed at SHAPE.

On arrival at the Squadron, an N.C.O. or man will find himself allotted to one of the four Troops, according to his trade: "H.Q." Troop, which embraces Squadron H.Q., the "Q" staff, clerks and drivers; the Communication Centre Troop, which employs Teleprinter Operators and Telegraph Technicians; the Cryptographic Troop which has Electronic Technicians as well as Cipher Operators; and the Radio and Line Troop which has the Radio Technicians (Heavy), Line Technicians and a few Telegraph Operators.

For Signal work, the Squadron is integrated with American and French personnel, under the Headquarters Signal Officer (equivalent of Commander Royal Signals), an American Lieutenant-Colonel, who also commands the American Signal Battalion.

The operations of each Troop, except "H.Q." Troop, which needs no explanation, are as follows:

Communications Centre Troop

This is the largest Troop in the Squadron, and is employed entirely in the Communications Centre at SHAPE. The Officer in Charge of the Centre and the Chief Operator are British. The Centre is manned 24 hours a day on a three by eight hours shift basis (covered by four shifts). On each shift there is an American or British Duty Officer in charge of a mixed shift of American, British and French men and women. The shifts rotate every six days, and after each tour of duty, each shift has two days off duty. The shifts are known as "day" shift, which is on duty from 0830 to 1700 hours; "swing" shift, which is on duty from 1700 to 2400 hours, and "night" shift, which is on duty from midnight to 0830 hours in the morning.

The duties in the Centre are numerous, but the main duty of a teleprinter operator is to man one of the many "on line" circuits. Maybe it will be to Oslo, Naples, Malta, Fontainebleau, Paris, London, Bonn, or even Washington. Once experienced in the workings of the Centre, he may become a "trick chief" (shift superintendent), router, or do any of the many desk jobs.

The Centre has its own Teletype Maintenance Section, with an American Senior N.C.O. in charge. In this part of the organisation the Telegraph Technicians are employed. They carry out the repairs and maintenance of the many types of equipment in use, most of which are quite similar to the British equivalent. It does not take long for the technicians to become familiar with them.

The last part of the Centre where any of the operators may be employed is the Traffic Control and Analysis Section, where all the records are kept and the personnel of which keep a day-by-day check on all traffic.

To give readers an idea of the size of operations in the Communications Centre, the total strength of personnel employed is 160, of which 30 are British.

Cryptographic Troop

Little can be said of the activities of this Troop, beyond the fact that the Officer in charge and about half the personnel are members of the Squadron. The shift system for the Crypto Centre is the same as for the Communications Centre.

The Troop includes personnel employed on the distribution of ciphers and the repair, maintenance and installation of cipher equipment throughout Allied Command Europe.

Radio and Line Troop

Personnel of this Troop are dispersed among the following sections of the Headquarters Signal Officer's organisation.

The Radio Section, which includes remotely-controlled transmitter and receiver stations, as well as mobile and

micro-wave sub-sections. The Radio Technicians and Telegraph Operators are employed in this section as radio repairmen and transmitter and receiver attendants. They occasionally man the ground/air radio telephone net which maintains contact with VIP aircraft.

The Wire Section, which is responsible for operating the telephone service at SHAPE. Line Technicians are employed here in the frame room and for the installation and repair of telephones.

The Special Projects section, which employs Line Technicians in "Communications Control" for controlling the numerous radio and line telegraph circuits that terminate in the Communications Centre, and in "Sound Systems" which provides simultaneous translation facilities for conferences, as well as public address equipment.

The Squadron also provides a small number of clerks and a draughtsman to work for the Headquarters Signal Officer.

In addition to the Signal duties mentioned above, all ranks are called upon to perform the normal Regimental duties, military training, and to represent the Squadron in sporting and other activities.

5th (LONDON) CORPS SIGNALS TRUST (1939-46)

The Benevolent Fund of this Unit has been taken over for administration by the Welfare Section in accordance with the normal objects and rules of the Association.

It is IMPORTANT that Branches and individuals applying to the Welfare Section for financial help should state if the applicant served in 5th (London) Corps Signals.

★

Overseas

24 INDEPENDENT INFANTRY BRIGADE SIGNAL TROOP

Our main item of news is that the Brigade Headquarters, including this Troop, has moved overseas since last we contributed notes.

At the beginning of November we lost a rear link detachment, who set off with an Infantry Battalion for "an unknown destination." A week later we got the news that we too were on the way. We left Barnard Castle by special train and after a night at the troop centre at Woolwich we flew from Stanstead and Farnborough. We travelled in some luxury in chartered airliners.

Since our arrival at our present home we have taken part in a Combined Services Exercise, in which we operated from a cruiser. We are providing two daily links, one over a distance of about 1,000 miles and the other over 250 miles.

We are at present living on an R.A.F. Station and are now all enjoying the comparative warmth which is sufficient to tempt all but the weakest to go swimming practically every day. Unfortunately, there is little to do outside working hours and trips out of the camp have so far been limited to shopping expeditions to a nearby town.

In an effort to keep everyone busy and happy we have P.T. every morning before breakfast, but some members of the Troop have even complained about this wonderful opportunity to keep fit. However, only the fittest survived the Christmas celebrations with impunity and even the Camp Commandant fell off the camel on which he arrived at our Christmas dinner.

The R.A.F. Station held an Athletics Meeting recently and in the One Mile Invitation Race Signaller Rogers ran exceptionally well to come home an easy winner. At the Brigade H.Q. Sports Meeting the Troop team won by 20 points from teams representing Brigade H.Q., Defence and Employment Platoon, R.A.S.C. Composite Platoon and a combined L.A.D./Provost Section team.

We have also played soccer and basketball with varying degrees of success.

Since our last contribution we have said goodbye to Sergeant Bridgeford, who has been posted to 60 Army Signal

Regiment (T.A.), Sheffield, and to numerous others on release and posting. We wish them all every success. At the same time we welcome a score of new arrivals, many of whom joined us within 24 hours of our departure for overseas. Lastly, we congratulate Corporal Webster on his promotion to Sergeant and wish all ex-members of the Troop and friends a very happy New Year.

M E L F

2 AIR SUPPORT SIGNAL UNIT

In spite of an absence of notes from this Unit, we are still in existence, having successfully survived Operation Musketeer in Port Said. After a false start, which lasted for 12 hours and lost us our place in Phase 1, we finally fought our way through the old, familiar, oily oceans and flotsams, to reach the land of the desert sand, Port Said was quiet. We passed beneath hordes of hawks, various, and were soon among hundreds of various hawks.

We welcomed Major H. D. Bould, of 1 A.S.S.U., who assumed command of 2 A.S.S.U. for the operation, and were supplemented by several members of 3 A.S.S.U. Troop and some much needed equipment. The task of taking over A.S.S.U. Control from the Royal Navy was accomplished, after the usual vicissitudes and tearing of hair, in the spacious cellars of Canal House! Who said wireless sets? We discovered that they do not appreciate sea breezes and desert air. Some of our tentacles went in with Phase 1 and survived to tell us the tale. They discovered afterwards that they had quite enjoyed themselves.

Our hardest struggle was to prevent our drab and weary selves from becoming even more drab—dhobbies being what they are when minus water. Captain Connolly found us some unoccupied accommodation, with the help of Sergeant Howie, and we "borrowed" some furniture! However, Sergeant Holland could not be persuaded to leave his abode on the Canal bank and Sergeant Knox, in Cyprus, sent us regular assurances that he was not selling our rear stores. Everything (we hope) went according to plan and we found ourselves enjoying Christmas back at home base, but that is another and even longer, and should I say sorrier tale. We wish you all a very happy New Year.

50 INDEPENDENT INFANTRY BRIGADE SIGNAL TROOP

Christmas, 1956, in Cyprus cannot be the most joyous festival that members of the Troop will wish to remember. Living in overcrowded tents on a cold, wet day and 11 hours' flying time from home, thoughts naturally turned to those lucky chaps still at Catterick and such equally unlovely places, who could go on leave and toast their toes in front of their own firesides. Cheered up by the thought that there were many in a worse plight than ours, the dismal johnnies were soon silenced. There was plenty of Christmas spirit in evidence on the day—and prior to that. Major-General Kendrew, of Korea fame, paid a most welcome visit during the Christmas dinner and his flattering remarks sharpened several appetites to the extent of being able to down two helpings of the main and subsequent courses.

Christmas Eve was spent on a holiday trip in a charabanc to the Troodos snows. This can be regarded as a treat when the greater part of the time is spent in Kykko. Naturally enough, the Unit "on top" whose privacy we had invaded thought we were quite mad.

The last few months has seen the passing on of the stalwart band of operators who terrorised other Units on Salisbury Plain by reeling in their freshly laid lines. There are no such ghosts out here, but one hopes their worthy successors will one day sample the vices of the Chanteclair and such haunts without the need for guns beside their glasses. In fact, let us make this our New Year resolution, in wishing one and all a happy New Year.

3 INFANTRY BRIGADE SIGNAL TROOP

Tossed about like a small ship in a large thunderstorm, the Brigade has now found its way to Cyprus. We have spent the past four weeks in a requisitioned school at Larnaca, which had been used, so we are told, for the training of young agitators. Our arrival had not passed unnoticed. A store of bombs was found in the grounds of the hospital next door. And then within the next few days a nearby cinema which had been used as a store for bombs was burnt down and a bomb was found near the railings.

Disregarding these small setbacks, we cheerily set about building up our defences—a 15-foot fence was built around the school and a tower with a searchlight mounted on it is used to probe the darkness. When ever this goes out, and we are plunged into blackness, the cry goes up for Signalman Owen.

We are moving up to Nicosia next week. This is to be our new H.Q. for anti-terrorist operations. We are longing to get our hands on those VHF sets.

Our only worry at present is the loss of our Reservists. Sergeant Green saw that we were always on net. With them all we send our best wishes and thank them for having given of their best in what must sometimes have been trying circumstances.

Cyprus Today

by the Wife of a Member of Cyprus District
Signal Regiment

Much has been written in the U.K. newspapers on Cyprus, the so-called "Terror Island."

I arrived in the Island a year ago, at the beginning of the troubles. After the panic in England I was agreeably surprised to find that the people here were carrying on with their daily business with no visible signs of strain whatsoever.

During the year some of the families have suffered very sad losses indeed. Many of our men have been injured. It has made me feel very sad. In spite of this, life goes on quite normally, everyone seems so cheerful; it is so good to be among them.

Most families visit the Turkish Market. It is very noisy but interesting. Everybody tries to sell their wares together. One sees the odd Turk in a corner smoking a Huble Bubble, or as I saw only the other day, a man being shaved by another man who has set up his barber's shop between two large meat stalls. There is also a kind hearted Turk who offers me a coco-cola, and gives me a lesson in Turkish. Friday is the Turkish Day of Prayer; as the Mosque is next to the market this is indeed a very busy day. The Turks, in their best clothes, flock to their place of prayer. Streets so very narrow and old that people and cars have great difficulty in getting along. In spite of the discomfort of trying to shop in the crowds, I really enjoy the bustle of the place. The Greek side of the town has some very interesting shops and I find great pleasure in combing them for bargains. I find the majority of Greeks quite civil but still meet the odd one who is sullen and sometimes rude.

Summer in Cyprus is very hot and rather uncomfortable. It is quite a job to sleep at nights, as the heat seems so oppressive. Most days are spent at the sea, where the water is quite warm but very relaxing. A short holiday in the Troodos Mountains is a welcome relief. So nice to see the green pine trees after the plains of Nicosia.

I really think that Cyprus without its troubles is an ideal spot for the Serviceman. The Cypriot underneath his somewhat nervous manner is a very hospitable type and would like to be our friend. One actually told me that he loves the English.

I find my days here fairly full. Helping the welfare, or attending the Guild of St. Helena, which incidentally does a wonderful job of work on the Island.

In conclusion, I would like to mention that some of the English newspapers are inclined to overstress the happenings in Cyprus. This throws a certain amount of worry on our relations in England. How I wish this could be avoided.

When I leave Cyprus I shall take away with me many memories. Perhaps, who knows, one day I shall return to this Island and find a really happy people here. I sincerely hope and trust that this may happen.



Farewell Dinner to C.S.O., FARELF



Lieutenant-Colonel G. Mellor, Colonel P. M. P. Hobson, D.S.O.,
Brigadier E. D. Good, C.B.E., Major R. E. Stoney, M.B.E.

The Royal Signals Officers' Mess, Singapore, was full to capacity on the 10th December, 1956, when some 60 Officers of Royal Signals in Singapore dined out Brigadier E. D. Good, C.B.E., C.S.O., FARELF.

Colonel P. M. P. Hobson, C.S.O., Singapore Base District, in proposing Brigadier Good's health, said how sorry all Officers in Singapore were to see Brigadier Good leaving and that they all wished him the best of luck in his new appointment as Commander, the Signal Training Brigade. In reply, Brigadier Good thanked all Officers for their loyal support and said that as far as he was concerned they had produced results and that the Corps was functioning in a smooth and efficient manner.

However, the main business of the evening was to occur later on, when Brigadier Good was carried round shoulder



Brigadier Good "mounted" about to leave the Royal Signals Mess, Singapore

high by the subalterns who only dropped him once. The carrying party eventually delivered him to his "mount," a wooden horse, and the Brigadier armed with an outside polo stick was towed down the Mess drive at high speed by all present. His mount, although shod with four wheels, proved most fractious over braking and turning corners, and Brigadier Good must have felt he was engaged in one of the more perilous rides of his career. Suffice to say his horsemanship stood him in good stead and he arrived intact at the Mess gates.

All his old friends in Singapore hope that Brigadier and Mrs. Good had a pleasant journey home and look forward to seeing them both again some day in the years to come.

HONG KONG SIGNAL REGIMENT

H.Q. Squadron. With the advent of Christmas, H.Q. Squadron is more than merely busy. Arrangements for the Children's Party are in hand and the men are looking forward to seeing a performance of Chinese acrobats on Christmas Day. The Pay Office is inundated with applications for the payment of credits. All in all, it would appear that we are going to thoroughly enjoy ourselves.

After a somewhat sultry summer of inactivity, as far as sports are concerned, we are now back to the very heavy demand on transport and sports kit. The Sports Storeman was reported to have said "Never have so many played so much sport in so short a time." We did, however, win the Colony Summer Basketball League, and the team is now hard at training to avenge the defeats we have suffered in previous years at the hands of 56 Company R.A.S.C. and the Chinese Training Unit. We also won the Colony Swimming and Water Polo Championships, and the 48 Brigade, 40 Division and the Garrison Motor Cycle Trials.

We congratulate Mr. Chan Chack Ting on being presented with the G.O.C.'s testimonial. The citation reads:

"Mr. Chan joined the Hong Kong Signal Squadron on 5th October, 1935, as an Electrician Grade I. He served with the Squadron until 25th December, 1941. After the cessation of hostilities he rejoined Hong Kong Signals on the 8th September, 1945, and has gradually improved his position to that of Technical Supervisor Class II. Mr. Chan is most conscientious and meticulous in his work and he ensures that the civilian tradesmen under him carry out their work to his own high standard. He has proved himself to be most trustworthy and dependable and has given long and faithful service to the Army in Hong Kong."

C.S.O. FARELF, Brigadier E. D. Good, C.B.E., paid us a visit on 21st November, 1956.

The departure of the *Nevasa* on 8th December, 1956, has deprived us of a number of stalwarts. We bid good-bye and *bon voyage* to Major and Mrs. Evans, Sergeant and Mrs. Palmer, Corporal and Mrs. Jeffries, Corporal and Mrs. Drage, Lance-Corporal and Mrs. Hartley and Lance-Corporal and Mrs. Bell.

At the time of writing, the Regiment is engaged on one of its many Exercises for this time of the year. Judging by the pleased look on faces of those who have just returned from the scheme, all has gone well.

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T.A.

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

The Regiment has recently been notified by the War Office of the following Battle Honours awarded to Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment (T.A.) in respect of their services in the Second World War (the Battle Honours which have been selected to be borne on Colours are in italics).

"St. Valery en Caux," "Saar," "Tilly sur Seules," "Odon," "Antwerp—Turnhout Canal," "Venlo Pocket," "Zetten," "Arnhem, 1945," "North-West Europe, 1940, '44-45," "Centuripe," "Sicily, 1943," "Termoli," "Sangro," "Cassino II," "Liri Valley," "Monte Spadure," "Argenta Gap," "Italy, 1943-45."

The Regiment is unique among Signal Regiments in having its own Colours, which are proudly displayed on ceremonial occasions. The merger of the "Kensingtons" and the wartime "Phantoms" has been a complete success and the Regiment are proud of their unusual role in the Royal Corps of Signals.

Winter is traditionally the time for many of the Regiment's social events and recently Halloween and Christmas dances, complete with topical features, were well attended and very successful. Brief, but hilarious, "Rock and Roll" sessions were a new feature of these events. A successful children's party was held on 5th January.

With the "new look" in the T.A., with voluntary service once again the order of the day, 1957 finds the Regiment paying considerable attention to recruiting. It may well be that some ex-members of Royal Signals, not at present attached to the T.A. or A.E.R., who read this, may be feeling the itch to have a morse key at their finger tips or an Army vehicle at their command. If they live within reasonable reach of our excellent H.Q. at 190, Hammersmith Road, W.6 (and it is within easy reach of most parts of London), we should be pleased to see them any Monday or Wednesday evening to tell them something about ourselves and show them what we do. Or, if they would prefer to see us enjoying ourselves, we would be delighted to see them at our Regimental dance at H.Q. on Saturday, 2nd March.

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

The period under review, i.e. from the beginning of the winter training session until the Christmas break is always known as the "quiet period," during which there are so many regimental activities that one finds it difficult to have an opportunity to indulge in the luxury of a free week-end. This year proved to be no exception.

Training for the Regiment during this phase has consisted largely of Weapon Training, Civil Defence, First Aid, with the result that Squadron attendances have been surprisingly good. The Regimental Pipes and Drums continue to flourish under Pipe-Major A. Coffield, who is thought to be considering composing a lament called "Our No. 1 Dress at Branston" or "The Dress Committee's Dilemma."

Notable events, involving "weel kent" personalities in the Regiment warrant due publicity. The Suez Crisis caused Movement Control a headache when the powers-that-be decided to move the large form of our genial Training Major, Major D. H. Freeland, to warmer climes. The posting, we understand, is temporary, or, in other words, there will be some delay until Movement Control have enough shipping available to bring him back.

Major T. B. S. McMain, our Second-in-Command, attended an Investiture in November at Buckingham Palace to receive the M.B.E. awarded in the Birthday Honours List and was not, contrary to expectation, detained in the Tower during his visit there.

In December, on the occasion of our Regimental Dinner, the officers of the Regiment paid tribute to Colonel E. Birnie Reid, O.B.E., T.D., D.L., who, after a period of nine years, has relinquished the appointment of Honorary Colonel. His way-going was received with genuine regret by all friends of the Regiment, who realise what a tower of strength he has been to us throughout the years. We are indeed fortunate that his

successor in office is another Regimental "pillar" in Colonel T. P. E. Murray, O.B.E., T.D., A.D.C., who commanded the Regiment during the periods 1939-1940 and 1947-1953. The Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel G. D. G. Mackinnon, T.D., presented to Colonel E. Birnie Reid, on behalf of the officers past and present, a silver salver, inscribed with the facsimile signatures of those subscribing and handed over a travelling clock for Mrs. Reid, who has always, and particularly during the war years, been a good friend to those connected with the Regiment. The officers after sampling E. B. R. and Mrs. Reid's hospitality at a cocktail party the following day were not really on top of the Radio Relay problems, excellent set by the Commanding Officer and the Adjutant, Captain W. J. Pritchard.

Other important events during the period were R.S.M. Craig's retirement to civilian life, and in addition we must extend our heartiest congratulations to W.O.II Otley and Mrs. Otley on the safe arrival of their twins.

1/20 (S.M.) ARMY SIGNAL REGIMENT (T.A.)

We are very pleased to report that our Coventry Detachment, after some years of huddled accommodation has now moved into a brand new T.A. Centre at Green's Road, Keresley, which they share with a R.E.M.E. T.A. Unit. It is a really magnificent Training Centre and is due to be opened officially by the Lord Lieutenant on 24th February, 1957.

There have been many social events recently, the more important of which have been the Officers' Mess Ball on 12th October, 1956, attended by the Lord Mayor of Birmingham, Alderman E. W. Apps, J.P.; the Officers' Mess Dinner on 7th December, 1956, at which the principal guest was the then Representative Colonel Commandant, Major-General Sir Hubert E. Rance, G.C.M.G., G.B.E., C.B.; and the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess Ball on 14th December, 1956.

On 2nd November, 1956, the Birmingham Branch of the Old Comrades' Association held a most enjoyable Ladies' Night in our Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, attended by the General Secretary of the Association, Brigadier H. R. Firth. The Retiring Chairman, Colonel F. E. B. Jones, O.B.E., T.D., and Retiring Secretary, Major R. H. Ironmonger, received presentations.

A constant pre-occupation these days is recruiting and we have recently commenced an intensive effort to improve our rate. Much thought and effort have gone into this drive and already we have reason to believe that we are going to be rewarded by considerable success.

We were very pleased to learn that our Commander Army Signals, Colonel E. R. Price, T.D., has received the distinction of Commander of the British Empire in the New Year's Honours List. Until Colonel Price received his present appointment he commanded this Regiment and his H.Q. is located in our Centre.

Finally, we wish our Adjutant, Captain F. R. Redding good-bye as he leaves for his new appointment with 10 Wireless Training Squadron at Loughborough and we hope that he and Mrs. Redding will be as happy there as he tells us he has been with this Regiment. We welcome his successor, Captain J. H. Lane, who joins us from the War Office Monitoring Team and hope that he will enjoy his first experience of serving in a Territorial Regiment.

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Welfare Section

Below an attempt is made to describe with suitable anonymity ten cases taken from the Welfare Section files current during the first week in January, 1957. Also on this page is a simple statement of income and expenditure.

Widow of Signalman, 1942-46 who, with his family, emigrated to Canada, where he died in 1956. His widow sold all to pay fares back to England, and the Association helped her to necessary furniture.

Signalman, recalled reservist. At moment of recall, his family was allotted a house. Because of his recall, the income became only half what it was. The Association helped his family to move.

Signalman, 1939-46, is in the Star and Garter home, very ill. His wife cannot afford the fare to visit him and so the A.T.S. Benevolent Fund and the Association alternate in providing for the cost.

Corporal, 1935-53, married, three children. He has not had a home of his own, although the Association have tried since 1955 to get him one. Success at the end of 1956 found him with some, but just insufficient money saved to get him into a flat. The fund helped.

Signalman, 1955, serving. His elderly parents had got into a fearful muddle. S.S.A.F.A., Forces Help Society and the Association all combined to save them from eviction from their home.

Signalman, 1942 to 1948, and 1948 to 1952 in T.A. He has been very ill for years because of an accident, and the fund helped him.

Signalman, 1955. (N.S.) married. The fund helped his wife.

Signalman, 1939-54. He is now aged 63. His wife has been very ill and a son, who helped to keep the home going, lost his employment. The fund provided clothing.

Corporal, 1920-28. Previous service in the Infantry, 1906-1919. He and his wife have a tiny income from the State, neither can work. The fund provided for a few luxuries at Christmas.

Signalman, 1940-46, married, two children. Disease has caused the removal of both his legs, and since February, 1955, the Association has sent picture papers, periodicals and very occasionally, a little cash.

Glossop and District Royal Signals O.C.A.

Since writing our last notes we have had our annual Christmas Draw. This took place on Monday, 17th December, at No. 2 Squadron T.A. Centre. About 30 members turned up for this annual affair and a good night or morning was had by all. Who said the Nile was blue? Once more we made a few coppers for the funds, and I would like to thank all members who helped to make such a success of the effort. These affairs are a great help in keeping our balance sheet in a healthy state, ready for any emergency which may arise.

On Saturday, 22nd December, the youngsters of No. 2 Squadron and a number of our own had their annual Christmas party and, as usual, had a very good afternoon and evening. Father Christmas arrived on time and the expressions were good to watch when he handed out the presents off the Christmas tree. "Thanks a lot, George."

The third Monday in February is our Annual General Meeting and all are welcome. Will Chesterfield please note and anyone coming along will have a jolly evening and be made very welcome.

If anyone is interested in seeing how a piano can be pulled down and put up, then roll along and see our expert, even if he has to buy another to replace it. The B.B.C. would pay well for such a turn. It really has to be seen to be believed. "Change a note, Tom."

Calling Ex-Boys' Reunion. Hope you have a good time and is Bert Small, Wally Clackett and "Ginger" Monaghue going strong yet? If so, where are they? How are you rats? I'm still living and as dry as ever.

Signing off.—Smudger. W.A.

Subscriptions received during December, 1956

Headquarters, Training Brigade	£	s.	d.
Headquarters, School of Signals	...	...	...
Royal Signals Wing, School of Signals	...	...	...
1 Training Regiment	...	...	...
D. & M. School, R.A.C. Centre	...	...	...
6 (Boys) Training Regiment	...	...	...
2 Infantry Brigade Signal Troop	...	...	...
Signals Branch, School of Artillery	...	...	...
16 (London) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A.	...	...	...
SHAPE Signal Squadron	...	...	...
ALFCE Signal Squadron	...	...	...
12 Air Formation Signal Regiment	...	...	...
6 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment	...	...	...
21 Independent Infantry Brigade Group Signal Squadron	...	...	...
4 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment	...	...	...
2 L. of C. Signal Regiment	...	...	...
4 Air Formation Signal Regiment	...	...	...
Gibraltar Signal Squadron	...	...	...
4 L. of C. Signal Squadron, 2 A.S.S.U. and 11 'L' Troop	...	...	...

Donations received during December, 1956:—			
Bequest from estate of the Robert Hart Trust	...	...	...
W. E. Eastwood, Esq.	...	...	...
H. J. Wall, Esq.	...	...	...
H. McD. Webster, Esq.	...	...	...
H. E. Prater, Esq.	...	...	...
T. W. Forster, Esq.	...	...	...
Captain G. Evelyn	...	...	...
Mrs. A. M. Mayhew	...	...	...
Sergeant J. Fair	...	...	...
Mrs. K. Wakeling	...	...	...

Total Receipts ... £389 17 3

Expenditure During December, 1956 ... £439 15 6

(Includes: Rent and Rates; Beds and Bedding; Furniture; Cots and Prams; General Assistance).

Analysis of cases:—			
Families of Soldiers serving in U.K.	...	...	...
" " " " B.A.O.R.	...	...	...
" " " " N. Africa	...	...	...
Widows and Dependents	...	...	...
Released and Discharged Soldiers	...	...	...
Total cases assisted	...	...	...

31 cases of soldiers who served during the 1939/45 War ... £217 5 0
38 cases of soldiers who did not serve during the war ... £222 9 6

LIGHTER FUEL PACKS

The following amounts were most gratefully received during the month of December, 1956:—

Box No. 67 ... 43 (Wx.) Infantry Div. Signal Regt. (T.A.)	...	...	...
94 ... C. Leavis, Esq., Tunbridge Wells Branch	...	...	...
	£	s.	d.
	10	9	1

PLACE YOUR ORDERS...

The following goods are available from Association Headquarters. **Cash should be sent with order,** except in the case of Paint Transfers, for which an account will be forwarded.

BADGES, Motor Car	...	...	35/- each
" Motor Cycle or Cycle	...	...	17/6 "
" Lapel or Brooch	...	...	3/- "
" Blazer (Jimmy in Silver Wire)	...	...	25/- "

(The last two for Association members only).

BUTTONS, Blazer — Large 2/3 each; Small 1/8 each.

CORPS TIES, Reppe	...	...	5/6 each
" Heavy Weave	...	...	7/6 "
" Woollen	...	...	8/6 "

CRAVATS, Reppe ... 21/- each

CUFF LINKS ... 7/- per pair

CORPS SCARVES, Reppe ... 25/- each

" Woollen ... 21/- "

TIE and SCARF SETS, Woollen ... 30/- per set (In boxes)

CORPS PLAQUES, Wooden, 26/6 each PLUS postage. (In Corps Colours and bearing replica of Corps Badge).

Jottings

by NACERBY

Spring is in the Air . . .

Hello girls—how's the statistics?—and you want expert advice on fashions don't you . . .

Frocks are to be worn much longer this year, and legs will be less in evidence than usual. This is a very good thing, or a stinking shame, depending on (a) the leg, (b) your ideas on dress.

Sleeveless socks are going out. I knew they wouldn't last long.

Flowered crepe-de-chine will soon start to wallop woolly jumpers clean out of the game, especially for those with statistics 28-27-28. All woolly clothing should now be carefully protected against moths, myths and rock 'n roll. Wrap tightly in bees-wax paper, seal the ends, and throw lightly on a large fire.

Bobbed heads are likely to disappear—which is a pity. Not every woman looks charming with a dirty big bun stuck on the north west corner of her nut. A good way to dispose of long hair is to make it into two long plaits (about four feet six will do), wind one round the neck, working downwards, and the other round the top of the head, working upwards—fasten with gum arabic.

See you at the sales!

Holidays . . .

It won't have escaped the more perspicacious of you chaps that Summer holiday advertisements appeared in newspapers before the Christmas bills came in—not that we Whitehall chaps can plan our holidays! Still it's a wistful thought and in the hopes of catching the Gt in a weak moment one day, I popped into one agency advertising Far Eastern trips and came away loaded with pamphlets. Can I quote from one?

Some of you folks see simplicity respecting learning languages. I fund your 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 Pulmenism. TABERU (Take a Bite Right Up) and MONO, from the Japanese phrase "Don't sausages get MONOtonous."

Now second handy phrase "Go Away." Japanese say "IKANASAI." 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 evidence of unfamiliarity with soaps, waters and bathing salts." In this distinguished phrase you find all letters comprising word IKANASAI. Very simple—very genuine.

Now memories once more for simple phrases. Here is tabulate:

English	Japanese
Ha! Ha! Ha!	Hua! Hua! Hua!
Atishoo!	Atishuu!
Ahem!	Ahem!
Hiccup	Hic-cup
Tck! Tck!	Tck! Tck!
Jujitsu	Jujitsu
Kor!	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. Stop Press:— The agency dealing with the Far Eastern Trips was not AG II !!

Education and all that . . .

Despite the habitual fault finder who sneered at the Butler Education Act because, as he said, "When you've finished training 'em who is going to employ all these Butlers?"—the Army Education Scheme is functioning excellently. That is in our Unit.

It was difficult to find instructors as ours are (or were) evening classes.

We began by asking students if they had any suggestions to offer. These were not all acted upon. But the last run at the local Cinema started at 7.15 and if we happened to be in the middle of the Battle of Hastings around seven o'clock we had better accelerate the cessation of hostilities, Napoleon or no Napoleon—"Or else" they said.

In order to give unity to the various courses some of the instructors when well in their stride have been posted away. Another instructor has had to carry on and it has worked quite smoothly.

Take politics. One instructor would end the lecture (which was destined to be the last) with a remark something like this:

"And so in local government, we have the Town Clerk holding a position of the utmost responsibility. In many respects he is the King Pin, the Big Shot, the Cat's Whisker. He is the clerk of the town and there does all the typing of letters and the filling up of leave passes."

A week elapses, during which the lecturer has been posted, sent on a long course or demobilised. The class assembles again for the continuation of the lecture and thanks to the liaison work of the Education Officer there is a smooth connecting link as the new lecturer takes over. He proceeds thus:

"Furthermore, he wears a very tall chimney and is known—as the plate on his side bears witness—as the Rocket. He puffs about, his pistons rattling, at a pace that would shame any self-respecting snail. But it is progress. He goes off the rails a few times but nobody worries because whenever he moves he is preceded by a man carrying a red flag. He is just about pulling his weight, but only just, and when the villagers see him they scream with terror. He is not a pleasant sight with clouds of smoke issuing from him and big sooty patches besmirching his surface. He gets hot under pressure but keep filling him with plenty of liquid and he won't go all to pieces."

So it goes on until the student is left in no doubt that Parliament was failing to make the grade until Cromwell invented the first steam locomotive which he christened "Old Ironsides."

Art has been frankly disappointing. At first the students were intensely enthusiastic but midway through the first lesson it was explained to the class that there would be no live models. Hopes were raised when a teapot was produced, hopes were dashed when the students were told it was there for a model, not for brew. Interest immediately waned and the students are now doing woodwork.

You would think that plumbing has proved troublesome. On the contrary. Here we have the biggest class on the whole course—four men—and there have been no complaints about it.

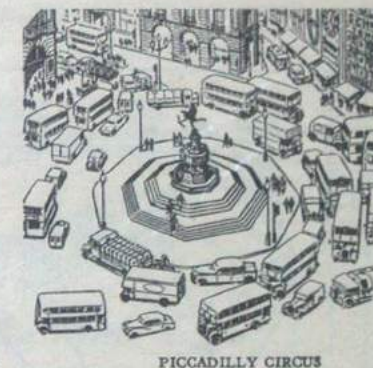
It starts a fortnight on Tuesday.

CORPS MARCHES

A new recording of the Corps QUICK and SLOW March has been made, and records are now available, price 10/- each, plus cost of postage and packing, from: The Honorary Treasurer, Royal Signals Band, H.Q. Officers' Mess, Catterick Camp, Yorks.

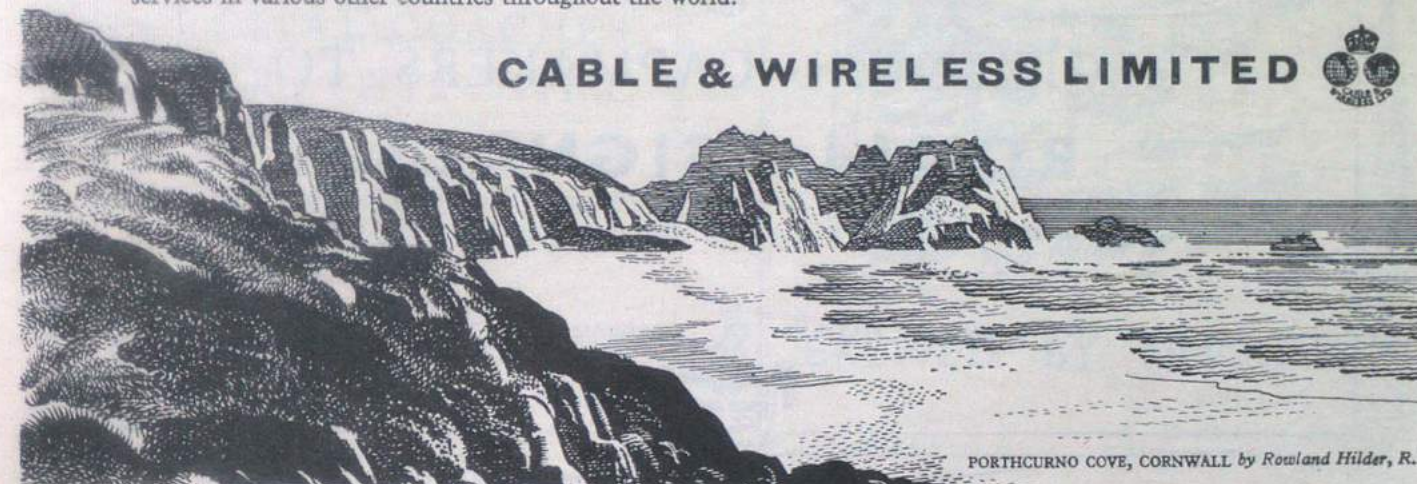
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THE WIRE

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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MARCH • 1957

Vol. II (New Series) No. 3



PRICE ONE SHILLING

THE WIRE, MARCH 1957

EDITORIAL

AS many know, a good deal of thought has been given to THE WIRE in recent months and there has been discussion as to whether or no it is necessary for the price of each copy to go up.

Despite most formidable increases in the cost of paper, printing, block making and postage THE WIRE has continued at 1/- since it was restarted in 1946.

It has been decided that THE WIRE will continue to sell at 1/- during 1957. To do this will necessitate certain small economies.

Readers will have noticed that slightly smaller type is being used for much of the contents but it is thought that this is not a great demerit.

Much of the proof reading is performed done in railway trains and if it can be read there it can be read anywhere.

The cover for February had a new and economical look and the absence of colour makes a considerable saving.

Every effort will be made to keep up the standard in the contents of the magazine.

Some of the famous Regiments of the Corps are being asked to contribute, in turn, a special article where, in words and pictures, they will tell something of their history and their present work.

It is hoped that 1st Corps Signal Regiment with long antecedents through "A" Corps Signals in Mons Barracks, at Aldershot, will be early in this field.

* * * *

Currently the production of each number is being carried on with increasing difficulty; the Sub-Editor, who does about 80% of the work, has been ill for some months and is now in hospital. All will wish her a speedy recovery, meanwhile there is a regretted lowering of standard in such matters as prompt acknowledgment of contributions and some delay in dealing with correspondence. It is hoped that the effort being made by many others will enable the standard of production of the magazine itself to be maintained.

* * * *

A New Career

Some weeks ago one who after 17 years' service in the Corps, latterly as a Short Service Commissioned Officer, was alas retired. He was of just the wrong age and service to continue. After various enquiries, he has recently been granted a Commission in the Royal Air Force, six years' active and four on the Reserve. It may be said that his tale of generous provision of uniforms and the ample provision in money for the few items not supplied occasioned rather invidious comparison.

* * * *

6 (Boys) Training Regiment Royal Signals Donation for the Purchase of Silver Trophies

All ranks of 6th (Boys) Training Regiment tender their grateful thanks to Major D. L. Sylvester-Bradley and All Ranks of the late 1st Commonwealth Division Signal Squadron for their generous gift of £24/10/6, for the purchase of a trophy to be competed for by the Regimental Boys.

* * * *

As is known, the Band of the Boys' Regiment is now equipped with instruments which are worthy of it. The trumpets have been provided through the generosity of Branches of the Association and Units of the Corps. The last, that of Port Talbot Branch of the Association, was delivered recently. Thanks is given above for a donation by the Commonwealth Divisional Signal Squadron towards the purchase of much needed challenge cups and trophies. Aldershot Branch of the Association are giving a challenge cup for competition within the Regiment at the present time.

There is still a considerable requirement for cups and trophies for the Boys' Regiment. The Officer Commanding the Regiment or the Secretary of the Association will willingly provide, obtain, information of what is most urgent to any Branch of the Association or Unit of the Corps.

Our own, the 6th (Boys) Training Regiment, is second to none in the work it does and in the traditions it has inherited. That it has been slow to ask for help in this matter should be an incentive to the Corps and the Association to do what is possible to provide a really impressive collection of challenge cups and trophies.

PERSONAL COLUMN

London Gazette

Her Majesty The Queen has been graciously pleased to approve the following be mentioned in recognition of distinguished service in Cyprus for the period 1st July to 31st December, 1956:—

Major A. D. Inglis.
No. 22823479 Sergeant J. G. Turne.

Brigadier (Temporary) Major-General L. de M. Thuillier, O.B.E., A.D.C., to be Major-General on 4th December, 1956.

The undermentioned Colonels (Temporary Brigadier) to be Brigadiers from the dates stated:—

Brigadier J. C. Hardy, 1st January, 1956.
Brigadier G. S. Knox, O.B.E., 19th January, 1956.
Brigadier W. C. Tucker, O.B.E., 2nd June, 1956.
Brigadier H. L. Lewis, O.B.E., 11th August, 1956.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sir E. T. Nepean, Bt., retires on retired pay 11th January, 1957.

Major T. H. G. Fletcher to retirement.

Lieutenant-Colonel and Brevet Colonel Mark Fryer Allen resigns as Hon. Colonel, 51 Air Formation Signal Regiment, retaining hon. rank of Colonel, 1st February, 1957.

Movements — Officers

Lieutenant-Colonel A. H. Costen, B.A.O.R. to 5 Training Regiment.
Lieutenant-Colonel D. A. Pringle, G.H.Q., U.K.L.F. to War Office.
Lieutenant-Colonel E. C. R. Blaker, H.Q. S.W. District to Depot (HS).
Major F. Dymond, ALFCE Signal Squadron to Depot (HS).
Major J. P. D. Mullaly, M.E.L.F. to R.S.W. School of Signals.
Major J. N. Hallett, R.S.W. School of Signals to Royal Military College of Science.

Major W. G. Mitchell, 7 Training Regiment to H.Q. Lowland District.
Major R. C. K. Baron, B.A.O.R. to Depot (HS).
Major W. A. Woods, Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment, U.K. to 2 Training Regiment.

Major D. C. Harris, Cyprus to Depot (HS).
Major A. H. D. Llewellyn, R.S.W. School of Signals to B.A.O.R.
Lieutenant (Q.M.) A. M. French, L. of C. Signal Regiment, A.E.R. to Depot (HS).

Major (T.O.T.) A. F. Goat, M.E.L.F. to 3 Training Regiment.
Lieutenant (Q.M.) K. B. Ulrich, First Commission to Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment.

Captain (Cipher) E. Cooper, B.A.O.R. to FARELF.
Major A. T. Burrows, Corps Signal Regiment to R.S.W. School of Signals.
Lieutenant-Colonel M. G. Adams, R.S.W. School of Signals to 1 Training Regiment.

Lieutenant-Colonel A. J. M. Athill, Depot (HS) to Eastern Command (M) Signal Regiment, T.A.

Major J. T. H. Higgins, H.Q. Training Brigade to 21 Corps Signal Regiment, T.A.

Major G. H. Hoerder, Joint Services Staff College to Depot (HS).
Major A. G. MacTavish, 5 Training Regiment to 2 Training Regiment.
Major F. A. L. Terrey, B.A.O.R. to 5 Training Regiment.
Major (Q.M.) S. Vernon, Signal Regiment, T.A. to M.E.L.F.
Major W. C. Ramsey, War Office Signal Squadron to Signal Regiment, T.A.

Major J. V. Dearden, U.K. COMCAN Signal Regiment to FARELF.
Major A. Holifield, War Office to East Africa.
T/Major W. G. B. Wright, War Office to B.A.O.R.
Major (Q.M.) G. B. Andrews, H.Q. Northern Command to M.E.L.F.
Major H. D. Bould, M.E.L.F. to School of Signals.
Major J. C. Garlick, Eastern Command to 4th Training Regiment.
Captain (Q.M.) G. Lynham, FARELF to B.A.O.R.
Major E. A. McLoughlin, Scottish Command, T.A., to School of Signals.
Major F. Williams, 6 Boys Training Regiment to School of Signals.
Major K. D. Gribbin, J.S.S.C. to B.A.O.R.
Lieutenant (Q.M.) P. H. Johnstone, First Commission to 42 (Lancs.) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A.

Major D. L. Swallow, R.M.C.S. to FARELF.
Major (T.O.T.) T. W. Coleman, U.K. to 5th Training Regiment.
Major (Traffic Officer) H. S. Reynolds, B.A.O.R. to retirement.
Captain (Traffic Officer) N. E. Robinson, B.A.O.R. to Cyprus.

Arrivals and Departures

Officer Training Wing

Departures: Staff Sergeants G. H. Berry and L. E. Ramsdate, Sergeants L. J. Merralls, N. Parker and B. R. Rothwell.

1st Training Regiment

Arrivals: Majors J. G. Melsom and J. W. Eagle, M.B.E., Sergeants Martin, McLoughlin and Watson, Staff Sergeant Medford.

Departures: Majors B. S. Townson and J. T. R. Sylvester Bradley, Sergeants Clark, Harrison, Lerig, Parnell, Jones.

SHAPE Signal Squadron

Departures: Sergeant F. C. Corr.

6 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment

Arrivals: Sergeants Clarke and Parker.

1 Corps Signal Regiment

Arrivals: Majors D. S. Dickinson and K. Evans, W.O.II McKay, Sergeants Foy, Skinner and Armstrong.

Departures: Majors P. F. Pentreath and A. T. Burrows, Staff Sergeant Chater, Sergeant McGreal.

12 Air Formation Signal Regiment

Arrivals: Majors F. E. Berry and E. F. Prockter, Staff Sergeant F. W. Johnstone.

Departures: R.S.M. J. Hoskins (to Quartermaster).

19 Army Group Signal Regiment

Arrivals: Sergeants Griffiths and L. A. Smith.

Departures: Sergeants Glendenning and Garvey.

3 Training Regiment

Arrivals: Major (T.O.T.) A. F. Goat, M.B.E., Staff Sergeant Balnis, Sergeant Brooker.

Departures: Staff Sergeants Jewitt and Holden.

Births

HARRISON.—To Sergeant and Mrs. P. L. Harrison, on 8th November, 1956, a daughter, Christina Mary. (1st Training Regiment).

FENWICK.—To Sergeant and Mrs. R. Fenwick, on 18th January, 1957, a son, David. (1st Training Regiment).

GAY.—To W.O.II and Mrs. J. H. Gay, on 20th January, 1957, a son, Trevor Charles, at B.M.H., Rintelu.

BUSHNELL.—To Staff Sergeant and Mrs. Bushnell, on 30th December, 1956, a daughter, Dawn Patricia, at B.M.H., Hostert.

GREEN.—To Signalman and Mrs. R. Green, a daughter, Vivien, on 15th December, 1956.

Marriages

IVIMEY-COOK—GRUNDY.—Signalman Ivimey-Cook to Miss Pauline Grundy, at East Glamorgan, on 20th December, 1956.

ALDOUS—MARNO.—Sergeant R. W. Aldous to Miss Ann Marno, at Gillingham, Kent, on 15th December, 1956.

FARLEY—PROSSER.—Signalman R. W. Farley to Miss Elizabeth Prosser, at Birmingham, on 22nd December, 1956.

NICHOLLS—ROWLANDS.—Driver G. Nicholls to Miss Lorna Rowlands, at Swansea, on 29th December, 1956.

All above of 19 Army Group Signal Regiment.

Deaths

WHEELER.—Ex-Signalman C. I. H. Wheeler, of 13, Beaumont Place, Roundhay Road, Leeds, 7, in January, 1957. He served in Royal Signals from 1922-1926 and from 1941-1946. He was a Life Member of the Association.

SHEDDEN.—23404557 Signalman Gerald Philip Shedden, on 6th January, 1957, at Brook General Hospital, Woolwich.

BUTLER.—Regimental Sergeant Major Frank Edward Butler, on 7th January, 1957, at his home.

LOACH.—Stephen Derrick, son of Lance-Corporal and Mrs. Loach, at B.M.H., Hostert, on 25th January, 1957.

Wanted.

A "Jimmy" centrepiece for Officers' Mess. If you have one available please contact: U.K. COMCAN Signal Regiment, Robinswood Barracks, Gloucester.

London District Individual Boxing Championships

Middleweight Champion—Lance-Corporal A. Sutton (C.S.O.'s Branch, London District), on 14th February, 1957, at the Depot, Caterham.

A Holiday in Guernsey

Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Laine (he was Sergeant Laine in Royal Signals) have started a Guest House, Oakleigh Villa, Landes du Marche, Vale, Guernsey, C.I.

Bed, breakfast and evening meal only: 4½ guineas per week —reduced rates for children. (August—fully booked).

Major Bill Lynch (R.A.R.O.) will be glad if friends and acquaintances in London will ring him on LABurnam 3255.

Forthcoming Events

A Reunion Dinner is being held at 21, Jardine Street, GLASGOW, on Friday, 12th April, 1957, for all Serving and Ex-Officers of 52 (L) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment and 15 (S) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment. Tickets and further information are available from Major J. D. Stewart, T.D., 21, Jardine Street, Glasgow, N.W.

Branch Representatives Meeting ... 13th April, 1957

Golf. The Spring Meeting will be held at Catterick Camp on 25th and 26th April. Entry forms may be obtained from the Honorary Secretary, Major D. D. Fairman, War Office (Signals 3).

Tennis. Royal Signals Tournament, 13th to 18th May. See page 87.

Visit of Royal Signals Band to S. Wales. Outline Programme

Wednesday, 22nd May.—Royal Signals Dance at Sophia Gardens Pavilion, Cardiff. Dancing from 8 p.m. to midnight. Admission will be by ticket only. Details are not yet firm.

Thursday, 23rd May.—Port Talbot Branch of Royal Signals Association. Band Concert in the Hall of the College of Further Education, Port Talbot. Admission by ticket (available from Hon. Secretary, Port Talbot Branch).

Friday, 24th May.—Band Concert in Cardiff.

Corps Dinner ... 29th May, 1957

and
Regular Officers' "At Home" ... 30th May, 1957
at the Hyde Park Hotel.

Catterick Reunion ... 29/30th June, 1957

West Country Reunion

It is hoped to hold a Reunion for West of England Branches, by the kindness of 6 (Boys) Training Regiment, at Newton Abbot on 28th and 29th September. Confirmation and fuller details will appear later.

Radio and Electronic Component Show

Grosvenor House and Park Lane House, London, W.1., 8th to 11th April, 1957.

Scottish Reunion

This will be held in Dreghorn Camp, Edinburgh, on Saturday, 18th, Sunday, 19th, August. Details will appear later.

Ex-Boys' Fourth Annual Reunion

The Suez annoyance has meant that many of our ex-Boys (serving and reservist) would not be available for a reunion in the Spring. The 1957 dinner will therefore be held on Saturday, 5th October, at Williamson's Tavern, Bow Lane, E.C.4. (One minute from Mansion House Underground Station). Assembly and cocktails, 6.30 to 7.15 p.m. Dinner at 7.15. Dress: lounge suit or Uniform.

Applications for tickets, with remittance please, should be addressed to Treasurer, Ex-Boys' Reunion, c/o 54 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment (T.A.), 40, Ashburnham Road, Bedford, as soon as possible.

Cheques and postal orders should be made payable to "F. W. Jacobs, Royal Signals Dinner A/C."

Ex-Boys, serving or retired, 16/6 each. Wives or other guests 15/- each.

It will be of considerable help to the Committee if remittances are sent at an early date.

ROYAL SIGNALS RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

1957
March 20 Northern Command Cup ... Catterick
" 23 Galashiels ... Catterick
" 27 Northern Command Sevens ... Catterick
" 30 Sandal ... Catterick

April 6 Percy Park ... Catterick
" 10 Middlesbrough ... Middlesbrough
" 13 Sheffield ... Sheffield
" 24 Bradford Charity Match ... Bradford
" 27 Huddersfield Sevens ... Huddersfield

* Corps Representative Match.

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL CLUB

1957
Feb. 27 R.A.O.C. (H) ... Catterick
Mar. 6 R.A.C. (H) ... Catterick
" 20 Durham College (H) ... Catterick
(provisional)
May 2 R.A.C. (A) ... Catterick

All above are Corps representative matches.

ROYAL SIGNALS HOCKEY CLUB

1957
March 20 Welbeck College ... Welbeck
" 29 R.A.E.C. ... Aldershot
" 30 Aldershot Services ... Aldershot
April 19 Scarborough Festival ... Scarborough
10 22 " " "

Corps Band Summer Tour 1957

Touring Band

15th April — 18th April ... Eastern Command
19th April — 28th April ... Eastbourne
29th April — 4th May ... Eastern Command
5th May ... York Minster
8th May — 10th May ... Southern Command, Gloucester
12th May — 18th May ... Eastbourne.
21st May — 23rd May ... O.C.A., South Wales
25th May — 1st June ... Victoria Embankment Gardens
29th May ... Corps Dinner
2nd June — 8th June ... Kneller Hall
9th June — 22nd June ... Eastbourne
23rd June — 30th June ... O.C.A., Catterick
1st July — 6th July ... York Festival
7th July ... Gateshead
8th July — 14th July ... Edinburgh
15th July — 20th July ... Dunfermline
21st July ... Paisley
22nd July — 27th July ... Dunfermline
28th July — 11th August ... Glasgow
15th August — 17th August ... Scottish Command, Edinburgh
18th August — 25th August ... Edinburgh
26th August — 31st August ... Hastings
1st September — 7th September ... B.B.C. Recordings
8th September — 14th September ... Eastbourne
15th September — 21st September ... Leave
22nd September ... Worthing
25th September — 26th September ... Brighton
28th September — 1st October ... 6 Training Regt., Newton Abbot
2nd October ... Return to Catterick

Non-Touring Band

4th March — 5th March ... 5 Training Regiment, Ripon
8th March — 12th March ... Eaton Hall
21st May ... Quick Silver Guest Night
25th May — 27th May ... Loughborough
29th May — 1st June ... Eastern Command
2nd June — 8th June ... Kneller Hall
15th June — 17th June ... On offer to 3 Training Regt., Lincoln
16th July ... Newcastle, H.R.H. Princess Royal
15th August ... V.J. Guest Night
16th August — 17th August ... Scottish Command, Edinburgh
7th October — 11th October ... Eaton Hall.

RECOMMENDED READING IN THIS NUMBER

Operation Grapple, pp. 63-64.

33 Parachute Field Regiment R.A. Signal Troop, pp. 77-78.

Mount Olympus, p. 78.

Musketeer by Major-General A. E. Morrison, C.B., O.B.E., p. 80.

Obituary

R.S.M. F. E. BUTLER

He died on 5th January, 1957, whilst serving in 50th Northumbrian Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A., of which he had been Regimental Sergeant Major for about 18 months.

After boy service, R.S.M. Butler joined the ranks in 1934, and he was in India when the last war started. He spent the years 1940 to 1945 on active service in the Middle East.

After further service in India, 1945 to 1948, he was appointed Acting R.S.M. of 1st Divisional Signals in 1952 and served in that rank in the Depot Regiment, 23 (Southern Corps Signal Regiment, T.A. (now 2nd London Signal Regiment, T.A.), before being transferred to the 50th.

He had a sharp illness in the autumn of 1956 and was convalescing at his home when he died.

Apart from his profession his family and his garden were his great interest. All his friends will sympathise with his widow and small son.

WHERE IS IT?



No prize can be offered for the correct solution, and the location of this statue of "Jimmy" will appear in April

The American Veterans' Committee

An Open Letter to the British and French Association affiliated to the World Veterans' Federation

Secretary of State John Foster Dulles was not speaking for the broad mass of the American veterans when he said on Friday, 25th January, that if he were an American soldier he would not want British or French soldiers to be fighting alongside him in the Middle East.

We were as shocked, as we are sure you were, to read Mr. Dulles' remarks. We are, of course, glad that the Secretary has apologised and indicated that his statement was misinterpreted.

Nonetheless, the impression may be left that this statement represents a segment of American viewpoint. It does not.

A.V.C. is composed of veterans who served in World Wars I and II, and in Korea. We have fought shoulder to shoulder with British and French soldiers. Victory after victory attests to your gallant action. If American boys

have to serve in the Middle East, we are certain that they will welcome and never oppose serving with the magnificent soldiers of your nation.

We hope that you will make our views, as a fellow member-organisation of the W.V.F., known to the members of your organisation and that through your organisation and your members you can let your nation know the feelings of American veterans on this matter.

Now is the time when the people of America, Britain and France should be pulling together. Isolationism should be dead and buried.

PROMOTIONS

The following substantive promotions were authorised during the month of January, 1957:

TRADES ROSTER

TO WARRANT OFFICER I

2324067	A/W.O.I	(1000)	Dignan, J.
2323993	A/W.O.I	(1550)	Phillips, J.
869510	A/W.O.I	(1630)	Pratt, R. W.
2329387	A/W.O.I	(1660)	Ormond, S.
2326542	A/W.O.I	(1900)	Scullion, P.
4128458	A/W.O.I	(2070)	Wall, E. R. C.
5932916	A/W.O.I	(2080)	Wilderspin, J.

TO WARRANT OFFICER II

14457496	Staff Sgt.	(4390)	May, F. A.
14186722	Staff Sgt.	(4410)	Evans, L. H.

TO STAFF SERGEANT

22242717	Sgt.	(6270)	Oakley, B. F.
2382985	A/Staff Sgt.	(6140)	Ashworth, E. R.
2686292	Sgt.	(6280)	Richards, R. J.
2548929	Sgt.	(6320)	Redhead, R.
19146187	Sgt.	(6340)	Fisher, G. J.
2548934	Sgt.	(6360)	Coleman, J. H.
2548953	Sgt.	(6370)	Moorman, D. A.

TO SERGEANT

22820494	Cpl.	(13280)	McKeever, A.
22212763	Cpl.	(5140)	Alderson, G. T.
22541388	A/Sgt.	(4040)	Prince, N. J.
22559048	A/Sgt.	(12190)	Joyce, J. A. G.
22836222	A/Sgt.	(12460)	Thirkill, J. H.
22212301	A/Sgt.	(2180)	Allison, W.
22538225	A/Sgt.	(31830)	Davies, K. G.
22265238	A/Sgt.	(6380)	Folcarelli, R. A.
2549483	A/Sgt.	(1900)	Mousley, S.
22109950	A/Sgt.	(11540)	Tanner, T.
22546696	A/Sgt.	(8540)	Malone, P. J.
2549770	A/Sgt.	(14310)	Brewer, E. A.
2549588	A/Sgt.	(16330)	Kelly, R. C.
22515147	A/Sgt.	(90)	Tennant, J.

F. OF S. ROSTER

TO WARRANT OFFICER I

14465367	A/W.O.II	(280)	Robertshaw, T. R.
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TO STAFF SERGEANT

14452076	A/Staff Sgt.	(2900)	Chidley, R.
2549785	A/Staff Sgt.	(4760)	Mingaud, S. R.
21015573	A/Staff Sgt.	(8920)	Craze, T. L.
14469928	A/Staff Sgt.	(11550)	Moxon, B. R.
22772128	A/Staff Sgt.	(12230)	Kimber, B. A.
22309256	A/Staff Sgt.	(12450)	Price, G. A.
22212650	A/Staff Sgt.	(12790)	Donkin, B. C.
22477959	A/Staff Sgt.	(12910)	Weir, R.
22296112	A/Staff Sgt.	(14110)	Willis, G. D.
22309273	A/Staff Sgt.	(14780)	Johnson, K.
19175119	A/Staff Sgt.	(7911)	West, K. J.
22526359	A/Staff Sgt.	(24770)	Simms, T.
19044093	A/Staff Sgt.	(7610)	Davies, D. H.

THE ROYAL SIGNALS BOOKLET

It is announced by the Royal Signals Institution that publication is postponed until the end of March.



2

SPECIAL SIGNAL TROOP

OPERATION

"GRAPPLE"

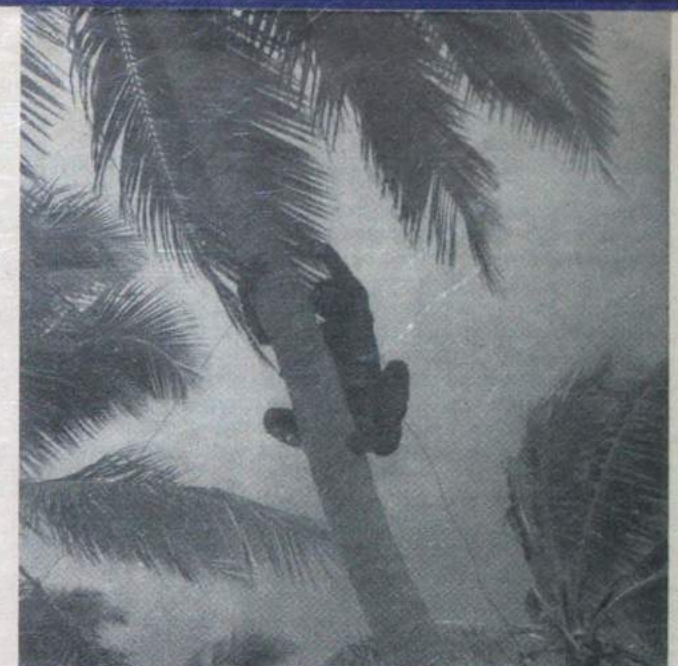
TASK Force Grapple—a combined force of scientists and members of the Services to prepare for and carry out the 1957 Megaton Thermo-Nuclear tests in the Mid Pacific. With this scanty but intriguing charter its Signal Troop was formed. All that was known then was that the force would prepare an air base on Christmas Island, and later carry out the tests and record the results. The Island lay almost on the equator, some 1,300 miles south of Hawaii. An advance party of one Engineer field squadron from the Far East, and detachments of all arms and services involved were to concentrate at Fiji and make the first landings on Christmas Island in June. In our case time was short and after a brief period of training and leave a party twenty strong were ushered, by a blonde airhostess to their seats in a Strato-cruiser at London Airport. At least one member has since confessed that at this stage he was planning to "play it off the cuff," but has not confirmed if he referred to the blonde or the operation.

The flight was the sort that only comes once in a lifetime—at Government expense anyway. Keflavik, New York-San Francisco-Honolulu-Fiji. Recollections of a long flight like this seem curiously telescoped, a series of incidents threaded together by the noisy unreal comfort of the aircraft hanging in the sky with the earth revolving beneath it.

Idewild airport New York, the incredible confusion of the Customs and Immigration where our luggage disappeared into an enormous heap and we almost gave up hope for it. And the official who stopped us and asked who was carrying the radio active material, that had shown up on their Check—visions of Ellis Island—however, it turned out to be nothing more exciting than the luminous paint on a prismatic compass.

Then on to San Francisco, travelling westwards and never quite catching up with the clock so that meals and sleep

First Troops ashore. A "Copra Boat" with H. T. Devonshire in the background



Climbers tree. (Pacific pattern)

seemed to recede instead of taking their usual ordered progress. There we had the only overnight stop of our flight, staying in what was to be our last real luxury. The night life of San Francisco proved interesting if a little overpowering and one member of the troop should be able to vouch for the accuracy of at least part of "The Ladies."

"She knifed me one night, when I wished she were white and that's how I know about women."

Then Honolulu and into the impeccable Olive green issue. A glowing tribute to the (apparent) youth and innocence of "your boys" was paid when one American matron asked if they were British Boy Scouts. A few too short hours were spent exploring this glorious South Pacific Brighton, where the palms softly rustle over Waikiki beach and the plaintive unspoiled polynesian love songs are borne on the breeze to the traditional accompaniment of an electric guitar.

Finally Fiji. On the map we noted that Nandi airport seemed some way from Suva, our destination; 80 miles in fact. We relaxed, however, the long journey was over and we waited for the coaches to arrive and carry us comfortably away to showers and silence. They arrived—square upright antedeluvian looking vehicles with wooden seats, an enormous double barrelled horn mounted close to the driver's right hand, and a proud notice saying coachwork by Lee Soong. We soon saw the use for the horn. The road was unmetalled, running round the flanks of precipitous hills, and any stretch of more than 300 yards without a right angle bend produced a silent prayer of thanks. It was obviously a point of honour with the drivers not to drop below 40 m.p.h. even on the bends, where the procedure was to sound a deafening blast on the horn and plunge round resolutely on the wrong side of the road. Unfortunately the cheers of the passengers seemed to provoke the drivers

Bulldozer clearing the cable route



into even worse excesses but by a miracle we arrived in Suva intact.

The Fijians proved an extremely friendly and likeable people, tall, well proportioned and with immense bushes of straight black hair trained to grow upwards. A week after our arrival the Fiji regiment returned from four years' service in Malaya and the Island turned out to welcome them home with traditional ceremonies, starting with the presentation of a whale's tooth; followed by the drinking of Kava (a traditional drink prepared from the powdered root of the Kava tree), and ended with hours of dancing.

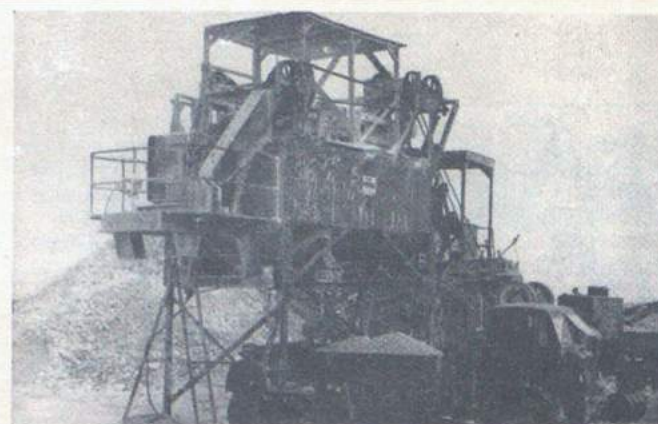
Then the *Devonshire* arrived bringing with her the Engineer Squadron and we set off on the last leg of our journey.

Owing to the lack of a deep water port at the Island, in effect a beach landing had to be made and detailed plans for this were completed as we steadily ploughed on through the blue Pacific. After five days steaming we came to the end of our journey half round the world—Christmas Island slowly rose out of the sea ahead of us. It stretched as far as the eye could see, low lying and fringed with the white of breakers on its reef. The *Devonshire* anchored a mile off shore and the disembarkation began. No picturebook landing this. Two ungainly copra barges towed by an old launch, "The White Swan," bore load after load of sweating close packed troops ashore through narrow channels in the reef. The operation had begun.

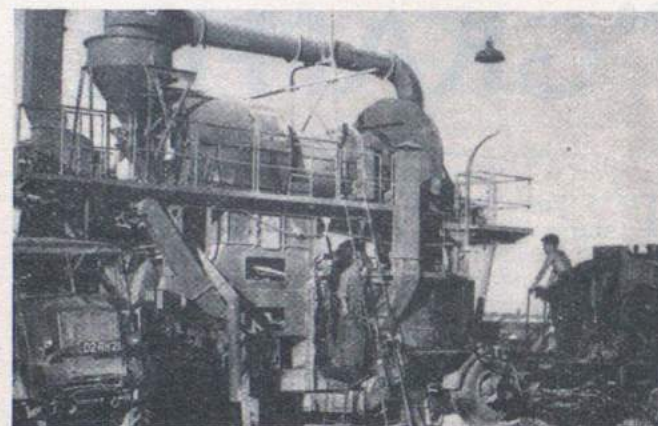
The Island was discovered by Captain Cook on Christmas Eve, 1777, and is part of the Gilbert and Ellis group. It is a typical "desert Island," a coral atoll surrounded by a reef close inshore and with a large navigable lagoon on its western side. Entirely of coral formation, it is very low lying, and covered with plantations of palm trees interspersed with open areas in which grow a dry prickly grass, green scrub and salt bush. It gives an immediate impression of colour, strong sunlight, the vivid blue of the sky and the changing blues and greens of the lagoon, the glaring white sand and the cool green of the palms. A steady N.E. trade wind blows almost continuously and masks the heat of the equatorial sun which can badly burn the unwary. The Island has no true inhabitants, but a changing population of Gilbertese, who tend the plantations and collect copra. The original dress of these Islanders was the grass skirt and it is still in favour with the little girls. Their mothers have unfortunately deserted it for more sophisticated and colourful wear.

Immediately on landing, beach line communications were established using the cable and telephones held by the Engineer Squadron. Lack of ladders proved a handicap at first, until the local inhabitants were seen almost running up and down the palms. They were soon co-opted and regarded it all as a new and amusing game. Within a short time a camp was set up at "Port London"—and a channel cleared to an old wharf. Two more ships arrived carrying all the stores needed for the first few weeks of the operation and a number of landing craft and DUKW's. The latter were then used to ferry the stores ashore. The method most favoured for unloading at the wharf was that in vogue at the time of the Ark—a pair of hands. All except the cooks were used as temporary stevedores and order was soon produced out of chaos. Cranes appeared on the wharf—large cargo vessels arrived and soon the Port organisation was handling some 300 tons of cargo a day. At this stage bulldozers were landed and a twelve mile path was cut across broken ground and through scrub for the first main cable route.

The main task is the construction of an airbase with all its attendant facilities. During the war, the Americans constructed an airstrip here of crushed coral. This runway has been enlarged and surfaced with bitumen—a formidable task as it is some 2,300 yards long and required 5,400 tons of asphalt. A network of taxiways, aircraft standings and roads are also required. Construction on this scale is extremely interesting as it involves the use of large and futuristic look-



● Loading a tipper from the "Stone Crusher"



● A "Star Mix" asphalt mixer



● Laying the first strips of asphalt on the runway



● Construction of the Tank Farm at "Port London"

ing plant. The process starts with the "stone crusher" where luckless sappers tend an infernal machine which pulverises coral rock to the accompaniment of deafening noise and dense clouds of dust—this produces 1,500 tons of aggregate a week for the use in asphalt and concrete. Then the "star mix," a giant which takes the aggregate, dries it in a huge revolving oven, and mixes it with boiling bitumen, producing one 3-ton tipper load every three minutes. The final step in the asphalt chain is a "Barber Green Distributor" which keeps up a form of perpetual motion as it creeps along laying a carpet of asphalt and fed by tipper loads of hot mix as it moves.

In addition to the airfield, an administrative camp area has been constructed complete with hospital, large kitchens and mess rooms, a distillation plant capable of producing 100 tons of fresh water a day, and accommodation for over 1,000. The port area has been expanded and a tank farm built of twelve 105,000 gallon tanks for storage of fuel.

Our own contribution to all this has, in brief, been the construction of some 300 miles of poled cable and the installation of four CB type exchanges, two of which are multi position. Life proves interesting as no job can be done exactly to the book, and linemen now accept with equanimity instructions to recover and relay half a mile of 4in. water piping or make concrete cable pits, while the drivers put the ladders nonchalantly put weave ties on the quad.

HOME

1 TRAINING REGIMENT

ARMY RUGBY FOOTBALL FINAL

1 Training Regiment - - - - 15 pts.
1st Bn. The Welch Regiment - 3 pts.

The past month has been a memorable one, particularly in the field of sport.

Our Rugby XV has again reached the Army Cup final and at Aldershot on 6th March do battle with The Welch Regiment from B.A.O.R., who narrowly defeated us in the sixth round last year.

Congratulations also to Corporal Scotland, the captain, who in the past fortnight has represented his country twice, and judging by his displays is likely to fill the full back berth in the Scottish side for a long time.

En passant, we take this opportunity to say goodbye to Corporal Sayer, now back in civil life. For two seasons he made the scrum half position his own and was an inspiration to the team on and off the field.

Progress in the District and Command Rugby Challenge Cup Competitions is very satisfactory, but more anon.

Having won the District Cross Country Cup, our runners proceeded to annex the Command trophy, and now go on to the Army in March. Sternest competition came from the 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards, who were runners-up with The Cheshire Regiment third, not far behind.

And now for something which rarely features in the military scheme of things. A few enthusiastic chess players, ably led by Lance-Corporal Lawrence, entered and won the Darlington and District Civil League Championship without once suffering defeat. Well done!

Our Basketball, too, have reached the Command final in which we meet 5th Training Regiment, the holders. Hopes are high that we'll be in at the Army kill later on.

Less spectacular, perhaps, but going great guns, is the Soccer XI, which still heads the Garrison Senior League and retains a lively interest in the Command Cup.

This chronicle of sporting achievement may give the impression we do little else but play games. Not so, as X tradesmen everywhere well know, but we attach a great deal of importance not merely to the winning of trophies but to sport for sport's sake.

In conclusion, we would like to wish S.S.M. Neale and Sergeant Baxter, both patients in the Connaught Hospital, Hindhead, a very speedy recovery and return to duty.

3 TRAINING REGIMENT

The past month has been rather uneventful except for sporting activities.

At soccer, our Regimental team, captained by Staff Sergeant Chater, played a Sheffield United team which included their famous manager, Joe Mercer, and four of their first team. There was a very good "gate" with a large civilian element and they saw some really first-class football. Our lads were not at all disgraced in losing by four goals to one, and the match was voted very enjoyable, both by players and the trainee spectators alike.

In the North Midland District Individual Boxing Championships the Regiment did very well. In the novices' section there were 15 entrants and, of these, three were winning finalists, with Lance-Corporal Richardson outstandingly good. For the Opens we entered six, of whom two became District Champions and two were runners-up.

In winning the welterweight final Corporal Brown fought magnificently against a very strong opponent and gained terrific applause from the crowd and words of praise from Major-General R. Younger, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., who presented the prizes.

Congratulations to Major Goat on being awarded the M.B.E. He has recently joined the Regiment from M.E.L.F. and is now re-organising "M" Troop. Congratulations also to Major G. E. Kilminster, our Adjutant, and to Captain J. F. Lucey on their respective promotions to those ranks.

Staff Sergeant Ross has now rejoined us after his successful completion of No. 1 Signal Centre Supervisor's Course and is making his influence felt in the training of Signal Centre Clerks.

Our best wishes go with Staff Sergeant Holden, who is now on a Resettlement Course at Newark prior to leaving the Army after 22 years' service; and with Staff Sergeant Jewitt, who has left us for an attachment as P.S.I. to Liverpool University.



4 TRAINING REGIMENT

Although Spring is not yet with us there are two changes in the landscape to record, notable amongst which is the departure of the Adjutant. Captain L. S. Bamber has been with us for nearly three years and has now moved to Signal Training Brigade Headquarters to take up the appointment of Staff Captain. Whilst there is always danger of Higher Authority knowing too much about one, we feel that to have a true friend at court might have its advantages.

We have also lost the well-known figure of R.S.M. P. H. Johnstone, who was commissioned as Lieutenant Quartermaster on 19th January. We hear that he was in the Sergeants' Mess celebrating the event on the evening of 18th January when midnight struck. It occurred to those present that Lieutenant (Q.M.) Johnstone was now out-of-bounds, out-of-order and out of the window feet first. He has our heartiest congratulations and good wishes in his new appointment.

The two somewhat large gaps in our ranks created by the above departures are filled by Captain F. W. Oakes, from 2nd Training Regiment, who is now the Adjutant and an enthusiastic member of the miniature rifle team. R.S.M. R. S. Greenstreet now presides over the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess and whatever else it is the R.S.M.s preside over.

At the end of the month we were very pleased to see Brigadier H. R. Firth, who addressed all Regulars with great point on the doings of the Association. He elicited a number of good questions which should, we hope, be the prelude to a higher membership. Too few of us realise that our Corps Association acts for us and on our behalf in all that it does. Brigadier Firth's visits help point this out to all.

The Regiment's hockey team has won its way into the fourth round of the Army Cup after a really titanic struggle with 5th Training Regiment. We played them with extra time on each occasion and still no-one scored. At the third meeting we got one goal and were duly thankful. Now we are preparing for the next victims—the Officers' Training Wing of the School. Begone Dull Care!

★ **MUSKETEER** by Major-General A. E. Morrison, C.B., O.B.E., on page 80.

Lieutenant B. A. Canham, Royal Signals

On 6th September, 1944, an ambition of some two year's standing was realised when I was attached as a boy apprentice tradesman in the Royal Corps of Signals.

The following day I had my first glimpse of a part of Yorkshire which was to become all too familiar in the succeeding years—Catterick Camp. On a wet, September evening such a place is inclined to dampen even the most enthusiastic spirit—mine was no exception. At 14½ and away from all that was familiar, nervousness and trepidation became all too apparent. I need not have worried, however—everything was splendidly organised and very soon I was tucking in to an enormous evening meal.

Boys' Squadron Royal Signals then took over the job of educating and feeding me, etc., for the next three years. They were happy years, and I learned a great deal—such knowledge was to hold me in good stead later on when I ventured forth to Man's Service in January, 1948.

Time passed quickly in Boys' Service—sport, education and trade training were allotted in fair proportion. Promotion too, came, and in my last term I was made Boy S.S.M.

Shortly after leaving Boys' Service I became an instructor in radio theory at 1 Training Regiment. I enjoyed this job immensely—it was both interesting and rewarding. Once again time passed quickly and in August, 1949, I entered the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, as a candidate for a Regular Commission. I spent 22 very wonderful months there—I again learned a great deal and here I was considerably helped by the knowledge gained during the first few years of my Army life.

Catterick was revisited for a period of six months, immediately following the granting of my commission on 9th February, 1951, to complete the Subaltern's Part I Course. Yet again I put to use knowledge previously gained—I experienced little difficulty in assimilating the technical aspects of the Course—I had done it before!

I was finally let loose on Egypt Command Signal Regiment in October, 1951, as a Royal Signals subaltern. A year and a half of the most interesting and varied work followed—the Egyptians were their usual helpful selves but it did, at least, prevent one's work from becoming merely a matter of routine. May, 1953 came and I was sent to Khartoum in the Sudan to take over the remnants of the Signal Regiment that once existed—a very pleasant and not too difficult job! Captaincy fell my way at 23—enthusiasm and hopes for the future were very bright.

Catterick again! March, 1954, brought me back to study on the Part II Subalterns Course. A year of hard work and then an ambition of long standing was realised. Back to Boys' Service—this time as a Troop Officer.

Now, in February, 1957, and in a few hours I leave 6 (Boys) Training Regiment, to take up an appointment in the Signals Directorate in the War Office. I have seen many boys enter into Man's Service in the last two years—the opportunities are many for those who want to succeed—I hope many will grasp them and do well. The future for all in our Corps is brighter than ever it was—no door is closed completely to anyone.

22983675 Boy/Cpl Wootten

Boy Corporal Wootten was born at Chipping Sodbury (Gloucestershire) in 1940. He spent the first three years of his life there, and then in 1943 moved to the Calne area (Wiltshire). His parents have lived there ever since.

Boy Corporal Wootten was educated in local Secondary and Secondary Modern Schools. At the age of 15 he joined a firm of millers in Calne. He spent three months there



during which he was employed as a lorry driver's mate. The driver with whom he was working had been in the Regular Army and prior to the 1939-45 War had served with Royal Engineer Boys. Frequent discussion on the Army resulted in Boy Corporal Wootten taking an increasing interest and influenced his joining Boys' Service.

When 14 he joined the Army Cadet Force, and within a year he was promoted Lance-Corporal.

There are no family connections with the Services.

Boy Corporal Wootten joined 6 (Boys) Training Regiment Royal Signals on 19th October, 1955. Since then he has advanced rapidly and has recently been promoted Boy Corporal.

Soon after his arrival at the Regiment he joined the Band. Initially his aim was to become a trumpeter, but after about three months a vacancy occurred for bass drummer, which he accepted. In September, 1956, he was appointed Drum Major, and as such, has taken charge of the Corps of Drums on numerous large parades.

Before joining the Regiment he played few games. His size and weight, 6ft. and 12½ stone, have helped him to become a more than useful Rugby forward.

He has represented the Regiment at both Rugby football and boxing.

Wootten still has over a year to serve with the Regiment, and will leave for Man's Service at Easter, 1958. At the moment he intends to take a course in one of the operating trades when he joins the Training Brigade, Royal Signals.

His future is a bright one.

OFFICER TRAINING WING

The strength of Officer Cadet intakes is again increasing as is normal at this time of the year, but we have had an abnormally lean period over the last few months, the all-time low having been reached with a course of three cadets. This course did, however, win the Inter-Course Boxing competition, which was held in late January, at which the standard generally was higher than usual and one or two very promising boxers came to light.

We have continued to provide players for high-class matches in other fields of sport.

Captain A. F. Seymour, Second-Lieutenants A. J. Gordon, P. Wheeler and A. Godson played for Northern Command in the Rugger match against Birkenhead Park recently. Second-Lieutenant Godson also plays Rugger regularly for the Army and the Northern Counties, and Lieutenant P. Wetherill hockey for the Army and Corps teams. Corporal J. F. Wilkins runs for the Royal Signals team in the North East Counties Senior Cross Country Championships.

We are sorry to have lost a number of valuable members of the Unit recently. Captain G. A. Cathcart has left the Wing to be Adjutant of 53 (W) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, and before he left Captain Gwynne Watkeys gave him an intensive course in Welsh words of command. Captain D. S. Keech has left us on posting to 90 Signal Regiment. He is an exceptional sportsman, a Corps cricketer of note, and will be sadly missed in the Unit soccer, cricket, basket ball and .22 shooting teams.

S.Q.M.S. G. H. Berry has been posted from us and is now stationed at the Hook of Holland. He was one of the mainstays of our small bore rifle team. To them and to Staff Sergeant Ramsdale, Sergeants Merralls, Rothwell and Parker, who have also gone, we say thank you; our very best wishes go with them.

The Warrant Officers and Sergeants' Mess Darts Team have won the Garrison Cup for the third year running.

A most cordial welcome is extended to W.O.I and Mrs. A. Smith, who has been posted to take over from R.S.M. H. W. Newsham who is shortly to be commissioned as a Quartermaster.

U.K. COMCAN SIGNAL REGIMENT

R.H.Q. and 1 Squadron

The real purpose of the Signal Centre became known to us at the beginning of this month with the arrival of an A.K.C. Film Unit. Hitherto most of us had considered that the passing of Traffic was the purpose of the Centre. Potential film stars sprang up overnight and everyone became camera conscious. The first few days saw many amusing incidents, with non-members of the Film Unit walking across a scene during the middle of a "Take," causing strange utterances from the Director and his crew. Our former C.D.S.O., Major Dunkley, is the adviser attached to the Unit and is sharing in the trials and tribulations of the Film Unit.

The Unit welcomes to the fold R.S.M. Farley, W.O.II Cowhill, Sergeants Arthur and Johnston, who was our Provost Sergeant until he was called away to go on a Mediterranean cruise. We bid farewell to R.S.M. Hipperson, who leaves us early in February. He should have gone over the border to the land of the kilt, bagpipes and haggis, but at the last minute was granted a commission and instead proceeds in the near future to the snows of Kilimanjaro, i.e. Nairobi, Kenya, as a Traffic Officer. Sergeant Pollard leaves us this month for Civvy Street and with him goes our best wishes.

It is with deep regret that we have to report the termination of the "Arrow News," our weekly camp paper. It seems that nobody feels he can fulfil the task that "Uncle Doug" 5423 carried on so well. It is hoped that someone will soon come forward.

Our sport has badly suffered from the effects of the Christmas and New Year grants. The Unit rugger team has suffered a few setbacks during the month and cancellations due to lack of support have not helped. The only hockey game of the month was also cancelled. It is hoped that the games will not continue in such turbulent atmosphere and that volunteers, who are interested, will come forward. The Squadron shooting team have got off to a good start—the team being placed 13th out of 36 competing teams in the South-Western District Small Bore Championships, 1957.

R.S.M. Hipperson, as a farewell effort, together with Sergeant Savins, have taken the first D. and D. for 1957. The N.C.O.s are finding the exercise a little more exhausting than most have received since Catterick training days, but the final results will go down in Regimental history. All 24 budding N.C.O.s (12 Regulars and 12 National Servicemen) passed with honours, an event so far unheard of in the Regimental annals. A fine effort indeed and great praise is due to Mr. Hipperson and Sergeant Savins, not to mention the 24 persecuted trainees. Brigadier G. B. Bell, C.B.E., Chief Signal Officer, Southern Command, took the passing-out parade and commented very favourably on the general turn-out and drill. An ornamented malacca cane with Corps Crest was presented to the best student, 23189002 Signaller R. K. Ford, 4 Squadron, on the course and in addition all 24 were presented with a certificate of proficiency.

2 Squadron

We are very sorry to say goodbye to Major and Mrs. Hodgson, who left us this month for Ripon. Major Johnson, our new O.C., joins us from the staff at Shrivvenham. We hope he enjoys putting some of his theories into practice during his stay here. The Squadron was visited this month by the G.O.C. Mid-West District. We are glad to report that he was well pleased with all that he saw.

Dances in the Transit Room still continue to be a regular feature of our social life and are well supported by the local ladies.

The football team continue to play regularly but we regret to say without quite the degree of success we would like to see. Perhaps the approach to Spring will spur them on to greater success.

3 Squadron

Once again Signals to the rescue. During a visit from the local Padre we learned that the chimes at the Parish Church were "ooo." Apparently years and years ago the bells used to play at three-hourly intervals, having a selection of six hymns. Staff Sergeant Evans, always one for accepting a challenge, suggested he go down and survey the situation. This he did and decided there was hope. He co-opted the services of Sergeant "Jock" Conway and they both took seven days' leave and battle commenced. The hardest task was removing an accumulation of rubbish and rooks' nests. This was done with the assistance of three trainees from 1 Training Regiment in off-duty hours. The Padre authorised £5 from church funds and the job was in hand. Needless to say, Signals triumphed and the bells now boom out over the Oxford countryside playing "Abide with Me," "Home, Sweet Home," etc. We must also mention that Captain N. B. Moss, being an accomplished musician, was the official tuner. There is no truth in the rumour that circulated around the Squadron that on one occasion the bells actually played "Rock around the clock."

Our Canoe Club has recommenced its activities and a lot of new members enrolled. With two more canoes on the stocks an active and interesting season is anticipated. We hear the Messing Officer is cooking up some interesting menus for the week-end trips.

In January we said farewell to two Mess stalwarts, namely Sergeants Walrond and Hare. They will both be missed. We wish them well for the future. Our Squadron coach will not seem the same without Gilbert Walrond behind the wheel. We would also like to say welcome to Sergeant Edgar, who has just joined us from Tripoli.

4 Squadron

The Squadron is still on the map but a bit behind in their WIRE notes. It is hoped to rectify this in the next issue.

WAR OFFICE SIGNAL SQUADRON

The Squadron is no longer periodically confined to camp; the couriers have all returned to Woolwich; the Suez crisis is, for the moment, over, and we have emerged from the depths where we spend most of our time, to reappear again in THE WIRE. Although few units were unaffected by the emergency, it is probably true to say that this Squadron was the worst hit of any Signal Unit in U.K. For a time, the week of military training that occurs usually once a month, was dispensed with entirely, and every available tradesman was employed day in, day out, at the Signal Office; while those, who in the normal run, lead a sheltered life at Woolwich, found themselves entrained for all corners of the country. On the night Israel invaded Egypt, had all the demands been answered, over 50 per cent of the Unit's strength would have been on courier runs!

Since those days, things have fortunately eased up, and life is gradually returning to normal; the Reservists have come and gone, making, despite their short stay, a distinct mark on the Unit; Christmas has been celebrated in customary fashion. The inter-Troop football competition has revived, despite the assured superiority of S.H.Q. Troop, who count as one of the foremost of their successes a 10-1 victory over our close neighbour, the London Assembly Centre; and at the time of writing, we have just completed, only this morning, the annual Administrative Inspection, performed this year by Lieutenant-Colonel B. R. M. Hayles, C.S.O., London District.

All that remains to be said is that we are looking forward to our move to Dulwich, now scheduled for March; the hatted camp which awaits us there, situated on the slopes of Sydenham Hill and by the side of the Dulwich and Sydenham Golf Course, offers, it seems, welcome relief from the fog of Woolwich, and the drabness and decay of our present accommodation.

EASTERN COMMAND SIGNAL SQUADRON

A few members of the Squadron were called out one dark and stormy night to assist the Ministry of Supply in proving a point (still secret). The rôle of the Squadron being to provide communications for the Supply Boffins. Although high-power wireless vehicles were taken to do the job, it was found that No. 31 sets were good enough, and this entailed Lance-Corporal Burgess sitting on the top of a great hill, in the pouring rain, cursing the day he was called up, while other operators, who were not being actively employed, were sitting in the warmth and comfort of the C.V.s.

Tuition of Highland Dancing is now being carried out by Captain and Mrs. Stewart and is proving highly popular. However, there seems to be an argument going on as to which is more popular, Highland Dancing or Rock 'n' Roll.

A wives' club has been formed and is proving very popular indeed; meeting every fortnight, and excellent attendances have been reported. Their first social function was a whist drive, which was held in the O.R.'s lounge of the canteen. This was well attended and total receipts were over £5.

There is little to say about sporting activities, because there has been no soccer or other competitive games during the month. However, the Squadron soccer team are in the semi-final of Elca-Hillier Shield Competition, run by Hastings and District League. Their opponents being Eastbourne Civil Police. The team have every confidence of winning this game and going on to the final.

24 INDEPENDENT INFANTRY BRIGADE SIGNAL TROOP

Since our last notes we have returned from the sunshine of the Persian Gulf, where we spent two months and are feeling the cold again.

The O.C. usually vets these notes before we send them off but at the time of writing he seems rather busy, so we are sending them direct. What with leave and getting organised again, there has not been much time for writing these notes, so we are sending a letter found outside the Troop Office, which gives some idea of our movements. There is no name on it, so we can only hope the writer won't mind having it published.

"Dear Ma,

I am writing this from Barney and it's flippin' cold after the Purshion Gulf, so cold that I've had to start wearing my long wooly underwear again.

We left Sharjah on the 17th in R.A.F. Transport Command Hastings bound for Habbaniya in Iraq. It took us just over four hours but we were glad to get our feet on the deck again. One plane had to 'ave its engine changed while it was there and was delayed twenty-four hours. Two of the boys were anxious to leave the cinema we went to but the manager took objection and the man with the dog had to wait until the National Anthem had been played.

In the morning we took off from Habbaniya on the way to Nicosia. We went north over the Turkish mountains and we had to wear our oxygen masks most of the way. It was rather like the dentist's but not as frightening. Have you seen the posters for the South of France with deep blue sea? The Medditeranian is just like that but the Red Sea, which we crossed on our way out, isn't red at all.

We only stayed in Nikosia four an hour so we didn't see anything except the airfield.

Next stop was Luqa in Malta which we took five hours to get to. Most of the boys went down into Valetta to view the local scenery and talent. We slept in proper billets which was more than the boys who stayed in Cyprus 'coz they slept in tents. (They had to spend a night there went their plane packed up).

Ten hours' flying got us to Lynham in 'good ole Blighty.' We flew over Paris but unfortunately we didn't stop there or we could have gone to the Folies! The Customs men went through our kits with a fine tooth comb and one or two people had to cough up for presents they had brought back.

Unlike the boys attached to the DLI in Aden we flew on to Dishforth and then to the camp by truck. They came back in Skyways Hermes, complete with two air hostesses, and called at Entebbe, Bangi, Kano, Tripoli and London, getting to Barney by train.

At the moment we are busy sorting out all our kit and getting ready for an inspektion (annual admin inspektion, or something, it's called) that's coming off next month.

Well Ma that's about all I have to say except that I'm coming on leave the day after tomorrow, so get some good grup in.

Love to orlatome.—Albert."

EUROPE

1 CORPS SIGNAL REGIMENT

Readers will have noticed that during the last few months there have been no notes from this Regiment. The reason is very simple: there has been no Regiment.

In August we changed our name to 23 Corps Signal Regiment, and continued to operate as such until December. The part we played in Operation "Musketeer," and the success we achieved will be told separately. It is enough to say now, "Venimus, vidimus vicimus," because that is precisely what we did. For the Reservists who served with us, we have nothing but praise. They were great.

We are back in our home-from-home in B.A.O.R., bearing our normal title and sporting the spearhead on our sleeves. The process of "settling down" is hard work, and will take a long time; our biggest headache being stores. However, the "Q" Staff, with many willing helpers and other volunteers, are winning the battle.

Fairly naturally, the face of the Regiment has changed a great deal during the last few months; we wish God-speed to those who have left us, and welcome, sincerely, those who have joined us.

18 ARMY GROUP SIGNAL REGIMENT

Fireworks were late last year. A goodly supply had been ordered for a Regimental display and the Officers' Mess also invested in a mixed bag of explosives. Unfortunately, international affairs at the beginning of November were such that the German Police prohibited any form of celebrations of the Guy Fawkes night nature and our fireworks were put away regretfully for use on a future date. November 5th passed unmarked except for the accidental (?) burning of the bonfire which had been prepared.

Eventually the ban was raised and we were allowed to let off our fireworks, which, needless to say, had, figuratively speaking, "been burning a hole in our pockets." The author is old enough to remember Anthony Armstrong's articles on military life before the War in "Punch" and particularly one on a Regimental firework display. He never hoped to see such excitement in real life. But he now has, and can vouch for the fact that a firework which goes off crooked and into the box where all the rest are stored can cause excitement! Great excitement! A rocket moving horizontally across the parade ground can make even a Sergeant Major move with undignified haste. It was really most amusing for all those at a safe distance, and the only snag was the unsympathetic attitude of the Garrison Engineer to the breakage of a couple of his very fragile windows.



A few months ago we reported the arrival of a silver model of our "Bear" which had been acquired by the Officers' Mess as a centre piece. The Regiment has now been given another piece of silver by two officers about to leave us, and we are enclosing a photograph which we hope the Editor will publish. It consists of three silver figures mounted on a plinth. From left to right they represent a boxer, a javelin thrower and a cross country runner. The idea of this presentation is to commemorate the achievements of the Regiment in winning certain boxing, athletic and cross country running championships in successive years. The details are on the plaque affixed to the plinth.

A Regiment's talents in different sports are bound to vary with changes of personnel, and while the officers concerned hope the Regiment will retain some at least of the cups concerned in the coming months, they felt that some record of the achievements of the past three or four years was needed and that a trophy of this nature was suitable.

18 ARMY GROUP SIGNAL REGIMENT

The New Year having receded into the past of pleasant memories, the Regiment once again gathers strength for the coming Spring and Summer exercises—optimistically termed "Forthcoming attractions" by some.

Winter has, after a deceptively mild spell, held us in its icy grasp and the consequent postponement of many outdoor sporting fixtures was only to be expected. However, with positive signs of an early Spring, the Garrison Sports Ground is again a hive of activity with Squadron and Regimental teams in the thick of the fray.

To those, now in other climes, who were familiar with our Signal Centre—or is it soon to be Comcentre?—the recent demolitions and rebuilding promise great things, and we are informed that it is in the nature of a "new look": the full import of this is yet to be seen—and felt.

No month can pass without having our full share of departing friends: more notable amongst these are Captain N. E. Robinson, who has now left us for Cyprus. One of the original evacuees from Bad Ceynhausen, it is difficult to envisage any appointment which he has not successfully accomplished; always ready to give helping advice, how true it is to say, "Our loss is Cyprus's gain." Mention must be made of two stalwarts of many of the Regimental sides: Lieutenant R. K. Ward, who has left for Catterick, will be sorely missed in the Rugger XV, and the absence of our Hockey right wing, Second-Lieutenant E. M. Fry, now in civilian life, is already noticeable. To all go our good wishes for their future.

Life in the Regiment was saddened by the news of the tragic death of the five-week-old son of Lance-Corporal and Mrs. Loach, to whom our deepest sympathy is extended.

In sport, despite the alterations in programme due to inclement weather, the Regimental Soccer team has experienced fluctuating fortune throughout the month, during which our aspirations for winning the Signals Cup were rudely shattered by 1 Wireless Regiment who, superior in all ways, defeated us by 7 goals to 1. In the Rhine District League the departure of several of our outstanding players has led to a dropping of our position in the table. New talent has been found in 16 Construction Troop and Signal Park Troop at Bracht, which, it is hoped, will restore us to a more favourable position.

There is little to report from our Rugger Fifteen. Games during January were cancelled due to frozen grounds, but all members of the team are in training for the second round of the Signals Cup against 2 L. of C. Signal Regiment.

Although the Hockey Team have reached the final of the Royal Signals Cup by beating 14 Army Signal Regiment 2 goals to 1 in a match where the issue was in doubt right to the final whistle, we regret to say that 45 Field Regiment, R.A., dispelled our hopes of gaining the Army Cup by defeating us one nil. We understand that we were avenged by 18 Army Group Signal Regiment, to whom go our best wishes for success.

Our notes cannot be complete without reference to the "quietest wedding of the year": that of Major R. C. Kendall-Baron, late of this Regiment, and Captain Christine Cook, W.R.A.C., of H.Q., NORTHAG. If Major Kendall-Baron has time from domestic chores to read our notes, may we wish him and Mrs. Kendall Baron all happiness in their future.

W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess. After the Christmas festivities, the tempo of Mess social life has lessened considerably. January produced only one social function of note, that being a games evening with the Junior N.C.O.s of the Regi-



Corporal Porter and Pensioner Pratt with General Sir Richard Gale

ment. Here, we are ashamed to say, in the usual "boat race," the Junior N.C.O.s had the winning team. This must surely be the first W.O.s' and Sergeants' defeat in this particular sport in Corps history.

W.R.A.C. Signal Squadron. By the time these notes appear in print, let us hope Spring will be upon us—we are sick of hibernating.

During the past month, the activities of the unit have been wide and varied. Captain Ruston and W.O.I Bayliss have both been to Paris (on duty, so they say) and are both capable of "IKI ON PARLITZ FRANKIZ."

We must congratulate Signalman Shorter, Royal Signals, on his recent marriage to Corporal Harris, W.R.A.C., and wish them both well. Many past members of the Squadron will be interested and pleased to hear that Mrs. Millions (Rhine Army Exchange Chief Supervisor) is getting married in February. After all she has said, too!

Congratulations too, to Sergeant Silience, Royal Signals, and Sergeant Price, W.R.A.C., on their engagement.

We welcome Privates Newton, Goodbourne and Mathias to the Squadron and hope they will be happy with us.

W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess.

The Visit of the Two Chelsea Pensioners. Perhaps it will be appropriate, before giving details of the visit of our guests from the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, to set out some of their history.

Both Corporal Porter and In-Pensioner Pratt served in the Royal Engineers. Corporal Porter enlisted as a regular in June, 1901, for the South African Campaign. He served continuously for 21 years, until June, 1922. During his service he visited Egypt, Singapore and France. He started in the service as a painter and decorator, and later became senior P.T.I. as a Sergeant at Chatham. On completion of his regular service, he joined the Kent Forrester's Company of the Territorial Army, and remained with them until 1933. During the second world war he served with the National Defence Corps and Civil Defence. He is now 73 years of age.

Pensioner Pratt was born in 1876, and enlisted in the trade of carpenter, in January, 1899. During his service he was stationed in Bermuda and Egypt, and in England, at Sandhurst. He served in the South African War and throughout the first world war in France. He completed his service in January, 1920, and joined the Corps of Commissionaires. He retired in 1945, taking a post as a messenger in the City until 1950.

Both Corporal Porter and Pensioner Pratt joined the Royal Hospital in July, 1956, so in their latest venture in life, they were fairly raw recruits, when they set out from London Airport on the 17th December, to be our guests for 19 days.

These were the two gentlemen who arrived at 5.30 p.m., at Dusseldorf Airport, to be met by the Commanding Officer and a representative body from the W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess.

They had enjoyed their air trip, which was their first flying experience, and were suitably mellowed by the attentions of the B.E.A. stewardess, she had plied them well with food and Scotch whisky.

At Dusseldorf, the initiation of welcoming them to Germany and the Regiment was helped considerably by introducing them to the local brew of German beer. Their only adverse comment to this was its coldness to the stomach in comparison to the whisky.

They were then conveyed by car to Joint H.Q. and the Regimental W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess. Here they were met by the R.S.M. and the P.M.C. and conducted inside to meet the members who were waiting to welcome them.

It had earlier been decided to let them retire to bed early on their first evening. This, however, was against their wishes. They were determined not to waste one moment of their visit. Corporal Porter showed his prowess on the piano, and Pensioner Pratt proceeded to exercise his gifts as a raconteur of his experiences. By the time the evening ended, we really felt we knew something of our guests.

From then on their programme was a full one. Naturally they took part in all Mess functions. Their normal routine was: rise, not too early, walk or ride, depending on the weather, round the various departments of the Regiment or the Garrison. Afternoons when they had no appointments were taken to catch up on a little sleep. In the evenings, between Mess functions, they were invited out to members' married quarters and shown a number of the local German restaurants. Now and again rest periods were interrupted by Public Relations, who interviewed them and took photographs. They were also interviewed by a representative of the "Daily Express."

On Thursday, 20th December, they attended the parade in honour of the departure of the Commander-in-Chief Rhine Army. They were introduced to General Sir Richard Gale, who was kind enough to have his photograph taken with them on the main steps of the Joint Headquarters building, and presented both pensioners with an autographed copy print.

That same evening they were present at the Mess Christmas Draw and Dance. They were prevailed upon to draw out the first 15 numbers from the prize drum. Both were later lucky enough (!) to have one of their own tickets drawn, which won them each a German beer mug.

The following day they came along to see the Regimental Children's Christmas Party. A sight worth seeing, was the pair of them tucking into ice cream, with the children, in obvious enjoyment. They also lined up at the close of the party for their issue of fruit, cake and sweets to take away!

On the first Sunday of their visit they attended the Church Service, their red coats adding a nice touch of colour to the congregation. Returning to the Mess, they were immediately swept up in the festivities of the Mess Christmas dinner. Here they were given pride of place at the table, on either side of the R.S.M.



Lieutenant-Colonel P. G. Goodeve-Docker supervises the departure

On Christmas Day they were introduced to the Chief of Staff, NORTHAG, and the Garrison Commander, when they attended the W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess for drinks before the O.R.s' Christmas dinner, which latter event they attended, and helped to serve the meal.

The W.O.s and Sergeants were invited to the Officers' Mess on Saturday, 29th December, with the two red-coated Honorary Members to the fore. By this time they had quite a portfolio of photographs to carry around with them.

On Sunday, 30th December, they went after Church for drinks at the Commanding Officer's house. Then that same evening they were entertained by the R.S.M. in his home.

New Year's Eve was celebrated by a Ball in the Mess, and at midnight, local time, the New Year was ushered in by Corporal Porter, leading across the floor Howard Copestake, aged three years. The one in red coat with stately tread, the other in a napkin and carrying a candle.

The 4th January arrived with a prospect of reasonable flying weather, much to the chagrin of both Pensioners. They were formally bidden good-bye in the Ante Room of the Mess. The Commanding Officer, the R.S.M. and four members of the Mess saw them off at Dusseldorf Airport.

Since their return to the Royal Hospital, they have written and expressed their thanks for what was in their own words, "a wonderful holiday." They have also presented the Mess with a model of a Pensioner of the Royal Hospital. This has been suitably inscribed: "Presented by Wally and George."

6 ARMoured DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

In January, as is our yearly custom, the unit concentrated on individual training. By far the larger proportion of the unit has been involved and many has been the worried frown, many the inkstained finger, many the zero beat, and many the muttering about pith balls.

The Unit has now reached the semi-finals of the Royal Signals' B.A.O.R. Rugger Cup, and 1 Squadron the semi-finals of the District Minor Units Soccer Cup. The pundits, however, have been confounded this year; those who were with us last year will remember the intense cold, the necessary draining of vehicles, even though they had anti-freeze in them, and the removal of vehicle batteries indoors before they, too, froze solid. This year, however, it has been positively balmy, with the sun shining for days on end. The same pundits who made such gloomy prognostications are now saying, in the manner of the English farmer, "We shall pay for it!"

7 ARMoured DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

Since the last contribution from the Regiment, we have survived the Annual Administrative Inspection, the usual Christmas activities, a Divisional Exercise, and in the short interval before the spate of Spring and Summer manoeuvres, are now busy with upgrading courses in the Regimental Training School.

The G.O.C., 7 Armoured Division, carried out the Administrative Inspection during December, and an extremely thorough one it was. However, no real skeletons were unearthed, and the Regiment received a good report, thanks to much hard work by all concerned. A good time was had by all at Christmas time, but the G.O.C. decided that it would be good for us to work off all excesses, so Exercise "Yuletide" it was, on 28th December. Needless to say, it fell on the coldest two days we have had so far—a good 20 degrees of frost—and even the language failed to raise the temperature.

During January, the Regimental Training School was reopened under the guidance of Major Ken Rees, and potential A IIs and B IIs are now busy grinding their way through a six-weeks' upgrading course. Ultimately, there will be a bowler hat for the former or more pay for most of the latter! To make sure that none of us were idle during this period, the Divisional Study Period was held at the end of the month in our gymnasium. This led to much extra work all round, and we are only glad that the R.S.M. was on leave. He would have passed away to see his parade ground nothing more than a glorified car park.

During December we said goodbye to Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. Honeybourne, and wish them the very best of good luck for the future. Our congratulations too, to Lieutenant-Colonel Honeybourne on his promotion. Tradition is maintained in that the new C.R. Signals is another original "Desert Rat" who served with the Regiment from 1939 to 1942. We welcome Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. J. E. Anderson, and hope their

stay here will be a happy one. They can be assured that the spirit of the Regiment is the same as it was in the Desert days. May we also say how pleased we were to see Brigadier Nettle-ship, C.R. Signals of this Division from 1951-54, and now C.S.O. 1 (British) Corps, here during the Divisional Study Period.

2 L. of C. SIGNAL REGIMENT

R.H.Q. and 1 Squadron. We welcome a new Quarter-master in Lieutenant (Q.M.) G. Hopkins, who takes over from Lieutenant (Q.M.) C. C. Cross. We say goodbye to Second-Lieutenant R. F. S. Payn, who now returns to the trials and tribulations of civilian life. We also congratulate him on his recent marriage to Miss Eva Senger, of Dusseldorf, and wish them the best of luck.

The Officers' Mess held a New Year's Eve Ball, and everybody agreed they really enjoyed themselves. The Sergeants' Mess held a similar Ball.

Our Regimental Football Team was knocked out of the second round of the B.A.O.R. Cup by 18 Army Group Signal Regiment by 4 goals to 3, after a very thrilling game. R.H.Q. and 1 Squadron Football Team is top of the Rhine District Minor Units League, and have also won their way through the first round of the League Cup competition.

2 Squadron. A difficulty of writing WIRE Notes is the doubt whether the visit of the Italian Opera to Hanover is of more general interest than the Squadron's beating R.H.Q. and 1 Squadron 4-3 at soccer, and supplying eight members of the Regimental team. Yet we must be parochial, else why should we ourselves write anything at all?—Wider topics can be left to talent editorially culled.

With this apology, let us introduce the Squadron library, an institution scarcely better known within the Squadron than without it. This is partly due to its recon-dite site, but more, because the furtive librarian shuns publicity: like all librarians, he regards borrowers with mistrust, and thinks no book safe unless shelved, where he can see it. In the dark winter evening he stumbles up the wooden stairs, too inert even to try and find the light, and lets himself into the garret above the M.T. office. Here he hoards his little stock, some 500 decrepit volumes, prematurely decayed in the rigours of military life. They have obviously seen much service: here a battered thriller, from some armoured workshops, there a more gently disintegrating romance from an H.E.C. At last another groping tread on the stair. A borrower? No, only the burly M.S.O. guard seeking his shelter in the little room across the corridor. So should you ever be passing, visit the Squadron library! But don't forget to bring a torch.

3 Squadron. To begin with, we would like to welcome a newcomer in our midst, Captain H. E. Berwick, hoping his stay will be a long and pleasant one.

Blowing our trumpets (quite a habit recently), we of the 47th Unit Branch, Royal Signals Association, having such talented members, put on a variety show at Christmas in one of the Grobbendonck Cafes, which was quite a success; of course, adding more money to our Branch funds.

Being stationed in Belgium, we are taking the advantage of seeing Brussels, and many of its interesting parks, museums and statues, by organising a trip for one and all.

Needless to say, our members are very enthusiastic about seeing the world famous "Menneke Pis" (if they can tear themselves away from the Folies Bergere.)

Luckily or unluckily, we don't know, we didn't have a white Christmas, and now we are saying goodbye to the first month of the New Year, and still no sign of snow!

4 Squadron. This month has seen yet another radical change in the organisation of the Squadron, possibly the biggest yet. As a result of the closing down of Lubbecke District, we have ceased to function, and the Lubbecke element has moved en masse to Dusseldorf, to become 4 Squadron, 2 L. of C. Signal Regiment. We say farewell to 14 Army Signal Regiment, and we would like to thank the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel A. C. Cox, O.B.E., and the officers and men of his Regiment for all the help they have given us in the six months we have spent under his command.

The last few weeks have been extremely busy ones for us, as we found the packing up of a Squadron, lock, stock and barrel, to be no mean task. However, all has been completed, and we are now firmly installed in our new camp at Dusseldorf.



The Commanding Officer and winners of the Rhine District Cross Country Championship, 1956/57

No. 1 WIRELESS REGIMENT

If there was any gloom around, it was certainly not to be seen in 1 Wireless Regiment over the Christmas period. The All Ranks' Dance, which started off the proceedings, threatened to be a fiasco, because of shortage of girls. In the end it was a roaring success in more ways than one. This throws great credit on the girls who did come along; but then the buffet supper, prepared by Sergeant Carlile, was so attractive, that everyone for a while forgot about dancing and the R.S.M. was nearly trodden underfoot trying to keep people away from the tables until the appointed hour. He still has to discover who it was that removed the boar's head, complete with orange and a couple of hams, from under his nose. Some people must have been mighty tired of pork before they had disposed of the evidence.

The pantomime was very funny and produced a great deal of talent which had lain dormant until then. In true traditional style, some well-known Regimental characters appeared on the stage, only thinly disguised, but it was all good clean fun (after some slight censorship of the original script). The newly-formed "Skiffle" group almost stole the show and they were later in great demand for other functions. Sergeant Isaac with his violin was another hit. It is not true that he was responsible for the report from the Guard Room that a driverless car had been seen coming in through the gates. What he lacks in inches, he makes up in personality.

Apart from the arrival of Santa Claus, the biggest event at the Children's Party was the "Musical Clown," who could get a tune out of anything from a saw to a set of washers on a marble slab. He kept the children laughing without speaking a word, which was just as well, as they would not have understood him. It was like a little bit of the old circus. We would like to have drawn Santa Claus's sledge with an elephant, but funds wouldn't rise to it.

The W.O.s' and Sergeants' Christmas Draw broke all records for the number and lavishness of the prizes. Obviously someone had to pay for them, but there seemed to be few who did not win something, and many who won a lot.

An Other Ranks' Smoking Concert, on Christmas Eve, also broke records, but this time for the quantity of liquid refreshment consumed, and the number of bottles which seemed to vanish without trace. The carol singers performed the same evening, and in spite of the absence of any soprano support, they sounded very well.

Christmas Day dinner was excellent, and in the end the supply exceeded the demand. Before the dinner, a most memorable sight was the advance of the W.O.s and Sergeants on the Officers' Mess. They marched in as orderly a manner as they could until they were about 50 yards away, when on a sudden order they charged full-tilt for the door. They were finally expelled by excessive quantities of draught beer and the dread of keeping the men waiting for their dinner.

The rest of the story is really one of slow recovery, but just to show how well the Regiment has come through its Christmas treats, the Cross-Country Team, gaily running in the Rhine District Competition, against what they thought were fearful odds, won the shield against all comers. We are still marvelling at it. The Football Team has also managed to retain an undefeated record in the District League, and we have high hopes of carrying off the trophy.

12 WIRELESS SQUADRON

It is a feature peculiar to 12 Wireless Squadron that the soccer season has two distinct phases—before and after the snow. For the present, ski-ing has superseded football, as the main Unit activity. P.R.I. has furnished the sports store with some two dozen sets of boots and skis, and parties are now organised every day, under the auspices of competent German instructors. We have several fine slopes within easy walking distance, so transport is no difficulty. As yet, the mortality rate is quite low—not as predicted by the non-sporting oracles—but the season is still young!

Most local leave is taken at recognised ski resorts, and it is expected that advantage will be taken of the facilities provided by Colonel Cross at Ehrwald for those interested in ski-ing.

The Unit dance was held on 16th December and, despite the usual last-minute "flaps" by all organisers of such functions, it was a great success. Beer and talent was imported from one of the local breweries, and topical music was provided by a German five-piece band. The highlight of the evening was an exhibition of "Schuhplattler dancing" by four Bavarian couples.

Christmas Eve saw enough snow fall for us to celebrate a genuinely White Christmas, but beyond this, the temperature continues to fall, as does the snow, and we are now eagerly awaiting the advent of Fasching which, for the uninitiated, is a period early in the New Year celebrated by the locals with typical German vigour and enthusiasm. Why it is celebrated, and what it commemorates, none seems to remember, but "when in Rome . . ."

10 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT

At long last the Regiment is completely established at Butzweilerhof. Cologne and its famous Cathedral are within visual distance from this station, placing it in an ideal position for all ranks to visit the city and to spend many a week-end further afield. The fact that the nearest public transport is nearly half-an-hour's walk away, does not dampen anyone's enthusiasm, on the way into town, at least. It has actually been suggested from some quarters that this "voluntary training" is a good omen for this year's Nijmegen Marches.

At first sight, enormous difficulties would seem to loom up at the thought of an Army unit settling in on an R.A.F. Station. Surprisingly, we have thought of them, but met none, purely because of the grand spirit which has prevailed on both sides. For our part, we sent a contingent on the most recent colour-hoisting parade, and providing much effort in the establishment of a new Presbyterian Church on the station. One of the young officers has staggered the Padre with his skill in the art of "bumpering" (one of the traces left from his days at O.T.W.).

Our most recent compliment (at least we hope it was such) came from one of the other padres who, when engaged in conversation with a subaltern said: "You know, my boy, I have been in the Service for many years now, and had formed an opinion about 'brown jobs,' but I must say that it has changed with the coming of your Regiment."

The split which we have had to put up with over the last few months, hit us nowhere more severely than on the sports field; but with the amalgamation of the Regiment came plans from the Commanding Officer for participation in the Cross-Country Running Championships and, as has been mentioned above, the International Marches at Nijmegen.

Training has commenced for the former, and if keenness is any guide, success is forecast.

The "returning warriors," mentioned in a recent report, have returned. And, undaunted by the fact that many of them failed to raise a tan under the U.K.'s insipid sun (there is a distinct jealousy for those who found themselves under a brighter one) now proudly proclaim that they probably have the best soccer team in the unit. Naturally, M.T. Troop could not take this lying down, and have decided to show that "probably" is the operative word.

12 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT

This month our numbers have been swelled by the return of 18 Wing Signal Troop and 13 Construction Troop. They are very welcome as we have a lot of work on hand. Fortunately, we can "get on with it" as the weather is proving very kind.

On training, we are sending chaps to "Cold Catterick" for Upgrading Courses, and also to the rather more pleasant surroundings of the Theatre School. Another Third Class Education Course has begun, and preparations have been completed for the Theatre Upgrading Course, OH Lmn. BII to BI, which is being run by the Unit.

In sport, we have suffered a big disappointment, for the Hockey team were beaten in the second round of the Army Cup, by the Irish Fusiliers, score 2-1. The pitch was covered in snow and ice, and both teams did well to play Hockey at all. Better luck next time. Our Cross-Country team was defeated in the Rhine District Championships, but beat 11 Air Formation Signal Regiment in a friendly match.

The Ski team, on an "all or nothing basis," has now entered for the 2 Infantry Divisional Championships, as well as the B.A.O.R. Championships. The question of reserves becomes increasingly important.

We have suffered one notable loss this month. R.S.M. J. Hopkins has left us for 2 L. of C. Signal Regiment, on commissioning as a Quartermaster. His loss really will be felt, and that of Mrs. Hopkins. They both contributed so much to the Regiment, both in and out of working hours. We wish them all good fortune in their new posting, and say "Thank you," for all the hard work they did for the Regiment.

Incidentally, why is it that we seem to be so F.-of-Signals minded? We are almost permanent subscribers to the F.-of-Signals Courses at Catterick. Sergeant Lund is the next to go, and no doubt he will be followed by others.

We regret we shall not be able to regale you with our usual, superb feature article for this month; but do not despair, our turn will come—and when it does we hope to produce one that's really good.

We have just had the sailing date for Major J. K. Brown, who is posted to Middle East. We welcome in his place Major F. E. Berry, who has arrived from SHAPE, and is in process of taking over as O.C. 1 Squadron. We hope that Major Berry and his family will enjoy their stay with us, as they are already familiar with the R.A.F. form. Major Brown has been with the Regiment for some time, and his efforts on behalf of the Regiment are very much appreciated. We are indeed sorry to see him go, but these things must happen, and we wish both he and his family the best of luck in their new posting, and hope they enjoy it. We shall remember them for a long time in this Regiment.

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GAME
AND
POULTRY

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& VEGETABLES
WREATHS AND
CROSSES

Richmond for Beauty—Cherry's for Quality

11 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT.

HAVING BEEN
ORDERED
BY THE
EDITOR TO
CONTINUE
THIS FORM
OF
REPORTING
THERE IS NOTHING
WE CAN DO ABOUT IT EXCEPT



WE BEGIN
BY RECORDING
THE AWFUL
EFFECT
PRODUCED
ON A
WING
COMMANDER
(FLYING)
BY READING
IN A NEWSPAPER
THAT WITH THE
ADVENT OF GUIDED
MISSILES THE DAYS OF A
TACTICAL AIR FORCE ARE
NUMBERED.



- WE ALSO RECORD THE EFFECT
PRODUCED ON LHM FB BIII BLOGGS
BY THE SAME ARTICLE

TO REVERT TO MORE
SERIOUS TOPICS—
WE WON OUR
REPLAY AGAINST
4 INF DIV
SIG REGT
IN THE
MORRISON
CUP BY
4-0
THANKS
LARGELY TO A HAT-TRICK BY



CENTRE
FORWARD
CPL
POLLARD.

THIS RESULT
SENT US
ON A
VISIT TO
LEMO TO
MEET 14 ARMY
SIGNAL REGIMENT.
WE DREW
4-4
IN A MOST
EXCITING
SEMI-FINAL.
WE THINK WE
CAN BEST
EXPLAIN THE
COURSE OF THE
GAME BY GIVING
YOU A SERIES
OF CLOSE-UPS OF THE TWO COMMANDING OFFICERS AS THE GAME PROGRESSED.

READING FROM LEFT TO RIGHT - LT. COL AG. COX (14 ARMY SIG REGT)
AND LT. COL K.A. NASH (11 AF SIG REGT)

THE LONG
AND
THE
SHORT
OF IT—

SIGMN
SMALLWOOD
(INSIDE RIGHT)

SIGMN
LE NOURY
(OUTSIDE RIGHT)

AFTER 20
MINUTES—
AF SIGS
WINNING
2-0



AFTER 50
MINUTES—
SCORE
2-2

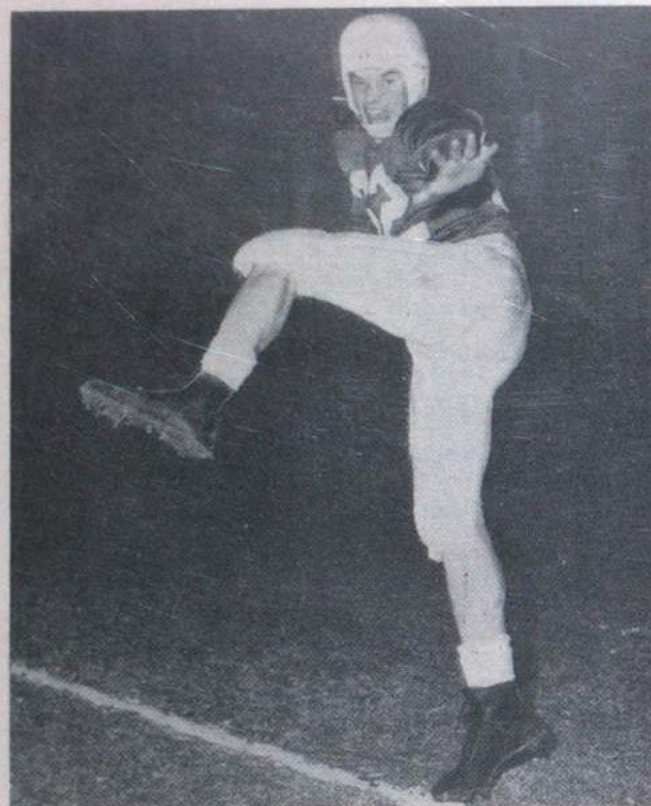


AFTER
80 MINUTES
- AF SIGS
WINNING
4-3



TWO MINUTES
BEFORE
FULL TIME
- 14 ARMY
SIGS
EQUALISE





American Football

By Corporal J. K. Langworthy, SHAPE Signal Squadron

American Football is one of many national games played at SHAPE and from the spectators' point of view is the most popular. The spectators are of many nationalities but nearly all follow American custom by partaking of hot-dogs and Coca-Cola throughout the game.

The duration of the game is one hour. This is actual playing time and usually takes two and a half hours to complete. The playing area is similar to a Rugby football pitch but instead of having one 10-yard line on either side of the centre line there is a series of lines, 10 yards apart, marked to each goal line. This distance plays a very important part in the actual game. A team is given four opportunities with the ball, but if they fail to score or advance an aggregate of 10 yards they lose possession. If they succeed they retain it for another four occasions. The game is played with the hands but differs from Rugby in that the ball may be passed forward. Thrown with one hand, a pass will travel up to 40 yards. A score occurs when the ball is either carried over the goal line or is cleanly caught by a player behind it. This is worth six points with an extra point added for the conversion.

A team consists of 11 players and, if we may use Rugby terminology, they are positioned as seven forwards, one half-back and three three-quarters. The team is allowed to carry as many as 22 reserves which leads to liberal substitution. It is in fact, quite common to have one team for attack and another for defence within the 33 players.

The season, unfortunately, is very short. It lasts from September to November during which time only nine matches are played. This is in a league competition, the winners of which qualify for the All-Europe knock-out competition. A fairly high standard of physical fitness is required of the players and the season's training starts in July. It covers five afternoons a week and two and a half hours each afternoon of hard training. The players, who are finally selected for the team are given morning-only jobs so that there can be no excuses for not training. At

the end of the season a week's holiday, under the title of Rest and Recuperation leave is offered to the players. Needless to say this is usually accepted.

As can be seen, the game is treated rather like a full-time job. Fairly strict rules are laid down and any infringement means instant dismissal from the playing staff. It is a very good game to watch once the basic rules have been discovered and its ferocity is clearly shown by the photograph of Bob Williamson, the SHAPE team captain, about to hand off one of the opposition.

★

Careers and Opportunity

(IMPORTANT: Anyone obtaining employment through answering advertisements in THE WIRE MUST notify the Employment Section, Royal Signals Association, 88, Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1.

Members are reminded that they can ensure prompt notification of any vacancies likely to suit them by registering with the Employment Section. Jobs advertised in THE WIRE are only a small proportion of those received).

Government Communications Headquarters, Oakley, Priors Road, Cheltenham, Glos., invites applications from Officers trained and experienced in Service radio communications or in the technical aspects of radio for three permanent pensionable posts. Commence £1,040-£1,175 according to qualifications and experience. For full details and application form write to Personnel Officer at above address, quoting No. 4658/57. Closing date for applications 31st March, 1957.

Firm manufacturing scientific and industrial instruments offers good openings for men with basic knowledge and some practical experience of electrical or electronics work. Applicants up to age 50 considered. Commencing wage according to experience. Apply by telephone or letter to Personnel Manager (Mr. H. W. Buttifant), **Cambridge Instrument Co., Ltd.**, 47, Sydney Road, Muswell Hill, London, N.10. (TUDor 9841).

Vacancy for enthusiastic motor cyclist, aged 20-26, height 5ft. to 5ft. 6in., to join **Cytrix Display Team** for a 6 months' tour including America. Services not required until about May 1st, but must be under contract by April 1st, 1957. Good wages, fares paid, uniform provided. Single man preferred. Opportunity of future tours (about 6 months each year). Apply to The Cytrix Motor Cycle Display Team, 41, Shackleton Road, Southall, Middlesex.

Other advertisements affecting employment are on pages 89, 90, 91.

★

Jottings

by NACERBY

New Readers Start Here

Having paid the Christmas bills apart from the grocer, the baker, the laundry, the "local" and the butcher, we were discussing the best way to start saving for the summer holidays.

We could, of course, become a Quartermaster or an R.O.—or perhaps get a BIII rating in something or other but this seemed to us the line of least resistance. The pools—No! that was too easy! Start a Union—the Institute of Professional Corporals and become a paid organiser?—no, that meant regular hours. Short story writing—that's it, and so

Catterick Orchids for Clara

I'm standing at the corner by the King's Head observing the population mingle and intermingle, when whom do I see but

Clara the Blush strolling aimlessly about, which surprises me notably because she allows some of the guys to give oral vent to their wolfish feelings.

Personally I've always had much respect for Clara because she's one doll who is strictly no all-in wrestler. Indeed, I understand Clara is knocking them in the aisle from quite a young child, and she is also never having any trouble at school, it being mixed and the teacher susceptible.

Whilst I am ruminating, I am admiring the graceful gait with which Clara the Blush makes progress through the densely populated square, for if there is one thing this dame has got it is a walk like she was the Queen of Sheba on ice skates.

Suddenly a big guy stands in front of me obscuring my view of Clara, which makes me think it not amiss if I give this guy a poke on the snoot. But as he is a large guy with shoulders like a Kemmell 'bus I decide to be pacific.

This guy's face is also very high up and when I have focussed my eyes I see this man—mountain Hippo Harry. His expression is melancholic like he has been told to spend the rest of his days in this burg we are in, and this state of affairs furrows my brow because here is the guy who is practically hitched to Clara the Blush—a very pleasant fate according to my way of thinking. I say, "Clara's across the way, when's the wedding?" He scowls, sucks half my cigarette away as he takes a light, and strides off, in the opposite direction to Clara as though the dame was dynamite.

Frankly I am intrigued and when I see Clara entering a shop where she purchases most of her finery, I go in Woolworth's too. She is not exuding any spirit of welcome until I ask her what poison she'll drink—tea or coffee. She says tea, on account of it leaves fewer stains on her pearl-like dentures, and soon she is pouring out the story of her love life like I was the editor of the woman's page.

"Hippo Harry is just a dim memory," she says. "All washed up and I'm glad I realised my mistake in time." I then appreciate the reason for Hippo Harry's melancholia.

"If there's one thing Harry is without, its Appearance," she continues, with that bloom of complexion which causes her to be known as Clara the Blush. "And appearance is everything."

I'm inclined to agree with her when I think of Busty the Square, Git-on-parade Joe, Noises-in-the-head Willie and such characters. But I don't argue with dolls, especially good looking dolls.

"Harry," continues Clara, "thinks so little about me that when he keeps our dates he is clothed in a blouse that appears to have harboured a mixed menagerie of rats, ferrets and moths. In fact, it's a blousy blouse and I do not believe him when he tells me he has chased it on condemn parade seven times."

It appears that Clara's suspicions about Harry's Pride of Appearance deepen when he tells her he is posted to the Middle East. Especially as he makes his farewell embraces in a brand new battle suit, which Clara believes he might have obtained before it is too late for her to appreciate. Furthermore, she believes Harry wishes to dazzle the dusky dames in foreign parts. But he says he will soon be back with his battle blouse as good as new and when she vows to be his everloving sweetie until he returns, Harry sheds a manly tear, which is partly due to pent-up emotion and partly to a recent gargle of several Gins-and-tonics.

"Two years pass by," continues Clara, "and our reunion is not so ecstatic on account of Harry's blouse being smothered with oil, grease, drops of Nile, hair-cream and other substances of a non-sartorial nature. In fact, his blouse stinks."

"I give him a reprieve, as he says Funeral Frankie, the Quartermaster, has promised him a new outfit. I do not see him for a week, as he is doing some sort of penance for giving a Sergeant a boff on the bezer. Then he appears one evening in a blouse no self-respecting guy would be seen drunk in and he says 'This is my new outfit' and how well it fits him."

As Clara unfolds her sad tale, it seems that she recognises the remains of a certain meal on the front of Harry's blouse, and when she turns up the waist to take a gander at the number thereon, Harry's new jacket is none other than the garment he had condemned two years ago. Harry says the quarterguy has pulled a boff on the bezer, although maybe this quarterguy thinks it more hygienic to pass his blouses back to their original occupants. But Harry's pigeon is already stuffed and he is left flat with the ring which he gave Clara after finding it too near the edge of a tray in a certain jeweller's joint.

When Clara has finished her heart-rending discourse, I realise she is the kind of doll for whom I can start a hire purchase account for furniture, and I ask her to sink another tea, for which she can pay later.

"Thanks for listening," she says, "but I'm now visiting a movie with my new fiancé. Here he comes."

And she takes a tumble into the arms of Funeral Frankie, who begins to pour into her shell-like ears the sordid details of his last condemn parade and the kindly way he deals with all the applicants for new blouses.

TRAINING

With what you've got

by

MAJOR J. POTTS,
Royal Signals

"Lieutenant J. Brooks will assume the duties of Officer i/c Trade Training wef date."

"Where do I start?"

"When do I start?"

"What must I do?"

"Why me?"

These thoughts must inevitably pass through the mind of any young officer who is suddenly thrown into the maelstrom of Trade Training. It is with a view to helping both the young and old that the following notes have been made:—

Having ascertained what your duties involve from your predecessor, or from rousing the Orderly Room Sergeant into producing last year's files, you must take yourself away from a telephone, away from your Troop Sergeant, and settle down to face up to the problems involved.

First. Decide what courses are necessary and what number of, say, potential Class II tradesmen are likely to be available. Go through your Officers and N.C.O.s and see who are capable of instructing in the various trades.

Next. Make your mind up to what extent you are going to:

Teach manual skills;
Impart information;
Evoke interest;
Develop powers of judgment.

Having cleared the above ground you should now be in a position to decide upon the best method of approach for each course.

Are you going to use a syndicate system? This best for Senior N.C.O.s. It also requires very careful handling and preparation.

For junior ranks it is helpful to break up lectures with practical work, the occasional discussion and by a brains trust.

Now that you know who, why, what and how you are going to teach, the problem arises—where?

Your Squadron Commander, aided by the Q.M., will be of assistance in producing rooms/tents, tables G.S. and chairs. The Orderly Room Sergeant will grumble, but he will get you pencils and notebooks.

So far, so good. Now the real work begins of planning the detailed syllabus and thence the programmes.

Be realistic, teach them what they need to know. Don't start with a month and try to fill in the time, period by period. Put the horse before the cart, and fit your time to what you intend to teach. In planning your hours of work do make allowances for essential administration—no one likes to miss pay parade, and you might be the paying officer who has two or more pay parades each Thursday.

Before you go to press on your programmes, do check the following points:—

That the Squadron Commanders are able to provide the instructors and students for the times you specify. (It is no use having a class during annual range firing, because one day you will find that the O.C. 1 Squadron has detailed all his men to be away for one day).

That your instructors will be available. Sergeant Jones may be due for U.K. leave or home posting.

That your students are cleared of duties. The various S.S.M.s will be helpful or you may have to see the Adjutant about Regimental Guards, etc.

That the Q.M. has not put some barrack stores in your lecture rooms.

The Orderly Room Sergeant has plenty of pencils and notebooks.

The petrol allocation will stand the strain of your proposed schemes.

That there is a blackboard per class.
That the various items of Gro98 are in working order and available.

Arrange for your C.O. to say a few words to the students before the first period of each course. It makes them feel important people and helps to raise morale.

During the course minor catastrophes will arise. I remember one morning finding a class of Malay linemen teasing a cobra, which was on top of the room door. They loved it. I was not happy until it was dead.

So be around. Don't just organise a course and then hope for the best.

Finally, do get the results out quickly. All students, especially on up-grading courses, like to know how they have done.

And don't forget to sign up the trade test forms and see that the Part II Orders are published.

Now you can see about the week's leave your O.C. promised you!

TERRITORIAL ARMY

That these notes are not in the usual place in the magazine is regretted.

BOOK REVIEW

CAPT. P. W. MALLINS, 10 Air Formation Signal Regiment

MR. MARCUS CUNLIFFE has written the story of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment (William Clowes, 35/-) for the period since the end of the First World War. The contribution of the old Sixth Foot in producing Senior Commanders is so outstanding that even one of its most brilliant alumni the progenitor of "a Corps of Infantry" has been moved to nip on to the penitance's stool in the "Sunday Times." As it is a Club Bore's privilege to copy other people's stories, I hasten to add a piece of history omitted by the author.

The central figure is **Major J. L. Totterdell, M.C.** "Tott" ran away from his East Riding farmer father to the Boer War, he enlisted as a Trooper in the 5th Inniskilling Dragoon Guards, staying on and serving with them in India. When the First World War broke out he was commissioned into R.E. Signals and commanded "B Cable" Sections, in 1 Corps. After the war he was Riding Master at Maresfield. In the middle twenties "Tott" was appointed Adjutant of the 48th (South Midland) Divisional Signals, T.A. in Birmingham; he stayed a decade. I last saw him in 1941 at Royal Signals Records Office; he told me he had a nice quiet job, and "a really good girl who can copy my signature a treat."

During his tour as Adjutant, the 48th Divisional Signals were on the Plain in a Brigade Camp with 143rd (Warwickshire) Infantry Brigade, comprising the 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th Battalions, The Royal Warwickshire Regiment, T.A. One morning at about 7 "Tott" was conducting his usual Subalterns equitation class. On entering a ride cut through one of the Seven Sisters, he espied at the far end a similar exercise of junior officers of the 5th Royal Warwickshire, most of whom were clearly at the beginner's stage. Quietly forming his party into line, "Tott" gave the order "Walk March," "Trot," "Canter": then, raising his six feet and sixteen stone in the stirrups he bellowed, "Royal Signals, Charge!!" With a savage yell the gallant band bore down on the luckless infants, whose horses, taking fright, made off with their coachmen. Saddles were emptied all over the Plain and two wretched fellows were reputed to have been bolted with to Fargo.

"Take what you will, and pay for it, says God" goes the old Spanish saying. That very night the Signals' Officers' Mess marquee fell with a crash in the middle of dinner, and "Tott," rallying a counter attack, was stretched insensible by a blow on his bald head with a tent mallet.

EASTERN COMMAND (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT (T.A.)

Our new C.O., Lieutenant-Colonel Atthill has now arrived and is engaged in taking over the Regiment and visiting the various Squadrons and detachments. In welcoming him, we hope his stay with us will be a pleasant and interesting one; we understand that this will be his first experience of the Territorial Army. For us it will be the first time we have had a Regular Colonel.

The arrival of Colonel Atthill means the departure of Major Garlick who is now surplus to establishment. We are very sorry to see him go, as he seemed so much a part of us and has helped us a lot in difficult times. He leaves us on 10th March for the invigorating air of Catterick, far from the grasp of London landladies, but before he goes it will be his turn to have "one for the road" at a party in the Officers' Mess on 2nd March. With him as guests of honour at this party will be the two other officers who are leaving the Regiment, Captain Frank Shore and Lieutenant Vera Martin, W.R.A.C. Frank is not severing completely his links with the Regiment for he is joining the A.E.R. Regiment, commanded by one of our former C.O.s, Colonel Shrimpton, and we still hope to see something of him and of his practical jokes, although some people are not so certain about the latter.

While during the past two months, there have been several exercises at Crowborough, and recruiting demonstrations by 2 Squadron and the Sussex Squadron; this note must be one about people, for in 1 Squadron we have to congratulate Major and Mrs. Cooper on the birth of twins, an occurrence which will probably add yet another crease to Major Cooper's forehead, albeit a pleasant one to have. We have also a curiosity, possible perhaps only in a mixed T.A. unit, resulting from the promotion of Sergeant Harwood, W.R.A.C., to Sergeant-Major, for we now have a husband and wife team of W.O.s at Brompton Road. We congratulate her on her return to her war-time rank and her old glory.

54 (E.A.) INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT (T.A.)

Readers recalling our "birth," see December, 1956, issue, will be pleased to hear that, though still in the early days of existence, the Regiment proceeds apace with its conversion to a more mobile rôle and the future is now firmly established.

We are still scattered throughout East Anglia and it is with a sense of pride that we are able to say that our military and social presence is felt in no fewer than six counties, R.H.Q. being at Bedford.

Training has its complications and like most other units we have been hit by the fuel rationing, however, on our allowance, we have managed to continue and our volunteers have ample opportunity to further their efficiency in the field.

The Regiment will have the chance of showing its paces in June, for it is then we go to Annual Camp. According to latest information it looks like a second visit to Stiffkey which, of course, is in the vicinity of a well known bird sanctuary (of the feathered variety of course!). Our grapevine leads us to expect good company at camp for Eastern Command (M) Signal Regiment, T.A. are apparently our neighbours this year. We look forward to renewing old friendships, for some of them were once with us under our old title.

Socially our sub-units have kept pace with tradition and held parties at their respective T.A.C.s. Too much emphasis can never be placed on the social activities within a unit, for it is on such occasions the true T.A. spirit comes to the fore. No, it can't be bottled.

It is difficult to organise sporting events in such a widely scattered unit and it is always comforting to hear that various sub-units have, in fact, established themselves in this sphere.

Our Cambridge members have a renowned Soccer team, "Mercury," heading one of the local leagues in that centre of learning and hope this year to gain promotion into a more senior league.

Luton T.A.C. has produced a Small Bore Rifle team which is more than holding its own against competition, including infantry units and has, in fact, reached the final of the Brigade competition. We wish them every success.

R.H.Q. permanent staff are becoming fairly adept at Badminton and though they are unable to enter into real competition class they have, on two occasions, beaten the Staff of the local Infantry Regimental Depot. No challenges, please.

In conclusion we offer our congratulations to Sergeant Crow and Corporal Crouch on their respective family increases; who's next?



Sergeant Green



Captain Beadon takes the sun in St. Barbara's Camp



Sergeant Noble—Nicosia

33 PARACHUTE FIELD REGIMENT R.A. SIGNAL TROOP

After five months' service in Cyprus and Egypt and a month's leave, the 33rd Parachute Field Regiment, R.A., Royal Signals Troop has returned to Lille Barracks, Aldershot. Operations in Egypt have been described in *THE WIRE* from the viewpoint of the 16th Independent Parachute Brigade Group Signal Squadron, but this description of the Troop's activities is of the Corps' smaller parachute unit, covering a longer period of time.

Instead of looking forward to summer leave, the Troop spent a hectic few days at the beginning of August preparing to embark on H.M.S. *Theseus*. We sailed on Sunday, 5th August, well publicised, but not knowing what to expect or how long we would be away. However, once past Biscaya we settled down to enjoy our Mediterranean cruise and first sunshine of the year.

We arrived at Famagusta, Cyprus, the following Saturday, and the Regiment first went to temporary quarters at Samuel School, Nicosia.

The Troop was occupied installing telephones, battery charging with 300 watt engines, maintaining wireless equipment and trying to arrange our array of personal kit in very small bedspaces. Thirst and dust were our troubles in those early days, but frequently the O.C., Lieutenant D. R. Beadon, allowed Signaller Tole to drive us to Kyrenia in the new three-tonner. The water was refreshing and nearly as warm as a bath, but cleanliness was impossible once we returned to the thick dust of the school playground.

We soon became acclimatised and began training, including a series of marches which always ended at the sea. One particularly enjoyable day was spent on the beach near Larnaca after we had fired personal weapons on the range. Sergeant Noble did the cooking and produced two meals which were better than were then current back at camp.

On our return we found nine white non-parachutist reinforcements, who remained with us until the end of the operation. They soon turned brown and settled down in the Troop.

When we moved to our permanent camp, St. Barbara's, near the Signal Squadron and Brigade H.Q., thoughts began to turn from the Suez Canal to personal comfort, and boxes, boarding and coconut matting appeared in the tents.

Blankets and sheets replaced sleeping bags for camp use, and the gift shop supplied the details—clocks, mats and mirrors.

We were to spend very little time between our sheets. First came Regimental and Brigade training, in which our Regiment fired its 25-pounders in support of the Infantry, followed by Internal Security duties.

These called for a change in rôles, and in particular the linemen, Sergeant Noble, Lance-Corporals Duffy and Froggitt and Signaller Thom, Sullivan and Perkins, found themselves manning road-blocks and searching for terrorists and equipment in the hills.

Before Exercise "Sparrowhawk I," in the Kyrenian northern range of mountains, Signaller "Jock" Thom secretly disappeared and we later learned, and saw from the state of his rubber "C Wobbly Wobbly" boots, that he had been included in the Brigade's mountain climbing team, which had scaled the series of rocky mountain tops known as the "five fingers." They found no terrorists, but Thom enthused Lance-Corporal Duffy and in particular Signaller Winship with climbing ambition and they were later able to attempt one of the fingers themselves.

From "Sparrowhawk I" we moved straight to "Sparrowhawk II," further to the west, into more scenic country.

After this operation, command changed and the newly-promoted Captain Beadon, who had been with the Troop for two years, was replaced by Lieutenant J. B. J. Halford. Incidentally, members of the Troop met Captain Beadon again at Port Said, where he was with 23 Corps Signal Regiment.

Another change at the same time was the arrival from the Squadron of Sergeant B. G. Green as Wireless Sergeant. He replaced Sergeant A. Lunney, who moved to the T.A. Armoured Brigade as a permanent instructor at Liverpool.

After a short period in camp we were engaged in Operation "Foxhunter," in search of the recently killed terrorist leader Dracos. The late October weather was now pleasantly warm, the oranges were ripening and the scenery improved with every further turn into the Troodos. The two line crews were away from R.H.Q. most of the time and once bought a pair of chickens from the villagers. Once again the Troop Sergeant supervised the dixie.

Suddenly we were called off this Operation for an "Exercise," although news and rumours taught us to expect something more.

One more quick packing, during which the G.1098, Wireless and Line Stores disappeared on to the vehicles, and our furniture and comforts disappeared in the flames. Within 48 hours some members of the Troop were in landing craft—officially still on an Exercise—and we all prepared to leave Cyprus for good.

In spite of the activity, Signaman "Taffy" Mathias was released to British Railways, having served his two years.

Only three men parachuted into Egypt with the 3rd Battalion The Parachute Regiment on 5th November. They were Lance-Corporals Busteed, radio technician, and Bradbury, operator, and Signaman Beyer, operator, who, with an Officer, formed an F.O.B. party. With Lance-Corporal Chadwick, radio technician, and Gunners, they had been specially trained in Malta to control supporting fire from the Navy.

The three rejoined the Troop after a couple of days,



August 1956—Nicosia

Signaman Beyer, a National Serviceman who prolonged his service to be in on the drop, being "full of it," as usual.

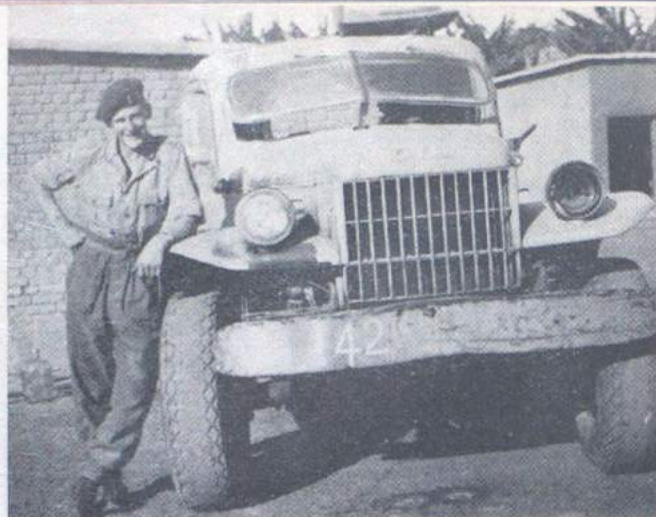
Soon after the seaborne forces, including the main part of the Troop, arrived next day, the fighting petered out and a cease-fire was declared. Our first night was spent well dug in on the beach at Port Said, among the chalets of the wealthy and abandoned equipment of the Egyptian Army. Our most exciting moment, particularly for Lance-Corporal Collier, who was seen fleeing with a fire extinguisher in his hand, was the explosion of an ammunition truck belonging to 6 Royal Tank Regiment next door to R.H.Q.

The following morning the Troop moved south through the town's European quarter to a location near the bridges captured by Foreign Legion paratroops to secure our approach to the canal road.

During this journey, with Signaman O'Malley, driver-electrician, making a circular tour with the battery wagon, his escorts, Signaman Byatt, radio technician, and Corporal Lloyd, the radio technician N.C.O., both fired on a sniper, who duly disappeared from his window—whether from shock or wounds is quite another matter!

While at the new location we made friends with and helped to feed the French tank crews in the next "field."

El Cap. The Rock'n Roll Express



Lance-Corporal Chadwick with car "donated" by the Garrison of Port Said

After a couple of days R.H.Q. moved again, to El Cap, where they stayed encamped in mud for a month. Being with the only 25-pounder Field Regiment to go to Egypt, the Troop withdrew only when the whole Allied force did. After a long anti-climax in a front line without a shot to distract from the mud, the Sweet Water Canal and "queer biting creatures," they were ready to leave.

While at El Cap the Troop dug well in, making the trenches intricate and as comfortable as possible. Two important events were the inspection by the Allied C.-in-C., Lieutenant-General Sir Hugh Stockwell, and a six-mile cross-country run, which included swimming the Suez Canal; Lance-Corporal Duffy and Signaman Thom finished second and fifth respectively—a first-class performance. The Troop came fourth out of 12.

There was also the Q.M.'s rest camp by the sea at Port Said, where the Troop's representatives were Corporal Reed, the M.T. N.C.O., and Signaman Winship. It was an appropriate place for National Serviceman "Winnie" to spend his last few days in the Army.

Mr. Halford left for Cyprus with a party of drivers to hand in the vehicles and stores, and his party spent a short time with 40th Field Regiment, R.A., at Famagusta before being flown home by Shackleton between 15th and 20th December.

Unfortunately, Signaman Sullivan, lineman, was left behind in hospital suffering from yellow jaundice. In spite of his healthy appearance when Mr. Halford saw him in hospital he has not yet returned to the Troop.

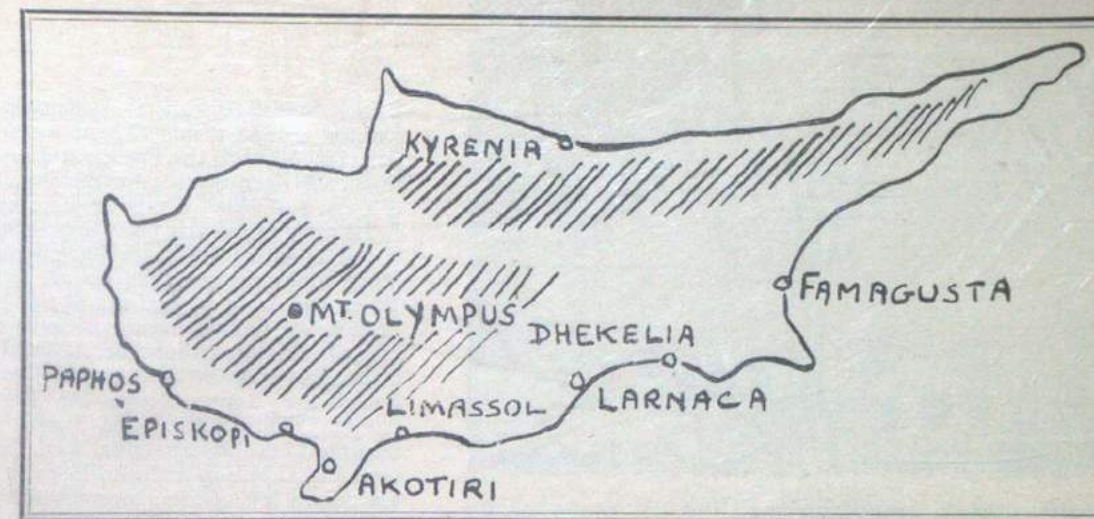
The rest of the Troop embarked with the Regiment on the troopship *Ascania* on 10th December, and after a voyage during which they were made as comfortable as possible, arrived home via Tobruk, Tripoli and Oran, well in time for Christmas, in spite of fog in Southampton Water.

After our generous leave many familiar faces are missing. Signamen Keen, Winship, Haller and Bayer have been released, and Lance-Corporals Duffy and Bradbury will be

(continued at foot of column 1 on page 79)



Mount Olympus



The western half of Cyprus is a large range of mountains, the Troodos range, covering an area about 40 x 30 miles. This is the historical bandit country in the middle of which on Mount Olympus is a large V.H.F. relay station, certainly containing more V.H.F. equipment than the Corps operates in any one site anywhere else, probably it has more V.H.F. circuits on it than any other station in the world.

First are several AN/TRC relay stations (only one audio circuit is taken from there) and that is connected by a quad cable, to a local H.Q. two miles away and 1,000 feet lower. Secondly, there are more than half-a-dozen V.H.F. relay sets each providing duplex speech between outstations covering the western half of the island and the central plain, and each serving a different class of user, e.g., Main Command net, Brigade Command net, R.A.F. Police and various other organisations.

Besides these nets giving telephone facilities between the H.Q. and the many isolated detachments an extensive V.H.F. net is operated to provide voice communication from Naval H.Q. to the coastal minesweepers on anti-smuggling and yet another links the coastal radar sites.

Recently we took a cameraman and reporter from the B.B.C. to visit the station. A film was taken and flown home and shown on the B.B.C. Television Service on 8th January. The recording which Ronald Robson made was broadcast in the B.B.C. Overseas Service on 21st January, the text of this is given below.

This is Ronald Robson calling "The Eyewitness"/Radio Newsreel from the top of Mount Olympus in the Troodos Mountains, Cyprus.

This is the highest point in Cyprus, and it's the site of one of the loneliest and most exposed military posts in the island. Here, right on the top of the mountain—which is more than 6,400 feet high—here, is located the Cyprus District Signal Regiment's Mount Olympus Relay Station. (House on the Hill they call it).

(Continued from column 2 on page 78)

out of the Army by the time you read this. Further National Servicemen and Regulars are due out shortly and by summer the Troop will be very different. The promotion to Corporal of Lance-Corporals Poole and Froggitt, and to Lance-Corporal of Signaman Thom, add to the present top-heavy appearance. In spite of being with us so long only one of the reinforcements, Signaman "Dinga" Bell, despatch rider, is taking the parachute course, and we sincerely hope he succeeds.

There will be changes in the Regiment, for the Gunners will replace two 25-pounder batteries with three 4.2-inch mortar batteries, and, we learned on our return, we will probably be the last Royal Signals Troop to serve with the Royal Artillery. Gunners will probably take over our duties in the spring or summer of 1958.

This station plays a vital part in the island's communications. Many of the anti-terrorist operations are controlled from Nicosia, in the plains below, by V.H.F. radio relayed through this station. And many of the telephone circuits provided between the various military headquarters, go through here. In this large mountainous island, V.H.F. radio is virtually the only system which can give constant communications between the widely dispersed military detachments.

Since this station was opened, at the end of 1955, it's been operating continuously—and that's in spite of an attack by terrorists, and in spite of the weather. A hundred miles an hour gale flattened several of the aerial masts—both last winter and this. The terrorist attack came in the earlier days when the station was fairly new and still rather thinly guarded. Now it's well protected. The present guards are men of the 2 Battalion The Parachute Regiment—and they took over from the Gordon Highlanders, who built strong sandbagged emplacements all round the peak.

The aerials have been strengthened too. They've been mounted on 60 feet high steel towers. The last of these to go up was welded together and erected in vicious winter weather, when for three days it was too cold for men to handle the steelwork.

The buildings here are three Nissen huts. I'm speaking from inside one of these. Outside, the blast of the icy wind is howling through the aerial masts. There's about four feet of packed, frozen snow here now . . . but it becomes deeper now and then, and the huts have special doors in the roofs because sometimes they're almost completely covered. In one of these huts there are more than 50 wireless sets—one of the greatest concentrations of V.H.F. communications channels to be found anywhere. Yet, all this equipment is maintained and operated by one Sergeant and two operators of the Royal Signals, and one Naval rating. They spend two to four months here at a time.

It's not one of the easiest jobs in Cyprus. They work long hours, and sometimes in really bad weather conditions.

The temperature is below freezing between November and March, and sometimes the men have to climb the masts in the shrieking, freezing gale, at night—to chop away the ice and repair breakages. It's really windy up there. I took a microphone up to record it.

Of course, the men wear special protective clothing—and I'm wearing it now, padded and hooded, and feeling rather like a grizzly bear!

But in spite of everything, and although listening to the wireless is almost the only recreational facility, most men who have had to work here have liked it. They are in contact, through their own private wireless, with their Regiment. (They spoke with the padre on Christmas Day for example). And there is, after all, a very special feeling, I suppose, about being above everyone else.

This is Ronald Robson on Mount Olympus in Cyprus. I return you to the Studio in London.



One of the Towers

Cyprus District Signal Regiment reports:

"The site of one of our new signal centres is between the B.M.H. and rifle range flanked on one side by the M.C.E., on the other by the cemetery. This will, we believe, provide sufficient means of clearance from the Signal Centre to cater for any eventuality."

MUSKETEER

by Major-General A. E. Morrison, C.B., O.B.E.

Several Signal Units have already written in *THE WIRE* on their activities in Operation 'Musketeer,' the police action against Egypt, but these are only a small percentage of those that took part. I would like to name them all, but these would occupy too much space. They varied in strength from about ten to over a thousand, and each had its own particular function. Hardly two were similarly organised. Further, some were Regular Units reinforced with Reservists, while others were entirely A.E.R.

With the frequent changing of the plan and the scope of the operation, it was difficult to estimate what Signal resources would be required. However, Signals, as usual, proved themselves very flexible and I do not think anybody would have been unwanted had the operation continued longer. As it was, those that did actually arrive in the theatre of operations were far too few and were heavily overworked.

Planning for the operation had gone on since August, 1956, and at the end of October, 1956, the plan was to start with an assault on Port Said. The Egyptian Air Force was to be neutralised first and military targets throughout Egypt bombed and rocketed. Then there was to be an air drop, followed by a seaborne assault in the Port Said area. Finally, follow up by sea.

It was to be a joint British and French operation and the force was coming from widely dispersed places. U.K., France, Malta, Algiers and Cyprus, to mention only a few. Some were coming by sea, in Royal Navy and Merchant ships, and others by air, in R.A.F. or chartered aircraft.

Communications had been tested out as far as possible, but about the middle of October it was decided to hold a Staff and Signals Exercise, called "Boathook," early in November. This Exercise was to include all H.Q. from Brigade level upwards. It was also to include H.Q. ships, aircraft carriers and R.A.F. H.Q. People moved out for the Exercise and it was very near zero hour before many realised it was the real thing.

I am sure everyone is tired of reading how the operation progressed, so let it suffice me to say that Signals came out of a most difficult operation with flying colours. The liaison between the three Service Signals of both nations was admirable. In the H.Q. ship, *H.M.S. Tyne*, all three

British Signal Services were manning wireless sets and all worked as one team. There were several Royal Signals detachments with the French and some had a very pleasant time at Algiers, waiting for the show to start. I hope some of them will write of their experiences in *THE WIRE*.

To mention all the tasks Signals were called upon to do is not possible, but there were some odd ones. We certainly took on more than we anticipated or bargained for. When the Arabs walked out of the Near East Broadcasting Station we took that on and kept the Arab broadcasting going. A strange job for A.W.C.I.T. We jammed the Cairo propaganda broadcasts to Port Said. We even produced the Reuter News for the Political Adviser at A.F.H.Q. From Port Said, Signals cleared troops' private telegrams, the International Red Cross traffic to Switzerland and U.N.E.F. traffic to Norway and Denmark. These are only a few of the abnormal tasks we had to do.

We had our moments and made our mistakes, but at no time were operations hampered by a lack of communications. General Stockwell introduced Charlie Time for Port Said, which perhaps makes some of the old Middle Eastians shudder. It certainly seemed to fox some members of the Signals. The Chief-of-Staff sent a message to say he was arriving at Port Said at 12.00 Charlie, which was unfortunately sent as Zulu. Later the operator went most humbly to apologise for the mistake and inconvenience he was caused. As far as I can make out, all that happened was that she (yes, W.R.A.C. Signals) got a cigarette, a cup of tea and a quiet chat.

The Commander-in-Chief returned late from a trip to Port Said one day. He had scribbled out about five pages of foolscap in the 'plane, which he gave to me and said it had to get to the Prime Minister in under 45 minutes. It got there, but Signal procedure went by the board.

I think what is probably an all-time record is a message (classified) to the Political Adviser from, I believe, the Foreign Office. It was over 5,300 groups and took about 20-feet of paper.

Gamil Airport was soon working, including communications. However, it was a case of hitch-hiking for a few days, until "Q" Movements got going. I happened to be over there with the Chief-of-Staff the first day they functioned. We were late reporting for the 'plane, as we were delayed by the riots on the arrival of the "Bluebells," the name given to the U.N.E.F. with their blue tin hats. "Q" Movements were not amused, but the limit was really reached when the French Chief-of-Staff arrived for the 'plane in a helicopter, which nearly landed in the 'plane.

One of our biggest headaches was the Press. We expected about 30, whereas there were over 150. They are masters at writing a lot about a little and the A.E.R. Press Squadron did well to compete, in spite of all their difficulties. When their set went down one day and there was a shortage of spares, one very generous mechanic cannibalised his own broadcast receiver to do the repairs.

Now the episode is closed and it is only a memory. I am sure most people made many new friends and there will be many a tale to tell, when they meet again.

I would like to finish with a thanks to my own staff for all the good work they did. There were only two officers and two other ranks, and they worked like Trojans.

2 WIRELESS REGIMENT

It is now many months since notes from this Regiment appeared in *THE WIRE*, so we have much ground to cover. The main happening has, of course, been the Suez crisis, which brought two things to the Regiment, a lot of work and the Reservists.

The Reservists in spite of the poor accommodation, soon settled into the work of the Regiment. They left us soon after Christmas for home and civilian life, leaving behind many friends in the Unit and taking with them several trophies.

Elements of the Regiment took part in operation "Musketeer" and got as far as Port Said, but returned sooner than expected.

However, they had their little bit of "armed conflict." Back here in Cyprus, air raid precautions were taken and we even had one alert to add a little excitement.

The cinema is still successful and we now have Cinemascope. The Unit was the first to have cinemascope on the Island, and is in fact the only self-supporting Unit cinema here, the others being run by A.K.C. We have also a stage which was used for a very successful Unit pantomime, "Babes in the Wood."

Up to now we have had very little trouble with the Cyprus emergency, although the occasional strikes do cause inconvenience. One bomb was found in the NAAFI. The only damage it did was to the nerves of the soldier sitting in the arm chair when the bomb was found under it. It was quickly made safe by the bomb disposal squad.

In the sporting world the Regiment is doing well. The Soccer team have reached the final of the area cup. There is no Major Units League, but each Squadron has a team in the local Minor Units League. 2 Squadron is at present second in the league. The Rugby team is having a very successful season, but unfortunately lost to a Field Regiment R.A. in the semi-final of the cup.

"WIRELESS FOR THE BLIND"

Contribution by 2 Wireless Regiment

Each year at Christmastime, the Forces Broadcasting Station, Cyprus, in conjunction with other F.B.S. stations, raises money for the "Wireless for the Blind" Fund. There is a nightly request programme starting at 10 p.m., called appropriately "Ring Us Up" and carrying on throughout the night, sometimes almost up until the following morning's main programme commences. Individual messes and units can ring up F.B.S. and pledge a certain sum of money to have a record played. The higher the amount the sooner it is played. It needs little imagination to realise the scope such a programme offers for "getting at someone"!!!!

Besides this type of programme the F.B.S. also sells "Unit Call" programmes. These are of an hour's duration, during which the unit buying the programme presents its own programme of requests. A unit bids for the programme and other units are invited to overbid, the programme going to the highest bidder. Bidding closes 48 hours before the programme is due on.

We bid £50 for our programme for Boxing Day. After an overbid of £60 we nominated £75 and to our surprise there were no further bids for that night, so we elected to leave the bidding open a further 24 hours. In the bargain we had "Colonel Bogey" played for the other units on the island who couldn't accept our challenge and dedicated it especially to our old rivals 3 G.H.Q. Signal Regiment.

However, no further bids came in and so we took the programme for £75, though we had been prepared to pay £250, so with the balance of £175 we attempted to buy New Year's Eve "Unit Call," but were unsuccessful, the programme finally going to the Cyprus Police for £500.

We raised money in the Unit for our £250 (all of which was donated to F.B.S. of course) in many ways. At a dance all profits from the bar and raffle went to the fund as did a series of fines levied on unwary individuals. 2 Squadron made a wonderful effort and raised nearly £70 themselves. Our old friend Staff Sergeant "Wings" Overton, was in form as usual, and for the second successive year sold his hair at 1/- per snip! To show good faith, however, he insisted on the C.O., Lieutenant-Colonel A. J. Leahy, M.B.E., selling one lock his hair for a pound.

The programme itself was great fun and was presented by Staff Sergeant Ted Gee, a Sapper attached to the regiment. Highlights of the programme were probably M.T.'s choice for the M.T.O., Captain Dodd—"Any Old Iron," and R.S.M. Meddycott's choice for R.Q.M.S. Smith—"I'll be Glad when you're Dead, you Rascal you," though to this day we're still convinced it was meant the other way round!!!!

The last record on the "Unit Call" was dedicated to those other regiments and units we had challenged to overbid us—"Nice People with Nice Manners but got no Money at

all"—but it didn't quite finish there, for our friends in the R.A.F. camp opposite, 264 S.U., rubbed our nose for us a little by playing "Taint what you do, It's the Way that You Do It." However, it was all good fun and F.B.S. not only raised their target of £3,000 but actually took £5,500. A worthy effort on their part and much enjoyed by this Regiment and everyone else in Cyprus.

Elsewhere Overseas

Three Weeks in South Africa

By Sergeant Horne, Comcan Signal Troop, Accra

Deciding it was about time we had some local leave, Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Soward and myself left Accra bound for Johannesburg. We travelled in luxury by Pan-American Airways, also travelling in the same aircraft was H.E. the Governor of the Gold Coast, Sir Charles Arden-Clarke. We arrived at Johannesburg at about 4.30 p.m. and for a moment thought we were back in England, it was quite cold and raining.

We decided to split our three weeks leave between Johannesburg, Pretoria, Durban, and part of the Kruger National Park.

Johannesburg was American in construction with its skyscraper buildings reaching for ever upwards, and broad roads running parallel to one another or crossing at right angles. Very practical I suppose, but so boring and unimaginative.

Pretoria and Durban on the other hand were very much like our own cities, complete with large shopping centres, air conditioned cinemas, open air swimming pools, night clubs and a large variety of gardens and parks.

A Sunday morning feature in Johannesburg is the native dances at one of the gold mine compounds, where a large number of mine workers gather together and show off their way of dancing.

Pretoria is the administrative capital and is noted for its fine architecture, for example, the Union Buildings, City Buildings, and the Voortrekker Monument, built to commemorate the great Trek of 1830.

It is well-known by the male population that Pretoria has the prettiest girls in the Union and this statement is now strongly upheld by both of us. A trip to the Premier Diamond Mine was not to be missed and the guide indicated where the world's largest diamond, the "Cullinan," was discovered.

The 500 mile trip to Durban from Johannesburg takes almost 24 hours by train, but the portable beds to be found in each compartment, and efficient restaurant cars help to make the journey less arduous.

Food is cheap and very good and all the hotels experienced were very reasonable, for instance, in Durban a very large hotel near the sea front charged only 17/6 a day for full board.

The first notable feature of Durban is the Ricksha Boys who run about the city carrying visitors on sightseeing tours.

A five-day trip by car gave an overall picture of the Transvaal including two full days in the Kruger National Park looking for wild animals. The game reserve is equipped with rest camps dotted about its immense area of natural countryside. Most of the main species of wild game were seen but unfortunately no lions or elephants, only their tracks.

The people encountered in the Transvaal and Natal were very friendly and easy to get along with. We were asked by several people about emigrating to the Union as apparently there are a lot of good jobs for English people, especially in the mining industry.

Much to our disappointment we didn't seem to find any time to visit the South African Signals at Pretoria and if ever a Comcan station is started in South Africa we know where there are two volunteers.

A note to all potential travellers in South Africa: the bars are open from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily, except Sundays, and no women are allowed in. It was rather an expensive trip but well worth it and we can thoroughly recommend it to people stationed in East or West Africa who feel like travelling.

COMCAN SIGNAL TROOP, ACCRA

The 1st July, saw COMCAN Signal Troop become an independent British Unit in the Gold Coast, under the Command of Captain R. P. D. Painter. Prior to this we were, of course, administratively a part of the Gold Coast Signal Squadron.

Seven months of very hard work followed, which involved the rebuilding of the traffic block and Headquarters, the previous building having, rather unfortunately, been burnt down. This took us well into November, when we lost the invaluable services of F. of S. Staff-Sergeant Soward and Sergeant Horne to the pleasures of three weeks' leave in South Africa, where "a good time was had by all."

In October, we were hosts to the 3rd Strategic Support Squadron of the Strategic Air Command, U.S.A.F., who were on a round-the-world mission to plot the exact location of the magnetic equator. They enjoyed the hospitality which was freely extended by all ranks, and in return we were invited to have a look at their Globemaster aircraft.

Just in time for the Christmas festivities, came Lieutenant A. N. de Bretton-Gordon, our long-awaited Second-in-Command. We wish him every success in his tour of duty on the Coast.

In January, we finally managed to operate the internal morse links within West Africa from the traffic block. Prior to this we were operating from the Gold Coast Signal Squadron Signal Centre. The traffic block is now a going concern.

Our sporting activities of late are worth while mentioning. The Royal Signals' Tug-of-War team entered in the Gold Coast Military Forces' Athletics Championship, pulled very well and were only just defeated, after a game struggle, in the semi-finals. Seventy-five per cent of the team came from COMCAN. We have now started basketball, much to the consternation of the more portly members of the Troop, and hope to provide a team to be reckoned with in the near future. We are also well represented on the hockey field. Lieutenant A. N. de Bretton-Gordon and Sergeant Ruddy are both regular members of the Gold Coast Signal Squadron team, and have also played for the Army.

We bid farewell to W.O.II Jones, who was our i/c Ciphers for some considerable time; also to Sergeant Wagstaff and Sergeant Watts, two very able Radio Mechanics at the Transmitter Station. We wish them every success in their new Unit.

GIBRALTAR SIGNAL SQUADRON

The visit to Gibraltar of Major-General M. S. Wheatley, C.B., C.B.E., made history for this small Unit which, in addition to its fluctuating military component, has civilian members who have been serving the Corps since as long ago as 1925. It is said on good authority and confirmed by Squadron records, that the Unit has not been inspected by a General Officer of the Corps either since or before that date.

We seem fated to cause at least one sporting surprise per annum. Last year it was the Murray Soccer Cup, and this year with a team of five boxers we came third in the Command Novices Boxing Championships, being narrowly pipped for second place by Fortress Engineer Regiment. Corporal Bailliff (Light-heavy) and Signalman Stacey (Lightweight), both National Servicemen, literally slammed their way to the finals, where Stacey demolished his opponent in the first round and Corporal Bailliff knocked out his victim with the shortest and crispest left I have seen in many a year after 40 seconds of the first round. A proud day indeed for Royal Signals on the Rock.

If Signalman Butler (retained due to the Suez crisis) had not rather suddenly departed for United Kingdom we might well have taken the Heavyweight crown as well.



Left to right: O.C. Squadron: Major W. R. M. Dunkley; Trainer: S/Sergeant Raymond; Major (Retd.) T. Paterson (Corps Boxing Team 1921 Featherweight); Signalman Headland (Light Middle); Corporal Bailliff (Light Heavy); Signalman Stacey (Lightweight); Signalman Clements (Welter); Signalman Moulston (Feather)

MALAYA COMMAND

Brigadier Good accompanied by Colonel Adams performed a quick farewell tour of units in the Federation of Malaya. He was able to fit in 28 Commonwealth Brigade in Province Wellesly, Federation Division in Taiping, 2nd Federal Brigade and 15/19 Hussars in Ipoh, 1 Federal Brigade in Johore, 17 Gurkha Division and 26 Gurkha Brigade in Negri Sembilan, Gurkha Signals, Command Signals and the A.S.S. Troop in Selangor.

Gurkha Signals. Major Rawson is on inter-tour leave and Captain Patterson is officiating for him in Kedah. A record number of recruits are now in the technical portion of their training at Sungei Patani. Gurkha Signals Band were among those who entertained thousands by searchlight on the evening of Remembrance Day.

Malaya Command Signals. We welcome Federation Army Signals who have come to stay in our lines instead of a troop of our Unit, who have moved north to serve 1 Federal Division.

Staff Sergeant Douce received his L.S. and G.C. medal during the course of our annual inspection, which event went off extremely well. Modesty forbids our giving more detail. The Squadron assisted in street lining for H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh. In addition there were the usual curious Signals requirements to which we have become accustomed. Two of H.R.H.'s functions were in very informal military surroundings and gave magnificent opportunities to all ranks, their wives and



Brigadier E. D. Good, C.B.E., C.S.O. FARELF addressing the Squadron



children to film and photograph H.R.H. The C.S.O. and Mrs. Adams attended a very colourful garden party given by Their Highnesses the Rulers to H.R.H. at Istana Selangor (Palace of H.H. the Sultan of Selangor). H.E. Sir Donald MacGillivray congratulated the Squadron on their contribution to the success of H.R.H.'s visit.

Our motor cycle team were second in the Malaya trials. S.S.M. Miller, Corporal Woods and Signalman Bolton are our stalwarts. In the photograph General Brocklehurst is giving a cup to Signalman Bolton.

President Nasser has interfered with the export of families to Malaya. However, Staff Sergeant Porter and the fiancée of Craftsman Wright came out at their own expense.

S.S.M. Mohd Don has discovered that "dog biscuit" tins can be painted up, filled with foliage plants, which abound in this tropical paradise(?) and used to make the Squadron office look less revolting to those "waiting" on the verandah. Sergeant Meakin, A.C.C., is fast becoming famous and our cookhouse a show place for A.C.C. We are indeed fortunate in having such an N.C.O. in such an important position.

Federation (Malaya) Signals



Federation Signals still consists of three Squadrons and an armoured car regiment troop. One Squadron serves the 1st Federal Infantry Brigade (Major Clinch) and another serves the 2nd Brigade (Major Gordon-Jones). The third Squadron, which used to support 1st Federal Division, is now in Kuala Lumpur and is changing its role and name to Federation Army Signal Squadron (Major Chapman).



[By permission of the Editor "Straits Times."]



[By permission of the Editor of the "Straits Times"]

Lieutenant Shubert, a recent arrival from Sandhurst, has joined and is therefore the second Malayan officer in Federation Signals. The first is Lieutenant Leong, who has been to Catterick and has just returned from a valuable attachment to 2nd Divisional Signals in Germany.

Under the energetic direction of Major Clinch, S.S.M. Sawyer B.E.M., and Sergeant T. L. Hamilton, of 1st Federal Infantry Brigade Signals, have again produced a Federation Signals Motor Cycle Display Team. The team performed at



C-in-C FARELF presenting a plaque to Signalman Syed Ahmad

Muar in Johore, at Malacca, in Penang, and at Taiping in Perak. It took part also in the 17 Gurkha Divisional Tattoo in Negri Sembilan. It was filmed by the Malayan Film Unit for the benefit of thousands who could not hope to see the display otherwise. Service machines were used and the sidcar was home made. Royal Signals Display Team duties were followed. One show was attended by 52,000, a few of whom were wanted as recruits for Signals.

Sergeant J. V. Williams is congratulated on a "Mention"; Corporals Hashim and Abdul Samad on receiving C. in C.'s Certificates. The photograph shows Signalman Syed Ashmed receiving a plaque from the C. in C. for being the best operator of his Squad at S.T.C., FARELF.

Before leaving Taiping, Federation Army Signal Squadron had their final inspection as a Divisional Signal Unit. The G.O.C. congratulated Sergeant Mohamad bin Ngah and Corporal Ghazali bin Ibrahim on their "Mentions." Music was provided by the Corps of Drums of 2 Battalion The Malay Regiment.

Royal Australian Navy in Malayan Waters

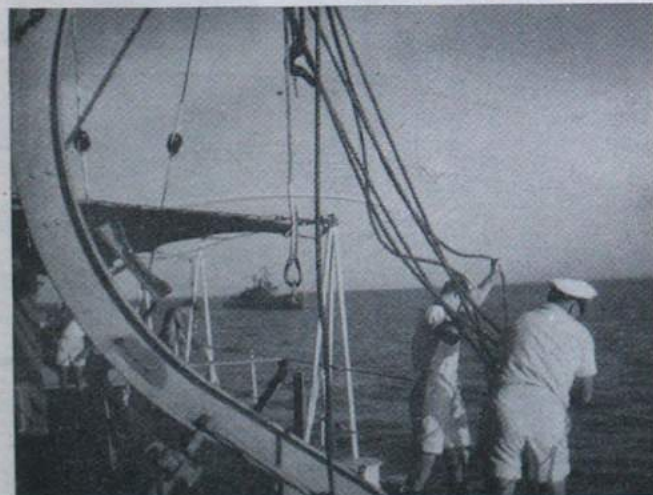
Two frigates of the Royal Australian Navy visited Port Swettenham recently and members of the ships' companies were entertained by Malaya Command Signal Squadron. The result was a somewhat hectic New Year celebration. The R.A.N. returned the hospitality by inviting the pongoes to visit the ship, and quite a number were most interested to do so.

The O.C., Major Matthews, was due to visit our detachment in Penang and had no difficulty in arranging a passage with the R.A.N. He set sail on Wednesday afternoon, at 1730 hours, and was ashore at Penang at 0830 hours the next morning. He has now been to North Malaya by road, rail, air and sea. He has written the following notes about the trip:—

"I was welcomed aboard the *Queenborough* in the true Naval tradition and went up to the bridge, where the Captain and Navigator were giving orders prior to getting the ship underway. The sister ship *Quickmatch* slid by and piped a salute to the Captain—a simple but impressive ceremony.

Queenborough then set off and made course down the River Klang for the open sea. These ships are larger than the word 'frigate' indicates, being in fact larger ships converted for anti-submarine work. Each ship carries a complement of 10 officers and about 220 ratings. I was fortunate in being able to go over the ship in detail and to spend some time discussing technicalities with the officers concerned.

The boiler room was larger than I had expected and I admired the cheerful stokers who worked four hours a time in the hot fume-ridden atmosphere. The boiler room is maintained at pressure and it is necessary to go through an airlock to get into it. This pressure ensures that the oil burners are blown and cannot flash back. The boilers are on a three-stage system and produce superheated steam at 500°F. The steam is piped to the engine room, through the engines, and into a condenser where it becomes water and is returned to the boiler feed tank. Incidentally, distilled water only is used in the



Scene on board H.M.A.S. "Queenborough" with H.M.A.S. "Quickmatch" astern

boilers to avoid corrosion and deposits which would damage the boiler pipes. This closed system is very economical and very little water is lost due to steam escape. A branch pipe feeds a distillation plant which produces 150 gallons of pure water an hour from sea water for drinking and washing purposes. This again is a closed circuit to avoid steam loss.

The engine room contains two engines, two generators and control gear. Each engine is a two-stage turbine with high and low pressure sides. An 8:1 reduction gear connects the power from each engine to the propeller shafts.

The ship cruised at 13 knots, a speed which the navigator had calculated would bring us to Penang at the appointed hour.

After visiting the power side of the ship, I went to the Wireless rooms and admired the solid looking equipment. The ship could work on the VHF and HF bands and had a switchboard system for connecting the sets to remote control units in other parts of the ship. The VHF sets are used for inter-ship working, and the HF equipment covers the ship-shore links. The main difference between Naval and Army wireless stations is that the Navy sets are permanently installed in the ship while Army installations, even at base, tend to have a makeshift appearance. The ship was well equipped with PA equipment and full use was made of it. I then looked at the Radar and Computing equipment, and had a stimulating discussion with the electrical officer, comparing Naval and Army equipment. I had seen some of the equipment under production in U.K. and was interested to see how it stood up to service use. We then had dinner (Chinese food!) and chatted over a Coca-Cola and a cigarette. I must make it clear that the R.A.N. have an unwritten rule that no officer will drink at sea, although the bottles are there—hence the 'Coke'.

I then went up on the bridge and watched the ship rushing through the night. I must admit I felt slightly nervous and wished there were a couple of headlamps out in front. However, I was reassured when I inspected the navigational aids. There were two P.P.I. (Plan Position Indicator) Radar Sets. Depth was reported every few minutes from a depth meter, and there were two compasses and a chart. I admired the expert way with which the navigator watched the instruments and plotted his course. He had a signaller and an orderly to help him and a look-out forward. I was particularly impressed by the P.P.I. tubes which gave a picture of the land and adjacent shipping. It was possible to read off range from prominent land features and hence check on the ship's position.

Below the bridge was the Operations Room where a staff of P.O.s and ratings were plotting the ship's course and those of adjacent shipping. In the wheelhouse a sturdy Australian was holding the ship on the bearings ordered by the bridge.

I then went below to my bunk and slept soundly until 'All hands' (Reveille) was announced at 0600 hours. I arose quickly and watched the beautiful island of Penang coming into view in the dawn sun, and watched the ship's move to anchorage.

At 0815 hours the Captain's pinnace came alongside and I regretfully bade my Australian friends farewell and made for the shore to start my day's work."

HONG KONG TROOP, 19 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT

The advent of the New Year has not changed the policy of this small detached troop of 19 Air Formation Signal Regiment. The accent is still on work and more work.

A fairly big job in hand at the moment is the tidying up of the underground cable network at Hong Kong's only civil airport, Kai Tak. Some of the cables are laid in the local sewerage system and each day a working party can be seen disappearing into the bowels of the earth. On quiet days the strains of "Sweet Violets" can be heard drifting across the tarmac runway.

Although based at Kai Tak our commitments are spread over the length and breadth of the Colony, and the R.A.F.'s ability to pick the most outlandish places is almost uncanny. Because of this the Troop's M.T. is our life-line, which the recent C.R.E.M.E. inspection team tried their best to sever. We survived—"More tea, Sir?"

October of last year saw the departure of Sergeant Baker, who was recalled to Catterick to instruct the Corps future line-men. (It is rumoured that Radio Relay will be all the rage shortly).

Now that the "cool season" is with us, life in Hong Kong is very pleasant and a large variety of sporting programmes are in full swing. Although the smallness of the troop does not enable us to enter for most of the events, we have high hopes of producing a basketball team before the end of the season.



Brigadier H. L. Lewis, C.B.E. inspecting M.O.R. Guard of Honour

19 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT

25th January saw the initial visit to the Regiment of Brigadier H. L. Lewis, C.B.E., C.S.O., FARELF, during which time he saw the set up here in Changi. A Guard of Honour commanded by Staff Sergeant Hashim Bin Uteh saluted the C.S.O. on arrival. The visit was but a fleeting one but we hope to have the honour of further visits by the C.S.O. during his tour.

Colonel R. N. Seddon, O.B.E., who has been our C.A.F.S.O. for the past three years, departs from here in the very near future; we all wish him and Mrs. Seddon the very best of luck in their new location. We understand the sailing on the *Serpentine* is not quite the same as that in the Johore Straits, but may you always have fair winds, Sir. In Colonel Seddon's place we welcome Colonel G. S. K. Maydon. We are not quite sure if our phraseology is correct but since our new C.A.F.S.O. is a golfer of renown, we all wish him good driving and no hazards. At the time of scribbling these notes, Mrs. Maydon has not yet arrived, but is due here quite soon, and on behalf of our Wives' Club a welcome is extended.

In the field of Sport, we will not bore our many readers with how well we are progressing, except to say that in the final of the Singapore District Hockey Cup we lost to the Transit Camp Brigade of Gurkhas by 1-nil. The score is a very fair estimate of the play as we can but concede that they had the edge on us—but only just. In a Preliminary Round we did battle against



Captain H. Charlesworth shows a well known picture to Brigadier Firth. Also in the picture, Colonel J. G. Underwood, Lieutenant-Colonel R. F. A. Turner, Major T. S. Wragg, Mr. D. Naylor, Mr. P. Sherwood and Mr. E. Baker

[Photograph by courtesy Derbyshire Times]

1/2 Bn. K.E.O. Gurkha Rifles for a total of 234 minutes, having to play the match three times, to scores of 2-2, 2-2, and finally 3-2 in our favour.

We have seen Nacerby's return to print recently, and this being so, perhaps he would like to let us know just what did happen to that wonderful contrivance of which the main feature was used razor blades that he used to mess about with, when in days gone by he was connected in some hazy way with training in 3 T.R.? We were never quite sure if this infernal Beach-comberish machine was intended to cut morse tape or behold recalcitrant would-be OWLS suffering from "Noises in the lugs." Perhaps, Cecil, one day the secret will be told?



OPENING OF ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION CLUB AT YORK

After overcoming obstacles, apparently insurmountable, the members of the York Branch of the Association had a triumphant opening of their Club House on Friday, 22nd February, 1956.

A fuller account and, it is hoped, a photograph will appear in the April number.



Chesterfield Branch

The Branch broke with tradition in that instead of the usual annual dinner a celebration was held in the newly decorated Royal Signals Club in the Drill Hall of No. 3 Squadron, 21st (North Midland) Corps Signal Regiment, T.A.

Colonel J. G. Underwood, T.D., Honorary Colonel of The Regiment and President of the Branch, proposed the toast of the Association. He appealed to all to support the Territorial Army which was likely to become a purely volunteer organisation.

Brigadier H. R. Firth, General Secretary, gave some account of the excellence of a "pass off" parade of National Servicemen which he had recently attended in Catterick and spoke of the generosity of those of Royal Signals now serving who had in 1956 raised the record sum of £4,969 to aid the work of the Association.

The toast "Our Guests" was proposed by Lieutenant-Colonel R. F. A. Turner, O.B.E., T.D., and replied to by Squadron Leader M. R. E. Swanwick, Royal Air Forces Association, who in his own inimitable manner regaled the company with a great number of anecdotes better suited to the spoken word than to print. They were incredibly funny.

Welfare Section

Below an attempt is made to describe with suitable anonymity nine cases taken from the Welfare Section files current during the first week in February, 1957. Also on this page is a simple statement of income and expenditure.

Signalman, 1955. N.S. He and his wife are purchasing a small house and could not meet the commitment of owner's rates and Schedule A Tax. The fund helped.

Driver, 1950. Serving. His wife and three children were unexpectedly offered a house, and the fund helped a little, on strong recommendation of the Commanding Officer.

Signalman, 1951. Serving. His mother and schoolgirl sister had to find a new home, and the fund helped a little towards it.

Signalman, 1942-47. His wife is fearfully ill, and he and his daughter are living with his parents, but he must go on paying rent for his own house. Consequential expense has near ruined him, and S.S.A.F.A. and his own Association did what was possible to help.

Sergeant, 1939-40. The Association gave a small loan to help with unexpected last-minute expenses before he emigrated to Canada.

Widow of Corporal, 1927-45, who died in September, 1956. The British Legion and the Association co-operated to clear his wife and three children from their small debts.

Sergeant, 1937-43. Married, four children. His wife was long in hospital, and the children partly with relatives and partly in care of local Council. One thing after another for nearly a year. Royal Signals Association, A.T.S. Benevolent Fund, and the Gloucestershire Regiment in which he had former service, all helped.

Signalman, 1939-46. Wife permanently ill, and he has to stay home and look after her and their daughter. They have a subsistence only income and, not for the first time, Royal Signals Association and the A.T.S. Benevolent Fund combined to help a little.

Signalman, 1938-45. After a very long illness, he got out of hospital and quickly back to work. The fund helped him to very necessary clothing.

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION AND BENEVOLENT FUND

Subscriptions most gratefully received during January, 1957:—

	£	s.	d.
O.T. Wing, School of Signals	4	19	6
2 Training Regiment	26	17	0
4 Training Regiment	16	2	9
5 Training Regiment	37	17	0
7 Training Regiment	47	16	0
Signal Communication Wing, Royal Military Academy	2	10	6
Northern Command Signal Squadron	5	0	0
21 (NM) Corps Signal Regiment, T.A.	13	0	0
MES/SRDE	1	10	3
U.K. COMCAN Signal Regiment (1, 3 and 4 Squadrons and Sergeants' Mess)	18	18	6
Southern Command (M) Signal Regiment, T.A.	4	0	0
Signal Wing, School of Infantry	9	7	0
44 (H.C.) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A.	17	0	0
Army Phantom Signal Regiment, T.A.	5	0	0
Western Command Signal Squadron	1	6	0
86 AGRA (Ed.) Signal Squadron, T.A.	1	3	0
H.Q. A.E.R. Royal Signals	5	5	6
Scottish Command Signal Squadron	9	17	0
H.Q. 500 Independent Signal Squadron, T.A.	2	0	0
51 (H) Infantry Divisional Signal Squadron	2	0	0
Scottish Command (M) Signal Regiment, T.A.	10	10	0
ALFCE Signal Squadron	4	0	0
C.A.F.S.O., 2 T.A.F.	12	6	0
10 Air Formation Signal Regiment	10	0	0
12 Air Formation Signal Regiment	1	0	0
14 Army Signal Regiment	65	10	6
18 Army Group Signal Regiment	25	0	0
5 AGRA (A.A.) Signal Squadron	5	0	0
2 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment	36	13	3
2 L. of C. Signal Regiment	6	2	0
1 Wireless Regiment	18	19	2
1 Corps Signal Regiment	5	12	6
19 Air Formation Signal Regiment	142	0	0
28 COMWELL Independent Infantry Brigade Group Signal Squadron	11	10	0
Hong Kong Signal Regiment	54	8	0
Malaya Command Signal Squadron	39	6	4
17 Gurkha Divisional Signal Regiment	8	15	0

Federation Signals	4	5	0
15/19 Hussars Signal Troop	2	0	0
48 Field Regiment R.A. Signal Troop	5	10	0
COMCAN Signal Squadron, Malta	7	9	8
3 G.H.Q. Signal Regiment	36	0	0
50 Independent Infantry Brigade Signal Troop	2	9	0
2 Wireless Regiment	42	0	0
15 Signal Park Troop	15	0	0
Total Receipts	£727	4	5

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION WELFARE SECTION

Donations most gratefully received during January, 1957:—

	£	s.	d.
Wives' Club, 1 Wireless Regiment	20	0	0
Mrs. Winder, 1 Wireless Regiment	10	0	0
7 Unit Branch, 2 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment	16	4	0
Gold Coast Signal Squadron	11	10	11
2nd (London) Signal Regiment, T.A.	2	0	0
62 H.Q. L. of C. Signal Regiment, T.A.	1	0	0
Captain A. H. Tant, 18 Army Group Signal Regiment	2	10	0
Chaplain General's Branch, H.Q., B.A.O.R.	12	6	3
Aldershot Branch	10	1	0
Mr. A. P. Townsend	2	0	0
Mr. A. E. Tietgen	1	8	0
Mr. C. A. Burgess	1	0	0
Mr. F. E. Foulds	10	0	0
Mr. L. D. MacLean	3	0	0
Total Receipts	£65	15	6

Expenditure during January, 1957 (Includes: Rent and Rates; Beds and Bedding; Furniture; Cots and Prams; General Assistance)

Analysis of cases:—

Families of Soldiers serving in U.K.	4
" " " " " B.A.O.R.	2
" " " " " M.E.L.F.	1
" " " " " FARELF	2
Widows and Dependants	6
Released and Discharged Soldiers	36
Total cases assisted	51

37 cases of Soldiers who served during the 1939/45 War	£344	6	3
14 cases of Soldiers who did not serve during the War	£103	12	3

LIGHTER FUEL PACKS

The following amounts were most gratefully received during the month of January, 1957:—

Box No.		£	s.	d.
7	2 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment	4	8	0
22	Newcastle Branch	6	9	0
23	London Branch	8	9	0
25	4 Training Regiment	2	0	0
32	U.K. COMCAN Signal Regiment	9	6	0
43	Newcastle Branch	4	1	0
85	3 G.H.Q. Signal Regiment	2	0	0
97	53 (W) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment	5	0	0
109	6 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment	5	5	0
115	Croydon Branch	17	0	0
Total		£71	1	2

EX-CORPORAL KEENAN WRITES . . .

Dear Sir,

I am writing to you to try and express my sincere thanks for what the Association was willing to do for me. On 27th December, 1956, I wrote and asked for help to complete my training as a male nurse and, after one visit and a very friendly talk with Miss Hyde Parker, your Committee recommended a grant of £25, which I think was very generous of them.

As I will not be continuing with my training, I will not be needing this grant, but I should be very pleased if you would thank all concerned, especially Miss Hyde Parker, of your Welfare Section, who, I am sure, must do a lot of wonderful work for ex-members of the Royal Signals. I would be very pleased if you would publish this letter in THE WIRE, and so let all serving and ex-serving members of the Royal Signals see just what a really good Association we have, and one which I hope to stay a member of for life and will be proud of the fact. Again I must thank you, Sir, and also the Welfare Section who really endeavour to look after our members when they need help.

I remain,

Yours truly,
W. L. KEENAN, Ex-Corporal.



Croydon and District Branch

We held our third annual dinner on the 2nd February at Queens House, West Croydon. Fifty-six members and guests sat down to an excellent turkey dinner. Guest of honour was Brigadier Firth, the General Secretary, other notabilities in attendance were Major J. Riley, commanding 2 Squadron, Eastern Command (M) Signal Regiment, T.A., and Chelsea Pensioner George King. Unfortunately our President, Major A. E. Stocker, was not able to be with us and the chair was taken by our Chairman, Mr. D. T. Hunneyball. We were fortunate in getting the services of one Peter Gurney as M.C., and what an excellent job he made of toastmaster and master of the after dinner festivities.

At 11.30 we managed to get a taxi for dear old George King, but getting him to get in it and go home was quite another matter. However, he wasn't there next morning when we went back to clear up, so it looks as though the taxi driver, who was last seen with a frothy pint in his hand, did somehow get George into the taxi. Please don't be misled. George was not inebriated, he just didn't want to leave us.

Our picture shows the Brigadier making an after dinner speech, well up to usual standard. Doug Hunneyball and wife are on his right and Major Riley is next to Mrs. Hunneyball. That's George King on the extreme left of the picture next to the Secretary's wife. Our Secretary didn't leave him there long, though, he only went off to take the picture.

Loughborough Branch

Allowing the members time to recover from the twin celebrations of New Year's Eve and, two week's later, our Annual Dinner and Dance, we held the Branch A.G.M. in late January.

The venue for the meeting was a local hostelry, and a remarkably good attendance resulted. I say resulted because general opinion has it that the choice of venue was most popular. Much business was done, including the allocation of 25% of our profit for the year to the Benevolent Fund, and a new plan for Branch Elections by ballot instead of the usual show of hands at a meeting. Branch membership now totals 202. We seem to increase year by year in spite of normal fluctuation.

This month the spotlight for my celebrity falls on R. P. L. (Ron) Smith, but only just, for he is a modest chap and fears the wisecracks due from colleagues when they see him "in print."

Ron joined the Signals as a boy in 1923, later entering adult service with 1st Div. Signals in 1926. Nearly six years with 2 Wireless company in Sarafand ended with a posting to "E" Company at Catterick as an Instructor in 1934. Back to Sarafand in 1935, Ron finally came home to demobilisation in 1938. Then he joined the War Office Wireless Station as a civilian, in which he still serves. In his days of Army service, Ron was a splendid cricket and hockey player, throwing in the odd bit of cross country running and football. Apart from Unit games, Ron has represented S.T.C., the Training Battalion, and Palestine Signals at cricket and hockey, and on one occasion played cricket for an Army XI in Palestine.

Sheffield Branch

The January meeting was quite a successful experiment. We had the use of the canteen and radiogram for dancing, and quite a few members revived their flagging youth to shake a nifty leg. If we can get the same support the next musical evening we shall be more than satisfied.

We were very pleased to welcome Lieutenant-Colonel Boyland, the Unit's new C.O., and wished him well during his stay in Sheffield.

During the course of the evening the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess threw out a challenge for a games evening; this was eagerly accepted and arrangements made for darts, crib, dominoes and snooker, eight to a team, playing in pairs. The vital game was the last game of snooker, which would decide whether the result for the night would be a draw or a win for the Mess. Unfortunately, the Association lost the game on the black ball, thus losing the rubber by one point.

The R.S.M. had prepared a surprise of a trophy. It looked at first sight like a guided missile, but a closer look confirmed it to be a 5-foot long dart, painted yellow and black. All the Mess needs now is a dart board like a gasometer to go with it. Anyhow, congratulations to them. It was a very enjoyable evening and a return match will be arranged as soon as possible.

At this meeting we were pleased to welcome Mr. Boylan, late Secretary of the Bath Branch, who is residing in Sheffield now.

The March meeting will be the Annual General Meeting and it is hoped that the attendance will be large enough to give real support for next year's policy.

ROYAL SIGNALS CROSS COUNTRY

A Corps representative team has been entered for the past few years in the North Eastern Counties and Northern Counties Junior Cross Country Championship.

This year the North Eastern Counties Championships were held at Gosforth Park Race Course, Newcastle, on Saturday, 2nd February, 1957. Royal Signals were second to Durham University after a very exciting race, in which fourteen teams had been entered and eight finished. It was an unfortunate result for it meant that we lost a very fine trophy which we had held since 1954. Nevertheless, it was a close finish and had all eight of the team been counted we should have been easy winners.

Finishing positions were as follows:—

Signalman R. O. Williams, 2nd Training Regiment, Royal Signals	3
Signalman D. Turnbull, 1st Training Regiment, Royal Signals	11
Second-Lieutenant D. R. Harries, Royal Signals Wing	12
Signalman A. M. C. Davis, 1st Training Regiment, Royal Signals	21
	41

All the above named were presented with a North Eastern Counties Association Silver Plaque. Signalman Williams received an additional plaque for gaining third place.

Durham University scored 31 points.

ROYAL SIGNALS TENNIS

The Corps Tennis Tournament will be played at the Officers' Club, Catterick Camp, during the period Monday, 13th May, 1957, to Saturday, 18th May, 1957.

Events will be open singles; other ranks' singles; open doubles; other ranks' doubles; regimental doubles.

Entries for these events must be sent to Major T. L. Richards, Royal Signals, Officer Training Wing, School of Signals, Catterick Camp, Yorkshire, as early as possible before 7th May, 1957.

Corps tennis fixtures for the 1957 season are:—

Wed. 5 June	R.A.O.C.	at Catterick Camp
Wed. 19 June	Welbeck College	at Welbeck
Thurs. 11 July	R.E.	at Catterick Camp
Wed. 17 July	R.M.A.	at Sandhurst
Thurs. 18 July	R.A.S.C.	at Aldershot
Fri. 19 July	R.A.E.C.	at Aldershot
Sat. 20 July	Staff College	at Camberley
Sun. 21 July	R.E.M.E.	at Aldershot

GREAT PLACES FOR TRAFFIC

Traffic in terms of wheels at Piccadilly Circus . . . traffic in terms of words at Porthcurno. Cable and Wireless Limited's cable station here is the beginning of the British Commonwealth's vast submarine cable system. The station can handle traffic to the tune of over a million words a day. The Company owns a world-wide network of 150,000 miles of submarine cable, maintaining it with a fleet of 8 cables ships stationed at strategic points. It also owns and maintains wireless relay stations on the trunk routes, operates the overseas telegraph services of most of the colonial territories and cable services in various other countries throughout the world.



PICCADILLY CIRCUS

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The Personnel Managers at both these factories will be pleased to discuss the possibilities of employment with any service personnel about to complete their engagement with the Forces. This also applies to females.

WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY OPERATORS required by FALKLAND ISLANDS GOVERNMENT Wireless Station, Port Stanley, for one tour of three years in first instance. Salary scale (including expatriation allowance) £390 rising to £500 a year. Commencing salary according to experience. Full board accommodation obtainable at £12-£14 a month. Free passages. Liberal leave on full salary. Candidates must be SINGLE and have had good practical operating experience, P.M.G. Certificate an advantage. Write to the Crown Agents, 4, Millbank, London, S.W.1. State age, name in block letters, full qualifications and experience and quote M2C/41891/WS.

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is internationally recognised as one of the leading engineering firms in the design and manufacture of high precision instrumentation and automatic control systems for aircraft and guided weapons. Implicit in the development of these systems is the application of the widest possible variety of advanced electrical, electronic, hydraulic, mechanical and human engineering techniques.

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The G.E.C. offers every opportunity for progressive careers in all these developing spheres. Men who have obtained technical experience in the Services are particularly welcome to apply for direct appointments and for comprehensive training schemes leading to appointments.

For further information please write to :

The Controller, Education & Personnel Services,
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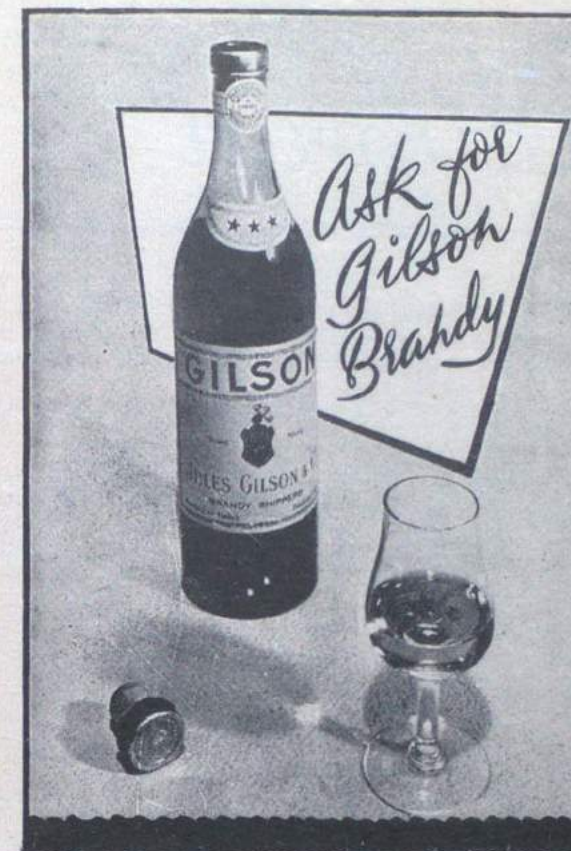
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THE WIRE, MARCH 1957



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THE WIRE, APRIL 1957



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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.

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



APRIL • **1957**
Vol. II (New Series) **No. 4**



PRICE ONE SHILLING

Editorial

THE WIRE AND ITS COVER. The current black and white cover of the magazine has caused a deal of adverse comment. As stated in the March number economy is necessary and the absence of colour does cause a considerable saving.

Pressure to return to a better cover is very strong and every effort will be made to do so as soon as possible.

THE WIRE AND ITS CONTENTS. It is already becoming clear that the tendency in 1957 will be for bigger and better numbers and not smaller and cheaper. The March WIRE was an expensive one to produce and behind its poor cover were several articles which will have been of more than parochial interest. In all humbleness the same may be said of this number.

THE WIRE AND ITS COST. It will almost certainly be necessary to increase the price per copy from 1/- to 1/3 in 1958. Final decision will be taken at the end of May.

* * *

RUGBY FOOTBALL.

The 1st Training Regiment, as all now know, have done it again. Six times in nine years have they won the Army Rugby Football Cup. This was announced in the March number and a description of the game and photographs appear on page 124.

* * *

JUNIOR LEADERS' REGIMENT.

From beyond memory there was a Boys' Company, recently a Boys' Regiment. This has now been renamed. Some of our most respected Lieutenant-Colonels, Majors and Regimental Sergeant-Majors may shudder a little at losing their proud title of "Ex-Boy." It is very sure, however, that the Regiment at Newton Abbott will continue to send into the Corps the "Senior Leaders" of the future.

* * *

A VERY MEMORABLE OCCASION

Time, 12.35 p.m. Date, Tuesday, 12th March. Place, Buckingham Palace Road, London, S.W.1.

Along the crowded pavements walked the Senior Regimental Sergeant-Major of the Royal Corps of Signals, accompanied by his wife and daughter. He was in No. 1 Dress.

R.S.M. E. R. Gay had just been presented with the insignia of his Membership of the Order of the British Empire by the hand of Her Majesty.

* * *

WANTED FOR CORPS MUSEUM

Old pattern Royal Signals Corps badges, both Other Ranks and Officers, not required by their owners would be gratefully accepted by Major Flynn, Headquarters, Training Brigade, Royal Signals, Catterick Camp, on behalf of the Committee of the Royal Signals' Museum.

Any other old items connected with the Corps either in dress, equipment, or in documents, would also be welcomed.

* * *

CORPS CAPMAKER

The 64th meeting of the Corps Committee have appointed Messrs. Bates, 21a, Jermyn Street, S.W.1, as official cap manufacturer to the Corps.



Lieutenant-Colonel (T.O.T.) H. S. Shave, O.B.E.

Enlisting in the Royal Engineers in 1910, he was originally trained as a Clerk but qualified as an Electrician (Field) Signals in 1913. He served in France from August, 1914, to 1919, being promoted Staff Sergeant in the Wireless Signal Company in 1916. He was mentioned in despatches in 1915.

He transferred to the Corps in 1921 and became Q.M.S. (F. of S.) in that year. He was in Malta Signal Squadron, 1922 to 1925.

Then came the period 1925 to 1932, in which as R.S.M. (F. of S.) he was responsible in Catterick for the training of the "Workshop" Tradesmen of the Corps for seven important years. One remembers the tons of brass that must have been used, for no man was accepted for training until he had filed his "hexagon."

Promotion to Lieutenant and Quartermaster came in 1932 and in 1936 he became one of the first of the new grade of Inspector of Permanent Communications. Promotion and honour followed their deserved course. He was appointed an Officer in the Order of the British Empire in 1943 and promoted Lieutenant-Colonel (I.P.C.) in 1945.

He retired on 30th September, 1947, after 37 years of honourable service, 21 of them to Royal Signals.

After his retirement he interested himself in Local Government and was a member of Rochester City Council from 1950-56. He also did another public duty, that of probation officer for the County of Kent from 1948-51. He died on 4th March, 1957, and the sympathy of all his friends in Royal Signals will go to his wife, Mrs. E. Shave, 35, Grafton Avenue, Rochester, Kent; his son, Major T. S. R. Shave, M.C., Royal Engineers; and his daughter, Mrs. A. M. Pine.

Forthcoming Events

Golf. The Spring Meeting will be held at Catterick Camp on 25th and 26th April. Entry forms may be obtained from the Honorary Secretary, Major D. D. Fairman, War Office (Signals 3).

The North London Branch second Annual Dinner and Dance will be held at the Cambridge Hotel, Palmers Green on Saturday, 27th April. Tickets are available at £1/1/- each from the Hon. Secretary, L. S. Kennett, 201, Lonsdale Drive, Enfield. Tel. Enfield 8694.

Tennis. Royal Signals Tournament, 13th to 18th May.

Visit of Royal Signals Band to S. Wales. Outline Programme

Wednesday, 22nd May.—Royal Signals Dance at Sophia Gardens Pavilion, Cardiff. Dancing from 8 p.m. to midnight. Admission will be by ticket only. Details are not yet firm.

Thursday, 23rd May.—Port Talbot Branch of Royal Signals Association. Band Concert in the Hall of the College of Further Education, Port Talbot. Admission by ticket (available from Hon. Secretary, Port Talbot Branch).

Friday, 24th May.—Band Concert in Cardiff.

Corps Dinner 29th May, 1957
and

Regular Officers' "At Home" ... 30th May, 1957
at the Hyde Park Hotel.
This will NOT be published in the LONDON and SCOTTISH Press as hitherto.

Catterick Reunion 29/30th June, 1957

West Country Reunion

It is hoped to hold a Reunion for West of England Branches, by the kindness of 6 (Boys) Training Regiment, at Newton Abbot on 28th and 29th September. Confirmation and fuller details will appear later.

Scottish Reunion

This will be held in Dreghorn Camp, Edinburgh, on Saturday, 17th, Sunday, 18th August. Details will appear later.

Ex-Boys' Fourth Annual Reunion

The Suez annoyance has meant that many of our ex-Boys (serving and reservist) would not be available for a reunion in the Spring. The 1957 dinner will therefore be held on Saturday, 5th October, at Williamson's Tavern, Bow Lane, E.C.4. (One minute from Mansion House Underground Station). Assembly and cocktails, 6.30 to 7.15 p.m. Dinner at 7.15. Dress: lounge suit or Uniform.

Applications for tickets, with remittance please, should be addressed to Treasurer, Ex-Boys' Reunion, c/o 54 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment (T.A.), 40, Ashburnham Road, Bedford, as soon as possible.

Cheques and postal orders should be made payable to "F. W. Jacobs, Royal Signals Dinner A/C."

Ex-Boys, serving or retired, 16/6 each. Wives or other guests 15/- each.

It will be of considerable help to the Committee if remittances are sent at an early date.

Royal Signals Rugby Football Club

1957
April 24 Bradford Charity Match ... Bradford
" 27 Huddersfield Sevens ... Huddersfield

Royal Signals Association Football Club

1957
May 2 R.A.C. (A) ... Catterick
Corps representative match.

Royal Signals Hockey Club

1957
April 19 Scarborough Festival ... Scarborough
to 22 " " " " " "

Corps Band Summer Tour 1957

Touring Band

15th April — 18th April	Eastern Command
19th April — 28th April	Eastbourne
29th April — 4th May	Eastern Command
5th May	York Minster
8th May — 10th May	Southern Command, Gloucester
12th May — 18th May	Eastbourne
21st May — 23rd May	O.C.A., South Wales
26th May — 1st June	Victoria Embankment Gardens
29th May	Corps Dinner
2nd June — 8th June	Kneller Hall
9th June — 22nd June	Eastbourne
23rd June — 30th June	O.C.A., Catterick
1st July — 6th July	York Festival
7th July	Gateshead
8th July — 14th July	Edinburgh
15th July — 20th July	Dunfermline
21st July	Paisley
22nd July — 27th July	Dunfermline
28th July — 11th August	Glasgow
15th August — 17th August	Scottish Command, Edinburgh
18th August — 25th August	Edinburgh
26th August — 31st August	Hastings
1st September — 7th September	B.B.C. Recordings
8th September — 14th September	Eastbourne
15th September — 21st September	Leave
22nd September	Worthing
25th September — 26th September	Brighton
28th September — 1st October	6 Training Regiment, Newton Abbot
2nd October	Return to Catterick

Non-Touring Band

21st May	Quick Silver Guest Night
25th May — 27th May	Loughborough
29th May — 1st June	Eastern Command
2nd June — 8th June	Kneller Hall
15th June — 17th June	O. offer to 3 Training Regiment, Lincoln
16th July	Newcastle, H.R.H. Princess Royal
15th August	V.J. Guest Night
16th August — 17th August	Scottish Command, Edinburgh
7th October — 11th October	Eaton Hall.

ROYAL SIGNALS LAWN TENNIS — 1957 FIXTURES

May 13	Corps Tournament	Officers' Club, Catterick
June 5	Royal Army Ordnance Corps	Officers' Club, Catterick
June 19	Welbeck College	Workshop
July 11	Royal Engineers	Officers' Club, Catterick
July 17	Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst	Sandhurst
July 18	Royal Army Service Corps	Aldershot
July 19	Royal Army Education Corps	Aldershot
July 20	Staff College	Camberley
July 21	Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers	Aldershot

(All are Corps representative matches except for that against Welbeck College).

GENERAL LANAHAN MADE PRESIDENT OF FEDERAL ELECTRIC

Major-General Francis H. Lanahan, U.S.A. (Ret.), has been elected President of Federal Electric Corp. of Lodi, N.J., which is the field service and maintenance subsidiary of International Telephone and Telegraph Corp.

He joined the Federal Electric in 1955, accepting the post of vice-president and general manager, shortly after his retirement from the U.S. Army Signal Corps. The following year he was elected executive vice-president.

General Lanahan joined the Signal Corps in 1926. During World War II he was Chief Signal Officer for the Allied Expeditionary Forces in Europe. Later, he returned to the U.S. to serve as Commanding General of the Signal Corps Center at Fort Monmouth, N.J. In 1951, he was again assigned to overseas service in Europe as the first Chief Signal Officer of the

Supreme Headquarters of the Allied Powers in Europe (SHAPE). In 1952, he returned to the U.S. as Deputy Director of Logistics for the Army until his retirement.

Courtesy—"Signal," the Journal of the Armed Forces Communications and Electronic Association of the U.S.A.

PERSONAL COLUMN

Movements — Officers

Major A. V. Brandle, Oslo to School of Signals.
Lieutenant-Colonel P. G. Curry, B.A.O.R. to Wireless Wing, R.A.C. Centre.
Lieutenant-Colonel G. H. K. Hewlett, Ministry of Supply to Depot.
Major J. A. Waite, 4 Training Regiment to Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, U.K.
Lieutenant-Colonel J. M. S. Tulloch, R.A.C. Centre to Depot.
Lieutenant-Colonel (Q.M.) C. H. Patrick, A.G.11 to Retirement.
Major L. S. McCarthy, M.E.L.F. to 3 Training Regiment.
Major P. P. H. Morton, W.O. (Trails Team) to 4 Training Regiment.
Captain (T.O.T.) W. Cornish, M.E.L.F. to U.K.
Lieutenant (Q.M.) R. A. B. Dixon, First Commission to London T.A.
Lieutenant (T.O.T.) J. Foster, M.E.L.F. to Northern Command Signals Works Services.
Lieutenant (Q.M.) C. W. Hallett, First Commission to Records.
Major (Q.M.) A. E. S. Jackson, M.B.E., B.A.O.R. to Hong Kong.
Lieutenant (Q.M.) W. E. Judd, B.A.O.R. to Cyprus.
Lieutenant (T.O.T.) G. E. Pinder, First Commission to Ministry of Defence.
Major K. J. A. Adlam, FARELF to Depot.
Major F. Sloan, Records to B.A.O.R.
Captain (Q.M.) F. P. Barry, War Office to 5 Training Regiment.
Lieutenant (Q.M.) J. Worsley, First Commission to War Office.
Major M. H. Broadway, B.A.O.R. to E.R.E.
Major C. de Lyle-Turner, E.R.E. to 1 Training Regiment.

Arrivals and Departures

SHAPE Signal Squadron
Arrivals: W.O.II W. J. Gahan.
Departures: W.O.II A. L. Gilhooly, Sergeant F. C. Corr.
2 L. of C. Signal Regiment
Departures: W.O.I (R.S.M.) G. J. Bevan, M.M., W.O.II P. Young and family, S.Q.M.S. J. Woolgar and family.
12 Air Formation Signal Regiment
Departures: Major J. K. Brown, W.O.II (R.Q.M.S.) Davy, Sergeant Jones.
19 Army Group Signal Regiment
Arrivals: Sergeants Grieve, Hammill.
Departures: Staff Sergeant Clarkson.
Officer Training Wing School of Signals
Arrivals: W.O.I A. Smith, A/Sergeant A. F. Horne.
3rd Training Regiment
Arrivals: Staff Sergeant Alexander.
Departures: Captain P. C. H. Walker, Staff Sergeants Cross, Harriett.
2 Wireless Regiment
Arrivals: Captain P. R. Fisher, Sergeants Macdonald, Curtis, Edgar.
Departures: W.O.I Swenson, W.O.II Chambers, Webb, Burge, Sergeants Appleton, Harrison, Driscoll.

There is an expressed demand for more information in this column affecting senior ranks.

Births

FAIRFIELD.—To Staff Sergeant and Mrs. Fairfield, a daughter, Jacqueline Rochelle, born at R.A.F.H., Wegberg, on 16th February, 1957.

MASSEY.—To Lieutenant and Mrs. G. S. Massey, a son, Kenneth Lionel, at B.M.H., Hanover, on 28th January, 1957.

Marriage

NOON—HADLEY.—Signalman Noon to Miss Patricia Hadley, at Rowley Regis, Staffordshire, on 9th February, 1957.

Deaths

ANDREWS.—Ex-Lance-Corporal D. A. Andrews, of 61, Ridge Avenue, Letchworth, Herts., on 25th September, 1956, aged 22 years.

GRATTAN.—Ex-Signalman J. Grattan, at the Star and Garter Home, Richmond, on 14th February, 1957, aged 37 years. (Wife's address: 22, Lyndhurst Road, Ramsgate, Kent).

SMITH.—Signalman John Barry Smith, on 27th January, 1957, at M.E.L.F.

JONES.—Ex-Signalman Donald Joshua Jones, in March, 1957, of 6, Tan-y-Marian, Mardy, Rhondda, Glam., aged 32 years. He was a life member of the Association.

EASTERN COMMAND DIVISIONAL BOXING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Lance-Corporal A. Sutton (C.S.O.'s Branch, Headquarters London District) on 13th March, 1957, became Middle-weight Champion, knocking out his opponent in 13 seconds.

PROMOTIONS

The following substantive promotions were authorised during the month of February, 1957:

TRADES ROSTER

TO WARRANT OFFICER I

2324135	A/W.O.I	(500)	Townsend, M. R.
2325222	A/W.O.I	(1300)	Graham, G. H.

TO WARRANT OFFICER II

4537493	Staff Sgt.	(840)	Swan, N.
2324018	A/W.O.II	(1380)	Maskell, G.
2326646	A/W.O.II	(2180)	Rixon, D. C.
2378286	Staff Sgt.	(2870)	Knight, T. E.
2329493	Staff Sgt.	(3140)	Holman, J. L.
3910103	Staff Sgt.	(3330)	Milton, L.
2571864	Staff Sgt.	(3790)	Newton, L. G.
14450621	A/W.O.II	(3880)	Kennedy, L.
2326879	Staff Sgt.	(3940)	Anderson, T. R.
2327980	Staff Sgt.	(4150)	King, W. E.
2328119	A/W.O.II	(4170)	Jones, D. H.

TO STAFF SERGEANT

2325709	A/Staff Sgt.	(190)	Smith, G. R.
2311640	A/Staff Sgt.	(200)	Chalker, F. W.
2568664	Sgt.	(750)	Deas, W.
46482	A/Staff Sgt.	(1200)	Gallivan, J. E.
2326694	Sgt.	(1250)	Biles, R. B. L.
2340178	Sgt.	(2190)	Teyen, P. E.
14060716	Sgt.	(2280)	James, D. L.
5725781	Sgt.	(2330)	Copestake, A. A.
2323801	Sgt.	(2870)	Slavin, V.
22983981	A/Staff Sgt.	(3192)	Scrafton, R.
14063400	Sgt.	(3590)	Oscroft, B. C.
2548666	Sgt.	(3690)	Crow, H. J.
2547738	Sgt.	(4130)	Greenbrook, D.
22776463	Sgt.	(4200)	Bradley, G.

TO SERGEANT

2599247	A/Sgt.	(120)	Baldry, J. P.
4915830	A/Sgt.	(320)	Langford, D.
21005114	Cpl.	(540)	Thompson, J. B.
14191399	Cpl.	(850)	Bignell, R. J. P.
4975156	A/Sgt.	(870)	Crofts, R. H.
21182155	A/Sgt.	(1010)	Bone, A.
22242050	A/Sgt.	(1160)	Brandon, W. A.
22212823	Cpl.	(1790)	Marchant, R. H.
21127949	Cpl.	(1910)	Webley, E. H.
22296665	A/Sgt.	(2250)	Butler, W.
19032045	A/Sgt.	(2830)	Page, L. G.
22242388	A/Sgt.	(3330)	Livermore, D.
21182589	Cpl.	(3450)	Drage, J. C.
22515111	Cpl.	(3610)	Beddingfield, W. J.
22307882	A/Sgt.	(3880)	Bunston, K.
14475928	Cpl.	(3960)	Cox, J.
22515772	A/Sgt.	(4140)	Cowan, W.
19041355	Cpl.	(4170)	Jeffries, F. W. G.
22522279	A/Sgt.	(4180)	Murphy, J. T.
22212877	A/Sgt.	(4490)	Henson, R. W.
22242142	Cpl.	(4500)	Walker, C.
22308102	A/Sgt.	(4630)	Hilder, M. A.
22537843	A/Sgt.	(4831)	Sammur, A.
22265236	A/Sgt.	(4880)	Saunders, S.
22246064	A/Sgt.	(4980)	Cassling, R. N. L.
22212319	A/Sgt.	(5190)	Hutson, N.
6344853	Cpl.	(5310)	Martyn, L. E.
22547752	A/Sgt.	(5490)	Makinson, L. A.
2549601	Cpl.	(5690)	Lindsay, O. E.
22345309	Cpl.	(6050)	Watts, P. H. J.
22295154	A/Sgt.	(6390)	Thomson, A. G. M.
22541892	A/Sgt.	(6580)	Dec, H. J.
22295721	Cpl.	(7241)	Wakefield, W. C.
22274152	Cpl.	(8040)	Vickers, W. H.
22515692	A/Sgt.	(8080)	French, K.
22773087	A/Sgt.	(8280)	Bacon, K. C. L.
22791548	A/Sgt.	(8940)	Leonard, W. J.
22515308	Cpl.	(9250)	Walker, D.
22792508	A/Sgt.	(9670)	McKeating, R.
22549398	Cpl.	(9870)	Nuish, J. M.
22274172	Cpl.	(10300)	Dean, F. J.
22548677	Cpl.	(10370)	Romeril, E. W.
22547286	A/Sgt.	(10540)	Montgomery, J.
22773472	A/Sgt.	(10591)	Selwyn, G. P.
22242939	A/Sgt.	(11480)	Jacobs, H.
22049257	Cpl.	(12400)	Williams, C. H.
22549309	Cpl.	(12830)	Peters, G.
22274914	A/Sgt.	(13070)	Lakey, J.
22541462	A/Sgt.	(13771)	Asham, F. A.
22296564	Cpl.	(13930)	Newell, D. A.
22563971	Cpl.	(14231)	Brown, H. A.
21022103	A/Sgt.	(14600)	Barrett, G. J. H.

22525265	A/Sgt.	(14620)	Taylor, J.
22526846	A/Sgt.	(14880)	Orton, G. W.
22080088	A/Sgt.	(15340)	Forster, R. N.
22539115	A/Sgt.	(15490)	Jones, T. G.
21005088	Cpl.	(15621)	Thompson, C. A.
22048473	A/Sgt.	(16691)	Grove, D. J. C.
22524220	Cpl.	(17020)	Meredith, K. W.
22265997	A/Sgt.	(17080)	Simmonds, P. F.
19036339	A/Staff Sgt.	(17090)	King, J.
22537025	A/Sgt.	(17700)	Broadbent, M. W.
22247408	Cpl.	(17960)	Izzo, J. H.
22515949	Cpl.	(18360)	Davies, L. S.
22522605	A/Sgt.	(19010)	Cockerill, T.
19035720	Cpl.	(19400)	Preece, J. C.
22229880	A/Sgt.	(19490)	Daines, L. R.
22639338	A/Sgt.	(20200)	Dean, P. A.
22212878	A/Sgt.	(20580)	Hansford, D. F.
22515254	A/Sgt.	(20840)	Enfield, L. C.
22559051	A/Sgt.	(21220)	Martin, T. M.
22515180	A/Sgt.	(21380)	Sanderson, R. M.
22838001	Cpl.	(21390)	Johnson, R. C.
22562186	A/Sgt.	(21421)	Burnham, L.
22774253	A/Sgt.	(21493)	Bramhill, A. E.
22523247	Cpl.	(21775)	Maillard, L. K.
22515860	Cpl.	(22330)	Reynolds, G.
22538876	A/Sgt.	(22580)	Ridge, C. D.
22265941	Cpl.	(22752)	Stokes, F. A.
22355089	Cpl.	(22841)	Carey, J. W.
22515566	Cpl.	(22910)	Markham, J. R.
19040629	A/Sgt.	(23010)	Bulman, G. W.
22525891	A/Sgt.	(23170)	Hoare, R. E.
22265227	Cpl.	(23380)	Cards, L. H.
22546387	A/Sgt.	(23510)	Harding, C.
22230173	Cpl.	(23611)	White, G. P.
22218192	Cpl.	(23990)	McHattie, A.
22230757	A/Sgt.	(24280)	Coleman, D.
22212569	A/Sgt.	(24600)	Cox, R. D.
22242575	A/Staff Sgt.	(24870)	Jones, D.
22296407	Cpl.	(25210)	Mellet, J. E. T.
22775360	Cpl.	(25390)	Hunt, B. R.
22541007	A/Sgt.	(25890)	Bates, E. L.
22539898	Cpl.	(25960)	Moran, T.
22296704	A/Sgt.	(26290)	Donnelly, M. N.
22307405	A/Sgt.	(26852)	Stanbury, R. K.
22212864	A/Sgt.	(27100)	Taylor, T.
22218946	Cpl.	(28030)	Hurrell, K. J.
22953972	A/Sgt.	(28130)	Logan, J. J. F.
22950286	Cpl.	(28160)	Neal, P. B.
22547435	A/Sgt.	(28772)	Phillips, L. A.
22840350	A/Sgt.	(28860)	Brookes, H. W.
22525394	A/Sgt.	(29170)	Bastow, K. W.
22934007	Cpl.	(29402)	Fowler, D. A.
22541004	A/Sgt.	(30840)	Newman, P. A.
22997756	A/Sgt.	(30910)	North, B. D.
22998073	A/Sgt.	(30920)	Nicholls, R. C.
22776873	A/Sgt.	(31102)	Boughton, D. G.
22246083	A/Sgt.	(32430)	Barnett, S. J.
22308702	A/Sgt.	(32460)	Page, H. R.
21005713	Cpl.	(32580)	Beer, W. A.
22075113	A/Sgt.	(33610)	Bodys, W. S.
22247165	A/Sgt.	(34020)	Butler, A. F.
22537013	Cpl.	(34240)	Crisp, D. W. L.
2590553	A/Sgt.	(34502)	Moeche, F. W.
23030399	A/Sgt.	(34570)	Penman, G.
22111303	Cpl.	(35100)	Craig, J. M.
22233078	A/Sgt.	(35150)	Champion, A.
22295530	A/Sgt.	(35480)	State, C. A.
22515720	A/Sgt.	(35690)	Paine, P. S.
22550319	A/Sgt.	(36470)	Cherry, M. D.
2549574	Cpl.	(37320)	Smith, C. F.
22523291	Cpl.	(37660)	Connery, D.
22106088	Cpl.	(37740)	Maher, J.
22242747	Cpl.	(38060)	Hope, A.
2669449	Cpl.	(38640)	Burrows, J. V.
2549586	Cpl.	(38752)	Cannings, T. M.
23060983	Cpl.	(39940)	McDonald, W.
22842477	Cpl.	(40690)	Hetherington, R. W.
22022717	Cpl.	(40920)	Shelvin, H.
22537997	A/Sgt.	(40980)	Cooper, E.
23219376	Cpl.	(43110)	Turriff, L.
22550242	Cpl.	(47310)	Kent, D. M.
22806878	A/Sgt.	(47460)	Younie, W. A.
23224568	Cpl.	(47490)	Langworthy, J. K.
22524375	A/Sgt.	(47680)	Didick, L. G.
22180211	Cpl.	(47760)	Gater, G. A.
3530419	A/Sgt.	(48240)	McDonough, F. G.
21126780	Cpl.	(48340)	Lumley, J. B.
22537500	Cpl.	(49342)	Thomson, J.
23217681	Cpl.	(49760)	McCalden, E.
22526346	A/Sgt.	(50020)	O'Connor, B. T.
2323107	A/Sgt.	(50472)	King, G. B.
6086181	Cpl.	(50972)	Burgess, E. F. J.
2549704	Cpl.	(51190)	Parvin, N.
2349593	A/Sgt.	(51330)	Butterworth, S.
22537573	A/Sgt.	(51360)	Woolford, D. W.
22246013	Cpl.	(51540)	David, J.
22776454	A/Sgt.	(52434)	Moody, P. O.
22305059	Cpl.	(52770)	Spooner, G. R.
23226009	Cpl.	(53200)	Beattie, G. S.
22971369	Cpl.	(53250)	Holmonroyd, F. G.
22907873	A/Sgt.	(28952)	Stamp, T. W. B.
23097793	Cpl.	(51520)	Todd, P. W.

SIGNAL CENTRE SUPERVISORS' ROSTER

This roster was introduced on 15th December, 1956, under ACI 407/1956. The seniority of those Warrant Officers and Staff Sergeants transferred to this roster, including promotions up to 31st January, 1957, is as below. Those individuals who have already qualified at the course referred to in ACI 407/56 para. 5(a) are indicated by an asterisk.

Roster Seniority No.	Army No.	Name	Date of Rank
WARRANT OFFICERS CLASS I			
10	816970	Whitham, A. J.	15 July 49
20	5182971	MacIntyre, K. G.	3 April 52
30	4744576	Baxter, E. J. F.	"
40	5114472	Bell, H.	1 Jan. 54
50	5827397	Brown, H. S.	"
60	14475591	Natoli, F. W.	1 Nov. 54
70	3599642	Swenson, D. W.	1 Dec. 55
80	21005509	Cheshire, A. J. E.	1 April, 56

WARRANT OFFICERS CLASS II			
20	6009830	Fox, H. D.	24 Jan. 50
30	4912429	Powell, J. S.	15 Sept. 50
40	14523179	Havley, D. E.	"
50	7905861	Fish, K. S. J.	1 Oct. 50
60	3383351	Flanagan, L.	17 Oct. 51
70	2549270	Robinson, R. J.	22 Nov. 51
80	4744923	Angel, T.	30 Jan. 53
90	14471860	Holloway, E. J.	31 March 53
100	14444491	Chapman, G.	31 March 53
110	* 6091758	Apps, L. J.	"
120	5336715	Barrett, E. G.	"
130	* 7596728	Cowsill, G. H.	"
140	14932446	Pendock, J. C.	"
150	21023704	Davidge, R.	"
160	15002540	Buchanan, R. I.	"
170	* 3973706	Nutt, J. J. M.	"
180	* 1488303	Lombard, W. C.	"
190	22515791	Batman, A. W.	"
200	19037714	Finister, R.	"
210	2549317	Duncan, D.	"
220	21188032	Matheson, D.	"
230	22265320	Gill, J. E.	"
240	22232632	Grant, P. H.	"
250	6086665	Dibley, G.	"
260	* 2547741	Ilett, A. C.	"
270	22219914	Bell, R. N.	"
280	2548938	Archer, W. B.	"
290	2326504	Edmonds, W. H.	11 Oct. 53
300	5505979	Redstone, V. L. W.	13 Nov. 53
310	* 2226546	Brandreth, F.	1 Jan. 54
320	14618241	Derham, C. A.	"
330	2549564	Kemp, W. E.	"
340	2549469	Budden, W. F.	"
350	22307638	Jones, H. W.	"
360	22201927	Hesketh, C. E.	"
370	2549568	Kelly, J. A.	"
380	22294791	Hill, E. W. G.	"
390	2549490	Seymour, B. T.	"
400	22295852	Sutherland, R. M.	"
410	22540222	Bicknell, K. J.	"
420	19031373	Greenwood, P. L.	2 Jan. 54
430	3188927	Gibson, J. H. C.	7 May 54
440	14475729	Bail, J.	27 Oct. 54
450	2597200	Leggat, A. T.	1 Nov. 54
460	2327521	Fletcher, O. W.	4 Nov. 54
470	1440857	Taylor, A. W.	24 Nov. 54
480	22265249	Taylor, F. W.	28 Jan. 55
490	6458685	MacDonald, R.	"
500	* 22242510	Loudoun, G. E.	"
510	14043921	Gay, J. H.	"
520	2344592	Kitson, J. A.	"
530	19030220	Kennedy, W. R. S.	"
540	1151684	Hulme, D. L.	1 Sept. 55
550	19037995	Longstaff, E. G.	"
560	2549566	Newman, M. S. G.	11 Sept. 55
570	3855819	Sandham, J.	20 Nov. 55
580	2549470	Burge, D. A.	1 Dec. 55
590	22537208	King, B. J.	15 Jan. 57
600	* 6408296	Lockie, W. H.	18 Jan. 57
610	* 14718031	Ross, J. H.	21 Jan. 57

STAFF SERGEANTS			
30	* 2548937	Smithard, R. E.	15 Dec. 56
40	* 22561002	Pearson, W. H.	"
50	* 22788007	Owen, D. B.	"
60	* 21005371	Bosomworth, G. W.	"

CIPHER ROSTER

TO SERGEANT			
19031421	A/Sgt.	(40)	Morse, T. R.
22230952	A/Sgt.	(90)	Wilson, J.
22064697	Cpl.	(211)	Johnson, B. A.
22212086	A/Sgt.	(320)	Aimable, H. M.
22329072	Cpl.	(350)	Harrison, M.
21125754	Cpl.	(370)	Fewster, R. V.
22204313	A/Sgt.	(410)	Curtis, A. G.
22212857	A/Sgt.	(510)	Crooks, C. H.
22511915	A/Sgt.	(560)	Webber, F. C.
22296922	Cpl.	(570)	Walker, A. M. M.
22265226	Cpl.	(590)	Baxter, E. I. S.
22772530	Cpl.	(730)	Crump, D. E.
22656191	A/Sgt.	(850)	O'Connell, W.
22537252	Cpl.	(940)	Sim, A.

The following accelerated promotions were authorised during the month of February, 1957:

TRADES ROSTER

TO STAFF SERGEANT			
2573188	A/Staff Sgt.	(6840)	Barnes, E.
21005680	A/Staff Sgt.	(7210)	Dathan, L.
19197176	Sgt.	(8440)	Wilson, F. G.
22550959	A/Staff Sgt.	(8610)	Allen, R. D.
22950776	Sgt.	(12830)	High, W. J.

United Kingdom

5 TRAINING REGIMENT

Ex-members of the Regiment who are now enjoying the beaches of the Far and Near East will, no doubt, be delighted to hear that we too, in Ripon anyway, have enjoyed a very mild winter. Except for a couple of days' snow, it has been almost shirt-sleeve order in these 'ere parts. So the many Seniors of the Cadre who have received Posting Orders to join you, will most likely turn up with their knees well and truly brown.

The Annual Administrative Inspection looms near and Spring cleaning is the order of the day. Dust and cobwebs have been exuding from the Orderly Room and Squadron Offices, as a result of the frenzied activity going on within. It is to be hoped that results will come up to last year's very high standard in spite of the very much lower strength of the Regiment.

Boxing. The Regiment was well represented in the Northern Command Boxing Championships, which were held in the Garrison Theatre, Ripon, on the 6th, 7th and 8th March. Two of our entries reached the finals. Lance-Corporal Spooner was a very popular points winner in the light-heavyweight class, defeating the much fancied Trooper Hawley, of the Royal Tank Regiment. Signaller Brightman, after a very entertaining bout against Private Hodgkinson, of the Parachute Regiment, a very hard punching lightweight, was narrowly defeated on points, whilst Lance-Corporal Burns went down fighting hard in the welterweight quarter finals.

Basketball. Once again this Regiment has won the Northern Command Basketball Competition, defeating 1st Training Regiment Royal Signals by 28 points to 22. So for the second year in succession we go to the Army Finals full of confidence of retaining the Army Cup, which has graced our sideboard this past year. It is hoped that many members of the Corps in the Aldershot area will be able to go along to the Command Gymnasium on the 18th and 20th March to support their Corps representatives.



5 T.R. BASKET-BALL TEAM

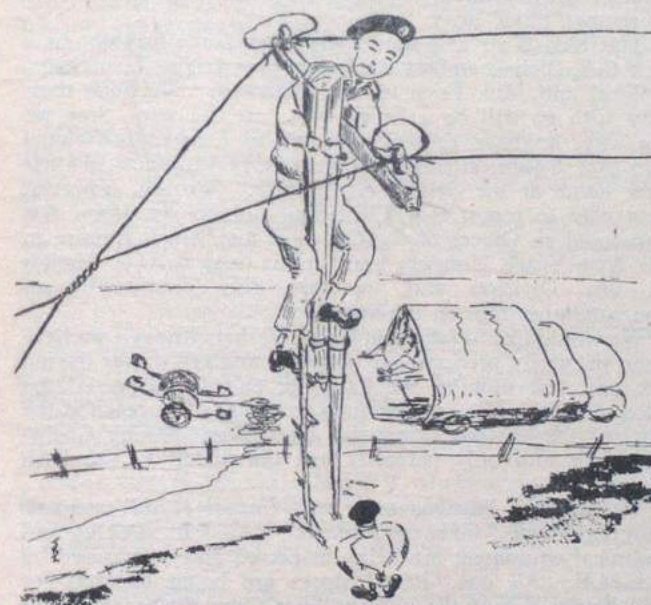
Winners Northern Command Basketball Championships, 1957
Back row: Corporal Ryalls, Corporal Horne, Corporal Mowatt, Signaller Flack, Lieutenant J. Burley (R. Signals)
Front row: Corporal Darlington, Signaller Robinson, C.S.M.I. Spoor (A.P.T.C.), Lance/Corporal Tingley, Lance/Corporal Jones

3rd TRAINING REGIMENT

During the past month we have been honoured by a visit from Brigadier E. D. Good, C.B.E., and Brigadier G. S. Knox, O.B.E., on the occasion of the hand-over of command of the Training Brigade. Brigadier Good made a thorough tour of the accommodation, and watched all the training in progress and made some favourable comments. The best wishes of All Ranks go with Brigadier Knox in his new appointment.

In the final of the North Midland District Football Tournament we lost by the odd goal of nine to the Depot, Northamptonshire Regiment in a very good game played at Chilwell. We play a Royal Tank Regiment in the Final of the Northern Command Soccer Tournament on the Command Central Ground, Catterick Camp, on Saturday, 27th April. This match is being televised, and we hope that a goodly portion of Royal Signals in Catterick will be on the touchline giving vocal support.

Congratulations to Warrant Officer II Ross on his promotion and appointment to Signal Centre Supervisor. Our best wishes go with Staff Sergeant Cross on his posting to East Africa. He has been very actively concerned with Operators' training and his loss will be felt.



The Officer Cadet who thought that ... "Mal" was the French for "Sickness"

OFFICER TRAINING WING, SCHOOL OF SIGNALS

The first Commissioning Parade in 1957 was held on 1st February, a matter of some 10 weeks after the last one. This unusually long break must have affected our weather forecasting, for this time the rain held off right up to the time the parade started and then came down in no small measure. Brigadier G. S. Knox, O.B.E., the Inspecting Officer, presented the Agar Memorial Prize to Second-Lieutenant R. O. B. Stibbin and the Commanding Officer's Prize to Second-Lieutenant W. R. B. Wigglesworth (348 Course) and Officer Cadet Renwick (349). It is deemed worth recording here that, despite petrol rationing, the number of parents attending Commissioning Parades shows no sign of diminishing and we are most pleased to continue welcoming them.

We are glad to report that the Adjutant, Captain P. F. W. Gahan, is making a rapid recovery after his operation for gall stones. Future notes will no doubt shed further light on the medical cause of such an irritation. In the meantime, Captain P. J. Evans has taken over the vacant seat.

S.S.M. Sinclair (O.T. Squadron) and S.S.M. Newton (4 Squadron) are attending a drill course at the Guards Depot. The Cadet who contemplated asking whose drill such a course was

meant to improve thought better of it and the query still remains unrecorded (and for that matter, unanswered).

The report that "fairies have been seen at the bottom of the garden" and up and down the hedgerows behind Marne Gym is not altogether a myth. Past students will be pleased to learn that once again Course Officers can be heard urging their men over walls and through tunnels, and a casual visitor might unexpectedly come upon Cadre Officers receiving private instruction on certain obstacles so that in the future confident demonstrations can be given "to show just how easy it really is." Through the wide circulation of this magazine we would state that that which took only a few hours to pull down is taking somewhat longer to put up again, but the opportunity is being taken to make certain minor improvements.

In the realm of major sports we are making steady progress. In Rugby we have reached the final of the Northumbrian District Cup and are awaiting to see whether our next opponents will be 1 Training Regiment. In hockey we again find ourselves meeting Royal Signals Wing in the final of the Northern Command Cup (to be played on 13th March). By the time these notes are published pre-match training, gamesmanship, training aids, etc., will all have had their bearing on the result. We are confident that who ever wins will (a) enjoy a trip to Northern Ireland and (b) stand a good chance of reaching the Army final.

THE DEPOT REGIMENT

In January the Cheshire Hunt, under the Master, Lord Rock-savage, did us the honour of meeting at Saighton Camp. It was a glorious day and the largest meet the scribe has ever seen—well over 70 riders. Major Camp took a coloured cine-film, which includes many members of the Regiment. The professional photographers, called in to produce some worthwhile photographs of the Hunt, took pictures of the Hunt. All jolly good, but from our point of view the meet could have been at Catterick. Not a member of the Regiment appears, hardly even the back of a recognisable head. However, it was a very pleasant, gay and colourful spectacle and from the very smallest followers on foot to the debonair young man on the most beautiful 17-hand bay, the Hunt enjoyed it.

Monthly dances continue and are obviously enjoyed. Football and shooting competitions are being fought valiantly. The Ladies' 22 Shooting Club flourishes and have their first match versus the police women shortly. The Unit 22 team lost to Chester City Police by eight points only, but won an enjoyable match against De-Havilland's Rifle Club on 14th March, 1957.

A Wives' Club has been formed and meets fortnightly. It is understood that a park is to be built outside the Sergeants' Mess for these occasions. (Fathers "baby sit" for the day).

We had a team in the Western Command Cross-Country Championships and whilst we did not exactly win, every man finished and it was a gruelling course.

Saighton Camp Badminton Club has virtually won the Divisional Championships of this area and our second Football Eleven won a match 16-1 yesterday.

Aid to the Civil Power is ever in the mind of the Warrant Officers and Sergeants and Chester City Police were entertained at a successful games' evening on 8th March. Mutual aid was given.

Spring being with us, the sailing dinghys are being scraped and daffodils are popping out all around. Summer will not be long a-coming in.

Which is a nice hopeful note on which to finish.



3rd INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

We regret that, mainly due to our preoccupation with the activities of Colonel Nasser, we have not submitted any notes from this Regiment for publication during the past five months. Our Unit Scribe, thanks to the above mentioned Egyptian, was treated to an autumn cruise in the Mediterranean and apparently found this so unsettling that on his return to England promptly rushed off to get married. These notes therefore, which are written by an understudy, must perforce give a brief summary of our activities during the past crisis months.

The trouble first hit us at the beginning of August, 1956, when, having just departed on well earned summer block leave, we were all hastily recalled to mobilise for possible offensive action in Egypt. The consequent activity in the Unit was almost unbelievable. We were put at seven days' notice to move and our C.R. Signals said this meant that in seven days' time we had to be ready to go. As this entailed accepting some 300 reinforcements into the Regiment, drawing up additional vehicles and equipment to make us up to Higher Establishment, checking and loading all our stores on vehicles, painting all our M.T. the old familiar sand colour, issuing and fitting K.D. to the "long and the short and the tall," and carrying out the host of other jobs involved in such an operation, you can well imagine we were pretty busy. The Q.M. staff worked day and night for the whole period and even succeeded in some cases in issuing clothing which needed no attention. While the L.A.D. worked themselves up to such a white hot frenzy that the armour plate of the Saracens almost melted in the shops. However, at the end of seven days we were ready.

Then came the long wait, during which time we put in an enormous amount of intensive training. We practised firing revolvers, rifles, Sten, Bren and rocket launchers—we mugged up our Morse until speeds of 20 words per minute were obtained by some if not all—we learnt the intricacies of the AN/TEC VHT wireless equipment—and we learnt to drive and leaguer in "desert" formation. But slowly the tension eased and almost imperceptibly we began to unwind. The barometer appeared to be the television aerials of the Unit T.V. sets. These were now withdrawn from store and appeared in the Barracks again as a sign that we might not go. We began to think once more of our deferred summer leave and the Reservists began to have pipe dreams of Christmas at home after all. But, alas, Israel invaded Sinai and the heat was on again.

This time things really did happen. Our C.R. Signals and a small detachment from No. 1 Squadron actually sailed, as did also our Brigade Signal Troops attached to 19 and 29 Infantry Brigades. Almost all our vehicles were driven to the ports and were loaded on ships. This time we really thought we were off. Then came the cease fire and once more we sat back to wait and see. More training, but this time with a difference, as we had no vehicles or equipment with which to train. The accent was on physical efficiency and weapon training. We practised P.E. "battle" tests—we went on route marches—we swam and played football—and we carried out initiative tests.

And all the time we waited to see what would happen. Christmas at home for the Reservists seemed far less of a certainty.

Meanwhile in Port Said C.R. Signals and his small handful of men were rapidly disproving the Establishment Committee's theories of the requirements for the War Establishment of a Divisional Signals. Their party was originally intended to give skeleton communications to Tactical H.Q., 3 Infantry Division, for a few days only, until the main body arrived. Thanks to the "politicians' war," the main body never did arrive and the skeleton communications were thickened up and made to last until the evacuation some seven weeks later. We take justifiable pride in the fact that throughout this whole period Divisional communications remained "solid."

Eventually, however, the stand down was ordered and once more the Regiment was whipped up into a frenzy of activity. All our Reservists and retained Regulars were released within four days; vehicles and stores were once more disembarked from ships and brought back to the Unit, and our "conquering heroes" returned from Port Said to set the barrack room lamps swinging with tales of their exploits against the "wogs." One amusing story about the flap concerns one of our officers, who seems to have spent almost the whole period of the emergency sailing round the Mediterranean. Having eventually arrived at Port Said and disembarked his vehicles, some of them were embarked again a few days later on a tank landing craft and this officer was ordered to bring them back to U.K. Unfortunately, the weather in the Bay of Biscay at that time was not conducive to comfortable cruising in a small boat. We are told there is no truth in the rumour that he has offered Bill Haley the copyright of true life "rock and roll" song based on his experiences. We managed, however, to have the traditional Regimental Christmas festivities—Children's Party, Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess Christmas Dinner and Draw, and men's Christmas Dinner before the bulk of the Regiment departed on a long awaited spell of Christmas block leave.

The New Year and our return from leave brought us a new C.R. Signals and we are happy to welcome Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. Price to our Regiment. We hope their stay with us will be a happy one. At the same time we are sorry to have to say good-bye to Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. Swainson and wish them every happiness in their new home at the School of Infantry. We are, however, very glad to report that Lieutenant-Colonel Swainson was appointed an Officer of the Order of the British Empire in the New Year's Honours List for his work as C.R. Signals in this Division and we take this opportunity of congratulating him on the award.

We would like to mention, however, that although we have been primarily preoccupied with our military duties during the past few months, we have not entirely neglected the field of sport. We are proud to record that we reached the final of the Eastern Command Unit Team Boxing Championships and only narrowly lost the match to the Irish Guards.

We are now engaged on a very intensive and extensive programme of "make and mend." All our vehicles and technical equipment are being inspected and overhauled by R.E.M.E. All our G 1098 stores are being checked for deficiencies caused through the Suez Canal Emergency, and in this connection we are having to restrain over-zealous storemen from listing as deficiencies articles which have never been issued to us! And at the same time we are running a series of trade upgrading and training courses in preparation for a Command Trade Board to be held in March, 1957. We still manage to find time for drill parades, route marches, barrack room inspections and all the other activities of every day soldiering. Who would not be in a Divisional Signals—there's never a dull moment!

U.K. COMCAN SIGNAL REGIMENT

R.H.Q. and 1 Squadron. During February the Unit was honoured by a visit from the Director of Telecommunications, Major-General L. de M. Thuillier, O.B.E., who inspected No. 1 Signal Centre on 19th February, 1957.

We would like to congratulate Lieutenant R. J. Tanner, Staff Sergeants Redhead and Lock, and Sergeant Gater on their promotion.

The Unit Shooting team is competing in the South Western District Small Bore Competition, and is managing to maintain its position about half way up the District Table. The members of the team are, however, getting a considerable amount of enjoyment from these matches, and continue to practice hard on the miniature range each Monday and Tuesday evening. Captain E. H. Rose feels that his team is gradually taking shape and hopes they will have some success in the forthcoming Southern Command and Bisley Rifle Meeting.

The 1 Squadron Novices Boxing Competition was held on 27th February, 1957, and provided an excellent evening's entertainment. The individual winners of the Novices Contests were Signalmen McGarrity (Fly Weight), Signalmen Moss (Light Weight), Signalmen Addison (Light Welter Weight), Lance-Corporal Porteous (Welter Weight), Lance-Corporal Mascarenhas (Light Middle Weight), Driver Jones (Middle Weight), Signalmen Smyth (Light Heavy Weight) and Corporal Crawford (Catch Weight).

In addition to the Novices bouts a number of special contests were fought, to complete the programme for the evening. The winners, Lance-Corporal Burns, Signalmen Ali, Bird and Simpson all gave the sort of performance that we have come to expect of them. A special word of praise must be given to Lance-Corporal Bratton who was awarded the prize for the most improved novice boxer, as a result of his Special Light Middle Weight Contest with Signalmen Bird.

2 Squadron. Our sports fixtures with 3 Squadron continue, and a very pleasant day was had by all who went down to Bampton this month. Once more Bampton were the victors in the football match, but we hope to reverse this in the next match.

The football team are improving, and having returned a score of 8-8 in a recent match which they would undoubtedly have won given a few more minutes, we hope to gain a few victories before the season closed.

Dances in the Transit Room continue to be well supported within the Squadron and by the local ladies. Our stock of rock 'n' roll records is mounting.

3 Squadron. Spring has certainly arrived in Bampton and the weather of late has been beautiful. Now is the time when the Squadron location comes into its own and everyone is able to enjoy the lovely surroundings.

Our gardeners are in action and the lawns have had their first cut. All in all everything points to another "Blooming" summer for our now well known gardens. Needless to say Major Nash is very enthusiastic.

The weather has already brought out the Tennis enthusiasts and our Canoe Club has had another successful expedition. Basket Ball is an innovation, and with a new set of equipment, a good court and bags of enthusiasm we will soon be challenging the "Harlem Globetrotters."

The "Ham" Club is coming along slowly and Sergeant Conway is busy in the den explaining the mysteries of the "Bug Key."

Latest idea of the O.C., Major R. H. Petty, is a recording of Bugle calls played over the Tannoy system. We now have a duty "Disc Jockey" playing Forces Favourites and I am sure that Reveille is not one of the favourites.

4 Squadron. The recent fine Spring-like weather has resulted in our latent talent bursting into bloom in Cobbett Hill and Oakhanger camps.

Probably the biggest bloom has been the emergence of Cobbett Hill "Skiffle" group. This was the surprise of the year as nobody in authority associated the group's "instruments" with "things musical." There is every excuse for this lapse as, even in these enlightened days, the vast majority still view a tea chest, with broom handle and a cord stretched between A and B, as anything other than a "Bass, Double, Skiffle Type."

The "Group," consisting of Messrs. Cairns, Foster, Owtrim, Tilburn and Holden, made its debut during an interval at the All Ranks' Dance at Christmas. A faithful slave of the Lonnie Donegan school of music, it was an instant success with all but the Double Bass player of the hired band. The latter was annoyed that our five shilling tea chest, convertible, sounded as good as the instrument for which he recently paid one hundred pounds.

Since gaining "official" recognition, the group have been invited to play privately in the district. More recently they were successful in the quarter finals of a contest run by Lou Preager in the Hammersmith Palais. If successful in the semi-finals, you will see them tackle the final on Channel 9. We wish future success to them; not only do they amuse themselves, they also provide much entertainment for others.

I must squash the current rumour that the success of the Skiffle group was a result of the coach load of supporters who went to London with them. The suggestion is that the contest, which was decided by the volume of applause, was "rigged" by the overwhelming applause from the Skiffle Group Supporters' Club.

WAR OFFICE SIGNAL SQUADRON

It has almost become a tradition amongst the authors of WIRE Notes for this Squadron to have to report once again that the move to Dulwich has been postponed. This month, however, for better or worse, that tradition has had to be broken, for the move in fact is already in progress. On 1st March, 1957, a Board of Officers finally handed over the new camp to the Unit and by lunchtime the same day an advance party, headed by Lieutenant W. S. L. Woolley, and consisting mostly of members of Squadron H.Q. Troop, had arrived at Dulwich and were fighting against heavy odds to settle down. Since those dark days, however, much ground has been covered, and by the end of this week, three complete Troops should be installed.

The build-up of men and equipment has gone steadily according to plan, and with the aid of three three-ton trucks lent for the occasion by R.A.S.C., it has been possible to move a Troop complete with accommodation stores in one day with comparative ease. For the first time since the Unit was formed it has taken over its own messing and the results are awaited with no little anticipation, or should we say, anxiety!

The new cookhouse is lavishly equipped compared with the primaevial nature of the one in Woolwich, and it is rumoured the tea-cum-coffee machine has nearly been the ruin of one inquisitive Orderly Officer. In keeping with the cookhouse the remainder of the camp is modern, compact and well equipped, but it has been thought advisable for the benefit of the Troops' pocket to confine the Q. Stores and the ever acquisitive storeman behind a formidable wire fence in the compound that in the barbaric days of 1940 housed the heavy ack-ack guns.

But amid all the excitement and commotion of the move there has been one sobering moment; for on the last day of February we had to say good-bye to Major W. C. Ramsay, our O.C., who had been with the Squadron for a considerable time. But as they used to say in France "Le roi est mort, vive le roi!" and so we welcome in the same breath our new O.C., Major B. J. Walker, who has come to us from the War Office.

We wish Major Ramsay all the best in his new appointment as second-in-command Essex Signal Regiment, T.A., and we hope at the same time that Major Walker will be happy here with us.

EASTERN COMMAND SIGNAL SQUADRON

During the past month wedding wells have rung for Lance-Corporal Dubois and the stork touched down with a baby boy for 2/Lieutenant M. J. Weatherley. Congratulations to both.

The ladies of the Squadron have formed a wives' club. They have already run a successful whist drive. We wish them luck and hope they may have many hen parties.

Our Adjutant, Captain F. C. Lockwood, to whom we wish a happy landing, has just handed over to Captain M. A. Petheram to whom along with 2/Lieutenant Budd, also newly arrived, we extend a hearty welcome to the unit.

The soccer boys fought a mud slinging game against the Eastbourne Police in the semi-final of the Elca Hillier Shield. How on earth the referee was able to identify the players from their colours remains a mystery. However, the Blue Lamp boys won.

Warning to Malta Signal Squadron. Sergeant Alderson is soon to return to the sunny isle.

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CORPS SIGNAL REGIMENT

A Story of the SUEZ INCIDENT

August Bank Holiday week-end. That is when it all started. A signal received on the Friday afternoon effectively negated all plans made for a week-end away from barracks. But this was just the prelude. It was the start of a process that resulted in the advance party of the Regiment being established in Aldershot less than a week later. When the main body arrived a few days afterwards, 23 Corps Signal Regiment came into being, and 1 Corps Signal Regiment ceased to exist.

The first few days in Aldershot were hectic and confused. Reservists were greeted, documented, equipped and inoculated; teeth were examined; photographs were taken; vehicles were handed in, others were collected; everything was painted sand. The biggest problem concerned equipment. This had to be torn out of vehicles and installed in others, the whole process taking the shortest possible time. We were helped magnificently by the Command Workshops, who worked frequently till very late at night and over the week-ends in order to produce the results we wanted. Everybody in the unit worked extremely hard, but it was almost entirely due to the unselfish help of the Command Workshops that we were able to deploy so soon in our new guise, over the well-beaten tracks of Frensham Common.

The first of a series of exercises took place at the beginning of September. Even by then, however, we had lost part of the Regiment. They had been sent away to a variety of different places at the initial rush of blood to the head. But there they stayed, while the rest of us exercised and trained all through the difficult months of September and October. Those months were difficult. We were living on a bubble; no one knew if or when the bubble was going to burst. Eventually it did, as we all know.

Within a matter of days, the Regiment found itself split, like Gaul, into three parts. But, unlike Gaul, the parts were separated from each other by many miles of land and sea. One part was in Port Said, one in Malta and one in Aldershot.

Very soon after the British-French ultimatum to Israel and Egypt, a party consisting of the Commanding Officer, Adjutant, four other officers and 80 other ranks arrived in Cyprus by air and started to settle in—seemingly for good—at Episkopi. However, five days later—it seemed months—the Colonel, with Major Burrows, S.S.M. Cook and 17 other ranks boarded the *Empire Ken*, bound for Egypt. Two days later, the smoke from a burning oil tank and the beach huts of Port Said appeared on the horizon—the Commandos had landed that morning. The following morning the party disembarked, having had a grandstand view of the battle the evening before. Immediately afterwards a party of 44 men, commanded by Captain Flear, with some 30 vehicles, landed from a L.S.T. from Malta.

At the same time, a further party, consisting of Major Mervyn-Smith (our senior Reservist officer), Captain Wood, the Adjutant and 36 other ranks, crossed from Cyprus in H.M.S. *Manxman* in eight hours. So, by the evening of 7th November, a part of the Regiment, about 100 strong, were ashore and “setting up shop” in and around the Suez



H.M.S. Johnson

Canal Company building, which was destined to become the home of H.Q. 2 (BR) Corps.

During the first few days life was a bit hectic, and not made any easier by the need to climb over a wall to get into the house where we all lived (it was later our Officers' Mess), as the entrance was alleged to be exposed to snipers. As more men arrived, we had to expand, and the Adjutant requisitioned two hotels, having to turn out a few “guests” in the process. The “guests” in one hotel were a bevy of chorus girls, whose ejection caused much wailing and gnashing of teeth.

With our slender resources, the communications we provided were not extensive, but circuits were busy and they worked. Perhaps the most interesting communication provided was a Boat Dispatch Service featuring “H.M.S. *Johnson*”—only S.S.M. Cook knows exactly where she was obtained. Life was arduous, the men being lucky if they spent one night in three in bed, and continued so for the duration of the operation.

After the ceasefire, several weeks of uncertainty followed. More vehicles arrived with the T.O.T. on a M.T. Ship, and more officers and men came in by air to Gamil Airfield. No sooner than we had received these reinforcements, who included a badly-needed administrative element, than the rundown began. We were, in fact, at our peak strength in Port Said of 250 for only one day.

Although the military commitment was shrinking daily as the perimeter was drawn closer into Port Said, the communications remained the same, and in a way increased. Due to increased Egyptian activities, all vehicles had to travel with an escort of four persons. Walking parties were not allowed to be less than four. This put a strain on D.R.s and line parties. In addition, all guards at night were increased.

On the evening of the 13th, the S.W.B. 8 Transmitter site had the satisfaction of spotting three Egyptians who failed to halt on being challenged; they were fired on; two were wounded and all three captured.

On the evening of the 15th, the Egyptians staged an extensive demonstration which lasted throughout the night. Little sleep was had at the S.W.B. 8 Transmitter site; the Officers' Mess and the two “hotels” which were all on the edge of the perimeter, but no damage or casualties were suffered. The chief object of hate seemed to be the R.M.P. Gaol, which was next door to the Officers' Mess.

“H.M.S. *Johnson*” was not behaving very well, in spite of the efforts of Lance-Corporal Barnard, Sergeant Edwards, of the L.A.D. and 3 Infantry Division Workshops. Eventually she responded to treatment, and during the last three days was used extensively and continuously. On one occasion she had the honour of taking General Burns, the U.N. Commander, and General Wheeler, the U.N. Chief Salvage Officer, out to their ship. The intended plan was to hand her over to the R.N. Salvage Ship, H.M.S. *Barhill*, on the 22nd; however, on the evening of the 21st, after bringing the C.S.O. on a visit to the *Asturias*, she packed up for good, and was last seen drifting down the

canal with Lance-Corporal Barnard on board. She was eventually taken in tow, but finally abandoned, after insignia had been removed.

The closure of communications worked smoothly, the canal building being evacuated on the 19th, the Headquarters reopening at 19 Brigade H.Q., where the unit gave assistance to 19 Brigade Signal Troop, until the final embarkation on the 21st.

All cable was recovered, and nothing that could have been of value to the Egyptians was left behind. The Canal Company Auto Exchange was handed over to the U.N. Forces; a F. & F. Switchboard and frame was accepted by Captain Lawford of the Royal Canadian Corps of Signals.

The last to leave were the G.O.C.'s Saracen crew, Sergeant Mortlock and Corporal Phillips, the G.O.C.'s Champ with Lance-Corporal Evans, and Lance-Corporal Barnard, the “coxswain” of “H.M.S. *Johnson*.”

Tail Piece. A number of ex-boys may be interested to know that the ship's R.S.M. in the *Asturias* was R.S.M. Whiteoak, of Royal Scots, who was S.S.M. Drill Instructor in the Boys Squadron in 1949-1950.

Marooned in Malta

The party that was stranded in Malta originally consisted of one hundred and seventy officers and other ranks from all Squadrons designed to reinforce the forward elements of the Regiment already at Port Said and bring all detachments up to full working strength. Everyone was in very good heart when we entrained at Aldershot, proceeded to Southampton, and boarded the *Empire Orwell*. The ship was very crowded and several officers had or should have had to sleep on mattresses on the floor.

That night the ship sailed—to another berth in the docks! For the next two days we were allowed off for exercise, and we explored the various attractions that the docks could offer. We were allowed to buy 50 cigarettes at duty free prices and the bars only sold beer. We disembarked and returned to Aldershot. The process complicated by the hard work the ship's staff had done in arranging all the arms in the armoury in alphabetical order. This was finally sorted out by dumping all the arms in heaps on the quay and letting everyone ferret around until they came to their own arm.

After a fortnight the party was reorganised; some to go by air, some by sea, and some not to go. This time the *Empire Orwell* was not so crowded, the Sergeants' troop deck in particular providing better accommodation for the men than they had the previous time. Across the bay there was a slight swell which upset some of the more sensitive. One of the two surviving officers was accused of being insensible to the motion on account of gin, but this slander was started by one who succumbed and was not there to count, anyway. The weather was beautiful as we passed through the Straits and stayed with us all the way to Malta. There, to our horror and dismay, we were turned off the ship; most of us went into a transit camp, but a very small party did tranship to the *Clyde* which was bound for Port Said.

We soon moved out of the transit camp and into the barracks occupied by Malta Signal Squadron. They were excellent hosts and life was much more enjoyable in Valetta than on Marsa Race Course. In return for their board, all tradesmen were put to work at their trade either with Malta or Comcan Signal Squadron. Though money was a little short until the next pay day, everyone managed to see something of the Island, though not in such comfort as the officers in their hired car. After a week of uncertainty the news came through that we would fly home as and when planes were available. So by dribs and drabs the party returned to England, the last members arriving on New Year's Eve.

On arrival in U.K. the personnel were either demobilised or sent on leave. Our thanks go to all members of the Depot Regiment who handled this part of our personnel problem with efficiency and tact.

Aldershot Uncertainties

For the party left behind in Aldershot the period of the Port Said episode was not exciting; it was interesting and eventful; it was confused and uncertain. The time was spent in marshalling vehicles and sending them to the docks, marshalling personnel parties for travel by air or sea, then collecting the vehicles from the docks to which they had been sent a week or two previously. A great deal of experience was gained by many of us on the workings of movement control, on the manipulation of vehicles aboard ships and off them, and the scant respect paid to vehicles by the dockers.

Mention has been made of the confusing and uncertain time it was for those in Aldershot. No-one knew if they were coming or going. They had to rely on the Press and B.B.C. news. It was curious that when the news was bad, nothing happened; when it was good, signals poured in instructing them to send forward another load of vehicles. Is there a moral here?

The main enemy during all this time was boredom. For Reservists, many of whom had been torn out of good jobs, the time was especially trying. There was very little to do. At one stage there was not a vehicle in the barracks. The only training stores available were arms and ammunition. As a result the road to Ash Ranges became well trodden. In spite of these practical difficulties, in spite of irresponsible outbursts on the radio and in the Press, such was their understanding that our Reservists behaved in a manner deserving the highest praise. We were fortunate in being able to release them in time for Christmas. At the same time we felt very sorry for those members of the Regiment who were languishing in Malta or Port Said, waiting, seemingly indefinitely, for transport home.

The end came almost as suddenly as it started. But it did not mean the end for the Regiment. We were faced with the problem of moving ourselves back to B.A.O.R. This was accomplished at a reasonable pace and necessitated the retention of a rear party in Aldershot, whose task it was to collect the vehicles from the ports to which they had arrived, to check them for roadworthiness and to marshal them for the journey to B.A.O.R. It is significant to note that the last vehicle rolled into our barracks in B.A.O.R. on the 14th February, by which date 1 Corps Signal Regiment had been alive again some seven weeks.

In conclusion, it is appropriate to thank all those outside the Regiment—in the War Office, Southern Command and Aldershot District—for all the help they gave us: to praise all our Reservists and to wish them a future undisturbed by emergencies; and last but by no means least, to congratulate all our wives for whom the period of uncertainty was far more irksome than for ourselves.

EUROPE

19 ARMY GROUP SIGNAL REGIMENT

With the approach of the Easter recess, Milatravel—a civilian organisation in the H.Q.—has already begun to issue the first schedules of tours to the beauty spots of the surrounding countryside, not to forget mention of visits to some of the larger towns and cities of neighbouring countries. To our less mobile compatriots, who are fortunate enough to have the available time at their disposal, these tours afford an excellent means of seeing something of Europe in comfort and without the inevitable problems of “What to see next.”

So, to those of you who are expecting or awaiting a posting here let us say—take full advantage of these excellent trips and see Europe whilst the opportunity is there.

In the sporting achievements during the past month, more notable was the entry into the final of the Royal Signals B.A.O.R. Boxing Cup by this Regiment, who defeated 18 A.G.S.R. in a closely contested evening.

Best boxing of the programme were undoubtedly the two fights in which Signalman Coyle and Mathews scored knock-outs against their opponents. Signalmen McKinsley and Rudd afforded us with a scene of fistic mayhem: a fight full of action from start to finish, resulting in a very close decision to McKinsley. We congratulate Signalman Mathews on his success in winning the lightweight division of the Rhine District Open Championship.

We extend a cordial welcome to Lieutenant Sykes, who comes to swell the ranks of our growing list of Traffic Officers; his comment on seeing our "D.S.O.s Dais" has not yet been recorded. And also to Captain D. C. Hibberd who, though no stranger to us, has, in a sense, come and gone having now taken over one of the Out Stations. We wish him an interesting and pleasant stay with us. Talking of our "Dais," it has been rumoured that Camp Staff have cast envious eyes on our rostrum for use at future march-pasts; short of a major demolition their hopes are regrettably forestalled.

Our congratulations are offered to Sergeant Copestake and Corporal Peters on their promotion to Staff Sergeant and Sergeant respectively.

In closing, may we make mention of the Rhineland celebration of "Carnival Time"; those of our readers who have served here will be fully aware of the scope of festivities. A member of our Comcentre is credited with comparing Christmas and the New Year as a mild preliminary to this riotous affair.

18 ARMY GROUP SIGNAL REGIMENT

We have tried to exclude any mention of sports results from recent WIRE Notes because we have had it frequently pointed out to us that they are of little interest to any one else. This month, however, we feel we are entitled to blow our own trumpet (as modestly as possible) on the subject of our Hockey team which, we think, has been doing very well indeed as they have now reached the B.A.O.R. Final of the Army Hockey Cup.

The team's recent victories have been over: a Field Regiment, R.A., by 1-0; a Regiment Royal Armoured Corps, by 3-1 (final of the 2 Div/Rhine District Championship); an Infantry Battalion by 2-1 (the B.A.O.R. semi-final).

The last match was a most exciting affair and the deciding goal was scored during extra time.

The team is also in the final of the B.A.O.R. Royal Signals Inter Regimental Championship.

There is going to be a pause now of a week or two because of exercises and so forth, but the finals are expected to be on 6th April against 19 Army Group Signal Regiment in the Signals Championship and on the 10th or 13th April in the B.A.O.R. Championship.

The search for unusual topics for THE WIRE goes on continuously, but many ideas are discarded as being of only localised interest. We would, however, like to talk about one subject which forms an important part of our regimental life and is of particular interest to us at the present time; this is, namely, our Regimental Wives' Club, and we are thinking particularly of its President and wife of our Commanding Officer, Mrs. J. D. Elliott, who has taken such a large part in running the club.

The reason for reference to the Wives' Club at this time is that Mrs. Elliott is about to leave us and has just presided over her last meeting of the club. We had hoped to include with these notes a photograph of a presentation being made to her as an appreciation of her work not only for the Wives' Club but in connection with so many other regimental activities, but unfortunately the photograph did not come out as it should have done. The increasing popularity of Wives' Club meetings is due in no small measure to the efforts of its president. Since evening meetings have been introduced (involving reluctant husbands in baby-sitting while their wives get out for a break) attendance has risen, and at this most recent meeting, has broken all previous records. Outside visits, such as those to an Eau-de-Cologne factory and to a cheese factory, are always popular and well patronised.

The members of the Wives' Club in thanking Mrs. Elliott for her work have in mind not only her untiring efforts for their club but also her activities in the spheres of S.S.A.F.A., the clinic, the flower fund and general welfare, all of which have so much affected the lives of so many of them.



W.O.I (R.S.M.) G. J. Bevan M.M. being presented with the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal. Mr. Bevan is to be commissioned as a Lieutenant (Q.M.)

2 L. OF C. SIGNAL REGIMENT

R.H.Q. and 1 Squadron. February again has been a quiet month with little of note to report.

We congratulate W.O.I (R.S.M.) G. J. Bevan, M.M., and Sergeant E. D. Woodward who have been awarded the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.

We say good-bye and good luck to W.O.I (R.S.M.) G. J. Bevan, M.M., on his departure and congratulations on his commissioning as Lieutenant (Q.M.). He has taken a keen interest in the regiment, especially in the realms of sport where his organising abilities will be sadly missed.

Our Rugby side has been having mixed fortune lately, beating 19 Army Signal Regiment 12 points to nine, and losing to 18 Army Signal Regiment 16-0 in the B.A.O.R. Royal Signals Rugby Cup.

2 Squadron. This month but little of interest: more victories for the Football team, more cancellations for the Hockey team, and further and successful performances of Daphne du Maurier's effective but immoral drama "Rebecca." This, has, however, been the only drama to break in upon our moral but ineffective routine.

As we go to press we welcome Captain F. St. C. Robinson, our new second-in-command, and Mrs. Robinson.

3 Squadron. At this wintry time of year that two-headed monster, known more kindly as the Belgian driver, is circulating on the cobbled roads of Belgium in search of slow moving Englishmen who travel, much to his disgust, at a conservative 50 or 60 kilometres per hour. Once encountered by this road demon and forced to face boldly his sliding, skidding horn-blowing approach the fear-struck foreigner can do nought but call upon all the saints to overcome this power of evil. Fortunately the saints are kind and usually answer the call.

However, the roads in this country are not all rough cobbles and winter cannot last forever, so for the majority of the year we are able to motor freely and discard the string of rabbits feet and holy charms which we now wear constantly around our necks. Thus with the coming of fine weather many interesting jaunts are available to the motorist in Belgium.

To the north we have the immaculately clean, cheap and picturesque country of Holland. A flat and fast country to drive in, and if one is careful to avoid the myriads of cyclists which move through all the cities and towns in wasp-like swarms, even built-up areas do not impede one's progress. Cities like The Hague, Amsterdam and Rotterdam offer much of interest, and Holland is a land designed for picnicking and camping.

Not far westward is the gay Belgian coast, with first class roads all the way. Like all holiday resorts, however, the Belgian ones can be expensive, but who thinks of money when they are sunning themselves on the sands at Knokke.

East to Germany, South to France, and all the pleasures that these countries afford the foreign traveller, but we would recommend a South-Eastern route, avoiding Brussels (a motorist's nightmare) and on to the Ardennes' wooded hills and valleys. Southward still to ancient and beautiful Luxembourg, and on the return journey through this miniature country follow the course of the winding River Moselle, and try not to

drink too much of the wine produced from the vineyards which seem to slope away to infinity on all sides.

One can see that a motorist stationed in Belgium is strategically placed for interesting journeys in all directions, if he watches carefully for the two-headed monster. Petrol rationing? We've never heard of it.

During the month we have said farewell to Staff Sergeant White who has commanded our detachment of the Hook of Holland, and welcome Staff Sergeant Berry who has taken over the detachment, and also S.S.M. Fish, our new Signal Centre Supervisor.

4 Squadron. The month of February has been spent in Dusseldorf handing in vast stocks of clothing, M.T. tools and other accumulated booty. S.Q.M.S. Lord and Sergeant Clarke have been sweating blood on this, whilst Corporal Aschby has been slaving over our last P.O.L. account.

We have said a reluctant farewell to Second-Lieutenant Gilleland who was, unfortunately, recalled to U.K. on compassionate posting. We shall all miss him and we wish him all the best of the future.

We also welcome Captain A. G. Smith as our new Second-in-Command, and wish him a very happy stay in the Squadron. Life with the detachment at Bielefeld goes on much as usual and little of note has happened there this month. However, we hear from time to time that they are keeping the Bielefeld Signal Centre up to its usual standard of efficiency.

10 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT

The two outstanding events of this month have been Carnival and the notable occasion when the Regiment nearly succeeded in getting all its officers together under one roof, the only absentees being Major Sinnock, still in England, and Major Brennan, holding the fort at H.Q., 2 T.A.F.

The usual training and courses have been proceeding at a pace, but I think that an account of Carnival in Cologne will prove to be of more interest than our usual run of notes.

For those who have not served in Germany and for many who have a word of explanation is necessary. Every year during the last week-end before Lent the Germans celebrate the Rosen Festival with a huge Carnival. The principal area of these celebrations is the Rhineland, the most famous Carnival being that of Cologne.

For over a month now the people have been holding "Sitz songs," where the songs and dances of the Carnival are tried out, the best being selected to be given on Rosenmontag, when there is a wonderfully colourful procession through the centre of Cologne.

The main celebrations start on the Thursday before, when all the women dress up in wonderful and ornate costumes. Gypsies, cowgirls, pirates, eighteenth century ladies and Spanish dancers throng the streets. Those who have no fancy dress make do with masks and comic hats and woe betide the poor male who rejects the favours proffered by the masked maidens.

For the next three days the tempo rises, no work is done and the men now begin to come into their own, adding their costumes to the already brilliant hues until if one is not in Carnival costume one feels quite undressed. The streets are crowded with thousands of people, all are gay and in true holiday spirit. Impromptu groups gather together and go dancing and singing through the streets, bands leading small processions weave their way through the traffic, the hotels stay open until the early hours of the morning and even the normally stiff and staid policemen become infected with the spirit of Carnival until the whole city becomes one vast party.

Rosenmontag itself is celebrated in Cologne on the Monday. For days before stands have been appearing in the main streets and on this day the whole centre of Cologne is closed to traffic as everyone comes to pay homage to the "Prince of Carnival," who rides through the city distributing gifts of sweets and flowers. He is attended by his court, all wonderfully arrayed in eighteenth century costumes and escorted by troops of "soldiers," whose uniforms have to be seen to be believed. Bands, dancing troupes and choirs

each with their own banners fluttering bravely in the breeze and heralded by their own trumpeters, add to this wonderful kaleidoscope of colour. Massive floats, mounted "Cavaliers," Eastern Princes, Giants and Elves dance through the streets swelling this mighty pageant which is played against an amazing back cloth provided by the costumes of the spectators. In all, the procession takes over three hours to pass any one point.

After the procession has finished the streets remained thronged with thousands and thousands of people still celebrating and rejoicing, fully determined to get the last ounce out of Carnival. Even as I write this, on Tuesday morning, with the sounds and songs of Carnival still ringing in my ears, I can hear the explosions of crackers and caps and the faint sound of rejoicing which will only end on the stroke of midnight when Lent begins and "Prince Carnival" is buried for another year.

12 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT

The last month has seen quite a few changes in the Unit. 1 Squadron have carried out their annual move, their resultant empty accommodation being taken over by the Q.M., who has now had to leave his own little "Empire." One Signalman has been heard to remark that "It is no longer the NF 11's and Canberras that are jet propelled, but the Unit stores!" However, all these changes are undoubtedly for the better.

Sport

Soccer. Both teams are doing well in the Station League. 2 Squadron in particular have a good chance of winning if they can win their remaining games. They are six points behind the leaders but have three games in hand. Positions with details of games played are as follows:

	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	F	A	Points
2 Squadron	26	18	2	6	96	48	38
1 Squadron	27	17	0	8	95	77	34

Hockey. Owing to the poor state of grounds few games have been played. A very enjoyable game was played against 2 Divisional Signal Regiment, who won 1-0.

Cross-Country Running. Three-cornered fixtures, mainly against R.A.F. teams, were held, resulting in various degrees of success.

We have just said "Farewell" to R.Q.M.S. Davy, who has been posted to Catterick. His tubby little figure will be much missed in the Sergeants' Mess and "Ye Olde Walde Cafe."

Finally, we bid good-bye to Major J. K. Brown and his family, who have left us on posting to Middle East. We are indeed sorry to see them go and wish them the best of luck in their new posting. We are also saying "Thank you" to Major Brown for the hard work he put in on behalf of the Regiment whilst he was with us. We assure him that it was appreciated and his departure was viewed with considerable regret.

Motoring in Germany

To supplement the interminable stereotyped reports on soccer matches, administrative inspections, Unit visitors, etc., we consider a few words of advice to those very few people who have not had a tour in B.A.O.R., on the subject of motor cars, would be appreciated.

Almost all types and makes of British motor cars are available, new or second-hand, in Western Germany. Purchasers may, if currency regulations permit, pay cash or take advantage of hire purchase agreements. New cars are not, as yet, subject to any type of import tax or duty, and in many cases the actual price paid in Germany for a new car is below the basic U.K. price.

Good second-hand cars, both British and Continental, are plentiful and reasonably cheap.

Petrol, at 5/6 per 10 litres, enough for approximately 700 miles per month, is available to British Forces. However, if this is not sufficient, petrol may be bought from any petrol station at German retail price, i.e. 10/6 per 10 litres.

No German road taxes are at the moment payable by British Forces. However, a nominal British Service registration fee of 12/6 per year is payable. Third party

motor insurance is compulsory as in U.K., premiums on the whole being about 20% higher. If you intend to use your car for duty journeys and claiming the higher rate of mileage allowance, comprehensive policies must be held. Importation to U.K. of cars on which U.K. purchase tax has not been paid, is covered by A.C.I.s. Repairs and spare parts for U.K. type cars are costly and it is recommended, if one can afford it, to buy a new British car or a good second-hand German car. Lastly—don't forget—one drives on the right-hand side in Germany.

B.A.O.R. Ski Championships, 1957, at Winterberg

Our ski team is back from Winterberg and although we did not win, we are at least very proud of the fact that we were the only Royal Signals team to represent the Corps in the Championships. A description of our efforts is given below.

In spite of complete lack of snow at the beginning of February, the Regimental ski-ing team departed for Winterberg to complete its training for the annual Army and B.A.O.R. Championships Patrol Race.

This was to be the final leg of a hard training programme which started in the gymnasium in December, when the P.T.I.s really put us through it and we woke up in the mornings groaning, with previously undiscovered muscles aching.

The first expedition to Winterberg, in January, was blessed with snow during the last two days only and as most of the team were novice skiers this gave them little time to learn much. Hard training marches were the order of the day, so it was a very fit if inexperienced party which returned. In February the team went back to Winterberg and there was still no snow, so once again keep-fit marches were the order of the day. Snow arrived on the 14th and instructions began.

The day of the race was a beautifully sunny one and there was much speculation as to the correct wax to use at mid-day. The "B" team started three minutes in front of the "A" and both teams finished the 19½ kilometre course. We did not win, but in this our first year, we gained much valuable experience for the meetings to come.

The Paris Flea Market

By Signalman G. F. Heron,
SHAPE Signal Squadron

The first impulse of every new arrival at SHAPE Signal Squadron is to visit Paris. His objective will vary, according to taste and the time of day. On his first free evening he may well make the pilgrimage to Pigalle, but on a fine Saturday, Sunday or Monday, he is likely to be found wandering, somewhat bewildered at first, through the "Foire aux Puces." Translated literally, this means the Flea Market, but the name is misleading. It is not, and never was, a place where man-eating insects could be bought and sold, though apparently at one time, fleas could easily be acquired there. It is, in fact, a normal market, but one with such unusual facets as to make it unique.

In layout, it is divided into two sections, the old and the new, and this division is marked by a distinct difference in the type of merchandise for sale, and the methods of salesmanship.

As the visitor emerges from the Metro Station at Porte de Clignancourt and turns into the market, the new section stretches in front, in the form of double rows of stalls on the pavements on both sides of the roads. Threading his way through these stalls he will find every conceivable type of clothing, gramophone records, cigarette lighters (for as little as 3/-), watches, electrical fittings, in fact almost anything useful or wearable, in a sort of drawn-out Wool-

worths under canvas. His progress will be interrupted every so often by importunate stallholders, and he who hesitates is lost. He may well have tried on three overcoats before being able to convince the salesman that he is only looking for a new watch strap.

Having reached the end of this row of stalls, he may easily conclude that he has seen the Flea Market and return home. To do so would be to miss what is for many people its most fascinating section. This is tucked away behind the buildings which flank the lower end of the boulevard, and access is gained only through a few well-concealed passageways. The contrast with the new section is very striking. The old part consists of a honeycomb network of narrow alleys, made even narrower by the assortment of goods which spill into them from the bordering stalls. To form some idea of the variety of these goods, imagine the combined contents of a typical junk-yard and an antique shop. In adjacent glass cases, on any stall, one could find exquisitely-carved Chinese figurines and the sort of "treasures" hoarded in the pockets of eight-year-old boys. In the midst of all this bric-a-brac sits the stallholder, perhaps reading a newspaper, and making no attempt to solicit customers; indeed, as often as not, he is nowhere to be found when required.

Characteristic of the difference between the two parts of the market are the types of customers they attract. To the new section come those who know what they want in the way of everyday goods, and are confident that they can get them considerably cheaper there than in Paris shops. Not surprisingly, the old section attracts a different clientele. Foremost, especially in summer, are the tourists, many of them Americans, loaded with cameras and dollars, determined to take as much as possible of Europe back to the States. Then there are the dealers and connoisseurs, poker-faced and preoccupied, sorting the genuine from the pseudo. Lastly, there are those of us who just like to rummage around, occasionally picking up some irresistible, but generally useless, trinket.

One thing, which is common throughout the market, is the method of purchasing. The first price quoted for any article, however reasonable, should never be accepted. Depending on one's acting ability, shock, disappointment, or lack of interest should immediately be displayed, preferably all three in quick succession. The price will promptly be lowered and the performance repeated. In time the inevitable request will come—to name one's own price. This figure should always be too low, and the pantomime will begin again, with the roles reversed. Eventually, a compromise is reached and the price agreed. Before this stage though, one may well have been treated to a long and heart-breaking account of the stallholder's financial and domestic circumstances, and the excellence of the article for sale. Needless to say, it should be received sympathetically, but without relenting. This is no game for the soft-hearted.

All in all, the Flea Market is a fascinating place. At times it can be frustrating; there are so many things one is tempted to buy and can't afford; but it more than compensates for this in offering so many interesting things and people to see.

REGULAR FORCES EMPLOYMENT ASSOCIATION

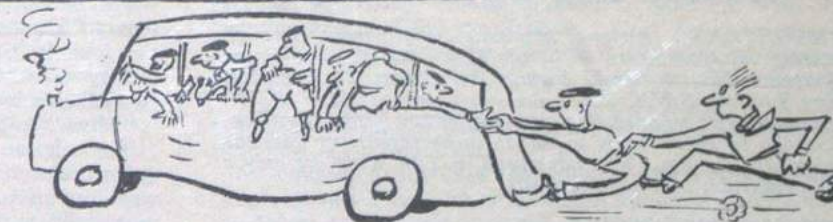
During 1956, 25,362 men and 293 women registered with the National Association for Employment of Regular Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen (short title as above). 21,879 men and 191 women were placed in employment—a percentage of 86.

671 of those placed were ex-Servicemen of Royal Signals. Any ex-Regular below commissioned rank with military character not less than "Good" is entitled to register with this organisation, which charges no fees to applicants or employers. The address of your nearest Branch can be obtained from the Employment Section, Royal Signals Association, 88, Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1.

UP FOR T'(MORRISON) CUP



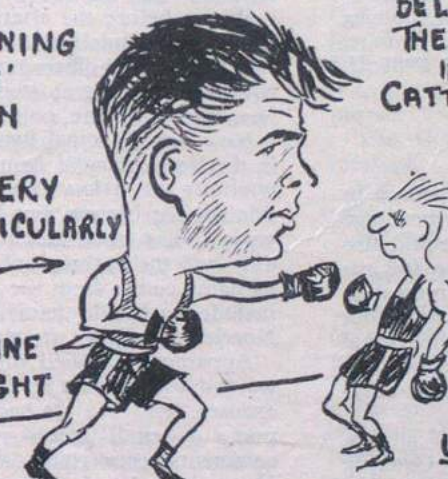
FEELING VERY PROVINCIAL



II AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT PACKED ITSELF INTO COACHES AND WENT UP TO THE RUHR TO TAKE ON 19 ARMY GROUP SIGNAL REGIMENT AND 1 WIRELESS REGIMENT IN THE BOXING AND SOCCER FINALS OF THE MORRISON CUP.

AND A REET BARNEY IT WAR TOO! (AS WE BELIEVE THEY SAY IN CATTERICK)

ON THE FRIDAY EVENING IN 18 ARMY GP SIGS' EXCELLENT GYM IN ESSEN KRAY, THE BOXERS PUT UP A VERY GOOD SHOW—PARTICULARLY SIGMN ROY SMITH WHO BEAT SIGMN MATTHEWS, THE RHINE DISTRICT LIGHTWEIGHT CHAMPION



AND SIGMN 'JOCK' SHEARER, WHO FRIGHTENED US—NOT TO MENTION HIS OPPONENT



SIGMN TOM McMAHON (BANTAM) & DENNIS MELHUSH (FEATHER) GAVE II AF SIGS A GOOD START BY WINNING THE FIRST TWO FIGHTS, BUT WITH 5 WINS EACH



IF YOU DON'T MIND, WE'LL DRAW A VEIL OVER THE FOOTBALL, AND JUST SAY HOW MUCH WE APPRECIATED THE HOSPITALITY WE RECEIVED IN THE BIG CITIES, AND THANK THE CSO, MAJOR GENERAL R.J. MOBERLY AND MRS MOBERLY FOR PRESENTING THE PRIZES AT EACH EVENT.

SGT HOLLAND NARROWLY LOST THE VERDICT IN THE LAST BOUT—THUS ENABLING 19 ARMY GP TO TAKE THE TROPHY.

Careers and Opportunity

(IMPORTANT: Anyone obtaining employment through answering advertisements in THE WIRE MUST notify the Employment Section, Royal Signals Association, 88, Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1.

Members are reminded that they can ensure prompt notification of any vacancies likely to suit them by registering with the Employment Section. Jobs advertised in THE WIRE are only a small proportion of those received).

TERRITORIAL ARMY Squadron at Beeston, near Nottingham, has vacancy for retired Royal Signals Officer as Permanent Staff Officer. Starting salary £800, rising to £845 after three years and £890 after six years. Apply to Lieutenant-Colonel J. N. Boyland, No. 2 Northern Command (M) Signal Regiment, T.A., Crabtree T.A. Centre, Sheffield, 5.

The following vacancies exist in the KENYA and NYASALAND POLICE FORCES. Applicants must have had at least four years' experience of telecommunications work.

KENYA: Signals Officer (Inspector Grade I), aged 25-35, to instal and maintain H.F. and V.H.F. radio and associated equipment. Gross emoluments of £753 rising to £1,095 per annum. (Ref. M1/45197).

NYASALAND: Inspector of Police (Grade II), Signals Section, Communication Branch, aged 20-30. Salary £705 rising to £1,065. (Ref. M1/45302).

For full details apply to Employment Section (see above) or write to Crown Agents, 4, Millbank, London, S.W.1, quoting reference number of appointment.

Other advertisements affecting employment are on page 93.

The Fire Inspection

Enough material to fill a book has already appeared in these columns about Annual Administrative Inspections. In fact we have been asked, both by a certain unit and also by other more august bodies, to refrain from the full reporting of unit events that are possibly only of interest to members of the unit concerned, many of whom would not read the report anyway. On the other hand, the casual and uninitiated reader might suppose that military inspections were confined to these exhausting "once-a-year-only-thank-God" events.

How wrong he would be! Before DER TAG, all the specialists come on tours of inspection—the Catering Adviser looking for cockroaches in the cookhouse; the Education Adviser amassing statistics on illiteracy and A.C.E. III, and the Medical Adviser, and so on. All of them, in fact, hot on the trail of their own particular bugbears. Included, of course, is the District Fire Adviser, who can, and will, succeed in finding more bugbears to the square inch than all the other experts put together.

When you are inspected by a fire expert, you quickly realise that he is a man with an obsession, who should have been under treatment for a considerable period previously by a pyro-psycho-analyst. He buzzes round your fire equipment like a fan round a film star. He talks of nothing but Fire Drill, Fire Alarms, Fire Precautions, Fire Orders, Fire Notices, Means of Escape and Fires. Very soon you don't dare strike a match to light your cigarette for fear of hurting his feelings.

During our last inspection, the visiting Fire Adviser asked to be taken round our small camp. Walking along, chatting amiably with our Officer Commanding, he was saluted, rather too smartly, by one of our G.D. Signalman "X." Stopping, and returning the salute, the Fire Adviser said suddenly, in a loud voice: "There's a fire in the M.T. shed, what are you going to do?"

He was somewhat surprised not to receive an immediate reply. "X" looked in the shed and replied slowly, with the air of someone humouring a little boy, "I can't see no foire, sir." Life became a little uncomfortable.

"No man," said the exasperated fire chief, "Imagine there's a fire there. What would you do about it?"

There was a visible struggle on "X's" face as he inwardly wrestled with the problem. He opened his mouth to say "Dunno sir; ain't never been taught," when he saw the look in the O.C.'s eye, and conjured up from some dim recess: "Try and put it out, sir," and glanced at the two officers hopefully.

"How?" asked his tormenter, dispassionately. The silence that followed was dreadful to bear, as the unfortunate "X" stood speechlessly at what he thought was attention. The O.C. coughed deprecatingly and murmured to the Fire Adviser, "We have fire alarms you know, old man."

"X" saw the lead and began with the air of a child reciting its two-times table: "In the event of fire in this building, I sound the alarm and shout fire . . ." "Well, do that now," ordered the relentless Fire Adviser. "X" seized the small iron bar and struck the triangular fire alarm a resounding blow. At the same time he said "Fire," in a faint and rather querulous tone. The fire alarm emitted a faint ting and fell to the ground, its supporting wire being quite rusted through. No one in camp stirred; the place might have been dead. Where you could confidently expect a rush of feet, much shouting and some action, all that broke the silence was, eventually, a plaintive voice in the cookhouse asking: "If any silly b . . . wants a fire on a fine afternoon like this, he ought to come in here."

Where before the afternoon had been fine and sunny, it now became much hotter. With the gleam of battle in his eye, the visiting officer now turned his attention to our fire equipment, where it stood all nice and bright and shiny near the main fire point.

Now, the principal item of our fire equipment is called, in the Vocabulary of Army Fire Equipments, a REELS HOSE, WITHOUT APPURTENANCES. No words of mine could describe this ancient barrow, but let it suffice to say that, for many years it has stood shining and clean, awaiting the call to duty and the outbreak of a serious fire. The originality of its name comes from the fact that its appurtenances, which include such odd items as Bars Raising, Pipes Branch, Nozzles and Hoses are stored separately.

Apparently satisfied with the equipment, if not with how we proposed to use it, the Fire Adviser, refusing tea and excuses, left. We sat back uncomfortably, to await his report. When it arrived, we agreed to forget the scathing comments concerning ALARMS FIRE—PRACTICE—RESULTS. He could so much more easily have put Nil.

What we could neither forget nor ignore was his adverse comment on our equipment. In the report, this wolf-in-sheep-clothing had stated that we held, incorrectly, REELS HOSE, WITHOUT APPURTENANCE (Tropical Pattern)—I. Whereas, in his opinion, we should be holding, REELS HOSE, WITHOUT APPURTENANCE (U.K. Pattern)—I. He ordered that we indent in Ordnance immediately, to have the offending equipment exchanged. A demand was duly placed with the local Ordnance Depot. The reply stated that (a) we should go through normal channels and (b) this particular depot didn't issue this particular type of equipment anyway.—A constructive reply.

In turn, an approach was made to the Officer-in-Charge Barracks, Garrison Headquarters, the Garrison Engineer and the Urban District Council. Replies, when received, were negative. Whilst awaiting these replies, our Officer Commanding was struck with a bright idea. He penned a letter to our higher formation, referring to the fire inspection and asking to be informed of the difference between a REELS HOSE, WITHOUT APPURTENANCE—Tropical and U.K. patterns.

The pensive silence which followed this attack lasted two months. The only reply, when received, merely stated that there were two types of REELS HOSE, and that one type had wooden wheels and the other steel wheels. No mention was made as to which was which, but the letter finished by pointing out that REELS HOSE, WITHOUT APPURTENANCES were in the process of being made obsolete. We were in-

structed that as these items of equipment were no longer in general issue, we should hold ours on ledger charge until it wore out or became unserviceable, when it would be replaced by a more modern appliance.

There the matter stands. A conservative estimate would suggest that our REELS HOSE, WITHOUT APPURTENANCE had been here for 15 years already. It looks as good as new, and is seldom used anyway. No one is particularly worried what the Fire Adviser does on his next inspection. We have quite a file to show him, as a result of his last, and we very much doubt whether he really knows the difference between the tropical and non-tropical patterns of these items of fire equipment.

ANONYMOUS

Jottings

by NACERBY

Oh! dear me

My copy of THE WIRE arrives regularly and is the next important thing in the month after the pay cheque—leave is so infrequent I'm discounting that as an event—as all good staff officers will agree. And I suppose because these two things are regular (ignoring leave!) we take 'em for granted.

One becomes used to pay being messed about, having to contribute the odd amount to save the country from going bankrupt and to help pay for those 'plane cancellation orders—after all chaps can make mistakes, can't they—and although all this necessitates explaining to the wife every month why a cut in her housekeeping lolly is necessary—well, being a patriot one just accepts it.

But to put THE WIRE in a cover of "pale ash white" so upset me, my face turned the colour of NAAFI tea—which, I suppose, is just a couple of shades darker if you're lucky and know what I mean.

Please, Mr. Editor, can't we have those Corps colours embellishing the cover of our magazine! Please!

Guest Night Memory or it could happen to you

Blame it on the petrol rationing if you like, but after attending a guest night dinner "he" left with a terrible hangover and was leading a fire-spitting, six-legged dragon down the street on a leash.

The dragon would persist in stopping at every lamp-post, tree and corner to sniff and smell.

"He" could stand these dallyings no longer. Jerking the leash and mumbling through a tongue eight times its normal size, "Keep moving will you, or I'll swallow a couple of aspirins and you won't be here."

I couldn't distinguish just who "he" was—my view was obscured by the two elephants I was leading!

Technical Matters

It's become a matter of concern that the advice I tender in this column is so often ignored by the Planners. Loyal readers will remember how I advocated for the trades of Operator Wireless and Whitewash; Operator Keyboard and Canasta; Lineman Field and Snackbar; and what happened?

Mischievous, misinformed people began associating the word "whitewash" with 'bull, and although C.O.s and R.S.M.s found no difficulty in refuting this association, the smear remained and the Treasury, ever fearful of being accused of getting something for nothing, reluctantly scrubbed the lot.

Now I learn that the Chief Instructor's alibi—the NFQ—is to be no more.

Oh! dah-dit-dit-dah and Ho! de! Ho! and as you may well imagine the loss of these tradesmen is likely to throw quite a strain on communications in general. Except, that is, in one field—radio relay. Here, I understand, these chaps

will undergo a vigorous course of track and cross-country running. Nothing will be allowed to interfere with this training except Garrison fatigues, Unit fatigues, guards, picquets, kit inspections, ceremonial and pay parades—so you can see the high importance placed on this scheme.

When fully trained, personnel will form a pool of radio relay runners and in true Olympic style will relay messages from one H.Q. to another.

No equipment involved (and this will be a relief to some people!), no vehicles, no twiddling of knobs, no interference, no carbon copies—it's as simple as that. Breathtaking, isn't it?

There's only one snag, the Finance Boys will almost certainly quibble about supplying running shoes for the runners on account of expense, and it may mean we shall have to use wireless sets and terminal equipment instead.

Pro Patria Planners!

Exclusive for the Para Brigade

It may not be true, of course, but the chap who told it to me was so emotional with sincerity, the tears that fell from his eyes dropped with a splash into his own beer. . . .

It seems that during a recent Exercise on Salisbury Plain, the General and his staff were watching a troop-carrying glider go by. From it came a carrier pigeon.

Powerful field glasses followed it to a nearby coop. A Colonel raced over, got the message attached to the bird's leg, ran back breathlessly and handed it to the General. He opened it with trembling hands, read it, swore and threw it to the ground. Then he walked away, his face a bright purple.

The Colonel waited a moment, then picked up the message.

It read, "I have been sent down for being naughty in my cage."

See you sooner, parachuters.

To be tried before and after meals

Went to one of the silly parties, where the hostess insists on everyone doing a party-piece, the other evening. There were songs, interesting stories about a young lady from Gloucester, and an imitation of Liberace given by a chap impersonating Bill Haley taking off Elvis Presley—it certainly sent us!

But the king-pin was the Doctor—in a sorrowful, heart-rending voice he rendered the following—"Pellegra is the predestined penalty plying people who perversely persist in partaking of pale, preserved, potted, purified, polished, pickled, pared, pauperised, pathetic, pallid, puerile, paltry, parboiled, puny, pusillanimous, pediculous, piddling, prostrated, proprietary and patent pap, pathetically passing as provender among penurious or parsimonious paupers and a perverted populace, due probably to paucity of pence or perspicacity, or possibly to a pernicious predilection for palatable provisions. Pellagrous patients provide a pitiful pathologic picture of palsy and paralysis and are peculiarly prone to pruritus, porphyrinuria, paresthesia, paralogia and paranoia. Not to protect this platitudinous peroration, please preach and propogate the policy to our procrastinating and perishing population, that they prevent pellegra by the pleasant prophylaxis of polishing off plenty of peas, potatoes, parsnips, parsley, paprika, pancakes, porridge, pears, pineapple, pie and proteins as pork, pigeons, pheasant and pemmican."

Cute? You try it!

For the Ladies

1. The average girl would rather have beauty than brains; she figures the average man can see better than he can think!

2. The bobby-soxer wrote a short letter to an advice column—"I am only 18 and I stayed out until two the other night. My mother objects. Did I do wrong?"

The answer was—"Try to remember."

THE UNION JACK SERVICES CLUB

By Admiral Sir William James, G.C.B.

1st July, 1957, is the 50th Anniversary of the opening of the Union Jack Club, by King Edward VII, as a National Memorial to soldiers and sailors who had lost their lives on active service. His Majesty accepted the Club on behalf of the Navy and Army, and entrusted it to the two Fighting Services to be their London Club.

Since that day, the doors of the Club have never been closed and, today, the Club is also the London Club of the Royal Air Force and of Members of the Commonwealth and Colonial Forces visiting this country.

The Club buildings have also been greatly expanded, and now include an annexe which provides 210 extra beds, a Families' Club and a Women's Services Club.

That the Clubs are fulfilling the hopes of the founders is evident from last year's annual report, which showed that during the year 324,163 beds were provided and 630,959 meals were served in the three Clubs. To these impressive figures may be added, as further evidence, the 9,000,000 beds that have been provided in the Union Jack Club since the Club was opened.

So, in this anniversary year, men and women of the Fighting Forces can look back with a feeling of gratitude to those who founded the original Union Jack Club, and with pride and satisfaction to the steady progress and the developments that have culminated in the three Clubs as they now know them.

This too, is a time when the present members will be interested in the history of the Clubs, when they will wish to know something about those who initiated the project, how the funds were raised, when each new expansion took place, and how each new major development was financed.

It was a Miss Ethel McCaul, R.R.C., who conceived the idea of a London Club for the men of the Fighting Forces. That was in 1902, when 200,000 soldiers and sailors were passing through Waterloo annually, most of them strangers to London, and many of them arriving at Waterloo too late to continue their journey until next day.

The available accommodation in the vicinity of the station was meagre and of a low standard; on and close to the site now occupied by the Union Jack Club, were no less than eight public houses. Many young Servicemen were wiser and poorer when they eventually reached their homes.

Miss Ethel McCaul, when nursing in Field Hospitals in South Africa, had heard first-hand accounts of these means streets from her patients, and she returned to England after the war fired with determination to remedy the sorry state of affairs. Her enthusiasm soon bore good fruit. At a great gathering at the Mansion House, on 25th February, 1903, the Lord Mayor launched a scheme to build a Club, and so good was the response to his appeal for funds, that the foundation stone was laid by the Prince of Wales (afterwards King George V) on 1st July, 1904.

One of the pioneers who so skilfully shaped a great future for the Club was Mr. J. R. Hayward, M.V.O., M.B.E., who was for many years Comptroller, and is now a member of the Council.

Within a few weeks of the opening of the Club, it was evident that the 208 bedrooms fell far short of the demand for sleeping accommodation, and three years later 147 further bedrooms were made available. Twelve years later 188 more bedrooms and 102 dormitory beds were added, and in 1928, through the munificence of Sir Heath Harrison, Bt., a "Heath Harrison Wing" was completed, bringing the accommodation to 800 beds.

The latest extension of bedroom accommodation was completed in 1940, when the Nuffield Trust for the Forces generously provided funds to build the Holmes Terrace Annexe, with 210 beds, to replace a building which had been rented to meet the enormous demand which had followed the rapid expansion of the Fighting Services after the outbreak of war.

Throughout the war, more than 1,100 beds were occupied every night. Walking round the corridors of the bedroom floors is like walking down the corridors of history, for on every door is a brass plate commemorating a Serviceman who died on active service, a ship that was lost, or a regiment that suffered heavy casualties.

Though the resources of the Club were fully extended during the first world war, the peak years in the Club's history were the years of the second world war. Of that period, the Secre-

tary of State for War said: "The Club carried on its work under the shadow of death from German bombs, but like other institutions over which the Union Jack presides, it has survived and will survive. From my flat in London, I have looked out most mornings of the past five years and have always been encouraged to see it still standing, four square to a great deal besides all the winds that blow, and during that five years, it has provided lodgings for more than a million Servicemen and some three million meals."

It was fortunate that the Union Jack Families' Club (originally the Union Jack Hostel) was completed before the first world war, because the number of Servicemen's families in transit increases considerably in war time. The funds for building the Club were donated by the South African Garrison Institutes.

The original building soon proved too small for its purpose, but it was not until 1940 that through the generosity of the Nuffield Trust, a wing was added. Even with this addition it is not always possible to meet all requests for accommodation. Last year, 61,573 beds were booked for men, women and children.

When in 1949, the W.R.N.S., Q.A.R.A.N.C., W.R.A.C. and the W.R.A.F. became an integral part of the Armed Services, the Club accepted responsibility of providing a residential Club for them. Fortunately, a site adjoining the Families' Club was available, and on November 5th, 1951, The Princess Royal unveiled a tablet commemorating the foundation of "The Union Jack Women's Services Club." The new Club was officially opened on October 30th, 1952, by H.R.H. The Duchess of Gloucester, and since that date, an average of 10,000 Servicemen have been accommodated each year.

During the second world war, the buildings were damaged by bombs, but all renovation and repair work was in abeyance throughout the war. By the end of the war, the time had, in any case, come to modernise the Clubs and improve the amenities. To this end, a public appeal was launched at the Mansion House in 1945, and the good response to the appeal enabled the Council and Committee to embark on a six-year programme of work which, when completed, would bring the Clubs up to high standard, and one in keeping with the Clubs' tradition. That programme has been completed.

Throughout its history, the policy had been to keep prices charged within the purse of the lowest paid Serviceman and Servicewoman, and it has been possible to adhere to this policy because capital expenditure has largely been met by subscriptions, grants and funds bequeathed in memory of those who have died on active service, and in gratitude to those who have preserved the country from its enemies. But the cost of maintenance is always rising and the current revenue falls short of what is required to keep the Clubs up-to-date in all respects. For this reason, an appeal for additional funds is being launched within the Services in this Jubilee Year, and the Council and Committee hope that all men and women of the Fighting Forces will welcome the opportunity of supporting their London Clubs. One shilling a head for every man and woman would go far towards establishing financial stability and make possible further improvements.

A.B.C. of the Signal Centre

By Lieutenant M. A. Baird, W.R.A.C., T.A.

Acceptance

I'm the ACCEPTANCE CLERK, my duties are
To check the messages and to bar
All those who fail to pass the test,
Of the picture postcard I like best.

POSTCARD is my guiding light,
And here's the way to check on sight.

P for PRECEDENCE at the top of the form
O for ORIGINATORS NUMBER alone,
S for SIGNATURE entered down here,
T for TEXT which should always be clear,
C for CLASSIFICATION, sometimes secret you know,
A for ADDRESSEES, both high and low,
R for READABILITY of the matter in text,
D for DATE-TIME-GROUP, as you'd expect.

If the message in any way fails to comply,
I've only to catch the Superintendent's eye,
Who is sure to see that an error's corrected,
Before onward transmission of text is effected.

On each circuit copy a number I show,
By its serial number a message you'll know,
One copy goes back for sender's receipt,
One copy for FILE and this one we keep.

Now my part is over, my duty complete,
But before I sit down I'd like you to meet
My friend and colleague, the routing queen,
Who is waiting to tell you what her duties mean.

Routing

I am known as the ROUTING CLERK,
On every message I make my mark,
For any "info" that goes out to line,
Whether OUT or THROUGH is mine, all mine.

And here I think the difference I'll show,
Between OUT and THROUGH, which you must know.

A message that is truly OUT,
Has been accepted here without doubt,
While a message that is known as THROUGH,
Comes IN for passing to Sigcen No. 2.

Messages I receive from ACCEPTANCE and IN,
Not to know my routings would be a sin,
In every Sigcen there's a Circuit State,
Which the Superintendent keeps right up-to-date.

Here you will see two lines to Command,
One teleprinter, one phonogram,
Again phonogram to District No. 2,
But teleprinter's out, so it's crossed in blue.

No. 6 District is working just fine,
With one phonogram and one printer line.

To Command we have a wireless link,
Very impressive, don't you think,
We also have a D.R. run,
He comes every hour and it's lots of fun.

Now you will want to know what I do,
With messages that are OUT and THROUGH.

First I look at the PRECEDENCE sign,
To ensure that I get them cleared on time,
Then at CLASSIFICATION, for it may need secret code,
Then at my circuits, for I must share the load.

I decide the routing with due deliberation,
And write on form for operator's information.

The message is ready to go on its way,
For the routing clerk this has been quite a day,
Remember PRECEDENCE, CLASSIFICATION and ROUTE,
For each type of message there's a method to suit.

Clearance

I'm third in line and the CLEARANCE CLERK,
My bite is not as bad as my bark,
But I'm the one who must always ensure,
That delay of messages does not occur.

After ACCEPTANCE and ROUTING are finished and done,
I get the file copy, just only this one,
The number I enter on my clearance register,
Time handed in etcetera, etcetera.

Messages come back from circuit to me,
From them it is quite plain to see,
When they were all sent out from here,
In my register I call it TIME OF CLEAR.

From this you see I always know,
When any traffic is going slow,
And when it does, I find the reason,
Then tell the boss lest she think it treason.



**OFFICIAL
MOTOR CYCLE
BADGE**

**Price
17s. 6d.**

This is the actual size of the Badge which is obtainable from the Headquarters of the Association, 88, Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1

IN

Now we come to IN and THROUGH,
And here's exactly what I do,
All the messages in my tray
Have been sent to us from far away.

I look them over one by one,
And read the addresses but not for fun,
It is most important that I know
Whether messages stay or onward go.

Then from my register I allot a number
And so avoid a terrible blunder.
I delete all Signals information,
Which is private to Signals for indication.

Should the message terminate here,
I make two copies neat and clear.

Having dealt thus with the communication,
One copy's for file and one for destination.

Now the other thing which I must do,
Is deal with traffic that is THROUGH,
And here it really is a lark,
For I treat it like the ACCEPTANCE CLERK.

S.D.S.

We also deal with S.D.S.
And use this service, more or less,
For dealing with despatches which cannot be sent,
By postal arrangements or because they're urgent.

Some despatches are registered and some are not,
It depends what's in them, and if there's a lot,
They're collected together and put in a sack,
Which is sealed for the D.R. to put on his back.

When using this service please do not forget,
A package must not exceed 3lb. in weight,

Please do not send fireworks, equipment or money, Clothing, footwear or a note to your honey.

To size there's a limit, to instructions refer,
If you are unsure about what can go where,
It's really quite simple once you know the way,
Correct use of this service will always repay.

Superintendent

Oh! it's up in the morning early,
It's up in the morning for me,
I'm a SUPERINTENDENT in Signals,
No flies on me will you see.

The Rotas and Shifts I attend to,
The records I keep up-to-date,
There's not a job in this Centre,
That doesn't land on my plate.

Have you ever heard of the diary
Which I keep by my side,
It records the daily happenings,
It's better than any guide.

There's checking and filing of traffic,
There's disposal of secret waste,
There's routine testing of circuits,
And I have it done to my taste.

Each day I prepare a report form,
Each day I make out a sheet,
Which tells of delay in the traffic,
Never mentions my aching feet.

These things I do in a hurry,
There's never time for delay.
For we stand or fall by this motto,
That all must be finished today.

We never put off till tomorrow
And never tempt fate to our door,
This saying from JIM I will borrow,
We do the job SWIFT and SURE.

The last word, however, is from the D.S.O.

I'd like to tell you all I know,
But sad to say it's time to go,
You ought to come and have a look,
Or failing that I'll write a book.

KYKKO CAPERS

No. 3



WHERE IS IT?

(In the March number, page 62)

It can be seen from the Victoria Embankment, halfway between the Temple and Blackfriars, London, E.C.4.

M E L F

An Afternoon Out in Cyprus

Having a new car and the petrol ration to go with it, I naturally wished to go somewhere to try it out. Enquiries revealed that there is a very pleasant spot at Tekke, famous for its Mosque, just south of Larnaca, about 30 miles from the camp. Having gathered three friends and all armed ourselves with pistols, we set off on a fine, sunny Wednesday afternoon.

The road is now a very good one from Famagusta as far as Dhekelia, but after that is rather narrow and rough. However, the new car ran along very nicely until we got lost in a maze of one-way streets in Larnaca. We eventually found the way out and ran into pleasant country, orange groves and woods and several large salt lakes. One man at the road side tried to wave us to stop, but we ignored him, as you never know where danger lurks.

We saw the minaret of the Mosque behind some trees and turned towards it on a rough track running between two drying salt lakes. In the middle of one of them a car was stuck, with three harassed young women standing by it. Naturally, we stopped to offer our assistance, but immediately ran into difficulties; none of them could speak English and none of them could drive. The only way out was in reverse and none of us could find reverse gear. At this moment the man by the road side appeared and explained it was his car, so he drove while we pushed, and soon freed him from the mud. He turned out to be an Armenian and pro-British. After a friendly conversation and exchanging smiles with the girls we continued to the Mosque.

The Mosque was set in orchards and palm trees and had a house built into one side. We set off down a path to have a closer look, when we were hailed by a Turk from a window of the house. He explained we were walking down the "Women Only" path, as, of course, men and women pray in different rooms in the Moslem world. We apologised for our breach of etiquette and asked if he would show us inside, which he agreed to do.

After removing our shoes we entered. The first impression was the bareness of the interior. There was no furniture, but the floor was carpeted, not overall, but with carpets of all sizes overlapping. On the walls hung pictures of the holy place of Islam.

We were then taken to see the tomb of Mohammed's aunt. This lady had the misfortune to fall off her donkey and die as a result, and was buried here. Our guide explained how, in the following morning, a great slab of rock was found to be floating about 12 feet above the ground with no visible means of support. There is a large rock over the tomb, about three feet thick and 12 feet square, supported by walls at each end. We asked why the walls were built and it was explained that pilgrims came to worship and the Government, being frightened the rock might fall and kill them, ordered the walls to be built. The Government always get the blame. We then asked if the rock would stay up if the walls were removed but received the evasive answer "It depends if you have faith."

Also at the Mosque is the tomb of the grandmother of the present King of Jordan. She died in Cyprus, when the

family had been forced to leave Jordan and before returning to the country after the First World War.

Just before leaving the Mosque, we were shown a cupboard with a few coppers in it. This was a collecting box. The guide said, "You pay the Mosque in here and me outside," a typically Cypriot touch. Anyway, we parted on friendly terms and returned to camp feeling much refreshed from our afternoon outside the wire.

CYPRUS DISTRICT SIGNAL REGIMENT

Since the last jottings about the Regiment appeared in the January issue of THE WIRE, quite a lot has happened. The reservists and retained regulars who were with us during the Suez Canal operations have now all gone home; to them we say: "Thank you and good luck for the future." Those reservists who were dragged away from their homes and sent out here to Cyprus were truly magnificent; they got down to the job quickly, efficiently and without complaint. Even the retained regulars realised the difficulties of the crisis and though they were "working overtime" they "soldiered on." It was a great blow to suddenly lose these men and it wasn't till after they had gone that we realised their true worth.

Christmas has been and gone, a real break for most, with the spirit of the season most prevalent; luckily it was quite a dry one (the weather was dry) compared with Christmas, 1955.

The Regiment congratulates the following members who have been "Mentioned in Dispatches" for the hard work in Cyprus during the last year. They were Major A. D. Inglis, O.C. 2 Squadron, who has been responsible for the very rapid growth and operation of the V.H.F. island wide I.S. wireless communications, which was increased with the influx of troops for the Suez Canal operations. Sergeant J. G. Turner, of "C" Troop, who has worked very hard on the installation of the vast network of Army telegraph and telephone lines in the island. Also Sergeant E. J. Kitchener, A.C.C., whose task it has been to feed the vast number of shift workers, D.R.s and linemen at all times of the day and night in Kykko West Camp. Last but not least to be congratulated is Colonel H. Prince, our late commanding officer, who has now been elevated to C.S.O., H.Q. Cyprus District. In his absence we have Major B. G. Sell, M.B.E., second-in-command and O.C. 1 Squadron, who is keeping the seat of authority warm for our new Commanding Officer, whoever he may be.

Even though the Suez Canal operations finished some time ago, EOKA have still been very active and the Regiment had two casualties in December, Signalmen Wright and Hughes, both of whom were wounded in a gun battle in Nicosia on S.D.S. duty. Hughes, though still scarred, has fully recovered. Wright on the other hand is still in B.M.H. Nicosia, waiting to be flown back to U.K.

This young man has won the admiration of all who know or who have met him by his courage and cheerfulness throughout his ordeal.



Lady Mountbatten speaking to Signalman Wright (Cyprus Dist. Sig. Regt.) in B.M.H., Nicosia.

The photograph shows Lady Mountbatten speaking to Signalman Wright.

We have had various visitors during the last month, Brigadier Dame Mary Railton, D.B.E., A.D.C., Director W.R.A.C., who came to lunch in the Officers' Mess. Admiral A. C. C. Miers, V.C., Flag Officer, Middle East, spent a very enjoyable dinner in the Officers' Mess, playing all known and unknown Mess games! Brigadier R. C. Elstone, O.B.E., M.C., also paid a visit to the Regiment soon after his arrival.

In the sporting world the Regiment is up and coming in Rugby, Soccer, Hockey and Basket Ball. A Boxing team is in the making whose record we hope will be the best. While on the subject of sport we should like to mention that the combined Royal Signals team picked from various units in Cyprus, as far apart as Famagusta and Episkopi, successfully beat the combined Royal Engineers' team at Nicosia 11 points to 3. The Sappers led 3-nil till the latter end of the second half when the Signals' team crushed the Sappers with two converted tries and a penalty goal. We being the only Royal Signals Regiment in Nicosia entertained the teams and spectators to tea.

The Amenities Hut which was mentioned in the last issue has now been completed, and the Regiment boasts a Cinema-scope screen. The hut, a large Nissen type, is also used for lectures, a regimental knock-out quiz competition, and even Boxing and Rugby training. Other changes in accommodation have been the Officers' Mess, which has been extended and the "interior face lift" performed by the Officers, including the reservists. Age and seniority made no difference, even the C.O. was seen on his hands and knees scrubbing the floor. The O.R.s dining hall is being rebuilt bit by bit and the N.C.O.s' Mess canteen is now being redecorated as can be seen by the paint-bespattered N.C.O.s leaving their Mess.

Music is playing an important part in the Regiment, as we not only have a dance band, the "Kykko Komets," exponents of hot Rock 'n' roll, who play most successfully at Unit functions as well as dances outside the Unit, but also two Trum-peters who endeavour to get the members of the Regiment on parade on time and to announce the passing of time—though sometimes time doesn't pass.

2 WIRELESS REGIMENT ROYAL SIGNALS

In Cyprus it was felt that the discussions at the U.N. would have one of two effects, either cause a flare up of terrorism or a peaceful settlement. However neither have happened and life carries on as before. The emergency affects the Regiment in several ways, firstly the camp has to be well guarded which means that guard duties come very frequently and secondly there is very little activity outside the camp, all civilian places of entertainment being out of bounds. Life will improve when the summer comes and we can go swimming from the pleasant local beaches.

However, we managed to keep ourselves entertained. In 2 Camp, Miss Walker held another of her popular dances in the W.V.S. centre. Bacchus was propitiated by means of S.S.M. Stevens famous punch and a good time was had by all. Another less welcome form of entertainment is with us, P.E. tests. Corporal Batters and his men have been busy blasting a nine foot ditch out of solid rock while Corporal Robinson has invented a ZA12345 Lift, Fireman for the use of.

The Regiment has won the Brigade Major Units Football cup, beating the Pay Corps, Dhekelia, in the final 2-1. In the previous rounds the results had been Ordnance Depot beaten 4-1, Royal West Kent Regiment beaten 5-1, Royal Leicestershire Regiment beaten 1-0. The Regiment is now in the semi-final of the all Island Cup and hopes are running high.

In the Famagusta Minor Units League, 2 Squadron have a great chance of winning with 1 Squadron placed half-way down. Unfortunately 3/4 Squadron are near the bottom of the league.

The Cross Country team after a shaky start has now settled down, unfortunately too late in the season for any great success. However, they will form a good basis for the athletic's season which starts shortly.

The Rugby team has now finished a successful season although a defeat by a Field Regiment, R.A., put us out of the Brigade Cup. Among our victims were the two Brigade finalists and Dhekelia garrison. We also beat 3 G.H.Q. Signals in two most enjoyable games. Signalman Hewitt played for the Royal Signals Cyprus fifteen.



Back row, left to right: Sergeant Howie, Sergeant Carey, Sergeant Jones (R.A.E.C.), Sergeant Brown (R.A.O.C.), Sergeant Hawtin, Sergeant Brandon, Sergeant Holland, Sergeant Barnden.
Front row, left to right: C/Sergeant Heweson (R.N.F.), Staff Sergeant Hodgson, W.O.II Elsey, Major K. W. Jordan (R. Signals), W.O.II Brookes, Staff Sergeant Flint, Sergeant Thorn

4 L. OF C. SIGNAL SQUADRON

No one had a notion that our days were numbered, when the previous WIRE Notes were produced, but so it transpired in the middle of January, when the sad news was received that we would be run down and disappear under the reorganisation of Signal Units in Cyprus.

Since then we have withdrawn various detached representatives, including Corporal Forth who was fast becoming a real "sea dog" operating a set on an R.A.S.C. craft plying between Limassol and Malta. We have also functioned as a staging post for reinforcements to the new Gulf of Aden Brigade Signals.

Apart from that we have been engaged in the melancholy process of disposing of our effects, viz., men, vehicles, sets and stores. Lieutenant Walmsley to District Signals and F. of S. Harden to 3 G.H.Q. Signals headed the exodus at the end of January. By the first week in March all except a few key job people had gone their various ways, with our best wishes and thanks. It was astonishing how the work of many months could be all undone in less than six weeks. The chief beneficiary of our various gifts, Cyprus District Signal Regiment has so far declined a free blacksmith's anvil, which we still don't know what to do with. The indefatigable Captain John Roake will no doubt find a way out; he usually does.

Congratulations to the highly esteemed W.O.II Elsey on the award of the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal — a remarkable tribute to the sleepiness of Scotland Yard and Interpol over many years.

The enclosed photograph shows S.S.M. Elsey and the senior N.C.O.s of Larnaca Road Camp (4 L. of C. Signal Squadron, 2 A.S.S.U. and 11 Line Troop).

We may as well finish on a romantic note, so from Nicosia in the Spring, looking very attractive with its new coat of green, dotted with anemones, we, with colours flying and all guns firing, say farewell to 4 L. of C. Signal Squadron, who nearly became the Praetorian Guards of C.S.O. M.E.L.F.

50 INDEPENDENT INFANTRY BRIGADE SIGNAL TROOP

The latest innovation in the Troop is the issue of armoured vests to members on S.D.S. runs. It was a coincidence that on the very first day they were used, they were almost put to a thorough test. Happily the four bombs with which EOKA attempted to decimate our ranks caused no harm.

Sergeant Williams has recently joined the Troop with the proud boast that what he lacks in inches he makes up for in service. Sergeant Turner has a retort that is obvious (he is only six-foot-five), but the long and short of it is that they appear very good friends.

Our linemen continue their Dartmoor apprenticeship with their efforts to lay M.A.L. routes across what seems to be solid rock. All credit to their calloused hands that the lines are through in the best traditions.

Their latest job was to relay the lines in the compound where the brighter ex-members of Grivas' gangs are housed. The spectacle of our hairy gentlemen swinging from poles chanting "Ape Call," must have made the guards wonder if the right people were behind bars!

A Wife's Eye View of Cyprus

As a "Signals" wife, who, I suspect, like many others, reads THE WIRE (only after our husbands have perused it from cover to cover, of course), it occurred to me that your readers might like to hear a wife's eye view of life in Cyprus.

After many trials and tribulations, setbacks, hopes dashed to the ground and all that, my two children and I arrived at Nicosia Airport, and so brought to an end the all too common months of parting which are endured by us all from time to time. We were driven to our bungalow in the early hours of the morning, and after sleeping the clock round I set about getting to know Cyprus, and must admit was most pleasantly surprised. The climate at that time (mid-October) was a wonderful 85 degrees, which was bliss after our miserable English summer, and from our garden on the outskirts of the city one could see the brightly coloured roofs and pale washed walls of the houses, the minarets on the Turkish mosques and the numerous buildings, old and new, which comprise Nicosia itself. The temperature takes a sharp downward trend in December and from then until April winter clothing is very necessary, and in the home some form of heating, either with log fires or oil stoves, is essential. Heavy rainstorms are a feature at this time of year, too, but it has its compensations in the pleasing change in the landscape, with grass appearing all over the place, instead of the baked sand appearance to which one has been accustomed during the summer months. Spring flowers of the bulb variety also appear in profusion, the hillsides, and in fact any grassy patch, being covered with a carpet of wild anemones, daisies and grape hyacinths.

There are hefty waiting lists for Married Quarters, but private accommodation is easy to obtain at rents between £20 and £30 a month, and the hiring of furniture averages £6 to £7 per month. This furniture, a local product, looks handsome and substantial, but upon examination is found to be made mostly of plywood and old tea chests. In fact, it is quite usual to find the back of a dressing table or chest of drawers stamped "Tate & Lyle" or "Stork Margarine," "Perishable," etc. However, I suppose it all adds to the atmosphere and quite a few people are so satisfied with their accommodation that they refuse a quarter when their turn comes.

Having had, due to the newspapers at home, a preconceived notion of "the dangers lurking round every corner of Terror Island" and having been convinced that even going into the garden to hang out the washing would be a hazardous undertaking, I was surprised and delighted to find that British women can go about quite freely, and I personally have encountered nothing but civility and helpfulness from the local shopkeepers, both male and female. Prices are steep though, but they are offset somewhat by the Local Overseas Allowance. Generally speaking, one can expect one's housekeeping bills to be double those at home. Meat is expensive, but fruit and vegetables in season delicious and ridiculously cheap. Most tinned goods are dear. I use the local 'bus, which takes me into town for 20 mills, about 5d., which is a great saving compared to the same journey by taxi, which is 4/-. The passengers and 'bus driver, Greek and Turk alike, wish you "Good morning," or greet you with a smile when you board the 'bus. Of course, you do not get luxury, and as the state of the roads leaves much to be desired, the journey is a series of bumps and jolts. However, the driver, a cheerful man, is far more obliging than those at home, as he picks you up or drops you at your door, twisting in and out of the tiny rough roads for your convenience.

If you wish, the NAAFI delivers bread and groceries, the Coco-Cola man calls twice weekly, and the Turkish egg man, who looks incredibly ancient and is always accompanied by his faithful but somewhat bad tempered donkey, calls almost every day, and knocks non-stop on the door, calling "Dear lady, are you there?" until it is opened. I was rather flattered at the dear lady, putting it down to

personal charm, until I realised it was just his "line" which he uses indiscriminately on all his customers.

Taken all round, Cyprus is still a pleasant station, as far as wives are concerned, but the great drawback is for the menfolk, who go everywhere armed and who would be courting trouble if they attempted to wander about in the same free and easy way as their wives, so we cannot really go shopping together, and a casual visit to a bar or coffee shop in the walled city is quite out of the question. Therefore, one's social life is rather limited, and mainly consists of visiting friends and vice-versa, or having a meal and dance at one of the few hotels "in bounds," interspersed with visits to the Services' film shows, of which there are a good variety.

This, then, is a picture of life in Cyprus today, although, of course, it may vary a little from district to district.

However, I hope it proves helpful to intending visitors, reassuring to worried mothers, and for those readers who are stationed elsewhere, I hope they find it as interesting to read as I did to write.

AFRICA

COMCAN SIGNAL SQUADRON, NAIROBI

If anyone in this unit was asked what was the leading topic of conversation since the Christmas jamboree petered out the unanimous answer would be "the weather." In the living memory of the present scribe (R.H.E. September this year) more bad weather records for Kenya have been broken than since the time way back when the Yorkshireman, John Boyes, not taking second best in anything, became King of the Kikuyu. January, the driest month of the year (normally), was the end, and married personnel punted to work down the main roads leading through Nairobi. To all married officers and soldiers earmarked for posting to East Africa—wives and children to be in possession of raincoats and Wellington boots. The "H" bomb to blame, of course.

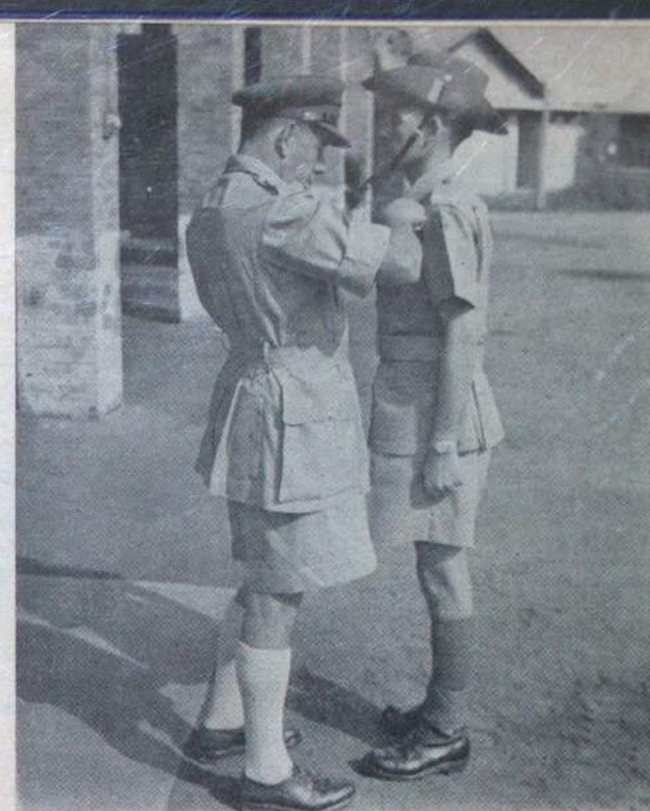
Our no longer new T.O.T., Lieutenant Jack Pickering, has quickly found out that cables are laid (deep in very hard ground) only to be disturbed. In addition to a minor disturbance by the local population, who hack a few feet out of a cable as personal adornments, the railway authorities have decided to straighten out their lines to prevent the engine running into the back of the guards van, and caused the T.O.T.'s army a certain amount of consternation. Our cable is on the way and with the aid of new batches of African labour the distant landscape towards the Receiver Site is being transformed as trenches go deeper and spoil mounts higher. Unanimous agreement has been reached that it wasn't like Germany. In fact, the T.O.T. thought that the end had been reached when, after weeks of hard work, a new tower outside the Tape Relay Centre was finally completed and then no-one could remember what it was for. These new fangled crystal sets!

NIGERIAN SIGNAL SQUADRON

A chapter of the Squadron's history ended on 8th February when Captain M. R. Potter, after several false starts, finally boarded the Eagle Aviation charter at Ikeja on R.H.E. He had been with us since October, 1953, filling many positions in the Squadron and travelling widely in Nigeria. H.Q. N.M.F. Officers' Mess loses the G.O.M. of its old Coasters. We wish him every success in his new unit, 4 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment.

Captain Potter's most recent work has been the planning and exercising of mobile wireless detachments, ably assisted in every way by Staff Sergeant Hemming, who is always full of bright ideas for improving the layout and working of these detachments. He has now handed over to the two sub district Signal Troops a number of trained crews—the fruit of four months' hard work.

The Squadron has also lost Staff Sergeant Varley and Sergeant Green, the architects of high standards at the Kaduna and Enugu Signal detachments respectively, and Sergeant Tyzzer. We welcome Captain J. W. Roberts, a motor-cycling



Presentation of L.S. and G.C. Medal by Brigadier M. R. Lansdale to W.O. II C. Yallop, of Nigerian Signal Squadron at Lagos

enthusiast who hopes to arrange some trials during his tour, Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Willis, Sergeants Ayers and Selby.

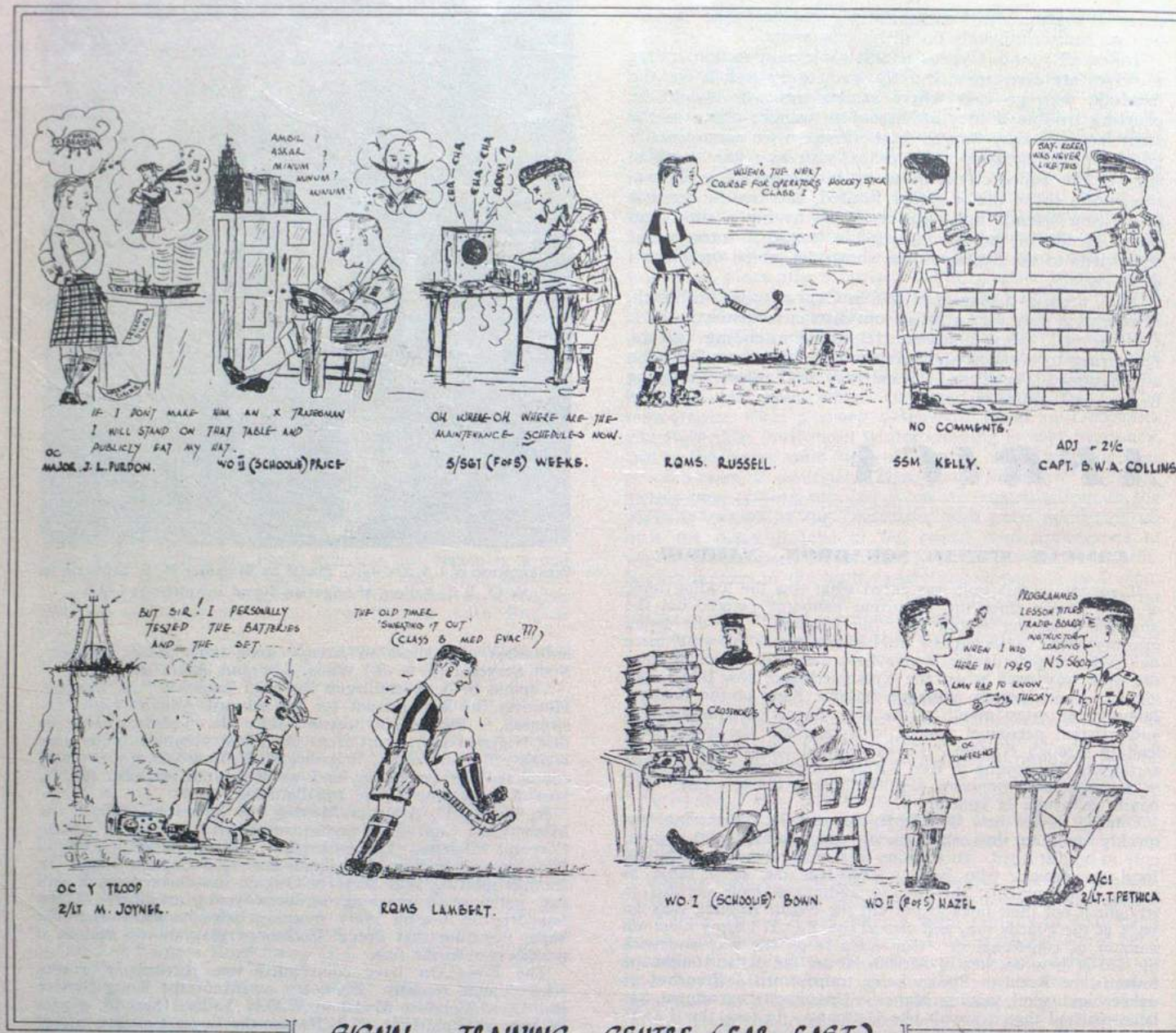
Captain S. A. Ademulegun has been loaned to "A" Branch. However, he was present for the Annual Administrative Inspection, a memorable occasion since the Squadron was the first Nigerian unit, apart from the infantry battalions, to wear review order on parade. Brigadier M. R. Lansdale, D.S.O., O.B.E., conducted the inspection, and we were most grateful for the loan of the Drums of the 2nd Battalion.

In the S.S.D. Athletics Meeting the Squadron retained the Minor Unit Cup. Fine performances were put up by Lance-Corporal Oahimi, Lance-Corporal Cairo, Sergeant Njoku, Signalman Ogundimu, Signalman Ezah and Captain Potter. In another sporting field Sergeant Osigidu has devoted much skill and patience to coaching a dozen young members of the Squadron in boxing every morning before work starts. We hope, therefore that Force Workshops may shortly find us a worthy rival in the ring.

The B.N.C.O.s have contributed two particularly worthy achievements recently. First, the award of the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal to W.O.II Yallop. Second, a para military triumph, H.Q., N.M.F. won the Lagos Garrison cricket league by defeating the Ordnance Depot in the final. Their team was led by Captain Potter and included our R.Q.M.S. Charlton, a most energetic and formidable fast bowler, Sergeant Turvey who batted with consistent success and enthusiasm, Staff Sergeant Cross and Sergeant Peters.

The peaceful backwaters of Badagri Creek and the small villages on its banks have recently been resounding to the cry of "Ogunde," "War has come," villagers bolting out of their houses, women dropping their "carriages" and running away into the bush. All because they saw some African N.C.O.s of the Squadron in battle order, busy on the exercise which concludes each of the monthly Drill and Duties courses. There may be groans when a detail goes up in Part I Orders, but they all seem secretly to enjoy it. Indeed, how could any-one fail to look forward to 36 hours in the bush when they hear of the incidents that befell Sergeant Olympus J. Ariyo. He was treated to palm wine, coconuts and cigarettes by innumerable village headmen, had his fortune told (which prophesied early promotion to Sergeant-Major), addressed a session at the C.M.S. Church of Iteku, surveyed the women of Igbessa, crossed an obnoxious stretch of black water, "the abode of several water demons," and gave a demonstration of guard drill with his companions to the inhabitants of one village as a treat in appreciation of their stimulating palm wine.

Major Congdon recently drove his Austin Somerset from Kaduna to Lagos in 20 hours flat. This he claims as a record.



SIGNAL TRAINING CENTRE (FAR EAST)

ALTHOUGH a somewhat belated entry, all members of the Unit congratulate Lieutenant-Colonel M. S. Hancock on his recent promotion, but it is with regret that we announce his departure to U.K. May we take this opportunity of wishing *Au Revoir* or *Selamat Jalan* to him and his family. We shall miss you all.

We welcome Major J. L. Purdon and his family, who have arrived to carry on where Lieutenant-Colonel M. S. Hancock left off.

We are used to shocks of every description but a really big one arrived when we were told that R.Q.M.S. Lambert was to be medically evacuated to U.K. After having made all the necessary arrangements for his return, he calmly walked into the office the other day and announced that he was not now going home; the authorities at B.M.H. had changed their minds. We were, of course, very suspicious of his premature R.H.E., especially as he was allowed to play hockey so soon after leaving hospital. However, we are very pleased that he is now fit and well.

Sergeant Joyce is about to leave for the O.T.W. at Catterick. It is hoped that he will not Chakap Bahasa Malayu too much

in his new surroundings, although no doubt he will find many orang puteh dari Singapore, with whom he will be able to grip.

Second-Lieutenant David Margand and Corporal Compton both left for release in U.K. Corporal Tookey has embarked for B.A.O.R. to 2 L. of C. Signal Regiment, and Sergeant Cowan has left for the Foreman of Signals Course. We wish them all the very best of luck in their spheres of occupation.

In the field of sport it is with great pride that we regularly supply four of the Corps' hockey team, namely W.O.II Lambert, Russell, Kelly and Signalmen Sardul Singh; no mean effort for a small Unit.

OUR FIRST INTAKE

In January we received our first intake of Ex-Malayan Boys from Nee Soon for training as X tradesmen. Although we only got two of them, they were in fact the top two of the school; one of them, Signalmen Idris bin Ahmad, was the first ever Boy Sergeant.

It might be of interest to some old Singapore pre-war sweats that Mr. Mansor, of 1939 Fortress Signals' fame, is still going strong, employed as a Civilian Line Instructor here.

Military Essay Competitions, 1957/58

Bertrand Steward Prize Essay Competition.

Prize: £80. Closing date: 22nd June, 1957.

Subject: If our Land Forces are to have battle mobility it is essential that they should have administrative flexibility. At the same time the destructive power of nuclear weapons complicates the logistic pattern. Discuss the ways in which administrative flexibility might be achieved.

General conditions for this essay competition are contained in A.C.I. 549/1956.

George Knight Clowes Memorial Prize Essay Competition.

Prizes: First prize, £35; second prize, £15. Closing date: 8th January, 1958.

Subject: In Naval warfare the demise of the battleship was brought about by the development in the superiority of armaments over armour. The horse was driven from the battlefield because of its vulnerability to the fire of modern weapons and by barbed wire and other obstacles.

Some people think that, owing to more powerful anti-tank guns and mines, and the increasing efficiency of air action against ground targets, the tank is likely to go the same way as the battleship and the horse.

Discuss this.
General conditions for this essay competition are contained in A.C.I. 405/1956.

Gold Medal and Trench Gascoigne Prize Essay Competition.

Prize: Thirty guineas and Gold Medal. Closing date: 15th November, 1957.

Subject: It appears obvious that a sufficient number of volunteers will not be forthcoming to maintain our forces at an adequate level. Discuss some of the methods by which the Regular content of the Armed Services could be supplemented when the National Service Act expires in 1958, and say which you think will best meet the requirements of the Services and the nation as a whole.

OR

The Communist Powers are conducting a determined drive for leadership of the under-developed peoples of the world by economic, cultural and military influences and pressures. Discuss what they have achieved and give your views on the counter-measures which the Free World should now take.

General conditions for this essay competition are contained in A.C.I. 125/1957.

T.A.

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

Our last contribution, a year ago, included a description of the unit's participation in the Army Stand at the Schoolboys' Exhibition in Glasgow last March. This month we again took part in the Exhibition as part of a T.A. recruiting drive and in conjunction with 3 (Independent) U.K.L.F. Reserve Signal Squadron (T.A.) and Scottish Command (M) Signal Regiment (T.A.) we manned the T.A. stand for two days. Although we had nothing so exciting this year as a "Space Ship Station" the exhibit attracted a lot of attention. With the help of 5th Training Regiment we even managed to turn out our two D.R.s in blues, and the W.R.A.C. looked very smart in their greens.

We are looking forward to our annual camp at Aberdeen. The excellent facilities of the Camp there will be appreciated by all after roughing it for the last four years at Barry and Salisbury Plain.

Authority has been received for our Pipe Band, which we raised again last year after a lapse of 17 years. Our old drums were discovered in the T.A. Association Store, but alas there



Brigadier J. C. Hardy, Chief Signal Officer, Scottish Command, talking with Lieutenant B. Chadwick, W.R.A.C. Lieutenant-Colonel R. Linton is keeping a keen eye on the would-be teleprinter operator.

are no signs of the bagpipes or uniforms. However, we have begged, borrowed, and bought uniforms and instruments and the band has put up a brave show this past year. It certainly woke us up at Camp each morning.

Our unit teams have done well in the last year. At the Royal Signals Command Meeting last Autumn our two shooting teams were first and second, and Lieutenant Madill won the individual event. Our R.S.M. was second in the individual event at the District Meeting. Our team was third in the Highland District Motor Cycle Trials, and Corporal Lewis was second in the individual event. The Soccer Team did well to reach the semi-final of the T.A. Scottish Competition and were only beaten by the eventual winners after a grand tussle.

We were very pleased and proud to see our family tree in the November issue of *THE WIRE* and are planning to celebrate our centenary in two years' time.

Reclassification training has been in full swing this winter and the result of the recent Trade Board is eagerly awaited. The unit was heavily committed in a recent Divisional Exercise and the wireless sets behaved splendidly. Two very successful Regimental week-ends have been held at Dundonald and Garelochhead.

The Officers', Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Messes have held the usual number of functions this winter. Our Honorary Colonel, Colonel T. M. Niven, T.D., D.L., has managed to attend most of them, and we were very pleased to have him with us at camp last year for a few days.

We were very sorry to say goodbye to Captain Armstrong, R.S.M. McMorran, and Staff Sergeant Southgate and their wives and families, and we wish them success in their new posts. We are happy to welcome Major and Mrs. Fox, Staff Sergeant and Mrs. Scanlon and Sergeant and Mrs. McGlone.



W.O.II Henderson watching W.O.II McGlone demonstrate the C.R.O. to some small boys.



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[Courtesy Birmingham Post and Mail]

Left to right: Brigadier E. A. James, O.B.E., T.D., D.L., J.P., Lieutenant-Colonel R. N. Houston, M.B.E., T.D., Lieutenant-Colonel P. R. Hoskins, Colonel F. E. B. Jones, C.B.E., T.D., J.P.

1/20 ARMY SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

The Regiment is the poorer for the retirement of two Officers, Lieutenant-Colonel R. N. Houston, M.B.E., T.D., our Commanding Officer for the last three years, and Brigadier E. A. James, O.B.E., T.D., D.L., J.P., who has been our Honorary Colonel since 1950. We thank both these Officers for all the work that each of them has done so thoroughly and so successfully for the Regiment. They were dined out with due ceremony in the Officers' Mess on the 7th March, 1957, the other guests being our new Honorary Colonel, Colonel F. E. B. Jones, O.B.E., T.D., J.P., and C.S.O. Western Command, Brigadier M. G. A. Hepper, C.B.E. We welcome Colonel F. E. B. Jones and we are honoured by his acceptance of the appointment of Honorary Colonel. Our new Commanding Officer is Lieutenant-Colonel P. R. Hoskins, who joined our predecessor, 48th Divisional Signals, as a Signaller in 1939. The photograph shows the late and new Commanding Officers flanked by the retiring and incoming Honorary Colonels.

The official opening of the new Drill Hall at Keresley, Coventry, where we have a detachment, took place on 24th February, 1957. The ceremony was performed by the Lord Lieutenant of Warwickshire, Lord Willoughby de Broke, M.C., A.F.C., and the distinguished visitors included the G.O.C.-in-C. Western Command, Lieutenant-General Sir Otway Herbert, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O. The Guard of Honour was commanded by Captain N. Barlow, Royal Signals, who commands our Coventry detachment, and the turn-out and bearing received high praise. In addition to a display of equipment, a wireless link was established for local control. A telerecording was made and subsequently shown in the I.T.A. Midland News.

The recruiting drive is still very much in our minds and members of 3605 F.C.U. Royal Auxiliary Air Force, recently disbanded, were invited to an "At Home" at R.H.Q., on 10th March, 1957. A display of Unit equipment was arranged and the film "Mercury" was shown. An outline of the Regiment and its background was given by the Commanding Officer, and our Training Major, Major G. M. Allan, explained some of the mysteries of Army organisation and in particular the rôle of the Corps. As a result, several airmen have volunteered to join the Regiment and we are hoping that more will follow their example.

Two very successful social functions have recently been held in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. Firstly, the local Civil Police and their ladies were entertained and secondly members of the staff of the Midland I.T.V. organisation. Both evenings were most enjoyable and help

to keep the name of the Regiment in the public eye. It is understood that some offers for auditions with I.T.V. were made—could these be for brewers' adverts?

Our Camp this year will have a "New Look," as only volunteers will be attending. Also we are going to the A.E.R. Depot at Blacon Camp, where we shall enjoy the hitherto unknown luxury of a roof over our heads.

1st (ESSEX) SIGNAL REGIMENT (T.A.)

The above title will be new to most readers. The Regiment itself is an old one, however. It has a proud history since 1908 as 54th Divisional Signals. During the last war the First Line became 4th Divisional Signals and the Second Line continued as 54th Divisional Signals. In 1947, when the T.A. was re-constituted, the Regiment became 2nd/20th (East Anglian) Army Signal Regiment, and on 29th January, 1957, it was re-designated as the 1st (Essex) Signal Regiment. Our long association with the County of Essex is now perpetuated in our name.

As well as being re-named, the Regiment is undergoing considerable re-organisation. Troops are being disbanded and new troops are being formed. The issue of modern equipments not previously handled by the Regiment is eagerly awaited. The location of the Regiment with its Headquarters at Signals House, Wanstead, E.11, and detachment at Reed Hall Camp, Colchester, remains unchanged. New volunteers are flocking (well, trickling) in, and the future looks bright.

The Unit Branch of the Signals Association, the President of which is General Sir Hubert Rance, is flourishing. It has just entered its second year and has a membership of over 150. Past members of Royal Signals will be made very welcome on the last Friday of each month.

The Permanent Staff of the Regiment has remained unchanged for some time, but this year there will be many postings. The first of these was the recent arrival of Major W. C. Ramsay from War Office Signal Squadron, who has replaced as Second-in-Command Major G. H. Clarke who has gone to B.A.O.R.

We are looking forward to Camp in July. This will be a purely volunteer camp and should be quite like old times. Our National Servicemen will be sadly missed, however, and we are hopeful that an intensive recruiting drive which has just started will result in many of the gaps being filled. If not, a lot of dignified officers and N.C.O.s will be running around carrying out their own orders!

1 NORTHERN COMMAND (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

This is an old Regiment which now appears on these pages with a new title. The Regiment was formerly 15 A.A. (M) Signal Regiment, T.A. After the disbandment of A.A. Command the Regiment changed its title and its rôle to Northern Command (M) Signal Regiment, T.A. The R.H.Q. remained in Leeds until September last year when it moved to York. The last and (it is hoped) final change of name has now taken place and the Regiment is now 1 Northern Command (M) Signal Regiment, T.A. Its Headquarters are situated by the banks of the river Ouse in Old Nunthorpe House, York.

The Regiment is commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel J. Kilner, T.D., and the Officers forming R.H.Q. are Major D. F. Willett, Major E. Benbow, Captain F. Mansfield, M.B.E., Captain B. Elliott, M.B.E., W.R.A.C., and Lieutenant (Q.M.) Bruce. The Unit has Mixed Squadrons at Leeds (No. 1 Squadron commanded by Major A. M. Booker), Newcastle (No. 2 Squadron commanded by Major P. E. Orton), and W.R.A.C. Detachments at Hull (commanded by Major S. P. M. I. Waterman, W.R.A.C.), and Middlesbrough (commanded by Captain H. Hay, T.D., W.R.A.C.).

At present we are in the process of re-organisation and a new Squadron is to be formed at York, whilst the detachments at Hull and Middlesbrough will become Troops of 1 and 2 Squadrons respectively.

In order to keep operationally fit the Regiment has throughout the winter months manned communications at Command and Districts for 24 hours once a month. Last week-end the fourth of these Exercises was completed and although mistakes were made lessons were learned by all, and on the whole the Regiment did not acquit itself too badly. During this exercise the local Press paid a visit and from the photographs enclosed with this article it can be seen that we really do work!



[Photo: Yorkshire Evening Press]

Left to Right: Major S.P.M.I. Waterman, Lieutenant I. Keeley R.S.M. J. Phillips, "Jimmy" Captain F. Mansfield, M.B.E., Captain B. Elliott, M.B.E., Lieutenant A.R.R. Oliver, Major D. F. Willett

The highest percentage of our strength is made up of W.R.A.C. volunteers and we are extremely proud to have their assistance. They man the exchanges, signal centres and teleprinters besides cooking our food. The Training Major has been heard to remark that they would make jolly good linemen, too.

Amongst our male ranks we have a strong contingent of line N.C.O.s of wartime vintage (Hitler's War) and they seem to be capable of tackling anything. At present they are studying the mysteries of ANTRAC.

The Regiment believes in training hard. Two week-ends a month on training at R.H.Q. and at least one other week-end of Squadron and detachment training being the normal.

We also believe in playing hard and the social side is not forgotten—a Regimental Dance will have been held by the time this article appears in print. This Dance is to say good-bye to our Squadron at Nottingham and Detachments at Derby and Rotherham who have now joined our newly formed sister Regiment, 2 Northern Command (M) Signal Regiment, T.A., and of course, to give R.S.M. Phillips who has just joined us, an opportunity of putting us through some drill. Due to the co-operation and helpful assistance of the Regular Signal Squadron we shall be accommodated in Cavairy Barracks and hold our Dance there.

In closing we must, of course, mention our Adjutant who is going to London shortly to receive his M.B.E. awarded in the last honours list. The Regiment congratulate him on his award which we feel he has so rightly deserved. Captain F. Mansfield has served for thirty-seven years in the Regular and Territorial Army (man and boy) and although this may not be a record we hope that he will stay with us for many more years and make it one.



[Photo: Yorkshire Evening Press]

Left to Right: Corporal B. Deighton, Sergeant A. Flockton, Private E. Jarrett, Captain M.E. Clarke (Operating Command Switchboard)



Switchboard Operating. Staff Sergeant Neale and Private Lester (W.R.A.C.). No. 2 Northern Comd. (M) Sig. Regt. (T.A.)

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No. 2 NORTHERN COMMAND (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT (T.A.)

No doubt our readers will be taken aback at seeing the heading "Number Two" Northern Command (Mixed) Signals, so we must start by introducing ourselves and explaining "how we got here."

Under the re-organisation of the T.A., part of an Army Signal Regiment and two independent Squadrons have amalgamated to become No. 2 Northern Command (M) Signal Regiment (T.A.).

The most significant factor about this re-organisation is that magic word "Mixed," for in addition to our Derby and Rotherham W.R.A.C., we are forming a nucleus of W.R.A.C. in Sheffield. Thanks to a very good write-up in the Sheffield "Star" our first W.R.A.C. volunteer appeared the following day—the 19-year-old daughter of ex-S.Q.M.S. Radley of the Regiment, whom doubtless many of you will remember. Private Radley has been followed by several others, and we hope to be able to build up a strong team for annual camp at Harrogate this year.

Already we have taken part as a Regiment in the monthly Command Signal exercises, operating teleprinter and wireless communications between Nottingham, Harrogate and York, and we hope to have our first Regimental get-together in Sheffield later this month, when we are to have a training week-end, incorporating a social evening and dance on the Saturday night.

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Teleprinter Operating. Lance/Corporal Lawrence and Private Peach (W.R.A.C.). No. 2 Northern Comd. (M) Sig. Regt. (T.A.)

This crest was chiselled out of the rock on the hillside opposite the main gate of the fort at Malakand on the North West Frontier of India in 1933, by Corporal Yalden and another of A Wireless Section (Pack) 1st Indian Divisional Signals. Those who have marched in the Chitral relief since that year will know it well.



Association Notes

London Branch

The Annual General Meeting of the London Branch was held on Friday, 8th March, 1957, at 206, Brompton Road, S.W.3., in the W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess, the new home of the Branch, by kind permission of Eastern Command (M) Signal Regiment, T.A. Brigadier H. Firth, General Secretary of the Royal Signals Association, was in the chair and between 45-50 members of the Branch attended.

In his annual report, Mr. A. W. Smith, Branch Chairman, after apologising for the absence of the President, Colonel T. M. Vigers, O.B.E., M.C., T.D., D.L., owing to pressure of work, stated that although the membership was not so large as last year, having cut out a lot of dead wood, quality rather than quantity remained and the income from subscriptions steadier in consequence. He explained that the Sergeants' Mess of 2 Corps Signal Regiment have moved to Lytton Grove, which was considered rather too far out of London for the majority of the Branch members, and therefore, through the kindness of Eastern Command (M) Signal Regiment, T.A., the Branch had been allowed to return to 206, Brompton Road, its original home. This was only the second meeting there and already many members had "returned to the fold" who had been unable to make the journey to Fulham House.

He also reported that a few visits of interest had been undertaken. Guinness Brewery had been very popular and visited twice; the Royal Tournament at Earls Court; an I.T.V. Show at Wood Green and the International Telephone Exchange at Faraday House. All these events had been well patronised. Some members had attended the Catterick reunion in June and it was hoped more would do so this year. In spite of the move, the Branch is still eligible to serve on the Combined Services and Ex-Services Committee. The turnout for Armistice Day Parade at Fulham had been good and the number attending better than last year.

The finances of the Branch still remain steady and although the profit this year was little more than last, some good had been done with the money, £23/0/9 having been spent on two Trumpets for 6th Boys Training Regiment, and a new pair of white gloves for the Branch Standard Bearer. Appreciative members had sent in envelopes, stamps and duplicating paper which, in spite of the National Economy Drive, will enable the quarterly newsletter to go out as usual.

The election of officers followed. The present officers were unanimously re-elected and two additional committee members elected.

Brigadier Firth, in addressing the meeting, spoke in warm terms of Major-General C. M. F. White, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., who was to have been present, saying he had only just returned from a strenuous visit to Tripoli and was feeling very tired and wished to be excused from attending. He went on to speak of the work done by the Royal Signals Association and also by the Branch, and how pleased he was about the hospital visiting undertaken by its members. He also congratulated the Branch on having presented Two Trumpets to 6th Boys Training Regiment and hoped that perhaps efforts could be made to present a Challenge Cup for a particular event to help inspire enthusiasm in the coming soldier.

Colonel Athill, Officer Commanding Eastern Command (M) Signal Regiment, welcomed the Branch to 206, Brompton Road, and wished it every success, saying the Unit would always do everything it could to help it.

There being no other business, the meeting closed and the rest of the evening given over to "making merry." A novelty raffle consisting of "a dinner for two" (chicken, and all accessories ready for cooking, fruit salad and cream) was won by Mrs. M. Ruthven, and "a breakfast for 12" (one dozen eggs) by Mr. Smith, who auctioned it for 12/6 for Branch funds. Tombola was also played and enjoyed and at midnight weary revellers went home to bed.



WHERE

IS

IT?

See page 120

York Branch

Friday, 22nd February, 1957, was truly a red letter day in the history of the York Branch, as it marked the official opening of the new Royal Signals Association (York Branch) Club.

After many months of negotiation, frustration and hard work a dream became a reality and a large company numbering over 100 members, wives and guests, assembled at the Clubhouse in Wenlock Terrace to witness the great event.

The Chairman (Mr. J. A. Hopwood), in introducing Brigadier H. R. Firth, General Secretary of the Association and our guest of honour, mentioned the general regret at the unavoidable absence of our President, Brigadier D. St. J. Hoysted, who had done a great deal in helping the Branch to acquire the premises and spoke of the great work put in by the officers and Committee and other willing workers in getting the Club ready. A mention should be made here of the Chairman's own unselfish efforts in working towards this object.

Brigadier Firth, in his speech, spoke of the regret of the Chairman of the Association in being unable to be present due to the fact that he was at present abroad and passed on the Chairman's good wishes for the success of the Club. The General Secretary expressed his great pleasure at being invited to open the Club and then with due ceremony cut the ribbon across the Bar to the strains of the Corps March.

Brigadier Firth also read a reply from H.R.H. The Princess Royal to a telegram of loyal greetings from the York Branch. The reply read:

"The message I received from the members of the York Branch of the Royal Signals Association gave me much pleasure. I send my best wishes to all present this evening and also wish the new Club every success. (Signed) Mary, Colonel-in-Chief."

The message was received with acclamation.

The new Bar (adorned by our latest acquisition, a bronze "Jimmy") was soon doing a roaring trade, much to the gratification of Treasurer Jack Wall, and the Chairman with his willing assistants were busily engaged ministering to the thirsty throng. The opening ceremony was followed by a general chin-wag and dancing commenced later. An excellent buffet was laid out in the billiards room.

The York Branch was pleased to welcome many guests on this happy occasion and special mention must be made of two parties of officers of the Middlesbrough and Hull Branches who made the long journey to York despite travel restrictions. Others present included representatives of local Ex-Service Associations—the Royal Artillery, Royal Engineers, British Legion (York, Fulford, Acomb and

Women's Section Branches), Burma Star, R.A.S.C., R.E.M.E. and the Coldstreamers; Major G. Anslow (O.C. Northern Command Signal Squadron), Major and Mrs. R. N. Richmond, Major J. Prentice, Major Willett (T.A.), and other Officers and N.C.O.s.

Telegrams of good wishes were received from Lieutenant-Colonel A. W. Barron, M.C., and from Edinburgh and Leeds Branches. We were also pleased to receive congratulatory messages from Lieutenant-Colonel W. Clark and Major F. Dowie, old members of York Branch now living in the South. Letters were also received from Catterick, Scarborough and Harrogate Branches and from local Branches of the Royal Naval Association and the Royal Scots Greys Association.

All in all, it was a most memorable and enjoyable evening and the Committee would like to thank all who made it such a success.



[Photo by courtesy The Yorkshire Evening Press and Gazette & Herald, York] York Branch Members at the opening of the Club

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Loughborough Branch

As an addition to our monthly dance dates, we recently held a Social Evening which was satisfyingly successful in both attendance and quality. Highspot of the programme was a cabaret item from Garats Hey, "The Sergeant-Major's Skiffle Group." The six enthusiasts really had the old feet tapping!

All of us are looking forward to the visit of the non-touring Band for a crowded week-end of events jointly arranged by 10 W. T. S. and this Branch. New barracks are being opened, our Annual Garden Party and a grand Dance follow the same day, and a Church Parade Service is fixed for the Sunday morning. All being well this same Service will see the dedication of our Branch Standard. Apropos the new barracks, our Vice-President and good friend of the Branch, Major Harvey, hopes to afford an opportunity for members to have a pre-opening tour, and from the few facts already gleaned it promises to be quite an eye-opener for the old sweats in our midst. Spud-bashing, dish-washing, and hosts of etceteras all done by switches, I believe!

This month the Celebrity Spot is occupied by J. F. E. (Ed) Bowman, life member of the Association, who has been with this Branch since its inception. Ed joined the ranks at Catterick in April, 1933, and served the period 1934-36 with 3rd Division at Bulford. Service in India followed until 1939, mainly with "B" Corps at Karachi and with Western Independent Signals at Quetta, with an interlude of operations in 1937 (Khaisora Rally). Some instructional duties and a Foreman of Signals course at Catterick occupied the rest of 1939 and 1940. During 1941, Ed joined the Guards Armoured Division and went, in 1942 to 6th Guards Tank Brigade as a W.O.II. During service with this unit on the Continent he was commissioned in the field (Holland), subsequently joining "E" Troop, 11th

Armoured Division. From VE Day onwards Ed was in charge of German civilian-manned exchanges at Flensburg and Schleswig. Released in 1945 (December), he had one or two civilian occupations before joining the War Office Civilian Wireless Service, in which he has attained rapid—and well-earned—promotion.

It is only recently that he retired from the list of local hockey umpires, a job he performed with some distinction in Army circles, especially in India. Those of our readers who knew him will be glad to know that he is in excellent fettle and still in touch with all things Signals.

Derby Branch

A meeting was held at the T.A. Centre, Kingsway, Derby, on 28th February, 1957, for the purpose of re-establishing the Derby Branch of the Association.

The Officer Commanding 21 (NM) Corps Signal Regiment (T.A.), Lieutenant-Colonel J. R. S. Grimwood-Taylor, T.D., in welcoming the assembly, explained his interest in the re-establishment of the Branch. Now that only volunteers of the Territorial Army were required to carry out training, attendance at T.A. Centres were not as large as hitherto and he was anxious that the excellent facilities of Kingsway T.A. Centre should be fully utilised. Furthermore, he had for some time past thought that the time was opportune for the re-establishment of a Derby Branch of the Association. This would be of mutual benefit to the members and stimulate and promote interest in Corps matters in the area. He also hoped that the re-forming of the Branch would assist recruiting, both for the Regular and Territorial Army. As he so aptly put it, "even if you don't join, then perhaps your sons will."

Lieutenant-Colonel Grimwood-Taylor then said that he had a letter from Brigadier H. R. Firth, the General Secretary of the Association, regretting that he was unable to attend the meeting owing to a prior engagement. The Brigadier sent his very good wishes and would be delighted to be with us on a suitable future occasion.

The aims and objects of the Association were then mentioned and Lieutenant-Colonel Grimwood-Taylor said that, on the social side, he could offer facilities for most indoor sports and recreations at the T.A. Centre, which was well equipped for social activities. There was also opportunity for joint activities with other local Branches, among them Nottingham and Chesterfield, where Squadrons of his Regiment were based.

It was then explained that, as the Derby Branch had never ceased officially to exist, the original officers, or as many of them as were available, could be asked to continue in office. Lieutenant-Colonel Grimwood-Taylor asked the meeting to express their wishes in this matter. On a unanimous show of hands it was decided to ask the original officers to continue in office.

Colonel A. K. Haslehurst, T.D., now took the chair, and explained why the Branch has ceased to function. He said that lack of facilities had been the main reason, plus the fact that after the war, whilst everyone had a tale to tell, there had been a strong common interest drawing members together, despite the lack of a suitable meeting place. However, the tales had been oft repeated and the interest had worn a little thin. Colonel Haslehurst said that now the Branch was offered excellent facilities in the new home of the Signal Regiment, and the members were drawn together by a bond forged by service in the Corps and to each other, he was sure the Branch would flourish.

Then, on an unanimous show of hands by the 72 persons present, it was decided to go ahead with the re-establishment of the Derby Branch of the Association. It is of interest that those present comprised a very representative cross-section of the Corps, both young and not so young. There were Regular and T.A. personnel based at Kingsway, including an enthusiastic contingent from W.R.A.C. (Royal Signals), as well as A.E.R. and former members of the Corps of all descriptions.

The following officers and committee were elected:
Chairman, Colonel A. K. Haslehurst, T.D.; Vice-Chairman, Lieutenant-Colonel R. A. Waldron, T.D.; Secretary, Mr. E. H. M. Seaward; Treasurer, Mr. G. H. Graham.
Committee: Miss E. Cook, Mr. F. Exton, Mr. C. Thomas, Mr. E. Westran, Mr. D. B. Kelcey.

These include Regular, T.A. and former members of the Corps and they have lost no time in arranging for their first meeting. It was particularly pleasing that Mr. Seaward was able to take the appointment of Secretary, as, after the severe electrical burns he received whilst on duty as a Sergeant with the T.A., he was medically discharged. Mr. Seaward has been

anxious to continue his association with the Corps and his former Unit, and his appointment gives this opportunity.

Colonel Haslehurst thanked the Commanding Officer and Permanent Staff of 21 (NM) Corps Signal Regiment (T.A.) for their efforts in contacting serving and former members of the Corps in the Derby area and for the preparations made for the meeting.

It was decided to hold future meetings on the last Thursday of each month, at 8 p.m., at the T.A. Centre, Kingsway, Derby. So if there are any serving or former members of the Corps in the vicinity who have not seen our advertisements or received a personal letter, come along to the next meeting and be assured you will receive a hearty welcome and find jolly good company.

Copies of THE WIRE were distributed to new members and after perusal brought forth a flow of reminiscencing and recognition.

After the meeting a "games evening" had been arranged against a Gunner Unit sharing the T.A. Centre. I regret to record that Royal Signals were defeated, but not disgraced—the older members attributed it to lack of practice, but forecast that now they have an excuse to get out more often, their aim will rapidly improve. There was also an impromptu "grip session," and the Permanent Staff officers received most useful, factual and first-hand accounts of the principles and practice of laying from the old cable wagon, together with some hitherto undivulged details of the truly astronomical ranges worked with the No. 1 set. It is perhaps not generally known that range increases may be calculated in direct proportion to pints consumed. There were also some very happy meetings between old friends who had not seen each other for many years.

Everyone who attended the meeting is confident that the re-established Branch will flourish after such an encouraging beginning, and for many years may it promote and further the interests of the Corps and its members. P.G.

Portsmouth Branch

How time flies. It only seems a couple of months ago I was given the task of writing a few notes on the activities of the Portsmouth Branch for 1955/56, but it must be more than that as another Annual General Meeting has come and gone.

It is not often we appear in print but we feel that a few notes from time to time serve to remind members both serving and ex-serving that there is a flourishing Branch in Portsmouth and district. The district part of the Branch is most important as a number of our members live outside the city boundary in Fareham, Gosport, Havant and Hayling Island. To get to meetings, etc., these members often have considerable 'bus and train journeys, which are not very enjoyable on winter evenings, and yet they can always be relied upon to turn up. Indeed this is the spirit which prevails among the hard core of members in Portsmouth. It is a great disappointment that more of the National Servicemen do not take an active interest in the local Branch once they have left the service. If only they would turn up and see the spirit with which the ex-regular enters into Branch affairs we feel sure they would continue to be active members of the Association.

The annual general meeting of the Branch was held on 7th February under the chairmanship of Captain Jack Brearley. We were able to welcome back from active service our President, Major D. W. J. Haylock, A.E.R. Major Haylock was recalled for the Suez emergency and commanded the Press unit in Port Said. He was able to give the meeting first hand information as to conditions in Port Said during the operations. Major Haylock also said that the Signal Units taking part in the operations acquitted themselves in the best traditions of the Corps.

At the election of officers for 1957/58 the following were elected: President, Major Haylock; Chairman, Captain J. Brearley; Vice-Chairman, Mr. S. E. Gordon; Secretary, Mr. L. Butt; Treasurer, Mr. W. Bennett. The meeting agreed that the Welfare side of the Branch should be left in the hands of these officers except that certain members residing outside Portsmouth would be responsible for cases arising in their areas. Over the past year this arrangement has been found to be most successful. Whilst on welfare it is pleasing to be able to report that during 1956 we have been able to assist Headquarters in investigating a number of cases and that H.Q. have been most generous.

In October the first dinner organised by the Branch was held, at which a number of members and their wives were present. A most enjoyable evening was had by all and it is intended to make this an annual event in future years.

Due to a change of command at the Hilsea Drill Hall social functions have had to be curtailed for the present, a fact which is regretted by all members. It is, however, hoped that a fresh start will be made in the near future as it is understood that the Signal Squadron (T.A.) from Havant is moving into Portsmouth. Contact is being made with the O.C. with a view to holding combined functions in their Drill Hall.

Three members of the Branch attended the annual reunion in Catterick last year. From conversations heard at the last meeting it would appear that the same three are intent on making an appearance at Catterick again this year. (I believe they have even got as far as looking up train timings). Perhaps before June arrives more members will be able to find their way clear to make the trip.

Last year these notes ended with an invitation to all association members who are fortunate enough to spend their holidays in Sunny Southsea to look us up. This invitation is still open. The Branch meets on the first Thursday of each month at the Talbot Hotel, Goldsmith Avenue.

TIM COLE

Sheffield Branch

The Annual General Meeting was held at the T.A. Centre, Crabtree, on Friday, 1st March. The meeting was delayed nearly an hour in the hopes that a decently large number of members would turn up, but it was not to be, and once again a small number were given the responsibility of setting the policy for the coming year. It is often wondered whether the small attendance is a compliment to the officials on their work, or absent members are making sure they are not nominated for position.

The year was reviewed in the Chairman's remarks. He stated that in general we had held our own, but no progress was being made in the membership figures. The Ex-Signals of Sheffield were just not interested in the Association, those who had any interest at all in ex-service movements were members of another organisation and declined to be in two. We were hoping in the coming year to get more members from the T.A. now that they were recruiting volunteers, and were ready to welcome as many as cared to join us. The financial side was slightly lower than last year, but we were solvent although far from rich. It was intended to carry on the system of minimum business and more social side at all meetings. He thanked the staunch regular attenders for their support and said that without them the Branch would have become defunct ages ago.

The retiring officials were all re-elected to office, Mr. F. G. Elwood, Chairman; Mr. E. Taylor, Secretary; R.S.M. E. Jones, Treasurer. A vote of thanks moved for the officials' work over the last year completed the main business. A general discussion on ways and means of attracting membership, and events for the coming year then developed, and it is hoped to put some of them into practice in the near future.

Welfare Section

Below an attempt is made to describe with suitable anonymity eight cases taken from the Welfare Section files current during the first week in March, 1957. Also on this page is a simple statement of income and expenditure.

Orphan daughter of Signalman, 1925-30, 1939-43.

He died in 1953. Her mother is also dead. Her income as an apprentice only just exceeds her board and does not run to clothes. The fund helped a little.

Ex-Corporal R.E. Signals, 1915-19, previous service from 1899, during which he served in the South Africa War and in the Sudan. He was in the G.P.O. Engineering Department from 1919. He and his 80-year-old wife live on a tiny income. It is a dreadful thing that he had to pledge his medals. The fund helped.

Signalman, 1948-53. Cured of tuberculosis, he is to start a rehabilitation course but lacked clothes. He now has some.

Widow of Signalman, 1952-55, who was killed in a motor cycle accident in September, 1956, writes gratefully to thank for help received.

Signalman, 1953-57. A Life Member of the Association, had difficulty in restarting in civil life. His troubles were solved by the Secretary of the concerned Branch of the Association at very small cost in money but a large cost in voluntary time and effort.

Signalman, 1941-46. Married, four children; had good employment and wages until accident deprived him of earning capacity and halved his income. The fund helped a little.

Corporal, 1936-45. Married, four children; had very good income until illness in November, 1956, halved his income. The Association Forces' Help Society, the R.A.O.C. and Royal Pioneer Corps, with whom he had also served, all helped a little to clear debts.

Signalman, 1940-55. He has a 20% disability pension, is married, one child. He has been ill for a long time on a greatly reduced income and the British Legion and his own Association paid overdue rates for him.

CLOTHING

During the past few months, parcels of clothing have been gratefully received from the following:—

Mr. A. Stokes (Malta), Major B. E. Sykes, Captain L. E. Terry, Lieutenant-Colonel C. L. Ommaney, O.B.E., Mrs. Stewart (London, S.W.1), Mrs. Edgcumbe (London, S.W.1), Colonel A. B. McVittie, O.B.E.

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION AND BENEVOLENT FUND

Subscriptions most gratefully received during February, 1957:

	£	s.	d.
Royal Signals Wing, School of Signals (Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess)	6	16	8
3 Training Regiment	5	10	0
Signals Branch, School of Artillery	1	4	3
18 Medium Regiment, R.A., Signal Troop	1	0	0
1 H.Q. Signal Troop	16	0	0
63 L. of C. Signal Regiment, T.A.	1	10	0
Middlesex Yeomanry Signal Regiment, T.A.	8	0	0
The Depot Regiment	10	12	0
11 Signal Park Squadron	3	0	0
Western Command Signal Squadron	3	0	0
1 Special Communication Signal Troop	3	7	6
1/20 (SM) Army Signal Regiment, T.A.	6	6	0
42 (L) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A.	2	7	4
53 (W) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A.	15	0	0
62 L. of C. Signal Regiment, T.A.	4	2	9
Western Command (M) Signal Regiment, T.A.	4	0	0
32 Medium Regiment, R.A., Signal Troop	1	13	0
52 (L) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A.	15	2	0
SHAPE Signal Squadron (SHAPE/Paris Branch)	20	0	0
Berlin Signal Squadron	6	0	0
2 L. of C. Signal Regiment (47 Unit Branch)	5	0	0
Cyprus District Signal Regiment	35	14	1
3 G.H.Q. Signal Regiment	9	13	4
2 Wireless Regiment	19	3	0
Total receipts	£150	10	7

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION WELFARE SECTION

Donations most gratefully received during February, 1957:

	£	s.	d.
49 (WR) Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment	1	1	0
Newcastle Branch	20	0	0
Loughborough Branch	10	10	0
Chislehurst Branch	5	5	0
Captain R. R. Peverall	2	0	0
Mr. P. D. Evans	10	0	0
Total receipts	£39	6	0

Expenditure during February, 1957

	£	s.	d.
(Includes: Rent and Rates; Beds and Bedding; Furniture; Cots and Prams; General Assistance).	£286	19	0
Analysis of Cases:			
Widows and Dependants	4		
Released and Discharged Soldiers	36		
Total cases assisted	40		

19 cases of Soldiers who served during the 1939/45 War ... £113 14 0
21 cases of Soldiers who did not serve during the War ... £173 5 0

LIGHTER FUEL PACKS

The following amounts were most gratefully received during February, 1957:

	£	s.	d.
Box No. 18 ... 3 Squadron, 2 L. of C. Signal Regiment	2	0	0
45 ... 42 AGRA (AA) Signal Squadron	6	0	0
67 ... 43 (Wx) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A.	1	2	0
70 ... 50 (N) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A.	12	0	0
122 ... Southampton Branch	7	0	0
123 ... Southampton Branch	6	0	0
Total	£43	3	0



[Photograph by courtesy "Western Mail and Echo," Cardiff]

Army Rugby Cup regained by the Corps

1st Training Regiment Royal Signals 15 pts.; 1st Battalion The Welch Regiment 3 pts.

The 1st Training Regiment Royal Signals defeated the holders, 1st Battalion The Welch Regiment (B.A.O.R.), in the final of the Army Cup at Aldershot on 6th March, 1957, and thus won the Cup for the sixth time in nine years.

A morning of continuous rain, after a long period of mild and dry weather, did little to daunt the spectators who appeared in appreciable numbers.

There was great activity in the Welch camp before the kick-off. Leeks were to be seen in great profusion and the largest of them all was duly placed on the centre spot. The tying of the famous Welch saucepan on the crossbar was accompanied by the spontaneous singing which one always associates with Welch crowds.

The Signals were first to take the field and their thousand-odd spectators, who up till now had been quietly observing the activities in the Welch camp, suddenly came to life with a roar which shook the stands. An attempt by Signalman Evans to convert the leek, which was still upright on the centre spot, and the arrival of the Welch team, started the afternoon off on a good footing.

The records of the teams in the previous rounds gave a good indication of the battle to come, particularly as neither side had had its line crossed.

1st Training Regiment Royal Signals	117 pts.	3 pts. (penalty)
1st Battalion The Welch Regiment	132 pts.	Nil.

Signals defended the pavilion end against a slight breeze and immediately found themselves under pressure from the very lively Welchmen, who threw themselves into the attack from the kick-off.

The first half was a fierce struggle, with the Signals on the defensive. Nerves and a lack of co-ordination in the set scrums allowed the Welchmen to control proceedings.

Llewellyn's magnificent jumping in the line-outs was a constant source of trouble to Signals.

Fortunately the Welch did not make the best use of their temporary superiority. Their attacks, though plentiful, were strictly orthodox and again and again were smashed by excellent tackling. They were constantly being put back by the accurate touch finding of Evans and Scotland. Royal Signals' forwards were not entirely out of the picture and had the edge in the loose, putting in some very fine rushes, which helped to take some of the fire out of the Welch.

About halfway through the first half an offside presented the Welch with a penalty and an audible sigh of relief was heard in certain quarters as Mathias' kick fell short. The nerve strained supporters of both sides were due for a further shock when Scotland, attempting a long range drop at goal, sliced the ball across the field straight into the arms of Griffiths, who lost little time in starting an attack. Red jerseys appeared from everywhere in support but a forward pass put "paid" to what must have been a certain try.

Half-time found the spectators more exhausted than the players.

On the resumption the Welchmen found that their initial superiority had vanished. Signals were obtaining an equal share of the ball and for some 15 minutes the game was quite negative.

Scotland had a long range attempt at a penalty which fell short and immediately afterwards Evans attempted a left-footed drop at goal which narrowly missed. This appeared to be the signal for an assault which came in and lasted until the closing minutes of the game. It was now the Welch on the defensive and they were later to be thrown into confusion.

The game came to life in a flash. A quick heel from a scrum saw Scotland away. He evaded the first line of defence and put in a beautifully judged diagonal kick for the left-hand Welch corner flag. It fell just in front of Williams, who was coming up at speed; he managed to gather it on the bounce and went over to score. Scotland made no mistake with the conversion.

The Welch kick-off was followed by a scrum. Scotland moved rapidly to the right, drawing the defence, whilst Haw threw out a long pass to Benson on the left. Benson tapped the ball ahead over the Welch three-quarter line to Williams on the wing and was up to take the inside pass and score before the Welch cover defence had realised what had happened. Scotland converted.

The Welch now found themselves ten points down in three minutes. A cruel blow, from which they never really recovered.

A free kick came as a welcome relief to the Welch but unfortunately for them it was collected cleanly by Evans running backwards. He brought the ball into play on the open side. He passed out to Scotland, who split the defence with a long run and eventually threw out a long and perfectly timed pass to Williams, who crossed the line from ten yards out. Scotland's kick was enough to break the stoutest of hearts. It hit the post, dropped, bounced on the crossbar and went over.

The "game" Welch, however, were far from finished. They fought to the final whistle, to be rewarded by a try as a result of a determined burst by Davies, Lewis and Mathias. Well, they deserved it. Their captain, Captain K. J. Davey, had led a very fine team and had been a "tower of strength" himself.

The conversion failed, the whistle went, the ball and saucepan were snapped up by Signals' spectators. The latter was eventually retrieved by the Welch supporters. So ended the Army Cup Final of 1957.

1st Training Regiment Royal Signals

Signalman G. N. Evans, Signalman D. A. Williams, Lance-Corporal P. Benson, Signalman W. Murray, Signalman J. P. Tidswell, Corporal K. J. F. Scotland (captain), Lieutenant B. Haw, Corporal G. R. Baldson, Lance-Corporal J. W. Loughna, Signalman C. Clarke, Lance-Corporal R. H. Owen, Lance-Corporal R. Thomas, Signalman H. W. Roath, Lance-Corporal A. J. Capper and Signalman J. C. Smith.

RUGBY FOOTBALL

Waterloo at Blundellsands, 9th February, 1957
The Corps 6 pts., Waterloo 12 pts.

Despite a period of prolonged rain the Waterloo ground was in excellent condition and a very good gathering of spectators were treated to an entertaining and thrilling game.

Play was fast and open and the first try for Waterloo, coming from a set scrum on our line, was an excellent exhibition of a "push over" try. The conversion failed. Waterloo were now put under pressure which resulted in a penalty kick about which K. J. F. Scotland made no mistake.

Waterloo retaliated when Jamson beat our full back to the "touch down." Shortly afterwards K. J. F. Scotland dropped a goal to put us on even terms at half-time.

Waterloo had the edge on us in age and experience. Fitness might have won the day, but unfortunately A. Godson was injured in the second half, which indirectly led to Waterloo scoring twice.

The final whistle saw us battling on their goal-line. Jamson, Rimmer, Godfrey were outstanding for Waterloo, whilst on the Corps side Scotland, Godson and Benson were much in evidence.

Corps side: Signalman G. N. Evans, Signalman D. A. Williams, Lance-Corporal P. Benson, Second-Lieutenant M. F. Coleman, Second-Lieutenant A. Godson, Lance-Corporal K. J. F. Scotland, Lieutenant B. Haw, Second-Lieutenant M. Weatherley, Lance-Corporal J. Loughna, Lance-Corporal A. J. Capper, Lance-Corporal R. H. Owen, Lance-Corporal R. Thomas, Second-Lieutenant P. Wheeler, Second-Lieutenant R. Pitts, Signalman J. Smith.

(Rugby Notes continued at foot of the next column).



[Photo: Courtesy Daily Express]
Mr. J. Peters, Mr. K. Norris, Mr. Max Robertson, Major R. Findlay
(late Royal Signals)

"Jim Peters" Trophy

THE WIRE is indebted to the *Daily Express* and particularly to Major Robert Findlay, late of 56 London Divisional Signals and 25 and 26 Indian Divisional Signals, who is Sports Editor, for the photograph and permission to make extracts from that newspaper of March 7th. "The 'Jim Peters' Trophy was created by the *Daily Express* to commemorate the tremendous feat of Jim Peters at the Empire Games in Vancouver, 1954, when his valiant struggle to win the Marathon aroused the admiration of the world." By way of a national ballot, the trophy for 1956 was voted to Mr. Ken Norris, who will be well remembered as a most notable runner whilst serving with Royal Signals. He has, of course, enhanced his fame very much since. During 1956 Norris, among other notable successes, has won the 4½ miles "Round-the-Houses" race at Sao Paulo in Brazil. He went on to win International races at San Sebastian, Budapest and Prague. In the Olympics at Melbourne he finished fifth in the 10,000 metres race. Later in 1956 and during 1957 so far, his name has continually been in the newspapers as winner or near winner of cross-country races in the highest class.

It is interesting to note that Major Robert Findlay, in writing, says "that it may be of interest to Royal Signals that an ex-Signal type should be presenting the Trophy to a Signal type. I was with Combined Operations all during the war and served in the Middle East, Italy, Burma and Malaya with various Units." Three of these are mentioned at the beginning of the article.

Oxford University Greyhounds, Oxford,
14th February, 1957

The Corps 19 pts., Oxford Greyhounds 8 pts.

To quote the Oxford Mail: "Greyhounds soundly beaten. Royal Signals had more initiative."

Having lost both games against the LX Club and Greyhounds last season we had our revenge in beating both of them on their home grounds this year.

Unfortunately Lance-Corporal K. J. F. Scotland was injured in an Army game which necessitated moving Second-Lieutenant A. Godson to stand off and bringing Signalman J. P. Tidswell in on the wing.

It was a delightfully open game with the ball being thrown about continually. One of our tries, which was eventually scored by Second-Lieutenant P. Wheeler, must have passed through ten pairs of hands, and the movement commenced well in our own half.

Scorers: Kilminster and Morris with one conversion for the Greyhounds. Williams, Tidswell, Wheeler and Evans two conversions and two penalties for the Corps.

ROYAL SIGNALS CROSS COUNTRY

The Royal Signals team were fourth in the Junior Northern Counties Cross Country Championships, which were held at Morecambe on Saturday, 23rd February, 1957.

Weather conditions were really bad, there being a strong biting wind with snow, rain and sleet. The course, which had been churned up by three previous races, could not have been more muddy.

Considering the high standard of running the team did well to come fourth. Detailed results as follows:—

- 1st—Septon Harriers, 52 points.
2nd—Bramley and District Harriers, ?? points.
3rd—Macclesfield Harriers, 161 points.
4th—Royal Signals, 182 points.

Forty-two teams entered and there were approximately 250 starters.

Royal Signals Team finished as follows:—

Regt.	Name	Final Position	Time
2TR	Sigm. Williams	16	38 mins. 55 secs.
RSW	2/Lt. Harris	48	39 mins. 58secs.
1TR	Sigm. Turnbull	50	40 mins.
1TR	Sigm. Davis	58	41 mins.

182

1TR	Sigm. Butt	90	41 mins. 48 secs.
1TR	Cpl. Abbott	107	42 mins. 48 secs.
4TR	Cpl. Bright	—	—

Winning time approx. 35 minutes 10 seconds.

A Royal Signals Team has been entered for the English National Championships on 9th March. It will be the first time that Signals have competed in this event for some years.

ROYAL SIGNALS TENNIS

The Corps Tennis Tournament will be played at the Officers' Club, Catterick Camp, during the period Monday, 13th May, 1957, to Saturday, 18th May, 1957.

Events will be open singles; other ranks' singles; open doubles; other ranks' doubles; regimental doubles.

Entries for these events must be sent to Major T. L. Richards, Royal Signals, Officer Training Wing, School of Signals, Catterick Camp, Yorkshire, as early as possible before 7th May, 1957.

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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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MAY • 1957

Vol. 11 (New Series) No. 5



PRICE ONE SHILLING

Editorial

THE Annual Meeting of Branch Representatives of the Association took place in London on the 13th April. A report of the Meeting begins on page 151.

The Representative Colonel Commandant and the Signal Officer-in-Chief very kindly came to the Meeting and spoke to the assembled Representatives of Branches.

A brief report of their speeches follows:

MAJOR-GENERAL M. S. WHEATLEY, C.B., C.B.E.,
Signal Officer-in-Chief

"It was the year before last I had the honour of saying a few words to you—since then a lot of water has flowed under the bridge.

"If you remember, I was talking about the McLeod Committee, that Committee which has done so much for the Corps. I am pleased to tell you now that virtually all of the recommendations have now been implemented, and that the benefit to the Corps will gradually be felt, and the full benefit in about another year's time, when all the extra ranks have been taken up.

"With regret, as you know, we had to hand over to the Royal Engineers and the Royal Artillery the work of providing their own Signals. It is sad to sever the connections we have had, particularly with the Royal Artillery for so many years.

"We are setting up Training Schools in B.A.O.R. and in FARELF. The object of the Schools is to provide extra facilities for up-grading and trade training of which in the past have been lacking."

General Wheatley then gave some details of the new grades of Traffic Officer and Traffic Supervisor and of certain increases in rank of various appointments.

"We are not getting enough high grade tradesmen—there is an overall shortage. We are up against £15 to £25 a week civilian rates in industry. It is all very difficult. We have tried many schemes to try and encourage men with high qualifications to join and continue to serve in the Corps. We are trying very hard to obtain sufficient ex-tradesmen of the Corps to continue to serve as civilians, thus releasing the younger men for work which can be done only by soldiers. The Labour Exchanges have full details of what we want. I shall be grateful if branches would keep this matter in mind.

"The Boys' Regiment in Devonshire is now called the Junior Leaders Regiment. This change of name has been introduced to conform with the rest of the Army.

"I took a Passing-Out Parade recently, which was attended by various local dignitaries. The parade was first-class. If we are to keep up with the 'new look' of the Regular Army those who have joined the Corps as Boys will be as important as ever they were. It is vitally important that parents be informed of the excellence of the Regiment and encouraged to send their boys there. Arrangements are being made for Youth Liaison Officers to visit all types of schools to encourage boys to join the Regular Army through the Junior Leaders Regiments.

"I have been visiting a number of firms in the light electrical industry and have a good response to a suggestion that these firms should encourage young men to do their National Service in Royal Signals.

"A mobile display van to encourage recruiting for Royal Signals is now visiting many places in Eastern Command. If anyone who visits it has suggestions for making improvements I shall be glad to receive them.

"The latest information about Career prospects and civilian vacancies in the Army is always available from the Senior Personnel Officer Royal Signals—The War Office, Northumberland Avenue, London, S.W.1 (Tele.: WHI 9400 Ext. 115)."

The Signal Officer-in-Chief spoke about new equipment and the recent White Paper on Defence.

He concluded by mentioning the Royal Signals Booklet and hoped that a large number of copies would be bought by members of the Association.

MAJOR-GENERAL W. A. SCOTT, C.B., C.B.E.,
Representative Colonel Commandant

"It is several years since I was last able to come to one of these meetings and it is a great pleasure to be here again to see so many old friends.

"It is very good to hear that the Association is flourishing and the figures we heard for the last two years were very impressive.

"It is a good many years since the War ended and these things have a habit of dying, but this seems to be a dynamic Association which is still growing, still active, and people are making it do more and better things.

"We have all been wondering what is to happen to the Army in the future, and you all realise that General Wheatley has not told us everything. I am sure the Regular Corps will benefit from being smaller. It is overstretched. The Territorials will get some benefit from the proposed reorganisation. In between the Wars the best thing in the Territorial Army was the volunteer spirit—the worst thing was the lack of equipment. They are now going to have the best of both worlds. They will revert to a volunteer basis and they will have plenty of transport and plenty of equipment.

"These are very difficult times and I am sure the Corps is very lucky to have General Wheatley in the War Office to see the changes through.

"I have just been out to the Far East and spent a few days going round Units in Singapore and Malaya, meeting many old friends and ex-members of the Corps; quite a number are working for private firms in Malaya and they came to meet me at gatherings organised by Signal Units.

"It was good to see in Malaya, British soldiers and Malayan soldiers, Chinese, Indians, Gurkhas, all working together in Signal Regiments perfectly happily, not only men, but men and women in some Units, all with the same object, the same loyalty to the Queen and our Corps. Difference of race made no difference to them. A very worthy and wonderful example of the spirit that has made our Corps what it is and has kept this Association going."

Obituary

COLONEL ROBERT GILMOUR EARLE,
C.M.G., D.S.O., A.D.C.
Born 1874 — Died 1957

"Bobbie" Earle was commissioned in the Royal Engineers in 1894. True to the traditions of that many-sided Corps he served in turn as a Balloonist, a Field Sapper in South Africa, with a Field Troop at Aldershot and with the 2nd Q.V.O. Sappers and Miners at Bangalore, where he commanded a Company made up of specialist sections, one of which was a telegraph section.

In 1910 he did a Signal course at Poona prior to raising, mainly from personnel of the Sappers and Miners, the 34th Divisional Signal Company, one of the four original Signal Units in India.

On the outbreak of war in 1914 Earle was given the job of raising yet another Unit, the 35th Divisional Signal Company, which he took to France with the Meerut Division. Shortly after arrival in France he became Assistant Director, Army Signals of the Indian Corps.

Returning to England in 1915 he took over the organisation and training of the Signal Unit being raised at Haynes Park to serve the Headquarters of the Fourth Army, which was about to be formed in France. He became D.D.A.S., Fourth Army, under General Sir Henry (later Lord) Rawlinson, and held that appointment till the end of the war. He then returned to India, where he commanded the Signals of the Northern Army in the Afghan War.

Later, in 1919, when Lord Rawlinson had taken over as Commander-in-Chief in India, Colonel Earle was one of the Fourth Army hierarchy whom he, Lord Rawlinson,

assembled round him in Delhi and Simla. Earle served as Signal Officer-in-Chief, India, till 1924, when he came home to be Chief Signal Officer, Southern Command.

In 1929 he went from Salisbury to the War Office as G.S.O.1, S.D.6 (the equivalent then of the S.O.-in-C. of today), where he stayed till his retirement in 1931.

For his services in South Africa, Earle was mentioned in despatches; in World War I he was awarded the D.S.O. and was mentioned four times; in 1919 he was made a C.M.G.; he was A.D.C. to the King from 1923 and Honorary Colonel of the 43rd (Wessex) Divisional Signals (T.A.) 1929-1934.

Such is his record. Bare bones may be, but covering a multiplicity of tasks, responsibilities, experience and success. What is of greater moment to us, however, is the fact to which his record of service so clearly testifies, that he was one of the now diminishing band who set the tone to those who came after them and to whom the latter owe so much by way of example, tradition and repute. Colonel Earle was one of the "elder statesmen," the founder members of the new Corps whose leadership and guidance led to "Royal" being added to the title of the young Corps so soon after its birth.

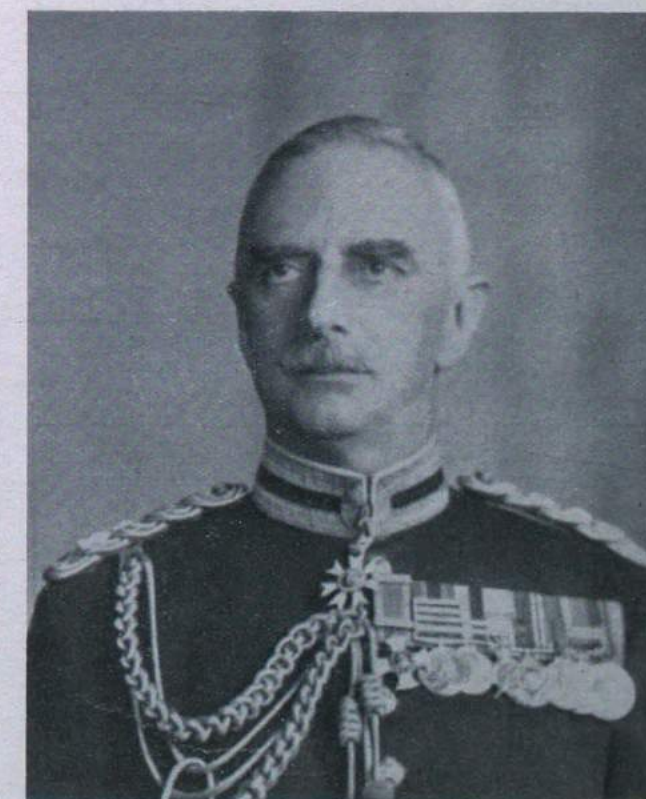
To know Bobby Earle was to love him; to serve with or under him was a privilege and a pleasure for all, whether British or Indian.

He thought the best of everybody and got the most out of them and out of life.

He was essentially a happy, kind and friendly man, who never lacked congenial company.

He was brought up to enjoy and appreciate a horse, with all that that meant in those days, but his real love was shooting and, in later life, fishing. It was a joy to be associated in any degree with his family life and the outdoor pursuits which brought him and his companions so much pleasure.

We extend to his widow, his son, daughter and grandchildren our deep and affectionate sympathy, together with our gratitude for his memory and his example of cheerful selfless service.



LIEUTENANT-COLONEL N. E. STEELEY, TD., J.P.

We regret to announce the death of Lieutenant-Colonel N. E. Steeley, who served for many years with the 48th Divisional Signals, T.A.

Steeley started his soldiering in September, 1914, when he joined the 1st Birmingham City Battalion of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment. He was commissioned in the Royal Artillery and served for the remainder of the Great War in the R.F.A. in France and Mesopotamia.

In 1923 he joined the 48th (South Midlands) Divisional Signals, T.A., and was with his Unit until 1933, when he transferred to the T.A.R.O.

Early in 1939 he returned to the Active List and was Second-in-Command of the 48th's duplicate Unit—the 61st Divisional Signals—until the end of 1940. He then served for a year as an S.O.2 on the C.S.O.'s staff at H.Q., Southern Command. From December, 1941, until the end of the War Steeley was employed on technical equipment at the Ministry of Supply.

He was Managing Director of P. J. Evans, Ltd., the well-known Birmingham firm of motor agents, and a Justice of the Peace for Sutton Coldfield.

MAJOR F. A. CAMIN

His friends in Royal Signals will have been sad to hear of his sudden death on 6th April, 1957, at his home, 113, Abbotts Walk, Bexley Heath, Kent. Joining Royal Signals in 1925, he was commissioned from the rank of C.Q.M.S. in 1941 and served on until retirement in 1949, being then a Major. After a short experience of civil life he returned to the Corps in 1951 with a Short Service Commission as Captain; from this he left finally in August, 1954, being appointed to the rank of Major.

Editorial Continued

H.M. The Queen has been graciously pleased to approve the affiliation of the 51st Highland Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A., and the 17th Gurkha Divisional Signal Regiment Brigade of Gurkhas.

Roll of Honour — Royal Military Memorial Chapel, Sandhurst

The 64th meeting of the Corps Committee has decided that a photostat copy of the Frontispiece and the Roll of Honour of Officers of the Royal Corps of Signals and of the Indian Signal Corps are to be obtained and placed in Catterick—a suitable place.

The Rhodesia and Nyasaland Corps of Signals, the formation of which was notified in the *London Gazette* of 8th February and to the 64th meeting of the Corps Committee on 13th March. The Corps Committee has decided that a piece of silver should be presented to this the newest of the Signal Corps of the Commonwealth.

Amid scenes of unparalled enthusiasm

3 TRAINING REGIMENT

won the

NORTHERN COMMAND ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL CUP

by beating 7 Royal Tank Regiment by 3 goals to 2.

PERSONAL COLUMN

London Gazette

26th March, 1957.

REGULAR ARMY

The undermentioned Lieutenants (T.O.T.s) from Short Service Commissions to be Lieutenants (T.O.T.s), 17th October, 1956:—

Alfred Rander.
Clive Kenneth Otter.
Peter Thompson.
Royal Dudley Willingale.
Norman William Merrifield.

TERRITORIAL ARMY

Major P. R. Hoskins to be Lieutenant-Colonel, 7th March, 1957.

29th March, 1957.

Brigadier William Russell Smith-Windham, C.B.E., D.S.O., is appointed Aide-de-Camp to The Queen, 4th December, 1956, in succession to Major-General Leslie de Malapert Thuillier, O.B.E.

REGULAR ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS

Lieutenant-Colonel S. J. Lovegrove, T.D., from A.E. Reserve of Officers to be Lieutenant-Colonel, 21st February, 1957.

TERRITORIAL ARMY

Lieutenant-Colonel The Viscount Malden, T.D., to be Honorary Colonel Middlesex Yeomanry Signal Regiment, 6th April, 1957, vice Brigadier B. B. Kennett, C.B.E., tenure expired.

2nd April, 1957.

REGULAR ARMY

Major G. A. Dutton to R.A.R.O., 1st April, 1957, granted the hon. rank of Lieutenant-Colonel.

Major (Q.M.) A. M. Lynch relinquishes his commission on completion of service, 1st April, 1957.

Major L. H. Caldicott, M.B.E., T.D., relinquishes his commission on completion of service, 1st April, 1957.

12th April, 1957

REGULAR ARMY

Captain H. E. Roper, B.Sc., to be Major, 6th April, 1957.
Lieutenant (T.O.T.) W. Ellis to be Captain (T.O.T.), 5th April, 1957.

Movements — Officers

Major (T.O.T.) W. Brewin, FARELF to Northern Command.
Major (Q.M.) S. L. Gant, The War Office to M.E.L.F.
Major (T.O.T.) N. Shepherd, Northern Command to FARELF.
Major J. K. Brown, B.A.O.R. to M.E.L.F.
Lieutenant-Colonel H. J. Thompson, M.E.L.F. to Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment (T.A.).

Major J. Knowles, M.E.L.F. to B.A.O.R.
Major J. I. Parkinson, ALFCE to Depot (HS).
Lieutenant (T.O.T.) C. Brodley, School of Signals to B.A.O.R.
Captain (T.O.T.) P. R. Moores, Western Command Signal Squadron to School of Signals.

Major J. de D. Yule, B.A.O.R. to Cyprus.
Lieutenant (Q.M.) G. J. Bevan, First Commission to Corps Signal Regiment (T.A.).

Lieutenant (Q.M.) R. S. Etherington, First Commission to Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment.

Lieutenant (T.O.T.) J. Harwood, B.A.O.R. to M.E.L.F.
Captain (Traffic Officer) D. Herberts, FARELF to ALFCE Signal Squadron.

Lieutenant (Traffic Officer) T. A. Hipperson, First Commission to East Africa.

Major (T.O.T.) W. Millichip, 5 Training Regiment to FARELF.
Major T. I. Ronald, B.A.O.R. to Depot (HS).

Major H. L. H. Taylor, Depot Regiment to Home Counties District Signal Regiment (T.A.).

Major L. F. Ball, War Office to M.E.L.F.
Major C. G. Sandys, O.T.W. School of Signals to B.A.O.R.

Major (Q.M.) A. A. J. Fraser, Corps Signal Regiment (T.A.) to FARELF.
Major R. O. Wilson, Corps Signal Regiment (T.A.) to B.A.O.R.

Arrivals and Departures

COMCAN Signal Troop, Accra

Arrivals: Staff Sergeants Swaby and Smith, and Sergeant Barker.
Departures: F. of S. Soward, Sergeant Turiff.

Officer Training Wing, School of Signals

Arrivals: Sergeant S. H. Clark and A/Sergeant R. N. L. Cassling.
Departures: W.O.I. H. W. Newsham.

19 Army Group Signal Regiment

Arrivals: Majors C. M. Jenkins and C. Mitchell, Captain D. N. Urquhart.
Lieutenant J. H. Powlesland, R.E.M.E., W.O.s.II Jones, Richards, and Sergeant Maher.

Departures: Major J. C. Alcock, Captain A. D. Whittaker, R.E.M.E., W.O.II Skinner.

12 Air Formation Signal Regiment

Arrivals: Major R. R. Morrison, M.B.E., R.S.M. R. A. Boddington.
Departures: R.S.M. W. G. Finch, Staff Sergeant R. P. Murray.

3rd Training Regiment

Arrivals: Major L. S. McCarthy.
Departures: Captain R. J. Savage, Staff Sergeant Scrafton.

2 Wireless Regiment

Arrivals: W.O.II F. M. Raynor, Sergeants D. G. Cox and C. D. Edgar.
Departures: Staff Sergeant E. A. Grint.

Births

PICKARD.—To Sergeant and Mrs. G. Pickard, a daughter, Michele Ann, on 23rd March, 1957, at B.M.H., Nairobi, Kenya.

GWYNNE.—To Sergeant and Mrs. J. L. Gwynne, a daughter, Angela Joy, on 4th March, 1957, at B.M.H., Iserlohn.

WRIGHT.—To Sergeant and Mrs. H. E. Wright, on 27th February, 1957, at Newark, a son, Stephen John.

BENTHAM.—To Sergeant and Mrs. Bentham (R.A.P.C.), at Newark, on 25th February, 1957, a daughter, Christine Ann.

FISH.—To Corporal and Mrs. Fish, at Newark, on 26th February, 1957, a son Michael John.

Marriages

TOWNSEND—EVANS.—Signalman B. Townsend to Miss Brenda Evans, at Tonypany, on 9th March, 1957.

BLYTH—TAYLOR.—Sergeant Blythe to Miss Brenda Taylor, at Derby, on 23rd February, 1957.

FARRELLY—McMAIN.—Corporal Farrelly to Miss Doreen McMain, at Darlington on 2nd March, 1957.

Deaths

EARLE.—Colonel Robert Gilmour Earle, on 22nd March, at Bodenham, Wilts, aged 82.

CAMIN.—At his home, 113, Abbotts Walk, Bexley Heath, Kent, on 6th April, 1957, Major F. A. Camin. He served in Royal Signals 1925-1949 and 1951-1954, and was a Life Member of the Association.

PRICE.—Ex-Signalman R. Price, of 7, Kipling Avenue, Blackhall Colliery, West Hartlepool, Co. Durham, on 12th January, 1957, aged 26.

TURNER.—Ex-Driver H. Turner, of Crosland Hall Farm, Healy House, Netherton, Huddersfield, on 27th March, 1957, aged 49.

STEELEY.—On 7th April, 1957, Lieutenant-Colonel Norman Ellis Steeley, T.D., J.P. of Sutton Coldfield, Warwickshire, aged 63 years (formerly 48th Divisional Signals, T.A.).

Mr. S. T. Parker is now the Landlord of the Cross Keys Inn, Huttoft, Alford, Lincolnshire. He will be remembered as Squadron Sergeant-Major in the 1st Training Regiment, and especially to those who served in A Corps Signals in India 1935-43.

Major J. Broadley, Superintendent, War Veterans' Home, "Britomart House," 135, Britomart Street, Berhampore, Wellington, S.I., New Zealand.

The above named served with the Corps from the early 1920's until 1950. He would like to hear from any old friends of Royal Signals.

Forthcoming Events

A.L.F. (S.E.A.C.) SIGNAL REUNION

Reggiori's Restaurant, Euston Road (opposite King's Cross Station), 18th May, 1957, at 7 p.m. Tickets from H. Wardall, Whitegates, Weston Green Road, Weston Green, Surrey.

Visit of Royal Signals Band to South Wales Outline Programme

Wednesday, 22nd May.—Royal Signals Dance at Sophia Gardens Pavilion, Cardiff. Dancing from 8 p.m. to midnight. Admission will be by ticket only. Details are not yet firm.

Thursday, 23rd May.—Port Talbot Branch of Royal Signals Association. Band Concert in the Hall of the College of Further Education, Port Talbot. Admission by ticket (available from Hon. Secretary, Port Talbot Branch).

Friday, 24th May.—Band Concert in Cardiff.

Corps Dinner 29th May 1957

Regular Officers' "At Home" 30th May, 1957

This will NOT be published in the LONDON and SCOTTISH Press as hitherto.

Catterick Reunion and A.G.M. ... 29th—30th June, 1957

Scottish Reunion

Dreghorn Camp, Edinburgh 17th/18th August, 1957

Saturday, 17th August

3 p.m. to 6 p.m. Reception arrangements.

6.00 p.m. The Playing of Retreat.

8.00 p.m. Sergeants' Mess and All Ranks' Dance.

Sunday, 18th August

11.00 a.m. Church Parade Service and March Past.

1.00 p.m. Lunch.

2.30 to 5 p.m. Gala.

National Radio Show

Earls Court, London, from 28th August to 7th September, 1957.

West Country Reunion ... 28th—29th September, 1957

Corps Band Summer Tour 1957

Touring Band

21st May—23rd May	...	O.C.A., South Wales
26th May—1st June	...	Victoria Embankment Gardens
29th May ...	...	Corps Dinner
2nd June—8th June	...	Kneller Hall
9th June—22nd June	...	Eastbourne
23rd June—30th June	...	O.C.A., Catterick
1st July—6th July	...	York Festival
7th July ...	...	Gateshead
8th July—14th July	...	Edinburgh
15th July—20th July	...	Dunfermline

Non-Touring Band

21st May ...	...	Quick Silver Guest Night
25th May—27th May	...	Loughborough
29th May—1st June	...	Eastern Command
2nd June—8th June	...	Kneller Hall
15th June—17th June	...	On offer to 3 Training Regiment, Lincoln
16th July	...	Newcastle, H.R.H. Princess Royal

ROYAL SIGNALS LAWN TENNIS—1957 FIXTURES

June 5	Royal Army Ordnance Corps	...	Officers' Club, Catterick
June 19	Welbeck College	...	Workshop
July 11	Royal Engineers	...	Officers' Club, Catterick
July 17	Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst	...	Sandhurst

PROMOTIONS

The following substantive promotions were authorised during the month of March, 1957:—

TRADES ROSTER

TO WARRANT OFFICER I

2323799	A/W.O.I	(2060)	Greenstreet, R. S.
2324486	A/W.O.I	(2100)	Holdsworth, J.

TO WARRANT OFFICER II

317909	Staff Sgt.	(3280)	Sneddon, T.
1454400	Staff Sgt.	(3910)	Jenkins, T. H.

TO STAFF SERGEANT

14462156	Sgt.	(4270)	Gamble, F. G.
2548198	Sgt.	(4300)	Buckle, T. E.
14033785	Sgt.	(4320)	Horbury, J.
2340152	Sgt.	(4440)	Lawson, A. M.
22242723	A/Staff Sgt.	(4650)	Morgan, L. R.
22231203	A/Staff Sgt.	(4680)	Lawlor, F.
2325752	Sgt.	(4840)	Arthur, W. J.
2339538	Sgt.	(5130)	Meese, M. O.
4032587	Sgt.	(5200)	Crabbe, A. J.

TO SERGEANT

19048080	A/Sgt.	(2190)	Abbey, H.
22792008	A/Sgt.	(12060)	Block, R. H.
2549616	A/Sgt.	(2600)	Richardson, J. S.
22285640	A/Sgt.	(4250)	Greaves, G.
22295475	A/Sgt.	(18040)	Coleman, A. L. C.
22798481	Cpl.	(34340)	Cooper R. J.

PROMOTIONS TO SERGEANT continued

22212276	A/Sgt.	(2090)	Larkin, C. A.
22515880	A/Sgt.	(12050)	Tanner, D. J.
14191894	A/Sgt.	(2430)	Gwynne, J. L.
22243174	Cpl.	(3040)	Seddon, H.
22280527	A/Sgt.	(4330)	Haley, T.
22212599	Cpl.	(5320)	Humphreys, B. T.
22525218	Cpl.	(34022)	De-La-Haye, P. W.
22537989	Cpl.	(32290)	Cotillard, A. S.
22212631	A/Sgt.	(1360)	Lahan, R.
23212723	A/Sgt.	(32091)	Arrowsmith, L.
22548559	Cpl.	(51011)	Henry, D.
22212501	A/Sgt.	(1750)	Thompson, D. O.
22296100	Cpl.	(18210)	Tindale, A.
2549489	A/Sgt.	(22010)	Martin, R.
22526342	Cpl.	(36950)	Palmer, P. W.
22475110	Cpl.	(27550)	Woods, G.
22515547	A/Sgt.	(4300)	Smith, T. C.
22246009	Cpl.	(22900)	Hill, B. P.
22296156	Cpl.	(20780)	Anderson, J. D.
19047931	Cpl.	(18791)	Paddon, L. W.
2549634	Cpl.	(4030)	Sherman, P. B.
2328507	Cpl.	(28740)	Topen, A.
22847076	Cpl.	(32560)	Stephens, C. E.
22773431	A/Sgt.	(24040)	Murray, A. A.

FOREMEN OF SIGNALS ROSTER

To WARRANT OFFICER I

2548649 W.O.II (320) Churchill, L. R.

The following accelerated promotion was authorised during the month of March, 1957:—

TRADES ROSTER

To STAFF SERGEANT

22018308 Sgt. (674) Boyle, H. K.

E. K. COLE Ltd.

Opportunities for employment

E. K. Cole Ltd. are manufacturers of Ekco Radio and Television Receivers. In addition, a large part of the Company's activities are devoted to the development and production of electronics equipment covering a wide field.

There are considerable opportunities at both the Southend-on-Sea and Malmesbury, Wilts., factories, for ex-service personnel, particularly those with communications or radar experience. Vacancies exist for all types of experienced men at all grades, from instrument makers and repairers, to design and development engineers.

The Personnel Managers at both these factories will be pleased to discuss the possibilities of employment with any service personnel about to complete their engagement with the Forces. This also applies to females.

JUNIOR WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY OPERATORS

required by FALKLAND ISLANDS DEPENDENCIES ADMINISTRATION for service in SOUTH GEORGIA for one tour of three years in the first instance. Salary according to age and experience in scale £420 rising to £520 a year. Free board and lodging. Free passages. Liberal leave on full salary. Candidates preferably SINGLE and must be able to transmit and receive morse at 25 w.p.m. They should be familiar with HF and MF transmitters. P.M.G. Cert. an advantage. Selected candidates to leave U.K. August, 1957. Write to the Crown Agents, 4, Millbank, London, S.W.1. State age, name in block letters, full qualifications and experience and quote M2C/41977/WS.

Careers and Opportunity

(IMPORTANT: Anyone obtaining employment through answering advertisements in THE WIRE MUST notify the Employment Section, Royal Signals Association, 88, Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1.

Members are reminded that they can ensure prompt notification of any vacancies likely to suit them by registering with the Employment Section. Jobs advertised in THE WIRE are only a small proportion of those received).

Good openings for Graduates with First or Second Class Honours Degrees in Electrical Engineering, Physics or Mathematics, interested in research and development work (Electronic Instrumentation, Electronic Switching, Computer Work). Younger men with these qualifications may be granted Scholarships to University of Southampton, Imperial College, London, or Edinburgh University, to study for Diploma in Electronics. Write Personnel Officer, Ericsson Telephones, Ltd., Beeston, Notts.

Employment Figures for Quarter Ending 31st March, 1957

New applicants registered	...	...	...	64
Placings confirmed	...	...	...	30
General queries answered	...	...	...	114

N.B.—Particular attention is drawn to the note at the head of this column. Many of those who take advantage of the Association's Employment Service, either by direct enquiry or by answering advertisements, fail to report the result. The figure showing successful placings would undoubtedly be much higher if all members would co-operate as requested, and Association Headquarters would be saved much unnecessary work.

Another advertisement affecting Careers faces page 160.

Junior Leaders Regiment



(Photographs by courtesy: H. R. Rivers, Fore Street Studios, Chudleigh, Devon)



After a term of mild but unusually wet weather, the sun broke through during the last week end enabled the Presentation Parade to be held on a warm and sunny spring day.

The presentations were made by Major-General M. S. Wheatley, C.B., C.B.E., M.I.E.E., and the parade was commanded by Junior S.S.M. Galloway.

The S.O.-in-C.'s Trophies, which are now represented by silver challenge cups, were won by "H" Troop in the Senior competition and by "F" Troop for the Juniors. "H" Troop will be leaving the Regiment this term for their trade training and can be justly proud of their achievements in this competition, as they were also winners at Easter, 1956.

The Commandant's Trophy for the best all-round Boy was won by Junior/Corporal Wigfield, of "G" Troop, and the Metcalfe Trophy for the best boxing performance of the season was won by Junior/Lance-Corporal Steel.

This term has been notable for the keenness and enthusiasm shown by all Boys in Rugby football. Apart from a period of

three weeks during the middle of the term, when heavy rains made the sports fields unfit for play, both rugby pitches have been in continual use. The 1 Squadron team reached the semi-final of the Boys' Army Cup and narrowly lost to bigger and more experienced opponents at the Army Apprentices' School, Chepstow. The Inter-Troop competition produced some stern battles played with skill and enthusiasm and, as several members of this term's Regimental team will be with us next season, we look forward to even better fortune next year. During the last week of term, as a result of a challenge, the Boys played a team of Officers. One or two rather elderly gentlemen turned out for the Officers' team and just managed to last out until the final whistle, by which time the score was 24-6 in favour of the Officers.

The Regiment will have started its second summer term in Devonshire by the time these notes are published. Summer Camp, Parents' Day, canoeing, sailing and many other activities have all been planned, so that all we now require is some really good Devonshire weather.





☆
Officers, Warrant Officers
and
Senior N.C.O.s of 4 (Indep) Squadron
☆

4 TRAINING REGIMENT

Just before his departure to take up another appointment the Commander of the Training Brigade, Royal Signals, Brigadier G. S. Knox, O.B.E., presented the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal to W.O.II (S.S.M.) Kempton, at a Regimental Parade held for the occasion. Eighteen years' service is a distinction valued far too little in this day and age; we pause to wonder how many of the people who say "Not me" would prove over that period to have the qualities of leadership and all-round ability required to equal S.S.M. Kempton's record.

Amongst recent departures from our ranks is Major J. A. Waite, our Chief Instructor, who has spent three busy years in the Regiment. During this time the whole trade structure of Royal Signals has altered completely and no less than four new trades were added to those taught here. Major Waite has been responsible for much of the resulting reorganisation and it is mainly due to his efforts that the change-over has gone according to plan. We wish Major and Mrs. Waite the best of good fortune in their new station. Major J. C. Garlick who recently joined the Regiment, has become the new Chief Instructor.

In the past nine months the Regiment's notes have contained references to our Squadron at Brighton, a resort to which they seemed keen to go when the move was under discussion. We suspected that the reasons for this ardour were not entirely either military or technical, and now they have come out with their own contribution to this magazine and we find we were right!

4 (Indep.) Signal Squadron Notes

These notes are our first contribution under our new title, but many Cipher Operators of the Corps will remember us as the O.K.C. Squadron of the 4 Training Regiment.

It is stressed that the Squadron is still part of 4 Training Regiment, although the parental apron strings have been lengthened, to enable us to move to our new location in Preston Barracks, Brighton. The actual move of the Squadron took place in August, 1956, and due to a rather tight programme, the change of station was effected without any break in training, although our consumption of midnight oil was rather high.

Our new barracks combine the best of accommodation and excellent training facilities, but the security precautions have caused many different ideas as to the role of the Squadron, especially from the local inhabitants of the Barracks. So far our answer to all queries on this point, has been "No Comment."

The morale of the Squadron has jumped, and trainees are beginning to view their course examinations with mixed feelings, as when the time for posting draws near, a certain amount of anticipation is apparent, as to whether their new station will have the same amenities. "Doctor Brighton" can cure a lot of ailments.

Sports Grounds are limited but progress is being made in this direction; full use is being made of all available sports facilities.

Now that the "settling in" period has passed plans have been completed for Phase TWO of the move, when we occupy the whole of the Barracks, and then welcome our associated Elec-

tronic Technicians from 1 Training Regiment. This will happen when alternative accommodation has been built for another organisation who now share the Barracks.

2 TRAINING REGIMENT

The sporting banners of the Regiment have been temporarily lowered, and just to be different let it be known that we have lost the Northern Command, Northumbrian District, and the District League trophies, and all in the final ties. The panygeric is simply told, "We were slightly outclassed," but that was 1956/57. I am more than confident that 57/58 will be a little different—we have started laying the foundations already.

Boxing is still well to the fore, nine of the Regimental team will be doing battle for the Command v. Western Command this week. A lot of credit for their physical prowess must go to our messing personnel, and just to show that it was no "flash in the pan" our Cookery team, composed of Corporal Miller, Privates Coletti and Robson were awarded second place in the District Cookery Championships. Well done!

Hockey is as keenly played as ever, and we are at present second in the District League, only 7 R.T.R. have been our masters. Captain John Heyes has been a most welcome addition, and certainly added life and zest to the team of "Anno Domini's" in addition to scoring goals. This record is just to show that we are still keeping the Corps in the picture.

A warm welcome is extended to our new R.S.M., L. J. Taylor and Mrs. Taylor. Already the leasehold property of the Regiment has been handed over to him—the Square and the C.O.'s verandah—and to make sure that there are no encroachments, his quarter is seven paces from the edge of the Square and in direct view of the verandah. To his predecessor, now Lieutenant (Q.M.) Etherington, we endorse in writing the nice things we said about you before you left, and best wishes for the future are extended to you and your family.

To all those interested in office vacancies, without prejudice to A.G.II, the following are due to leave the Unit within the next few months: Major L. Beaumont, our Adjutant, Captain A. French, O.C. 1, and Lieutenant W. Foley, both to B.A.O.R. It must, in fairness to the Adjutant, be known that he travels always complete with Q.R.s and M.M.L. and amendments, and that his favourite colours are green and red.

Class One upgrading courses. Yes, they are being run here in the Regiment. Lineman Field and OH and there's certainly a lot of brain scratching in progress. The Chief Instructor is Major R. Wythe ably assisted by Captains Luker and Farmery, not forgetting, of course, N.C.O. Instructors.

To his many friends in and retired from the Corps, Major V. King (R.O.III) sends his best wishes. Apart from being P.R.I. he is now the Recruiting Officer. Since he removed his gardening tools from his office, especially the scythes, recruiting has improved. He still thinks eight and four is the only solution to recruiting.

We must not forget the ladies. The meetings are still well attended and the funds flourishing, and that Wednesday evening eagerly awaited—by whom?



Brigadier E. D. Good, C.B.E., with the Warrant Officer and Sergeants, 5 Training Regiment

5 TRAINING REGIMENT

Brigadier E. D. Good, C.B.E., carried out the Annual Administrative Inspection of the Regiment on 5th April, 1957, and we are most happy to say that everything went off very smoothly, much to the relief of all concerned.

Much hard work had been put in by All Ranks to make the Barracks, Stores and Billets a credit to our Commanding Officer, and judging by the Brigadier's remarks at the end of the Parade, our efforts did not go unnoticed.

W.O.II A. R. MacDonald and Staff Sergeant D. C. Maynard (R.E.M.E.) were presented with their Long Service and Good Conduct Medal by the Brigadier, having completed 18 years of very happy soldiering.

The W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess were honoured by the Brigadier's presence in the Mess to afternoon tea (apparently the Mess must have run out of anything stronger) and graced a photograph of all Mess members in the company of the C.O., Lieutenant-Colonel A. H. Costen, the 2 i/c Major, Sergeant Hodgson, the D.A.Q.M.G. Major D. Bond, the Supervising Officer, Major D. K. P. Hannigan, and the Adjutant, Captain P. Mallin.

So for a "wee" while we can sit back upon our laurels and consider an even better "Admin" next year.

A poet of note in the years gone by quoted that "In Spring-time a young man's fancy lightly turns to love." This verse is not quoted in the Highway Code, though some of our young trainees seem to think so, judging by the bent and battered mudguards on some of our vehicles and motor cycles. It must be that the perfume of the blossom, which is growing so abundantly in Yorkshire this year, has affected their nostrils—and their sense of judgment. Never mind, it's all in a good cause, as one cannot blame a trainee being distracted by all the beauty of this lovely county. Even the most disinterested gardener seems to enjoy competing with his neighbour to produce a well laid-out and well stocked garden. It must be something to do with the Yorkshire character.



O. T. W.

Lieutenant Colonel
C. H. Howarth,
O.B.E., T.D.
and others
with the Corporals of
the Officers Training
Wing, School of Signals

Photo by Courtesy of
A. J. Glover, Richmond

Our Unit hockey team unfortunately lost the Northern Command final and Army Cup match against Royal Signals Wing 2-0; as the losers, we can say that we lost to a better and faster moving side. Mrs. J. E. S. Sanders kindly gave away the Northern Command Cup and Medals.

Our Rugger team is to play 1 Training Regiment in the final of the Northumbrian District Rugger Cup and the match is due to be played in the next week or so.

3 TRAINING REGIMENT

The main event of the past month has been the Regimental Rifle Meeting in which almost the whole Regiment took part. Despite the biting cold winds blowing right across the ranges, exceptionally good all-round results were obtained. No. 1 Squadron again won the Inter Squadron Rifle Cup, and H.Q. Squadron were the Aggregate winners. Major C. E. Kilminster, the Adjutant, proved himself the best individual shot of the Regiment, and Corporals Jewitt and Peat obtained very good scores.

Saturday, 6th April, saw the inauguration of the Regimental Families' Club at Newark. The opening ceremony was performed by the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel A. C. R. Stead, O.B.E., Royal Signals. A large bow of red ribbon had been stretched across the entrance to the Club and as the Commanding Officer cut it a voice was heard to mutter "That's the fastest cutting of red tape I've seen in the U.K." A social evening followed and now the Club serves a most useful purpose for the large number of families still quartered in Newark. The Ladies' Club has also now been re-opened and the meetings so successful in Catterick have been resumed.

At Rugger the Regimental Seven-a-side team won the North Midland District Tournament, beating R.A.O.C., Chilwell, 8-3. In a thrilling Hockey match, Officers v. Warrant Officers and Sergeants, the result was a draw 3-3 after extra time. One of the umpires was Mr. S. H. Knight, who will be remembered by many Frontier Veterans as "June" Knight, ex-Boy of 1924 vintage and now one of our Civilian Instructors.

Congratulations to Staff Sergeants Arthur, Lawson and Ocroft on their substantive promotions.

JUNIOR LEADERS' REGIMENT

Presentation Parade

A Retired Territorial Army signal officer in the West Country who used to contribute to THE WIRE under the pseudonym "Old Spark," writes:—

"I was privileged to witness the Presentation Parade of the Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Signals at the Rawlinson Barracks, Newton Abbot, Devon, on Thursday, the 4th April last. This event took place in lovely weather—a real springlike Devonshire day—amid beautiful rural surroundings which made a nice frame for a good picture. I was thrilled to see how those happy, healthy boys acquitted themselves. The "Boy" N.C.O.s carried out the duties of Officers, Regimental Sergeant Major, etc., and they did it well: they never failed nor faltered and the Parade was as steady as a rock. It was something I was glad to see and shall remember for many a long day."

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RICHMOND, YORKS.



Signalman Blackmore, Major General M. S. Wheatley, C.B., C.B.E. (Signal Officer-in-Chief) and Major A. B. Dryland (O.C. 16 Independent Parachute Brigade Group Signal Squadron).

AN UNUSUAL HONOUR

The French airborne authorities recently awarded their very decorative parachute emblems to four members of 16 Independent Parachute Brigade Group Signal Squadron. Two were awarded to men who parachuted into action, as a rear link wireless detachment, with the 2nd French Parachute Battalion at Port Said; these were Signalmen Blackmore and Herrington. The other two went to Corporal Griffin and Signalman Middleton, who, while standing by to parachute with the French as part of an air contact team, completed the whole French parachute course. The Signal Officer-in-Chief is seen, in the photograph above, presenting the emblem to Signalman Blackmore.

EASTERN COMMAND SIGNAL SQUADRON

This month has been something of an in between period for the Squadron, whereupon the winter activities have subsided and the summer ones have not yet commenced. The general lull may be attributed to the fact that Training Troop, commanded by Major J. B. Stewart have had the responsibility of opening a summer camp for all T.A. Signal Units within the Command for training at Stiffkey, and thus have not been able to devote their attentions to the Squadron way of life.

One of our recent acquisitions in the Unit is a Wireless Set No. 1, and it is hoped in due course to acquire through the same channels a Wireless Set No. 9 (readers must realise that the location of the Unit is in a quiet backwater of Sussex, so anything may happen). With these two pieces of equipment some of the older hands threaten to establish communications where the Command vehicles have failed. This is viewed with scepticism by the more modern element, so we are waiting for further developments along this line.

In the sporting field, due to the lack of available transport, we have been restricted to sports within the Unit, and a football match between the N.C.O.s and O.R.s ended, it is believed, with a 15-5 win for the O.R.s, but the final score is open to discussion.

Our other sporting activity was a cross-country meeting on our ground, where the Unit team was third out of three, although mention must be made of Corporal Jones, who did quite well for our team.

Whether it is the effect of the premature spring weather, or the fact that it is the end of the financial year, but something brought a glut of weddings this month. We extend our congratulations to Sergeant Tarse, Corporal Avent, Lance-Corporals Lee and Dubois and their respective wives and wish them all the very best for the future.

At this stage we should like to offer our congratulations to Lance-Corporal Frodsham on the birth of a son, and Signalman Hawkins on the birth of a daughter.

3 DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

A brief résumé of some of the history of this famous Regiment will be published in this and subsequent numbers of THE WIRE.

3rd Divisional Signals were formed under Captain C. H. PRICKETT* at Aldershot in 1908. 1st and 2nd Divisional Signals were also formed at Aldershot at the same time, but 3rd Divisional Signals differed from the other two Units in that the Brigade Sections were not quartered with the H.Q. Section but were detached with their parent Infantry Brigades and only joined the H.Q. Section for the annual training camp. Thus, at the end of 1908, when H.Q., 3rd Divisional Signals moved to Bulford Camp, the Brigade Sections were deployed at Tidworth, Devonport and Portsmouth respectively.

The H.Q. Section of 3rd Divisional Signals remained at Bulford until August, 1914, when it went to France, still under command of Captain C. H. Prickett. In early 1916, Captain Prickett returned to England to form 2nd Corps Signals and handed over command of 3rd Divisional Signals to Captain Johnston.

There is no recorded history of the period of command of Captain Johnston from early 1916 until the end of the war in 1918. Suffice to say that the 3rd Division and its Divisional Signals remained in action throughout.

After the end of the 1914-18 war the Divisional Signals were temporarily disbanded.

3rd Divisional Signals was re-formed by Major E. N. Fortescue-Hitchins* at Bulford Camp in April, 1920. On Major Fortescue-Hitchins' arrival the Unit consisted of some 50 Other Ranks and 10 horses commanded by a temporary Officer, Lieutenant Shellock, and assisted by an Acting C.S.M. and some Corporals.

At the time of the coal strike in 1921 the Unit was suddenly augmented by five Officers who arrived from Maresfield, plus some 150 reservists and 40 horses and limbered wagons. Bedding, uniforms and harness all arrived at the same time without warning and there was no C.Q.M.S. to handle these stores. The reservists were rather disgruntled at being recalled to the Colours and were not very amenable. After a month or so the crisis died down and the reservists were released. Unfortunately a good deal of blankets and public clothing was also "liberated" at the same time, but fortunately, the subsequent Court of Enquiry wrote off the losses as a charge against the public.

During 1921 and 1922 the Unit was gradually increased in strength until February, 1923, when Major Fortescue-Hitchins left to command 2nd Divisional Signals at Aldershot and handed over 3rd Divisional Signals to Major C. W. Fladgate*.

In spite of the gradual increase in strength since re-forming in 1920 the Unit was still on practically a Cadre basis until the autumn of 1923. During the summer training season of 1923 the Unit could only manage to raise one Infantry and one R.A. Section. By the Spring of 1924, however, it was getting on towards full peace establishment. In 1924, Major Fladgate handed over command to Major R. Chevenix-Trench*.

(To be continued)

*Brigadier C. H. Prickett, D.S.O., who retired in 1934.

Brigadier E. N. Fortescue-Hitchins, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., who retired in 1941.

Major-General C. W. Fladgate, C.B.E., who retired in 1946.
Brigadier R. Chevenix-Trench, C.B., O.B.E., M.C., who retired in 1940.



The Secretary of State, accompanied by Major General J. B. Churcher, C.B., D.S.O., and Lieutenant Colonel M. D. Price, O.B.E., Royal Signals, acknowledges a salute.

3rd INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

The year has once more completed its eternal cycle and, after the autumn fall, our vehicles are again bursting forth into a fresh spring green.

1957 marks the centenary of Sir Edward Elgar, one of England's greatest composers, and, as there are many family ties in the Colchester area, the town set about marking the occasion in grand style. For this festival the London Symphony Orchestra, under the baton of Dr. Swinburne, together with some of the Royal Choral Society's leading soloists, came to Colchester and, together with the Colchester Choral Society, performed Elgar's famous oratorios, "The Dream of Gerontius," "The Apostles" and "The Kingdom." The result was a fine combination of orchestra and voice, which at all performances gave the music, and in particular the Elgar lover, a great experience. Besides the "live" concerts, there have been lectures and exhibitions in the Town Library, with daily gramophone recitals of such wonderful works as the famous "Enigma variations," "Wand of Youth Suites" and the "Chanson de Nuit." The town is certainly to be congratulated on making the festival such a great success.

In addition to the professional shows, the Garrison proudly presented its annual variety concert. The show ran for a week and all seats in the Garrison Theatre were sold out weeks in advance. The amateur talent present in the Garrison gave a wonderfully polished performance which had the audience enthralled throughout. Most Regiments in the Garrison were represented on the stage, and 3 Divisional Signal Regiment provided its full quota. Our Second-in-Command, Major Wheeler, ably played the part of a vindictive Chinese mandarin (thank goodness his powers of punishment are more restricted in this Regiment), while Lance-Corporal Glossop displayed astonishing agility and versatility in several dancing numbers. The all-important functions of stage lighting and sound were very effectively operated by Foreman of Signals Kimber and Staff Sergeant Hughes, and the Regiment also provided a full quota of other back-stage helpers and ushers.

The Revue was seen by both the Army Commander and the District Commander, who were highly pleased with the performance, and the B.B.C. itself sent down a talent scout, who promptly signed up a couple of turns for B.B.C. Television. Colchester Garrison certainly has every reason to be justifiably proud of its acting talent.

This month the Regiment was honoured by a visit (at five days' notice!) from the Secretary of State for War, Mr. John Hare, who was welcomed at the Guard Room by a General Salute from this Regiment's Guard of Honour. We are particularly proud of the fact that our G.O.C., Major-General J. B. Churcher, C.B., D.S.O., ordered that this, the only Guard of Honour provided in the 3rd Division for the Secretary of State for War, should be found from 3 Divisional Signal Regiment, and we are certain that Sergeant Mullin and his Guard lived up to this compliment.



The Secretary of State talks to Sergeant Duffy of 'C' Troop—a Suez "Veteran".

The "Communications Set Up" in the field outside the camp was, as usual on these occasions, accomplished in a typical Colchester monsoon, but was nonetheless impressive. After looking over the Regiment's ancient, but recently renovated barrack rooms, Mr. Hare was shown the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess and was persuaded, we hope, that it was much too small for our impressive body of Warrant Officers and senior N.C.O.s.

The trade training was completed this month and a gratifying proportion of the Regiment are now Class Two tradesmen. The forthcoming spring manoeuvres will no doubt be enhanced by the hard classroom study all ranks have put in over the winter months, and corrupt signals from 3 Division will, we hope, be a thing of the past.

The Regimental gardens, ably presided over by the R.S.M., have taken on a new look. At the expense of many blisters, the conglomeration of tufted grass and gorse, etc., have been replaced by multitudes of seed potatoes. However, the blisters will be a small penance compared to the great joy we hope will be experienced in the cookhouse when the ripened crop helps to swell the issue rations.

It is evident that a new "drill" manual is being taught at our illustrious Training Brigade. One of our new arrivals doing his first "stag" was approached by the Orderly Officer and told to turn out the Guard.

He immediately gave a very smart salute, a very smart pace forward and marched into the Guard Room, where he was heard by an extremely irate Orderly Officer to say, "Hey fellers, someone wants yer outside."

Recently we said goodbye to our Divisional Commander, Major-General J. B. Churcher, C.B., D.S.O. After inspecting a Guard of Honour, the General visited both the Officers' Mess and the Sergeants' Mess prior to his departure and was given a boisterous send-off. He expressed the opinion that this was the best Divisional Signal Regiment he had ever had under his Command. 2 Divisional Signals and 4 Divisional Signals please note!

Sport in the Regiment is flourishing, as usual. Second-Lieutenant Murray's basketball team, formed exclusively from 1 Squadron, have won six out of ten matches played, and are placed fourth in the Garrison League. The hockey team lost 1-2 in a hard battle against the West Yorkshire Regiment after two periods of extra time in the final of the Garrison Major Units' Knock-out Competition.

WAR OFFICE SIGNAL SQUADRON

It is with great pride that we announce to the world that we have accomplished the seemingly impossible task of moving the nine miles from Woolwich to Dulwich. The move had been planned for a year at least but it was not until the first weeks of March that operations began in earnest. Altogether,

all ran smoothly enough; the 24-hour shift at the War Office was, as far as is known, maintained without interruption and the Squadron 'bus driver has learnt to pilot himself successfully through the back streets of Brixton.

Since the last jottings were despatched for publication we have received a visit from Major-General L. de M. Thuillier and Colonel Ridley-Martin, of the Signals Directorate; and we have seen this month the sad departure of Second-Lieutenant A. G. Hearnden and Second-Lieutenant M. D. J. Hurn, who have been with the Squadron over a year. In their place we welcome Mr. J. A. Gilleland, from 2 L. of C. Signal Regiment, Germany, and Mr. J. V. Miles, from O.T.W., Catterick.

The sporting outlook is somewhat obscured; the Squadron soccer side has scored what looks like its last success of the season by defeating West Dulwich Police Cadets by the worthy score of 7-1. Cricket is not yet under way, particularly as difficulty is being experienced in finding a firm and level site for a net.



U.K. COMCAN SIGNAL REGIMENT

R.H.Q. and 1 Squadron. The month of March has proved fairly uneventful for the Unit, apart from a number of local social functions, which included an Anglo-American dance at Cheltenham; the Depot, The Gloucestershire Regiment's annual "Back Badge" Ball; and finally a dance held by the Unit Branch of the Royal Signals Association—all these events proved popular and provided some excellent entertainment.

We would like to congratulate Sergeant Crump on his recent promotion to his present rank.

During the past month we have said goodbye to Major and Mrs. J. V. Dearden, Second-Lieutenant R. L. Tyler and Sergeant and Mrs. Westerman, who have left the Unit.

A warm welcome is extended to Captain B. C. Toy, Captain P. D. Mootham, Sergeant Stanley and Sergeant Stowe, who have recently arrived in the Unit.

In the sporting sphere our boxing team continues to train hard. The team represented the Unit in a contest against the Avonmouth Smelting Company, at Avonmouth, on 23rd March, 1957, and although on paper the result (the Unit winning three bouts to Avonmouth's six) does not appear impressive, in actual fact our boxers all gave good accounts of themselves and the majority of the decisions were very close indeed.

We would like to express our gratitude to Gurkha Signals and Federation Signals for the plaques which they have so kindly sent for display in No. 1 Signal Centre.

3 Squadron. Little activity to report from Bampton this month. We had no visiting celebrities, which makes quite a change. We did enjoy the temporary attachment of two friends from India, namely Captain Gopal Das and Subahdar Jagat Singh, on the last stage of their technical training before returning home.

The Squadron's coach journeyed down to Aldershot with a party to witness the victory over the Welch Regiment by 1 Training Regiment. Grand work by Ken Scotland and his merry men sent us all home very happy. Hearty congratulations.

Our cross-country team competed in the Salisbury Plain Minor Units' competition and, although not placed, acquitted themselves very well.

At football we entertained our friends from 2 Squadron, Droitwich, and ran out winners by nine goals to one. Later in the month we journeyed down to Gloucester and disposed of R.H.Q. by six goals to one.

4 Squadron. This month we welcome the arrival of 1 H.Q. Signal Troop, which is now attached for all purposes. The Troop arrived on 15th March and were there and then split between Cobbett Hill and Oakhanger camps to tasks befitting their trades, as 4 Squadron are now responsible for the Troop's commitments. We welcome Captain Barber and his men and trust that they enjoy a long and happy association with us.

The "Skiffle" Group came unstuck in the finals of the Hammersmith Palais Jazz Competition and were placed in third position.

Two "Olympic" type 16ft. yachts have been purchased at a nominal fee from the R.M.A., Sandhurst. They are in poor condition, but the technical ability and enthusiasm within the Squadron is enough to produce at least one useful craft from the two.

EUROPE

18 ARMY GROUP SIGNAL REGIMENT

Changes are imminent and we are about to be shaken up, reorganised and generally have our "face lifted." This is the long expected reorganisation.

Changes of personnel are also taking place, many who have served with us a long time are about to shake the dust (coal dust) from their feet and depart to warmer climes or to Blighty. Major Ian Ronald has left us for London to a job that is either frightfully secret or else that he does not like, because he said very little about it before he left. The C.O. is also about to leave (will have left by the time you read this) for Malta.

We have also, of course, welcomed a number of new arrivals who have just experienced their first major Exercise with us. Can anyone explain why compo prepared by a driver who has never cooked before tastes so good. Can it just be a healthy open-air appetite?

In the hockey world we are due to play 19 Army Group Signal Regiment in the Signals' final in a few days and on the 15th of April we are in the B.A.O.R. final. We hope that a report of the latter may be able to be included as a stop press item elsewhere in this edition of THE WIRE.



Regimental Rugby Team

The three cups are: Rhine District Cup, Mönchen-Gladbach 7-a-Side Cup won in 1956, and the Royal Signals B.A.O.R. Cup

19 ARMY GROUP SIGNAL REGIMENT

The recent completion of a successful Exercise accompanied with, as the pundits proclaim, one of the warmest months on record, are but two of the features which stand out since our last contribution to THE WIRE was submitted.

More notable in the sporting world was the winning of the Royal Signals B.A.O.R. Boxing Cup when we defeated 11 Air Formation Signal Regiment by six events to five at Essen on 15th March. As the score indicates, it was indeed a close match and our faces dropped as the first three bouts went to 11 Air Formation Signal Regiment. Fortunately Corporal Pengilly and Signaller Newbold restored our hopes of a win with first round knock-outs and, with the last fight of the evening, Signaller Coyle settled the matter by a win, albeit a close one, over his opponent.

To 11 Air Formation Signal Regiment go our best wishes for next year, although we optimistically hope that we shall succeed in retaining the trophy, and to 18 Army Group Signal Regiment, where the final was held, our congratulations for having put on such a well organised evening before and after the fight.

We congratulate Lieutenant Willingale and his team of fencers on winning, by no small margin, the Rhine District Fencing

It is regretted that owing to pressure of space Nacerby's Column is held over to June.



Winners B.A.O.R. Royal Signals Boxing Cup, 1957

Championships; our best wishes and hopes go with them for their success in the B.A.O.R. Championships.

Few months can pass without being singled out by the various "departments" in the United Kingdom to either receive or contribute our quota of reinforcements: Major J. C. Alcock—of Alcock and Brown fame?—has again taken flight, after an all-too-brief stay, to 2 L. of C. Signal Regiment; Captain A. D. Whittaker, R.E.M.E., our much harassed L.A.D. Officer, is now enjoying the vagaries of civilian life; Lieutenants Lockett and Bullard have left for Nairobi and 2 Infantry Division respectively; and W.O.II Skinner, having at last achieved the magical "22," has just joined the ranks of the Civilian Security Guard in the Headquarters. To all go our best wishes for their future.

In closing, go congratulations to Sergeants Folkard and Cooper on their promotion to Staff Sergeant.

Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. Of late we have been pursuing a policy of endeavouring to meet the members of Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Messes of other Royal Signals Regiments in B.A.O.R. In this we have had considerable success.

On the 28th of February we held an informal dance, which was somewhat in the nature of a triangular athletics meeting. With 52 guests from 2 Divisional Signal Regiment's Mess and 20 from 1 Wireless Regiment, the first hour of the function produced a strain on the joints and vocal chords.

Our high spot of the month was Thursday, 28th March, when we held a Regimental Mess Dinner, at which we had the honour to entertain our Commanding Officer. The Adjutant, Captain P. S. Davis, and the Quartermaster, Major E. R. Haxell, were also our guests. By a strange coincidence (!!) the following day was a holiday, so an enjoyable evening was had by all.

6 ARMoured DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

February saw the end of the individual training season and the first fortnight of March provided an all-too-short period for Troops to settle down to crew and detachment training. Thereafter the greater part of the Regiment sallied forth on the first major campaign of the year: indeed with the mild weather, so unlike last year, March came in like a lamb and finished up with Exercise "Black Lion."

We had our full quota of rain, including a short but violent tempest which proved the undoing of more than one bivouac tent, and lashings of mud; several of our drivers are now fully alive to the dangers of running two tons or more of vehicle too near the ditches alongside German minor roads. It's certainly not on. Full marks to the "H" Troop vehicle which camouflaged itself, when in the ditch, to look like an overhanging bush!

2 Squadron, which now has a virtual monopoly of the wireless outside 4 Squadron, suspended by divers means all manner of wire aërials not usually seen; but, to give them their due, they proved remarkably effective. There is no doubt that to get a net through by night the best incentive is the offer to the control

station of closing down once communication is re-established.

Apart from the harbour party which always has to work hard, the linemen had a comparatively easy Exercise thanks to the help given by two detachments of "T" Troop, whose patience and understanding of their "boxes" is always Job-like. Our thanks to our cooks, whose dedicated attention to the inner man means so much and which so often goes unsaid.

We returned wiser and weary to Birdwood Barracks, which incidentally never looked better, ready for a bath, pay parade and those other simple pleasures, normally taken for granted, but provided by barrack life.

Congratulations to R.Q.M.S. Knight, Staff Sergeant Gregg and Armstrong upon their promotions.

Finally, our Regimental rugby side performed with great credit in the final of B.A.O.R. Royal Signals Cup against 18 Army Group Signal Regiment, who won a hard game by 12-8. There were moments in the second half when it looked as if we should spring a surprise win on them. Our side played well together, the forwards doing particularly well. A very good show; well done, our team!

2 L. OF C. SIGNAL REGIMENT

We welcome to the Regiment R.S.M. W. G. Finch, his wife and daughter, who come to us from 12 Air Formation Signal Regiment, as successors to R.S.M. G. J. Bevan, M.M.

1 Squadron. It has been the practice recently for 1 Squadron notes to be incorporated with R.H.Q., but a split in several directions permits us to appear in print on our own again. Most of the Squadron at the moment are engaged in an Exercise, with the staff according to signen personnel, trying to reach saturation point regarding the amount of traffic passed. Judging by the appearance of some heavy-eyed individuals in camp, it appears that the aim is being achieved. In fact, one or two people looked somewhat healthier during the "Rosen Montag" festivities here in Dusseldorf.

Normal military activities, such as P.E. tests and weapon training, prior to annual classification, are in full swing.

Due to the commitments of the Squadron, sporting activities are limited, most games played being a 1/4 Squadrons combine with a generous proportion of R.H.Q.

2 Squadron. Last month we were feeling a bit tense with the possibility of achieving the Hanover football double, i.e., winning the District Cup and the League. Could we kill the Giants, R.A.F., Wunstorf—a "Minor" Unit with numerically 20 times our strength! We are breathing more evenly now. We couldn't. They knocked us out in the semi-final and it looks as though we will finish runners-up in the League. But a good season for our team, who has had success out of all proportion to the size of the Unit. Meanwhile, we supply half (6/11 to be exact) of the District hockey team, which consequently is almost invincible. We are not bragging, we are just stating the facts.

We also welcomed Sergeant-Major Sutherland, who had hardly arrived before he was whipped away on a Scheme.

12 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT

Work first. Exercises "Lion Noir" and "Mouton Noir" took place this month but as the rest of the B.A.O.R. communications took place, there is no point in amplifying any further except to say that we played our part.

Colonel J. W. Gordon, C.A.F.S.O., 2 T.A.F., and his staff visited us to see a T.E.V. Wing demonstration, ably laid on and conducted by O.C. 1 Squadron. The object of the demonstration was to show the uses of the various types of Steck cable and how they could best be connected to a T.E.V. Wing. Apart from a slight mistake by the demonstration in distinguishing "Units Loading" and "Units Superposing" in the rehearsal, the final demonstration went off well.

The arrival of a Bakery Unit, R.A.S.C., into the camp has caused a slight stir. We are hoping that with their Master Baker and a goodly supply of currants we shall have a goodly supply of hot cross buns on Good Friday.

We welcome Major R. R. Morrison, M.B.E., who has come to us from War Office, to take over No. 2 Squadron. We hope that he also will have a pleasant stay. He has gone into the country at Bruggen and we feel sure he will enjoy using the golf course.

R.S.M. Finch left us this month to take up the job as R.S.M. of 2 L. of C. Signal Regiment. We wish him luck in his new job and thank him for all the work he did in this Unit. His departure heralded the arrival of R.S.M. Boddington, who arrived from the George Cross Island of Malta. We wish he and his family a pleasant stay here in 12 Air Formation Signal Regiment.

The Zone "B" semi-final of the B.A.O.R. Signals Cross-Country Championship was held here at Wahn on 12th March. No. 1 Wireless Regimental team proved themselves to be too strong for the other competitors and came out easy winners. Our Regiment, however, provided the individual first and second home—Lance-Corporal Potter and Lance-Corporal Smith respectively. We are now waiting for the final, which takes place on 17th April, in which we are very much involved, although we are not taking any competitive part.

The only other item on which it is felt a report is necessary is the C.S.E.U. Show which visited R.A.F., Wahn, on 19th March. In the show there was a galaxy of "comedian" talent in the hefty shapes of "Professor" Jimmie Edwards and Tony Hancock. Those of us who were fortunate enough to get tickets had a very enjoyable evening watching the antics of those famous radio personalities.

ALFCE SIGNAL SQUADRON

Our WIRE notes have been absent for some time now, due mainly to the regrettable illness of our correspondent, S.S.M. Rockall, who has been off colour for almost a year past but has now succumbed to the worst case of jaundice seen here for a long time. It is with deep regret that we hear that the medical authorities have now decided to return him to U.K. for more specialised treatment. His absence has been very much felt and we all wish him a speedy recovery.

Since January our newly formed Microwave (Radio Relay) Troop have been scattered throughout France, Belgium, Holland and Germany. They are proud of the fact that they were sufficiently schooled in the equipment that by the end of two months they were able to establish a network over new pastures without the aid of the German engineers. They are now returning to the fold for a period of concentrated training before taking to the field again.

As may be expected, in a large N.A.T.O. Headquarters, spring has brought its spate of parades. 2nd April saw the eighth anniversary of N.A.T.O., a simple but impressive ceremony, with representatives of all nations on parade. The parade was held in the Cour des Fontaines, in the historic Fontainebleau Chateau and was addressed by our French C-in-C., General Valluy.

3rd April saw the arrival of our much discussed new Commander of Landcent, General Hans Speidel. This parade was a very memorable affair and we are proud to have featured on the front page of the *Daily Express*. Our picture featured the C-in-C., Commander Landcent and our Second-in-Command, with a portion of our Squadron. The last time our Second-in-Command saluted a German officer was from behind barbed wire.

In sport we lost a hard fought battle against the British Army Element, 7-6, but since the departure of Microwave we have missed many of our football team. In boxing we had two representatives in the AFCENT team against SHAPE, Wright and Yeoman. Regretably, due to an injury to the foot, Wright was unable to compete, leaving Yeoman as our sole representative, who was defeated after a well fought and vigorous contest. Our cross-country team was also hit by the absence of Microwave but we would like to congratulate Signalman Davies on his consistent position of No. 1 in each race.

We had a very enjoyable visit from our parent Unit, 21 Army Signal Regiment, A.E.R. They arrived with 26 Officers, 26 Warrant Officers and Sergeants and two Lance-Corporals. For the occasion we opened up an Officers' and a Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess and for the period lived an almost normal Regimental Mess life. By the time of their departure Lieutenant-Colonel Dibsdall and all ranks of the Regiment must have been almost a swim with the number of places that they visited and briefings that they received. We had great pleasure in their presence with us and wish to convey to them our very best wishes.

We are very sorry to say farewell to W.O.I. Whitham on posting to FARELF.

MAINLY ABOUT RUNNING



TALKING OF CROSS-COUNTRY RUNNING, 2LT TIM ARMSTEAD OF 11 AIR FORMATION SIGNALS FINISHED SO FAR IN FRONT OF EVERYONE ELSE IN THE ZONAL COMPETITION AT HERFORD

THAT WE THOUGHT THE OTHERS HAD GOT LOST. HOWEVER, THIS WAS NOT SO AND 4 INF DIV SIGS, PACKING VERY WELL, WON EASILY — 11 AF SIGS BEING SECOND AND QUALIFYING FOR THE FINAL.

THINGS WERE VERY WELL LAID ON BY 4 INF DIV SIGS AND WE WERE DELIGHTED TO MEET SEVERAL CHAPS WE KNEW INCLUDING MATORS — WARREN — EMLEY — HASLEHURST & CAPT. PRINCE



HARKING BACK — WHILE WE WERE DELIGHTED TO MEET CSO 1 (BR) CORPS DURING EXERCISE 'LION NOIR'

— BRIGADIER C. NETTLESHIP OBE TO — WE TOOK A DIM VIEW WHEN HE DISAPPEARED ON A RECCE IN 'OUR' CHOPPER AND FORCED US TO RETURN IN A VOLKSWAGEN!



WE HAVE JUST HEARD THE RESULT OF THE FINAL

STOP PRESS
X COUNTRY RES
1. 1 WIRE REG
2. 4 INF DIV SIGS
3. 10 ARMY SIGS
4. 11 AF SIGS

— BUT ARMSTEAD WAS AGAIN FIRST MAN HOME.

Ou Est Le Manneken ?

No tourist's visit to Brussels would be complete without the customary gaping at that rude little boy the Manneken Pis, whose effigy it would appear set a fashion for the male population of Belgium which is adhered to even today. There are several variations in style, of course, for in this, as in all other things, absolute conformity is impossible.

Many tourists who visit Brussels are enjoying coach tours to the interesting capitals of Europe and they are driven right to the very spot where the Manneken stands, but as a mere soldier serving in Belgium I had to find this famous character by myself. Friends were eager to advise me on the quickest route to the hallowed spot, but I ignored their directions as they were all of the "you can't miss it" variety, for we all know of the hidden danger in that well worn phrase.

After parking my car near the Gare du Nord I set out on foot in search of my quest, for the search by car would be poor sport—like shooting lions from an armoured vehicle. Also I had noticed that all the other drivers in Brussels were determined that I should never see their beloved statue, and having managed to get so far unscathed I decided to chance my luck no further. So disguised as an English soldier in civilian clothes I proceeded on my way.

When one is lost in England the solution is "ask a policeman, therefore following the golden rule: "When in Belgium do as the English do." I approached a white-helmeted gendarme and said in my schoolboy French, "Excusez-moi, mais je cherche le manneken pis." For one horrifying moment I thought he was about to crown me with his truncheon for inciting a political riot, but fortunately he only waved it vaguely and I presumed he meant straight ahead. I walked for about ten minutes before I made another enquiry and was told I was only two minutes' walk from my goal and couldn't miss it. After another half-an-hour I decided to enquire again. So it went on until I asked my way for the fifth time at the top of a short, steeply-sloping road called the Rue de Chene. The young couple to whom I had addressed my question grinned at each other knowingly, so I repeated my question ensuring that it didn't sound a bit like any of those other French phrases which British soldiers use from time to time. The result was "La Monsieur!" and a finger pointed to the foot of the slope. Expectantly, determinedly and not without a feeling of trepidation I descended the Rue de Chene. Yes, it was there. I had shot my lion.

Surrounded by vulgar postcards and Brussels lace, this small statue of a naked boy answering Nature's most frequent call to action, held the people of many nations in awe-struck wonder, their babel-like chatter punctuated by the clicking of camera shutters, national prides and boundaries forgotten, wars and politics unmentioned, this mixed gathering was emotionally one. Just a rather disappointed crowd of tourists.

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Take my tip, if you really want to see the Manneken Pis, book a seat on a coach tour to the interesting capitals of Europe, that way "you can't miss it!"



The Paris Observatory

BY SIGNALMAN J. A. FITZPATRICK,
SHAPE SIGNAL SQUADRON

The Paris Observatory was built from 1667 to 1672 but its architect, Claude Perrault, was more concerned with producing a magnificent building than a useful place for astronomy. It was only in 1834 that a practical installation was completed. The meridian on which Paris lies was determined in 1667 and passes through the middle of the Observatory, while the southern wall of the building marks the latitude of the city.

In order to visit the Observatory one has to obtain the written permission of the Director. In spite of an inadequate command of French, we contacted him by phone and from the rather one-sided conversation we understood that we were to present ourselves there at half-past-two on Saturday afternoon. Unfortunately our French was less adequate than we thought. When we arrived the commissionaire refused to let us enter; however, a party was assembling for a tour of the Observatory, so we tacked ourselves on to them, which was apparently what we should have done anyway.

The first place we were taken to was the museum. Here we found a very fine collection of ancient instruments, as well as telescopes of the refraction and reflection type. Some of these telescopes had been designed for specific purposes, such as the observation of particular bodies in the heavens. In glass cases were a number of small treasures such as lenses, lens combinations and prisms made by well known scientists, and some highly decorative astronomical instruments which must have been quite impractical to use.

From the museum we went into the grounds to see two telescopes each of which was housed in its own dome-like building. The principal difference between these two instruments was the number of degrees of freedom. One could be rotated through 180 degrees in the east-west plane only, while the other could be rotated through 180 degrees in any plane. Both telescopes were approximately the same size, about 15-inch lenses, and they had spectrographic and photographic equipment for the particular work they were being employed on at the time. We were next taken to see the principal telescope of the Observatory. This was housed in a large dome, about 50 feet diameter and 40 feet high, on top of the main building. The telescope faced a window in the dome, and could be rotated through 360 degrees, thus commanding a view of any part of the heavens. In order to achieve stability, which is absolutely essential for star-gazing, the telescope was mounted on a massive steel frame construction. All sorts of scientific apparatus was attached and of course, the observer's chair. The observer has complete control over the instrument from the chair and can position the telescope by means of a small subsidiary one attached to the main barrel of the instrument rather like the sights of a rifle. I was rather surprised that the main lens of the telescope was only about 20 inches. The last place we visited was the small room where the French telephone chronometer was housed. There were two of these instruments, one being a stand-by. They were of an old-type design, and consisted of a recording which played at a rate controlled by a standard clock.

We were not shown over the library or the various laboratories, but we saw the objects particular to astronomy and it was a very interesting and worthwhile visit.



WHERE IS IT ?

(IN THE MARCH NUMBER, PAGE 62)

With reference to the statue of Mercury on a domed roof in the March number of the "Wire", it was erroneously stated in the April "Wire" on page 112 that it was on the Victoria Embankment.

As the April "Wire" was published we received the above picture of the Union Buildings in Pretoria, South Africa.

There is a very similar statue of Mercury on a domed roof on a building in Victoria Embankment Gardens, but clearly it is not this one.

2 WIRELESS REGIMENT

The main events of the month have been the visits of Lieutenant-General Sir Geoffrey Bourne, K.B.E., C.B., C.M.G., C.-in-C. Middle East, and Colonel Rowett.

Lieutenant-General Bourne, accompanied by Brigadier C. D. Gardiner, C.S.O., M.E.L.F., spent the day looking round the Regiment and expressed himself well satisfied.

Colonel Rowett was a very welcome visitor, spending three days with the Regiment. As previous Commanding Officer, he knew where to look, so he was not surprised by certain work taking place in the T.O.T. workshops!

Sport is now in that in-between season; the winter sports finishing and summer just beginning. The real success of the month was by 3 Squadron at hockey. They not only won the Minor Units' League for the Famagusta area, but also the area Knock-out Championship. The final was an all 2 Wireless Regiment battle, 3 Squadron versus Civilian Wing. The Regimental hockey team, which had nine players from 3 Squadron, reached the semi-final of the Major Units' Cup. Now the cricket nets are up and an athletic track is being built. This latter is a major operation which the Regiment is carrying out in co-operation with the neighbouring R.A.F. station. Cito, the Royal Signals yacht, has been put in the water ready for the season and the sailing club has been preparing the dinghies.



Lieutenant General Sir Geoffrey Bourne, K.B.E., C.B., C.M.G., inspecting the Guard.

From left to right: Captain K. R. Canning, Colonel C. H. Stoneley, Brigadier C. D. Gardiner, C.S.O., M.E.L.F., W.O.I. Medlycott, Sergeant Lakey, Second-Lieutenant C. A. L. Macheath, Lieutenant-Colonel Leahy, M.B.E., Commanding Officer and Lieutenant-General Sir Geoffrey Bourne.

COMCAN SIGNAL TROOP, ACCRA

After a hectic Christmas the troop heaved a sigh of relief and settled down to the comparative comfort of normal everyday routine. It was not for long, however, as on 11th February we heard that our Annual Administrative Inspection by the General Officer Commanding Ghana Military Forces, was to take place on the 25th. The General Officer Commanding was very pleased indeed and expressed his admiration on the bearing and turnout of the troop; thanks to the efforts of C.S.M. Cameron of the Scots Guards, who was loaned to us from Teshie Training School.

The Administrative Inspection over, and once more a sigh of relief, but now the Independence Celebrations were upon us with a vengeance. The Sergeants' Mess was invaded by Commonwealth and American Air Force N.C.O.s, and Rum and Coca Cola is now in great demand. A number of old friendships were renewed by members of the troop and sailors of H.M.S. Ceylon, anchored off Accra.

Congratulations to Sergeants Romeril, Turriff, Lindsay, Mellett and Corporal Dunmall on their recent promotions.

On the sports field we are still gamely plugging away at Basket Ball, and the more portly members are now developing sylph-like figures. Unfortunately it is not in season yet and therefore outside matches are not easily arranged. However, come the season and we shall be a team to be reckoned with! Squash, too, will soon be underway in the capable hands of Staff Sergeant Gibson. Our second-in-command, Lieutenant A. N. de Bretton-Gordon, and Sergeant Ruddy are still playing for the now "Ghana" Signal Squadron who, incidentally, are top of the Army League. Lieutenant A. N. de Bretton-Gordon also plays for the Ghana Army side who came out the winners of the Ghana Independence Hockey Cup, after four very gruelling matches. Sergeant Ruddy is also a regular member of the Squadron and Army Cricket team.

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EAST AFRICA COMMAND

The Command was honoured by the visit of the Director of Telecommunications, Major-General L. de M. Thuillier, O.B.E., A.D.C., early in March. During his eight-day stay he visited all the Signal units in the Command, which involved several hundreds of miles travelling over some very indifferent roads.

70 (E.A.) Infantry Brigade Signal Troop are now back in camp, having served a Tactical H.Q. for nearly a month at Archers Post in the Northern Province. Archers Post is a euphemism as there is nothing to be seen but thorn bushes and dust for miles around. We gather that they did not suffer too badly with swimming twice a day in Buffalo Springs, a natural pool of crystal clear water. The camp site was chosen last year by Janet Leigh and Victor Mature as a film location. Although quantities of waste film were found, no one admitted to collecting any other souvenirs, though no doubt they searched hard enough! Also nearby was a white hunters' camp complete with two very pleasant hunters from the States, who entertained the advance party in true American fashion.

★

ARMY WIRELESS CHAIN INSTALLATION TROOP

This Unit must be unique in its composition—three officers of Royal Signals, two of R.E.M.E., six Warrant Officers and seven O.R.s. We can hardly parade in true military fashion, but the grouping in the accompanying photograph is more easily achieved. It is several months since we last submitted a contribution but perhaps the following jottings will partly explain our silence.

When the last notes were published, the team was spending a relatively stable and ordered existence in its base, with a properly balanced diet of work and leisure. Very shortly afterwards however, an apparently innocuous little project in Cyprus developed into a full scale installation and rehabilitation project. By late September all but three of us were working with 3 G.H.Q. Signal Regiment and were busy reorganising the Signal Centre, some details of which were published in their Unit notes. The opening gambit was the installation of additional equipment and consequent reorganisation of the VF Room. This involved the complete reorientation of carrier telephone and VF telegraph equipment with minimum interruption of working circuits. This was carried out in three weeks with a total loss of only two hours circuit time. Following this, the construction of a new system control was begun. The original facilities in the VF Room were left in circuit and new racking and cabling prepared in another room. In addition, a lamp signalling system between traffic hall, system control, and the traffic hall Superintendent was prepared. A stage was reached in late October when a short leave had to be taken by most of the team to collect winter clothing and to renew energies for the completion of the project. Hardly had the last leave party returned than the Suez Emergency was upon us, greatly increasing the scope of our activities. One very interesting and unusual task was the part we played in helping to run the broadcast station known as the "Voice of Britain."

It was most encouraging to see N.S. Wireless Operators and Radio Mechanics (obtained by the splendid co-operation of many Signal Units in Cyprus) setting quickly into capable disc jockeys and recording Operators. They deserve much praise for their excellent work and especially so since their administrative arrangements were unhelpfully of the most sketchy nature. Has anyone ever tried to get accommodation stores from two quartermasters at once, one handing over a camp and the other taking over? AWCIT's part in this venture was the initial organisation and setting up of the troop and technical assistance until other help was available. Foremen of Signals Potts, Littlewood, Hooper and Todd all spent some time in this work—and since we may own to being without exception ardent "Goon Show" enthusiasts, it is to their credit that no spontaneous AWCIT Goon Show was ever broadcast. There was, of course, unlimited Arabic music on records, and many requests from the disc jockeys for "Rock 'n' Roll" (which perhaps would have found a fairly extensive audience).

Major Holbrook and Lieutenant (T.O.T.) Turner were for short spells in Port Said giving advice and assistance to various units and in particular to Reservists. The latter spent much of his time on board H.M.S. *Tyne*. The rest of the team were kept busy in Episkopi including the installation of a high power

transmitter and its receiver, reorganising the VF Room at transmitters installing two civilian carrier equipments and extending the traffic hall. Most of this involved a good deal of "concrete bashing" at which art, no matter what our rank or trade, we all consider ourselves quite expert. The original task of constructing a new system control was put on one side, time had flown, and we were all thinking wistfully of whether Christmas would be spent with our families in Malta or not, and the song "Christmas in Cyprus" (sung in solemn voices to the tune "April in Paris") was heard frequently. We were still awaiting some essential stores with only 22 shopping days left.

Then on a never-to-be-forgotten day the "things" arrived, amid tremendous jubilation and the system control project was successfully completed. By 21st December all the team except the O.C., who remained in Cyprus to assist in the smoothing out of any teething troubles, had reached Malta.

At present we are once more pursuing a more settled and placid existence in Malta, not by any means idle but rather less exacting than the past months' labours.

As with any unit we must inevitably lose old friends and welcome new ones. Our best wishes go to Capt. Oldnall and Sergeant Richardson, both of R.E.M.E., who left us recently. The former will be remembered sitting at a teleprinter with a sublimely happy look murmuring "they can't question my procedure 'cos I'm only a R.E.M.E. officer," and among other things for his incredibly accurate memory. Sergeant Richardson is greatly missed by us all for his excellent dry north country humour and infinite capacity for tackling any sort of job.

We also send our good wishes to Captain Baynham, R.Q.M.S. Ward and Lance-Corporal Guest, Royal Signals, who have left us since we last wrote. Captain Baynham was well known throughout Malta for his under water swimming.

We welcome Captain Cox, Signals, Captain Owen, R.E.M.E., R.Q.M.S. Holness, Lance-Corporal Pearson, Craftsman Sugden and Driver Howells in their stead.

We also extend our congratulations to R.Q.M.S. Derrick on the award of the M.S.M.

Sport has necessarily been rather neglected, but now full advantage is being taken of the opportunities available. Major Holbrook has been chosen to Captain the representative Army Hockey team here, and Tennis and Basket Ball are enjoyed by others.

Who knows what our future activities are likely to be, but if at any time a strange team of Signals and R.E.M.E. personnel descend on you, turn your equipment round, bang holes in the floor, and give you a New Look, it's probably AWCIT—you have been warned.



Back Row: Signalman Coe, Lance/Corporal Guest, Corporal Mitchell, Craftsman Sugden

Centre Row: W.O.II (F. of S.) Littlewood, R.Q.M.S. Holness, W.O.II (F. of S.) Potts, Driver Howells, W.O.II (F. of S.) Hooper, Lance/Corporal Pearson (R.E.M.E.)

Front Row: R.Q.M.S. Derrick, Captain Cox, Major Mantle (R.E.M.E.), Major Holbrook, Captain Owen (R.E.M.E.), Lieutenant (T.O.T.) Turner, W.O.II (F. of S.) Todd



The Royal Victoria Patriotic School

The Royal Victoria Patriotic School, which is celebrating its centenary year in 1957, is not as well-known in Service circles as it merits. It was endowed during the Crimean War to provide a boarding school education for the daughters of deceased Servicemen. The original premises were in Wandsworth and accommodated about 300 girls. After the Second World War it was decided that they no longer met the modern need and the School was accordingly moved to Bedwell Park, Essendon, near Hatfield, Herts. Here the amenities bear favourable comparison with those of practically any school in the United Kingdom. Bedwell Park, previously a country house, comprises an estate of 90 acres, which includes a large garden where fruit and vegetables for the consumption of the School are grown. This home-grown produce is one of the contributory factors to the excellent health which is normally enjoyed.

At the present time the School is open to daughters of deceased ex-Servicemen of the Armed Forces whether or not their death was due to service, provided that they were married before leaving the Colours or the active list, or very shortly afterwards. Daughters of deceased officers may also be considered provided that the latter had long service in the ranks. There are places for 100 girls of ages ranging from 5—18 years. They are accepted between the ages of 5 and 11, though exceptions may occasionally be made for older girls. They are expected to remain until they are at least 16 years old.

On moving to Bedwell Park it was considered to be in the best interests of the children that they should attend schools in the neighbourhood rather than be taught on the

premises. Arrangements were made with the Hertfordshire County Council and thus a wide range of schools is available to cater for the individual abilities of the children. This arrangement not only affords better academic facilities than could otherwise be provided for the relatively small number of girls, but also broadens their outlook. Girls who qualify for places at grammar schools or other schools whose curriculum aims at the General Certificate of Education remain until the age of 17 or 18, and can thereafter usually find suitable employment without difficulty. Other girls, after completing the normal school curriculum, are given training in some vocation with a view to subsequent employment.

At Bedwell Park itself the girls receive training in religion (Church of England), needlework, drawing, painting, music and literature. There are also excellent facilities for games. The Royal Victoria Patriotic School is, in fact, very similar nowadays to a "House" at a Public School. Individual tuition is also given to girls who are backward in their studies at their outside schools to assist them in their out-of-school work. Under this system the record of academic achievement has been very good.

The expenses of maintaining the School are met for the most part from the endowment funds and the fees charged to parents are purely nominal. They do not, in fact, exceed the pension or allowances in issue by the State.

The School is administered by the Royal Patriotic Fund Corporation and applications or enquiries should be made to the Secretary, 64, Victoria Street, London, S.W.1. (TATe Gallery 3006).

The Unveiling of the Kranji War Memorial Singapore



A general picture of the War Memorial

[Photographs by Mr. G. K. Ellison]



We are indebted to Brigadier H. L. Lewis, C.B.E., Chief Signal Officer, Far East Land Forces, for the following account. Brigadier Lewis was the official representative of the Corps

The Singapore Memorial which was built by the Imperial War Graves Commission commemorates by name 24,000 men and women of the Land and Air Forces of the British Commonwealth who have no known grave.

On Saturday, 2nd March, 1957, an impressive ceremony was held when the Singapore Memorial was unveiled by His Excellency, Sir Robert Black, K.C.M.G., O.B.E., Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Singapore.

The Memorial is sited at Kranji on a hillside overlooking the Johore Strait about a mile from the Causeway linking the island to the mainland, and in the bright sunshine of the

early morning it was hard to visualise the grim struggle that had taken place across the sparkling strip of blue waters 15 years ago.

Whilst we awaited the arrival of the Governor two Guards of Honour were mounted, one by the Army and one by the Royal Air Force and contingents of the Royal Navy, Commonwealth Armies and Air Forces, Police and Local Forces took up their positions on the approaches to the Memorial.

The Chaplain General and the Chaplains of the Land and Air Forces together with the Nadzir Ugana, the Bhawan of the 1st and 2nd Battalion Gurkha Rifles and the Buddhist High Priest then entered the procession. His Excellency, the Governor was then received with a Royal salute and the Ceremony proper began.

After the Hymn "O God Our Help in Ages Past" and the Lord's Prayer, Sir Robert Black gave an address and unveiled the Memorial. After the playing of the Last Post and the Lament "Lochaber No More," the Reveille was sounded and a Blessing given. This was followed by Mohammedan, Gurkha and Buddhist Prayers and the laying of wreaths by Services and Commonwealth representatives.

The Service concluded with the National Anthem after which His Excellency the Governor and the general public inspected the Memorial and the many beautiful wreaths which had been laid.

An unrehearsed and very human incident during the Ceremony was the laying by a poorly dressed and elderly Chinese woman of a wreath at the foot of the Cross which stands before the Memorial; here she held a small ceremony of her own under the sympathetic gaze of the large crowd. She was 81 and her husband had been executed by the Japanese for assisting the British.

The Memorial consists of a great pylon flanked by 12 walls, six on each side; a flat roof connects the tops of the walls with the central pylon, and on the walls are inscribed the names of those commemorated. On the slopes below the Memorial are the graves of many others whose particulars were known.

After the Ceremony relatives and others thronged the Memorial looking for the names of those they had lost, laying individual wreaths and photographing the inscription. Names are inscribed on the walls from left to right in order

Brigadier H. L. Lewis, C.B.E.



The wreath held against that portion of the Memorial devoted to the names of the dead of the Royal Signals

of Regimental Seniority, Royal Signals being on the third wall and the Indian Signal Corps on the fifth. The names of nine Officers and 272 Other Ranks of Royal Signals and one Officer and 169 Other Ranks of the Indian Signal Corps are inscribed. Under the Indian Signal Corps were of course, the names of many gallant comrades whose home land would now be Pakistan.

During the official Ceremony it had been necessary for the Regimental and Corps representatives, of whom there were about 70, to lay the wreaths they bore on behalf of their Regiments and Corps in a position dictated by space and the necessary ceremonial. Most of us, however, moved our wreaths after the Ceremony and laid them against the appropriate wall of the Memorial.

Whilst photographing the Ceremony was relatively easy, it was not so easy to get a picture of the names inscribed on the walls. However, Mr. G. K. Ellison (ex-Corporal 2327142), who, with his two brothers, served in Royal Signals in France, Italy and North Africa, kindly took a number of photographs which give a good idea of the Memorial and inscriptions as well as of the wreath laid on behalf of the Royal Corps of Signals and Royal Corps of Signals Association. The wreath was very beautifully made with dark green palm leaf background and dark blue and light blue hydrangeas which gave an effect of the Corps colours blended together.

As I left, I read again the inscription on the stone panel in the centre of the Memorial.

1939 - 1945

On the walls of this Memorial are recorded the Names of 24,000 Soldiers and Airmen of many races united in service to the British Crown who gave their lives in Malaya and

neighbouring lands and seas and in the air over Southern and Eastern Asia and the Pacific but to whom the fortune of war denied the customary rites accorded to their comrades in death.

They died for all free men.



HONG KONG SIGNAL REGIMENT

3 Squadron. We have had the usual spate of exercises, and as they have increased in intensity so has our confidence in "the other end." Wireless stations have found themselves in the most inaccessible places in all kinds of weather, and under such conditions crews have become self-reliant. The equipment itself seems to have shared in this and has become less temperamental. Faith in aerials of peculiar shape has not been shared by all, despite one Brigadier who insisted upon being equipped with a stripped umbrella when out roving.

The Squadron Athletics Meeting held at Boundary Street, which marks the dividing line between the Crown Colony and leased China, was a great success. 27 Brigade Signal Troop won the shield for the third year running mainly due to the efforts of Corporals Coatsworth and Reeves. This was followed by the Regimental Athletics meeting on Monday, 18th February, when we won the Inter-Squadron Championship and Cup.

What better compliment could be paid to past and present members of the Squadron than to be chosen, as we have been, to represent the Regiment on Her Majesty The Queen's Birthday Parade on 12th April.



THE TRUSTY TRIUMPH



This picture was taken by Mr. A. H. Bell, of Surbiton, Surrey, who describes the vehicle as follows:—"The vehicle consists of a Triumph 4 1/2 h.p. counter-shaft model, chain-cum-belt drive, mounted on four railway wheels with seating as shown. We could get a speed of 45 m.p.h. with it. Frequent stops were necessary to clear away the sand which drifted on to the lines and sometimes derailed us." The picture was taken in the Sinai Desert between Kanatara and Romani in 1917, when he was in charge of the telegraph and telephone lines which ran beside the desert railway.

The Triumph Engineering Company of Coventry in sending us the picture will be glad to hear from any reader of THE WIRE who has knowledge of the working and maintenance of this vehicle, and without any breach of Official Secrets Act, to say how the motor cycle engine was obtained.

TERRITORIAL ARMY

2 (LONDON) SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

The Regiment has undergone considerable change in the last few months.

Firstly, it has had its designation changed from 2 Corps Signal Regiment (London), T.A., to 2 (London) Signal Regiment, T.A., with a consequent change in rôle and equipment.

All have now accustomed themselves to the new rôle and Troops. We were sorry to lose one of our Squadrons on reorganisation but luckily we have been able to carry out the reorganisation without any loss of ranks to the officers and a considerable number of promotions within the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess.

Due to our change in rôle it was found that Fulham House, with which we have been associated since 1877, would not hold the whole of the new Regiment. We have, therefore, very reluctantly had to move R.H.Q. and 2 and 3 Squadrons from Fulham House and we are now established about a mile-and-a-half from it at Lytton Grove.

We held our final Officers' Mess function at Fulham House on 30th March, 1957, which was much enjoyed by all who attended. Unfortunately, our Honorary Colonel, Major-General C. M. F. White, and our late Honorary Colonel, Colonel T. W. G. Vigers, were unable to be present. General White because he was advising a film company on certain military aspects of a new film in Tripoli and Nice—we envied him the warm sunshine—and Colonel Vigers due to a business engagement on the Continent.

We go to annual camp at Stiffkey, Norfolk, from 15th to 29th June, 1957, and if any of the ex-members of the Corps who are not at present attached to the T.A. or A.E.R., who read this, feel that they would like to join a really live Regiment, we still need volunteers, so get in touch with us at the T.A. Centre, Lytton Grove, Putney, S.W.15. Nearest tube station: East Putney—or a 74, 85 or 93 bus passes the end of our road in Putney Hill.

EASTERN COMMAND (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT (T.A.)

Consequent upon various re-organisation and re-designations, we regret we shall at some future date lose some of our old friends of the Regiment. We say goodbye to these old friends with deep regret and wish them all the very best of luck and success in their new spheres.

We have not allowed this to discourage us unduly. And have had several exercises at Crowborough, using AN/TRC and experimenting with its uses. We have taken part in a big signal centre exercise organised by the C.S.O., although we were puzzled by its title "Newbroom." The H.Q. Squadron display team took part in a recruiting demonstration at Stratford in the foyer of a cinema. It lasted a week and by all accounts was a great success; it was unfortunate that the recruits gained lived too far away to come to Kensington, and so have gone to the local Signal Units.

We are now thinking in terms of Camp. We go again to Stiffkey on 1st June, together with 33 A.A. Brigade Signal Squadron, who will be with us for the first week. The military members of the Regiment will watch with clinical interest the reactions of the W.R.A.C. if they are again billeted nearly a mile from the Messes without adequate means of transport. We also have an Easter Camp this year at Crowborough. To date approximately a third of the Regiment will attend it—a figure which we feel is most creditable.

Before camp we will have our Regimental dinner on 4th May, and we are promised that the food this year will be very good.

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We finish with a personal message to Major Garlick up there in Catterick. We did get through on the week-end you left us, but we were a little late.

SCOTTISH COMMAND (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT (T.A.)

Since our last contribution we have had to say good-bye to T.A. stalwarts Captain Alastair Lawson, Lieutenant E. W. Baxendine and the Rev. J. F. W. Symon, and, from the Permanent Staff, Major E. A. McLoughlin and Sergeant F. H. Birrell, who have moved to Catterick. Sergeant Birrell had been an asset to the Regiment for ten years and his loss will be keenly felt. We wish them all well.

We welcome to the Permanent Staff our new Training Major, Major B. H. Townson, ex-Catterick, who is settling down well to civilised life after his sojourn in Tribal Territory, and W.O.II M. J. Patterson, W.R.A.C., from 317 Battalion W.R.A.C. (T.A.).

Planning in Glasgow will now have the benefit of advice from Lieutenant Thelma Blance, W.R.A.C. (T.A.), who recently joined us from Aberdeen University Contingent O.T.C., W.R.A.C. (T.A.).

In the Scottish Command Country Dancing Competition final, held in our Drill Hall in March, our W.R.A.C. team tied for second place with last year's winners. We were beaten by only one point and having been placed second in three out of four annual competitions held; next year we mean to win.

Our Regiment was originally formed ten years ago as 13 A.A. (M) Signal Regiment (T.A.), and to mark the occasion we are holding a reunion of the ex and serving Edinburgh members on 20th April, 1957. We hope to see many of the old familiar faces and, perhaps, persuade some to rejoin.

No. 1 SPECIAL COMMUNICATIONS REGIMENT (CITY OF LONDON), T.A.

This year we are going to Camp early, from 27th April to 11th May. We have, therefore, spent the first few months of 1957 on refresher training, both in the evenings and at week-ends, and also in preparing ourselves for the new trade classifications. The Regiment, including the W.R.A.C. Squadron, has held a number of week-end exercises, usually with a W/T base station in the Drill Hall and outstations along the East coast, at places such as Clacton-on-Sea, Frinton-on-Sea, and Walton-on-the-Naze. These exercises have been well supported by the Regiment and have proved to be a success.

The Officers' Mess held their annual cocktail party on 18th January. This was attended by between fifty and sixty guests. Among those present were Major-General and Mrs. W. A. Scott, the Master, First Warden and Secretary of the Skinners' Company, with their ladies, Group-Captain Harman of the City T.A. Association, and Brigadier D. W. Burridge of Eastern Command.

It is with much regret that we say farewell to our Honorary Colonel, Brigadier Sir Richard Gambier Parry, K.C.M.G., who

has held that appointment for the past eight years. We hope to be able to announce his successor in the very near future.

In December we said farewell to Captain Roy Brown, who was posted to SHAPE, and whose military bearing we could not fail to recognise in the "Daily Express" recently. His place has been filled by Captain J. Smith, ex-Kenya, who is the new Adjutant.

At the beginning of this year, Major E. W. Milner returned from overseas and has again taken over command of No. 1 Squadron.

Another departure was Captain C. Smith, who has just left the U.K. to take up an appointment in North Borneo. We wish him every success amongst the wild men.

We welcome back Sergeant Paine and Sergeant Simmons—two former members of the Regiment, who have rejoined us recently. We are getting a steady trickle of new members this way. May it continue!

Signalman P. Hayes, who demonstrated his prowess at football at last year's camp, has now signed professional forms for Millwall and is already in their first team—here, perhaps, is Stanley Matthews' successor in the England team.

Finally, we are delighted to see ex-members of the Regiment or any interested party at our Drill Hall at 79/85, Worship Street, London, E.C.2, at any time, and particularly on a Monday or a Thursday evening at 1900 hours.

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of 11th Meeting of Honorary Secretaries of Local and Unit Branches of the Royal Signals Association, held at H.Q. Middlesex Yeomanry Signal Regiment (T.A.) on Saturday, 13th April, 1957, at 10.30 a.m.

The Meeting was attended by 63 representatives of the following 52 Branches:

Aberdeen, Aldershot, Bath, Bedford, Birmingham, Blackpool, Bournemouth, Bristol, Canterbury, Cardiff, Catterick, Cheltenham, Chester, Chesterfield, Chislehurst, Croydon, Darlington, Derby, Harrogate, Hull, Leeds, Leicester, Liverpool, London, North London, South London, Loughborough, Manchester, Middlesbrough, Newcastle, Northampton, Northern Ireland, Nottingham, Oldham, Portsmouth, Port Talbot, Salisbury, Scarborough, Southampton, Torbay, Tunbridge Wells, York, 1 (Essex) Signal Regiment (T.A.), Sutton, Glossop and District R.S.O.C.A., 1st London Corps Signals O.C.A., 18 Army Group Signal Regiment (No. 2 Unit Branch), 1 Squadron U.K. COMCAN Signal Regiment (No. 15 Unit Branch), 4th Training Regiment (No. 25 Unit Branch), 7th Training Regiment (No. 26 Unit Branch), 3 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment (No. 27 Unit Branch), 4 Squadron U.K. COMCAN Signal Regiment (No. 40 Unit Branch).

In attendance: Captain M. B. M. Brown, Royal Signals, Secretary, Reunion Committee, Catterick; W.O.II M. Lloyd, C.S.O.'s Branch, London District, member of Central Committee.

Apologies were received from Central Scotland, Cornish Branch, Jersey, London City, Northwich, Berlin Signal Squadron (No. 4 Unit Branch).

Major-General R. F. H. Nalder, C.B., O.B.E., Vice-Chairman of the Association, opened the Meeting by giving apology for his absence from Major-General C. M. F. White, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., the Chairman.

He gave thanks to Lieutenant-Colonel J. J. Collins, M.C., T.D., and the Middlesex Yeomanry Signal Regiment, T.A., for the use of their hall. He mentioned with pleasure the recent restoration of "Middlesex Yeomanry" to a primary position in the title of the Regiment.

He welcomed the Representative Colonel Commandant, General Scott, and the Signal Officer-in-Chief, General Wheatley, who had found time to come and address the meeting. He was particularly grateful to General Scott, who had only very recently returned from an arduous journey to Far East.

He welcomed Lieutenant-Colonel C. H. Howarth, Officer Commanding the Officer Training Wing, who had made the long journey to talk about the Reunion at Catterick in June.

He was glad to have with him Mr. W. H. Woolley, Chairman of the Liverpool Branch and a member of the Central Committee.

He called upon the General Secretary to read the Chairman's Report.

Charity Commission

In the matter of the Charities consisting of the following Trust Funds of certain Disbanded Units and Establishments of the Royal Corps of Signals:

1. The Officers' Mess Funds; 2. The Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess Fund; 3. The President of the Regimental Institute's Funds.

The Charity Commissioners for England and Wales hereby give notice that they propose to establish a Scheme for the regulation of the Charities after the expiration of one calendar month.

The Scheme can be seen between the hours of 9.30 a.m. and 4.30 p.m. at the War Office (Signals 5), London, S.W.1, Headquarters Training Brigade Royal Signals, Catterick Camp, and the Depot Regiment, Royal Signals, Chester; and copies can be purchased from the Charity Commission at the price of 8/- each.

Objections or suggestions may be sent within 21 days to the Secretary, Charity Commission, Ryder Street, St. James's, London, S.W.1.

Chairman's Report

I wish to emphasise the debt of gratitude we owe to the Signal Officer-in-Chief and all those serving in the Corps, both Regular, A.E.R. and T.A. Thanks to their efforts during 1956, 3,917 new members joined the Association whilst serving in the Corps; 722 joined in local Branches, a total of 4,639, of which 864 became Life Members.

Until 1956 we had to sell out invested capital to provide the money for our benevolent work. This was perhaps justified in the years after the War, but obviously cannot be continued indefinitely. There has been no diminution in the number of appeals for help.

As a result of the Signal Officer-in-Chief's appeal, those serving in Royal Signals contributed £4,956 in 1956 and local Branches, to whom I, as Chairman, have so often appealed, gave £570. This generosity has stopped the run down of our invested capital.

Since November, 1956, I caused a record to be kept of all cases dealt with by the Welfare Section, whether or no a grant of money is involved. It is a remarkable thing that during the five months during which record has been kept, 291 cases have required financial assistance and 660 cases have been dealt with by advice. It speaks well for both the efficiency of those responsible and also for the service which is being given to the increasing number of applicants.

The same applies to the Employment Section. While the figure of 25 or 30 men definitely placed in employment per quarter represents many hours of patient work, a much larger proportion of effort is given to providing information and advice of a more general nature which frequently leads men to employment without the office hearing about it until much later.

Progress of Branches. Five new Branches have been formed since the last meeting—at Canterbury, Derby, 11 AGRA (Fd) Signal Squadron, ALFCE Signal Squadron and the "Oslo" Branch at Headquarters, Allied Forces, Northern Europe.

We have lost the Branches at 18 Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron, 11 Air Formation Signal Regiment, Gold Coast Signal Squadron, 2 Squadron 3 L. of C. Signal Regiment and at Watford.



In dealing with Branches I wish to emphasise the great debt owed by the Association to all in this room. We, at Headquarters, do try to ease your burden and if we fail so to do, it is not for want of trying.

During the coming year I want you to redouble your efforts and in particular in two matters:

Visiting the sick in hospital. This work calls for much self-sacrifice but it is a most rewarding duty. If any of you hear of one of our Comrades who is in hospital outside your own Branch area do please tell the nearest Branch, or ask Headquarters to see if a visitor can be arranged.

Reunions. Do impress on your members how desirable these reunions are and persuade as many as can to attend. It is a tonic which during the ensuing year will enable them to continue as very active members.

Looking into the future and bearing in mind the latest news of the future of the Army I am not despondent. The politicians hope that an Army of 160,000 Regulars will be available in peacetime with no National Service. When this occurs, our Association should gradually become more solid in its spirit, more like the pre-war and wartime comradeship which carries a man through into civil life.

It is with renewed pleasure that I express my thanks to the very loyal, hard-working and efficient staff at Association Headquarters. They exemplify the spirit of service and loyalty that is, alas, so lacking in many people of today.

I am indeed sorry not to be with you all today. I contracted to do some temporary work with a firm overseas. Unfortunately there were delays, quite beyond my control, and I could not get back in time.

I hope I shall see all of you and many more in Catterick at this year's Annual General Meeting and Reunion. Best of wishes to you all.

The speeches of the Representative Colonel Commandant and the Signal Officer-in-Chief are in the Editorial pages.

The Catterick Reunion

Lieutenant-Colonel C. H. Howarth, O.B.E., T.D., then spoke of the arrangements for the Annual General Meeting and Reunion and he was succeeded by the General Secretary, who spoke on a number of other matters.

The following important points of detail emerged from the discussion:

It is essential that all "clock in" at the Reception Office (Baghdad M.T. Square) on arrival so that they can receive their meal tickets. It is obviously difficult to provide meals for guests who do not notify their arrival.

Lapel Badges will be sent in bulk to Branches as soon

as their proformas giving details of members, etc., arrive in Catterick.

Seats in Church. Provided names are notified in good time, reserved seating will be provided for the wives of members of the Association who wish to attend the Church Parade Service.

Church Closed. All members of the Association are asked to keep away from (outside) St. Martin's Church between 10.15 and 10.30 a.m. on Sunday, 30th June. It is then that the seating plan is completed.

In previous years some members have visited the War Memorial Chapel then. Will they please do so at some other time.

Officers. In order that Officers may more easily be invited to functions in the Headquarter Mess, Branches should please give Rank, Initials, Name and Home Address of all Officers.

Families. The wives and families of members of the Association who wish to attend on Sunday, 30th June, cannot be provided with meals unless Branches and individuals give prior warning and pay the cost. Lunch on Sunday 4/-, Tea on Sunday is available from the NAAFI at the usual charges, Supper or coach meal on Sunday 2/-.

The Trumpet Fund. The General Secretary stated that he had been asked by the Junior Leaders Regiment (Boys Regiment) to thank Branches for generously equipping the Band with silverplated trumpets. The Band was now complete in instruments. If any Branch contemplated further generous gifts there was a shortage of challenge trophies, and the General Secretary could advise intending donors.

Lighter Fuel Packs. The General Secretary stated that most of these collecting boxes were doing very well but that some were unproductive and would be withdrawn.

Royal Signals Booklet. The General Secretary said that one copy of this booklet would be posted to Branches early in May; he hoped that these would be shown at Branch meetings and members encouraged to buy.

Band in South Wales, West Country Reunion, Scottish Reunion. The General Secretary outlined the arrangements which had been made up-to-date.

A suggestion was made that these reunions be held during the holiday period, to take advantage of rail fare concessions often offered about that time. It was pointed out that the dates were usually determined by the availability of the Band and the programme of the "host" Regiment.

Entertainment of Members of the Signals Association of the French and Belgian Armies. The General Secretary explained that during 1956 the Royal Signals Association had been represented by a senior officer at the annual Convention of Signal Associations of the French and Belgian Armies. He read a paper which considered reciprocal entertainment. Since the paper had been written it had been decided that the matter had best be discussed between the Chairman of the Association and the Representative Colonel Commandant, and therefore he asked the meeting merely to note the facts and not make any comment.

Cadets. South London (City of London Signals) Branch opened discussion on the subject of making Cadets of Army Cadet Force Units members of the Association. There was considerable discussion and conflicting points of view were expressed. The most cogent reason against the proposal was that owing to their youth, Cadets of the Army Cadet Force were not suited to take part in many social functions organised by Branches. The proposal was not approved by a very large majority. The General Secretary stated that with the approval of the Chairman of the Association he would do all possible by advice and assistance to enable any of the few Branches actively connected with an A.C.F. Signal Unit in the same Drill Hall,

to come to a suitable local arrangement to fulfil the wishes of the Branch in interesting the boys in the work of the Association.

Certificate of Recognition. Birmingham Branch opened the discussion on the giving of certificates of recognition of services of certain outstanding members of Branches and benefactors. There was general discussion and on a vote being taken there was a very large majority against the proposal.

Increase in Annual Subscriptions. During 1956 the relationship between the Welfare Section (Benevolent Fund) and the General Fund and the whole question of the costs of administration of the Association have been under very close examination by a sub-committee of the Central Committee, appointed for the purpose. After a very considerable examination and being cognisant of the relationship between the effort required at Association Headquarters in dealing with "cases" which necessitate a grant of money, and a great majority of "cases" where the matter involved was settled by advice or consultation with other societies, the sub-committee came to certain conclusions:

- The sub-committee recommended that the cost per copy of THE WIRE be increased from 1/- to 1/3 as from the 1st January, 1958.
- The sub-committee considered first the means of providing for the estimated sum to be spent on benevolent grants and recommended that 50% of the income of the Royal Signals Association and Benevolent Fund should during 1957 be paid into the Welfare Section.
- The sub-committee further recommended that the remainder of the income of the Royal Signals Association and Benevolent Fund should during 1957 be paid to the General Fund to pay for such welfare services as the Employment Section and other welfare work that does not need the disbursement of money.
- The sub-committee concluded that there would still be a continuing deficit in the General Fund and that the only way in which this could be made up was by an increase in income from annual subscriptions.

In opening the discussion on this important matter General Nalder (Chairman) said he wished the meeting to confine the argument to the basic matter of the Annual Subscription of 2/- being increased to 5/-, of which 2/6 was to be sent to Association Headquarters. Once this had been settled such question as the corresponding Annual Subscription of Officers and Life Members' Subscription could be considered in detail by the Central Committee. Any increase in subscription would have to be approved by the Annual General Meeting. He continued—the expenses of running the Association paid by the General Fund are increasing, the cost of everything, salaries, postage, telephony, stationery, heat, light, etc. Since the War an appreciable amount of income has come from the subscriptions of National Servicemen who become members, particularly those who become Life Members. Benevolent grants are not decreasing, they may well increase. It must be remembered that well over 100,000 men who have served in the Corps in National Service remain as potential beneficiaries. Taking all our sources of income into consideration we cannot continue for long to maintain the Association on its present scale. If we cannot get an increase of income some of the services given by the Association must be cut out and more must be curtailed.

There was then very considerable discussion in which Branches suggested that:

- Instead of increasing the subscription, the annual Affiliation Fee should be increased, thus giving Branches the opportunity of raising the money as best they could.

- That the proposed increase in subscriptions from 2/- a year to 5/- a year was too great.
- That even if an increase in subscriptions was necessary Association Headquarters and Branches should share the increase more equitably.
- That Headquarters should run a lottery.

Some Branches spoke wholeheartedly in favour of the proposal.

General Secretary said that to provide the necessary increased income by raising the Affiliation Fee might suit large Branches but would be impossible for small Branches, since it would have to be of the order of £10 per Branch per year. A large number of men paid their annual subscriptions direct to Headquarters and an increase in subscription would produce the required income in the most equitable way.

He explained that the increase in income required at Headquarters was in the General Fund. It might be within the law to run a "draw" or "lottery" for the Welfare Section (Benevolent Fund), it certainly was not legal to do so for the General Fund.

On a vote being taken to increase the Annual Subscription of the Other Ranks from 2/- to 5/- there were 30 in favour and 16 against. That of the proposed increase, Branches should pay to Headquarters 2/6 per Other Rank Annual Member, there were 27 in favour and 10 against.

Special Association Standard. Catterick Branch proposed that Association Headquarters should provide a Royal Signals Association Standard, the honour of wearing which should be allotted to Branches annually. There would be a competition for this honour on the Sunday of the Catterick Reunion in which teams representing Branches would be judged in turn-out, drill, etc., of the standard bearer and escorts. There was discussion, and on a vote being taken a very large number were against the proposal.

Other Business

The General Secretary then took leave to

- Ask the meeting if any Branch wishes a new Standard to be dedicated at the Catterick Reunion. There was none.

- Ask the meeting to consider privately and let him have their views later, a suggestion that this, the Branch Representatives' Meeting, be enlarged by providing entertainment over, say two days, to include the wives of those attending. It had been suggested that one or more social evenings or dances be arranged and that facilities be given for the ladies to be conducted over the Houses of Parliament, Her Majesty's Tower of London, etc., during the conference.

- Re-iterate that the sub-committee which had recommended an increase in subscriptions had also recommended that THE WIRE be increased in price from 1/- to 1/3 a copy in 1958.

In response to a protest about the current cover of the magazine he pointed out that a plain cover made a saving of £10 a month, £120 a year. He promised a better, coloured cover as soon as possible, depending on the financial situation during the year.

- He said that the meeting would remember with regret that the late Mr. Gordon Paling was not in his usual place.

Mr. T. Black, Liverpool, expressed the thanks of the meeting to the staff at Association Headquarters for the work during the year.

General Nalder (Chairman) thanked Branch representatives for the constructive views expressed by all during the meeting and declared the meeting closed.



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Association Notes

Loughborough Branch

Things are going very well here at Beaumanor, in both the social and business sense.

Our monthly dances and the odd social evening are proving successful draws, and an encouraging feature of recent meetings has been the improved attendances. The recently-elected Executive Committee, headed by Chairman Frank Cooke, is setting about its task with a fine sense of purpose and dedication.

Right now we are making plans and preparations for the week-end of 25/26th May, when we are being visited by the Corps Band to mark the occasion of our annual Garden Fete and other ceremonies. Highlighting the programme for us, is the dedication of our Branch Standard, and we are all looking forward to a good turn-out for the Church Parade which will feature the Band, 10 Wireless Squadron, and our own contingent.

This month, instead of the usual "Celebrity" spot, I feel it would not be out of place to spotlight the Branch itself in a sort of progress report. In these times of counter-attractions and falling interest in organisations of our type, it is considered quite an achievement to maintain the *status quo*, so perhaps we may be forgiven pride in our own progress as a Branch.

The Branch was formed at a meeting of some 60 interested people in October, 1953, and it is worthy of note that Frank Cameron, who played no small role in the formation, has served on the Committee ever since. Almost coincidental with our formation was the arrival in the area of Brigadier J. J. Duvivier, C.B.E. (Retd.), who accepted the Presidency, and who has been throughout our short life a constant source of help, wisdom and encouragement.

Although the bulk of our membership is drawn from employees at a War Office Wireless Station, we do have quite a number from the surrounding district, with a valuable element from the Post Office, and from 10 W.T.S.

Now the Branch strength stands at 211, we hope to improve on that, but in the meantime we are far from satisfied, and constantly endeavour to better our service to our own members and to the Association itself.

Aldershot Branch

Once again it is time for me to put pen to paper and record some of the happenings and doings of us here in Aldershot. There have been many functions since our last appearance in these columns and I hope to record some of these now.

We are, I am pleased to say, still at the Royal Standard Hotel, Aldershot, for our meetings and all members if in the "Ole Town" want to make any enquiries "mine host" has them.

The Annual General Meeting of the Branch was held in January, under the Presidency of Major-General C. W. Fladgate, C.B.E. Mr. L. V. Goodman was re-elected as Chairman, with Mr. R. W. Fairclough as Secretary. Mr. A. V. Ient remained as the Treasurer. Those elected to the Committee were Messrs. Cadwell, Nash and Bridger.

The Christmas Draw really went down with a bang on the evening of the Draw; everyone had a really good social. Prizes were won all over England and all were despatched and received in good time. Many thanks to those at home and abroad for their support, and the Welfare Fund benefited.

The Branch held its Annual Dinner in March. Forty members with their wives and friends sat down to this annual event. We were sorry not to have the General Secretary with us this year. Our President, Major-General C. W. Fladgate, C.B.E., was present and here are the rest: Brigadier F. Allen, Major (Bill) West, Messrs. Atkinson, Robinson, Nash, Goodman, Green, Downs, Chesters, Hockley, Ient, Cadwell, Fairclough, Adkins, Bridger, Good, Nichols, Stevens and Hill, Mesdames Atkinson, Nash, Green, Downes, Hockley, Holness, Cadwell, Fairclough, Adkins, Good, Nichols, Hill and Robinson, Staff Sergeant and Mrs. Howells and several friends of members. It is good to see the few that can get together at least once a year to keep the memory of happy days.

The Catterick Reunion is now coming nearer and Aldershot hope to send their usual contingent North, so we'll be seeing you.

Congratulations to No. 1 Training Regiment on winning the Army Rugby Cup. Some of us here saw your magnificent win. Good show.

Enquiries should always be sent to us; we'll have them, especially now for the Derby Draw.

BRITISH LEGION PENSION CAMPAIGN

The General Secretary represented the Association in the deputation to the Minister of Pensions and National Insurance on 20th March. The deputation included representatives of nearly all the national organisations dealing with Ex-Servicemen and their families, of the Royal Naval Association, the Royal Air Forces Association, and others. The Army was represented by the Royal Artillery Association.

The following matters were discussed with the Minister and the senior officials:—

Basic Rate and War Widows' Pensions.

Independent Appeal.

Provision of Suitable Two Seater Vehicles.

Disregard of Pensions by the National Assistance Board.

The alleged undue stress placed by Pensions Tribunals on the pensioners ability to work.

The deputation was introduced by Sir Ian Fraser, M.P. The Minister (Mr. J. A. Boyd Carpenter, M.P.) was generally very sympathetic. Each item was argued by a different member or members of the deputation. In some items the Minister and his colleagues remained (apparently) unconvinced. In others, e.g. the question of the two seater vehicles and the last item, he promised a complete re-examination of the whole problem.

In summing up, the Minister promised that he would remember what had been said (and written) and would bring it all to the notice of the Government. While, as was indeed only right, he made no definite promises; the members of the deputation were reassured that the Minister had the interest of Ex-Service Pensioners very much at heart and that within the broad picture of the National economy he would do what was possible to safeguard their interests.

Welfare Section

Below an attempt is made to describe with suitable anonymity nine cases taken from the Welfare Section files current during the first week in April, 1957. Also on this page is a simple statement of income and expenditure.

Signalman, 1940-41. Married, three children. Illness six months ago halved his income. The British Legion helped with vouchers for groceries and the Association by a cash grant to help with debts.

Signalman, 1939-40. 100% disability pensioner, married, three children; he earned a very good salary until a recurrence of his illness caused him to be dependent on aid from the State. This kept his family alive but did not provide for replacement of the children's clothes. The Association helped to do this.

Signalman, 1955. Serving. Married, one child, who is very delicate. On recommendation of SSAFA and the Commanding Officer a small grant was made to clear arrears of necessarily incurred hire purchase.

Signalman, 1940-47 (3½ years as F.E.P.o.W.). Married, two children. He has 20% disability pension. His wife, ex-A.T.S., is also a pensioner. Both he and his wife have had long periods of illness and the fund helped them.

Signalman, 1956. Serving. Married, one child. On representation to the Commanding Officer a voluntary allotment was started. A National Service Grant was applied for and the Association made a small grant.

Signalman, 1940-42. Widower, he helps support his widowed mother and his 14-year-old daughter. He has been very badly swindled by an unprincipled rogue. The fund made him a long term loan to avoid him being made bankrupt and so losing his livelihood.

Corporal, 1951. Serving. Married. While serving in Germany one of his children became desperately ill and had to be flown to the Great Ormonde Street Hospital in London. His wife was herself put into another hospital. SSAFA cared for the other children and the Corporal and later the wife and the baby whose life was saved. The Association refunded SSAFA costs incurred for fares, etc.

Widow of Driver, 1940-46, who died in 1956 leaving his widow and two children. They live on an income hardly sufficient for subsistence. The Association and Earl Haig's Fund provided clothing for the children.

Signalman, 1942-47. Married, three school aged children. He has been off work through illness for six months, his wife is also ill. The fund paid small arrears of rent and to pay accounts for clothing for the children.

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION AND BENEVOLENT FUND

Subscriptions received during March, 1957:

	£	s.	d.
4 Training Regiment ...	19	0	10
C.S.O., Northern Command ...	15	0	0
17 Wireless Squadron, T.A. ...	1	1	8
Junior Leaders' Regiment ...	20	0	0
Eastern Command Signal Squadron ...	6	19	8
1 (Essex) Signal Regiment, T.A. (B/49 Branch) ...	5	0	0
SHAPE Signal Squadron ...	4	2	6
6 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment ...	27	0	0
7 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment ...	70	0	0
1 Air Support Signal Unit ...	14	4	0
5 AGRA (A.A.) Signal Squadron ...	5	0	0
18 Army Group Signal Regiment ...	3	12	7
2 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment ...	55	3	0
2 L. of C. Signal Regiment ...	21	10	6
4 Air Formation Signal Regiment ...	15	12	0
4 L. of C. Signal Squadron (Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess) ...	20	0	0
4 L. of C. Signal Regiment; 2 Air Support Signal Unit; and 11 Line Troop ...	25	0	0
Tripolitania Signal Troop ...	4	0	0
Total receipts	£318	1	9

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION WELFARE SECTION

Donations received during March, 1957:

	£	s.	d.
Chesterfield Branch ...	2	2	0
Newcastle Branch ...	10	0	0
D. H. McEwan, Esq. ...	4	8	0
Total receipts	£16	10	0

Expenditure during March, 1957

(Includes: Rent and Rates; Beds and Bedding; Furniture; Cots and Prams; General Assistance).

	£	s.	d.
Analysis of Cases:			
Families of Soldiers serving in U.K. ...	4		
" " " " " B.A.O.R. ...	2		
Widows and Dependents ...	3		
Released and Discharged Soldiers ...	47		
Total cases assisted	56		

27 cases of Soldiers who served during the 1939/45 War ...	£335	9	3
29 cases of Soldiers who did not serve during the War ...	£268	14	5

LIGHTER FUEL PACKS

The following amounts were most gratefully received during March, 1957:

Box No.		£	s.	d.
12 ...	5 AGRA (A.A.) Signal Squadron ...	16	0	
16 ...	SHAPE/Paris Branch ...	10	0	
67 ...	43 (Wx.) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A. ...	3	6	6
82 ...	SHAPE/Paris Branch ...	10	5	
Total		£5	2	11

SPORT

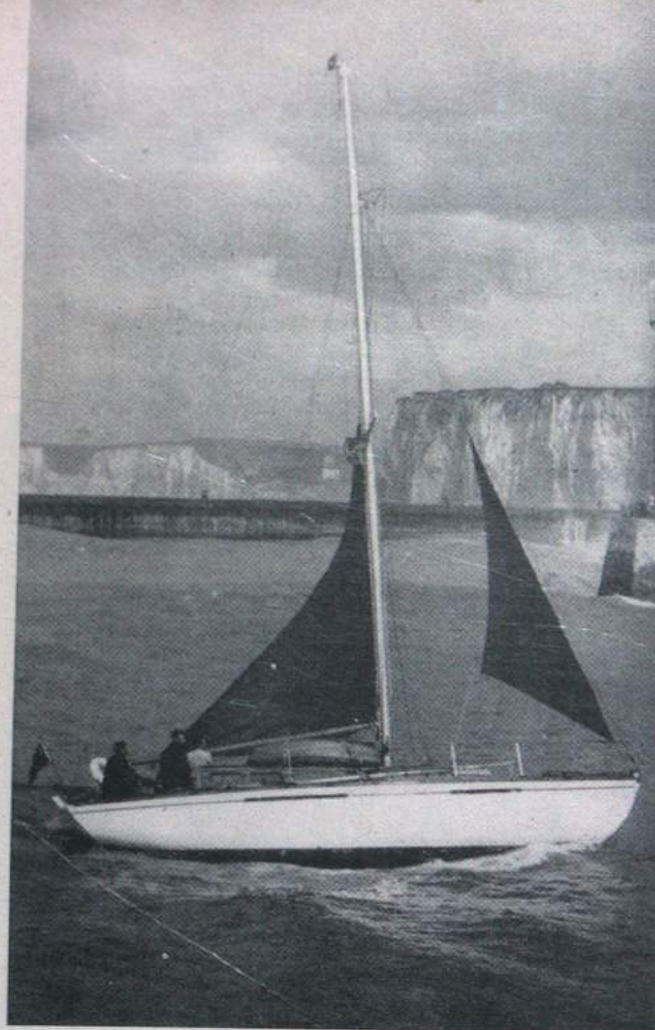
SQUASH RACKETS

President: Brigadier E. D. GOOD, C.B.E.

Secretary: Major J. St. C. W. ROBINSON, Royal Signals

The Royal Signals Individual Squash Rackets Championship open to all ranks of the Corps has been restarted and the 1957 Championship was held in Catterick during March. The winner was Major J. St. C. W. Robinson who beat Captain I. MacDonald 6-9, 9-4, 9-5, 9-4.

It is proposed to hold the 1958 Championship next January, when it is hoped that Squash players in the Corps who are stationed other than in Catterick will be encouraged to enter.



Sailing

Our picture shows *Petasus* entering Dieppe during the Channel gale in 1956. It was taken by one of the crowd of 2,000 who watched her come safely in. The wind was force 9-10 and heavy breaking seas tended to hide the harbour entrance.

A fuller account of this race, and many other interesting details, are given in the Year Book, 1957, which has been distributed to all Units and individual members.

The sailing season is here again and the aim of the Royal Signals Yacht Club is to promote interest and activity in this most exhilarating and enjoyable sport.

Petasus is already heavily booked but she is still available for charter for periods in May and September and crewing can be arranged throughout the season. Captain Desmond Barry (W.O. Signals 7) is charter manager.

The last Firefly has now been chartered for the season, and Major David Gibson, at the School of Signals, is always anxious to help officers who would like sailing on Windermere, especially during the Corps Week, 2nd-10th August.

The Junior Leaders Regiment at Newton Abbott have three Redwing dinghies and chartering can be arranged through Lieutenant E. Hunt.

At H.Q., B.A.O.R., Colonel Charlton, with the assistance of funds from the Club, is arranging a regatta at Mohne See on 23rd/24th July, and entries for a triangular match, R.A., R.E., Royal Signals later; any keen sailors who have not already done so should get in touch with him.

The lucky people in Cyprus have *Cito* and three Fireflies, with Major Bobby Maunsell at Signals Branch trying hard to make both ends meet.

If this does not provide the answers then the Secretary, Royal Signals Yacht Club, c/o 88, Eccleston Square, alias Major Nigel Pidsley at the Horse Guards, will do so.

B.A.O.R. Hockey Final

21 Field Engineer Regiment 2
18 Army Group Signal Regiment 1

The 15th April brought to a close a most successful hockey season for 18 Army Group Signal Regiment. Having already won the Major Units Hockey Championship of 2 Infantry Division/Rhine District and the B.A.O.R. Royal Signals Cup, we met 21st Field Engineer Regiment in the final of the B.A.O.R. Hockey Cup at Münster.

Although without Major E. J. Buirski, injured, who has been in excellent form this season, we were optimistic about our chances of completing the hockey "hat-trick" in B.A.O.R.

Under ideal weather and playing conditions some very fine hockey, played in typical cup-tie spirit, was soon to be seen. In the 15th minute 18 Army Group were very unlucky not to take the lead when S.Q.M.S. Cattle received a perfect through pass from inside right Captain Hellier. Unfortunately for S.Q.M.S. Cattle the ball ran out of control and out of play for a 25-yard bully. The play passed from end to end and although 18 Army Group forced three short corners, the score was 0-0 at half-time, and 18 Army Group can consider themselves unfortunate not to have been in the lead at this stage.

Shortly after half-time the hard tackling and hard hitting tactics of 21 Field Engineer Regiment became more apparent and as a result of a fine constructive forward move 21 Field Engineer Regiment took the lead. Their centre forward moved out to the right wing and from an extremely oblique angle scored with a magnificent shot. This goal seemed to take the life out of 18 Army Group and 21 Field Engineer Regiment piled on the pressure. After some 20 minutes of the second half 21 Field Engineer Regiment increased their lead from a penalty bully. This second goal seemed to revive the fighting spirit of 18 Army Group, who now fought back to win yet another short corner, from which S.Q.M.S. Cattle scored. The score, 2-1 to 21 Field Engineer Regiment and 10 minutes to play. At this stage cup-tie tactics became more apparent on both sides, 21 Field Engineer Regiment making long, wild clearances and at times the full backs and half backs of 18 Army Group were to be seen mixed up with their own forwards, giving them very close support and encouragement.

The score remained at 2-1 for 21 Field Engineer Regiment. It was a fair result on the day's play and a hard game. 21 Field Engineer Regiment were fast on the ball and moved it quickly from wing to wing, keeping the ball on the move. Let it suffice to say that the better team won and good luck to 21 Field Engineer Regiment when they play in the Army Cup Final in the U.K.

Whilst feeling disappointed at not reaching the Army Cup Final, we are very proud of our contribution of two Cups and the B.A.O.R. Runners-up Shield to the fine collection of sporting trophies already won by the Regiment.

ROYAL SIGNALS HOCKEY

The Corps hockey team finished its Inter-Corps matches for the 1956/57 season, when the R.A.S.C. were played at Aldershot on 31st March, 1957.

The results of Corps matches played since Christmas are as follows:

20th March, 1957	Welbeck College	...	...	...	Won	4-0
30th March, 1957	Aldershot Services	...	...	...	Lost	1-4
31st March, 1957	R.A.S.C.	...	...	...	Won	2-0

The season's playing record is:

Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	For	Against
9	5	2	2	21	13

Lieutenant P. Wetherill has played for the Army regularly during the season and was included in the Army team against the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force. Major P. S. Westmacott played once for the Army.

The following players have been awarded Corps Hockey Jimmies in addition to those shown in THE WIRE of January, 1957:

Lieutenant J. M. Pigot, Lieutenant (Q.M.) R. S. Etherington, Sergeant S. B. C. Peberdy.

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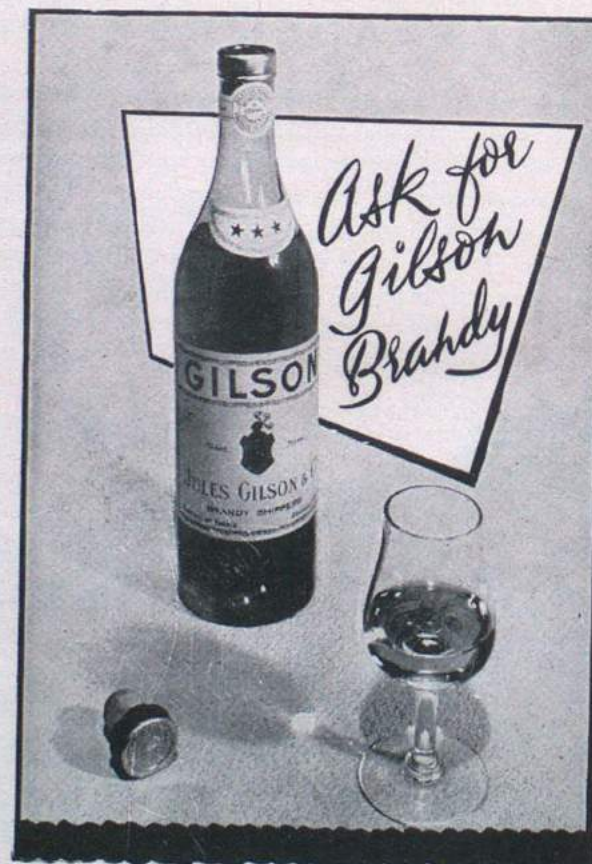
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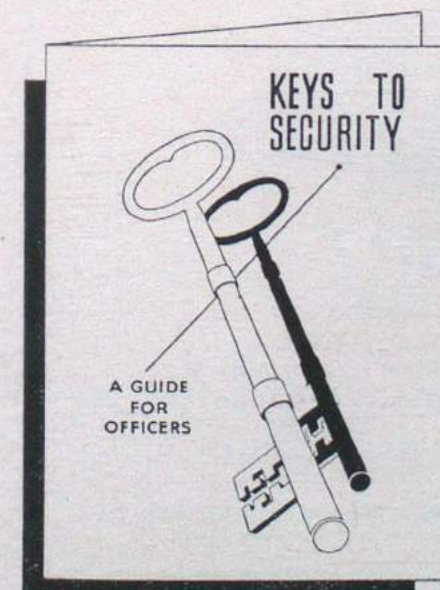


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ROYAL SIGNALS

The Official Organ of the
SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

Editor:

BRIGADIER H. R. FIRTH

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Vol. 11 (New Series) No. 6



PRICE ONE SHILLING

THE WIRE, JUNE 1957

Editorial

By Major-General C. M. F. White, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O.,
Colonel Commandant and Chairman,
Royal Signals Association

ALL the affairs of the Signals Association have, as is usual at this time each year, been under review of the very able and conscientious Central Committee, and also the Branch representatives have had their annual meeting and their views and criticisms also have been heard and welcomed. Further our very successful Trustees have been studying our financial affairs and giving much valued advice and re-adjusted their investment policy to meet the modern financial market.

Now at the end of this month our Annual General Meeting and Reunion will be taking place at Catterick Camp. This Annual Meeting will hear of all the policy recommendations for the future welfare of our Association. These recommendations cover all aspects of our work and include Annual Subscriptions, Life Subscriptions, price of our Journal, *THE WIRE*, Reunions throughout the country in future, Mercury House, Bournemouth, financial accounting of the General and Welfare Funds, and so on.

For this reason it is, I feel, so important that the Annual General Meeting and Reunion at Catterick should be well attended, for it is here that approval of all these policy recommendations are confirmed. So I do hope that as many members as possible will come and give their valued opinions and support to those hard working honorary officials who have been spending so much of their thoughts and time towards the consummation of the aims of our Association.

I strongly recommend that members refresh their memories as to the OBJECTS and CENTRAL ORGANISATION of our Association as laid down in "Rules of the Signals Association of the Royal Corps of Signals" No. 4 and 5 before attending the coming Annual General Meeting, or for that matter, any Branch or other meeting of the Association.

A very large number of members have criticised the present white cover to *THE WIRE* and this is much welcomed as a sign that we all want something worthier of our Journal. As has been explained in previous issues of *THE WIRE* this was done to save costs, which have so mounted that, if *THE WIRE* is not to be subsidised in the future, they must be cut down.

Now the cost of *THE WIRE* is to be raised by 3d. a month, our Journal will shortly have not only a much superior cover but its external new look will give that high quality which we all want. It only remains for our contributors to see that their manuscripts are of similar quality for our monthly magazine to compare very favourably with any Service Journal.

It is with great regret that I have to inform you that Major-General R. F. H. Nalder, C.B., O.B.E., has had to resign from Vice-Chairman of the Association, as his present duties will be added to considerably when he takes over Representative Colonel Commandant next January.

He has been Vice-Chairman since 1952 and given unstinted help and advice that has proved of the greatest value during this time and we all owe him a great debt of gratitude.

Your Central Committee has nominated Major-General A. E. Morrison, C.B., O.B.E., to take over Vice-Chairman, and this happy choice should fill a vacancy requiring the characteristic so essential to the success of our Association. General Morrison has indicated his willingness and pleasure to serve in this appointment and I am sure you will give him an unanimous vote at the Annual General Meeting.

Generally this Editorial is written by our very capable General Secretary, but I felt I would like to write to you myself this month, and also take this opportunity of thanking, on your and my behalf, the members of your Central Committee, our Trustees and the hard working, loyal and efficient staffs of both our Headquarters and all the Branches of our Association.

Finally, I would like to express how proud I am to be Chairman of an Association that goes from strength to strength in its work and to assure you that the Welfare Section (Benevolent Fund), thanks to the support of past and present members of our Corps, is doing magnificent work that no state provision can possibly replace.

PERSONAL COLUMN

London Gazette

16th April, 1957.
Major D. A. Nolan, M.A., A.M.I.E.E., retires on retired pay, 16th April, 1957.
Lieutenant (Q.M.) T. W. Grigg to be Captain (Q.M.), 11th March, 1957.
Lieutenant (Q.M.) B. Sellar to be Captain (Q.M.), 17th April, 1957.
23rd April, 1957.
Major (Traffic Officer) J. S. Martinson to be Lieutenant-Colonel (Traffic Officer), 11th January, 1957.
Major (Q.M.) H. G. Stuckley retires to retired pay, 31st March, 1957.
26th April, 1957.
Colonel F. E. B. Jones, O.B.E., T.D., J.P., to be Honorary Colonel, 1/20 Army Signal Regiment, T.A., 28th March, 1957, vice Brigadier E. A. James, O.B.E., T.D., J.P., D.L.
30th April, 1957.
Major (Traffic Officer) W. Cole relinquishes his commission on completion of service, 28th April, 1957.
W.O. Cl. I. H. W. Newsham to be Lieutenant (Q.M.), 1st April, 1957, 10th May, 1957.
(A.E.R.) Major R. M. Peachey to be Lieutenant-Colonel, 1st April, 1957.

Movements — Officers

Major E. S. Miller, B.A.O.R. to Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A.
Major R. W. Millo, B.A.O.R. to Royal Signals Records.
Lieutenant-Colonel P. G. Goodeve-Docker, B.A.O.R. to Depot Regiment, pending retirement.
Captain (T.O.T.) W. Cornish, Depot H.S. to Signal Regiment, U.K.
Captain (Traffic Officer) J. Hastings, M.E.L.F. to B.A.O.R.
Lieutenant (Q.M.) H. W. Newsham, First Commission to 5 Training Regiment.
Lieutenant (Q.M.) J. Woods, Depot H.S. to ALFCE Signal Squadron.
Major D. Coatesworth, B.A.O.R. to Signal Regiment, U.K.
Major J. W. Rayner, War Office to Depot H.S.
Major (Traffic Officer) P. R. P. Donaghy, Depot Regiment (H.S.) to War Office Signal Squadron.
Major (Traffic Officer) E. A. McLoughlin, Depot Regiment (H.S.) to U.K. COMCAN Signal Regiment.
Major (Traffic Officer) F. Williams, Depot Regiment (H.S.) to U.K. COMCAN Signal Regiment.
Lieutenant-Colonel J. D. Elliott, B.A.O.R. to Malta.
Major K. E. Haycock, FARELF to 7 Training Regiment.
Lieutenant-Colonel M. Stonestreet, FARELF to Depot Regiment (H.S.).
Captain R. W. White, U.K. to FARELF.

Births

ALBOROUGH.—To Sergeant and Mrs. Alborough, a son, born at French Civil and Military Hospital, Fontainebleau, on 20th April, 1957.
HARRIS.—To Sergeant and Mrs. C. Harris, Army Apprentice School, Harrogate, a son, Roger Charles, at Harrogate General Hospital, on 20th April, 1957.
FAIRHURST.—To Sergeant and Mrs. R. V. Fairhurst of Headquarters, Training Brigade Royal Signals, on 16th April, 1957, a son, Paul Victor.
ROTHWELL.—To Staff Sergeant and Mrs. Rothwell at Catterick Military Hospital, on 9th April, 1957, a son, Ralph Nicolaus.
POCOCK.—To Staff Sergeant and Mrs. Pocock, U.K. COMCAN Signal Regiment, at Louise Margaret Hospital, on 1st May, 1957, a son, Grant Charles.
NORRIS.—To Lance-Corporal and Mrs. Norris, 10 Air Formation Signal Regiment, a daughter.
WALLER.—To W.O.II and Mrs. Waller, a son, Paul, on 7th May, 1957, at Lincoln.
BROWN.—To Sergeant and Mrs. Brown, 3rd Training Regiment, a daughter, Christine, on 21st April, 1957, at Hitchin, Herts.

All the following of 19 Army Group Signal Regiment.

SMALL.—To Sergeant and Mrs. F. S. Small, a son, Frederick Edward, at B.M.H., Hostert, on 22nd March, 1957.
FRANCIS.—To Staff Sergeant and Mrs. J. Francis, a son, Peter Donald Brian, at B.M.H., Hostert, on 5th April, 1957.
ORTON.—To Corporal and Mrs. K. J. Orton, a son, Kevin John, at B.M.H., Hostert, on 27th March, 1957.
RODERICK.—To Captain and Mrs. A. B. Roderick, a daughter, Margaret Emily, at B.M.H., Hostert, on 24th March, 1957.
SHARPE.—To Sergeant and Mrs. Sharpe, a daughter, Patricia Ann, at B.M.H., Hostert, on 22nd March, 1957.

THE AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT OF 1st MAY, 1957

The sympathy of all in Royal Signals will go to the parents of the five young Signalmen who were killed.

Arthur Herbert
Brian
Gilbert Cyril William
Michael Charles Mortimer
David Alan
CONNIER
DREW
FATHERLY
HEMKEN
REES

Also to the widow of Major H. L. Lacey, M.B.E., R.A.P.C., who lost his life in the same accident and who served in Royal Signals before transferring to the Royal Army Pay Corps.

Deaths

LOWE.—Ex-Corporal T. Lowe, of 21, Celandine Road, Hersham, Walton-on-Thames, Surrey, on 28th February, 1957, aged 61.
OAKLEY-SMITH.—Ex-Signalman D. Oakley-Smith, of 8, Redcliffe Street, S.W.10, on 19th April, 1957.
BALL.—Ex-Signalman G. W. Ball, of 14, Okeover Manor, North Side, Clapham Common, S.W.4, on 6th April, 1957.
McDONALD.—23326578 Signalman B. McDonald on 3rd May, 1957, in Edinburgh Royal Infirmary, as a result of a motor cycle accident.

Marriages

DAVIS—STANLEY.—Captain P. S. Davis to Miss Edith Anne Stanley at Stokesay, on 23rd April, 1957.
WYND—HARGATE.—Second-Lieutenant J. G. Wynd to Elaine Margaret Hargate at Ecclesfield Parish Church, on 20th April, 1957.

Arrivals and Departures

Headquarters, Training Brigade, Royal Signals
Arrivals: Sergeant K. A. Waterworth.
Departures: Staff Sergeant D. F. G. Mills.
Western Command Signal Squadron
Arrivals: W.O.II (S.S.M.) L. V. Stratton, W.O.II (F. of S.) G. H. Paul, Sergeants R. Jones and A. O. Morgan.
Departures: W.O.II (S.S.M.) H. Fox, W.O.II (F. of S.) G. D. Seymore, Staff Sergeants J. F. Byrne and A. Reed.

U.K. COMCAN Signal Regiment
Arrivals: Sergeant Palmer.
12 Air Formation Signal Regiment
Arrivals: Staff Sergeant J. A. Raymond.
10 Air Formation Signal Regiment
Arrivals: Majors E. A. Sinnock and H. E. Roper, W.O.II R. C. Stiles, Sergeants F. J. Henon and V. J. Gambell.
Departures: Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) E. A. R. Harrington.

19 Army Group Signal Regiment
Arrivals: (All ex 18 Army Group Signal Regiment), Majors E. J. Buirski, R. W. Cooper, S. Scholfield, Captains D. H. Freeman, P. N. Spencer, Lieutenants B. A. Watson, R. G. Furtado, J. A. Bevan, Second-Lieutenant D. L. Clarke, W.O.II Jones, Edwards, Staff Sergeants Hughes, Debenham, Marshall, Warwick, Singleton, Faraday, Sergeants Osmund, Moose, Newton, Finlayson, Prior, Elliott, Beresford, Hammond, Allen, McCullough, Cannings, Hill, Stubbsfield, Smith.
Departures: Sergeants J. P. Baldry, G. W. Bulman.

1 Training Regiment
Arrivals: Majors P. P. H. Morton, C. de Lyle Turner and J. A. Adams, R.A., R.S.M. P. E. A. Hall, W.O.II J. M. Philpott and A. A. J. Reed, Staff Sergeants D. D. Tetlow and S. N. Avery.
Departures: S.S.M. S. T. Parker and Sergeant B. Fisher.
3 Training Regiment
Arrivals: Staff Sergeant Page, Sergeants Brown, Doyle, Moody and G. Rogers.
Departures: Staff Sergeant Crummy, Sergeant Palman.

Forthcoming Events

Catterick Reunion and A.G.M. ... 29th—30th June, 1957
Scottish Reunion, Dreghorn Camp, Edinburgh.

Saturday, 17th August
3 p.m. to 6 p.m. Reception arrangements.
6.00 p.m. The Playing of Retreat.
8.00 p.m. Sergeants' Mess and All Ranks' Dance.
Sunday, 18th August
11.00 a.m. Church Parade Service and March Past.
1.00 p.m. Lunch.
2.30 to 5 p.m. Gala.

The White City Tattoo

organised by, and for the funds of, The Soldiers', Sailors and Airmen's Families' Association, White City Stadium, 7th-16th August—5th August, 3 p.m., a preview at the Rushmore Arena, Aldershot. For details see posters.

National Radio Show

H.M. The Queen has consented to be patron of the National Radio and Television Exhibition to be held at Earls Court, London, from August 28th to September 7th, 1957.

West Country Reunion ... 28th—29th September, 1957

CORPS BAND SUMMER TOUR 1957

Touring Band

23rd June—30th June ... O.C.A., Catterick
1st July—6th July ... York Festival
7th July ... Gateshead
8th July—14th July ... Edinburgh
15th July—20th July ... Dunfermline
21st July ... Paisley
22nd July—27th July ... Dunfermline
28th July—11th August ... Glasgow
15th August—17th August ... Scottish Command, Edinburgh
18th August—25th August ... Edinburgh
26th August—31st August ... Hastings
1st September—7th September ... B.B.C. Recordings
8th September—14th September ... Eastbourne

Non-Touring Band

16th July ... Newcastle, H.R.H. Princess Royal
15th August ... V.J. Guest Night
16th August—17th August ... Scottish Command, Edinburgh
7th October—11th October ... Eaton Hall

ROYAL SIGNALS LAWN TENNIS— 1957 FIXTURES

June 19	Welbeck College	Workshop
July 11	Royal Engineers	Officers' Club, Catterick
July 17	Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst	Sandhurst
July 18	R.A.S.C.	At Aldershot
July 19	R.A.E.C.	At Aldershot
July 20	Staff College	At Camberley
July 21	R.E.M.E.	At Aldershot

Woolwich Searchlight Tattoo

Official Celebrations of 350th Anniversary of the Founding of Jamestown in Woolwich Searchlight Tattoo

With the approval and support of the Foreign Office and American Embassy, as well as a number of important societies and individuals concerned with Anglo-American relations, the Tattoo Committee has accepted the duty of staging the United Kingdom Celebration of the 350th Anniversary of the founding of the first English Settlement at Jamestown, Virginia. This Anniversary is being celebrated on a lavish scale in the United States and the Tattoo Committee are determined to demonstrate that this historic event is of equal significance in this country.

The Boroughs of Woolwich and Greenwich have been pleased to give their support to these Celebrations and have promised to provide between them 1,000 citizens to appear in a Red Indian scene.

This part of London has close associations with the original expedition, for three ships set sail from Blackwall and undoubtedly recruited the crews from this area. Also Pocohontas, the Indian chieftain's daughter, is buried at Gravesend.

The story of Jamestown started with the granting of a Charter by James I to the Virginia Company of London in the Spring of 1606. This Company was organised on a joint stock basis and embraced all classes of English society. By the end of 1606, the Company had organised an expedition which reached Jamestown on the 13th May, 1607. This Settlement later grew into the Colony of Virginia and set a pattern for self-government in the New World and can rightly claim to be the foundation of the American nation as we know it today.

The Celebrations at Woolwich will show the first English settlers landing in Jamestown in 1607, from a full scale replica of a 17th century ship, the building of the Fort at Jamestown, the romantic story of John Smith and Pocohontas, in a scene with over 1,000 Red Indians and ending with Massed British and American Service Bands, thus epitomising the Anglo-American alliance.

The Jamestown Celebrations will be only part of the elaborate programme of events arranged for the fifth post-War Woolwich Searchlight Tattoo. There will be displays by the Horse Transport Section of the R.A.S.C., the Uganda Band of the King's African Rifles with the Corps of Drums of the 6th Battalion of the King's African Rifles, a Tent Pegging Display by the Royal Military Police, a Helicopter Display by the Royal Air Forces, the 751st United States Air Force Band, a Gun Competition by the Territorial Army, Musical Drive by the King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery, and many other new items, not least of which will be a musical scene of the "Battle of Waterloo."

The Tattoo takes place at Woolwich Stadium from the 11th—14th September at 7.30 p.m. each evening, with a Special Daylight Performance at 2.30 p.m. on Saturday, 14th September. Tickets may be obtained through the usual agents or the Tattoo Box Office, 90, New Bond Street, W.1. Tel. Hyde Park 6000.
As in previous years the proceeds go to the Royal Artillery Charitable Fund.

Royal Signals Booklet

The publication of this has been announced in several recent copies of THE WIRE and all Regiments of the Corps and Branches of the Association have been informed that it is to be issued. After certain delays it is now in print, and all who have ordered it will have received it before they receive this number of THE WIRE.

This short review is written for the benefit of those who have not yet obtained a copy, and is written indeed with the suggestion that they should take steps early to obtain a copy.

The first part of the book is devoted to a brief historical survey in which credit is given to a much larger and fully complete book, "The Royal Corps of Signals," by Major-General R. F. H. Nalder, C.B., O.B.E., which is to be published later this year. The outline history in the booklet, however, gives a remarkable picture of the history of Signals in the Army with particular reference to the Royal Corps of Signals.

In the second part of the book, chapters are devoted to the Training Organisation, and of particular interest here are the paragraphs devoted to the Junior Leaders Regiment. Information is given of all the training in the Corps, and of the current rates of pay. The whole of a career in Royal Signals may be appreciated from this chapter. There is mention of the Royal Signals Display, unhappily this year suspended owing to restrictions on the use of petrol. There is an informative chapter on Royal Signals in the Territorial Army and the Army Emergency Reserve.

A chapter on games makes inspiring reading without descending to a long list of athletic and games achievements which are, of course, given in the Royal Signals Diary.

The booklet concludes with chapters on the Royal Signals Corps Committee, The Royal Signals Institution, The Royal Signals Museum, and the Royal Signals Association. The price is 1/6d. and can be obtained, post free, from: The Secretary, The Royal Signals Institution, 88, Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1

RAWALPINDI HIGH SCHOOL, PAKISTAN

There is a great demand for secondhand library books in English. The standard of book is between the Junior and Senior Cambridge of English Universities. Books are required covering history, geography, travel, lives of great men, science, hygiene, civic, books on the teaching of English and other miscellaneous books including historical novels.

Books should be sent to the World Veterans' Federation, 40 Park Road, London, W.1.

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GREAT BRITAIN

1st TRAINING REGIMENT

Quite a lot has happened in the last month. First of all there was the annual Administrative Inspection, which went off very well. Then our Rugby XV added to its laurels by annexing the Northern Command and District Cups and the Northern Command Sevens' Cup. In the District badminton, our "A" and "B" teams contested the final, which was won by the former. Towards the end of the month the annual Regimental Rifle Meeting was held on the Deerpark Range and two very pleasant days were spent in the open. The weather was kind and some very good shooting witnessed. News has just been received that our water polo team has been selected *en masse* to represent the Corps in its first fixture of the year. Signalman Porter, too, has been invited to take part in an international trial at Blackpool to select the England team for the match against Poland.

3rd TRAINING REGIMENT

Our great event of the past month was the Regimental Soccer Team's success in the final of the Northern Command Inter-Unit Competition played on the Central Ground at Catterick Camp. We beat a Royal Tank Regiment by 3 goals to 2 after a most exciting game. Despite the fact that the match was played on a Saturday afternoon, there was a very large crowd of spectators actually present and many thousands more were "viewing," as the whole game was televised by I.T.V. Signals scored first as a result of an excellent break through by Melia and Dobson which enabled Houghton to score in the 25th minute. This set the Tanks attacking hard and three minutes later they equalised.

Two more goals were then added for us by grand solo efforts on the part of Melia, the team captain, to whom all praise for his grand leadership and splendid sportsmanship throughout the season.

Five minutes from the end our opponents' centre-forward headed in a great shot to make the score 3-2, and so it was at the final whistle.

Excellent music and a delightful military spectacle was provided by Regimental bands of the Royal Armoured Corps Training Brigade and by a section of our own Corps band, to all of whom our grateful thanks.



Standing, left to right: Corporal Tulip, Lance/Corporal Daemon, Signalman Banks, Signalman Hamlett, Signalman Watkins, Signalman Hayes
Front Row: Signalman Dobson, Signalman Melia, Lance/Corporal Houghton, Signalman Lloyd, Signalman Taylor



Major-General J. M. K. Spurling, C.B.E., D.S.O., presenting the Northern Command Inter Unit Football Trophy to Signalman Melia, team captain.

And now, with Soccer taking a rest we are concentrating on Athletics, Cricket and Shooting, with everybody "having a go" at something in preparation for the Regimental and District Meetings.

Congratulations to W.O.II Pettigrew and to A/Sgt. Rodgers on their recent elevation to the new ranks shown.

4 TRAINING REGIMENT

Amidst the preparation for the Annual Inspection we hardly noticed that the Officers' Golfing Society Spring Meeting was upon us, as was the match against York, at Strensall. The Spring Meeting was held at Catterick this year because of petrol rationing. Second-Lieutenant J. A. Turnbull entered for the events and duly disappeared as the day came round. His return was announced by the clanking of silverware, and we congratulate him not only on winning his match against York, but every competition for which he entered. He has been selected for the Royal Signals team at the Army Meeting.

We would like to assure Old Comrades that all proper steps are being taken at the Annual Reunion for their comfort, both by the barrel and by the dozen. We shall be very glad to see old friends of the Regiment, and any others who care to come and make our acquaintance.

Once again we hear that members of our Brighton Branch are enjoying the amenities for which that resort is famous. We learn that Messrs. Underwood Typewriters laid on a dance at which the Squadron were the guests of honour; this was much appreciated, and steps are being taken to return the compliment. Such excellent relationship with the civilian world does nothing but good, and the Squadron is to be congratulated on the results of their efforts in this direction.

Signalman Selmes of 4 (Independent) Squadron, entered the Home Counties District Boxing Championships in the middle-weight class. He was unfortunate in suffering an injury in the semi-final, which he won, so that he had to withdraw from the final and be content with the runner-up position. A very good performance nevertheless. We soldier on.

7th TRAINING REGIMENT

When a man is transformed from a pigeon-toed, slouch shouldered, hands-in-pocket individual into an upright, quick-moving, respectable member of the human race, he does not normally regret it. That is why very many people will think of this Regiment in retrospect, if with a good deal of horror, then also with a small percentage of grudging respect and gratitude. Interest in us, necessarily more general than in any other Regiment of the Corps, is more than sufficient to warrant our going to press again. And let readers' first thoughts be for our over-worked cadre—we cannot help drawing a parallel between the mental strain of life here, and the recent exodus of cadre, retiring honourably to the obscurity of civilian life, to Canada and other Commonwealth countries.

Someone remarked that scattered throughout the country are three hundred of the lank-haired gentlemen in whom we specialise, quite unaware that in less than two months' time they will be standing stiffly to attention, listening to the roar of engines as there descends upon us from the skies the personage of Prince Philip, who is to do us the honour of visiting the Regiment on 10th July and passing off one of our National Service squadrons. We suspect that preparations on this great day may well take longer than the seventeen minutes which it is proposed his visit will last!

Our perhaps over-generous principle of not calling upon the many outstanding sportsmen who pass through our hands to represent us in cup matches, so that they will not thereby be rendered ineligible for their trade-training Regiments' teams, limits us to a relatively small availability market made up entirely of Cadre. We are therefore so much the more happy to record the following sporting successes: In basketball we became for the second successive year runners-up in the District League, and succeeded in the process in inflicting upon the champions, 1st Training Regiment, their sole defeat of the season. Winning 15 of our 17 matches, we also scored a brilliant victory over 5th Training Regiment, the Army Cup holders, in a friendly match. The Unit football team reached the semi-final round of both the Command and District Cups, and Corporal Shaw and Signalman Coleman are to be congratulated on their performances for the England Under-23 and Manchester United teams respectively. Our rugby team will recall their defeat of a powerful 7 R.T.R. team in a Cup game as being their outstanding match of the year.

The Regiment has in recent months had its face lifted very much by an influx of new Officers and N.C.O.s, at the expense of many others, their departure most regretted, who took with them our warmest good wishes. Arrivals include a new R.S.M., W.O.I G. Carter. Personalities of the year have been two in number, Tommy Steele, and Sandy, our Chief Instructor's Labrador. The former caused great excitement, speculation and competition amongst N.C.O.s as to which troop was to claim him. Hopes were dashed when he failed to arrive. Sandy, however, continues to be the Unit's most confirmed absentee and, by his antics, to keep Orderly Officer, Orderly Sergeant and Picket alike right on their toes.

ROYAL SIGNALS WING, SCHOOL OF SIGNALS

This is mainly a hockey issue. No Royal Signals Regiment has yet won the Army Hockey Cup but we would appear to be improving. Last year the Officer Training Wing reached the U.K. semi-final; this year 18 Army Group Signal Regiment reached the B.A.O.R. final, and we in the Royal Signals Wing were beaten in the U.K. semi-final by the holders and eventual winners. With sufficient good players spreading the gospel, maybe one day — ? We give our team below, all of whom, by the way, are regulars, and none of whom were posted here merely because he played good hockey.

Second-Lieutenant J. Cook, Major P. S. Westmacott and Captain K. M. Kirkby represented the Army occasionally, and the Corps and Northern Command regularly; Captain S. C. Finchan and Lieutenant J. M. Pigot represented the Corps and Northern Command; Major J. M. Sawers, Captain W. D. A. Poole, Canon D. H. Briggs, Staff Sergeant J. Young, Sergeant R. H. Forster and Corporal J. A. Williams were content to represent Royal Signals Wing.

The results of our Army Cup rounds were:—
2 Training Regiment, R. Signals won 4-1
K.O.Y.L.I. Depot ... won 5-0
7 R. Tanks ... won 2-1
O.T.W., School of Signals ... won 2-0 (NORCO Cup)
5 R.N.F. ... won 2-1
R.A.P.C. Training Centre ... lost 1-2



Brigadier W. R. Smijth Windham, O.B.E., D.S.O., A.D.C., presents the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal to S.S.M. L. Loates

One other major event—our Annual Administrative Inspection was held on Tuesday, 9th April. The parade was held on the previous Saturday, taken by Brigadier W. R. Smijth-Windham, O.B.E., D.S.O., A.D.C., in bitterly cold weather. As usual, some appalling drill during the practices changed to a really commendable effort on the day itself. We also hope and believe that the Brigadier found things reasonably satisfactory on the Tuesday.

OFFICER TRAINING WING, SCHOOL OF SIGNALS

The tempo of the Unit has very much increased this month, as the annual Administrative Inspection is not so very far away. Everyone is going about with determined expressions on their faces and paint brushes in their hands. The position is not helped by the fact that civilian workmen are putting new windows into the lecture rooms. No sooner is one lecture room redecorated than a number of these gentlemen descend upon it, and with gay abandon proceed to knock down a wall. The picture is completed with the paint and whitewash-covered permanent staff jumping with rage in the background.

The contingent of Welbeck College cadets arrived and all ranks enjoyed their visit. The "Cops and Robbers" Wireless Exercise was the highlight of the visit, which was organised by Lieutenant I. M. Horsley-Curry, ably assisted by Sergeant R. L. Wilson.

Turning to sport and rugby in particular, the Unit is rather pleased with itself, having won the District Seven-a-side Knock-out Cup against the Durham Light Infantry. Unfortunately, in the District Knock-out Cup we were runners-up to 1st Training Regiment in an extremely hard fought and exciting game. Congratulations to both teams for playing such fine rugby.

The Officer Training Wing Sailing Club will soon be in full swing, with many members, all very keen to sail and, it is hoped, work out at Lake Semer-Water.

Course 350 has just returned from the long range Wireless Exercise "Sky Rocket." One incident that will be remembered no doubt, was one that happened at the first location, a disused airfield. Sometime after midnight a Young Officer saw what appeared to be a light travelling in a circle way out in the middle of the airfield. Not much notice was taken of this but shortly after 0300 hours the same Young Officer came on duty again, and noticed that the light was still there, and still appeared to be travelling in a circle. He decided to investigate. What he found should only be whispered into the ears of the chosen few; it was a Cadre Officer in a Land Rover, hopelessly lost and praying for daylight, who could not bring himself to ask for help from the Young Officers as he had received this very location only a few hours before and in daylight!

Captain L. A. Grace left the Unit this month and we extend our best wishes to him, his wife and children, in their new posting.

SKI-ING IN SCOTLAND

In the early hours (0500) of Thursday, 28th February, 35 officers and other ranks from Royal Signals Wing, 2, 5 and 7 Training Regiments met on Darlington Station. A more motley and villainous-looking crew it would be hard to find, dressed as they were in all manner of orthodox and improvised ski clothes.

The aim, however, was to reach the Rothiemurchus hut, situated in the Cairngorms, about five miles from Aviemore in Inverness-shire.

We arrived at Aviemore at 1430 hours on Thursday, after an excellent journey, and piled into the local coal merchant's lorry, decently draped in a clean tarpaulin, which was to take us and our loads in two lifts to road head. We were finally abandoned on the edge of a beautiful loch, 1½ miles below our hut. It is probably wise to draw a veil over the agonising climb to the hut, carrying, in addition to our kit, rations for four days. Suffice it to say that after carrying a loaded airborne hamper uphill over 1½ miles of wet, boggy heather, we were unimpressed with stories of the South Col! and the Western C.W.M.

The hut, a log cabin, is delightfully situated in a pine copse on the Western Slopes of Castle Hill (2,366ft.), at a height of about 1,500ft. The hut consists of two dormitory wings, divided into two, and four bunk rooms and a central living-cum-dining room, with kitchen attached. Cooking and heating is by Calor gas and wood fires, and lighting by Calor gas and hurricane lamps. The hut was built by the Nuffield Trust for the Services, on land donated by the Laird of Rothiemurchus.

We were settled in the hut by 1700 hours, and our volunteer A.C.C. Cook, Private Gledhill at once showed his mettle by producing an excellent hot meal.

The evening was spent in issuing and fitting boots and skis, and listening anxiously to a depressing forecast of warm southerly winds.

The morning was fine and sunny, but much too warm, and very little snow was to be seen, except on the tops of the mountains and in the corries. We soon finished the administrative chores of wood-cutting, sweeping and "spud-bashing," and at 0930, a variegated gang gathered outside the hut. The first task was to climb Castle Hill, immediately outside our back door. It is a very steep mountain, and the pace had slowed considerably after five minutes. However, in half-an-hour the whole party had reached the top, and we soon found a suitable corrie with plenty of snow, and a sufficiently gentle slope for beginners.

After an hour or two's instruction in the elements of the sport by the "experienced" skiers, the beginners were let loose on the slope, with spectacular results. By the afternoon, most people could stand on their feet and reach the bottom of the hill, but of course, turning and stopping by orthodox means was out of the question. Methods of achieving this varied from running over the heather, sitting down or falling in a cartwheel of arms, legs and ski.

We returned to the hut stiff and exhausted, but fortunately with no serious injuries, although our doctor, Lieutenant A. K. Walker, R.A.M.C., had to deal with some twists and strains and sore heels. After a magnificent meal, most of us were too tired to do anything, except sit and read. Practically everyone was in bed by 2100 hours.

Saturday was a repeat performance, except that five of us went further afield in search of the vanishing snow, and climbed to 3,500ft., where we found a fine, broad, steep snowfield, where we spent the rest of the day.

Sunday morning was spent in cleaning the hut and preparing for our return, with the exception of a few stalwarts who went to have a last look at the snow.

After an excellent curry lunch, we started down the hill to our coal lorry and thence home via Edinburgh, where we startled the Sunday evening strollers and shocked the staid dwellers in the North British Hotel with our colourful rig. The party eventually arrived at Darlington at 0330 hours on

Monday morning and thence by 'bus to Catterick, where we crawled into bed at about 0500 hours.

Although ski conditions were far from ideal, everyone enjoyed themselves in the glorious surroundings, and what was for many, a new-found sport.

For others who may be interested, the Rothiemurchus Hut, which accommodates 39 people, may be booked through the Secretary, Rothiemurchus Hut Committee, Highland District, Perth. The charge is 2/6 per head, per night, plus 2/6 a day for ski equipment. In addition to ski-ing, the hut is ideally situated for mountaineering in the summer. It is well worth a visit.

THE DEPOT REGIMENT, ROYAL SIGNALS

Our news for the month is overshadowed by the tragic death of five Signalmen in the crash of a transport aircraft at Black-bushe on 1st of May. The five men, Signalmen Fatherley, Drew, Connier, Hemken and Rees, were en route to Tripolitania when they met their untimely end. Good men all, who can ill be spared by the country. Our sympathy goes out to their bereaved parents and families.

A Memorial Service was held in the Camp Church on the morning of Friday, the 3rd May, with the Deputy Assistant Chaplain General, H.Q., Western Command, officiating. It was a moving occasion, with seats, chancel, aisles and entrance hall filled to capacity with their comrades—permanent staff and transit officers and men, from the Commanding Officer to the newest recruit. The W.R.A.C. in Camp made a very nice gesture also in attending in force.

We are sure the parents of the boys would like us to thank, in this our Corps Magazine, the Officers, Warrant Officers and Other Ranks of the Permanent Staff of the 42 (Lancs) Infantry Division and 53 (W) Infantry Division Signal Regiments and of Southern Command Signal Squadron for their willing tribute in attending the military and private funerals of their brothers-in-arms—and in the Corps.

The last two months have been quiet—the end of the football season and budding of the season of the willow. The Badminton Club won the IVth Division Championship of the Cheshire Badminton League and are scheduled for the tougher opposition of Division III.

Of our six teams in the C.S.O. Western Command .22 Trophy Competition, "C" team came second. "B" team came fifth and "A" came sixth out of 16 teams.

Athletics now share with cricket recreational planning, and the smell of liniment fills the air.

The Regiment is to hold its Annual Athletic Meeting and Regimental Week-End on the 15th and 16th of June at Saighton Camp, Chester. Athletic finals at 2.15 p.m. and dance at 8.30 p.m. on the Saturday, with Church Service at 11.0 a.m. on the Sunday, followed by Church Parade with, we hope, Royal Signals Association Branch members.

Invitations have been sent to the local Branches of the Association but if any Corps or ex-Corps members are in the vicinity we will be pleased to see them.

We welcome into the Regiment Major J. K. Forte, of the Royal Norfolk Regiment, who has arrived to fill an appointment as O.C., H.Q. Squadron. We hope his stay and association with the Corps will be a happy one. We welcome also Second-Lieutenant G. H. W. Bromidge from O.T.W.; Corporals Ford,

TYLER'S TAXIS

and
SELF DRIVE
CARS



THE CAMP CENTRE

or Telephone Catterick Camp 2224

Telegrams: ATAXI, CATTERICK CAMP

You may book your requirements at our office opposite the G.P.O

J., Crouch, K., Lennon, P., and King, W., Lance-Corporal Parker, A., and Signalmen Clarke, Hodson, Keenan and Johnson.

The painting contract for the interiors of all buildings in the Camp is almost finished. The Garrison Engineer arrived recently with the news that the Camp is to have a real "face lift," with a complete redecoration of the exteriors. "Moreover," he said, "you can choose any combination of colours you like," and produced a colour card with 99 shades. We chose primrose and grey, pale blue and buff, black and maroon, dove grey and cherry, and so on. What colours are we having? Oh! Green and yellow! We didn't hear the end of the Garrison Engineer's speech—provided it's one of these two colours.

SCOTTISH COMMAND (M) SIGNAL SQUADRON

To those of you who are about to join our joyful throng we hope you have a happy stay and to those of us about to join you good luck and God speed.

If you are to be posted here, come now. The grass is green, the hills and sea are close by, the bees hum and the birds sing. In short, summer is upon us. Talking of birds, if you are interested there are several varieties to be found in Scotland which are quite unusual. The Ptarmigan and the Capercaillie to name but two. Incidentally, who was it who said he observed one of the latter on the parade ground recently. Possible, I suppose, since this is a "mixed" Squadron, or was it merely a case of fatigue after the recent P.E. tests.

Here was rarity indeed. What finer sight than that of Sergeant Moss, Signalman Gardiner or Lance-Corporal Dunn hurling themselves round the devil's course in a nine-mile gallop. Was the rope really strong enough to take the strain? Who was the devil?

At any rate the Squadron's sporting activities have not gone entirely unrewarded. The soccer season ended with Corporal Paris and team unrelenting and the Q.M., Captain Linton, still interested in hockey. Incidentally, we reached the hockey finals, which we played against the Royal Scots, the score being 2-1. Our first two games of cricket were not rained off, much to Second-Lieutenant Wooldridge's pleasure, so everyone is reasonably happy. Already Signalman Peel and Signalman Maddex have shown form with the bat, and Craftsman Abbott with the ball.

The ladies of the Squadron were treated to a mannequin parade on the Camp, but precisely what was shown is a closely guarded secret. Earlier in the year these same ladies treated the local spastic children to a show, complete with coach trip. A very fine gesture indeed and, if one is allowed the liberty, typical of the woman's touch to be found amongst them.

Some good results are looked for from the Upgrading Courses now in progress, and it is rumoured a play is to be produced by the Drama Group in the near future.

We bid a fond adieu to Captain M. G. Campbell, W.R.A.C., who has left to join the T.A., and to Second-Lieutenant Janet Burgess, W.R.A.C., who has left for Cyprus, and welcome Major M. H. Nalder, W.R.A.C., Captain J. P. Hart, Royal Signals, and Second-Lieutenant Judith Sherman, W.R.A.C. We wish them a pleasant stay.

We regret to announce the death of 23326578 Signalman Brian McDonald, who died as a result of a motor cycle accident on 3rd May, 1957, in Edinburgh Royal Infirmary.

U.K. COMCAN SIGNAL REGIMENT

R.H.Q. and 1 Squadron

The past few weeks have seen the completion of two Drill and Duties Courses which have been held at Robinswood Barracks. One of these was a course for Senior N.C.O.s and the other for Junior N.C.O.s—both of the courses were also attended by personnel of our other three Squadrons and were run by R.S.M. Farley, assisted by Sergeant Savins, of 1 Squadron. First places on the courses were gained by Sergeant Harrison and Signalman Mungall respectively.

Our congratulations go to Sergeants Barnett and Harwood (R.A.P.C.), who have recently attained married status, and also to Sergeant Bell on his recent promotion.

Although the past month has proved uneventful in many ways, two very popular events have taken place in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. Firstly, on 10th April, 1957, the Officers of the Unit were invited to take part in an inter-

Mess games tournament. The tournament was won (hotly denied by the Officers) by the Sergeants' Mess. The second function was the annual Regimental Reunion Dinner and Dance held on 27th April, 1957. This proved very successful and, as guests from the out Squadrons were invited, it gave the Officers and senior ranks of the different Squadrons an excellent opportunity of getting to know their opposite numbers.

The Unit Rugby team reached the finals of the South-Western District Seven-a-Side Competition, where they were unfortunately beaten by 2 Training Battalion, R.E.M.E., by the narrow margin of three points to nil.

Our shooting team took part in the Gloucestershire County Championships on 27th/29th April, 1957; they were not fortunate enough to bring back any trophies, but managed to reach the quarter finals of the Falling Plate Competition (where they were beaten by an R.A.F. team). The team were faced with strong opposition at this meeting from local Naval, Regular and Territorial Army, R.A.F. and civilian teams. They are now hoping to meet with more success at the forthcoming District Competition, which will be held at Blandford in early May.

We are now all busily engaged in preparing for and looking forward to the visit of Major J. L. Judd, M.B.E., Royal Signals, Director of Music, and the Corps Band, but more about this in the next issue.

4 Squadron

During the month of April a very successful dance was held in the Unit Canteen and was much enjoyed by all ranks. Judging by certain reports, the cult of rock 'n' roll has spread to all levels of military society.

Whether the dance had anything to do with this we do not know, but we must offer our congratulations to W.O.I (F. of S.) Green on his recent engagement to Sergeant Selawyn, of the W.R.A.C. Depot, Guildford.

Our budding yachtsmen are not yet fully mobilised in the matter of repairing the two boats mentioned in our report last month. However, one has been definitely proved to float and that without any noticeable risk to life and limb.

We are also pleased to report that Signalman D. C. Harrison was chosen for the Regimental seven-a-side Rugby team, and in the near future we shall also have two representatives in the Regimental musketry team, namely Signalman D. C. Harrison and Lance-Corporal D. J. Gibbs.

WAR OFFICE SIGNAL SQUADRON

When world affairs become more settled, this Squadron calms down with them; and despite certain alarms in Middle East, the last month has slipped on the whole, very quietly by.

Back at Dulwich, the Squadron is still in the final stages of settling in; the Sergeant-Major has had a field day and has encouraged the majority of the Squadron to become enthusiastic gardeners.

A magnificent new notice board has appeared proclaiming to the allotment holders who cluster round the gates in idle curiosity, that the camp is the home of the War Office Signal Squadron. This has saved a good deal of confusion and speculation, for previously the only means of identification visible to the outside world was a notice in R.A. colours announcing a speed limit of five mile per hour. The gates have had a new coat of paint, and a new issue of Fire Orders and Standing Orders have been created for the Squadron's perusal.

On the whole we are enjoying our new life as an independent Unit, even though we have managed to place ourselves at least a mile from the nearest bus route, which in London suburbia is quite an achievement. Our real problem is to find facilities for sports; indoors the Unit canteen now has a television set which arrived amidst great relief, the day before the Cup Final, but as far as outdoor sports are concerned the outlook is not so bright. At the time of writing no-one is particularly anxious to allow us to use their courts and pitches, and it rather looks as if a good deal of tactful persuasion is required. Fortunately, we have an ally in our new officiating padre, the Rev. L. C. Little, of St. Stephen's, whom we are very glad to welcome to take our weekly Padre's Hour.

Meantime, to ensure that the Squadron remains in the peak of condition, Troop Commanders have organised a number of P.E. tests, which have, as may be expected, been universally popular. But as we have our second administration within three months, leaving only a fortnight ahead, it does look as if for once we have managed to kill two birds with one stone.

History of the 3rd DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

The following brief precis follows that published in May. It will be continued in July.

When Major Chenevix-Trench* assumed command of 3rd Divisional Signals, the Unit was still stationed at Bulford Camp. These were the days when the Commanding Officer rode into the field with his trumpeter behind him, as orderly and horse-holder. All officers and many other ranks were mounted, and all transport was horse-drawn. Infantry Brigade wireless sets were carried on pack ponies, while wireless sets for communication between Divisional H.Q. and Brigade H.Q. were carried in springless, limbered wagons. Some despatch riders were mounted on horses, but others rode motor cycles.

It was during Major Chenevix-Trench's period in command that the first experiments were made in organising the operating company into signal office groups—each sub-unit being complete with its own transport. This afterwards became the accepted practice.

In October, 1926, Major Chenevix-Trench handed over command to Major A. C. Allan*.

No record is extant of the period of command of Major A. C. Allan, which concluded in October, 1929, when he handed over command to Lieutenant-Colonel C. J. S. Le Cornu*.

The chief item of interest during Lieutenant-Colonel Le Cornu's period of command was the equipping of the Unit with Wireless Sets No. 1, mounted in "Baby" Austins. These were worked with an Experimental Brigade on Salisbury Plain during 1928 and 1929. The Unit also did well in the realms of Army Sport at this time, excelling itself particularly in Army Cross-Country Running and in Athletics.

Lieutenant-Colonel Le Cornu left the Unit in May, 1931, on moving to India, to be C.S.O. Eastern Command. He was succeeded by Lieutenant-Colonel R. F. B. Naylor*.

Apart from the normal peacetime soldiering of winter individual training, followed by summer collective training, and culminating in autumn manoeuvres, the principal historical event in Lieutenant-Colonel Naylor's period of command was probably the famous Agar tragedy. In brief, the story is that Lieutenant Agar, who was at Studland Bay, on a boating and bathing expedition, was drowned whilst trying to save one of his men who got into difficulties. The endowment of the Agar Memorial prize perpetuates his memory, as does also a sundial, which originally stood in front of the 3 Divisional Signals Officers' Mess at Bulford, and now is in the garden of the H.Q. Mess in Catterick.

The other item of interest in this period was the "Big Dig," when all available personnel of the Unit were put on to making a football field in the Unit Lines. Alas, this football field no longer exists, as it has been supplanted by Sandhurst blocks, which today stand on the same ground.

In January, 1935, Lieutenant-Colonel Naylor handed over to Lieutenant-Colonel C. P. Prescott*.

* Brigadier R. Chenevix-Trench, C.B., O.B.E., M.C., who retired in 1940.
Colonel A. C. Allan, D.S.O., M.C., who retired in 1934.
Brigadier C. J. S. Le Cornu, O.B.E., M.C., who retired in 1938.
Major-General R. F. B. Naylor, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., who retired in 1946.
Brigadier C. P. Prescott, C.B.E., who retired in 1939.

3 INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

This month finds us preoccupied with arrangements for the forthcoming visit to the Regiment of our Colonel-in-Chief, Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal. This, together with the normal spate of Exercises which go hand in hand with the summer training season, is keeping us all very busy. They are not events which are of any great interest except to those of us actually taking part and so, true to our policy, we are not reporting on them. However, we feel that we must not let the June edition go to press without some contribution from 3 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, so we offer the following article, with due acknowledgment to the Royal Marines, who published it in their Journal about a year ago:

The New N.A.T.O. Phonetic Alphabet

Many of us, puzzled and confused by the new N.A.T.O. phonetic alphabet, have wondered just how this international masterpiece was contrived. It is thought to be the result of a round table conference of N.A.T.O. representatives—none of whom were Signalmen. Each, from motives of prestige and patriotism, put forward his own country's ideas, and after discussion the words were agreed or alternatives accepted in the interests of international goodwill. The following glossary of terms are what we believe to be the story behind the new alphabet.

ALFA	From the Greek Alpha, and proposed by their representative. Agreed in error by the Italians, who altered the spelling to suit their national pride in motor racing (see R).
BRAVO	From an interjection by the French. Mistakenly accepted as a proposal for this letter, but in fact was a Gallic expression of astonishment at the ready agreement to "A."
CHARLIE	Interrogative American-British.
DELTA	The Turks proposed Dardanelles and the Italians Dodecanese. After the heated argument which followed, Delta was agreed, referring to the Nile Delta, now no longer a N.A.T.O. sphere of influence and therefore not controversial!!
ECHO	Greek "Ek ho" (Free translation: "Oh well" or "Anything you say").
FOXTROT	Insisted upon by the British as a tribute to the days when Empire was Empire.
GOLF	See "R."
HOTEL	Proposed by the smaller N.A.T.O. countries to lend their weight.
INDIA	American. Originally LIMEY, proposed as a reprisal for Britain's F, G, H, I. Amended after a tactful intervention by the French, who reminded the conference that LIMA was American for Beans, and that they could be weighed by the Kilo.
JULIET	The Americans and British here returned to a more pleasant atmosphere of Christian names, but agreed to consider other suggestions at a later date.
KILO	In this atmosphere of goodwill, and having dealt with half the alphabet, the meeting unanimously agreed to adjourn for drinks. However, during the subsequent hangover period, it was changed to NOVEMBER, as being more suited to the mood of the meeting.
LIMA	The prize awarded to the bartender.
MIKE	The bartender's nickname.
NECTAR (NOVEMBER)	A French claim, which was accepted before its effect upon Canada was appreciated.
OSCAR	Italian. Agreed by the more sophisticated as a happy partner to "J," but in fact cleverly links with "A."
PAPA	
QUEBEC	
ROMEO	

SIERRA
TANGO

The American influence with Spain.

Originally TANGIERS, but as the French could not reach agreement, TANGO was accepted, following the train of thought suggested by "S."

UNIFORM

A plea from the smaller countries for a common standard, misinterpreted as an actual suggestion for this letter. This was hastily accepted, as the British had just complained that the existing UNCLE had a derogatory financial significance.

VICTOR

Originally VICTOIRE—an exclamation by the French in admiration for the British attitude to Uncle. Misinterpreted and misspelt by the Americans.

WHISKEY

Accepted with alacrity by all N.A.T.O. countries as a word of international goodwill.

X-RAY

The Greek proposals were numerous, erudite and incomprehensible, and general agreement on X-RAY was quickly reached.

YANKEE

Proposed by the British as a compliment to the United States, and agreed before the U.S. representative (from the South) could protest. He did, however, have the last word. (See "Z").

ZULU

The American's back-handed reference to British Colonialism.

Our Club

By SERGEANT A. C. LLOYD

You will have read, in the April issue, of the 50th Anniversary of the Union Jack Services' Clubs, on 1st July, 1957. But do you realise that this is really "Our Club"?

This fact is very little appreciated. Every member of the Services, below commissioned rank, and over 17½ years of age, is a member of the Union Jack Club. Annual membership subscriptions are paid by the Army Council, covering the membership of the whole of the personnel of the Army, at a per capita rate of 2d., when serving at home, and 1d. if abroad, including Q.A.R.A.N.C. and W.R.A.C.

Representative Members from the main Service establishments are appointed each year, and it is their duty to keep the Comptroller informed of any suggestions or criticisms of those members they represent.

Some of these Representative Members are nominated to serve as Elected Members of The Union Jack Services Clubs General Committee, and one representative of each service is co-opted to serve on the Council, the governing body of the Clubs. The Annual General Meeting is held at The Union Jack Club, usually in the early part of each year, and all of these members attend.

Situated in Waterloo Road, only three minutes walk from Waterloo Station, The Union Jack Club can accommodate 1,018 nightly, whilst "just around the corner" in Exton Street, The Union Jack Families' Club has accommodation for 200. Adjoining this is The Union Jack Women's Services Club, where 44 can be "put up."

Recently re-decorated, the Clubs are now better than ever, and the prices, probably the cheapest anywhere, are well within the purse of even the lowest paid Serviceman, bed and breakfast costing as little as 6/6 a night. This sum also includes full use of all the excellent facilities available, such as a bicycle store, self-service laundry, cleaning and pressing room, lockers, tailors and valeting service and barbers or hairdressing shop, where probably the cheapest service in London is available. For families, there is also a nursery where children and babies can be left in the care of a nursemaid.

Many a Serviceman has been thankful for the "good old U.J." when stranded in London, and it is always waiting to welcome and be of "Service to the Services."

Remember, it is "Our Club."

Careers and Opportunity

(IMPORTANT: Anyone obtaining employment through answering advertisements in THE WIRE must notify the Employment Section, Royal Signals Association, 88, Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1.

Members are reminded that they can ensure prompt notification of any vacancies likely to suit them by registering with the Employment Section. Jobs advertised in THE WIRE are only a small proportion of those received).

The Royal Military College of Science, Shrivenham invites applications from ex-Regulars for employment as civilian Waiters, Messmen, Porter/Cleaners, Storemen, etc. Some single accommodation available. For details apply to Employment Section (see above).

Civilian Employment with Regular Units of Royal Signals: for information apply to Employment Section (see above).

WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY

Teleprinter Operators required. Normal age limit 25; consider up to 30 if applicant has knowledge of 5-unit code or perforator work. Ability to manipulate keyboard by touch is essential. Wage on entry £8; after six months £8/10/-; after 12 months, £477 per annum, rising by annual increments to £992. Overtime rates for Sunday and Bank Holiday work. Non-contributory pension scheme. 43-hour week, shifts covering 24 hours.

Apply to European Traffic Manager, Western Union Telegraph Company, 22, Great Winchester Street, London, E.C.2.

Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation requires Trainee Communications Officers (male and female) aged from 18 upwards. Candidates must have an elementary knowledge of radio communication principles, be able to send and receive morse at 20 w.p.m., type or teleprint at 30 groups per minute, transmit and receive telephone messages. Weekly rates of pay during training: from £6.1.9 at age 18 to £8.17.6 (men) and £8.13.0 (women) at 25 or over, plus free meals and accommodation. Annual salaries on completion of training:

Men: £347 at age 18; £568 at 25 or over, rising to £706.
Women: £349 at age 18; £536 at 25 or over, rising to £637. (Women's pay being improved under equal pay scheme). Slightly lower rates at certain stations. Temporary non-pensionable appointments. For full details and application form write to Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation (ESB1/Comm), Berkeley Square House, London, W.1.

Other advertisements affecting employment are on pages 162 and 188.

Old Soldiers' Quiz

2549608 Sgt. A. C. Lloyd, 12 Wireless Squadron, B.F.P.O. 37.

Here's a two-minute quiz for all "old soldiers" who know it all. Full marks, and it's time you were bowler-hatted!

The following are official abbreviations for Regular Corps and Regiments of the British Army. Can you give their full names and year of formation?

The answers will be found on page 172.

3. D. G.	M. P. S. C.
G. S. C.	N. C. C.
G. R.	5. D. G.
H. C. T. C.	R. M. A.
H. A. C.	S. A. S. C.

R.S.M.s of the CORPS



R.S.M. B. McDonald

11 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT, B.A.O.R.

After an adventurous youth in the Merchant Navy, including some exciting experiences in various parts of the world (one incident in Valparaiso is worth recounting, but not here), R.S.M. McDonald joined on 7th April, 1938, when he was 18, and was trained as a lineman in "A" Corps Signals. He was promoted Lance-Corporal in June, 1939, and went to France with the same Unit, then designated 1 Corps Signals. After returning with the rest of the British Army in 1940, he was stationed in Yorkshire and in March, 1942, was posted as Sergeant Line Instructor to 152 O.C.T.U. at Catterick. Here he achieved quick promotion and took over C.S.M. 2 Company from C.S.M. ("Pop") Laugham within the year, thus being C.S.M. at the early age of 23.

In 1945 he went to the Middle East with 7 H.Q. Signals and in April, 1946, was promoted A/R.S.M. at the Army Signal School, Middle East. After moving with the School to Palestine he returned to U.K. in 1948, but sailed again in August, 1949, this time for Hong Kong. After a spell there he went to the Malaya Signal Regiment in Kuala Lumpur.

On his return to U.K. in 1952 he was caught by the Shadow Roll and reverted to R.Q.M.S. at the Royal Signals Wing, School of Signals, but in January, 1955, was granted his present rank with Western Command Signal Regiment.

He assumed his present appointment in June, 1956.

He is married and has three daughters, who are attending school in B.A.O.R.

He also has what the Regiment consider the fiercest moustache in the Corps.

R.S.M. W. A. Timbrell

In October, 1933, as a Signaller, No. 2323373, R.S.M. Timbrell reported to Catterick Camp, from where, after trade training, he was posted to Cavalry Divisional Signals, Tidworth. Here, for a year, in his own words, he devoted his time evenly between horses in the morning and Austin Sevens in the afternoon.

Early in 1936 saw him on board H.M.S. *Dorsetshire* en route for "B" Corps Signals at Karachi. A year later he moved to Zhob, thence to Peshawar, and finally to the Signal Training Centre at Mhow. In all he served eight years in India before returning to 1 Operators Training Battalion as C.S.M. 1 Company, in April, 1944.

In May, 1947, he was appointed R.Q.M.S. in the School of Signals, whence, after a year, he was posted to Northern Area Signals at Nanyuki, Kenya. From there he moved in October, 1949, to Jinja, Uganda, as Regimental Signal Officer to the 5th Battalion Kings African Rifles. In 1951, after a most interesting overseas tour, he returned to 3 Training Regiment as R.Q.M.S. 1954 brought promotion to R.S.M., and the tour of duty with the Special Communications Regiment (T.A.) in London. In July, 1956, he moved to 4 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment in B.A.O.R., where he now is with Mrs. Timbrell and four of their six children, their two eldest girls being at Boarding School in the U.K.

Like so many of his contemporaries R.S.M. Timbrell has always been a most keen and versatile games player. As a recruit he boxed for the Depot Battalion, and in India reached District XI standard at hockey. Though he no longer plays soccer he is still a first-class swimmer.



OLD SOLDIERS' QUIZ

See Page 171

3rd Carabiniers	...	...	...	...	1685
General Service Corps	...	...	...	...	1942
Gurkha Rifles	...	...	...	...	1815
High Commission Territories Corps	...	...	...	...	1942
Honourable Artillery Company	...	...	...	...	1537
Military Provost Staff Corps	...	...	...	...	1901
Non-Combatant Corps	...	...	...	...	1940
5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards	...	...	...	...	1685
Royal Malta Artillery	...	...	...	...	1716
Small Arms School Corps	...	...	...	...	1854

Jottings

by NACERBY

For the man in the street . . .

I had thought about giving my views on the Budget, but as only Q.M.s and R.O.s (Grade II, of course) appear to be the sole beneficiaries and any comments would probably come under Obscene Publications anyway, let's talk about the Army for a change.

Regular readers of this column will remember that some years ago I conducted a Galloping Poll among our less fortunate colleagues in civil life concerning their opinion of the different Army ranks and how these collated opinions gave rise to the expression "rank ignorance."

With Defence cuts imminent, I again took a cross section of public opinion on ranks that are sure to be axed—so make sure of your pensions and read steadily on:—

General

100% said, "We read the newspapers."

Brigadier

1% knew that a Brigadier is a man with red tabs who can make troops tremble simply by getting four Adjutants to lift his little finger.

5% said he was something above a Lieutenant and much lower than a General (see the daily newspapers).

27% thought "Brig" was connected with "bridge" and thereby assumed he was a man who threw bridge parties, bridged the gulf between War Office and Squadron Office, and never burnt his bridges until he had got somebody's signature for them.

67% said, "Never heard of him."

Colonel

3% knew that a Colonel is a retired officer who hasn't been notified of the fact.

10% said he was another of the officers who have the "final say."

52% thought he was another of the General's relatives.

35% said, "Don't know."

Major

20% knew he was a frustrated man waiting for promotion.

17% said he was a man with genius for organising, the genius being known as the Major's clerk.

77% believed he was an officer to whom other officers referred . . . they were not sure in what terms.

4% said, "Don't care."

Captain

15% said he was some sort of skipper . . . he skipped everything possible as long as it didn't become too obvious.

3% said he didn't care if his skipping did become obvious, as he usually had relatives in the War Office.

82% said, "He's something to do with ships."

Lieutenant

25% expressed the opinion that he was a man who had risen in spite of himself.

15% said he was someone approaching manhood in a second-hand car of limited speed.

60% believed he was a man with balance (excluding bank) and culture (of the branch known as haughty-culture).

Second Lieutenant

10% said he was a youth who had convinced a Selection Board that he possessed a birth certificate.

10% knew he was a man who had emerged from the waters of oblivion and was now going down for the second time.

18% said he was the officer who returned more salutes than he received.

62% said, "Who cares?"

R.S.M. and/or S.S.M.

15% said he was always found at the basis of the British Army . . . they spelt it "bases."

63% said remarks which are unprintable.

22% thought he was the man who had everything organised to a Tea.

Sergeant

13% said they were the heroes for whom the best was never good enough.

15% said they didn't know what a Sergeant looked like but would leave no stone unturned until they found out.

72% remarked they were the men who thought position was "nine pints" of the law.

Corporal

16% thought they were men who had got into a rut and were quite happy about it.

29% said they were the men who never cared how much work they had to watch.

55% thought two different types . . . Red Corporals and White Corporals . . . had some connection with the blood stream.

Lance-Corporal

43% said they were the men who didn't intend to make the Army a Career.

54% said they were the men who had nothing to do for hours on end but worked like demons the other 22.

3% just laughed.

In two instances, however, we found 100% agreement, concerning two ranks which come into a special category.

1. It was unanimously agreed that an Adjutant is the officer with the most to do and the least intention of doing it.

2. A unanimous verdict that a Quartermaster is an individual who spends his time sorting out the mess left by the previous Quartermaster. This is *all* he spends.

All this only goes to show how ignorant or perspicacious (depending on your rank) the British public really is—read next month's instalment on "Ranks in the Civil Service."

For Technicians and Planners . . .

Despite the fact I was told it in strict confidence, despite the fact I may be infringing the Official Secrets Act, despite its Gibsonesque approach and despite the fact its disclosure will probably shake SRDE rigid I must tell you that "pulse height discrimination as applied to x-ray diffractometry and x-ray spectrochemical analysis has the object of measuring radiation of a single wavelength, i.e., one specific diffraction line or one specific spectral emission line, while radiation of other wavelengths is omitted."

You just don't know how very pleased I am about that—not

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that I'm really thinking about myself. It's the joy it's going to bring to all BIII operators wherever they may be serving. It'll probably mean a reduction in strength of one sergeant per medium Wireless Troop, but as one of them put it so succinctly — "who cares, now that we can do away with dipoles!"

Any questions?

For 19 Air Formation Signal Regiment scribe

Your inspiring message in the March issue thrilled me no end. The fact you've learnt to read since we last met is a tribute to someone's patience and obvious dogged persistence—and since you always refused to "take water with it" is certainly the explanation why you've connected me so hazily with training in 3 T.R.

Reluctant as I am to discuss technical matters with a chap who solemnly swore at one Guest Night he always hung his socks on a line of force, a technical discourse on my "morse tape cutting machine" will appear in the July issue. I will try and use words of one syllable only.

For the Ladies

At the recent inter-Service Rugby match at Twickenham this announcement came over the public-address system: "Will the owner of the Standard Car bearing licence number ABW 626 please go to your car immediately. Your engine is running, the lights are on, the doors are not locked. You are parked in a No Parking area and your offside rear tyre is flat. Will the lady kindly remove her car!"

There are two kinds of women—one who wants to correct a man's mistake and the other who wants to be one!

Women like a strong silent man because they think he's listening.

B A O R

18 ARMY GROUP SIGNAL REGIMENT

April has been a noteworthy month. For some time now we have been expecting 3 or 4 Squadron to pack their belongings and join our sister Regiment. The actual event was always hidden by a degree of uncertainty, but at last it came, and before we were fully accustomed to the idea, 3 and 4 Squadrons had departed, leaving our barracks relatively deserted. Their going leaves the Regiment with several problems; for example, "How shall we adequately guard this vast place?" And those who led the Regiment into Meance Barracks when the Regiment first came to Essen will realise that uninhabited accommodation in Essen, day by day disappearing under an increasing layer of soot and smuts, is a morbid sight. Still it is expected that the few will rally round and help to ward off the advance of civilisation.

We must now wish our departed friends of 3 and 4 Squadrons the very best of luck and we hope that they will be very happy in their new Regiment and barracks. We will miss them on parade, on the sports fields and socially, and we hope that the many ties established during the last few years will stand the test of time and separation.

This month's contribution would not be complete without some mention of the Regiment's sporting activities.

The Rugby team ended the season well by retaining the München-Gladbach Invitation Cup (seven-a-side). The final was played against 1 Wireless Regiment, who were beaten 5-0. The two teams met yet again in the Rhine District Seven-a-Side Competition, but this time our opponents got their revenge. Score 11-8. So, for the Rugby team, the curtain comes down on a successful season, where they reached the quarter finals of the Army Cup and won the Rhine District and B.A.O.R. Signals Cup.

Although we lost the final of the B.A.O.R. Hockey Cup to 21 Field Regiment, R.E., the season was not quite over, and on Easter Monday a Unit team won the B.A.O.R. Six-a-side Hockey Tournament at H.Q., B.A.O.R. It was a lovely day and everyone enjoyed, through the course of the competition, some exciting hockey. And here again the final curtain has come down on a very successful season.

We said earlier that we will miss our late 3 and 4 Squadron people on the playing fields. This is very true, but in conclusion may we assure them that we will do our best to prove doughty opponents when we line up against them next season!

19 ARMY GROUP SIGNAL REGIMENT

Main news from our sphere of activity in the Rhineland is that of the departure of our Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel P. G. Goodeve-Docker, on a well-earned retirement after 28 years' service in the Corps.

There can be few of both past and serving members of the Royal Corps who cannot recall personal reminiscences of Colonel and Mrs. Goodeve-Docker; a vociferous supporter of all Regimental sport, it is perhaps fitting that he has taken over the position of Secretary, B.A.O.R. Sports Board in his capacity as R.O. III.

We feel sure that, although "not at the helm," both he and Mrs. Goodeve-Docker will give us the benefit of their very capable and constructional advice in all functions connected with the Corps. Our very best wishes go with them both for a happy and carefree future.

Although, having mentioned the departure of our former Commanding Officer, but few of us have yet seen his successor, Lieutenant-Colonel P. W. Lonnnon, M.B.E. May we, in advance, wish you, Sir, and Mrs. Lonnnon a very happy and successful stay with us.

Passing to a congratulatory mood, our congratulations and best wishes are extended to our former Adjutant, Captain P. S. Davis, on the occasion of his marriage to Miss Edith Anne Stanley: we trust Lieutenant S. J. Lockett was an efficient and capable "best man."

Our "junior" strength has also been on the increase during the past few weeks with additions to the respective families of Captain and Mrs. A. B. Roderick, Sergeant and Mrs. F. S. Small, Sergeant and Mrs. L. G. Sharpe, Staff Sergeant and Mrs. J. Francis and Corporal and Mrs. K. Orton; our felicitations to them all.

Due to our Fencing Officer and Team Captain, Lieutenant R. D. Willingale, having been away at time of press of our last contribution to THE WIRE, some further information regarding the prowess and progress of the Unit fencing team has come to light. In the Rhine District Individual Championships our Team Captain's success in the foil, sabre and epee contributed greatly to the team winning 16 of the 17 trophies at stake.

At the B.A.O.R. finals at Minden the team was placed fourth, which reflects great credit on a team composed of 50 per cent. novices. In the Individuals, Lieutenant Willingale was placed fifth in foil and sabre, and Sergeant Cairns, who has only started fencing this season, seventh in foil.

In closing our notes we extend a very cordial greeting to all ranks of 18 Army Group Signal Regiment who, after a long rumoured impending move, have finally joined our Regiment; indeed, looking at the impressive posting-in order, one might conjecture as to whether they are joining us or we them.

Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. At the time of writing, biologically, we may be somewhat compared with a piece of plankton, in that a small portion of the Mess is breaking off to grow into its own semi-independent establishment. We shall then be composed of approximately 70 members here and somewhere in the region of 40 members detached.

We have had two highspots of social life in the month of March. The first being a coach tour of the Eifel Valley on Easter Monday. Here we picnicked in traditional English fashion, the males being well supplied with pigs' trotters and beer. However, on the return journey it was the children who led us in song, due no doubt to the merits of lemonade and orange squash. Secondly, we held an informal dance on the 26th, where, for a change, we entertained only ourselves.

1 CORPS SIGNAL REGIMENT

We write again under the title of 1 Corps Signal Regiment. The last two months has seen considerable activity as we reorganise, retrain and, more difficult, return to peace time accounting ready for the "exercise season."

Orders were received in January that we should not be required for exercises before June and we were to concentrate all our efforts on working through the training cycle from individual training to unit training. Few units have been given such an opportunity since the war.

The second week in May sees us on our third major exercise, all completed with considerable success.

(Continued col. 2 of page 175)



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Since last we wrote we have said good-bye to Major and Mrs. J. de D. Yule on his appointment to command a regiment in Cyprus. We shall miss them both.

Arrivals include Major and Mrs. J. Knowles, Captain M. H. L. Kenning, Lieutenant Ashton. We welcome them all. We also welcome our new unit paymaster, Major L. H. Howell, late R.A., present R.A.P.C., and future we hope closely connected to Royal Signals. We now obtain allowances we had never heard of.

In sport our regimental teams have not yet really got going again, but a lot of enjoyment has been had in the playing of many inter-troop games, though hockey matches on the square between linemen and drivers appear to give as much pain as pleasure.

4 INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

Since our last notes Lieutenant-Colonel J. P. North, M.B.E., has left us to be C.S.O., Singapore District, and we send him and Mrs. North our best wishes in their new station. Lieutenant-Colonel T. H. C. Grigg is our new C.O. and we extend to both him and Mrs. Grigg our best wishes for a happy tour in Germany.

The Regiment recently had the privilege of providing the Guard of Honour on the visit to Division H.Q. of Brigadier-General Manthey, Commander, 1 Grenadier Division of the new Bundeswehr. Sergeant Allen and the members of his Guard more than met the requirements of what was quite a significant little ceremony.

Our cross-country team put up a very creditable performance recently, being second to 1 Wireless Regiment in the Royal Signals B.A.O.R. Championships, after winning their zonal championships very handsomely. Much of the credit is due to our probationer, Captain A. Coates, Cheshire Regiment, who unearthed talent where none was thought previously to exist. We also congratulate Captain J. B. Prince on winning the Divisional javelin contest for the second year running. From a Regimental viewpoint training is beginning shortly for the Nijmegen Marches team(s) we are entering.

Our out-Squadrons are as busy as ever. When they are not exercising, they are reorganising or improvising. Our 3 Squadron share accommodation with 1 Bn. The Welch Regiment and found their loyalties quite severely tested recently in regard to Army rugby. 4 Squadron succeeded very creditably in fielding a rugby side from their comparatively small number. Major C. W. Ainsworth, our new O.C. 5 Squadron, to whom we offer our greetings, is now busy training with his Brigade H.Q.

2 L. OF C. SIGNAL REGIMENT

1 Squadron. Sport and social activities formed the bulk of the April programme during the transitional period between winter and summer schedules, although training was far from forgotten and work went on uninterrupted.

A football match between the Senior and Junior N.C.O.s qualifies as both a sporting fixture and a social occasion. A crate of beer was the prize for the winners and despite this great incentive the Warrant Officers and Sergeants put up a weak, though enthusiastic, resistance and went down 10-2. Amused Signalmen among the spectators decided that even the double-figure winners were far from invincible and promptly challenged the Corporals to another match, to be played at a later date. Most of the camp personnel spent their day off basking idly in the sunshine and a start to summer sun-tans was made in some cases at the expense of restless nights due to painful burning.

Normal camp routine has changed slightly in recent weeks due to P.E. tests, and there have been a few temporary additions to the list of "walking wounded" as a result of the nine-mile route march. Second-Lieutenant Paterson has sought out a wider range of obstacles to be surmounted than were found for last autumn's tests and under his keenly watchful eye the task has been made more interesting and more arduous at the same time.

The Regimental team which competed in the B.A.O.R. Rugby Sevens Tournament at Moench Gladbach at least has the satisfaction of being able to claim that they were knocked out by the eventual winners, 1 Wireless Regiment. Corporal Roberts, the skipper, scored a try in our 13-3 defeat.

Cricketers have been at the nets again, hoping to improve on last year's successful season, when the Regiment reached the final of the B.A.O.R. Signals Cup. The nucleus of the old team

is there but fresh talent is eagerly sought by Staff Sergeant Pauley. Three athletic meetings are also scheduled for the not-too-distant future, and would-be competitors are already starting to warm up in preparation.

Shortly before his posting from the Unit, the former S.S.M., 1 Squadron, W.O.II Smith, was presented with a Long Service and Good Conduct Medal by the Commanding Officer at a parade in the middle of the month.

2 Squadron. In sport, as proverbially in weather, April is a betwixt and between month. Football is over; as expected, our team received medals for finishing runners-up in the League. Cricket is not yet official, but the net is up and a small band of devotees nightly dispute a corner of the field with truculently nostalgic soccer players. Bats and balls still fly high and wide, with contact rare as yet but fruitful. The only sport still in full swing is hockey, in which the Garrison side, with its usual complement of Squadron players, distinguished itself in losing gallantly 0-1 to a German side with eight past and present internationals.

Hanover is preparing for the great annual Trade Fair, frantically churning up the roads in the centre of the town, so that a trip to the station now explores strange byways and the drivers have had to brush up their map reading. But few incidents have disturbed the calm of the German spring, in which harder spirits are already sun bathing on their balconies.

3 Squadron. There is little to report this month, life continues to follow its humdrum pattern.

The end of the football season show us as runners-up in the league championship and unlucky semi-finalists in the cup competition.

4 Squadron. Having overcome our reorganisation difficulties, we are now settling down to normal Squadron duties.

Some keen members of the Squadron departed on a camping week-end during the month. They must have enjoyed themselves for they have demanded to go again.

We shared a coach with 1 Squadron to make a trip to Nuerburgring. Again there have been demands for a repeat excursion.

Bielefeld Signal Centre Detachment

The time has come for us to make our yearly revelation of what we do or do not do hidden away here in Bielefeld. This is a Garrison Signal Centre Detachment and we serve all Units in our area, which is by no means small. We also work hand in hand with the Bundespost.

Bielefeld is a fair-sized town, dealing mainly in textile and puddings. A range of the Teutoburger Wald runs just behind us, giving us some very pleasant countryside, close at hand for those enjoying walking or riding. The entertainment in Bielefeld is varied and ranges from "low dives" to picture palaces, from small beer cellars to expensive hotels. The town centre at the moment presents a hive of activity, as all the roads and tramways are being beautified and pedestrian subways dug; speculation as to whether the town will run out of money before it is finished is very ripe, but all are agreed that it is a great improvement. To finish this apology on our detachment, we ought to include what were we doing and what we have done in sport and social life. In sport we have managed to retain our position in the League very consistently all through the season—bottom! The dismal failure that this statement implies is perhaps not so dismal after all, as we have enjoyed many afternoons of leisurely football in the League.

On Easter Monday all the Detachment who were not disporting themselves elsewhere went to see the Mohne Dam. We hired a Bundespost bus and took some crates of beer. We all enjoyed the day and arrived back via a Gasthaus in Gütersloh feeling mellow enough to face the weeks of work to come.

10 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT

This month, with the termination of the individual training season and the beginning of the collective training period, has been one great activity, especially on the sports field. The most notable of these being the inter-troop soccer, hockey and seven-a-side Rugby knock-out competitions, the first won by 10 Line Troop and the latter two being carried away to H.Q., 2 A.T.A.F., by 1 Squadron. Not to be outdone by Air Formation Signals, the Station organised a six-a-side football competition, in which over 80 teams competed, 20 coming from the Regiment. M.T.



M.T. TROOP SIX-A-SIDE TEAM

First Row, L. to R. : Drivers Underwood, Richardson (Capt.), Brown.
Second Row, L. to R. : Drivers Sheffield, Whittington, Singleton.

Troop decided not to risk all their eggs in one basket and entered five teams, one of which fought its way to the final. This team, consisting of Drivers Richardson (captain), Sheffield, Whittington, Underwood, Singleton and Brown, eventually lost to a team from the Station Sports Section, led by the P.F.O., but were compensated in some small degree by receiving their handsome half-pint pewter runners-up mugs from the hands of Vic Oliver. These were duly hauled with champagne. Later that night Richardson, ably supported by M.T. Troop and no doubt strengthened by champagne, again distinguished himself by nearly clowning Vic Oliver off the stage to the extent that he was afterwards accused of being a "plant" and part of the show.

The arrival of Spring has also let loose the spirit of wanderlust in the Regiment. The L.A.D. visited Luxemburg, 10 Line nearly visited Amsterdam, and M.T. Troop decided on Brussels. Here, all the usual things were done and all the usual things seen, including the Royal Guards outside the Palace, which were closely inspected and their standard of turn-out pronounced not up to the standard of 10 Air Formation Signal Regiment. Two Linemen decided to spend Easter touring the Rhineland on foot (a separate account appears elsewhere, we hope!). Corporal Jones toured Holland in his TR 2.

Major Brown, not to be outdone, opened up his touring agency with visits to such R.A.F. stations as Sylt, Eindhoven and Goch by small "working parties" of Linemen.

But in case people should get the idea that life in 10 Air Formation Signal Regiment is all play and no work, they should visit the M.T. Square to see the hive of activity there in preparation for the C.I.V. There is no truth in the rumour that the Regiment is now recruiting from Mars, the large number of "green" drivers is accounted for by the rather inaccurate use of spray guns.

This month has also seen the first occasion when a detachment of the Regiment which took part in the Colour Hoisting Parade was inspected by the Station Commander, earning his congratulations on the extremely high standard of turn-out and drill. This occasion was also notable, as we also managed to persuade the 2 A.T.A.F. Band to play our own Regimental March, and as the first bars of "Begone, Dull Care" were heard, everyone's shoulders became just that little bit straighter, as with heads held high we swung past the Saluting Base.

The summer augurs well for the Regiment, providing the weather plays ball with us, as we have the use of the Belgian training area for work and training and the Linemen should see little of the inside of the Camp. Whilst the Station sports fields and swimming pool should provide for the leisure hours of the "stay-at-homes," and what better jumping-off place than Cologne for those with the urge for pastures new.



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"HAVE YOU TRIED IT or HAVE A GO"

AN UNUSUAL EASTER HOLIDAY

by Signalman Stockhall and Signalman Stone,
10 Air Formation Signal Regiment

For our Easter break two of us decided to tour the Rhineland as far as Koblenz. We decided to camp out, taking with us a lightweight tent and two ground-sheets to form a sleeping bag, a couple of blankets and some spare clothes, all of which went into two large packs. We bought our food on the way.

We left Cologne at about two o'clock on Thursday, 18th April, and set out for Bonn. We were lucky enough to get a lift in a car going to Neuwied, which is well on the way to Koblenz. We quickly made friends with the driver, who said he would take us all the way. As we passed through Bonn, the capital of Western Germany, he pointed out all the most interesting places, including such places as the University, Parliament Buildings and the British and American Embassies. He told us that Beethoven was born in the town and showed us his memorial.

Soon Bonn was left behind and we began to climb through the mountains by the banks of the Rhine. On the other side of the river we could see the famous Sieben-gebirge Range (Seven Mountains Range); on the tops of most of the mountains there is either an hotel or a castle. The scenery was wonderful and a complete change from the flat countryside around Cologne.

At Neuwied we left our new found friend, who was first of many whom we were to make during the trip, and set out on foot once again for Koblenz. After walking for quite a while we were offered a lift in an old car which managed to get us to Koblenz. Here we wandered around for a bit and found a very pleasant camping site on the river bank where the River Mosel runs into the Rhine. The journey up to now had only taken about seven hours. We had covered roughly a hundred kilometres and had arrived 24 hours earlier than we had expected.

The next day, as we had a day in hand, we decided to walk to Rhens, about nine kilometres further south. On the way we saw Schloß Stolzenfels—one of the many castles for which the Rhineland is famous. It stands by itself on a hill top and is very well preserved and from its turrets we were provided with one of our many marvellous views of the Rhine Valley. On our return journey we were eventually given a lift in a coach but not until we were nearly hoarse from singing and more than a little footsore. The coach driver offered us a trip down the Rhine on the Sunday, in one of the Rhine steamers, but as we had to start back that day we were unable to take up the offer.

On Saturday we went into Koblenz to have a look round the town itself. One of the places we went into was an old fortress which has been turned into a Youth Hostel. It overlooks the town and the surrounding countryside for miles around. To get to the top of the hill on which it stands you can either walk up the path which zig-zags up the slope of the hill or go through an illuminated tunnel and then up by funicular railway. At the top of the fortress we were amazed to hear a group of children talking English; they turned out to be a party of children from England who were spending a holiday in Germany travelling down the Rhine by steamer. We went back down into the town by the funicular railway, from which we had an excellent view of the Rhine Valley with its castles and mountains. In the town itself we were made to feel a little homesick by the numerous fish and chip shops, the first either of us had seen since arriving in Germany, and you can imagine where most of our meals came from. The streets of the town are very narrow and most of the buildings are old but in the new shopping centre we were again reminded of home by the familiar red and gold of "Woolworth's" and green and gold of "Marks and Spencers." Koblenz is in the French zone



The authors at Koblenz with the Youth Hostel in the background.

and that night we met a group of French soldiers but found the different language no barrier to our enjoyment.

On Sunday we set out again for Cologne, walking to Neuwied but then receiving a lift in an American Cadillac to Andernach, where there is a famous Rhineland tower now converted into a Youth Hostel. From here we walked up the side of the river to Brohl, where we were picked up by a Mercedes Benz and taken as far as Sinzig. Here our luck deserted us and we had to walk to Mehlem, a distance of nearly 20 kilometres, where we pitched our tent and set out to get ourselves something to eat. On the other side of the river we could see the twinkling lights of Konigswinter reflected in the waters of the Rhine, tempting us to go across on the car ferry and explore the town. Soon all tiredness and hunger were forgotten as we wandered through the streets of the town. Everywhere people were laughing and singing, the cafes, with their little tables outside, were crowded, people were playing guitars and mouth organs with "Rock around the clock" as one of the favourite tunes. There were dances in most of the cafes and everyone seemed to be celebrating, wine was flowing freely and once again we found the language no barrier, and so eventually tired and weary we crossed back to our own side of the river and bed.

The next day, refreshed by sleep, and blistered feet cooled by a dip in the Rhine, we again crossed over to Konigswinter, where we found the same air of gaiety pervading the atmosphere. We climbed up the vine covered slopes to the Drachinfels, a famous castle, now a Roman Catholic boarding school. It was like being transported to another world with the winding roads climbing the hill slopes, with the old-fashioned coaches and horses, with small donkeys for the children and the tiny shops and wine cellars made out of caves cut in the hillside. From the top of the mountain one can see all down the river to Bonn, while looking up river we could pick out the route we had covered to Mehlem. As you can guess, we were sorry to leave Konigswinter and its gaiety, but our time was up and we had to set out for Camp. We walked to Bonn, passed through Bad Godesburg and then caught a tram back to Cologne.

On looking back over our journey, with its magnificent scenery, the friendliness of everyone we met and the free and easy atmosphere we decided our trip was more than worth while. We had spent four-and-a-half days outside

Camp and covered about 200 miles through some of the most interesting parts of Germany for a total cost for the two of us of about 80 Marks (£7). Thus, well satisfied with our trip we are already making fresh plans; so look out Holland, we may be visiting you at Whitsun.

From two "Brummies," Stocky and Stone.

12 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT

April has been an industrious though interesting month. The climax has been our annual inspection on 2nd May by Colonel J. W. Gordon, C.A.F.S.O., 2 T.A.F. It has also been a month of sporting events and a long Easter break.

On the 17th April the Regiment conducted the Royal Signals B.A.O.R. Cross-Country Championship finals. The Chief Signal Officer B.A.O.R. and Mrs. Moberly came to Wahn to watch the race, which was run over a 4½-mile course, in sunny weather with a gentle breeze. The start and finish were staged on the Athletic Ground, kindly made available to us by Lieutenant-Colonel Salpeteur, of the 3rd Lanciers Belgian Army. The 3rd Lanciers also provided their Bugle Band for the enjoyment of the spectators whilst waiting for the race to begin. There was a complete commentary throughout the race, which was relayed from the course by a net of wireless sets. Mrs. Moberly presented the cup to the winning team captain—Second-Lieutenant Rees, of 1 Wireless Regiment, and beer tankards to the members of the winning team. A shield and beer tankards were presented to the runners-up, who were 4 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment. The individual winner was Second-Lieutenant Armstead, of 11 Air Formation Signal Regiment, with a winning time of 28 minutes 22 seconds.

The Easter week-end quickly followed and many members of the Regiment went out on tours. Those with their cars mostly went to Holland to see the bulb festival. Many others went on tours organised by the R.A.F.; some of them went on coach trips which included trips up the Rhine and Mosel Valley, to Brussels, Liege and to Holland. Three members on the Dutch tour unfortunately missed the coach to come back, though they returned in time, suffering somewhat from blisters.

On the 24th of April our athletic team competed in the inter-wing athletic meeting. Lance-Corporal Potter ran a very fine 3,000 metres race to win in a good time. As a team, however, we were outclassed by the R.A.F. teams. Never mind, we did our best.

On the 2nd of May Colonel J. W. Gordon, Chief Air Formation Signal Officer, 2 T.A.F., carried out the annual inspection of the Regiment. The Band of The Buffs was in attendance and contributed greatly to the success of the parade. The parade was watched by a contingent of the Wing Signal Troops and by the families of the Regiment. A Regimental cocktail party was held that evening in Cologne, which was attended by a large number of guests, including Air Vice-Marshal H. Hogan, the Air Officer Commanding 83 Group, and Colonel J. W. Gordon.

As the Regiment received an extra day's holiday after the inspection, it is to be assumed that the report was satisfactory.



The winning team. 1 Wireless Regiment.

SHAPE SIGNAL SQUADRON TOURING EUROPE ON DUTY

By Lance-Corporal A. DAVIES

One of the problems of an International Headquarters is the language difficulty. In SHAPE this is reduced by having only two official languages (English and French), and everyone posted here must be able to speak one of these fluently. To bridge the gap between the English and French-speaking personnel, an interpretation service is provided, but in order to ensure the smooth running of conferences and briefings, simultaneous interpretation is required. The principle of simultaneous translation is that an interpreter listens to the speaker, either directly or through a microphone-amplifier-headphone system, and delivers the interpreted version simultaneously into either an amplifier connected to distribution cables or into a low power transmitter. Each delegate is provided with headphones connected either to a cable network or to a personal radio receiver. The scope of the work varies from small meetings in one of the offices of SHAPE, with perhaps 12 delegates and two languages, to the Command Post Exercise, with nearly 300 delegates and six languages. Very few subordinate Headquarters have the equipment needed for this service, and so two sets of transportable equipment are kept in SHAPE, and on the average we receive requests for them about once every three weeks. We have provided the interpretation facilities all over Europe, at such places as Bonn, Fontainebleau, Naples, Paris and Venice. I have been fortunate enough to go with it four times, to Fontainebleau (twice), Lahr (Germany) and Rome. There is not much to say about the duties in Fontainebleau, since on both occasions I was accommodated at ALFCE Signal Squadron and it would, therefore, be stealing their thunder to describe either the accommodation or the town.

The trip to Lahr involved a great change from Army routine. I travelled there with an American Specialist 3rd Class in an American Army three-quarter ton truck. We started early on a Sunday morning and after passing through many villages and small towns, as well as the cities of Nancy and Strasbourg, reached our destination late at night. We looked for and found accommodation at an hotel in Lahr.

We ate some of our meals in the German "Gasthaus" and some in the N.C.O.s' mess of the French Air Headquarters, where we were working. The French pay for their meals themselves, but get magnificent food for their money. Lunch and dinner cost 220 French francs (about 4/6) each, and consisted of hors d'oeuvres, main course, dessert, cheese, fruit and coffee. The food was up to the standard of a good Parisian restaurant and was served by German waitresses. A litre bottle of "Vin ordinaire" was provided and, if emptied, was immediately replenished. After the meal, we usually indulged, like the majority of the Frenchmen, in a liqueur at the bar.

Lahr is a small town delightfully situated in the midst of the Black Forest, and during our five-day stay, we had opportunities to visit the forest, with its large, steeply-sloping wooded hills and its cultivated valleys. At the time of our visit, the leaves of some of the trees were turning gold and brown, and the hills were a glorious mixture of colours. On the return journey we stayed one night in Strasbourg, and the following morning had time to take a quick look around the Cathedral. When I got back to SHAPE I submitted a claim for my expenses, and was most pleased to find that the money remitted covered the entire cost of the trip.

The duty at Rome was really done in style. Again I travelled with an American, and the task this time was to provide interpretation facilities at General Norstad's public speech, delivered while on his first official visit as SACEUR, to Italy. We travelled in first-class "Wagon-Lit" compartments on the Rome Express. Although we had a compartment each, we were somewhat cramped by all our equipment, which we had to carry with us in the coach, an



Fountain of Trevi, Rome.

arrangement which did not please either the railway or the Wagon-Lit authorities. We were met in Rome by two Italian officers and officials of the Bank of Rome, where the speech was to be given. They took care of our equipment and luggage, and then took us by car to the Bank and thence to an hotel. They told us that it would be quite in order to wear civilian clothes on all occasions except for the speech. We worked hard on the day of our arrival, and by 8 p.m. had completed the installation. After the speech we completed the stripping and packing in an evening, thus giving us three days for sight-seeing.

We told General Norstad's aide of our difficulties with the railway authorities, and he arranged to transport the equipment in SACEUR's plane for the return journey. In our spare time we made the rounds of some of the tourist attractions. Many of the Roman remains have stood for 2,000 years, with little deterioration. One of the most spectacular monuments is the Colosseum, which was partially demolished for its masonry, but is now being restored in places. The Senate escaped this fate, and with the exception of a new roof, is still the original construction, a bit patched up in places, but with its original mosaic floor intact. At one time it was used as an early Christian church, but now its sole function is as a tourist attraction. The Palatine is in good state of repair, most of its numerous rooms and labyrinthine corridors being built inside the Capitoline Hill. Of the modern buildings, the Victor Emmanuel Monument, the memorial to the 1914-18 war is the most impressive. It is constructed of white stone, and on the outside consists mainly of gigantic staircases, leading up to a long gallery covered by a vaulted roof, supported on massive stone pillars. A fine view of most of the centre of the Eternal City is seen from this gallery. I paid two visits to St. Peter's, once to admire the beautiful statues, murals and carvings inside the church, and the second time to photograph the exterior and St. Peter's Square. I did not fail to visit the well-known Fountain of Trevi, featured in the film "Three Coins in a Fountain," and threw a coin into the water, which as legend says, ensures a return visit. I hope so, for it was a sad moment when the time came to board the train and say "A Rivederci, Roma." I don't think the next visit will be at the expense of the Army and N.A.T.O.

★

All Ranks, Royal Signals, at SHAPE, would like to convey their deepest sympathy to Sergeant D. Convery on the death of his wife. Mrs. Pearl Convery died on Friday, 26th April, 1957, at the American Hospital, Paris. The funeral took place at the SHAPE Chapel, and the burial at the Admiral Ramsey Plot, The New Communal Cemetery, St. Germain En-Laye.

MELF

50 INDEPENDENT INFANTRY BRIGADE SIGNAL TROOP

Since last writing, the situation in Cyprus has changed considerably for the better.

All ranks can now go into the towns unarmed and carry on their traditional haggling with back street vendors in true Middle East fashion. Many of the Troop have discovered the usefulness of bicycles and instead of paying extortionate taxi fares they pedal their way happily through the congested streets of Nicosia. These streets, however, are so narrow and lacking in any definite plan that they make quite a problem for those who wish to leave. For reasons unknown, some do not wish to leave and they have found themselves in the hands of gentlemen in red caps—sadder but wiser—and quite suddenly very anxious to leave in a hurry. Corporal Frost is prepared (at a price) to act as guide and show off the lines he laid inside the walls when EOKA were at their most active. He seems in no way put out that newcomers to the Troop do not believe all he says.

While some members of the Troop have been enjoying themselves thus, three detachments have been up in the mountains involved in the hunt for Grivas. The detachment commanders, namely Lance-Corporals Wilson, Forsdyke and Stewart, have kept "through" apparently without failure, and seem no worse for their sojourn among the pines of Troodos. The tracks have to be seen to be believed, but we seem to have proved that where a Rover will go, a CV can surely follow.

Staff Sergeant Braik has now joined the Troop to make our trio of senior ranks "High, Wide and Handsome."

CYRENAICA SIGNAL TROOP

"Oh to be in England now that Spring is there . . ." seems to be the cry at the moment. Considering that it is the end of April, we must remark that the occasional cloud still floats across the sky. Summer is late and it is said that this is the worst (or best if you are a Libyan farmer!) spring in living memory. No doubt we shall soon be spending our leisure hours drinking "gesousa" and sleeping in the sun.

The past months have been active, starting with the Suez crisis and ending with a visit by Brigadier C. D. Gardiner, C.S.O., M.E.L.F. Our part in the former was not of course operational but we were kept active with internal security and preparations for possible developments on the eastern front. Our families suffered temporary heart failure when the families were evacuated from Tripoli, but their fears proved to be groundless.

The annual Administrative Inspection took place in early December and was a great success, thanks to the hard work put in by all personnel.

Although one of the minor Units of the district we have kept the Corps flag flying as it should fly. We have a local name for entering a team in everything and anything of a competitive nature. Quite possibly the lack of amenities for the troops in Benghazi has largely contributed to their keen participation in athletic sports. The soccer team finished third in the league and were beaten in the final of the cup.

The hockey team, after a very full season, finished sixth in the league but went down fighting in the early stages of the Knock-out Cup and Six-aside, despite the fact that the O.C., Major E. A. Knott, is District Hockey Officer.

S.S.M. Krivda spent weeks of hard work training the boxing team and produced a very powerful combination including Corporal Pfeiffer and Signalman Key, two probable winners of the District Individuals. The team was narrowly beaten by the odd bout in 11 in the semi-finals of the major Units' Cap badge competition.

Although we often played without substitutes, our Basketball Six beat all but two teams in the district and here again Corporal Pfeiffer was outstanding.

Under normal conditions, Rugby football is sheer suicide in Cyrenaica, but after three days of continual rain in January, trials were held and a Benghazi XV, including two members of the Troop were selected to play in a representative match at Barce.

In the field of motor sport, Jimmy again made his appearance and Sergeant Hunt and Corporal Rhind won two seconds and a third between them in recent motor cycle trials. A team of three in a Land Rover finished second in a skill and manoeuvrability rally held on the local U.S.A.F. base. Sergeant Smith, one of the team being placed second in the individual competition.

A popular feature of the local F.B.S. this last winter has been an Inter-Unit Knock-out General Knowledge Quiz with teams of four. The Troop entered two teams and the "A" team reached the finals where it was beaten by the R.E.'s.

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COMCAN SIGNAL TROOP, ACCRA

Since last we went to Press nothing untoward has happened within the Troop. With the Administrative Inspection and Independence behind us we can now settle down and get some real work done.

Much to our surprise and gratification we received £15 as a general welfare grant, on the closing day of the financial year. Members of the Troop were to be seen hurrying in all directions trying to spend this acquisition before closing hour. The O.C. broke all records from Giffard Camp to Accra, a distance of some five miles, in five minutes. We now sport a very pleasant rest room, tastefully decorated, the walls being a very soothing "eau-de-nil." Harassed traffic superintendents now have somewhere to relax; it is hoped, however, that they do not relax too much or too long.

Half way through April, Sergeant Packard got together his "bush wacking kit," which included, amongst other accessories, a bow and arrow and an elephant gun, and set off for Senchi, some 60 miles inland near the mighty Volta river, one bright and early morning, determined to get away from it all, or in the vernacular "he go for bush"! A week later, a very bronzed and contented Sergeant Packard returned, and it is rumoured that he saw a crocodile and shot a lizard!

Our growth to manhood is now nearing completion, as it is understood from 1st July we shall have our own W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess, thanks to the co-operation of the Ghana Signal Squadron.

We welcome to the Troop, Sergeants Silk, McGilvray, Parker and Spratt, and wish them a happy and successful tour in Ghana. We bade farewell to Sergeant and Mrs. Punnett and Sergeant Kershaw, who left us in March for Germany and England respectively. We wish them every success in their new Units. It is heard that Sergeant Kershaw, after his artistic successes out here, is letting his hair grow long and setting up shop in Chelsea.

Sport is most certainly coming into its own. We have entered a soccer team in the Ghana Army Soccer League due to start at the end of May, and under the guiding hand of W.O.II Smithard, we should be a team to be reckoned with. We played a friendly match against our old rivals, the Ghana Signal Squadron, and the result a draw 1—1, was most satisfactory from the point of view of international relations, although the subject of some healthy discussion in the Mess afterwards.

FAREL F

22 SPECIAL AIR SERVICE REGIMENT SIGNALS TROOP

The oldest inhabitant (five years) cannot remember this troop ever appearing in THE WIRE, in spite of the absence of notes we are still in existence and carrying on regardless of the shortage of volunteers of the standard required to pass the S.A.S. selection course in the Brecon mountains in Wales and the Parachute course.

Life in the troop is never dull, the operators in the troops go off into the jungle for periods of three months with their Wireless set which is modified to take a dry battery power supply; the set and batteries are carried by local aborigine porters, and during this time they are resupplied by air about once a week and, in the words of our O.C., Captain S. G. Walker, "Isn't it remarkable how the signals improve when their supply of food depends on it!"

The Representative Colonel Commandant, Major-General W. A. Scott, C.B., C.B.E., inspected a parachute wireless detachment of the troop during his recent visit to Malaya; this was followed the next day by a parachute descent from helicopters by personnel who were in Camp at that time. The barbed wire fence at the end of the DZ exerted its usual powerful magnetic attraction on Corporal "Jock" Adams, and Captain Walker could be seen throwing his hands in the air and muttering furiously to himself.

During April we said good-bye to Corporal Adams and Troopers Hyde and Wilkinson who have now returned to U.K. Corporal Splaine has also returned to U.K. after having been medically down-graded following a serious accident sustained whilst carrying out an operational parachute descent into the jungle last year. We welcome as new arrivals Signalmen Williams and Johnson who have arrived fresh from U.K.

To conclude, if any of the old members of the troop read this do not hesitate to drop us a line. We should still like to hear from you.

2 SQUADRON HONG KONG SIGNAL REGIMENT

Many WIRE note readers will know that we operate on the Kowloon side of the Colony of Hong Kong.

Kowloon is an over populated city where riches and extreme poverty rub shoulders, where glorious, ambitious buildings, rise almost overnight in the midst of slums.

Nathan Road, well-known to all travellers, runs from one end of the city to the other, a distance of approximately four to five miles with shop jostling upon shop throughout its length. When darkness falls, Blackpool illuminations are put to shame with the myriad lights and neon signs, and the colourful people. Here you can meet any nationality in the world, and can buy anything, "from a hairpin to a steamroller" as the saying goes. Amongst all this noise and bustle, and barely a five minute walk from the Star Ferry, is Whitfield Barracks where 2 Squadron reside—a haven of peace and cleanliness. As one steps through the entrance it seems a new world, such is the contrast to the "outside."

There are several places for rest and amusement in Kowloon besides the normal local civilian sources. Two come readily to mind; the NAFI Club, a palatial place along the sea front on Chatham Road, and the Y.M.C.A. which, amongst its many amenities has an indoor swimming pool. Cinemas are plentiful and show the latest films direct from U.S.A.

Life in the New Territories, north of Kowloon, is very different as most will agree. Though at times mighty uncomfortable, it has its compensations in plenty of organised sport and frequent visits to Kowloon or Hong Kong Island.

It will be seen that from my brief summary we have all the extremes here, riches, poverty, work and play, new buildings, slums, and of course, the weather. However, its all worth seeing and if you have not been here you "haven't lived."

Now a few notes about ourselves. We have said "bon voyage" to our O.C., Major Rahilly and wish him a happy landing in Singapore. In his place we welcome Major A. J. Jackson, to whom this is just a change of office, having come from 3 Squadron.

A note on Regimental sport. The Regiment has just won the two major Units' finals. We beat 7th Hussars by two goals to one in the major Units' hockey final and the reward for that was a trip to Singapore to meet the FARELF champions. In the major Units' cricket final the Regiment beat the Green Howards by six wickets.



Hong Kong Signal Regiment Motor Cycle Team

They won every motor cycle trial held in the Colony over the seasons 1955/56, 1956/57. Team Members: W.O.II (F. of S.) Bowden, Sergeant Sankey, Sergeant Steane (R.E.M.E.)

A.E.R. and T.A.

52 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT

This year 52 Air Formation Signal Regiment was the first Army Emergency Reserve Unit to hold its annual camp at Blacon. We had only volunteers with us which put normal training out of the question, so we spent rather more time than usual in the lecture rooms. During the first few days the headquarters instructors reminded us of the mass of paper-work required to keep a Unit in operation and told us of the Army's role in Civil Defence in the event of an atomic attack, arranging a most realistic exercise by way of illustration. Our Post Office bobbies then took over and explained the technicalities of carrier equipment in words of one syllable.

Lieutenant-Colonel D. E. L. Gardiner came from Fontainebleau to tell us about SHAPE and the role of Air Formation Signals in Northern Europe; and Colonel J. N. Barker, O.B.E. (D.D. A.F.S. Air Ministry) told us about the possible changes in establishment and equipment that might be introduced as a result of recent planning.

After firing our range course we saw demonstrations of the new F.N. 300 and were given the opportunity to fire the Sterling which we found much more accurate than the Sten.

On the first sports afternoon the Officers beat the Sergeants 6—1 at soccer, but then tried to train on beer and lost the return game 2—3. On the middle Saturday a very successful Regimental Dance was held in the Sergeants' Mess.

We were happy to be able to congratulate Lieutenant-Colonel D. M. Crafer, M.B.E., on his promotion to be our new Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel J. A. Charlton, E.R.D. having retired.

For the first time ever we had fine weather for the whole fortnight, and are looking forward to our visit to Blacon next

21st (NM) CORPS SIGNAL REGIMENT (T.A.)

The camping season is now upon us and already the Regiment is preparing for its annual migration, this time to Blackfell Camp, near Newcastle-on-Tyne. In view of the absence of National Servicemen we are looking forward to a camp at which we, in many ways, recapture spirit of the pre-war Territorial Army.

We are aware, however, that such an experience is one to be shared among many. To justify this ideal, the Regiment has been carrying out a vigorous recruiting campaign with rewarding results. We are particularly pleased to welcome ex-members of the R.A.A.F. and other new recruits who have recently joined our ranks.

Since our last notes No. 2 Squadron, Wolverhampton, has been transferred to Derby, where they have settled in and are now busily engaged on attracting recruits.

An AN/TRC link has been permanently established from R.H.Q. to our detached Squadrons at Nottingham and Chesterfield. Besides carrying administrative traffic, this link has been used very successfully in connection with inter-squadron games

and competitions held simultaneously at R.H.Q. and outlying T.A. Centres.

The Derby Royal Signals Association has recently been re-established and promises to be an exceedingly flourishing organisation. Our former Commanding Officer, Colonel R. E. Pickford, T.D., has resumed an active association with the Service by transferring from R.A.R.O. to the T.A. on his appointment as A/C.S.O. (T.A.) Northern Command.

At our next week-end camp Lance-Corporal R. Hadfield, of the Regiment, is to be presented with the B.E.M. awarded for his gallantry last year in attempting to save the life of a comrade who was in contact with a vehicle that was receiving the force of an H.T. supply of 33,000 volts. Its aerial was in contact with an overhead line.

At the Officers' Training Week-end held in April we were pleased to see Major J. B. Fenwick, who was also involved in the accident. His only complaint was that he was unable to adapt his tin leg to perform the actions of rock 'n' roll. Offers to effect immediate modification were firmly rejected.

The other injured party, Sergeant E. Seaward, is now back in circulation. Although now out of the T.A. he has retained his connection with the Corps by his election to the office of Secretary of the Derby Royal Signals Association.

Since our last notes R.S.M. F. Baker has retired, his place being taken by R.S.M. G. H. Graham. W.O.II H. Nutt, Sergeant H. Orton and Sergeant W. I. Williams, Regimental P.S.I.s, have also left our ranks. W.O.II L. A. Nicholls has since joined us from the Training Brigade and has taken up the appointment of P.S.I. at Nottingham. Sergeant E. W. Hastie has assumed the duties of P.S.I. with 1 Squadron at Bulwell; he formerly served with 3 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment.

NO. 1 SPECIAL COMMUNICATIONS REGIMENT (CITY OF LONDON) ROYAL SIGNALS, T.A.

We have just returned from our Annual Camp which was very early this year, but in choosing the two weeks commencing 27th April we were extremely fortunate with the weather. This year, besides having the members of the Regiment we again had No. 1 S.C.T. (Brecon) attached to us for camp together with three volunteers from the A.E.R. The success of this year's camp was in no small way due to the harmonious way in which all personnel worked right from the outset.

Our main training consisted of two exercises in which we had base stations near Brecon and Bicester, and the majority of the field stations in the Cambridge-Royston area. Both exercises lasted for five and a half days, and were a great success. There were, in all, ten field detachments, and in the second week a total of 58,000 groups was passed. Congratulations to Signalman Lamond whose detachment passed the highest and most accurate groupage during both weeks.

The middle week-end included a day of relaxation when the young bloods from Brecon out-ran and out-played the more decrepit members of the Regiment in a five-a-side Soccer competition. The Officers, however, managed to beat the Sergeants—with a little outside assistance! A good picture on our Television set enabled the enthusiasts to see Aston Villa win the Cup.

Our official visitors included C.S.O. London District and A.D.W.R.A.C. We were pleased to see Captain Hartley, Captain Hartfield and S.S.M. Andrews who were unable to attend camp but who managed to get down to see us during the middle week-end. In addition, Lieutenant Ray, who is up at Cambridge, managed to get away from his studies for a few days to do some soldiering with us.

H.Q. Squadron were the winners of the Gambier-Parry Shield for their fine performance on the Administrative side. Coupled with H.Q. Squadron must be the W.R.A.C. Squadron, whose drivers did some excellent work throughout Camp.

1 NORTHERN COMMAND (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT (T.A.)

Since the production of the last notes the Regiment has kept itself "gainfully occupied."

The last week in March saw the first experiment in a Drill and Duties week-end for Senior N.C.O.s. In all, 25 Warrant Officers and N.C.O.s travelled from all points North, South, East and West and assembled in York. The week-end paid high dividends and after the first loosening of muscles on drill

revision all went well. Your scribe noticed how quickly paunches acquired in civilian occupations both at "desk" and "bar" disappeared rapidly under the orders of R.S.M. J. Phillips, whilst chests expanded by equal amounts. It should be added that the last sentence applies to the male element only, our girls were, as always, most trim!

We would like to place on record the hospitality which is being shown to the Regiment by the newly formed Signals Association Club in York. We all enjoy visiting the club and are always made most welcome.

The C.S.O. Northern Command has held his yearly Exercise, "Smoke Signal" Officers (male) only—cooks and orderlies were provided from volunteers of the Regiment. By the worried look on some Officers' faces they would rather have been tackling the cooking than the problems of logistics.

The last week-end in April was spent in camp at Blackfell, the particular object being the punching up of drill for the visit of the Colonel-in-Chief in July. It was a very successful week-end, the weather at its best and the organisation of 2 Squadron at Newcastle making for an excellent week-end. The Regiment achieved a high turn-out and we were pleased to see Brigadier D. St. J. Hoysted, C.B.E., Mrs. Hoysted, Mr. C. Hoysted and Miss R. Hoysted, who spent the morning with us.

In the Northern Command .22 Shooting Competition for W.R.A.C. the Unit achieved second, third and fourth places. This was apparently to show the male element that "such women are dangerous."

With the longer hours of daylight and the promise of fine weather the Unit is settling down to summer activities and it is rumoured that the Training Major has a map reading scheme in mind to take us all over the Command on foot, your scribe being the privileged reporter for the Unit claims the right to use the R.H.Q. bicycle if the Q.M. can find it.

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

The Officers' Mess Dinner on 12th April, 1957, attracted a larger number than usual of former members of the Mess, including one Officer (Captain William MacLean) who was commissioned as far back as 1905. There were altogether six Officers present who had served in France in 1914-18.

In the photograph taken during the dinner, there can be seen on the right-hand side of the wall a photograph of a Mess Dinner in 1911 which Lord Kitchener attended in his capacity as Honorary Colonel. Two of the Officers present at the 1911 Dinner were present on 12th April, 1957, and hardly looked a day older! These were Lieutenant-Colonel Lord Stevenson and Captain William MacLean, who both served with R.E. Signals in France from 1915 to 1918.



[Photograph by kind permission of George Outram & Co., Ltd., Glasgow
From left to right: Lieutenant-Colonel R. Linton, Lieutenant-Colonel Lord Stevenson, Colonel J. W. Robertson, Captain W. MacLean, Captain C. H. MacMillan, Colonel T. M. Niven (Honorary Colonel), Brigadier J. C. Hardy (C.S.O. Scottish Command), Brigadier Sir John Spencer Muirhead, Captain R. Y. Wilson



[Photograph by kind permission of George Outram & Co., Ltd., Glasgow
52 Lowland Divisional Signal Regiment Dinner

Welfare Section

Below an attempt is made to describe with suitable anonymity eight cases taken from the Welfare Section files current during the first week in May, 1957. Also on this page is a simple statement of income and expenditure.

Signalman, 1941-46. Married, four children (wife ex-A.T.S.), they all live in one room. The Signalman and three-year-old boy are tuberculous, an eight-year-old daughter is spastic. Because of the very heavy work in washing clothes, the wife was advised by her doctor to get a washing machine. The Signalman was then at work, against doctor's advice. He then had three months off work with total family income less than £1 per head per week for all purposes—food, light, heat, rent, hire purchase on washing machine, and clothes. On 1st April they had to give in and ask for help. The A.T.S. Benevolent Fund and Royal Signals Association gave generously to a brave couple.

Signalman, 1942-47. Married, one child. He has 20 per cent Disability Pension, but had a good employment until September, when illness halved his income. They get along except for replacement of clothing for the child, and the fund helped with this.

Signalman, 1952-55. Married, two children, has been out of work for six months through sickness. S.S.A.F.A. and the British Legion have helped with coal and food vouchers, and the Association paid small arrears of Hire Purchase.

Widow of Corporal, 1920-33. He died in 1957. There are five children. The family have a tiny income and the Association gave generously to provide clothes for them.

Signalman, 1955. Serving. Married, one child, in grave financial difficulty. The fund helped a little on the recommendation of the Commanding Officer.

Signalman, 1943-45. Married, one child. Owing to illness he has had to give up his good employment, and is at a Government Rehabilitation Centre. The fund made his wife a very small weekly allowance to help her until his course finishes.

Widow of Signalman, 1939-43, who died in 1950. The fund helped a little for clothing for the one child.

Signalman, 1951 Serving. He has always made a good allotment to help his parents. His father has been very ill and the fund helped by paying overdue rates.

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION AND BENEVOLENT FUND

The following subscriptions were most gratefully received during April, 1957:—

	£	s.	d.
Royal Signals Wing, School of Signals	14	0	0
Officer Training Wing, School of Signals	4	8	0
1 Training Regiment	42	0	0
2 Training Regiment	26	3	6
4 Training Regiment	1	11	0
7 Training Regiment	60	13	7
Signal Communication Wing, Royal Military Academy	2	0	6
24 Independent Infantry Brigade Signal Troop	3	5	0
21 (NM) Corps Signal Regiment, T.A.	11	9	0
2 Infantry Brigade Signal Troop	4	2	6
1 H.Q. Signal Troop	16	8	0
1 Squadron, U.K. COMCAN Signal Regiment	5	5	1
3 Squadron, U.K. COMCAN Signal Regiment	6	15	0
4 Squadron, U.K. COMCAN Signal Regiment	6	7	10
R.H.Q. and Sergeants' Mess, U.K. COMCAN Signal Regiment	1	0	0
D. and M. School, R.A.C. Centre	1	0	0
MES/SRDE	1	10	5
Signal Wing, School of Infantry	11	6	0
52 Air Formation Signals, A.E.R., Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess	12	6	0
44 (HC) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A.	1	3	0
2 Squadron, U.K. COMCAN Signal Regiment	4	10	0
Scottish Command (M) Signal Squadron	7	6	0
Scottish Command (M) Signal Regiment, T.A.	11	11	0
3 Independent U.K.L.F. Reserve Signal Squadron, T.A.	7	7	0
C.A.F.S.O. Branch, H.Q., 2 T.A.F.	16	6	0
10 Air Formation Signal Regiment	9	3	6
3 Squadron, 2 L. of C. Signal Regiment (47 Unit Branch)	5	0	0
18 Army Group Signal Regiment (2 Unit Branch)	25	0	0
Berlin Signal Squadron (4 Unit Branch)	6	0	0
21 Independent Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron	3	0	0
SHAPE Signal Squadron	3	10	0
1 Wireless Regiment	27	6	1
Hong Kong Signal Regiment	27	0	0
10 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment	2	5	0
Cyrenaica Signal Troop	2	15	0
COMCAN Signal Squadron, Malta	6	5	10
15 Signal Park Troop	10	0	0
Total receipts	£315	5	3

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION WELFARE SECTION

The following donations were most gratefully received during April, 1957:—

	£	s.	d.
2 Corps Signal Regiment (LON), T.A.	2	0	0
The Officers, Larnaca Road Camp, Nicosia	5	0	0
Royal Signals H.Q. Mess (Draw)	3	18	3
Chappell's Clothing Co.	2	5	0
L. J. Jennings, Esq.	10	0	0
E. C. Partridge, Esq.	10	0	0
A. E. Andrewartha, Esq.	2	10	0
Mrs. E. Shave	1	0	0
Bath Branch	2	4	0
Birmingham Branch	7	15	6
Harrogate Branch	5	5	0
Liverpool Branch	10	0	0
Uckfield Branch	2	2	0
Glossop and District O.C.A.	21	0	0
Total receipts	£65	14	9

Expenditure during April 1957 ... £197 7 4
(Includes: Rent and Rates; Beds and Bedding; Furniture; Cots and Prams; General Assistance).

Analysis of Cases:	
Families of Soldiers serving in U.K.	3
Widows and Dependents	1
Released and Discharged Soldiers	22

Total cases assisted ... 30

12 cases of Soldiers who served during the 1939/45 War	£103	2	2
18 cases of Soldiers who did not serve during the War	£94	5	2

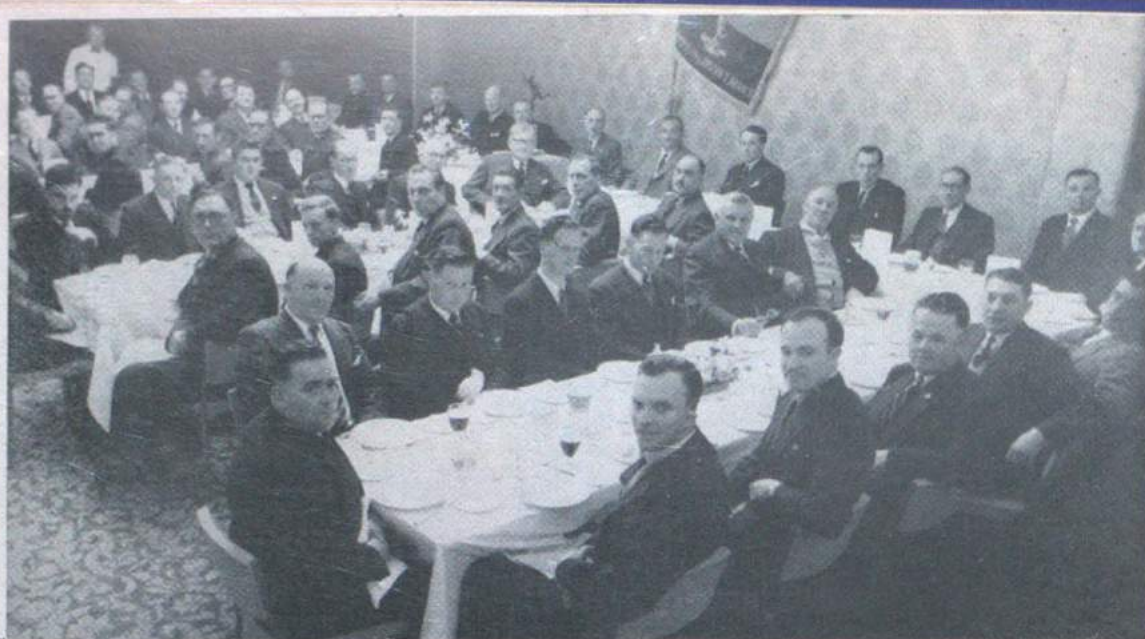
LIGHTER FUEL PACKS

The following amounts were most gratefully received during April, 1957:

	£	s.	d.
Box No. 10 ... 1 Corps Signal Regiment (31 Unit Branch)	1	0	0
33 ... Chislehurst Branch	7	0	0
40 ... Scottish Command (M) Signal Squadron	15	6	0
52 ... 12 Command (M) Signal Regiment, T.A.	7	6	0
67 ... 43 (Wx.) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A.	3	3	6
83 ... Liverpool Branch	1	9	6
106 ... 42 (L) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A.	1	9	6
Total	£8	12	6

SOUTHAMPTON BRANCH

Eleventh Annual Reunion Dinner



Well over 60 members with their guests dined at the Royal Hotel. The toast of the Association and the Branch was proposed by Major N. T. Warren, M.B.E., T.D., and responded to by Brigadier H. R. Firth, who was deputising for Major-General C. M. F. White, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., Chairman of the Association, who was unable to be present.

Major S. E. Bridgewater, T.D., proposed "The Guests" and Brigadier G. B. Bell, C.B.E., the Chief Signal Officer, H.Q., Southern Command, and Alderman R. R. H. Hammond, O.B.E., J.P., replied.

The Southampton Branch stems from No. 2 Company, 43rd Wessex Divisional Signals pre and during the 1939-45 War, and many of the speakers mentioned with regret the ending of the intimate association with the Royal Artillery for which for so long Royal Signals has provided the Regimental Signal Troops.

Alderman Hammond, himself a "Gunner," appreciated the reference to the Royal Regiment and spoke of the progress of Southampton, particularly during the last decade. He had to leave immediately after dinner to fulfil another engagement, but all of the Branch were proud that one of Southampton's foremost citizens had found time to dine with them.

* * *

Loughborough Branch

When these notes are read, our Garden Fete will be a thing of the past, as will also be the Church Parade, for the dedication of our Standard, but the time of writing is in the midst of planning and preparation—with much to be considered and much to worry about. Right now, I wish the fete were tomorrow, for the Beaumanor lawns and surrounds look a picture in the warm Spring sunshine; let's hope we are as fortunate on the day. Mind you, we have been extremely fortunate in having good weather attend our choice of dates for each of the past three Annual Garden Fetes.

Considerable local interest has been evidenced in the events covering our visit from the Non-Touring Band, and none more so than in the Church Parade Service for Standard dedication. We hope to have Standard contingents from the local British Legion in the parade, and possibly representatives of nearby Branches of the Association. The General Secretary has found time to represent Headquarters at the ceremony. Next month I hope to provide pictures and a report on a successful weekend.

Our Celebrity for the month is ex-Signalman Jim (Jock) Hamilton. Jock enlisted in the R.E.s in August, 1920, transferring to the Corps on formation in 1921. There followed service in Ireland with 5th Divisional Signals until, in 1922, he was drafted to India. After short spells in Jubbulpore and Karachi, he went with the small contingent which opened up the Cherat station, where he remained until repatriation in 1927. Following release from the Colours, Jock served in the Post Office at Glasgow and Ardrossan as a Sorting Clerk and Telegraphist until joining the War Office Civilian Wireless Service in 1936. He is still with the Department, on the home stretch now, towards his retirement and pension, but nevertheless

less active in many spheres, such as Mess Steward, R.S.A. doings, and local amateur theatricals.

Some may think his was not a brilliant Army career, no great achievement in the field of sport, etc., but Jock and his like constitute the very stuff of which the Corps was made—long may it recruit from the same mould.

★

Saturday, 25th, Sunday, 26th May, were great days for the Branch and their neighbours of 10 Wireless Training Squadron at Woodhouse Eaves.

On Saturday morning the Squadron's new accommodation, Garrats Hey Barracks, was formally opened by the G.O.C. North Midland District.

In the afternoon a record number of visitors attended the Annual Garden Fete of the Association at Beaumanor Park.

In the evening the dining hall of Garrats Hey Barracks overflowed with dancers, rock 'n' rollers and skiffers.

On Sunday morning the Corps Band led a parade of Association members and a contingent from the Squadron to dedicate the Standard of Loughborough Branch in St. Paul's Church, Woodhouse Eaves.

A fuller account with photographs will appear in July.

Brighton Branch

This, a once thriving branch of the Association, which unhappily fell into decay about five years ago, was reborn on 23rd May under most admirable circumstances. Thanks are due to the great work of Mr. J. A. Munday, who was elected Honorary Secretary, who had given long hours of his time to sending out letters to all ex-members of the Corps in Brighton whose addresses are known.

The project could never have been attempted without the initiative, drive, and unstinted support of Major A. E. Wood and 4 Independent Squadron, who made most admirable arrangements for the inaugural meeting.

Mr. W. Barry, who was the last Chairman of the old Branch, presided at the meeting. Major A. E. Wood guaranteed further and constant support and a committee was elected. Brigadier Firth, the General Secretary, gave a short outline of what was going on in the Association.

The Officers of the Branch so far elected are: Vice-President, Major A. E. Wood; Chairman, Mr. W. Barry; Honorary Treasurer, Major J. W. Palfrey, T.D., who commands the Territorial Army Signal Squadron; and Messrs. J. Brazier, C. Gates, K. Brown, R. Clark, B. Cook and Sergeant Duffy form the strong committee who went into earnest conclave immediately the formal meeting was over.

The honorary secretary is Mr. J. A. Munday, c/o Telephone Exchange, Preston Barracks, Brighton.

★

Incidentally, the frontage of the "Sandhurst Block" of 4 Independent Squadron Royal Signals on the main Brighton-Lewes road is a sight to make ex-Signalmen very proud.

Sheffield Branch

Once again we are drawing near to our summer recess; it was decided at the last meeting to close in June until September. This meeting will be, by special request, a free and easy with dancing to the radiogram.

At the May meeting we said good-bye to George Page, who is leaving us on posting to Lincoln. Old "B" Corps men will remember his prowess on the banjo; he still plays and is an expert entertainer.

After business was completed we enjoyed a tombola evening. When this was over we spent an enjoyable period talking over old times and were regaled with some of George's experiences in his thirty odd years in the army.

One topic which is causing concern amongst the members is the imminent discharge of redundant Senior W.O.s and N.C.O.s, many of whom are Association members. We ex-servicemen know only too well the difficulties that face men around the forty age group, who have spent most of their life in the army and suddenly find themselves pitchforked into civilian life. Any who may find themselves in Sheffield will find a welcome at Crabtree T.A. Centre. The next three months will give us time to consider once again, ways and means to attract more members with more success than before; we hope.

Sport

ROYAL SIGNALS CROSS-COUNTRY

The English National Championships were held at Parliament Hill Fields, Hampstead Heath, on 9th March, 1957. Despite the fact that there were a record number of entries and the venue was central, only two Service teams were entered. Royal Signals were the sole Army team, and R.A.F. (Yatesbury), the R.A.F. champions, represented the R.A.F. Both teams were entered for the Junior Championships.

The Junior Championships were held last in the programme, after approximately 450 youths had run one lap, and 650 seniors had run three laps on a heavy, muddy course. The conditions were, therefore, very heavy going.

Royal Signals finished 27th, with 605 points, and R.A.F. (Yatesbury) finished 19th with 419 points. Approximately 88 teams started and 389 runners finished the course of 6 miles, 700 yards.

Finishing positions were as follows:

Regiment	Name	Position
2 Training Regiment	Signalman R. O. Williams	33
1 Training Regiment	Signalman A. M. C. Davies	161
Royal Signals Wing	Second-Lieutenant R. E. Harris	187
1 Training Regiment	Signalman W. F. Butt	224
		605
1 Training Regiment	Corporal P. J. Abbott	293

In the Senior Championships, Corporal B. Coleman of 2nd Training Regiment, represented Royal Signals. He ran well and finished 216 out of a field of approximately 650.

ROYAL SIGNALS HOCKEY

The Corps Hockey Team completed its fixtures for the 1956/57 season, when it took part in the Scarborough Easter Hockey Festival. The results of games played there were:

Royal Signals	6	Galley-makers	0
Royal Signals	1	Thistles	4
Royal Signals	2	Puritans	1
Royal Signals	2	Notts Pilgrims	4

Details of all other Corps matches have already been published in THE WIRE, together with the names of those players who have been awarded Corps Jimmys for the season.

The playing record for the whole season is: Played 13; Won 7; Drawn 2; Lost 4; Goals For 32; Goals Against 22.

The following, who were not awarded Corps Jimmys, played at least once for the Corps Team on occasions when, because of injury or for some other reason, reserve players had to be put in:—Colonel J. E. S. Sanders, O.B.E., Major K. M. Evans, Captains S. C. Finch, J. K. Heyes, E. L. Rogers and A. G. Smith.

"This Section will Be Timed"

An Unexpurgated Page from the Glorious Annals of a Signal Squadron (T.A.)

by BRIAN JAMES

I SUPPOSE it all started on the night of the new Brigadier's inspection. As the nearest Unit to his H.Q. (in the same block) we should have expected him; being also the Brigade Signal Squadron we should have been prepared for him. In fact we were neither.

In company with the M.T. Sergeant, I was having a quiet smoke in the M.T. store when the Corporal Vehicle Mech. interrupted the peace which we were enjoying. "Major's compliments, sir, and would you get the 'ell out of 'ere. The Brig's on 'is way down to see these garages."

Most unfortunately, the above-mentioned gentleman was hard on Corporal Cooke's heels, and as Sergeant Baker and yours truly erupted from the store we were brought up all standing by the sudden arrival of, apparently, all the higher brass in the Brigade. I must say my appearance was not for an officer, even T.A., particularly prepossessing. A violent check shirt and a smudge of oil worn, like a patch, over one eye are apt to give a slightly piratical look to the gentlest of mortals, while the half-grown moustache I sported added to an already unkempt appearance.

The Brigadier surveyed me bleakly for a moment, then turned inquiringly to the C.O., who swallowed hard, clenched his hands and said feebly: "Lieutenant James, our—er—motor cycle expert—er—Brigadier Smith-Tattersall."

The usual fatuous question-and-answer business started, while the C.O.'s expression boded ill for our next meeting. The Brig. remained impassive, but his eyes would have chilled a blowlamp. At last the procession of field ranks got under way and I resumed my interrupted cigarette in a slightly shattered frame of mind. No repercussions for a couple of weeks augured well, but "Smat," as the Brig. had promptly been dubbed, bore more resemblance to an elephant than the length of his nose alone would indicate.

Some four weeks after our first meeting, I was called into the presence. Smat seemed to be in an expansive mood, but there was that in his eye which spelled danger. Conscious of a neatly fitting and properly maintained battledress, I felt confident that I could deal with any situation. But the ball opened quietly enough.

"Major Backhouse informs me that you are a pretty hot motor cyclist," Smat began, and lit a foul pipe. I modestly disclaimed all knowledge of this and wondered what was coming next.

"D'you ride in these trials or what?" was the next remark. I explained that I had participated in such things occasionally, but did not claim to be very proficient.

"I see that this Brigade has never had a team in the Army championships," continued Smat, and I began to feel apprehensive.

"This year I expect you Signals people to win the Command cup you know," he went on in a suddenly evil tone of voice. "In fact you *will* win it. That's an order. *You* will ride and captain the No. 1 team. You will also be responsible for training the other two teams."

I ventured to remark that racing a two-stroke on grass tracks was a very different proposition from riding a standard W.D. B.S.A. over trials country.

"You race?" boomed Smat. "Good. You should be able to handle a machine at 10 miles an hour, then, eh?"

I gave an uneasy affirmative, and was duly dismissed with instructions to beg, borrow, steal, or indent for extra machines, petrol, bounce protectors, clothing, accident report forms and all the other paraphernalia necessary for keeping a W.D. motor cycle on the road. Smat declared that he would lay out the practice courses, and organise the training runs, so all I needed now were prospective riders.

I returned to the M.T. store and poured my woes into the sympathetic ear of Sergeant Baker, who hesitatingly volunteered to ride. Corporal Cooke, better known to all as Fiddler, was conscripted as third man for the "A" team, and to make up the other two teams we had our pick of four semi-trained D.R.s.

eight drivers who could ride, and the other three subalterns in the Unit, whom I press-ganged into unwilling service. All went well in the preliminary tuning and servicing and finally I had 18 B.S.A. 500 s.v.s in perfect trim (I hoped). Then Smat started training runs.

Inside three weeks I was down to 10 stone weight, seven road-worthy bikes and 13 roadworthy riders. Smat certainly sorted out the sheep from the goats. On one map-reading exercise no fewer than four riders went through the same hole in the same hedge on the same corner. Fiddler was almost in tears, Baker muttered strange oaths in Hindustani, I had consigned myself to the care of a sadly overworked guardian angel; but Smat was undaunted, and appeared to be wildly enthusiastic on the subject of our probable placings on the day. For a month, then, the rank and file laboured complainingly to repair some of the bent machinery, while the "A" team struggled manfully with impassable gullies, insurmountable hills and improbable bog-holes thoughtfully laid out, tastefully garnished with mud, and deemed easy by Smat, who roared instructions while galloping alongside the unfortunate who was attempting the particular section.

Purely Accidental . . .

Fiddler is strangely, and smilingly, reticent about exactly how his bike and he, in that order, nearly made Smat a permanent feature of the landscape by embedding him in a seemingly bottomless mud-splash.

Baker, too, will smile reminiscently, but remain silent on the subject of the swift kick in the pants that he somehow landed on Smat during the course of an apparently serious tumble.

I alone got through this period without dropping any particularly loud clangers. As time wore on, Smat grew more and more vicious in his requirements until, by the last three weeks' training, we were amazing ourselves by our own daring.

It was about this time that I entered the entire team or teams for a trials instruction course run by a local club. This was done on the old-boy basis, on condition that I supplied fire-fighting equipment and bods for general duties. The course was taken and split up, five men to an instructor, the instructor in my case being a very well-known trials champion and top-flight road racer. All went well till we reached the fifth section; a fairly straightforward affair of greasy rutted approach, rock step and bump and a very liquid mud and rock exit. We all had several attempts. Most, on lightweight machines, stuck in the mud exit. A few, on older machines, jammed on the step, I, on the only "500," and a most unsuitable one at that, skidded and slid, footing heavily, up to the step and bump, bounced over and then quietly plonked out clean through the mud. Great praise from Ray, the instructor, was followed by a demonstration on my bike as to how to get the section clean. Poor Ray. He had never ridden a W.D. B.S.A., so he didn't know what he was up against. With fiendish glee I watched his approach on my two-wheeled tank. He footed heavily on the approach, stuck on the step and fell off in the mud. I was left strictly to my own devices after that.

Tough Rehearsal

On the final rehearsal, Smat had dreamed up a course that included a little bit of everything, but was tough enough to reduce our strength back to 10 roadworthy bikes and 11 serviceable riders.

The great day dawned and we set out for the start in fine

fettle. The course was dyed for 25 miles of road, unmarked for a five-mile timed cross-country run, signed to the observed hazards, which were followed by a devilish timed map-reading section, leading into a timed run to the finish. Marks were deducted in the usual manner, with penalties for damage to the machines, exceeding certain speeds, etc. To add to the fun, normal tyres and pressures were used (normal being half-bald and bone hard).

Well, we rigged our pressure gauges to show 18 or 22 permanently, were confident of our abilities and distinctly nervous of the Artillery team, who had cleaned up with monotonous regularity for years. I was first man off in our team, and I dawdled along until Fiddler and Sergeant Baker closed up and we got into battle formation.

By a very odd coincidence, the cross-country run was the very one we had been over on the dress rehearsal, so naturally we belted through at a phenomenal rate, establishing F.T.D. in the process—10 minutes inside bogey time, which was 20 minutes. I had the satisfaction of spattering all the high brass with a well-directed spray of mud off the starting line, an occurrence which put me in good humour for the rest of the day.

At the observed sections, our "B" team caught up with us, and we discussed tactics. In the "B" team we had a pair of identical twins—really identical! One was a whizz in mud and water, and the other specialised in rocks and nadgery stuff, so by dint of much horsing about the shrubbery we got each twin to ride both bikes through his pet sections; a piece of well-thought-out rogery if ever there was one. Both teams pressed on to the map-reading section, where another strange coincidence was manifested. At the start there was Smat, with a self-satisfied smirk on his bottle-scarred features; and the routes we had to follow were again the ones he had laid out the previous week. Needless to say, we whistled through to the finish with clean sheets and when the last man finished the awards were distributed. Great was the applause when the cup was won by the Artillery team for the fifth year running.

Us? We were excluded for exceeding an average of 40 m.p.h. on the timed map-reading section. Anyone know a good T.A. Unit to transfer to?

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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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JULY 1957

Vol. 11 No. 7



PRICE ONE SHILLING

THE WIRE, JULY 1957

Editorial

AFTER a very long struggle THE WIRE has at last been compelled to increase in price.

For the last five or six years THE WIRE has kept up a reasonable standard of production without a large profit or loss.

The following factors have affected the position. The increase in cost of production has been continuous: newsprint, wages in the printing trade, the not inconsiderable cost of postage—all these have slowly but surely risen each year.

These increases have been partially off-set by increase in revenue from advertisements.

During the post-war years THE WIRE has to an extent been subsidised by the Association in that such matters as salaries, rent, heat, light, telephone, stationery, etc., have not been fully debited to THE WIRE budget.

The Central Committee of the Association has decided that this subsidy can no longer continue and as THE WIRE is more the property of Royal Signals than of the Association, the Corps Committee have approved of an increase in price from 1/- to 1/3 per copy to commence with the January issue 1958.

Many advocated a larger increase to 1/6, but it is hoped that the extra 3d. will be just sufficient.

Much depends on circulation. For obvious reasons the revenue from advertisements varies in proportion to the number of copies sold.

Even a small increase in price, 3d. a month, 3/- a year, less than the cost of a packet of cigarettes may cause a small drop in sales.

All are asked to keep sales up to the maximum.

Many have criticised the plain black and white cover in which THE WIRE is currently produced. This has been absolutely necessary if THE WIRE is to continue without loss. All will be glad to know that a new and very striking cover is already designed and only awaits approval. It is perhaps the best cover THE WIRE has ever had and will in itself absorb a fair proportion of the increase in price.

For the rest we all want to see our Corps Magazine flourish; we all want THE WIRE to be more readable and of more than purely parochial interest.

THE WIRE has so often asked contributors for more articles of general interest. There has been some response to this and that very good, *BUT* can we have more such articles?

Royal Signals Dinner Club

About 180 officers, serving and retired, dined at the Hyde Park Hotel on Wednesday, 29th May. The Representative Colonel Commandant, Major-General W. A. Scott, C.B., C.B.E., read the following most gracious message from Her Majesty The Queen:—

"I am commanded to forward the following message from the Queen begins Please express to the Colonels Commandant and the Officers Royal Signals assembled at the Annual Corps Dinner this evening my sincere thanks for their loyal greetings Elizabeth R ends—Private Secretary."

and from Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal

"I am most grateful for the message of loyal greetings sent on the occasion of the Annual Dinner at the Hyde Park Hotel."

I send my warmest wishes to all Colonels Commandant and Officers assembled this evening. May this be a most successful and happy reunion for you all."

Mary, Colonel-in-Chief."

He continued by mention of the uncertainty occasioned by the "Defence White Paper." He felt, however, that a reduction in the size of the Corps, provided its organisation remained sound, would be a good thing. For years we had been overstretched and had grown beyond our strength in officers and N.C.O.s. With a smaller Corps we would see an increase in quality and an improvement in standards.

He mentioned the recent victory by the 1st Training Regiment over the Welch Regiment in the Army Rugby football final, and the success of the Yacht Club in winning its first ocean race. The officers would be glad to hear that the portrait of Her Royal Highness, the Colonel-in-Chief, by Sir Gerald Kelly, had been completed during 1957.

He spoke of the loss during recent months of four distinguished officers, Colonel G. E. Sampson, Colonel R. M. Powell, Colonel R. G. Earle, General O. P. Edgcumbe, some of the founders of the Corps.

General Scott had himself recently returned from a visit to Singapore and Malaya, filled with admiration for the excellent work of the Corps. Signal Regiments were composed of a multiplicity of races, British, Chinese, Malays, all imbued with a most excellent spirit and all technically competent. He had been struck by the antiquated equipment still in use in divisional units, and gave it as his opinion that we should never get the equipment we needed until the War Office again became responsible for the development of its own equipment.

The guests that evening were General Sir Neville Brownjohn, K.C.B., C.M.G., O.B.E., M.C., the Quartermaster General, and Colonel R. T. Palmstrom, General Inspector, Norwegian Joint Signals Administration.

Most unfortunately Sir Gordon Radley, K.C.B., C.B.E., Director General of the Post Office, and Air Vice-Marshal J. G. W. Weston, C.B., O.B.E., had, at the last moment, been prevented from being present.

Replying to the Toast of the Guests, Sir Neville Brownjohn delighted the officers by saying that he had spent his early, formative years, as a signal officer during the First World War. Having had this active association with the Corps until thirty-seven years ago, he felt entitled to say a little about the future. In those days it was considered that to become an officer in the Royal Corps of Signals provided an excellent career. He would say to any young officer of today that the future was just as bright. The finest appointment in the Army for a junior officer remains now, as then, the Brigade signal officer who, at an early age, accepts and enjoys great responsibility.

General Brownjohn continued in a reminiscent vein and congratulated the Royal Corps of Signals on emerging from the Second World War with a reputation that was second to none in the whole of the Allied Armies.

Sergeant C. P. Le Feuvre

The Royal Society Antarctic Expedition

The following is an extract from a letter from the President of the Royal Society to the Signal Officer-in-Chief.

"Sergeant Le Feuvre sailed with nine other men who formed the advance party of the Royal Society Antarctic Expedition for the International Geophysical Year, under the command of Surgeon Lieutenant-Commander David Dalgliesh, R.N., in the M.V. Tottan from Southampton on 22nd November, 1955, and they landed on the Caird Coast of the Weddell Sea, Antarctica, on 6th January, 1956. For the next twelve months, until they were relieved on 4th January, 1957, these 10 men erected one of the largest wooden huts in Antarctica and commenced a pilot scientific programme. Their progress was such that they were able to hand over, in January, 1957, to the main party of 21 men, an establishment which will be a fully operational scientific station at the commencement of the International Geophysical Year on 1st July, 1957.

"Sergeant Le Feuvre, as the wireless operator assisting Major G. E. Watson, R.E.M.E., maintained radio contact with the Falkland Islands, other I.G.Y. Antarctic bases and also assisted with the telephony tests conducted directly between the Royal Society base, Halley Bay and the British Broadcasting Corporation here in London. Sergeant Le Feuvre returned to the United Kingdom on the Magga Dan on 13th March, 1957."

It is hoped that Sergeant Le Feuvre will be permitted to write some account of this expedition in THE WIRE.

Royal Tournament

Extract from a Letter by a Serving Warrant Officer

"Incidentally, after seeing the Royal Tournament the other night I feel that the Corps is missing a glorious opportunity of attracting recruits by not putting on a display of our work. I know the motor cycles normally perform there, but with due deference it is becoming rather hackneyed and the sort of thing one sees at the smallest village fete these days.

I feel an excellent tableau could be arranged on the following lines:

(a) A grand entry and display by an old horse cable wagon—there must be someone left in the Corps who can remember the drill!!

(b) Modern radio and teleprinter vans working, if necessary, to Singapore or any far-flung station. This could be relayed over the PA System and should be most effective.

(c) Setting up a Mobile Signal Office from the entry of the vehicle until messages are flowing through.

(d) A display showing D.R.s at work.

(e) A dramatised version of any one of the thousands of incidents which occurred during the war when operators remained at their posts, often losing their lives as a result.

I don't suppose anything can be done but it does occur to all of us at times that we hide our lights under a whacking great bushel and as a result lose many recruits to the more publicity-minded Units."

PERSONAL COLUMN

Her Majesty The Queen's Birthday Honours

C.B. Major-General R. J. Moberly, O.B.E.
O.B.E. Lieutenant-Colonel C. H. Patrick, M.B.E.
O.B.E. Lieutenant-Colonel G. D. T. Harris.
M.B.E. Captain H. Rothwell.
M.B.E. W.O.I C. A. Thompson.
B.E.M. W.O.II D. H. A. Alexander (Territorial Army).
Staff Sergeant E. C. Byrne.
Sergeant C. W. Kitchen.
A/W.O.II G. A. J. Markey.
A/Staff Sergeant D. Smith.
Staff Sergeant J. C. Smith.
Sergeant N. W. Squince.
T/W.O.II J. E. Nugent (Royal Australian Corps of Signals).

Recognition of Distinguished Services in the Operations in the Near East—October—December, 1956

C.B.E. Brigadier W. G. Tucker, O.B.E.
M.B.E. Major T. H. G. Fletcher

Mentions

Major-General A. E. Morrison, C.B., O.B.E.
Major R. S. Holbrook.
Major M. R. Ridler.
Lieutenant (T.O.T.) W. R. Hefferon.
Sergeant J. M. Bate.

London Gazette

17th May, 1957
Lieutenant-Colonel J. M. S. Tulloch, O.B.E., to be Colonel, 20th April, 1957.
Lieutenant-Colonel D. M. Rhind, O.B.E., retires on retired pay 16th May, 1957.
Major H. Kelly retires on retired pay, 17th May, 1957.
Lieutenant (T.O.T.) H. W. Holton to be Captain (T.O.T.), on 15th May, 1957.
R.S.M. R. S. Etherington to be Lieutenant (Q.M.), 28th March, 1957.
R.S.M. (F. of S.) P. J. Mitchell to be Lieutenant (T.O.T.), 15th April, 1957.
The following Captains to be Majors on the dates shown:
L. M. Evans, 4th December, 1956.
A. G. Smith, 4th December, 1956.
G. Klosser, 4th December, 1956.
J. M. Westwood, 11th December, 1956.
M. R. Ridler, 28th December, 1956.

21st May, 1957

Captain R. J. Armstrong to be Major, 23rd February, 1957.
Captain J. S. N. Dale to be Major, 6th May, 1957.

24th May, 1957

Her Majesty The Queen has been graciously pleased to approve that the following be mentioned in recognition of distinguished service in Malaya:
Colonel R. M. Adams.
Major W. D. S. Renton.
W.O.II J. J. Licence.

Gurkha Signals

Lieutenant (G.C.O.) Namgyal Tshering Lepcha.

24th May, 1957

Major-General A. E. Morrison, C.B., O.B.E., to be Honorary Colonel, 1 Northern Command (M) Signal Regiment, T.A., 30th April, 1957.

7th June, 1957

W.O.I F. Bergelin to be Lieutenant (Q.M.), 20th May, 1957.

11th June, 1957

Lieutenant-Colonel P. G. Goodeve-Docker retires on retired pay, 9th June, 1957.

Movements—Officers

Major P. D. Parker, Ghana to Junior Leaders' Regiment.
Major H. A. Leece, Junior Leaders' Regiment to Depot (HS).
Major M. R. Ridler, M.E.L.F. to R.S.W., School of Signals.
Lieutenant-Colonel M. Stonestreet, Depot (HS) to H.Q., Western Command.
Major J. K. V. Lee, M.E.L.F. to Depot (HS).
Major F. T. C. Williams, B.A.O.R. to 2 Training Regiment.
Captain (Q.M.) H. E. Strype, M.E.L.F. to H.C. District Signal Regiment, T.A.
Captain (Q.M.) L. R. Hills, M.E.L.F. to 3 Training Regiment.
Captain (Tfc. Offr.) J. F. Scott, FARELF to 4 Training Regiment.
Captain (Q.M.) F. W. Cox, M.E.L.F. to Depot Regiment.
Captain (Tfc. Offr.) H. W. J. Hickmah, ALFCE Signal Squadron to B.A.O.R.
Lieutenant (T.O.T.) C. V. Impey, Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment to M.E.L.F.
Lieutenant (Q.M.) W. Irvine, B.A.O.R. to School of Signals (Course).
Lieutenant (T.O.T.) A. G. Pritchard, FARELF to Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment.
Captain (Q.M.) W. E. Roscoe, M.E.L.F. to Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A.
Major J. A. S. Fearfield, FARELF to Depot (HS).
Major J. H. Cooper, East Africa to Middlesex Yeomanry Signal Regiment (T.A.).
Major L. M. Rutherford, B.A.O.R. to Aden.
Major R. S. Cathmoir, FARELF to U.K. COMCAN Signal Regiment.
Major R. E. Rooks, West Africa to Depot Regiment.

Births

WOOD.—To Staff Sergeant and Mrs. C. Wood, a son, Philip Charles, born at the Military Hospital, Lagos, on 25th May, 1957.

Deaths

MOORE.—Ex-Signalman A. Moore, 2, Runnymede Road, Woolston, Warrington, aged 40, in a motor accident during 1956.

WESTALL.—Ex-Signalman A. W. Westall, 249, Railton Road, London, S.E.11, in May, 1957, aged 47.

BLANK.—Ex-Corporal P. E. Blank, of 1, Willett Road, Colchester, on 27th November, 1956, aged 53 years 11 months.

JONES.—2313598 George Henry Jones, who served Royal Signals from 1921 to 1946 and the Association from 1946 to 1957. He died on 16th May, 1957, at the Darvell Hall Hospital, Sussex, after a long illness most cheerfully and bravely borne.

SCORGIE.—23009309 Corporal J. B. Scorgie, on 2nd May, 1957, in the Military Hospital, Wheatley.

McDONALD.—23326578 Signalman B. McDonald, on 3rd May, 1957, at Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh.

CRAIB.—23464478 Driver W. A. Craib, on 9th May, 1957, in B.A.O.R. HARWOOD.—Lieutenant J. S. Harwood, of 2 (London) Signal Regiment, T.A., died on Tuesday, 11th June, 1957, from poliomyelitis, aged 26.

Arrivals and Departures

Officer Training Wing, School of Signals
Arrivals: Captain M. A. Hiles, Sergeants J. Baker and T. Joyce.
Departures: A/Staff Sergeant L. Joseph.

Hong Kong Signal Regiment

Arrivals: Major A. E. S. Jackson.
Departures: Major (Q.M.) and Mrs. R. J. Hoare, Captain and Mrs. J. S. N. Dale, W.O.II and Mrs. D. A. Jones.

SHAPE Signal Squadron

Arrivals: Sergeants Cowling and Young.
Departures: Sergeants Thomas, Walker and Wallis.

1 Training Regiment

Arrivals: Sergeant W. E. Butchers.
Departures: Staff Sergeant V. H. G. Platt, Sergeants C. H. Young and B. Fisher.

U.K. COMCAN Signal Regiment

Departures: Sergeants Barnett and Tamlyn.
3 Training Regiment
Arrivals: Captain (Q.M.) L. R. Hills, Sergeant Forster.
Departures: Major (Q.M.) Brunton to retirement, W.O.II Hutchinson.

E. K. COLE Ltd.

Opportunities for employment

E. K. Cole Ltd. are manufacturers of Ekco Radio and Television Receivers. In addition, a large part of the Company's activities are devoted to the development and production of electronics equipment covering a wide field.

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The Personnel Managers at both these factories will be pleased to discuss the possibilities of employment with any service personnel about to complete their engagement with the Forces. This also applies to females.

Forthcoming Events

Scottish Reunion, Dreghorn Camp, Edinburgh.

Saturday, 17th August
3 p.m. to 6 p.m. Reception arrangements.
6.00 p.m. The Playing of Retreat.
8.00 p.m. Sergeants' Mess and All Ranks' Dance.

Sunday, 18th August
11.00 a.m. Church Parade Service and March Past.
1.00 p.m. Lunch.
2.30 to 5 p.m. Gala.

West Country Reunion, Newton Abbot, Devon

Saturday, 28th September
1600 hrs. Full Trooping Ceremony by the Boys with their own Band.
1700 hrs. Tea (Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess Lawn).
2000 hrs. Reunion Buffet.

Sunday, 29th September
1100 hrs. Church Parade and March Past.
1200 hrs. Interval—Refreshments in Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess.
1430 hrs. Band Concert.
1600 hrs. Disperse.

Association of Harrogate Apprentices

The third Annual Reunion will be held on 14th/15th, September, 1957, at the Army Apprentices' School, Uniacke Barracks, Harrogate, Yorkshire. All ex-A/T's who are members are cordially invited to attend. Requests for accommodation should be addressed to "The Commandant," Army Apprentices' School.

The White City Tattoo

organised by, and for the funds of, The Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Families' Association, White City Stadium, 7th-16th August—a preview at the Rushmore Arena, Aldershot, at 3 p.m., on 5th August. For details see posters.

National Radio Show

H.M. The Queen has consented to be patron of the National Radio and Television Exhibition to be held at Earls Court, London, from August 28th to September 7th, 1957.

Woolwich Searchlight Tattoo

takes place at Woolwich Stadium from the 11th—14th September, at 7.30 p.m. each evening, with a special Daylight Performance at 2.30 p.m. on Saturday, 14th September. Tickets may be obtained through the usual agents or the Tattoo Box Office, 90, New Bond Street, W.1. Tel. Hyde Park 6000.

CORPS BAND SUMMER TOUR 1957

Touring Band

15th July—20th July ... Dunfermline
21st July ... Paisley
22nd July—27th July ... Dunfermline
28th July—11th August ... Glasgow
15th August—17th August ... Scottish Command, Edinburgh
18th August—25th August ... Edinburgh
26th August—31st August ... Hastings
1st September—7th September ... B.B.C. Recordings
8th September—14th September ... Eastbourne
15th September—21st September ... Leave
22nd September ... Worthing
25th September—26th September ... Brighton
28th September—1st October ... 6 Training Regt., Newton Abbot
2nd October ... Return to Catterick

Non-Touring Band

16th July ... Newcastle, H.R.H. Princess Royal
15th August ... V.J. Guest Night
16th August—17th August ... Scottish Command, Edinburgh
7th October—11th October ... Eaton Hall

ROYAL SIGNALS LAWN TENNIS—1957

July 17 Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst ... Sandhurst
July 18 R.A.S.C. ... At Aldershot
July 19 R.A.E.C. ... At Aldershot
July 20 Staff College ... At Camberley
July 21 R.E.M.E. ... At Aldershot

ROYAL SIGNALS CRICKET CLUB—1957

August 27—28 R.A.C. ... Bovington
September 3—4 R.A.C. Training Brigade ... Catterick

BLUE BOOK—4th EDITION

A small stock of the 4th Edition of the Blue Book, published during May, 1957, is held at Association Headquarters. Any one who has not ordered through his unit should apply, sending remittance of 2/- to cover cost, to Royal Signals Association, 88, Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1.



PROMOTIONS

The following substantive promotions were authorised during April and May, 1957. These amendments relate to the Blue Book, Fourth Edition, May, 1957.

TRADES ROSTER

TO WARRANT OFFICER I

2324113	A/W.O.I	(2110)	Farley, J. F.
4801216	A/W.O.I	(2190)	Tyler, F. W.
1467330	A/W.O.I	(2280)	McFeeters, W.
5335912	A/W.O.I	(2281)	Carter, G.
2325767	A/W.O.I	(2292)	Finch, W. G.

TO WARRANT OFFICER II

4868592	A/W.O.II	(4260)	Varley, J. E.
2575077	A/W.O.II	(4290)	Appleyard, G. E.
2339510	Staff Sgt.	(4820)	Pettigrew, R. A.
2547777	A/W.O.II	(4330)	Stanley, D. W.
2548695	Staff Sgt.	(4430)	McNaughton, P.
14823992	A/W.O.II	(4440)	Chilvers, R. G. E.

TO STAFF SERGEANTS

2547955	Sgt.	(5210)	Wilson, R. L.
22202258	Sgt.	(5260)	Bibby, R.
14461252	A/Staff Sgt.	(5450)	Gregg, T. H.
2549266	Sgt.	(5770)	Laycock, T. H.
14453097	Sgt.	(5790)	Goldberg, R. M.
21005525	A/Staff Sgt.	(6020)	Cockrill, G. J.
2328800	Sgt.	(270)	Whyte, T. S.
14187225	Sgt.	(5190)	Randall, K. H.
22230698	Sgt.	(6100)	Shipcott, N. J.
2548913	Sgt.	(6160)	Lawry, R. A.
21127627	Sgt.	(6210)	Amplett, F. G.
22265112	Sgt.	(6330)	Windebank, I. P.
2328224	Sgt.	(6390)	McConnell, G.
21127919	Sgt.	(6400)	Raymond, J. A.
2549472	A/Staff Sgt.	(6420)	Cole, B. C.
22212484	Sgt.	(6490)	Hudson, A. A.
21182806	Sgt.	(6500)	Paterson, J. H.
2328566	Sgt.	(6510)	McGlone, J. J.
2320577	Sgt.	(6550)	Stonehouse, C. R.
2549540	Sgt.	(6560)	Bell, E.
2549268	A/Staff Sgt.	(6570)	Singleton, D. W.
22265209	Sgt.	(6600)	Burgess, A. E.
22242688	A/Staff Sgt.	(6620)	Rose, J. A.
2225447	A/Staff Sgt.	(6640)	Wood, F. E.
2549474	A/Staff Sgt.	(6650)	Folkard, B. C.
22247672	Sgt.	(6661)	Howe, S. N.
22212009	Sgt.	(6670)	Bailey, L. G.
22212025	A/Staff Sgt.	(6680)	Crane, J.
4192508	A/Staff Sgt.	(6690)	Burgess, G. A.
22248614	A/Staff Sgt.	(6700)	Tucker, L. L.
19079976	Sgt.	(6750)	Bennett, T. N.
2548653	Sgt.	(6780)	Gilbert, J. R.
22522842	Sgt.	(6790)	Barnaby, G. A. J.
19068837	Sgt.	(6800)	Willis, W. F.
2549503	Sgt.	(6830)	Standen, A. R.
19034979	A/Staff Sgt.	(6850)	Woodley, J. G.
22212558	Sgt.	(6860)	Jackson, G. L.
2549570	Sgt.	(6870)	Weir, W.
2547255	Sgt.	(6890)	McCormack, M. B.

TO SERGEANTS

2574474	A/Sgt.	(60)	Callaghan, M.
22546617	Cpl.	(7500)	Alexander, D. T.
22771991	A/Sgt.	(31320)	Bell, C.
22537196	Cpl.	(35990)	Bell, F. G.
22296717	Cpl.	(24890)	Davies, R. J.
22541250	Cpl.	(33680)	Ballantyne, T.
22569520	Cpl.	(40860)	Clothier, R.
22804624	Cpl.	(8300)	Penlington, A. J.
22519538	A/Sgt.	(11000)	Cook, T. C.
2278387	A/Sgt.	(9850)	Peaty, D. P.
22212559	A/Sgt.	(49510)	Shaw, J. H.
14106385	A/Sgt.	(370)	Raffan, J.
22296181	Cpl.	(19320)	Gayther, J. F.
22264347	Cpl.	(29582)	Tucker, J. C.
22207470	A/Sgt.	(28191)	Parker, E. R.
22953724	Cpl.	(51340)	Brown, A.
22827653	A/Sgt.	(31300)	Harrison, G.
22546773	Cpl.	(35090)	Brooks, E. J.
22246014	A/Sgt.	(5650)	Winter, J. F.
22212070	A/Sgt.	(36180)	Wood, J. F.
5100983	Cpl.	(42192)	Howe, M. T.
22569730	Cpl.	(49650)	Rezell, J. H.

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FOREMAN OF SIGNALS ROSTER

TO WARRANT OFFICER I

5773292	W.O.II	(140)	Mercer, A. K.
6031553	W.O.II	(340)	Foakes, P. W.
14189769	W.O.II	(350)	Harden, H. C. L.

TO WARRANT OFFICER II

2572732	Staff Sgt.	(300)	Stiles, R. C. E.
2549473	Staff Sgt.	(380)	Davis, W. G.
14443158	Staff Sgt.	(430)	Frost, E. M.
14483590	Staff Sgt.	(500)	Whittington, A.
2549638	Staff Sgt.	(530)	Rose, I. J.
22296223	Staff Sgt.	(550)	Davis, P. A.
2548946	Staff Sgt.	(570)	Paul, G. H.
19034867	Staff Sgt.	(620)	Tetlow, D. D.
2549029	Staff Sgt.	(650)	Hudson, G. L. P.

TO STAFF SERGEANT

22309250	A/Staff Sgt.	(14640)	Hoe, R. J.
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SIGNAL CENTRE SUPERVISOR ROSTER

TO WARRANT OFFICER II

2549484	Sgt.	(360)	O'Toole, T. C.
22276742	A/W.O.II	(370)	Lloyd, L.
22296385	A/W.O.II	(390)	Cass, R. I.
2547770	A/W.O.II	(430)	Saunders, J. B.
21126462	A/W.O.II	(470)	Palmer, C. W.
22247988	Sgt.	(480)	Tuley, G. J.

CIPHER ROSTER

TO SERGEANTS

22812197	A/Sgt.	(1050)	Giles, G. W.
22537534	Cpl.	(1280)	Holmes, J. G.
22562382	Cpl.	(1430)	Thompson, R.
22296497	Cpl.	(1700)	Wheeler, W. C.
22537259	Cpl.	(1720)	Henry, G. C.
22958871	Cpl.	(2360)	Gooding, B. F.
22953220	A/Sgt.	(2550)	Driscoll, K. J.
22806139	Cpl.	(2610)	Hazley, T. E.
22569904	Cpl.	(2920)	McBeath, A.
2548683	A/Sgt.	(3312)	Garvey, F. P. R.
23201579	A/Sgt.	(3830)	Sharp, A. J.
23212721	A/Sgt.	(4040)	Powell, C. W.
23217455	A/Sgt.	(4360)	Little, W. A.
23231952	Cpl.	(5180)	Winchurch, J. C. G.
23204479	Cpl.	(5290)	German, D. H.

DELETIONS

Trades Roster

W.O.I (620)	Newsham, H. W.,	Commissioned Lieutenant (Q.M.)	1st April, 1957
W.O.I (630)	Etherington, R. S.,	Commissioned Lieutenant (Q.M.)	28th March, 1957
W.O.I (670)	Hipperson, T. A.,	Commissioned Lieutenant (TFC OFFR)	1st April, 1957

OTHER DELETIONS

W.O.II	800
Staff Sergeant	3770 7470 750 20
Sergeant	23474 7760 10360 25140 12850 22520
	15270 6590 23810 22660 13060 8371

DELETIONS

Foreman of Signals Roster

W.O.I (260)	Mitchell, P. J.,	Commissioned Lieutenant (T.O.T.)	15th April, 1957
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OTHER DELETIONS

Staff Sergeant 80

DELETIONS

Signal Centre Supervision Roster

W.O.I 10

Cypher Roster

Sergeant 601

INSERTIONS

Trades Roster

Sergeants	22537942 (25232)	Turner, C. W.
	22784079 (24984)	Stubbs, D.

Signal Centre Supervisor Roster

W.O.II	816970 (16)	Witham, A. J.
	2549541 (550)	Kemsley, G. B.

Great Britain

1 TRAINING REGIMENT

The Regimental Athletics meeting, curtain-raiser for the S.T.B. eliminator, was held during the first week-end of the month, and favoured by good weather, went off very well. Not the least interesting were the Old Soldiers' and Chain-of-Command races.

A fortnight later, all the Regiments in the Brigade and O.T.W. and R.S.W. competed in the eliminating contest to decide which two should go forward to the District Event in June. In spite of an early disqualification for faulty baton-changing, we just managed to head off O.T.W.

This year we were entrusted with the task of organising and running the District Rifle Meeting. Heavy rain and boisterous winds delayed the start until lunch on the first day, but once under way, it went with a swing. Our Young Soldiers won their rifle event, we were third in the Inter-Unit Rifle Competition, and Lance-Corporal Dawe obtained fourth place in the individual rifle shoot. Later on we shall be appearing at Bisley.

Cyclists and Cricketers too, have got into their strides, the former taking first place in the R.A.F., Rufforth, 50-mile time trial.

During Corps Tennis Week we lost a little of last year's ground, but still managed to retain the Open Singles, O.R. Doubles and Regimental Doubles Titles, due principally to the good form displayed by Signalmen Redman and Hewitt.

3 TRAINING REGIMENT

With the more settled weather of the past few weeks our trainees (and some of their Instructors!) have been able to get out of the classrooms and on to the playing fields for a period every afternoon. We are doubly fortunate in having a three "A" coach in Staff Sergeant Chater to assist our very able C.S.M.I. Gourley, A.P.T.C., and in having such excellent facilities for sport alongside our training rooms. The value of the coaching, plus the practice put in at evenings and week-ends, was shown in the very good results obtained in the Regimental Sports. "H.Q." Squadron won the Inter-Squadron trophy and No. 1 Squadron the tug-o'-war event.

A friendly tug-o'-war between the Officers and the Warrant Officers and Sergeants resulted in a win for the latter, who drank with relish the pints of beer provided by the losers. From the best performers a team is being selected to compete in the North-Midland District Championships, of which more anon.

In the District Shoot the Regiment did well in winning the L.M.G. Pairs' Competition (Major E. C. Collett and Major C. E. Kilminster) and in the Individual Rifle Competition in gaining first and third places in Class "C" (Corporals MacGregor and Peat respectively).

At cricket our Regimental team, skippered by Major L. S. McCarthy, has made a good start, winning four of the six matches played so far. They are now busy at the nets for the second round of the District Knock-out Tournament.

We have recently said "Goodbye" to Major (Q.M.) "Billy" Brunton on his retirement after 37 years' service with the Corps. A little arithmetic will show that he was one of the first to enlist (as a boy) with the newly formed Corps of Signals. Our very best wishes go with him and his family, who are leaving shortly for Uganda to take up an appointment with a British firm.

OFFICER TRAINING WING, SCHOOL OF SIGNALS

Perhaps it is still early for too much optimism but the signs portend a pleasant summer. The arrival of May has produced some very mild and sunny days, an unexpected tonic so early in the year. The fine weather has been an encouraging factor during the events of the past month. At both work and play there has been a great deal of activity.

On the 8th May the Wing underwent its annual administrative inspection. The inspection was carried out by Major-General W. H. Hulton-Harrop, D.S.O. The General seemed quite pleased



with everything he saw and we hope that the resulting report will match the quality of those in former years.

The next event of note was the District Small Arms Meeting, which took place on 14th-15th-16th May on the Bellerby ranges. The weather during the meeting was unfortunately wet and the muddy conditions were not very pleasant. However, our teams showed the right spirit and though they won no prizes tried hard.

An unusual and pleasant duty during the month was the entertaining by the Wing on 3rd-5th May of Chef de Battalion Bestion de Camboulas of the French Army. Our picture shows Chef de Battalion Bestion de Camboulas with Brigadier Smijth-Windham, Commandant, School of Signals, at the commissioning parade of 352 Course. During his visit Chef de Battalion Bestion de Camboulas seemed most interested in all he saw. We trust he found his stay enjoyable and informative.

The normal work of the Unit proceeds as usual. On 4th May, 1957, 350 Course left us on posting to Units throughout the world, and 355, the latest Course to arrive, have taken their place. 353 Course, now senior Cadet Course, will be commissioned during May.

Sailing on Semerwater has recommenced and already several newcomers have been initiated in the delights of wind and sail. The Cadets on Semerwater (I'll spare you the obvious pun) are ideal craft for the beginners. They are so easy to right again after capsizing. One or two members of O.T. Squadron have already had practice in this. One Course Officer was seen after a recent mishap swimming towards shore complete with flat cap, very wet but at regulation angle—another example of the impeccable turn-out of O.T. Squadron, despite all misfortunes.

The Inter-Unit Cricket League has also restarted. O.T. Squadron on 22nd May administered the customary annual thrashing to "H.Q." Squadron, winning by an overwhelming score.

The Unit athletics team made an auspicious start to the season in the Signals Training Brigade meeting on 30th May. Most commendably, it was placed second to 1 Training Regiment in final positioning. We hope to reverse the placings in the District and Command Meetings.

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THE BAND AT GLOUCESTER



Photo: Cheltenham Newspaper
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H.Q. and 1 Squadron. The highlight of the month was the visit of Major J. L. Judd, M.B.E., Director of Music and the Corps Band. The itinerary comprised two excellent concerts, the first in the Regimental Lines at Gloucester for members of the Regiment, their wives and friends, and the second at the Opera House, Cheltenham, for the local Cadet Force Contingents. Large and appreciative audiences including many V.I.P.s and local dignitaries attended both concerts and all were loud in their praise of Major Judd and his "boys," who gained in popularity (if this is possible) as a result of their visit. On the occasion of the Regimental Guest Night in the Officers' Mess, the Light Orchestra Section of the Band played during dinner, which was announced in traditional style by a fanfare of trumpets, and on the last night of the visit the Dance Orchestra played at the All Ranks' Dance. During the interval the Regimental Skiffle Group took over in no uncertain manner. Needless to mention, 2, 3 and 4 Squadrons participated in all functions. We were all very sorry to say goodbye to Major Judd and the Band. We hope it will not be too long before they come again, and we wish them every success wherever they may be. If they play for others as they played for us this is most definitely assured.

Another social event took place on 24th May, 1957, when the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess held a "Tramps' Ball," which proved a great success, although how some of the living-out members managed to reach the camp without being arrested for vagrancy still remains a mystery.

Our congratulations go to Captain (T.O.T.) H. W. Holton and Staff Sergeant Weir on their recent promotion. Our congratulations also go to the Unit Shooting Team on their fine performance in the District Small Arms Meeting on 6/9th May, 1957. The unit team were placed 5th, the best individual placings being:—

Winner of Young Soldiers' Cup (Class C): Signalman Harrison.

5th place in Class "B": Corporal Cole.

10th place in Individuals (All Classes): W.O.II Cowhill.

2 Squadron. Absence makes the heart grow fonder. Our absence from these pages for a month or two has been due to lack of news of other than local interest.

Lieutenant Clayton—as far as we know the only Education Officer to command a Royal Signals Squadron, if only temporarily—has taken the nearest equivalent to a slow boat to China. It will be interesting to see if there is anyone left there to be educated when he arrives.

Captain Wells has left for Catterick. We welcome Captain N. B. Moss from Bampton.

Current activities are photography and canoe building.

The Squadron shared with other local units the honour of lining the route when H.M. The Queen visited Worcester recently.

3 Squadron. The Squadron Canoe Club takes pride of place this month. After a very active building session we now have six canoes and all very professional looking, too. Members recently had a most enjoyable week-end on the Thames. Sleeping bags, waterproof suiting, etc., have recently been purchased and the equipment is now first class.

We had two good trips during the month in the unit coach. One to Wembley for the England v. Eire game, and then to Gloucester for a delightful concert by the Corps Band under the baton of Major Judd, M.B.E. Both very enjoyable.

The Cricket team has got off to a good start and turned in one or two good performances.



WAR OFFICE SIGNAL SQUADRON

As the faithful Squadron reporter chews hard on his pencil, in a cell-like whitewashed office, the sun is shining down outside and it is stifling hot. The Squadron is moving happily about in shirt-sleeve order, and "B" Troop's garden is about to burst into a display of colour unmatched in its magnificence.

But though all is outwardly serene we do have our busy moments, and May saw, in particular, our second Administrative Inspection of this year, when Lieutenant-Colonel A. A. Duncan, A.Q.M.G., H.Q. London District, and Major A. N. B. Ritchie, D.A.A.G., H.Q. London District, came to visit us on Tuesday, the 21st. On the whole, the day passed, as far as we know, without any serious mishap, and our visitors left us towards three in the afternoon.

The second event of note which, incidentally, has left us quieter than heretofore, was the sad departure of Second-Lieutenant Roper, complete with hammer, to ALFCE Signal Squadron, and the arrival, at very nearly the same time, though it should be pointed out, not as a replacement, of Major P. Donaghy, who has come to join us from Kenya. At the moment he is busily engaged in a lengthy hand-over take-over with Major Henning, our C.D.S.O., who is due to leave us for sunnier lands this autumn. Major Donaghy arrived just in time for the Squadron's first cricket fixture of the season, against the local police—always considered worth knowing—and having been ordered to open the innings, he proceeded to score a forceful 58, which has settled his place in the batting order for the remainder of the season!

At the time of writing, we are reorganising for a second venture in this direction, for on Thursday, 13th June, we are due to visit our friends in Woolwich for the afternoon. We have also entered for the London District Inter-Unit Knockout Cup.

Signals Recruiting Display

BATH AND WEST SHOW

29th May to 1st June, 1957



The Receiver Portion of the Comcan Display

An unexpected opportunity arose this year for Royal Signals to play the leading role in the Army Stand at the Bath and West Show.

"The Bath and West and Southern Counties Society Show," to give it the full title, is held annually, near one or other of the main centres in the West Country. This year Swindon was selected. The Show covers all aspects of modern country life—agriculture, horticulture, livestock, produce, farming techniques and machinery. The show-rings, marquees and prefabricated buildings housing the exhibits required an area of some 90 acres. Electricity was provided from a specially built power house, itself an exhibit, by an engineering firm. The Show is also the big occasion in the West Country for a display by the Services, provided this year by the King's Troop, R.H.A., and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. Supporting these were the static Recruiting Stands.

The Army Stand covered an area of some two hundred feet square. Half of this, the centre portion, was placed at Royal Signals disposal, with the flanks covered by the Royal Engineers and the Infantry recruiting vans.

U.K. COMCAN Signal Regiment was made responsible by the C.S.O., Southern Command, for providing the main equipment to be shown, and also for the co-ordination of all Signals' exhibits. The primary aim of the display was to publicise the Technician and the Junior Leader. Of course, there were other aspects of the Corps to be brought out as well. With all these in mind, the display took shape, and exhibits were provided by U.K. COMCAN Signal Regiment, Junior Leaders' Regiment, Southern Command Mobile Signal Squadron, Southern Command W.R.A.C. Troop, 12 Command Mixed Signal Regiment (T.A.), 63 Command Mixed Signal Regiment (T.A.) and 10 ASSU (T.A.). There was only some two weeks between accepting the commitment and the opening of the show. There thus ensued the rush against time, which is almost a Corps tradition; the improvisation, which is practically a Corps trade, and the legalised scrounging, which is a Corps accomplishment. All this called for central control, co-ordination and a deal of hard work by many people.

COMCAN. A complete carrier frequency shift link was laid out, with a large map of the world as a background, showing the main world-wide links. The equipment included a teleprinter linked to a Printing Reperforator No. 1, thence to a Printing Reperforator No. 2. From there to an Autohead 65, feeding into a WS 53. The signal was received by an AR 88, passed through a Receiver Adapter



Staff Sergeant R. Redhead

Field CFS to a teleprinter. At two stages in this sequence, a CRO CINTELL was inserted to show the form of signal being transmitted. Thanks to arrangements made by the Signals Directorate, and with the co-operation of 90 Signal Regiment, an ETT in its trailer was available for inspection by visitors, thus bringing the COMCAN picture up to date. The public were shown each stage of transmission of a message and technicians were on hand to explain the working of the system.

Junior Leaders. This stand was manned by the Junior Leaders' Regiment, and made a calculated appeal to youth. The emphasis was on games and sport, and sample equipment could be handled, from canoes and mountaineering gear, to épées and cricket bats. Lieutenant E. W. Hunt and his team of four Junior Leaders had a busy time answering questions from intrigued youngsters and interested fathers.

W.R.A.C. W.R.A.C. teleprinter operators were on duty at two point-to-point teleprinters. This was a popular section of the display—and it was obvious that the printers were not the only attraction!



Junior Leaders Regiment Display
Junior Sergeant Mason and Junior Corporal Hehir

Despatch Riders. A new Triumph motor cycle, lent by 12 Command Mixed Signal Regiment (T.A.), formed the centre of the D.R. Stand, where photographs of the Corps Display Team were on view. O.C. 5 Training Regiment gave welcome assistance here, by making available members of the Team, who not only looked the part, but could answer the many pertinent questions put by the public.

Trades. To show promotion prospects in the Corps, Southern Command Mobile Signal Squadron produced a working-model trade and pay-structure board. This showed diagrammatically the various paths of promotion and pay at each stage. On a console, in front of the board, were listed all the trades of the Corps, with a switch under each trade. The board was so wired, that when any one switch was pressed, the appropriate channel of promotion from Signalman to Commissioned Rank was shown lit up. The senior R.S.M. of the Corps, W.O.I. E. R. Gay, M.B.E., of 63 Command Mixed Signal Regiment (T.A.) directed operations here, and was able to bring the weight of his experience to bear in his discussions with potential signalmen.

ASSU. Air to Ground communications were demonstrated by a tentacle of 10 ASSU (T.A.). A raised platform around the vehicle simplified inspection of the equipment, whose function was explained on a wireless diagram. This proved a very popular exhibit.

"Side Show." To meet the requirements of boys of all ages, who like to "dabble"—there was a wire recorder, a CRO, morse keys, and a receiver in bread-board form. This latter supplied background music and the Test Match commentary.

Royal Signals Association. Facing the entrance to the marquee was a rectangular booth, given over to publicising the Royal Signals Association. THE WIRE and the new booklet, "Royal Signals," were available to past and present members of the Corps. Warrant Officers or members of local branches of the Association were on duty at the stand to give information about the R.S.A. A good trade was done here, if the amount of talk in progress was any criterion!

For the record, and as a guide to others who may be involved in a show of similar character, a word or two on staffing and work involved may be of interest and help.

The first essential was to decide on the type of exhibits and to co-ordinate the effort available. The second was to standardise the method of layout, finish and decor.

After manufacture or provision of display equipment and delivery to Swindon, it took nine working days actually to build up the display on the site. The skeleton of each stand was of zin, tubular scaffolding. As can be seen from the photographs, all stands were covered, finished flush and painted. Altogether 40 sheets of hardboard, each 8ft. x 6ft., were required. The Show's own generator's supplied the electricity, both for power and light, neon tubes only being used on this score. Under the contractor's monopoly charter, exhibitor's were not allowed to do any distributive wiring—a certain amount of wiring had therefore to be paid for. Four carpenters, four linemen and two G.D. men were used full time for the nine days in erecting and wiring the final layout.

For the four days of the Show itself, the various exhibits were manned by two shifts, each of 19 Warrant Officers, Sergeants and junior N.C.O.s, with one or two officers available at all times. This scale of staffing was essential if visitors were to be given the ready attention such an event warranted.

The success of a Recruiting Display at a Show of this type is not always easy to assess. There was a constant flow of the general public through the stands, a multitude



Royal Signals Association Stand. On duty: R.S.M. J. F. Farley and Sergeant J. Berry

of questions was asked, and the interest shown appeared to be genuine, and not merely casual. The aim was to present information, rather than to appear as a recruiting agency; and to give boys, young men and their parents an insight into the working of the Corps, the type of tradesman required, and the prospects offered by a career in Royal Signals. It is felt that this aim was achieved.

In a combined effort of this nature, it is an invidious task to select those who should be given a "mention." The carpenter and lineman in denims contributed just as much before the show as the radio mechanic in No. 1 Dress did during it. Special reference must, however, be made to Lieutenant-Colonel W. Hammond, M.B.E., Commanding U.K. COMCAN Signal Regiment, for organising the whole Signals' effort, Captain (T.O.T.) H. W. Holton of the same Regiment was in direct charge of the stand, and was responsible for technical arrangements. His Foreman of Signals, W.O.I. Iveson, and an efficient and energetic team, can feel gratified that none of the equipment went "off the air."

A lot of hard work was put in by all ranks connected with the event, and they are to be congratulated on producing such a well-organised and smooth-running display. The weather was perfect throughout the four days, and despite the intense heat on the Friday and Saturday, those on duty retained a commendable bearing and sense of humour.

T.H.H.

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"WESTERN COMMAND SIGNAL SQUADRON," FIRST ANNIVERSARY, 1957

Signalmen Kimberley, Dennis, Leng, Bastin, Mirk, Howard, Booth, Moseley, Walker, Austin, Woolfitt, Tinsley, Paddock, Edwards, Garnett, Schofield, Bailey, Homer, Grocock.
Signalmen Scaife, Costello, King, Haynes, Lennon, Lance/Corporal Soo, Signalmen Scothern, Lyth, Hankinson, Kendell, Dewhurst, Pope, Blogg, McDonald, Dawson, McFarlane, Reece, MacCabe, Tinsley, Hutchison.
Private Taylor, Corporals Mincher, Smith, Lance/Corporal McAloon, Corporals Patterson, Walker, Lance/Corporals Cunningham, Nuttall, Corporals Handley, Beard, Elcome, Lance/Corporals Allman, Antrobus, Outram, Signalman Butcher, Bjorck, Harley, Morgan, Private Murray, Lance/Corporals Coyne, Clixby.
Corporal Derbyshire, Sergeant Baxter, Staff Sergeants Paul, Byrne, S.S.M. Stratton, R.Q.M.S. Grant, Second-Lieutenant Davey, Captain Kent, Captain Worthington, Major Hesketh (O.C.), Major Wollaston, Captain Oakley, Second-Lieutenant Southgate, S.S.M. Fox, Sergeants Morgan, McGovern, Whalley, Murray, Dunn.

History of the 3rd Divisional Signal Regiment

The following brief precis follows that published in May and June. It will be concluded in August.

During Lieutenant-Colonel Prescott's* period of command from 1935 to 1937 the main event worthy of record was the gradual change-over from horse and pack pony to mechanical transport. The Unit took part in some "remarkable" manoeuvres in 1935, when most of the transport consisted of impressed civilian vehicles from Birmingham. In these manoeuvres 3 Division concentrated around Bulford Fields and fought a battle in the Stockbridge direction opposed by 1 Division and 2 Division, who came from the Aldershot direction. In this "battle" 8 Infantry Brigade (which then formed part of 3 Division) was commanded by General Brooke, who later became Field-Marshal Sir Allan Brooke, and was C.I.G.S. during the Second World War. General Brooke's Brigade Signal Officer at that time was Lieutenant L. de M. Thuillier, now Major-General L. de M. Thuillier, O.B.E., A.D.C., F.R.G.S., Director of Telecommunications at the War Office.

In 1936-1937 much of the effort of the Unit was committed to trials and development of the mechanical cable layer—now passed into history virtually as a failure.

At this time also the Unit had to supply large numbers of personnel for drafting to Palestine. The Unit was so denuded in fact that during the War Office manoeuvres in 1936 personnel for the Company providing signal communication for 3 Division H.Q. had to be supplied by 43 Divisional Signals, T.A.

Lieutenant-Colonel F. W. Nicholls*, who assumed command in 1937, continued during the mobilisation, the move to France and original deployment and succeeding Exercises. During the winter of 1939/40 he handed over command to Lieutenant-Colonel H. M. Sylvester*.

The Divisional Commander in France in 1939 was Major-General Montgomery, C.B., D.S.O. (later Field-Marshal Lord Montgomery of Alamein). The Unit was kept hard at it during the hard winter of 1939/40 doing its daily job plus participating in such Exercises as could be arranged. A large proportion of the Unit at this time were Reservists but they all worked with a will.

On 10th May, 1940, when the battle started, Lieutenant-Colonel Sylvester was on leave and on his way back was wounded in a blitz in Arras and evacuated to U.K. The Unit Second-in-Command, Major T. S. A. Campbell, was promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel and took over command.

At the time he took over command from Lieutenant-Colonel Sylvester, in May, 1940, Lieutenant-Colonel T. S. A. Campbell was himself suffering from jaundice. He carried on for a few days but was obviously unfit and handed over to Lieutenant-Colonel S. A. W. Philcox, who came from 2 Corps Signals on promotion. Lieutenant-Colonel Campbell was then evacuated to hospital.

When Lieutenant-Colonel Philcox* assumed command of the Unit, 3rd Infantry Division, under Major-General Montgomery, was holding the line of the River Dyle in Belgium. The Division then retired in successive stages to the River Dendre (behind Brussels) and River Escaut, eventually taking up a defensive position on Dunkirk perimeter near Furnes before being finally evacuated by sea on 1st June, 1940. 3 Divisional Signals provided communications for the Division throughout the retreat and at each successive halt provided line communications with Infantry Brigade H.Q.s and R.A. Brigade H.Q. on an omnibus circuit. During the retreat the Unit also destroyed the civil telephone exchanges at Louvain and Mouscron.

The 3rd Divisional Signals operated a Signal Office within the perimeter held by the British Expeditionary Force around Dunkirk and the familiar blue and white flag marking this Signal Office was preserved and later presented to the Regiment by Major E. R. Nanney Wynn—Nanney Wynn.

On return to England the Unit was re-equipped and made ready to return to France with 3rd Division, but the collapse of France prevented this and thereafter the Unit remained in U.K. with 3rd Division until the D-Day landing in Normandy in 1944. Lieutenant-Colonel Philcox remained in command until 31st August, 1942, and then handed over to Lieutenant-Colonel J. S. Wise.

* Brigadier C. P. Prescott, C.B.E., who retired in 1939.
* Brigadier F. W. Nicholls, O.B.E., who retired in 1946.
* Colonel H. M. Sylvester, M.C., who retired in 1946.
* Colonel S. A. W. Philcox was an Officer of the Territorial Army

3rd INFANTRY DIVISION SIGNAL REGIMENT

As we forecast in our notes for the May issue, the principal event during the past month has been the visit to the Regiment of our Colonel-in-Chief, Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, C.I., G.C.V.O., G.B.E., R.R.C., T.D., D.C.L., L.L.D. This is the first time Her Royal Highness has visited the Regiment since it was re-formed in January, 1951, and although, due to other engagements in Colchester on the same day, the visit was a comparatively short one, we have reason to believe that she was well pleased with what she saw.

Naturally enough, this is a busy time of the year for any field regiment and even so important an occasion as the visit of a Royal Princess could not be allowed to interfere too much with normal training. In fact "H.Q." Squadron and No. 1 Squadron, from whom part of the Royal Guard was found, were out on a Main Divisional H.Q. Exercise only five days previously; while Her Royal Highness's car had barely left our barracks before the Captain of the Royal Guard was stripping himself of his finery in preparation for a hurried departure on yet another wireless exercise. Nevertheless, we managed to find time to drill the Royal Guard to a peak of guardsmanlike precision, to brush up our Officers' sword drill and to attend to the thousand-and-one small matters of detail which are attendant on such a Royal occasion. We even managed to get framed and hung in the Officers' Mess one of our treasured relics of the last War—the last Signal Office flag to fly at Dunkirk—recently presented to the Regiment by Major E. R. Nanney-Wynn



H.R.H. The Princess Royal, meets Lieutenant-Colonel M. D. Price, O.B.E., Royal Signals, Commanding Officer 3 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, on arrival at Sobraon Barracks, Colchester



H.R.H. The Princess Royal, accompanied by Lieutenant-Colonel M. D. Price and Captain M. V. Keeling, inspects the Royal Guard of 3 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment

Nanney-Wynn, who was himself at that time a member of 3 Divisional Signals. In our preparations too we were fortunate in having the willing co-operation of the Garrison Engineer, Colchester, whose purse strings were unaccountably loosened and whose men worked with a will to redecorate and refit in a way which was truly a delight to behold—although how the P.M.C. managed to persuade the Sappers to instal five new baths in the Officers' Mess, where Her Royal Highness was only due to take tea, is quite incomprehensible.

We were fortunate that after all these preparations the weather was fine on the actual day and the sun glinted on the swords of the Officers and the bayonets of the men of the Royal Guard as they gave their Royal Salute to our Colonel-in-Chief. After inspecting the Royal Guard, commanded by Captain M. V. Keeling, and talking to the Right Marker, S.S.M. Hebden, Her Royal Highness moved across the square and talked to R.S.M. W. M. J. Buddery, R.Q.M.S. J. G. Stratton and other Warrant Officers and Sergeants who were presented to her. During this time the Corps Band, under the baton of Band Sergeant J. Lee, and all looking impeccably smart in their No. 1 dress, played suitable music in their own inimitable style. Her Royal Highness then walked through the Barracks to the Officers' Mess, where she was entertained to tea and where the Officers and their Ladies were presented to her. Her Royal Highness was graciously pleased to talk to several of our Officers and their Ladies and was most interested in all their doings. She finally left the Mess for St. James's by car, safely escorted out of Colchester town by Corporal Franks and the Despatch Riders of "D" Troop, who themselves will remember the day, if only for the awful necessity for being smartly turned out for once!

The Light Orchestra and the Fanfare Trumpeters of the Corps Band fittingly wound up the day for us by giving a concert in the evening to all members of our Regiment and 90 Signal Regiment in the Colchester Garrison Theatre. The Mayor of Colchester, Councillor C. E. Wheeler, the Mayoress and several senior Officers of the District were invited as guests and all appeared to enjoy themselves thoroughly. In fact, we think the Mayor was being more than diplomatic when he said that, although he did not care for light orchestras, he really enjoyed our concert—we think he really meant it!



H.R.H. The Princess Royal, shakes hands with Staff-Sergeant Nibbs after presenting him with the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal

When we started to write these notes we thought that the visit of our Colonel-in-Chief would be all that we should have of interest to report in this issue. However, we have just received a report from our "L" Troop, attached to 29 Infantry Brigade, describing their recent activities during the making of the film "Dunkirk" and we think that it will interest readers of THE WIRE. The report is given below:

"ON LOCATION"

In the making of the film "Dunkirk," Ealing Studios required approximately 4,000 British troops to enact the beach scenes of the evacuation of Dunkirk in 1940. The War Office agreed to give assistance and H.Q., 29 Infantry Brigade were allotted the task of controlling the military personnel taking part. "L" Troop, 3 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, were given the job of providing the communications.

There were two distinct communication commitments, the controlling of troops whilst filming, and the administrative communications, the latter being a relatively simple matter to which the Corps is well accustomed. The first commitment was unique and presented an interesting problem.

With large crowd scenes the film companies usually

employ cheap labour in Spain or Southern Ireland and spend two or three weeks filming. But in this film the inhabitants of these countries would not entirely fit the part and great expense would have occurred in providing uniforms. To avoid expense, the filming time had to be cut to two days, 8th and 9th May, using British troops.

In order to complete filming in two days, there had to be a means of moving troops quickly from one spot to another and issuing instructions quickly to small groups, telling them what to do and when to do it. A film director likes to shoot a scene several times so that he can get perfection, hence a number of "as you were's." To add to the difficulties, certain scenes were to be shot from the sea, whilst others were to be shot from various parts of the beach.

On the 1st May a conference was held in the Film Company H.Q., Rye, Sussex, and the various problems discussed.

The producer required communications from the Director as follows:

1. To each group of 100 men.
2. To small naval craft.
3. To special effects such as smoke and explosives.
4. To speak to everyone at the same time.

The company hoped to provide 2, 3 and 4, with the Army providing 1 and a stand-by for 2.

It was decided that WS 88 would be suitable for communications to each group of 100 men and WS 31 to the small craft. (As a Brigade Signal Troop does not hold WS 88 on G.1098, the sets had to be obtained from Ordnance. The sets came from Greenford, Middlesex, and the batteries from Donnington, Shropshire. Out of the 50 sets ordered only 44 worked!).

In order to identify the various groups of men on the beaches, banners bearing letters were used, one banner to each block of 300 men. Three WS 88 were allotted to each block, and the sub-blocks used a combination of letters and figures for call-signs. Hence block "A" had call-signs A1, A2 and A3.

Filming of the crowded beaches commenced on Camber Sands at 07.30 hours, 8th May, and the first scene was shot in drizzling rain at 10.00 hours.

The WS net with its 36 out-stations was not used extensively and in consequence communications were not always 100 per cent.

However, on the second day the film director agreed to use the WS 88 net for control of all troops in the background and as a result two scenes were shot by 09.00 hours. This was quite a feat, considering that it normally takes a day to shoot one scene. Very little trouble was experienced with the sets and communications were practically 100 per cent. A "directed net" was used and procedure shortened to suit the situation.

The civilian equipment for communications to the small craft did not materialise and the WS 31 were used but proved unreliable. WS 88 were used instead and worked exceedingly well, even when the craft were practically out of sight.

Sir Michael Balcon, one of the directors of Ealing Studios, visited the beaches on the 8th May and saw the scenes being shot. The following day, having seen the proofs, he told the film director, Mr. Les Norman, that he had never seen such realistic crowd scenes in all his vast experience of filming. He promptly sent copies to America for advance publicity.

It was stated that without the assistance of Royal Signals the filming would never have been completed in the time allotted.

Tailpiece

John Mills plays the part of a Corporal leading a group of men, Robert Urquhart amongst them, to safety. Dickie Attenborough, a civilian, sails his own boat to rescue the survivors. The film is due for release in November, 1957.

SIGNALS WING, ARMY APPRENTICES' SCHOOL

It is such a long time since notes from this Unit were included in the WIRE that we feel almost like new boys and consequently at a loss to know just where to start.

For the benefit of our ex-A/Ts should I perhaps start by saying that Major Coslett is still with us and likely to remain for some time longer. Captains Polley and Bates have left, with our good wishes, to 3 Division and SHAPE respectively, and we extend a warm welcome to their replacements, Captain Armstrong, from Glasgow, and Captain Rogers, from War Office. Other changes include S.Q.M.S. Woodley to Singapore, with our good wishes, and the arrival of Sergeants Thomas, Anderson and Brown, from Catterick, and Sergeant Murray, from B.A.O.R., to all of whom we also extend a welcome. By the time this appears in print S.Q.M.S. Norwood will be attempting to solve the Cyprus problem. In advance we wish him all good luck in the future. Few changes have taken place in the Civilian Instructor staff—Messrs. Butler, Clough and Innes-Smith left us for Catterick on promotion and the gaps have been partly filled by Messrs. Ledger and Nickson. A further recruitment is expected shortly.

Training continues at the usual high standard and few changes have taken place. After early teething troubles Telegraph Operators' training now proceeds smoothly and we are justly proud of our efforts in this direction, as any of our Telegraph Operators will be an asset in the Unit to which they may be posted.

With the advent of the manoeuvres season, our senior term Telegraph Operators have joined 3 Division for Brigade Exercises. We are hoping that something of this nature will become a permanent feature of training, as the experience gained is bound to be valuable.

Easter leave was a welcome break in our programme and on the day we broke up we were favoured by a visit from Mr. Julian Amery, M.P., the Under-Secretary of State for War, who wished to see the A/Ts at work. He made a thorough, if rather speedy, tour of the Wing and appeared keenly interested in the various aspects of Telecommunications.

In addition to our recruiting van, we are in constant demand for careers exhibitions in various parts of the country. W.O.II Webster has just returned from "showing the flag" at Dunfermline and is expecting fruitful results in the not too distant future.

The City and Guilds examinations are drawing to a close and the people concerned will now have to possess their souls in patience until the results are known in July. Last year there were 50 per cent. passes in Signals Wing, which compares very favourably with the national figures. It is worthy of note that A/T. West, who entered for six examinations, took five First Class passes and one Second Class, thus obtaining the Intermediate Certificate at his first attempt. Of such stuff are Foremen made.

Finally, to all ex-A/Ts. We do like to hear from you and welcome any news of your activities. So please do write, or visit us if you can when on leave.



One of the "Whistle Stops" on the Under-Secretary's tour of Signals Wing. Left to right: Mr. Steel (Supervising Instructor), Captain E. L. Rogers (Officer-in-Charge Operator Training), The Under-Secretary of State for War. Seated: A.T. Slavin



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2 SPECIAL SIGNAL TROOP

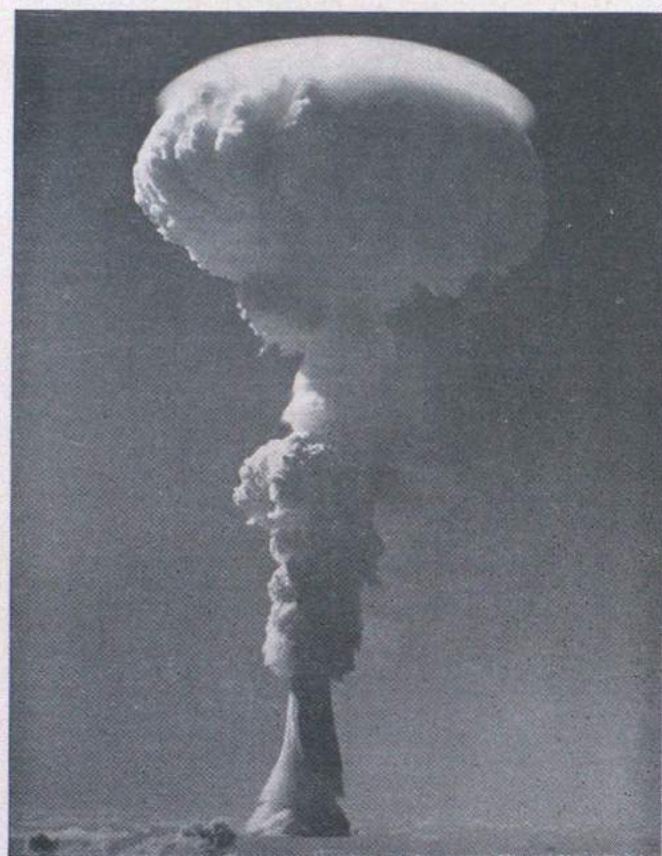
OPERATION "GRAPPLE"

IN our last article we wrote of the formation of this Troop and of the background to this operation. Now the preparatory stage is over. Noisy jets throng our airfield—scientists go their mysterious ways behind the barbed wire—in the anchorage the Grapple Squadron has assembled. The scene is set.

The airfield is now completely transformed. In place of the white mounds of coral aggregate and smoking runway construction plant are orderly rows of aircraft. Shackletons for reconnaissance and weather flights, Canberras for photography, cloud sampling and high altitude meteorology, Hastings and Dakotas of the Transport Squadron, Whirlwind helicopters for air-sea rescue, and Avengers and Austers for miscellaneous duties. Even an occasional American Globemaster visits us. Towering above all others are the Valiants, dazzling in their white anti-flash paint.

Holding the structure of the operation together are its communications. The R.A.F. wireless communications almost duplicate those in an overseas A.H.Q. Four S.W.B. 8 transmitters reach out to London and Melbourne and also provide long range R.T. for aircraft control and maritime reconnaissance, while nine medium power H.F. transmitters provide local communications. There is an extensive V.H.F. radio and radar network at the airfield and in addition very comprehensive meteorological wireless. This latter provides communication to other smaller and even more isolated islands where Met outposts have been established. In an operation of this nature it is, of course,

● Rejoining American U.G. cable by the runway, with the Valiant standing in the background



● Minus 10 seconds . . . Five . Four . Three . Two . One . Zero

BOMB GONE!

Britain's first Megaton weapon exploded 15 May 57

essential to have accurate Met forecasts, particularly regarding upper air winds. In this area Met records were almost non-existent, which has meant starting from the beginning.

We have provided all the transmitter/receiver control lines, installed two single position, one two-position and one three-position C.B. exchanges, wired up over 300 subscribers and built a large number of operational and administrative trunk circuits linking the port, J.O.C., main camp and airfield. In doing this we have laid 400 miles of cable and used over 4,000 M.A.L. poles. Baldly stated like this it may not sound much, but count the miles walked and the sledge blows struck to erect 4,000 poles alone and it represents a lot of sweat, especially with the temperature and humidity in the nineties.

The keynote of all our work has been the need for improvisation and self-help. Old American P.L. poles were felled and used for major road crossings. An American

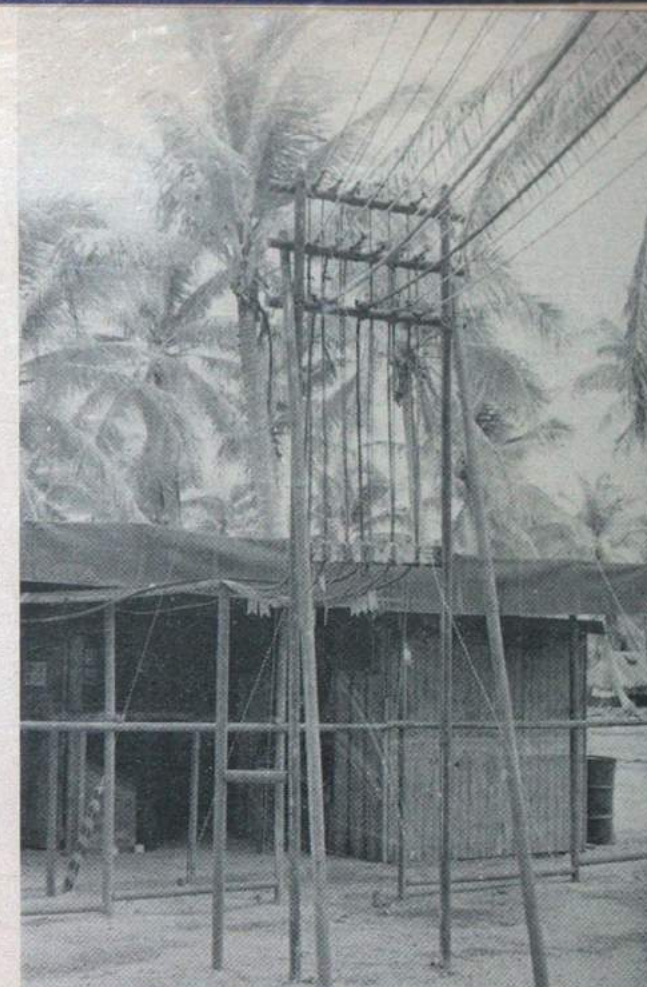
(Continued on page 206)



● A "Globemaster" landing



● Recovering American PL Poles . . .



● Transmitter Control Lines starting at the J.O.C. Exchange Block

OPERATION "GRAPPLE"



● . . . and re-erecting them with the aid of a Sapper Earth Auger, Fork Lift and Concrete Dumper

U.G. cable crossing beneath the main runway was located and repaired. Then we were faced with the problem of airfield cabling. The difficulty being that the lines had to be laid whilst the airfield was still being constructed—and the Sappers, although extremely co-operative, have a weakness for moving their tallest plant into the most unexpected places, usually accompanied by a fusillade of snapping M.A.L. poles. The problem was finally overcome by digging up two miles of American water pipe and relaying it as ducting, through which all the airfield subscribers and trunks are routed. Concrete cable pits were made every hundred yards to aid in distribution and pulling through.

While this went on preparations were made for the installation of the exchanges. These had been installed by S.R.D.E., Christchurch, ready for use in insert body cabins, complete with frames and terminations, and then protectively cocooned. Owing to the dust and need for additional working space it proved necessary to site the cabins against wooden buildings to form a continuous structure. At the airfield an old hut was modified and at the J.O.C. and camp huts were built out of packing case sides.

When at last our construction seemed complete, the weather, which up to that time had been our ally, changed. The inter-tropical front hovered around the island for a month of torrential rain. To complicate matters the water table over the whole island is normally only about a foot below the surface of the ground and in muddy areas vehicles quickly became bogged. Drainage is consequently slow and large stretches of the airfield disappeared under more than a foot of water. To our fury we found that certain types of insulating tape had apparently taken on the properties of best copper. When our resistance was at its lowest ebb the local rats struck and gnawed through the cables in the middle of the longest pipe. Humorous remarks from



● Fault Control in a home-made hut at the J.O.C. Exchange

onlookers were liable to provoke a very short answer from the linemen.

From the beginning it was clear that our work would have to be done to a tight schedule if we were to meet our commitments as the pace grew and to meet our target date of completion by the end of March. It has not proved easy and has meant continuous hard work for eight or nine hours a day and a full six days a week, with Sunday, our only break, occupied by dhobi and letter writing. No amount of planning could have produced a result without the hard work put in by the men on the job and it is to them that any credit there may be is due.

Blacon Camp Mountaineering Club

"Because they are there." So said Mallory in answer to the inevitable question. Well! Why do people climb mountains? The air is fresh along Britain's lovely coasts. The view over a quiet meadow to a green wood beyond is delightful. The feeling of effort well spent after a hard game of tennis is marked, and as for sense of achievement, try putting 10 shots in the bull at 600 yards, with a stiff cross-wind blowing. It is not these things, and yet it is *all* of these things. You will feel it in your blood as you gaze across the valley, far below, to the ridges beyond. A mountaineer's feeling.

In Blacon Camp we felt that to have North Wales on our doorstep and not visit Snowdonia would be criminal. We, therefore, formed the Blacon Camp Mountaineering Club—now the active element of the North-West District Mountaineering Club. Naturally, our chief handicap was lack of funds. But given full support by our C.O., Colonel J. H. L. Crichton, and the P.R.I., we soon were ready for the field. Wearing clothes to suit the weather, we concentrated our purchases on footwear and equipment. Now a full range of sizes in climbing boots, and an adequate supply of ropes, slings and karabiners, permits us to take out two well equipped ropes each of three climbers. In a similar way, we were aided in travelling expenses.

Accommodation problems were solved with the willing co-operation of the Merseyside Branch of the Youth Hostel Association. Given a nucleus of full members, the other members of the parties are permitted to use the hostels for a very small introductory charge.

Our activities vary, depending on the composition of the party. Arriving in Llanberis on Friday night, we have two climbing days, Saturday and Sunday, before returning, and so far, on our many week-ends, the weather has treated us with exceptional kindness. To several lads, city born and bred, the traverse of the Snowdon Horseshoe, particularly the Grib Goch ridge, has been a never-to-be-forgotten thrill. The first time along this airy ridge walk, unfolding as it does magnificent views of Snowdonia, is a delight to even a so-called hardened mountaineer.

As for opinions about the value of such an activity, these will be many and varied, but unanimously favourable. Ask



Captain Scott traverses the Milestone Buttress



Crib Goch in January

Left to right: Lieutenant Clive Southgate, Captain Ernie (Tensing) Marley and Mrs. Farlow

Captain Ernie Marley about Grib Goch in January with a layer of frozen snow making the normally safe ridge quite tricky. (Photo). Ask the R.E.M.E. lads of Training Squadron, H.Q., A.E.R., if the North Ridge of Tryfan provided a good day out. Ask Captain Dennis Oakley if his climbing on the Milestone Buttress was a source of pleasure. They all enjoyed every minute of it.

Our hope in Blacon is that the Club will go from strength to strength. Although our case for having such activities viewed as training rather than recreation failed, we feel that it must be viewed favourably by the powers that be. In such a frame of mind, then, we are pressing on with the 1957 season. Excelsior!



On the Needle on Tryfan

Top to bottom: Lieutenant Bill Farlow, R.A.E.C., Mrs. Farlow, Craftsman Lomax and Captain Henry Scott



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" " Heavy Weave 7/6 "	(In Corps Colours and bearing replica of Corps Badge).
" " Woollen 8/6 "	

EUROPE

18 ARMY GROUP SIGNAL REGIMENT

Another month has come and gone, and to the outsider, 18 Army Group Signal Regiment has conducted its affairs more quietly than of late. This appearance is deceptive—for beneath the layer of soot from our faithful "Katrina"—there has been much activity.

Early in the month, detachments from 1 and 2 Squadrons took part in Exercise "Ground Zero 10" and "Mercury 5." The former was definitely more "sharp-ended" than those to which we are accustomed—and therefore more uncomfortable—but most people quite enjoyed it. The latter reverted to our earlier ideas, and the crews excelled themselves in finding occupations for idle hands. Cowboys and Indians were in vogue once again—and although the detachments were a bit rusty on the rules—they played well enough to impress the visitors!

On 17th May, Major-General Moberly, O.B.E., visited the Unit, and had dinner in the Officers' Mess. There followed a hectic evening, and various members took part in more boat-races than ever the varsity crews had done.

On Easter Monday the Unit Branch of the Royal Signals Association organised a visit to Arnheim. With fine weather, little traffic on the roads, and benevolent Customs Officials, they reached Arnheim in good time. After splitting up for a meal, the party re-assembled and visited the Airborne Cemetery—which impressed everyone for it was so beautifully kept. An evening meal, followed by a visit to Deer Park, and the party were homeward bound. Our photograph shows the members of this enjoyable trip. The next expedition is to be to Bonn, by river steamer up the Rhine to Linz, and then home by coach.

The month closed with a bang. In fact, with several thousands of them! For we had the privilege of organising the Royal Signals B.A.O.R. Shooting competition. The camp cadre were out for six days; two fine, two very cold and two very wet. A fair English summer, but, we hope, unusual for Germany. The

first two days' shooting were practice days, and the next two the actual competitions. As hosts, we enjoyed having members of many other Regiments with us, and we hope that they all enjoyed the meeting despite the weather.

2 INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

In its Sapper and Signals forms the Regiment has completed fifty years' association with the Second Infantry Division, having been formed at Aldershot as 2 Divisional Telegraph Company, Royal Engineers, in April, 1907 (not 1908 as the recent article on 3 Divisional Signal Regiment in THE WIRE stated!). To mark the occasion "Kohima Day"—the Regiment's principal battle honour of the 1939-45 War—will be made a gala occasion. Celebrations will take place at Hilden on August 17th/18th and will include a March Past, Drumhead Service, All Ranks' Dance and Mock Sports.

The Regiment will be glad to hear from any former members and would welcome the loan of any photographs and other souvenirs. If the response is sufficient, it is planned to hold a small exhibition illustrating the history of the Regiment.

It is also hoped to mark the anniversary by the presentation of a piece of silver or bronze to the Regiment. Contributions, however small, from former members of the Regiment, either individually or through local branches of the Signals Association, will be very gratefully received.

The postal address is: 2 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, British Forces Post Office 44. Correspondence should be addressed to the Kohima Committee.

Visit to Arnheim



2 L. of C. SIGNAL REGIMENT

1 Squadron. Sport has again played a major part in our activities, although preparations for the forthcoming ceremonial parade, to mark the C.S.O. B.A.O.R.'s farewell visit, have also taken up a considerable amount of time.

Although we could finish only third, with 21 points, in the Regimental Sports Meeting at Hanover, we dominated the track events up to one mile. Signalmen Smyth brought off the sprint double to add cups for the 100 and 220 yards to the dozen or so he possesses already from civilian life, but Signalmen Biscoe's win in the 880 was a triumph of Army training. He had never run a competitive race in his life before National Service, but he took the half-mile cup in fine style. Corporal Roberts led home his team-mate, Second-Lieutenant Paterson, to win the mile, and bring the Squadron's total of cups to four, out of the six possible, in flat races.

Captain Turner emphasised the pre-eminence of Signal Centre Personnel in the team, by winning the Old Soldiers' race, albeit by a surprisingly short margin from the Commanding Officer.

To date, the cricket season has been a wash-out, in the literal sense of the word. The Squadron is but sparsely represented on the combined 1 and 4 Squadrons and R.H.Q. team, but nevertheless, had members in the team for both matches so far started. The first, against neighbours, H.Q., Rhine District, was abandoned after only 11 balls, and rain stopped play half way through our struggling innings in reply to 12 Air Formation Signal Regiment's modest total.

2 Squadron. Athletics must come first. The Squadron Inter-Troop Sports were closely followed by the Regimental Inter-Squadron Sports, at which we were hosts to Dusseldorf and Belgium. Both meetings enjoyed fine, hot weather—at least the spectators enjoyed it. The Squadron Meeting was a curious domestic affair, jumbled and partisan. To preserve numerical equilibrium, S.H.Q. was allied to 8 D.R. and 8 Cipher Troops, and was ranged against 18 Con. on the one hand, and the Tele Op Troops on the other. The Fritz Stampf methods of Staff Sergeant Rose, the S.H.Q. manager, whose professional approach went to the length of Troop trials, were vindicated, for his combination won comfortably from 18 Con., and the days of Tele Op Troops' gallant amateur supremacy are over.

Before the Regimental sports, the Squadron was flooded with strange faces and tales of 160ft. javelin throwers and soft shot-putters. Once fact had started to deflate legend, 4 Squadron seemed to be leading comfortably from 2 Squadron; but the first two places in both high jump and javelin brought us within range before the last event, the medley relay. We lay three points behind 4 Squadron, and in the relay there were to be six points for first place, four for second, and two for third. But other teams had deployed their forces more wisely, for our 440 man had already run two 440s and two 220s, our 220 man two 220s and two 110s. We just failed, nobly—but 4 Squadron were the best team really. Corporal Barnett deserves special mention for winning both the javelin and the long jump, and Signalmen Poole for winning the high jump and coming second in the hurdles and the pole vault. Though the standard was not high, this last feat was remarkable, as Poole had never in his life had so much as a practice jump. The C.O. honoured the meeting by giving away the prizes, after a gallant sprint in the old soldiers' race.

Cricket must now be brief. We have just started the brighter cricket season with a thrilling one-wicket loss to H.Q. Hanover District. There is some promising material in the team, so we hope that soon it may go the other way.

At the beginning of the month two large parties visited the Messe, or Hanover Trade Fair. As an outing, this was enjoyable, but even the most technically minded could understand little of an industrial exhibition, with few consumer goods, intended to attract the expert buyer's purse rather than the layman's questioning gaze.

3 Squadron. With the close of the Soccer season, the Squadron team were runners-up in the Advance Base League, and were duly presented with their medals at the Advance Base final which, incidentally, was won by 15 A.B.O.D. "A" Team.

Cricket has now commenced, and although we were beaten in our first two matches, the team shows signs of promise for future fixtures. The Squadron Cycling Club has been re-activated with the advent of brighter weather, and the six bicycles are in con-

stant use. We would like to take this opportunity of saying farewell to Second-Lieutenant D. Lawrence, who will have departed for civil life by the time these notes are printed. For a very long time he has been the mainstay of the Squadron in all sporting activities and has proved a very popular Troop Officer.

We welcome our new O.C., Major F. Sloan and family, to Belgium, and hope their stay will be a pleasant one.

The Squadron Branch of the Association held a very entertaining social evening on 24th May in a local beer garden, and a good time was had by all.

A trip is being organised to Luxembourg next month, and a write-up on this will be given in the next issue.

1 WIRELESS REGIMENT

"An Outstanding Soccer Team"

The Regimental Soccer team has had so successful a season that we think it deserves special mention in THE WIRE. Perhaps the best indication of the quality of the team is its performance in winning the Rhine District Major Units League Trophy. In 16 matches only one point was dropped.

Cup Competitions are not so indicative of quality, but just to prove that it was equally good at the more robust game and that nerves and temperament were equal to the strain, the team has also won the Rhine District Major Units Cup and the Royal Signals (B.A.O.R.) Cup.

In all, 26 matches were played and the score stands at 149 goals for and 27 against.

The whole secret of success was the way eleven men played as a team and not as individuals, and it is perhaps a little out of place to select anyone for special mention. It is hard, however, to overlook the fact that Signalmen Clayton, the centre-forward, scored a total of 77 goals during the season. Corporal Mainwaring, the outside-right, was the next highest goal scorer. Corporal Hillsdon, the team Captain, had the great misfortune to break his leg during a friendly match towards the end of the season. He was wheeled out of hospital in a bath chair to receive the Rhine District Cup from the G.O.C. We hope this was some consolation to him.

How does such a good combination of players come about? We can cross our hearts and say that only the material at hand was employed. There was no stooping to cross postings, posting delays, trade switching or any other semi-knavery of which Regiments are sometimes, rightly or wrongly, accused, when they win competitions. We were fortunate in that we were able to keep most of the players for the greater part of the season. There was no concession to training which the players carried out in their own time.

B.A.O.R. Representative Team Trials

Four men, Lance-Corporals Cole and Hood, Signalmen Clayton and Lally have been selected for the B.A.O.R. Representative team trials and we wish them every success.

To say that the team remains unbeaten would be wrong. Our biggest disappointment was to be knocked out of the B.A.O.R. competition by The Royal Ulster Rifles, who won by 5 goals to 4.



No. 1 Wireless Regiment, winners Royal Signals (B.A.O.R.) Inter Unit Football Competition, 1956-57

12 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT

On the whole, this has been a quiet month. The inspection of the Wing Signal Troops by Colonel J. W. Gordon took place at the beginning of this month and went off satisfactorily.

We say goodbye to Captain D. A. Brockhurst and Lieutenant P. D. Evans, who are returning to Catterick for their Part II Course. With them go our thanks and appreciation for the hard work and energy they have contributed to the Regiment. We wish them the best of luck on their course, and trust that they will not suffer from too much mental fatigue.

Lieutenant (Q.M.) F. Bergelin and Lieutenant P. D. Chase have both arrived, and we hope they enjoy their stay with us. W.O.II Parsons left us on discharge, Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Burrows has departed to Catterick on a course, and Sergeant Lightfoot is posted to Cyprus. Our best wishes go to them all.

On 15th May, R.A.F. Station, Wahn, held its Annual Sports Day. The Regiment contributed a team from R.H.Q. and 1 Squadron. Though not outstandingly successful, we did our best, and had an enjoyable day. Lance-Corporal Potter took second place in the 3,000 metres steeplechase.

Our team in the B.A.O.R. Royal Signals Rifle Shooting Competition did their best, but unfortunately it was not good enough to collect any of the prizes. The last day of the meeting was held in bad weather, but this did not damp their spirits.

The Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel J. L. McNeil, has now returned to us after a visit to U.K. to attend Exercise "Quicksilver."

Major E. F. Prockter has also returned to us after a most enjoyable leave in Switzerland. He is looking suitably fit and obviously eager to get into the chair again.

SHAPE SIGNAL SQUADRON

The British Military Hospital, Paris

On Friday, 3rd May, 1957, Lady Alexander officially opened the British Military Hospital, Paris. Field Marshal Alexander the Earl of Tunis, K.G., G.C.B., G.C.M.G., C.S.I., D.S.O., M.C., inspected the Guard of Honour which was commanded by Major J. R. Hamer, Officer Commanding SHAPE Signal Squadron, and which was composed of men of ALFCE and SHAPE Signal Squadrons. During the course of the ceremony, speeches were made by Sir Gladwyn Jebb, Sir Charles Henderson and Lord Mancroft. Much has been written about the hospital in the National Press, but for the interest of members of the Corps who find themselves posted to Paris or Fontainebleau in the future we think it worth devoting a short article to this subject in THE WIRE.

The Hertford British Hospital was opened in Paris in 1871 on an endowment by Sir Richard Wallace (the same as the Wallace collection of pictures in London) and was charged with the medical and surgical treatment of British subjects living in Paris. In 1879 it was moved to a permanent building in Rue de Villiers, which is the site of the new Military Hospital. During the first world war the hospital was placed at the disposal of the British Red Cross, then from 1st January, 1916 onwards, of the British Military Authorities.

After the first world war the hospital resumed its normal activities and in May, 1933, was constituted a Charitable Corporation by the Charity Commissioners. It greatly extended its activities and responsibilities so that many structural alterations had to be made despite considerable financial loss. During the second world war the hospital was in the hands of the French Red Cross, then in 1945 it was re-opened with the co-operation of the British Red Cross and St. John's War Organisation.

Owing to financial and other difficulties the hospital had to be temporarily closed in 1952. The following year the British Government decided, with the agreement of the other bodies involved, to reconstruct it as a British Military Hospital to serve the needs of the British troops and civilians in the Paris region.



The Field Marshal inspects the Guard of Honour

A complete new wing of three floors has been added and most of the original building has been reconstructed inside. There is a total of 65 beds of which approximately 25 are available for civilian patients. The men's wards are divided up into one or two bed cubicles and there is a recreation room complete with radio and television. We are told by one member of the Squadron who has been there for three days, that food and conditions are excellent.

The families' side occupies two floors of the new wing, maternity on the ground floor, children and other cases on the first floor. It is so arranged that all these wards which are one or two bed, look out south-west on to a garden courtyard where there is a small forest of 60ft. chestnut trees.

The hospital is now one of the best equipped in Paris and should provide absolutely first-class medical service for all the military within reach of the hospital. The staff of serving Medical Officers and Q.A.R.A.N.C. Sisters is augmented by French specialists, so that there are very few emergencies which could not be taken care of.

★

MORE NATIONAL SAVERS IN H.M. FORCES

Speaking at the National Savings Assembly at Blackpool (17th May) Air Chief Marshal Sir Hugh Saunders, Chairman of H.M. Forces Savings Committee, said that the 1956-57 savings group membership of 50.9 per cent. of the personnel strength of the three Services was an all-time record.

The breakdown for the three Services is Royal Navy 35.3 per cent., Army 41.3 per cent., and R.A.F. 75.5 per cent.

"As an airman I am naturally very pleased and proud of the R.A.F. figures, but I do wish you to know that the Navy and Army have made good progress this last financial year and will do much better in 1957-58," said Sir Hugh.

He added that arrangements had been made for the sale of Premium Savings Bonds wherever British Forces serve abroad—even Christmas Island.

AFRICA

EAST AFRICA COMMAND

These notes may well be the valedictory of the Command in so far as Royal Signals and East African Corps of Signals are concerned. Out of the spate of reorganisation going on here, our two East African Units will emerge on 1st July, 1957, as members of the King's African Rifles, and we are informed that we will then appear complete with Bugle Badges and Bush-hats, under which we shall hide our burning cheeks. COMCAN Signal Squadron are, of course, "as they were," and remain thoroughly Imperial, even going to the extent of giving up the local formation sign.

For the rest of us, we soldier on, doing much the same as before, but with a reduction of "bods."

The personalities moving in and out are too numerous to mention individually, but we must say a last farewell to Major L. J. Parker and his family, and welcome his successor, Major A. Holifield. For the rest, your scribe felt you might be more interested in the following article on a typical safari. Another article, by Signalmen Wrenn, will appear in the August number.

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A TRIP TO KILIMANJARO LED BY SECOND-LIEUTENANT RUST

The Outward Bound School of Kenya caters for boys of European, African and Asian races, of varying ages from 17 to early 20s. All share the same living and sleeping quarters, and undergo the same training, which is based on that of the Eskdale Mountain School, in Cumberland. Apart from the Warden, the School is staffed by volunteer instructors, of whom many are Army Officers, attending the course through the good offices of the Governor and the Commander-in-Chief. The main object of the course is to climb Kilimanjaro, and it may be of interest that the two parties led by Army Officers, which have reached the summit, have been led by Royal Signals subalterns.

Kilimanjaro, the highest mountain in Africa, has two peaks, Kibo and Mawenzi. Mawenzi is only for serious climbers, but Kibo, an extinct volcano with a large crater, can be climbed simply by a long, hard walk. The first two nights are spent in caves close to the route, which can be quite comfortable provided you remember to light your fire outside the cave, and the wind is in the right direction. On the third day the whole party reached Kibo Hut at 15,300 feet, after a fairly hard slog, since water and firewood had to be carried as extras.

It was snowing when we set off at 2.45 the next morning to climb the 4,000 feet of scree and snow to the summit. Sunrise was very welcome; when it came Mawenzi was most impressive as a jagged silhouette against the orange glow of first light, and the sunlight made our task seem easier. At Gillman's Point, the nearest part of the crater's edge to the hut, we rested and looked about us. The crater wall dropped away to its floor below us, and on the outside of the crater were jumbled ice cliffs and smooth snow slopes, disappearing over the edge as glaciers.

The route from Gillman's Point to Kaiser Wilhelm Spitz, the summit (19,340 feet) follows the crater's edge, up and down, around rock buttresses and across snow slopes for a mile-and-a-half. The scenery becomes even more magnificent, and from the top can be seen the Notch of Kibo (a huge piece blown out of the crater wall), and the smaller, inner crater, with patches of melted snow indicating slight activity. The plains, partly obscured by a covering of low cloud, are quite featureless, and Mount Meru, rising

through the cloud to 14,000 feet catches the eye to the West.

After gazing at this view for a short time, and writing our names in a book from a buried tin, we turned and followed our tracks back to Gillman's Point. From there it was just a long, slithering run down to the hut, where we rejoined the party, and descended to the cave we had left two days previously.

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COMCAN SIGNAL SQUADRON

In case we gave the mistaken impression in the last contribution to this magazine, that we carry on a perpetually under-water existence, we should hasten to add that although the R.X. Site crypt cat has at last gone under for the ninth time, we are now fully confident that it is a mere matter of weeks before our "bods" begin to appear, one by one, above the surface. All would-be COMCAN communicants please note.

Activities generally, have been subdued somewhat during the rains, but the Soccer team is now doing tolerably well, and with Signalmen Burnett paying particular attention to correction of the aim of his scoring foot, we expect even better results in the future. The only members of the Unit in favour of the rains continuing to keep the ground from turning rock-hard again, are the recently-formed Rugger team, who have their first games shortly.

The local Forces Broadcasting Station is a pretty active group, who like to make use of as much Service talent as they can lay hands on. The Q.M., Major Snell, was talked into introducing a record programme of "Old Favourites," which he wound up with a surprise item of himself, singing in Churkali, to the tune of "The More We Are Together." Probably just as well no one understands the language! W.O.II Rees was also persuaded to give a talk on many aspects of Rugger, in which, amongst others, he said he didn't mind playing scrum-half, providing the wing-forwards didn't weigh over 20 stone apiece. Brave man!

We had better take this early opportunity of welcoming Lieutenant Steve Lockett and Lieutenant Tom Hipperson, while they still have the comprehension of normal human beings. They have recently arrived to take over the duties (??) of O.C. Wireless Troop and Traffic Troop Officers respectively. God bless their cotton socks! Captain Bill Turney has now returned to sanity (we hope) at Bampton, and we wish him all the best for the future, in the comparative warmth and dryness of an English summer.

★

COMCAN SIGNAL TROOP, ACCRA

We look forward with mixed feelings to a fairly hectic month of Physical Efficiency tests, and the doctor is undoubtedly going to be overworked. The Annual Range Classification is also due fairly soon and the budding "Davy Crocketts" are straining at the leash. The .22 shooting that is being held once a week should produce some good results.

Technically, we are very busy at the moment, as in addition to major overhauls on the heavy equipment at the Transmitter Station, we have started a new installation which promises to occupy us for the next two or three months. W.O.II Pettit, our R.E.M.E. expert, is in his element testing and installing these new babies, and only occasionally leaves the Transmitter Hall to come up for air.

The monsoon is upon us with a vengeance, and the torrential rain, apart from terrifying the local populace, causes us some headaches, putting keying lines to transmitters and receivers out of action.

The troop has almost completely changed its face in the last six months, and there are now only a few of the old faithful left. Our latest additions are Sergeants Rose, Fisher, Wooller and Markwell, who arrived in the middle of the month. We wish them a happy and successful tour. Sergeant Rose is undoubtedly remembered by one time harassed potential leaders of 4 Squadron Officer Training Wing, Catterick.

At Soccer so far we have not been very successful having lost to the 2nd Bn. The Ghana Regiment, and also to an Officer Cadet Team. However, they were the first games of the season and undoubtedly we shall improve in time. Our next game is against our old rivals the Ghana Signal Squadron, which should prove most enjoyable. Sergeant Markwell, one of the new arrivals, has proved to be a most valuable asset to the side.

FARELF

SINGAPORE DISTRICT SIGNAL REGIMENT

For several years the Troopship *Lancashire* was officially adopted by us and a silver "Jimmy" plaque presented by the Regiment held the place of honour amongst other plaques. Similarly a plaque presented by the Ship's Company added lustre to our Sergeants' Mess.

The *Lancashire* has now sailed her last as a Troopship and in April, 1957, the latest trooper, the 20,000 ton *Oxfordshire*, came out on her maiden voyage. A few days' sailing away from Singapore signals were exchanged between the C.O. and the Master offering and accepting respectively an affiliation between the Regiment and the ship.

The day after her arrival a games evening was held in the Sergeants' Mess for the Ship's Company. Darts, billiards and dominoes were all contested keenly; the Sergeants gained a narrow victory and so captured the new cup and the gallant losers the usual "spoon."

On the following day, Saturday, a football match was played between teams representing the ship and the Sergeants' Mess, resulting in a win by a narrow margin for the Regiment. In the evening the Ship's Officers attended a cocktail party in the Officers' Mess, whilst the Ship's Company were entertained at dinner and dance in the Sergeants' Mess.

On Sunday the Ship's Company were entertained at a picnic at the Signals' Leave Camp at Changi. Meanwhile, the Ship's Officers were lazing in the water or the sun at the Swimming Club.

On Monday evening a fleet of launches took members of the Regiment out to the *Oxfordshire* lying a few miles off-shore. The Officers and ladies dined on board and afterwards attended a very entertaining all ranks' dance. Many were thrilled at the sight of Singapore from the "back end" of a trooper—but alas, the engines were silent.

At the end of the evening, the Commanding Officer thanked the Captain and Ship's Company on behalf of all ranks of the Regiment. The Captain replied on behalf of his Ship's Company in very generous terms. We all look forward to *Oxfordshire's* next visit in a few months time.

HONG KONG SIGNAL REGIMENT

H.Q. Squadron. It is indeed a coincidence that H.Q. Squadron's turn for WIRE Notes should coincide with the Annual Corps' Outing to Silvermine Bay, on Lan Tau Island, an hour's journey to the west of Hong Kong.

At precisely 9 a.m. on 3rd May the Corps flag was hoisted to the mast of the largest Yumati ferry and the cooking staff and NAAFI staggered aboard. Operation "Silvermine" had started. During the next hour one saw a never ending stream of happy people climbing the gangway to take up positions of vantage. Some favoured seats near the NAAFI beer bar, while others preferred to sit near the civilian telephonists and members of the W.R.A.C. Many a father got the "official snigger" from the single men when he was seen coming aboard clutching a couple of buckets and spades. All in all, the embarkation went according to plan and we left Hong Kong at exactly 10 a.m.

It took roughly 50 minutes to get to this delightful island, which is almost twice the size of the island of Hong Kong. Barely five minutes after arrival the beach seemed crowded and the sea dotted with the heads of swimmers. Others went sight-seeing round the old disused silvermine and waterfall areas. At lunch time the men came aboard the launch for a slap-up meal. Great credit is due to the Sergeant Cook and his merry gang of helpers for the excellent fare produced. After tea it was obvious from the colour of the very young and the very old that it was time to bid farewell to Lan Tau and the burning sun. A very pleasant day was spent by close on 500 people either in or closely connected with the Corps. Staff Sergeant Rees is worthy of mention here for the yeoman service he so cheerfully gave in helping with the organisation of this trip.

We are now on summer working hours, starting work at 07.00 hours. Some of us with 1948 vintage cars who live in Kowloon were obliged to get our car lights overhauled in order to get to the ferry in time in the morning. However, these early starts are very popular since most men like to spend the hot afternoons by the sea, playing games or having a siesta.

19 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT

The visit of the Colonel Commandant, Major-General W. A. Scott, C.B., C.B.E., will, we understand, be reported in detail elsewhere in this issue of THE WIRE, so we shall confine ourselves to saying we were delighted to see him when he visited Changi on 4th April. The Colonel Commandant took a little time off to go cruising in *Gypsy* and, of course, was entertained otherwise. A full programme made his visit to us all too brief, but space, time and the demands of other Units precluded its being longer; but we will be happy in the thought that the Colonel Commandant enjoyed the visit as much as we did to have him amongst us.

On 3rd May our M.O.R.s celebrated Har Raya Puasa according to ancient rites. For this year we had laid on the services of professional dancing girls, exponents of "Joget Modern," so, combined with good cheer, raffle drawing and generous refreshments, a very good time was had by all. Joget Modern is a very common form of dancing in Malaya and when danced by skilled partners can be quite fascinating to watch. It can also be danced by tyros—and is not necessarily confined to M.O.R.s, as certain quite senior Officers (and for that matter, junior Officers and Warrant Officers) demonstrated a nifty turn of two.

An influenza epidemic sweeping the island at the moment had an unfortunate effect on our M.O.R. children's Hari Raya party on 8th May, as we had more absentees than attenders, but an enjoyable afternoon was had by those who did manage to make it. Credit for organising goes to Sergeant Harithudin, who although himself on the verge of being a 'flu victim, put in a lot of hard work and effort. For the same reason we have had to postpone the Regimental Sports scheduled for 11th May—the 'flu hitting our M.O.R. components rather heavily. This 'flu epidemic is not unusual for Singapore, although (and here we quote the newspapers) the European element has been very little effected. However, it now appears to be on the wane—so perhaps next week we shall have a normal parade state.

T.A.

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

The Regiment held its Annual Camp from 18th May to 1st June, at Stiffkey Camp in Norfolk. A boisterous north-east wind, with a chilly edge to it, left its memory in the first week but, despite this, a first-class programme of individual training was carried out—the full value of this became readily apparent on the Saturday, when Trade Boards were held. The excellent progress made by some members of the unit who have been learning a new trade from scratch, shows that it is more than possible, given enthusiasm and the will to learn, for part-time training to produce results.

During this first week, we were honoured by visits from the G.O.C. Eastern Command, on the Wednesday; the D.C.S.O. Eastern Command, Colonel J. M. E. Panton, O.B.E., on the Thursday, and the C.S.O. London District, Lieutenant-Colonel B. R. M. Hayles on the Friday. Our distinguished visitors were able to see all aspects of training in progress, and were entertained to lunch by the officers. A feature of this week's training was a comprehensive training course for officers, and an excellent exercise, in which all duties were carried out by officers, was held on the Thursday.

The main feature of the second week was a three-day Regimental exercise called "Volunteer." With a Regimental Headquarters in North Norfolk, and Phantom Patrols variously located in Suffolk, the exercise went with a swing from the start. Communications were excellent throughout, and a considerable volume of traffic was passed. Although all ranks engaged on the exercise were required to work very hard, there were still opportunities for relaxation—local hostilities gave the Phantoms a good welcome.

The social side of the programme at camp was well looked after. Many functions were held in Officers' and Sergeants' Messes, while, through the efforts of the P.R.I., coach trips to Norwich and Yarmouth enabled other ranks to visit larger centres of population than the Stiffkey area provided. During the middle week-end, a large contingent of the Regiment's Old Comrades' Association visited the camp, and on the Saturday evening they joined all ranks in a party at the Grand Court at Sheringham.

The early part of this year found the Regiment's Permanent Staff almost completely changed, and camp gave the newcomers a good chance of showing their mettle and of really getting to know the T.A. types. To the Regiment have come Captain C. O. Bound as Adjutant, Lieutenant (Q.M.) A. Dixon as Quartermaster, R.S.M. McFeeters, Sergeant Roberts in the Orderly Room, and Sergeant Overland as P.S.I. on the wireless side. To all these we bid a most hearty welcome, and hope they enjoy their tour of duty with the Regiment. We would like to take this opportunity also, of wishing well for the future, those who have just left us—Captain E. Crossley, Lieutenant (Q.M.) D. C. Dickens, R.S.M. J. Homes, Sergeant Speers and Sergeant Wayman.

No. 2 NORTHERN COMMAND (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A. AND No. 2 U.K.L.F. (INDEP) RES. SIGNAL SQUADRON, T.A.

A great deal has happened since our last WIRE notes appeared. The hand that wields the pen has now changed, Captain J. M. N. Lyons having handed over the Adjutant's chair; the new occupant being Captain J. M. Newman. We wish Captain Lyons all success in his new job in Germany.

Most of the officers attended the C.S.O.'s exercise in York during April. Their alarm at finding themselves C.S.O. at higher formation changed to complacency as their labours reduced communications with a field force to a simple formula. The problem of "How to get served in Betty's Bar" on a Saturday evening was not so easy to solve.

A very successful week-end exercise was held in Proteus Camp. This was the first time the regiment had been all together in camp since its reorganisation, and apart from training time, much valuable time was spent in getting to know one another. The week-end was devoted to Civil Defence, and an excellent course was organised by Major Farnol. The instructors being loaned by Civil Defence H.Q., Sheffield. The weather was very kind, giving two brilliant days of sunshine, and the role of "casualty," involving much lying down on stretchers was eagerly sought after. The heavy work of carrying stretchers over piles of rubble and down from damaged buildings was left to the men, whilst the W.R.A.C. carried out a "Treasure Hunt" after radio-active sources.

Most of us have now fired our Annual Classification Course at either Six Hills Ranges or at Totley. Some good results were obtained. Corporal Tew and Signaller Hickley classifying as marksmen, and nine others achieving first-class shots.

The Sheffield W.R.A.C. detachment is thriving well, under the guidance of Captain Bridgewater and Sergeant Winter. The strength has now risen to 10 volunteers, and on Tuesday evenings, when they are joined by Lieutenant Manners and most of the detachment at Rotherham, a very businesslike training course takes place.

Our Saturday evening socials are still held once a month, and they are so successful that the canteen is no longer big enough to hold everybody. It is hoped that the Drill Hall will be decorated soon after Annual Camp, and this will permit us to cater for everyone. At our last social evening, the engagement was announced between Corporal Bob Tew and Brenda, the eldest daughter of S.S.M. Hufton. We all offer them our very heartiest congratulations.

Two of our Permanent Staff have left us recently. Staff Sergeant Page to 3 Training Regiment, and Sergeant Thompson to the Army Recruiting Office in Manchester. To them both, our thanks, and we wish them all the best in their new jobs.

No. 1 SPECIAL COMMUNICATIONS SQUADRON W.R.A.C. (T.A.)

Since we returned from Camp in May the Squadron has concentrated most of its attention on recruiting. Advertisements have appeared in local papers, notices and posters are to be seen in all kinds of unexpected places, and several friendly employers have promised their co-operation. Results so far are encouraging, but we look forward to receiving many more enquiries—perhaps from ex-Service-women and others who read THE WIRE! If you live in London or within fifty miles north-west of it and are looking for a really worthwhile spare-time activity, we should be very glad to hear from you at 79-85, Worship Street, London, E.C.2.

SCOTTISH COMMAND (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT (T.A.)

At a short but impressive ceremony in the Great Hall of Edinburgh Castle, on 17th April, our Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel J. Lothian, E.R.D., Royal Signals (T.A.) was invested with the insignia of the Territorial Decoration by Lieutenant-General Sir Horatius Murray, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., G.O.C.-in-C. Scottish Command. The occasion was well reported by the local press. After 25 years' service, Sergeant Jamie Beattie left us for civilian life on 15th May. A popular P.S.I. and an active member of the Soccer team, we wish him every success in his new venture.

Privates Margaret Munro and Henrietta Moffat have both left us on marriage. The latter, now Mrs. Jack, was a very popular member of our successful Scottish Country Dancing Team and is still a keen supporter of our social functions.

We also lose Lance Corporal Mary MacKinnon and Private Margaret McTavish, and wish them happiness and good fortune in their new life in Canada.

We welcome Captain M. C. Lamb, M.B.E., Royal Signals (T.A.) to the Permanent Staff in Glasgow, from 52 (L) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment (T.A.), and hope that his stay with us will be a long and happy one.

Our Annual Administrative Inspection took place in Edinburgh on 5th March, and in Glasgow on 7th March. The resultant reports were even better than we had hoped, and the Regiment has received the congratulations of the Chief Signal Officer, Brigadier J. C. Hardy.

Some of the members of our Glasgow Squadron took part in the Scottish Schoolboys' Exhibition at Kelvin Hall on 15th and 16th March. An Army stand, well sited, immediately inside the main doors, was equipped and staffed exclusively by Royal Signals (T.A.) for the two days. The many distinguished visitors, to say nothing of the many thousands of young Glaswegians, were heard to comment favourably on the combined efforts of our very good friends and neighbours 52 (L) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment (T.A.), 3 (Indep. U.K.L.F. Res. Signal Squadron (T.A.) and ourselves. Following Exercise "New Broom 1," on 9th/10th March, we held a Regimental Signal Exercise, "Clean Sweep," on Sunday, 12th May. The inevitable inquests have been held, and we are agreed that we all learned a lot and have still quite a bit to learn.

We hear that our proposed new establishment is in imminent danger of coming under consideration at War Office. Whilst we are proud of our origin and our long association with Anti-Aircraft Command, that association ended over two years ago, and we shall be pleased when we are at last authorised to discontinue the A.A. designations and reorganise in conformity with our current commitment.

At our Annual Officers' Dinner and Dance, held in Charlotte Rooms, Edinburgh, on 7th March, we were honoured by the presence of the G.O.C. 52 (Lowland) Infantry Division, and Mrs. Delacombe, the Chief Signal Officer, Scottish Command, and Mrs. Hardy, the Regional Director for Scotland of the General Post Office, and Mrs. Robertson, and a former Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel H. S. Scarborough, T.D. A total of 65 members and guests of the Regiment attended this very pleasant function.

Our Regimental Reunion, on Saturday, 20th April, to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the formation of the Regiment, was held in the Drill Hall at Edinburgh. One hundred and twenty-four members and friends of the Regiment attended. After supper had been served, the bar was well patronised, and dancing continued until midnight, interspersed with some very well received vocal items.

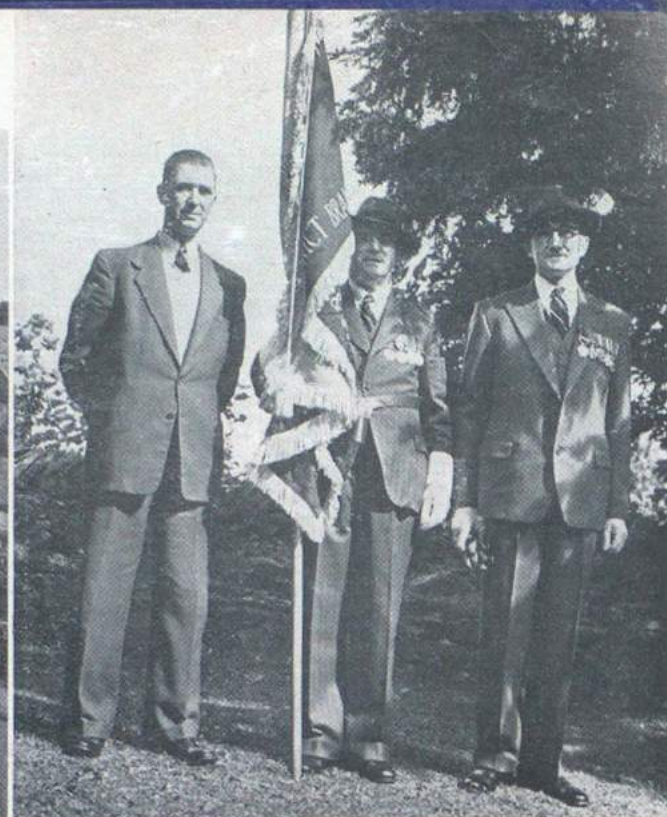
Our amateur artistes included Sergeant Ronnie Watt, Private Margaret Anderson, Signaller Buster Stewart, Sergeant-Major Johnnie Smith and Mrs. Bob Dixon.

Annual Camp will be at Garelochhead from 15th to 29th June, when we combine forces with 3 (Indep.) U.K.L.F. Res. Signal Squadron (T.A.). The camp is delightfully situated, only eight miles from Loch Lomond, surrounded by the magnificent scenery that only Scotland can display. Given fine weather, it should prove the most enjoyable camp we have ever had.

We still have a few vacancies for volunteers, and can offer a wide choice of interesting and remunerative part-time occupations to all enquirers, particularly uncommitted ex-members of the Corps, at either of our Drill Halls: Brandon Terrace, Edinburgh, 3 (drill night Thursday, 1930hrs.) or Coplaw Street, Glasgow (drill night Monday, 1930hrs.).



● Royal Signals Non-Touring Band leads the Parade to Church



● Loughborough District Branch Standard
L. to R.: Messrs. J. Kenneally, E. Newmarch, R. Hawkins

LOUGHBOROUGH BRANCH

HERE at Loughborough, we are just celebrating the success of the most ambitious week-end programme of events in our short history. Primary it was a Regimental Week-End, with 10 W.T.S. securing the services of the non-Touring Band for the ceremonial opening of the new Garats Hey Barracks, at the Garden Fete, and an All Ranks Dance in the evening of the first day. Sunday saw the Band again in action on the church parade, and later giving an orchestral concert in the new barracks, which were then open to the public for an appraisal of the accommodation offered the new Army.

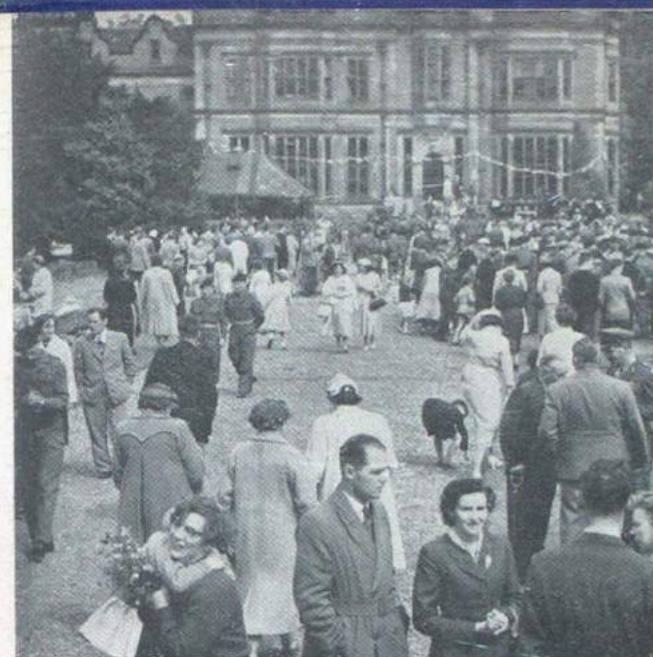
We of this Branch had long since planned our Annual Garden Party and Standard Dedication for this week-end, and it is with these two events I confine my news.

First, the Garden Party—our fourth—and an unqualified success. It was opened by Major Capron, Chairman of the local Branch of the British Legion, and attended by upwards of 800 adults and children, a record in itself. Once again we were blessed with good weather; the Band proved a great attraction, as did also a P.T. Display by members of 10 W.T.S. In addition to Brigadier Firth, up for the

week-end from London, we were happy to welcome representatives from the Nottingham and Leicester Branches. Many of them attended the dance which followed in the new barracks.

Sunday morning saw the highlight of the week-end, with a big parade to church for the dedication of our new standard. The car park of a local hostelry was the assembly point for the parade, commanded by Major R. J. Harvey of 10 W.T.S., and consisting of the Band, male and female contingents of the British Legion with their standards, our own contingent of 30 with the standard, and some 80-odd troops from 10 W.T.S. Ted Newmarch, our oldest member, made a grand job of standard bearer, and everyone on parade really enjoyed the march. What a difference the Band made—one could sense the old precision flowing back with every note played, the chests came out, chins came in, and arms swung near shoulder high as we proudly stepped out with a gait that suggested the farther we go the better we like it! Inside the church, a section of the Band combined with the organ to help produce a service which was a thing of beauty. Here one must pay tribute to Brigadier

● Woodhouse Eaves, 26th June, 1957. Dedication Parade of Royal Signals (Loughborough District) Association Standard



● Beaumanor Park
Royal Signals Association Garden Fete

Duvivier, our President, for all his careful planning and arrangement, which enabled the whole affair to pass without hitch and with maximum enjoyment for the packed assembly.

The parade re-formed after the service for the march back through Woodhouse Eaves, by this time thronged with spectators, to the dismissal point. Everyone on parade thoroughly enjoyed the experience, and we talked happily of the highlights as we adjourned to the Branch Club-rooms for refreshment and to bid adieu to the General Secretary, before he returned to London. Altogether a rather memorable occasion, one which will be relished for many a day, and one which did more good for Branch morale than any other single occasion one can think of. Already we are thinking of ways and means by which to hold something of a similar nature next year and, perhaps, annually. But more of that anon.

Meantime, and before closing, I ought to mention a very successful Social Evening, held here on 3rd June, to celebrate our 1957 Derby Draw, proceeds of which are once again exclusively for the Benevolent Fund. A gathering of some 60-odd members and their ladies enjoyed a varied programme of tombola, music, refreshment, the draw itself, and a delightful cabaret spot, put on by a skiffle group from 10 W.T.S., and skilful mimicry to records by Sergeant Bennett, also of 10 W.T.S. These socials are very popular, and although they have nothing of the money-pulling properties of our dances, one feels they have the edge in serving the strictly social cause, and we intend to continue the good work.



BRIGHTON BRANCH

Here at the new branch at Brighton we started in good style with an informal social on Saturday, 1st June.

It was attended by nearly fifty members and friends including our Vice-President, Major A. E. Wood, O.C. 4 (Indep.) Signal Squadron, and several serving members. Music was supplied by Mr. K. Brown with his radio-gram. A piano lent by kind permission of the Sergeants' Mess was put to good use.

Mr. Maile of 2 Squadron, 44 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A., sang the Old Lineman's song, "The Old Cable Wagon," which was well received.

Needless to say the bar did a roaring trade.

We are now looking forward to our next social on 13th July.

NORTH LONDON BRANCH Second Annual Dinner and Dance

The North London Branch held its Second Annual Dinner and Dance at the Cambridge, Palmers Green, on 27th April. The function was attended by 93 members and friends. Brigadier H. R. Firth was guest of honour and in his speech praised the work of the young National Serviceman, which will soon be coming to an end. The Branch President, Colonel K. B. Baldwin, outlined the growth of the Branch since it was formed not quite two years ago. It started with a dozen members as the Southgate and District Branch, but as it expanded the designation was changed to the North London Branch, and the membership has now reached 100 and still growing. The second guest speaker, introduced by the Chairman, Mr. H. Gillibrand, was Mr. V. Robinson, an old friend of a Southgate T.A. Unit. He enjoyed the re-union so much he is now hoping to form a Branch in his own area of Footscray, Kent. We wish him every success. The evening was thoroughly enjoyed by all present.



STICKS AND CANES WITH THE CORPS BADGE

Headquarters of the Association has, in the past, had enquiries for Sergeant-Majors' sticks, canes, etc., with the Corps badge on the knob. The only known suppliers are Ernest Goodrich, Evesham House, Common Road, Claygate, Surrey, who frequently advertise in THE WIRE.

There has been difficulty until now in that this firm was only able to supply sticks, canes, etc., with the old fashioned Corps badge. They have now had a special die made with the Corps badge in the same style as the cap badge. Anyone ordering sticks and canes, etc., from the firm of Ernest Goodrich can now, with confidence, specify that they require the cane or stick with the modern badge. (See advertisement below).

STABLE BELTS in REGIMENTAL COLOURS

made to requirements. Minimum order 50 Belts

Wall Shields 7" x 6" Royal Signals 24/- each.
Regimental Flags 5' x 3' Royal Signals 120/- each.
Lanyards. Made to your specifications.
Lanyards White. 12/- per dozen.
Blanco Blocks, all shades 72/- per gross.
Pace Sticks. Regulation. 75/- each.
Sergeants' full size, Regimental Walking Sticks,
Malacca, E.P., Ball or Pear cap. Crested.
44/6 each. Export 32/- each.

All Canes Supplied.
Ties in Regiment's Colours. Pure Silk. 15/- each.
Tie Braiding, light or dark Khaki. One gross yards
£11 16s. 0d.

Embroidery to your Specifications.
Blazer Badges, Cap and Collar Badges, Brass Titles,
Embroidered Flashes, Shoulder Chains, Berets and S.D.
Peaked Caps, Gold and Khaki Chevrons.
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PORT TALBOT and DISTRICT BRANCH

★
Visit
of the

CORPS BAND



Mr. Leslie Evans, Major John L. Judd, M.B.E., the Band and the Mayor of Port Talbot

THURSDAY, 23rd May, was undoubtedly the most important day in the history of the Port Talbot and District Branch. It marked the occasion of the long and eagerly awaited visit of the Corps Band. A crowd of some 400 people filled the hall of the College of Further Education and were thrilled by the wonderful programme of music provided by the Band and their solo artistes. The appreciation of the audience once again showed that the Band is one of the most popular Military Bands today.

At the outset, Mr. Leslie Evans (President and Secretary of the Branch) introduced the Mayor of Port Talbot, Major John L. Judd and the Band. His Worship the Mayor then accorded to the Band, through Major Judd, a civic welcome to the Borough of Port Talbot. As the visit of the Band coincided with Road Safety Week, the Mayor then called the Road Safety Queen and her attendants on to the stage (much to the pleasure of certain members of the Band).

At the conclusion of the concert the Band proceeded to Branch Headquarters, where refreshments, etc., were served. A very enjoyable time was spent by all and great thanks are due to the wonderful team of ladies who worked so hard to ensure the success of the "Get together." During the evening the Branch was presented with an Illuminated Certificate by the British Legion, as an appreciation of the excellent work of Branch members in the sale of Poppies during the last three years. The presentation was made by Mr. Haydn Thomas, D.C.M. (the President of the British Legion), and was received on behalf of the Branch by Mr. Leslie Evans.

As a result of this most successful day, it is hoped that a substantial cheque will be sent to the Benevolent Fund.



Mr. Leslie Evans, President and Secretary, Port Talbot Branch receives an Illuminated Certificate from Mr. Haydn Thomas, D.C.M., President of the British Legion

Welfare Section

Below an attempt is made to describe, with suitable anonymity, eight cases taken from the Welfare Section files current during the first week in June, 1957. Also on this page is a simple statement of income and expenditure.

Sergeant, 1942-56 (when he sustained a very harsh attack of poliomyelitis). Married, one child. Before his illness he had a fairly large commitment to Hire Purchase, which he was meeting with ease. In ill-health he cannot. The local Branch of the Association gave generously from their small funds, and the Welfare Section negotiated a final settlement of the debt.

Signalman, 1938-46. Married, three children of school age. He died suddenly in 1957. His wife is ex-W.R.A.F., and the R.A.F. Benevolent Fund gave generously to equip the children for school. Royal Signals Association, after considerable negotiation, got a most generous settlement of a debt for educational books for the children. His widow is now clear of all debt.

Signalman, 1954-56. National Service. In January, 1956, he was most seriously injured in a road accident. He will not walk again. His mother was first helped with cost of fares to visit him in hospital. The next problem was the provision of bathroom, etc., on the ground floor of his mother's house. This was under negotiation from July, 1956, until May, 1957, when the British Legion and the Association settled the very large bill for them. The Association continues to help and advise him in his efforts to obtain substantial damage for his injury.

Widow of Signalman, 1924, until killed in action, 1940. Until now she has managed to support herself and bring up their son, who is now doing his National Service. Illness has prevented her working, and she does not really get enough to eat. The fund made an allowance to help in this.

Signalman, 1953-57. Married, two children. They have never had a home. Now at last a house, and little or nothing to start furnishing with. The fund helped by grant and loan.

Signalman, 1942-46. Married, one child. Illness stopped his earnings in October, 1956. He is now in a rehabilitation centre. The fund helped his wife and child to renew worn-out clothes.

Widowed Mother of Signalman, 1939-43. Died of wounds. Despite the fact that her son, had he lived, would now probably be married and have his own home, the Association made a small grant to help her to clothes.

Widowed Mother of Signalman, 1956. N.S. His father died recently, and his mother was helped to the cost of moving to a smaller house.

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION AND BENEVOLENT FUND

The following subscriptions were most gratefully received during May:

3 Training Regiment ...	£ s. d.
5 Training Regiment ...	3 12 0
10 Wireless Training Squadron ...	31 7 0
1 Northern Command (M) Signal Regiment, T.A. ...	10 0 0
C.S.O.'s Branch, Headquarters, Eastern Command ...	2 5 0
The Depot Regiment ...	1 10 0
11 Signal Park Squadron ...	10 14 3
U.K. COMCAN Signal Regiment (2 Squadron) ...	3 0 0
Western Command Signal Squadron ...	8 0 0
1 Special Communication Signal Troop ...	3 15 0
1/20 (SM) Army Signal Regiment, T.A. ...	8 6
42 (L) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A. ...	10 6
53 (W) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A. ...	15 0
Mid-West District Signals, T.A. ...	13 6
North-West District Signals, T.A. ...	2 3 6
H.Q. A.E.R. Royal Signals ...	8 17 7
12 Command (M) Signal Regiment, T.A. ...	3 0 0
Signals Branch, School of Artillery ...	1 6 6
14 Army Signal Regiment ...	29 3 6
12 Air Formation Signal Regiment ...	19 3 11
3 Squadron, 2 L. of C. Signal Regiment (47 Unit Branch) ...	5 0 0
19 Air Formation Signal Regiment ...	20 0 0
C.S.O., G.H.Q., M.E.L.F. ...	340 8 6
Cyprus District Signal Regiment ...	31 1 6
10 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment ...	5 0 0
50 Independent Infantry Brigade Signal Troop ...	2 17 0
51 Independent Infantry Brigade Signal Troop ...	2 9 6

Total receipts £552 2 3

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION WELFARE SECTION

The following donations were most gratefully received during May:

10 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment (proceeds from film) ...	£ s. d.
F. E. Warner, Esq. ...	50 0 0
S. F. Stokes, Esq. ...	1 0 0
	1 0 0

Total receipts £52 0 0

EXPENDITURE DURING MAY, 1957 ... £484 18 5
(Includes: Rent and Rates; Beds and Bedding; Furniture; Cots and Prams; General Assistance).

Analysis of Cases:	
Families of Soldiers serving in U.K. ...	4
" " " " " B.A.O.R. ...	2
Widows and Dependents ...	7
Released and Discharged Soldiers ...	31
Total cases assisted	44

Lighter Fuel Packs

The following amounts were most gratefully received during May:

Box No. 18 ... 3 Squadron, 2 L. of C. Signal Regiment ...	£ s. d.
34 ... 2 Squadron, U.K. COMCAN Signal Regiment ...	1 7 0
67 ... 43 (Wx.) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A. ...	6 0
85 ... 3 G.H.Q. Signal Regiment (17 Unit Branch) ...	4 12 0
Unknown, "per Tidworth" ...	2 0 0
	2 0 0
Total	£10 5 0

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SPORT

ROYAL SIGNALS LAWN TENNIS

The Corps Tennis Tournament was played at the Officers' Club, Catterick Camp, during the period 13th-17th May, 1957. The standard of play was higher than it had been for many years. Officer Cadet M. L. Booth and Signalman P. Redman, who was awarded his Army Colours in 1956, have both played in Army matches held this season.

The results of the finals were as follows:

Open Singles
Signalman P. Redman (1st Training Regiment) beat Officer Cadet M. L. Booth (Officer Training Wing), 6-1, 6-1.

Open Doubles
Captain L. S. Bamber (Headquarters, Training Brigade) and Signalman G. Hewitt (1st Training Regiment) beat Officer Cadet M. L. Booth (Officer Training Wing) and Lance-Corporal A. Favager (Officer Training Wing), 2-6, 6-4, 6-3.

Regimental Doubles
Signalman P. Redman (1st Training Regiment) and Signalman G. Hewitt (1st Training Regiment) beat Major T. L. Richards (Officer Training Wing) and Officer Cadet M. L. Booth (Officer Training Wing), 3-6, 6-3, 6-2.

Other Ranks' Singles
Officer Cadet M. L. Booth (Officer Training Wing) beat Signalman P. Redman (1st Training Regiment), 7-5, 5-7, 7-5.

Other Ranks' Doubles
Signalman P. Redman (1st Training Regiment) and Signalman G. Hewitt (1st Training Regiment) beat Officer Cadet M. L. Booth (Officer Training Wing) and Lance-Corporal A. Favager (Officer Training Wing), 6-2, 6-4.

Cricket

ROYAL SIGNALS v. AMPLEFORTH COLLEGE

Batting first, on a fairly fast wicket, the Corps lost three wickets in the first half-hour for 24 runs. Second-Lieutenant Wheeler and Signalman Gooda then put on 101 for the fourth wicket. From then on runs came fairly quickly, until the innings was declared closed at 201 for 7. Ampleforth's opening pair

batted steadily, and were still together at tea, with 35 on the board. After tea wickets began to fall, but not quickly enough, and the College score was 109 for 6 when stumps were drawn, with Morris carrying his bat for 51. The bowling for the Corps was shared amongst nine players, and as will be seen from the results, most of them obtained a success.

This was a most pleasant match to open the season with, and showed encouraging signs for a good season.

Ampleforth	Royal Signals
Morris not out ... 51	Signmn. T. Lewis b Lovat ... 2
King c Smith b Gooda ... 14	Signmn. R. Gillard c Brennan b ... 17
Sparling b Smith ... 8	Lovatt ... 17
King lbw Goodson ... 2	2/Lt. A. C. Smith c & b Sveson ... 5
Brennan c Gillard b Briggs ... 2	2/Lt. P. Wheeler c Meyer b ... 49
Brennan c Gooda b Sandys ... 5	Sveson ... 59
Meyer lbw b Lewis ... 12	Signmn. A. W. Gooda lbw ... 15
Lorimer not out ... 15	2/Lt. A. Godson b Lorimer ... 32
Extras ... 15	Major D. G. M. Pocock not out ... 2
	Capt. D. H. Briggs b Lorimer ... 20
	2/Lt. F. W. Knight not out ... 20
Total (6 wkts.) ... 109	
Bowling: Smith 1-24, Gooda 1-23, Goodson 1-16, Pocock 0-7, Gulins 0-5, Briggs 1-4, Sandys 1-6, Gillard 0-5, Lewis 1-5.	Total (7 wkts.) 201
	Bowling: Lovat 2-45, Sveson 2-48, Lorimer 3-49.

ROYAL SIGNALS WATER POLO

First tour of 1957 season, 20th-23rd May.
Royal Signals 1, London Transport 3.
Royal Signals 4, R.A.M.C. 5.
Royal Signals 14, Parachute Regiment 0.

DISCUS

At the T.A. Athletic Championships on June 15th, at Alder-shot, Corporal T. A. Bland, of No. 1 Special Communication Regiment (T.A.), was the winner in putting the weight (42ft. 1in.) and came third in throwing the discus (116ft. 8in.).

GOLF

Royal Signals v. York G.S. — 24th April, 1957

The Society began its season with a match at Strensall, York. We were very fortunate to have a very fine day and a most enjoyable match. Four ball matches were played and the result was a narrow win for the home side by three matches to two. The highlight of the day was a very fine win by our top pair, Major Macdonald and Second-Lieutenant Turnbull, who won their match by seven and five; in doing so they recorded nine gross three's on their card! Results are below:

York G.C.	Royal Signals G.S.
F. J. Platts	Major Macdonald
L. Cornelius	Second-Lieutenant Turnbull 7/5
A. R. Lister	Lieutenant-Colonel Hayles ...
J. R. Cameron 4/2	Major Leece
J. C. Paterson	Lieutenant Carroll
A. Bowen	Major Fairman 2 Up
W. H. Wilson	Major McKellar
A. R. Watson 5/4	Major Beattie
E. Bullen	Major Ellis
E. Golden 1 Up	Captain Wickes
3	2

York G.C. won by three matches to two.

Spring Meeting, 25th/26th April, 1957

Due to the petrol rationing the meeting this year was held at Catterick Camp. The usual cold wind blew throughout but fortunately the rain held off and the meeting was enjoyed by all. The star performer was Second-Lieutenant Turnbull, of 4 Training Regiment, who won four of the six events. Results are given below:

Individual Challenge Cup

Winner: Second-Lieutenant J. Turnbull; runner-up: Major C. G. Sandys.

Junior Officers' Cup

Winner: Second-Lieutenant Turnbull; runner-up: Lieutenant R. B. Carroll.

Foursomes Challenge Cup

Winners: Major H. A. Leece and Second-Lieutenant J. Turnbull; runners-up: Lieutenant-Colonel E. B. Elliott and Major W. Macdonald.

Regular Officers' Challenge Cup

Winner: Major W. Macdonald; runner-up: Lieutenant R. B. Carroll.

Open Championship Cup

Winner: Second-Lieutenant J. Turnbull; runner-up: Lieutenant R. B. Carroll.

Handicap Challenge Cup

Winner: Major D. D. Fairman; runner-up: Major C. G. Sandys.

Army Golf Meeting

The Army Golf Meeting was held on the Royal Birkdale Course at Southport over the period 4th-9th of May. The following Royal Signals Officers took part:

Lieutenant-Colonels B. R. M. Hayles and R. Linton, Majors D. D. Fairman, H. A. Leece and W. Macdonald, Captain M. V. Keeling, and Second-Lieutenant J. Turnbull.

In the individual events Second-Lieutenant Turnbull distinguished himself by being fourth in the Army Championship. In fact, if he had returned par figures for the last three holes he would have been Army Champion. He had rounds of 77 and 78 gross and finished two strokes behind the eventual winner. Well done indeed, Turnbull!

In the team event we did not distinguish ourselves. We were unfortunate to be drawn in the first round against the eventual winners, Royal Artillery, and were beaten by them.

Forthcoming Events

Friday, 19th July	Royal Artillery G.S. at Sunningdale.
Friday, 13th September ...	R.A.M.C. G.S. at Fleet.
Monday, 30th September ...	Autumn Meeting at Fleet.
Tuesday, 1st October	
Wednesday, 2nd October ...	R.A.O.C. G.S. at Swinley Forest.
Thursday, 10th October ...	
Sunday, 20th October	R.M.A.S. G.S. at Camberley Heath.

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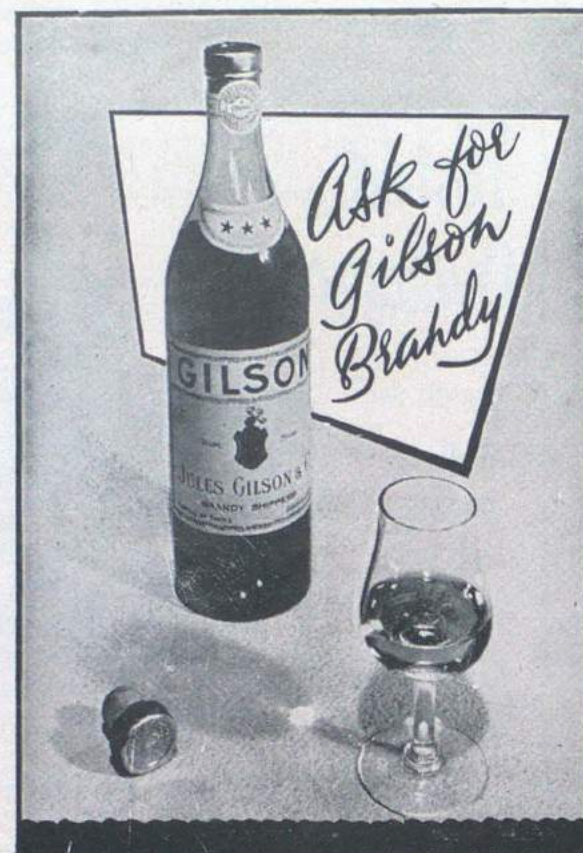
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All correspondence and matter for publication for *THE WIRE* should be addressed to The Editor, *THE WIRE*, 88 Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1. Matter for publication must be received by the 15th of the month preceding publication.

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AUGUST • 1957

Vol. II (New Series) No. 3



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THE WIRE, AUGUST 1957

Editorial

THE CATTERICK WEEK-END

RETREAT by the Band was, if possible, better than ever. It was a warm and, for once, windless evening and so the quality of the music came better to the large audience.

Then on to the Headquarter Mess Party with its distinguished company. Meanwhile the six Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Messes were getting going with their now famous evening entertainment. Visited during the evening, there was at first much circulation by the comrades of the Association from Mess to Mess. Around midnight the rain came down in earnest and most stayed where the rain found them but as one soaking migrant said, "Wet within and wet without, we'll take no harm."

Sunday morning found many unusually early arrivals for Church Parade and at 10 a.m. fourteen standards of the Association and two very strong Squadrons of Old Comrades marched on to Baghdad Square. Then to St. Martin's, filled as usual with Royal Signals past and present. The Squadrons seemed even larger for the march past and from the rear of No. 2 Squadron, when only just past the saluting base, the standards were seen as they wheeled off to Baghdad Square again.

The Annual General Meeting is reported elsewhere in this number and the report is embellished by photographs of the marching column.

So to luncheon and Scotton Ground for a pleasant afternoon of displays and meeting of old friends.

As the ground cleared about 5 p.m. the rain started.

It remains now to express the thanks of all of the Association to everyone of Royal Signals, Catterick. The Chairman of the Association, Major-General C. M. F. White, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., put it to the Annual General Meeting and in thanking all ranks he added "and especially the last joined Signaller, perhaps on a fatigue to clean up the mess after an affair about which he, at present, knows little."

The response of the members of the Association was indicative of their gratitude.

* * *

The Annual General Meeting, as will be seen from the report, made some very important decisions.

For the first time since the formation of the Association, subscriptions are to go up—in 1958.

For the first time Branches are to contribute a part of the Annual Members' Subscription to help the costs of the Headquarters of the Association.

Unchanged since 1946, the price of *THE WIRE* is to be increased, but the Chairman promised the magazine will have a "new look."

* * *

As this is being written Her Majesty The Queen and His Royal Highness Prince Philip Duke of Edinburgh are in Catterick.

Most remarkably they are to arrive in Catterick in Her Majesty's train. They will thus traverse part of the line normally sacred to the "Richmond Flyer." Her Majesty is to visit the Regiments of the Royal Armoured Corps, whilst Prince Philip will visit Royal Signals; the School of Signals, a National Service "Pass Off" Parade by the 7th Training Regiment and a demonstration of past, present and future equipment by four other Regiments of the Brigade.

Signallers everywhere will have bought newspapers and looked eagerly at television screens on the day. A full account begins on the next page.

Royal Visit to Catterick

H.R.H. Prince Philip visits the School of Signals and the Training Brigade, Royal Signals



● Prince Philip's Standard

ON 10th July, 1957, Catterick Camp enjoyed its most exciting and splendid occasion for many years; perhaps the most memorable it has ever seen. For on that day we of Catterick Garrison welcomed Her Majesty The Queen and His Royal Highness, Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. Though they were here for only two-and-a-half hours, those packed hours provided sights and incidents which will long be remembered by all who were present.

The Royal train arrived at Camp Centre Station at seven minutes to ten, exactly on schedule and only minutes after

● H.R.H. watches the transmission of his message to Nairobi.



● Presentations. Left to Right: Colonel Bradford, Colonel Sanders, Lieutenant-Colonel Miller, R.S.M. Barnes, Mr. Salisbury (Assistant Chief Constable).

a final dusting and sweeping of the station. The Royal couple were met by Sir William Worsley, Lord Lieutenant of the North Riding. Her Majesty looked beautiful and chic in a royal blue grosgrain dress, with a flaring skirt, and small blue and white feathered hat. The Royal convoy then moved off through a cheering crowd to the stadium sports ground. As on the rest of the royal route, the road from the Station to the stadium was lined on both sides by soldiers who were able to see the Royal couple quite clearly through the windows of the slowly moving car.

At the Stadium the Queen inspected a Guard of Honour provided by the R.A.C. Training Brigade, after which presentations took place, including Major-General W. A. Scott, Representative Colonel Commandant, Brigadier W. R. Smijth-Windham, Commandant, School of Signals, and Brigadier E. D. Good, Commander, Training Brigade, Royal Signals, and their wives.

Afterwards the Royal convoy divided, the Queen to visit the R.A.C. Training Brigade, Prince Philip to spend the morning with Royal Signals. Captain A. A. Dacre, of Officer Training Wing, was in charge of this convoy, preceding the Prince's car in a highly polished landrover. The Army Commander, Lieutenant-General R. W. Goodbody, accompanied the Duke's party throughout.

At half past ten the convoy reached Vimy Lines, where Colonel F. W. P. Bradford, Commanding Planning Wing, Colonel J. E. S. Sanders, Chief Instructor, School of Signals, and Lieutenant-Colonel R. G. Miller, Commanding, Royal Signals Wing, were presented to His Royal Highness. Also presented was R.S.M. S. G. Barnes, Royal Signals Wing. The arrival at Vimy Lines was the signal for breaking out the personal standard of His Royal Highness, which was flown from a flag pole on top of the "ten set" tower, familiar to all past and present dwellers in Catterick. The task of hoisting the standard was given to Sergeant G. A. Aven, of Royal Signals Wing. His feat of climbing the tower, hoisting the flag and remaining there throughout the Prince's stay captured the imagination of the Royal party.

● The Duke of Edinburgh with Brigadier Smijth-Windham and Lieutenant-Colonel Miller



● Officer Training Wing. H.R.H. discusses 88 sets with Second/Lieutenant G.S.G. Toms

The first item on the Prince's programme was a description by Brigadier Smijth-Windham of the functions of the School of Signals. His Royal Highness was then taken by Lieutenant-Colonel Miller into the COMCAN wireless room, where Major A. T. Burrows and Captain R. S. Lott were presented to him. After a short description of COMCAN and a brief look at the SWB 11 station, the Royal party walked into the next room. Here they spent ten minutes examining the Ero station, which was at that time working to Nairobi. At this juncture the Prince was invited to send a message to Royal Signals in East Africa. The proposed text, "Greetings to all ranks," seemed to him somewhat formal and he added a pencilled postscript, "Keep your contacts clean.—Philip," an impromptu gesture typical of His Royal Highness.

The next port of call was the electronics laboratory to see No. 11 Foreman of Signals course carrying out experiments in valve characteristics. In the laboratory the Prince spoke to nearly everyone, chatting and quipping and making everyone feel at ease. His warning to Corporal C. W. Schofield, "Careful, or you'll have sparks coming out of your ears," made everyone smile. On leaving this point His Royal Highness, having a moment or two in hand, made an unscheduled call on Captain C. S. Ward in the aerial demonstration room, where he saw a short experiment on aerial propagation, performed by Captain C. B. Ward and W.O.II (Foreman of Signals) P. Newton. As well as joking, the Prince asked a number of searching questions. With his Service background and his endless opportunities for watching modern developments, he brings to bear a quick intelligence and understanding that are probably unique.

Reverting to the programme, the Duke of Edinburgh walked next to Vimy Square to see a demonstration of radio relay equipment by 40 "Q" Course. This showed the operation and performance of the B70 and C41 with carrier telephone apparatus. During the demonstration the Prince, pressed by Captain R. Trotman to try one of the phones,

● Lieutenant-Colonel Western explains a point



● H.R.H. looks at a vintage cable wagon

laughingly assured him "All right, old chap, I am quite prepared to believe that it works." Having seen the modern V.H.F. and S.H.F. equipments, he was now scheduled to see H.F. equipments demonstrated by 353 Course, Officer Training Wing. The Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel C. H. Howarth, was presented and he conducted His Royal Highness round the various stands. Prince Philip was greatly amused by the camouflage worn by one or two of those taking part. He enquired of one young Officer, resplendent in steel helmet and vegetation, "Had any birds' nests in your helmet recently?" During the demonstration Second-Lieutenant M. Shea, a former pupil of Gordonstoun, the Prince's old school, was presented. This demonstration marked the end of His Royal Highness's visit to the School of Signals and from here he went on to visit the Training Brigade.

After the short drive from Vimy Lines he alighted at Vimy M.I. Room, where he was met by Brigadier E. D. Good, Commander, Training Brigade, Royal Signals. Led by the Prince and Brigadier Good the Royal party moved on to watch the displays of trade training by members of 1st, 2nd, 4th and 5th Training Regiments, which were drawn up around Baghdad Square. The theme of these displays was "Past, Present and Future," and the object was to show His Royal Highness the development of signal equipment and techniques during the last 30 years, also some equipment which we hope to have in the future, and at the same time to give him an idea of the work done by the Brigade.

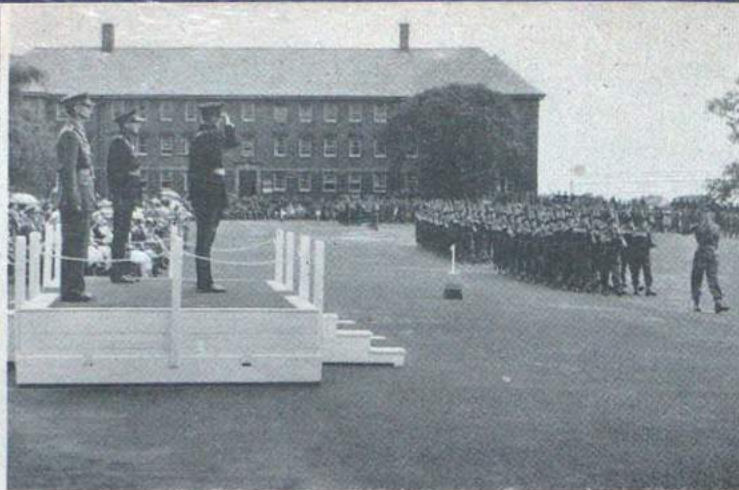
On the grass below the square 2nd Training Regiment produced a comprehensive display of cable laying equipment. Conducted round this stand by Lieutenant-Colonel F. A. Young, Commanding Officer, 2nd Training Regiment, the Prince watched a field cable party laying D10 from a landrover and erecting a poled crossing in record time. Beside this landrover stood a cable wagon team of first war vintage, manned by a line party in pre-war uniforms, which

● 5 Training Regiment looks ahead. H.R.H. inspects a helicopter





● Left to Right: Major Hoerder, Lieutenant-General Goodbody, H.R.H., Lieutenant-Colonel Lamb, Major-General Scott, Corporal Scotland.



● 7th Training Regiment.
Prince Philip taking the salute at the March Past.

the Prince inspected closely. Fortunately, General Scott's first command had been a cable section, and he was able to provide an authoritative supplement to the programme. Another interesting item in the display was a D8 tractor and cable plough laying an U.G. cable.

4th Training Regiment's demonstration, explained by the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel R. J. Western, showed the development of telegraphy from the earliest single needle telegraph machine, along manual and automatic lines. The old machines were operated by the older soldiers from 4th Training Regiment dressed in pre-war uniforms and His Royal Highness appeared to be very interested in the equipments.

5th Training Regiment almost stole the show with their display of despatch rider transport, ranging from a 1915 Triumph motor cycle, ridden by Lance-Corporal Holman, to the D.R. machine of the future—a helicopter. The Prince asked the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel A. H. Costen, if the Triumph needed a blow-lamp to start it, and was suitably impressed when it started first kick and was ridden off smoothly, albeit in a cloud of smoke. The Prince cast longing eyes at the 'copter and given a little more time, everyone was convinced he would have flown it!

1st Training Regiment's stand of electronic testing equipment and valves was the next display and the Prince, conducted by Lieutenant-Colonel J. J. Lamb, Commanding Officer, showed keen interest in it all. The Regiment's trophies, including the Army Rugby Cup—just about their own property now—came in for a close inspection by His Royal Highness, who talked for some time to Corporal K.

The Dunkirk Memorial

Unveiling of the Dunkirk Memorial to Soldiers of the British Expeditionary Force 1939-1940

On Saturday, 29th June, in very great heat, Major-General Sir Hubert E. Rance, G.C.M.G., G.B.E., C.B., represented Royal Signals and the Association at the ceremony and laid a wreath on the Memorial.

Her Majesty The Queen Mother was accompanied by the Representative of the President of the French Republic and was received by H.R.H. The Duke of Gloucester, K.G., President of the Imperial War Graves Commission. After the Guards of Honour had been inspected the Service commenced and during it Her Majesty The Queen Mother unveiled the Memorial.

After the Service and the laying of the wreaths, Her Majesty The Queen Mother embarked in H.M.S. *Chieftain* and laid a wreath upon the sea off the Dunkirk Beaches.

A photograph and fuller description will be in the September WIRE.

Statues of Mercury

From time to time the Association hears of statues of "Jimmy" for sale, usually at too short notice to broadcast the information before the sale.

As an example, information was received on Monday that a magnificent bronze statue, 6ft. high, in "mint" condition, was for sale by auction on Tuesday. Enquiry revealed—by Tuesday—that there was no reserve price. After consultation the nearest Signal Regiment to the sale was notified and bid up to £55. The statue eventually went for £61.

The Moral

Regiments requiring statues of "Jimmy" should please let the Secretary of the Association know their wishes as to size and price. Equipped with a list of these requirements he can then go ahead with confidence and endeavour to purchase should opportunity occur.

EMPLOYMENT FIGURES FOR QUARTER ENDING 30th JUNE, 1957

New applicants registered	...	...	...	...	29
Placings confirmed	...	...	...	...	22
General queries answered	...	...	...	...	73

PERSONAL COLUMN

London Gazette

8th March, 1957

Territorial Army

Lieutenant-Colonel R. N. Houston, M.B.E., T.D., retired 7th March, 1957.

14th June, 1957

Captain (Traffic Officer) A. B. Roderick to be Major (Traffic Officer), 30th May, 1957.

The undermentioned Captains to be Majors on the dates shown:

J. N. Burrell, 13th June, 1957.

E. O. Smith, D.C.M., 14th June, 1957.

R. H. Maxfield, 15th June, 1957.

Major (Q.M.) C. A. Clarke relinquishes his commission on completion of service, 14th June, 1957, and is granted the hon. rank of Major (Q.M.).

21st June, 1957

Captain R. H. Borthwick, B.Sc., A.M.I.E.E., to be Major, 22nd June, 1957.

25th June, 1957

Captain W. P. W. Robertson to be Major, 25th June, 1957.

Major S. W. Millen relinquishes his commission on completion of service, 23rd June, 1957.

28th June, 1957

Captain D. C. Newman to be Major, 28th June, 1957.

2nd July, 1957

Major-General R. J. Moberly, C.B., O.B.E., assumes appointment as Signal Officer-in-Chief, 1st September, 1957.

Major-General K. C. O. Bastyan, C.B.E., assumed appointment as Chief Signal Officer, Headquarters, Northern Army Group, 1st July, 1957.

Major (Q.M.) W. Brunton relinquishes commission on completion of service, 1st July, 1957.

Lieutenant (Q.M.) A. Morrison to be Captain (Q.M.), 6th June, 1957.

5th July, 1957

Captain (Traffic Officer) J. E. Myddleton to be Major (Traffic Officer), 20th June, 1957.

Captain (T.O.T.) W. P. J. Rumsey to be Major (T.O.T.), 4th July, 1957.

9th July, 1957

Awarded A.E.R. Decoration and First Clasp.

Captain (Hon. Major) E. M. Gleadle-Richards.

Captain (Hon. Major) H. Kneec.

Lieutenant (W/S Major) (Hon. Lieutenant-Colonel) T. V. Barber.

Awarded Territorial Efficiency Decoration.

Major J. Miller.

Awarded Territorial Efficiency Decoration and First Clasp.

Captain J. F. Stokes.

Major A. St. G. Prynn, B.A., retired on retired pay, 8th July, 1957.

Captain (Traffic Officer) F. Malone to be Major (Traffic Officer), 8th July, 1957.

Movements — Officers

Lieutenant (T.O.T.) D. G. Turner, FARELF to SHAPE Signal Squadron.

Captain (Traffic Officer) F. Malone, 4 Training Regiment to FARELF.

Major (Traffic Officer) C. H. H. Henning, War Office Signal Squadron to East Africa.

Lieutenant (Traffic Officer) D. W. Swenson, First Commission to SHAPE Signal Squadron.

Major L. J. Parker, East Africa to Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A.

Major E. H. C. Chaffey, B.A.O.R. to FARELF.

Major M. J. MacLennan, M.E.L.F. to H.Q., A.E.R.

Lieutenant-Colonel H. Worrall, Malta to retirement.

Major G. H. Wotton, Pakistan to B.A.O.R.

Captain (Q.M.) R. E. Guest, Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A., to retirement.

Major (Traffic Officer) A. Hamilton, B.A.O.R. to FARELF.

Major (Q.M.) R. J. Hoar, FARELF to Eastern Command (M) Signal Regiment, T.A.

Captain (Traffic Officer) J. H. Lea, FARELF to B.A.O.R.

Captain (Q.M.) S. T. G. Marks, Depot (HS) to H.Q., A.E.R.

Lieutenant (T.O.T.) T. Reece, M.E.L.F. to B.A.O.R.

Major J. W. Eagle, 1 Training Regiment to School of Signals (Royal Signals Wing).

Lieutenant-Colonel R. W. Atkinson, Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A., to retirement.

Major T. G. Chambers, Depot (HS) to 4 Training Regiment.

Births

DIXON.—A son, Stephen Robert, was born to Sergeant and Mrs. Dixon, 2 L. of C. Signal Regiment, on 30th June, 1957.

JOHNSON.—To Sergeant and Mrs. Johnson, at Barnard Castle, on 21st May, 1957, a daughter, Sheila Hilary.

PLAYFORD.—To Lance-Corporal and Mrs. Playford, at Grimsby, on 19th April, 1957, a son, Anthony John.

All the following of 19 Army Group Signal Regiment

GRIEVE.—To Sergeant and Mrs. W. E. Grieve, a daughter, Catherine Elizabeth, at B.M.H., Hostert, on 18th June, 1957.

CLAY.—To Driver and Mrs. C. C. Clay, a daughter, Jane, at B.M.H., Hostert, on 17th June, 1957.

McGOWAN.—To Staff Sergeant and Mrs. A. J. McGowan, a son, Jason Abloft, at B.M.H., Hostert, on 13th June, 1957.

RAWLINGS.—To Staff Sergeant and Mrs. T. Rawlings, a daughter, Sally Ann, at B.M.H., Iserlohn, on 15th May, 1957.

SEAL.—To Sergeant and Mrs. Seal, a daughter, Caroline, at B.M.H., Hostert, on 15th May, 1957.

GRAHAM.—To Sergeant and Mrs. Graham, a son, Martin, at B.M.H., Hostert, on 28th May, 1957.

THOMAS.—To Signalman and Mrs. B. Thomas, a daughter, Deborah Diane, at East End Maternity Hospital, on 28th April, 1957.

HILL.—To Sergeant and Mrs. A. R. Hill, a son, Anthony James, at B.M.H., Iserlohn, on 7th May, 1957.

HUNT.—To Sergeant and Mrs. A. Hunt, a daughter, Angela Margaret, on 19th April, 1957, at B.M.H., Berlin.

TOMPKINS.—To Sergeant and Mrs. J. Tompkins, a son, Christopher Gerald, on 26th February, 1957, at B.M.H., Berlin.

CUNNINGHAM-BURLEY.—To Major and Mrs. T. Cunningham-Burley, a daughter, Sarah Jane, at B.M.H., Nicosia, Cyprus, on 26th June, 1957.

All the following of 5 AGRA (AA) Signal Squadron

MAKINSON.—To Sergeant and Mrs. Makinson, a daughter, Rosemary Grace, at R.A.F. Hospital, Rostrup, on 23rd January, 1957.

STEEDMAN.—To Lance-Corporal and Mrs. Steedman, a son, John Kennedy Fulton, at Elsie Engles Hospital, Edinburgh, on 17th February, 1957.

DALTON.—To Signalman and Mrs. Dalton, a daughter, Sharon, at Bishop Auckland General Hospital, on 6th March, 1957.

HEIGHTLEY.—To Corporal and Mrs. Heightley, a daughter, Cathleen Peade, at R.A.F. Hospital, Rostrup, on 20th June, 1957.

AUSTEN.—To W.O.II and Mrs. Austen, a daughter, Claire Katherine, at R.A.F. Hospital, Rostrup, on 7th June, 1957.

GASKELL.—To Major and Mrs. W. T. M. Gaskell, a daughter, Charlotte Susan, at R.A.F. Hospital, on 29th March, 1957.

All the following of Berlin Signal Squadron

WILLIAMS—HUMPHREY.—Corporal F. Williams to Miss Maureen Humphrey, at Wrexham, on 9th March, 1957.

DEAN—BREHENEY.—Sergeant T. J. Dean to Miss Mary Brehene, at Askin, on 22nd April, 1957.

BRAITHWAITE—GILBERT.—Corporal S. Braithwaite to Miss M. E. Gilbert, at Berlin, on 15th June, 1957.

WILLIAMS—LALLY.—Lance-Corporal K. Williams to Miss Veronica Lally, at Liverpool, on 22nd June, 1957.

All the following of 19 Army Group Signal Regiment

MORTIMER—NELSON.—Corporal B. G. Mortimer to Corporal I. P. Nelson, of 14 Battalion W.R.A.C., at Ramsey, on 11th May, 1957.

McGARRY—RIDDELL.—Driver J. W. McGarry to Miss Annie Graig Riddell, at Edinburgh, on 8th April, 1957.

JOHNSON—LYONS.—Signalman D. Johnson to Miss Joyce Hilary Lyons, at Preston, on 27th April, 1957.

JENKINS—PIPER.—Signalman L. H. Jenkins to Miss Eileen Rose Piper, at Leyton, on 13th April, 1957.

WARNER—JACQUES.—Staff Sergeant Warner to Miss Winifred Jacques, at Burnley, on 17th April, 1957.

SMITH—GEE.—Lance-Corporal R. T. Smith to Miss Adrienne Lavinia Gee, at Andover, on 20th April, 1957.

CARTER—DAVIDSON.—Signalman F. Carter to Miss Patricia Davidson, at Bradford Register Office, on 22nd June, 1957.

RUSHWORTH—BROWN.—Corporal Rushworth to Miss Margaret Brown, at St. Mary's Church, Middleton, Leeds, on 1st June, 1957.

Deaths

BARNARD.—23501301 Signalman T. N. Barnard, on 23rd June, 1957, in Lodge Moor Hospital, Sheffield.

McKINNON.—23490917 Signalman R. McKinnon, on 18th June, 1957, in Chester.

Arrivals and Departures

Officer Training Wing, School of Signals

Arrivals: W.O.I R. D. Laing, Staff Sergeant R. D. Allen, Sergeant J. B. Wilde.

3 Training Regiment

Arrivals: W.O.I F. Stockdale, W.O.II Licence, Staff Sergeant Byers, Sergeants Gaze and Naish.

Berlin Signal Squadron

Arrivals: Staff Sergeant P. E. Teyen, Sergeants R. Price and L. Arrow-Smith.

Departures: Staff Sergeant F. Stringer, Sergeants W. K. Hammond-Haley, D. F. Wilson and R. W. Simmons.

19 Army Group Signal Regiment

Arrivals: Major Gaskell, Captain Hickman, M.B.E., W.O.II Edwards, Pooley, Derham, Sergeants Blake and Collett, B.E.M. (A.C.C.).

Departures: Major Hamilton and family, Major Line and family, Captains Davis, Beadle and family, Staff Sergeant Francis, Sergeants Cairns, Booker, Pearsall, Cotton, Douglas and Sharpe (A.C.C.).

2 L. of C. Signal Regiment

Arrivals: Captain (Traffic Officer) J. Hastings, W.O.II Kemsley and Holloway.

Departures: W.O.II Edwards, Gibson, Lombard and King, Staff Sergeant Pearson.

10 Air Formation Signal Regiment

Arrivals: Captain J. Ridge.

“Thank You”

This, we are glad to say, is no obituary notice but an appreciation of Lieutenant-Colonel Julian Watson's work in connection with the investments of Royal Signals Association funds, and an expression of regret at his retirement from business in the City. Long may he enjoy leisure in retirement.

Julian Watson started his Army Service as a Royal Engineer, served in 2nd Army area for a long time in 1914-18, was awarded an M.C. for his work in the Ypres area.

At the end of the 1914-18 War he decided to make himself a career in the City. His advice has always been available to your Trustees, even during the last War, when he rejoined the Army, working in A.G.II, for which he was awarded a C.B.E.

We cannot award him any further distinction but we can say a grateful thank you for his help in maintaining the capital and increasing the interest of our funds.



MEMORIAL PLAQUE IN SCOTS KIRK, ROME

There is a project to erect a plaque in the Scots Kirk in Rome in memory of officers and men of Scottish Regiments killed in Sicily and Italy. Contributions should be sent to or information obtained from either:

O.C. Depot, Royal Scots, Glencorse Barracks, Penicuik, Midlothian, or
O.C. Depot, Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, The Castle, Stirling.

Forthcoming Events

WEST COUNTRY REUNION at JUNIOR LEADERS' REGIMENT, NEWTON ABBOT, DEVON 28th/29th SEPTEMBER, 1957

Saturday, 28th September
1600 hrs. Full Trooping Ceremony by the Boys with their own Band.
1700 hrs. Tea (Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess Lawn).
2000 hrs. Reunion Buffet.
Sunday, 29th September
1100 hrs. Church Parade and March Past.
1200 hrs. Interval—Refreshments in Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess.
1430 hrs. Band Concert.
1600 hrs. Disperse.

National Radio Show

H.M. The Queen has consented to be patron of the National Radio and Television Exhibition to be held at Earls Court, London, from August 28th to September 7th, 1957.

Woolwich Searchlight Tattoo

takes place at Woolwich Stadium from the 11th—14th September, at 7.30 p.m. each evening, with a special Daylight Performance at 2.30 p.m. on Saturday, 14th September. Tickets may be obtained through the usual agents or the Tattoo Box Office, 90, New Bond Street, W.1. Tel. Hyde Park 6000.

Association of Harrogate Apprentices

The third Annual Reunion will be held on 14th/15th, September, 1957, at the Army Apprentices' School, Uniacke Barracks, Harrogate, Yorkshire. All ex-A/T's who are members are cordially invited to attend. Requests for accommodation should be addressed to "The Commandant," Army Apprentices' School.

Ex-Boys' Dinner, 1957

The date is Saturday, 5th October, at 6.30 for 7.30 p.m., at Williamson's Tavern, Bow Lane, London, E.C.4 (one minute from Mansion House Underground Station).

As the Secretary (F. W. Jacob) has unfortunately gone to hospital, will all those who have not yet sent in remittances please forward them NOW to the Chairman, Major F. G. Strange, c/o Royal Signals Records, Balmore House, Caversham, Reading, Berks. Cheques/postal orders crossed and payable to Royal Signals' Ex-Boys' Dinner.

16/6 for Ex-Boys serving or retired. 15/- for wives or other guests. It will greatly assist the Chairman (who has taken on all the secretarial work) if subscriptions are sent in now.

CORPS BAND SUMMER TOUR 1957

Touring Band

15th August — 17th August ... Scottish Command, Edinburgh
18th August — 25th August ... Edinburgh
26th August — 31st August ... Hastings
1st September — 7th September ... B.B.C. Recordings
8th September — 14th September ... Eastbourne
15th September — 21st September ... Leave
22nd September ... Worthing
23rd September — 26th September ... Brighton
28th September — 1st October ... 6 Training Regt., Newton Abbot
2nd October ... Return to Catterick

Non-Touring Band

15th August ... V.J. Guest Night
16th August — 17th August ... Scottish Command, Edinburgh
7th October — 11th October ... Eaton Hall

ROYAL SIGNALS CRICKET CLUB — 1957

August 27—28 R.A.C. ... Bovington
September 3—4 R.A.C. Training Brigade ... Catterick

ROYAL SIGNALS HOCKEY

The Royal Signals Hockey Trial will be played at Catterick Camp on Friday, 20th September, 1957.

Individuals wishing to be considered for this Trial should send their names, together with playing position and playing record, before 13th September, 1957, to:

Captain M. A. T. Hartnett, Royal Signals,
2nd Training Regiment, Royal Signals,
Catterick Camp,
Yorkshire.

Fixtures for the 1957/58 season are as follows:—

Saturday, 21st September, 1957 ... Thistles ... Catterick Camp.
Friday, 25th October, 1957 ... Royal Engineers ... Aldershot.
Tuesday, 3rd December, 1957 ... R.A.S.C. ... Aldershot.
Wednesday, 4th December, 1957 ... R.M.A. ... Sandhurst.
Saturday, 15th February, 1958 ... R.A. ... Woolwich.
Sunday, 16th February, 1958 ... Aldershot Services ... Aldershot.
Friday, 7th March, 1958 ... R.E.M.E. ... Catterick Camp.
Saturday, 8th March, 1958 ... Durham University ... Durham.
Wednesday, 19th March, 1958 ... Welbeck College ... Welbeck.
4th - 7th April, 1958 ... Easter Hockey Festival ... Scarborough.

44 DIVISION OLD COMRADES' RALLY

On Friday, 25th October, 1957, prior to the El Alamein Reunion, The New Inn, 252, Westminster Bridge Road, London, S.E.1, between 5 p.m. and 6.30 p.m. for ex-members of the Division. Lady friends are invited. Tickets, 5/- each, from the Hon. Secretary, c/o H. J. Green and Co., Ltd., Aldington Works, Hove 3, Sussex. A cheque or postal order (with stamped addressed envelope) should accompany all applications.



Sergeant Le Feuvre's
experiences in Antarctica
SEE PAGE 239

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Obituary

R.S.M. T. W. FORSE,

late 53rd (Welsh) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment (T.A.)

We regret to have to record the death of R.S.M. T. W. Forse on 7th May, 1957, at his home in Cardiff, at the age of 66.

R.S.M. Forse enlisted in the Welsh Divisional Telegraph Company, R.E. (T.A.), in 1908 at Park Street, Cardiff, and apart from a period in the "twenties" served continually with the Park Street T.A. Unit until his discharge in 1942, giving a total of 34 years active service to the T.A.

He served with the Divisional Signal Company, R.E., throughout the 1914-18 War in the Middle East, attaining the rank of C.S.M. He rejoined the 53rd Divisional Signal Regiment in 1928, and in 1940 was appointed R.S.M. During this period his son, Captain T. G. Forse, was also serving in the Unit.

His passing will be felt by all ranks of the Regiment as he had been a mainstay in the re-establishing of the Regiment from 1947. His particular interest, as would befit one so actively concerned for so long, was the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, and few functions of that body were held without seeking his valued advice. At Annual Camp he was always present at the Regimental Dinner and throughout the year one could rely on the willing assistance of "Tom Forse."

Whilst his service might have been restricted to his Divisional Signal Regiment, the Corps in general could not



R.S.M. T. W. Forse

have found a more true and faithful Signalman. Perhaps the Regiment were selfish in keeping such a stalwart to themselves, if so, his passing is all the more grievous to bear.

His funeral was attended by the Officers and men of the Regiment and the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess provided the bearers. After masonic rites the Last Post was sounded and members of the Regiment truly felt "We shall remember them."



PROMOTIONS

The following substantive promotions were authorised during June, 1957:

TRADES ROSTER

TO WARRANT OFFICER I
2323473 A/W.O.I. (2320) Boddington, R. A.
TO STAFF SERGEANT
2549513 Sgt. (4572) Cotton, J. H.
21022102 A/Sgt. (6940) Bushnell, D. O.
22522842 Sgt. (6790) Barnaby, G. A. J.
22212894 Sgt. (6600) Green, J. J.

TO SERGEANT
2549588 A/Sgt. (2780) Fenney, G.
22246057 A/Sgt. (6841) Corrigan, C. A.
2549534 Cpl. (4030) Sherman, P. B.
22295341 Cpl. (53820) Roberts, A.
22546555 Cpl. (53850) Waring, G.
22537132 Cpl. (54090) Edgington, J. E.
22561348 A/Sgt. (54120) Barr, R.
22515170 Cpl. (54130) Ralph, J. H. G.
22523015 Cpl. (54140) Cree, T.
22246042 Cpl. (54190) Ballard, O. E.
22289333 A/Sgt. (54250) Amos, N. P.
22548897 A/Sgt. (54290) Ayres, W. G.
22977564 A/Sgt. (54330) Houston, R. C.
22950851 Cpl. (54350) Hargreaves, A.
22771424 Cpl. (54500) Phillips, J. A.
22789499 Cpl. (54750) Brooking, D. E.
22309325 A/Sgt. (54910) Freeman, C. C.
21037927 Cpl. (55100) Griffin, J. S.
22886326 Cpl. (55310) Banks, J. W.
22537487 Cpl. (55350) Whelpton, J. W.
22515665 Cpl. (55440) Limerick, C.
22242620 Cpl. (55460) Vasper, R.
22525400 Cpl. (56040) Keen, P. L.
22509957 Cpl. (57460) Ellis, B.
23097742 Cpl. (57470) Bramley, R.
23176324 Cpl. (57920) Harris, J. C.
22524310 Cpl. (58030) Hughes, J.
22807826 Cpl. (58470) O'Sullivan, M. P.
2050858 Cpl. (5010) Frie d. T.
2549579 Cpl. (14690) Bo-wick, C. J. P.
21022117 Cpl. (3400) Howie, G. A.
22548444 A/Sgt. (9580) Heyes, A.
22265059 A/Sgt. (14810) Simpson, E. J.
22286333 A/Sgt. (21610) Bowers, I. P.
21005280 A/Sgt. (6400) Breslofsky, R.
22797000 Cpl. (31140) O'Neill, B.
22515899 A/Sgt. (8790) King, C. H.
23225325 Cpl. (51820) Black, G. A.
22212753 Cpl. (7820) Holmes, D.

DELETIONS

Trades Roster

W.O.I. (610) Wood, J., Commissioned S.S.C. Lieutenant (Q.M.)
25th April, 1957

OTHER DELETIONS

Staff Sergeant 4250
Sergeant 70 11430 6180 21130 15840 15470

Foreman of Signals Roster

Staff Sergeant 640

Cypher Roster

Sergeant 770

INSERTIONS

Trades Roster

Sergeant 2549513 Sgt. Cotton, J. H. (4572)
22242757 Sgt. Rowson, E. L. L. (13014)

2 TRAINING REGIMENT

The great day was 10th July and on this memorable day Her Majesty and His Royal Highness Prince Philip visited Catterick Camp. We all had ample opportunity of seeing the Queen and Prince Philip. Prince Philip, escorted by Lieutenant-Colonel F. A. Young, reviewed our Regimental demonstration of cable laying techniques employed throughout the history of the Corps, and expressed his appreciation of all he saw and requested the Commanding Officer to congratulate all ranks on their fine performance and turn-out. The Commanding Officer also expressed his pleasure by granting all the demonstration team a long week-end in appreciation of their excellent performance and their hard work during the training and rehearsal periods. We were proud and happy to have been connected with this very special occasion.

Although the Royal visit has tended to overshadow all other events, there has been a season of other activities. The Administrative Inspection started us off on the right leg for 1957/58, and the C.I.M.E. Inspection reassured us that our vehicles were as good as we thought they were, and in consequence the next Inspection will be held two years hence—well done, M.T.

The annual Old Comrades' Reunion went off, as usual, with a bang—and an extremely pleasant week-end was spent recalling "the good old days." It is suggested that in addition to the Corps March, the signature tune for this Reunion should be "Do you remember."

The weather has been extremely good over the last few weeks and spirits are naturally very high. The gardens are in full bloom and the Lines looking their very best. Out-door training has for a very long time gone unhampered. To all old Linemen O.H., who built their routes over most parts of the earth, and in difficult conditions, let it be known that the trade is now obsolete, and they will now be known as just good old Linemen—begone class conscious Lineman.

Although we have been busy, we have still had time to play a little sport. Our hockey team finished second in the Senior League; the cricket team is thriving, and our hopes for the future show great progress in the build-up of our soccer and boxing team. Last month an Officers' v. Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess cricket match, organised by the R.S.M., was a huge success and a grand opportunity for a "family get-together." It must be stated, however, that the many children present thought the "big eats" were more enjoyable than the cricket—I wonder why!

The Ladies' Club still flourishes and meetings are still very well attended and enjoyed. "Mystery Trips" have proved extremely popular, even if it means a "doubtful dinner" for Papa.

Gleanings

George Harvey, our civilian Movements Clerk, is still with us, fit and well, and he still has his lady's bicycle. His trouser clip, believe it or not, is removed at night.

O.C. 1. Has built an ornamental garden—complete with a well stocked goldfish pond—Standing Orders have been amended.

Press. Although we have figured in the National Press—don't believe it—we are still a proud Regiment.

To Brigadier Firth. Thank you for the visit, Sir. On your next visit please let us know the secret of "Eternal Youth."

Captain John Heyes leaves the Regiment next month for Brigade Headquarters—we will miss him. He has already got the inside facts of the Administrative Inspection—Ca Canny.

To Mr. Sandys. We like Catterick Camp. Cheerio.

3 TRAINING REGIMENT

The most notable occasion of the past month was the Regimental Families' Day held on Saturday, 6th July. Over 200 parents and friends came from all parts of the United Kingdom and, of these, about half stayed the night in private accommodation arranged by the Regiment.

The first event of the day was a Ceremonial Parade inspected by Brigadier E. D. Good, C.B.E., Commander, Training Brigade, Royal Signals, with the Corps Band in attendance, under the direction of Major J. L. Judd, M.B.E. During the parade the Brigadier presented the Royal Signals Merit Trophy to Major E. C. Collett, captain of the Regimental shooting team. This trophy has been presented by the Signal Officer-in-Chief for

the best performance each year by Royal Signals Units competing in the King Edward VII Non-Central Army Rifle Association Match.

The parade was followed immediately by various demonstrations of the Regiment's military and trade training and of organised games. Parents had lunch with their sons in the Regimental NAAFI and in the afternoon a Regimental Sports Meeting was held. Again, most excellent music was provided by the Corps Band.

Perhaps one of the most enjoyable spectacles of the day was "Retreat," played by the Corps Band in full dress and led by the Director of Music. This attracted a very large crowd of local residents, in addition to the relatives already with us.

On the Sunday morning a Drumhead Service was held on the Sports Field, with the Service conducted by Lieutenant-Colonel the Rev. J. C. Purves, D.A.C.G., North Midland District, and the Lesson read by the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel A. C. R. Stead, O.B.E., Royal Signals.

As these notes are being written, news has just been received that as a result of the Ceremonial Parade we have won the Skill-at-Arms Trophy, which is awarded annually to the smartest and best turned-out Regiment in the Brigade.

We welcome to the Regiment W.O.I F. Stockdale, who has arrived to take over as Regimental Sergeant-Major from W.O.I R. Gray, who is shortly leaving to take up an appointment with the T.A. He takes with him the best wishes of all ranks of the Regiment and our thanks for all his hard work, especially during this past year of many changes.



5 TRAINING REGIMENT

By arrangement with the Commander of the Training Brigade, the Corps Band "Beat Retreat" in Ripon Market Square on the evening of Friday, 28th June, 1957, before a delighted audience of hundreds of local folk and tourists—including some Americans—who showed great interest in the meaning behind the ceremony. Our thanks go to Major Judd and his Merry Men for providing a splash of colour set to music, amid Ripon's ancient charms. The Mayor of Ripon (Alderman W. D. Toulman) took the Salute, accompanied by our Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel A. H. Costen.

Friday, 12th July, saw the opening of our Regimental week-end by our welcoming scores of visitors (mums, dads, sisters, brothers and, of course, sweethearts), who had come along to Ripon to join their sons, under training, as guests of the Regiment.

Friday evening saw the Regimental Variety Show put on in the Garrison Theatre before a packed house. Directed by Captain G. Lee, and produced by R.Q.M.S. Buensel, M.C., the show was a gay variety of Song-Dance and Skiffle, not forgetting the "Phil Franklin Seven," who played so admirably, and the humorous sketches which helped to liven proceedings.

A young visitor, Hazel Faulkner, from Ripon, who is a pupil of Miss Mollie Poulden, brought the house down with her singing. Hazel, who is only eight years of age, had the audience spellbound by her confident manner and the way she was the complete master of the situation. She received a great ovation at the end of the show.

Saturday saw crowds of people on the Sports Field for the Regimental Athletic Meeting (once again won by H.Q. Squadron), a display by the personnel of the P.T. staff, under S.M.I. Spoors, a display by the resurrected Corps Display Team, who gave an excellent show considering they have only started practising from scratch six weeks ago. Much credit must be given to Captain J. A. Montague, O.I.C. the Team, for the high standard reached in so short a time. The display culminated in an exhibition of high speed engine changing by members of the L.A.D., under A.Q.M.S. Perkins, R.E.M.E.

A grand All Ranks' Dance was held in the Garrison Theatre on Saturday evening. A crowd of 800 people danced to music played by the Dance Section of the Corps Band. The Corps Band had provided music on the Sports Field during the afternoon, and our special thanks go to all the Band personnel who helped to make the week-end go with a swing.

A Drum Head Service was held on the Sports Field on Sunday morning. The service was conducted by the Dean of Ripon, The Very Reverend Llewellyn-Hughes, C.B.E., D.D. The service was well attended by all ranks, their families and their guests. The salute was taken by the Mayor of Ripon (Alderman W. D. Toulman), accompanied by Lieutenant-Colonel A. H. Costen, the Commanding Officer.



[Courtesy: Essex County Standard.]
Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal examines a radio telephone mounted in a Land Rover

90 SIGNAL REGIMENT

This is the maiden appearance of notes from 90 Signal Regiment.

The Regiment's main tasks are the User Trials of new equipments, demonstrations, projects and installation of special equipment.

Our contributions to THE WIRE are likely to be less frequent than those of the more conventional regiments because, for security reasons, little can be said about the really interesting aspects of our work and off-duty pastimes are must the same anywhere in the world. We will, however, report interesting happenings which we can get past the censors.

One such event has been the recent visit of Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal.

On 28th May our Colonel-in-Chief spent a very full day in Colchester visiting first the 1st Battalion West Yorkshire Regiment (of which she is also Colonel-in-Chief), then ourselves and finally 3 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment.

At Cherry Tree Camp, Her Royal Highness, who was accompanied by Major-General W. R. Scott, C.B., C.B.E., Representative Colonel Commandant, inspected a Guard of Honour, presented the M.S.M. to R.Q.M.S. Watters, saw demonstrations of new signal equipment and techniques, inspected wireless operators being instructed in monitoring duties and visited the Royal Signals recruiting team, "Quicksilver."

The sun shone brightly throughout the visit and, with the Royal Signals Band playing on the edge of the parade ground, the families and friends who had turned up in large numbers enjoyed themselves enormously. Their day was complete when Her Royal Highness expressed a wish to drive slowly past them on leaving the camp. This was a considerable compensation for changes in the social side of the programme forced on us by the spread of the Colchester poliomyelitis epidemic to "Cherry Tree." We are glad to report that our few cases are of the non-paralytic type and are well on the way to recovery.



[Courtesy: "Soldier".]
Captain K. Watson shows Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal the Royal Signals Recruiting Vehicle

The Royal visit naturally took first place in our thoughts for some time beforehand; once it was over we turned our attention to an athletics meeting with 3 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment. Again the sun shone, there were some excellent performances in track and field events and in conclusion one of the closest possible tugs-of-war. The result was a well deserved win for 3 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, who beat us by 154 points to 144.

Cricket is in full swing. We have played and won three Unit matches; very tactlessly, one of our wins was against the local Provost Company.



[Courtesy: "Soldier".]
Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal inspects the Guard of Honour, commanded by Major D. V. Wellings

OFFICER TRAINING WING

During the recent run of fine weather there has been a surprising decrease in indoor activity. Even the lecture rooms have been fitted with bigger and better windows!

The highlight of the month was the unit Inter Squadron Athletic Meeting which was held on the 19th June in delightful weather. It was a most enjoyable afternoon with some fine performances in both field and track events. The victors, after a close finish, were O.T. Squadron, with 4 Squadron a half-point behind. The chain-of-command race was up to its usual high standard and the spectators were most impressed by the surprising turn of speed from the Elders on the last straight.

The finals of the inter-course Novices Boxing took place on the 24th June. 353 Course took time off from a line exercise to win—perhaps there is something in this “hammer and jumper” business after all! The A.P.T.C. staff had managed to instill the rudiments of the game into the participants and we witnessed some extremely spirited bouts.

The Rugger enthusiasts are looking forward to September and another chance of mixing it with our old rivals, 1st Training Regiment. In the same vein, congratulations are due to Second-Lieutenants Alan Godson and Paul Wheeler: both have been presented with their Corps colours, and Alan with an Army cap as well.

On 31st May No. 353 Course were commissioned. The Inspecting Officer was the Chief Engineer of Northern Command, Brigadier W. F. Anderson, C.B.E., M.C. Second-Lieutenant W. T. Cox received the Commanding Officer's Prize as the best cadet of the course.



History of the 3rd Divisional Signal Regiment

The following brief precis follows that published in July. It will be concluded in September.

As always in war, the pace both of training and fighting is so great that there is little recorded for history. The following notes concerning the period 1942 to 1946 are necessarily brief.

COMMANDING OFFICER: LIEUTENANT-COLONEL J. S. WISE*, 1942

During Lieutenant-Colonel Wise's tour of command the Unit carried out mobile training with 3 Division in Kent and the New Forest. There is nothing particular to record in this period.

In March, 1943, Lieutenant-Colonel Wise handed over command to Lieutenant-Colonel H. D. Mountford.

COMMANDING OFFICER: LIEUTENANT-COLONEL H. D. MOUNTFORD*, 1943

No details available.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mountford handed over command to Lieutenant-Colonel H. E. F. Middleton in September, 1943.

COMMANDING OFFICER: LIEUTENANT-COLONEL H. E. F. MIDDLETON*, 1943-44

During Lieutenant-Colonel Middleton's tour of command the Unit participated in the final intensive training in U.K. prior to the opening of the Second Front. Then with 3rd Division, which was the assault Division of 1 B.R. Corps, it took part in the D-Day landings on 6th June, 1944, and the subsequent operations through France, Holland and Germany. It was the left flank of the Allied Landing Forces.

Lieutenant-Colonel Middleton handed over command to Lieutenant-Colonel G. D. T. Harris.

COMMANDING OFFICER: LIEUTENANT-COLONEL G. D. T. HARRIS*, 1944-45

Lieutenant-Colonel Harris commanded the Unit during the final phases of the Allied operations in North-West

Europe. It is of interest to note that it was during his tour that the Officer Commanding 3 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment was first designated Commander Royal Signals, 3rd Infantry Division.

Lieutenant-Colonel Harris handed over command in July, 1945, to Lieutenant-Colonel Aldridge.

COMMANDING OFFICER: LIEUTENANT-COLONEL G. E. ALDRIDGE, O.B.E.*, 1945

No details available.

Lieutenant-Colonel Aldridge handed over command to Lieutenant-Colonel Atthill in August, 1945.

COMMANDING OFFICER: LIEUTENANT-COLONEL A. J. M. ATTHILL, O.B.E.*, 1945-46

When Lieutenant-Colonel Atthill took over command of the Unit it was reshuffled on an “Age and Service Group” basis so as to exclude all men with lower age and service groups than 26. It was then drafted to the Middle East by air in October, 1945. On arrival in Egypt the Unit was equipped with stores and vehicles and then moved up by road to Palestine, where it took over from 1 Divisional Signal Regiment in December, 1945. Its duties in Palestine consisted of providing communications for the Division whilst operating in an internal security rôle.

* Lieutenant-Colonel J. S. Wise retired in 1955.
Colonel H. D. Mountford, C.B.E., retired in 1954.
Lieutenant-Colonel G. E. Aldridge, O.B.E., retired in 1949.
Lieutenant-Colonel H. E. F. Middleton, G. D. T. Harris, O.B.E., and A. J. M. Atthill, O.B.E., are still serving.



3 INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

Taking full advantage of the 90 degrees sunshine in the U.K. we have enjoyed a Regimental Week-end that included Inter-Troop Sports, a Church Parade, a Dance and an Orchestral Concert by the Corps Band.

At the moment a fair proportion of our Senior N.C.O.s are enjoying a spell at Catterick on Class I Upgrading Courses. We wish them luck and are looking forward to their return and to subsequent employment as instructors on our own Regimental Upgrading Courses.

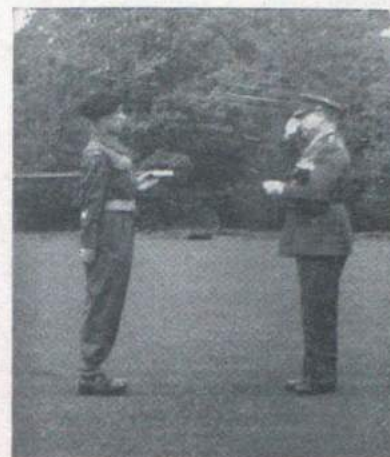
The local Lido in Colchester is much popularised by all ranks this weather and, for the horticultural experts, the Town Council are providing a series of Flower Shows in the Castle Park. The Park is graced with a 12th Century Castle that boasts a tree growing from one of its highest battlements. The local Artists very often display their work inside the Castle. A recent exhibition was sponsored by the Colchester Technical College, and subjects ranging from busts of Napoleon to the modern Picasso type of paintings were on show. The outstanding feature of this year's show was two life size modern oils of Tommy Steele.

The surrounds of the Castle which form the park are extensively laid out with lawns, flower beds, a beautifully picturesque river with boating available and a bandstand that is in full use most week-ends. This month's main attraction took the form of a Rose Show, which is an annual event and was this year combined with a display from the town's local kennels. The Parks Committee themselves won a Bronze Medal with a fine display that included a gigantic perfectly formed rose called Virgo. This particular bloom appeared to be the Mayor's favourite, and he managed to return to its location in the grounds whenever he was free from his many mayoral commitments in other sections of the park. The Dog Show had a number of regal looking spaniels and a variety of dachshund puppies which frolicked over the lawns with gay abandon, in spite of the 90 degrees which the mere humans found to be most discomforting. As an offshoot of the main show there were many varieties of modern garden implements besides a selection of vegetables that looked healthy enough to have a pedigree equal to that of any of the dogs.

COMMENT

With reference to the advertisement on the back cover of the June WIRE. The technicians in the Regiment are most curious to know how the Messrs. Pye Operator can in fact operate without having either his batteries or headset connected. (Page 265)

SCOTTISH COMMAND (M) SIGNAL SQUADRON



W.O.II W. E. King and Major W. J. Hotchkiss

The past two months have been of great interest embracing as they did the Squadron sports, a magnificent cricket match and a nicely acted play. In an effort to preserve order we present them here in chronological sequence.

Squadron Sports. The day broke fine but blustery and, horror, the wind was “following” and gone was any chance of claiming the records which would surely be broken.

However, at exactly the appointed hour the events got under way and, remarkably, as time went on it became apparent that, for the first time in history, a Unit Sports Meeting was going to run exactly to programme, as indeed it did. For the benefit of less fortunate Units Captain Bennett was the Organising Officer—services available for a considerable fee.

The outstanding performers were undoubtedly Private Senior, W.R.A.C., who carried off the 100 yards, 220 yards and high jump (women), and Signalman Maddex, who took first place in the 440 yards and 880 yards, coupled with second place with discus and javelin (men). A special mention for the tug-of-war won by Training Troop, under the direction of Sergeant Glendinning. The success of the team was undoubtedly due to this gentleman's tremendous lung capacity which nullified the effect of the wind from one end and turned it into a veritable gale from the other.

Incidentally, in the Scottish Command Individual Athletic Championships the following personnel of the Unit gained places:

Javelin: Signalman Maddex, second.
Inter-Unit Team Championship: Scottish Command (M) Signal Squadron, fourth.

W.R.A.C.

100 yards: Pte. Watson, first; Pte. Richardson, second.
220 yards: Lance-Corporal Macey, first; Private Senior, second.
High Jump: Private Senior, second.
Long Jump: Lance-Corporal Macey, first.
Javelin: Lance-Corporal Macey, first.
Inter-Unit Team Championship: Scottish Command (M) Signal Squadron, second.

Cricket. The game of the period was between Training Troop and Administrative Troop and resulted in a win for the former, due to some steady batting by Staff Sergeant Upfield and good bowling by Signalmen Mills and McLennan, who took five wickets apiece. For Administrative Troop, ably captained by Sergeant Coppen, “byes” played a great game, being easily the top scorer, due to some remarkable leg side shots, which whilst producing no noticeable effect upon the ball so disturbed the wicketkeeper who, not really relishing the idea of being beaten to death by great fanning swipes, consequently found difficulty in concentration. W.O.II King and Signalman Stanley performed well, the latter being a real find.

The game was umpired delightfully by Second-Lieutenant Sherman, W.R.A.C., and Captain Lonton, the former in cotton print dress, which possibly had something to do with the occasional fielding lapses. It should be stated here that the cricket team is grateful for the very welcome support it has had from the C.O., Major W. J. Hotchkiss, Second-in-Command, Captain Wright, and all other members of the Unit. Also for the co-operation it has received from the personnel of the NAAFI and Cookhouse.

The Play, “Where Fools Rush In,” by Kenneth Horne, was well chosen and presented by the Redford Drama Group. Members of the Unit in the cast were Captain Lonton, Captain Hart, Second-Lieutenant McFarlane, W.R.A.C., S.S.M. Lawrence, W.R.A.C., Lance-Corporal Hick, W.R.A.C., and Private McDonald, W.R.A.C. All played extremely well; incidents coming immediately to mind are Captains Lonton and Hart with bloody noses and S.S.M. Lawrence in a continuous state of weeping. Indeed it is difficult to tell who enjoyed his part the more, Captain Hart or the audience, particularly at the

point at which he was required to chase a luscious young thing around the sitting room furniture. The play is to tour and can be recommended as an evening's entertainment. Lady Murray, wife of the G.O.C., H.Q. Scottish Command, congratulated all concerned for their efforts and high acting ability.

After the Church Parade for Commonwealth Youth Sunday, 2nd June, the Squadron re-formed on the Parade Ground for the presentation to W.O.II King of the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal by the Commanding Officer, Major W. J. Hotchkiss. We offer our congratulations to W.O.II King.

In respect of workaday things, Training Troop are at present on location in the hills and are presenting a display of Signals equipment which is attracting many viewers. Training Cadets is another function which they are performing to everyone's satisfaction. We who are left, plod on!

Jottings

by NACERBY

The Future

Before getting down to my promised article on the Civil Service, several chaps have asked me if I know anything about the future Army.

Do I know anything? I should say I do!

Take the mistaken notion that the path to future promotion is likely to be tortuous and stony. Sheer nonsense!

Providing your character is sufficiently warped and your appearance is neat and tidy—up to slipshod standard—you should quickly gain a Lance-Corporal's stripe.

The statement that even a witless man can become an N.C.O. is only half true.

Assume then that you have been awarded a stripe. This is a life appointment and nobody can deprive you of that stripe except almost anybody in the Army. So far so good!

Within a week of gaining one stripe you are so impressed with the many privileges it carries, you will certainly vow to acquire another stripe at the earliest possible convenience.

Within four years you are certain to be considered as a potential Corporal—or is it four weeks? Things move so rapidly I can't remember.

When you do obtain the distinction of wearing two stripes the worst part of the journey is over and the step-up to Sergeant is a matter of months—maybe 24, maybe more. It all depends on what you lack.

Still ambitious? Then if you wish to become a Staff Sergeant you must go back six years and join the T.A.

You may get the idea that I'm going to deal with other fallacies. This is a fallacy and I wish to dispose of it. . . .

Civil Service

And you've no idea just what an interesting article this could have been but unfortunately I shall have to postpone it for a month or so until I recover from an attack of tea-poisoning.

At a rough guess and to prepare you for the future I should say that the Civil Service is a cross between M.I.5, the Women's Institute, a long 'bus queue, a mail order store, a holiday bureau, a furniture store and Lyon's Corner House. Most people have the impression the Civil Service spend all their time making tea (see reference to tea-poisoning above) but this I can refute. They have their lunch breaks just like you and I.

Few, if any, Civil Servants die from blood pressure or ulcers. This is explained by the fact that work is usually done in the form of Minutes, which take hours/days/weeks to produce (depending if Saturdays, public holidays or leave intervenes) and that the chaps who did have ulcers were those who made the original decisions in 1874 or thereabouts.

As the title suggests they are normally frightfully civil and will go to any length—usually from four to five foolscap sheets—to explain a particular point. By the time you

have read the sheets you have forgotten what the original point was. *Sic gloria transit*, etc.

There are exceptions, of course. For instance, the following extract conveys its meaning so pithily. . . . "Separate departments on the same premises are treated as separate premises for this purpose where separate branches of work which are commonly carried on as separate business in separate premises are carried on in separate departments of the same premises."

Which only goes to prove that not all Civil Servants are hyperpolysyllabicesquipedalianistic!

Anyway, there's a preview. Look out for sensational developments next month . . . oooh! that tea.

U.K. COMCAN SIGNAL REGIMENT

Outstanding among the events of the month was the Bath and West Show, at which the Regiment was given the task of planning, producing and manning a Royal Signals Stand; in charge of operations was Captain H. W. Holton, our T.O.T., who by begging, borrowing, brow beating, (and even stealing it is said), produced a finished article which, in our opinion at least, compared most favourably with the Royal Signals Stand at Radio Olympia.

Particularly since time was short, the recruiting net for exhibition personnel was cast far and wide and "volunteers" from all four Squadrons were "pressed" into service to erect and instal the stands and equipment, and these were ably supported by detachments from Southern Command (Mobile) Signal Squadron and 63 Army (M) Signal Regiment (T.A.), not forgetting the opposite sex in the form of some W.R.A.C., who considerably brightened the Stand with their fair presence.

The resulting show justified the hard work put in by all concerned and we were gratified to receive the many favourable comments made by the considerable number of visitors who were attracted to the Stand.

R.H.Q. and 1 Squadron. Due to the shortage of grass cutting machinery 10 sheep have been added to the inventory of No. 1 Signal Centre, for the purpose of keeping the grass short. So well have they done their job (no reflection on the human species) that certain people hitherto unobtainable in the afternoon, can now be found. Sergeant Arthur (who has already indentured for his Crooks, Shepherds for the use of) has obtained a guarantee that should the number increase, the additions may not be used to supplement our rations. As we go to press neither a happy event or the appearance of roast lamb has been reported. But given time . . . one never knows!

The S.S.M. has obtained a new gardener at last, and the appearance of Robinswood Barracks is improving on the surface as a consequence.

Once again the Wood of Robins echoes to the stentorian (some say raucous) voice of Sergeant "Tex" Savins, which tells Gloucester inhabitants that another Drill and Duties Course is in progress. More news of this in our next sitrep.

Our sharp shooters have again been in action. This time at Taunton when they succeeded in doing extremely well, all things considered. They are at present shooting (perhaps better described as basking) in the sunshine at Bisley.

Notwithstanding the recent heatwave our Cricket team is wallowing in the mire, chiefly due to a lack of training facilities.

However, the Team Secretary, Second-Lieutenant K. G. Gostick, Royal Signals, is confident of the future and we all hope that this optimism will be real and truly justified.

W.O.s' and SERGEANTS' MESS. We bid welcome to Sergeants Brookes, Ford, Davis, Gilmon, Woolnough, Whiting (R.A.E.C.) and Irvine (A.C.C.). Our new "Schoolie" replaces the redoubtable "Taff" Jones. Our surprise was great on discovering that our new Schoolie is an Englishman, a rare species in the R.A.E.C.—Jock Irvine recently of Denbury, is especially welcome. If he can satisfy the many and varied tastes he need never worry about being deported to Scotland. Scots wha hae! Following our successful Tramps night we held a most enjoyable Whist Drive. This, although it was not enthusiastically supported, proved a most enjoyable means of getting together. A coach trip to London to see the Royal Tournament proved a better draw. We arrived a little late due to our coach breaking down. But this event proved that we can produce some very efficient Traffic Cops if needs be; though their hand signals were slightly unorthodox on occasions. After the show most of

the veterans of our London days went to ground. The blue pencil of the censor prevents a detailed account.

In closing we wish to say farewell to our much disputed Snooker Champion, Sergeant Wagstaff, who has left us to take up his abode at Catterick.

Our congratulations go to Staff Sergeant Smith on a well deserved B.E.M. in the Birthday Honours List.

2 Squadron. The Queen's Birthday Parade on the 13th June will long stand out in our memories—as being the largest turnout in Squadron history, if not for the precision of the drill.

This month has seen the departure of Royal Marine Sergeant Price after years of apparently very enjoyable shore service with H.M.S. Orolith.

Cricket practice has commenced for the annual battle with Bampton, but if some of the batting exhibitions we have witnessed on our erratic wicket are any guide, our opponents need not worry unduly. If we become accustomed to this wicket the prevailing feature of our game will be self-defence.

3 Squadron. Glorious June, and we at Bampton have certainly enjoyed it to the full. Bathing has been the order of the day and personnel have enjoyed the facilities of a small open air pool at Filkins. It is interesting to record that the late Sir Stafford Cripps was the benefactor who presented the pool to the village.

Great fun in the village over Whitsuntide and several teams from the Squadron entered for the now famous Bampton "Shirt Race"! This entails pushing a partner in a pram between some ten Public Houses. The drinking of beer is also necessary at each house. Need I add that teams from the Squadron were placed second and fourth.

New arrivals—we welcomed Captain R. E. Barber to this bachelor's paradise, also Captain W. H. Turney and his family. May their stay here be pleasant.

On the departure side we said farewell to Staff Sergeant Duffin to Civvy Street. We wish him and his family well.

4 Squadron. Two of our number are at the moment blazing a trail at Bisley, Lance-Corporal Gibbs and Signaller Harrison having been picked for the Regimental team.

Signaller Harrison has distinguished himself by winning the cup for the best individual rifle shoot at the Southern Command Royal Signals Meeting held recently at Bulford.

Our cricketers are coming into the open from hibernation and we think there may be some hidden talent in our midst.

Swimming is going well, with a weekly visit to the baths. The Squadron have been encouraged by the recent visit of the Corps Water Polo Team to Aldershot District. Some say that the reason for the Corps team's success on their tour was due to the nourishing steaks provided by 4 Squadron cookhouse.

24 INDEPENDENT INFANTRY BRIGADE SIGNAL TROOP

Since our last notes were printed we have been involved in a series of exercises culminating in a Northern Command Signal Exercise. The Brigade Headquarters has been training for "hot war" in addition to our normal I.S. training.

Everyone is now resigned to living in their steel helmets and well practised in (though not resigned to) digging protective trenches whenever we stop for more than five minutes.

In addition to Brigade Headquarters exercises we have had a number of Troop exercises which have taken us over most of Yorkshire and Durham.

We are now busy rehearsing for a demonstration that we are putting on at the beginning of August at a C.C.F. Camp. This entails setting up the signals element of the headquarters at top speed, but with the amount of practice we have had lately we are hoping to do without too many rehearsals.

This month we are hoping to visit some of the Cadet Force Signal Platoons we are responsible for advising, and towards the end of the month we are sending a party to classify cadets at a unit in Cumberland.

During the month, too, we shall be carrying out experiments with various types of V.H.F. sets for ground to air communications.

Our wireless operators with all the practice obtained from the past series of exercises should find no difficulty in this with the exception, of course, of a certain "Fred" who was caught trying to send morse over his 88 set — he'll have to go.

WAR OFFICE SIGNAL SQUADRON

Troop cricket matches have been progressing with a swing, even if the wicket has a marked tendency to crack down the middle; while the Squadron team has enjoyed varying success, ranging from a severe defeat at the hands of the R.A. Depot, Woolwich, in the first round of the London District Challenge Cup, to an equally crushing victory over the Griffin Athletic Club in Dulwich village.

Recently formed is the Squadron "Skiffle Group" under the leadership of Lance-Corporal Docherty. The Group seem already to have gained a notable success—on the strength of an audition on Sunday last the Group has been commissioned to perform at the Granada Cinema, Sutton, on Sunday, 28th July. It is believed that the majority of the Squadron will be there to support them.

10 WIRELESS TRAINING SQUADRON

The week-end 25/26th May saw the official opening and occupation of the first phase of a New Barracks named Garats Hay, now being constructed for the Squadron in the grounds of Beaumanor Park. The buildings have been especially designed to suit the establishment and training role of the Unit, and we are extremely lucky to be the first members of the Corps to be given this quite luxurious scale which sets the standard for the modern Army.

Those readers who have past memories of the "huts and double bunks" at old Garats Hay would be envious of the three storey blocks with their tiled floors, and plentiful supply of baths and showers, no stoking, central heating and comfortable rest rooms. Those that have queued for meals under the old conditions would be impressed with the double cafeteria dining room, and "cups breakfast earthenware large" in lieu of "mugs one pint."

The opening ceremony was performed by the Commander of North Midland District, and was attended by many of the local population and parents. It offered a suitable opportunity for Staff Sergeant J. Cassels to receive his British Empire Medal, and the added attraction of the Corps Band made the light sunny day a memorable occasion.

Other activities on the Saturday included a Garden Party and a Regimental Dance in the New Dining Hall, attended by about



Major R. J. Harvey, Commanding Officer, beside Garats Hay Barracks



Staff Sergeant J. Cassels receiving the B.E.M.

1,000 people. On Sunday the Band marched us to Woodhouse Eaves Church for the dedication of our local Association Branch Standard, and again blessed by good weather, we threw the place open to the general public in the afternoon and some 2,000 enjoyed the music of the Corps Light Orchestra and tea.

Past and present members who may be in the Midlands at any time are cordially invited to deviate to Old Woodhouse, and we shall be glad to show them these new buildings and so spread the good word that the future looks bright.



Junior Leaders' Regiment

PARENTS' DAY,

by Lance-Corporal J. G. Dadswell, "G" Troop

Long before Parents' Day dawned the camp was a hive of activity, with sleeping accommodation being prepared, dining rooms made ready, marquees pitched and weird looking structures erected, which afterwards turned out to be side-shows.

By the morning of Saturday, 29th June, the stage was set for Parents' Day. Preparations were made in order to welcome the parents, as well as helping with their luggage and taking them to their respective accommodations.

During the morning most of the boys conducted their parents around the "Spiders," training rooms, playing fields and various other places of interest. Tremendous efforts were made by the boys to draw inquisitive parents away from their own lockers and bed-spaces. More often than not these efforts were of no avail, so that many cries went up, "Why do you do this, that, or would it not be better to . . . ?" Consequently, many lockers were immediately padlocked, as mothers seemed more particular than the C.O. By the time an almost thorough inspection of the camp "Spiders" and outside areas had taken place, it was nearing the time for the Trooping of the Regimental Standard.

As the last of the spectators made their way towards the Parade Ground, boys proceeded to form up into respective guards. Soon the Band struck up and the boys marched on with great swank eager to go through their paces in front of such a distinguished audience. It was easy to pick out the old soldiers in the crowd, as they knew they had to stand

up when we presented arms. After marching past in slow and quick time in a temperature not far off the nineties, everyone was glad to leave the square behind.

Immediately after the parade everyone headed for the Globe Cinema in readiness for the Commanding Officer's address. In his address the Commanding Officer told the audience what sort of training the boys went through during their time here and that it was aimed at giving them self-confidence and making them into better citizens for later life.

Following the address the mass of civilians and Service personnel set off for the top sports field to witness an exhibition of P.T., which was a delight to watch. The boys looked immaculate in whites against the lush green turf and surrounding countryside. Afterwards the visitors wandered around the various stalls in search of some fun. These stalls ranged from knocking down images of our "favourite Warrant Officers" to a Fortune Teller's tent. I noticed that these shows were a wonderful success and credit is due to all who arranged them. I spotted many grown-ups happily sucking at orange ice lollies as they went on their rounds of the numerous stalls. Eventually the stalls closed down and the few who wanted to have a tea made their way to the NAAFI.

In the comparative coolness of the evening the Boys' Band paraded on the square to beat the Retreat. The Band gave a spirited display of marching and counter-marching plus many rousing tunes on the drums and trumpets. It was truly a creditable performance, bearing in mind that it was the second time they had been on the square on such a warm day. The whole programme lasted about an hour, then the parents and boys had the rest of the day together. Some went out for the rest of the evening, whilst others stayed in camp to watch a film show.

By eight o'clock most people had either left or were enjoying the pictures, while a few parents still wished to stroll around our camp. Gradually the day drew to a close. The pictures finished, beds were prepared, parents and sons bid one another goodnight and silence reigned supreme.

Looking back on the occasion, it was a happy and memorable day both for visitors and boys.



A Safari by Bus

By Signalman Wrenn

This article sent in by East Africa Command was unavoidably held over from the July number.

With two other G.H.Q. clerks, I boarded the Nairobi-Kampala bus at 2100 hrs. on Saturday, 30th March. The night journey passed uneventfully, apart from when an unfortunate dik-dik, a very small species of antelope, chose the wrong moment to cross the road and fell foul to the front wheels of the bus. Its sad fate was warmly greeted by the African passengers who promptly picked it up; no doubt it became the main course of the next day's meal.

On our arrival at Kisumu at 0630 hrs. on Sunday the inspiring view of Lake Victoria attracted us to its shores where we found ourselves wandering in a ship-repairing yard where we were allowed to stroll unmolested.

Aboard the bus once more we climbed the Nandi escarpment out of Kisumu and soon crossed the Equator into the Northern Hemisphere. At Jinja we crossed the huge Owens Falls Dam, which holds back the waters of the infant Nile, and our next stop was Kampala, the largest town in Uganda, at 1730 hrs. where we slept on the station in our sleeping bags. Next morning we continued on our way, travelling down to the South West corner of Uganda through a very large game reserve which apparently had no name. Mbarrara was the next town and its gleaming Arab type towers made a picturesque scene. We spent

the day exploring the local terrain and found a raging mountain torrent complete with five beautiful waterfalls. Here, too, saw our first herd of game, giant eland, Thompsons gazelle and impala.

On Monday we were on a bus once more and travelled up an escarpment which rises from about 3,000 feet to over 5,000 feet in five miles of tortuous twists and turns with an ever increasing precipitous drop on one side. Near the top the view was breath-taking, a seemingly endless panorama of forest and hills with an extinct volcano thrusting its jagged peak into the cloudless skies. To our left lay Lake Edward and further on were the dark jungles of the Belgian Congo. Due to the fact that the bus was crowded we were unable to use our cameras. When we at last reached the summit the bus stopped and the radiator boiled over with explosive fury, scalding water and steam splattered through the open windows. I moved to close them and that did it! The African passengers mistook my move for a dash to safety and with one unholy scream they made for the door. In the wild stampede the weaker and slower ones were trampled to the floor and stamped upon by the remainder's horny feet. We took advantage of the confusion to run back down the road to photograph the scenery. When we got back we were surprised to find that there had been no injuries other than minor cuts and bruises, the thing that caused the natives their greatest consternation was the fact that most of them had had their clothes ripped and torn in the panic.

We finally arrived at Kasinde in the Congo and on the shores of Lake Edward where I mistook hippos for rock in the water but a view of flashing tusks soon dispelled that illusion! We had been told that there were 150 hippos per mile of shore but I gave up trying to prove or disprove that statement after reaching 67 in about half a mile. The shores were also littered with crocodiles, it struck us as hardly being the right place for a swim! During the remainder of the journey to Kasese in Uganda we had the doubtful pleasure of experiencing the renowned monsoon. The bus floated rather than drove and several times we almost capsized. At Kasese we saw the new Kilimba Copper mines—and elephant! From Kasese we travelled along the new Uganda-Belgian Congo road which was in a state of chaos due to the heavy rains. The bus got stuck twice and each time we managed to push it clear, but it finally balked at a hill whose surface was so slippery as to be comparable with Cresta; we had to walk the final two miles into Mbuko, our starting point for the climb of the Ruwenzori Mountains.

After spending the night in an African hotel we started up the mountains, but were informed by an African (who spoke English with an Oxford accent!) that we would have to have a guide. He found us a guide for whom we had to provide a blanket and food and a cooking pot. The guide then led us through a swamp in which the grass was over 8ft. tall, through a banana plantation, up a steep hill and then allowed us to rest for five minutes. Moving on, we came upon a cluster of native huts, the inhabitants of which refused to show themselves. After that the trail was one long series of ups and downs through elephant grass and bamboo thickets. On all sides there were masses of beautiful flowers and huge butterflies fluttered from blossom to blossom. In the surrounding tree-tops scores of monkeys screamed and chattered defiantly, and underfoot six-inch millipedes scuttled across our path. A crowd of eight tribeswomen took one look at us and ran away screaming. Did we look as bad as that? That night we slept in a hut hastily erected for us by the chieftain of a small village, who seemed pleased to see us; he wouldn't accept any of our food but was delighted with the empty tin cans we left after our meal!

We set off into the jungle again the next morning and soon heard elephants crashing their way through the undergrowth on our right so we struck off in that direction and followed their trail up the mountain as it saved us the labour and time of hacking our own path. In one spell of 100 yards six large pythons slithered across our path. They only looked scared—we really were! We once came within 20 yards of

four elephants which were feeding on the banks of a stream but the guide said that they were too close for safety and hurried us away. We saw large numbers of orchids, delicate pinks with deep purple centres, and even saw some of the rare colobus monkeys, whose black and white skins fetch such high prices.

That afternoon we started climbing in earnest, up and up our guide took us and we gradually left the larger trees behind. Eventually there were no trees at all, only the prehistoric-looking catus and the giant groundsel, some of which were about 40ft. high. Later that afternoon we reached the valley immediately below the main peaks; they were a glorious sight, steep snow-covered towers wreathed with gossamer clouds. That night we slept in the second hut at 11,000ft. Although we were only 50 miles north of the Equator it was freezing cold. The following morning we reached the snow and the hard climbing began up to Stormans Pass, we donned dark glasses to protect our eyes from the glare of the snow. We eventually reached the Pass, which is in between the two peaks, Maurgharit (16,794ft.) and Baker. Mr. Storman, after whom this peak is named, apparently left a bottle here and since then it has become the custom for all climbers of the peak to leave one. I think that we can honestly say, however, that ours was the first coca-cola bottle.

To our bitter disappointment we had not the time left to attempt the actual ascent of the peak because we were already pushed for time to catch our bus. To miss it would have meant arriving back at our Unit at least four days late. We managed to overcome the temptation!

We caught our bus at 1100 hrs. the following day, but our departure was held up because some Ankole cattle strayed across the road. These cattle have immense horns, some of them measuring six feet from tip to tip. We reached Fort Portal at 1600 hrs. and were surprised and delighted at its cleanliness and modern buildings.

As there were no buses the next day, being Sunday, we "thumbed" our way to the town of Bundibugayo on the Congo Border and "round the back" of the Ruwenzoris. Later that day we met some pygmies. They had light brown skin and not one of them was over 4ft. tall. One of the old ones apparently thought he was a bird because he kept whistling and squeaking and flapping his arms, all the while hopping up and down. A large number of them carried small bows and arrows while two had blow-pipes. I tried to buy one of these but they didn't appear to be interested in money.

The driver of a very ancient lorry gave us a lift. He stopped at one point of the road to show us the hot soda springs which bubbled out of the earth. I did not think that it was very hot, but I found out the hard way when I put my hand in and got scalded!

At 0700 hrs. the next day we caught the bus to Masinde Town. We attempted sleeping under a tree that night, but a rainstorm soon made us move, and it was three very damp travellers who caught the bus to Masinde Harbour in the morning. We boarded the Nile and Lake Kejaya steamer at 1000 hrs., and what a boat it was. It had a big paddle at the stern, a tall smoke stack and a flat bottom. It looked like an old Mississippi showboat, but our genial Captain assured us that it wasn't. As we were the only Europeans aboard we had our meals with the Captain. The scenery grew monotonous after a while but the strange and rare birds held our interest. We saw the brown flamingoes, black diving birds, savage fish eagles, beautiful snowy egrets, and pelicans with huge wings that skimmed the surface of the water as they flew around the boat. During the night a very bad storm blew up. The rain was driven horizontally by the screaming wind. Eventually it became so rough that we had to heave-to. Then the lightning came, in different colours, of all things! It ranged from brilliant white to pink and purple. After a while, however, we managed to get to sleep and on awakening we found that the boat was about to enter Namasagali, where we were to catch a train to Nairobi for the last part of our journey.



Antarctic Journey

By Sergeant C. F. Le Feuvre, Royal Signals

On November 22nd, 1955, the 541-ton Arctic sealer, *m.v. Tottan*, sailed from Southampton carrying the Royal Society's advance party of 10 men, who were to establish a base in the Weddell Sea south of Lat. 75 in readiness for the International Geophysical Year.

The advance party consisted of:—

D. Dalgliesh, Surgeon Lieutenant Commander, R.N., Leader.
G. E. Watson, Major, R.E.M.E., Second-in-Command and chief scientific officer.
Dr. Stanly Evans, Radio astronomer from Jodrell Bank, Experimental Station, Manchester University.
D. W. S. Lambert, Met. Officer.
G. R. Lush, Lieutenant, R.N., general handyman and tractor driver.
K. E. C. Powell, in charge of diesel generators and tractors.
J. E. Raymond, Chief carpenter.
D. R. Prior, Second carpenter.
R. Dalgliesh, Tractor driver.
C. F. Le Feuvre, Sergeant, Royal Signals, Radio operator.

Going through the "Bay" John Raymond, our chief carpenter, slipped and injured his wrist. It was therefore decided to put into Las Palmas and get an X-ray. Raymond's wrist was found to be broken and was in plaster until we reached South Georgia.

Crossing the line was carried out with all the usual ceremonies. Half the party, including myself, not having crossed before were well and truly initiated by King Neptune (Lieutenant George Lush).

At first light on 15th December, 1955, we arrived at Rio de Janeiro for bunkering. We all made the best of our 36-hour stay as this was to be our last sight of real civilisation for over a year. Our next and last stop was the whaling station at South Georgia, where we arrived on Christmas morning. We took on final fuel and sailed on Boxing Day. Two days later we entered the pack ice, slowly breaking through looking for leads of open water. While in the ice the *Tottan* was commanded from the crow's nest by the Captain or one of the mates.

We landed at a number of places along the Caird Coast of the Weddell Sea, but found that they were unsuitable to build our hut upon. On 5th January, 1956, we were held up by very heavy pack ice. This was our most southerly position, 76.37 south 28.40 west. We turned north and eventually found a small bay (later named Halley Bay after



Most of the trusses and framework up, with the one end finished where we were living



The hut almost buried by drift, taken just after winter had finished. Aerial tower on left and Union Jack in foreground

astronomer Edmond Halley) which had an excellent slope up on to the shelf ice between the 90-ft. cliffs.

The hut site was set up about 2 miles from the top of the slope, but there was still 1½ miles of sea ice from the slope to the *Tottan*. It was now we all started work in earnest, unloading the 220 tons of stores. This proved a slow and arduous job as the surface was soft and the three tractors, although they had tracks on, kept bogging in. At this time of year the sun never sets, so we decided to work during what should have been night when the temperature was lower and the surface was harder. Our tractors could still only pull 1½ tons on these surfaces. A dump site was then made at the foot of the slope, where everything was sorted out ready for the final lift to the hut site.

On January 22nd, 1956, the *Tottan* sailed—our last live link with the outside world now gone for nearly a year. We now moved into our two-man tents; my tent companion being Lieutenant George Lush, R.N. We both took turns to cut snow for making water, and cooking on our primus. Our food at this time consisted of sledging rations. Breakfast was a large plate of porridge washed down with cocoa. Lunch was hard tack biscuits plastered with butter and Marmite followed by cocoa or Nescafe. The main meal when we finished work was pemmican flavoured with pea flour, dried onions and potato powder, then a large mug of "char."

We were all working 16 hours a day to get the main shell of the hut up before the bad weather started. By 14th February, 1956, we had the lower grillage and floor laid and five trusses up at one end. As this contained the kitchen, bunkroom, and part of the sittingroom, we decided to partly complete this end so that we could start eating properly cooked meals and sleep in proper bunks. Each man did a week's cooking, and on the whole the cooking was very good especially the bread-making. This was the first, and probably the last, time I have been able to tell a Major what I think of his cooking.

By Easter we had completed the outside of the hut, which meant we could relax a little and not work such long hours. Two days after we had finished the outside we had our first real gale which drifted the hut right up, and made us realise how lucky we were.

At the end of February, 1956, Major Watson and myself had installed the main transmitter (an ET 4336, 350 watt) and an Eddystone 750 receiver in the part of the sittingroom next to the kitchen. We now kept almost daily contacts with Port Stanley in the Falkland Islands, some 2,000 miles away. The best time of the day was found to be 1330 hrs. GMT and the best frequency for most of the year was 17400 Kcs. In the middle of March, 1956, we started voice recording tests with the B.B.C. in London. After these tests were successful we had monthly talks with the B.B.C. We also did Morse tests with the G.P.O. in London to find the best times and frequencies to pass traffic direct to London during the I.G.Y. In July, 1956, we carried out tests with the

Russian Antarctic base at Mirney, about 1,500 miles away. These proved quite successful and regular schedules were arranged.

As the hut was situated on over 1,000 feet of solid snow and ice we had no real earth. Consequently the TX and RX were both very much alive with RF due to voltage nodes of standing waves present when the TX was fed into a non-harmonic antennae or into an unbalanced feeder line.

The range of frequencies which we had to cover prevented us from using cut aerials and only a long wire was used, except when working the B.B.C. and G.P.O., when a two-element YAGI was constructed for 20450 Kcs. with the active half-wave element fed with 600 Ohm open wire feeder matched by means of a Delta termination. This antennae was, however, blown down later in a gale. A three-element fixed bearing YAGI was then erected on bamboo poles very close to the snow. It consisted of a half-wave folded Dipole centre fed by 75 Ohm coaxial with two elements positioned .1 wavelengths in front of the active element to give maximum radiation towards London.

During winter (June-July) conditions were at their worst. Reception sometimes being impossible for two or three days. When summer (December-January) came conditions were very good except for sun spot activity when we had complete fade-outs, sometimes lasting one or two days.

Until the bathroom was completed in May, 1956, no-one was able to wash or shave. We also dug the haircutting equipment out from under the nine-foot snow drift, and we had our first bath, shave and haircut for nearly six months. It's a good job my R.S.M. did not see me!

We had a very good library, and very few books were left unread by the end of the year. Being a keen photographer, I was put in charge of the darkroom, where we managed to print most of our photos, even though we had some very rapid changes of temperature.

We had very little life at Halley Bay except for some 15,000 Emperor Penguins and a few seals, plus a few Killer whales in summer. As our base was a static base, with no sledging, we only had one husky as a pet. He must have been the most spoilt husky in the world and could eat chocolate faster than we could.

During the winter the B.B.C. put on a special programme every two weeks for us, when we were able to hear our parents pass greetings and news to us, and also hear our record requests played.

On 4th January, 1956, the *Magga Dan* and *Tottan* arrived with our relief and first mail for 14 months. After helping to unload the 500 tons of stores and bidding farewell to Colonel Smart, R.A.M.C., and the rest of the main party we sailed for home. Our first sight of land was the whaling base at South Georgia. Next came Montevideo which we painted a very bright red. Madeira was our next stop, then on 14th March, 1957, we sailed up the Thames, receiving a wonderful welcome all the way up until we reached Tower Bridge, and once more set foot on good old Blighty.

More Nacerby . . . Laugh and be merry

The reluctant call-up faced the Army oculist who asked him to read a chart.

"What chart?" asked the youth. The Doctor persevered, "Just sit down in that chair and I'll show you."

"What chair," asked the youth. Deferred because of bad eyesight, the lad went to the local cinema. When the lights came on, he was horrified to discover the oculist in the next seat.

"Excuse me," said the youth as calmly as he could, "does this 'bus go to Darlington?"

GERMANY

18 ARMY GROUP SIGNAL REGIMENT

We would like to acknowledge the reference made to us by the Royal Signals Wing in their June WIRE notes. It is a particularly graceful compliment to be mentioned in such a context. We wonder at the apparent inclusion of a member of the R.A.Ch.D. in the Wing hockey team, though. Does this perhaps indicate an interest by the Department in, say, tropospheric scatter, or possibly in an extension of the most legitimate uses of the Norwegian skyhook? Whatever his activities, however, we wish Canon Briggs all success.

It is possibly well known by now that our Regimental Mascot is a Bear, represented by a stone "Bruno" standing on a plinth in the barracks. Faces and times change, but not Bruno. He goes on peering through the gloom, remonstrating "Katrina" every time she forgets herself and belches a dirty black cloud. Some time ago now, Bruno's lower rear part changed colour overnight. Some revellers disguised him as a baboon! Despite a great deal of scrubbing, washing and scraping, part of the disguise remains. It is fortunate that Bruno is made from stone, because he then avoids the mortification of turning round and seeing what goes on, or rather, just what won't come off.

Bruno also appears in most of our sports team photographs—front view, of course! This month we have competed in two athletic competitions. Firstly, the Rhine District Individual Competition, where we had several entries who performed well (Lance-Corporal Drayton qualified for a trip to Berlin). Secondly, we came third in the Rhine District team competition. Prior to these activities we held our own Regimental Athletics Meeting in a German stadium just outside the Barracks. After a very well-run day (R.S.M. Boyton always seems able to command the presence of the sun on these occasions), 2 Squadron not only emerged but stood out as the winners. Amongst the many prizes presented by Mrs. Llewellyn, our Commanding Officer's wife, was a crate of beer to the winning tug-of-war team.

The annual Officers' v. Sergeants' Mess cricket match took place under tropical conditions and after two innings the Officers won by seven runs. (Since the next England Test team has already been selected, we will not publish the names of the players). Later in the evening there was a dance in the Sergeants' Mess and the day thus ended on a convivial note.

In the last few days we had said "goodbye" to our Second-in-Command, Major Swallow (to War Office as G.S.O.1) and Major Williamson, Royal Australian Signals (to down under). We wish them both good fortune as they go to the opposite sides of the world and we congratulate Major Swallow on his promotion to Lieutenant-Colonel.

STOP PRESS

Our congratulations to Corporal and Mrs. Warren, one of whose daughters—Elisabeth—was the winner of Class "C" (18 months to three years) in yesterday's Baby Show, which was organised by the ladies of our Clinic. Also to Sergeant and Mrs. Gwynne, whose daughter Angela Joy was, appropriately, awarded the prize for the happiest baby in the show. Our thanks go to the judges—Mrs. Kelleher, whose husband is A.D.M.S. 2 Infantry Division, and Mrs. Burke, whose husband commands 2 L. of C. Signal Regiment. The winners of Classes "A" and "B" were members of 14 Field Ambulance, who occupy a corner of our Barracks.

19 ARMY GROUP SIGNAL REGIMENT

Here, in H.Q., Northern Army Group, the beginning of the month saw the annual Inter-Squadron Athletic Meeting and the Regimental Fun Fair and Fete. The former held not only to show the Regiment what hidden talent, and budding record breakers we possessed, but primarily to assist in the selection of the Regimental athletic team.

1 Squadron, with remembrances to those members of 18 Army Group Signal Regiment who so ably gave their Regiment victory in the Morrison Cup meeting last year, were winners, well ahead with a 20-point lead over joint 3 and H.Q. Squadrons, who narrowly beat 2 Squadron for second place.

Thus, having seen what we could—or could not—do, Second-Lieutenant Bushell carried on with the task of training a Regimental side in readiness for the Rhine District Inter-Unit Meeting at Ayrshire Barracks. In this, finishing fourth out of seven teams, being beaten by both 1 Wireless Regiment and 18 Army Group Signal Regiment, we can only say that with recent reinforcements and arduous training we hope to do much better in the B.A.O.R. Royal Signals meeting later in the summer.

After many last minute preparations against inclement weather, the day of the Regimental Fun Fair dawned bright and clear and, in an ideal setting amongst the wooded area behind R.H.Q. all the customary sideshows and stalls of the fair—not forgetting Emmett's train, that masterpiece of the L.A.D., which chugged its staccato and nervy way around the adjacent sports field—became the focal point of attraction for the Headquarters.

With the R.H.Q. block used as an operation centre by the Committee and as a collection point for waiting and straying children, everything went off with smooth efficiency until, at the end of the afternoon, the results of the raffle were announced; it is stated that much merriment was heard at the news that Lieutenants Fry and Sykes had respectively won a pair of nylons and guessed the name of a large and fluffy Teddy bear; no further comment is available.

To all those many people who planned such a well organised show, not to mention the many voluntary helpers who assisted in its smooth running, may we give a hearty vote of thanks for all they did.

On the subject of sport, mention must be made of the Unit representatives of the Royal Signals rifle team at present at Bisley; these are R.S.M. Holdsworth, Staff Sergeant Copestake, Sergeant Seaman and Corporal Hill; their success in the Royal Signals B.A.O.R. meeting in May was singular; they won Matches 1 and 2 and were runners-up in Match 3. Individual results:

Match 1	2nd in Class "A"	R.S.M. Holdsworth.
2	3rd in Class "B"	Corporal Hill.
3	1st in Class "B"	Corporal Hill.
	2nd in Class "A"	Lieutenant Willingale.

To conclude, five members of our rifle team were in the first 16 from a total of 103 competitors.

The Unit motor cycle "A" team, comprising W.O.II Jones, Staff Sergeant Freeman and Sergeant Isaaman, was most successful in the Trials held at Munster at the end of May. The course, consisting of road and cross-country sections, was not an easy one, and they were placed third in the final placings.

Having exhausted most of the topical news, greetings and farewells must be given or bade to those who have joined or left us recently. More notable amongst the latter was Major Hamilton, our Chief Traffic Officer and "oldest soldier" who, much to his agreeable surprise, is now en route to Singapore. To him, and Major Line, who has returned to Ministry of Supply, Captains Davis and Beadle, and Lieutenant Watson to Catterick, Second-Lieutenant Bennett to civilian life, Staff Sergeant Francis, Sergeants Booker, Cairns, Pearsall, Cotton, Douglas and Sharpe (A.C.C.), all on posting, we wish the best of luck.

As usual, our credit side is far outweighed by the debit but, nevertheless, we welcome Major Gaskell, Captain Hickman, M.B.E., Lieutenants Borland and Goodwin, W.O.II Edwards, Pooley and Derham, Sergeants Blake and Collett, B.E.M. (A.C.C.) to the fold and trust that their stay is a pleasant one.

Our congratulatory list is probably too long to be given space but to all those who are now enjoying marital bliss, with a special mention to the two Corporals Mortimer, or who are now the proud and wakeful parents of further offspring, our congratulations and best wishes. Lastly, a "well done" to Sergeant Petit, Corporals Wheeler, Jones, Skill, Cooney and Will on their attainment of the next rung of the ladder.

Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. This past month we have endeavoured to integrate the two Messes at Rheindahlen and St. Tonis. One of the closest ties in life is marriage and, Army life being a gypsy life, we attempted a gypsy marriage. However, we balked at the mixing of blood, so as a compromise it was suggested that we mix our drinks. This turned out well, or not so well, according to personal feelings on the following morning. Suffice it to say that the vast numbers congregated in the Mess at St. Tonis on that memorable evening of the 14th of May well and truly "warmed" that same Mess.

On Thursday, 16th May, the Mess at Rheindahlen invited all Officers of the Regiment to a games' evening. St. Tonis Sergeants' Mess were invited to help out. Our shame at losing the "Boat Race" to the Corporals' Mess in February was banished as we routed the Officers completely. The R.S.M., last member of the team to drink, was able to enjoy his beer in peace and comfort.

2 Army Signal Park Troop

It is a long time since this Unit was mentioned in THE WIRE, so it will be just as well to let you know all about us.

Since January we have had so many postings that the Troop is now under "entirely new management."

Major (Q.M.) H. G. Stickley has left us after six years as O.C. and now is trying his luck in civilian life. We all wish him the best of luck and hope to see him again sometime.

Major (Q.M.) L. J. Boshier has now taken over the reins of O.C.

16 Construction Troop of 19 Army Group Signal Regiment, who have been attached to us, have now left for duties with their own Regiment. We are extremely sorry to lose them and would like to thank them for all their help, in work and in sport.

Sports

The Troop has quite an impressive record in sport and in the season just past won the 19 Army Group Signal Regiment Inter-Troop Soccer Cup with the aid of 16 Construction Troop.

The Troop itself provided four members of the Regimental team for 19 Army Group Signal Regiment.

We hope to carry on the good work during the cricket season and retain the cup won last year.

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1 CORPS SIGNAL REGIMENT

The main event during the period under review was the farewell visit of Major-General R. J. Moberly, C.B., O.B.E.

The General, who was accompanied by Brigadier C. Nettleship, O.B.E., T.D., spent the morning looking at troop training, meeting the W.O.s and Sergeants, having coffee with the Junior N.C.O.s, and finally lunching with the Officers and their ladies. We enjoyed his visit and would like to add our congratulations on, and best wishes for, his new appointment.

The Regiment will spend the month of June on exercises, the first one starts tomorrow, the rain started today.

Our cricket team improves with each match; there is plenty of enthusiasm, and we feel sure we can give most unit teams a good game. In the first round of the B.A.O.R. Signals Cup we scored 194 for 9 declared against 11 Air Formation Signals, but some tenacious batting resulted in darkness falling before we could get them out, so we must start again.

Included in the Officers' and Sergeants' match was a tea party for the ladies. The weather was kind and we had a most enjoyable afternoon. The game was of surprisingly high standard, over 300 runs being scored. The Officers batted first and scored a hundred and eighty-two. One Officer who hit two sixes into the area of the tea tent might have expected some applause; instead the spectators suggested with some firmness that if he must hit sixes would he hit them somewhere else as he was upsetting the talking and knitting.

With so large a total the officers took the field with confidence, but when the Sergeants' score reached 100 for 1 wicket it was fast disappearing. However, it returned again when the Sergeants were 158 for 9 and all seemed set for an officers' win. Sergeant Wise had other ideas and hit two sixes and three fours in successive balls to bring the scores level, but the vision of all the beer he was going to be bought was too much for him, and his last big hit resulted in his being bowled, a most exciting finish, so much so that during the last few overs the bar tent was empty. Could this be a record?

6 ARMoured DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

Our motor cycle teams covered themselves in glory during the 6 Armoured Division Motor Cycle Trials. Fifty-four teams entered; our three teams were placed first, second and sixth. Corporal Cook won the Flexibility Test, Sergeant Durrant (R.E.M.E.) and Corporal Meredith came second and third respectively in the Open Championship. The teams came back loaded with pots and mighty pleased with themselves. We are shortly to enter championships organised by other formations, at which we have high hopes of collecting further plate.

We have been not unsuccessful at shooting. In the Royal Signals B.A.O.R. Meeting we came third in the team event, Lance-Corporal Meredith winning the prize for the champion Class "C" shot. In the .22 field we have won the shooting stage for the Morrison Cup.

At cricket we have started badly, winning one and losing two. In the Royal Signals B.A.O.R. championships we were soundly beaten by a very good side from 4 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, to whom we wish all good fortune in their forthcoming matches.

The W.V.S. organised a trip for some 30 of our men to Amsterdam over the Whit week-end. It was enjoyed by everyone and we are most grateful to Miss Oliver for her splendid organisation.

We welcome R.S.M. Davies from 14 Army Signal Regiment. We hope that he and his wife will have a pleasant stay. Our best wishes go to R.S.M. R. Rose and his family on their departure to U.K.

Lastly, we heartily congratulate Staff Sergeant E. Byrne on his award of the B.E.M. in the Birthday Honours List. No award could have been more popular in the Unit. He has recently left us en route for Cyprus: to him and his family we say "Bon voyage and God speed."

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7 ARMoured DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

For the first time for some years there has not been a full programme of Divisional Exercises and during this first half of the summer it has been possible for most Squadrons to get down to some valuable Troop training. Indeed we have even had two private Regimental Exercises without the staff to bother us, so that a great deal of detailed research and sorting out has been possible.

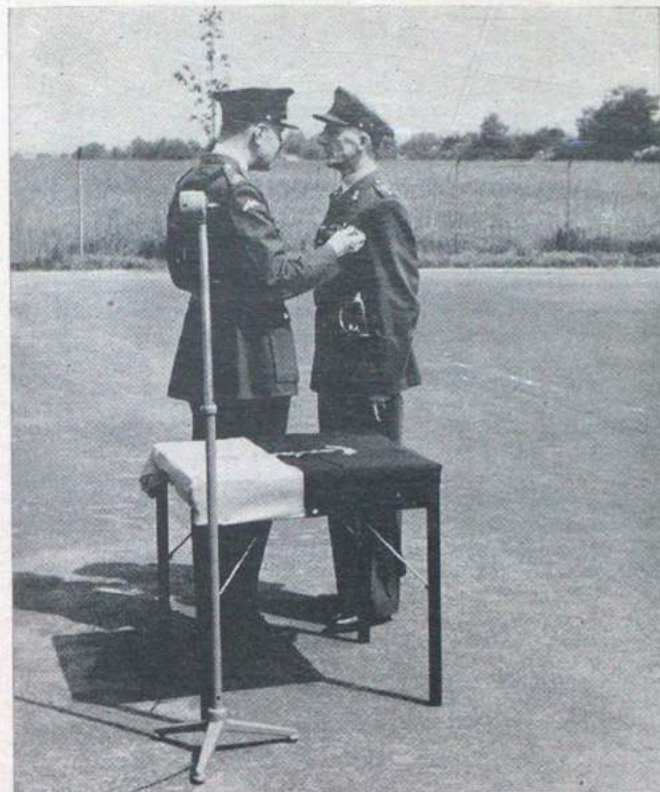
We were delighted and honoured with a farewell visit by Major-General R. J. Moberly, C.B., O.B.E., C.S.O., B.A.O.R., on 5th/6th June and instead of the usual parade gave a demonstration of the charging problem at Divisional Headquarters and Troop Training Competitions by "A" and "B" Troops.

We held our Regimental Day on 19th June (a Corps Exercise and various other contingencies prevented us from holding it on Tunis Day itself) and an excellent time was had by all. Brigadier C. Nettleship, O.B.E., T.D., C.S.O. 1 (U.K.) Corps, who was C.R. Signals, 7th Armoured Division, 1951-1954, took the salute at a Regimental parade in the morning. The Divisional Commander, Major-General J. W. Hackett, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., also honoured us by joining the Officers and their ladies in the Officers' Mess before lunch.

During the afternoon there was a comprehensive Inter-Squadron competition, which included athletics, hockey, basketball and tennis. 21 Independent Infantry Brigade Group Signal Squadron also joined us for the afternoon as visiting competitors. C.S.O. 1 Corps and C.R. Signals were both sabotaged by the handicapper and the old soldiers' race was won by Lieutenant Truscott (the Q.M. and O.C. 5 Squadron!)—but winner and losers all got their beer. In the evening there were Regimental Guest Nights in the Officers' and Sergeants' Messes and a dinner and Band concert (rock and roll variety) for the Regiment at large. We noticed too that the Officers' wives, determined not to be left out, held a private Guest Night in C.R. Signals' house!

Many messages were received from ex-desert rats, including former Commanding Officers of the early days of the Regiment—Brigadiers "Mutt" Mathew and Henry Crawford—and from our Allied Regiment, the New Zealand Division Signal Regiment.

Since then we have had a full programme of work and play and in addition to normal Troop training have completed Range Courses and Fitness Tests.



Major-General R. J. Moberly, C.B., O.B.E., presenting the Meritorious Service Medal to Captain G. E. Homer

2 L. OF C. SIGNAL REGIMENT

Track suits and white flannels have been almost as much in evidence as khaki this month, the fine weather having made a timely appearance to aid the cricket and athletic teams and tennis enthusiasts. Upgrading courses have also kept busy the military training personnel, and Despatch Riders have been roaring in and out of camp in practice for the coming "trials."

Highlight of the month, however, was the farewell parade in honour of the Chief Signal Officer, Major-General R. J. Moberly, C.B., O.B.E. He inspected a Guard of Honour commanded by the Adjutant, Capt. C. J. Gilbert, before taking the salute at a march past of the Regiment, and presented the Meritorious Service Medal to Captain G. E. Homer. One comment which the General passed, in which members of the Guard of Honour (representatives of all four squadrons) may take pride, was that in all his experience, including many years with the Parachute Regiment, he had never seen berets worn so correctly. At the conclusion of the parade General Moberly chatted with the wives of members of the Regiment over a cup of coffee and after lunch at the Officers' Mess, departed to make his farewell to other Signal Units.

We take this opportunity of wishing General Moberly every success in his new appointment as Signal Officer-in-Chief. We also tender our heartiest congratulations on his being appointed a Companion of the Order of the Bath in the Birthday Honours list.

Squadron representatives also came to Dusseldorf for the Rhine District inter-unit athletic championships. Although we had no spectacular success, there is the hope that we have found the nucleus of a good team for the B.A.O.R. Signals athletic meeting.

In contrast to the first few matches of the season, when rain saved the side on more than one occasion, the cricket team was robbed of its first win at Cologne. The heavens opened when we were handily placed only 30 runs behind with seven wickets in hand. Bill Crozier, the B.F.N. disc jockey, emphatically denies that he has imposed an embargo on requests from 2 L. of C. simply because he got a "duck"! We made a hasty departure from this year's B.A.O.R. Signals Cup competition—in contrast to last season when we reached the final—losing to 2 Infantry Division Signals by a narrow time margin. Richardson's 46 pulled the team round from a shaky start in this match to enable us to pass the hundred mark, but 2 Division's hard-hitting opening pair put them on the road to success before they were separated.

5 AGRA (AA) SIGNAL SQUADRON

In this Squadron we believe in making our contribution to THE WIRE when we've got something to write about. Recently we seem to have hit the Jack Pot. In the "Birth" column we recorded the addition of six infants to our strength. And in case you imagine we do not do anything else—read on! In the cricketing sphere we have reached a semi-final of the Royal Signals B.A.O.R. Championship by beating 11 Air Formation Signal Regiment, a much fancied side. We are hoping to make an impression on our next opponents before release takes too big a toll on our strength. Our next achievement is in the air, where our senior subaltern (we have only two), Peter Goldney, has qualified for his Silver "C." For those of you who do not know what a Silver "C" means, it involves remaining airborne in a glider for five hours and covering a point-to-point distance of 50 kilometres.*

On land, in the air and now on water. Through the generosity of Commander-in-Chief, B.A.O.R., the Squadron has acquired a two-man collapsible canoe and our junior subaltern (the other one), Iwan Thomas, can be detected most week-ends making for the nearest stretch of water where he can exercise his powers of watermanship. Soon he hopes to be able to widen the scope of his explorations. Not to be outdone, our O.C., in his third Baltic Passage Race this year, has brought success to the Squadron by winning the AGRA/RAF two-day race for 30 square metres.* This was a sequel to the Royal Signals Passage Race in which the Squadron yacht was a close second to the boat sailed by the (B.A.O.R.) SX Branch team.

*An account of Gliding in Germany and of the AGRA/RAF two-day race are unavoidably held over until September.

1 WIRELESS REGIMENT

One of the most important events in the life of any Regiment is a change of Commanding Officer. At the beginning of May, Lieutenant-Colonel Jordan, M.B.E., took over from Lieutenant-Colonel Lonnnon, M.B.E. Lieutenant-Colonel Lonnnon, however, did not move very far away as he now commands our nearest Royal Signals neighbours, 19 Army Group Signal Regiment. We all wish him the very best of luck in his new command and we look forward to many sporting clashes in the future. To Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. Jordan we extend a very hearty welcome.

One of Mrs. Jordan's first duties in the near future will be to open our new cinema which the A.K.C. in their usual highly original manner have decided to call the "Globe." In our comparative isolation this last word in cinemas will be a great acquisition. We have not been without films but the seats in the present converted lecture room were designed not for comfort but to keep the students awake, and the film has to be a very good one indeed if the discomfort is to be forgotten.

We paraded in honour of the Queen's Birthday. One cannot say that we put on as good a show as the Guards, but then they have more time for practice. Shortly after, we said good-bye officially to General Moberly during a visit but no doubt we shall see him again in the future as S.O.-in-C.

At athletics we are being quite successful. Early in the season we won both the District and Signals B.A.O.R. Cross Country Competitions. The long distance runners later joined forces with others to form a very creditable Athletics team which, after some practice matches, succeeded in winning the Rhine District Competition. The team will now progress to the B.A.O.R. Competition where inevitably the opposition will be much more severe. We had some taste of this in a friendly match against the Coldstream Guards, who had little difficulty in beating us at most events. Since Signal units as a whole cannot spare so much time for training then perhaps our chances of success in the Signals B.A.O.R. Competition will not be so slender. The heat has been so great recently that one wonders how the athletes are able to train and perform at all.

The cricket team is doing well despite the loss of last year's Captain and star performer, Major Cattnach, who is now on his way back to Australia. Either our batsmen have improved or the opposition bowling has deteriorated, but some remarkable scores are being put up. For example, in a match last week Signalmen Clayton scored 101 and the innings was declared closed at 200 for 2.

There are two teams training hard for this year's Nijmegen March. In this heat to march thirty odd miles with packs is gruelling and all the more credit to those who stick it.

The Wives' Club continues to thrive. Recently, music recitals have been introduced into the fortnightly programmes but I am

told on good authority that the music only provides a background to some really good conversation. The Regimental Music Society provides entertainment for those who really want to listen and it is well attended by the highbrows. The Skiffle Group and the Dance Band, who have some very good performers, meet the taste of most of the remainder. For the very lowbrows who listen only to Rock 'n' Roll an enterprising German firm installed a juke box in the beer bar in the NAAFI. The machine did a thriving trade for a while. The noise with the knobs turned up had to be believed and it was difficult to escape hearing it in any part of the camp. However, some equally enterprising member of the Beer Bar Club discovered a method of operating the machine without the tedious and expensive operation of inserting a 50 Pfennig coin. The disgruntled owner has now removed the machine for "repairs" and I doubt if it will ever return. The beer bar has returned to its comparative calm and the serious business of drinking beer continues undisturbed, until closing time of course.

BERLIN SIGNAL SQUADRON

By a New Arrival

"You are posted to Berlin Signal Squadron." This news sets you wondering what is it going to be like in the divided city? You enquire around to find out details, but you are only told that it is the best station in B.A.O.R., with its cheap prices, good accommodation and good clubs, so you look forward to the day.

Then all of a sudden the time comes for the uprooting from one place and the long journey to another. The journey which we had dreaded turned out very interesting but rather tiring. Points of interest were the ride through the industrial Ruhr, changing to the countryside through the north of the Rhineland, and then on to Hanover to wile away a couple of hours whilst all documents are checked prior to the run through the Russian Zone.

The last part of the journey to Berlin is done at night, so if you are lucky, or have your family with you, you have a sleeping compartment, a little cubicle with bunks, heavily blacked out and very comfortable. The journey starts about 23.00 hours and the train rolls through the night towards Berlin. You awake in the morning just in time to catch a glimpse of the countryside before the train arrives at the rather gloomy station, then before you can collect your thoughts you are met by a member of your new Unit, who drives you to Bedford House (which is the families' hostel) for breakfast. During the morning you are shown to your quarter, which I must admit was nothing like the new "op build" quarter I had just left, but by the time you have everything straight and unpacked, things begin to look like home again.

Now comes the first milestone, the arrival at your new Unit. A car swiftly carries you to the Olympic Stadium,



BERLIN SIGNAL SQUADRON GUARD OF HONOUR

The Chief Signal Officer speaks to Corporal Carter. Also seen are, from left to right: Major Tyrrell-Gray, Captain Baker, Driver Johnson, Signalman Taylor and Signalman Wallace

which is the H.Q., Berlin (British Sector), without giving you time for sightseeing; you are shown into what is going to be your place of duty for some time, and you start to meet the different people who make up the Unit.

After a day or so you are told you are on duty (Easter Sunday in my case), so it is a chance to learn a few facts about the Unit:—The visit in March of the Chief Signal Officer, B.A.O.R., who came to spend a short time with the Unit; two very enjoyable All Ranks' dances held in the NAAFI Ballroom at Summit House; and on the work side, Brigade Exercises "Spring Handicap" "Monopod" and "Custodian."

Two things which seemed strange for a Signal Unit to participate in were the Brigade Marching and Shooting Competition and the Brigade Patrolling Competition. In the first, the Unit gained third place of the Minor Units, and in the latter we gained third place out of four, the other competitors being the Infantry Battalions in the Brigade.

First impressions of Berlin Signal Squadron are very good, especially the friendly spirit in which we were welcomed and helped to settle in and the excellent facilities for all kinds of sporting and social activities.

10 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT

The last two months have been busy. Hardy annuals such as Administrative and C.I.V. Inspections have combined with other more strenuous and pleasant activities to keep the Regiment on its toes. Colonel J. W. Gordon, CAFSO, 2 ATAF, was the Inspecting Officer on the Administrative Inspection and we were again lucky to have the services of 2 T.A.F. Band for the parade. They are now expert at playing "Begone Dull Care."

The Regimental rifle team is still keeping up its reputation as the most travelled group in the Regiment, having paid repeated visits to Bruggen and Arsbech ranges for practice and travelled further afield for competition shooting. A representative section of the team with its attendant butt party were handsomely entertained by an R.A.F. Unit stationed just outside Amsterdam at the beginning of the month. It is enough to say that the shooting was good (we won by 40 points), but Amsterdam was even better. On the return journey the team visited the Arnhem War Cemetery and Nijmegen. On 20th May the team travelled to Haltern to take part in the B.A.O.R. Royal Signals Rifle Meeting. Here it was proved that R.Q.M.S. Haydon's daily training run downs and pokey drill were of some value after all. The "A" team winning Match 3 and being runners-up in Match 2. Lance-Corporal Wilson was runner-up to the Individual Champion Shot and proved himself to be the best shot in Match 2 and runner-up in his class in Matches 1 and 3. R.Q.M.S. Haydon, Lance-Corporal Wilson and Signalman Chipping have been chosen for the Royal Signals' team from B.A.O.R. to compete in the Royal Signals Rifle Meeting at Bulford this month, where the whole of the Regimental team will also compete before going on to Bisley.

The Regimental athletic team competed in the Station Athletic Sports but unfortunately were placed fifth. Signalman Bryant and Sergeant Oates (R.A.E.C.), however, saved the honour of the Regiment by coming first and second in the pole vault and going on to be selected to represent the Station in 83 Group Athletics on 31st May. In the Rhine District team championships our lack of sprinters became apparent as the meeting progressed. With the field events and long distance results in the Regiment was lying well placed in the top half of the field—at one point early on it was actually leading. Signalman Stone was first home in both the mile and three miles on the same day with the temperature at 85. A very good effort.

The Station swimming pool is now open, adding considerably to the amenities of the camp and the temptations not to write the WIRE Notes. The Rhine river steamers have begun plying between here and Coblenz and the attractions of the villages on the rivers Rhine, Moselle and Ahr, are proving irresistible at week-ends.

But life is not all pleasure and the nearness of the Belgian Training Areas is giving the Line and Construction Troops a chance to exercise themselves and the ingenuity of their troop commanders.

Our marchers and swimmers are now preparing themselves for July's events—the Rhine District swimming and the Nijmegen marches.



Major-General R. J. Moberly, C.B., O.B.E., inspecting Guard of Honour with Lieutenant-Colonel Blower and Guard Commander Captain P. H. Ridlington; also in picture C.A.F.S.O. Colonel Gordon and Lieutenant J. E. Billingham

Major-General Moberly paid us a farewell visit in mid-June and during the short time he was able to stay with us inspected a Guard of Honour and toured our lines. To return to the advantages of serving in Signals in Germany here is a short account written by a member of M.T. Troop of a visit to the British Forces Network Studios in Cologne:

Visit to the British Forces Network Studios in Cologne

During the first week of the month 30 members of the Troop and their Officer visited British Forces Network's Broadcasting House in Cologne, where a pleasant afternoon was spent amongst all the mysteries of sound radio.

On arrival we were met by our two guides, one of whom was a regular announcer with the Network. To our surprise he told us not to worry if he suddenly dashed off every now and then because as he was on duty he would have to go on the air several times during our visit. With this thought in mind we began our tour by going into the record library.

To our eyes British Forces Network's recorded programme and musical material seemed limitless.

On every side there were rows and rows of neatly stacked records, each of which was indexed twice in an enormous filing cabinet. It was explained that the reason for the double filing system was so that a recording could be found by either the title of the music or the name of the artiste. At Christmas this method enabled "on the spot requests" to be played any time up to three minutes after the time of asking. Even if the record was dropped in the rush there was always its duplicate which could be used.

Although the library was fascinating, the studios proved of even greater interest. When one party tiptoed over the thick foam rubber they were greeted by the sound of a door slamming, of a regiment marching down a gravel path and a toilet flushing. Drivers O'Neil, Hurl and Ryan had been given the freedom of the sound effects room.

The now famous studio "D" was next on the list for visitation. From here the German side of Forces Two Way Family Favourites is originated. We were told the astounding fact that each week some 500 requests are received, out of which six have to be selected.

Great interest was shown in the next port of call, which was the control room, where we watched the B.B.C. being taken in and transmitted out over British Forces Network. In this room we learnt all the complications involved in transmitting, fading and cueing.

The climax of the visit arrived in the continuity studio when the announcer who was showing us around suddenly said "Excuse me a minute," sat down and began transmitting. As Driver Forbes summed it up, "We saw a real live announcer actually announcing."

In all we had a most pleasant afternoon which provided plenty of material for letters home and proved a pleasant change from our normal routine.



Colonel J. W. Gordon Inspects

11 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT

How can you be original in writing Notes about a month which has been largely occupied with an Annual Administrative Inspection and a C.I.V. Inspection? Just about every aspect of these events have been covered *ad nauseum* for decades by every Regiment which ever existed.

In other words, while we had fun (sic) we don't see why the reader in Cyprus, Singapore or Nairobi should be inflicted with our account of it.

As the official report of the A.A.I. has not yet been received we can't even tell you the result, but the two people most concerned, Colonel J. W. Gordon, C.A.F.S.O. (the inspecting officer) and the Commanding Officer parted on reasonably good terms after a week of travelling some 800 miles together, so chaps are considering breathing more easily.

In spite of all this, we consider that the cartoon produced by Signalman Corrieri is worth looking at. Rumours that the C.O. is now taking lessons are unfounded according to well-informed circles.

We take off a metaphorical hat to the N.S. Subaltern who, at the luncheon before the inspection of his Wing Troop had the nerve to deliver himself freely of his views on the subject of the Regular Army to all the assembled company, who were very interested. He thought A.A.I.s were rather a waste of time and especially Inter-Troop Competitions connected therewith.

His troop was the best in the Regiment and, of course, won the Inter-Troop Cup. We feel that a moral exists somewhere.

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12 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT

Major-General R. J. Moberly, C.B., O.B.E., C.S.O., H.Q., B.A.O.R., honoured us with a farewell visit on 12th June, 1957. He inspected a Guard of Honour provided by No. 1 Squadron, with Captain P. H. Massie in command. After addressing them he inspected and talked with our team of the Nijmegen marches who are training hard for the opening march on 23rd July, 1957. A visit to the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess followed and then lunch with the Officers of the Regiment. We are all extremely sorry to see Major-General Moberly leave B.A.O.R. and the best wishes of all members of the Regiment go with him.

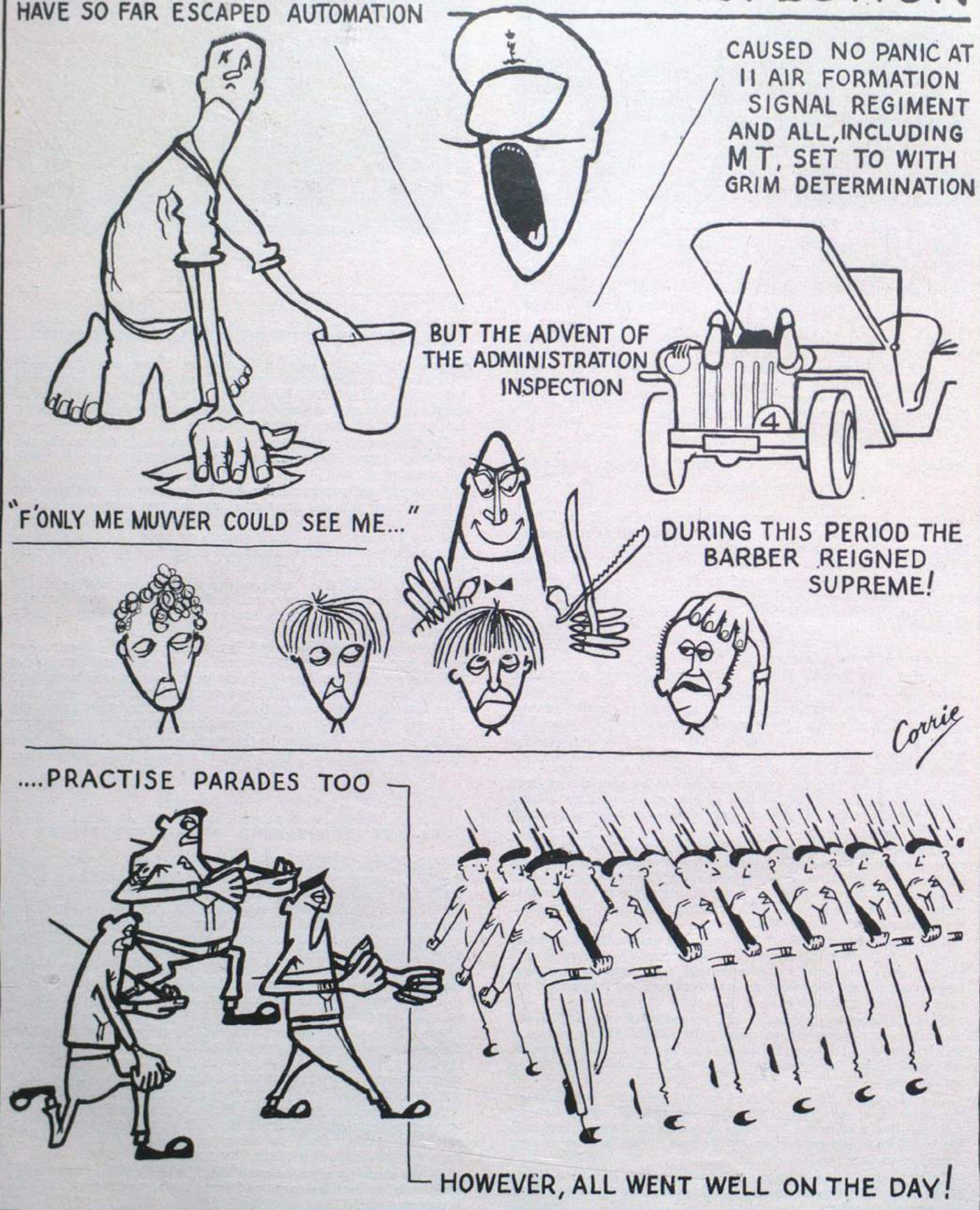
An efficiency competition between Wing Signal Troops of the Regiment has been inaugurated. The cup, presented by the Commanding Officer, was won by 20 Wing Signal Troop. We congratulate them on their achievement, from a very high standard set by all.

We say goodbye to Sergeant Butler from the Orderly Room, on posting to another Unit in B.A.O.R., and Sergeant Gundersen, who has left Goch on return to the U.K. We wish them both the best of luck in their new postings.

At the same time we welcome W.O.II (R.Q.M.S.) Forrest and his family to the Regiment and hope their stay with us will be a pleasant one.

EVEN IN THIS "PUSH-BUTTON" AGE
CERTAIN ASPECTS OF ARMY LIFE
HAVE SO FAR ESCAPED AUTOMATION

THE 'ADM' INSPECTION



SPECIAL SIGNAL TROOP

OPERATION "GRAPPLE"

Concluding an Account
by
Major P. E. Mott,
2 Special Signal Troop

Dear Editor,

It is now exactly 14.45 hours on 18th June, 1957, which is D-1 for the last H bomb test of Operation Grapple and I am airborne over Christmas Island in a Dakota on my way to Malden, 400 miles south of here, to witness what may be Britain's last megaton test.

It was extremely hot waiting to take off and Lieutenant-Colonel Dagg, a member of the Corps, who is part of the scientific staff, is sitting opposite me shirtless. No doubt when we are above 9,000 feet the temperature will drop and he will be reaching for his shirt.

As we taxied along the runway I could see two Valiants on the loading apron preparing for tomorrow—why two, I don't quite know.

On the aircraft dispersals I can count three more Valiants, twelve Canberras, six Shackletons, two Hastings and two Dakotas; all with ground crews busy preparing for tonight and tomorrow. I say tonight and tomorrow because the air search, which ensures the area is clear of shipping usually starts before midnight on these tests, the Shackletons remaining up for about 14 hours.

As I continue this letter we are flying out over the Bay of Wrecks—a most aptly named part of the Island, for the shore is strewn with wreckage of ships which have foundered in the past. Looking down I can see a dead straight scar of a cable route running across the Island. This scar is a creditable monument to S.S.M. Coventry's straight eye for he surveyed this route early in the year.

We are out from land now and will have nothing but sea to look at for the next two and three-quarter hours.

Dakota aircraft are no longer in general service with the R.A.F., but they have been taken out of mothballs for this operation, as they are particularly useful for landing on short runways with a poor surface and they are the only aircraft which land regularly on Malden. The forward half of the passenger compartment is taken up by two large petrol tanks to give the plane sufficient range for their journey out, across the Atlantic, America and the Pacific.

17.10 hours. Malden in sight—a triangle of land with each side about five miles long. The middle, which is a lagoon, appears to be missing as we look down from, I guess, about 1,000 feet. I can clearly see the camp and airstrip and as we turn for our landing *Warrior*, *Narvik* and *Messina* seem to nip out from under the wing. I notice *Narvik*, which is an LST, has her bow doors open.

As we land there is a DUKW, a helicopter and three Landrovers to meet us. The DUKW will doubtless take the passengers for *Narvik* and *Messina*, while the chopper takes those of us who will watch from *Warrior*.

The man who designed the seats for the Dakota probably had shares in a patent haemorrhoid cure, for he built a metal strut under the canvas seat and as I walked from the aircraft I'm sure I resembled an ageing cowpuncher, and still feel as though I'm going out to water on the back of a razor backed mule.

Since breakfast this morning a process of closing down has been going on throughout the ship, doors and ports are being closed and once in one part of the ship it is not possible to move to another. This is normal safety drill, of course, but can be embarrassing to the unwary.

As I make my way to the Aircraft Direction Room the ship's Tannoy announces, "The Valiant left at one minute past nine." The Aircraft Direction Room is a room full of radar displays. I pass from display to display, each one being explained by an officer or the operator, all excitingly interesting but, of course, not for publication.

As I come out on to the Flight Deck the Tannoy announces, "Valiant overhead in 23 minutes." I look round and can see *Narvik*, *Messina* and *Slavictor* all at their stations. The Tannoy again—"Valiant now visible. She is about 90 miles away and can be seen on the port beam." We can't spot it at first. Then we see the vapour trail, appearing like a white slit in the perfect blue canopy of the sky.

"Valiant now 50 miles away on the port of ship." There are many spectators now collecting on the flight deck. There is an air of casual boredom amongst them—they have seen it all before. I can't share their boredom; it's all new to me and I don't want to miss a thing, not even to jot down these notes.

I look up at the aircraft again. It is climbing now almost vertically with a short vapour trail behind it, getting to its right height for the dummy run. It has flattened out now and is coming straight overhead, a beautiful sight, the dark blue sky with a small white cross set in it, a short gap of blue behind it and then the white vapour trail stretching out behind. What a colour photograph this would make but alas all cameras have been impounded.

I watch the plane turn away after its dummy run. This is particularly interesting, for when the live drop is made I will not see it. I will have my eyes shut and my hands over my eyes.

The Tannoy again, "The next run will be another dummy run. She is on the port beam now and will soon be on her second run." We watch again the same beautiful picture of the plane overhead, then the Tannoy says, "The aircraft has reached release point; no decision yet on final run." The upper winds are no doubt causing the Met men some anxiety, and the AVM even more. We wait watching the plane complete its circuit.

"The next run will be an official live run," the Tannoy says. All talking stops. There is a certain tenseness even amongst the previously bored.

"H minus 10. Hands to stations to witness burst."

"Turning to port on final live run."

"Valiant now 25 miles away on a dead straight course for the ship."

I look up and see two Valiants, one well behind the other. I now know the second one to be a grandstand.

"Five minutes to burst. Everyone sit down, face to port. On goggles. Everything seems to be under control, so this should be it."

"Two minutes to the burst."

"Stop all HF transmissions."

"The weapon released. Close the eyes. Cover the eyes with the hands."

"40-30-20-"

My mind forgets the Tannoy. I've heard all this before broadcast from the plane itself as I listened at the J.O.C. to previous tests. I sit on the deck waiting for something new, somehow not knowing quite what.

It dawns on me I've just seen the flash. Nothing very noticeable but nevertheless I've seen it with my back to the burst wearing black goggles, eyes shut and with my hands over my face. I've now felt the flash, a sudden warmth on my back which disappears immediately.

"Turn and look at the burst."

It's a mass of fire which reminds me of a World War I film of an airship on fire. The fireball is oval in shape and fire is rising from the bottom and reaching down from the top edges like gas burning. There is a certain amount of smoke but not much.

"Shock wave coming."

Crack.

"We certainly felt that one. On previous bursts it has been almost unnoticeable," the Tannoy says.

Yes, we felt it, rather like being reasonably close to a thunderflash, followed by a rumbling.

A white saucer is forming over the top of the ball now. Now a cream film is flowing over the red like cream being poured over a red jelly.

It is now a cream coloured cloud with pink reflected inside it.

It is now a beautiful cream coloured ball of cloud like ice-cream and a cone shape is faintly visible sucking at the base. I look for a moment at Malden, where a mass of dust is rising. It looks as though an artillery "stunk" has hit it.

Back to the cloud now. It's growing and the well-known stalk is reaching down almost but not quite to the dust over Malden. Halfway up is a new white cloud forming, most distinctive in colour, from the large cream coloured one above.

My Biro has been flying over the paper trying to describe this wonderful sight and I know without looking back to re-read it, it will be inadequate. This is a sight that nothing but colour film can reproduce; my inadequate vocabulary, my longhand writing, my desire to throw down the Biro and just look will, I'm afraid, leave you with a poor description indeed, but there it is, Grapple's last megaton trial.

Soon we shall be steaming back towards Malden—a helicopter is already on the flight deck ready to fly to Malden to collect fall-out samples. Fall-out is small on these air-bursts and we shall spend tonight a short distance from ground zero, sure proof that contamination is negligible, though no doubt the scaremongers will remain unconvinced.

MELF

2 WIRELESS REGIMENT

Life is still hectic in Cyprus. Although there are fewer guards to keep us busy we now have to re-discover the highlights of the town which is completely in bounds for the first time since October, 1955. The main effect can be seen in the pay office—everyone has been drawing out credits.

During the month we put our new athletics track to good use. We had a Unit meeting at the beginning of the month which produced some very creditable results. The track is very dusty and hard so times tend to be slower than in the U.K. Among the most outstanding efforts were firstly the winning of the mile and the three miles on the same afternoon by Signalman Underwood on a hot and humid afternoon, and Second-Lieutenant Carrington's effort in gaining three firsts and one record in the sprinting and jumping events.

As a result of the keenness shown at the Regimental meeting, we challenged R.A.F., Ayios Nikolaos, one of the best teams on the Island, to a match. It was very closely fought, the R.A.F. winning by 67 points to 63. We did well in the sprints and longer distances, but found ourselves very weak over the 440 yards and half-mile and our field events need improvement. However, we feel well pleased with the effort and feel sure that when athletics start again in the autumn we will have a powerful team.

The cricket team, after a somewhat shaky start, has settled down well. The last match was against our old rivals, a Field Regiment R.A., and resulted in a resounding victory for us. The Field Regiment were dismissed for 138 and our opening batsmen quickly got this between them. Signalman Bond scored 91 and Hoad 47. It is only to be hoped that this standard continues.

The new outdoor cinema was opened on the 1st June with the showing of "The King and I" in cinemascope and colour. With the newly built screen and new projectors the standard of reproduction is as good as any, and far better than most army cinemas. We now have an indoor and an outdoor cinema in each camp.

2 Squadron, as they live in a separate camp (sometimes known as Butlins) a mile away from H.Q. Camp, wish to have their own WIRE Notes, so here they are:—

The cricket season brings 2 Squadron not, unfortunately, to a cool shaded patch of greensward, but rather to an area of ground more reminiscent of the bull ring, save for its strip of matting-covered concrete. One might exclaim that the hustle and bustle of a twenty-five over game "just isn't cricket," but whatever one chooses to call the game, 2 Squadron are tackling it with their usual vigour. So far we have played three games in the minor units league and have been able, as a result of this, to chalk up three victories. In our recent match against a Vehicle Park, our wickets tumbled quickly until Signalman (Taff) Pearn stepped into the breach and slammed us out of trouble with a glorious 51. Of the first four balls he received he hit three sixes and a four. His hitting was so indiscriminate that we were accused of importing an American baseball player. Taff, however, dispelled these doubts by explaining that he came from some unpronounceable place with about six "I's" in it. Corporal (Bill) Emmerson's 49 in the same game seemed somewhat tame in comparison to Taff's, but it was, nevertheless, a fine innings. We finished the game with a total of 183, which we believe to be a record for 25 overs so far this season.

The regimental six-a-side football competition held at the end of April was won by No. 1 Troop after a hard game against the Sergeants' Mess team in the semi-final and a somewhat easier final against the Civilian Wing.

We hope soon to re-open our amateur radio club and may even be able to do so under our old call-sign, ZC4DC, so look in all you hams.

We now have our own open-air cinema in 2 Camp, showing three performances per week. This satisfies a long felt need and will, we hope, release some of the pressure on the New Mercury Cinema in H.Q. Camp.

AFRICA

COMCAN SIGNAL TROOP, ACCRA

We are now fully matured, having taken over the Royal Signals W.O.'s and Sergeants' Mess on the 1st July, which previously was a combined Mess for both the Ghana Signal Squadron and ourselves. On the 27th of June a farewell party was held in the Mess, and the parting was made all the easier with the help of the many and varied refreshments. We hope that the Ghana Signal Squadron will still come and visit us from time to time.

W.O.II Pettitt, our R.E.M.E. expert, has proved to be a man of varied talents. He has just installed a conditioning plant in the Transmitter Hall, which no one else would touch for fear of the machine blowing up. He now has his hands full keeping all and sundry out of his deep freeze. The second-in-command has at long last persuaded W.O.II Pettitt that the air conditioned room at the Transmitter Station should be decorated in "eau-de-nil," and thus succeeds in getting rid of a large tin of "eau-de-nil" distemper that has been hanging around unwanted for some time.

We bade farewell to Sergeants Packard, Jones and Radcliffe. Sergeant Radcliffe had to go home on medical grounds and we hope that he shall soon recover completely. We welcome Sergeants Taylor and MacDonald to the troop and wish them a happy and successful tour in Ghana.

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Representative Colonel Commandant Visits FARELF

Visit of Major General W. A. Scott, C.B., C.B.E., Representative Colonel Commandant to Royal Signals Singapore and Malaya, 3rd-7th April, 1957

THE visit of Major-General W. A. Scott, our Representative Colonel Commandant, was an unexpected and very agreeable surprise and was the first time a Representative Colonel Commandant had been able to visit FARELF.

General Scott started his programme by visiting Singapore District Signal Regiment (Lieutenant-Colonel G. Mellor) at



General Scott talking to two members of the Air Support Signal Troop (Malaya). Right: Driver Saunders. Left: Sergeant Hough. Captain B. M. Ashcroft, O.C. A.S.S.T. (M) on extreme left.

Princess Mary Barracks, where he was received by the Regimental Quarter Guard of Malayan Other Ranks; in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess he met the British families, and was shown the Silver Plaque which records the Alliance between Singapore District Signal Regiment and the famous old Bibby Line trooper, H.M.T. Lancashire; the Regiment has now transferred their Alliance to the new trooper, Oxfordshire, which has replaced the Lancashire.

At Changi, the home of 19 Air Formation Signal Regiment (Lieutenant-Colonel P. C. Williams), the General was received by a Ceremonial Guard of Malay Other Ranks and after a quick tour, including a visit to the Signals Leave Camp, with its sandy beach on the shore of the Johore Strait, and returned to Singapore to visit G.H.Q. Signal Regiment (Lieutenant-Colonel R. B. S. Eraut). He inspected the Regimental Quarter Guard of British Other Ranks, and after having toured the Unit Lines, drove to G.H.Q. Signal Centre; a glance at the Tape Relay Station, and General Scott then left for the COMCAN Transmitter Station at Chinbee under the guidance of Major Cathmoir.

General Scott's last visit to FARELF was during his tour as Director of Signals and the project at Chinbee was then in its infancy. This time he saw under construction the new home of G.H.Q. Signal Regiment—Maresfield Barracks—which we hope will be occupied early in 1958.



The Representative Colonel Commandant inspecting the Ceremonial Guard of Malay Other Ranks of 19 Air Formation Signal Regiment at Changi

The next morning he was up early and flying Malayan Airways from Singapore with Brigadier Lewis, landed at Kuala Lumpur's new Civil Airport and was met by Colonel R. M. Adams, C.S.O. Malaya Command, Major A. Pagan, G.S.O. 2 Signals H.Q., Federation Army, and Captain M. M. Barker, the tour A.D.C. for Malaya.

After calling on the G.O.C. Malaya Command, General Scott met the officers of the C.S.O.'s Branch, Major D. C. Newman, Major (T.O.T.) F. R. Cox and Major (Traffic Officer) L. J. Sharpe, in the C.S.O.'s Office.



Major General Scott inspecting the Ceremonial Quarter Guard mounted jointly by Malaya Command Signal Squadron and Federation Army Signal Squadron. Members of the Guard visible from right to left: Signalmen Eng See Wah, Sanda Rajoo and Sani of Federation Army Signals and Signalman James Bailey, Craftsman Wright and Signalman Farmer of Malaya Command Signal Squadron

At 1100 hours the Representative Colonel Commandant inspected a ceremonial Quarter Guard mounted jointly by Malaya Command Signal Squadron and Federation Army Signal Squadron who now share the Signals lines at H.Q. Malaya Command. Because time would not allow visits to all Signals Units in Malaya, representative wireless detachments were paraded in the Signals lines to show their equipment and meet the General; they were found by 17 Gurkha Divisional Signal Regiment (Lieutenant-Colonel A. N. Griffiths, O.B.E.), Federation Army Signal Squadron (Major R. A. Chapman, M.B.E.), 28 Commonwealth Brigade Signal Squadron (Major J. Y. Ferguson), 1 Federation Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron (Major J. C. Clinch), 22 S.A.S. Signal Troop (Capt. S. G. Walker), and the Air Support Signal Troop (Malaya) (Captain B. M. Ashcroft).

A short tour of Malaya Command Signal Squadron was then conducted by Major R. M. Matthews, the Squadron Commander, and included a visit to the Signal Centre. This is now jointly manned by Royal Signals and Federation Army Signals in preparation for the latter assuming full responsibility for it after Malaya achieves independence in August this year.

General Scott then left Kuala Lumpur by road for Seremban where he visited 17 Gurkha Divisional Signal Regiment; this road is "black" and an escort of Signals' armoured cars was provided, which enabled the numerous road blocks and search points to be passed without delay. On arrival he inspected a ceremonial Quarter Guard of Gurkha Royal Signals and then went to the Queen's Gurkha Officers' Mess where Gurkha Major Dhanabhadur Gurung introduced the other Q.G.O.'s. Before a curry lunch in the Officers' Mess, there was a short performance by the Gurkha Signals Pipes and Drums, at which our Colonel-in-Chief's Pipe Banner was proudly displayed and much admired. After lunch the Representative Colonel Commandant made a tour of the Regimental lines, including an impeccable G.O.R. barrack room, before leaving to return to Kuala Lumpur Airport on his way back to Singapore.

The last day of his visit being Sunday, General Scott was able to relax; after morning service in the Garrison Church at Tanglin, he spent the day following his favourite pastime, sailing with Major Gram-Hansen in his "Snipe" and Captain Crowe in "Gypsy" the Regimental boat of 19 Air Formation Signal Regiment. A quiet evening, and General Scott was ready for the long trip back to London next morning.



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Colonel G. S. K. Maydon presenting Bar to Long Service and Good
Conduct Medal to R.Q.M.S. L. Swinson

R.Q.M.S. L. Swinson

The award of the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal is a memorable and proud occasion in the career of any soldier. To have earned and to have been awarded a bar to the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal in recognition of 36 years of service is even more memorable, and there must be few serving soldiers who can boast of this achievement. Add to this the award of the Meritorious Service Medal and the holder must be unique in the Corps, and indeed a rarity in the Army. Such is the proud record of No. 2310906 W.O.II (R.Q.M.S.) Swinson.

To mark the occasion a Regimental Parade by 19 Air Formation Signal Regiment was held in Changi on 21st June; the actual presentation of the bar to the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal being carried out by Colonel G. S. K. Maydon, CAFSO, H.Q., F.E.A.F.

It was appropriate that this also marked the finale to R.Q.M.S. Swinson's service, as he and his family left for U.K. on 27th June, 1957, after which he will take his discharge, but his connection with the Service will not be severed, as it is understood he is to take up employment as a civilian with the War Department.

It cannot go unremarked that the Corps has lost an extremely efficient and able Warrant Officer, who, if over his half-century in age, certainly belied it in the energetic and purposeful manner in which he carried out his duties, and who also never lost sight of the necessity to guide his subordinates (and indeed, anyone) in the right path by example and advice.

Enlisting into Royal Engineers' Signals on 18th April, 1920, R.Q.M.S. Swinson thereafter served in many places; his record of service makes interesting reading and to the older members of the Corps, serving or otherwise, will make for nostalgic reminiscence, briefly:

1920-1921 R.E. Signals—Maresfield and Crowborough.
1921-1928 India—"H" Divisional Signals, Peshawar District Signals.



R.S.M. C. B. Symonds presenting Silver Cigarette Box to R.Q.M.S.
L. Swinson

1928-1933 Aldershot—"A" Corps Signals.
1933-1937 India—1st Independent Divisional Signals.
1937-1947 United Kingdom—1st Divisional Signals, 141
O.C.T.U.; 3 O.T.B.; Eastern Command Signal
Regiment.

1947-1950 Palestine—3 G.H.Q. Signal Regiment.
1950-1954 London—War Office Signal Regiment.
1954-1957 FARELF—19 Air Formation Signal Regiment.

R.Q.M.S. Swinson played his part in the world of sport; having been selected to play soccer for Training Battalion, Crowborough, as far back as 1921, and thereafter for S.T.C., Jubbulpore, and Combined Signals, Rawalpindi, from 1921 to 1937.

On the cricket field he played in India for Combined Signals, Rawalpindi; as a regular Regimental representative, his cricketing career extended from 1921 to 1937.

Similarly on the hockey field his career extended from 1921 to 1952; the highlights of which were—Peshawar Military, 1927; Army Trials, 1931; Signals, Aldershot, 1928-1933; Corps Trials, 1952.

The pre-war giants of sport were all known to Swinson, Sadler—rugger; Stuart—boxing; Cotterill—running; Trapmore—soccer; Gresham—soccer, to name but a few.

A serious illness in 1938 necessitated a major surgical operation, which may well have finished the career of a man of lesser calibre, but surviving it, R.Q.M.S. Swinson carried on and it is to his credit that this physical aspect was never the subject of his conversation and was never allowed to interfere with the carrying out of his duties.

The Corps is poorer by the loss of R.Q.M.S. Swinson, and all members of the Corps join in wishing he and his family the very best of good luck in the future and "Thank

19 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT

Tempus does fugit in an alarming manner, and the due date for rendition of WIRE notes, to use official parlance, has come and gone before one can say Certe Cito—hence our non-appearance in the last two issues of THE WIRE.

The athletic season has almost terminated and we have fielded our runners, jumpers and throwers in various meetings with a fair degree of success.

The annual Royal Signals, Singapore, Triangular Meeting took place on 25th May, 1957, we acting as hosts to G.H.Q. and District Signal Regiments.

Although we held our own in the field events we were rather weak on the track, particularly in the sprints, with the result that we had to take third place.

However, from the organisational aspect the meeting was a success, so we wear a little crown of laurels for that—not forgetting that once again the Station Commander, Group Captain K. J. McDonald, O.B.E., D.F.C., had contributed by kindly allowing the meeting to be held on Station precincts.



R.Q.M.S. L. Swinson leading the March Past of 19 Air Formation
Signal Regiment. Colonel G. S. K. Maydon taking the Salute

Knowing the form, we didn't expect to be amongst the giant-killers at the Singapore District Inter-Unit Meeting on 15th June, 1957, but the team had an enjoyable outing and did its best; a notable achievement being the high jumping of Lance-Corporal Noorani who, by clearing 5ft. 6in. jumped an inch more than his own height, which is a very good performance by any reckoning.

Competing as No. 6 Wing in the R.A.F. Changi Station Sports on 26th June, 1957 (the various departments being grouped into Wings for team purposes) we did quite well, finishing 2nd.

Again we felt the disadvantage of lack of sprinters and had it not been for this, there was every possibility of taking 1st place. So, whilst not brilliant, we are not disappointed with our athletic performance for 1957—but wouldn't it be nice if everyone who has a pair of legs, a pair of arms and shoulders would have a go at running, jumping and throwing, because everybody can do something—or don't you agree? (Are we right in assuming every Regimental Athletic Representative has the same lament?).

From one sort of track to another, this time motor-racing. A unique event in the activities of Singapore was the holding of a closed circuit racing meeting using Changi Airfield on Sunday, 9th June.

The Meeting, organised by the Forces Motoring Club and the Royal Air Force was very much of a success and attracted thousands of civilians. The Airfield lends itself to an event of this nature as the natural observation points give an almost unrestricted view. (We intended to supplement this by creating our own private grandstand in our M.T. Yard which overlooked the start/finish point—but unfortunately higher authority from a revenue aspect vetoed this, so we'd had it!).

We claim to have contributed towards the success of the Meeting by setting up the lines required for the telephone communications, but whoever heard of a Military Meeting of any nature in which Signals were not involved somehow?

We also contributed a runner in the shape of a real racing car.

True the engine was (and indeed still is) an Austin 7 of fairly old vintage (1927), the front suspension Fiat, and the rear suspension Austin, the whole suitably enclosed in orthodox styling bodywork—the result, a Special! Be not mistaken by this description as betokening something à la Heath Robinson since the Special held its own against the rest of the field and, so we are informed, a speed of 75 m.p.h. is not at all bad for an engine of 750 c.c.

Credit is due to our L.A.D. for producing the Special—and if anyone is interested in technical data we should be glad to supply same.

R.Q.M.S. Swinson ("Pop" to his intimates) is the subject of an article elsewhere on this page, and it was not without a little sadness beneath the formal exterior of a Regimental Parade held on 21st June that we paid our formal good-byes to him.

The occasion for the parade was the presentation of a bar (we say again BAR) to his Long Service and Good Conduct Medal, the presentation being carried out by Colonel G. S. K. Maydon—our C.A.F.S.O.

It was also in the nature of a farewell parade as "Q" Swinson left us on 27th June on repatriation to U.K. and thence to civil life. There can be few serving personnel who can claim to hold the L.S. and G.C. Medal and Bar, and the Meritorious Service Medal, but such a one is R.Q.M.S. Swinson, surely a notable record.

The following goods are available from Association Headquarters. Cash should be sent with order.

BADGES, Motor Car	...	35/- each
" Motor Cycle or Cycle	...	17/6 "
" Lapel or Brooch	...	3/- "
" Blazer	...	25/- "
(The last two for Association members only)		
BUTTONS, Blazer — Large 2/3 each; Small 1/8 each.		
CORPS TIES, Reppe	...	5/6 each
" " Heavy Weave	...	7/6 "
" " Woollen	...	8/6 "
" " Terylene	...	12/11 "
CRAVATS, Reppe	...	21/- each
CUFF LINKS	...	7/- per pair

Following the parade a presentation of a silver cigarette box from Warrant Officers and Sergeants of the Regiment took place in the Station Sergeants' Mess. R.Q.M.S. Swinson's reply to the speech by R.S.M. G. B. Symonds was short but full of feeling—which is understandable after 37 years of service.

R.Q.M.S. Swinson will be missed here in the Regiment and we all wish him and his family the very best of luck in the future.

(N.B.—A wee bird has whispered that Pop can still serve for a year or more, so perhaps we may be a little precipitate in forecasting his return to civil life—but our good wishes hold just the same).

The usual comings and goings of individuals has applied here as anywhere else—we really must remember to put something in the arrivals and departures column some time—but with personnel leaving U.K. one morning and arriving Changi the following morning per R.A.F. Transport Command Comet (and of course, vice versa) events tend to outrun the ink from the pen of this poor scribe. Cheerio.

SINGAPORE DISTRICT SIGNAL REGIMENT

The month of May has been a busy one both socially and on the sporting side. The social activities started on 4th May with Hari Raya Puasa, the feast celebrating the end of Ramadan. After the traditional curry, entertainment was provided by a Radio Malaya band, a concert party, and a singing competition which

was won by Lance-Corporal Zainal of 1 Squadron. Altogether it was a most successful evening.

On 22nd May the Regiment held its annual M.O.R. children's party. There were about 130 children present. The afternoon started with tea, after which the children, and their parents, were baffled by the Gully Gully men who produced eggs from most unlikely places, charmed snakes, and performed many other tricks.

To complete the social activities of the month the Corporals' Mess held a dance on 25th May. A Malay band provided music for both the Malayan and Western dances. Corporal Chee ably acted as compere.

On the sporting side, we are proud to have won both the Royal Signals triangular badminton and athletics competitions between the three Regiments on the island. Our badminton success was largely due to Mr. Ismail Marjan, the international badminton player, who very kindly coached our team and our athletics success to keenness and hard training of all who took part, rather than the outstanding prowess of any individual.

Once again the District Team Athletic Championships are over until next year. Despite several injured "stars" we were well in the fore in most events but could not ultimately challenge the might of the all-powerful giants—G.H.Q. FARELF and the Malayan Basic Training Centre. We were pipped at the post for third position out of the thirteen competing units by our local Gunner rivals.

Our most noteworthy performers were jumpers of 10ft. 8in. and 9ft. 9in. in the pole vault and two at 5ft. 7in. in the high jump. Our individual entries are still battling on and we wish them success.

On the 22nd of June the third annual Regimental Fete heralded the opening of Royal Signals Corps Week in Singapore. At 2.30 p.m. Mrs. H. L. Lewis, wife of Chief Signal Officer, FARELF., officially opened the Fete. She urged everyone to spend all their money as the Fete proceeds were in aid of the Royal Signals Benevolent Fund and the Malayan Other Ranks Welfare Fund. Accompanied by Lieutenant-Colonel G. Mellor, Mrs. Lewis then proceeded to visit the stalls, and much to the horror of W.O.II Yahya and Corporal Raja Jaafar won on their "impossible to win" stall.

The great variety of stalls, all with the one aim of making as much money as possible, ranged from the Children's Train, the Coconut shy, Sheik-a-dice, Skittles, Score-a-goal, Wheel of Fortune, Pop Guns, Roll a "ten cents," Treasure Hunt, Bran Tub, Balls in a Bucket, to the White Elephant Stall run by the Ladies of the Regiment.

Throughout the afternoon the Band of the 1st Battalion The South Wales Borderers played for the enjoyment of all.

The Fete ended with the Grand Draw for the raffle prizes. As last year, the bicycle was won by a member of the D.R. Troop—it is now rumoured that our D.R.s are to use bicycles instead of motor bikes!

At the time of writing the final profit is uncertain but it will be over £300. A Corps record for a Regimental Fete we confidentially believe (*It is: Ed.*).

No. 1 SPECIAL COMMUNICATIONS REGIMENT (City of London), ROYAL SIGNALS, T.A.

We have been informed recently by the War Office that "The Queen has been graciously pleased to approve the appointment of General Sir Edwin Morris, K.C.B., O.B.E., M.C., as Honorary Colonel of this Regiment." We give a very warm welcome to our new Honorary Colonel and look forward to seeing him on frequent occasions at our Headquarters.

After a short lull following our early Annual Camp this year, the Squadrons have now returned to their weekly training. In addition a successful week-end Exercise took place 13th/14th July, with field detachments scattered throughout Southern England, including one in the Isle of Wight. The weather was fairly kind and apart from good communications detachments were able to enjoy visiting new parts. "X" Troop are just completing their synthetic training prior to doing their balloon jumps in a few days time. We still have a few vacancies for men interested in becoming radio operators and also willing to parachute.

On 19th/20th June the Royal Signals' display van, "Quicksilver" was on view in Finsbury Square. We ran, in conjunction with "Quicksilver" our own exhibition in the Drill Hall and this proved popular—particularly to people in the lunch hour. Some hundreds of people from London, E.C.2, came in and looked at our display and at the "Mercury" films which we ran almost continuously and in which great interest was shown. We finished up with a social and dance during the evening of the 20th, which was very well supported. We were very pleased to see Group Captain Harman from the T.A. Association, and Lieutenant-Colonel B. R. M. Hayles, C.S.O. London District, who attended that evening.

Our Amateur Radio Club is about to re-open, so hams listen out for G3LUN.

Finally, our recruiting drive is again producing results, particularly in the W.R.A.C.

Just in case old members have forgotten where we live we are always delighted to see them, and any other interested parties, at the T.A. Centre, 79/85, Worship Street, E.C.2 (nearest Tube Station Moorgate), on any Monday or Thursday evening.

The Signals Association of the Royal Corps of Signals

Minutes of the 12th Annual General Meeting held at Catterick Camp on 30th June, 1957 at 12.05 p.m.

Present: Major-General C. M. F. White, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., Colonel Commandant, Chairman of the Association; Brigadier G. H. Walton, C.B., C.B.E., T.D., D.L., Chairman of the Finance Committee, Royal Signals Corps Committee; Brigadier W. T. Howe, O.B.E., Secretary, Royal Signals Institution, and the following members of the Central Committee of the Association: Colonel F. E. B. Jones, O.B.E., T.D., J.P. (representing the Territorial Army), Mr. W. A. Woolley (Chairman of Liverpool Branch), S.S.M. M. Lloyd, C.S.O.'s Branch, London District (representing serving Other Ranks), and approximately 200 serving and ex-Service members of the Association.

As is customary, the business of the meeting was carried out during the Chairman's report.

Major-General C. M. F. White, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., Colonel Commandant and Chairman, Royal Signals Association said:

"I am afraid that there is a good deal of business to be transacted at the meeting, and I will therefore confine myself to essentials.

I have had distributed in this room, copies of the Editorial page of the June number of THE WIRE, which some of you may not have seen. It summarises all that we are to do today.

Your Association is a very live one; during the first half of 1957 alone, branches were formed at Brighton, Canterbury, Derby, and only the other day at Reading. Those who have the work of the Association at heart are even now working to form a branch at Peterborough, Rugby and Folkestone.

Overcoming very great difficulties, the Branch at York now has its own club premises.

Many branches have shown their devotion to the Corps by presenting instruments to the Band of the Junior Leaders Regiment, and others are now providing much-needed challenge trophies.

There are to be two further Reunions this year, at Edinburgh, and with the Junior Leaders Regiment at Newton Abbot.

I know you will agree with me when, on your behalf, I say a very sincere 'Thank you' to all those now serving, and particularly the officers and men of the Training Brigade and School of Signals here in Catterick for the very great work done in arranging these Reunions. I know that their chief reward is the sight of so many ex-members of the Corps who come to show their loyalty and pride.

Now to the real business of the meeting and the Accounts of the Association's two main Funds, which have been sent to Branches, and copies of which are available in this hall.

THE GENERAL FUND. You will notice, as in every year, there is a deficit in the Fund. For the last five years this deficit has

been in the region of £1,000 to £1,500. This year it has reached the somewhat alarming figure of £3,500. I shall tell you, in a few moments, of the measures we are taking to remedy this. Meanwhile, in view of the fact that this Account has been checked by the Auditors, and closely examined by the Central Committee, may I ask someone to second that the General Fund Balance Sheet be approved?"

Lieutenant-Colonel L. R. Hall, M.C. (Catterick Branch) seconded and the meeting was unanimous in approving the Income and Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet of the General Fund.

"THE WELFARE SECTION FUND. This, as in the last five years, shows a surplus of income over expenditure. It is due in the main to the great generosity of those now serving in Royal Signals, and partly to a certain lack of elasticity in the allocation of monies to funds. Again, I will speak of this later. Will someone please second the proposal that the Balance Sheet of this Fund be approved?"

Colonel L. Hayes (Nottingham Branch) seconded and the meeting was unanimous in approving the Income and Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet of the Welfare Section.

"Our Trustees have been considering how best the capital of this Fund may be invested, both safely and to bring in a good return in income. A resolution has been drafted by the Association's Solicitors and agreed to by the Registrar of the Friendly Societies. It is an amendment to Rule 9, and I will ask the General Secretary to read it to you."

The Resolution which follows was then read by the General Secretary:

"That the Rules of the Association be altered by deleting Rule 9 and substituting therefor the following Rule"

9. INVESTMENT

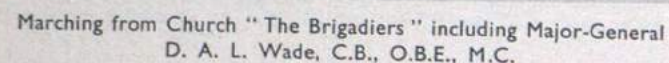
So much of the funds as may not be wanted for immediate use, or to meet the usual accruing liabilities, shall, with the consent of the Central Committee, be invested by the Trustees in any of the following ways:

- in the Post Office Savings Bank, or in any savings bank certified under the Trustees Savings Bank Act, 1863; or
- in the public funds; or
- in the purchase of land, or in the erection or alteration of offices or buildings thereon provided that the Trustees shall not at any one time hold land exceeding one acre in extent



THE WINNING DISTRICT SIGNALS TEAM

Standing from left to right: Lieutenant Burke, Sergeant Bleasde, Second-Lieutenant Joyner, Signalman Benn, Corporal Howard, Staff Sergeant Bligh, Signalman Chambers, Signalman Ryan, Signalman Beck, Sergeant Blackman, Lance Corporal Clarke, Corporal Danby, Signalman Butt, Signalman Singh, Corporal Raja Jaafar, Corporal Zainal, Signalman George Albert Stork



(e) in any investment in which trustees are for the time being by law authorised to invest trust funds.

The Chairman agreed and said that the matter was being pursued, but that the Resolution went as far as the Registrar of Friendly Societies would permit at that date.

The Chairman said that the possibility of doing this would be investigated and the result published. One difficulty was that

In fine, the **Chairman** (on behalf of the Central Committee) proposed, and **Captain R. D. Hardy** (**Chester Branch**) seconded, and the meeting was unanimous in approving the Resolution.

Trustees Investment Powers as set out above.

"Paper 26/CC/2a, which went to branches on 5th June, and copies are available, contains a resumé of what I am about to say.

told you that in some years we have been in the situation of having too little money coming into the General Fund, and too much money coming into the Welfare Section Fund. During

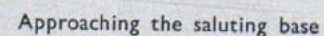
The Sub-Committee therefore recommended, and both the Central Committee of the Association and the Corps Committee have approved, that all the income from the appeal by the Signal Officer-in-Chief to those now serving to contribute to the support of the Association, shall be paid into a third fund, the Royal Signals Association and Benevolent Fund, from which the Central Committee allocates to the General Fund

The Sub-Committee also found that while THE WIRE had been managed successfully without profit or loss for five years, it has not in fact paid its full share of the costs of maintaining the Headquarters Office. Accordingly, with the approval of the Corps Committee, the Central Committee have decided that the cost of THE WIRE must go up from 1/- to 1/3, with effect from the 1st January, 1958.

I will now ask the General Secretary to read out the proposals."

Colonel F. E. B. Jones said that Birmingham Branch had considered the proposals very carefully and were agreed that, in view of the general rise in all costs, the subscription must be increased. He hoped that all other branches would support the proposals.

The Chairman replied that after the expected abolition of National Service, the men would serve in the Corps on a much longer regular engagement, would therefore be more imbued with loyalty to the Corps and its Association than was normal with men who only served for two years.



THE WIRE, AUGUST 1957

GENERAL FUND

Balance Sheet as at 31st December, 1956

£14.464	£11.415 16 8	£14.464	£11.415 16 8
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Income and Expenditure Account for the Year ended 31st December, 1956

77	31 16 8	
<u>£4,042</u>	<u>£5,809 15 7</u>	<u>£4,042</u>

Balance Sheet as at 31st December, 1956

C. M. F. WHITE, *Chairman.*
H. R. FIRTH, *Secretary.*

The meeting approved with acclamation.

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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 the undermentioned soldier.

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 "Ellects."

Corporal R. STURMER ... £4/1/3

SPORT

WESTERN COMMAND SMALL BORE COMPETITION, WINTER, 1956



In order to promote the Corps policy on shooting a small bore competition was introduced in this Command last winter. It was decided to use .22 rifles as issued, because it was considered that the purchase and use of special sights would have unfairly handicapped smaller and probably not so affluent Units. Anyone on the establishment was allowed to fire in Troop or Squadron teams. This enabled civilian employees to participate and thus enabled small establishments, like those at District level, to produce teams.

Cards were fired over a period of four months by teams of four, giving a HSP of 1,600. Throughout the Command 39 teams from Regular and Territorial Army Units entered the competition.

The winning team was that of 1 Squadron, 53 (W) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment and the runners-up "C" team of the Depot Regiment, Royal Signals. The highest individual score was returned by Corporal J. C. C. Evans, 53 (W) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, who had an average of 92.5.

The photograph shows the trophy and spoons presented to the winners.

ROYAL SIGNALS (SINGAPORE) ATHLETIC MEETING

The annual Triangular Athletic Meeting between G.H.Q. Signal Regiment, Singapore District Signal Regiment and 19 Air Formation Signal Regiment took place at Changi on 25th May, 1957. 19 Air Formation Signal Regiment acted as host to the other Regiments, the meeting being held on the Pagar Sports Ground. The standard was quite good, and as this was the second occasion on which the meeting had been held, records were established accordingly.

Singapore District Signal Regiment proved to be the winners, with a total of 54 points, G.H.Q. Signal Regiment taking second place with 43 points, and 19 Air Formation Signal Regiment third with 35 points. The victory of District Signals was not as easy as the points margin indicates as, towards the end of the meeting, the scoreboard showed District Signals and G.H.Q. Signals with 40 points each, but the final two events put District Signals ahead, to run out as winners.

Apart from the athletic aspect of the meeting, it was also a social event, as this is one of the few occasions when the Regiment can get together; the refreshment tents being well patronised. The Band of the Far East Air Force played during the afternoon, and added considerably to the liveliness of the meeting.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Colonel J. P. North, M.B.E., C.S.O. Singapore Base District congratulated the winners on their achievement and thanked 19 Air Formation Signal Regiment for organising the meeting, after which Mrs. Lewis, wife of Brigadier H. L. Lewis, C.B.E., C.S.O. FARELF, presented the challenge shield and other prizes. Thanks are due to Station Commander, Changi, Group Captain K. J. McDonald, O.B.E., D.F.C., for permission to hold the meeting on the station, and to H.Q. F.E.A.F. for kindly allowing use of the Band of the Far East Air Force, under its director, Flight-Lieutenant V. H. Hutchinson. Detailed results were as follows:

RESULTS			
Royal Signals (Singapore) Athletic Challenge Shield			
Winners :	Singapore District Signal Regiment	...	54 points
Runners-up :	G.H.Q. Signal Regiment	...	43 points
Third :	19 Air Formation Signal Regiment	...	35 points

EVENTS			
(With best individual performances as appropriate)			
Event	Winners	Time	
110 yds. Relay	G.H.Q. Signal Regiment	48.9 secs.	
220 yds. Relay	G.H.Q. Signal Regiment	1 min. 40.2 secs.	
440 yds. Relay	District Signal Regiment	3 mins. 55.7 secs.	
880 yds. Relay	District Signal Regiment	9 mins. 23.2 secs.	
120 yds. Hurdles	District Signal Regiment	1 min. 20.1 secs.	
1 Mile Team	District Signal Regiment	5 mins. 1 sec.	
(Signalman Salisbury)	G.H.Q. Signal Regiment		
3 Mile Team	District Signal Regiment	17 mins. 42.4 secs.	
(Signalman Beck)	G.H.Q. Signal Regiment		
Throwing the Hammer	G.H.Q. Signal Regiment	174 ft. 3 in.	
(Corporal Robinson)	G.H.Q. Signal Regiment	103 ft. 1 in.	
Throwing the Discus	19 A. F. Signal Regiment	193 ft. 3 in.	
(Lieutenant Burke)	District Signal Regiment	101 ft. 9 in.	
Throwing the Javelin	District Signal Regiment	231 ft. 3 in.	
(Corporal Roe)	District Signal Regiment	123 ft.	
Putting the Shot	19 A. F. Signal Regiment	65 ft. 6 in.	
(Staff-Sergeant Boulter)	19 A. F. Signal Regiment	35 ft. 2 in.	
Pole Vault	District Signal Regiment	20 ft.	
(Signalman Stork)	District Signal Regiment	each 10 ft.	
(Signalman Baldev Singh)			
Long Jump	19 A. F. Signal Regiment	36 ft. 8 in.	
(Sergeant Shamsuddin)	19 A. F. Signal Regiment	18 ft. 11 in.	
High Jump	District Signal Regiment	10 ft. 5 in.	
(Signalman Stork)	District Signal Regiment	5 ft. 4 in.	
Hop, Step, Jump	19 A. F. Signal Regiment	73 ft. 7 in.	
(Sergeant Shamsuddin)	19 A. F. Signal Regiment	37 ft. 9 in.	
Invitation Mile	G.H.Q. FARELF 'A' Team	3 mins. 50 secs.	
Medley Relay			

GOLF

Having started with a very narrow defeat at the hands of York Golf Club, the season was continued with two exciting matches, both of which were halved. In both matches we managed to reduce a deficit in the last two games. It was unfortunate that, in the match against the Royal Military College of Science, we were left with one man short, due to an injury incurred by a player on the eve of the match. A local player made up the team in the morning and Lieutenant-Colonel M. P. King turned out in borrowed clothes with borrowed clubs for the afternoon match.

In the annual match against the Sappers, we were leading by 2½ matches to 1½ after the morning round of foursomes.



Spring Golf Meeting—Catterick Camp 25-26 April 1957

Standing (left to right) Lieutenant Carroll, Captain Gahan, Major Macdonald, Lieutenant Colonel Hayles (Captain), Captain Wickes, Lieutenant Colonel E. B. Elliott, Lieutenant Colonel J. J. Lamb, Lieutenant Dore, Major Sandys
Kneeling:—Major McKellar, Major Fairman (Secretary), Major Beattie, 2nd Lieutenant Turnbull, Major Leece

The weather then broke for the first time in six weeks, and the match was abandoned at this stage.

Detailed results of the three matches are given below:

ROYAL SIGNALS v. R.M.A.S.			
Played at Camberley Heath on Wednesday, 15th May.			
Royal Signals		R.M.A.S.	
Second-Lieutenant Turnbull	...	P. G. Shillington	...
Major-General Vulliamy	...	R. D. S. Marston	...
Colonel Denholm-Young	...	J. D. Drummond	...
Lieutenant-Colonel Hayles	...	P. G. Hatch	...
Major D. D. Fairman	...	A. F. Bell	...
Major-General Morrison	...	J. N. Leivers	...
Brigadier Thursby Pelham	...	J. McQ. Hallam	...
Major Robinson	...	P. E. Stoner	...

Match halved, 4 points each.

R.M.C.S. v. ROYAL SIGNALS			
Played at Frilford Heath, Sunday, 2nd June, 1957.			
Dr. A. J. Cochrane	...	2/Lieutenant Turnbull	...
Captain B. L. Kelly	...	Lieutenant Bayliss	...
Lieutenant D. L. MacKay	...	Major W. MacDonald	...
Lieutenant R. J. Moyle	...	Major D. D. Fairman	...
Major D. L. Swallow	...	Major J. D. Norfolk	...
Major L. A. Bush	...	Mr. J. Head (substitute)	...
Dr. J. M. Hawkes	...	Major J. B. D. Lane	...
Mr. H. Harries-Jones	...	Major Rhys-Few	...

Match halved, 6 points each.

ROYAL SIGNALS v. R.E.			
Played at Wentworth on Monday, 24th June.			
Royal Signals		R.E.	
Lieutenant Carroll	...	Colonel Mars	...
Colonel Denholm-Young	...	Lieutenant-Colonel Armstrong	...
Major-General Vulliamy	...	Lieutenant-Colonel Thorpe	...
Major Fairman	...	Major Yeo	...
Colonel Winckley	...	Major-General Brown	...
Lieutenant-Colonel Clark	...	Colonel Armitage	...
Major-General Morrison	...	Brigadier Daldy	...
Major-General Sir Leslie Phillips	...	Lieutenant-Colonel Harte	...

Result: Royal Signals 2½; R.E. 1½.

Royal Signals Water Polo

18th June, 1957	Royal Signals 20	v.	R.M.A. 2.
19th June, 1957	Royal Signals 11	v.	A.C.C. 0.
20th June, 1957	Royal Signals 3	v.	Aldershot District 4.
21st June, 1957	Royal Signals 9	v.	City of London Police 1.

ROYAL SIGNALS SOUTHERN COMMAND RIFLE MEETING



Southern Command Mobile Signal Squadron
(Winners "Henry Whitehead")

The Meeting was staged at Bulford on 5th and 6th June. Sixty competitors took part in the individual events and ten teams in the team events.

One of the objects of the Meeting was to provide practice for the Corps Meeting and the subsequent Bisley Meeting; Bisley targets were therefore used. The matches fired were:—

- The Roberts Cup.
- The Henry Whitehead Cup.
- The Parachute Regiment Cup.
- The R.U.R. Cup.

The weather was fair throughout but a strong wind made conditions difficult for all but the experienced shots. Scores were relatively low but there were some good individual performances and it was heartening to see a number of young soldiers in the small group who were in the running for the Individual Champion Shot, and in fact, a young soldier, Signalman Harrison (U.K. COMCAN Signal Regiment), eventually won, and another, Signalman Foster (Southern Command Mobile Signal Squadron) was runner-up.

16 Parachute Brigade Signal Squadron are to be congratulated on winning the team championship in addition to three of the four matches fired, and Southern Command Mobile Signal



16 Independent Parachute Brigade Signal Squadron
(Champion Team)

Squadron on running them a close second in the Roberts and Parachute Cup and on winning the Henry Whitehead Cup.

The final of the R.U.R. Cup (Falling Plate) was a most exciting match between "A" team 16 Parachute Brigade Signal Squadron and 4 Squadron U.K. COMCAN Signal Regiment. In the final stage the Parachute Brigade Signal Squadron still had three plates standing to the one in front of COMCAN, and the almost certain victory of the latter was dashed when the Parachute Signals put all their plates down in one volley.

The C.S.O., Brigadier G. B. Bell, C.B.E., before presenting the prizes, mentioned how important it was to hold Meetings of this kind. He said the training of teams not only improved the shooting efficiency of each unit but also encouraged young soldiers who were average shots to find an interest in shooting and to improve their efficiency until they could be classed as good shots.

We needed more good shots in the Corps. There was plenty of material and it was the job of team Captains to find it and train it even if it meant a lot of extra hard work. The prizes he was about to present were good and plenty, and he hoped they would be an incentive both to those who won them and to those less successful who may be here next year.

Prizes were awarded as follows:—

THE HENRY WHITEHEAD CUP

Winning Team: "A" Team, Southern Command Mobile Signal Squadron. Score 536 (Team of 4).

Individual:

Class A: W.O.II Gallagher, Southern Command Mobile Signal Squadron. Score 145.

Class B: Signalman Tebby, Southern Command Mobile Signal Squadron. Score 129.

Class C: Signalman Harrison, 4 Squadron U.K. COMCAN Signal Regiment. Score 155.

THE ROBERTS CUP

Winning Team: "A" Team, 16 Parachute Brigade Signal Squadron. Score 311 (Team of 4).

Individual:

Class A: S.S.M. Summers, 16 Parachute Brigade Signal Squadron. Score 102.

Class B: Signalman Harris, 1 Squadron, U.K. COMCAN Signal Regiment. Score 80.

Class C: Signalman Foster, Southern Command Mobile Signal Squadron. Score 110.

PARACHUTE REGIMENT CUP (STEN)

Winning Team: "B" Team, 16 Parachute Brigade Signal Squadron. Score 428 (Team of 4).

Individual:

Class A: S.Q.M.S. Doonan, 16 Parachute Brigade Signal Squadron. Score 136.

Class B: Lance-Corporal Watt, 1 Divisional Signal Regiment. Score 102.

Class C: Signalman Walsh, 16 Parachute Brigade Signal Squadron. Score 111.

THE R.U.R. CUP (FALLING PLATE)

Winning Team: "D" Team, 16 Parachute Brigade Signal Squadron. Runners-Up: 4 Squadron U.K. COMCAN Signal Regiment.

INDIVIDUAL RIFLE CHAMPION SHOT

Signalman Harrison, U.K. COMCAN Signal Regiment. Score 243.

Runner-Up: Signalman Foster, Southern Command Mobile Signal Squadron. Score 242.

Champion Team: 16 Independent Parachute Brigade Signal Squadron.

The road to improvement in small arms shooting lies in the elimination of weaknesses. An analysis has been made of the scores of the two best teams at the Meeting, 16 Parachute Brigade Signal Squadron and Southern Command Mobile Signal Squadron. This shows clearly two weaknesses which are probably common ones throughout the Corps, they are:

- Very poor scores in the Roberts Cup.
- Very low scores in snaphooting.

The average scores for the 25 members of the two teams were:

ROBERTS CUP

Practice 1 (500 yards rapid)	21
Practice 2 (300 yards snap)	16.5
Practice 3 (300 yards rapid)	18.5
The HPS for each practice is 50.	

HENRY WHITEHEAD CUP

Practice 1 (600 yards deliberate)	28
Practice 2 (600—100 yards fire with movement)	31
Practice 3 (300 yards rapid)	26
Practice 4 (300 yards Snap)	21.5
The HPS for each practice is 50.	

The low scores in the Roberts Cup are due to:

- Lack of knowledge of the elevation table for this unique fire with movement match.
- Poor snaphooting. This can usually be improved on the 30 yards' range, where fundamental errors can be spotted and corrected.



Champion Rifle Shot, Signalman Harrison

Unless these weaknesses are eliminated, there is little hope of individuals doing well in the Army Championship at Bisley. A lot of hard work is put in by team captains preparing their men for Bisley and it is hoped that next year special attention will be given to these two weaknesses in order that the overall effort is not wasted.



3 Squadron U.K. Comcan Signal Regiment



Brigadier G. B. Bell, C.B.E., presenting the Individual Class C Prize (Henry Whitehead) to Signalman Harrison

SHOOTING NOTES

During the 1956-1957 shooting season, which ended on 1st April, 1957, the following units entered for non-central competitions of the Army Rifle Association, and were placed as shown.

King Edward VII Cup

3 Training Regiment	4th
5 Training Regiment	5th
1 Training Regiment	6th

3 Training Regiment, as a result of this placing, become the first winners of the Royal Signals Unit Shooting Trophy, which was instituted last year.

Corps Shield

Comcan Signal Regiment	10th
14 Army Signal Regiment	11th

1st Army Cup

Comcan Signal Regiment (1 Squadron)	44th
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The three training regiments, of course, also shot in these two competitions as part of their entry for the King Edward VII Cup.

Small Bore results were:—

The Individual Small Bore Championship

Captain J. R. Garratt	16th
Corporal A. Cole	18th

The Individual Small Bore Match

Captain R. H. Gilbertson	10th
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The Young Soldiers' Cup

1 Training Regiment	4th
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At the Northumbrian District Rifle Meeting, Royal Signals gained the following successes:

Officers, W.O.s' and Sergeants' Individual Rifle Match

Won by Second-Lieutenant C. H. Glydon, Royal Signals Wing.

Young Soldiers' Rifle Match

Won by 1 Training Regiment.

Individual Rifle Championship

Second-Lieutenant C. H. Glydon, Royal Signals Wing ... 5th

Inter-Regimental S.M.G. Team Match

4 Training Regiment ... 4th

Inter-Regimental Pistol Match

Won by Royal Signals Wing "A" Team.

Individual Pistol Match

Brigadier W. R. Smijth-Windham	1st
Captain R. C. Walker	2nd
Lieutenant P. B. Leonard	3rd

Inter-Regimental Rifle Match

Won by 7 Training Regiment "A" Team.

Royal Signals Cricket Tour 10th-16th June, 1957

Four matches were played during the tour, two being won and two drawn. Brief accounts of the matches are given below.

ROYAL SIGNALS v. R.E.M.E., 10th/11th JUNE

Result: Royal Signals won by 5 wickets

The start of the game was delayed due to a steady drizzle in the morning, but after an early lunch the sun came out and R.E.M.E., having won the toss, batted first. Runs came fairly steadily to begin with, but in due course wickets fell and soon after a bright knock of 52 by Lieutenant Treganna, R.E.M.E. declared at 154 for 8 wickets.

Captain Keech and Signalman Gillard opened the innings for Royal Signals, but steady bowling by Col. Hinchley soon had both batsmen in trouble and both eventually fell to the same bowler. Signalman Fisher batted soundly and had made 49 before being run out on a misunderstanding. The Signals innings ended 2 runs short of the R.E.M.E. total.

In their second innings R.E.M.E., in going for quick runs, lost their wickets in doing so and were all out for 112. Lance-Corporal Fidler bowled well taking 4 wickets for 32 runs. With adequate time to spare, Royal Signals knocked off the runs with 5 wickets in hand. Signalman Fisher again batted soundly and carried his bat for 54 not out.

ROYAL SIGNALS v. R.M.A., 12th JUNE

Result: Match drawn

The R.M.A. won the toss and batted first on a perfect wicket. Signalman Bates had both opening batsmen well caught behind the wicket by Lieutenant-Colonel Hayles. At lunch the R.M.A. were 56 for 5 wickets. After lunch Williams shared two good stands with Afridi and Parker before being out with his score at 61. The R.M.A. closed with the score at 186.

Captain Keech and Signalman Fisher gave Royal Signals a good start of 71 for the first wicket at about a run a minute, but with fast bowlers bowling with long runs at each end time was rapidly running out. Lieutenant-Colonel Hayles set about the bowling with good effect, but the Corps was still 29 runs short and 7 wickets in hand when stumps were drawn. Signalman Fisher again carried his bat for a competent 75.

ROYAL SIGNALS v. R.A.O.C., 13th/14th JUNE

Result: Match drawn

Royal Signals having won the toss batted first, but were soon in trouble. Wickets fell rapidly and apart from Signalmen Bates and Lewis and Major Pocock little resistance was made and the innings closed at 85. For the R.A.O.C. Sergeant Ford bowled extremely well taking 5 wickets for 21 runs.

Although an early success was obtained when Private Midgley was run out without a run on the board, Private Brown and Major Castle pushed the score along and soon passed the Corps total. However, steady bowling by Major Pocock (3 for 37), Lance-Corporal Fidler (4 for 57), and Signalman Gooda (2 for 28), soon reached success and the last R.A.O.C. wicket fell at 168, just on close of play on the first day.

In their second innings the Corps really got their noses over the ball and runs came steadily throughout the innings. Signalmen Gillard (59), Lewis (66) and Bates (47) all batted well and with Major Pocock and Second-Lieutenant Godson hitting hard at the end of the innings, the Corps were able to declare at tea with 267 for 9 wickets, leaving the R.A.O.C. 185 to get in an hour and a quarter.

The R.A.O.C. went for the runs most gallantly and only some steady bowling and good fielding foiled them in their attempt, and they were still 15 runs short when stumps were drawn.

ROYAL SIGNALS v. R.A.S.C., 15th/16th JUNE

Result: Royal Signals won by 3 wickets

R.A.S.C. batted first on a good hard wicket, which, however, was a little green to start with. Signalman Gooda bowled beautifully throughout the innings and his final tally of 8 for 29 gives an indication of his excellence, particularly in view of the potentially strong batting of the R.A.S.C.

Royal Signals batted steadily but a real sting in the batting was lacking until Lieutenant-Colonel Hayles and Major Pocock

came together. Lieutenant-Colonel Hayles hit the ball hard all round the field and made 54 before being stumped. The innings closed at 196 just before 6 p.m., leaving the R.A.S.C. half-an-hour's batting in their second innings.

On the next day R.A.S.C. soon lost an early wicket and the expectation that the pitch might prove difficult for the first two hours seemed to be correct. Apart from Private Howard, who carried his bat for 81 not out, the R.A.S.C. were unable to resist some determined bowling by Signalman Gooda (6 for 67) and Major Pocock (4 for 63), and were all out for 196 soon after lunch.

With only 91 runs to get in a little over three hours an easy victory looked certain, but a great struggle ensued. Only some rugged batting by Lance-Corporal Fidler (31) and Lieutenant-Colonel Hayles (22) ensured a win for the Corps by three wickets.

ROYAL SIGNALS (B.A.O.R.) RIFLE MEETING, 1957

The Royal Signals (B.A.O.R.) Rifle Meeting was held this year at Haltern Classification Ranges from 21st to 24th May, and was organised by 18 Army Group Signal Regiment as a combined team and individual competition.

Apart from organising the actual competition the Regiment also provided all the administrative services for the running of the tented camp. No small task for a Regiment to undertake and our thanks are due to Lieutenant-Colonel Llewellyn, Major Swallow and all ranks of 18 Army Group Signal Regiment for the very excellent arrangements that were made. Special mention must also be made of those who really were "behind the scenes," namely the butt markers, who carried out their difficult and somewhat tedious work so well in spite of most unpleasant weather.

Nearly all Units in B.A.O.R. were represented at the meeting and altogether between 100 and 110 keen shots made up the Regimental teams and individual entries.

The first two days of the Meeting were set aside for "settling in shooting," which particularly gave one or two of the older members of the team (and also the young ones!) a little practice in running down from the 600 to 100-yard point in the fire and movement practices.

As so often happens, the weather which had been glorious for the first two days changed rather suddenly, and the two matches fired on the third day were marred by pouring rain, thus made good shooting most difficult and unpleasant.

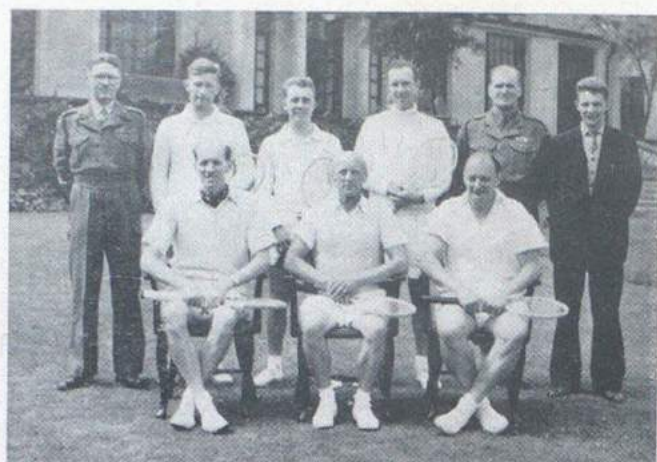
Fortunately, on the following and last day the weather relented, which apart from drying out the rather sodden competitors also brought out a number of spectators, including one or two families from Essen.

It was particularly pleasing to see the tremendous keenness, team spirit and friendly rivalry which was built up during the Meeting. This is the first competition that has been held in B.A.O.R. for a number of years and it is intended that it will now become an annual event, from which can be picked the teams to represent B.A.O.R. Units at Bisley.

At the conclusion of the Meeting the prizes were presented by Colonel Gordon, Chief Air Formation Signal Officer, 2 A.T.A.F. The winners were as follows:

	Match 1	Match 2	Match 3
MAJOR UNITS			
Winners	19 Army Gp. Sig. Regt. ("A" Team)	19 Army Gp. Sig. Regt. ("A" Team)	10 Air Fmn. Sig. Regt. ("A" Team)
Runners-up	1 Wireless Regt.	10 Air Fmn. Sig. Regt. ("A" Team)	19 Army Gp. Sig. Regt.
MINOR UNITS			
Winners	SX Branch	SX Branch	SX Branch
Runners-up	5 AGRA (AA) Sig. Sqn.	5 AGRA (AA) Sig. Sqn.	1 A.S.S.U.
CLASS "A"			
1st	Captain Wright (SX Branch)	Captain Wright (SX Branch)	W.O.II (F. of S.) Whittington
2nd	R.S.M. Holdsworth (19 Army Gp. Sig. Regt.)	Captain Wright (1 Wrls. Regt.)	Lt. (T.O.T.) Willingale
3rd	W.O.II Boston (1 Wrls. Regt.)	W.O.II Smythe (4 Inf. Div. Sig. Regt.)	Major Baker (2 L. of C. Sig. Regt.)
CLASS "B"			
1st	L/Cpl. Jessop (11 Air Fmn. Sig. Regt.)	L/Cpl. Jessop (11 Air Fmn. Sig. Regt.)	Cpl. Hill (19 Army Gp. Sig. Regt.)
2nd	L/Cpl. Gratton (2 L. of C. Sig. Regt.)	Cpl. Sheridan (11 Air Fmn. Sig. Regt.)	L/Cpl. Gratton (2 L. of C. Sig. Regt.)
3rd	Cpl. Walker (14 Army Sig. Regt.)	Cpl. Hill (19 Army Gp. Sig. Regt.)	Sgmn. Chipping (10 Air Fmn. Sig. Regt.)
CLASS "C"			
1st	Sgmn. Veaney (4 Inf. Div. Sig. Regt.)	L/Cpl. Wilson (10 Air Fmn. Sig. Regt.)	L/Cpl. Meredith (6 Armd. Div. Sig. Regt.)
2nd	L/Cpl. Wilson (10 Air Fmn. Sig. Regt.)	Sgmn. McGee (1 Wrls. Regt.)	L/Cpl. Wilson (10 Air Fmn. Sig. Regt.)
3rd	Sgmn. McShane (1 A.S.S.U.)	Sgmn. Veaney (4 Inf. Div. Sig. Regt.)	Sgmn. Veaney (4 Inf. Div. Sig. Regt.)

CHAMPION SHOT: Captain R. M. Wright (SX Branch)



ROYAL SIGNALS TENNIS TEAM, CATTERICK CAMP, 11th JULY, 1957
Front row: Major J. W. Eagle, M.B.E., Colonel E. L. L. Vulliamy, O.B.E. Captain L. S. Bamber
Back row: Colonel J. E. S. Sanders, O.B.E. (President), Signalman P. Redman, Officer Cadet M. L. Booth, Major J. St. C. W. Robinson, Major T. L. Richards (Secretary), Signalman G. Hewitt

ROYAL SIGNALS TENNIS

Two Corps tennis matches have so far been played this year at the Officers' Club, Catterick Camp, one against R.A.O.C. on 5th June, and the other against Royal Engineers on 11th July. We beat R.A.O.C. by eight matches to one, and the Sappers by five matches to four.

The Sapper match coincided with the Royal Signals—Royal Engineer Guest Night and the Sapper cricket match. The tennis was most enjoyable and the match was, in fact, very closely contested. The details are as follows:—

Officer Cadet M. L. Booth and Signalman P. Redman (Royal Signals)	
beat Captain J. E. L. Ainsley and Second-Lieutenant R. M. R. Luxton	6-2, 8-6
beat Colonel D. I. Burnett, O.B.E., and Lance-Corporal Webster	6-2, 6-1
beat Captain R. W. Dowdall and Sergeant Farquhar	6-1, 6-3
Major J. St. C. W. Robinson and Captain L. S. Bamber (Royal Signals)	
lost to Captain J. E. L. Ainsley and Second-Lieutenant R. M. R. Luxton	1-6, 4-6
lost to Colonel D. I. Burnett, O.B.E., and Lance-Corporal Webster	3-6, 2-6
beat Captain R. W. Dowdall and Sergeant Farquhar	6-1, 6-2
Colonel E. L. L. Vulliamy, O.B.E., and Major J. W. Eagle, M.B.E.	
lost to Captain J. E. L. Ainsley and Second-Lieutenant R. M. R. Luxton	7-9, 2-6
lost to Colonel D. I. Burnett, O.B.E., and Lance-Corporal Webster	2-6, 3-6
beat Captain R. W. Dowdall and Sergeant Farquhar	7-6, 6-4

Signalman G. Hewitt who was originally chosen for the Corps team was unable to play at the last minute owing to the fact that he was placed in quarantine.



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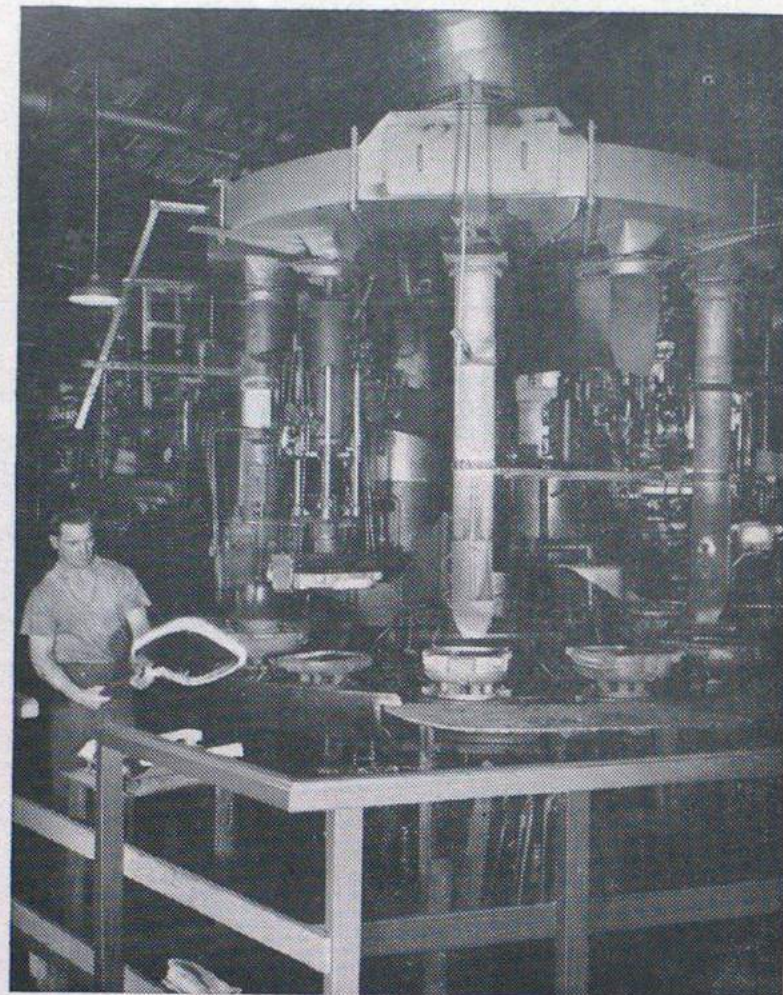
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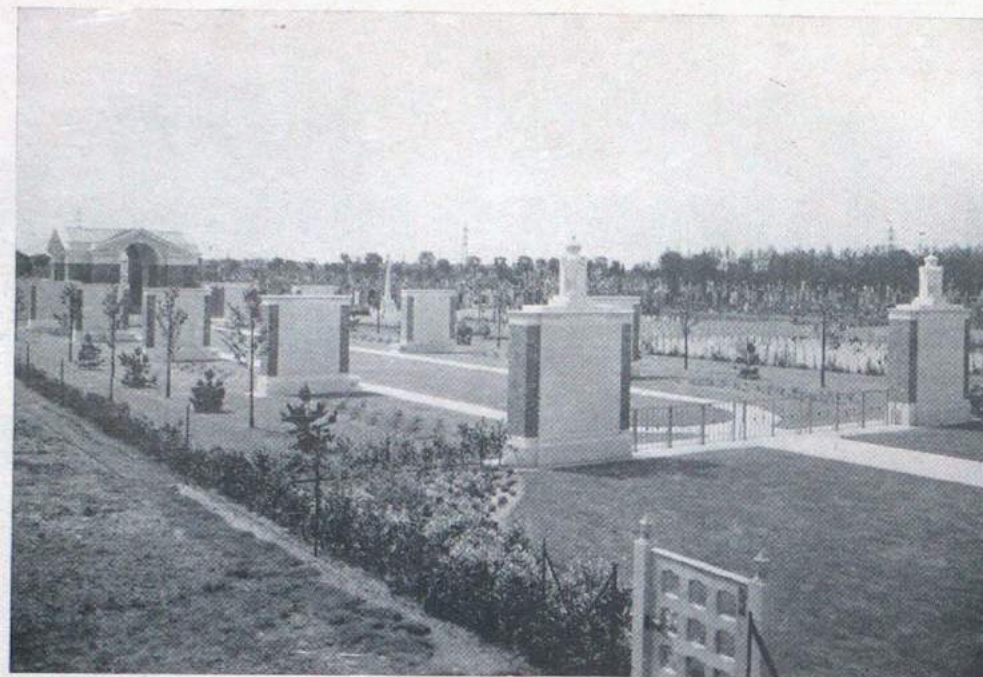
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THE WIRE, SEPTEMBER 1957

Substitute "£1/10/-" for "£1/1/-" in line 6 and "£1/5/-" for "15/-" in line 9 in the second paragraph.

The Dunkirk Memorial

Photograph by Courtesy, Sidney Bishop Studio and Imperial War Graves Commission



The slightly complicated process of gaining statutory approval of the Registrar of Friendly Societies is now in progress, and the Rule Book will be reprinted as soon as possible thereafter. Copies of the new book will be sent to Commanding Officers of all Regiments and Independent Squadrons, and to Honorary Secretaries of local branches of the Association before the end of the year.

It will be noted by all, that the increase in subscriptions comes into force on 1st January, 1958.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP OF THE ASSOCIATION

It will be seen from the increased subscriptions outlined above, that it is sound economy to become a Life Member before the 31st December, 1957, while the Life Membership subscription is only £1/10/-. This, after all, represents six years' annual subscriptions at the rate of 5/- a year, which begins on 1st January, 1958.

CLOTHING

As is known, the Association is always very grateful indeed for clothing—suits, shirts, underclothing, overcoats, etc., and many a man has been able to start again, only because he has a good suit when he goes for a job.

Children's Clothing. This is an unusual appeal. An ex-Signalman, whose wife died, has been left with three small children: Boy, aged nine years; Boy, aged six years; Girl, 10 months. He works and earns a basic wage, but cannot work overtime or nights because he has to be at home to care for his children.

Experience shows that many children outgrow their clothes before they are worn out.

Any clothes thus rendered surplus, which will fit the children described, should be sent to 88, Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1. We of the Association will be grateful, and so will a much harassed father in Wales.

THE NEW COVER

All will see that after seven months of austerity, THE WIRE has launched out into a new cover. This is expensive, and has been introduced as part of the service in anticipation of the increase in cost of each copy of the Magazine, which will start in 1958.

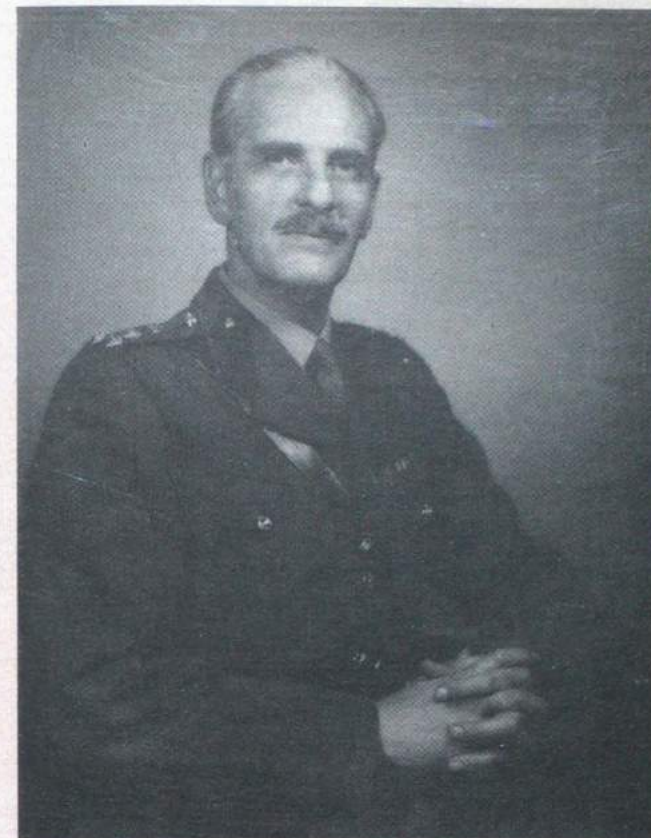
As will be remembered, Major-General Sir Hubert E. Rance, G.C.M.G., G.B.E., C.B., represented Royal Signals and the Association at the unveiling, by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, of the Memorial on 29th June, 1957.

The following description is taken from "Their Name Liveth," Volume III, Part I, published by the Imperial War Graves Commission.

"Throughout the 1914 War, Dunkirk served as a British seaplane base, but it was in 1940 that its name acquired a new significance for Britain. After the fall of Calais, Dunkirk was the only major Channel port in the hands of the British Expeditionary Force which, on 25th May, was disposed on a front of about 90 miles. The decision to withdraw to the sea with the hope of evacuating the Army from Dunkirk and the neighbouring beaches was taken on the following day, and from then on a supreme effort was made by all three Services to evacuate the maximum possible number of men. Finally, on 4th June, in the afternoon, the Admiralty announced that 'Dynamo,' the name given to the operation, was completed.

The graves of soldiers who fell during the campaign are to be found in numerous churchyards and cemeteries in the area of the retreat. Dunkirk Town Cemetery is one of these; it is situated in the south-eastern outskirts of the town, on the south side of the road and canal from Dunkirk to Furnes. In this cemetery there are both 1914-1918 and 1939-1945 war graves.

Next to the cemetery, on a site given by the town of Dunkirk, has been built a Memorial commemorating the soldiers of the British Expeditionary Force who fell in the campaign of 1939-1940, and who have no known grave. The Memorial, designed by Philip Hepworth, takes the form of an avenue of pylons, on which are engraved the 4,500 names, leading to a building of brick and stone with a copper roof. Bright red polyantha roses (Donald Prior) are set in green lawns between the pylons, within an avenue of alternate pines and Swedish whitebeams. At the entrance to the avenue are two columns, surmounted by carved stone urns, bearing inscriptions in French and English. In the shrine, which contains the Register of the names on the Memorial, is a great window of etched and engraved glass, depicting the embarkation from the beaches. The design, which is by John Hutton, has for its central theme the epic battle as a great deliverance—a word first used to describe the operation by the Prime Minister, in his famous speech to the House of Commons on 4th June, 1940."



[U.S. Army Photograph]

VALE

Brigadier W. M. Ponsonby, O.B.E.

His many friends in the Corps when thinking of Wilfred Ponsonby naturally let their memories take them back to his subaltern days when he was a well known rider in steeplechases and point-to-point races in the North of England. They will remember, too, his pretty mare Kissing Time, who won him many races.

He was the fifth of his line to serve his Sovereign. His great-great-grandfather was a Captain R.N. who served in H.M.S. Royal Sovereign at the battles of Trafalgar and Copenhagen; great-grandfather served in the Indian Army; grandfather Royal Berkshire Regiment; his father, Royal Engineers, served in K. Company, one of the progenitors of Royal Signals, and erected the first G.P.O. Wireless Telegraphy Station at Bolthead circa 1908.

After Shrewsbury and Royal Military Academy, W. M. Ponsonby was commissioned in Royal Signals in 1926. He is therefore one of the first officers to complete a career wholly in Royal Signals.

He was a hard working subaltern. He was a member of the Corps boxing team which won the Army Inter-Unit Championship in 1930; having completed the Equitation course at Weedon, he trained the Corps team which won at the Royal Tournament in 1932; he won many prizes in show jumping including the International Horse Show, 1932, and many point-to-point and National hunt races; he was a member of the first combined horse and motor cycle display team which appeared at Olympia in 1933. Somehow he found time to study his profession and became a very good Signal officer.

The beginning of the shooting war in 1940 found Ponsonby with the 1st Armoured Division. He was captured at St. Valerie and was a prisoner of war for three years. He escaped three times and was recaptured on the third occasion by the most cruel luck when within an ace of complete freedom. In 1943 he was released by the Germans after outwitting a medical board—he had escaped after all. This is perhaps the point at which to recall that he was a brilliant conjuror, a member of the Magic Circle. He had a wonderful influence on his fellow prisoners and after the war got the rare distinction of an O.B.E. for service while a P.O.W.

In recent years W.M.P. has served with N.A.T.O. in various capacities, finishing up as Chairman of European Military Communications Co-ordination Committee. He was widely liked and respected throughout Signal circles in Europe, and showed remarkable ability as a chairman of international meetings.

He never looked strong, but I have never seen him beaten, nor have I ever seen his good humour and charm of manner fail.

He has always had a wide range of interests, and an ability, not always recognised, of making a success of everything he tackles. Perhaps the secret of that is that whatever he is doing or whoever he is talking to absorbs his whole interest.

His many friends in the Corps, and no one has more, wish him the best of happiness and good fortune.

PERSONAL COLUMN

London Gazette

12th July, 1957

Brigadier W. M. Ponsonby, O.B.E., retired 10th July, 1957.

Lieutenant-Colonel J. C. Ireland, M.B.E., E.D., is appointed Honorary Colonel, 51st Air Formation Signal Regiment, A.E.R., 1st February, 1957.

General Sir Edwin L. Morris, K.C.B., O.B.E., M.C., Colonel Commandant, Corps of Royal Engineers, is appointed Honorary Colonel, 1 Special Communications Regiment, T.A., 11th April, 1957.

Major (Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel) W. L. Hey, T.D., is appointed Honorary Colonel, 49 West Riding and Midland Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A., 11th May, 1957.

23rd July, 1957

Her Majesty The Queen has made the following awards for Distinguished Services in Cyprus:

O.B.E. — Lieutenant-Colonel H. J. Thompson.
Lieutenant-Colonel D. R. Yearsley.

26th July, 1957

Colonel R. C. Newcombe, O.B.E. (T.A.), to T.A.R.O., 1st May, 1957.

30th July, 1957

Colonel (T/Brigadier) C. D. Gardiner to be Brigadier, 29th January, 1957.

2nd August, 1957

Lieutenant (T.O.T.) A. G. Pritchard, to be Captain (T.O.T.), 1st August, 1957.

★

Congratulations to Lieutenant-Colonel A. J. Deane Drummond, M.C., on winning the British Gliding Championship, scoring 574 out of 600 points at the National Gliding Championships on 5th August, 1957.

★

Indian Signal Units (1911-1926) O.C.A.

The 10th Reunion Dinner was held at the Victory Ex-Services Club in London on 25th May. Forty-eight members and their ladies attended and "at least twenty members who were unable to attend" sent messages.

The President of the Association is Brigadier H. I. Allen, C.B.E., D.S.O., and the Hon. Secretary is: Captain W. A. Dowley, 153, Mytchett Road, Mytchett, near Aldershot, Hampshire. He will be glad to receive enquiries from new members. The subscription is: Officers 5/-, Other Ranks 2/-, and the Annual Dinner is held in May.

Movements — Officers

Major (Q.M.) E. C. Chidgey, H.Q., A.E.R. Royal Signals to Ghana Signal Squadron.
Major (Tic. Offr.) J. McD. Glass, M.B.E., Australia to B.A.O.R.
Lieutenant (Q.M.) C. W. Hallett, Depot (HS) to Royal Signals Record Office.
Major (Q.M.) E. Jordan, Royal Signals Wing, School of Signals to B.A.O.R.
Lieutenant (T.O.T.) C. E. Pinder, Depot (HS) to Signal Regiment, U.K.
Major (Q.M.) L. Teal, ALFCE to Royal Signals Wing, School of Signals.
Major B. C. Bovey, U.S.A. to Wireless Training Squadron, U.K.
Major R. J. Harvey, Wireless Training Squadron to FARELF.
Major J. S. N. Dale, FARELF to Depot Regiment Cadre.
Lieutenant (Tic. Offr.) A. J. E. Cheshire, First Commission to M.E.L.F.
Captain (Q.M.) S. T. G. Marks, Depot (HS) to Home Counties District (M) Signal Regiment (T.A.).
Lieutenant (Q.M.) D. E. Smith, First Commission to B.A.O.R.
Captain (Q.M.) H. E. Strype, Home Counties District (M) Signal Regiment (T.A.) to H.Q., A.E.R., Royal Signals.
Major A. G. MacTavish, 7 Training Regiment to Royal Signals Records.
Major D. C. Ward, M.E.L.F. to Signal Regiment, U.K.
Major K. W. Jordan, L. of C. Signal Regiment, B.A.O.R. to Air Formation Signal Regiment, M.E.L.F.

Births

WRIGHT.—To Sergeant and Mrs. G. H. Wright, a son, on 6th August, 1957, at Lincoln.
BAYLISS.—To Captain and Mrs. D. W. F. Bayliss, a daughter, Fiona Elizabeth, on 1st August, 1957, at Lincoln.

Deaths

EDWARDS.—Ex-Signalman R. Edwards, of 199, Rhode Lane, Bridgwater, Somerset, on 26th April, 1957, aged 54.
JONES.—Ex-Signalman S. Jones, of 12, Fountain Buildings, Lansdown Road, Bath, Somerset, on 15th June, aged 22.
WILDGOOSE.—Ex-Lance-Corporal J. W. Wildgoose, of 85, Cowesby Street, Moss Side, Manchester 15, on 25th July, 1956, aged 63.
DAVIES.—Ex-Driver A. P. Davies, of 33, Kempton Road, East Ham, E.6, on 11th May, 1957, aged 33.
FORD.—Ex-Sergeant W. J. F. Ford, of 660, High Road, Streatham, S.W.16, on 18th July, 1957, in Mayday Hospital, Thornton Heath, aged 54.
SHORT.—Ex-Signalman P. Short, of 79, Grange Road, Taunton, Somerset, on 31st May, 1957, aged 25.
STUBBS.—23485886 Driver P. Stubbs, on 7th July, 1957, in B.A.O.R.
WORLEDGE.—Colonel J. P. G. Worledge, O.B.E., at his home, Glenwilliam Castle, Ballingarry, Co. Limerick, on 29th July, 1957.
GILES.—Mr. A. G. Giles, in Cardiff, about 7th August, 1957. 53rd (Welsh) Divisional Signals (T.A.) from 1919 to 1944, including War service. Member Cardiff Branch, Royal Signals Association.
PEASE.—Mr. B. Pease, of 51, Despenser Street, Riverside, Cardiff, about 11th August, 1957. He was the first R.S.M. of the 53rd (Welsh) Divisional Signals after World War I. Member Cardiff Branch, Royal Signals Association (Life Member No. 233).
MEIKLEJOHN.—Major G. B. Meiklejohn, M.B.E., on 4th August, 1957, in Penang, Malaya.

Arrivals and Departures

1 Training Regiment
Arrivals: Sergeants L. Goodwin and G. A. Vickers.
3 Training Regiment
Arrivals: Staff Sergeant Holmes, Sergeant Peake.
Departures: W.O.II Waller.
Sierra Leone Signal Squadron
Arrivals: Captain M. G. Panton, W.O.II Bell, Staff Sergeant Mitchell, Sergeants Murphy, David, Wood, Nicholls and Orton.
Departures: Captain K. E. P. Andrews, M.B.E., Staff Sergeant Bews, Sergeants Fowler, Downes and Dadswell.
5 Training Regiment
Arrivals: W.O.II Hequet and Ford, Staff Sergeant S. I. Foster, Sergeant Downs.
Departures: W.O.II Ellis, Sergeants Williams, Parks, Murray and Venters.
Comcan Signal Troop Accra
Departures: Sergeants Horne, Mellett, Elgood and family.

ROYAL SIGNALS INSTITUTION

The fifth Annual General Meeting of the Royal Signals Institution will be held at 2.30 p.m. on Saturday, 7th December, 1957, in the Bishop Partridge Hall, Church House, Westminster, S.W.1 (entrance in Great Smith Street, Westminster, S.W.1, only).

W. T. HOWE, Brigadier,
Secretary.

Forthcoming Events

WEST COUNTRY REUNION at JUNIOR LEADERS' REGIMENT, NEWTON ABBOT, DEVON 28th/29th SEPTEMBER, 1957

Saturday, 28th September
1600 hrs. Full Trooping Ceremony by the Boys with their own Band.
1700 hrs. Tea (Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess Lawn).
2000 hrs. Reunion Buffet.
Sunday, 29th September
1100 hrs. Church Parade and March Past.
1200 hrs. Interval — Refreshments in Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess.
1430 hrs. Band Concert.
1600 hrs. Disperse.

Ex-Boys' Dinner, 1957

The date is Saturday, 5th October, at 6.30 for 7.30 p.m., at Williamson's Tavern, Bow Lane, London, E.C.4 (one minute from Mansion House Underground Station).
As the Secretary (R. W. Jacob) has unfortunately gone to hospital, will all those who have not yet sent in remittances please forward them NOW to the Chairman, Major F. G. Strange, c/o Royal Signals Records, Balmore House, Caversham, Reading, Berks. Cheques/postal orders crossed and payable to Royal Signals' Ex-Boys' Dinner.
16/6 for Ex-Boys serving or retired. 15/- for wives or other guests.
It will greatly assist the Chairman (who has taken on all the secretarial work) if subscriptions are sent in now.

RADIO HOBBIES EXHIBITION (formerly named Amateur Radio Exhibition)

at the Royal Horticultural Old Hall, Vincent Square, S.W.1, 23rd to 26th October, 1957, will be opened by Sir Harold Bishop, C.B.E., F.C.G.I., B.Sc. (Eng.), M.I.Mech.E., M.I.E.E., F.I.R.E., Technical Director, Engineering Services at the B.B.C.

44 Division Old Comrades' Rally

On Friday, 25th October, 1957, prior to the El Alamein Reunion, The New Inn, 252, Westminster Bridge Road, London, S.E.1, between 5 p.m. and 6.30 p.m., for ex-members of the Division. Lady friends are invited. Tickets, 5/- each, from the Hon. Secretary, c/o H. J. Green and Co., Ltd., Aldington Works, Hove 3, Sussex. A cheque or postal order (with stamped addressed envelope) should accompany all applications.

"At Home" for T.A. and A.E.R. Officers and Their Ladies

Saturday, 7th December, at the Hyde Park Hotel, Knightsbridge, at 4 p.m. for 4.30 p.m.

Annual Buffet Supper and Reunion

Saturday, 7th December, at the T.A. Centre, 190, Hammersmith Road, W.6 (by courtesy of Army Phantom Signal Regiment), Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment (T.A.), from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m.

CORPS BAND SUMMER TOUR 1957

Touring Band
22nd September Worthing
25th September — 26th September ... Brighton
28th September — 1st October ... 6 Training Regt., Newton Abbot
2nd October Return to Catterick

Non-Touring Band

7th October — 11th October ... Eaton Hall

ROYAL SIGNALS HOCKEY

Saturday, 21st September, 1957 ... Thistles ... Catterick Camp.
Friday, 25th October, 1957 ... Royal Engineers ... Aldershot.
Tuesday, 3rd December, 1957 ... R.A.S.C. ... Aldershot.
Wednesday, 4th December, 1957 ... R.M.A. ... Sandhurst.
Saturday, 15th February, 1958 ... R.A. ... Woolwich.
Sunday, 16th February, 1958 ... Aldershot Services ... Aldershot.
Friday, 7th March, 1958 ... R.E.M.E. ... Catterick Camp.
Saturday, 8th March, 1958 ... Durham University ... Durham.
Wednesday, 19th March, 1958 ... Welbeck College ... Welbeck.
4th - 7th April, 1958 ... Easter Hockey Festival ... Scarborough.

ROYAL SIGNALS RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

21st Sept. Percy Park Catterick
28th Sept. Old Leedensons Leeds



Presented to the Headquarter Mess in 1956 by Brigadier H. C. Hawtrey, C.M.G., D.S.O., who retired in 1934.

The statue was awarded to Brigadier Hawtrey, and a rough translation of the inscription on the base is:

"Presented by the Chamber of Commerce of Athens to the winner of the 8045 metres race, Olympic Games, 1906."

8045 metres equals five English miles, a distance which was dropped in all subsequent Olympic Meetings.

Brigadier Hawtrey's success was the only British one in 1906, in which year the Games were actually held in Athens.

ROYAL SIGNALS DIARIES, 1958

Diaries will be available in November, 1957.
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.		(b) IN GREEN LEATHER	
Published Price	s. d. 12 10	Published Price	s. d. 3 9
Purchase Tax	5 2	Purchase Tax	9
	18 0		4 6
(c) IN GREEN PLEXIDE		(d) REFILLS for (a)	
Published Price	s. d. 2 11	Published Price	s. d. 2 1
Purchase Tax	7	Purchase Tax	5
	3 6		2 6

All intending purchasers should note that cash must be sent with orders and that postage at the following rates should also be included:

Postage (Home and Abroad)			
One copy	... 4d.	4/5 copies	... 10d.
Two copies	... 6d.	6/7 copies	... 1/1
Three copies	... 7d.	8/14 copies	... 1/3

PROMOTIONS

The following substantive promotions were authorised during the month of July, 1957.

TRADES ROSTER

To		WARRANT OFFICER II	
6153831	A/W.O.II	(1960)	Humble, L. G.
2055853	Staff Sgt.	(1280)	Knowles, M. A.
To		SERGEANTS	
22569816	Cpl.	(33370)	Dixon, A.
22265081	Cpl.	(47580)	Samways, D. W.
23271908	Cpl.	(59420)	Flay, A.
14132185	Cpl.	(59460)	Paterson, G. C.
22796995	A/Sgt.	(59480)	Sizeland, R. G.
23183003	A/Sgt.	(59560)	White, J. W.
22242333	Cpl.	(60970)	Lenderyou, R.
23471399	Cpl.	(61510)	Byram, A.
22801476	Cpl.	(19950)	Thelwell, W.
22773704	A/Sgt.	(42810)	Morrell, K.
2355597	A/Sgt.	(1770)	Harrison, G. E.
22559197	Cpl.	(27610)	Vowles, A. B.
2549703	A/Sgt.	(4050)	Stagg, W. C.
22289281	A/Sgt.	(14050)	Purdy, J. R.
22212058	A/Sgt.	(2712)	Bumphrey, L. B.
22522949	Cpl.	(10240)	Dunn, W. N.
21005332	A/Sgt.	(28933)	McCabe, T.
2379335	Cpl.	(46860)	McDonald, D. J. B.
22796848	A/Sgt.	(54570)	Adam, D. A. F.
22807652	Cpl.	(37970)	Donnelly, P.
22537305	A/Sgt.	(17100)	Moore, D.
21005696	Cpl.	(11400)	Jones, C.
22904031	A/Sgt.	(31570)	Partridge, D.
23192319	Cpl.	(56030)	Hurcomb, E. D.
22526437	Cpl.	(38010)	Abbs, B.
19048086	A/Sgt.	(18000)	Kilshaw, E. H.
22515160	Cpl.	(58430)	Gardiner, R.
22569537	Cpl.	(43630)	Hall, M. G. E.
22546773	Cpl.	(35090)	Brooks, E. J.
23180064	Cpl.	(53660)	Turner, I. W.

CIPHER ROSTER

To		SERGEANTS	
22958519	Cpl.	(2380)	Dodman, R. A.
23211892	Cpl.	(5610)	Bullock, P. J. D.
23218810	A/Sgt.	(5660)	Goulding, K. G.
22537026	A/Sgt.	(941)	Steel, R.
23169912	Cpl.	(6330)	Rudkin, J. D.
23176644	Cpl.	(6340)	Platts, J. H.
19032105	A/Sgt.	(30)	Willoughby, J. M.

DELETIONS

Trades Roster

W.O.II	4082								
Staff Sergeant	8120	1120	6770	1010	2530				
Sergeant	16070	17780	16590	15240	8371	15720			
	9170	14940	21150	6110	15720	24440			
	12360	830	8010	9200	22970	25334			

DELETIONS

Foreman of Signals Roster

Staff Sergeant 30

DELETIONS

Signal Centre Supervision Roster

3599642 W.O.I (70) Swenson, D. W. Commissioned S.S.C. (Lieutenant, T.F.C. Officer), 23rd May, 1957.

OTHER DELETIONS

Cipher Roster

Sergeant 1430 2230

Trades Roster

Sergeant 22082599 (16192) Hancock, L. D.

The Editor hopes that
Readers will approve
the New Cover

United Kingdom

1 TRAINING REGIMENT ROYAL SIGNALS

The big feature of the month was the visit to Catterick of H.M. The Queen and H.R.H. Prince Philip on 10th July.

Fortunately the weather held in the morning and Prince Philip displayed a very lively interest in the technical demonstrations staged on upper Baghdad Square by the Training Regiments of the Brigade.

Our cyclists, cricketers, swimmers and tennis players continue to do well. At the Army Individual Tennis Championships, Lance-Corporal Redman was beaten in the final of the Open Singles, but partnering Lance-Corporal Hewitt, won the Inter Regimental Doubles title and with Officer Cadet Booth the Open Doubles, and Second-Lieutenant Rees, W.R.A.C., the Mixed Doubles titles.

Swimmers have retained the District and Command Cups and we are hopeful of annexing both District and Command cricket trophies in the near future.

At the moment, our cyclists are second in the Army Championships with two events still to be competed for. They also won the invitation 50 mile race at the R.A.F. Rufforth meeting.

Soccer players are already limbering up for the season ahead and any moment now Rugby 7's will be under way. Both teams will wear a new look since most of the old stars have gone, but there are many very promising newcomers to carry the torch.

Very soon now Corporal Scotland, our international Rugby player and cricket and athletic star, leaves for civil life. He will be sadly missed but he takes with him our thanks for all he has done and best wishes for a most successful international career which we will follow with great interest.

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3 TRAINING REGIMENT

The main event of the past month has been the Annual Administrative Inspection carried out by Brigadier E. D. Good, C.B.E., Commander Training Brigade. The weather was kind (as always, it seems, for the Regiment on these big occasions) and everything looked the best we could make it. During his inspection the Brigadier spoke to a very large number of all ranks at their work or training and in the dining hall.

The Regiment is still doing well in the summer sports. At cricket we beat the Depot, Royal Lincolns, in the semi-final of the North Midland District Tournament and now meet the Depot, Foresters, in the final. In a friendly the Warrant Officers and Sergeants beat the Officers, largely through the prowess of their "secret weapon," the R.S.M., who retired after seeing his team through to victory. Well done, Mr. Stockdale.

At tennis, the Regimental team, headed by the Commanding Officer, have had several enjoyable matches with the R.A.F. and local civilian clubs, managing to win all but one.

Our congratulations to Major L. S. McCarthy on his being Mentioned in Despatches. He has recently returned from Cyprus.

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4 TRAINING REGIMENT

There have been even more events than usual to occupy our attention. Our Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel R. J. Western, has left us after three busy years in Command. He carries with him the good wishes of all of us in his next posting to "Somewhere Overseas." Lieutenant-Colonel T. G. Chambers, M.C., has taken over in his place, and we wish him luck during his tour. His arrival coincided with a number of sporting successes which augur well for the future.

Our shooting team has now returned from Bisley and report considerable success with sub-machine guns. In the District Meeting they were second; at the Corps Meeting at Bulford we provided three in the Training Brigade Team which won the event. At Bisley we were 6th out of 83 entries for the Parachute Regiment Cup, Captain F. W. Cakes gained 4th place in the Victory Cup for individual Sten gun shooting. His team mates were Captain D. D. Sumner, Lieutenant J. A. Tate and Sergeant McAllister, R.E.M.E.

The Command Inter-Unit Swimming Championship was held in Catterick, and we finished second to 1st Training Regiment, who produced a very good team. It is perhaps inappropriate to name individuals from sides competing in relay races, but we feel we must mention the terrific performance in the 100 yards backstroke by Lance-Corporal Law and Signaller Langley, who gained the Regiment first place in this event.

For the District Golf Meeting we searched the various corners of the Regiment and produced three teams of four, who had two wet but enjoyable days' golf. Second-Lieutenant J. A. Turnbull and Lance-Corporal Perring figured in the Individual prize list, and our "A" team consisting of Second-Lieutenant Turnbull, Lance-Corporal Perring, Signaller Povall and Tonner won the Inter-Unit Cup. We are very lucky to have players of the ability of these, enabling us to produce a side with no handicap larger than 4, with two single-figure men in the "B" team to back them up.

The Cricketers, despite the excellent lead given by Major G. D. M. Pocock and Second-Lieutenant A. C. Smith, have not fared quite so well. In the Command Cup they got 7th Training Regiment out for a very satisfactory total, but unfortunately proved unable to reach it themselves. Second Lieutenant F. W. Knight and Signaller Lewis play for both the Corps and Catterick Services, as do Major Pocock and Second-Lieutenant Smith.

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JUNIOR LEADERS REGIMENT

Visit by Colonel H.R.H. Prince Chula of Thailand, G.C.V.O.

On Wednesday, 3rd July, Colonel H.R.H. Prince Chula of Thailand, G.C.V.O., accompanied by his Personal Secretary, Captain R. W. Potts, D.C.L.I., visited the Regiment. On arrival, His Royal Highness inspected a Guard of Honour composed of Junior Leaders. He complimented the Guard Commander, Junior-Sergeant B. Wigfield, on the excellent bearing and drill of the guard.

During the morning, His Royal Highness was shown around the Regiment. He was very impressed by all that he saw. In the afternoon, Prince Chula visited Junior Leaders undergoing Initiative Training on the River Lemon. He was most enthusiastic, and had a word and a joke for most of the boys.

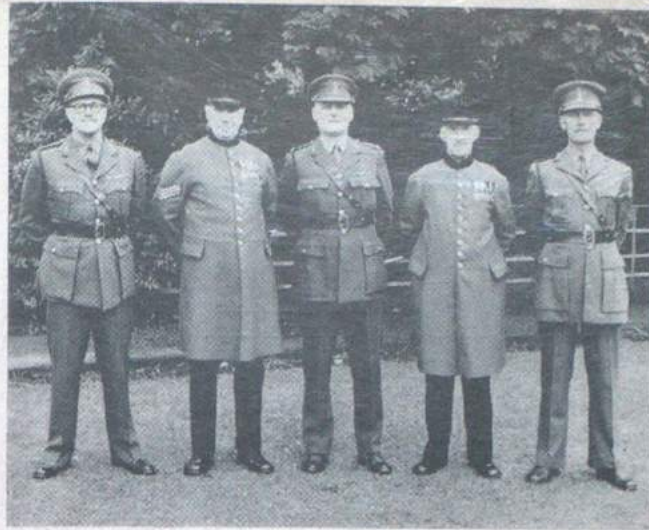
His Royal Highness, a charming and interesting personality, took especial interest in the training of youth. He enjoyed his visit so much that he is to visit the Regiment again in October, when he will lecture and show documentary films (taken by himself) on Thailand and the Thai Army.

The photograph shows His Royal Highness and the Commanding Officer, taken in the W.O.s and Sergeants' Mess.

In the background is the very fine new standard, presented to the Regiment by the W.O.s and Sergeants.



THE WIRE, SEPTEMBER 1957



Left to right: Major G. M. L. Claridge, Sergeant Lannigan, Lieutenant-Colonel R. G. Miller, Pensioner Brown, R.S.M. S. G. Barnes

ROYAL SIGNALS WING SCHOOL OF SIGNALS

We held our Old Comrades' week-end on the 29th-30th June. There were the usual events—Beating Retreat, drinking, Sunday service and march past, and so on—and there were, in addition, two V.I.P.s present.

Mainly due to R.S.M. Barnes, an invitation was issued to any Old Comrades at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, which was accepted by the two stalwarts shown in the photograph. Travel arrangements to and from London were, we hope, as good as any travel agency's, and we think they enjoyed their week's stay.

The other main happening has been our unit sports. Winners and timings make pointless reading, but we would firstly note that Major (Q.M.) L. Teale heralded his arrival in the unit by winning the Old Soldiers' race. Secondly, we would remark on the Chain of Command race. This was a relay race, each team consisting of a runner, a clerk, S.Q.M.S., S.S.M. and Commander. At one moment we had the remarkable spectacle of three S.S.M.s and one R.S.M. each trying to drink a bottle of lemonade at high speed. Wing H.Q., ably led by the Commanding Officer, were the eventual winners.

The Royal Visit is recounted elsewhere. The preparations may be imagined, but we can say that a deal of painting and repair was completed which, without the visit, might still be "pending."

The courses we run are strange and numerous. The sketch shows the sort of situation which might arise if we are not careful.

Finally, farewell to Major (Q.M.) E. Jordan. He has been here during a difficult period, and though he is as canny as any of his clan, we have all appreciated his help, and his dry humour.

U.K. COMCAN SIGNAL REGIMENT

R.H.Q. and 1 Squadron. In the sporting world our cricket team has extracted itself from where we last saw it—in the mire—and has not lost a match since our previous report. Moreover, great jubilation was felt on winning the local derby against the Depot, The Gloucestershire Regiment.

Under the guidance (and driving) hand of R.S.M. Farley, we now have a Badminton Club with 22 members. The idea is to reach a sufficient standard to enter the Gloucester League, with a view to reaching the stars.

Our last D. and D. course was completed successfully by 21 out of the 30 on the course. The Regimental cane was won by Signaller Warnette of 1 Squadron, and we wish to add our congratulations to those of the Commanding Officer.

W.O.s and Sergeants' Mess

We tender the bread and salt of welcome to W.O.II Milton, one of the new Signal Centre Supervisors, and we hope that his stay with us will be pleasant.

On the social side, July has been a quiet month. With the exception of a trip to the Bath Tattoo and one to the Cheddar Caves, nothing of note has taken place.

2 Squadron. The Unit as a whole, we think, might be excused a certain amount of smug satisfaction as a result of two very successful trips to Bampton. The cricket match on the 17th was played in continuous rain, and for that reason alone it seems rather appropriate that there should have been so many ducks floating about. We think, however, that there is some justification in our claiming a moral win. For Droitwich the Regimental Sports week-end was a less glorious affair and little is heard of our victories in such fabulous events as the obstacle race, the egg and spoon and the sack race.

It is unfortunate that the Droitwich Carnival should have been interfered by rain. Many members of the Squadron had given assistance to it in various ways, and if only the weather could have been arranged in the same way as the Carnival itself, it would have been a very successful event indeed.

3 Squadron. We said farewell to July and looked back on a busy and somewhat hectic month.

It was decided that we should have a Squadron "At Home," and so operation "Welcome" was launched. All the usual hard work was put in and the result was most gratifying. Unfortunately the Corps Band was not available, but a local Silver Band deputised and acquitted themselves well. The Sports were a great success and we were pleased to welcome competitors from our other Squadrons. Mrs. Hammond, wife of our C.O., Lieutenant Colonel W. Hammond, M.B.E., presented the prizes to the successful ones.

Quite a good number of parents took the opportunity to visit us and were agreeably surprised at all they saw. They even enjoyed the food! No more complaints at meal times w.e.f. date.

The Dance in the evening went with a swing, and the week-end was completed with an all-day cricket match on the Sunday.

Just to keep the Corps in the limelight we had a stall of Corps items including the recently published *Signals*. We persuaded many civilian visitors to purchase this—a good buy, we thought.

4 Squadron. Since last going to press our marksman, Signaller Harrison, has excelled himself at Bisley and our congratulations go to both him and Lance-Corporal Gibbs. Signaller Harrison obtained the highest individual score in the Corps team for the Methuen Cup.

Our forthcoming coach trip to Southsea on 14th August is arousing much interest. We extended invitations to bring along girl friends, but to date either no girl friends exist or the feeling is that there is no point in "taking coals to Newcastle."

EASTERN COMMAND SIGNAL SQUADRON

Since we last wrote, Summer has arrived and, associated with that, the sporting activities of cricket and athletics.

Our efforts on the cricket field have been noted more for the pleasure they have provided than for the success with which they were crowned. We have lost twice against No. 4 Independent Signal Squadron from Brighton. In our first game against them we went into bat first and we reckoned we had a certain victory when Major Woods, their wicket keeper and O.C., let through a boundary bye first ball. It was not to be, however, and despite good innings by Major Spence and Sergeant Major Parfitt, we were soundly defeated.

In the second game against 4 Independent Squadron on the old county ground in Brighton, we had them all out for 98, and we all thought we stood a good chance of avenging our last defeat. They, however, produced four excellent bowlers—which they hadn't had last time—and we were skittled out for 41.

Our only victory was against our own flesh and blood, Command Headquarters Troop from Hounslow, and delighted we all were to have them down with us again.

Two athletics events have occurred recently. The first was the Home Counties District Athletics championship at Chatham, and the other was our own Squadron Sports Day.

At the Home Counties District meeting the Squadron came last of those units who were competing, but this result gives no indication of the excellent result achieved by the four x 110 yards relay team. Signalmen Journeaux, Coburn, Hawkins and Wilkins, who comprised the team, came in third, and their four x 220 yards relay failed due to a bad handover when they were running first—a very creditable performance.

Our own Sports saw Wireless Troop defeat all comers for the first time. Sergeant Early and Signalmen Journeaux, Wilkins and Lance-Corporal Lee made an unbeatable 220 relay team; Signalman Aiken came first in the hammer and the shot and Second-Lieutenant Pitts in the 220 yards.

10 WIRELESS TRAINING SQUADRON

This month's notes are written around the accompanying picture, which shows personalities who have been closely associated with the winning, or acquisition, of the trophies displayed in front. The Squadron holds both the Northern Command and North Midland District Minor Units Hockey shields, and playing consistently and well were Major B. W. Beale, front row right, and Corporal A. Hamilton, behind him, who with Corporal E. Hamilton, his brother, form the mainstay of the team, and we still have them for the forthcoming season.

We were justifiably pleased at beating 3 Training Regiment in the District Rugby final after a match which we appeared to be losing but didn't. Hence the cup, left. Lance-Corporal Chester of the P.T. staff played no small part in the victory. Unfortunately, despite the efforts of our star athlete, Signalman Cash, seen behind the C.O., we were only able to draw with them in the District Athletic championships.

The valuable Sims Son and Cook Trophy was presented by friends of the Squadron, for award annually to any outstanding personality of the preceding year, either on the field of sport or work, within the Squadron. There is a sad note attached to the first name to appear on it. Q.M.S.I. Oliver, well-known during the last five years to the hundreds of you who have worked or visited here, died on Saturday, 3rd August, 1957, victim of the cancer he had fought so long to overcome. He was certainly a justifiable choice, and it is hoped that the replica will serve as a memory to his widow, of the happy days we know they had here. His successor, Q.M.S.I. Lumley, is seen on the left.

Major R. J. Harvey, the Commanding Officer, says good-bye this month, and he is happy to leave the Squadron still with the good reputation for games and sports, that it enjoyed when he came here three years ago. He wishes all members the best of luck for the future.



Photograph by Staff Sergeant J. D. Francis
Lance-Corporal Chester, Signalman Cash, Corporal A. Hamilton
Q.M.S.I. Lumley, Major R. J. Harvey, Major B. W. Beale

History of the 3rd Divisional Signal Regiment

[CONCLUDED]

In January, 1946, Lieutenant-Colonel A. J. M. Atthill, O.B.E., handed over command to Lieutenant-Colonel C. G. Moore*, who remained as Commander, Royal Signals, 3rd Division until August, 1947.

The Division then ceased to exist, and was re-formed in a great hurry during the first weeks of 1951.

OFFICIATING COMMANDING OFFICER: MAJOR W. E. JELF*.

Major Jelf had the task of re-starting the Unit when, together with 3rd Division, it was re-formed at Colchester and Harwich in January, 1951.

Major Jelf handed over to Lieutenant-Colonel Whistler in March 1951.

COMMANDING OFFICER: LIEUTENANT-COLONEL A. M. W. WHISTLER*.

During the raising and training in England, in 1951, the pace was so hot that (according to one statistician) the Divisional Signal Regiment covered more miles during this period than it did throughout the campaign in World War II. Certainly the C.R. Signals, in order to keep in touch, used an Auster aircraft to travel between parts of the Unit in U.K.

It is of interest to note that the Commonwealth Divisional Signals, which was also raised at Harwich in April/May, 1951, was actually formed under the auspices of 3 Divisional Signal Regiment. At a farewell Regimental Guest Night, held in 3 Divisional Signal Regiment Officers' Mess at that time for the departing Commonwealth Divisional Signal Regiment, the guests were: Major-General Sir Hugh Stockwell (G.O.C. 3 Infantry Division), Major-General W. R. C. Penney (Colonel Commandant), Major-General R. F. B. Naylor (Colonel Commandant), Colonel J. W. Gordon (A/C.S.O. Eastern Command) and Lieutenant-Colonel A. L. Atkinson (first O.C. Commonwealth Divisional Signals)—of these, all but General Stockwell were former members of 3 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment.

In October, 1951, after 10 days' warning, the Unit left U.K. by air and sea with 3rd Infantry Division for the Middle East, to carry out an internal security role during the "Abrogation" riots in Egypt. It remained in Egypt until December, 1954.

In March, 1954, Lieutenant-Colonel Whistler handed over command to Lieutenant-Colonel Swainson.

COMMANDING OFFICER: LIEUTENANT-COLONEL F. J. SWAINSON, O.B.E.*

During Lieutenant-Colonel Swainson's tour of command, the Regiment, in company with 3rd Infantry Division, returned from Egypt to U.K. in December, 1954, and once more established itself in Colchester. Thence followed two years of intensive training with 3rd Infantry Division, which formed, at that time, the British Army's strategic reserve. The highlight of this training was probably the Divisional autumn exercise on Salisbury Plain, in September, 1955—Exercise "Spearhead." The Regiment acquitted itself particularly well during this exercise, which from all aspects, and particularly communications, was a great success.

During this time, forming as it did, part of the strategic reserve, the Regiment was at relatively short notice to move to any of the world's trouble spots. In particular, eyes were always on Cyprus, where the terrorist activity was tying down military forces in the Middle East in a police role.

In March, 1955, the Regiment was ordered to send "C"

(Cable) Troop, complete, to Cyprus, to reinforce Cyprus District Signal Regiment. This deficiency in 3 Divisional Signal Regiment's strength was *not* made good, and an improvised "C" Troop had to be formed by calling in linemen from the R.A. Field Regiment Signal Troops and replacing them with R.A. Regimental signallers.

In August, 1956, the Regiment was mobilised on Home Establishments for possible offensive action in Egypt, in connection with the Suez Canal Emergency. Although the Regiment in its entirety did not eventually embark, C.R. Signals and a small detachment from 1 Squadron sailed for Port Said, as did also the Brigade Signal Troops attached to 19 Infantry Brigade and 29 Infantry Brigade. These detachments carried on the traditions of 3 Divisional Signals and provided solid communications in the occupied portion of the Canal Zone throughout the emergency, with only the barest minimum of men and equipment.

In December, 1956, Lieutenant-Colonel Swainson handed over command to Lieutenant-Colonel M. D. Price, O.B.E.

* Brigadier C. G. Moore, who retired in 1955.

Major W. E. Jelf still serving.

Colonel A. M. W. Whistler still serving.

Lieutenant-Colonel F. J. Swainson, O.B.E., still serving.

THE REUNION CLUB

It was during the post-war period that the Club was formed and that which follows has been contributed by the Honorary Secretary of the Club.

Following on the history of 3 Divisional Signals it will be of interest to all those who have read these articles that there exists today a 3rd Divisional Signals Reunion Club. The main object of the Club is to organise an annual reunion dinner somewhere in the United Kingdom.

This Club is open to all ranks who are or have served in 3 Divisional Signals since its formation, whether National Servicemen, Regulars or Reservists. Subscription is 2/- a year and full details will gladly be sent by W.O.II E. E. Bayley, A.G. 11, The War Office, Stanmore, Middlesex.

The last reunion was held at The Victory Club, London, when the Commanding Officer of 3 Infantry Divisional Signals told of the Unit's experiences at Suez which again proved that it stood up to the test as did the Unit at Dunkirk in 1940, when, during the withdrawal, lines were not only laid but subsequently recovered.

Lieutenant-Colonel S. A. W. Philcox, T.D., who commanded the Unit in 1940-1942 is the present Chairman of the Club and extends a welcome to anyone who has ever served in 3 Divisional Signals. Membership at present is nearly 200 and includes such names as Major-Generals Naylor, Fladgate and Penney.

30 SIGNAL REGIMENT

When making our maiden appearance two months ago, we outlined the multitudinous commitments of the Regiment. From time to time we intend to highlight these individually and we are starting with the Royal Signals' Display Van, "Quicksilver." For many years this was based at Catterick but it joined us last autumn and thanks to a great deal of help from the local Command Workshops it is now pleasingly decorated in green, light blue, cream and red and contains a display of working (sic) signal equipment intended both to give a fair example of the scope of the Corps and to catch the interest of the public.

"Quicksilver," with her 17 strong crew, started on a 5,000-mile trip round Eastern Command in April and at every halt has attracted considerable attention. In Eastbourne, on one day alone, over 2,000 people passed through the van, and at the Chelmsford Carnival there were over 5,000 visitors.

At the Windsor Horse Show ITV gave the Corps some free publicity during a lull in the jumping; at Hastings the team was almost, but not quite, diverted from its duty by the very pretty Carnival Queen (telephone number available to BI Exchange Operators only on receipt of SAE).

A place in the team is much sought after, for days spent at such places as Brighton, Cambridge, the Festival Gardens,



"Quicksilver" ready to set out on the current tour

Hastings, Bognor Regis and so on, are not the lot of many men in the Corps (unless they are in the Band!), but like the Band, the team has to work hard and its nomadic life brings many difficulties. For instance, the van in itself is 52 feet long and that alone is a problem. Luckily, there have been no major snags so far, a burnt-out clutch assembly at Eastbourne excepted.

The direct value of the van in terms of men recruited into the Corps is difficult to estimate, but in terms of putting the Corps in the forefront of the public's mind it certainly seems to have been very effective; this, in itself, must benefit recruiting.

Tailpiece

The majority of the Regiment moved out of Camp last month to put on a big display for the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, and the W.R.A.C. Staff College, which the spectators seemed to enjoy.

The demonstration was, however, overshadowed by a hue and cry for an I.R.A. suspect who had tried to make a phone call from a nearby signal centre. A police report described the suspect as "shifty-eyed and rough looking but with the voice and manner of an Officer."

Finally, the suspect was traced—Yes, it was one of our more senior Officers who, quite innocently, albeit in civilian clothes, had been trying to make an official call.

We refuse to disclose his name but in fairness must say that, in our opinion, he is not in the least shifty-eyed—or rough (or smooth, for that matter).



Part of the interior of "Quicksilver." Lance-Corporal Davies at the switchboard, Lance-Corporal Bowden operating the WS 53 and Sergeant Topan at the Enquiring desk

STEEPLE BUMSTEAD SIGNAL SQUADRON

Unlike every other unit in the Corps, we write notes for THE WIRE every month and it is most difficult for the four officers who do the job to get on with anything else—not that there is anything else, but our conscience demands that we make the point.

Yet another year has passed and we have managed to get away without an Annual Administrative Inspection. Mind you, the place looks very untidy but at least the charging engines are clean—the garage down the road spruced them up before returning them. Rumour has it that it was the Hygiene Inspection Book that was being torn up for confetti at the Swill Contractor's wedding.

All our sports teams have failed miserably—they really are an idle, good-for-nothing lot who would rather tear about a field chasing a ball instead of lying on their beds reading "Eagle" with the rest of us.

We are happy to report that the official time for tea is now 1630 hrs. which permits the full enjoyment of Children's television. Guard Mounting has been put back to 1915 hrs. because of the "Archers."

It is pleasant to report that the O.C. has finally got his Posting Order; we hope that he doesn't find it too arduous as Permanent Baggage Officer on the *Empire Ken*. We've no idea what his relief is like as he hasn't turned up yet. He was due last Tuesday, but we understand that he has been watching the Army Tennis Championships.

Last week we had a Squadron Dance to which we invited the girls from Steeple Bumpstead College. Afterwards, we had a nice letter from the Principal, in which she said, *inter alia*, that if we never invited them again it would be too soon.

The Wives' Club has been disbanded—they were getting on everyone's nerves.

We congratulate the S.S.M. on getting off his court-martial and on his quite voluntary retirement. We wish him every success in the Government Surplus business.

There have been no other departures as we are busily packing the Squadron for the Army Golfing Championship.



B A O R

10 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT

The main events of the last month have been the return of the Unit team from Bisley—an account of their doings will be found below—and the farewell visit of the S.O.-in-C., Major-General M. S. Wheatley, C.B., C.B.E., who inspected our Guard of Honour, lunched with the Officers and met all the Warrant Officers and Sergeants whilst he was with us.

The M.T.O. organised a very successful M.T. Rally, in which driving skills, vehicle inspections, a timed 35-mile run and a Concours d'Elegance all played their part. The team of three members from the L.A.D. won.

Bisley Without Tears

By Second-Lieutenant R. W. Ramsden,
Royal Signals

For some reason shooting never seems to have ranked among the Corps more outstanding sports, but it was decided that this year a serious effort would be made to remedy this state of affairs. Early in the year our Commanding Officer decided that the Regiment would try to set something of an example in this and gave orders that our best shots were to be selected, brought together and subjected to a period of intensive training, with a view to taking part in as many competitions and meetings as



"A" and "B" Teams replenish

possible and putting the Regiment on the map as regards shooting.

It was at this early stage that Bisley was first mentioned and we must admit to having felt more than a little sceptical. Proven shots were rare and the prospect of training a whole team up to Bisley standard threatened to present difficulties. But what we seemed to lack in material we made up in enthusiasm and we made our plans. From the classification courses there emerged a reasonable number of fair marksmen and by painstaking practice and careful selection whittled this number down to a small nucleus of consistent and promising, if mostly inexperienced shots.

Now we could start in earnest. So, for many weeks, day after day, at the time when the rest of the Regiment was rubbing the sleep from its eyes and cheerfully trooping on to First Works Parade, there could be seen on the station sports field a small, fanatical band of obvious maniacs, trotting, sprinting, now falling into strange positions on the ground and firing thousands of imaginary rounds into hundreds of imaginary targets, now stopping and indulging in fantastic feats of skill, strength and dexterity—pokey drill fiendishly devised by R.Q.M.S. Hayden. These antics would be watched curiously by incredulous airmen, but the enthusiasm could not be dampened.

Meanwhile we sought for range allocations on a wide variety of ranges, trained a highly efficient butt party and gave ourselves practice under as many different atmospheric meteorological conditions as possible, including snow, torrential rain, unbearable heat and impenetrable fog. These factors affected our scores much more than they did our spirit, and gradually the rifle, which is for too many soldiers nothing but a crude and troublesome accoutrement designed to make drill more difficult, became for us something of the traditional "best friend"—the subject of our fondest care and attention—almost a living thing. Ill-treating a rifle was more criminal than ill-treating a child, and even when it persisted in making you strike around the edge of the target, or jumped just as you were firing, you did not punish it, but tried to reason with it and coax it to do better.

The small bore competitions, in which basically the same individuals were involved, provided us with a diversion and also with valuable lessons in positioning, holding and steadiness. The Station Armoury voluntarily lent us its considerable experience and helped us with advice and technique. We began to imagine ourselves quite professional.

Our first real test came with the Rhine District Non-Central Meeting, in which we did not fare too well. It was as yet a little early in our training programme and perhaps we had not reached the peak of our form. In our first taste of the competition atmosphere the best performance came from the Senior N.C.O.s among us, but even they were disappointing—and disappointed, too. We had hoped for more. But the experience was useful.

In the Royal Signals in B.A.O.R. Meeting at Haltern, the next stage on our journey we enjoyed more success. We won one of the three matches and were runners-up in a second and we also took several individual awards. Lance-Corporal Wilson and Signaller Chipping were particularly outstanding. We returned from Haltern well pleased and sent the whole of our team as a part of the B.A.O.R. contingent to the Corps Meeting at Bulford.

By now, of course, the standard had become quite high. But we felt we were still up among the elite; an average of four out of eight members representing B.A.O.R. in each of the three matches came from our party of ten, and the B.A.O.R. team came a good third in all three. Signaller Chipping took our only individual award.



WEAPON CLEANING

Staff-Sergeant Bell, Staff-Sergeant Langham, Second-Lieutenant Ramsden, Lance-Corporal Wilson

After a break of four days we went to Bisley. It is difficult to convey the atmosphere of Bisley to anyone who has not seen it. If you are a Signaller you may well be lying beside a Colonel, marking his score card and discussing the conditions and the shots. At that moment you are not a Signaller and he is not a Colonel. Primarily you are both competitors. Rank is not important at Bisley, this being surely a valuable situation in any sport. The vast hundred target Century range is in itself an aweing sight at first, yet in these huge spaces with so much going on around you, at so measured and leisurely a pace, you cannot feel the nervousness you may have had at other meetings. So much trust and confidence is placed in you that you cannot help but be worthy of it. When you have fired your first round you are now a Bisley shot and you quickly develop a Bisley mentality. Although your actual scores are very important, somehow they are not now the only thing that matters. Perhaps for the first time shooting becomes a sport for you in the true sense. You are as delighted as a child when your Regiment's name is chalked up on the boards which show the day's best performances, regardless of whether you yourself have had any part in earning the distinction.

As for our actual achievements at Bisley, they were modest, perhaps. Signaller Chipping was 22nd in his class in the Henry Whitehead Cup; Lance-Corporal Wilson was 18th in his class in the Roberts Cup and 44th in the Roupell Cup. We hope with these performances to put the Regiment's name in next year's A.R.A. Handbook a few times. None of us was confident enough to reach the Army Hundred, but most of us did reasonably well in at least one event.

Most of us, too, picked up a little money in the "side-shows." The O.C. party, whose interest appeared to flag a little after he inadvertently lost ten of his rounds in a mad dash to the 300 yards firing point in the Roberts Cup, contrived to win the sum of 3/- and, although it cost him 17/6 to do so, he appeared to be justly proud.

R.Q.M.S. Hayden and Staff Sergeant Langham, M.B.E., graduated into the rarified atmosphere of S.R. (b) competitions, and for a time their conversation became so complex and technical that the rest of us were quite unable to follow it in any great detail.

Until the last few days of the meeting the weather had treated us generally very well indeed (organised, no doubt, by the War Office), but the gradual insidious arrival of the competitors for the N.R.A. meeting, with their magic lights, telescopes, elbow pads and mysterious floppy hats, seemed to be the signal for it to break.

But by now our rôle was spectatorial and we were not as uncomfortable as we might have been.

Although our own part had finished, however, the spell of Bisley persisted—persisted, in fact, until entraining at Brookwood Station on our way back, we heard the first voices for three weeks which were talking of something other than shooting. We gathered that the subject was some local sport played with a small leather ball and a club made of willow, and that it was of national importance, but we did not really understand and did not enquire further.

We had gone to Bisley with very high hopes and naturally many of them remained unfulfilled. But when it is considered that out of an initially rather motley crew ranging from old

hands to young lads who a few months before might not have known a rifle from a rocket launcher, there had emerged a tolerably competent team of quite experienced shots who, whatever else they may have done, had by no means disgraced themselves at the Mecca of shooting, and it will be seen just what can be done with patience, enthusiasm and application.



GLIDING IN BAOR

By 2nd Lieutenant P. Goldney

Gliding as a sport seems to be rapidly becoming a popular pastime in the United Kingdom. A great deal has appeared in the Press lately, both from the propaganda side: "The Duke of Edinburgh flies without an engine," to the factual record of better results obtained in height, distance and average speeds performed by skilled pilots. To most people, however, the interesting points are: "How do I learn?" How easy is it to learn, and what can I do once I have learnt?" Service personnel are extremely fortunate in having, in England, the Army Gliding Club, and in B.A.O.R. several T.A.F. Gliding Clubs, where instruction is given at an extremely moderate cost. Having joined a club, the first goal is to be able to fly solo. This should take about four or five months of week-end flying before the average pilot is ready. The great day arrives and you find yourself on your own 1,000 feet above the ground. By this time it all seems ridiculously easy. Your actions are automatic and to those who say "I could never glide," I would say this: It is quite extraordinary how quickly those who are keen adapt themselves to the air.

At long last, after a lot of hard work, the pilot is now solo, and throws aside the word "gliding" and adopts "soaring" as his motto. This describes the art of staying airborne and thus, actually climbing in a sailplane in defiance of gravity. There are several tests which give the pilot a target in life, and it was in an effort to complete the requirements for the Silver "C" badge, that I took two weeks' leave, in May, to join a rally held by the Gliding Club, R.A.F., Wildenrath, at Oerlinghausen. The requirements are:

1. A gain in height of 1,000 m.
2. A flight lasting five hours.
3. A flight covering 50 km.

To give an idea of the capabilities of the pilot in his third season at the sport, I will give a short description of the highlights of the 14 days. The rally began on Monday, 6th July, and the first incident occurred on Tuesday, the 7th. I took off on what looked a very promising day. There appeared to be a good deal of rising air forming large clouds which every now and then showered us with snow and sleet. I circled under one such cloud and eventually made contact with a column of rising air and climbed at about 15ft./sec. to 3,000ft., where I found myself in cloud. I went on up and soon found myself shivering at 6,000ft.; ice was forming on the wings and was creeping in through the cracks in the cockpit. At 7,000ft. I came out of cloud into brilliant sunshine, and started worrying about where I was. I flew steadily North against the wind to make up for the distance I had drifted during the climb, and eventually sighted Hermanns Denkmal, a very prominent landmark. I was horrified to discover that I still had 30 kms. to go, and that I was down to 4,000ft. All the lift had vanished and I was left with no alternative but to land about 20 kms. away from Oerlinghausen, near Detmold, about 90 minutes after take-off. After a bit of language difficulty over the phone, I made contact with base, and the retrieving party, complete with trailer arrived to take me back. I had completed one test: the climb of 1,000 m.

The next highlight was about a week later, when it was my turn to fly, with the weather looking just right for a long-duration flight. It was a very warm day, much calmer than on the 7th. I took off, and after one abortive attempt, seven minutes in all, I got away on the second launch and climbed steadily to the cloud base, where I had to stay for five hours. I settled myself in the cockpit as comfortably as possible and prepared to sit out the long vigil. All went well for about two hours. The lift was weak but widespread. Then it suddenly gave out and I started sinking in a steady glide earthwards. I searched around desperately, but to no avail. I saw other sailplanes take off and land below me. When I was down to 2,000ft. I was resigned to my fate. I was just turning in for the last time, at 1,200ft., when suddenly I hit an up-current. My heart raced. I must keep cool, turn evenly so as not to lose it. All these thoughts raced through my head. Slowly the altimeter crept up to 2,000ft., 3,000ft., 4,000ft., until at last I was back at 8,000ft., with two hours to go. From there it was plain sailing, and at 16.25, after 5hrs. 15mins. in the air, I landed with two of three tests completed.

On Friday, the 17th, I was given the chance to complete the final test. A flight of 50 kms. Again it looked a good day, and I set off with high hopes. However, due to lack of experience, I spoiled my chances, and had to come down 35 kms. from Oerlinghausen. Two weeks later, however, I was given another chance during a week-end's flying. After some very narrow escapes and, I like to think, with experience gained from my first failure, I was able to fly 75 kms., from Oldenburg to Verden, landing on the sports ground at Caithness Barracks (7 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment). The attraction there being that I could get a refreshing cup of tea and ring up base without the awful struggle in German over the 'phone.

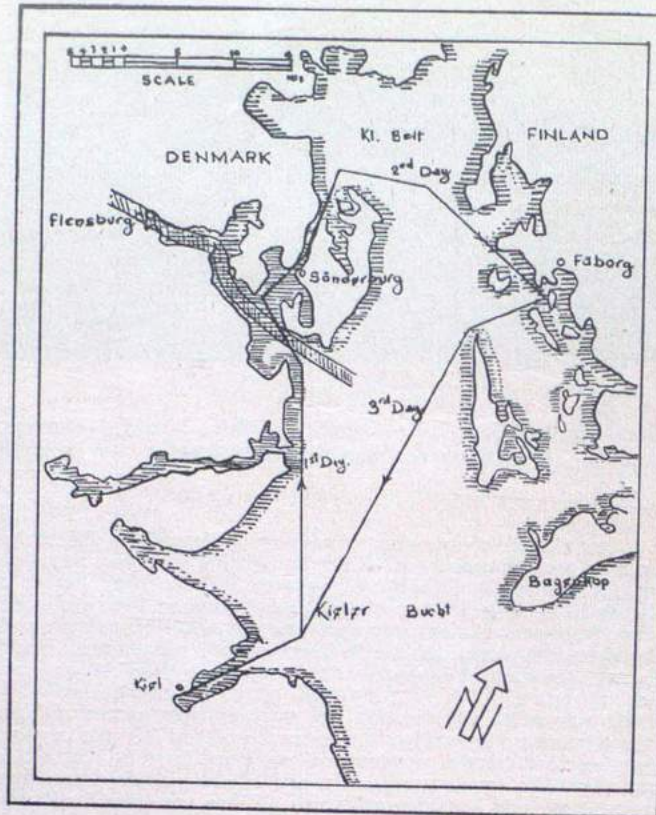
Like most sports, gliding has its moments of indescribable expectation and excitement, punctuating long periods of hard work, which is sometimes irksome, but is always good training. Many people take it up and drop it before they get any real excitement. It is not a sport that can be rushed, and because of the equipment involved, a great deal of hard work has to be put in by members of a club, or the cost of keeping full-time carpenters and mechanics would make it prohibitively expensive. It is by no means expensive on your pocket, and people from all walks of life can be seen rubbing shoulders in the gliding field; the only requirements being enthusiasm and perseverance.

A BALTIC PASSAGE RACE

An Account of the 5 AGRA (AA) Passage Race by a crew member of the 5 AGRA (AA) Signal Squadron Yacht

ALEMANNIE lies moored to the jetty of the British Kiel Yacht Club, looking sleek though somewhat undistinguished among the neighbouring craft. She is a 30 Square Metre Bermudian-rigged sloop and is one of seven of this class taking part in the AGRA/RAF Baltic Passage Race.

The sun is up early on this mid-June morning. So, too, are the skipper and the three crew members who have slept the night on board. My berth is near the Calor gas-ring, so I stretch a lazy arm to put on the kettle for an early morning brew up. "Tubby" Peter in the quarter-berth yawns and rises himself on his elbows, his head coming perilously near to the gas-ring. Suddenly there is a sizzling noise accompanied by an ominous smell of burning. "Your hair's



alight," yells "Slim" Peter from the opposite quarter-berth. Tubby furiously extinguishes the flames, whilst skipper chuckles and informs Slim that the correct phrase is "Fire in the galley." The weather looks fine, the wind is about Force 3 and it's early yet. A wash and shave (with electric razor plugged into a power point on the jetty), breakfast of bacon, eggs and coffee and we slip our moorings for an early start.

0815 hrs. The gun fires and we are well away. With wind abaft the beam from West, we sail up Kieler Bucht for the first mark-Kiel "A" buoy. The fleet spreads out; some of the yachts steer a course in-shore, whilst we hope to get a better wind by keeping further out. After about an hour's sailing, we come in sight of Keil A—or rather, in hearing of it, since it emits a moan resembling a cow in pain. The six other yachts begin to converge and as we round the mark, we are elated to find that we are leading by a minute over *Friese*, the second boat round. Now we sail closer to the wind on the same tack, heading for the next mark, Flensburg Lightship, some 25 miles away. For some time *Friese* remains within hailing distance though slightly downwind, but as the wind freshens to Force 5 we begin to pull ahead and the other yachts drop further astern. *Alemanne* is carrying full main and Genoa and her lee rail is now constantly awash.

It's a long haul to Flensburg Light so the skipper suggests something about "doing his worst," dives below and appears a few moments later with slices of black bread and wurst (German liver sausage), to be washed down with cans of Pilsener. The latter are subsequently used for assessing the speed of the yacht, by dropping over the bows and timing them past the stern. We estimated our speed at seven knots at this stage. Now Flensburg Light comes into view. We shall have to sail really close after rounding it, the wind is still fresh, so the skipper decides to replace the Genoa with the smaller No. 1 jib. Thereupon he and Slim Peter go forward to prepare No. 1 jib. By now, the sea is lashing over the bows and when 20 minutes later the jib is set, a very drenched skipper returns to the cockpit, remarking ruefully that one day he will learn to don his oilskins first! Whilst

Slim heartily declares that he has never enjoyed himself more.

Flensburg Light is rounded and we're still in the lead. We harden up, another five miles to go before we cross the finishing line. And now, our jib-changing efforts bear fruit, for we are able to sail closer than the others who are still using their Genoas. We make the final mark quite easily and just as we are about to cross the finishing line we are hailed from the committee boat, whose members are pointing frantically at something. Alarmed, and thinking that we must have committed some dreadful default of the racing rules, we hurriedly scan the rigging and we are then relieved to discover our "crime" to be that we are still flying the German flag from the cross trees, whereas we are now in Danish waters!

As we enter the little harbour of Sönderburg, after 5½ hours sailing, over a distance of 35 miles, we hoist the Danish flag, "slowly and with dignity," looking back with satisfaction at the fleet. *Friese*, who has crossed the line two minutes behind has ignominiously gone aground . . . ! We come alongside the jetty, which is lined with curious spectators, and make fast. Immigration officials come aboard, imbibe brandy, stamping our passports in return. Tubby prepares a long-awaited tiffin. He is "a good cook as cooks go" . . . and we do full justice to his curried "Compo" mutton.

The next day we have a comparatively quiet course of about 40 miles, to Fabörge. Setting off early, we feel rather important, as the Sönderburg lift-bridge is raised to let us pass into Alsen Fjord. A beat to the Northern end of the Fjord and we are once more in the open sea, running before the wind. The skipper and mate relax, the "second eleven" taking a turn at the helm. Arriving at Fabörge, a fishing village on the island of Fyn, we tie up inside its neatly-walled harbour and, after some necessary maintenance and reprovisioning, we don our shore-going kit and go off to sample the local wining, dining, etc. . . . Returning to harbour in the early hours of the next morning, we are somewhat disconcerted to find that our boat has vanished. After a feverish search we discover her moored to a jetty the other side of the harbour; needless to say, the crew of another yacht are responsible for this little joke.

And so, to the final day—leg two of the race: Fabörge to Kiel. Soon after daybreak we are once more astir, in time to see the fishermen bringing their catch in, some of which we buy and cook for breakfast. The wind is light and the skipper decides to set out for the start-line and have breakfast on the way. Unfortunately, owing to a mishap with the frying pan, everyone gets breakfast but the skipper, who is, in any case, too intent upon starting the race to worry about food!

We reach the start-line just in time, together with two other boats—our old rival, *Friese*, and another called *Heiko*. We cross the start-line with a tricky beat for the first mile or two. *Friese* and ourselves are making for what we think is the first mark on the course: Langetang Flak Buoy. We have to take it to port. *Heiko*, however, takes it to starboard and we hail her, informing her of her error. "That's not Langetang Flak," comes the tart reply from her skipper. Follows a hurried study of charts on all three boats, and we tacitly decide that *Heiko* is right, whereupon her skipper accuses us of downright gamesmanship! Clear now of the channel (and backchat), *Heiko* and *Friese* put in a seemingly unnecessary tack, enabling us to get ahead, still in a light air. Now I am lounging on the forepeak, when a startled exclamation comes from the skipper. "Ready about, lee oh!" and I scramble up to ease the jib across as the yacht comes quickly about. The wind has veered suddenly through 80° and freshened at the same time, to our advantage, since we can now steer a direct course due south to our next mark—our old friend Keil A, still, however, nearly 40 miles away. Moreover, this good breeze has not yet reached the other yachts, and looking back, we can picture the consternation of their helmsman as they see us galloping away from them.

Six hours pass quickly, and the time comes to look out for Keil A. Approached from this direction, it is not a very distinctive mark, especially as there are so many other buoys in the vicinity. But suddenly we hear the inevitable moan—a welcome wail, urging us on. Up we come on a fine reach, round into the home straight.

Less than one hour later, we are first across the finishing line, about 2½ miles ahead of *Friese*, which in this fair wind means a lead of only 20 minutes or so. The committee boat sounds a blast on the foghorn signifying that we have won, we sit back and relax and four more cans of Pilsener go down the hatch.

12 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT

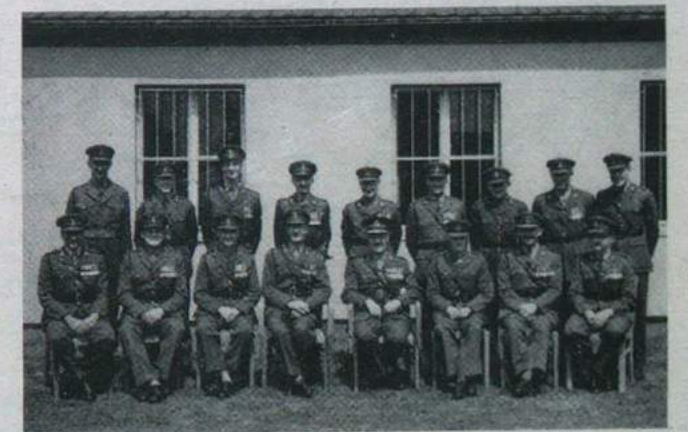
Major-General M. S. Wheatley, C.B., C.B.E., M.I.E.E., paid a farewell visit to the Regiment on the 23rd July, 1957. The Guard of Honour was again provided by 1 Squadron and did extremely well. A sad occasion and we were all very sorry to see our S.O.-in-C. for the last time in his present appointment and sincerely hope that all goes well with him in his retirement.

The Regiment entered a team in the Nijmegen marches of 10 Other Ranks and one Officer. Training began in June with a total of 26 volunteers and during the training period the team covered a total of 600 miles and the final team was selected early in July. The team left for Nijmegen on the 21st July in very good spirit and quite determined to succeed and, as events proved, did extremely well. They finished on the fourth day of the marches with plenty of time in hand and were in fact the first Royal Signals team to finish. As usual, the Dutch people were most friendly and hospitable and a good time was had by all. A photograph of the team will appear in next month's issue.

This month we lost quite a large proportion of our Officers' strength and said a regretful goodbye to our Quartermaster, Captain Parks, who returns to the U.K., Lieutenant (T.O.T.) Chetwynd, on his way to Nairobi and the fleshpots of East Africa, and finally Lieutenant Marshall, one of our Wing Troop Commanders, who returns to civil life and plans to resume his University training. We shall miss them all and wish them all the best in their new assignments.



ON THE OCCASION OF A FAREWELL VISIT BY THE CHIEF SIGNAL OFFICER



2 L. of C. SIGNAL REGIMENT. GERMANY, JULY, 1957.

Back Row: Second-Lieutenant J. A. Pickering, Second-Lieutenant N. A. Paterson, Lieutenant (T.O.T.) L. E. Adcock, Captain (Tfc.) G. E. Homer, Captain (T.O.T.) E. Thompson, Captain (Q.M.) C. C. Cross, M.B.E., Captain B. J. Parker, R.E.M.E., Lieutenant (Q.M.) J. Hopkins, Second-Lieutenant M. Mortlock.
Front Row: Captain (Tfc.) M. Turner, Major C. C. Wardle, Major P. A. Toombs, Lieutenant-Colonel W. C. Burke, Major-General R. J. Moberly, C.B., O.B.E., Captain C. J. Gilbert, Major B. E. Tebbis, Major F. Sloan.

LATEST NEWS FROM 11 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT



RSM MACDONALD WHO GETS A FAIR SHARE OF PUBLICITY IN THESE PAGES BECAUSE WE LIKE DRAWING HIS MOUSTACHE, WAS NOT HIS USUAL GENIAL SELF



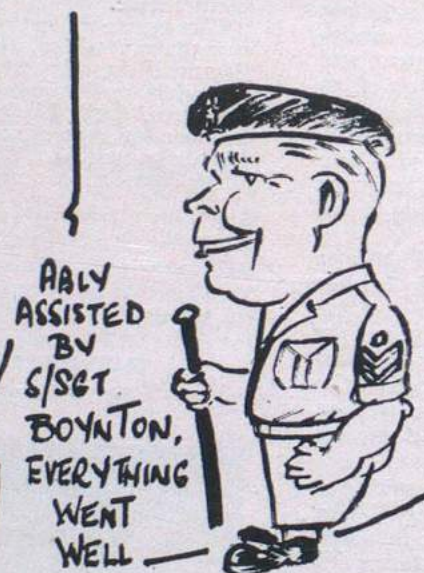
DURING 'FLAMING' JULY. THIS WAS BECAUSE HE WAS PREPARING FOR A FÊTE WORSE THAN DEATH. AS SOMEBODY (THE CO?) REMARKED



REFERRING TO THE REGIMENT'S GARDEN FÊTE IN AID OF THE R. SIGNALS BENEVOLENT FUND (ADVT). IN THE EVENT, OF COURSE, KING SOL DID HIS STUFF



UNDER THE DIRECTION OF MAJOR DICK ORAM



ALLY ASSISTED BY S/SGT BOYNTON, EVERYTHING WENT WELL



AND KIDS OF ALL SIZES ENJOYED THEMSELVES. THE SANTA FÉ EXPRESS IN PARTICULAR, ATTRACTED SOME QUITE ELDERLY CHILDREN



TALKING OF FACE FUNGUS (OR HIRSUITE GROWTHS IF YOU PREFERIT) SGT PRESSAGH, LATE OF THE IRISH GUARDS

NOW OF 22 WING SIGNAL TROOP, WALKED IN TO SEE US THE OTHER DAY AND WE NEARLY RANG THE FIRE ALARM.

YOU SHOULD SEE HIM IN TECHNICOLOUR!

HAVING, WE HOPE, PUT THE EDITOR IN HIS PLACE (CALL THOSE WHISKERS?)

LET US FINISH ON A GOOD CLEAN NOTE WITH A PICTURE OF 2LT HOWELL WHOSE ENTHUSIASM FOR MARCHING LED THE TEAM TO SUCCESS AT NIJMEGEN.

Introduction to Atomic Research

by Nacerby

It isn't often I make a real contribution to science, although readers of long standing will recall how I was responsible for the introduction of the new trades of Operator Wireless and Whitewash, Operator Keyboard and Canasta, Lineman Field and Snackbar.

However, I attended a party last month to say Bon Voyage to Major R. L. B. Scott, Royal Canadian Signals, who returned to Canada after three tremendous years in the Directorate.

And it was at this party I met his successor, Major D. Kelly also of the Royal Canadian Signals and it was he who told of his new fascinating book, "Woof—that's an Atom that was."

With his permission I reproduce the index below, with translation in modern German for those unfortunate colleagues in B.A.O.R. who still have to pay 2s. for a packet of cigarettes and double gin.

Fasten your safety belts and read on, copyright reserved. Guided Missile—Das skientifiker geschutenwerkes firenkrakker.

Rocket Engine—Fireschpitter mit schmoken-und-schnorren.

Liquid Rocket—Das skwirlen jucenkind fireschpitter.

Solid Rocket—Das schtick kindlikercigaretten fireschpitter.

Celestial Guidance—Das schruballische schtargazen peepen-glasser mit komputenrattracen schteerenwerke.

Control System—Das pullen-und-schoven werke.

Beam Rider—Das elektronik bounzbacken pippenskoper mit komputenrattracen und gesenden mekanische.

Warhead—Das laudenboomer.

Nuclear Warhead—Das eargeschplitten laudenboomer mit ein grosse hollengraund und alles kaput.

Sectionalization—Machtenze mit der pullenoudt und schoventogedder mit ein grosse schpede.

Aerodynamic Heating—Das winde ben gerubben und uppengeheaten der schnoot.

Air to Air—Fromische uppenschteres geschten tonudder uppenschteres bullzei.

Engineering—Das aufgusfen grupe.

Management—Das ulzurenbalden grupe.

Project Engineer—Das schwettenoudter.

Electronic—Das tubenkrap grupe.

Propulsion—Das fireschpitter grupe.

Wind tunnel—Das huffenpuffen grupe.

Thermodynamics—Das sizzlen grupe.

Public Relations—Das braggen und schnoen grupe.

Computing—Das schlidenruler grupe.

Structural Test—Das pullenapardten grupe.

Art Group—Das guhtenlooker frauleinen grupe.

Security—Das schnoopen bunche.

Planning—Das schemen grupe.

Reliability—Das fastertalken grupe.

Secretary—Das kutische typengeflipper.

Fuselage—Das doorgekuten grupe.

Wing—Das gepflappen grupe.

Control Surfaces—Das pullen-und-schoven grupe.

Equipment—Das kitchensinker grupe.

Nuclear Research—Das whiskidden grupe.

Operations Research—Das uppengethinken grupe.

Engineering Facilities—Das deskgeschoven bunche.

Administration—Das oudtgeschmardten grupe.

Support Equipment—Das garterleiten grupe.



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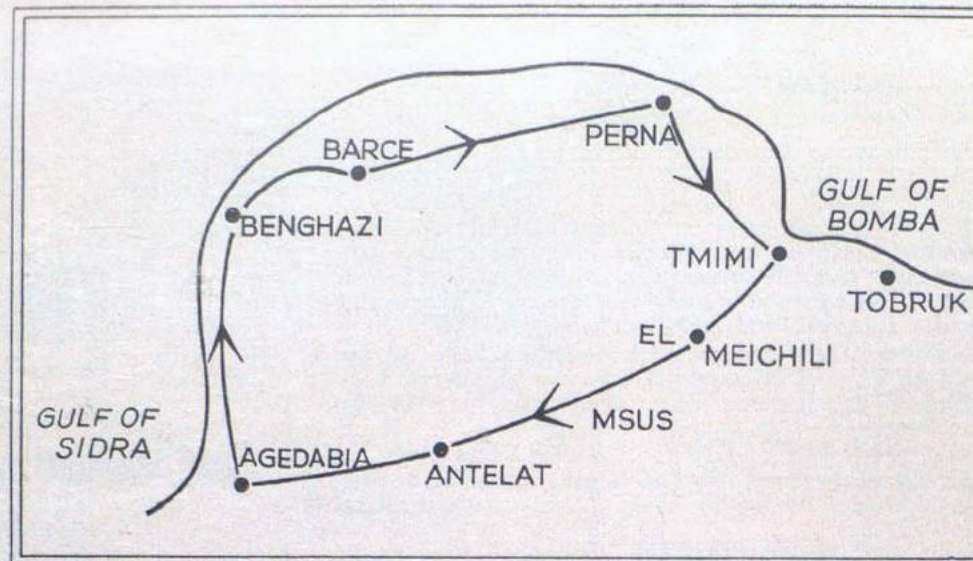
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A Desert Trip in Cyrenaica

By Second-Lieutenant Peter Jackson



When the Commanding Officer agreed to allow a small party from the unit to join a Desert Navigation Training Scheme sponsored by C.R.E. Cyrenaica, volunteers were many and eager. Three members, Second-Lieutenant Jackson, Sergeant Hunt and Driver Train were eventually selected and they joined three officers, four N.C.O.s and two Arab employees from C.R.E. The aim of the scheme was to give the party experience in desert conditions and navigation by sun compass. The route was to follow the main 8th Army advance from Tmimi on the Gulf of Bomba, fifty miles from Tobruk, to Agedabia via El Mechili, Zt Msus and Antelat. The party travelled in four Landrovers each with a loaded trailer, and stores of fuel, water and food were taken for ten days plus survival stores for two days. A complete fitter's tool kit, spare wheels for all vehicles and many spares were also considered worth their weight.

We left Benghazi early on 16th May and travelled by road through Barce to Derna, where final preparations were made before parting from civilisation. Fuel tanks were topped up, water jerricans filled and a final check carried out. As the convoy moved slowly up the Derna East Pass on to Jebel, I have no doubt the thought uppermost in our minds was how these sturdy little vehicles would fare with their great load over terrain unknown as yet. As it was later proved, the Landrovers answered every call made upon them, and the only mechanical fault discovered on the 700-mile round trip was a radiator leak that was quickly repaired. They inspired the greatest confidence as regards power, suspension, storage space and durability.

Camp was struck under a viaduct at the top of Derna East Pass the first night, and the Signals Team drew the doubtful honour of being the first guard. Thereafter a team of three provided a guard each night: each man taking a three-hour stretch during the hours of darkness between 2030 hours and 0530 hours. The last "stag" seemed to be the most popular—anyone who has ever seen a desert sunrise will not need to ask why—even though it was coupled with producing the early morning brew-up!

Navigation with a sun compass is interesting but requires concentration and constant attention, time factor adjustment being made every 15 minutes, and a log of bearing and mileage being necessarily very accurate. The Libyan Desert is a maze of faint tracks and stone cairns, but these only confuse for the former lead nowhere and the latter show no consistency. At first we attempted to follow tracks lead-in on roughly the right bearing, but they twisted so much that accurate logging was impossible and we eventually developed our own technique. This was to turn a blind eye to the inviting tracks and set one vehicle on the correct bearing. This vehicle would forge slowly ahead over sand, bushes, rocks and everything but the impossible,

while the others found the easiest path in sight of the first vehicle. It was also impossible to take a bearing onto a distant object and drive to it accurately for landmarks were few and far between and rarely in the right position. All available maps were at least 15 years old and helped only in determining bearings from one village to another. To confuse the map-reader even more, both British and American oil companies are surveying the desert, and have left many markers and mine cleared areas, but they are situated for air recognition and bear no relationship to known tracks or Arab settlements.

The second day we entered the interior at Tmimi and headed towards El Mechili. We soon realised how much we should have to rely on good navigation, for in every direction the scene to the horizon is identical. The ground gently undulates and the actual surface is for ever changing. First, hard, sharp stones that insisted on tearing the tyres and suspension apart, then fifty yards further on, hard sand with patches of coarse scrub, soft sand, rock outcrop, and the whole repeated in two hundred yards. First and second gear were the most used, with the occasional need of four-wheeled drive. After two or three days we became proficient in setting up camp and could be sitting on our beds eating a hot meal forty minutes after switching the ignition off.

Our system was to form a square with a Landrover and trailer forming one side. Beds were made on the ground and covered with the trailer tarpaulin with the liberal use of vehicle doors and jerricans as draught-excluders. Everyone was surprised at the excellence of the compositions, cooked on a hydraburner—far removed from the old bully beef and biscuits—of course it tasted better eaten by hungry men in the open air. The third day we reached El Mechili and were disappointed to find nothing but the ruins of a one-time strategic Italian garrison town. A few Arabs had made use of old walls and metal junk left behind from the war and had constructed typical shacks. There was even a shop that sold everything from matches to eggs. We bought eggs and refilled with dirty water, the latter under protest, and moved away almost immediately.

That afternoon we had a little excitement. The leading truck stopped short of a minefield marker, a subject we had purposely left unspoken before this. Upon investigation we were unable to discover from the strand of barbed wire with cans attached or from its ends any definite indication as to whether we had crossed the field or had yet to cross it. We pushed on carefully and some 1,000 yards further on discovered another more definite marker showing that we had successfully crossed the obstacle. By popular consent it was a good excuse to stop and open a can of beer! Two more days of similar travel found us at Msus, another old fort that was little more than a pile of rubble and clunch.



The Crew of the Signals Land-rover:— Second Lieutenant Jackson, Sergeant Hunt (in centre) and Driver Train (with headgear).

Here we found a gigantic underground cave leading from a small opening in the ground. It was infested by snakes, toads and lizards, but pigeons and swallows had fearlessly built their nests in full view of any explorer. It was very pleasant to sit round our sand fire and chew roast pigeon on the end of a stick!

Not only were there ruins but we found a real reminder of the recent desert war. Giant slit trench systems and mortar pits still guard the approaches to these old buildings and to all commanding ground. Jerricans and tin cans by the thousand, shell cases, burnt out vehicles, machine gun belts, tank tracks, camouflage nets, water bottles, boots, mines and even a crashed aeroplane, told us too plainly of the battles that raged in Cyrenaica only fifteen years ago.

Between Msus and Antelat—another pile of stone on a hill surrounded by war souvenirs—we encountered two days that were so overcast that we were unable to use our sun compasses. We were obliged to keep stopping and taking prismatic compass bearings onto far landmarks, but this was not entirely satisfactory and proved to us the superiority of the sun compass.

Although the desert scenery is so constant that one can lose one's sense of direction and feel lost only 100 yards from the main party in broad daylight, the crest of a rise often showed the unexpected. One of the largest wadis we encountered, the Wadi Sammat, is quite undetectable at 50 yards, although it is 100 yards across, forty feet deep and jealously guards trees, bushes, a large pool and water birds. This pool was a very pleasant surprise and was quite large enough for us to refill our empty jerricans and have a bath in as well. Sometimes we would top a rise and see a herd of gazelle disappearing in the distance. The few times we attempted to gain a closer look, we were left standing at 50 m.p.h. and had to give up when the flat sand gave way to harsh stones that did not seem to worry these wonderful creatures. They are protected as royal game, although little protection is needed with their speed. Desert turkeys would lazily fly out of our path with a very nonchalant but powerful stroke of their wings. More than once we came across the genuine desert dweller with his cattle, goats, camels and unmistakable square patchwork tents. They were suspicious people and would not allow us nearer than 100 yards to their tents to take photographs; presumably because they thought we might "cleft" their "bints," worth maybe £15 each!

Occasionally we met travellers with their little donkeys passing through the wilderness. They instinctively knew their way for hundreds of miles and put us to shame with our modern instruments.

At the end of eight days we reached Agedabia and the coast road from Tripoli to Benghazi, having had a thoroughly interesting and educational trip. Nevertheless, we could appreciate the feelings of our predecessors who had spent upwards of six months among the sand dunes in the last decade, and who could not, like us, look forward to a cool drink and civilisation, even if most of our suntan did wash off in the bath!

Careers and Opportunity

(IMPORTANT: Anyone obtaining employment through answering advertisements in THE WIRE MUST notify the Employment Section, Royal Signals Association, 88, Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1.

Members are reminded that they can ensure prompt notification of any vacancies likely to suit them by registering with the Employment Section. Jobs advertised in THE WIRE are only a small proportion of those received).

THE INSPECTORATE OF ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL EQUIPMENT has vacancies for Electronic Examiners. Applicants must have served a full trade apprenticeship or possess equivalent qualifications (e.g. service in a Signals trade such as Foreman of Signals, Radio, Telegraph or Line Technician). Rates of pay for 44-hour, five-day week: London, 235/- rising to 260/-; Provinces (except South Wales), 233/-—258/-; South Wales, 246/7—271/7. An additional 10/- may be earned on certain work. Good prospects of promotion for men who are prepared to study for City and Guilds Telecommunications, Ordinary or Higher National Certificates.

The Inspectorate is responsible for the inspection of all Army Engineer, Radar and Signal equipment and many electronic components for the Services. Work includes the inspection of newly produced equipments, investigation of defects and their causes, assistance in preparing specifications and construction of test equipment for special purposes. It is often of a non-routine nature and offers scope for originality and initiative.

Apply to Ministry of Supply (I.E.M.E.), "Aquila," Golf Road, Bromley Kent, or to the Regional Inspection Officer (I.E.M.E.), at any of the following addresses:

29, Chester Terrace, Regents Park, London, N.W.1.
361, Clapham Road, London, S.W.9.
Market Buildings, 2, Moat Lane, Birmingham, 5.
Crest Hill House, Cote Road, Bristol, 9.
Montrose House, 187, George Street, Glasgow, C.1.
Fourth Floor, Sunlight House, Quay Street, Manchester, 3.
Clarendon House, Clayton Street West, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, 1.
Fargate House, Fargate, Sheffield, 1.

NOTICE

The new postal charges will increase the cost of sending notice of vacancies to members who have registered with the Association for advice about employment.

Regrettably, such members often fail to inform the Employment Section when they have found work. Association funds must not be wasted in sending out information to men who may no longer be interested.

In future, applicants will be asked to write to the Employment Section at least once a month confirming that they still wish to hear of vacancies. Those who do not comply will be deleted from the books.

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COMCAN SIGNAL TROOP, ACCRA

The Sergeants' Mess under new management continues to flourish. In fact on Mess social nights one almost feels that Blackpool is just around the corner. Our ingenious Foreman of Signals, Staff-Sergeant Swaby, has rigged a fascinating life-sized "Jimmy" in coloured lights (we hope Barracks don't read these notes), and with some very clever wiring and resistors which the less technical of us fail to understand, and the local populace put down to the "white man's ju-ju" makes "Jimmy" appear to be running. Unfortunately, when weather conditions are unfavourable, poor old "Jimmy" appears to be running backwards, which completely mystifies the lay man, and the grizzled old infants are heard to exclaim: "Don't know what this modern Army is coming to." W.O.II Pettit has now qualified for his "Chef's" hat, having valiantly stepped in the breach when the Mess was let down by a Ghana cook, and roasted a suckling pig as if this was an everyday job.

With the end of the rainy season at long last, one almost feels that perhaps it has been worthwhile. The Traffic Office gardens are in full bloom and the botanical gardens keepers are casting very envious glances in our direction.

Our Transmitter Station is now fully operational and apart from the odd tidying up is a going concern.

SIERRA LEONE SIGNAL SQUADRON, WEST AFRICA

We are pleased to report that this Squadron still maintains the Communications for one of the few "Outposts of the Commonwealth"—although for how much longer is very much under discussion. It is a long time since our name appeared in THE WIRE, but we feel sure there are many ex-coasters who would be interested in our survival. Our O.C., Captain D. J. D. McKail has recently taken over from Captain "Ted" Andrews, and has been joined by a former compatriot of 12 Air Formation Signals, Captain M. G. Pantou. After a most touching farewell party for Captain Andrews, given by the African N.C.O.s and their families, the O.C. presented a cup, which he himself had won for shooting, to the Squadron. It will be given for the best African shot in the Annual Range Classification, and will be known as the "Andrews" Cup.

One welcome innovation this year has been the introduction of an annual Sapper-Signals Dinner to celebrate the parting of the Corps. It is to be hoped that this will be a permanent fixture. After an excellent dinner and speeches, the Sappers just pipped us by 8 matches to 7 in a games tournament.

The troubles of the rainy season need little explanation to old coasters—150in. of it a year, and we begin to think in terms of submarine cable and Snorkels. Line Troop have had a tremendous job and have worked to "nil faults" under Sergeant Heeley, who runs his "Little Empire" in park-like surroundings. His cry is usually "Copper, more copper" as the rain reduces both cable and cash. Sergeants Orton, Lynch and Fulstow—all ex-Commonwealth Division—take a great deal of interest in our C.V. (H.P.) and are always wanting to see how it will go over the laterite bush tracks. They are aided and abetted by the 2 i/c, who sees leopard and crocodile behind every bush and stream—but when are we going to see some "chop"? After one of his week-ends it is reported that one of his companions who finished up in hospital had a paralysed right arm—but still no "chop"!

Our football team has high hopes and hard feet and is progressing well in the District League under the leadership of Corporal Annaman, who we think is still recovering from the Ghana Independence celebrations.

Congratulations are due to Sergeant Fulstow of Field Troop for the award of the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal. Congratulations also to Staff Sergeant Langhorn on his promotion.

FARELF

19 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT

Here in Changi marriages are frequent events, since there is a fairly big W.R.A.F. complement, but invariably these marriages take place one at a time. So just to be different and maybe because there is safety in numbers, two of our N.C.O.s, Corporals Hawes and Salt, decided to hold a double wedding. So it was that at 2 p.m. on Saturday, 13th July, at St. George's Church, Miss Pamela Hollier became Mrs. Hawes and Miss Mavis Crabtree became Mrs. Salt. Our good friend, Padre (Squadron-Leader) Sims, officiated and, if we may use the expression, all was as merry as a marriage bell. Mrs. Hawes and Mrs. Salt had arrived from U.K. only a few days previously especially for the occasion, but with the adaptability of which it seems only the gentle sex are capable, were as much at home as if they had been here for as many months.

The reception was held in the Malcolm Club and jolly good it was too. We left at a fairly reasonable hour but we understand it lasted for quite a while thereafter.

We wish our newlyweds the very best of luck for the future and we trust that Mesdames Salt and Hawes will enjoy their sojourn in Singapore.

On 17th July the Far East Air Force Inter-Station Athletic Meeting was held at Seletar. For Changi "B" team, we fielded 14 members from the Regiment, of which Staff Sergeant Boulter—shot and discus, Lance-Corporal Noorani—high jump, Sergeant Shamsuddin—long jump, hop, step and jump and 120 yards hurdles, were in the six finalists in their events.

This is by no means a mean feat when one considers the size of F.E.A.F. and the fact that the all-round standard is very high.

Changi "B" finishing midway as a team was as good a result as one could hope for, knowing the strength of the opposition.

We continue to hold our own on the soccer field with a fair degree of success and if not always successful the games are always spirited, and even at times almost well fought! In the final of the Parker Cup on 30th July, Royal Signals v. R.A.P.C., we fielded Signalman Greatbanks, Signalman Stoddart and Sergeant Shamsuddin, the latter playing a sterling game at left back. Signals ran out winners with a score of 2-1, the decision reflecting the general run of the game.

FOR NACERBY

Reference your WIRE/Vol. II/No. 6 of June, 57, page 174, unnumbered para:—TA.



On Left: Corporal and Mrs. Salt. On Right: Corporal and Mrs. Hawes.



KAM TIN BRIDGE

Left to Right: Sergeant Short, Signalman Rivington, Signalman Ross, Sergeant Judge.

HONG KONG SIGNAL REGIMENT

Inevitably the contribution of the Line Troop seems to be festooned with cable and punctuated by faults. Our bread and butter they may be, but they are by no means our staple diet.

The cold weather to which we looked forward during the hot months was a little more than we bargained for, it being the most severe winter of the century though it was mild by English standards. We emerged from it, our systems having suffered a rude shock, looking forward to the summer sun, and lazy days on the island's perfect beaches. But no—we still had to wait, for May brought with it torrential and record breaking downpours. Conversations hinged round the number of inches a day or even hour, 27th May bringing with it as much rain as London has in a year. The road bridge at Kam Tin was undermined and washed away taking with it (dare I mention them) three important cables. As the line party sweated knee deep in water to erect temporary cables, they had an audience of Chinese spectators, wondering why the incomprehensible Europeans should choose to work in such conditions. A landslide at Wongneichong Gap brought forth more muffled curses—taking with it as it did 200 yards of underground cable.

While the rains brought work and more work for the Line Squadron it brought ruin and often death to many of the Chinese. Landslides carried away the huts which cling precariously to the mountainsides, leaving many more homeless to swell the ranks of the other unfortunates sleeping in the streets. Floods ruined the vegetable and rice crops in the New Territories and in one hard hit spot, the Sappers helped to evacuate families and what animals they could, and built three temporary bridges in record time.

But the rain brought its blessing to a community in which water is carefully rationed. The reservoirs filled to overflowing and we now have water for 16 hours a day instead of the usual four or six. Such luxury!

Having recovered from the floods we had as compensation, a heatwave. Temperatures soared to the 90's in the familiar Turkish bath atmosphere, and the Colony rose as a body and flocked to the sea. Preconceived ideas of the inscrutable Chinese are quickly dispelled when they descend on Repulse Bay like any family going to Brighton—and later, when in the air-conditioned night clubs they and their elegant and shapely ladies rock 'n' roll or cha-cha with an abandon and skill never seen in the Hammersmith Palais.

This month our hair was ruffled by Typhoon Wendy which came within 50 miles of Hong Kong. Ships made for the open sea to ride it out or moved to typhoon anchorages and junks by the hundred scuttled into the typhoon shelters. Catastrophes included the coaster "Tweed Breeze" which was wrenched from her typhoon anchorage and went ashore on Stonecutter's Island where she still sits, hoping to be refloated on next week's high tide, and one of the Squadron's overhead routes which blew down at Clearwater Bay and broke the posts in one of the 80 m.p.h. gusts. And, of course, there came more rain to wreck havoc on the newly mended roads and bring a threat of worse floods than those in May.

Otherwise—everything is quite normal here in Hong Kong!



Signalmen Ross and Rivington trying to win the battle against mud and water.

Association Notes

Loughborough Branch

Our only social event of late was the annual gathering of the clans for the Branch Children's Sports. Once again Beaumanor Park provided a perfect setting, the sun shone, and some 60-odd parents and their kiddies enjoyed a rewarding afternoon's fun.

Soon we shall be saying farewell to a Vice-President and very good friend of the Branch—Major R. J. Harvey, who is leaving on a posting to Hong Kong. Major Harvey's tour as Commanding Officer at 10 W.T.S. practically spans the short history of the Loughborough Branch, and from the outset he has been ready and unstinted with help and encouragement in all that we have tried to do. We wish him God speed and all success in the future.

This month's celebrity is ex-S.Q.M.S. C. (Cliff) Field. Cliff joined the Corps in 1930, did his training at Catterick, and had a two-year spell with "A" Corps at Aldershot before posting to India, in 1933. Apart from Frontier service, Cliff has a vivid memory of the disastrous Quetta earthquake, for he was actually on duty with a Wireless Experimental Section on the fateful night. Release from Colour Service lasted less than a year, for 1939 saw him in France with 2nd Divisional Signals, and back home again via Dunkirk, in 1940. Followed a three-year spell with Guards Armoured Division, then to Egypt, Malta and Italy, the latter with 56th Division. After demobilisation in 1945, Cliff didn't take too kindly to civilian life, and 1946 saw him rejoining, this time for three years in the Gold Coast. "Hams" may recall this as the era of ZD4AL, which Cliff and Tich Metcalfe jointly operated. The period 1949-53 was spent with the Military Mission in Turkey, after which—with the rank of S.Q.M.S., he came home for final demobilisation. Without achieving Corps, or even Divisional recognition, Cliff was a keen participant in Unit hockey, football and water polo teams. Since 1953 he has made his niche in the War Office Civilian Wireless Service and maintains his interest in the Branch and all things Signals.

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Nottingham Branch

This should really be headed Harrogate Reunion, July, 1957, as will be apparent later.

Some time before Annual Camp, I had a happy notion to write Mr. Moore, Honorary Secretary, Harrogate, about our proposed stay at Hildebrande Barracks from 13th-27th July, suggesting that a social evening might be arranged between us. The Regiment, 2 Northern Command (M) Signal Regiment, T.A., boasts Association members in Sheffield, Rotherham, Derby, Beeston and Nottingham.

The result of my approach was an invitation from Major Coslett (Chairman, Harrogate) to all our members for a get-together on Monday, 15th July, in the Civilian Instructors Club at Uniake Barracks.

Things started quietly enough, and some table games were laid on, but as more and more folk turned up it became obvious that only "serious" business could be carried on.

We were all delighted to meet some of the Signals boys from the Senior Squadron, who, having completed training, were celebrating in no uncertain manner the end of boy service. Some of us had the pleasure of watching their passing out parade the following Thursday morning. I understand that all the boys, with one exception, are life members of the Association—good show, Major Coslett, and many thanks from all the branches entertained for a most enjoyable evening. A word of praise, too, to the A.C.C. for the excellent buffet provided, which was appreciated by the starving Territorials.

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 the deceased soldier 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."

Sturmer, R., Cpl., R. Sigs. ... £4 1 3

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WELFARE SECTION

Below an attempt is made to describe, with suitable anonymity, eight cases taken from the Welfare Section files concluded during the first week in August, 1957. Also on this page is a simple statement of income and expenditure.

Widow of Corporal, 1941-46. who died 1949, leaving widow and nine-year-old son on subsistence only income. She worked until illness prevented. The fund paid for them to have a very rare holiday by the sea.

Lance-Corporal, 1949-53. Previous service R.A.S.C. Married, one child. Illness in mid-June halved his income and the R.A.S.C. Association and Royal Signals Association both helped him a little.

Corporal, 1949-50 (National Service). Further service Royal Signals, T.A., married, one child. An accident reduced his income to one-third of what it was and the fund gave help to pay rates.

Signalman, 1955 (National Service), serving. Pending much delayed application for a National Service grant the fund gave a little help to his wife to keep up their H.P. commitments.

Parents of Junior Signalman were helped with the cost of visiting him when he was very ill in hospital far from their home.

Signalman, 1942-46, who has been very ill indeed for a long time. His mother asked and received help to get him some clothes against a period of convalescence.

Corporal, 1920-26. Previous service East Yorkshire Regiment, 1904-20. Distinguished Conduct Medal. He was "discovered" by an old friend (3 Divisional Signals) living quite alone with his garden and 70 years of memory. The fund "startled" him by a small present, to show that he was not completely forgotten.

Signalman, 1939-46. Married, one son, wife was A.T.S. He has been completely paralysed for many years, dependent on his devoted wife for everything, including locomotion about the house. The Association and the A.T.S. Benevolent Fund shared the cost of their first away from home holiday.

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION AND BENEVOLENT FUND

The following subscriptions were most gratefully received during July, 1957:

	£	s.	d.
Headquarters, Training Brigade	2	11	0
Officer Training Wing, School of Signals	6	17	0
2 Training Regiment	34	19	0
4 Training Regiment	54	19	0
5 Training Regiment	36	17	0
7 Training Regiment	40	19	3
21 (NM) Corps Signal Regiment, T.A.	13	0	0
D. and M. School, R.A.C. Centre	17	0	0
MES/SRDE	1	10	4
Signals Branch, School of Artillery	1	6	0
U.K. COMCAN Signal Regiment	21	15	3
90 Signal Regiment	20	0	0
Signal Wing, School of Infantry	19	0	0
War Office Signal Squadron	3	12	0
Army Phantom Signal Regiment, T.A.	5	0	0
Eastern Command (M) Signal Regiment, T.A.	2	8	9
44 (HC) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A.	16	6	0
54 (EA) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A.	2	2	0
56 (LON) Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A.	1	15	0
The Depot Regiment	9	12	6
11 Signal Park Squadron	2	18	0
Western Command Signal Squadron	6	0	0
1 Special Communications Signal Troop	3	15	0
North West District (M) Signal Regiment, T.A.	6	13	0
107 (U) Independent Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron, T.A.	6	15	6
Scottish Command (M) Signal Squadron	11	11	0
Scottish Command (M) Signal Regiment, T.A.	7	7	0
3 (Independent) U.K.L.F. Reserve Signal Squadron	1	0	0
C.A.F.S.O., 2 T.A.F.	9	0	0
10 Air Formation Signal Regiment	31	0	0
6 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment	176	11	9
14 Army Signal Regiment	5	0	0
5 AGRA (A.A.) Signal Squadron	24	11	9
2 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment	3	0	0
21 Independent Infantry Brigade Group Signal Squadron	26	15	1
1 Wireless Regiment	10	0	0
19 Air Formation Signal Regiment	13	10	7
Hong Kong Signal Regiment	250	0	0
Singapore District Signal Regiment	5	0	0
10 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment	88	8	0
2 Wireless Regiment	1	7	2
51 Independent Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron			
Total receipts	£922	0	9

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION WELFARE SECTION

The following donations were most gratefully received during July, 1957:

	£	s.	d.
Headquarters, School of Signals (Reunion collection—St. Martin's Church)	38	10	0
Officer Training Wing, School of Signals (Regimental Fete)	90	0	0
3 Training Regiment	7	10	2
19 Army Group Signal Regiment (Regimental Fete)	175	0	0
12 Command (M) Signal Regiment, T.A. (Church collection and donation)	4	0	0
2 (LON) Signal Regiment, T.A.	2	0	0
Port Talbot Branch	32	0	0
Liverpool Branch	19	3	0
Captain W. F. H. Herdon	1	0	0
Total receipts	£350	19	5

EXPENDITURE DURING JULY, 1957 ... £447 7 0
(Includes: Rent and Rates; Beds and Bedding; Furniture Cots and Prams; General Assistance).

	£	s.	d.
Analysis of Cases:			
Families of Soldiers serving in U.K.	8		
" " " " M.E.L.F.	1		
" " " " FARELF	1		
Widows and Dependants	5		
Released and Discharged Soldiers	41		
Total cases assisted	56		

27 cases of Soldiers who served during the 1939-45 War ... £240 15 1
29 cases of Soldiers who did not serve during the War ... £206 11 11

EASTERN COMMAND (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT (T.A.)

Once more we have been to camp at Stiffkey.

This time the Regiment was together for the whole time of the fortnight, and training was therefore more comprehensive. The first week was spent on individual training, and in the second there were a series of schemes, organised both by ourselves and 54 (E.A.) Divisional Signals.

We were fortunate once more in having our friends of 33 A.A. Brigade Signal Squadron in camp for the first week, as well as the nucleus of Home Counties District Signal Regiment, which was serving under the command of the Regiment for the last time. However, the rumour is that we can look forward to seeing this unit at next year's camp and at week-end exercises before then.

After camp there was a fortnight's break before drills began, although on Tuesdays and Thursdays there were still many people at Brompton Road. So far, two schemes have been planned to take place before the end of August and the tempo of training is about to increase.

353 MED REGIMENT, R.A. (T.A.) SIGNAL TROOP

This Independent Signal Troop, whose parent Signal Unit is 87 A.G.R.A. Signal Squadron, is being raised with the Regiment to which it is attached at the T.A. Centre, Offord Road, Barnsbury, London, N.1.

This Gunner Regiment, whose origins date back to 1861, offers its Signal Troop all the amenities and advantages of a first-class T.A. Regiment.

The only member of the Troop at present is Corporal I. H. Telford, and he very much wants another 12 good men to come and join him.

Any volunteers who remember the fun and comradeship to be had with such a small troop should get in touch with Corporal Telford either at the T.A. Centre, or at his home, 15, Old Forge Close, Stanmore, Middlesex.

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T.A., A.E.R. and Regular Army	10/9 each
Kynoch Regimental Scarves	15/6 each
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Double Texture £5-15-0 and £9-9-0

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No. 1 DRESS for OTHER RANKS

Suit made to measure from £12-19-0

GOLD EMBROIDERED RANK BADGES EXTRA

SHIRTS (Service Dresswear)

Khaki Poplin with 2 collars	each
Khaki Poplin, collar attached with Breast Pockets and Shoulder Straps, home shade	32/6
Khaki (Van Heuson)	35/-
Khaki (Van Heuson) Collars, light or dark shade	40/-
Khaki (Van Heuson) Bush Shirts	3/9
	45/-

Khaki Wool Cashmere Ties	6/9 each
Khaki Barathea Ties	7/6 ..

Officers S.D. Caps - - - - 63/- each

Post extra on all items

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21 (N.M.) CORPS SIGNAL REGIMENT (T.A.)

In July, the Regiment attended its Annual Camp near the mining town of Washington in County Durham. The nominal roll presented a rather strange appearance since, to quote the Training Officer, "there were more chiefs than warriors."

The first day-and-a-half was spent in the usual way, i.e., bedding down and getting acclimatised, the latter process, of course, consisting of finding the best hostels within a radius of 10 miles. This important matter being completed, the Regiment found its first day of lectures with sober(?) confidence.

On Monday it was announced to a dumbfounded audience that on the next day, a line-laying exercise would take place, in which all ranks and all trades would be called upon to master the skills of the hammer and jumper boys. Three detachments, each comprising a mixed bag of clerks, operators, storemen, etc., set out and proceeded to lay a small network of lines, not, it is true, with any great speed, but with sufficient skill to produce a very creditable result. Wednesday was spent on the range in the pouring rain. Sergeant "Knocker" West carried off the Underwood Cup for Warrant Officers and Sergeants, whilst Corporal Noblett won the Carr Cup.

The remainder of the week was devoted to the theory and practice of the B70, a set new to most members of the Regiment. To Captain McIntyre and his merry men of the demonstration team we extend our thanks for an extremely interesting and informative couple of days.

Saturday saw the customary Ceremonial Parade, where the salute was taken by Colonel G. J. Underwood, T.D., D.L. (Honorary Colonel). In an address after the parade, he complimented the Regiment on its bearing and turn out, and exhorted every man to bring at least one new volunteer into the fold by next year. Brigadier R. J. Wilkins, O.B.E., D.L., the Secretary of the Derbyshire T. & A. F. Association, accompanied the Honorary Colonel on his visit.

On Monday and Tuesday of the second week the H.F. wireless exercise took place. Once again all trades took part. Three detachments set out, one to the Scottish Border, another along Hadrian's Wall to Haltwhistle, and a third to Alnwick. Contact by voice soon became very difficult, but a rapid switch to C.W. ensured reasonable communication for the rest of the exercise.

The G.O.C. North Midland District, Major-General R. Younger, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., visited us during the second day of the wireless exercise. He toured the camp visiting the Signal Centre and Control set of the wireless scheme, where he spent considerable time talking to the personnel on duty. Another visitor on Tuesday was the C.S.O. Northern Command, Brigadier D. St. J. Hoysted, C.B.E., who spent 24 hours with us during which time he visited wireless exercise detachments, attended a dinner night in the Officers' Mess and visited the Sergeants' Mess afterwards.

On Wednesday four teams competed in the Inter-Squadron Shoot for the Foreman Cup. This, in racing parlance, was won by 1 Squadron by a short head from 4 Squadron with 3 Squadron a length away third. In the afternoon 3 Squadron carried off the Harker-Smith trophy at the Sports meeting by virtue of victories in the sprint and sprint relay, whilst a fine throw by Cpl. Crowder won them the points in the cricket ball. 4 Squadron and H.Q. Squadron were joint runners-up the latter having Corporal Hulse to thank for his victories in the Shot and the Javelin. Unfortunately, rain again curtailed the programme and the Old Soldiers' Race and the Cricket match had to be cancelled.

Thursday was devoted to establishing an AN/TRC circuit between Washington and Catterick and back to Washington with intermediate relay stations. A very satisfactory result was obtained and much valuable experience gained. This, apart from a few useful remarks about war gases by Captain Didcott, marked the end of the training. A welcome visitor on this day was Brigadier A. D. G. Orr, D.S.O., Secretary of the Nottinghamshire T. & A.F. Association.

The last event, namely, the Guard Mounting Competition, was won by 3 Squadron, much to their surprise and pleasure. The victory was again a narrow one, as only one point separated them from the runners-up, 4 Squadron.

And so the curtain fell on yet another camp. A job had been well done and a good time had by all.

We very regretfully say farewell to our Training Officer, Major R. O. Wilson, who has left us for 1 Corps Signal Regiment in B.A.O.R., and welcome his successor, Major J. T. H. Higgins, from the Training Brigade.

16 WIRELESS SQUADRON, T.A.

Once again the time has come to give our annual report from the depth of Cheshire.

Firstly, on the credit side, we must congratulate Captain and Mrs. E. Dinneen and Staff Sergeant and Mrs. W. Frame on presenting the Squadron with two young potential volunteers.

On the debit side, Major B. T. Love, the Commanding Officer, has decided that he can make more money in St. Asaph than he could in St. Helens, and so is unfortunately not seen about as often as he was. Captain L. Howard, the P.S.O., is shortly returning to the Land of the Scouse and we will shortly be welcoming his successor. Lieutenant T. W. Dunning has discovered a greater love than the T.A. and is no longer with us, though he threatens to return after the event.

The Annual Administrative Inspection came and went, with everyone still holding on to their jobs, so it could not have been so bad. We have survived petrol rationing, though the M.T.O. is still puzzling over how the Permanent Staff managed to keep their large limousines running!

Camp this year was held at Weymouth with our related Squadrons and was the first to be held for volunteers only, and was generally agreed to be the best for years. Sgt. "Pixie" Mears managed to keep a friendly eye on the W.R.A.C.s, and to everyone's amazement Sergeant Shearn returned unscathed and unmarried. Lieutenant V. J. East won the Unit Skittles Championship with a final throw that he is still talking about; and so we all returned to industry and commerce to recuperate from it all, and the Squadron has now returned to its normal quiet but typical T.A. life.

Corps Rifle Meeting

This Meeting, the first of its kind held by the Corps, was staged at Bulford on 17-19th June.

Teams and individual shots came from B.A.O.R., Western, Eastern and Southern Commands, the Training Brigade and the School of Signals; just over 80 performers in all.

The Meeting was held principally to give competition practice before the Bisley Meeting and to assist the Captain of Corps Shooting in building up a good Methuen Cup team. The fact that we did not achieve much at Bisley this year, either in the Army Championship or the Methuen, does not mean that the effort was wasted. The build up talent to the high standard of reliability required at Bisley is a gradual process and success comes but to those who put in several years of progressive training.

The weather for the Meeting was as good as one could wish for. If anything, it was too hot. The matches fired were:

- The Henry Whitehead
- The Roberts Cup
- The Parachute Regiment Cup (Sten)
- The Methuen
- Rifle Sweep and Rifle Pool.

The scores obtained were fairly good in the Henry Whitehead, Methuen and Parachute Cup, but were poor in the Roberts Cup. A number of individuals showed high promise especially amongst the younger generation, though our very few seasoned shots, now in their forties, kept the flag flying, and with a few days practice behind them would have more than held their own.

The struggle for the individual Champion Shot was a ding-dong affair right from the start. Any one of ten competitors could have snatched the prize and, in fact, it was not until the very last practice had been fired that the winner could be named. Snap shooting was the downfall of a number of the ten, and the winner, Second-Lieutenant Goodman, with a 45 out of 50, nosed into the lead by two points.

In the team events, Southern Command and the Training Brigade shared the honours, the former winning the Whitehead and Roberts and the latter the Parachute Cup (Sten) and Methuen, though in this last match the scores could not have been closer. Tension grew as the snapshooting scores for each detail came up from the butts. With the last detail still to come Southern led by a few points, but the scores for the final detail put both teams level on 1,131. The winner was decided on the snapshooting aggregate in which the Training Brigade scored 2

points more than Southern. However, Southern won the Champion Team award and this was more than consolation.

Major-General L. de M. Thuillier, O.B.E., A.D.C., and Mrs. Thuillier attended the Meeting on the last afternoon. Before asking Mrs. Thuillier to present the prizes, C.S.O. Southern Command, Brigadier G. B. Bell, C.B.E., explained that the object of holding a proper Meeting instead of a practice week was to provide the sort of conditions which would be met with at Bisley. Lying down and firing a few rounds with nothing on the end of it was a different matter to firing under the strain and tension of a competition. To do well at Bisley we needed as much competition practice as we could get. Signals in Southern Command had already held their own Meeting, and it was salutary to note how much their scores had improved at the Corps Meeting. He hoped that the necessity to improve our snap shooting and Roberts Cup scores had been driven home. Until we tackle these two vital weaknesses the Corps would not reap the real rewards for all the effort now being put into shooting. He hoped the Captain of Corps Shooting had had an opportunity to spot talent both for this year and next. He was sure everyone had thoroughly enjoyed the three days of the Meeting and it was good news to hear that the Corps Rifle Association intended to hold a Meeting each year in future.

Brigadier Bell then introduced Mrs. Thuillier, who kindly presented the prizes.

PRIZE LIST

The Henry Whitehead	
Winning Team	Southern Command ... (1057)
Individual:	
Class A	Lieutenant-Colonel Townsend ... (162)
Class B	Signalman Chipping (B.A.O.R.) ... (140)
Class C	Signalman Veares, Southern Command ... (149)
The Roberts Cup	
Winning Team	Southern Command ... (631)
Individual:	
Class A	Lieutenant Goodman, Southern Command ... (105)
Class B	Lance-Corporal Green, Southern Command ... (100)
Class C	Signalman Harrison, Southern Command ... (56)
The Methuen Cup	
Winning Team	Training Brigade ... (1131)
Individual:	
Class A	Sergeant Harris, Training Brigade ... (165)
Class B	Signalman White, Western Command ... (151)
Class C	Lance-Corporal Brain, School of Signals ... (160)
The Parachute Cup (Sten)	
Winning Team	Training Brigade ... (496)
Individual:	
Class A	Lieutenant Halford, Southern Command ... (140)
Class B	Signalman Foster, Southern Command ... (126)
Class C	Signalman Walsh, Southern Command ... (109)
Champion Shot	Second-Lieutenant Goodman, Southern Command ... (394)
Runner-Up	Signalman Veares, Southern Command ... (392)
Champion Team	Southern Command ... (2967)



Training Brigade Team. Winners: "Sten" Match and "Methuen".



Training Brigade "Sten" Team. Three members of this team were in the team which took 6th place at Bisley, and Captain Oakes was placed 4th in the individual "Sten" at Bisley.



Southern Command Team. Winners: "Championship Team" "Henry Whitehead" and "Roberts"

Bisley, 1957

The Army Rifle Association Central Meeting was held at Bisley in the last week of June and first week of July. Nearly 100 members of the Corps were present, an improvement in numbers on last year. Conditions were good if somewhat hot, and individual results are shown below:

Whitehead	
Class A	Lieutenant-Colonel Thompson 43 Divisional Signal Regt. 21st
Class B	Corporal Simister 90 Signal Regt. 18th
Class C	Signalman Chipping 10 Air Fmn. Signal Regt. 21st
	Lance-Corporal Bryden-Smith 1 Training Regt. 44th
	Lance-Corporal Dawe 1 Training Regt. 46th
Roberts	
Class B	Corporal Peat 3 Training Regt. 33rd
	Lance-Corporal Shawcross 3 Training Regt. 37th
	Corporal McGregor 3 Training Regt. 41st
	Corporal Hill 19 Army Gp. Signal Regt. 44th
Class C	Lance-Corporal Wilson 10 Air Fmn. Signal Regt. 18th
Roupeil	
Class B	Corporal Hill 19 Army Gp. Signal Regt. 8th
Class C	Signalman Harrison U.K. COMCAN Signal Regt. 6th
	Lance-Corporal Brain School of Signals 7th
	Signalman Skelton U.K. COMCAN Signal Regt. 42nd
Bisley Cup	
	Lieutenant-Colonel E. W. Townsend War Office 21st
	Lance-Corporal Brain School of Signals 31st
Parachute Cup	
	4 Training Regt. 6th
Victory Cup	
	Captain F. Oakes 4 Training Regt. 4th

In the Methuen and Woolwich Trophy the Corps was represented by Lieutenant-Colonel Townsend, Lieutenant-Colonel Thompson, Major Parsons, Captain Garratt, Lieutenant Halford, Staff Sergeant Davies, Corporal Simister and Signalman Harrison. We started well and after the first practice were leading the Gunners and Sappers, but we fell away towards the end due to some poor snap shooting. The results of the Woolwich Trophy were:

Royal Engineers	1278
Royal Artillery	1220
Royal Signals	1184

We entertained the Sappers and Gunners afterwards at a very successful cocktail party.

We hope that next year we shall see more members of the Corps at the A.R.A. Meeting getting experience of shooting under match conditions on Bisley Common.

Royal Signals Tennis

The Royal Signals Tennis Team completed a successful season and won all their matches for the second year running. The complete results of all matches are as follows:

R.A.O.C.	won	8-1
Welbeck College	won	5-4
Royal Engineers	won	5-4
Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst	won	7-1
R.A.S.C.	won	6-3
R.A.E.C.	won	6-2
R.E.M.E.	won	6-3

The match against the Staff College was cancelled because of rain.

Corps Tennis Jimmys have been awarded to the following players:

Colonel E. L. L. Vulliamy, O.B.E.
Major J. W. Eagle, M.B.E.
Captain L. S. Bamber
Officer Cadet M. L. Booth
Lance-Corporal P. S. Redman
Signalman G. Hewitt

Major P. O. J. Nicholson and Major J. St. C. W. Robinson played in one Corps Match and Second-Lieutenant J. Wind played in two.

Royal Signals Success in the Army Tennis Championships

Army Singles.—Officer Cadet M. Booth, Royal Signals, beat Lance-Corporal P. Redman, Royal Signals (Officer Training Wing and 1 Training Regiment).

Inter Regimental Doubles.—Lance-Corporal P. Redman and Signalman P. Hewitt, Royal Signals (both of 1 Training Regiment) beat Lieutenant-Colonel K. Galloway and Captain S. Edmondson, R.A.O.C.

Open Doubles.—Officer Cadet M. Booth and Lance-Corporal Redman, Royal Signals, beat Major E. C. Fraser and Captain J. E. Ainsley.

Open Mixed Doubles.—Lance-Corporal P. Redman, Royal Signals, and Second-Lieutenant P. Rees, W.R.A.C., beat Major K. Anson and Captain M. MacLagan.

Inter-Services Tennis Championships

Officer Cadet M. L. Booth and Lance-Corporal P. Redman represented the Army at Wimbledon when the Royal Air Force won the Championship for the sixth successive year.

Singles scores.

Officer Cadet M. L. Booth beaten by A.C. A. R. Mills, R.A.F., 6-2, 6-1; and by Lieutenant Commander W. W. Threlfall, R.N., 6-3, 6-1. Lance-Corporal P. Redman beaten by L.A.C. R. D. Bennett, R.A.F., 6-2, 6-4; and by Lieutenant R. T. White, R.N., 6-0, 6-3.

Doubles scores.

Lance-Corporal P. Redman and Officer Cadet M. L. Booth beaten by Lieutenant Commander W. W. Threlfall and Lieutenant R. T. White, R.N., 6-3, 6-2; and by Squadron Leader T. Lewis and Pilot Officer G. Owen, 4-6, 6-2, 6-2.

Women's Singles scores.

Second-Lieutenant P. Rees, W.R.A.C. beat Third Officer E. M. McKee, W.R.N.S., 6-2, 6-2; and was beaten by Wing Officer M. K. Arkell, W.R.A.F., 10-8, 6-4.

Golf

Although we turned out the strongest team we have played this season in the match against the Royal Artillery Golfing Society at Sunningdale on 19th July, we were beaten by 8½ points to 3½. The match was, in fact, very much closer than the score suggests—of the 12 matches played three were halved and five were decided by the margin of one hole.

RESULTS

R.A.G.S.		Royal Signals G.S.	
Lieutenant-Colonel N. W. Tyler	0	Lieutenant R. B. Carroll	2/1
Lieutenant-Colonel T. D. Dickson	1 up	Major W. MacDonald	0
Major G. W. Holt	1	Captain M. V. Keeling	1
Lieutenant-Colonel H. Gilson	1	Major-General C. H. H. Vulliamy	1
Captain N. W. Friend	1 up	Lieutenant-Col. B. R. M. Hayles	0
Major S. J. Boycott	0	Major D. D. Fairman	1 up
Major W. B. Paxton	4/3	Lieutenant-Colonel W. Clark	0
Lieutenant-Colonel C. R. Harman	1 up	Major C. Robinson	0
	5		3
Lieutenant-Colonel N. W. Tyler		Major W. MacDonald	
Lieutenant-Colonel T. D. Dickson	1 up	Captain M. V. Keeling	0
Major G. W. Holt		Lieutenant R. B. Carroll	
Lieutenant-Colonel H. Gilson	1	Major D. D. Fairman	1
Captain N. W. Friend		Major-General C. H. H. Vulliamy	
Major S. J. Boycott	5/3	Lieutenant-Colonel B. R. M. Hayles	0
Major W. B. Paxton		Lieutenant-Colonel W. Clark	0
Lieutenant-Colonel C. R. Harman	4/3	Major C. Robinson	0

Result: R.A.G.S. won by 8½ pts. to 3½.

The Autumn meeting is to be held at Fleet on 30th September, 1st and 2nd October. Entry forms may be obtained from Major D. D. Fairman, War Office (Signals 3); telephone Whitehall 9400, Ext. 427. Any officer requiring accommodation in the Fleet area during the meeting should contact Major Fairman.

Corps Rugby

The Corps had a most satisfactory season during 1956-57. In the Representative matches Cambridge LX Club, Oxford Greyhounds and Sheffield were beaten on their own grounds. We drew with the Royal Engineers at Chatham in the annual Officers' match and fell to a strong Waterloo side at Blundell-sands after a most exciting match.

The results of the Royal Signals Saturday matches were indifferent owing to the large demand on players for Senior sides. On more than one occasion we were forced to field practically a second fifteen.

A feature of the games, win or lose, was the delightful open play which took place. Several games were in doubt until the final whistle.

Three examples are: We lost to Gosforth 11-14; beat Harrogate 12-11; and lost to Huddersfield 18-16.

As has already been reported, 1st Training Regiment regained the Army Cup, after defeating our old rivals, 1st Battalion The Welch Regiment.

Congratulations go to Corporal K. J. F. Scotland on representing Scotland, and the following players who gained Army Caps: Second-Lieutenant A. Godson, Corporal K. J. F. Scotland and Signalman W. Murray.

Cricket

Royal Signals v. Royal Engineers

Played at Catterick Camp on 11th and 12th July, 1957.

Result: Match abandoned due to rain.

Royal Signals having won the toss batted first on a wicket which was still soft. Second-Lieutenant Smith and Signalman Lewis gave the Corps a good start and there was 69 on the board before Second-Lieutenant Smith was bowled for 44 just before lunch. Three wickets fell quickly soon after lunch before a stand of 60 between Signalman Tebay and Lieutenant-Colonel

Hayles took the total to 146 for 5. In the last hour before tea another 43 runs were added before the Corps were all out for 189.

The sky was very overcast when the Royal Engineers opened their innings after tea and there was an intermittent drizzle from then till the end of play. Second-Lieutenant Smith and Signalman Gooda opened the bowling for the Corps and Smith bowled Officer Cadet Gummer with the total at 2. Major Pocock, coming on at the Pavilion end, had Corporal Collet well caught by Second-Lieutenant Gordon at short leg off his first ball. In Major Pocock's next over, Corporal Pilgrim was leg before, Sapper Grieg was caught in the gully and Lieutenant Moss was clean bowled. The Royal Engineers were then 26 for 5 and Major Pocock had taken 4 wickets for 0 runs. However, with Major Elgood coming together with Captain Withall, the total progressed to 42 without further loss before stumps were drawn for the day.

After an excellent dinner night it might have been hoped that the weather would have been more kind to us, but it was not to be. The next day dawned with the sky overcast and the inevitable drizzle soon set in. With great optimism the wicket was inspected at 11 o'clock and it was decided to look again at 12 o'clock. However, before the second inspection could be made a cloudburst put paid to any hope of the possibility of further play and with great regret the match had to be abandoned.

Royal Signals		Royal Engineers	
Second-Lieutenant A. C. Smith		Officer Cadet T. Gummer	b
Signalman T. Lewis	c	Corporal S. Collet	c
Signalman R. Gillard	b	Corporal N. Pilgrim	lbw
Corporal K. J. F. Scotland	c	Sapper D. Greig	c
Withall	b	Major B. C. Elgood	not out
Signalman K. Tebay	c & b	Extras	
Richardson			
Lieutenant-Colonel B. R. M. Hayles	b		
Major D. G. M. Pocock	b		
Clarke			
Signalman R. M. Bates	run out		
Second-Lieutenant A. Godson	b		
Clarke			
Signalman A. W. Gooda	b		
Withall			
Lance-Corporal R. J. C. Fidler	not out		
Extras			
Total	189	Total (for 5 wickets)	42

Bowling	O	M	R	W	Bowling	O	M	R	W
Clarke	29	2	45	3	Smith	8	2	24	1
Richardson	7	0	25	1	Gooda	5	3	7	0
Withall	33.8	9	65	5	Pocock	4	2	5	4
Pilgrim	12	3	30	0	Fidler	2	0	6	0
Ingram-Johnson	9	2	20	0					

Royal Signals v. Welbeck College—6th July, 1957

Result: Royal Signals won by 8 wickets.

Welbeck College having won the toss batted first. With six wickets falling whilst the total progressed from 32 to 36 the College looked as if they were going to be in real trouble, but a sound knock of 21 by Finney helped the total to 85 before they were all out. Signalman Gooda bowled well taking 5 for 32.

A good opening stand by Second-Lieutenant Smith and Signalman Lewis put Royal Signals well on the way to victory and the College total was passed with 8 wickets in hand.

Welbeck College		Royal Signals	
J. A. Castle	lbw	Gooda	7
P. Barnard	c	Sandys	b
C. G. Brodley	c	Pocock	b
Gooda			
K. E. Randall	run out		
P. Shiner	c	Pigot	b
P. F. Tyzack	b	Gooda	0
A. J. Cornwell	b	Godson	0
G. Finney	b	Pocock	21
R. A. Boves	c	Pocock	b
A. S. Craven	c	Scotland	b
Lewis			
C. Noonan	not out		
Extras			
Total	85	Total (for 2 wickets)	87

Bowling	O	M	R	W
Smith	0	for	14	
Gooda	5	for	23	
Godson	2	for	12	
Lewis	1	for	11	
Pocock	1	for	7	

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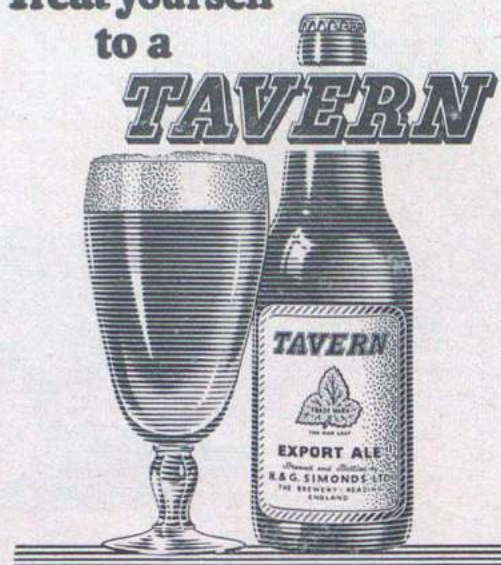
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THE WIRE

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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OCTOBER • 1957
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PRICE ONE SHILLING

Editorial

SCOTTISH REUNION 17th-18th AUGUST, 1957

SATURDAY, 17th August was fine and the morning was spent in last minute rehearsal and preparation. Scottish Command Mixed Signal Squadron was geared to undertake a very considerable task, the entertainment of about 100 members of the Association.

As the Officer Commanding said feelingly, "We are the largest transit camp with the smallest staff in Scotland." This was indeed so and the Squadron was already accommodating most of the bands assembled for the Edinburgh Tattoo.

Preparations went on quietly and unobtrusively until about 11 a.m. Major J. L. Judd, M.B.E., brought out the Royal Signals Band to practise "Retreat." There had been previous consultation with the Pipe Majors of 51st Highland and 52nd Lowland Divisional Signal Regiments, T.A., who were to form a combined Pipe Band for "Retreat."

By 3 p.m., "Reception," a combined team of members of the Squadron and of the Royal Signals Club, Edinburgh, were at their desks and the guests began to arrive.

"Retreat" was at 6 p.m.—the evening dull but windless. The grey stone barracks, occupied by the Women's Royal Army Corps members of the Squadron made a fitting back cloth to the scarlet and silver and blue of the Royal Signals Band and the khaki and tartan of the Pipes and Drums.

The G.O.C. Scottish Command, Brigadier J. C. Hardy, the C.S.O., Lieutenant-Colonel A. Cecil, the A.D. W.R.A.C., and at least six Colonels of Royal Signals T.A. in Scotland were amongst the distinguished spectators.

After the marching and counter-marching, Major Judd formed his men for the Hymn and Sunset and at the moment two Corporals Guards, Royal Signals and W.R.A.C. formed on the terrace above the parade ground to complete the picture.

The Reunion then took its normal pleasant course enlivened for some by dancing in the Warrant Officers' Mess and in the Canteen.

On Sunday again in fine weather, there was a most impressive Drum Head Service on the Square. During this the Standard of Edinburgh Branch of the Royal Signals Association was dedicated. Also on parade on this very Scottish occasion were the Standards of York and Newcastle-on-Tyne. With very great enterprise, York Branch had organised a party of thirty from York and Hull Branches. Their coach started at York and picked up members of Newcastle-on-Tyne en route. All praise to those who came such a distance to demonstrate their pride and loyalty.

The Service, following traditional pattern, was conducted by the Reverend H. O. Jones, C.F. Major-General C. M. F. White, C.B., D.S.O., Colonel Commandant and Chairman of the Association, read the lesson, and a most inspiring, vigorous and salutary sermon was preached by the Reverend G. M. R. Bennett, B.D., C.F., D.A.C.G.

The parade, Members of the Association, Squadrons of Royal Signals and W.R.A.C., in that order, then marched past, and the hospitality of the Warrant Officers' Mess was strained to assuage the thirst so worthily engendered.

The NAAFI provided a most admirable lunch; a small orchestra of the Band provided pleasant music, and a number of members of the Women's Royal Army Corps acted as waitresses.

All was so excellent that General White in a brief speech after luncheon, voiced the feelings of all in offering our thanks to all of Scottish Command Mixed Signal Squadron and the Band for all that they had done.

But more was to come. The programme read 2.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m., Gala. How much work had gone into the preparation of all the side shows can only be imagined. There were games of skill, and games of chance. There was a heroic individual who stood for two hours suffering a bucket of water on his head every time one of his clients threw a ball correctly hitting the trap. Two charming members of the W.R.A.C. had spent hours with earth, twigs and grass to make a most realistic Treasure Island.

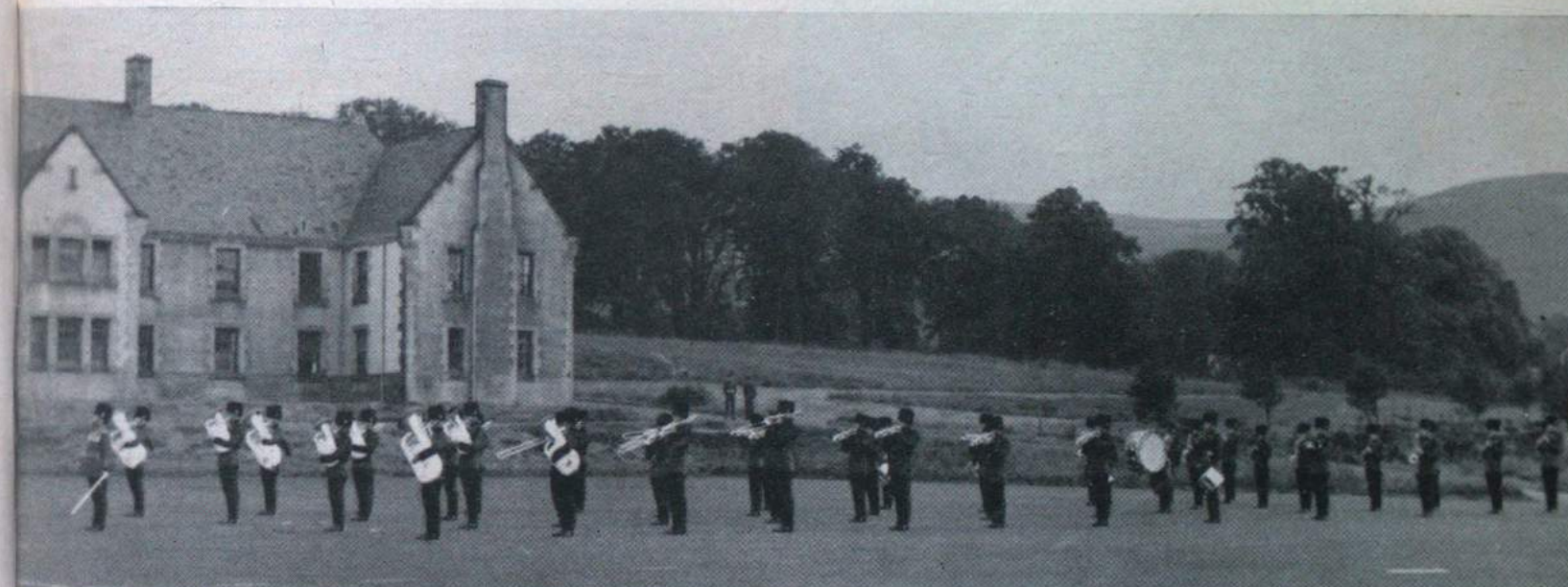
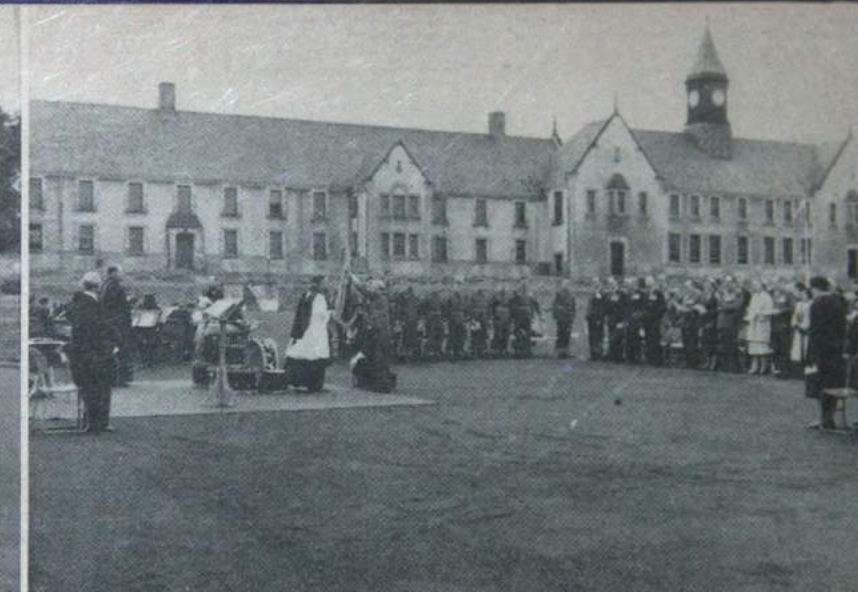
This is only a little of the fun of the fair which had been arranged. The Royal Signals Band alternated with the Pipes and Drums of the Scottish Signal Regiments. There was Scottish Dancing, again by the W.R.A.C., and a variety of races for the children and for the young in heart of all ages. The NAAFI provided a most excellent tea.

The end came all too soon and the members of the Association were "Marched off" by the Pipes and Drums, leaving their hosts and hostesses tired, yes, but assuredly pleased that so much effort had given so much pleasure.

Scottish Reunion Photographs on facing page ▶



● RETREAT. The Combined Pipe Bands of the 51st (Highland) and 52nd (Lowland) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiments, T.A.
(Right) SUNDAY MORNING. The Standard of Edinburgh Branch is Dedicated



● RETREAT. The Royal Signals Band

● Major W. J. Hotchkiss, Brigadier J. C. Hardy and Major-General C. M. F. White, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O.
(Right) The Standards of the York, Newcastle-on-Tyne and Edinburgh Branches arriving on Church Parade [Photographs: R. J. Hannan, Edinburgh]





Obituary

Colonel J. P. G. Worlledge, O.B.E.

It is with great regret that we have to announce the death of "Peter" Worlledge, as he was known to his many friends. He was one of the original members and founders of the Corps.

Born in 1887, he went, in due course, to the R.M.A., Woolwich, and was commissioned in the Royal Engineers in 1907, and on leaving Chatham, in 1909, was posted to a Divisional Signal Company, R.E., in Ireland.

In 1912 he went to China as Division Officer, R.E., Peking, returning to Ireland on the outbreak of war, to join the 95th Field Company, R.E., with which unit he went to France. In September, 1915, he was badly wounded at Loos, and in the following year, when fit for light duty, was employed as an Instructor on Electricity at the S.M.E., Chatham.

In 1917 he came back to Signals, serving with the Cavalry Corps Wireless Squadron, and then the 4th Divisional Signals in France. In 1919, as acting Lieutenant-Colonel, he went to South Russia as C.S.O. to the British Military Mission, and then to Constantinople, where he served as acting Chief Signal Officer to the Allied Corps.

After a short spell of 18 months at home, when he attended the Royal Signals Officers' course at Cambridge, he was off abroad again, this time to Egypt, where he commanded No. 1 Company, Egypt Signals, and then No. 2 Wireless Company in Palestine.

In 1928 he came home as Lieutenant-Colonel to command "A" Corps Signals, and in the following year, 1st Divisional Signals, at Aldershot.

It was during the 1914-18 war, when wireless in the Army was in its infancy, that his interest greatly increased in that direction, and this, coupled with his considerable

bent for things mathematical and scientific, soon made him one of the Corps' outstanding technical officers.

On leaving Aldershot, in 1932, on promotion to Colonel, he went to Spain, on special appointment as War Office member of the British party to the International Radio Conference, and on his return was posted to the R.E. Board, later to become the Royal Engineer and Signals Board, of the War Office. Here he served until his retirement in 1938, and during those years the Corps was lucky to have someone of his technical ability and level-headedness, to keep it abreast of the rapidly-growing science of telecommunications.

In 1939 he rejoined for duty, and was employed on Radio Security duties, and it was during a short leave in Ireland that he developed the heart trouble which led to his final retirement.

In his early days in the Army, Worlledge was a horseman of considerable ability, a well-known amateur rider in his various stations, and the winner of many racing trophies. Revolver shooting was another of his accomplishments, and he represented the Royal Engineers when a young officer at Chatham. Later on, as he became more and more absorbed in scientific exploration, his horse racing went by the board, and he found his recreation in sailing (he was a member of the Royal Cruising Club) and shooting.

In the last few years, as his outdoor pursuits had, of necessity, to be reduced, he found a never-ending source of enjoyment in his study of different scientific phenomena, and in his correspondence on these matters with various research groups.

Peter Worlledge might possibly have seemed a bit formidable at a first meeting, but he would soon prove to be a good friend and a charming host with a great twinkle in his eye, and he will be greatly missed by his wide circle of friends.

He married, in 1921, Miss Sybil Atkinson, and there will be many older members of the Corps who will gratefully remember her ceaseless interest and activity in the well-being of the families in the units which her husband commanded.

The deepest sympathy of the Corps goes out to her and his two daughters.

ROYAL SIGNALS DIARIES, 1958

Diaries will be available in November, 1957. 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:

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One copy	4d.	4/5 copies	10d.
Two copies	6d.	6/7 copies	1/1
Three copies	7d.	8/14 copies	1/3

ROYAL SIGNALS DIARY

A suggestion that an accident insurance coupon should be inserted in the Diary has been under consideration. The Diary is published by the Army Sports Control Board for nearly all Corps and Regiments in the Army. The only portion of the diary particular to Royal Signals is the pages devoted to sports records and notes about the Association.

Before 1939 the Army Sports Control Board included an insurance coupon in all their diaries whereby the individual diary owner could fill in and sign the coupon, pay 1/- as premium and thereby become insured.

This did not increase sales, nor did it benefit a large proportion of purchasers of the Diary, mainly because the benefits were not applicable to military personnel serving overseas.

For this reason the suggestion does not commend itself to the Army Sports Control Board.

An alternative suggestion, that the insurance coupon might be included within an increased charge for the diary is rejected for the same reason.

THE EMPIRE FIELD OF REMEMBRANCE, 1957

The Empire Field of Remembrance, 1957, will be held at Westminster from the 6th to 12 November (both dates inclusive). It will be opened at 12 noon on Wednesday, 6th November, by a short service conducted by Canon Stancliffe, assisted by the Dean, at which members of the Association are invited to be present, and will remain open daily from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., although access thereto is, of course, possible at any time.

At the opening Service of Dedication of the Field a Special Cross will be planted by The Lord Rowallan, K.T., K.B.E., M.C., T.D., LL.D., Chief Scout, to mark the Centenary of the birth of the Founder of the Scout Movement, The Lord Baden-Powell of Gilwell, and in memory of the Scouts who have given their lives in the service of the Commonwealth and Empire.

The Royal Signals Plot is No. 203 as in previous years. Mr. A. E. Stead of Association Headquarters, and members of the London Branches will be official representatives of the Association at the opening. If any other members of the Association are in London on Wednesday, 6th November, and wish to attend the opening, they should notify Headquarters, the General Secretary, Royal Signals Association, 88, Eccleston Square, S.W.1.

ROYAL SIGNALS FIRST Congratulations to Sierra Leone Signal Squadron

The following appeared in the Daily Telegraph, 12th September, 1957, and is published by courtesy of the Editor.

Getting news back to Freetown from the diamond regions of up-country Sierra Leone has been a worrying problem for journalists.

The nearest telephone is about 50 miles away and does not always work. The road trip takes up to 15 hours, and all radio is subject to bad fade-outs.

My correspondent tells me a story showing that one should not judge by appearances, especially in Africa.

In desperation recently he sent cables by three routes. They were the hard-worked but splendidly-equipped radio of the S.L.S.T. Mining Co., the police network and, with some misgivings, through a rather battered-looking Army radio operating in a lean-to hut lit by a hurricane lamp.

The cable over the company radio took four hours to reach London, over the police network about nine hours, by the Royal Signals two hours and 40 minutes.

THE LATE CAPTAIN (QUARTERMASTER) W. H. J. L. COOMBES, M.B.E.

Sir,

It was only yesterday that the writer learned, with great sorrow, of the death, at Truro, on 31st January last, of Captain (Q.M.) W. H. J. L. Coombes, M.B.E. He makes haste to write to you, lest many of Captain Coombes' friends and admirers in Royal Signals and the old Indian Signal Corps are also unaware of his death. They will be glad to hear that the Royal Signals Association was properly represented at the funeral in the person of Lieutenant-Colonel L. J. D. Read. All will wish to extend to Mrs. Coombes and the children their very deepest sympathy in their great personal loss.

The writer first knew Joe Coombes when he became Regimental Sergeant Major of Peshwar District Signals in 1939. He served with him continuously for the first four and-a-half years of the war, first in that unit and later in 8th Indian Divisional Signals, of which Joe became the first quartermaster, on its formation in August, 1940. The memories of those years are fading fast, but amidst all the vicissitudes that 8th Indian Divisional Signals suffered, the strongest memories remain of the character and work of Joe Coombes, his technical competence as a quartermaster during the formation and mobilisation of the unit and its move to the Middle East with untrained officers and raw recruits, his unflinching cheerfulness and stability during the frustrating and uncomfortable years in Iraq, his experienced efficiency and moral strength during the river battles of the first autumn and winter in Italy. Throughout it all, Joe's kindness and thought for others, his experience and good humour were things that all turned to for support and comfort in difficult time, from the Commanding Officer to the Lance Naik, from the Subedar to the Corporal. He was the real Quartermaster, the man who provided always what was most needed, just when it was most wanted, but woe betide any man who was just trying it on: such a one left the stores a much chastened man, pursued by a flow of well-chosen words, either English or Urdu or both, as appropriate. Joe was equally facile in either tongue.

The writer's last memory of Joe was when the latter was on the staff of the Agricultural Committee. He was privileged to visit Joe's store of agricultural implements. It was the Army quartermaster's dream, everything in perfect order, laid out and docketed. There was the same care for the problems of others and the same efficiency. Even the face of the man trying unsuccessfully to explain away the "fair wear and tear" on a ploughshare had the same expression. It was only last Christmas that the writer received a letter from Joe, a letter written not long before he died, which, full of good wishes and encouragement to the recipient, made light of the fact that Joe himself had not been well. That letter was typical of him, kind, thoughtful and unselfish.

P. E. M. BRADLEY,
Lieutenant-Colonel.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP OF THE ASSOCIATION

Even before the Editorial in the September number of "The Wire" announced the increases in Annual Membership and Life Membership subscriptions, it was clear that some of the wiser had realised the opportunity that exists.

From 1st January, 1958, the Annual Membership subscription is raised to 5/- a year for Other Ranks.

Until 31st December, 1957, the Life Membership subscription remains at £1/10/0 for Other Ranks (£1/1/0 during initial training in the Training Brigade).

Since the publication of the September "Wire," applications for Life Membership have been coming in at an increasing rate.

Remember that this opportunity only lasts for a few more weeks.



Captain Longley was the Army's first motor-cycle despatch rider, and in August, 1914, he had trained a company

Royal Engineers Despatch Rider

A record to stir the imagination of even the most phlegmatic can be claimed by Captain Longley. He started his career in the Army at the age of 14, engaging in three major wars and winning distinction in each one.

He joined up as a bugler on parade in the 5th Bn. The Hampshire Regiment. The jubilee year of 1887 saw him take part in Queen Victoria's Royal Review at Aldershot. Although music had a great fascination, he decided there was no future in it for him and joined the Telegraph Battalion of the Royal Engineers, now known as the Royal Corps of Signals.

In 1899 he went to South Africa as a sergeant telegraphist on the staff of Lord Kitchener and Lord Roberts. One of his most treasured possessions is the original signal despatch written and signed by Lord Kitchener announcing the victory of a Boer general.

As a company sergeant major, he was in the Imperial Guard of Honour at the inaugural celebration of the Commonwealth of Australia on New Year's Day, 1901. The ceremony was referred to by Queen Elizabeth when touring Australia some time ago.

After the Boer war ended, Captain Longley went as an instructor to the Post Office Rifles battalion of the London Regiment. When the Territorial Army was formed in 1908 he took over as instructor of the R.E. Company at Cambridge University.

On the outbreak of war in August, 1914, Captain Longley was sent overseas. He found himself in charge of a company of motor-cycle despatch riders, every one of whom had been trained by him at Cambridge. Each owned the machine he rode.

Captain Longley claims to be the first regular soldier to be a motor despatch rider. His outstanding work during the retreat from Mons was recognised by the award of the Distinguished Conduct Medal and a commission on the field in the Royal Engineers.

The Second World War in 1939 saw him once again in uniform as an instructor at a bridging school in Cambridge. Two years later he finally finished soldiering, but in 1950 joined the ambulance section as a civil defence volunteer and successfully passed the driving test when he was 81 years of age.

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PERSONAL COLUMN

London Gazette

16th August, 1957
W.O. Cl. I. J. W. Douthwaite to be Lieutenant (Q.M.), 1st July, 1957.
20th August, 1957
Lieutenant-Colonel (Q.M.) H. Napper, M.B.E., retires on retired pay, 18th August, 1957.
3rd September, 1957
Major (Q.M.) J. S. Aitken relinquishes his commission on completion of service, 1st September, 1957.
6th September, 1957
Lieutenant-Colonel T. A. K. Howe, having exceeded the age limit for retirement, is placed on retired pay, 5th September, 1957.
10th September, 1957
Lieutenant (Q.M.) H. R. C. Holmes to be Captain (Q.M.), 10th September, 1957.
Captain J. R. T. Paterson to be Major, 11th September, 1957.
Captain P. J. W. McVey retired, 14th August, 1957.
Lieutenant J. B. Booth to be Captain, 8th September, 1957.

Movements — Officers

Major J. N. Congdon, Nigeria, to Southern Command Mobile Signal Squadron.
Major D. L. Pounds, 7 Training Regiment, to Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment.
Major P. W. Rogerson, H.Q. Task Force to War Office, A.G.11.
Major P. A. Toombs, B.A.O.R. to M.E.L.F.
Major (T.O.T.) H. A. Fuller, Ministry of Supply to retirement.
Captain (Q.M.) T. Mellor, Signal Regiment, U.K., to Cyprus.
Captain (Q.M.) W. E. Parks, B.A.O.R. to Signal Regiment, U.K.
Major (Q.M.) W. J. Robertson, School of Signals to FARELF.
Lieutenant (Q.M.) K. B. Ulrich, Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, U.K., to Southern Command (Mobile) Signal Squadron.
Major N. C. Gordon, 4 Training Regiment to School of Signals (R.S.W.).
Major (Tfc. Offr.) W. J. Cuffe, B.E.M., B.A.O.R. to Malta.
Major W. McCreedy, B.A.O.R. to 4 Training Regiment.
Major C. Robinson, U.K. Comcan Signal Regiment to Intelligence Centre.
Major R. R. Morrison, B.A.O.R. to Ind. Air Formation Signal Squadron.
Lieutenant (T.O.T.) C. Brodley, B.A.O.R. to Ind. Air Formation Signal Squadron.
Captain (T.O.T.) J. Bewley, SHAPE to Signal Regiment, U.K.
Captain (Tfc. Offr.) L. T. Cann, FARELF to B.A.O.R.
Lieutenant (T.O.T.) D. J. Chetwynd, B.A.O.R. to East Africa.
Major (Tfc. Offr.) T. J. Winder, B.A.O.R. to FARELF.
Major W. E. Lyske, B.A.O.R. to East Africa.
Major P. J. W. Stephens, Southern Command Mobile Signal Squadron to Iraq.
Captain (Q.M.) M. Deegan, B.A.O.R. to Ghana.
Major D. M. Humphries, H.Q., A.E.R., to B.A.O.R.
Major P. H. Leney, War Office to Malta.
Major D. H. W. Barnes, Ministry of Supply to Command (M) Signal Regiment, T.A.

Arrivals and Departures

1 Training Regiment
Arrivals: Captain R. V. Taylor, Staff-Sergeant J. T. Holtum, Sergeant J. A. Carmichael.
Departures: Captain D. W. Sutherland, M.M., R.S.M. J. V. Harding, Sergeant C. D. Jones.
Cyprus District Signal Regiment
Arrivals: Staff-Sergeants Stringer and Richardson.
Departures: Sergeants McDonough, Brooks, Tait and Potter.
12 Air Formation Signal Regiment
Arrivals: Major T. Sinnock, Lieutenants (T.O.T.) Pyper and T. Reece.
Departures: Major R. R. Morrison, Captain D. J. Roberts, Lieutenant (T.O.T.) Bradley, Staff-Sergeant Neal.
19 Army Group Signal Regiment
Arrivals: Captain K. W. E. Ferguson, Lieutenant (T.O.T.) L. F. Knight, W.O.II (R.Q.M.S.) Pooley, B.E.M., Sergeants J. W. Ankers, J. D. Anderson, Goddard, Williams and Austen.
Departures: W.O.IIs (R.Q.M.S.) O'Malley and Walsh, W.O.II Jones, Staff-Sergeants Warner and Warwick, Sergeants Craddock, Seton-Smith and Rawlings.
U.K. Comcan Signal Regiment
Arrivals: Sergeant Rolfe.
Departures: Staff-Sergeant Lock and Sergeant Arthur.
Officer Training Wing, School of Signals
Arrivals: Captains K. L. Uttley, K. E. P. Andrews, M.B.E., L. Edinger and D. Handley. Sergeant P. J. Kinsella and Acting Sergeant J. D. Thomas.
Departures: Major C. G. Sandys, Captains R. Plant, M. Williams, R.A.M.C., F. M. Partington, P. W. Hewitson, W.O.II W. V. Newton and Sergeant K. W. E. Hawkes.

Births

All the following of 19 Army Group Signal Regiment
SINGLETON.—To Staff-Sergeant and Mrs. D. Singleton, a daughter, Rose Maria Lillian Cornelia, at B.M.H., Hostert, on 12th July, 1957.
WILSON.—To Sergeant and Mrs. F. W. Wilson, a son, David John, at B.M.H., Hostert, on 16th August, 1957.
LEE.—To Corporal and Mrs. B. H. Lee, a daughter, Loraine, at B.M.H., Hostert, on 23rd August, 1957.
PYKE.—To Signalman and Mrs. R. G. Pyke, a son, Kevin, at B.M.H., Hostert, on 10th August, 1957.
DERHAM.—To Warrant Officer II and Mrs. C. A. Derham, a son, Ian Charles, at B.M.H., Hostert, on 4th July, 1957.

LEECH.—To Sergeant and Mrs. R. Leech, at Barnard Castle, on 3rd August, 1957, a daughter, Christine Susan.
KENNEDY.—A daughter, Dawn, to Staff-Sergeant and Mrs. Kennedy, of N.I.D. (M) Signal Squadron, on 3rd August, 1957.
CHAMBERS.—To 22306665 Sergeant and Mrs. D. Chambers, 1 C.E.T. Royal Signals, twin sons, Gary Haydon and Paul Jonathan, at St. Luke's Hospital, Guildford, Surrey, on 2nd September, 1957.

Marriages

CLARK—HODGSON.—Corporal D. Clark to Miss Mary Elizabeth Hodgson, at St. John's Church, Roundhey, Yorks., on 20th July, 1957.
BOUGH—CAVANAGH.—Lance-Corporal M. J. Bough to Miss Dorothy Elsie Cavanagh, at the Register Office, Middlesex South, on 15th August, 1957.
CLARK—MILNE.—Lance-Corporal C. Clark to Miss Shona C. Milne, at Newton Mearns, Renfrew, on 6th August, 1957.

All the following of 19 Army Group Signal Regiment

FLIPP—BLACKMAN.—Sergeant A. J. Flipp to Mrs. Ivy Irene Blackman, on 20th July, 1957.
DAVIES—GRIBBEN.—Corporal J. J. Davies to Corporal U. M. Gribben, at Birmingham, on 6th July, 1957.
BERGIN—GUNNELL.—Signalman G. R. Bergin to Miss Dulcie Gunnell, at Richmond, on 22nd June, 1957.
BRINT—SOBATTA.—Sergeant K. A. Brint to Miss Charlotte Sobatta, at Rheindahlen, on 3rd July, 1957.
DAVIES—LLOYD.—Lance-Corporal D. B. Davies to Miss Dorothy Margaret Lloyd, at Merthyr Tydfil, on 22nd June, 1957.
SMITH—LLOYD.—Corporal G. F. Smith to Corporal Margaret Olwen Lloyd, at St. Mark's Church, Halifax, Yorks., on 3rd August, 1957.
HALLIWELL—CONNELL.—Signalman K. Halliwell to Miss Susan Connell, at Chesterfield, on 6th August, 1957.
MERRY—REDMAN.—Sergeant L. Merry to Miss Margaret Mary Redman, at Plymouth, on 20th July, 1957.
BRANTHWAIT—ARMSTRONG.—Sergeant J. E. Branthwaite to Miss Doris Armstrong, at Darlington, on 22nd June, 1957.
DAVIES—MOTTSHED.—Signalman J. Davies to Miss Jean Mottshed, at Urmston, Lancs., on 9th July, 1957.

All the following of N.I.D. (M) Signal Squadron

BUNTING—BROWN.—Mr. S. Bunting, of Lurgan, to Pte. H. L. Brown, W.R.A.C., on 30th March, 1957, at the Garrison Church.
SMITH—EVANS.—Lance-Corporal T. Smith to Corporal K. Evans, on 1st July, 1957, at the Garrison Church.
BASTIANI—LE-HUQUET.—Cfn. Bastiani to Pte. B. Le-Huquet, W.R.A.C., on 1st July, 1957, at the Garrison Church.
LOCKWOOD—AINSWORTH.—Signalman B. P. Lockwood to Pte. J. R. Ainsworth, W.R.A.C., on the Isle of Wight, on 3rd August, 1957.

Deaths

MACKENZIE CLUNESS.—On 29th May, 1957, the wife of G. Mackenzie Cluness, Royal Signals, 1920-30, Royal Canadian Signals, 1930-39, Royal Australian Signals 1939-43. 43, Beaumont Street, Waterloo, New South Wales, Australia.
WARDLEY.—Major (Cipher) L. G. Wardley, M.B.E., at his home, 151A, Cranbrook Avenue, Cottingham Road, Hull, on 14th August, 1957. Royal Signals, 1923-1954. Life Member of the Association from 1945.
MULLIN.—23049101 Signalman E. Mullin, on 18th March, 1957. 28, Orton Street, Govan, Glasgow, S.W.
FENWICK.—23392714 Signalman M. J. Fenwick, in a motoring accident on 18th August, 1957.
MCGOWAN.—Andrew Ablott, son of Staff-Sergeant and Mrs. A. J. McGowan, on 17th July, 1957.
APPLETON.—2338623 W.O.I (R.S.M.) O. G. Appleton, on 1st September, 1957.
HICKEY.—2325825 W.O.II P. Hickey, suddenly at Hilden, Germany, on 8th September, 1957, aged 39.

NACERBY has been in Germany and informs the Editor that his "Jottings" in the November number will contain a deal of hitherto unpublished revelations about some of the famous Regiments of Royal Signals serving there.

The New Cover

It is very much regretted that a defect has shown itself in the present dark blue cover of "The Wire" in that when individual copies are folded and wrapped for posting, a crack is made the whole length of the cover.

Every effort is being made to put this defect right. First of all by a different method of wrapping of individual copies before posting, and later by using a different quality of paper and colour.



Statues of Mercury

From time to time the Association hears of statues of "Jimmy" for sale, usually at too short notice to broadcast the information before the sale.

As an example, information was received on Monday that a magnificent bronze statue, 6ft. high, in "mint" condition, was for sale by auction on Tuesday. Enquiry revealed—by Tuesday—that there was no reserve price. After consultation, the nearest Signal Regiment to the sale was notified and bid up to £55. The statue eventually went for £61.

The Moral

Regiments requiring statues of "Jimmy" should please let the Secretary of the Association know their wishes as to size and price. Equipped with a list of these requirements, he can then go ahead with confidence and endeavour to purchase should opportunity occur.

CORPS FLAGS

Royal Signals Corps Flags and Union Jacks are available through H.Q., Royal Signals Association, 88 Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1.

CORPS FLAGS			UNION JACKS		
8' x 4'	@	68/-	6' x 3'	@	36/-
6' x 3'	@	48/6	4' 6" x 2' 3"	@	22/6
4' x 3'	@	42/6	8' x 4'	@	55/6
4' x 2'	@	38/6			
3' x 2'	@	35/6			
2' x 18"	@	27/-			

PLUS POSTAGE

Accounts are sent direct to the Unit from the makers if the Unit is situated in the United Kingdom.

To save delay, Association H.Q. pays for the orders of overseas Units and then asks for reimbursement.

As the crest has to be hand painted, orders should be placed as early as possible; delivery date usually 6-8 weeks.

BUNTING STREAMER DECORATIONS

The official Corps flag makers, Messrs. T. C. Hayward and Co. Ltd., 92/93, Minories, London, E.C.2, are now able to supply Bunting Streamers for decorations at dances, etc., at the following price, which compares favourably with the cost of hiring such decorations.

18" x 9" multicoloured decoration pennants made from All Wool Bunting sewn on lengths of tape at 32/3 per 12 yard tape containing 24 pennants.

They can supply any length of tape which may be required, when the prices would be in proportion to the above.

Delivery could be made within two or three days of receipt of order.

W.O.II J. S. Beswick writes ...

Having spent years, sneering at "Letters from Readers," saying "is this a record?" I now find myself succumbing to the same craze, or, is it that I want to boast a little, or more probable still, I feel a little like reminiscing.

Corps probably give more scope for interesting jobs than the regiments, but I will stick my neck out a little and say that my own career, although a trifle on the long side, has been more varied than most.

Beginnings are not very exciting, but one has to start somewhere. So 1924 finds me at Crowborough, and later in the year at Maresfield.

I suppose if I say at this juncture—shades of Colonel Walsh, Bandy Ruffie, Jimmy Emblem, Corporal Cottrell, Tony Stuart and Rodda, that would suffice for the first year, although I did see a reference to an A.W.C. Partridge not many months ago, at a time when I was feeling like "the oldest inhabitant." If he is from the original 50 squad, then at least my first friend in the Army is still in the land of the living.

The next five years are only really of interest to myself. 2 Divisional Signals, Aldershot, gave me plenty of insight into schemes, church parades, kit inspections, horses, guards, picquets and horses again, but not much else.

1930 found me a civilian again, with unemployment at its worst, and, in 1931, a potential master of industry slid quietly into line, and the Big Dig, at Catterick.

Early 1932 saw me enjoying the Army probably more than ever before, or since. Anyone who spent any time at all in the School of Signals at that time, will vouch that the spirit, comradeship and esprit de corps were second to none, and I still feel proud that I helped in a small way to land the Mackworth Trophy for the School against the might of the Depot and T.B.

I know that many of my friends from those days are still serving, and I take this opportunity to wish them "all the best."

1936 saw me at 2 W.T. Company in Sarafand, and also started me on the first of my more interesting jobs. The work was hard, but very interesting and varied, and again the spirit was better than in most units.

A year of Palestine and then to Malta. Still with 2 W.T., but now part of a select out-section. It is hard not being able to say "hello" to everyone, but all my friends from Malta days will know that I wish them well.

War intervenes here, but before coming home on "Python," I had become Chief Clerk, Malta Signals, and my education was proceeding.

1944, and again the School of Signals, but not for long. Tactics Wing was a nice job, but there is no peace for the wicked, and I find myself abroad again—Force 134 in Edinburgh.

The invasion of Norway did not come off, and after a short spell, I am drafted to B.A.O.R.

I wonder how many people came through the transit camps at Bruges and Bielefeld in 1945. I expected to stay the usual two or three days, but found myself hooked and sentenced to posting people to all kinds of attractive jobs in Germany, while I sat fuming.

Not for too long though. 2nd Echelon had apparently been waiting for me to turn up for some months, and eventually forced the transit camp to disgorge me, and I found myself back in the capital city of Belgium. Chief Clerk (M.S.) was thrown at me, and for the next two years I slaved in Brussels, Hamburg and Bad Oeynhausen, changing from M.S. to Signals Records and later to A (Org.).

My mania for photography found me an escape route, and after many wangles, I found myself a photographer in Public Relations, Rhine Army.

Now my education is growing more complete. I travel and meet people of all walks of life and am entertained by units comprising a big section of the British Army. I take pictures of all ranks and get their stories. Weddings by the score come my way. I follow Monty, Ike and other V.I.P.s while they tour Germany. I meet and photograph all the famous and not-so-famous celebrities from many countries. One morning I take a picture of a suicide for the security police, and the same night I am getting a close-up of Gracie Fields, as she comes off the stage.

I am even luckier later on, and am promoted to take charge of all photographers in B.A.O.R. I travel all over Germany to every zone, except the Russian. I meet my American and Canadian opposite numbers, and am lost in admiration with their equipment. I get to know Germany, as a whole, as well,

if not better, than my own home country, but it's too good to last.

Signals Records have been after me for years, and I find myself, after seven years in Germany, at 56 Divisional Signals, T.A., in London.

I don't think that anyone who had to get T.A., N.S. and Z Reserve to one camp in their first year with the T.A. will really envy me this job, but it's another phase in my education, and I survive.

In 1954, I put in for, and get, the position of W.O.I i/c Recruiting, Western Command, and am sent to Liverpool.

Now this really is an interesting job if taken seriously. One meets the most varied cross-section of the civilian community, both at work and in the home. It was the first time for 30 years that I had had a real insight to how civilians thought, and it made me change a lot of my pre-conceived, rather military, hide-bound ideas.

I had thought that this would be the end of my military career, but whether it was a liking for Army life, or fear of the unknown, I found myself asking to soldier on until 55 (not very far hence), and that entailed yet another move—Chief Clerk (Selection) War Office Selection Board, Barton Stacey. Here again, another job, quite different from anything I had done before, but packed with interest.

And now (28th August), and with only a few days before details of "the axe" are finally announced, I sit back and say to myself—"Is this really the end?" What comes next?—Proprietor of a village store? Temporary clerk, or emblazoned in Field Marshal's uniform, shouting "3/6 on the right, 2/6 on the left?"

Reading over, my life doesn't seem to have been as varied as my mind says it was, and my only excuse is that I cannot make things as interesting as I knew they really were.

Forthcoming Events

44 Division Old Comrades' Rally

On Friday, 25th October, 1957, prior to the El Alamein Reunion, The New Inn, 252, Westminster Bridge Road, London, S.E.1, between 5 p.m. and 6.30 p.m., for ex-members of the Division. Lady friends are invited. Tickets, 5/- each, from the Hon. Secretary, c/o H. J. Green and Co., Ltd., Aldington Works, Hove 3, Sussex. A cheque or postal order (with stamped addressed envelope) should accompany all applications.

4th Indian Air Formation Signals Officers' Reunion

The 11th Annual Officers' Reunion Dinner will take place at the Williamson's Tavern, Bow Lane (Near Mansion House), at 7.30 p.m., on Saturday, 16th November. Further details may be obtained from the organiser at "Four Winds," 33, Crescent Road, Sidcup, Kent.

T.A. and A.E.R. Officers' "At Home," 1957

The "At Home" for Royal Signals Officers of the Territorial Army and Army Emergency Reserve and their wives, also for W.R.A.C. Officers of the Territorial Army, will be held this year at the Hyde Park Hotel, Knightsbridge, S.W.1, on Saturday, 7th December, 1957, at 4.0 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 the present.

Tickets, (8/6 per person) may be obtained from the Honorary Secretary, Royal Signals Officers' 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, 1957

The Royal Signals Officers' Buffet Supper and Reunion is to be held this year at the Territorial Army Centre (Army Phantom Signal Regiment) (Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment, T.A.), 190, Hammersmith Road, London, W.6., also on Saturday, 7th December, 1957. Time: 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. Dress: Lounge suits.

All officers who have served, or who are serving with Royal Signals (i.e. Regular and Retired, T.A., T.A.R.O., A.E.R., and W.E.C. officers) will be welcome at this Reunion, which will be quite informal. It is hoped that all who are able, will attend and help to make the Reunion a success. All Signal Regiments are asked to help by publicising this Reunion to the numerous officers who are no longer serving.

Tickets (14/- per person) may be obtained from the Honorary Secretary, Royal Signals Officers' Dinner Club, Room 102, Horse Guards, Whitehall, S.W.1. Cheques should be made payable to Royal Signals Dinner Club.

54 (E.A.) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment (T.A.) (Late 61 Army Signal Regiment, T.A.) Officers' Ball

The Annual Ball will be held once again in the Hyde Park Hotel, on Saturday, December 7th, 1957. Tickets, 30/- each, including buffet supper, from 40, Ashburnham Road, Bedford.

ROYAL SIGNALS HOCKEY, 1957/58

25th October, 1957	Royal Engineers	Aldershot
3rd December, 1957	R.A.S.C.	Aldershot
4th December, 1957	R.M.A.	Sandhurst
15th February, 1958	R.A.	Woolwich
10th February, 1958	Aldershot Services	Aldershot
7th March, 1958	R.E.M.E.	Catterick Camp
6th March, 1958	Durham University	Durham
19th March, 1958	Welbeck College	Welbeck
4th-7th April, 1958	Easter Hockey Festival	Scarborough

ROYAL SIGNALS RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB 1957/58

OCTOBER	16	Northern Command v. Yorkshire	Gosforth
	19	Northern Command v. Northumberland	
NOVEMBER	6	Northern Command v. The Rest	Catterick
	9	Billingham	Billingham
	16	Preston Grasshoppers	Preston
	20	Northern Command v. Western Command	Catterick
	23	Roundhay	Catterick
	27	Royal Engineers	Catterick
	30	Huddersfield	Catterick
DECEMBER	7	Harrogate	Catterick
	12	Cambridge L.X. Club	Catterick
	18	Oxford University Greyhounds	Catterick
	21	Wakefield	Catterick
JANUARY, 1958	4	Sandal	Sandal
	11	Rockcliffe	Rockcliffe
	18	West Hartlepool	W. Hartlepool
	25	Halifax	Catterick
	29	King's College	Newcastle
FEBRUARY	1	Wakefield	Wakefield
	15	Old Novos	Catterick
	22	Durham City	Durham
MARCH	5	King's College	Catterick
	12	Leeds University	Catterick
	19	Northern Command Cup	Catterick
	22	Morley	Morley
	26	Northern Command Sevens	Catterick
APRIL	12	Harrogate	Harrogate
	19	Percy Park	Newcastle
	23	Bradford Charity Match	Bradford
	26	Huddersfield Sevens	Huddersfield
		† Corps Representative Matches	

Sports Results

Congratulations to Royal Signals, Catterick, who again won the Kelso "Sevens" by beating Jedforest 16-13 in the Final.

Major R. E. Scouller writes to the Editor

Your Sierra Leone correspondent in the September number, is somewhat ungenerous in his treatment of the past when he talks of the 1957 Sapper-Signals dinner as an "innovation." The "innovation" took place in 1952, when, due to the efforts of Lieutenant Guy Rogers, then officiating O.C. of Sierra Leone Squadron, the first dinner was held with O.C.R.E., Freetown, in the chair. In the following year the function was repeated, and was made notable by, among other features, a famed Mint Julep carried by Land Rover from the O.C. Signal Squadron's quarter in a large wash basin, suitably cradled in that well known article of domestic furnishing, pails slop, white two gallon.

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PROMOTIONS

The following substantive promotions were authorised during the month of August, 1957:—

TO WARRANT OFFICER I

TO STAFF SERGEANTS
3959580 A/Staff Sgt. (101) Petit, S. L.

SIGNAL CENTRE SUPERVISOR ROSTER

2548646 S/Sgt. (22) Clark, J. N.

FOREMAN OF SIGNALS ROSTER

TO STAFF SERGEANTS

Trade Roster

OTHER DELETIONS

DELETIONS

W.O.I. (80) Cheshire, A. J. E., Commissioned Lieutenant (T.O.),
19th June, 1957.

Cipher Hosters

OTHER DELETIONS

Staff Sergeant 670

Trades

INSERTIONS

3910103 W.O.II W.O.II
(602) Milton, L.

STAFF SERGEANTS
(22) Clark, J. N.
(70) Weir, W.

Football

For the purpose of this note, one may reckon that there are two kinds of football; association (alias "soccer") and rugby (alias "rugger"). The first essential for the spectator is to be able to identify the game that he is watching. The mathematically-inclined will be able to distinguish between them readily enough, for there are 11 players on each side in the former, and the latter starts off with 15 players a side. (There is also a 13-a-side variety, but this may be mentioned only in parenthesis and very small print). Also soccer, in common with all sensible games, is played with a nice round thing, whose bounce is orderly and precise, whereas a rugby ball is an egg-shaped horror, whose progress is anything but tidy or predictable.

THE WIRE, OCTOBER 1957

In association football, the players may not handle the ball, and the backs stay back, and the forwards stay forward: in rugby the players may handle the ball, and the backs and the forwards run around without any decent regard for their nomenclature. In association it is a bad thing to kick the ball off the field of play ("keep it on the island!"); in rugby it is to be commended ("oh, nice touch, sir!"). In soccer, the gent who runs up and down the sideline, waving a little flag, is a linesman; in rugger he is a touch-judge.

But I would not wish to suggest that rugby football is anything but an essentially well-bred game. A certain amount of robust animalism is admitted, but even the dirt is dishied out with an air and even an apology. No such unseemly displays are permitted, as when in association football the gentleman who has scored a goal flings exultant arms to heaven and is embraced many times by each member of his team in the manner normally expected of French generals, but which even those gentlemen would consider embarrassingly over-ardent.

The nearest you get to that in rugby is at the end of the game, when the sides cheer each other. But this does have its usefulness, for it enables the spectator to find out who are the winners—they always cheer first. If it is a draw he's foxed, but at least he knows he can go home to tea.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
G. H. T. SHRIMPTON

BADGES,	Motor Car	...	35/-	each
"	Motor Cycle or Cycle	...	17/6	"
"	Lapel or Brooch	...	3/-	"
"	Blazer	...		

(Jimmy in Silver Wire) 25/- „
(The last two for Association members only)

BUTTONS. Blazer — Large $2/3$ each; Small $1/8$ each.

CORPS TIES, Reppe ... 5/6 each

CORPS TIES, Reppe	...	...	...	5/	...
" " Heavy Weave	...	...	...	7/6	"

"	"	Woollen	...	8/6	"
"	"	Tweed	...	12/11	"

11	11	Terylene	...	...	12/11	11
12	12					

CRAVATS, Reppe	21/- each
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CUFF LINKS	...	...	...	...	7/- per pair
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A black and white photograph showing a man in a suit and bow tie standing on a raised platform, possibly a stage or a vehicle, addressing a group of people. The scene is dimly lit, with a large wheel visible on the left and a cage-like structure in the background.

1st TRAINING REGIMENT

Last month saw our swimmers win the Army Water Polo Cup and the Army Swimming Runners-up trophy, and as we go to press, it has just been announced that Signelman Porter, the water polo goalkeeper, has been selected to represent England v. Wales.

Tennis players, and Cricketers too, added further laurels when they annexed the Northern Command Cricket and District Inter-Unit Tennis Cups.

With the departure of summer, the Rugby, Soccer and Hockey players are limbering up and "rarin' to go."

Parents' week-end went off most successfully. Some 200 relations came from near and far to join in this increasingly popular "at home." There were P.T. and Drill displays on Scotland, to the accompaniment of the Corps Band, and novelty races and boxing demonstrations to add a little humour to the scene. Tea time was enlivened by the light orchestra of the Corps Band, and on view was a most impressive display of Regimental silver. In the evening, a crowded Cary Theatre enjoyed a really first-class revue, presented by the Regimental Concert Party, and services in all the Garrison Churches on Sunday morning brought the week-end to a close. A very happy and most enjoyable occasion.

On 26th July, 1957, Colonel J. E. S. Sanders, O.B.E., took the salute at the Commissioning Parade of No. 355 Course. This was his last duty before handing over as Chief Instructor of the School of Signals. He presented the Commanding Officer's prize to Officer Cadet, now Lieutenant Dove.

prize to Officer Cadet, now Lieutenant DOVE.

With the transition of the sporting seasons, the competition tempo has slowed down considerably, and Tennis has been the main interest. The unit were runners-up to 1 Training Regiment in the Northumbrian District Inter-Unit Tournament, and won the Catterick Garrison Tournament, beating our erstwhile victors. We also entered a team for the Northern Command Inter-Unit Competition, but were beaten in the first round again by 1 Training Regiment. Major T. L. Richards, Captain "Mike" Williams, R.A.M.C., Second-Lieutenants Marshal Acres and Anderson, Officer Cadet Booth, Corporal Favager and Signaller Lewis all represented the unit. Officer Cadet Booth is to be congratulated on winning the Army Singles Championship, the Northern Command Open Singles, and, together with Lance-Corporal Redman of 1 Training Regiment, winning the Army and Northern Command Doubles Championships. He also represented the Corps and the Army.

During the past month there have been many changes in the Cadre Staff. Major C. G. Sandys left for B.A.O.R.



[Photo: R. B. Fawcett, Leyburn, Yorks]

Sailing on Semerwater, Captain M. Williams and Captain C. R. A. Sumner preparing their dinghy.

Captain F. Partington and Captain P. W. Hewitson to Malta. Captain R. Plant also left the unit, but before embarking for Malaya took unto himself a wife. The nuptial feast was attended by a number of officers from the Wing. Captains K. L. Uttley, L. Edinger, D. Handley and K. E. P. Andrews, M.B.E., have arrived and are welcomed into the Wing.

Captain "Mike" Williams, R.A.M.C., the Unit Medical Officer, left us on 28th August to return to his civil practise. He had been in the unit since November, 1955, and identified himself very closely with all our activities. We trust that Asian Flu will not invade his corner of the Highlands.

The Signal Officer-in-Chief visited on 22nd August, 1957, during his tour of Catterick, to say farewell to the officers, and had lunch in the Mess.

On 3rd August, 1957, a very attractive picture was published in the *Darlington and Stockton Gazette*, showing one of the unit's week-end activities, sailing on the Semer Water. In the picture, Captain C. R. A. Sumner and Captain M. Williams are preparing their dinghy for an afternoon's sport.

The Unit Fete, in aid of the Royal Signals Benevolent Fund, S.S.A.F.A. and Unit Welfare, realised the remarkable sum of £195. The raffle was particularly successful, due mainly to the most attractive first prize, a large doll's house, constructed by Staff-Sergeant Smith and his wife, who presented it to the unit. Even more money would have been raised had we not been victims of the bus strike and a mid-afternoon torrential cloud-burst.



[Photo: A. J. Glover, Richmond, Yorks]

Lieut.-Colonel C. H. Howarth with the winner of the Doll's House, Miss Margaret Lockwood, and her mother, Mrs. J. Hemstock. Looking on are Staff Sergeant and Mrs. G. Smith, who constructed the house.

JUNIOR LEADERS REGIMENT, ROYAL SIGNALS

The most notable feature of the Summer Term was the announcement in the Birthday Honours List of the award of M.B.E. to R.S.M. Thompson. This was a richly deserved award and one for which Mr. Thompson and the Regiment can be justly proud. Many ex-Boys will remember Staff Sergeant Milnes, A.C.C., who served the Regiment well for six years until his retirement last February due to ill-health. His name also appeared in the Birthday Honours List with the award of the B.E.M.

Two awards of the L.S. and G.C. Medal have recently been made to Staff Sergeant Browne of the Quartermaster's staff and Sergeant Clarke of 1 Squadron. Both these awards were presented by the Commanding Officer on ceremonial parades.

Other major events this term have been summer camp at Braunton in North Devon; Parents' Day on 29th June; and a visit from H.R.H. Prince Chula of Thailand, all of which have been reported elsewhere in *THE WIRE*.

On 19th June we took part in a Triangular Athletics Match with the Infantry and Royal Artillery Junior Leaders at Plymouth. Unfortunately the opposition was too strong for us, but it was a most enjoyable meeting and it provided us with much needed outside competition. This was evident when we competed in another Athletics Match against the Grammar School boys from Newton Abbot and Totnes on our own track. The result was very close and although we were finally beaten, the outcome was in doubt till the last event.

The presentation parade was held on 30th July when the Inspecting Officer was General Sir George Erskine, G.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O., A.D.C., C-in-C. Southern Command. The parade was commanded by Junior/R.S.M. Markie and the major trophies were awarded as follows:—

S.O.-in-C's Trophy	Senior Troops "A" Troop
S.O.-in-C's Trophy	Junior Troops "D" Troop
Commandant's Trophy	Junior/Sergeant French
Best Boy Recruit	Junior/Signalman Home

At the end of the term we said good-bye to Major H. A. Leece who has gone to a Signals Staff appointment at H.Q. ALFCE. Our new Second-in-Command is Major S. F. Dunkley who has been with the Regiment since February. Major P. D. Parker has taken over command of 2 Squadron, having recently arrived from Ghana Signal Squadron. Captain Silk who has commanded H.Q. Squadron for the past two years has retired after 35 years' service with the Corps. We wish him and his family good health and good fortune in his retirement, and at the same time welcome his successor, Captain D. F. L. James.

Summer Camp

by J/Sergeant B. Wigfield, "F" Troop

How would you like to spend twelve days on the coast of North Devon?

On a fine, sunny morning the 6th of June, the Regiment marched out of the camp gates, bound for Braunton, near Barnstaple. We were to spend twelve days there in an old war-time camp about three miles from the sea. The purpose of the camp was to give the boys an opportunity to use their initiative and it was also a break from the normal day by day training routine.

The Regiment marched down to Newton Abbot, a matter of four miles, and some few pounds were lost through perspiration!

Everyone boarded the train and it pulled away. It was an uneventful trip and the train arrived at Braunton approximately two hours later. On the station we formed up by Squadrons and, after a roll call, we marched through the town and up the road to the camp. The first sight we had of the camp was pretty grim, but first impressions are not always true, as we found out later. This was our home for the next twelve days.

After we had found our respective huts, we drew bedding and cleaning materials and proceeded to get organised. The huts were old Nissen huts with stone floors and just a shelf running round the walls on which to place our kit.

Dinner time came around and afterwards we lay out on the grass and either sun-bathed or played various types of sports.

In the evening a swimming party was arranged under Major Jackson and they doubled to the beach and back, a mere matter of six miles!

After supper there was a film show; these we had throughout the camp period every evening, as a means of entertainment and relaxation.

Lights out was ten o'clock and I think everybody slept like logs that night.

The following morning we all dressed in P.T. kit and boots; this was the every-day dress because of hot weather. Troop Officers then took charge of their Troops and went away on their various Exercises. My Troop went for a ramble around the countryside and down to an old lighthouse situated on the coast. We rested awhile and from there we walked about two miles along the clean, white sands to the swimming area. The beach was very good, it sloped up gently from the sea and then transformed into rolling sand dunes. We had a refreshing cold swim and made our way back to camp in time for dinner.

For our stay at camp there were various schemes and Exercises planned for toughening and refreshing the body. All the Exercises usually finished up with a swim in the sea. There were the good old Army route marches and cross-country marches, following streams and walking through wooded country. There was also rock climbing on the cliffs at the coast and rock scrambling on the jagged limestone ridges. One Troop found themselves cut off when the tide came in and the ensuing rescue operations were rather comical. They have not yet lived it down!

Other Exercises included map reading, where individuals were put in charge of sections and had to lead them to a given map reference. This called for using one's initiative.

For the leisure hours of the day there were organised swimming parties down to the beach. Also, as a means of recreation, a softball knock-out competition was arranged, which was eventually won by "G" Troop, after many exciting games, and they were awarded ten cigarettes each.

During the course of the camp each Troop took a turn at doing Duty Troop. One or two unlucky Troops did it twice. The Duty Troop provided boys to work in the Cook-house, NAAFI, general duties around camp and a guard and fire picquet. Some of the boys thought it was fun on guard, but most did not.

Towards the end of our stay at camp visits were paid to surrounding places of interest, such as the bakery, furniture factory and an R.A.F. station.

For the visit to the R.A.F. station we were taken there by trucks and conducted into a room where an R.A.F. Officer awaited us. He gave a short talk on what went on at the airfield and answered questions anyone cared to ask. Then we were transported to a miniature range, where an armaments instructor described to us how the 20 and 30 millimetre cannons worked. We were given a demonstration of them in action. Afterwards we were conducted round the hangars and saw the Hawker Hunters and Vampires.

Eventually the day came for us to return to Newton Abbot but it had been such an enjoyable time that most boys did not want to return to the old routine. But our twelve days were up, so on the Monday morning of 18th June we marched to the station at Braunton and boarded the train for Newton Abbot.

STEEPLE BUMPSTEAD SIGNAL SQUADRON

The Squadron was not inspected by the C.S.O., nor by the G.O.C.-in-C., nor by General R. E. Morse, K.B., K.C., K.D., so they were unable to express themselves pleased with all they saw.

Our new O.C. has eventually arrived, he wasn't at the Tennis Championships after all—he was delayed looking for Signals 7 at the War Office. However, he has already been heard arguing with the Second-in-Command as to what constitutes a long week-end. The Squadron has always observed the motto, "Travel on Thursday and

avoid the Rush Hour." Looks like we'll need a new motto!

Incidentally, when is the M.T. Corporal coming back from leave? It seems ages since he went on L.I.A.P. However, by judiciously adding L.I.L.O.P., Renleave, Korea Leave, Privilege Leave, the Easter, Whitsun, August and Christmas Breaks, he seems to have been away continuously since the Court of Inquiry over the missing FAMTO stores.

The Sergeants' Mess is busy warding off Asian flu. A veteran of Burma insists that the quinine in four gin and tonics is quite sufficient protection—if taken daily.

Last week the Squadron had its first sporting success of the season when we beat No. 176 Dental Centre in the Cotswold District Boxing Championships. Next week we meet 191 Field Bakery in the semi-finals.

We have been asked by The Editor to submit a Unit photograph. This has faced us with a great problem. Due to shift work, leave, detention, sickness, and more detention, there is so little of the Squadron available at any one time. We suggested that the photograph be taken and submitted in three parts, but the O.C., not being as photogenic as some members of the Corps, refused to have his photograph appear in three consecutive issues of *THE WIRE*. To have three in the same issue would create jealousy and competition in certain quarters, and in any case so many photographs would need to occupy space normally allotted to the Radio Show, the Band at Eastbourne or that advertisement for somebody's peanuts. Undaunted, we are setting the problem in the general paper of the next Army Certificate of Education (3rd Class) Examination; rather in the way the Chiefs of Staff solve their strategical problems from the answers to the Staff College Entrance Examination.

It is denied that there is to be a prize for guessing the gist of the conversation between the two signalmen shown struggling with a mule-pack wireless set on the Frontier on page 14 of "The Booklet of the Royal Corps of Signals" (if we don't put it in the Editor will), (price 1/6 from the Royal Signals Institution).

Here are this month's notes from our Cipher Troop:—

ABCDE ZYXWV FGHJK UTSRQ LMNOP PONML
QRSTU KJHGF VWXYZ EDCBA

3 INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

This month we held our annual Officers v. Sergeants cricket match. As usual, the W.O.s and Sergeants came off second best, and hope to do better next year. Congratulations are offered to Lieutenant T. Blashill on his recent marriage, and best wishes for the future. The Garrison Gardens Competition has been won by the Officers' Mess for the past two years, but, unfortunately, this year failed to produce the hat-trick.

It has become the practice to terminate our Regimental field exercises by sending everyone back to Colchester in small groups of between three to six vehicles. The routes to be followed are predetermined by R.H.Q., and usually zig-zag over almost virgin territory; that is virgin as far as three-ton vehicles are concerned. Even if the group commander's map reading is correct, such hazards as haycarts meeting a line of three-ton C.V.s towing trailers in narrow country lanes, have to be overcome, while the problems of how to stuff a nine-foot truck through an eight-foot-six bridge, and maintain 20 m.p.h. up mountainous gradients are all part of the joys encountered in trying to get home on time.

The latest project in the Garrison Theatre was a complete departure from the usual theatricals of our amateur dramatists. The cast consisted of five officers and 20 men. The aim of this little group was to discuss ways and means of getting a bigger and better Regular Army. They were on a three-day recruiting course, and were being taught how to sell the Army to the unenlightened civil population. One-view put forward was a pace back in history to the days when many volunteers were obtained from the public houses by a jovial recruiting sergeant armed with many stories of valour and enterprise, and the promise of the Sovereign's shilling. The result may well be a rush of

volunteers to join the Army Recruiting Staff, with a motto of "Get the Locals from the Locals." The two course instructors were experts in the pep-talk field, and are both directors in a firm of sales consultants. They have been on a tour of the country giving these three-day courses for almost a year. Their aim is to give our men an insight into the professional approach and instil confidence in them, not that the latter is a quality completely lacking in our recruiting staffs, but with recruitment as it is, a little extra of anything will always be most useful.

Our local Lathe Company recently left Colchester with some first-class machinery to exhibit at the Fifth International Machine Tool Exhibition at Hanover. Locally-hired transport, in the form of three articulated lorries, are conveying our wares all the way to the Fair. This type of transport has the advantage of covering the whole distance without the necessity of unloading or transferring the machinery. This avoids many of the hazards of loss and damage that is invariably a source of annoyance to many of the firms exhibiting. The vehicles are to embark at Tilbury in a former tank landing craft for Antwerp. The next stage of the journey being across the Continent by road to the coveted territories of Northern Army Group, where the ex-Service element of the expedition will probably be on familiar ground and no doubt meet many old friends.

The town's Methodist Church has just welcomed their new minister, the Rev. Keith R. Jefferies. He had returned from service in Cyprus, where he has just completed two years assisting British troops in anti-terrorist operations. His duties entailed supervising the searches carried out in Greek Orthodox churches. He himself took on the delicate task of personally searching the more sacred parts of the churches, such as the altar and sanctuary. The Rev. Jefferies received training at Bagshot in 1954, and was commissioned into the Royal Army Chaplains Department. His first appointment was in the Suez Canal Zone, where he served for six months, before being transferred to Cyprus.

DISCLAIMER.—With reference to this Regiment's article on page 202 of the July edition of THE WIRE, on the shooting of the film "Dunkirk," we have been asked to point out that the WS88, used to provide communications between the groups of men, were drawn from C.O.D., Greenford, at very short notice. This did not permit time for the normal testing and servicing by the C.O.D. before issue; hence the unserviceability of six out of the 50 sets drawn.

THE SCOTTISH REUNION



Lieutenant-Colonel R. Linton with Major-General C. M. F. White, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O. at the Gala



The General Secretary discusses a point

For weeks, in common with the rest of the country, no doubt, rain was forever with us. Then, quite suddenly it seemed (on Saturday morning, 17th August, 1957, to be precise) the clouds disappeared, the sky was blue and the sun shone. For two days the weather was glorious, with a fine bracing wind from the sea, which tailed off to a breeze on Sunday afternoon. On Monday morning the rain returned.

"Remarkable," you might say, "but why bother us?" "Simply," we reply, "because this was the Royal Signals Old Comrades Association Reunion week-end, for which we were the honoured hosts."

The proceedings commenced on Saturday evening, with the "Playing of Retreat," for which we were delighted to have the Corps Band, under the direction of Major Judd, and the Pipes and Drums of the 51st (H) and 52nd (L) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiments (T.A.).

This was held on the unit parade ground, in which we are extremely lucky, in that running along its length, as a background, there is the grey of the Sandhurst Block, with a promenade and bank dropping, perhaps, three feet to the parade ground. Centrally placed, are two flights of steps, framing the high, arched doors of oak, and in front of these, the trumpeters sounded the opening fanfare. From the left, to the strains of our Regimental March, the Corps Band came swinging into sight, down the steep slope of the hill, to wheel and be framed by the great oaks which stand there; the green, brown and grey throwing into sharp relief the scarlet and blue uniforms, and the sun glinting on silver, much as it must have done long ago on the weapons of old-time warriors. No sooner had the Corps Band come to a halt, at the far end of the parade ground, than the strains of the pipes and drums were to be heard as they approached, once more from the hill on our left, in their green jackets, kilts and white gaiters. Then followed march and counter-march by each band in turn, while we, the spectators, were held enthralled. At the end of it all Major-General C. M. F. White, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., Colonel Commandant, congratulated the bands before they marched off.

A little later we were all enjoying ourselves at the All Ranks' Dance, where liquid refreshment was laid on. This latter turned out to be a good move, since dancing didn't appear to affect the average Old Comrade's ability to discuss Signals, past and present, in the least. The various messes entertained our comrades before, during and after dancing, and a right merry time was had by all until, like all good things, it came to an end at midnight.



The Man who was wet so often

Sunday was, of course, the day. Commencing with a Drumhead Service, at which Major-General White, Brigadier J. C. Hardy, C.S.O., H.Q., Scottish Command, and Major W. J. Hotchkiss, Commanding Officer of the unit, attended. The former read the Lesson and took the salute at the march-past of the branch contingents, led by the Corps Band and detachments of the Squadron and W.R.A.C.

The Service was conducted by the Rev. H. O. Jones, C.F., and the address given by the Rev. G. M. R. Bennett, B.D., C.F., D.A.C.G.

Lunch, in the Gymnasium, was a most excellent repast, laid on by NAAFI, ably assisted by members of the W.R.A.C. This ended with addresses from the Colonel Commandant and Mr. Grainger, on the past and present achievements of the Association—thanks for the working parties—and hopes for the future. We feel sure that a lot of good will come of this "briefing."

Lunch over, forty winks were foregone to enjoy "all the fun of the fair," laid on by Second-Lieutenant Wooldridge and family, and a display of country dancing by the ladies of the W.R.A.C. (T.A.) and our own Squadron. A communications race, thought up by our Cipher expert, Captain Ted Bennett, provided a lot of amusement (we may get him to tell you about it one day).

Inevitably, there were the children's races (how many packets of sweets went by the board we wonder), but regrettably, there wasn't time to hold Old Soldier races, as our visitors had to catch 'buses home in time for the 9 a.m. shift.

The Old Comrades formed up and marched off at 1700 hours, led by Mr. Grainger and the Pipes and Drums of the 52nd (L) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment (T.A.).

May we say that we all enjoyed putting on this show for our Comrades, and close with the words of the bard: "Will ye no' come back again."

SCOTTISH COMMAND (M) SIGNAL SQUADRON

This month's notes have been nobbled, since the two items of major interest are appearing as separate articles. They are the Royal Signals Association Old Comrades' Reunion, and the Scottish Command Royal Signals Rifle Meeting, with both of which the Squadron was closely concerned. Woe, woe is me!

However, we can at least wish Second-Lieutenant Wooldridge, W.O.II Eric Rumford, B.E.M., and Sergeant Moss a fond farewell, and welcome into the fold Second-Lieutenant Risk and W.O.II "Specs" Buddery. Incidentally, our Second-in-Command, Captain A. N. Wright, must have a telephone personality, since our new arrivals include a Radio and Tele Tech. Salaam! Salaam!

Mention of technician (?) reminds us of a small item which was pushed into the background, namely, the long-awaited

advent of our office intercom. Having been in process of production for nearly a year, this machine finally arrived, only to be returned. It seems that during its short stay the C.O. was contemplating carrier pigeons, whilst the Second-in-Command contemplated murder. However, a Mark II version has now been in use since July, providing satisfaction to all but the office staff, who complain of hearing voices. Operators of the main boxes have considerably improved their cribbage play, at which it is necessary to be expert, before even attempting to master the intricacies of the keys. Still, there is no doubt that this is the ultimate in "Bush" telegraph.

U.K. COMCAN SIGNAL REGIMENT

R.H.Q. and 1 Squadron. Our work, or the nature of our work, must be familiar to everyone in the Corps. But little can be known of our living accommodation. This is situated approximately seven miles from No. 1 Signal Centre, with our main married quarters seven miles from both, forming an equilateral triangle. This tends to make the problem of transportation for living-out personnel acute. To add to those difficulties, the local bus service can only be described as "country." For example, the first bus on Sundays from Brockworth (our married quarter site) to Gloucester is at 1400 hours. Command Secretaries and M.T.O.s being what they are, this can be extremely awkward for those going on shift.

The run from the barracks to the Signal Centre is made by coaches running a shuttle service on shift change. This form of transport is appreciated very much by those who have made the run in an open T.C.V. at midnight in the depth of winter.

Robinswood Barracks is situated on the side of a hill overlooking Gloucester City, and like most hatted camps, dates from 1939-1940. The creator of this type of camp has passed on, but his relics remain, unfortunately.

Surely, of all types of barracks that have been built in Britain since the X Legion constructed theirs on Salisbury Plain, this type is the worst. Spread over many acres, such things as baths, toilets, ablutions, etc., are some distance from the living quarters.

Now, however, comes news of improvements. The much "rubbing of the brass" by the Commanding Officer has resulted in a start being made to improve our lot. The barn-like structure called the dining hall, is to be partitioned, tiled, and a ceiling put in; the archaic coal burner in the kitchen is being



Lance/Corporal Meskeil, Signaller Henderson, Signaller Gray



Signalman Henderson and Lance-Corporal Meskell



Signalman Gray, Signalman Davis, Signalman Simkins



Staff-Sergeant Duffin, Corporal Elliot, Signalman Steel



Signalman Simkins and Corporal Elliot

replaced. Moreover, very soon we shall be able to wash, rinse and sterilise our "eating irons" in common with the rest of the Army.

We hear on the jungle telegraph that lino is being laid in all barrack rooms. (This must be so, for the accommodation stores has just received a consignment of brushes, floor polishing medium, with weights and handles; a clear indication). Closer enquiry reveals, however, that although the lino is there, insufficient funds remain for the Garrison Engineer to lay it. A clear case for a "do it yourself" effort. Any volunteers to organise it? A lot of touching up could be done at the same time if any buckshee eau-de-nil could be found—Comcan, Accra, please note.

Another Drill and Duties Course has come and gone. (This report is becoming habitual, but if Junior N.C.O.s are to be trained to make good the wastage, it must remain so). This one, No. 7 in the present series, was successfully passed by all of the 23 candidates. Lance-Corporal Smith of No. 1 Squadron came first, and was awarded the R.S.M.'s cane, for future use.

The Badminton Club continues to flourish, growing with ever-increasing membership. No outside games have been played yet, but even so, its activities within the camp provides something of the thing which is urgently needed.

There are rumours that our branch of the Association, which went into suspended animation for the summer, is about to resume its activities. This will mean, we hope, more All Ranks' Dances.

Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess

Winter is again almost upon us, as the quickening tempo in Mess functions clearly demonstrates. The furrowed brows of our entertainments members gives rise to speculation as to the nature of our future "dos." But, of course, they must provide lively entertainment if our ladies are to be kept from knitting all evening.

Those members who have left us, but have a sneaking feeling that they may return, will be glad to know that a move is afoot to obtain accommodation other than the Siberia of "B" Lines.

Our congratulations go to W.O.II J. N. Clark, on his promotion to present rank. There were quite a few sore heads after his "night." We extend a hearty welcome to Sergeants Collier, Downie, Hurcomb, Whittingham and Wilkinson, and congratulate them on their promotion.

2 Squadron. Sergeant Storer, who was looking forward to the Orient, found himself suddenly winging on his way to Cyprus where, from all accounts, he has now settled down.

The unit pianist, Corporal Kemp, is due to move northwards shortly, we hear.

Football was to be our strong point this year, but the heavy defeat by the local team has surprised, but not damped, our ardour.

We are looking forward to the annual football match with 3 Squadron next month.

3 Squadron. Exercise Canoe. The activities of the Canoe Club have been like Topsy's, they have just "grewed and grewed." It started last winter, with the building of the canoes by keen enthusiasts as an offshoot of the Hobbies Club, and culminated in August with a trip by a party of six, in three canoes, down the River Wye from Bredwardine to Chepstow.

Most week-ends, at least one party investigates the waters of the Thames, which flows quite near to our Camp.

As the Wye trip is the most auspicious to date, just a few more words about it. Corporal Elliot was the mainstay assisted (query) by many hands from all corners of the Camp. They departed on Monday morning and embarked at 1030 hours on Tuesday. The next four days were a rush of whirlpools, rapids, camp sites and food fun.

One of the exercises was to practice communications on the move. This was put to effect in surmounting the rapids, one canoe negotiating the obstacle and then calling the next one forward with the aid of a W.S.88. Communication back to Camp was not quite so successful; although they could receive our signal QSA 5, they were unable to transmit, so it was a one-sided conversation.

Nevertheless, an extremely good time was had by all, and the talk is of bigger and better trips. The logistic experts calculate that the canoes have clocked up over 1,000 miles in their short lifetime.

Independent Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron



Photograph courtesy:
"Greenbank, Barnard Castle"



These notes are being written this month in the back of a 3-ton Signal Centre in the middle of a howling gale, accompanied by torrential rain. We are just outside that well-known Yorkshire beauty spot, Ripon, having arrived in pitch darkness late last night, after an eight-hour convoy drive from Ennerdale, in the Lake District.

The demonstration we gave for the A.C.F. at Gandale last month was reasonably successful, and even our borrowed flight of pigeons took off on schedule. During the time the cadets were looking round our vehicles one driver was kept busy posing for photographers. With fixed bayonet, he was seen to assume various warlike poses (which fooled no one who knows him) and each pose was accompanied by a lecture on one or more episode in his long (two years) and glorious Army career.

We have been trying for some time to get the whole Squadron together in one place to have a photograph taken. It seemed it might be possible last week but, when the time came, we found there were 20 away on leave and courses, so we are having to send a photograph of a very depleted Squadron after all. We became a squadron only at the beginning of this month, so we are not yet up to strength.

This month we said good-bye to Sergeant ("Flabby") Webster. We shall miss listening to the story of how he was shipwrecked. We wish him, and all the others who have left

16 INDEPENDENT PARACHUTE BRIGADE SIGNAL SQUADRON

Parachute soldiers are not content unless they are jumping regularly. Unfortunately, the weather has interfered considerably during the past three months, and this Squadron has not jumped nearly as much as it would like. In peacetime, both wind and cloud must be favourable. Wind speed must be no more than about 15 knots and the cloud base must be high enough to afford the pilot a clear view of the dropping zone. However, all 70 seats of a Beverley, an aircraft now coming into service, have been allotted to this Squadron on Friday, 13th September, in addition to a further 35 seats on other aircraft during the same week.

There has been the usual spate of exercises during the summer, for which the Squadron has provided the normal brigade group communications, plus the control and umpire wireless nets. All three battalions have done a battalion group parachute exercise, and have included, of course, the rear link wireless detachments from this Squadron. The 2nd Battalion exercise formed part of the television programme, "This is Your Army," but efforts to ensure that Royal Signals had a mention were sabotaged by the more successful efforts of the B.B.'s scanner. He is the man who, while sitting in the control box, decides when to cut out one camera and bring in another. Corporal Griffin and his Air Control Team wireless detachment had a brief instant of unrecognisable fame, while the commentator skipped our part of the script.

Last week, 13 men from this Squadron dropped on Salisbury Plain with the 1st Parachute Battalion, for Exercise "Toby Jug II." Between them, they carried in their personal weapons containers:

us, all the best in the future. At the same time we welcome Sergeants Bell and Owen and Corporals Adams, Howker and Simonet, among a large party of new arrivals.

Sport has been hampered somewhat by the weather, but we have two teams in the Brigade Headquarters Cricket League, and our teams stand equal second at the moment. However, in response to popular demand (from Sergeant Johnson) Second-Lieutenant Sylvester is now organising cross-country running, and selected "volunteers" will soon be seen galloping round the countryside near Barnard Castle.

There is a Brigade Headquarters Rifle Meeting at the end of this month, and we have been having a few practices in an attempt to keep our end up. We are fortunate in having that well-known (according to him) marksman, Staff-Sergeant Godbeer in our team. In addition, the O.C. has threatened to fire, and Second-Lieutenant Sylvester is an excellent shot so long as he is allowed to use an aiming rest, elbow pads and to wear a black patch over one eye.

Finally, we salute the following members of the Squadron:—Fred—for navigating his Yak train 10 miles off the course given on his route card.

Tim—for giving the Brigade Commander a rocket for using incorrect procedure.

Mick—who was provoked.

Two Wireless Stations No. 62.
Two Wireless Stations No. BE 201.
One Wireless Set No. 31.
One Wireless Set No. 88.

At the same time, we were at last able to drop a Champ and trailer; the former carrying spare batteries, and the latter a complete wireless station No. 52, plus a wireless set No. 62. Although none of this equipment was damaged, Corporal Carter was not quite so robust. However, his sore shoulder and ankle were due to his choosing, for his 100th jump, a metalled road as his own private dropping zone. This was the first occasion, other than during trials, upon which vehicles and men had been dropped from the same Beverley on the same run-in—10 men, followed by a one-ton truck, and finally the Champ and trailer.

Volunteers for all appropriate trades, except that of wireless operator, are now coming to the Squadron in very good numbers. Since wireless operators form 50 per cent of our establishment, this situation is not at all satisfactory. Our system, of course, should be to nominate all wireless detachments under their junior N.C.O.s, and to let them train and operate together. A shortage necessitates chopping and changing to meet the requirements of each exercise. We hope, therefore, that our missing detachments will be brought up to strength before the individual training season starts. We do not doubt that all other trades will continue to come forward and have a go at this "dicing with death" business.

The "maroon machine," however, takes a pretty close look at the volunteer before he is accepted. The selection procedure takes four weeks, the first two of which are spent in the Squadron, where we decide whether the man is fit enough, and of the right calibre. If we make a mistake, the man is invariably

rejected during the second two weeks, while he is undergoing pre-parachute training and selection at the Airborne Forces Depot. We make few mistakes: Corporal Kelly, who looks after the volunteers when they come initially to the Squadron, produces an average of only one failure out of every 12 volunteers who go to the Depot. Compared with other Arms of the Service, this is an excellent pass rate. The course at the Depot is tough, but those who have done it, agree that their confidence and fitness, when Corporal Kelly has finished with them, after the first fortnight, made the course relatively easy.

N.I.D. (M) SIGNAL SQUADRON

It is now over a year since the Squadron sent contributions to THE WIRE. It is hoped to put this right in succeeding months. Since our last appearance in print, both the C.S.O. and O.C. have changed. Chronologically—on 1st January, 1957, Major R. O. Edwards took over from Major G. R. Edwards, E.R.D., who, when we last heard, was a lucrative Belfast business man. On 7th August, 1957, Lieutenant-Colonel E. B. Elliot succeeded Lieutenant-Colonel T. A. K. Howe, who is now living in Hampshire. We wish them both and their families the best of luck.

Other changes: Lieutenant E. M. W. Roach, W.R.A.C., after 18 months with us, left on 1st March, 1957, having taken on a life partner, prior to departure. Lieutenant H. M. Phillips, arrived on 1st April, 1957; her stay was brief, however, and she was succeeded by Captain E. L. Burt, W.R.A.C., ex-Southern Command, on 11th May, 1957. Sergeant R. M. Croucher, W.R.A.C., took over the mantle of Superintendent from Sergeant A. V. Champion, W.R.A.C.—floreast the Signal Centre. Sergeant J. A. W. Carmichael went to 1 Training Regiment in July (complete with soccer kit). Sergeant R. Jones, R.A.P.C., attempts to pay us more than Sergeant T. M. O'Brien, who is now a civilian. Corporal W. A. Cooper recently arrived from Cyprus, and is now No. 1 in the Cipher Office.

Corporal G. C. Paterson and Corporal P. A. Slade, Royal Signals, and Corporal M. Doyle, W.R.A.C., have been admitted to the lofty realms of the W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess.

We were pleased to welcome Driver Murray, from 107 Independent Signal Squadron, T.A., on attachment for a fortnight. He was 10 years in the Corps, and cannot keep away from this soldiering business.

Sports are flourishing. We hope for great things from the various teams. The men's hockey, soccer and basketball teams are going great guns, and the W.R.A.C. netball team will have another go at lifting the trophy at Aldershot in April, 1958. A mixed .22 Rifle Team is in training—any challenges by post?

Competition at the N.I.D. Sports in June was hot—like the weather. Pte. Le-Huquet, W.R.A.C., was outstanding. She won the 100 yards, 200 yards, high jump, and ran in the successful W.R.A.C. team in the relay.

The Battle Efficiency tests were completed before the hot dry English weather came over. This probably accounts for the number of "over 35s" who took part.

Lance-Corporal T. Quirke, ex-Malta, trained a motor-cycle trials team of three, and two individuals, but luck was against us. Nevertheless, the organisers were pleased with our communications.

Signalman Tidmarsh won the Silver Medal as the best shot in the Annual Classification with 60 out of H.P.S. 65, and Staff-Sergeant Kennedy was second with 59.

Lieutenant-General Sir Brian Kimmins, K.B.E., C.B., G.O.C. N.I.D., was pleased with the Squadron on the Annal Administrative Inspection. Other inspections produced quite good results.

The Squadron gave a St. Valentine's Dance. It was generally considered a success, though there was, of course, "the case of a flying pennant."

H.Q., 39 INDEPENDENT INFANTRY BRIGADE SIGNAL TROOP

These notes are an endeavour to cover the sad time lapse since our last efforts in late 1955. We have been very busy little bees, but now feel that a little recognition would do no harm, and that a few names in print might stir someone's memory, if only to say "So that's where he ended up!"

The troop has a somewhat paler face than the bronze collection we had in Kenya last year. The Kenya ribbon is almost a rarity, and the swanky smattering of Swahili is a mere novelty. But we do possess a B.E.M.—our Staff-Sergeant Smith was honoured with this award for his noble work in keeping

"through" in Northern Ireland. O.C., Captain Savage, was "weak but readable," after the celebration that followed.

Any of "youse" guys who were finishing training at 4 Training Regiment in January of this year remember Ginger "Rock 'n' Roll" Cosford, Terry Gillott, Verny Griffiths, Derek Boothman and Bert Maltby? Well, these W. Ops. have come a long way since those days. At the moment they are scattered all over Ulster, and are working 19 Sets up to 100 miles, which is, perhaps, different from the distances of training days.

Were you in training at 5 Training Regiment in the last four months of 1956? Perhaps you may have known our dashing D.R., "Butch" Pollard, who reminds you all that "the Spring has Sprung—The grass has riz—He wonders where the Boidies iz!" We wonder about "Butch," since it is now Autumn. Our Driver, Crump, who harks back to Boys' Service days, in 1953, merely sniffs and packs his kit for a raid on 3 Division. Another dark horse is our Signalman Smith (52 to you), who won a first-class award in the N.I.D. Motor Cycle Trials.

We have three survivors from Suez, Operation "Musketeer," in the shape of Corporal Pries, Signalman Harris and Signalman Wittleton, who are now throwing sand in the eyes of the I.R.A. and talking about the "dark days!"

Corporal Horle, our chief scribe, is being released, which leaves a vacancy for a clerk in very pleasant surroundings by the sea, a nice beach and a good train service to Bangor and Belfast.—Any offers?

Sergeant Howie is honeymooning in Southern Ireland, but we checked his kit before going, in case he decided to barter the odd Bren gun. We were unlucky—he only had the usual cleaning gear—blanco, etc., and on that grim note, we'll say cheerio to all the old comrades with "see you later, oscillator," who may reply, "Not for I, old P.B.I.!"



The Electronic Digital Computer as a Business Machine

Not very long ago, digital computers, popularly called "electronic brains," were restricted in their use to being high-class research tools for scientists. Now they are being exploited in a much wider field, and the era of business machine computers is upon us, and in no small way. Firms all over the country have orders laid on computer manufacturers totalling to millions of pounds. Payrolls and stock accounting systems in many big concerns are already being regularly run through, week by week, on computers.

The distinction between business machine computers and scientific computers requires a little explanation: the scientific machine, in general, is given problems in which a great deal of tedious calculation is done after a relatively small amount of information input has been supplied to the computer. The answer at the end of the computation may then be a table of figures or even simply "yes" or "no." The business machine, though calculating by the same means, may require tens of thousands of "words" of input data and the output may consist of hours of printing out on machines with a print out rate of hundreds of lines a minute. It is this characteristic of these machines which make them of particular interest to Royal Signals personnel. The most common medium for carrying both input and output data is punched tape, and much of it is handled on equipment familiar to the Signals—"high-speed" equipment.

The computer itself is a complex of "logical" circuitry, not unlike a switchboard network. Its electronics are of pulse form—pulse shaping, gating, timing and switching are the basic processes. This too, will be familiar to many.

Output and input equipment ranges from simple punches and tape readers to high-speed line printers and photo-electric high-speed tape readers. There are involved also, interesting applications of magnetic tape recording, and motor speed control circuitry.

These factors, and the maintenance problems which are associated with them, should be of particular interest to Royal Signals personnel.

The Training of Boys in Royal Signals

By MAJOR H. A. LEECE, ROYAL SIGNALS

A large number of Officers must have served in units of the Corps where the post-war product of the Junior Leaders Regiment has been in evidence, but only a very limited number of those Officers have any real knowledge of the training system and problems confronting the modern type of Boys training unit. It is the aim of this article to give a picture of the training system at present in use in the Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Signals, and to discuss the requirements of a Regiment of this nature.

History

Since the 1939-45 war our own Junior Leaders Regiment has developed from a Squadron which was formed with a nucleus of Boys from the Army Apprentice School at Harrogate. This Squadron was attached to No. 1 Independent Selection Squadron and stationed in Richmond. By April, 1950, both Squadrons had outgrown their accommodation and were moved to Beverley. The unit continued to grow, and in order to provide more accommodation No. 1 Independent Selection Squadron was moved to Catterick where it became No. 5 Squadron of 7 Selection Regiment. On 25th August, 1950, 6th (Boys) Training Regiment was formed.

After much experiment and as a result of many complications and difficulties which were largely caused by Boys Troops, which only three years ago were each 90 strong, a new establishment was written and implemented in 1956. This establishment provided for five Boys Troops in each of the two training Squadrons and a Recruit Troop. Troops were to consist of not more than forty boys each with an Officer and two Sergeants, and the Recruit Troop was designed to cope with a maximum of fifty boys. A few months later the Regiment moved to Newton Abbot and settled into Rawlinson Barracks, its present ideal home.

Towards the end of 1954 a new recruiting policy was adopted which was designed to produce quality rather than quantity in that the P.S.O. interviewed each boy at the Recruiting Office before he had been attested and a higher standard of intelligence and ability was required. Hitherto, the boy had virtually completed his initial basic training in the Recruit Troop at Selby, Yorkshire, before seeing a P.S.O.

Early in 1955 a Committee consisting of General Sir Euan Miller and two well known civilian educational experts was set up to review the system of training in boys units. The report of this Committee was published as a White Paper in April, 1955, and many of its recommendations have now been put into effect.

The quality of boys at intake has improved and the Miller Report undoubtedly put boys units very much "on the map." Its recommendations had much to do with the rapid move of our own Regiment in August, 1955. Naturally enough, the poor recruiting rate of the past two years has led to small outputs to the Royal Signals Training Regiments in recent terms. At Christmas, 1956, the output dropped to 31 Boys, but as recruiting is now improving slightly the total strength of the Regiment is slowly increasing and the quality of the intake is being maintained. During the Summer Term of 1956 the intake balanced the output and an intake of over 50 during the Christmas Term of the same year showed a net gain of some 25 boys.

Aim of the Regiment

The primary aim of the Regiment is to produce the future Warrant Officers and Senior N.C.O.s of the Corps.

In order to achieve this aim, two essentials of paramount importance immediately stand out on their own:—

1. A good standard of education is required, since a soldier cannot achieve the rank of Warrant Officer or Sergeant without the necessary educational certificates.
2. Such qualities as leadership, courage, initiative, self-reliance, self-discipline, etc., are an essential part of the make-up of a Warrant Officer and Senior N.C.O.

Herein lie two of the main problems confronting the Commanding Officer of the Regiment and his staff. A percentage of the boys come from broken homes and a few have no parents. Some have suffered from lack of proper parental control at an early age as a result of the late war when one or both parents were more often than not away from their homes doing essential war work, and their children (the Boys of the Regiment today) were all too often left to their own devices and desires. In order to ensure that a Boy has a reasonable chance of obtaining the necessary qualifications to fit him for promotion and for training in one or other of the Corps trades no boy is accepted for training unless his intelligence grading is S.G. 3 minus or above. It can therefore be seen that the boy at intake must be properly cared for and shown that the Army is a fine career and holds an excellent future for him, that the Boys Regiment is a good home and that every opportunity is afforded him to improve his education and so qualify him for the study of a technical trade and future promotion. The Regiment, in fact, can be looked upon as a boarding school with a military bias—as its Headmaster the Commanding Officer, the Housemasters being represented by the Squadron Commanders.

The greater percentage of boys at intake, however, come from good, happy homes and possess a higher S.S.G. rating than the required minimum. Some have already received a Grammar School education, some are the sons of past and present members of the Corps or other arms of the Service, but all have decided at an early age that civilian life could not provide them with the security and adventure they required, and they decided to make the Army their career.

It is most gratifying for members of the permanent staff to look upon the Senior Boy N.C.O.s and Warrant Officers at the end of their last term in the Regiment, and say to themselves with assurance, "There is a future N.C.O. for the Corps."

Training System

One member of the Miller Committee was a well known Headmaster of a Public School. It was not unnatural therefore that many of its recommendations should savour of public school life. The allocation of training time during the week recommended by the Committee and approved by the War Office Standing Committee on Boys Regiments is as follows:—

- EDUCATION—50%, of which 30% is pure academic study.
- MILITARY TRAINING—25%.
- P.T. AND GAMES—15%.
- AT THE DISPOSAL OF THE C.O.—10%.
- ONE PADRE'S HOUR PER WEEK.

The hours of training are 0830-1300 hrs., 1400-1700 hrs., 1745-1900 hrs.

On Saturdays training finishes at 1200 hrs and on Sunday, apart from a short Church service, a Boy is free. He is not allowed to remain in his barrack room all Sunday. If he elects to stay in camp there is always some form of

organised recreational training or amusement for him on a Saturday or Sunday afternoon.

Because intakes are irregular in date and quantity the following training system has been evolved in the Royal Signals Junior Leaders Regiment.

The Recruit Troop is used as a buffer Troop which aims at bringing all boys up to a similar standard in drill and basic military training, irrespective of the date on which they join the Regiment. Some boys suffer from home sickness during their first few weeks, but in this troop, which is kept entirely separate from the remainder of the Regiment, except for messing, the boys are made to feel at home amongst other new boys and gradually shown the way of life in the Army. Ages at intake vary from 15 to 16½, and on occasions a few months older, although the upper age limit has now been fixed at 16½. The Regiment does, however, recruit several boys from the Channel Islands and Northern Ireland where the school leaving age is 14½, so that boys of under 15 on entry are not uncommon. At this stage of his training no account is taken of his age. Boys are formed into squads and taught the basic movements of foot and arms drill. They are conducted around the Regiment and generally instructed in the elementary details of such things as Pay, Clothing, P.R.I., Rank, etc. After four weeks' training they are allowed out of Camp at week-ends for the first time, as by then they are considered to be capable of appearing in public in uniform and carrying themselves with a proper Military bearing. After six weeks a Pass Off Parade is held and the first milestone in their career is passed. During the first six weeks 25% of the boys' training time is spent on education and his standard in this respect is assessed, so that he can be placed in the correct educational class according to ability on posting to a Boys' Training Squadron. He also performs three periods of P.T. and plays two or three games each week.

The intake is posted to one of the two Boys' Training Squadrons six times in the year at the beginning of each term and at half term, so that if a boy enters the Recruit Troop six weeks before the end of a term, after completing his Pass Off Parade he proceeds on block leave with the rest of the Regiment and is posted to a troop at the beginning of the following term.

The full course of training covers a minimum of four terms in the Training Squadrons, but a boy must leave the Regiment for Trade Training in the Training Brigade, Royal Signals, at the end of the term in which he reaches the age of 17½. It is therefore most desirable that he should not be more than 16 years 3 months when he arrives in the Regiment, although special arrangements can be made for the boy who is two or three months older.

The younger boys carry out an additional term in a Junior Troop and in some cases after completing this term plus the full four-term course, as senior boys, will still not be old enough to leave for trade training in the S.T.B. In such cases it is intended that boys will undergo a post-graduate course of one or two terms, consisting almost entirely of trade training in a trade of their choice compatible with their educational qualifications. Should any of these boys hold a First Class Certificate of Education it is intended that they will receive a course similar to the basic pre-course held at Catterick for X Tradesmen, thereby saving training time after attaining the age of 17½.

The weekly block training programme is as follows:—

MORNINGS (Except Saturday)—Education plus three periods of P.T. and one Padre's hour.

SATURDAY MORNING—Ceremonial Parade.

AFTERNOONS—Games on three afternoons and Military Training on two afternoons.

EVENINGS—On two evenings Squadron and Troop administration including Kit exchanges, cleaning and Make and Mend parades, Interior economy, etc.

On Wednesdays training ceases at 1700 hrs. after which

voluntary hobbies are available. On the remaining two evenings all boys are engaged on one of the following as far as possible in accordance with their own selection:—

Games Instruction; Band Practice; Confirmation Classes; Choir Practice; Aero-Modelling; Art Classes; Canoe Club; Fencing; Gymnastics; Modern Language Classes; Modern Railway Club; Photography; Printing; Radio Club; .22 Shooting; Philately; Woodwork and Basketry.

One recommendation of the Miller Committee which has been found impractical concerns meal times and evening study or training. The recommendation here was that boys should play games in the afternoons, followed by a light tea and then return to training in the evening on four days a week.

This procedure was tried out in the Regiment, but it was found that the boy was not attentive and quite un-receptive to classroom instruction at this time. Furthermore, having been used to a substantial meal in the early evening he did not thrive on a light tea at 1630 hrs. and supper at 7 p.m. In any case, on leaving the Regiment he would immediately revert to the age-old Army custom of consuming a good square meal at 5 p.m. before departing for the local township. It was for these reasons that the Regiment reverted to the normal meal times and evening instruction of a practical and interesting nature was introduced.

Military Training afternoons are occupied with a series of courses designed to cover the four terms in a Training Squadron. A boy attends two of these courses each term and a written report on each boy at the conclusion of each course is filed with his documents.

The obligatory courses during the boy's training are as follows:—

1. Drill and Elementary Weapon Training.
2. .22 Shooting and Field-craft.
3. Advanced Weapon Training (Rifle, L.M.G. and S.M.C.). All three are fired.
4. Drill and Duties.
5. Lines course.
6. Wireless course.
7. M.T. course (including motor cycle riding instruction).
8. Advanced Wireless and Line course.

The younger boy who has an additional term in a Junior Troop does his Drill and Elementary Weapon Training as a Junior and then a Junior Training course consisting of Camp Craft, Knot Tying, Map Reading and other Boy Scouting activities, together with some elementary practical Electricity and Magnetism and a little switchboard operating. In his second term he does an Advanced Junior Training course, in lieu of the Drill and Elementary Weapon Training, consisting of: First Aid, Morse, Switch-board Operating and the duties of a Signal Centre Clerk.

Nowadays a boy can earn Proficiency Pay by passing his educational examinations and by achieving certain standards of proficiency in P.T., Shooting and Trade Training. It is important, therefore, that he should be given every opportunity to attain the necessary military training standards as soon as possible. With this in view each boy has his future in the Regiment carefully planned in both education and military training.

Trade Training

Trade Training forms an important part of the curriculum; approximately 12% of the total training time is allocated for this purpose.

The aims of the Trade Training are fourfold:—

1. To assist the boy to choose the Trade which will give him the most satisfaction in life.
2. To teach the boy the rudiments of several trades as required by an N.C.O. in a Divisional Signal Regiment who has to command men of various trades.

3. To satisfy (to some extent) the demand by boys who join Royal Signals to learn a trade.

4. To add interest to the training curriculum.

Because the time available is limited, the syllabus for each trade course is very elementary and covers as wide a range as possible without going into detail. In order to maintain interest and satisfy the normal demands of a young boy, the training consists very largely of practical instruction and demonstration.

In order to achieve aim No. 3 above, and very possibly to stimulate recruiting, it is intended in future to increase the time allotted for trade training for all boys who have obtained their Intermediate Certificate of Education. At this stage in his training the boy will be provisionally selected for his future trade and will undergo a course in that trade in accordance with the Trade Test Summary. It is not anticipated that he will pass out from the Regiment as a tradesman, but he should require a shortened course of training in his trade at the S.T.B. and will, therefore, be posted to a Unit a little earlier than hitherto.

In selecting and recommending boys for trade training, much thought must be given to the boys' potentialities and capabilities. It is desirable that as many boys as possible should be allotted to the "X" trades to help meet the present shortages in this group, but at the same time the primary aim of the Regiment and the boys own future must be carefully considered. If the boy is unlikely to achieve anything more than a Class III rating in an "X" trade, or even a Class II with some difficulty, he cannot qualify for promotion to Warrant Rank unless at some later stage he qualifies for an additional trade of a lower group and with a Class I rating.

Education

As stated earlier, 50 per cent of the boys' training time is allocated to education, the aims of which are:—

1. To send out from the Regiment boys qualified by having passed minimum of Intermediate (2nd Class) Test.
2. To provide training in academic subjects and in character and mental discipline to fit boys to become Sergeants and Warrant Officers of the Corps at a later stage.

Only those boys whose intelligence and ability is such to give a reasonable chance of their reaching the required standards are accepted. Boys are tested on entry by P.S.O.s and those whose summed selection gradings are of S.G. 4 or below are not accepted except in special circumstances. A boy who is unlikely to pass the Junior Certificate within six months of joining the Regiment, or who, in fact, does not do so, is discharged.

Examinations for the Junior and Intermediate tests are prepared and held in the Regiment at the end of every term. An examination for the Senior Test is held in the Regiment also at the end of each term, but this is prepared by the Institute of Army Education for all Boys Units.

Classes are held during the term in preparation for all these examinations. The length of study for an average boy at each stage is:—

Junior Test ...	One term.
Intermediate Test ...	Three terms.
Senior Test ...	Two to three terms.

Arrangements are made to accelerate the progress of more intelligent and better educated boys.

Recruits begin educational training on arrival in the Recruit Troop and many pass the Junior Test after only a few weeks' instruction. Classes consist of 15 to 22 boys. Parallel streams are organised at each level where numbers make this desirable.

Boys who have completed their Senior Certificates continue to study for the G.C.E. There are only a few who reached this level and are grouped in one additional class.

Six academic subjects are studied at each level and the syllabus in each makes a continuous progression throughout. The subjects are English; Mathematics; Map Reading; History; Geography and General Physics. In the Senior Test only five subjects are required for the completion of the Certificate so that some boys are allowed to drop History.

About 80% of the boys leaving the Regiment are qualified educationally for promotion to the rank of Sergeant, by having passed their Intermediate Test. Of these approximately half obtain further qualifications such as part or all of the Senior Test or G.C.E. No boy leaves the Regiment without, at least, a Junior Certificate of Education.

Initiative and Leadership Training

This type of training forms a most important part of the curriculum. In addition to day-to-day opportunities for such training, largely afforded to Boy N.C.O.s and Senior Boys, time is allowed each term for the Outward Bound type of training. All types of training under this heading are designed to develop character, self-reliance, and a sense of responsibility, to promote team-spirit and knowledge through experience and to develop the qualities of leadership and courage.

Here in Denbury, the Regiment is fortunate in having Dartmoor within a few miles of the camp. Boys can be sent off in small parties over planned routes in all weathers, with rations for two or three days and a ground sheet and sleeping bag. Instructors are invariably at hand to assist in the event of accidents or to advise inaccurate map readers when they find themselves too far off the route.

In addition, a few specially selected boys have attended courses at the Outward Bound Trust Schools. All acquitted themselves well and obtained excellent reports. The Army's own Outward Bound School opened at Trawsfydd in March, 1957, which will offer additional opportunities for a greater number of boys to undergo this valuable training.

This Regiment has not yet taken part in the Pilot scheme of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, but from all accounts it appears that the conditions of the award will not present great difficulty to the Boys of the Regiment.

Ceremonial Parades

Surprisingly enough, Ceremonial Parades are popular. The showpiece parade performed by the Regiment is an almost exact replica of the Ceremony of "Trooping the Colour." The Boys' version, known as "Trooping the Regimental Standard," is performed entirely by the Boys themselves, the Parade Commander being the Boy R.S.M. Although this parade is only held on important occasions, rehearsals are carried out each term, as it is a complicated parade and everyone must be kept well practiced in its procedure. At the end of each term a Presentation Parade is held, again performed by the Boys, and the various trophies and awards won during the term are presented by the Inspecting Officer to the winners.

Games

In order to provide three games per week for each boy, a large number of playing grounds are required and great quantities of sports kit and equipment. The latter is a big drain on P.R.I. funds, but the per capita grant of £2 per boy per annum goes a long way to make up for the small N.A.A.F.I. rebate obtained in a Boys Regiment where the spending power is a good deal less than in a normal unit.

The following games and sports are played in the Regiment and instruction in the skills of each game is provided for:—

Summer Term: Athletics, Cricket, Soft Ball, Swimming, Sailing, Rowing, Canoeing and Tennis.

Christmas Term: Soccer, Basketball, Rugby, Hockey.

Easter Term: Boxing, Cross-country and Badminton.

Swimming, sailing, rowing and canoeing are at present non-competitive. Soccer takes priority during the Christmas Term and Rugby during the Easter Term.

Each sport is run by an Officer who is responsible to the General Sports Officer and the Sports Committee for the successful and efficient organisation of every detail of his sport. All fixtures are planned by the Sports Committee and great care is necessary to avoid a clashing of dates of Inter-Troop and Regimental fixtures.

Pay

The rates of Pay for Boys were considerably increased early in 1956 at the time of the general increases for all ranks of the three Services. A Boys' minimum rate of pay is now 31/6d. per week. He can earn a Service increment of 7/- per week for each year's Service, up to 8/9 a week as Junior/R.S.M. and Proficiency Pay in four different gradings up to a maximum of 21/- per week. This means that a Junior/R.S.M. with more than two years' Boys Service and Grade I proficiency will receive 75/3 per week. On reaching the age of 17½ a boy is posted to the Rank of Signaller on paper but remains in the Regiment until the end of the term. On being posted to the ranks he receives the basic rate of pay as a Signaller on a six-years' regular engagement. The latter is the period to which each boy is committed from the age of 18. Many boys appreciate the financial advantages to be obtained under the new pay code, by signing on for an additional period of nine years or more, and often apply to do so before leaving the Regiment.

In order that each Boy may have a reasonable sum of money with which to enjoy his leave, and to teach the value of thrift, boys are not paid their full entitlement each week. All boys are encouraged to save and the majority have a Post Office Savings Account. The average sum, including ration allowance and advance of pay for a three weeks' leave period, available to a boy at the end of term, is £20-£25. Collecting boxes placed in a prominent position at Pay Parade and labelled "Royal Signals Association Benevolent Fund" are never ignored.

Crime and Punishment

The incidence of serious offences in the Regiment is now very low, but it would be most unusual in an establishment of this sort if the Minor Offence Report was a blank sheet each week. A misguided but often most laudable spirit of adventure will inevitably lead the occasional boy into trouble, but the real problem lies in the correct permissible form of punishment to be administered.

Until about 18 months ago caning was permissible and administered by the R.S.M. or S.S.M. after an award by the Commanding Officer or a Squadron Commander. This was probably the most suitable form of punishment and the ideal deterrent particularly for the bully, but, unhappily, it is no longer permitted. A period of detention invariably means a loss of instructional time in the Educational and Military training classrooms and confinement to barracks is no hardship as the weekly training programme permits time out at Camp at week-ends only and occasionally on a Wednesday evening. The introduction of Proficiency Pay has, however, provided an alternative and unpopular form of punishment to the Boy, in that he can readily be deprived of this additional sum if necessary.

Unlike the normal boarding school boys of 16 years and over are permitted to smoke with their parents' or guardians' permission, but such orders as "Break off for a smoke" during training are frowned upon and every effort is made to explain the folly of smoking at an early age.

Permanent Staff and Instructors

As mentioned earlier the Regiment can be compared with a boarding school, so that it is not difficult to realise that the instructional staff of Officers, Warrant Officers and Sergeants need to have many of the attributes of a schoolmaster in order to succeed in their job, none the least of which is endless patience.

Officers and N.C.O.s directly connected with Boys Troops and their training should be specially selected and recom-

mended for service in the Regiment. They must have an interest in the training of Boys, a good personality, and be prepared to put up with long and unusual hours of duty. Prowess in a sport is of great value to an Officer and the Regiment and a N.C.O. who has attended a Guards Drill course or Weapon Training course at Hythe can be a great asset. Both Officers and N.C.O.s must be good instructors and should have some military background and experience. The Miller Committee stressed the importance of maturity and experience of Officers and N.C.O.s of a Boys Regiment and recommended that all appointments should be for not less than three years. Whilst such tenures of appointment are most desirable and for longer periods if possible, the career of the individual has also to be considered. Continuity of Officers, Warrant Officers and Sergeants of the R.A.E.C. staff is often easier to achieve. R.A.E.C. officers are now receiving specialised training in the instruction of boys and all the R.A.E.C. staff play a big part in the various activities of the Regiment. They do not merely confine themselves to the job of schoolmaster each morning in the classroom.

A most valuable addition to the staff has been the appointment of a full time member of the Women's Voluntary Service. This lady provides the right feminine influence in the life of the Boys and does excellent work in connection with the Boys and Boy N.C.O.s Club.

The Junior Leaders Regiment is an important and thriving unit of the Corps, the job of training boys is a very worthwhile task and a most satisfying one. The reward will be seen in later years when the boys of yesterday, today and tomorrow, take their places amongst the Warrant Officers and Senior N.C.O.s of the Corps, which many of them will undoubtedly do.

The Prison Service

The advantages of joining the Prison Service at the end of Regular Enlistment are not sufficiently known, and some of these advantages are set out below.

Even after 21 years' service in the Army, the average man is under 40 years old.

The upper age limit on joining the Prison Service is 42, and in exceptional cases 44½.

Prison Officers may serve until, at a minimum, the age of 55 and as long thereafter as they wish, subject to physical fitness and recommendation.

Prison officers at present commence at a wage of £9/8/- a week, rising by annual increments of 6/- to a maximum of £12/2/-, after 10 years' service.

Promotion is possible to Principal Officer and Chief Officer, top salary at present, £16/4/6.

Free accommodation, including family or rent allowance in lieu.

Leave is on much the same scale as that for the Regular Army.

Those with Army training find little difficulty in adapting themselves to the Prison Service.

The man with the family will find that although nominally he may be required to move from one establishment to another, such moves are very infrequent and are more often than not consequent on promotion or an application by the individual. An applicant should decide where he wishes to serve, there are vacancies in nearly all establishments, and also decide how, and if he wishes, to specialise, e.g., Prison or Borstal. Generally speaking, in a Borstal establishment the Prison officers have more individual responsibility, act more as instructors, and the work is often more "rewarding."

All Prison officers are on a common roll but whenever possible an officer's desires as to the type of establishment in which he works are acceded to.

GOVERNORS. There are infrequent vacancies for entry into the Grade of Assistant Governor with promotion to Governor. These are filled by annual competition (Selection). Candidates are both Prison officers and direct entry, often commissioned officers from the armed services.

Careers and Opportunity

Opportunities in Digital Computers

The National Cash Register Co. Ltd. requires maintenance engineers and technicians for large digital computers. For engineers, a degree or equivalent is desirable; technicians should have a sound basic knowledge of electronics and high speed equipment. Extensive training given; job provides excellent opportunity to acquire skill in an expanding field. Highly responsible work. The principal requirements are in London and the Midlands. Apply in writing to Personnel Manager, National Cash Register Co. Ltd., 206, Marylebone Road, London, N.W.1.

Powers-Samas Accounting Machines Ltd. offers good openings to experienced technicians with knowledge of electrical and electronic equipment. Comprehensive training given. Employment for (a) Service Engineers on digital computers (technical qualifications desirable but not essential). Employees may, after training, be posted to their home area anywhere in U.K., or possibly overseas; (b) Test Gear Engineers, Planning Engineers, etc., on the production floor; (c) Skilled machine builders on production; (d) Floor and Test Inspectors. Certain highly qualified engineers will be offered supervisory positions. Semi-skilled men with suitable basic knowledge may be accepted for training. Apply by letter to Educational and Personnel Manager, Powers-Samas Accounting Machines Ltd., Main Works, Aurelia Road, Croydon, Surrey.

Permanent Staff Officer required for Territorial Army Squadron in Canterbury. Conditions of appointment as in T.A. Regs., Appx. XXII. Apply to O.C. Home Counties District (M) Signal Regiment, T.A., T.A. Centre, Hospital Hill, Shorncliffe, Kent.

Vacancy in London for reliable Storekeeper with good knowledge of electrical and radio components. No age limit if physically fit. Commence about £10/10/- or possibly more according to experience. Apply by letter or telephone to Trix Electrical Co. Ltd., 1-5, Maple Place, Tottenham Court Road, London, W.1. (MUSEum 5817; ask for Mr. Sandham).

Further information pages 332, 335 and 336.

NOTICE

The new postal charges will increase the cost of sending notice of vacancies to members who have registered with the Association for advice about employment.

Regrettably, such members often fail to inform the Employment Section when they have found work. Association funds must not be wasted in sending out information to men who may no longer be interested.

In future, applicants will be asked to write to the Employment Section at least once a month confirming that they still wish to hear of vacancies. Those who do not comply will be deleted from the books.

Fifty Years' Service with Second Division

2 INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

As forecast in the July WIRE, the Regiment held celebrations over the week-end 17th/18th August to mark the completion of fifty years' service with the Division, having been originally formed as 2 Divisional Telegraph Company, Royal Engineers, at Aldershot in 1907. The Battle of Kohima, being the Division's principal battle honour of World War II, was commemorated at the same time.

Festivities began with a fête on the Saturday afternoon. Ingenious and entertaining sideshows surrounded the sports field, and as always the most popular item was a "train" contrived by the L.A.D. In the centre of the field was an arena in which a series of comic sports were run by our



2 Squadron marching past led by Major A. D. Brindley, M.B.E.

Regimental Paymaster, Major H. Baumber, and a children's fancy dress competition was held with Mrs. Nevill, wife of the G.O.C., kindly judged, aided by Mrs. Baumber and Mrs. Thomas. The Band of the Queen's Royal Regiment (who fought at Kohima) played throughout the afternoon.

An All Ranks' Dance followed in the evening and was thrown open to the Hilden Garrison. Dance music was provided by the dance band of the Queen's, but the most striking event was the first public performance of the Regimental Skiffle Group—who proved to be most lively and popular entertainers!

On the Sunday a special Commemoration Service was held, followed by a March Past at which the salute was taken by Brigadier C. Nettleship, O.B.E., T.D., who commanded the Regiment at the Battle of Kohima. The weather—which had kept a good many people away from the fête the previous afternoon—continued to be cloudy with intermittent rain. This necessitated holding the Service indoors, instead of as a Drumhead Service, but it was nevertheless a most impressive ceremony.

Celebrations closed with an inter-troop five-a-side soccer competition in the afternoon. After some very keen and strenuous games "J" Troop (4th Independent Guards Brigade Signal Squadron) emerged as the victors, with 02 Troop as runners-up.

Considering attendance at the various functions was affected by the weather, we were gratified to find that a total of £71 odd had been raised. Of this, £20 has been sent to the Signals Association and the remainder is to be devoted to the purchase of a silver "Kohima Cup" for the



The Divisional Commander presenting the Silver "Crossed Keys" to Lieutenant-Colonel D. R. Horsfield

Regiment, on which individual and Regimental sporting successes will be recorded.

The big surprise of the week-end was the presentation made by the Divisional Commander to C.R. Signals during the fête. It consisted of the "Crossed Keys" of the Divisional sign made in silver, mounted on a base inscribed: "2nd Divisional Signal Regiment from the Second Division to mark fifty years' close association 1907-1957." We very much appreciate this recognition of our jubilee and we are indeed justly proud of our "Crossed Keys."

18 ARMY GROUP SIGNAL REGIMENT

Early in August, the Mercury Theatre Club (which, to those of us who are in the know, and cannot otherwise overlook the apparent, is this Regiment's own theatre club) put on "The White Sheep of the Family," a three-act play, which is described as "a felonious comedy." Modesty, and a proper sense of reticence, forbids the naming of the performers here. Suffice it to say that most of them appeared in roles considerably at variance with their more normal appearances within the Regiment. Those who saw the play appeared to enjoy themselves, and there were enough of these to provide a slight profit for the Club's funds. It would, however, be vain to pretend that the quality of the performance was of the same standard as that of Leslie Henson's performance in "Harvey."

"Harvey" was presented in the gymnasium, under C.S.E. auspices, a few weeks before "The White Sheep of the Family." At least one amateur actor watched it with the firm intention of studying an expert, rather than for entertainment. At the end he had to admit that he had been so absorbed in the portrayal of the character itself that he quite overlooked the mechanics of the acting. These C.S.E. shows are a great boon to people like ourselves, but it would be a mistake to think that "Harvey" was everyone's meat. (That's not a mixed metaphor: one can eat rabbit, if one can get it!). Far more members of the Regiment, who had never even heard of Leslie Henson, attended the previous C.S.E. show—a performance by



Morrison Cup presented at Royal Signals Athletic Meeting, 10th August, 1957, by Mrs. Nettleship to O.C., 18 Army Group Signal Regiment

an energetic skiffle group, whose name escapes the writer at the moment. Unfortunately, and it is a point which is not always realised, we have no say in the type of entertainment provided. We just accept every C.S.E. show which comes to Germany, and hope for the best.

All this mention of the theatre is not entirely without point, for during August—in fact, the day after the production of his last play for the Mercury Theatre Club—Major W. J. (Paddy) Cuffe left the regiment for the second, and probably the last, time. Paddy Cuffe really was the Mercury Theatre Club. He founded it during a previous tour with the regiment, and during its first two years the club presented on the average two plays every three weeks. Although in recent years the production rate has dropped to about four plays a year, Paddy Cuffe's departure is a great loss to the theatre club. He will be missed from other regimental activities as well. It was not until his various functions as P.R.I. were shared between others on his departure (for his official appointment in the regiment lapses) that the full ramifications of his empire were appreciated. He was fortunate enough to have his two tours of about four and a half years each with the regiment separated by a three year sojourn in South Africa. His Irish luck still holding, he had the choice on posting of Singapore or Malta. He chose Malta! By the time these notes are read he will be there, and we wish him and his family good fortune in the future.

W.O.II (Q.M.S.) Leas after very briefly filling the appointment of Foreman of Signals has been whisked away to Christmas Island.

The bi-annual R.E. Guest Night was held in the Officers' Mess in July, it being impracticable to make it coincide more nearly with the anniversary of the birth of the Corps. Lieutenant-Colonel B. G. Rawlins, R.E., and eleven of his officers from a Corps Engineer Regiment were the guests of the Mess and the evening took its traditional form which needs no description here. Being on his home ground it fell to the Commanding Officer to trace the history of military signalling up to the end of the 1914-1918 war, thereby depriving our chief guest from giving a speech prepared from the same sources! However, next year the tables will be turned.

Although there is a temptation to end these notes here—with no reference at all to sport, just to show that it can be done—we feel a pardonable pride in announcing our winning of the Morrison Cup for the 1956-57 season. Our pictures show Mrs. Charles Nettleship presenting the cup to Lieutenant-Colonel Llewellyn at the conclusion of the Royal Signals (B.A.O.R.) Athletics Meeting held at Moenchengladbach in August.

19 ARMY GROUP SIGNAL REGIMENT

In Prague, so stated *The Observer*, temperatures reached 125 degrees; this was not Prague but, at the main entrance to the "Kremlin," thermometers registered 107°; eggs could have been fried on flagstones, and the more sensitive skinned of us were adorned in tints ranging from lobster red to a faint pink. Thus passed the first weeks of July. Rose-fingered dawn illuminated the waters of the Garrison Swimming Pool but, alas, its serene and placid surface was soon to be crowded, through the hours of breakfast and of dinner, from morning to evening, and even our nocturnal wanderers might discern the shadowy forms of midnight bathers, until a terse paragraph in Garrison Orders ended their moonlight bathe.

In all this blistering swelter, our athletes gritted their teeth and kept at their relentless training, in preparation for the Regimental Athletic Meeting, doomed to bear with it much sweat and toil. The Squadrons of Rheindahlensers—H.Q., 2 and 3—were to pit their might against their comrades from St. Tonis, 1 and 4 Squadrons.

At last the day dawned, and in weather certainly milder than that of the preceding day, but still warm enough to envy those stalwarts clad in running gear. Rheindahlen scored a narrow victory by 132 points to 123; thus was formed the nucleus of the Regimental team, who went forward with much hope to the Royal Signals (B.A.O.R.) Athletic Meeting.

So much for the more swift and agile of our members; honourable mention must be made of our two teams of Nijmegen marchers, participating in the International Festival. These were:—

"A" Team: Second-Lieutenant Poole, Corporal Will, Lance-Corporals Birchard, McTean and Prowse, Signalmen Preston, Jenkins, Yeeles, Reed, Fairful, Dixon, Ward and Mortimer.

"B" Team: Lieutenant Willingale, Second-Lieutenant Bushell, Sergeant L. A. Smith, Corporals Mills, McKenna and Moore, Signalmen Dods, Duncan, Ingram, Catteral, Ellinore, Nailor and Hawkins. Cycle Orderly, Cpl. Appleby.

The object of the marches is to complete four consecutive days' marching of either 40 kms., carrying 22 pounds, or 50 kms., carrying 2 pounds. This year our teams elected to travel the shorter distance, albeit with heavier load.

A team is awarded a team medal if it completes the distance losing not more than 10 per cent of its strength: in addition, each individual who completes the four days' marching is awarded a medal which is worn as a medal ribbon by the Netherlands Armed Forces.

Both of the Regiment's teams completed successfully, bringing back two 1957 team medals to join the 1955 and 1956 medals, trophies of previous achievements. Lieutenant Willingale and Corporal McKenna gained the second year crown; Corporal Mills, who competed successfully last year, had the bad luck to be taken out by the M.O. on this occasion.

Our swimmers, too, have of late come into the news; in the Rhine District Championships we lost in the team event and water polo only to H.Q., B.A.O.R. Individually, the story is different, in our own Sergeant Martin, R.A.E.C., whose splendid performance brought him first place in the 100m. breast stroke and 100m. butterfly stroke, and second in the 200m. free style. A week later, success was his again, this time in the B.A.O.R. Swimming Championships. We wish him every success in the Army Championships in England, and are confident that he will acquit himself no less well than he has here.

On 8th and 9th August, a joint Rhine District and 2 Infantry Division Motor Cycle Trial was held at Hilden. The Regimental team, consisting of Staff-Sergeant Freeman, Sergeant Isaaman, R.A.P.C., and Corporal Davis came first in the Rhine District Championship with 126 points. Sergeant Isaaman and Corporal Davies came first and third respectively in the individual placings.

It was our honour to be visited by the Signal Officer-in-Chief, who was making his farewell tour of Royal Signals Units in B.A.O.R., before retirement. It was fitting that he should pay a call on the Signal Centre, where the majority of the Regiment's primary work is done, and here O.C. 2 Squadron, Major C. M. Jenkins, was privileged to conduct the Signal Officer-in-Chief on a tour of inspection. Major-General Wheatley leaves with our every wish for a happy retirement.

After much planning, behind closed doors, the Regiment's Wives' Club decided to put father to the test, and they sallied forth on 17th July, 38 in number, leaving Headquarters via coach for Koblenz. In spite of valiant efforts by the driver to cope with various "umleitungen"—detours to the uninitiated—plus the vagaries of German road users, the party arrived two minutes too late to catch the Rhine steamer. However, a smart about-turn and a blind-eye to German speed restrictions, enabled the ladies to embark at Allsmeer, after which lunch was taken en route to Koenigswinter. Here the party disembarked and split up, each group wending its way to their particular sphere of interest. At last, and with many wishes that time would go more slowly, the party departed from Koenigswinter and arrived back at the Headquarters at 9.15 p.m.—tired, but very contented, and with a firm intention of repeated trips. The outing was ably organised by Mrs. Lonnon, the wife of our Commanding Officer, and to her go our thanks for a very enjoyable day.

Royal Signals (B.A.O.R.) Inter-Unit Athletic Meeting

This year our Regiment was given the job of organising the meeting. This was rather a "fast-one," coming as it did, at short notice, but, under the capable Chairmanship of our Commanding Officer, results began to materialise, and everyone breathed easier.

The arrangements had got off to a flying start when, with dreadful suddenness, it was realised that we were without that essential of a sports meeting—a running track! Help was near at hand in the shape of a Vehicle Battalion, R.A.O.C., who readily assented to the use of their first-class standard track.

Meanwhile, behind a veil of feverish preparation, our athletic team were sticking to their training with a new-found enthusiasm. "Dame Rumour" added her piece to the "war of nerves" with the news of fabulous distances achieved by our javelin throwers and other muscle men; of records established daily and broken on the morrow. We became dark horses; a team to be watched, and it was even said that 1 Wireless Regi-



Mrs. C. C. Nettleship presenting the Team Trophy to Captain K. Ferguson, Team Captain (non-running).

ment had shown signs of weakening in the face of this new-found threat.

At last came the eve of the event, and with it torrential rain and storm; the ground on the morning of the great day was depressing to say the least, and a general air of gloom settled over all. Happily, by means miraculous, the worst of the flooding was cleared, the track re-marked and the meeting opened.

1 Wireless Regiment struck an early blow by winning the 3-mile team race, and the style of Second-Lieutenant Thorne, the ultimate winner, was extremely impressive. Strong opposition was encountered from 18 Army Group Signal Regiment as well, and the first day finished splendidly, with a 4 x 220 relay: the last runners for 18 and 19 Army Group Signal Regiment were Sergeant Williams and Signalman Doree respectively, and these two produced a finishing burst which had the crowd on their feet.

On the second day, each event was fought to the finish, and by lunchtime 1 Wireless Regiment had established a lead, with our Regiment and 18 Army Group Signal Regiment close behind. They held this lead up to the tea interval until, by winning a good 4 x 220 yard relay, we took the lead. The result was finally clinched by a first-class performance of our mile team, who won in fine style. Finally, we won the last race of the day—a 4 x 440 yard relay—to put the matter beyond doubt: 1 Wireless Regiment were runners-up, and 18 Army Group Signal Regiment came third. Altogether nine teams competed.

After exhausting our news on Athletics, in which we are justly proud of our team and their achievements, we proffer our congratulations to W.O.II Walsh, who has left on promotion to R.S.M.; to Sergeant Goddard and Corporals Bullock, Rudkin and Platts on their promotions to Staff-Sergeant and Sergeant respectively.



19 Army Group Signal Regiment "A" Team 2/Lt. Poole at the side. The "A" team missed the scenery, they were much too interested in the lady with the camera.



19 Army Group Signal Regiment "B" Team

2/Lt. Bushell as Tail End Charlie and Lieutenant Willingale and Sergeant Smith in front. The team is admiring the local scenery. ("You were not under the impression that we go to Nijmegen because we like walking were you")

International Marches Nijmegen

Each year, apart from the war years, since 1909, the Netherlands League of Physical Culture (N.V.B.L.O.) has held a marching festival in Nijmegen. Since 1928, this festival has been international. The number of participants has increased each year, there being 12,000 in 1956, of whom approximately half were military and half civilian. Many countries are represented; in 1957 there were participants from countries as far apart as Norway and Israel. There were about 35 British Navy, Army and Air Force detachments, mostly from Germany. A Metropolitan Police detachment (both men and women), which goes each year, and a civilian detachment from the British Road Walking Association, completed the British contingent. Perhaps the most interesting entry was a N.A.T.O. detachment from Headquarters, Allied Air Forces, Central Europe, Fontainebleau; about a third of the participants are women.

The festival starts with an impressive ceremony, when the flags of the nations taking part are hoisted at Nijmegen stadium on the Monday evening (22nd July), followed by four marches of equal length on the Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday (23rd to 26th July). Each of the marches starts and finishes in Nijmegen, and is mostly along good roads. The marches are not competitive, but in order to qualify for the medal of the league, each of the marches must be completed in the prescribed time of 11 hours.

The marches open to military detachments are either 50 km. (approximately 31 miles) per day, carrying weight of not less than 1 kg. (2.2lb.), or 40 km. (approximately 25 miles), carrying weight of not less than 10 kg. (22lb.). In either case, weapons are optional, but if carried, count towards the weight. Ammunition may not be carried. Officers may enter as individuals or as members of detachments, but other ranks may enter only as members of detachments. A detachment consists of not less than 11 individuals, of whom at least one must be an officer, warrant officer or non-commissioned officer, who will be the leader. A unit may, if it wishes, enter more than one detachment. Detachments completing the four marches in the prescribed time, with a loss of not more than 10 per cent of their members, are awarded, in addition to the individual medals, a very fine detachment medal.

Normal Service march discipline is observed; halts are taken at the discretion of the individual or detachment leader. Food and drink may be carried, either on the man, in which case they do not count in the minimum weight, or by a cycle orderly, who may accompany the detachment, but who does not qualify for the marching medal (he gets a certificate), or it may be taken at any cafe on the route, and there are many of them. The Royal Netherlands Air Force offer the facilities of the rest and food halts to foreign competitors for a small fee. The service was most popular, and is particularly recommended in the case

of units which have not taken part before. It is quite unnecessary for any unit taking part in the marches to have transport for this or, in fact, any other purpose in Nijmegen. Furthermore there is no authority to take transport.

In 1956 British teams did very well. They had completed the course; they were smart and cheerful and, in fact, were good "ambassadors." There had, however, previously been a small number of detachments which, through totally inadequate training (because you have to train very thoroughly), have let themselves and the British Forces down very badly. To avoid any repetition, it was decided, in 1955, that shortly before going to Nijmegen, detachments would be required to send a certificate of competency, signed by the commanding officer.

This year there was some rivalry between the two largest women's teams. The Israeli Women's Army team, who are a tough bunch of ladies accustomed to racing about over the Sinai desert, were well-known in Nijmegen from their previous visits. 14 Battalion W.R.A.C. arrived there this year, quite unknown, with a team none of whom had ever participated before. The Dutch crowds are expert in detecting limps, but they did not see many in the W.R.A.C., and on the final day, when everyone changed into their best kit, our girls were second to none, and that includes the men's team—Guards as well.

The Corps has been represented since 1955, when a single team from 19 Army Group Signal Regiment entered and competed. Available records seem to indicate that they were the first in the field from the Corps. In 1956 they were there again in company with The Middlesex Yeomanry, 10 Air Formation Signal Regiment, 12 Air Formation Signal Regiment, 1 Wireless Regiment. This year the same teams entered, and in addition, 11 Air Formation Signal Regiment.

The best story we can find is about the officer who passes a very senior officer in the British Army in one of the towns. He ordered an "eyes right," and was quite pleased with what sounded like a perfect movement from tired men. Ten minutes later he halted and discovered that he had had two Dutch nurses in the ranks for the last half hour. Harsh words were spoken, and it was explained to him that at the time the nurses were wearing berets and they had looked to the right to see what all the fuss was about, so maybe no one noticed.

12 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT

On August Bank Holiday, the P.R.I. bus did two trips, one to Nijmegen, and one to the Nurberg Ring, to see the International Car Racing. Both trips were thoroughly enjoyed, and as the P.R.I. broke even, everybody was happy.

The Regimental Athletics Team took part in the Royal Signals (B.A.O.R.) Championships, and this year we did the best we have ever done, coming sixth out of the whole, and (with our tongue in our cheek) first of the Air Formation Signal Regiments in B.A.O.R. It was a great pity we could not have scraped another five points, because had we done so we would have been third.

Captain Massie was a member of the Royal Signals B.A.O.R. Sailing Team at the Mohne See, and on his return happily told us that Signals came second in the triangular match between Sappers, Signals and Gunners.

Next month we have the Annual R.A.F. Exercise, and in addition, 1 Squadron is busily preparing for a Squadron Exercise in the local training area. This, incidentally, should produce a number of interesting situations, as this is the first time the reorganised 1 Squadron has been out under canvas this year.

The W.O.s and Sergeants held a dance at Troisdorf, which was not only well attended, but was enjoyed to the utmost by all the guests.

1st SIGNAL SQUADRON, W.R.A.C.

* Much has happened in the Squadron since our last notes. We have, at long last, had success in the field of sport.

The first shock we delivered was the winning of the B.A.O.R. Inter-Unit Netball Shield. The team was: the O.C., Captain Ruston, Private Devlin (shooters), Corporals Hardwick, Broderick (defence), Sergeant Cassford, Lance-Corporal Lyons, Private Fleming (our Squadron Clerk) in the field. They won all five games and were a very proud side when the A.D., W.R.A.C., Lieutenant-Colonel Baldwin presented the shield.

Our next success was in tennis. Corporal Broderick won the other ranks' ladies' singles, and Corporal Broderick with Corporal James were runners-up in the ladies' doubles.

Then to swimming; the Squadron, ably represented by Lieutenant Schofield (née Senior), Sergeant Cassford and Corporal Burnett, were runners-up in the Inter-Unit relay; Sergeant Cassford was second in the free style, and Lieutenant Schofield was third in the breast stroke. Sergeant Cassford then went on to represent the Command in the Army Championships. Private Morgan has been a member of the Battalion table tennis team that has had many local successes.

In the field of work, W.O.I Baylis has recently qualified as the first W.R.A.C. Signal Centre Supervisor. Also under this category comes the recent success of the W.R.A.C. team at Nijmegen. The Nijmegen Marches, as no doubt you will see elsewhere, are an international event, and the Squadron was proud to be represented by Corporal Hardwick, Lance-Corporal Lyons and Private Fleming, who marched the 100 miles in four days and still managed to go dancing in the evening. Corporal Broderick ably assisted the marchers as bicycle orderly, and from what we hear did a lot to foster commonwealth and international relationships! She had a very good story about a lost wheel!

To conclude our notes, we would like to say how sorry we are in the loss of the blue and white diamonds. To the older members of W.R.A.C. with Royal Signals, it means the loss of something they have worn with pride for many years. During the war it was worn by all operating personnel, but when the administrative personnel were given the privilege of wearing it, they also had the same pride in the fact that it was a distinctive badge that the world had got used to seeing, worn by the women with Signals. The blue and white diamond had become to the W.R.A.C. Signals what the red beret is to the Paratrooper, and it is a bit of tradition that the woman working with the Royal Signals are sorry to lose.

To Captain Presswell and her Squadron, in Cyprus, may we say "hello," and let's hear from you.

To Scottish Command (M) Signal Regiment, may we say well done, the W.R.A.C., in the sports field. Did we hear they were overseas volunteers?

To 1 Special Communication Regiment we will pass on your appeal for recruits to our departing personnel.

SHAPE SIGNAL SQUADRON

This is a gossip column. It is a long time since our article was a straight-forward record of what has happened, so we think it is time to bring ex-members of the Squadron up to date.

We are still here, and life is not all that different from what it was two years ago, or for that matter, what it was when the Squadron first moved into Voluceau. But we have suffered a few changes in the interests of centralisation and economy of manpower. With the departure of Lieutenant (Q.M.) King to be M.T.O. of a Signal Regiment in B.A.O.R., we have regretfully decided that a Squadron Q.M. is no longer justified, so we have shed some of our "Q" responsibilities to the H.Q. Battalion Q.M., and retained only an S.Q.M.S. and storeman. We have just closed our imprest account, as H.Q. Battalion have now acquired a Regimental Pay Officer, R.A.P.C., at the expense of the Messing Officer. There is now a central Battalion armoury, and M.T. has been centralised under the R.A.S.C. Transport Officer; the Squadron M.T. section is still intact, with vehicles on Squadron establishment, wearing the Signals' sign, but all M.T. N.C.O.s and fitters, documentation and inspection are now pooled. All this has meant some loss of independence, but will save manpower.

In October last year, we saw off Lieutenant-Colonel P. Upcher to a civilian job at his regimental depot, and welcomed Lieutenant-Colonel R. C. Glanville, M.C., D.C.L.I., as Battalion Commander. Most of his staff have changed in the past year, but somehow they have managed to retain the Scottish influence. Lieutenant Fairbairn still survives as Assistant Adjutant, and organises every form of sport. Adjutant, R.S.M. and S.S.M., H.Q. Company are also Scots, despite the fact that the Adjutant wears the Royal Norfolk's badge. Most of 7 U.S. Signal Battalion have also changed in the past year, including their commander and Headquarters Signal Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel E. S. Thurston, who departed in July.

Within the Squadron we have lost Captain Kerr to War Office Signal Squadron; Captain Bewley to 90 Signal Regiment; W.O.II Gilhooly to U.K. Comcan Signal Regiment, and W.O.II Holman to O.T.W., School of Signals. In their places we have welcomed Lieutenant D. W. Swenson, Lieutenant D. G. Turner, W.O.II W. J. Gahan and Staff-Sergeant R. L. Biles.

We have retained boxing, tennis and table tennis trophies for the current season, and feel particularly proud of the fact that

we gave away only one hard-fought game throughout the whole tennis tournament.

We failed to manage a fortnight's camp this year, and had to content ourselves with two week-ends down at Camp Hollande in the Rambouillet Forest. The majority of the Squadron thoroughly enjoyed these week-ends, and regretted having been unable to get away for longer.

The cost of everything in France has gone up by leaps and bounds, and even petrol is now 3,350 francs a book of coupons, or 8/- a gallon on the free market. The devaluation of the franc has produced an immediate rise in the cost of NAAFI goods, but even so, there is a possibility that L.O.A. will be reduced. The families' shop, incidentally, has had a complete "face-lift" during the last six months, not only is it now self-service, but it has been completely redecorated and stocks a selection of men's clothing.

One thing which delights all motorists is the vastly-improved N307 in front of camp and up the other side of Rocquencourt. It is now three-lane, with excellent surface, but for some reason only known to the French, is still cobble on either side for 50 yards through the village. The Corner Bar now boasts a full-scale petrol service station, not to mention terrace and repaint.

One could list indefinitely the things which remain unchanged—the Field Marshal, the SHAPE flags, the International Club, Bingo, the Sunday expedition for papers, and life in general. We hope we have produced a spot of nostalgia amongst the "we were there's," and on the whole, deplore the day when we shall be among their ranks.



MELF

Cyrenaica Signal Troop

The usual Saturday morning lethargy of Bomba Camp was shaken by a 4 a.m. reveille for 14 people. However, this was on account of no trivial military round but marked the initiation of a series of voluntary week-end schemes.

This first scheme got off to a good start and the 3-ton truck was on the main Benghazi-Tobruk road. After about 50 miles of almost level coastal road, whose monotony, added to by a seemingly infinite row of telegraph poles, was relieved by the sight of nomadic tents, meagre strips of cultivated land and, traditionally, camels—some harnessed to draw water from wells—the truck was climbing through the Tocra Pass and on to the fertile plains of Barce. The journey proceeded through the wooded hills of the country around El Bayada and this continuous vista of wooded hills continued to Wadi El Kuf. It was here that the party indulged in its first NAAFI break. During this hour's break many cameras made an appearance and the more active members (of the party) were soon exploring the Wadi.

Essentially a dried-up river valley it is surrounded by steep limestone hills, and was bridged by the Engineers during the last war. Many caves exist in the hillsides, which are covered with trees and shrubs. Somewhat reluctantly the journey recommenced and we were soon passing between fields of grapevines towards El Beda. After El Beda, a centre of Libyan wine industry, the countryside became more barren and the occasional rock tombs appeared. Soon the truck left the main road for the Apollonia road. For the next four miles, around the town of Cyrene were numerous tombs, pillars, walls, water cisterns, etc. The tombs became less numerous, as the truck approached the final range of hills before descending towards Apollonia. From the top of this range a really wonderful view of the Mediterranean presented itself together with a beautiful gorge leading down to the sea. After negotiating several horrifying hairpin bends the truck neared sea-level, and soon left the road to plough through shrubs, etc., across the boulder strewn countryside to reach the seashore.



Camp was made and the petrol field stove brought in to use to brew the first tea whilst the party cooled themselves off with a pleasant swim in the calm sea. After a cooked dinner the more active members spent the afternoon swimming or hunting

the local fauna, whilst others attempted sun-bathing until forced into the water or the shade of the lorry by a fierce sun. An early tea was had and most people then went 1½ miles east, along the sea shore, alternately rocky and sandy, to the town of Apollonia where, depending on archaeological or gastronomical inclinations, they either eagerly explored the ruins or the town for cafes.

Originally founded about 600 B.C. by the Greeks as the port for the town of Cyrene, it rapidly increased in importance and became one of the five principal cities (i.e., the Pentapolis) of ancient Cyrenaica, ultimately, in 400 A.D., by this time under Roman domination, it became the capital of the Pentapolis. Unfortunately, the days of Imperial Rome had become numbered by home strife in Europe, and the fate of Apollonia was sealed by an earthquake in the fifth century A.D. This earthquake inundated the greater part of the city in the sea—this giving rise to the excellent present-day underwater swimming amidst the ruins. The present modern town, locally called Susa, owes its existence to the Moslems who left Crete in 1898 upon that island being handed to Greece.

The wayfarers arrived back at the camp at sunset, in time to enjoy a most welcome cup of tea. Sufficient driftwood and dry shrub had been collected to light a camp fire, and the party was soon eating and drinking around it. A sing-song naturally commenced, but it is to be regretted that rock 'n' roll music has such a large hold on Cyrenaica troops at the present time for, with minor exceptions, the traditional camp fire songs were noticeable by their absence.

Eventually the party drifted to their respective "beds"—shallow holes dug in the sand and consisting of ground sheet and blankets, being covered by a mosquito net supported from the lorry side. Throughout the night two sentries did hourly tours of duty to keep the fire going and to guard the sleepers.

Reveille was accompanied by a cup of tea, followed by a swim before breakfast. The rest of the morning was left to individual discretion. After an early dinner, the truck left for Cyrene.



of the original Greek city being destroyed. This marked the beginning of the decline of Cyrene. By 400 A.D., due to

invading desert tribes, the population centres had become fortified camps, and was eventually conquered by the Arabs. The town saw little of the Libyan campaign during the last war, being captured by Australians at nightfall on 4th February, 1941, during Wavell's campaign.

After a very interesting afternoon spent touring various ruins, the party left for Benghazi, arriving there late at night.

Even on the morning after, our party seemed to think the scheme had been most worthwhile. The average person is too apt to think of Libya as being little but desert, and it is hoped that such schemes will bring awareness of the manifold beauty of Cyrenaica.

CYPRUS DISTRICT SIGNAL REGIMENT

Since your scribe's last effort, several major changes have taken place. First (and I am afraid rather belatedly) we give a warm welcome to our new Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel J. de D. Yule, and his wife and family. We also welcome Captain Langworthy, who has taken over the "hot seat" as Adjutant. He took over from Captain Fill, who by now should be in U.K., having travelled overland in his "tax free" asset? We are hoping that he will put some of his experiences of the journey on to paper and have them published in some future edition of THE WIRE. There must be quite a few people contemplating such a journey and any advice would, I am sure, be most welcome.

Recent functions in both the Officers' and Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Messes were enjoyed by all. Special mention must, however, be made of the excellent entertainment provided by the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess on the occasion of the annual Royal Signals/R.E. reunion.

Many members of the Regiment are taking full advantage of all the excellent facilities offered at the various leave centres on the island. Old Cyprus "postees" will be pleased to know that, due to the easing of the I.S. situation, these camps are now being used for the purpose for which they were designed. It is hoped that the situation does not deteriorate, thus allowing everybody to continue to enjoy their stay here.

On looking round the camps recently, it makes one wonder if it would not be worth approaching General Motors with a view to establishing a Vauxhall sub-depot? It would almost be true to say that the greater proportion of the new "Victors" imported on the island find their way to Kykko Camp West. Rumour has it that the Commanding Officer has applied to join the Veteran Car Club with his "ancient" Velox (1952 vintage)!!

Congratulations to Staff Sergeant (Foreman of Signals) Mann on his well earned Mention in Despatches.

We have recently been lucky enough to acquire the use of the Corps Yacht Cito. To the uninitiated, it is a 4-ton, 30-meter, single masted sloop of 32 feet overall length, with four-berth cabin and galley. It was delivered to us at Kyrenia by a Royal Signals' crew who sailed it from Famagusta. Lieutenant Walmsley was a member of the crew and he stated that the journey of 160 coastal miles took about 36 hours' actual sailing time.

The highlight, however, came when it was decided to take the boat to Turkey and back, a journey of 80-90 miles as the crow flies! Skipped by Officer Commanding 2 Squadron, Major Wolfendale, and crewed by Colonel Prince (C.S.O., Cyprus) and Lieutenants Michie and Preston, the historic journey commenced at approximately 09.00 hours on Saturday, 3rd August, 1957.

Cyprus was soon out of sight, due to a haze, and progress was slow because of very little wind. Also, unfortunately, so was Turkey, which under normal conditions can quite easily be seen from the Cyprus coast. At lunchtime a moderate wind sprang up and by about 14.30 hours it had turned into a fresh breeze. Still no sight of land. The wind continued to freshen until by 16.00 hours the seas were positively high, with 14ft. waves breaking over the boat. By this time and, for obvious reasons, the effective crew was reduced to one helmsman—Colonel Prince!

At last Turkey was sighted at about 18.30 hours through the haze—two kinds! Despite the storm, land could have been made, but due to insufficient light it was not possible to take a bearing on the coast. It was, therefore, decided to put up a storm jib and to ride out the night on a sea anchor. The heavy swell remained throughout the night. On taking stock next

morning, half the provisions were found strewn all over the galley and so, after breakfast—for one only, guess who?—it was decided that, although rather undignified, it was at least practical to return to base.

Kyrenia Harbour was made at about 17.30 hours, Sunday, 4th August, after an eventful 33 hours and 100 miles of sailing.

AFRICA

COMCAN SIGNAL TROOP, ACCRA

"A life of monotony," many a young soldier has been heard to bleat; not so, you may be assured, if you are part of Comcan Accra. There is never a dull moment out here. After much discussion, arguments, threats and frayed tempers, the Ghana Military Forces agreed to loan to Cable & Wireless Ltd., a generator belonging to Ghana, with which the very harassed engineer of their Transmitter Station hoped to get his sets back on to the air. What had this to do with Comcan? one asks. This generator had been used by our Transmitter Station for some time, until it was replaced by a newer machine and, apart from being of no further use to us, was cluttering up the area to some extent. The great morning arrived, and the Workshops sent round to our traffic office a massive crane and a huge "low-loader" (we are not sure this is the correct title, if not, apologies to R.E.M.E.) towed by an equally huge recovery vehicle. The problem of getting these monsters to the Transmitter site was no easy one, and the task fell to our versatile Sergeant Marlow, one of the Radio Technicians. He tackled the job vigorously, and the local populace were seen to be shaking their heads in wonderment at the sight of Marlow, perched precariously on the crane, gesticulating furiously at the driver, trying to keep him on the perilous Ring Road, which I am sure old Accra types know only too well as a death trap. Just another European gone "coasty," the locals must have thought. Apart from wrecking every telephone cable in this part of Accra, and nearly taking the police constable on point duty with him, Marlow and his crane deserve congratulations on their fine showing.

A beauty contest was held in the Sergeants' Mess at their monthly social, and due to good advertising, drew contestants from the Ghana Signal Squadron and Teshie Training School. With such competition, it was thought the Comcan beauties would not stand an earthly. Not so, however! Sergeant Lindsay strutted out an easy winner over the other contestants, Staff-Sergeant Gibson and Sergeant Kinson, of Comcan; Sergeant Campbell, Ghana Signal Squadron, and W.O.II Hunter, Teshie Training School, to name but a few. What Lindsay's vital statistics are, is a very closely-guarded secret, though it is heard that Confidential magazine has published an article, "Watch out June Mansfield."

A few months ago, our notes boasted of air-conditioned rooms in the Transmitter Station, and so it was a few months ago, but with some very clever wiring (we are being polite), W.O.II Pettit and Sergeant Hitchmough converted this deep freeze into a hot house, by making the air-conditioner suck in hot air from the outside. No doubt these two had "Asian Flu" and were trying to "sweat it out!"

We welcome to the Troop the new Commanding Officer, Captain R. M. Armstrong, who arrived on a cold, wet Thursday afternoon, and assure him that "sunny Accra" is, in fact, sunny sometimes during the year. We also welcome Sergeants Seton-Smith and Moss, and wish them a happy and successful tour with the Troop.

FARELF

SINGAPORE DISTRICT SIGNAL REGIMENT

We have been happy to welcome that well-known Quarter-master, Major Andy Fraser. No doubt "Hams" all over the world will soon be aware of his presence in Singapore. The Regiment organised the Royal Signals' Triangular Swimming again and succeeded in retaining the challenge cup. Next month comes the District Meeting and the team hope not to disgrace themselves. In the first round of the cricket knock-out the

Regiment came up against one of the stronger teams, the R.A.P.C. To make life more difficult, our opening bat was posted out two days before the match. However, we got them out for 75 and were doing nicely at 67 for 4 when they changed the bowling. 67 for 8, 69 for 9 and our two tail-enders were by themselves. Some fine "water buffalo" shots and very smart running then did the trick and we won a most exciting finish. Our star was Lieutenant Yeoman (6 for 36 and 45 runs).

Lieutenant Jim Mitchell celebrated his commission as a T.O.T. by being given a scratch team of his trades, mostly from the Regiment, but assisted by other Regiments in Singapore and being allotted the task of replacing 1,000 Singapore Telephone Board strikers. They have now been on the job for five weeks and are doing a first-class job. Anyone like to try his hand at a 1,400 pairs joint in the bottom of a manhole in tropical climate?

A mention must be made this month on behalf of the unit cricket team. In spite of losing five of its star players just before the commencement of the District Knockout Cup, it has managed to get through to the final. The team record this season, up to press, reads: Played 24, won 18, lost 3 drawn 3. Lieutenant Yeoman has achieved the double of 1,000 runs and 100 wickets in Regimental, or above, standard matches. Lance-Corporal Clarke, before he left, scored 626 runs for the Regiment, at an average of 69.5. Lance-Corporal Bryant has taken 61 wickets for an average of 8.2 runs per wicket. Staff-Sergeant Hulse once again has been a permanent fixture behind the stumps.

In late August Lieutenant Lord led the Regimental rifle team in the Royal Signals Triangular shooting competition, held at Nee Soon ranges. The Regiment did very well, winning the following:

Royal Signals Singapore Challenge Cup.

B.O.R. Rifle Team Competition.

M.O.R. Rifle Team Competition.

Sten Pairs.

Pistol Pairs.

Individual B.O.R. Rifle Competition won by Sergeant James (R.E.M.E., attached to the Regiment).

Individual Young Soldiers' Rifle Competition, won by Signaller Thiagarajan.

We were second in the L.M.G. and Falling Plate Competitions.

Also in late August, the District Swimming Championships took place. Our team was placed third out of a total of 11 teams competing; R.E.M.E. being the winners, followed by R.A.S.C. We had two entries in the individual championships, Corporal Scott, who scored two seconds, in the 200 and 400 metres freestyle, while Corporal Howard took third in the 100 metres freestyle.

The Sergeants' Mess extends a welcome to our three newly-promoted corporals, Sergeants Copland, Trehearne and Fenton.

LATE NEWS FLASH! We have won the Singapore District Inter-Unit Knockout Cricket Cup. Details in our next news letter.

HONG KONG SIGNAL REGIMENT

I Squadron. Our contribution comes to you from a heat and rain-drenched Hong Kong. We are generally sweltering in the 90-93°F. bracket, coupled with a relative humidity of 90-95 per cent.

Those who have served in Hong Kong will have cause to remember our meagre water ration from the oft-depleted reservoirs. We hear stories of not so long ago of the taps giving water for two hours a day. Last year we had a "bonus"—it went up to five hours daily. This year is fabulous. By virtue of typhoons and their fringes, tropical depressions and the like, the average yearly rainfall of 84 inches (which fell short by 20 inches last year) had already been exceeded by the middle of August! Downpours such as eight and 15 inches, in the space of two days, have caused the Colony's reservoirs to overflow, and now they can't get rid of the stuff. For several months now, we have indulged in the luxury of running water for 16 hours daily.

The Squadron D.R.s are envied in the hot weather—they, at least, can keep cool on duty. During the rains their lot is of the most miserable order, but as usual, their cheerfulness and fortitude are in inspiration.

This month the Regiment had the privilege of being affiliated with H.M.N.Z.S. *Royalist*, recently arrived in Hong Kong waters. The first of the social and sporting fixtures was held in the Officers' Mess, when the officers of the *Royalist* were entertained at a dinner night. Later on, when the cruiser left port for a few days, a group of our elder children embarked and sailed off with them. They had a wonderful day, and must have

been full of regrets when late afternoon arrived and they returned to Hong Kong by launch, while *Royalist* sailed on.

The W.O.s and Sergeants Mess have a games evening planned with their naval opposite numbers. We look forward to the results—the Kiwis are a husky set of stalwarts! Still on the Commonwealth net, we are happy to have our friends, members of the Royal Australian Signals, staying with us in Murray Barracks, while they break their homeward journey from Korea. We do not presume to tell them to have a good time—any soldier arriving in the fleshpots of Hong Kong from Korea ... well ...

As 1 Squadron have not appeared in print for more months than we care to remember, we must make gallant amends and mention the two W.R.A.C. officers who have been serving with us since the end of last year. They are Lieutenant Rosemary Giles—our Duty Signal Officer and latterly Messing Officer (shades of home cooking?) and Lieutenant Pamela Heath—officer-in-charge of the Force telephone exchange.

T.A. and A.E.R.

No. 2 NORTHERN COMMAND (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT (T.A.)

and

No. 2 (INDEP.) U.K.L.F. RESERVE SIGNAL SQUADRON (T.A.)

A very successful Annual Camp at Harrogate has got the Regiment off to a flying start. This camp was the first time the unit has been together for more than 24 hours, and towards the end of the fortnight scattered sub-units and individuals had welded together into a fine body of men and women, working together for the good of the Regiment. This included the men of No. 2 U.K.L.F. Squadron who, although part of an independent squadron, took part wholeheartedly in all that went on.

The first week of the fortnight was devoted to Individual Training, and I know that many of the newcomers to Royal Signals received a shock at the amount of work they were expected to get through in this week. The W.R.A.C. concentrated on Signal Centre, Teleprinter and Exchange working, while the rest of us went to work with Radio Relay and Line Construction. An example of the type of work achieved is that of the Line Class, which constructed a good working Pole Quad route, with a line party consisting of three linemen, one driver, three D.R.s and five non-tradesmen.

The second week of camp was taken up by a Northern Command exercise, during which the Regiment took over from the Regulars, the working and manning of the Signal Centres at H.Q., East and West Ridings Area and North Midland District. The U.K.L.F. Squadron providing a radio relay link from Yarm



CHIEF OF STAFF VISITING LINE COURSE

Left to Right: Signalman Hogan, Driver Bonner, Staff Sergeant Greaves, Major-General J. M. K. Spurling, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., Colonel R. E. Pickford, W.O.I. (R.S.M.) Jones, E. C., Brigadier D. St. J. Hoysted, C.B.E.

to York, with a relay point up on top of Sutton Bank. The detachment with the relay point up on the moors had a very good time. It consisted of two officers and one corporal radio mechanic, and before the exercise commenced, one would have thought they were going on a rescue and survival exercise for four days. Envious critics in the camp at Harrogate passed around the gossip that the officers did the chores whilst the corporal did the setting up of the relay station. This was found to be completely untrue, since all three took their turns at all duties, pleasant and unpleasant.

The social side of camp was not neglected. A very fine Regimental dance was held on the Friday of the first week. It was a great success, mainly because, due to the kindness of the Commandant of the Army Apprentices' School, we were able to hold it in the NAAFI of Uniacke Barracks. Older soldiers would not believe that it was a NAAFI, and accused the committee of laying it on in the Officers' Mess and calling it the NAAFI for propaganda purposes.

Like the rest of the Territorial Army, we are to spend this winter in a big recruiting drive. There are many problems to overcome, by far the worst being that of bringing the Corps to the notice of the public. It is a pity that the Corps has established itself as a "Silent Service" within the Army, because really, we have much more to offer to the part-time soldier than any of the more publicised regiments.

We have a full winter programme, which really starts with a week-end camp at Leek, in Staffordshire, where we hope to carry on the good work begun at Harrogate. This is due to take place during the first week-end in October.

44 HOME COUNTIES INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

Before the Camp of 1957 becomes dimmed in memory, it should be set on record as an event in its own right. First there was the weather, surely the best that could be imagined for the tented life, with sea bathing on one's doorstep. Secondly, there was the location at Stiffkey on the Norfolk Coast, as satisfying and as unspoilt a place on the East Anglian shore that could be found and yet within easy reach of Wells on the one hand and Cromer on the other.

Thirdly, there was the party itself. For the first time for eight years the Regiment was an all-voluntary force. The last time was at St. Martin's Plain in 1949. The attendance this year was noticeably better and the general satisfaction expressed at the arrangements and the weather and, above all, the family spirit engendered by the all-volunteer nature of the party combined to justify the hope that next year there will be an improvement, and that as the rôle of the T.A. in the national defence structure becomes better known, recruiting will improve.

Technical training at Stiffkey was organised so far as possible on a regimental basis to encourage the man's pride in his own technical efficiency rather than confuse him with paper Exercises on Brigade or Divisional levels.

In the first week concentration was on individual trade training with the object of upgrading as many tradesmen as possible, of training non-tradesmen in a trade, and tradesmen in a second trade. Officers were given instruction in military law, M.T. accounting and the writing of signal appreciations and operation orders. They also spent one day on a TEWT.

In the second week a skeleton Signal Exercise was organised on a regimental basis to exercise personnel in their trade, new trade or second trade. The Exercise was limited to 48 hours and its aim was to provide communications on a Divisional basis down to and including Battalion Headquarters. The limited number of troops available had to be justified by imagining conditions after the explosion of a nuclear missile, when the Regiment would be considerably reduced in numbers.

The General Officer Commanding, 44 (H.C.) Infantry Division (T.A.), and Lieutenant-Colonel P. E. M. Bradley, Royal Signals, D.S.O., O.B.E., visited the Regiment during this Exercise.

During this second week also trade competitions for wireless, line and despatch riding were held.

Altogether 44th Home Counties Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment face the future with confidence and high morale. In addition to their military work they manage to play their part in sport and games and at the T.A. Athletic Championships held at Aldershot in June last Sergeant J. C. Duffield (R.A.P.C. attached 44th Home Counties Signal Regiment) was third in both the 100 and 220 yards, which were won in times of 9.7 seconds and 22.2 seconds, both of which were T.A. records.

Report of the Visit of HER ROYAL HIGHNESS The Princess Royal C.I., G.C.V.O., G.B.E., R.R.C., T.D., D.C.L., LL.D. to 1 Northern Command (M) Signal Regiment T.A.



Fourth Row, Left to Right: Lieutenants A. R. R. Oliver, G. Hollyhead, J. Pearson, K. White, R. W. Jones, N. Sheard, J. Keely, C. L. Harwood and B. D. Templeman.

Third Row, Left to Right: Lieutenant D. L. M. Grover, Lieutenant M. Petch, Captain N. Baillif, Lieutenant O. Hart, Captain M. E. Clarke, Captain F. Homan, M.B.E., Captain H. Hay, Captain S. Cox, Captain D. Rochester, Captain R. S. Patterson, Captain J. Crawford.

Second Row, Left to Right: Captain K. G. P. Georgehegan, Major A. Booker, Major J. L. De V. Martin, Major P. Scott, Brigadier C. C. L. Browne, O.B.E., Lieutenant Colonel M. S. F. Millington, O.B.E., T.D., Major S. P. M. I. Waterman, Lieutenant Colonel D. P. Bryce, O.B.E., T.D., J.P., Lieutenant (Q.M.) G. Bruce-Rev. (Captain) G. L. Lawrence, Captain J. Wharhurst.

Front Row, Left to Right: Captain B. Elliott, M.B.E., Brigadier D. St. J. Hoysted, C.B.E., Major D. F. Willett, Major General A. E. Morrison, C.B., O.B.E., Lieutenant Colonel J. Kilner, T.D. (Commanding Officer), H.R.H. The Princess Royal, C.I., G.C.V.O., C.B.E., R.R.C., T.D., D.C.L., LL.D., Major General W. A. Scott, C.B., C.B.E., Captain F. Mansfield, M.B.E. (Adjutant), Major General W. H. Hulton-Harrop, D.S.O., Major P. E. Orton, Brigadier D. J. B. Houchin, D.S.O., M.C.

When the Regiment was first informed early in the year that Her Royal Highness would be visiting us it was realised that a lot of hard work would be necessary to bring ourselves to the standard worthy of the honour and it is to the credit of all ranks of the Unit that this standard was achieved.

To start from the beginning. The main body of the Unit moved to Blackfell Camp, Washington, Co. Durham, on the 13th July and were all in and settled by the Saturday evening. Sunday saw the dress rehearsals for the Regimental Parade commence and despite intermittent showers

we practiced all day not only our drill but our training demonstrations. In fact, never has Blackfell seen such activity and even the efforts of the Training Major to black the camp out with a smoke screen for the Civil Defence demonstration could not damp the enthusiasm.

Came Monday and a visit from the C.S.O., Northern Command, Brigadier D. S. J. Hoysted, C.B.E., of course nothing went right on these final dress rehearsals but then a bad dress rehearsal is always a good omen.

On the 16th July the great day dawned and let us add it went without a hitch of any kind. It was apparent to your scribe in the rôle of an onlooker that as the Corps Band struck up the Corps March and the Squadrons marched on parade all would be well. Chests expanded, heads were thrown back and the Regiment marched on Parade in the highest traditions of the Corps. Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal arrived at 1200 hrs., accompanied by the Representative Colonel Commandant, the C.S.O. and Lieutenant-Colonel Millington, O.B.E., T.A., W.R.A.C., who was acting Lady in Waiting. Unfortunately rain came during the inspection by Her Royal Highness. The Princess Royal refused umbrellas and to the admiration of all carried on. Next came the presentation of the L.S. and G.C. Medal to W.O.II Hodgekins of the Newcastle Squadron, and finally, the Regiment marched past to the Corps March and Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal retired to the Officers' Mess where, before lunch, the guests and officers were presented.

After lunch a photograph was taken and then The Princess Royal visited the Training Demonstrations. Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal graciously consented to originate a signal from the Demonstration Signal Centre. This was transmitted by Radio Relay to a second Signal Centre and this message now framed, graces the Officers' Mess.

On to the Civil Defence Training where the Newcastle Squadron, under Captain F. Homan, M.B.E., produced an excellent demonstration of Light Rescue. The bombed building was most realistic and it is rumoured that the Garrison Engineer wanted to take it on charge as an encroachment. Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal watched a casualty (L/Cpl. Henderson suitably disguised

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Sergeant Gowland and W.O. II Hodgekins (on Roof), Lance Corporal Henderson (on stretcher), Sergeant Smoult (beneath ladder), Lance Corporal Rutherford (on ladder), Sergeant Laws

with dummy wounds) rescued and then followed the casualty to the First Aid Post established under command of Capt. M. S. Clarke, W.R.A.C. The casualty was suitably treated and evacuated in the approved manner.

The next visit was to the W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess where the R.S.M. presented the W.O.s and Sergeants to Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, and so back to the Officers' Mess for tea.

At 1630 hrs. Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal departed through a route lined by the Regiment and so ended a great day in the Regiment's History.

It is only necessary to add that we as a Regiment are very conscious and proud of the honour conferred upon us and we are happy to learn that Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal was pleased with all that she saw.

★

Wednesday, 17th, saw our Regimental Sports—once again the Adjutant did his stuff in not entering for the Old Soldiers' race; he felt, quite rightly, that his 37 yards start in 80 yards would be unfair. We were pleased to have our new Honorary Colonel, Major-General A. E. Morrison, C.B., O.B.E., and Mrs. Morrison with us, and feel sure that they enjoyed the day.

The Sports Day concluded with an All Ranks' Regimental Dance—it is quite true that the Training Major was seen demonstrating the Charleston—it is not true that he is old enough to remember it in the original version.

Thursday and Friday were spent in training and preparation for Exercise "Pin Point," the C.S.O.'s four-day Command Exercise. This exercise took place between 22nd and 25th July, and apart from the lessons learned on the operational side, many and equally important lessons were learned from the administrative angle.

All ranks enjoyed the exercise and voted for more; we understand that the C.S.O. was also pleased.

In closing, we would say farewell to Newcastle's P.S.I., W.O.II Hodgekins, and wish him the very best of luck. We would say, in addition, "wherever you go, you will never taste better beer than in Newcastle." We would also add that you will be missed by all your friends in 1 Northern Command (M) Signal Regiment (T.A.).

LONDON DISTRICT SIGNAL REGIMENT (A.E.R.)

Annual Training for London District Signal Regiment (A.E.R.) this year, took place at Stiffkey Camp in Norfolk, from 10th-24th August, when the first taste of life under canvas was experienced. In common with other Reserve Army Units, the Regiment found itself with fewer personnel than on previous occasions, though some slight augmentation was made by the attachment of a number of cadets from Christ's Hospital, Dulwich College and Alleyn's School.

In view of the smallness of our strength and the consequent disproportion between ranks and between trades, there was, of necessity, a general "levelling down" of status, and for several there was the experience of doing a job to which they were not normally accustomed, but which was nevertheless training of the best possible kind. This was particularly so during a 48-hour signals exercise held at the end of the first week, when it was not unusual to see an officer at the wheel of a wireless vehicle or for a line party consisting entirely of officers and senior N.C.O.s to be sent out to find a fault. The opportunity was also taken at this Camp to familiarise ourselves with Radio Relay and, in addition to our own training in this respect, we were fortunate to have a demonstration of this equipment put on for us by a team from 5 Corps Signal Regiment.

A feature of the fortnight was the number of visits received from important personages, which events though possibly causing some consternation at first are later looked back on with some satisfaction (provided, of course, all has gone well). On the first Wednesday the Secretary of State for War, who was making a general tour of inspection in the Norfolk area, paid us a brief visit. After looking over the training and meeting a considerable number of all ranks, Mr. Hare was entertained to tea in the Officers' Mess, before flying off in a helicopter. In succession, we were then visited by C.S.O. Eastern Command, the Deputy Signal Officer in Chief, C.S.O. Western Command, Commandant H.Q. A.E.R. Royal Signals and C.S.O. London

District, each staying for varying lengths of time. The Officers' Mess had the honour to entertain each of these gentlemen to dinner.

A full programme of sporting and other social activities was arranged for after training hours. Following a trial game, a Regimental cricket team was selected for matches against the detachment of 2nd Battalion East Yorks, who were acting as camp permanent staff, and against Stiffkey village. The former match, played on matting, resulted in a very even draw and the latter, played on grass (but not the sort of grass with which the normal cricketer is familiar), was lost by 19 runs. The field, too, on which this village game was staged was not in the normal vein of cricket arenae, the outfield on either side of the pitch rising sharply like a miniature Everest! indeed, several of the home side appeared to be wearing mountaineering rather than cricketing boots. There were several unusual stoppages during play, not the least uncommon being for the purpose of moving a herd of cows away from behind the bowler's arm. An amusing incident occurred, too, when a confident appeal for stumping by the home wicket-keeper was disallowed by the umpire, a certain officer of the Regiment, who was wearing dark glasses. Not content with a first refusal, the wicket-keeper, by means of violent and vulgar gestures, invited the umpire to take a closer look at the situation, but neither agricultural applications nor rustic ruminations could get the decision altered. It was observed, however, that thereafter the sun glasses reposed in the umpire's coat pocket and not on his nose! The soccer league was won by the "Corporals and below" team, though not without some alarms, particularly from the Senior Officers. Regimental Sports were again a big success, and despite small field in each event competition was keen. Colonel Blaker kindly presented the prizes.

So another Camp has passed by and despite the complexities brought about by short numbers it has proved by and large wholly enjoyable. Those who were experiencing sleeping under canvas for the first time learned at least that there is no better cure for recovering from a "night before" than a tent by the seaside with both flaps open! The portents are that next year we shall return to Chester after two years away from it, and it is certain that if this is so, the Q.M. staff at least will rub their hands with glee.

1/20 (S.M.) ARMY SIGNAL REGIMENT (T.A.)

Our main effort during the period since our last WIRE notes appeared has continued to be recruiting and the consequent training and assimilation of new men of very different backgrounds such as Royal Navy, Royal Air Force, Royal Auxiliary Air Force and other Corps of the Army, in addition to some with no previous Service experience.

The biggest single source has been from disbanded Royal Auxiliary Air Force Units and so far we have benefited to the extent of 21 men of first-class quality. Major R. K. W. Glover, D.F.C., formerly in command of a Fighter Control Unit, and Lieutenant R. Dine, who was the Engineer Officer of the County Fighter Squadron, have also joined the Unit, the latter as O.C., L.A.D.

As part of the recruiting effort, exhibitions of transport and communication equipment have been given at a number of events in the area, such as the National Air Races and the City of Birmingham Annual Show.

Our Annual Camp took place under much more comfortable than usual conditions at Blacon Camp, Chester, 27th July—10th August, 1957. It was our first all volunteer camp for many years and was most successful from the point of view of both work and play. We were, in effect, the guests of H.Q., A.E.R., Royal Signals, and the Commander, Colonel E. C. R. Blaker, O.B.E., and his Staff made us very welcome and gave most efficient assistance to our training. Brief mention can be made of only a few of the highlights, one of which was a really creditable parade which was inspected by our Honorary Colonel, Colonel F. E. B. Jones, O.B.E., T.D., J.P. Another most interesting day for the Officers, Warrant Officers and Sergeants was a TEWT conducted by our Commander Army Signals, Colonel E. R. Price, C.B.E., T.D., during which he not only made us use our brains to good effect but also gave us some inkling of the difficulties besetting those whose task it is to try to peer into the future. Distinguished visitors included the G.O.C.-in-C., Western Command, the Chief Signal Officer, Brigadier M. G. A. Hepper, C.B.E., and the Chairman and the Secretary of the War-

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wickshire T. and A.F. Association, Colonel F. E. Allday, O.B.E., T.D., D.L., and Colonel W. H. Jackson, C.B.E., D.L.

The major sporting event was a cricket match, Officers versus Other Ranks, which the Officers won by a comfortable margin. Social events were many but mention must be made of a highly enjoyable All Ranks' Games Evening.

Major social events at the Drill Hall during recent months include an All Ranks' cabaret dance, the Officers' Mess cocktail party and the Officers versus Warrant Officers and Sergeants Games Evening (to initiate "The Bone of Contention"). This year was our turn to have the honour of being hosts for the annual Sapper-Signals' Dinner on 11th July, 1957. This was attended by Colonel Sir Arnold H. S. Waters, V.C., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., J.P., D.L., Honorary Colonel, Lieutenant-Colonel G. P. Jones, T.D., R.E., Commanding Officer, and a number of Officers of 127 Construction Regiment R.E. (T.A.).

12 COMMAND (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT (T.A.)

I believe that this is the first submission by this Regiment of WIRE Notes, but the fact that we have, for so long hidden our light under the proverbial bushel, does not mean that we have been inactive in the field of Royal Signals (T.A.).

For the information of serving and ex-members of the Corps we have with us on the Permanent Staff here:—Major Dicky Brett and Captain Frank Dymond; seen on 5th October?

Captain Ferguson of Hockey fame. R.S.M. Gray, ex 3 T.R. and still trying to accustom himself to having no fatigue men.

F. of S. C. G. Hooper, ex Austria Klagenfurt Signal Squadron. The unit is commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel P. G. Hallett, and is housed in a very modern T.A. Centre in Bristol, with a Squadron at Crownhill Fort in Plymouth.

New equipment based on our rôle in war is now coming along, and at Annual Camp this year, we had the opportunity of exercising our Tradesmen and Tradeswomen in their Army trades and I can say that they made a really good job of it. Some of this equipment was installed for the first time, and was completely strange to all our T.A. personnel, but the mysteries were tackled and successfully overcome, in 24 hours.

Camp, as always, is the highlight of the T.A. year, and I feel that we can say that everyone came back with a fortnight's happy memories and plenty of additional knowledge—the rumour that one or two members were putting in for additional trade ratings of Shepherd, Class I, has no foundation in fact!

During the year we have said good-bye to Major McMillan of 2 Squadron and to our R.S.M., W.O.I Griffiths, both on retirement.

Several successful dances have been held and, after the lull of August holidays we hope to resume our activities on the social side.

For the information of all ex-Signals living in the Bristol area, we have, in co-operation with the Signals Association Bristol Branch, conceived the idea of forming a Signals Club, where all ex-Signals of any vintage could foregather, to talk over old times and old faces, over a convivial pint.

The Club is open to all members and ex-members of the Corps, and we really would welcome you on any Thursday or Sunday evening at the T.A. Centre, Horfield.

One question that really puzzles us, though, is that Corps N.S.M.s who come to us for final discharge, never seem to want to renew their association with Signals in the T.A.

We sent out 120 letters to the N.S.M.s on our books, inviting them to the Jimmy Club and the response was—NIL!

Apathy—lack of interest—or what?

We'd really like to know the answer.

1st (ESSEX) SIGNAL REGIMENT (T.A.)

For the Regiment's first Annual Camp, under its new title, and for the first Camp since 1949, as an all-volunteer unit, the Regiment moved by road, on the 14th July, to pay its first visit to Stiffkey Camp. The accommodation allocated to the Regiment was a considerable improvement upon that experienced in previous years, and was very much appreciated by all ranks.

Another welcome innovation was to walk into a prepared training area, laid out, equipped and maintained by Eastern Command Signal Squadron. This saved a day or so of hard work and no little manual labour. Training was therefore able to commence on Monday morning.

In addition to syndicates for tradesmen, syndicates were formed for Officers, Warrant Officers and Sergeants to extend the field of knowledge of people who tend to specialise in one branch of Signals. By the end of the first week of Camp, Lines Officers were completely befuddled by phonetic alphabets and teleprinter procedure; wireless experts had become adept with hammer and jumper; Duty Signal Officers had acquired the taste of "spun yarn" flavouring in their haversack rations, and the Despatch Riders were busy picking up the bits from the transport training area.

This training was put to good use in the second week of Camp, when a 36-hour exercise was held to practise the Regiment in the rapid establishment of communications. During this exercise Junior Officers were given an opportunity of gaining their spurs, or dropping them, but most officers and N.C.O.s were at times employed as tradesmen, and some in several trades.

W.O.II Thomas has long been recognised in the Regiment as an artist with pen and ink, water-colour and odd scraps of wood and hardboard, and all ranks of the Regiment were very pleased to hear that his portrait of "A Lineman" had been selected as the front cover of the pamphlet "Royal Signals." The pleasure of seeing him doubling from the Signal Centre to the Wireless Room with an "action" message, was reserved for very few. The message, however, created a little diversion for our R.E.M.E. colleagues of the L.A.D., who spent a pleasant hour fishing in a river for a vehicle "casualty."

Annual Camp gave the Regiment an opportunity to get to know and welcome our new Second-in-Command Major W. C. Ramsay. We are very sorry to lose Captain L. G. Pratt, as Adjutant, but we are looking forward to seeing him back in the Regiment soon as a volunteer. W.O.II Nicholas has recently obtained civilian employment, and although he was unable to attend Camp, he has joined the Regiment as a volunteer. We have recently had the pleasure of welcoming a number of recruits into the Regiment, who acquitted themselves very well during Camp.

The annual Regimental Rifle Meeting was held on Wednesday, 17th July, with results as follows:—

Pistol: 1st, Captain R. G. Smith; 2nd, Lieutenant J. R. Wilkins. Rifle—Application: 1st, Lance-Corporal D. Fox; 2nd, Sergeant J. Reynolds. Snap: 1st Sergeant Reading, R.E.M.E.; 2nd Signalman N. O'Neill. Rapid: Signalman A. L. Smith. Regimental Marksman: Major R. A. Chell, T.D.; runner-up, Sergeant J. Reynolds; third prize, Lance-Corporal T. Cooper. Inter-Squadron Team Prize: 1st, 3 Squadron "A" Team; 2nd, L.A.D., R.E.M.E.

During the course of Camp, the Regiment was inspected at work by Brigadier D. W. R. Burridge, C.B.E. C.S.O., Eastern Command, and Lieutenant-Colonel B. R. M. Hayles, C.S.O. London District, and had the honour of being visited by His Worship the Mayor of Woodford and Wanstead.

Annual Camp, 1957, was generally voted a success by all ranks, and the Regiment returned to Wanstead on 28th July, confident that next year even better results will be obtained.

11 (ULSTER) SIGNAL SQUADRON (T.A.)

11 Signal Liaison Squadron has been redesignated 11 (Ulster) Signal Squadron (T.A.). This is the fourth change of name in nine years, but we are all glad to have "Ulster" once again incorporated in the title.

We are looking forward to our first camp "overseas" since 1954, this time at Barry in Scotland, during the first fortnight in June. Incidentally, it will also be our first camp in Scotland, but having recruited some natives, we do not anticipate any language difficulties.

During the past few months we have added to our Squadron sporting activities. We entered a team in the recent N.I.D. T.A. Championships, and for our first effort did better than we expected, having two contestants in the final. With more experience of competitive boxing, we hope to do better next year.

In the small bore field we have gained four other distinctions during the past season. They include second place in the N.I.D. Championships, after having won the event for the past three years. "Queens" ran out well-deserved winners on this occasion.

We gained first place in the N.S.R.A. small bore match, and third in the B.S.A. Challenge Bowl event. Most of our successes have been by the "Old Guard," led by Sergeant Oliver, but we are glad that new blood is now taking a keen interest in small bore shooting, and are already proving themselves as marksmen.

Formation of Reading and District Branch

An inaugural meeting was held at the Turners Arms, Mortimer West End, near Reading, Berks., on the evening of Wednesday, 21st August, 1957, to form a Royal Signals Association Branch, covering the Reading, Basingstoke and Newbury districts. It was agreed at the meeting that this be named the "Reading and District Branch." Twenty-three members attended the meeting, which was honoured by the presence of Brigadier H. R. Firth, General Secretary, who gave an interesting talk on the organisation and functions of the Association; this was appreciated by all present. Also in attendance were Colonel E. P. Blake, Major F. Strange, and others from Royal Signals Records.

Due to the timing of the meeting, during the summer period, the attendance was not as high as it might have been, some interested members being either on holiday or at T.A. camps.

For the benefit of other readers, who might be interested, the President of the newly-formed Reading and District Branch is Mr. A. W. Barnicott; the Chairman, Mr. C. W. Bowden, and the Treasurer, Captain M. Barton (who is serving with a T.A. Unit in Windsor).

In future, regular meetings of the Branch will be held at the Turners Arms on the first Wednesday of each month, and it is hoped that these will be well attended.



Left to right. Major F. Bartholomew, T.A., Colonel E. P. Blake

Loughborough Branch

The holiday season over, we have made a start to our programme of socials, dances, meetings, etc.—a programme which involves a deal of effort on the part of the Committee, but an effort which always seems worth while when it succeeds in enabling members to keep in touch and help one another.

Last month we said farewell to Major Harvey, and then welcomed his successor as Commanding Officer at 10 W.T.S., Garats Hey, Major B. C. Bovey. Already we are assured of his interest and support and we can confidently look forward to continuing the happy association of the Branch with our friends up the road at Garats Hey.

My Branch "Celebrity Spotlight" falls this month on L. D. (Les) Hadler, who is almost a living legend in these parts! Les joined the Royal Flying Corps as a boy in 1917, subsequently transferring to R.E. Signals in March, 1920. On formation of the Corps, Les spent some time under command of Major Bradbury in "X" Company at Crowborough, then saw service with the Black Sea Signals at Constantinople from 1921-23.

The period from then until 1926 was spent with "A" Corps at Aldershot and during that time Les was a keen footballer, representing both Aldershot Command and "A" Corps.

On leaving the colours, Les took up employment in a small body which has since grown up into the sizeable organisation we know as the War Office Civilian Wireless Service. Indeed, he has played no small part in the growing up process, a part which was recognised by the award of the M.B.E. during 1955. Throughout the Service—and beyond—Les is known and respected for his kindness and the mature wisdom of his approach to life's problems. Perhaps his secret lies in constant recognition of the human dignity of those who come under his authority.



Left to right. W. T. Lowe, Brigadier H. R. Firth, C. W. Bowden, A. W. Barnicott



Left to right. F. G. Duly, V. H. Humby, W. E. Betts

WELFARE SECTION

Below an attempt is made to describe, with suitable anonymity, eight cases taken from the Welfare Section files concluded during the first week in September, 1957. Also on this page is a simple statement of income and expenditure.

Ex-Sergeant, 1926-48. Married, three dependent children, reasonably and safely employed. Illness ended employment, and makes him in future fit for light work only. Fund paid debts for rent during his illness and for short convalescence.

Widow of Signaman, 1941-46, who died 1954. The fund helped to set his two daughters up in clothes for school, as he would have done had he lived. S.S.A.F.A. also helped.

Ex-Signaman, 1943-47. Married, three children, a fourth child died suddenly in infancy. His employment was such that he could draw no pay during the holiday closure of his factory, and the fund helped with the unexpected cost.

Widowed Mother of Signaman, 1939-41, who died whilst serving. She lives on the old age pension, supplemented by a small sum as pension for her two sons and one daughter who died or were killed during the war. The fund helped a little to make her life more tolerable.

Ex-Signaman, 1940-41, married, five children. A long illness made him dependent only on State benefits. The fund helped him to a short convalescent holiday, and also to provide necessary school uniform for one of the children.

Ex-Signaman, 1944-48. His wife died after a fearful illness, involving day and night nursing, leaving him with two young children. The fund helped to pay for the nurses.

Ex-Signaman, 1921-25. Previous service, other Regiments from 1915. His wife, who is blind, nursed him during a long illness, he is now in hospital and will not recover. All savings spent. The Irish Guards and Royal Signals paid outstanding rates and the British Legion the electricity account.

Ex-Corporal, 1931-45. Married, four dependent children. Has been ill for several months, and the Royal Engineers Benevolent Fund, the British Legion and the Royal Signals Association helped to get him clothed and back to work.

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION AND BENEVOLENT FUND

The following subscriptions were most gratefully received during August, 1957:—

	£	s.	d.
School of Signals, Royal Signals Wing	17	5	0
3 Training Regiment	34	7	1
Signal Communication Wing, Royal Military Academy	1	2	0
Northern Command Signal Squadron	10	0	0
24 Independent Infantry Brigade Signal Troop	3	10	0
42 AGRA (A.A.) Signal Squadron, T.A.	5	8	0
Southern Command Signal Squadron	4	16	7
2 Infantry Brigade Signal Troop	2	5	3
London District Signal Regiment A.E.R.	6	0	0
1/20 (S.M.) Army Signal Regiment, T.A.	8	6	0
42 (L) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A.	11	1	0
53 (W) Ditto	15	0	0
Mid West District (M) Signal Regiment, T.A.	8	0	0
N.I.D. (M) Signal Squadron	5	0	0
11 (U) Signal Squadron, T.A.	5	0	0
4 Signal Construction Regiment A.E.R.	6	5	9
SHAPE Signal Squadron	3	9	0
12 Air Formation Signal Regiment	2	0	0
19 Army Group Signal Regiment	50	0	0
3 Squadron, 2 L. of C. Signal Regiment (47 Unit Branch)	20	0	0
Cyprus District Signal Regiment	9	2	0
Total Receipts	£185	15	3

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION WELFARE SECTION

The following donations were most gratefully received during August, 1957:—

	£	s.	d.
Scottish Command Signal Squadron (Reunion—Church Collection)	8	9	1
11 Air Formation Signal Regiment (Balance of No. 3 Unit Branch Funds)	49	8	7
23 Independent Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron, T.A.	1	0	0
Mr. B. C. F. Hamer	10	0	0
Mr. T. Male	1	0	0
Total Receipts	£69	17	8

EXPENDITURE DURING AUGUST, 1957 (Includes: Rent and Rates; Bed and Bedding; Furniture Cots and Prams; General Assistance).

	£	s.	d.
Analysis of Cases:			
Families of Soldiers serving in U.K.	1		
" " " " " B.A.O.R.	1		
Widows and Dependents	8		
Released and Discharged Soldiers	32		
Total cases assisted	42		

23 cases of Soldiers who served during the 1939-45 War	£203	18	3
19 cases of Soldiers who did not serve during the War	£113	16	4

LIGHTER FUEL PACKS

The following amounts were most gratefully received during July and August, 1957:—

Box No.		£	s.	d.
8	4 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment	1	9	0
13	2 Squadron, 2 L. of C.	3	0	0
25	4 Training Regiment	2	0	0
26	7 Training Regiment	1	1	9
29	Royal Signals Wing, School of Signals	1	0	0
33	Chislehurst Branch	6	0	0
34	2 Squadron, U.K. COMCAN Signal Regiment	9	6	0
36	Captain E. J. Angel	15	0	0
39	Cyrenaica Signal Troop	18	0	0
42	H.Q. A.E.R., Royal Signals	8	2	0
44	42 AGRA (A.A.) Signal Squadron, T.A.	15	6	0
50	Eastern Command (M) Signal Regiment, T.A.	3	2	0
54	Scottish Command (M) Signal Regiment, T.A.	1	1	1
67	43 (W) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A.	4	8	9
68	44 (H.C.) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A.	10	0	0
72	52 (L) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A.	19	0	0
76	5 Independent UKLF Reserve Signal Squadron, T.A.	1	12	3
77	North West District (M)	10	0	0
78	5 Independent UKLF Reserve Signal Squadron, T.A.	1	19	3
79	65 Command (M) Signal Regiment, T.A.	6	0	0
85	3 G.H.Q. Signal Regiment	2	0	0
92	B.I.C.C. Athletic and Social Club	1	0	2
97	3 Squadron, 53 (W) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A.	6	0	0
101	3 Squadron, U.K. COMCAN Signal Regiment	5	0	0
Total		£23	7	7



Dreghorn Ranges Assembly Area.

SCOTTISH COMMAND ROYAL SIGNALS RIFLE MEETING, 1957

This event, which has now been included in our annual calendar of events, was held at Dreghorn Ranges on 31st August/1st September. Eleven teams competed for the Corps Shield, and 20 teams for the Falling Plates Competition, whilst 10 firsers competed as individuals.

The very sad and sudden death of R.S.M. O. G. Appleton, of Scottish Command (M) Signal Regiment (T.A.), who was a keen rifle shot, resulted in the withdrawal of their teams.

The shooting was very competitive, and a stiff westerly breeze made allowance for wind quite an important factor.

The results of the competitions were:—

Scottish Command Corps Shield		
1st Scottish Command (M) Signal Squadron	404	points
2nd 52 (L) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment (T.A.)	397	points
3rd 4th Port Task Force Signal Squadron	341	points

Hardy Challenge Cup		
Winner: Sergeant P. Gill, 52 (L) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment (T.A.)	82	points
Runner-up Medal: Major T. J. Carmichael, Royal Signals, 52 (L) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment (T.A.)	75	points

Young Soldiers' Cup		
Lance-Corporal P. Carney, Scottish Command (M) Signal Squadron.		

Falling Plates Competition		
1st 52 (L) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment (T.A.) "A" Team.		
2nd C.S.O.'s Staff Team.		

At the end of an interesting day's shooting, the trophies, medals and prizes were presented to the winners by Mrs. J. C. Hardy.

The Rifle Meeting was again organised and run by Lieutenant-Colonel D. Todd, in his usual efficient manner, and all who helped in the various administrative and range duties are to be congratulated and thanked for their help in making the meeting a success.



Presentation of Prizes by Mrs. J. C. Hardy

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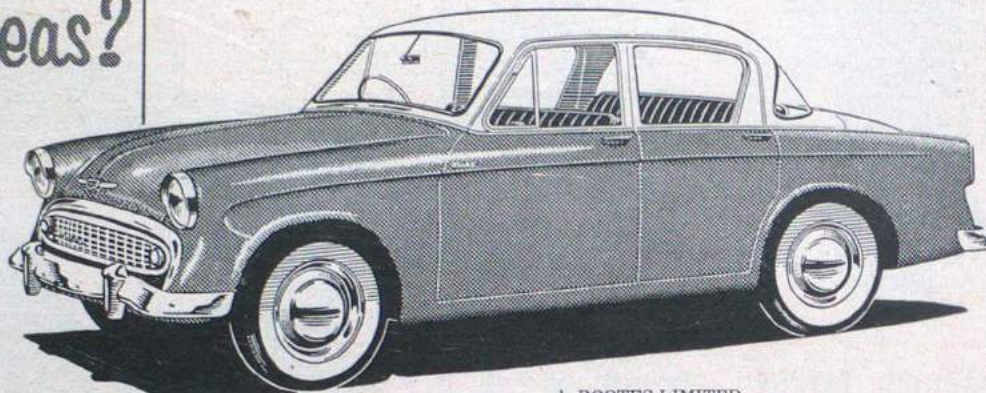
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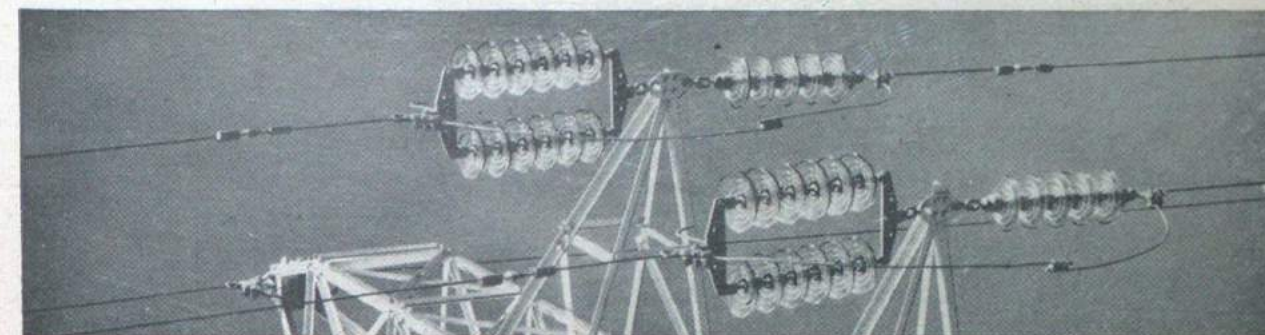
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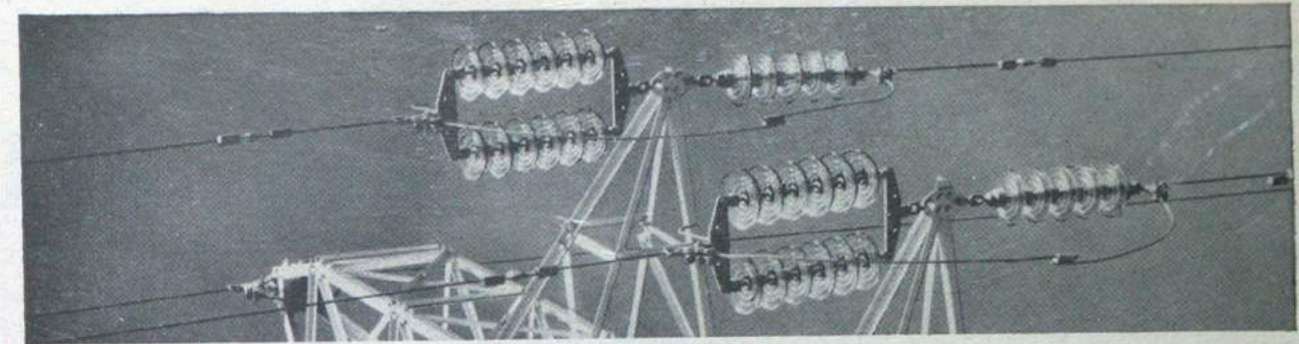
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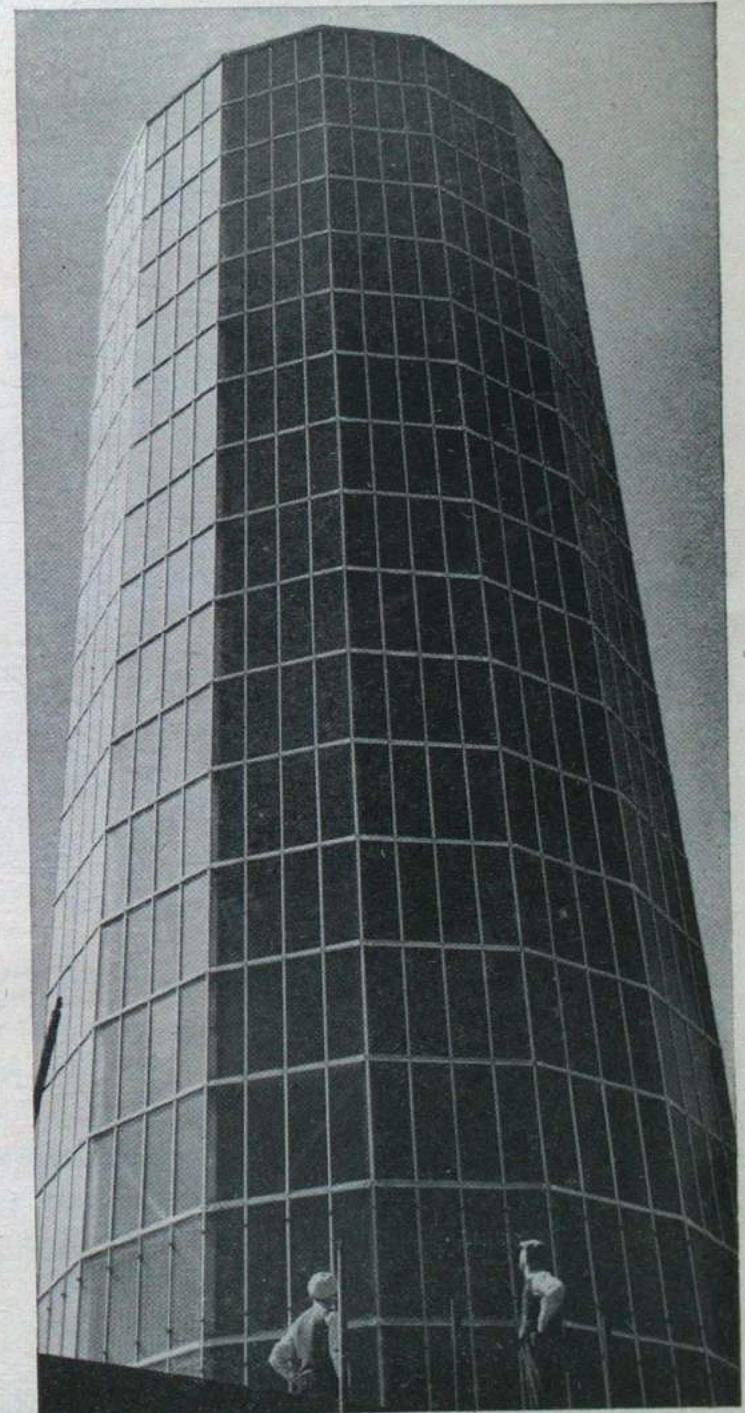
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THE WIRE

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.

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



NOVEMBER • 1957
Vol. 11 (New Series) No. 11



PRICE ONE SHILLING

Editorial

ASSOCIATION SUBSCRIPTIONS

SOME explanation of the alterations to Rules 6 and 11 of the Association which were published in the October number of THE WIRE and sent to Branches with News Letter No. 77 is desirable. The basic change is one not only of cost but also of principle.

Annual Membership Subscriptions to the Association are to be increased and from 1st of January, 1958, Officers will pay 10/- and Other Ranks 5/-.

As considered at the Annual General Meeting, this increase is amply justified. The old subscriptions were settled in 1920, when 2/- purchased more than 5/- does now.

Life Membership Subscriptions are also to be increased. Those who become Life Members after 1st January, 1958, will have to pay, if an Other Rank, £2/10/-. Life Membership Subscription for Officers remains unchanged at £5.

Those, particularly Other Ranks, who are at present Annual Members or who are thinking of joining the Association will do well to consider the obvious advantage of becoming a Life Member BEFORE 31st December, 1957, until which date the cost is only £1/10/-.

BRANCHES OF THE ASSOCIATION

Rule 6 as altered contains an entirely new principle. When a member paid his Annual Subscription to his Branch, the Branch kept all of it to offset the costs of paper, postage, etc. incurred in administering the Branch.

On 1st January, 1958, this principle is changed and the Annual Subscription of a member who pays to his Branch is now divided.

Annual Subscription	Kept by Branch	Sent to Association Headquarters
Officer 10/-	6/-	4/-
Other Rank 5/-	3/-	2/-

Members' Annual Subscriptions are due on the anniversary of the date of joining the Association. Branches should therefore send in their annual returns on 15th March in the ordinary way, but also send to Headquarters 2/- for each Annual Member (4/- in case of Officers) who has paid his subscription by that date.

Thereafter a further 2/- (or 4/-) should be sent to Headquarters quarterly for all those who have paid their Annual Subscriptions during the quarter.

Mention is made above of the Annual returns and for simplicity these are set out below.

All Branches of the Association, whether "Unit" Branches or "Local" Branches have to send each year by 15th March:

Affiliation fee of £1/1/-.

An audited statement of Income and Expenditure of the Branch account.

A list of names and addresses of all Branch members.

This latter is best arranged in three Sections:

Life Members.

Annual Members who by that date have paid their subscriptions and for each of whom 2/- (or 4/-) is sent to Headquarters.

Annual Members whose subscriptions have not yet been paid.

THE WIRE

After very careful consideration the Central Committee of the Association, with the approval of the Corps Committee, have most reluctantly decided that the price of each copy of THE WIRE must be increased to 1/3d. on 1st January, 1958.

The old price of 1/- was adjudged sufficient when THE WIRE was restarted in 1946. The cost of producing the magazine has increased very considerably since then and an increase in the price charged has only been avoided by most stringent economy in production, by the great effort made

by very many to keep up the sales and by a large subsidy from the Association.

As an example of increased costs, it is estimated that the increase in postal charges which came into effect on 1st October, 1957, will increase the cost of despatching THE WIRE to readers by between £120 and £150 a year.

There is an obvious connection between the number of copies sold and the cost of production of each copy. Revenue from advertising also increases, decreases sharply in relation to the number of copies sold.

If everyone will do their best to increase sales or at least maintain sales at the present level all will be well.

In this number will be found order forms, including Bankers' Orders, and all who have their copies sent individually are requested to return this pro forma, including the Bankers' Order form completed, as soon as possible. All individual orders not paid for by 1st January, 1958, will be placed in abeyance until payment is received.

Regiments, Squadrons and Branches of the Association, who buy in bulk will be asked to pay the increased rate as from the 1st January, in the normal manner.

Alternatively, if you do not wish to subscribe to THE WIRE during 1958 would you kindly inform the Editor.

ROYAL SIGNALS INSTITUTION

The fifth Annual General Meeting of the Royal Signals Institution will be held at 2.30 p.m. on Saturday, 7th December, 1957, in the Bishop Partridge Hall, Church House, Westminster, S.W.1 (entrance in Great Smith Street, Westminster, S.W.1, only).

W. T. HOWE, Brigadier,
Secretary.



ROYAL SIGNALS DIARIES, 1958

Diaries are now available.

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.		(b) IN GREEN LEATHER	
	s. d.		s. d.
Published Price	12 10	Published Price	3 9
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	s. d.		s. d.
Published Price	2 11	Published Price	2 1
Purchase Tax	7	Purchase Tax	5
	3 6		2 6

All intending purchasers should note that cash must be sent with orders and that postage at the following rates should also be included:

Postage (Home and Abroad)			
One copy	4d.	4/5 copies	10d.
Two copies	6d.	6/7 copies	1/1
Three copies	7d.	8/14 copies	1/3



VALE

MAJOR-GENERAL M. S. WHEATLEY,
C.B., C.B.E.

Mervyn Wheatley is the last of the Directors of Signals who transferred to the Corps from other arms and, conversely, his successor, Major-General R. J. Moberly, will be the first Director of Signals (now Signal Officer-in-Chief) to be commissioned directly into the Corps.

General Wheatley started his career in the Dorsetshire Regiment and, it is interesting to note, that ex-Infantry Officers have provided more Directors of Signals than any other arm since the appointment was first created.

He was commissioned in the Dorsetshire Regiment from the R.M.C. Sandhurst in 1918 and served with his regiment in India, the Sudan and Egypt before coming home in 1924 to attend a "Q" Course at Maresfield Park. Many trials, tribulations and humours were associated with these courses. Mervyn Wheatley evidently acquitted himself as "an officer and a gentleman" for he was duly transferred to Royal Signals in December, 1925.

During his service in the Corps he commanded 1 Armoured Divisional Signals and the Signal Training Centre, was C.S.O., 2nd Armoured Group, 13 Corps (N. Africa) and M.E.L.F., and held many important Signal Staff appointments. In the post-war period he commanded the South Canal District in Egypt and was Deputy Commander of Mid-Wessex District. He was created a C.B.E. in 1945 and a C.B. in 1953.

Mervyn possesses great persuasive charm, which has stood him in good stead when fighting the interminable battles to increase the efficiency and welfare of the Corps. He has a most cheerful disposition which has helped him to make a host of friends both in and out of the Corps.

His many friends will wish him all the best for the future.

Obituary

COLONEL J. R. PINSENT

Colonel John Ryland Pinsent, C.B.E., D.S.O., Chairman of the Civil Service Selection Board from 1945 to 1950, died on 2nd October, 1957, at the age of 67. The third son of Sir Richard Pinsent, first Baronet, he was educated at Winchester and at R.M.A., Woolwich, and was subsequently commissioned in the Royal Engineers, with whom he served until 1920, winning a D.S.O. in the War of 1914-18 and being four times mentioned in dispatches.

He transferred to the Royal Corps of Signals in 1920 and remained with that Regiment until 1924. Two years later he returned to his old school to teach and was on the staff until 1934. He was a member of Winchester City Council between 1931 and 1945, was elected Alderman, and served as Mayor in 1937. He rejoined the Army in the War of 1939-45, commanded 152 O.C.T.U., and was President of No. 4 W.O.S.B. In 1949 he was appointed C.B.E.

Extracted from and by courtesy of "The Times."

The deep sympathy of his many friends in Royal Signals will be extended to his widow, sons and daughters.

A Memorial Service was held in the chapel of Winchester College on the 9th October, and amongst others was attended by two ex-Colonels Commandant of Royal Signals, Major-General G. G. Rawson, C.B., O.B.E., M.C., and Mrs. Rawson, and Major-General Sir Leslie G. Phillips, K.B.E., C.B., M.C., and Lady Phillips.

COLONEL H. LLOYD-HOWARD, M.C., T.D.

The death on 10th October of Colonel Hugh Lloyd-Howard marks the passing of an officer who rendered great services to the Army and the Corps.

His record of service is remarkable and demonstrates clearly his love for the Army and willingness to give up what should have been his leisure hours to voluntary service. I say "leisure hours" for Hugh Lloyd-Howard was not a man of leisure but a very hard working and full-time business man.

August, 1914 Joined Artists Rifles as Rifleman.
November, 1914 Transferred to R.E. and posted as Second-Lieutenant to 24 Divisional Signals Co. R.E. on its formation, proceeding to France with it in August, 1915, as Infantry Brigade Section Officer.

1917 Posted to 2 Divisional Signals as Second-in-Command.

1918 Served with III Corps Signals.

1918 O.C. 36 Ulster Divisional Signals.

1922 O.C. 56 (1st London) Divisional Signals.

1926 Rejoined Artists Rifles as Rifleman and became Signal Sergeant.

1928 Rejoined the Corps as Second-in-Command, 47 (2nd London) Divisional Signals.

1932 O.C. 47 (2nd London) Divisional Signals.

1936 Rejoined Artists Rifles as Major.

1936 Promoted Colonel, T.A.

In 1952 he was compelled to revert to the T.A.R.O. on account of increasing deafness due to war wounds.

During the late war, to his great sorrow, his deafness prevented him from joining up yet again but he raised, trained and commanded a unit of the Home Guard in Ilford.

I first met Hugh in September, 1915, when I took over command of 24 Divisional Signal Company, R.E., on its arrival in France. During the two years he was under my command he proved himself to be the ideal Brigade Signal Officer. Fearless, full of energy and enthusiasm, he was admired and loved not only by his section but throughout his Brigade. I can say in all sincerity that during my service I was never better or more loyally served.

I had no personal knowledge of his subsequent service

but am assured by those with whom he served that this very high standard was maintained. When his active service was ended, his affection for the Corps and for his Old Comrades was shown by his never failing presence at Corps Dinners and Unit Reunions. In so far as 24 Divisional Signals was concerned, he kept in close touch with all its Old Comrades he could trace and was ready to give a helping hand to any who were in trouble. He also organised and ran the Unit annual reunion in London.

His only son joined the Corps and was killed in action in France in 1944.

The closing years of his life were marred by increasing ill-health. But a series of major operations which would have put paid to any normal man failed to daunt him and when I saw him a few days before he died he was confidently talking of his intention to run our reunion again next year.

The Corps has lost one of its most devoted and valuable members and will wish to extend its sincere sympathy to his widow and daughters and also to his 90-year-old mother, who survives him.

Memorial Service, 5 p.m., Friday, 25th October, 1957, St. Mary's, Bryanston Square, London, W.1.

Lieutenant-Colonel C. Vincent-Smith, T.D., represented the Royal Corps of Signals and his own Regiment, 2 (London) Signal Regiment, T.A., which was previously 47 (2 London) Divisional Signals.

2338623 W.O.I (R.S.M.) O. G. APPLETON Scottish Command (M) Signal Regiment (T.A.)

It is with the deepest regret that we have to record the death from coronary thrombosis of R.S.M. O. G. Appleton at Dreghorn Ranges, Edinburgh, on Sunday, 1st September, 1957, at the early age of 37 years.

A brief account of his Army career appeared on page 260 of THE WIRE, August, 1956, under the title "R.S.M.s of the Corps."

He joined his last Regiment as R.S.M. on 20th October, 1955, after 10 months in hospital. Despite his ill-health, which must have caused him considerable anxiety, he made his presence felt throughout the Regiment from the beginning, and he quickly earned the respect of All Ranks. In addition to his other Regimental duties, he did an excellent job of work as M.T. Officer. He was a keen rifle shot, a Motor Cycle Trials enthusiast, and took an active interest in all social functions of the Regiment. His total service amounted to 18 years on the day of his untimely death.

He was buried with full military honours on Wednesday, 4th September, 1957, at Corstorphine Hill Cemetery, Edinburgh. His coffin was borne in procession from Liberton to Corstorphine on a gun carriage provided by 278 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery (T.A.). The bearer party comprised eight Warrant Officers of the Corps, led by W.O.I (R.S.M.) Ward, of 52 (Lowland) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment (T.A.), a great personal friend. The Firing Party was provided by Scottish Command (Mixed) Signal Squadron, and the Piper and Bugler by the Highland Light Infantry.

The funeral was attended by Brigadier J. C. Hardy, Chief Signal Officer, Scottish Command; Lieutenant-Colonel J. Lothian, E.R.D., T.D., Commanding Scottish Command (M) Signal Regiment (T.A.); Lieutenant-Colonel D. Todd, M.B.E., Colonel G. I. Burgess-Wynn, O.B.E., Major W. Hotchkiss and Captain Wright, Scottish Command (Mixed) Signal Squadron; Captain H. Tait, representing Lieutenant-Colonel R. Linton, C.R. Signals, 52 (Lowland) Infantry Division; and nine Officers, 20 Other Ranks and the civilian Permanent Staff of the Regiment.

All Ranks of the Corps, and particularly those who had the privilege of serving with R.S.M. Appleton, will wish to join with this Regiment in offering their condolences to his widow, his children, Peter and Elizabeth, and other members of his family.

PERSONAL COLUMN

London Gazette

13th September, 1957

Major (Tfc. Offr.) D. A. Ellisson retires 31st August, 1957.

Captain J. M. K. Bell, retires 26th August, 1957.

Lieutenant (T.O.T.) D. F. D. Barry to be Captain (T.O.T.), 9th September, 1957.

17th September, 1957

Awarded the 1st Clasp to the Army Emergency Reserve Decoration:

Captain P. R. King, E.R.D.

Hon. Major E. Paulk.

Awarded Army Emergency Reserve Decoration:

Captain E. Sharpe, M.B.E.

Hon. Major E. Paulk.

Awarded the 2nd Clasp to the Territorial Efficiency Decoration:

Lieutenant-Colonel J. A. H. Bray, T.D.

Awarded the 1st Clasp to the Territorial Efficiency Decoration:

Lieutenant-Colonel J. Milner, T.D.

Major J. B. Franks, T.D.

20th September, 1957

Major (Q.M.) F. Spearpoint to be Lieutenant-Colonel (Q.M.), 18th August, 1957.

1st October, 1957

Major (T.O.T.) H. A. Fuller, M.B.E., relinquishes his commission on completion of service, 1st October, 1957, and is granted the honorary rank of Major.

4th October, 1957

Major H. V. Hayfield retires on retired pay 29th September, 1957, and is granted the honorary rank of Lieutenant-Colonel.

Captain (Q.M.) R. Hodgson to be Major (Q.M.), 3rd October, 1957.

8th October, 1957

Captain (Tfc. Offr.) J. F. Scott to be Major (Tfc. Offr.), 27th September, 1957.

Captain D. P. Garnons-Williams, to be Major, 7th October, 1957.

Movements — Officers

Major W. Dermitt, Depot (HS) to A.A.T.T. and D.C.

Major M. H. Broadway, A.A.T.T. and D.C. to R.M.A., Sandhurst.

Major L. S. McCarthy, 3 Training Regiment to Independent Brigade Signal Squadron.

Major E. H. Davies, R.M.C.S. to B.A.O.R.

Major P. E. Mott, Special Signal Troop to B.A.O.R.

Major B. C. Pigg, B.A.O.R. to M.E.L.F.

Major A. W. Richards, R.M.C.S. to B.A.O.R.

Major J. M. Westwood, R.M.C.S. to B.A.O.R.

Captain (Tfc. Offr.) G. E. Homer, B.A.O.R. to FARELF.

Captain (Tfc. Offr.) A. Kerr, SHAPE to War Office Signal Squadron.

Lieutenant (Q.M.) V. W. G. King, SHAPE to B.A.O.R.

Major J. E. L. Adams, Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A. to M.E.L.F.

Major R. W. Seabrook, M.E.L.F. to Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A.

Captain (T.O.T.) P. Shackleton, Depot (HS) to 5 Training Regiment.

Major (Q.M.) M. Cullen, Depot (HS) to AGRA Signal Squadron.

Major R. S. D. Maunsell, M.E.L.F. to Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment.

Major C. C. Wardle, B.A.O.R. to 4 Training Regiment.

Major F. A. Wainwright, B.A.O.R. to FARELF.

Major R. H. Blizzard, SHAPE Signal Squadron to M.E.L.F.

Major T. L. Richards, O.T.W., School of Signals to W.O.S.B.

Major V. C. Valle, W.O.S.B. to School of Military Engineering.

Major W. G. B. Wright, War Office to B.A.O.R.

Major L. Beaumont, 2 Training Regiment to M.E.L.F.

Major G. D. B. McKean, H.Q. A.E.R. Royal Signals to H.Q. Mid West District.

Major A. T. Scott, H.Q. Mid West District to R.M.A., Sandhurst.

Major P. E. Hutchins, R.M.A. Sandhurst to B.A.O.R.

Major J. M. Sawers, Joint Services Staff College to B.A.O.R.

Arrivals and Departures

Officer Training Wing, School of Signals

Arrivals: Sergeants Turney, Kinsella and Hammond-Haley.

Departures: Captain W. Batty, Staff Sergeant Palmer and Sergeant Clark.

1 Training Regiment

Departures: Majors J. W. Eagle and A. Lamb, Staff Sergeant R. E. Howard.

Sergeants C. S. J. Bull, J. Cooper and A. F. Cottee, W.O.I J. V.

Harding and P. E. A. Hall.

U.K. COMCAN Signal Regiment

Arrivals: W.O.II S. Barrett, Sergeants D. C. Allen, J. A. Cawood, O'Brien

(R.A.P.C.), Grant (A.C.C.).

2 Wireless Regiment

Arrivals: W.O.II B. J. King, Sergeants A. A. Burgess, G. R. Craddock, A. G. Maxwell, R. F. Pearsall and E. G. Todd.

Departures: W.O.II T. E. Knight, Sergeants M. Butler, J. W. Banks.

7 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment

Arrivals: Major G. W. Blackburne, Major (Q.M.) W. G. Walters, Captains D. S. Clarke, A. J. Jackson and A. J. Baker.

Departures: Major P. F. Yeatman, M.B.E., Captains C. E. H. Mawson and J. Cox.

3 Training Regiment

Arrivals: Captain F. N. Spencer, W.O.II Chilvers, Sergeant Shakespeare.

Departures: Major G. A. Weedon, Sergeants Gardner, Rogers.

Births

BOW.—To Major and Mrs. Bow, a daughter, Joanne Denise at Catterick Camp, on 30th August, 1957.

All the following of 2 Wireless Regiment

MOULSHER.—To Sergeant and Mrs. B. D. Moulsher, a son, Phillip Leslie, at B.M.H., Nicosia, on 25th July, 1957.

McGREGOR.—To Sergeant and Mrs. R. McGregor, a son, Barry, at B.M.H., Nicosia, on 8th July, 1957.

COLEMAN.—To Corporal and Mrs. R. B. Coleman, a son, Benjaiman Paul, at B.M.H., Nicosia, on 11th July, 1957.

Deaths

TAYLOR.—Ex C.S.M. H. Taylor, 334, Barlow Moor Road, Chorlton-cum-Hardy, in June, 1957.

LLOYD-HOWARD.—Colonel H. Lloyd-Howard, M.C., T.D., at his home, Pettitts Hall, Chigwell, Essex, on 10th October, 1957. 1914-18: 24th, 2nd, 36th Divisional Signals, III Corps Signals. 1922-26: 56th (1st London) Divisional Signals. 1928-36: 47th (2 London) Divisional Signals.

HICKEY.—2325825 W.O.II (S.S.M.) P. Hickey, on 8th September, 1957.

THOMPSON.—23257219 Lance-Corporal M. Thompson, on 1st September, 1957.

CHAMPION.—23156623 Signalman M. D. R. Champion, on 18th September, 1957.

JONES.—23391359 Signalman D. V. Jones, on 20th September, 1957.

MARSON.—23393669 Signalman L. W. Marson, on 30th September, 1957.

PINSENT.—Colonel John Ryland Pinsent, C.B.E., D.S.O., on 2nd October, 1957, at his home, Priors Barton, Winchester. Royal Engineers and Royal Corps of Signals.

MANTON.—Major (Q.M.) C. H. Manton, M.B.E., who retired in 1945, at his home, Green Gates, Carlyon Bay, South Cornwall, 18th October, 1957, aged 72 years.

Forthcoming Events

T.A. and A.E.R. Officers' "At Home," 1957

The "At Home" for Royal Signals Officers of the Territorial Army and Army Emergency Reserve and their wives, also for W.R.A.C. Officers of the Territorial Army, will be held this year at the Hyde Park Hotel, Knightsbridge, S.W.1., on Saturday, 7th December, 1957, at 4.0 for 4.30 p.m. Dress: Lounge suits.

The Colonel-in-Chief, H.R.H. The Princess Royal, C.L., G.C.V.O., G.B.E., has graciously accepted an invitation to the present.

Tickets, (8/6 per person) may be obtained from the Honorary Secretary, Royal Signals Officers' 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, 1957

The Royal Signals Officers' Buffet Supper and Reunion is to be held this year at the Territorial Army Centre (Army Phantom Signal Regiment) (Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment, T.A.), 190, Hammersmith Road, London, W.6., also on Saturday, 7th December, 1957. Time: 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. Dress: Lounge suits.

All officers who have served, or who are serving with Royal Signals (i.e., Regular and Retired, T.A., T.A.R.O., A.E.R., and W.E.C. officers) will be welcome at this Reunion, which will be quite informal. It is hoped that all who are able, will attend and help to make the Reunion a success. All Signal Regiments are asked to help by publicising this Reunion to the numerous officers who are no longer serving.

Tickets (14/- per person) may be obtained from the Honorary Secretary, Royal Signals Officers' Dinner Club, Room 102, Horse Guards, Whitehall, S.W.1. Cheques should be made payable to Royal Signals Dinner Club.

54 (E.A.) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment (T.A.) (Late 61 Army Signal Regiment, T.A.) Officers' Ball

The Annual Ball will be held once again in the Hyde Park Hotel, on Saturday, December 7th, 1957.

Tickets, 30/- each, including buffet supper, from 40, Ashburnham Road, Bedford.

ROYAL SIGNALS HOCKEY, 1957/58

3rd December, 1957	R.A.S.C.	Aldershot
4th December, 1957	R.M.A.	Sandhurst

ROYAL SIGNALS RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB, 1957/58

NOVEMBER			
† 16	Preston Grasshoppers	...	Preston
20	Northern Command v. Western Command	...	Catterick
21	Roundhay	...	Catterick
† 27	Royal Engineers	...	Catterick
30	Huddersfield	...	Catterick
DECEMBER			
7	Harrogate	...	Catterick
† 12	Cambridge L.X. Club	...	Catterick
18	Oxford University Greyhounds	...	Catterick
21	Wakefield	...	Catterick

† Corps Representative Matches.

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL CLUB

NOVEMBER			
* 27	R.E.M.E. (A)	...	Bordon
DECEMBER			
4	Bede College (H)	...	Catterick
FEBRUARY, 1958			
12	Durham University (H)	...	Catterick
26	Bede College (A)	...	Durham

* Corps Representative Match.

Major W. N. Sutcliffe has retired after approximately 34 years' service, and was ordained into the Ministry of the Church of England on 22nd September, 1957. His address now is: The Reverend W. N. Sutcliffe, "Sunnydene," Hollow Lane, Cheddleton, N. Staffs.

Ex-W.O.I A. S. Medlycott is now managing an Off Licence at 8, Market Place, Acton, London, W.3, and would be glad to see any old friends.

THE CORPS BIRTHDAY A Curious Coincidence

As many know the Corps of Signals was created by His Majesty King George V in the 11th year of his reign by an order signed on the 28th June, 1920.

The 38th Anniversary in 1958 falls on a Saturday. Saturday, 28th and Sunday, 29th June, 1958, have been chosen as the "Corps Week End" when the members of the Association go to Catterick for their Annual Reunion and the General Meeting of the Association.

"THE PENNANT"

The October number of the above, which is the journal of "The Officers' Pensions Society," has been greatly enlarged and contains a number of articles which should be of great interest to officers who are likely to fall into the "Redundancy Zone."

Sir Frederic Hooper, the new appointed Chairman of the Resettlement Board, has contributed a most interesting article and "The Problems of Resettlement" by Rear Admiral C. T. Jellicoe, C.B., D.S.O., D.S.C., Joint Director of the Officers' Association Resettlement and Employment Department, is very helpful.

In addition there are reprints of articles from the "Manager," the "Economist" and "Letters to a Soldier" from the "Stock Exchange Gazette." The last named gives most valuable advice on such subjects as investments, buying a business, insurance and income tax.

It is felt that serving officers who are likely to retire in the near future, but are not yet eligible for membership of the Society, would like to have a copy of this publication. Arrangements have, therefore, been made by the Officers' Pensions

Society for the supply of copies to non-members at a cost of 1/6 each. (Cash with order, please).

Applications for copies should be sent to: The General Secretary, Officers' Pensions Society, 171, Victoria Street, London, S.W.1.

THE ARMY QUARTERLY

This was first published in 1920, and has up to now been devoted to Army and allied matters. With the increasing trend towards closer co-operation, if not actual integration, between the Fighting Services those connected with the journal feel that the time has come to extend its scope to a wider field.

Commencing with the January, 1958, number the title will be changed to *The Army Quarterly and Defence Journal*, and regular articles on Naval and Air Force matters, and frequent articles on Civil Defence, will be included. As in the past most articles will deal with current military problems, but there will also be many of historical interest. Contributions of value to officers studying for the Staff Colleges and Promotion examinations will be given special emphasis.

The journal will continue to sponsor the Bertrand Stewart Prize Essay and the George Knight Clowes Memorial Prize Essay, and will include reviews, and lists, of the best books on Service matters.

The Army Quarterly and Defence Journal is not an official publication, and is not tied to the official view. It, however, acknowledges with gratitude the help and advice so frequently given by the War Office and other Ministries.

The annual subscription (for four numbers) is £2 (individual copies 10/-)—post free to any part of the world.

A NOVEL WAY OF DISPOSING OF A BUSINESS

Mr. J. P. Appleton who served in Royal Signals from 1940 to 1942 has for 12 years been operating a Press and Commercial Photographic business in Stoke-on-Trent. The business is a completely going concern and Mr. Appleton wishes to dispose of it and all the equipment, solely because of ill-health. He is attempting to do this by running a competition which he advertises as a "£2,500 Business for 2/6."

The competition takes the form of placing in order six of the most important factors in the successful running of a business.

Mr. Appleton will be only too willing to provide those interested with books of tickets. It is intended to print them in books of ten, and the seller of a book may retain two of the ten tickets for himself.

It is understood that the competition will close in January, 1958, and anyone interested should write to: J. Appleton, Esq., Welch Street, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, in good time.

Mr. Appleton would also, no doubt, consider an offer to dispose of the business privately.

MATTER FOR PUBLICATION

The Editor wishes to stress the fact that all copy for publication in *THE WIRE* should be posted in time to reach him BEFORE the 15th of the month.

In recent months an increasing amount of copy has been arriving as late as the 16th and 17th, and if this late copy is included it is impossible for the Printer to keep to the schedule and publish on the 15th.

Only when the 15th falls on a Saturday or Sunday, is it permissible for copy to arrive on the 16th or 17th.

ROYAL ALBERT HALL MEETING

The British Legion and a number of other Associations organised on 20th October, 1957, a mass meeting at the Royal Albert Hall in London designed to bring pressure to bear on the Government for an increase in the pensions of the war disabled and war widows.

Invitations to attend were sent to all Members of Parliament and about 100 accepted.

The proceedings were brief. Sir Ian Fraser, C.H., C.B.E., M.P., explained the purpose and necessity of the resolution, which was seconded by Air Marshal Sir Robert H. M. S. Saundby, K.B.E., C.B., M.C., D.F.C., A.F.C., on behalf of all the other Associations, which he listed by name.

The newspapers and television gave prominence to this important event, which was attended by about 4,500 ex-Servicemen and women. The Prime Minister received a small deputation the next day, who handed the resolution to him and it is understood that he told the deputation that the matter was already under active consideration by the Government.

THE RESOLUTION

This mass meeting of ex-Servicemen, women and war widows, representing the National Ex-Service Associations listed below:

- Expresses its deep concern at the continuing fall in value of pensions granted to those disabled in the Service of the Crown and of those granted to the dependants of the fallen and calls upon Her Majesty's Government to redress the injustice so caused by taking immediate steps to grant a further and more substantial increase in the basic rate of war disability pensions and widows' pensions;
- asks the Prime Minister to receive a deputation from this meeting to call his attention to this resolution; and
- directs that a copy be sent to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Minister of Pensions and National Insurance and other Ministers and to Members of Parliament.

British Legion

Association of Jewish Ex-Servicemen and Women

Association of Retired Naval Officers

Association of Wrens

Burma Star Association

Dunkirk Veterans' Association

Ex-Services Mental Welfare Society

National Federation of Far Eastern Prisoners of

War, Clubs and Associations of Great Britain,

and Northern Ireland

Old Contemptibles' Association

Officers' Families Fund Inc.

Officers' Pensions Society Ltd.

Royal Artillery Association

Royal Marines Association

Royal Signals Association

Salonika Reunion Association

Sherwood Foresters Association

Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Families Association

tion

St. Dunstan's

The Officers' Association

The Pathfinder Association Ltd.

The Royal Air Forces Association

The Royal Naval Association

BLUE BOOK — 4th EDITION

A small stock of the 4th Edition of the Blue Book, published during May, 1957, is held at Association Headquarters. Anyone who has not ordered through his unit should apply, sending remittance of 2/- to cover cost, to Royal Signals Association, 88, Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1.

PROMOTIONS

The following substantive promotions were authorised during the month of September, 1957:—

TRADES ROSTER

TO WARRANT OFFICER I			
2326737	A/W.O.I	(2440)	Gilhooly, A. L.
TO WARRANT OFFICER II			
558068	A/W.O.II	(340)	Burton, I. N.
2325375	A/W.O.II	(510)	Alexander, A. V.
2328853	A/W.O.II	(980)	Day, G. R.
795278	A/W.O.II	(2980)	Cloke, A. L. J.
2328337	S/Sgt.	(3640)	Fairfield, W. A.
14326512	S/Sgt.	(3670)	Morrison, A.
14447993	A.W.O.II	(3850)	Woodland, J. R.
TO SERGEANT			
2549589	Cpl.	(29792)	Cairns, J. M. W.
23233714	Cpl.	(53210)	Allan, J.
22569917	Cpl.	(39660)	Hall, D. V. F.
22296843	Cpl.	(36350)	Meekings, H. A. C.
22246047	Cpl.	(27220)	Howe, B.
21005080	Cpl.	(25422)	Parry, R. J.

FOREMAN OF SIGNALS ROSTER

TO STAFF SERGEANT			
22212055	A/S/Sgt.	(12350)	Taylor, A. R.
22309232	A/S/Sgt.	(12420)	Davies, R. F. A.
22381597	A/S/Sgt.	(15480)	Swaby, P. J.

DELETIONS

Trades Roster		W.O.II		Staff Sergeant	
W.O.I	160 800	1280 4832		2530	
Sergeant	14750 1130	24920 24860	25010	160	25640 23970
	13030 7300	17900 24070			

Signal Centre Supervisor Roster		Cipher Roster	
W.O.II	450		Sergeant 1740

Foreman of Signals Roster

Staff Sergeant 670

INSERTIONS

Trades Roster		W.O.II	
W.O.I	2323488 Cloughley, W.	(622)	2055853 Knowles, M. A. (4834)

Cipher Roster

Sergeant	22242002 Warren, A.	(1474)	22537535 Osmond, V. (1884)
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Careers and Opportunity

(IMPORTANT: Anyone obtaining employment through answering advertisements in *THE WIRE* MUST notify the Employment Section, Royal Signals Association, 88, Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1.

Members are reminded that they can ensure prompt notification of any vacancies likely to suit them by registering with the Employment Section. Jobs advertised in *THE WIRE* are only a small proportion of those received.

The Manager, Mercury House, Bournemouth

Major and Mrs. S. Dunningham are, reluctantly, to give up the management of Mercury House in mid-January.

Their successors must be appointed about that time. The duties comprise the complete organisation and running of Mercury House, including catering, keeping the accounts, etcetera.

The work is arduous during the summer months. There are some guests during the winter, but these four months are devoted to care and maintenance and the manager's holiday.

The manager and his wife have full board and lodging and a salary which commences at £300 a year and rises by increments of £25 a year.

For copies of the Manager's Charter and further details apply Royal Signals Association, 88, Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1.

Wireless Operators, aged 18-32 have the opportunity of a career in the War Office Civilian Wireless Service. Employment after training may be in any part of the United Kingdom or overseas. Prospects of establishment (pensionable status) for suitable candidates. For full details apply to Employment Section, Royal Signals Association (see page 345).

Yeoman Warder, H.W. Tower of London

In the course of conversation, individuals have occasionally regretted that they did not know in time of the conditions under which application for appointment may be made.

The following is taken from the Calendar and Guide published by the Union Jack Services Clubs, 1957:—

1. A candidate for the appointment of Yeoman Warder, H.M. Tower of London, must be:—
 - (a) A Warrant Officer or Colour-Sergeant serving, on date of application, on a Regular Engagement in the British Army or the Royal Air Force. If he has received temporary promotion to Commissioned rank in time of war, he will not be debarred from consideration.
 - (b) In possession of the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.
 - (c) Under 50 years of age on assuming the appointment.
 - (d) Not less than 5ft. 8in. in height (measured without boots).
 - (e) In possession of at least one medal for Field Service.
 Preference will be given to those in possession of decorations.
2. The application will be forwarded to the Constable's Office, H.M. Tower of London, E.C.3, and accompanied by:—
 - (a) A recommendation from the candidate's C.O.
 - (b) A medical certificate that the candidate is fit to perform the duties of a Yeoman Warder and showing thereon his height, without boots, on the day of examination.
 - (c) Certified true copies of A.F.s B.120, B.178, B.200, or equivalent.
 If, from the above documents, the candidate is found satisfactory, he will be informed accordingly and that an interview in the Constable's office, H.M. Tower of London, is necessary. The cost of the journey for this interview will have to be paid by the applicant.

Employment Figures for Quarter Ending 30th September, 1957

New applicants registered	...	36
Placings confirmed	...	21
Other queries answered	...	101

Other advertisements about Employment are on pages 337 and 338 and on the cover.

The new postal charges increase the cost of sending notice of vacancies to members who register with the Association for advice about employment.

Regrettably, such members often fail to inform the Employment Section when they have found work. Association funds must not be wasted in sending out information to men who may no longer be interested.

In future, applicants will be asked to write to the Employment Section at least once a month confirming that they still wish to hear of vacancies. Those who do not comply will be deleted from the books.

R.E. (Signals) and Royal Signals Ex-Boys' Dinner



Mrs. Cox, Bob Cox, Mrs. Herbert



Major V. J. King, Major G. H. R. Flynn, M.B.E., Lieutenant-Colonel A. F. Herbert, M.B.E., Major-General R. J. Moberly, C.B., O.B.E., Brigadier W. G. Tucker, C.B.E., Major F. G. Strange (Chairman)

The fourth annual dinner was held at Williamson's Tavern, Bow Lane, London, on 5th October, 1957. Major F. G. Strange, the Chairman, presided.

Major-General and Mrs. Moberly and Brigadier Firth were the principal guests; other well known and welcome guests included Brigadier and Mrs. Tucker, Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. Carpenter, Mr. Vic Goodman and two "Boys" from the Junior Leaders' Regiment (Junior Sergeant-Majors French and Wootten, who obviously enjoyed themselves). Some first-timers were retired Majors MacDowall, F. Dunn, N. J. Woodcock, "Pedlar" Palmer, H. J. Archbold and W. J. A. Nicks; and one still serving, T. P. Saunders. Some had not met for thirty years, making the reunions the more enjoyable. It was good to see Bob Cox, Fairy Tremain and Captain Jock Terrell again and it was an added pleasure to have many wives of Ex-Boys present. As the Chairman remarked, we were a large "family" of boyhood friends who had served together over many years, in all parts of the world, and had re-met to cement friendships of the past. Each filled a niche in the building of our Corps, and the loyal support of the wives who attended the dinners strengthened the bonds of this unique family within the Corps.

The toast of "Our Guests" was proposed by Major Flynn. He sounded an historical note by reminding us our Signal Officer-in-Chief is the first officer commissioned direct into the Corps to have attained that high office and his appointment is an indication that the Corps has "grown up."

General Moberly responded for the guests and was loudly applauded for his appreciative remarks. He made special



C. W. Bowden, S. J. Murphy, A. W. Barnicott

reference to the professional and sporting achievements of our Boys and Ex-Boys, and mentioned a forthcoming amalgamation of our Junior Leaders' Regiment with that of the Sappers.

After a few apt words by Brigadier Firth on Boys, and Royal Signals Association, followed by a vote of thanks to the dinner committee, reminiscences between small groups continued until nearly 11 p.m.

A total of 97 sat down to dinner. Four others had to call off: one, "Uncle Alfred" (Boy Brooks 4.4.1913) telegraphed his Flu regrets. There were queries to be heard, "Where's so-and-so?" or "Is Whats-a-name here?" Some of us had got plumper, or thinner, or grey hair temporarily disguised our youthfulness. Next year we shall wear a ticket in our lapels showing initials and name, to ensure instant recognition. We hope to see more of the younger age-groups in future years. Travel distances are difficult. For those Ex-Boys who are Up North and cannot get to London, there is the excellent Royal Signals Association Annual Reunion Week-End at Catterick, or the Junior Leaders Regiment Annual Week-End.

Watch THE WIRE notices.



F. W. Jacob (Hon. Secretary), F. Veness (Guest), E. K. Giddy, P. Gunn

These notes would be incomplete without paying a warm tribute to Ex-Sergeant F. W. Jacob, Hon. Secretary of the Ex-Boys' Dinners, for all the work he has done. Despite a recent serious illness he was at The Tavern on 5th October, and his cheery presence was a tonic.

The Chairman, Major F. G. Strange, 9, Kidmore Road, Caversham, Reading, asks all Ex-Boys who were there on the 5th not to forget to complete and return his questionnaire. To conclude, he has a tail-piece to relate.

About 11.30 p.m., after the dinner, he could be seen happily shepherding his own party of seven up the escalator at Paddington. With a cheery flourish of seven Tube tickets he said to the smiling (coloured) ticket collector, "One-two-three-four-five-six-seven!" and handed over the tickets. Like a flash came the retort: "All good children go to heaven."

Yes, it was a grand night.

FOUND after dispersal Ex-Boys' Dinner, 5th October. Lady's yellow scarf in wrong coat pocket. Apply, Major F. G. Strange, 9, Kidmore Road, Caversham Heights, Reading.

HAVE YOU COMPLETED
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Gold and Enamel
Home £8.5.0
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Here is illustrated the badge of your Corps, fashioned into a brooch, and produced in gold and enamel. If desired, these very attractive brooches can be set with diamonds or other precious stones for which designs and estimates are submitted without charge. Great care is taken to ensure correctness of detail, and expert workmanship is assured.

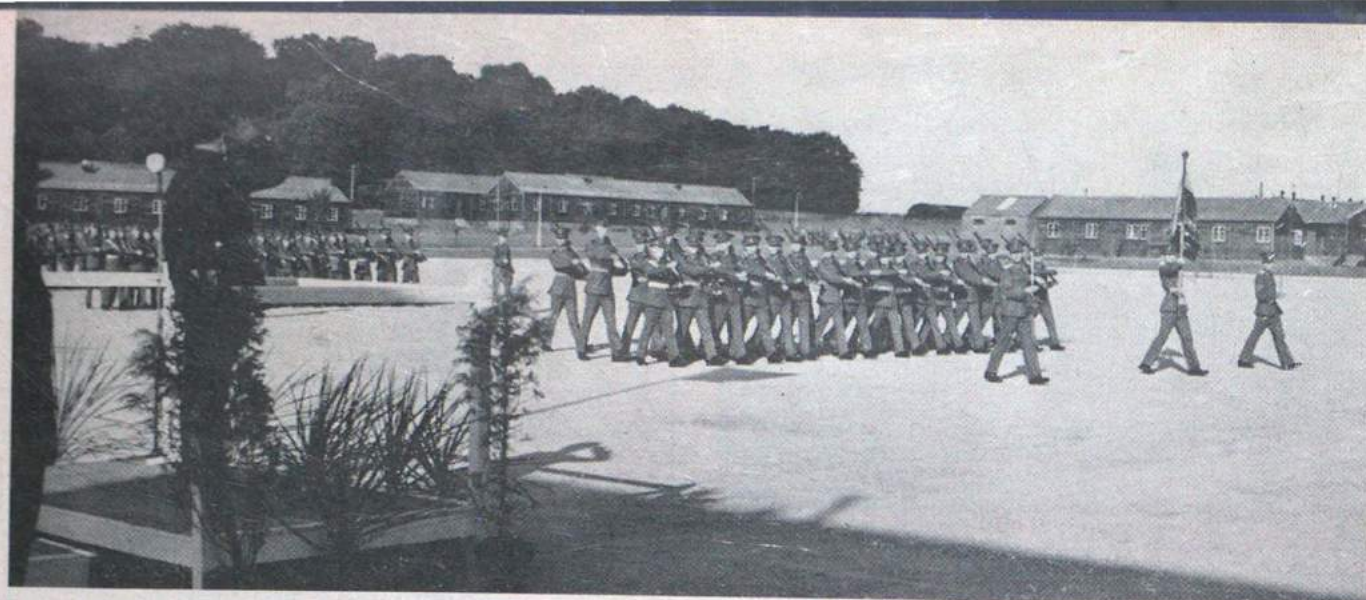
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● ESCORT TO THE BAND

[Photo: H. R. Rivers, Chudleigh, S. Devon]

JUNIOR LEADERS' REGIMENT

It is being rumoured around barracks the reason boys are kept in education classes all morning is to protect them from the dreadful sight of the Permanent Staff doing P.E. tests!

Brigadier Bradford, M.B.E., C.S.O. Southern Command, paid us a very welcome visit this month. Unfortunately, his visit coincided with a 'flu epidemic, so he was unable to see very much training.

Another very welcome visitor was H.R.H. Prince Chula of Thailand, G.C.V.O., a cousin of the reigning King, making his second visit to the Regiment, this time to show films of Thailand and to give a talk about his country.

The films he showed were, as he said, "personal and private" shots of himself and his family in Thailand, and for an hour we were privileged to enjoy a personally conducted tour of the Prince's family photograph album. Scenes of architectural and natural beauty were relieved by sequences showing the drill and ceremonial of the Thai Guards, while a number of scenes showed field and battle training in the Thai Army, a valuable contributor to the strength of S.E.A.T.O. After the show Prince Chula dined with the Officers of the Regiment.

From film shows to film actors. Several of the boys recently took part in scenes to be included in a general film on Boys' Units now being made. Although hopes ran high at one time, they could not manage to "duck" any of the film unit during "operations" on the River Lemon.

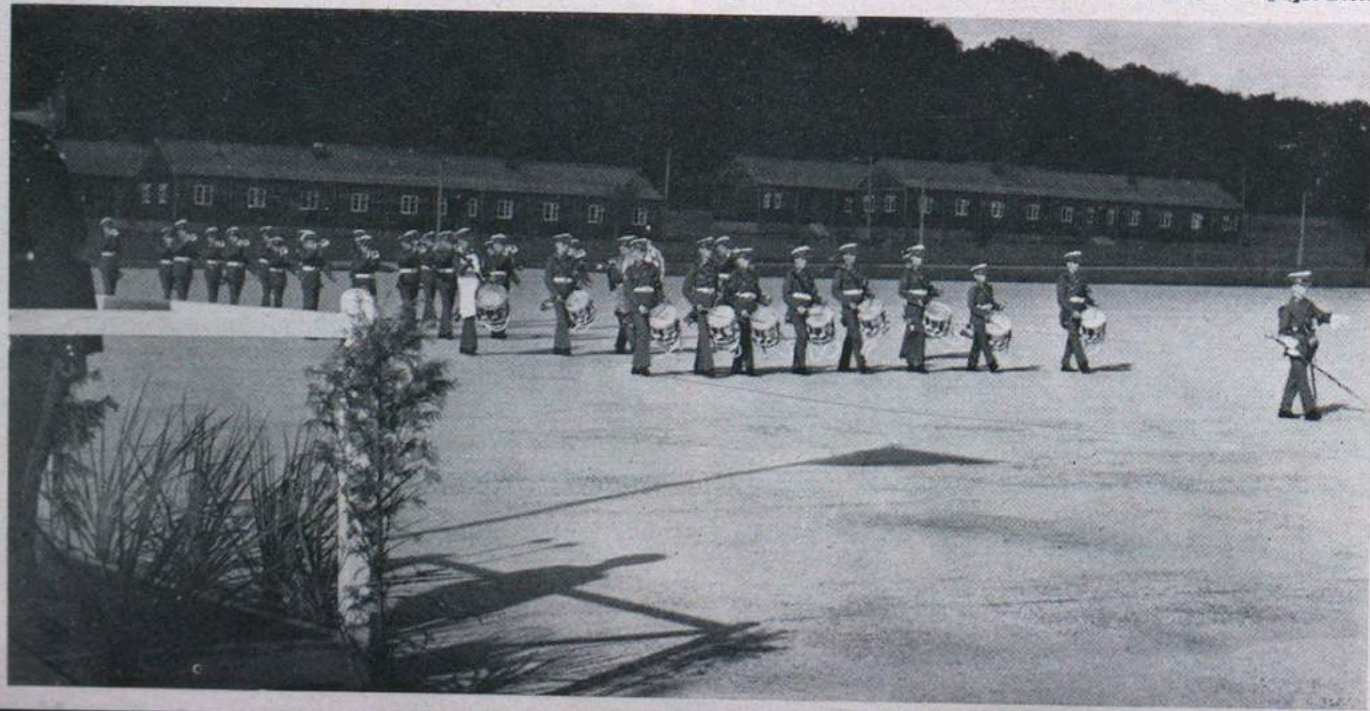
As this goes to press, shouts from the Gymnasium indicate the progress of the eliminating rounds of the individual boxing championships. We hope to include some account of the finals in these notes next month.

Incessant bad weather and a 'flu epidemic which laid low over three-quarters of the boys and Permanent Staff, caused unusual difficulties in putting on the Trooping of the Colour for the Association's West Country Reunion at Denbury on 28th/29th September. Tremendous efforts by the boys—coaxed by the indefatigable R.S.M. Thompson—ensured a "Troop" which was described in the local Press as a "magnificent spectacle."

At the conclusion of the Trooping ceremony, two very handsome silver cups were presented to the Regiment by the Aldershot and London Branches of the Association for Inter-Squadron

● THE BAND. The trumpets were all presented by branches of the Association

[Photo: H. R. Rivers, Chudleigh, S. Devon]



[Photo: H. R. Rivers, Chudleigh, S. Devon]

Presentation of London Branch Trophy. Colonel T. W. Vigers, O.B.E., M.C., T.D., D.L., hands the Cup to Major General C. M. F. White, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., Colonel Commandant

Rugby and shooting, after which the boys were addressed by Major-General C. M. F. White, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., who also took the salute.

The first opportunity for a real get-together came with tea on the lawn of the Sergeants' Mess, following the Trooping ceremony. For this occasion the Royal Signals Band played in their usual incomparable style as the background for many enthusiastic "grip sessions." The talk from group to group flowed swiftly back from Changi—Irrawaddy—Egypt Command Signals—Eddy Company—vic vic Group, down to Maresfield (and beyond). At this stage those who could not compete, or merely wished to recover, adjourned to the sports field to watch the games arranged so that the informal side of the boys' training could be seen.

The Liverpool Branch representative falling a last-minute victim to 'flu, meant that their shield, presented for Inter-Troop basketball competition, could not be handed over on the Trooping Parade. However, this magnificent trophy, together with the silver cups presented earlier, and flanked by Branch Standards, made an impressive show at the Reunion Supper. We were delighted to see such well-known faces as "Fairy" Fairclough—looking unchanged and as elfin as ever, Lieutenant-Colonel "Polo" Reid—the ever jovial Brigadier "Fatty" Galway (sans clubs for once)—"Dodger" Green, looking ready to trot on to the hockey field again at the slightest excuse, "Abdul" Pearce, the much travelled R.S.M. Vic Goodman, and "Lofty" Hart from C.S.O.'s Branch, Southern Command.

A number of Old Comrades and their families who had been unable to attend the supper turned up on Sunday morning to swell the congregation to nearly 300 for morning church. At this service the Standard of the Cornwall Branch was dedicated. After the service the parade formed up behind the Corps Band. It was a heart stirring sight to watch the Old Comrades, preceded by Branch Standards, lead two Squadrons of youngsters past the saluting dias, where the salute was taken by Major-General White.

Swift drinks in the Sergeants' Mess were followed by buffet lunch in the Officers' Mess until 2.30, when all gathered finally to hear a first-rate Band Concert by the Corps Band, under Major John Judd.

Relaxing after the last guest had left, we chuckled over the memories of the week-end. Of the Officer on the (very) Permanent Staff who dashed home in the middle of festivities on Saturday evening to return with his album of photographs to prove just who was in that section in 1931!

The surprisingly delicate flower arrangements by a Subaltern Officer better known for his boxing prowess, and the "impromptu" (?) rendering of "Colonel Bogey" by the Corps Band as a certain rotund and bewhiskered senior Officer left the Band Concert.

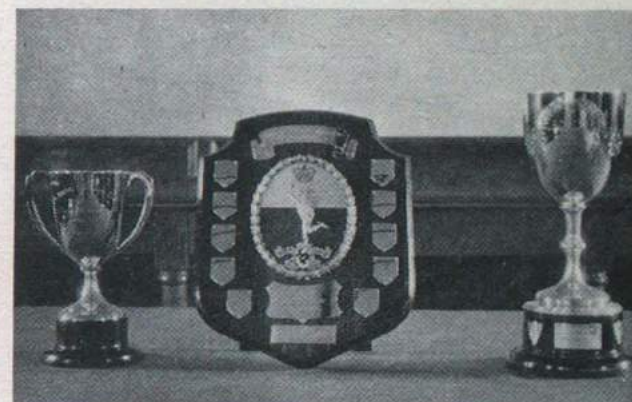
Altogether a very memorable week-end for the boys and staff. We hope our guests enjoyed being with us as much as we did having them.



[Photo: H. R. Rivers, Chudleigh, S. Devon]

Presentation of the Aldershot Branch Cup. On the left Mr. A. V. lent, Honorary Treasurer of the Branch

PRESENTATIONS made by Branches of the Association to the Junior Leaders' Regiment, Royal Signals



The photograph shows three Presentation pieces recently presented to the Regiment during the West Country Reunion at Newton Abbot.

Reading from left to right in the picture are presentations made by: The Aldershot Branch, the Liverpool Branch and the London Branch.

The Commanding Officer and all ranks of the Junior Leaders Regiment wish to express their grateful thanks to the Branches concerned for their generous gifts. The trophies will be well and truly fought for. To the young, they will serve as a constant reminder of the older members of the Corps who have done so much to pass on a splendid background of loyalty and tradition. We shall strive to be worthy of, and to add to, this background.

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TRAINING BRIGADE

1 TRAINING REGIMENT

The annual Cocktail Party was held in the Officers' Mess on 7th September, and a very successful event it proved to be, hosts and guests enjoying themselves to the full.

That hardworking but little lauded body, the "Wives' Club," also staged an outing to Rowntrees, York, and although the weather was not in its kindest mood, a good time was had by all.

Cricketers completed the season with a win in the District Cup Competition, but tennis players, depleted by the ravages of "flu," just failed to retain the Northern Command Cup which now adorns the sideboard in the King's Own Royal Regiment Mess at Barnard Castle.

For the second time in history, a Signals side, which included four Regimental Players, went off to Kelso and brought back across the border the coveted 7's trophy.

There has been speculation recently about redundancy and now that terms of reference have been announced, "white papers" are much in evidence everywhere.

We cannot let this opportunity pass without saying "good-bye" to Major and Mrs. Joe Eagle, now with Royal Signals Wing, to Major and Mrs. Alex Lamb who have left us for the Signals Directorate, and to R.S.M. and Mrs. Harding now en route to Cyprus. Thank you for all you've done and good luck in your new appointments.

2 TRAINING REGIMENT

The recent announcements by Mr. Sandys have been the main topic of conversation recently regarding the shape of things to come and they have no doubt conjured up vistas and visions of chicken farms, pig farms and happy retirement, but alas, most have now evaporated and left in their wake—Regimental Audit Boards, Upgrading, Trade Training—the thoughts of other jaunts over the Moors in winter-time. However, some people are still a-thinking—others have already thought.

'Flu took its toll in the Regiment, but we are happy to say that we are all fit and well again, although it completely spoiled our Children's Sports Day and the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Annual Ball. May Christmas festivities compensate these cancellations.

This year the Regiment decided not to enter for the Northumbrian District Gardening Competition (just to give others a chance) but instead to hold our own Unit competition. This was won by No. 1 Squadron (Draughtsmen and Technical Storemen). This spare time effort produced magnificent results, from rustic scenes to tropical ponds and cultured, well-trimmed lawns. A very fine effort.

Football and boxing have started again and we have got off to a good start by winning our first round in the Army Cup, and we are anxiously looking forward to the second round draw. Team building has been completed regarding the boxing team and this year's team looks a little better than last year's—we will let you know.

Many changes in personnel are occurring and after losing all our Subalterns (but one) things are becoming a little brighter; a new Adjutant and his assistant join us this month, together with a new O.C. Squadron. Just in case the crystal ball clouds before they arrive—no names yet. S.S.I. are still very scarce.

Our Quartermaster is busy on a resettlement course—mixing mortar and learning how to keep his house in good repair—Gloucester County Council please note—we strongly recommend him—he's expert with a trowel.

Another well-known personality, our Adjutant, Major L. Beaumont, leaves for Tripolitania within a couple of months. The Civil Police and the Local Court Martial Centre will certainly lose a trusted and valuable friend—the authors of M.M.L. and Q.R.s never had a more devoted fan and reader. We will certainly miss him.

Christmas preparations are well in hand and it is full steam ahead to give a little joy and happiness to those stationed in the outposts of the Empire—our Ladies' Club are just raring to go.

3 TRAINING REGIMENT

Training and Sport flourish in Lincoln in spite of the recent Asian flu which turned barrack rooms into sick bays and nearly qualified many of our Signal Centre Clerks with the additional trade of medical orderly.

This Regiment now holds the Mackworth Trophy which, with the Northern Command Inter Unit Football Cup and the Brigade Drill Trophy, makes a fine trio.

Winter sport is in full swing, our Soccer team is still undefeated and is training hard for further successes. Lance-Corporal Melia is congratulated on playing for England Youths against Roumania Youths. In Rugby we defeated 4 Training Regiment in the first round of the Army Cup by 19 points to 4 after a hard, clean game.

A recent military Quiz on TV lines showed an interesting and varied lack of knowledge on the part of all ranks competing, except perhaps by Sergeant Hall, who, on top of his form, knew how many legs to a dog.

Arrivals and departures show that Major Weedon has now left the Regiment for the Far East. Our best wishes go to him and Mrs. Weedon, whose organisation of the Wives' Club will be missed.

5 TRAINING REGIMENT

Northern Command Motor Cycle Trials

For the fourteenth year in succession the Northern Command Motor Cycle Trials Challenge Cup has been won by Despatch Riders of 5 Training Regiment, Royal Signals, a feat probably unsurpassed in any similar type of competition either Service or Civilian.

This year's course, set in the Catterick Training area, consisted of two separate circuits. That ridden in the morning was straightforward cross-country over very rough moorland, streams and bogs, designed to test the stamina and skill of the riders and the reliability of their machines.

In the afternoon the course was very much shorter and generally easier, except for the observed sections, of which there were eleven. These were extremely difficult, having been selected to test the ability of the rider to take his machine over, round, or through every possible type of obstacle. Included were almost vertical climbs, and descents, rock strewn stream beds, narrow ledges not much wider than a tyre, trees no further apart than the width of the handlebars of a motor cycle, and everywhere there were tight turns calling for a nicety of balance and throttle control.

All the riders who completed the course are to be congratulated, but particularly the winners and runner-up.

The teams were:—

1st, 5 Training Regiment, Royal Signals D Team.

Lance-Corporals R. Wooldridge, R. A. Futers, E. Williamson.

2nd, 5 Training Regiment, Royal Signals B Team

Staff Sergeant J. A. Simpson, Sergeant J. Steele, Lance-Corporal J. G. Horne.

Individuals.—1st, Lance-Corporal R. Wooldridge; 2nd, Signalman A. J. Lampkin, both of 5 Training Regiment, Royal Signals.

The Regiment's A Team came third, but as they were early starters and so had to pioneer the course and blaze the trail for the others, their performance might be said to be, in fact, even better than that of the winners.

They were: Staff Sergeant K. Slaughter, Lance-Corporal P. Fletcher, Signalman A. J. Lampkin.

As a result of its performance in the trial, the Regiment has been asked to supply seven riders as representatives of Northern Command in the Army M/C Trials to be held in the Aldershot area on 5th October.

Those nominated are:—

A Team: Staff Sergeant K. Slaughter, Lance-Corporal P. Fletcher, Signalman A. J. Lampkin.

B Team: Sergeant J. Steele, Lance-Corporal R. Wooldridge, Lance-Corporal J. G. Horne.

Individual: Staff Sergeant J. A. Simpson.

OFFICER TRAINING WING, SCHOOL OF SIGNALS

The rugger season has started with great victories for the Wing, having won all three games played during the month with a total of 103 points for to, 14 against. These victories are in no small measure due to the hard training undertaken by the team in the past few months under the able guidance of Captain Alan Seymour and Second-Lieutenant Alan Godson.

Unfortunately owing to the rundown of the Wing, it is not expected that we shall be able to uphold the standard that we have maintained in the past. Two stalwarts of the team, Second-Lieutenants Paul Wheeler and Tony Gordon, have already left us for Cambridge, and our best wishes are extended to them for their career in civilian life.

Owing to the inclement weather, the hockey league has not yet commenced, although numerous trial matches have been held and our expectations for the coming season are reasonably high. A recent member of the team is Captain D. Turner, who has just joined the Wing from the Depot Regiment.

On the 25th of September the members of the Sergeants' Mess and their wives entertained the Darlington Civil Service Club to a Games Evening. Despite the lavish way they were entertained, the visitors managed to emerge victorious from the tournament and were presented with a handsome plaque by the R.S.M. A very pleasant evening was had by all, especially R.Q.M.S. Sherard, who spent a lively hour discussing strategy on the North West Frontier in '23 with one of the visitors.

Colonel H. P. Williams, O.B.E., Colonel A.Q. Northumbrian District, was the inspecting officer of the commissioning parade of No. 357 Course. Fortunately the weather brightened considerably for the occasion and the many parents and friends who attended watched the parade amidst sunshine, albeit in a high wind. The Commanding Officer's Prize for the Best Cadet was awarded to Second-Lieutenant R. C. N. Tinsley.

Our congratulations are offered to Major and Mrs. Bow on the birth of their daughter, Joanne Denise, at Catterick Camp on 30th August.

U.K. COMCAN SIGNAL REGIMENT

R.H.Q. and 1 Squadron. There is no doubt that of our visitors last month, pride of place must be given to A/Asian/57—'Flu to the initiated; we can even boast of running our own hospital—97 down (cases) at one time—any advance on this? The 'flu bug quickly made its mark in mid-September, completely disrupting the Rugby programme and threatening the Boxing programme. Its presence naturally caused much mental anguish for the TRC Staff, but fortunately due to the efforts of the Medical Officer and his assistants the outbreak was soon controlled and the TRC did not have to close down. (The question of good fortune is hotly disputed). We do not deny that No. 1 Signal Centre had its anxious moments—but nowadays these are accepted as part of everyday life!

Of the much more welcome visits the first was made by the G.O.C. South Western District, who visited Robinswood Barracks on 19th September. During his visit the G.O.C. presented the British Empire Medal to Staff Sergeant J. Smith, the S.Q.M.S. of 1 Squadron, a well deserved award. The following day Brigadier F. W. P. Bradford, M.B.E., C.S.O. Southern Command, visited both the Barracks and No. 1 Signal Centre.

The Boxing season is now under way. The Squadron Novices Boxing Tournament was held on 24th September, and the standard of boxing was extremely high. This promises well for the forthcoming District Unit Novices Championships, the first round of which was fought out and won on 3rd October. We hope that when we next "go to press" we will be able to report that we have also won the second round and well started on the road to the finals.

In closing we would like to offer our congratulations to Major B. C. Toy on his recent promotion.

2 Squadron. The bi-annual football fixture with 3 Squadron was once again keenly fought. The score, 4-4, gives some indication of the excitement of the match. The Dance which followed was also a great success.

The R.M.E. team, led by Sergeant Baker, whom everyone in the Unit had come to look upon as a permanent fixture, has been given its final marching orders (we believe by the C.I.G.S.). By the time this goes to press they should be firmly esconced in the Lines at Robinswood, we hope!

We were sorry to hear of the rush posting of Corporal Kemp from the Unit to "somewhere in Surrey." And talking of

postings: we have noticed that certain members of the Unit who expect to leave for the Far East sometime in the New Year are avidly watching all the available films of the area—dressed in K.D.

News has reached us of Sergeant Storer who went overseas not long ago. He appears to be enjoying life at his new station, and many remarks have been passed about "Outposts of the Empire" and "White men's burdens."

4 Squadron. We have been badly hit at Cobbett Hill with the Asian Flu bug, consequently much of our activity has been curtailed over the past four weeks. However, the people who have managed to stay on their feet or their knees are struggling onwards.

Since last going to press additions have been announced to the families of Staff Sergeant Pocock and Sergeant Parker. We offer our congratulations.

Mighty earth moving equipment can be seen and heard during all available hours of daylight now that the Sappers have really got down to the business of filling in the moat. If one is not awake and alert the safest place is in bed, for should you linger awhile your chances of being "bull-dozed" or scooped into a tipper truck are by no means remote.

According to the bush telegraph we gather that W.O.II and Mrs. Hesketh have settled down and are very much enjoying life in Hong Kong since leaving 4 Squadron. We wish them well.

Congratulations to W.O.II Knowles on receiving his Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.

We wish Major C. Robinson a fond farewell and trust that he will enjoy himself equally well in whichever part of the world he finds himself after he finishes his course. We welcome Major R. S. Cathmoir and hope that his tour will be a happy one. We also welcome Mrs. Cathmoir.

EASTERN COMMAND SIGNAL SQUADRON

September or "Redundancy Queries Month," drew to a close with many of the leading lights missing.

Major Stewart is away pretending that he prefers to be on leave in Autumn rather than Summer.

His Training Troop managed to be all in the same place after assisting training in Stiffkey Camp. They put on an elaborate Signal Centre exercise for Eastern Command (Mixed) Signal Regiment T.A. which was good training for everybody. One of the "staff" was shocked to hear that he'd sent off an S.D.R. when he thought he was presenting a harmless problem to the D.S.O.!

Wireless Troop were able to pop in and visit us for a short while before proceeding on Exercise "Autumn Flight." Captain Petheram rested his rifle and changed from Motor Cycling Cross Country to Wireless again.

The rest of the Squadron had just received information that "Autumn Flight" was not a ghastly retreat or falling leaves when they found themselves getting drenched assisting at the Eastern Command Royal Signals T.A. Rifle Shoot. Being a perverse lot they were cheerful in the rain and the T.A. expressed warm thanks for their good work. S.S.M. Parfitt has recently left the Squadron and we wish him the very best of luck in the future.

Mrs. Noakes, wife of our Foreman of Signals, is congratulated on the arrival of her baby daughter.

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Looking Backward

By JOHN L. JUDD

The happenings of today are generally not held to be of much importance to us, but in fifty or a hundred years time they will be history, and those who have enthusiasm for their calling will be eager to find out just what did happen and who were the personalities involved.

It is when one has reached middle life that it is so interesting to look back, to recall our boyhood heroes, those we looked up to in our youth, especially if we now hold their position, a position perhaps we thought in our youth we would never attain.

What manner of men were these, and what were their qualities?

Were they really as great as we imagined in our youth? Now we can judge them, having a background of thirty or more years' experience to weigh our judgment against.

All this came home very forcibly to me one evening not long ago when, at an Old Comrades' Reunion Supper, I looked round for somewhere to sit down and eat a sausage roll and drink a cup of coffee, and I found an empty chair next to an elderly gentleman with grey hair.

Upon asking him about his service in the Corps, he related how upon one hot summer's afternoon he was manning a wireless set in the Persian hills during the First World War, when someone he had not received before, insisted upon coming in.

When he eventually got the message down it was nothing less than the astounding news that General Townsend had gone to the Island of Elstra to negotiate an Armistice with the Turks. He was the first to get the news straight from Turkey.

He now wishes, of course, that he had kept the original message, for he realises that few more momentous messages have been taken down by the Corps and certainly not in those early days of wireless. It was probably the first message received by wireless of Armistice negotiations.

Even today it is not generally realised that the Corps were the first to get the news of the Armistice or that wireless sets were used in the First World War, and the nature of their construction.

Another illustration of how careless we are in recording our day-to-day changes in military life is the fact that existing records cannot give us details regarding the following:

- (1) The name of the Officer who was responsible for "Jimmy" being adopted in R.E. Signals.
- (2) The name of the Officer who recommended "Morse" to be adopted by the British Army, and the date of the first order appertaining thereto.
- (3) The history of cipher in war. When it was first used, and again the Officer who insisted on it being adopted, and the date.

Recently I had to do some research upon another military subject, and as I had not time to read the relevant books myself, my wife read them for me and marked the pages where there were references to signalling in war.

The following are interesting extracts, some of which I believe upset former notions on the history of signalling in war.

1. *Lady Sale's Journal* (wife of General Sale). Published 1843. An account of the disasters in Cabul in 1841. Lady Sale, who was with our force in Cabul at that time writes: "I have given the reports of the day, the only information we possessed, also such news as was telegraphed from the Bala Hissar (Upper Citadel)." This would appear to be the first instance of telegraphy being used by a British force in war.

2. *Letters from the Crimea* (1854-1856). By Lieutenant-General C. B. Ewart, C.B., Royal Engineers. In his 58th letter written from The Heights of

Sebastopol on 19th March, 1855, he writes:

"The electric telegraph is now completed and worked by Sappers between Balaklava and Lord Raglan with a station at Sir Colin Campbell's camp."

This is also confirmed in *Grimea Journal*, by Lord George Pazet, published 1881.

3. *Cassell's Illustrated History of India*, published 1898. Lord Dalhousie, in 1854, sent a Mr. O'Shaughnessy, a Medical Officer with the Bengal Army, who had been made Superintendent of Telegraphs in India, home to London to report upon the success of an experimental line of wires he had succeeded in laying down from Calcutta to the sea at Kedjeree, which by expediting the communicating of intelligence, was found to be invaluable during the Burmese War, 1854.

Here is a very early example of the use of cipher in war:

4. *Ladysmith. The Diary of a Siege*, by H. W. Merinson, published 1900. p. 258. "At last a cipher message began to come through on the telegraph. There was immense excitement at the Signal Station. The figures were taken down. Colonel Dolf buttoned the precious paper in his pocket, off he galloped to Headquarters. Major de Courcy Hamilton was called to decipher the news."

The following is an interesting and early criticism of the School of Signals:

5. *Life of General Sir Henry Evelyn Wood*, by Charles Williams. p. 269. SOME ERRORS OBSERVED DURING OPERATIONS. *Signallers*. One of the faults was that signals on both sides were read by the opponents, and the fault occurs during nearly every tactical day at Aldershot. It might well be that some instruction on this point should be given to the classes while they are being taught at the School of Signalling. This remark has been passed to the Officer concerned.

Here are some examples of the unconventional methods of signalling brought about by necessity in war.

How often are the full facilities, or ideal conditions, available to perform one's function; whether it be in peace or war.

- Ladysmith. The Diary of the Siege*. H. W. Mevison. p. 133. "Signalling from lighted windows has become so common among the traitors that today a curfew was proclaimed."
- p. 280. "A code of signals by rocket has been arranged to inform General Buller what is going on."

"How we escaped from Pretoria," by Captain Haldane. p. 70. We had noticed a man who occasionally passed the Model School, generally accompanied by a St. Bernard dog. From his manner he seemed sympathetic and anxious to communicate with us, and he sometimes muttered some words as he passed. As time went on he took to signalling to us by the Morse code with his stick.

The Psalms in Human Life, by Rowland Prothero, 1903. p. 182. "In Conde's Army, so La Moue has recorded, the sentries were posted and relieved to the chant of Psalms."

Psalms III, "Lord how are they increased that trouble me," gave the signal for danger.

Battles of the 19th Century, by A. Griffiths. p. 459. "It was the second month of the siege of Paris. The pigeon post had brought in news of the gathering armies on the Loire."

p. 466. "The news of the first day's battle was sent out of Paris by a balloon on the night between 30th November and 1st December. It fell at Palais, in

Morbihan, the following morning, and the tidings of what was represented as a complete victory were telegraphed to Tours."

Second World War, 1939-1945.

It is a well-known fact in the Corps how Major-General C. M. F. White, when C.S.O. of the 8th Army, established communications between Sicily and Malta by putting the end of a cable in the sea and instructing the same to be done in Malta and thereby using the sea as a conductor. This should be carefully recorded whilst we have first-hand information of it.

* A note of the technique involved commences at the foot of column 2.

MUSIC AND SIGNALLING

It is a well-known fact, of course, that the very first signalling in war was done by music, the sound of the trumpet.

There are countless references to it in the Old Testament. Here is just one:

Numbers X 1-10.

"And if they blow but with one trumpet, then the princes, which are the heads of the thousands of Israel, shall gather themselves unto thee. When ye blow an alarm, then the camps that lie on the last parts shall go forward," etc.

The strategic use of the trumpet was not unknown to the Hebrews: read the seventh chapter of the Book of Judges.

Studies in War, published at Horse Guards Parade, 1798, and a reprint of an earlier German work, with a preface by William Fawcett, Adjutant General.

In this book are given countless bugle calls for signalling the description of the enemy, whether they are Infantry or cavalry or whether they are both. Also calls for signalling the movements of troops.

Musical Myths and Facts. Engel. Published by Novello.

p. 43. "There is an old German treatise quaintly entitled: 'An attempt at a Guide to the heroic musical art of the Trumpeter,' written by Johann Ernst Altenburgh, at Halle, in 1795, which contains some interesting accounts concerning the various occasions on which the trumpet was formerly used in different European countries, at Court ceremonies and public festivities, as well as in war.

Altenburgh, who himself was a distinguished military trumpeter and, no doubt, also a brave warrior, remarks:

"Awful and terrible is the sound of the trumpet when it announces the new approach of the enemy; or when the enemy demands by trumpet signal the surrender of a beleaguered town; or when he storms and enters the town with the blare of the Trumpet of War. During the Seven Years' War, in which I took part, it happened during a dark night that a large body of the enemy's troops nearly succeeded in surprising and cutting off one of our Corps which was smaller and weaker; but we, modifying the signals of our trumpets, so as to make them appear to come from different quarters and from long distances, succeeded in intimidating the enemy, so that he suddenly turned and fled, believing that we were receiving succour."

MUSIC AS AN INSTRUMENT OF WAR

- (a) *As a strategic force*. Everyone is familiar with the story of the fall of Jericho, how the armies marched around the city with their trumpeters blowing, intimidating the besieged garrison behind the city walls.

A more modern instance of much the same kind of intimidation is probably the first landing of the German troops at Oslo in Norway in 1941, and the Germans put several bands ashore to march around the town to

give the impression that a large number of battalions were disembarking.

- (b) *To stimulate morale*. In 1809 Major Simmons, of the Rifle Brigade, wrote concerning his Regiment in the Peninsular War:

"Our men are in high spirits and we have a most excellent band of music and thirty bugle horns, which through every country village strikes up the old tune 'Over the Hills and Far Away.'"

"A Month in the Camp before Sebastopol," published 1855.

"To such days and nights would hardly tend, you might suppose, to sweeten men's tempers; yet nothing could exceed the good humour and agreeability of the newcomers. Two or three troopers who, in peace time, belonged to the Band, play tunes on their bugles, varied by songs from those who possess vocal qualifications."

"The members of our Bands are, as I have said, devoted to bearing stretchers. The French musicians, on the contrary, are at this moment playing 'Rule Britannia' in compliment to the entente cordiale, and many a poor sick Briton is, I daresay, raising himself on his elbow, to catch the faint, but cheering strains, as they float to our lines. Our Allies argue that camp is the very place where music is wanted, that a soldier can carry a stretcher into action as well as an accomplished musician, but that, if both get knocked on the head, a month's training will replace one, but not the other."

The Great War, 1914-1918. The Band of Line Regiments still acted as stretcher bearers in the 1914-1918 War, but we remember how Lord Kitchener sent the Band Sergeants home for instruments to form Divisional Bands as early as November, 1914, as the troops needed music to stimulate their morale when they came out of the line for a rest. Concert parties, etc., were formed.

Second World War, 1939-1945. Again the same thing happened: Bandsmen of Line Regiments were again used as stretcher bearers, until there was a national outcry "Where are the Bands?" and Bands were re-formed at Infantry Training Centres, and were sent out to the various theatres of war. The lesson of 1914 was not learned, but a recent Adjutant General has proclaimed that never again will Bands be disbanded in war.

- (c) *As an Instrument of Propaganda*. In the Second World War music was used as an instrument of propaganda. The Germans plugged our troops with sentimental songs calculated to weaken their morale.

"Lily Marlene" was a morale raiser for the Germans, and there are many instances in previous wars where we have taken the enemy's "hit tune"—the popular tune of the day—and adopted it as a Regimental March or made it into our own popular song. The opening notes of Beethoven's Fifth Symphony were used as a defiant tuning-in signal for B.B.C. broadcasts to enemy countries. The last war brought about the "Music While You Work" programme, which is still with us, and has proved its value in the factories. Music has its place still in war, even if we do not now advance to the sound of the trumpet.

Let us "Look Backward" and record what has happened in our day, so that our successors will not have to search in the by-ways of literature for what really happened.

* This statement about the exploits of 8th Army Signals under their C.S.O., now Major-General C. M. F. White, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., seemed so unlikely that the C.S.O. 8th Army was consulted, and replied as on next page.

"A large number of dry-batteries of 1.5 volts each were dropped into the sea half way between Malta and Syracuse. These immediately became wet batteries of 2.2 volts per cell. Incidentally, the level of the sea being lower than that of the mountainous land of Sicily gave a considerable drop in potential.

Fullerphones with batteries were employed at one end and phones without at the other.

The fullerphones were found to be the best. Echo—which causes so much trouble to long submarine cables of similar characteristics—was employed here to great advantage, enabling operators to check their messages word by word, thus doing away with all "repeats."

Security does not permit of the circuit diagram being published; however, it is possible to "Judd" the accuracy of the above by blowing hot air through a number of silver instruments, which should give a harmonious answer."

R.S.M.s of the CORPS

W.O.I W. Cloughley

After service in the Merchant Navy as a Radio Officer he enlisted in the Corps in 1934 and whilst undergoing recruit training showed early promise by being the best recruit of his squad, and was awarded the Commanding Officer's Whip. As he was well qualified technically, already holding a P.M.G. Certificate, he had no difficulty with initial trade training, and left the Depot as an Operator Signals, for service in Canterbury with 4th Divisional Signals.

In 1935 he commenced his overseas service in Quetta with 2 Independent Divisional Signals and was in time to help his colleagues to clear up the debris of the earthquake, which had preceded his arrival by a few months. It was during the period of service with this Unit that he obtained his first stripe and also qualified as a Class I tradesman. Immediately prior to the outbreak of war he was posted back to U.K. as an instructor, in which rôle, and in various Units, from Lance-Corporal to Sergeant, he performed until 1942. He was promoted to the War Sub Rank of Sergeant on 16th July, 1940.

From early 1943 until 1946 he saw service with Special Forces, whose work was with the various European Resistance Movements on the Continent. This was exciting and interesting work, but being an isolated appointment did not give him opportunity of further wartime promotion.

His first appointment on return to the U.K. in 1946 was at the War Office Signal Regiment, as Traffic Superintendent and later as Chief Superintendent. In 1947 he was posted to 15 A.A. (M) Signal Regiment (T.A.) on promotion to

S.Q.M.S., and later that year was promoted to S.S.M. of one of the Squadrons, stationed at Rotherham. After further service on the Continent with 2 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment in 1949, and a short spell with Western Command Signal Regiment, he was posted to the Middle East for three years, serving with 4 Air Formation Signal Regiment in Egypt and Cyprus, the last two years as R.S.M.

He returned to the U.K. once again in 1956 to the Special Communications Regiment, T.A.

He has always been an enthusiastic sportsman, playing soccer and notably hockey.

He is married but has no children.

R.S.M. A. F. Stubbs

R.S.M. Stubbs enlisted at Woolwich in July, 1935.

After training at Catterick as a Lineman, including mounted training, he was posted to the newly mechanised 2 Infantry Divisional Signals at Aldershot, where he served mainly with Artillery Signal Sections until posted as a Lance-Corporal to 1st Indian Divisional Signals at Rawalpindi in 1938.

Most of his service in India was spent with a mounted Artillery Signal Section, where he served with such riding masters as the late "Aubrey" Harrison.

In September, 1941, he was posted to 6 Indian Divisional Signals and saw service with Divisional H.Q. and again with an Artillery Signal Section in M.E.L.F., Persia and Iraq as a Section Sergeant.

In April, 1944, he came home on Python and after a short spell at Orkney went to Oslo with Norway Force Signals in May, 1945.

He was posted to 30 Corps Signals Regiment in Germany in November, 1945, where he served until 1950, mostly with a Construction Troop, an Engineer Signal Troop, and finally with an R.H.A. Signal Troop.

He was posted to the permanent staff of the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, in November, 1950, until the Signals Wing closed down. In September, 1951, he did his tour as a P.S.I. with 15 Wireless Squadron (T.A.) until posted to ALFCE Signal Squadron in France in June, 1952, as S.S.M.

He returned to Catterick in February, 1954, to 2 Training Regiment on promotion to R.Q.M.S. and A/W.O.I. He was posted to Royal Signals Wing, School of Signals, on promotion to R.S.M. in August, 1954.

In January, 1957, he was posted to FARELF, where he now serves with G.H.Q. Signal Regiment.

He is keen on soccer and has played many games, particularly in Germany. He states that there seems to be no demand these days for left-handed hockey players.

He is married and has two children.



Football

Sir,

As a corollary to my letter about rugby football for the ignorant spectator you may like to have some explanation and advice for those who allow themselves to be talked into playing the game.

Each team is divided into backs and forwards and the first thing is for the initiate to decide, in the unlikely event of his being allowed any choice, which of these quite independent groups he would prefer to join. In making up his mind he must realise that if he becomes a forward, he will remain a forward except for the last game of a tour. Backs, on the other hand, become forwards in old age or obesity.

Backs are undoubtedly the glamour boys of the outfit. They are expected to spend most of the game watching the forwards scramble for the ball and yet appear eager as greyhounds in the slips. This entails a bent posture which can be impressive for watching girl friends and has the additional advantage of aiding recovery of wind. Backs do have to endure brief convulsions of activity during which they may be given the ball. They are then expected, in order of frequency, to knock it forward, kick it or give it quickly to somebody else. The first stops the game. The second is usually intended to do so, in which case the ball is propelled towards touch as far as possible from the forwards in order to ensure maximum time for recuperation. The last has to be done quickly to avoid injury and bestly remarks about selfishness.

Differences between backs are so marked as to require definition of the characteristics of the various positions. There are two half-backs, the scrumhalf and the fly, outside or stand off. The scrumhalf half-back is there to give forwards a chance to work off the frustration caused by the play of all the backs on both sides. His survival depends chiefly upon the ability of his own back row of forwards to look innocent whilst obstructing the opposing back row. This is not easy, particularly with your head in a tight scrum. But then only a very great—or very raw—wing forward ever has his head in a tight scrum.

There are four three-quarter backs; two centres and two wings. The fly half is the same as a centre only more so. Centres can be left and right or inside and outside. Outside is much to be preferred as there are more players to dispose of the ball before it reaches there, and the outside centre is further from rampaging forwards.

To be a wing three-quarter you must have a good circulation in cold weather and an aptitude for thundering up to the touchline just as the ball bounces in (out to the uninitiated). This can be made vastly impressive and is painless.

There are such things as five-eighths, even seven-eighths, but these are sophistications introduced by touring sides to relieve the boredom of knowing what fellow players will do. No normal side is ever threatened in that way.

There is only one full-back and a beginner should not play there. If he does the fact should be treated as top secret; it is not likely to remain that way for long.

But being a forward has its compensations. Backs, other than the full-back and in some circumstances the scrum half, have a definite man to mark and have to do it full in the public eye. The man you are marking is always much larger and faster than you are. There is, on the other hand, a decent anonymity about being a forward. If you don't allow yourself to be seen it will be assumed that you are sweating your guts out in the thick of the scrum. This fact alone brings all but the highest representative honours within reach of a forward. If he aspires to distinguished ties, the one vital thing is for him never to be trapped into a trial game. If he does play in one and is seen, it will be assumed that he has been slacking in the tight so that he may be flashy in the loose. If he is not seen, the selectors will just not be able to remember him. He will have had it either way. An ambitious forward requires someone who will mention his name when the selectors are at the despair

stage of their consideration. Once he is in, the more invisible a forward is the better, for the selectors will pick the same team except for those whom they did not like the look of.

From playing rugby football, it is only a stage further to seven-a-side tournament. This is only theoretically a potted version of the orthodox game. Teams play seven minutes each way and this serves to illustrate the fact that all time is relative. The winners have to go through it all again in about half-an-hour. This appears illogical but it is generally considered that if it were the losers who were penalised by having to go forward to the next round, too much incentive would induce too much feeling into the play. As it is players can even enjoy seven-a-sides if they can contrive to lose honourably in the first round and so depart with a flush of virtue and a complimentary ticket for Twickenham next week.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

G. H. T. SHRIMPTON

TYPING ERRORS

My Malayan civilian typist in the orderly room gives us a little light relief from time to time by some rather original typing errors.

I thought the following examples, which are certified as genuine, might amuse your readers:

1. Signalman X was charged, under Section 34(2) of the Army Act with disobeying a *powerful* command . . .
2. (To Malayan Railways) Please reserve two *lover* berths on the night train to Singapore.
3. (Subject heading) SIGNALS ASSOCIATION 12th ANNUAL *MUTINY*.

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Ein Kleines Jokenskröbling . . .

Before I tell you of my trip to Germany d'you mind if I just brag a little about the Introduction to Atomic Research that appeared in the September issue of THE WIRE? I tried to give you a hint then of red Sputnik—didn't I mention "Das schruballische schtargazen peepenglassen mit Komputenrattracen schteerenwerke" and "Das Senden Offen mit ein Pattenbacker Und Finger Gekrossen Schteerenwerke."

I couldn't go any further—I was sworn to secrecy but I knew it would be just one damned bleep after another.

There's nothing new in this Satellite—why, I know chaps, especially at Catterick, who've been moving in dirty big circles for years. Anyone who has trained operators wireless will know what I mean!

The Trip . . .

Despite the sincere queries of my colleagues with their "Wot Swanning again," "Must be related to the C.I.G.S.," "His G.I. must be a kind bloke," we, that is Mr. J. Aslett, of S.R.D.E., and I journeyed to Liverpool Street Station for the voyage to B.A.O.R.

The train journey was an education in itself—we understood the driver and fireman had relatives all the way down the line, cos every so often we'd stop whilst they popped off for a chat and a cup of tea.

The Customs were funny—"Anything to declare?" they asked. I told 'em about my overdraft, the cost of living, the price of beer and they were so nice—said they'd see me on the way back for a chat.

Our first port of call was Munchen-Gladbach, which can best be described as a very posh Catterick. But whereas Catterick was specially created to be on its way to somewhere else, this Munchen-Gladbach is a fixture. Two things immediately strike one—the absence of whitewash (I have an idea Catterick can't spare any!) and the quiet, confident, purposefulness of the troops. This was especially noticeable in 19 Army Group Signal Regiment. Lieutenant-Colonel P. Lonnor is the C.O., which probably explains itself. His "M" Troop might well have as their motto "New Lamps for Old," for the way these chaps keep old vehicles and old installations going is worthy of Aladdin!

As we were leaving we bumped into a bloke who said he was a Foreman and we asked him what he thought of modern communications. His reply was so simply put, so concise—just read on . . .

For a number of years now work has been proceeding in order to bring to perfection the crudely conceived idea of a machine that would not only supply inverse reactive current for use in unilateral phase detractors, but would also be capable of automatically synchronising cardinal grammeters. Such a machine is the "Turbo-Encabulator." Basically, the only new principle involved is that instead of power being generated by the relative motion of conductors and fluxes, it is produced by the nodal interaction of magneto-reluctance and capacitive directance.

The original machine had a base-plate of pre-fabulated aluminite, surmounted by a malleable logarithmic casing in such a way that the two main spurving bearings were in a direct line with the pentameric fan. The latter consisted simply of six hydrocopic marxlevanes, so fitted to the ambifacient lunar waneshaft that side fumbling was effectively prevented. The main winding was of the normal lotus-odelta type placed in panendermic semi-bovoid slots in the stator, every seventh conductor being connected by

a nonreversible tremie pipe to the differential girdle-spring on the "up" end of the grammeters.

Forty-one manestically spaced grouting brushes were arranged to feed into the rotor slip-stream a mixture of high S-value phenyl-hydrobenzabine and 5% ruminative tetryliodoexamine. Both these liquids have specific pericosities given by

$$6.7$$

$$P = 2.5 \text{ Cn}$$

where n is the diathetical evolute of retrograde temperature phase disposition and C is Cholmondeley's annular grillage coefficient. Initially, n was measured with the aid of a metapolar refractive pilfrometer, *but up to the present date nothing has been found to equal the transcendental hopper dadoscope.

Electrical engineers will appreciate the difficulty of nubing together a regurgitative pugwell and a supramitive wengel-sprocket. Indeed, this proved to be a stumbling-block to further development until, in 1942, it was found that the use of anhydrous nangling pins enabled the kryptonastic bolling shims to be tankered.

The early attempts to construct a sufficiently robust spiral decommutator largely failed because of a lack of appreciation of the large quazi-piestic stresses in the gremlin studs; the latter were specially designed to hold the roffit bars to the spamshaft. When, however, it was discovered that wending could be prevented by a simple addition to the jiving sockets, almost perfect running was secured.

The operating point is maintained as near as possible to the h.f. rem peak by constantly fromaging the bitumogeonous spandrels. This is a distinct advance on the standard nivelsheave in that no drumcock oil is required until after the phase detractors have remissed.

Undoubtedly, the turbo-encabulator has now reached a very high level of technical development. It has been successfully used for operating nofertrunnions. In addition, wherever a barescent akor motion is required, it may be employed in conjunction with a deep drawn reciprocating dingle arm to reduce sinusoidal pleneration.

*For a description of this ingenious instrument see L. P. Rumpelvertsein in "Zeitschrift fur Elektrotechnistische-Donnerblitze," vol. vii.

1 Corps Signals Regiment . . .

After that shattering experience with the Foreman, we journeyed to Herford to stay with 1 Corps Signal Regiment. Here, under Lieutenant-Colonel E. P. Johnson, we found the same cheerful, confident atmosphere. Maybe it was the feeling of a job well done in operation "Musketeer" and very proud the chaps are indeed—maybe it was the Suez souvenirs—everything except the Canal!—maybe the family spirit. Whatever it is, the jaunty confidence is all-pervading.

Most of the Officers speak German to their own satisfaction with the exception of Major Freddie Bonnard, who speaks five languages and still studies with the same intent as you and I study female statistics!

It was here I heard the parable of the isms:

SOCIALISM

If you have two cows you give one to your neighbour.

COMMUNISM

If you have two cows you give them to the Government and the Government then gives you some milk.

FASCISM

If you have two cows you keep the cows and give the milk to the Government, then the Government sells you some milk.

NEW IDEALISM

If you have two cows you shoot one and milk the other, then you pour the milk down the drain.

NAZISM

If you have two cows the Government shoots you and keeps the cows.

CAPITALISM

If you have two cows you sell one and buy a bull.

Wish I could find space to mention all the old Corps personalities, from Major (Q.M.) "Pompey" August to Lieutenant (T.O.T.) "Froggy" French—and in fact to tell you why we did go. But there, if we do that—bang goes the chance next year.

Back next month—just off for a sloc gin!

The Berlin Train Guard

By SECOND-LIEUTENANT I. A. CRAMOND, ROYAL SIGNALS

Towards the end of September a letter was received by the Regiment detailing it to provide a guard, comprising one Officer, one Sergeant and six men, for a freight train bound for Berlin. I was the Officer selected as O.C. party. In addition, I was permitted to select the remainder from my own Troop, namely M.T. Troop.

Within a few hours of its having been made, a call for volunteers brought forward in the region of 30 names and with them came the unenviable and difficult task of selection. My Sergeant, Sergeant Gillan, and myself both thought of different and equally as complicated selective systems, but neither of us could find one which would reduce the number to the requisite amount. In the end we were driven to the "out of the hat" method which, when you have an excellent group of men to choose from, can always be relied upon as a fair method.

Documentation swiftly followed the submission of names. All sorts of weird, wonderful and highly coloured forms were produced and duly completed. The file which was eventually given to the party was more than enough to impress any Russian.

It seemed no time from the inauguration of preparations until the actual departure. Even shorter was the time from my going to bed the evening before until I was awakened by one of the guards, who was rather over-enthusiastic in his first task. The mist, the cold and the dampness all obvious encouragements to stay in a warm bed, did not add any joys to the departure by vehicle from Cologne to Dusseldorf.

At four o'clock in the morning Dusseldorf station seemed as if petrified. Only the occasional hoot of an engine broke the eerie silence. After a short wait we boarded our train and established ourselves in the two compartments which had been reserved for us. The first thing which struck one of the men, a souvenir hunter who often has to be restrained, was that every sign from "communication cord" to "do not lean out of the window" was duplicated in Russian.

I would be surprised if anyone found the journey to

Brunswick in this Berlin bound passenger train comfortable, and as a result there was a feeling of relief when the time drew near for our leaving the train. Sergeant Gillan took command of our baggage arrangements and had everything from our compo rations to the bread knife neatly stacked at the end of the corridor. The train drew slowly into Brunswick, stopped, and the engine let out a long sigh. Then the usual rush started, even the impressive figure of Sergeant Gillan being swept aside, despite his elaborate protestations.

During all the confusion Drivers Davis and O'Neill quietly unloaded all the pieces of baggage which they could lay their hands on. A few seconds before the train was due to pull out there was uproar from the carriage which we had just left and to the amusement of his fellow travellers a very small, baldheaded German came shooting out of the train like a rocket, delved into our pile of baggage, produced his own case and dashed back into the train.

On turning round we found a smart young N.C.O. from the R.T.O., who organised a trolley and took us to the waiting vehicles. I was whistled off directly to the R.T.O., whilst the remainder of the party were taken to the railway siding to join what became affectionately known as "our train."

As I arrived in the R.T.O.'s office I was politely shown to a seat, whilst my documents were checked and counter-checked. The R.T.O. then turned round, offered me a cigarette and said:

"You will be leaving in twelve hours time. Everything is ready now, save for the exploding bomb signs which I have to put on the side of the train."

The fact that the so-called freight train was an ammunition supply train slowly penetrated. The R.T.O. continued:

"You should be greatly honoured, Sir; only a very few go through each year."

That statement certainly helped ease the fact that we would be sitting on top of a considerable quantity of explosives for the next 30 hours.

On arriving at the train I found Driver Whittington busily sorting through our rations and making preparations for our first meal. The first two guards were duly posted and the remainder prepared our fitted guards' van, which had everything from bunks to wash basins.

During all this industry I sat down and carefully read through my orders. There were instructions on dealing with the Russians, including numerous translations on handling stowaways and on guarding the train during our journey through Eastern Germany.

Sergeant Gillan's cheery face appeared round the doorway of my little compartment and he announced that the food was ready; adding an accurate but unprintable description of Whittington's efforts. In fact, although in all probability he will never find employment as a chef in the Dorchester, Whittington had certainly done well and it was generally agreed that he should continue as our cook.

During the remainder of the day I continually visited the guards and, as may be expected, never once saw them having a "sly drag" beside their charge.

Not long before the train left, the R.T.O. arrived and asked me to take it on signature. When I told the Adjutant about this on my return, he mumbled something about Empire building. The R.T.O. told me about the buffer system comprising ten empty wagons between the engine and the ammo coaches and between ourselves and the latter. When I explained this to the men Sergeant Gillan interjected, saying that there might as well be a sheet of newspaper there for all the effect the buffers would have—or words to that effect.

With a massive jolt we began to move off to our first stop, which was to be Helmstedt, the British control point. On arriving there we were met by a very pleasant movements control civilian, who ensured that our stocks of fuel and fresh water were replenished.

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D. J. PARKINSON

GOLD AND SILVER WIRE BADGE-MAKER

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At a quarter to one in the morning the train set off again, this time to the Russian control point at Marienborn, where we were to begin the most interesting if not exciting part of our journey.

With a shudder the train stopped at Marienborn, a little station freshly painted and decorated with a predominance of red flags. Drivers Davis and Whittington, fully armed, were posted on the gallery of our van, whilst the remainder sat and patiently awaited developments.

Eventually Davis entered the wagon and said:

"Sir, there is a Russian outside who wants to speak to you."

Arming myself with a massive bundle of forms, I went to the door, smartly saluted the Russian Officer who was standing there, and at his request accompanied him to his office. On the way there I noticed out of the corner of my eye that several Russian soldiers were amused by my cane and were trying to imitate me by carrying a piece of stick under their arms. The Officer asked me to wait whilst he stamped all the documents. He returned after a few minutes and before he would let me go proudly pronounced my name from my identity card.

On returning to the train I posted my guards, who were most impressed to find armed Russians on the same beats as themselves. One was heard to say:

"Wait till I get back and tell the boys about this."

A check of the time-table confirmed that we were here for about an hour-and-a-half, so after about half-an-hour I visited the two guards who were by this time at the far end of the train. As I arrived there the train driver, who was in such a position that he could not see us, gave a gentle hoot, which was the recognised signal that he intended to move off. Like a flash the three of us doubled back to the van, arriving there completely breathless after one of the fastest sprints of our lives, only to find that the train remained completely static. Twenty minutes went by and I again sent out another two guards, telling them to remain in close proximity to our van, an order which they obeyed to the last letter without question.

In the van itself I found Sergeant Gillan organising the brewing of tea, a welcome sight at this time on a cold morning. I went forward to see how it was progressing but only took a few steps before a massive jolt disturbed this peaceful scene. Sgt. Gillan's eyes met mine and of one accord we both moved towards the door at an amazing speed only to hear the clatter of boots as Drivers Hird and Beckett came doubling down by the side of the now gently moving train. They arrived completely out of breath but with still enough strength to leap aboard. It appears that one must never rely on the Russians' sense of timing.

We rumbled on, continually gathering speed until we reached the town of Magdeburg where we stopped again. This time the guards were posted on the observation gallery to prevent a repetition of the Marienborn episode—no more white faces—no more visions of spending years in Siberia. On looking around I could not see any Russian soldiers but the place was swarming with East German police. The wait was so long and so cold that the sight of frost brought back to mind my responsibilities as M.T.O. for the not so distant frost precautions.

After over an hour we pulled slowly out of this uninteresting siding and proceeded on our way. Dawn, always an impressive sight from a train, came up not long after and we were treated to an attractive view of trees laden with frost and the occasional glimpse of large expanses of water.

Probably the most interesting of our many stops was made near a Russian barracks where we saw P.T. and first works parades in progress. Cross country running, apparatus work and normal physical jerks (all performed in full uniform) seemed to be part of the daily routine. On the forming of the first works parade loudspeakers blared music and later what we took to be the news. Formidable looking tanks stood in neat lines in an M.T. park. Although the soldiers' uniforms were not particularly smart (fore and aft caps,

loose jackets and jack boots), the men themselves with their shaven heads looked clean and of good bearing.

Several wayside stops were followed by a longer one at Potsdam which was a guide to us that we were now near Berlin. A slow ride through beautiful forest area culminated in Spandau station, from whence we were shunted to an R.A.O.C. depot.

We had seen during our journey sights which many miss owing to the fact that all the normal trains rush through in the dead of night. This, of course, all added to make our duty one of the most interesting which we had done during our service. In fact, coupled with the accompanying stay in Berlin, it may be described as "a chance of a lifetime."

1 WIRELESS REGIMENT



1 WIRELESS REGIMENT CRICKET TEAM

Back Row: Lance/Corporal Green (Umpire), Lance/Corporal Bennett, Corporal Everest, Lance/Corporal Foster, Signalman Whittaker, Lance/Corporal Convey, Signalman Thomas (Scorer). Front Row: Signalman Clayton, Lance/Corporal Hickman, Captain Davison, Captain Evanson (Captain), Lance/Corporal Millar, Signalman Benson

The new A.K.C. cinema, "The Globe," was opened on the 11th July, 1957, by Mrs. Jordan, wife of the Commanding Officer. Its performances can only be judged by the fact that bookings have been heavy the last few weeks. It will certainly prove a most popular form of entertainment during the long winter months. Thanks must be given to Lieutenant-Colonel P. W. Lonnon, the previous Commanding Officer, for his efforts in obtaining this new cinema for the Unit.

Athletics. We wound up the many successes we have had this year in the field of athletics by being runners-up in the Signals B.A.O.R. Competition. The team took second place to 19 Army Group Signal Regiment and thus obtained our first point towards the Morrison Cup for 1957/58.

We also reached the Rhine Army finals and were the only Royal Signals' team to do so, this was as a result of winning the Rhine District Meeting.

Two teams were entered in the Nijmegen March and successfully completed the course.

Cricket. A successful season ended with victory for the Regiment in the final of the Royal Signals (B.A.O.R.) Inter-Unit Competition after dismissing 4 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment for 112 (Lance-Corporal Bennett 6 for 48), the Regiment replied with 113 for 6. Outstanding bowler of the season was Lance-Corporal Bennett, who seemed to reserve the best form for the Royal Signals Cup games, as figures of 6 for 13, 7 for 32 and 6 for 24 show. He also played for the Corps in the annual match against the Royal Engineers. On the batting side, the two most consistent players were Signalman Clayton and Lance-Corporal Hickman, who finished the season with averages of 53 and 49.3 respectively.

The team are to be congratulated on a fine show. By winning this competition we have put ourselves in the lead with a total of three points towards the Morrison Cup. Major C. J. Cattanach, Royal Australian Signals, now back in Australia, should be interested to see these results.

7 ARMoured DIVISION SIGNAL REGIMENT

The "mixture as before" has been the prescription for the past three summer months—short and long Exercises interspersed with sporting events and trade and N.C.O. courses.

The main sporting events have been a series of Motor Cycle Trials in which, this year, we achieved only moderate success in comparison with last year. In the 7 Armoured Division Trial, which we have won for the previous five years, we had to be content with second place; the standard of riding was as high as ever but unfortunately one member of the team suffered two disastrous punctures during the road circuit and no amount of skilful riding in the subsequent tests could make up the lost points. We were placed third in the open event of 2 Infantry Division Trials and finished the season in a blaze of glory by beating all-comers in the Berlin Independent Brigade Trials.

We say farewell to Major P. F. Yeatman, M.B.E., Captain C. E. H. Mawson and Captain J. Cox, together with their families, and wish them all the best of luck in their new postings. To the new arrivals, Major G. W. Blackburne, Major (Q.M.) W. G. Walters, Captain D. S. Clarke, Captain A. J. Jackson and Captain A. J. Baker, we extend a hearty welcome.

We must also record the departure of Captain G. C. E. Goodman, R.E., who for many years as Garrison Engineer has been a stalwart member of the Officers' Mess and who has also played (with official sanction!) in the Regimental hockey and tennis teams. "Sandy" was first dined out in April, 1955, but luckily for us was granted an extension which lasted two-and-a-half years! We warmly welcome his successor, Major V. Traynor, R.E., and trust that his association with the Regiment will be as close and happy as was "Sandy's."

Asian (or should it be Asiatic?) flu has struck us but so far the casualties have not been sufficient to cause too much concern. The chief inconvenience, apart from that to the unlucky sufferers, is the temporary loss of the Gymnasium, which has been transformed into a Garrison sick-bay.

The Wives' Club, unlike that of Steeple Bumstead (September issue, page 280), is flourishing and meets every week; this gives some of the husbands a chance to get together for an evening's bridge.

To Captain H. Rothwell, our erstwhile Adjutant, we offer our belated but nonetheless sincere congratulations on his award of the M.B.E. in the Birthday Honours.

4 INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

We are one of those busy field force Units which "surfaces" from time to time to record a hectic period of Exercises, interspersed with a full sporting programme.

In the early summer, 2 Squadron went off to its annual Artillery Practice Camp and among its tasks was the stage management of a firepower demonstration in front of 250 V.I.P.s. The climax of a month's hard training was the firing of three "Honest John" rockets. Our Brigade Signal Squadrons have had equally strenuous training. 3 Squadron, under Major A. R. Brooke, had an exacting season, which finished up with their participation in Exercise "Brown Jug" in Denmark. Although 3 Squadron have now left us, we have welcomed in their place 21 Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron, commanded by Major D. B. Emley, who seemed to have inherited an equally energetic Exercise programme. Life is no easier for Major T. S. Foster and 4 Squadron, who appear to be permanently based upon the Soltau training areas throughout the summer.

So much for Exercises. With half-a-dozen Milocarians amongst our Officers, sport, and especially athletics, has taken a

new lease of life. The Regiment came fourth out of nine competing teams in the Royal Signals (B.A.O.R.) Athletic Competition. Captain J. B. Prince and Signalman Wharton won the javelin, whilst Captain M. R. Potter and Signalman Fitzpatrick were second in the discus. Another good performance was Lance-Corporal Faulkner and Signalman Fitzpatrick, who obtained second place in the long jump. Parallel with this, Captain A. Coates trained an enthusiastic Regimental team which participated in the Nijmegen Marches.

"4 Divisional Signals" also spells "B.A.O.R. Cricket." Under Major J. D. B. Thornton's captaincy for the third year, our cricket team enjoyed their usual triumphant progress right up to the Royal Signals B.A.O.R. final, where we suffered defeat at the hands of 1 Wireless Regiment. We swept the board at our Divisional Motor Cycling Trials, particularly good performances being achieved by Captain R. C. Anderson and Corporal Toll. Indoor sports play no less an important part in daily life, and basketball matches and squash are flourishing. Several basketball matches have been played against local German teams.

SPECIAL ORDER OF THE DAY

by
BRIGADIER D.O.N.T. FLAP, N.S.

FAREWELL MESSAGE

DON'T PANIC; IT MAY NEVER HAPPEN TO YOU

Regulars now cannot relax,
They are all afraid of the great big axe.
Dust those civvies, store that gat,
Don't forget that bowler hat.

Young ones, old ones, here they come,
Sandys' stream lined Army has begun,
The Scots are merging, so we hope,
But with the Cav in Tanks there'll still be hope.

Thirteen thousand gloomy faces,
No more marching to the R.S.M.'s paces;
So collect your ackers and wear a grin,
In ten years time you'll be back in.

10 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT

On the 26th September Mrs. Blower, wife of the Commanding Officer, held one of her popular tea parties for the wives of the members of the Regiment in her house in Cologne. These parties have been the only way in which the families have been able to meet one another and to welcome the new wives, as it has not been found possible to form a "Wives' Club" on a Regimental basis. This party had a greater significance than all the others, as it was in the nature of a farewell by Mrs. Blower, who is unfortunately leaving us for other lands.

All the wives attended and a very pleasant afternoon was spent by all. We are very sorry to lose Mrs. Blower, as she has been a tower of strength in the welfare of all the families and she will be missed by us all. To show our appreciation, the wives made her a small presentation as a mark of our respect and thanks, and we would once again like to say "Goodbye" and wish her well in her new station. Maybe some of us will be lucky enough to meet up with her again.

Farewell Tea Party given by Mrs. Blower



SHAPE Village

A half-hour's drive west of Paris is located what is probably France's newest and most unusual village. Here, about five miles from Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe, is SHAPE village — an international community which provides homes for many of the personnel posted to SHAPE. Officers and men, and their families, representatives of the 15 nations which constitute the North Atlantic Alliance live here in 303 modern apartments arranged in attractive blocks in a landscaped, beautifully wooded setting.

Far from a luxury or a whim, SHAPE Village was born of necessity. Upon the establishment of SHAPE in early 1951, General Eisenhower, first Supreme Allied Commander Europe, and his Chief-of-Staff, General Gruenther, were deeply disturbed over the extreme scarcity of housing available for rental by members of the staff. Because it was vital that housing be made available and because the Command was anxious to avoid aggravating the general housing shortage which existed in the area, the decision to build was adopted.

The French Government, as host nation, gave its complete approval to the proposal and immediately initiated an intensive search for a tract of land suitable for the purpose. A number of sites were considered and then discarded because they could not meet the requirements. The search ended in the early summer of 1951 amid the 55 acres of Hennemont Estate. The selection of Hennemont Estate as the location for a multinational community was probably inevitable for, not only did it satisfy the requirements, but in addition it had had an international complexion during the latter part of its long, varied history.

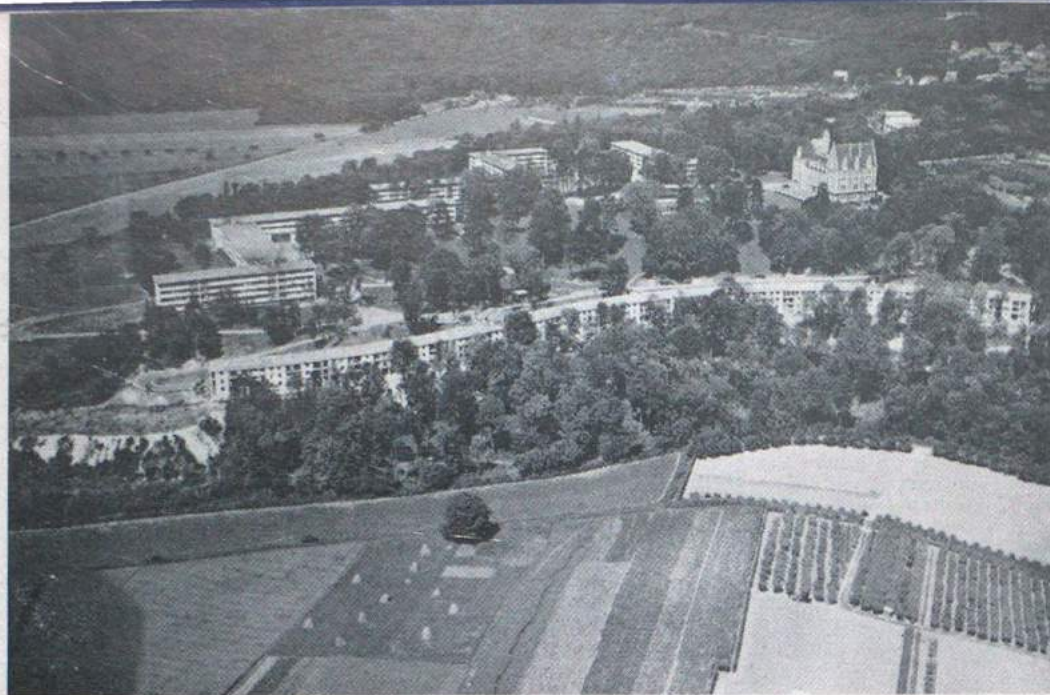
At the end of the 13th Century the Estate was presented by Philip the Bold to the Maid of Honour to the Queen, who built a priory on it. There was little change in the property until 1905, when a French chemist bought it and erected a chateau, which was completed in 1910. In 1928 the Estate was transferred to the Maharaja of Indore, who lived there for a short time. After that the Chateau was converted into a hospital for Colonial Forces. After World War II commenced, the Germans used the Estate as major headquarters for four years. When the tide of battle was turned, the Estate was successively an American and an Allied headquarters. Certainly none can deny that Hennemont Estate had been host to foreigners before it was selected as the site for SHAPE Village.

Detailed plans and estimates were drawn up and the French Government agreed to utilise Marshall Plan counterpart funds to finance the construction. In June, 1951, the Ministry of Reconstruction and Urban Development authorised an appropriation of two-and-a-half billion francs. One month later the plans and estimates were approved and actual work began.

Wherever it was feasible, prefabricated materials were utilised. Initially, 900 workmen kept the construction moving forward on a 12-hour daily schedule. Each day 100 cubic meters of masonry were produced. As a result of these intensive measures, the work crews were able eventually to achieve a rate of completion of two apartments per day. Only 95 days after the ground was broken 18 apartments were already available for occupation. Less than one year later, SHAPE Village was an accomplished fact—a garden city complete with all utilities, sewage system and paved roads.

The apartments, comfortable but not luxurious, are available either furnished or unfurnished. They consist of two to six rooms and they have all modern conveniences, a balcony, and a fully equipped kitchen.

Because demand exceeds supply, a priority system for allocation of apartments, still in effect, was instituted. Preference is granted on the basis number of children in the family and the length of service in the Headquarters. For the many individuals posted to SHAPE this often entails a wait of the better part of one year before becoming eligible to occupy an apartment.



SHAPE Village has fully vindicated the hopes of those who planned it. It has provided happy homes for many of the Headquarters staff. But more than that, it has become living, indisputable proof that the national borders need not be national barriers.

MELF

2 WIRELESS REGIMENT

The months of August and September tend to be quiet in Cyprus as the hot weather does not encourage great activities. Of course, we are very fortunate in being near the sea and one of the finest beaches in the world, so most men spend their off duty hours in the water.

Another advantage of Cyprus is the fact that it is the cross-road for air traffic in the Middle East. This means that for those fortunate enough to have leave, there is plenty of opportunity to visit other countries in the Middle East. There is a free travel scheme to Beirut which many members of the Regiment have taken advantage of, and now tours of the Holy Land are being organised.

Three members of the Regiment, an officer, sergeant and signalman took the Corps Yacht *Cito* from Kyrenia to Limassol, half way round the Island, during the month. They returned with reports of meeting many interesting locals at the various villages around the coast. Three officers and three signalmen represented the Garrison in the Regatta at Dhekelia at the end of September. This was an exciting week-end with rough seas and good winds. Several boats capsized and one of our dinghies was damaged, not to mention the crew!

The Mercury Theatre group have three productions in preparation, including the Christmas pantomime. The Choral section is also preparing a repertoire for when they face the Cyprus Broadcasting Service microphone.

The Regiment wound up a very successful season by winning the Cyprus District Signals Cricket Cup. They beat Cyprus District Signal Regiment by 22 runs in the semi-final and a combined Brigade Signals XI by 151 runs in the final. Outstanding among the batsmen were the opening pair, Second-Lieutenant C. A. L. MacHeath and Signalman Hoad. The most successful bowlers were Second-Lieutenant J. M. Carrington and Signalman Lee.

At Squadron level, 2 Squadron and 3 Squadron both reached the final of the Famagusta area knock-out cup. 3 Squadron won a very exciting game by 19 runs. 2 Squadron won the Unit inter-squadron cup, and were runners-up in the area Minor Units League. During the season they set up an area record by scoring 212-4 during a 25-over game.

We are now looking forward to the Rugger and Soccer season with great hopes.



51 (INDEPENDENT) INFANTRY BRIGADE SIGNAL SQUADRON

First Row : Driver McHugh, Signalmen Dennison, Collins, Surfield, Driver Clamp, Signalmen Rafferty, Thackery, Jackson, Allott, Mulligan, McGrory
Second Row : Corporals Hope, Carvill, Bottoms, Marchant, Sergeant Bishop, S.S.M. Carnell, Captain D. J. Milton, Major J. M. W. Badcock, Second-Lieutenant H. S. Wilson, Staff/Sergeant Willis, Corporals Pfeiffer, Toole, Thorn, Pashley (R.A.P.C.), Tilley (A.C.C.)
Third Row : Signalman Jones, Drivers McDermott, Scott, Signalmen Walker, Male, Lance/Corporal Osborne, Corporals Allen, Payne, Lance/Corporal Phelps, Driver Collett, Signalmen Sturman, Smith (475), Driver Nutter, Signalmen Dodds, Barr
Fourth Row : Private Davies (A.C.C.), Signalmen Hadley, Latto, Private Cummins (A.C.C.), Signalmen Wilshaw, Cawdron, Hannah, Barton, Middleton, Brown (265), Hogg, Janes, Harbach, Ellison, Duchie
Fifth Row : Signalman Harrison, Driver Colley, Lance/Corporals Downs, Grainger, Driver Harrison, Harkins, Signalmen Nolan (958), Roberts, Price, Driver Smith, Signalman Ingham, Lance-Corporal Ould, Driver Goodman
Sixth Row : Drivers Evans, Davis, Bailey, Signalmen Ring, Healy, Hooper, Taylor (943), Taylor (480), Driver O'Callaghan, Signalmen Shannon, Smith (997)



51st (Independent) Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron

Nothing has been heard of this Squadron in THE WIRE for some time but sufficient has now happened to make our news of interest to others.

The past six months has seen considerable changes in faces, equipment and work, and whilst we hesitate to say that the former is for the good, we certainly believe the latter to be!

First, faces. During the last six months there has been a 100 per cent replacement of all Officers, Warrant Officers and Sergeants. We have said good-bye and thanks to Major Knowles, Lieutenant Lavender, W.O.II Marris, Staff Sergeant Romney, Sergeants Leech and Purdy, and have welcomed Major Badcock, Second-Lieutenant Wilson, W.O.II Carnell, Staff Sergeant Willis, Sergeants Gummert, Hughes and Bishop in their places.

As to equipment, there has been a considerable change in the look of the Squadron Car Park. Gone or going are all vehicles of 1-ton or over and in their places stand landrovers and 1-ton trailers. Air transportability is the cry of the day.

Next work. The I.S. restrictions were lifted in March and we were then able to go out on exercises of all sorts. Whilst our I.S. commitments continued we have had a Brigade Exercise every fortnight and many of our own between times. Our practices at air transportability came to fruition on 1st August, when the O.C. and the two Brigade Command vehicles detachments (now Landrover and trailer) joined the Brigade Commander at five hours' notice by air in Bahrain, Land Forces, Persian Gulf. They returned on 23rd August, having in the intervening period provided the wireless communications at Tac LFPG, and been flown to Fahud, thence motored to Nizwa, and down the other side of the Jebel Akbar to Muscat from whence they flew back to Cyprus. The experiences have proved that the change in equipment and the summer training had been well worth while.

Sport has not been neglected. Entering as a combined team with Brigade H.Q. we won the Cyprus Major and Minor Units Basket Ball Competition, came second in the Brigade Minor Unit Cricket League, and in combination with other Brigade Signal Troops in the island, were beaten in the finals of the Royal Signals Cricket Week-end. We are entering in every possible competition of the Cyprus District Rifle Meeting.

★

50 INDEPENDENT INFANTRY BRIGADE SIGNAL TROOP

This last month has seen many changes in the senior ranks of the Troop. We regretfully said farewell to Sergeant and Mrs. Turner and wish them the best of luck at the Junior Leaders' Regiment. Second-Lieutenant Edmonds and Sergeant Crawford are welcomed from 4 Air Formation Signal Regiment and Staff Sergeant Oxberry from the wilds of Catterick.

Practice for the Brigade and District Rifle Meetings have taken up much of our time and, of course, the inevitable butt parties have toiled loyally in the Cyprus sun. We think it all worth while, as we supplied several members of the Headquarters team which won the Minor Units Championship and Rifle Match. Among those deserving a mention are Lance-Corporal Forsdyke and Signalmen Scott, Pearson and Kiggin. The O.C. managed to scrape into the Cyprus Colony team without disgracing himself.

We can claim success in the cricket world. The Brigade Headquarters' team were runners-up in the Cyprus Minor Units Knock-out Competition, and the Troop were ably represented by Corporal Hughes, Lance-Corporal Forsdyke and Signalmen Terry and Turner. These four also were selected for the successful combined Brigade Signal Units' team which played at the Corps Cricket Week-end at Episkopi.

Night convoy training has become a twice weekly feature of our life. It is not surprising in this undeveloped country, in pitch darkness, that one or two drivers have ended up in the far beyond, in the early hours of the morning.

It is said that some people consider swimming a chilly sport now that the temperatures have dropped to the lower 90's. We wonder how many long for the good old days in Kykko after their breathlessly awaited release to the U.K.

FARELF

HONG KONG SIGNAL REGIMENT

2 Squadron. We write our contribution to THE WIRE as typhoon "Gloria" lashes itself into a frenzy outside, and Radio Hong Kong tells us that gusts of up to 100 knots are being recorded at the Observatory. The relative humidity is 100 per cent., temperature 86° F. and over six inches of rain have fallen in the last 12 hours. Typhoon Signal No. 10 has been hoisted for the first time in years. The harbour is deserted, all the larger vessels, including the troopship *Nevasa*, having put to sea to ride out the storm, and the smaller craft seek safety in the typhoon anchorages. Ferries, trams, trains, buses and even D.R.s are at a standstill.

Fortunately "Gloria" is being as fickle as the rest of her sex and at the last moment we learn we shall not get the full blast of her anger, since the centre will pass some miles from us. Nevertheless, tomorrow we shall once again be faced with a considerable amount of "tidying-up" and Line Squadron will almost certainly be confronted with an impressive list of faults.

The "Q" and M.T. staffs will alternate between despair and relief as they contemplate the damage and speculate what other incidents will be accepted by the "financial powers that be" as "due to typhoon."

Since we last appeared in print we have said farewell to Major A. J. Jackson and Sergeant Bateman, who have returned to U.K., and W.O.II Bailey on his appointment as R.Q.M.S. In their place we have Major L. M. Evans, W.O.II Scott and Sergeant Swallow. Provided *Nevasa* has survived the storm, we also say farewell next week to Lieutenant H. A. Cuerden and his Medium Regiment, R.A., Signal Troop.

In the field of sport we have no marked achievement and will be content to report that we have swum a fair amount and played quite a lot of six-a-side hockey. Cricket, soccer and rugby trials are just starting again and Captain Tidey is to lead the Regimental cricket team.

In the recent Garrison Swimming Gala the Regiment came second. In the Land Forces Individual Swimming Championships Lance-Corporal Falcini, 1 Squadron, won the 100, 200 and 400 yards freestyle events and was second in the 100 yards butterfly. In the 100 yards freestyle he established a new record, being the first Army swimmer to break 60 seconds by finishing in 59.2 seconds. Our congratulations to him on a fine achievement.

Other Overseas Stations

GIBRALTAR SIGNAL SQUADRON

The "shape of things to come," having cast a slight gloom over the Rock, has rather taken our minds away from those fascinating little daily events, chronicles of which make such fascinating reading.

However, A.A.I. ?; perhaps not. Sport? We keep on trying, but with numbers down to the region of 36 all ranks, and not a single gladiator posted in for the past year, sporting life has become difficult. Our cricket team is full of enthusiasm and we are never beaten by more than a few runs.

We combined with Fortress H.Q. for athletics and swimming, and our rowing crew was adjudged the best loser.

We even started a Squadron Boat Club with a dinghy borrowed from the Water Transport Company R.A.S.C. This has been a roaring success and we shall soon have enough in the kitty to purchase our own boat. The poor old dinghy is never given a rest, and when not performing its aquatic function it is being scraped, polished, painted and fettled *ad nauseum*.

It had better be mentioned that W.O.II Grant, before his Traffic Superintendent Course in U.K., came second in the road racing finals.

W.O.II West is now firmly in the chair as S.S.M. Perhaps "chair" is an understatement. Like the Gunners, he is "everywhere."

Sergeant Farrell and Corporal Newlan are the latest newly-weds.

Corporal Rolls (ex R.N.) has joined the Squadron in the Cipher Office and our large "Brummie" contingent has been increased by the arrival of Signalman Coombes (also a welcome addition to the cricket team).

SERVICE IN GIBRALTAR

By W.O.II P. H. GRANT

The Rock (as it is called affectionately) is nearly three miles long and three-quarters of a mile wide. However, it is not quite as small as it sounds, for it rises to a height of 1,396 feet and the western side of the peninsular is well developed and covered with a maze of roads and passages, with buildings rising, tier upon tier, halfway up the steep sides.

The job for Signals here is to maintain fixed service communications. We work in close co-operation with the Royal Navy and R.A.F. A recent R.A.F. project was to lay a remote control cable from one of the highest points on the rock from the radar station down over steep, rocky surfaces through tunnels and across roadways to the airfield on the frontier. The cable was specially manufactured in U.K., was in 1,000-yard lengths and therefore difficult to handle. The resident Infantry Battalion gave us a hand by loaning large fatigue parties, who quite enjoyed the change.

The major difficulty in Gibraltar is that owing to the lack of soil cable cannot often be buried and the only method of covering is to cement over it. Exposed cable hanging in tunnels or looped across the rock face is a familiar sight. On some of it the casing has completely worn away in places owing to constant chafing against the rock, yet some, even after 20 years, are still serviceable.

Gibraltar has been a fortress since 1704. Some soldiers imagine that the barracks were built then, for most are old and dark. The R.A. have left their stamp permanently because Orange or Jumpers Bastion or Wellington Front (our own address), are better known than street names.

For those who like the sea this is the place. It is visible from almost anywhere. Salt sea air is an enemy with which we fight a losing battle. Only the very short-sighted would leave any exposed iron or steel for long. Corrosion, once set in, is almost impossible to remove.

Owing to difficulties with Spain, some commodities which grow or are produced in profusion across the border, are in short supply here. Most important of all, we are forced to save from the annual rainfall of 35 to 40 inches (November to April), sufficient for our needs during summer. Vast water catchments, a familiar sight to passing ships, collect the rain, which is stored in large cave reservoirs. Fresh water is rationed, but there is an adequate supply for all essential purposes.

The climate is healthy, the temperatures ranging from 40° to 60° F. in the winter to 70° to 90° F. in the summer. A peculiar cloud called the Levant sometimes collects and hangs over the Rock and is rather oppressive, but those who live lower down in the town escape much of it.

Gibraltar has a population of 23,000 and every day an army of Spanish workers crosses the border to work in the dockyards, workshops and houses. These numbers are swelled by numerous tourists who come ashore from the calling liners.

The Ceremony of the Keys never fails to draw a large crowd of spectators. The ceremony is the traditional closing of the gates, the keys being handed to the Governor, the Fortress then being safe from surprise attack during the night. The city walls and gates still remain in very good condition.

Another tourist attraction are the two packs of apes known as the Rock Apes and on strength to the Royal Artillery. These half-tame, half-savage apes are now part of the history and tradition of Gibraltar.

The interior of the Rock must resemble a Gruyere cheese, for it is riddled with caves, tunnels and galleries, some built in 1783 and others still being excavated.

Owing to the general shortage of space, sports grounds are few and ground allocations are made from 0900 hrs. till dusk. Nevertheless, the keen sportsman can pack in soccer, hockey, basketball, road racing, athletics, badminton, tennis, shooting (small bore), swimming, under-water fish-

ing, boating and cricket during the year. The Signal Squadron, though small, has a fine sports store, which besides possessing the normal kit, has two canoes, bicycles and under-water fishing guns and masks, also rods and lines for the more conservative.

There are major and minor unit competitions for most sports and a round-the-rock road race once a year. This race is a fast six miles of up and down hills, through tunnels and as near to the circumference of the rock as the roads permit.

For those who are interested in the theatre there are some flourishing drama groups, though it is difficult to get first-class theatre groups to visit Gibraltar.

Any soldier with a visa'd passport may cross into Spain and owing to the very low cost of living, a fortnight's leave almost anywhere in Spain is not beyond the National Serviceman's pocket. Trips to Tangier, in North Africa, are organised by the local tourist agencies and special facilities are available for the Serviceman who decides to spend his leave there. In Gibraltar itself, Toc H and the Salvation Army have leave camps. U.K. is near enough to Gibraltar for long leaves for those who can afford the reasonable indulgence passage.

Though the cry is always, "Roll on when I leave this place," I have noticed that everyone seems to enjoy himself in Gibraltar.

COMCAN SIGNAL TROOP, ACCRA

Sergeant Lindsay and his band of Ghanaian labourers were interrupted at their tasks of unearthing aerial feeders, by Foreman Swaby's yells of success as another scorpion passed into oblivion. Final count was 76 scorpions and four snakes (assorted). We are pleased to report that the feeder maintenance was also completed.

Captain R. P. D. Painter, whilst driving his "Vauxhall Wyvern" to Takoradi to embark it for U.K., ran over a crocodile which was crossing the road. He was heard to remark that the crocodile was not much bigger than his car. May we remind him, now that he, too, has returned to U.K., that a crocodile crossing is one thing; a zebra crossing another.

Now that 50 per cent of the troop own some sort of vehicle it has been suggested that we should form our own car club. This may prove unnecessary because already the majority of car owners can regularly be seen assembled round the foreman requesting advice, string and/or insulating tape. Sergeant Copley took matters further by attempting to fill the boot of his "Nash Ambassador" with the foreman's "Fiat 500." Unfortunately the owner was wearing it at the time.

How many vehicle owners have a Royal Signals Car Badge? They are readily obtainable from the Association.—Ed.

The W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess held a social to bid farewell to Captain and Mrs. Painter and to welcome Captain and Mrs. Armstrong. The committee members were gratified by the many compliments paid them. A very successful evening.

In closing, all ranks wish Captain and Mrs. Painter every success in the future.

T.A.

2 (LONDON) SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

The Regiment officially opened its new Officers' Mess at Lytton Grove on 20th September with a very successful cocktail party. We were honoured in having our Honorary Colonel, Major-General C. M. F. White and his wife with us, who had driven up from Sussex for the occasion. In addition, we were pleased that Brigadier and Mrs. Burridge, Colonel T. M. Vigers, our late Honorary Colonel, and Brigadier Firth were able to be present.

On 17th October we shall be dining out our late C.O., Colonel Rupert Newcombe, who has left us on promotion. Though he left us before camp, in May, this will be the first occasion when we can get everyone together to dine him out, owing to our move of H.O. from Fulham House to Lytton Grove.

All the older members of the Regiment feel the parting from Fulham House very keenly, since it has been the Regiment's

home for so many years, in fact since 1908, but we all look forward to a prosperous and happy future at Lytton Grove.

Our D.R. Troop, with the able assistance of the Adjutant, Captain Colin Ridley, have been going from strength to strength. We entered a team for the London District Motor Cycle Trials on 1st September. We came third and thus qualified for the Eastern Command trials on 14th September, where we again came third and qualified for the Army Trials on 5th October. In this event we came fifth amongst T.A. Units. Well done, the D.R. Troop. We hope they will do as well next year, even though Colin Ridley will not be with us. We wish him all the best with his "red hat" in the Far East.

The Regiment also acquitted itself well in the Eastern Command T.A. Rifle Meeting which was held on 29th September. Cpl. Ryan, of the R.E.M.E. L.A.D., came second in the open individual competition. We won the Unit team competition and came second in the Falling Plate and Unit Challenge Trophy. Well done, the Weapon Training Officer.

We are now, having got over all our R.E.M.E. inspections and autumn week-end Exercises, preparing for our Annual Administrative Inspection on 18th November.

We are still short of Volunteers, particularly teleprinter operators, wireless operators, technicians and radio relay operators, so if you feel like volunteering for an interesting job in a fine active Regiment, come and see us at Lytton Grove, Putney, S.W.15.

It is with deep regret that we have just heard of the death of Colonel H. Lloyd-Howard, M.C., T.D., who commanded the Regiment from 1932 to 1936.

54 (EA) INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

It is some considerable time since we last appeared in print, and some readers might more easily recognise us under our old styling—61 Army Signal Regiment.

Since we became a Divisional Signal Regiment all of our sub-units have changed their names—if nothing else. We still are split up between Bedford, Luton, Brentwood, Norwich, Cambridge and Ipswich and it is a little difficult for us all to get together very frequently. We hope, however, to use the medium of THE WIRE to keep each outstation in touch with the others and to "write up" each one in separate monthly contributions.

There are three main items of news concerning the permanent staff this month. First, we must offer our sincerest congratulations to Lieutenant-Colonel (Q.M.) F. Spearpoint on attaining that rank. Our "Q.M." is a well known personality in all our centres and we are extremely pleased with the fact that we must be almost unique in having a Lieutenant-Colonel Q.M. with a T.A. Regiment.

We have said good-bye to Major H. Waters, our Training Major, who has gone back to the Regular Army at 3 Divisional Signals. It is said that his first exercise with his new unit laid him low in bed—he says with Asian Flu. He was properly dined out of our Officers' Mess and should have had sufficient internal antiseptic to ward off any germs lurking on Salisbury Plain. Major L. J. Parker has taken over the appointment on his return to U.K. from East Africa.

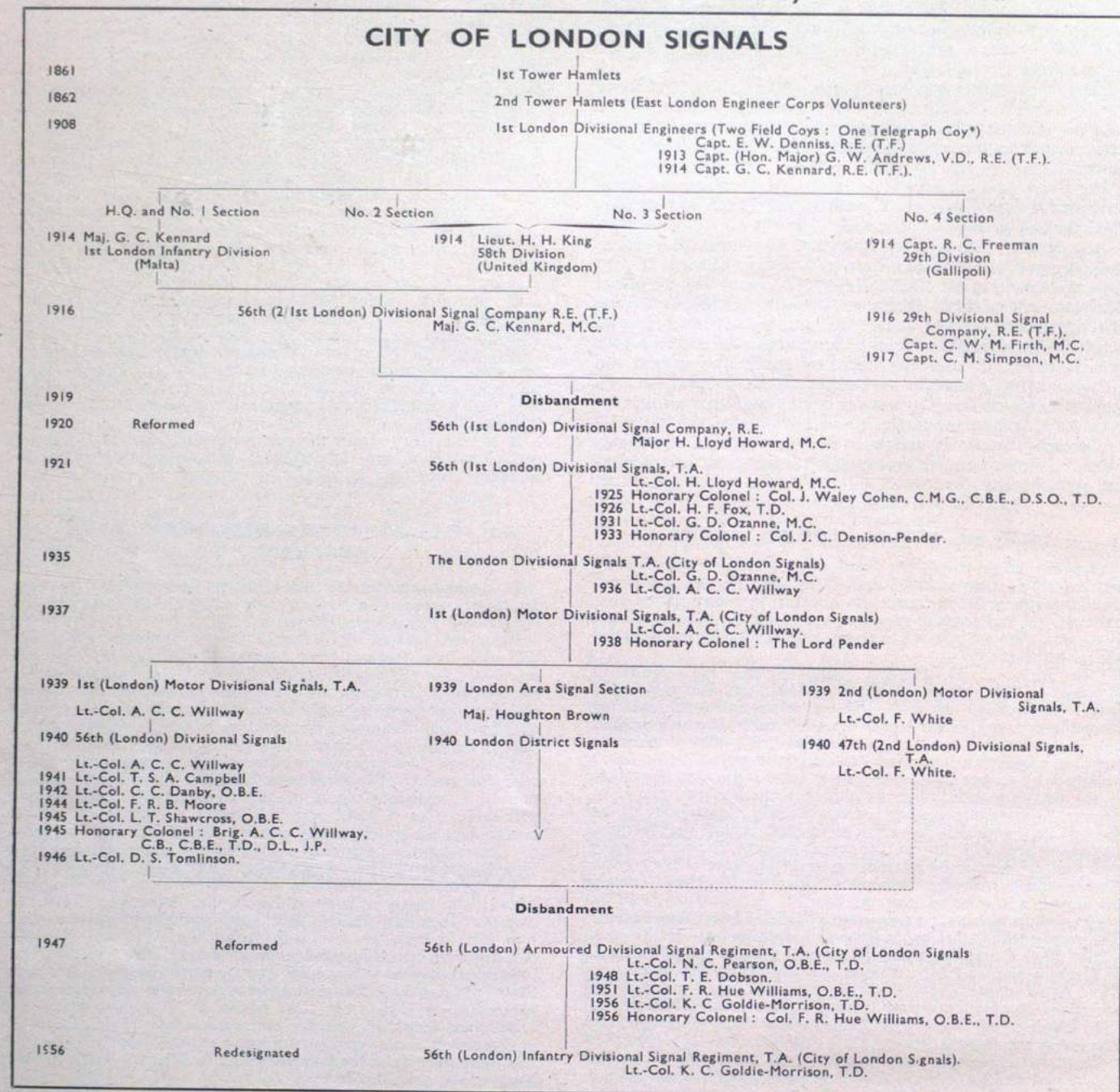
Sergeant Hopkins, who for many years has "held the fort" at Ipswich has now moved a short way down the line and has settled in Norwich where he is P.S.I. to No. 3 Squadron. He has, at last, come home to roost!

For the Regiment, the early autumn has been quite a strenuous period, with Exercises following each other on consecutive week-ends. We provided the "G" voice net for both 161 and 162 Infantry Brigades and we produced a somewhat *ad hoc* "H" Troop for H.Q.R.A. of 54 Division. The weather was not too bad for the times we were out and it is fair to say that considerable success attended our efforts. A number of the lost sheep of the Unit are still wondering why Fingringhoe Camp is not at Fingringhoe, where it might reasonably have been expected to be!

We are now getting down to our winter programme of training and social activities, and the Officers are looking forward to meeting many old friends and making new ones at the Regimental Ball in London on 7th December.

Of course, all our plans could be much improved if we were a bit stronger in numbers. If you are soon leaving the Army, or have already left it, and you live anywhere in the vicinity of those Centres we mentioned earlier, why don't you just drop in and see us. You would certainly be very welcome and you may find lots of people you know; you may also decide to keep "dropping in."

The series of Diagrammatic Histories of the Territorial Army is continued below



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

27th September saw the opening of social events within the Regiment by an Inter-Squadron Hot Pot Supper between 1 and 2 Squadrons.

The event took place at 2 Squadron H.Q. at Glossop. The Glossop boys, who made the arrangements, must be complimented on the first class supper they produced for about forty.

The evening went with a real swing with plenty of cancioneros of all types sung as only T.A. wallers can sing. The impromptu efforts of all ranks made the evening very merry.

The young recruits of 2 Squadron must be complimented on the gallant way in which they rallied round and showed their great enthusiasm to do their part.

The evening was graced with the presence of our Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel T. Deakin, and the Adjutant, Major Miller, M.B.E.

If 27th September is a start, we look forward to even better support for the Squadron Ball on 26th October. Past members and members of the O.C.A. are most welcome to all unit social events.

EASTERN COMMAND ROYAL SIGNALS (T.A.) RIFLE MEETING, 1957

Incessant rain throughout the morning of Sunday, 29th September, failed to upset this meeting held on the Purfleet Ranges. Very well organised by the Army Phantom Signal Regiment (T.A.) it ran strictly to time and without a single hitch.

In spite of a difficult wind to read, rain and mist in the morning, spasmodic sunshine in the afternoon, all making shooting very difficult, some very good scores were recorded.

The new Inter-Unit Trophy presented by the Middlesex Yeomanry Signal Regiment replacing that which they had won outright, by winning it for the previous three years, was won by 56 (London) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment with 2 (London) Signal Regiment close runners-up. Third place was taken by 1 Special Communication Regiment.

Brigadier D. W. R. Burridge, C.B.E., C.S.O. Eastern Command, in his address prior to presenting the very attractive trophies, congratulated the organising unit on the success of the meeting, and thanked the Middlesex Yeomanry Signal Regiment for presenting such a fine new trophy.

The proceedings were closed by Lieutenant-Colonel B. R. M. Hayles, C.S.O. London District, leading the cheers for the Brigadier.

RESULTS

Open Individual Competition

Winner: Sergeant Wrate, 56 (London) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment (T.A.).
Second: Corporal Ryan, 2 (London) Signal Regiment (T.A.).
Third: Lieutenant Rogers, 56 (London) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment (T.A.).

Young Soldiers' Competition

Winner: Second-Lieutenant Goodman, 56 (London) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment (T.A.).
Second: Lieutenant Barraclough, Army Phantom Signal Regiment (T.A.).

Permanent Staff Competition

Winner: W.O.II May, 56 (London) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment (T.A.).
Second: Captain Saul, 1 (Essex) Signal Regiment (T.A.).

W.R.A.C. Competition

Winner: Corporal Smith, Eastern Command (M) Signal Regiment (T.A.).
Second: Sergeant Blackwell, Eastern Command (M) Signal Regiment (T.A.).

Cadet Competition

Winner: Cadet Corporal Till, 1 Independent UKLF Reserve Signal Squadron (T.A.).
Second: Cadet Lance-Corporal Walpole, 1 Independent UKLF Reserve Signal Squadron (T.A.).

Unit Team Competition

Winning Team: 2 (London) Signal Regiment (T.A.).
Second Team: 1 Special Communication Regiment (T.A.).

Falling Plate Competition

Winning Team: 56 (London) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment (T.A.).
Second Team: 2 (London) Signal Regiment (T.A.).

Unit Challenge Trophy

Winning Unit: 56 (London) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment (T.A.).
Runners-up: 2 (London) Signal Regiment (T.A.).
Third Team: 1 Special Communication Regiment (T.A.).

50 (N) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment (T.A.) Annual Camp, 1957—Proteus Camp



(Left) The Band. (Right) The Hon. Colonel, Brigadier G. M. Walton, C.B., C.B.E., T.D., D.L., J.P., with the winner of the Smartest Soldier Competition Signaller N. L. Carnighan of 3 Squadron

SCOTTISH COMMAND (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT (T.A.)

We deeply regret to record the death of R.S.M. O. G. Appleton, who died at Dreghorn Range, Edinburgh, on Sunday, 1st September, 1957. A fuller notice is on Page 342 of this issue.

We welcome R.S.M. P. E. A. Hall from 1 Training Regiment and hope he will enjoy his tour with the Regiment. He is not new to the T.A., having served with 43rd (Wessex) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment (T.A.) from February, 1947, to September, 1948, and he is familiar with Edinburgh and Scottish custom from a tour with the former Scottish Command (M) Signal Regiment from March, 1952 to January, 1954. By a coincidence, his photograph appears above that of his predecessor, the late R.S.M. Appleton, on page 260 of THE WIRE, August, 1956.

We congratulate Staff Sergeant P. W. Evans on the award of the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal. Staff Sergeant Evans completed 18 years' service on 20th September, 1956, and has now been a P.S.I. with this Regiment for 2½ years.

Camp this year was at No. 45 W.E.T.C., Garelochhead, and looking back we realise we had the only 13 consecutive days of sunshine this year. Camp was, therefore, a success. Hugged accommodation with a pleasant view of the Loch and the hills behind, the company of our good friends 3 Independent U.K.L.F. Reserve Signal Squadron (T.A.), and the fact that it was the first all-volunteer Camp for several years, made it particularly enjoyable. Much of our training was done in the open air and included 3½ days of concentrated Civil Defence Training, some trade training, a Signal Exercise, and a Trade Board—as a result of which we learned a little, discovered topics for discussion, acquired 20 trade ratings and an abundance of sun tan.

Thanks to the efficient services of Q.M.S.I. Laister, W.R.A.C., loaned to the Regiment for the duration of Camp by the Catering Adviser, H.Q. Lowland District, the messing enjoyed by the Other Ranks was outstanding.

We were honoured by visits from our District Commander, our Chief Signal Officer, Brigadier J. C. Hardy, A.D.W.R.A.C. H.Q. Scottish Command, Lieutenant-Colonel A. Cecil, W.R.A.C., the Chairman and Secretary of the Glasgow T. & A. F. Association.

The rules of the Annual Inter-Squadron shooting competition were modified slightly due to small number, and the Cup was competed for on Alexandria Ranges by all ranks of combined Squadrons from Edinburgh and Glasgow.

The result was a convincing win for Edinburgh by 40 points. Wet weather on the penultimate day caused the Inter-Squadron athletics competition to be abandoned in favour of a soccer match. Our Regimental team was soundly beaten in a steady downpour by 3 U.K.L.F. Reserve Signal Squadron (T.A.) by 5 goals to 1, despite the brilliant goalkeeping of Signalman J. C. Brown.

The cup for the best recruit of the Regiment was won by Driver Meldrum who recently joined the Regiment from the R.A.A.F.

Private Murdoch was a very popular winner of the cup for the best W.R.A.C. recruit to the Regiment.

Unlike many T.A. Regiments we did not rest on our labours at Camp, but have continued with week-end and evening training, and have a full programme which takes us up to December when we can break for two months.

On going to Press, we congratulate Major J. Baillie, T.D., on winning the 2nd Prize (Officers) at the Edinburgh T. and A.F. Association Rifle Meeting, and our gallant although unsuccessful team who competed in the Lowland District Motor Cycle Trials.

Association Notes

York Branch

We hope these notes will be the forerunner of regular reports from this Branch and would start by mentioning the chief event of recent weeks which was the visit to the York Branch Club (20th September) of the Lord Mayor of York (Alderman E. L. Keld), who presented trophies to the winning team (R.A. Association) in the Games League organised by the York and District Council of Service Associations. The Lord Mayor spoke of his pleasure in making a first visit to the Club and congratulated York Branch on its achievement. Brigadier C. L. D. Dugmore (Chairman Y.C.S.A.), thanked the Branch for the use of the Club.

The last few weeks have been somewhat hectic, including a 'bus trip to the Edinburgh Reunion, picking up members of Newcastle Branch on the way, and the Chairman, Secretary and Standard Bearer represented the Branch at the West Country Reunion at Newton Abbot. This long journey was well worth while as we were given a most excellent week-end by Junior Leaders Regiment, who performed everything in their usual efficient manner.

In between we have had the Annual Outing, in which two 'bus loads of members and families enjoyed a day out at Withernsea and Hornsea. This date had had to be postponed because of the 'bus strike but luck with us, remembering that on the original date it poured down all day but the re-arranged date (8th September) was perfect sunny weather. Our thanks are due to the organisers, Mr. W. Jackson and Mr. P. Hargrave, and other helpers.

On 21st September, Hull Branch paid a very welcome visit to the Club and some forty visitors plus members and friends, enjoyed games and dancing. The ladies put on an excellent buffet.

The Club is now running Monthly Dances on the first Friday in each month and we have a Dance at the Assembly Rooms, York, on 14th December. The Club is now open Thursdays, Friday and Saturday evenings, and arrangements are now being worked out for the Christmas festivities.

P.S.—York Branch challenges any other Branch to a contest for the most travelled Branch Standard. Ours has just travelled over 1,000 miles in just over a month.

WELFARE SECTION

Below an attempt is made to describe, with suitable anonymity, eight cases taken from the Welfare Section files concluded during the first week in October, 1957. Also on this page is a simple statement of income and expenditure.

Lance-Corporal, 1944-47. Previous service R.A.F., married. He and his wife started a small business. Both became seriously ill and the business failed. Forces Help Society and Lord Roberts Workshops made a grant and with what the Association gave the debts were paid.

Widow of Signalman who was killed in action in 1943. Her eldest son who was working, was accidentally drowned, leaving debts for clothes and her income is barely sufficient for her own needs, and that of a younger son still at school. The Association and the British Legion paid the debts.

Lance-Corporal, 1945-48, married, two children. Before illness there was a good income but he will be long in hospital and the State provides half what he earned. The fund made her a weekly allowance until circumstances better; and the British Legion also helped.

Signalman, 1947-49, married, two children and another expected. He had a reasonable income, an accident gave him 10 weeks in hospital. S.S.A.F.A. paid fares for wife to visit him in hospital and the Association gave a grant to supplement the small income provided by the State.

Signalman, 1941-44, married, one child. He had a very good income but has had long periods in hospital in 1956 and again in 1957. The fund helped his wife.

S.Q.M.S., 1939-51, married, five children. An accident at work reduced the family income by one-third. The Association and the British Legion helped to pay debts and S.S.A.F.A. provided clothing.

Driver, 1915-21, married (children all left home). He worked until March, 1957 (he is 60) but will probably not work again for some time as he is very ill. The fund made this old couple a small weekly allowance and the British Legion also helped them.

Widow of Signalman, 1943, discharged after three months permanently unfit for service. He married in 1944 and he died in 1952. His widow and two school-age children have total income of £5/8/- a week. The fund helped the elder daughter a little towards uniform for Grammar School.

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION AND BENEVOLENT FUND

The following subscriptions were most gratefully received during September, 1957:—

	£	s.	d.
Headquarters, Training Brigade	1	14	2
Royal Signals Wing, School of Signals (W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess)	19	0	0
1 Training Regiment	32	0	0
4 Training Regiment	18	11	6
10 Wireless Training Squadron	10	0	0
Eastern Command Signal Squadron	5	8	4
Eastern Command (M) Signal Regiment T.A.	1	0	0
39 Independent Infantry Brigade Signal Troop	2	10	0
52 (L) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A.	12	0	0
5 AGRA (A.A.) Signal Squadron	5	0	0
Berlin Signal Squadron (4 Unit Branch)	12	0	0
2 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment	40	8	4
2 L. of C. Signal Regiment	14	1	4
Malaya Command Signal Squadron	28	19	7
17 Gurkha Divisional Signal Regiment	7	8	8
28 COMWELL Independent Infantry Brigade Group Signal Squadron	8	19	1
22 S.A.S. Regiment	2	13	5
Federation Signals	1	9	0
10 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment	2	10	0
Total Receipts	£196	4	5

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION WELFARE SECTION

The following donations were most gratefully received during September, 1957:—

	£	s.	d.
11 Air Formation Signal Regiment (Garden Fete at R.A.F. Sundern)	100	0	0
Nigeria Signal Squadron (Ex-gratia payment from funds of Sergeants' Mess)	33	0	0
2 (LON) Signal Regiment, T.A. (Proceeds from Motor Cycle Display Team)	6	6	0
11 Signal Park Squadron and 4 Signal Equipment Troop (Special donation)	11	0	0
5 Training Regiment (Ripon Cricket Club Fete)	2	2	0
Solicitors to late Blanche Marion Curtis (Net Income of Estate)	24	1	2
Captain N. McCormack	5	0	0
Mr. P. G. Ashcroft	1	1	0
Mr. G. H. Smith	2	2	0
Major C. A. De Frece	2	2	0
16 Wireless Squadron, T.A.	5	5	0
Total Receipts	£191	19	2

Expenditure during September, 1957 ... £378 18 4
(Includes: Rent and Rates; Beds and Bedding; Furniture; Cots and Prams; General Assistance).

	£	s.	d.
Analysis of cases:			
Families of Soldiers serving in B.A.O.R.	1		
Widows and Dependents	7		
Released and Discharged Soldiers	37		
Total cases assisted	45		

	£	s.	d.
31 cases of Soldiers who served during the 1939-45 War	£285	3	7
14 cases of Soldiers who did not serve during the War	£93	14	9

Lighter Fuel Packs

The following amounts were most gratefully received during September, 1957:—

Box No.		£	s.	d.
55	87 AGRA (Fd.) Signal Squadron, T.A.	7	0	
63	21 (NM) Corps Signal Regiment, T.A.	4	6	
65	2 (LON) Signal Regiment, T.A.	1	5	9
67	43 (Wx) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A.	3	5	2
115	Croydon Branch	7	6	
Total		£5	9	11

The following have sent gifts of clothing in recent months:—
Major-General W. R. C. Penney, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C.;
Lieutenant-Colonel C. L. Ommann, O.B.E., Colonel J. H. L. Crichton, M.B.E.; Colonel A. B. McVittie, O.B.E.; L. E. Terry, Esq.; Miss M. Archer; Major-General M. S. Wheatley, C.B., C.B.E.

There is a continued demand for clothing, particularly suits, shirts, collars. That a suit is well worn is no demerit. Articles attacked by moth should, please, not be sent.

SPORT

AMATEUR ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL

Signalman Hopper, an Amateur international, and Signalman Gardener played for the Army team versus the Civil Service on 23rd October, 1957.



[By courtesy of R. Clapperton (Selkirk)]

KELSO SEVENS TOURNAMENT 1957

Major W. A. Adam, M.B.E., Second-Lieutenant A. Godson, Lieutenant B. O. Haw, Lance-Corporal D. A. Williams, Lance-Corporal G. N. Evans, Second-Lieutenant P. Wheeler, Captain J. Hancock, Lance-Corporal J. Smith

THE BORDER "SEVENS"

Royal Signals sprang a surprise in the KELSO "sevens" when they brought the cup across the Border for the second time since 1954. The odds were on Hawick with their four Internationals, with either Gala or Langholm tipped to meet them in the final.

First Round: Royal Signals 8; Langholm 5.

The Corps leapt straight into the attack against our old enemies and Lance-Corporal D. A. Williams scored in the corner within a minute of the kick-off. A quick passing movement left Langholm standing and a score under the post gave Lance-Corporal G. N. Evans no difficulty with the conversion. Our 8-0 lead was reduced in the second half when Langholm made a spirited counter attack.

Second Round: Royal Signals 8; Boroughmuir 6.

For some unknown reason the Corps "sevens" decided that they were going to "shadow tackle" and as a result found themselves 6-3 down in the second half. Second-Lieutenant A. Godson and Second-Lieutenant P. Wheeler scored and Lance-Corporal G. N. Evans made one conversion.

Semi-Final: Royal Signals 20; Gala 5.

The heavy defeat of Gala was due more to the fact that we "clicked" than to Gala's inability to play "sevens." The side moved with great pace, as did the ball, and no passes went astray.

Captain J. Hancock had a "Field Day," scoring three tries, and Lance-Corporal D. A. Williams one. Lance-Corporal G. N. Evans displayed his efficiency as a kicker by converting all of them.

Final: Royal Signals 16; Jedforest 13.

The result of the final appeared obvious at half-time.

Captain J. Hancock quickly scored twice for us and Lance-Corporal D. A. Williams once, one conversion by Lance-Corporal G. N. Evans saw us 11-0 at the interval.

A plucky fight by Jedforest, a little over confidence and a low sun in our eyes, produced "fireworks" in the second half.

A Bell, a burly forward, crashed over for a try which he converted himself, and Rennitson, the Jedforest stand off, made two openings which led to scores, one being converted.

We were now 13-11 down and the 5,000 crowd was demonstrating its relief that the Cup was not going over the Border. They were due for a shock. With two minutes to go a delightful move from half way, in which the whole seven took part, saw Lieutenant B. O. Haw score under the posts. Lance-Corporal G. N. Evans converted, the whistle went, and so ended one of the most exciting finals in years.

Water Polo

9th September, 1957. Royal Signals 4; London Transport Executive 5.

11th September, 1957. Royal Signals 16; Metropolitan Police 6.

12th September, 1957. Royal Signals 8; Ministry of Supply 2.

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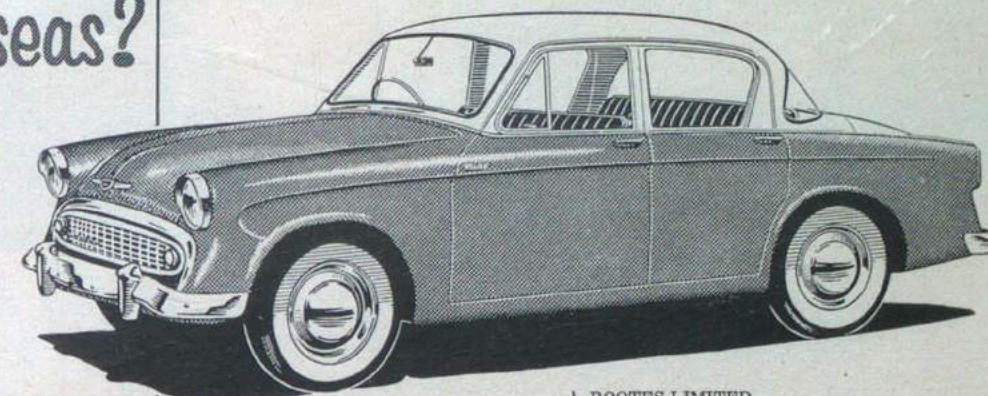
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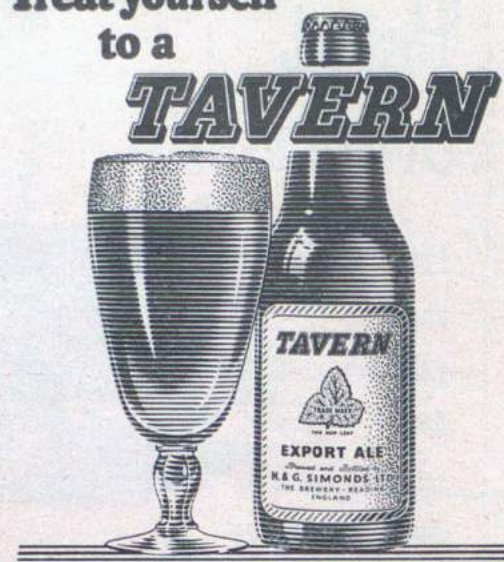
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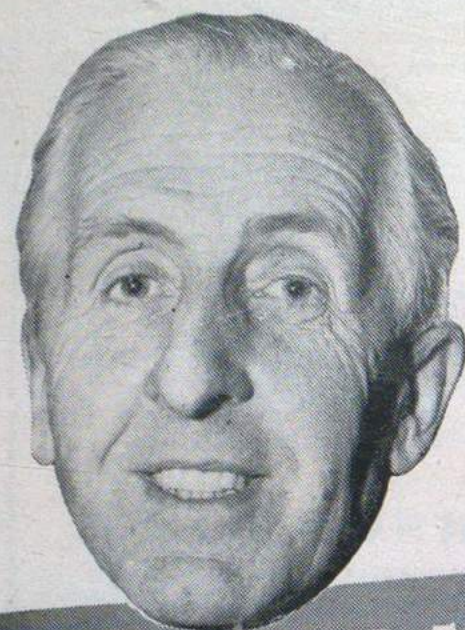
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*The Official Organ of the
SIGNALS ASSOCIATION*

Editor:

BRIGADIER H. R. FIRTH

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DECEMBER • 1957
Vol. II (New Series) No. 12



PRICE ONE SHILLING

Editorial

By

Major-General C. M. F. White, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O.,
Colonel Commandant and Chairman, Royal Signals
Association.



OF course, I must straight away wish all readers of our
Journal a very happy Christmas and let us pray that all
that Christmas stands for, including Peace, Goodwill
between nations, working for the common good amongst all
people in this country and a high and courageous moral
outlook, and living too, may be ours for 1958.

This year the Central Committee have had two meetings,
instead of the usual one, and this has already shown that
the advantages of such a course, when everything moves
so quickly in this modern age, are of great value to the
Association. Of course, it means much more trouble to the
very busy members of the Committee and your staff at
Headquarters and I feel sure you would like me to thank
them here for their selflessness in taking on this extra work.

The Minutes of this last meeting have been circulated as
usual, so all I will say here is that in spite of the increase in
postage just taken place the Committee decided *not* to raise
the new price of THE WIRE from 1/3 to 1/4, 1/3 being the
price as from 1st January, 1958.

The loss in the overall cost of publishing and despatching
THE WIRE, due to this increase in postage, the Committee
have decided will be borne by the General Fund.

The Association is in good fettle, some Branches, alas,
have closed but many have grown stronger and more virile
and some new Branches have been formed.

Benevolent work continues to ensure that the Corps looks
after its widows, orphans and *real* "hard luck" cases, not
lavishly but with reasonable care, especially where the
member of the Corps concerned is, or was up to the time of
his death, also a member of the Association (membership is
only 5/- a year, or £2/10/- for Life).

I wish you all a very happy and prosperous New Year.

VALE

BRIGADIER G. B. BELL, C.B.E.

Brigadier Geoffrey Bell, C.B.E., was educated at Clifton College and Woolwich, and received his commission in the Corps in 1928 at the age of 20. After passing his "Q" Course in 1928 he was posted to Egypt Signals and remained with that Unit until 1930.

On return to the United Kingdom in 1931 he joined the 2nd Divisional Signals at Aldershot and from 1934-1938 was Adjutant of the 50th (Northumbrian) Divisional Signals.

On return to India in 1939, and after a tour of duty with Kohat District Signals, he entered the Staff College, Quetta, and on completion of his course in 1940 was posted to "A" Corps Signals (India), after which he became Staff Captain, 2nd Indian Infantry Brigade and assumed the appointment of Brigade Major of the Zhob Brigade in 1941, and was finally given command of the Peshawar District Signals with the temporary rank of Lieutenant-Colonel.

From 1942-1944 he successfully held appointments of G.S.O.I to the Chief Signal Officer, Burma, G.S.O.I (Signals), H.Q., 10th Army, H.Q., I.E.F., H.Q., 11th Army Group (Colonel), and finally as Deputy Chief Signal Officer, 11th Army Group, with the rank of Brigadier.

On return to the United Kingdom in 1946 he became G.S.O.I Signals 5 at the War Office, and from there went as C.R. Signals, 2nd Infantry Division, B.A.O.R., from 1949-1951.

He became Chief Instructor (Brigadier) at the R.M.A. in 1949, and Deputy Chief Signal Officer, M.E.L.F., 1953; his final appointment in the Corps being Chief Signal Officer, Southern Command, from 1956 until his retirement in August, 1957.

Few Signal Officers have had such a varied experience in appointments, both Regimentally and on the Staff, and in which he served with distinction.

Brigadier Bell has great charm, tact and personality, and being a good "mixer," is very popular with all ranks. He has been a great friend to many in the Corps and has always given first place to its welfare. Throughout his service he



has adorned every appointment to which he has been posted. The Corps must be very grateful for what he has done, and wish him and his family every happiness and a long and peaceful retirement and every success in his new appointment.



R.S.M. C. A. Thompson, Junior Leaders' Regiment, Royal Signals, shows his wife and daughter, Mrs. N. C. Hunter the insignia of his Membership of the Order of the British Empire, which he had just received by the hand of Her Majesty The Queen on 19th November, 1957

Courtesy: Association Press Ltd., London, E.C.A.

Obituary

MAJOR (Q.M.) C. H. MANTON, M.B.E.

In a highly technical Corps such as ours the job of Quarter Master calls for men of great ability and integrity and we have been fortunate in finding from our ranks men of the calibre required. Tony Manton stood out even in such company as a great Quarter Master and a fine and lovable man.

His service of 44 years dates from 1901 when he enlisted as a boy in the Royal Engineers. After six years' service at home as a Telegraphist he was posted in 1907 to the Sudan Defence Force as Foreman. A period of his service which he loved and which I always felt did much to mould his very fine character. His fluency in Arabic never forsook him and I am told that in 1941 he would still act as a guide and interpreter on a tour of Old Jerusalem.

In 1920 he was transferred to Signals as C.S.M. and shortly became R.S.M. at the School of Signals.

In 1925 he was commissioned as Lieutenant (Q.M.) and posted to 3 Divisional Signals at Bulford. He remained as a corner stone of that Unit for 13 years, when he was posted as Quarter Master to 6 Divisional Signals in Palestine.

He spent the early years of the late War with M.E.L.F., first as Quarter Master of the Depot at Maadi and later of the Signal Unit in Palestine. He returned in 1942 to the S.T.C. and was finally released in August, 1945. He was awarded the M.B.E. in 1935 whilst serving with 3 Divisional Signals.

I can myself only speak of Manton's service during the years 1931/35, during which I commanded 3 Divisional Signals. When I arrived Tony had already served four Commanding Officers and I know that they found him, as I did, a veritable tower of strength. Always ready to advise when called upon to do so and yet never trying to impose his views, his wise knowledge and great experience were worth a king's ransom. Not only had his job completely at his finger tips and all the various services with which he dealt eating out of his hand, but he was always ready to help in any direction.

To quote one example of many jobs he took on outside his normal work—he ran the Divisional Commander's Mess on Manoeuvres and Schemes with conspicuous success without in any way detracting from the efficiency with which he carried out his normal duties. Nothing was too much trouble for Tony if it would help to the happiness and efficiency of the Unit and he was always cheerful. He was by nature a very kind man and his advice on human problems was sought by many—he often acted as father and father confessor to young and not so young Officers and N.C.O.s. He was so good at his job and so utterly reliable that his Commanding Officer could safely leave "Q" in his hands and devote all his energies to training and his other multifarious duties. He was a very keen sportsman and took the greatest interest in the Unit's sporting activities.

To sum up—Tony Manton, as I found him and I have not the slightest doubt that I speak for all that knew him—a fine character, a delightful friend and a great Q.M., who gave many years of devoted service to his country and Corps that he loved so well.

R.F.B.N.

Have you completed and returned the Order Form for "The Wire" for 1958 enclosed in the November number?

If this is not received BEFORE 1st January, 1958, you will not receive the January or subsequent numbers of "The Wire."

PERSONAL COLUMN

London Gazette

22nd October, 1957

Lieutenant-Colonel E. H. Clarke, O.B.E., retires, 21st October, 1957.

Following Officers are awarded the L.S. and G.S. Medal on dates shown:

Lieutenant D. J. Chetwynd, 5th July, 1957.

Lieutenant M. Hogan, 27th August, 1957.

Lieutenant T. Reece, 9th July, 1957.

29th October, 1957

Lieutenant-Colonel T. Morgan, T.D., to T.A.R.O., on 17th October, 1957.

1st November, 1957

Major (Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel) A. R. B. Dobson, O.B.E., T.D., is appointed Honorary Colonel, 42 (L) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A., 10th October, 1957, vice Colonel S. A. Woods, T.D.

5th November, 1957

Captain J. C. Lucas, to be Major, 3rd November, 1957.

Movements — Officers

Captain (Tfc. Offr.) C. F. Bushell, B.A.O.R. to Cyprus.

Lieutenant (T.O.T.) R. F. Pedley, FARELF to B.A.O.R.

Lieutenant-Colonel A. J. Deane-Drummond, U.K.L.F. to FARELF.

Lieutenant-Colonel G. D. T. Harris, M.E.L.F. to (Depot H.S.).

Major P. F. Yeatman, B.A.O.R. to (Depot H.S.).

Lieutenant-Colonel A. J. Blower, B.A.O.R. to FARELF.

Major T. B. McVicker, B.A.O.R. to 2 Training Regiment.

Captain (Q.M.) C. F. Webb, FARELF to 2 Training Regiment.

Major J. E. Carroll, Staff College, Camberley to Depot H.S.).

Major S. P. Irwin, Staff College, Camberley to Depot H.S.

Major R. E. D. Mathews, B.A.O.R. to Depot H.S.

Major L. V. McNaught-Davis, M.E.L.F. to B.A.O.R.

Major N. D. Shaw, M.E.L.F. to Depot H.S.

Major (Tfc. Offr.) D. A. Pell, B.A.O.R. to U.K. COMCAN Signal Regiment.

Major Tyrrell-Gray, B.A.O.R. to Canada.

Major P. H. Flear, Staff College, Camberley to Depot H.S.

Arrivals and Departures

1 Training Regiment

Arrivals: Sergeant A. Leach.

Departures: W.O.II H. C. Jenkins, Staff Sergeant L. Jardine.

5 AGRA (A.A.) Signal Squadron

Departures: Major G. W. Blackburne, Captain J. M. N. Lyons, W.O.II L. W. Austen, Staff Sergeants R. D. Wright and R. T. Wombwell and Sergeants W. Cowan, D. F. Lamper and Todd, all to other units in B.A.O.R.

U.K. COMCAN Signal Regiment

Arrivals: Major D. A. Pell, Staff Sergeant Barrett and Sergeant Grant, A.C.C.

Departures: W.O.II Fox and Sergeants Harwood, R.A.P.C., and Hurcomb.

Officer Training Wing, School of Signals

Arrivals: Captain M. Allen.

4 Air Formation Signal Regiment

Arrivals: Major Adams, R.S.M. Holt, W.O.II Byrne, Staff Sergeants Warwick and Neal, Sergeants Coleman, Bevan, Kilner, Weaver and Turner.

Departures: W.O.I Leach, Sergeants Lamond, Crawford, Hissey, Staff Sergeants Nicholson and Curley, Major Salter.

Marriage

MORRISON—NOWLAND.—Captain S. P. Morrison to Miss D. Nowland at St. George's Church, Singapore, on 30th August, 1957.

Deaths

BRADLEY.—Ex-Signalman C. W. Bradley, of 3, Guide Square, Guide, Blackburn, Lancashire, on 31st August, 1957, aged 59 years.

DOWNES.—Ex-Signalman J. H. Downes, of 36, Davey Road, Cambridge, on 29th September, 1957, aged 43 years.

JONES.—Ex-Lance-Corporal H. J. Jones, of 166, Oakes Lane, Ilford, on 26th March, 1957, aged 38 years.

LEWIS.—23423807 Signalman J. O. Lewis on 17th October, 1957, in the Military Hospital, Catterick Camp.

MILLER.—23497847 Signalman J. Miller on 29th October, 1957, in the Connaught Military Hospital, Hindhead, Surrey.

HULL.—Ex-Signalman W. A. Hull, accidentally killed on 6th November, 1957. Member of London Branch of the Association.

DALE.—Mrs. Dale, wife of Colonel R. W. Dale, O.B.E., D.L., Honorary Colonel, 1st (Essex) Signal Regiment, T.A., on 15th November, 1957. A Memorial Service was held in St. Mary's Church, Wanstead, on 20th November, 1957, at which the Commanding Officer and the R.S.M. represented the Regiment.

SINGAPORE DIARY

During a year many mysterious communications arrive at Association Headquarters. The 6th May, 1957, produced an envelope which contained an exercise book but no covering letter. On reading it was found to be a diary of the last days before the fall of Singapore and experiences of a prisoner of war, and by its context was apparently written by a member of the Royal Army Ordnance Corps. The Diary was sent to the Editor of the R.A.O.C. Gazette who published a notice of which the following is an extract:—

"Left COD, Donnington, and sailed for Singapore on HMT 'Duchess of York' on 20th March, 1941—reached Singapore, 14th May, 1941—stationed at Marlborough Camp and worked in 3 Sub-Depot, Alexandra, until captured by the Japanese on 15th February, 1942—sent as a prisoner to Changi in February, 1942, thence to Roberts Hospital in March, 1942—sent to Thailand for work on the Railway, November, 1942—returned to Singapore, September, 1944—transferred to Saigon, February, 1945, where he was in due course liberated—flown to Burma in September, 1945—returned to U.K. by ship in December, 1945. At this point all trace of the writer ends."

The Editor of the R.A.O.C. Gazette on 1st November wrote to the Editor of THE WIRE:—

"For some reason or other, probably because there was a reader of *The Gazette* on the staff, the *Evening Standard* republished my appeal, and at the same time the matter was taken up by the Far East Prisoner of War Social Club who circularised their members.

"One of the members of this Club, Mr. G. N. Plews, now employed at the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, remembered having written a Diary about his experiences as a Prisoner of War and having lost track of it several years ago.

"He, however, had the kindness to write to me about it and by comparing the handwriting of the letter with that of the Diary it was immediately apparent that we had traced the Author of the Diary.

"As to the reason why it had been sent anonymously to the Royal Signals Association, the answer would seem to be as follows. After liberation and return to U.K. in 1945 Mr. Plews was transferred to the Royal Corps of Signals at Catterick Camp, but owing to illness he was away from his belongings for a considerable period of time and I gather that it was during this period that he lost track of the Diary. The inference is that the Diary came into the possession of another Signaller who, after the lapse of some years, probably came across it and felt that it should be passed on to somebody and hence he passed it on to you."

It would of course be extremely interesting to know who was the Unknown Signaller who 'inherited' the Diary of Mr. G. N. Plews and after twelve years sent it to 88, Eccleston Square.

Mr. A. G. Brightmore writes from P.O. Box 24, Maseru, Basutoland, to say that he wishes to regain contact with some of his friends made during long service in Royal Signals.

Depot and Training Battalion—Catterick ... 1926
Southern Ireland Coast Defences ... 1927-30
4th Divisional Signals—Colchester ... 1931
Training Battalion—Catterick ... 1932-33
A Corps Signals—Aldershot ... 1934-35
2 Wireless Company—Palestine ... 1936-40
17 Area Signals—Egypt ... 1941-42
Various Units of 8th Army ... 1942-45
African Pioneer Corps Depot—Basutoland ... 1946
Final release in U.K. ... 1948

He is now Senior Agricultural Officer, Basutoland, having joined that department of the Colonial Service in 1948.

He hopes that any of his friends who happen to read this will write to him.

Forthcoming Events

North London Branch

Saturday, 8th February, 1958—Third Annual Dinner and Dance at the Cambridge, Palmers Green, N.13. Tickets, £1/1/- each, are obtainable from the Branch Secretary, Mr. L. S. Kennett, 201, Lonsdale Drive, Enfield, Middlesex.

Croydon Branch

Annual Dinner on 1st February, 1958, at the Shirley Park Hotel, easily accessible for members and offering every comfort. Tickets will be 17/6 each.

Aberdeen Branch

Annual Meeting and Reunion Supper, Bon-Accord Hotel, Aberdeen, 6.45 p.m., on 1st February, 1958.

Royal Signals Hockey, 1958

14th February, 1958 R.A.O.C. ... Blackdown
15th February, 1958 R.A. ... Woolwich
16th February, 1958 Aldershot Services ... Aldershot

Royal Signals Rugby Football Club, 1957/58

18th December, 1957 Oxford University Grey-hounds ... Catterick
21st December, 1957 Wakefield ... Catterick
4th January, 1958 Sandal ... Sandal
11th January, 1958 Rockcliffe ... Rockcliffe
18th January, 1958 West Hartlepool ... West Hartlepool
25th January, 1958 Halifax ... Catterick
29th January, 1958 King's College ... Newcastle

Royal Signals Association Football Club, 1958

12th February, 1958 Durham University (H) ... Catterick
26th February, 1958 Bede College (A) ... Durham

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July—September - £7 0 0

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PROMOTIONS

The following substantive promotions were authorised in the Corps during the month of October, 1957:—

Trades Roster

TO WARRANT OFFICER I
2325869 A/W.O.I. (2480) Laing, R. D.
2328387 A/W.O.I. (2540) Taylor, L. J.

TO SERGEANT

22276401 A/Sgt. (30733) Gore, R.
23311552 Cpl. (62680) Bloom, S. F.
22232512 Cpl. (61280) Clarke, C. D. A.
23326149 Cpl. (63460) Bradley, R. G.
22550295 Cpl. (27850) Phillips, D. G. W.
2549788 Cpl. (35620) Jones, J. W. L.
22537758 Cpl. (13270) Jamieson, A.
22309302 A/Sgt. (24440) Morpheys, M.
23487885 A/Sgt. (7803) Johnson, G. H.
21184190 Cpl. (53872) Graczyk, W. M.
22286945 Cpl. (5950) Wilson, F.
22996378 Cpl. (60060) Harding, T. T. F.
2327753 A/Sgt. (610) Flipp, A. J.
22212520 A/Sgt. (1460) Phyllis, F. T.
22950220 Cpl. (37940) Wright, A. T.
22569177 Cpl. (45450) Barnett, P. C.
22540794 A/Sgt. (10121) Noble, R.
22537228 A/Sgt. (23920) Bishop, P. A.
21022119 Cpl. (26930) Hamilton, A. M. H.
22526602 Cpl. (21600) Knight, R. F.
22265337 Cpl. (61954) Knowles, W.
22822713 Cpl. (61960) Brown, J. R.
22526661 Cpl. (11700) Osborne, E. J.
22537032 A/Sgt. (17370) Holland, E. H.
22265422 Cpl. (22720) Struve, A.
22246020 Cpl. (23200) Marlow, T. G.
22790348 Cpl. (25110) Mills, R. G.
14189969 A/Sgt. (2790) Burgess, P. G.
22212405 A/Sgt. (9560) Wortley, R. J.
2549792 A/Sgt. (25460) Potts, A. C.
22775229 A/Sgt. (35130) Stanhope, J. L.
22212960 A/Sgt. (47330) Boulton, F.
22294210 Cpl. (20530) Bellis, L.
22956230 A/Sgt. (19580) Hawkes, C. D.
22794684 Cpl. (53974) Prime, D.
22296728 A/Sgt. (9300) Evans, M. J.

Trades

SERGEANTS
23473180 Sgt. (25261) Thorne, C. F. H.
22296212 Sgt. (26304) Bamber, L.

INSERTIONS

Trades

W.O.I Apps, L. J. (100) Commissioned Lieutenant (T.O.T.)
1st September, 1957.
W.O.I 160 770
W.O.II 2990 1270 1280 20
Staff Sergeant 3261 5580
Sergeant 2501 310 24770 270 1130 25650 11050 25294
5380 26050 25840 22030 1520 160 13030 25764
24800 23360 15071 25674 24070

Signal Centre Supervisor Roster

W.O.II 450 80

Cipher Roster

Sergeant 2310 2320 980

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1 TRAINING REGIMENT

Exercise "Longhop," designed to practice 24 Independent Infantry Brigade in an internal security role, was staged in mid-October and the Regiment's contribution was a small "enemy" party which functioned as not very law abiding citizens.

"Asian" flu took its toll, too, and altogether there were about 500 casualties. Happily it is now on the wane.

Winter sports are in full swing and Basket Ballers, Boxers and Soccer players have surmounted the first round hurdles in Army and Command competitions, while Cross Country runners, Hockey and Soccer players are forging ahead in League championships. So far, Rugby activity has been confined to a series of friendly fixtures, but having obtained byes in the first and second rounds of the Army Cup we are now looking forward to our third round encounter with near neighbours, the King's Own Royal Regiment from Barnard Castle. This promises to be a thrilling struggle and they make no secret of the fact they are determined to wrest the crown from us. Interesting to note that the famous Calcutta Cup, well known to Service Rugby players everywhere, reposes in their Officers' Mess, they having been the last winners before British troops finally vacated India.

5 TRAINING REGIMENT

Activities of interest during the last quarter have been mainly social, as an addition to the normal training which never seems to vary.

Through the efforts of a small band of conscientious stalwarts, many Dances, Variety Shows and even a Play, have been put on in the Garrison Theatre. Captain P. Mallin and W.O.II W. H. E. Chandler, B.E.M., have been mainly responsible for the successful run of dances which are now an accepted part of the Ripon entertainment programme, and have been instrumental in accumulating funds which, from time to time, have assisted fellow members of the Regiment who have fallen upon difficult times financially, such as the Officers' Mess Staff of the Regiment who lost their "all" when their living accommodation went up in flames within half an hour one day last August.

Captain G. Lee and R.Q.M.S. M. C. Buesnel have furthered the good name of the Regiment by organising Variety Shows and Parties for the Children, especially the children from the Dr. Barnardo's Homes located within the Ripon area. In collaboration with Mr. Polden and his daughters, Sheila and Molly, and their pupils, we have played to large audiences in the Ripon Y.M.C.A. and the Garrison Theatre.

A Grand Variety Show and Children's Party is planned for Christmas week and every effort is being made to raise funds to enable the Entertainments Committee to lay on a grand tea and party, and give each child a good present which they may treasure for many months to come.

Strangely enough in view of the above, Major-General R. J. Moberly, C.B., O.B.E., will, on 15th November, present the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal to W.O.II (R.Q.M.S.) Buesnel, W.O.II (Chief Clerk) W. H. E. Chandler, B.E.M., and Staff Sergeant Ling. Maybe it is because of their interest in the entertainment field that they have been able to keep out of trouble through the years. Our congratulations.

The traditional Guy Fawkes night was celebrated by the Regiment for the benefit of married families and their children. Hot chestnuts, baked potatoes and sweets were provided free, and Captain Mallin's Hot Rum Punch stall appeared to be the main attraction for the adults.

In closing, may we of 5 Training Regiment at Ripon extend to all fellow members of the Corps, serving or retired, our best wishes for Christmas and prosperity in the New Year. "Sputniks."

OFFICER TRAINING WING, SCHOOL OF SIGNALS

Despite the extremely unpleasant weather we have been subjected to, the rugged season continues well. We have now played eight matches and have 164 points for to 75 against. We have lost a few members of the team but, under the guidance of Captain Alan Seymour and Second-Lieutenant Alan Godson, our hopes for the team's future success remain high.

The soccer season finds our team entered in the Northumbrian District Second Division. The team is captained by Corporal Favager, who himself has already played for the Corps

and captained the Army Amateur Team. We therefore hope that under such captaincy the team will have a successful season.

We were privileged this month to have with us a course of Norwegian Officers who were attending an annual course here. They were well looked after by all members of the Mess, and most appreciative of everything that was done for them. On the eve of their departure they presented the Officers' Mess with a "Budstikke." This is a hollow wooden cylinder used in ancient times in Norway for carrying messages. In it they had placed their own message of thanks. It is with pleasure that we look back on their visit.

Colonel G. H. K. Hewlett, Chief Instructor, School of Signals, took the salute at the Commissioning Parade of 358 course. He presented the Commanding Officer's prize for the best cadet to Second-Lieutenant Mitchell. The parade was held in threatening weather. However, as always, the rain kept off and the parents and friends of the cadets were able to watch and enjoy the parade.

We wish Captain John Clapp and his wife, who are leaving us, the best of good fortune and a pleasant stay in Germany. At the same time, we welcome Captain Mike Allen and his family who have joined us from 90 Signal Regiment.

3 INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

This month finds us once more settled down to normal Garrison life after the stresses and strains, etc., of autumn manoeuvres on Salisbury Plain. On arrival in Colchester a Regimental boxing team was formed, who went into serious training for a match with the stalwarts of a Field Regiment in Woolwich. The result of the competition was a decisive victory for the latter. However, there is plenty of talent in our team and, given a good long spell in barracks for training, they should do better in the forthcoming matches. Congratulations are due to all participants and in particular to Signalman Faulkner, of "C" Troop, who won his fight by sheer intestinal fortitude over three arduous rounds, and also to Signalman Howe, of "K" Troop, who knocked his man out after only 42 seconds.

After his initial successes in the first two rounds of the Army Rugby Cup, Captain Cemm only managed to lead his team to a draw against H.M.S. Ganges. The game was the most exciting of the season and was packed with thrills from start to finish, ending up with the score 6-6. We wish them luck in the forthcoming match in the third round of the Army Cup.

Regimental Tombola is now held once a week and has proved extremely popular with all ranks. Even the natives from the other side of Hadrian's wall have been known to indulge in a successful little flutter, and some of the more ardent punters have even invested in a whole sheet of tickets in one go, in the hope of collecting the coveted snowball.

We have just had our annual oyster feast in Colchester, accompanied by the usual pageantry and celebrations. This year Vivian Leigh was the guest of honour, which probably accounts for the vast numbers of visitors to the town. Colchester oysters are world-renowned, but unfortunately sell at the prohibitive price of 15/- per dozen, unless one is prepared to go direct to the oyster beds at Mersea to buy them. No doubt those unable to afford the oysters were kept happy by obtaining Vivian's autograph; even the blushing policeman on duty outside the Town Hall was catered for by being presented with a posy during the course of the celebrations.

Our local Technical College are kept busy these days tracing Sputnik Two through the heavens. They report signal strengths weaker than those received from the Mark One Sputnik. A slight setback to operations was suffered recently, as the gales sweeping the countryside swept the special aerial installation from the College roof, but this has now been repaired and the amateur technicians are happily listening for any Bleep-Bleeps or woofs that might come their way.

Also to suffer from the gales were 800 telephone subscribers, who had their wires carried away during the night, not to mention the TV aerials, signposts and trees that took nocturnal flights whilst the town slept. The most mourned of all damage occurred outside our local pub. They lost their 9 x 9 inch sign and floodlights during the height of the gale.

Read again what is written at the foot of
Column 1, Page 375

SIGNAL TRAINING WING

* Army Apprentices School



Lieutenant-Colonel G. G. L. Hinde inspecting the parade

Since we last wrote summer leave has faded into the limbo of the past and we have settled down once again to the short days ahead. We look forward rather apprehensively now to the rigours of winter in Harrogate and trouble with the central heating—not a pleasant prospect after an indifferent summer, particularly when one remembers that the mean annual temperature in Harrogate is about 50 degrees and possibly one or two degrees lower at Uniacke Barracks.

The Pass-Out parade on 17th July went off successfully as also did the Trades Exhibition. Major Armstrong's boys certainly went to town and achieved the desired effect of attracting attention to the Royal Signals stand. Another batch of ex-A/T was launched into the ranks of Royal Signals and we are now busy preparing for the next Pass-Out in January, 1958.

Close on the heels of the Under-Secretary of State for War came a visit from the Secretary of State for War, the Rt. Hon. J. H. Hare, O.B.E., M.P., on 27th August. This again was a "whistle-stop" affair but in the short time that he spent with us he appeared to be both interested and impressed.

We have also had visits from the Director of Army Education, Major-General S. Moore-Coulson, E.R.D., on 4th September, and the Director of Boys Training, Brigadier A. J. D. Turner, D.S.O., M.C., on 10th October, and are notified of a visit by the Signal Officer-in-Chief on 15th November.

One might be forgiven for thinking that these visits would interfere with training but in actual fact we take them all in our stride and feel quite proud that we arouse so much interest.

Certain members of the Wing have received advance notice of drafting and W.O.II Webster is looking forward to sunnier climes early in the New Year—Singapore in fact. (Ted Woodley please note). Sergeant Thorpe is settling for Malta and expects to leave in the late Spring. Sergeant Rowland has been warned for FARELF about the same time.

We congratulate (rather belatedly perhaps) our Foreman of Signals, W.O.II Churchill, on his promotion to W.O.I. Congratulations also to Staff Sergeant Morrison, B.E.M., on promotion to W.O.II.



The Standard Bearer and escort at the March Past

Association News

The local branch of the Signals Association has been very active of late. A very successful Social and Dance was held in Harrogate on 10th October which attracted quite a large gathering. The youngsters rock'd and roll'd with gusto whilst we older ones, due probably to being physically incapable, sat and nostalgically recalled the days of the more sedate types of dance such as the Charleston and the Black Bottom. Anyway a good time was had by one and all.

On Sunday, 27th October, the Branch Standard was dedicated at St. Albans Garrison Church, Hildebrande Barracks. Serving and retired members under the command of Major N. J. Coslett paraded in strength and we were fortunate enough to obtain the services of the Corps Band for the occasion, who also provided the church music. It is worthy of note that this is the second time that the Corps Band has provided music in this church, the first being the occasion of the dedication and the opening of the church by H.R.H. The Princess Royal.

The dedication service was arranged and conducted by the school chaplain, the Rev. J. Jewell, C.F., and we much appreciate his efforts on our behalf. The address was given by the D.A.C.G., the Rev. D. S. T. Izzett, C.F., who covered the origin and significance of the Standard. The congregation was made up largely by A/T of Signal Wing with a good sprinkling of Association members and their families together with other members of the school.

The weather, fortunately, was dry but with half a gale blowing. Mr. Hughes, the Standard bearer, once or twice nearly took off. However, everything went off very well and we took advantage of a kind invitation by the W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess to refresh ourselves afterwards, thus rounding off a memorable occasion.



In Church

(Left to right) Mr. Sladdin, Mr. Hughes, Mr. Cocker. The D.A.C.G., Rev. D. S. T. Izzett, M.A., the School Chaplain Rev. J. Jewell



Colonel N. A. C. Croft, D.S.O., M.A., Commandant A.A.S.,
Lieutenant Colonel G. G. L. Hinde, Chief Instructor, A.A.S.,
Major N. J. Coslett, President Harrogate Branch

We are proud of the fact that we are the first Regimental Association connected with the school to have a Standard and hope that this may provide a lead to others.

Further activities are, I understand, proposed between now and Christmas but more of these anon.

It is appropriate here to mention our appreciation of the indefatigable Mr. Tyrie who does so much in the interests of the branch, often at considerable inconvenience to himself.

When these notes appear in print it will be nearing Christmas so may we take this opportunity to wish all Apprentices, past and present, and all Association members a very happy Christmas and a bright and prosperous New Year.

P.S.—We have just heard via the grapevine that "Pete" Sharpe was married on 2nd November. Hearty congratulations to you both.

The Training of Boys for Royal Signals

The article in THE WIRE of October, 1957, written by Major H. A. Leece, and dealing with the Junior Leaders Regiment, was both interesting and informative but, if I may say so, rather misleading. One might be forgiven, after reading this article, in thinking that the sole output of ex-boys to Royal Signals came from the regiment in question. This, of course, is far from the truth and in order to correct this mistaken impression I would like to outline briefly the purpose of the Apprentices' School at Harrogate and in particular the Signal Training Wing which comprises rather more than one-third of the school.

The school is situated some three miles from Harrogate and is easily accessible by bus from the town. It occupies buildings formerly designed to house the militia when conscription was first introduced but, of course, has seen many changes and has grown considerably.

Boys are admitted to this school up to the age of 17 years with the object of turning them out as Class III tradesmen after a course lasting six terms. Each term is of 22 weeks and the complete course therefore takes three years. Intakes are in February and August of each year.

The staff of the Signal Training Wing is mixed, civilian and military, under the Command of a Major. Two train-

ing officers working under him control the destinies of the Technicians and Operators respectively. Staff relations are good.

In Signal Wing the accent is mainly on the "X" trades and those taught are Line, Telegraph and Radio Technician. Certain selected boys are also given a continuation course in order that they may qualify as Electronic Technicians.

Although, generally speaking, we are not prepared to take anyone lower than S.G.2, the need for technicians is so great that S.G.3+ is sometimes acceptable provided that a boy seems keen and intelligent. We have found in the past some S.G.3+ boys who have made first-class tradesmen. Of the operating trades only Telegraph Operators are taught here and we have every reason to be proud of the quality of the output of our Tg. Ops.

The chief aim on the Technician's side is to turn out boys of a sufficiently high standard to justify sending them on Foremen of Signals courses after a certain amount of field experience has been gained. Quite a large number of ex-A/T have eventually qualified as Foremen of Signals and, I might mention here, amongst them has been a fair sprinkling of Operators.

Most of the courses held at the Junior Leaders Regiment are also covered here but it must be borne in mind that this is an Apprentices' School and as such its main purpose is the training of tradesmen. The greater part of the curriculum therefore is devoted to trade and educational training.

The school timetable is such that during the early terms the emphasis is on education rather than on trade. This position is reversed from the fourth term onwards. The object of this is to try to get a boy up to Senior Test standard before he has to tackle the more difficult phases of his trade. Incidentally, we have a very close liaison with the Education department and mathematics in particular is so phased as to be of the utmost assistance to the trade department.

Most of the recommendations of the report on Army schools have been implemented here and the boys find their time well-filled for most of their waking hours. The working day is from 0830 until 1730 hours except on Monday when the boys return to trade or educational training from 1645 until 1900 hours. Monday and Wednesday afternoons are devoted to outdoor games. Every evening during the week is well occupied when the boys are busy at indoor games such as Boxing, Fencing, Badminton and Basket-Ball; or at hobbies as Marquetry, Philately, Photography, Aero-Modelling and so on. There are also Amateur Dramatic and Operatic Societies which give performances twice yearly.

Boys are encouraged to take City and Guilds examinations in various Telecommunications subjects and to this end training in the Winter term is so phased as to assist the study for these examinations. The results during the past few years have been most encouraging and compare favourably with the National average.

Character training is not neglected and boys attend week-end camps at intervals during their course. In the last term they do an "Outward Bound" course at Trawsfynydd. During their last term also they do intensive military training which includes weapon handling and range practice.

Pay on enlistment for these boys is 31/6 weekly and subsequent increments are solely dependent upon their being satisfactorily reported upon by all departments in the school. At age 17½ years they draw full regular soldiers "9 year" recruit rate of 91/-. Only a proportion of this is paid out weekly and the balance is drawn when going on leave.

Major Leece deplores the passing of the cane as a means of punishment. I agree—it was salutary in effect and as a deterrent it was without equal. However, normal military offences are dealt with as provided for by regulations

but in addition instructors are empowered to summarily award one evening's compulsory private study for what are considered to be classroom offences. This undoubtedly assists in enforcing classroom discipline.

In addition to the Apprentices' Association we have had in being for four or five years, an active Branch of the Signals Association. All Signal Wing apprentices are encouraged to join this on attaining 17½ years of age. This does help to foster a certain Corps spirit which otherwise could not exist to any extent among apprentices before joining their regiments. All military staff of the Wing are members and those of the civilian staff who happen to be ex-Signals. The total strength of the Branch varies but at present is about 100, of which roughly one-half are senior apprentices. It is an interesting thought that annually upwards of 60 Life Members are recruited into this Branch and this figure should shortly be considerably increased. Can we claim this as a record?

I hope that the foregoing may have clarified the position of the apprentice in relation to Royal Signals and would add in conclusion that, like the Junior Leaders, our task is to provide the Warrant Officers and senior N.C.O.s for the Corps, and by reports received from time to time most of our ex-A/T seem to be fulfilling this rôle. A.K.S.

The Experiences of a Junior Leader at the ARMY OUTWARD BOUND SCHOOL TRAWSFYNIDD

By JUNIOR LANCE-CORPORAL OLIVER

Day 1 Monday

We were all silent as the truck swung out of the camp gate and headed towards the station.

Six of us, with filled rucksacks, were beginning our long journey to Trawsfynydd, North Wales, to attend a fortnight's Outward Bound Course. We each wondered what lay ahead of us, as we had heard lurid stories from friends who had attended earlier Courses.

After many weary hours on trains and waits at deserted stations, we reached Dolgelly at about 10 o'clock. Transport awaited us. A kilted Sergeant Major guided us to the truck and we bundled in our rucksacks. It was very difficult to be comfortable. We were cold and the mist was very thick indeed, but it came in patches and through the reasonably clear parts we could see huge mountains, black and jagged; the truck jerked and twisted round awkward bends, through hamlets, past numerous forests, then a sudden sharp turn, and we were in the Camp.

After being led to our respective billets, we made haste to the cookhouse, had a satisfactory meal, then a welcome sleep.

Day 2 Tuesday

A fine, warm day greeted us—unfortunately, one of the very few. We did a quick period of P.T., had a shower and a filling breakfast.

Everyone attended the C.O.'s opening lecture.

We were then split up into our different patrols, of which there were six, all named after famous mountaineers. I was in Lowe patrol. After an introductory talk we were lectured on rock-climbing by our patrol instructor.

We drew our kit, sleeping bags, etc., after lunch and then did athletic training during the afternoon. The evening was left free and the majority went to bed early.

Day 3 Wednesday

The morning activities began as yesterday, but not in the same type of weather. During the morning we did a ropes course, doing knots and learning the way to use and preserve the rope, also we had a little practical map-reading. In the afternoon we did our first practical rock-



(Photo: H. R. Rivers, Chudleigh, S. Devon)

climbing; we were all very afraid as we observed how the instructor clung on to finger-tip ledges and delicate footholds. First we tied the rope to us, then up we went—and wondered why we had been so frightened.

In the evening there was a talk by the C.O. about one of his escapes from a German camp during the war.

Day 4 Thursday

Today we began a 36-hour scheme. In the cold and rain we walked, with periodical rests, for about five hours, until shortly before dark. We pitched our tents at the foot of a 2,800ft. mountain in the lee of a wood, but spirits weren't very high and the occasional "moan" could be heard among the general noise of stoves, mess tins and banging of tent pegs being driven in.

At last we were consoled by hot tea and a meal; we stripped off our wet clothes and quickly wormed into our sleeping bags. It had been a tiresome and trying day and the little camp was soon quiet—but still the rain came down.

Day 5 Friday

As we packed our rucksacks in the rain, we dreaded the trudge back to main camp, over 10 miles away; the scenery was unusual and interesting, but we were "slogging" along and didn't really appreciate it. An amazing change occurred once the camp was sighted: there were sighs of relief, cheers, and grateful thanks were uttered. I think we were all rather proud. After all, it was our first scheme, no-one had any serious blisters, just inconvenient ones, and we had walked and camped in rain all the time. After a hot shower we were none the worse for it and, anyway, it all led up to a large evening meal and a long sleep.

Day 6 Saturday

We did a little athletics in the morning, and the afternoon was left free to prepare for a concert in the evening, for which each patrol had to supply an item of entertainment.

Most of us took part in the concert which was held in the cinema. It was highly successful and all patrols did their share very well and everyone enjoyed it, including the permanent staff, who had to suffer unmerciful "leg-pulling."

Day 7 Sunday

A rest day, when those keen, energetic ones went walking, others played games, some slept; even the sheep refrained from interfering with our recreation, as they so often did.

Day 8 Monday

The weather was much better, which was especially pleasing as today we began our first 3-day scheme. The rucksacks were much heavier this time as we had many more rations, but we set off in high spirits. We walked most of the day across country via a few tracks but mostly on a compass bearing, and we all took a turn at leading the patrol. We were fascinated by the height and steepness of the Cader Idris range. We camped below Cader Idris near a Youth Hostel about two miles from Dolgelly. It was very pleasant and we began to enjoy ourselves at last.

Day 9 Tuesday

Again the weather was very pleasant, and we learnt we were going to climb Pen-y-Gader, 2,927ft., the highest mountain of the Cader Range. We set off after breakfast without rucksacks, and it was like walking on air without the weight on our backs. We climbed gradually and leisurely for a while, enjoying every moment of the journey; we watched white cascading waterfalls, crossed sparkling streams, and watched agile sheep glide with ease across the rocks. We reached the base of the steep-shaped Pen-y-Gader and rested awhile at the edge of a small lake. We still had about 900ft. to ascend, most of it over "scree," i.e., loose rocks, which made it quite difficult.

Our final ascent was an exhausting, tiring climb. When we reached the top it was very windy and we were hurriedly changing direction for the downward journey; but whilst up there we had a clear view out over the sea far beyond Barmouth Bay. Away to the east, south and north, the undulating country spread for miles, interspersed by lakes and miles of forest land.

It was a very enjoyable day, and everyone was contented when we retired to our sleeping bags.

Day 10 Wednesday

We were up early and quickly prepared for our return journey to camp. We made good progress with our now lighter packs, until it began to rain, which did slow us down.

Once back at camp we had a busy time drying out our kit, as on Friday we were away again. Amongst us were a few with blisters, but otherwise we were still fit.

Day 11 Thursday

At 9 o'clock each patrol assembled in a different part of the camp for our initiative tests. Each patrol had to solve five different tasks, and these were enjoyed by all. This was followed by an individual written exam. After lunch we had an inter-patrol athletic competition. The standard was quite high and the patrol supporters were very enthusiastic. In the evening we drew rations for our final scheme.

Day 12 Friday

We set off in groups of seven in trucks to different points to begin our last scheme, in which we had to cover roughly 30 miles on our own, without the guidance of our instructors. One syndicate was soon lost in a large forest, but our compass rescued us and we checked in at our first check point; we did 16 miles today and checked through two points, camping for the night at the second, where it was, inevitably, raining.

Day 13 Saturday

As soon as everyone was ready, we pressed on to the next point, through a few quite large villages, where people were very curious. We checked in at three more points, and had just over three miles to go to complete our task. This final lap meant a long, uphill climb and then a downward stretch; we had a conference and it was decided to continue, although it would soon be dark. We made it, and were eager to set up camp, eat and sleep.

Day 14 Sunday

The truck picked us up at 11 o'clock. This had meant a very welcome lie in. When we arrived back in camp we

ate a large lunch, cleaned ourselves and our kit, returned the kit to stores, then heaved a sigh of relief.

The remainder of the day we spent preparing for our return to Denbury.

We returned to barracks on Monday, 28th October, with mixed feelings. The course was tough, varied and exciting, and well worth while—but the weather could have been better.

JUNIOR LEADERS REGIMENT

Among the several visitors we were pleased to welcome to Denbury this month have been the S.O.-in-C., accompanied by the Chief Signal Officer, Southern Command, who spent a day talking to many of the boys and staff and dined with the Officers of the Regiment.

Of particular interest in the recruiting sphere, a party of Headmasters of schools in the area were given a comprehensive tour of the Regiment and saw all aspects of training and "spare time" activities. We hope this is the first of several such visits. This has been followed by the visit of a party of 18 boys approaching school leaving age from Audley Park School, Torquay, who spent the day with us examining and operating much of the equipment, firing on the miniature range and watching Junior Leaders in the course of training. In the afternoon they were issued with Anorak clothing and took part with one of the Squadrons doing Outward Bound type training on the River Lemon.

The day was voted a huge success by masters, pupils and the Regiment, and we believe it will result in some recruits.

The Regiment provided a number of Trumpeters for Church Services in the area on Armistice Sunday, in addition to a contingent of Junior Leaders who attended the ceremony at the Memorial in Newton Abbot. Several complimentary remarks were heard on the turnout, alertness and bearing of the boys.

In common with other things, our boxing programme received a setback at the hands of 'flu this term. We were unable to hold the Novices' competition in which all Junior Leaders box two 1½ minute rounds. In the first Regimental match versus the Infantry Junior Leaders we were beaten by nine points to five, but the result belies the closeness of the match. Our team captain, Junior Leader Casey, boxed a real skipper's bout, and when we have more who follow his sound aggressive style, we should be hard to beat. The return match was a very exciting affair, the contests going alternately to one side then the other, and the final result in doubt up to the last bout. Unfortunately we lost this, but we look forward with renewed confidence to our final match with H.M.S. Fiscard next month.

THE DEPOT REGIMENT

The trouble with putting things off is that the difficulties in the way of finally getting down to it increase as the square of the hypothesis. Postulates propagate and premises predicate and such an incredible number of "againsts" appear in any appreciation attempted, that it is a wonder that any return more than a day old is ever eventually returned. So, without risking any further increase in the difficulties facing us, here we go—off the deep end.

We haven't done any WIRE Notes for six months. Possibly no-one's noticed but we haven't. It isn't that nothing's happened. On the contrary too much has happened and usually just when THE WIRE NOTES were beginning to weigh even more heavily on your correspondent's conscience. So what has happened? Well, you can make your choice from the Annual Regimental Week-end in June to the Remembrance Day Parade in November, taking in the Annual Administration Inspection en route.

The Regimental Week-end was held the week-end after Whitsuntide, which was, in all due modesty, a stroke of genius. As everyone knows, that week-end always has the glorious weather the TV forecasts for Whitsuntide. The genius lies in using the information to advantage. At the Sports meeting on the Saturday we had the pleasure of W.R.A.C. participation—in their own events, of course. We had some Chester City Police opposition in our events—(athletic only, we hasten to add). It was a pleasant day in spite of the City Police Tug-of-War team pulling our best team all round the field. The Dance that evening followed the normal pattern and appeared to be thoroughly enjoyed—as usual. The Corps Association's indefatigable General Secretary, Brigadier Henry Firth, honoured us with a brief visit. At the Church Parade and March Past on the Sunday we were pleased

to have the company of a good number of members of the Chester Branch of the Royal Signals Association, with Standard.

July, August and September brought as much summer leave as we could squeeze in. It also brought Annual Range Classification, Annual P.E. tests and rain. Like Freeman, Hardy and Willis these three always go together. Nevertheless results were surprisingly good.

October's peak days were the 4th, when we had another very enjoyable dance in the Gymnasium, and the 22nd, when we had our Annual Administration Inspection. It would be unfair to Brigadier M. G. A. Hepper, C.B.E., our C.S.O., who inspected, to pretend that the second occasion was as enjoyable as the first. The inspection was too keen for that. But it certainly appeared to be as successful a one. In spite of the weather Saighton Camp looked—jolly good.

Mention of our annual tri-partite Remembrance Day Services brings us almost up-to-date. We had three. First we had our usual Parade Service in the Camp Globe Cinema with the Service taken by our new Padre, the Rev. J. Northcott, M.A., and the R.C. Service in the R.C. Church in the Camp, taken by the Rev. Fr. S. G. Lescher. Services were followed by a March Past, the salute being taken by our C.O., Lieutenant-Colonel A. W. Barron, M.C. We were pleased to see a good turn-out of the Saighton Camp Boy Scouts Troop and Wolf Cub Pack, 30 strong, at the Service and Parade, complete with Standards. After the Parade the Commanding Officer presented 2nd Class Proficiency Badges to three of them, Scouts Lynch, Coe and Mitchell. Secondly, a representative party of some 30 personnel headed the Regular Army contingents at a Memorial Service at Chester Cathedral and, according to not very biased reports, gave the Depot of the local County Regiment something to think about. Thirdly, another small contingent attended a Service at Bruera (Saighton Parish) Church, laid a wreath, and ended on a March Past, with Colonel G. H. Grosvenor, D.S.O., of Saighton Grange, taking the salute. The evidence is that they acquitted themselves well.

We forgot to mention Guy Fawkes night. It should have been called Noah's Night. All the animals in the area had started to line up two by two early in the day ready to enter the Ark. However, the fire burned, even though it stood in a pool of water; the fireworks went off and the Guy finally toppled into the flames. The C.O.'s brainwave of a barbecue was received with eager hands, greasy chins and acclamations. Next year we are having the bonfire indoors.

Arrivals and Departures in the six months we last wrote are legion. We would mention particularly the departure of our very popular Adjutant, Captain D. Turner, Major B. J. Stevens, Major G. A. Fleming and Second-Lieutenant J. Douglas (all three to civil life), Lieutenant W. W. Burrows and Second-Lieutenant R. H. E. Roach (A.C.C.). Arrivals include Major J. S. N. Dale, Major Rooks, Captain F. W. Cox, Captain J. C. Herbert, Second-Lieutenant J. S. Couper and Second-Lieutenant H. C. Williamson (A.C.C.).

Finally, we have some good news. Our four new "En Tout Cas" hard tennis courts, planned in 1950, were finished at the end of July—smooth as a billiard table—beautiful high surrounds—lovely! At last!

You all remember the old story about the asylum patients who looked forward to enjoying their swimming pool even more when they got water in it?

Yes! Next year we will get tapes, posts and nets and be able to play.

90 SIGNAL REGIMENT

Since our last contribution in the August issue, we wound up the cricket season in fine style by winning the Garrison Major Units Cricket Cup. In this, we emulated our forbears—5 Corps Signal Regiment—who won it in 1952 and 1953. The Cup was presented to our captain, Major D. Coatesworth, M.B.E., by the Garrison Commander, Brigadier W. Odling, O.B.E., M.C., who is shown with the team in our photograph.

The winter sports season is now in full swing and apart from a sound beating from 57 H.A.A. Regiment, R.A., in the first round of the Army F.A. Cup, we have made encouraging starts in soccer, Rugby and hockey. At Rugby we turned the tables on 57 H.A.A. Regiment, beating them nine points to nil in a friendly match. We are looking forward to a very promising season in the District competitions.

Training continues in earnest now that the T.A. camps have closed and the major demonstrations of the summer months are behind us. We have even gathered to the fold the wandering Quicksilver recruiting team. They will spend a well-



Lieutenant Colonel A. R. Marshall, T.D.

earned rest (?) in camp fitting up their new trailer ready for the coming season's tour. Two of our major sub-units—No. 1 Special Wireless Troop and the War Office Monitoring team—are still in Germany taking part in the autumn Exercises. They report that the weather has been wonderful—for ducks! We hope to see them back in time for the Annual Administrative Inspection in November.

Our photograph of the C.O. in a somewhat unusual pose highlights an amusing incident. Our friendly rivals in the sporting world—a Field Regiment, R.A., gave a farewell cocktail party in September before leaving U.K. for an overseas tour. The following morning, one of their regimental pennants which the more observant may have noticed the previous evening flying outside the Gunner Officers' Mess was seen to be flying beneath the Corps flag from our flagstaff outside R.H.Q.



Back Row: Lieutenant K. Mallon (R.A.E.C.), Corporal Ripper, Sergeant Thompson, Sergeant Hook (R.A.P.C.), Captain D. J. Strong
Centre: Lieutenant Colonel (Rtd.) T. H. Travers, Lieutenant Colonel A. R. Marshall, T.D., Brigadier W. Odling, O.B.E., M.C., Commander Colchester Garrison, Major D. Coatesworth (Captain), Major D. Ward
Front: Corporal Barron, Private Thomas (R.A.P.C.), Signaller Bailey, Signaller Wood, Driver Gould

The C.O.'s "weapon" in the picture was another "trophy" of the evening more properly to be found adorning one of the Residency Battery guns. The Gunners eventually redeemed their trophies at the expense of a framed notice bearing the Residency Battery Crest and the inscription "Television Room," which now decorates our own TV room in the Officers' Mess.

Another episode worthy of note occurred on the night of 28th/29th September, when two "prowler" sentries apprehended a masked intruder in the camp. While waiting in our best cell for the civil police the prisoner managed to effect a complete change of clothing, which he had been carrying in a small case. At the time of going to press, investigations are still in progress—we hope to be able to give the sequel in our next instalment. Congratulations to the sentries—Signalmen Griffiths and Tilley, who were not fooled by his "patter" about being "on secret Government work."

With the local Military Hospital full of Asian "flu" cases in October, we had to turn two of our barrack rooms into emergency wards. In spite of an all-time record for the rate at which he was dispensing various medicines from TAB vaccine downwards, our R.M.O. was unable to prevent the "flu" spreading, but managed to escape it himself. He was suspected of having a secret weapon! Luckily, we had no serious cases and the worst seems to be over. A pity—another six weeks and we might have had to cancel the Administrative Inspection.

Despite having to postpone it till November 6th, our bonfire night was a great success. The pyre itself must surely have been the largest in Colchester and rated a picture in the local paper. No casualties were reported and if none of our rockets reached outer space they helped to make a first-class display, which went with the traditional bang!

U.K. COMCAN SIGNAL REGIMENT

R.H.Q. and 1 Squadron. The month has, in the main, been notable for the beginning of the boxing and Association football season, and in both these fields the Unit has got off to an excellent start.

The Squadron team has put up a very fine performance in the District Inter-Unit Boxing Competition.

On the 3rd October, in the first round, we were drawn at home against No. 1 Vehicle Group, R.A.O.C. and, although the first three bouts went to our opponents, our team finished off in grand style by taking four out of the last five bouts.

The second round saw another home draw, this time against the Depot, The Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry, on the 21st October. This time our opponents proved to be a good and very fit team. The result was in the balance right until the last round of the last contest of the evening, and the final analysis proved to be 1 Squadron 14 points, D.C.L.I. 13 points. Our Squadron Sergeant-Major, W.O.II Howe, claims "that each and every bout was worth the £3 TV licence" and mourns the fact that "the B.B.C. missed a unique outside broadcast by not covering this wonderful evening's entertainment."

On the 29th of October, in the semi-finals, we were once again drawn at home, this time against the Depot, the Devon and Wessex Brigade. There was no holding our boxers, who won a magnificent victory, by taking eight out of the nine contests. Although our opponents displayed great courage they were out-boxed in every department. We all wish our team (Corporal Porteous, Lance-Corporal Russell, Signalmen Bunce, Meats, Powell, Eyre, Brimble, Nairn and Riella) every success in the finals, which are scheduled to take place at Taunton on the 7th of November.

After a number of trial matches, in which several talented players were discovered, the football season proper started with a match against a Gloucestershire Police XI on the 8th October, which proved to be a really good game which, although most of the play came from our team, resulted in a 2-0 victory for our opponents.

The following week, however, not in the least daunted, the Squadron team scored a most convincing 10-1 victory over the Depot, The Gloucestershire Regiment—our "next door neighbours."

This match was followed by a brilliant victory over No. 1 Vehicle Group, R.A.O.C., on the 24th October, when our team, after being twice led by two goals, by a combination of skill and determination, eventually forced a 6-4 win. The Squadron's goals being scored by Signalmen Syme (2), Wyatt (2), Davies and Spurlie.

In fact, this last match has shown that we have every possibility of having a first-class side this season, thanks to the efforts of our Association Football Officer, Major E. A.

McLoughlin, and the advice and encouragement given to the team by Sergeant-Major Barrett and Staff Sergeant Davies. We congratulate Staff Sergeant Barrett on his recent promotion to Warrant Officer Second Class.

COMCAN Notes. It is with shame that we have to report that one of our senior operators recently spent almost an hour pouring over a particular publication in an attempt to locate routing indicator "GRNC."

2 Squadron. Unfortunately missed the boat this time!

3 Squadron. Farewell to October and, of course, our "Annual Admin." Lots of hard work but a really good report, which made everything worth while.

Football is in full swing, although not a lot of success has been enjoyed. "Q" Nicholls still hopes that Training Regiments at Catterick will send a few reasonable footballers!

October saw the departure of Corporal Humphries on demob. A stalwart in the soccer team and outstanding at Rugby, having been capped three times for the English Schools' Rugby team.

We are now making provisional arrangements for our Christmas activities with the usual seasonal hard work for the various entertainment committees. No let up in this man's Army. Just one darned thing after another.

Congratulations to Sergeant E. Simpson (ex-Boy) on his marriage and welcome to Mrs. Simpson. May both of them be happy in their married life.

In the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess a social evening was held and a local hostelry was invited to do battle on the dart board. The result was not important. Among the guests we welcomed six Americans from the nearby air base. Their guitar playing certainly livened the evening.

4 Squadron. The main event of the month was the visit to Squadron H.Q. and Transmitter Station, Cobbett Hill, of the Director of Telecommunications, Major-General L. de M. Thuillier, O.B.E., and the presentation by him of the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal to W.O.II (S.S.M.) M. A. Knowles on parade. The General congratulated the Sergeant-Major on his well deserved award and we, all ranks, in the Regiment and Squadron add our congratulations and good wishes.

Ex-members and previous residents of Cobbett Hill will be interested to learn that the moat is slowly disappearing, the Sappers having nearly completed their task of filling it in. When completed we should be able, we hope, to say goodbye to our arch enemies, the mosquitoes, who used the moat as their breeding grounds.

The station is also changing face in other directions, in that the long awaited R.E. Works Services to provide some necessities of life and generally improve our amenities are forging ahead at a great pace.

A new cookhouse and dining room for the junior ranks and Mess with living accommodation for the Warrant Officers and Sergeants are nearing completion. The present junior ranks' cookhouse, etc., will be converted into additional living accommodation. This will ease crowding but good-bye summer camping out. We also have a nice new perimeter fence, frowned upon by the "night birds," who can no longer come in late "round the back." Still to come, but on the agenda, are a tennis court (near the canteen), a soccer pitch and four additional other ranks' married quarters, not to mention a new parade ground, ahem, and enough said! We certainly will be self-contained when all work services have been completed.

Oakhanger has not been forgotten in the new way of life. A new office for the Officer Commander, Major (Jock) Cathmoir, and a new Sergeants' Mess with living accommodation, junior ranks' cookhouse and dining room and, of course, a parade ground (for exercise?), are all on the way. Unfortunately, the canteen has had to be temporarily impressed as a Mess for the Corporals and below. Like Cobbett Hill, the sporting side has not been overlooked and the agenda includes a tennis court within the new station perimeter.

The topic of conversation now is Christmas and the forthcoming festivities associated therewith, particularly the children's parties and all ranks' dances. Both stations are forging ahead early with their arrangements and if the enthusiasm displayed is anything to go by, a good time, although still far ahead, is assured for all.

Have you renewed your order for
"The Wire," 1958

Careers and Opportunity

(IMPORTANT: Anyone obtaining employment through answering advertisements in THE WIRE MUST notify the Employment Section, Royal Signals Association, 88, Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1.

Members are reminded that they can ensure prompt notification of any vacancies likely to suit them by registering with the Employment Section. Jobs advertised in THE WIRE are only a small proportion of those received).

SIEMENS EDISON SWAN LTD. require Equipment Assistants for Telephone Contract Work. Initially, the job consists of technical office work in London; spare-time study is encouraged, and successful progress in a suitable course, plus experienced gained at work, should enable employees to transfer to the Engineering Staff in one or two years.

MAC FISHERIES LTD. offer employment with security and very good prospects to ex-Warrant Officers and Senior N.C.O.s, aged up to 35, who appear likely, with training and experience, to prove suitable for promotion to Branch Management within two to four years. Commence £10 per week; further increases on merit.

Excellent training facilities, including residential courses at the Company's Training Centre, are also available for young men aged up to 23 who want an interesting career with good prospects.

For further details of all these openings apply to Employment Section, Royal Signals Association (see above).

Other advertisements about Employment are on pages 402 and 404 and on the inside back cover.

The new postal charges increase the cost of sending notice of vacancies to members who register with the Association for advice about employment.

Regrettably, such members often fail to inform the Employment Section when they have found work. Association funds must not be wasted in sending out information to men who may no longer be interested.

In future, applicants will be asked to write to the Employment Section at least once a month confirming that they still wish to hear of vacancies. Those who do not comply will be deleted from the books.

Jottings

by NACERBY

I heard the bells on Christmas Day
Their old, familiar carols play
And wild and sweet, the words repeat
Of peace on earth, goodwill to men.

AND to those words of Longfellow may I hasten to add a very "Nacerby" Christmas to all at home, abroad and places where gin is still only eight bob a bottle.

We can unquestionably look back with pride on yet another full and fruitful year at both work and play. And this, I might add, despite rumours and talks of cuts, slashes and reductions. In fact those loving characters, Major R. E. Dundant and Major Crisis, have had little effect on the resilient Corps character.

Marry up "Certa Cito" with "Begone dull care"—and there you probably have the reason.

And the best of British luck . . .

During my recent hol . . . — I mean duty trip to B.A.O.R so many chaps asked for the 12 bottles piece that I gladly reproduce it below. The fact that whisky there is only about nine bob a bottle is purely coincidental and absolutely wonderful. However . . .

I had 12 bottles of whisky in my cellar and was told by my wife 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 cork 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 so thunk as you might drink. I fool so feelish I don't know who is me, and the drunker I stand here the longer I get.

Anybody here seen Kelly . . .

Conferences in Whitehall are likely to be lively affairs in the future. It appears, and I must get my facts straight in case of a libel action, that scorning the precedent in sartorial attire of dark suit, white collar, etc., a G.S.O. 2 character of Commonwealth origin arrived at a high-level conference disporting a tartan waistcoat of such vivid hues, which gave rise to the rapidly spread rumour that Terry Thomas was visiting the War Office to obtain material for the next edition of "Privates Progress."

The G.S.O. 2 character of Commonwealth origin was, however, completely undismayed at the commotion, took his place at the conference table with the air of a Civil Servant prepared to discuss military affairs to his own satisfaction, and so bewildered the assembled company that orders have gone forth for C.S.O. 1s to have bagpipes included on office AF Gro98 and for these to be carried, but not played, at future staff conferences. Sic Gloria transit and very likely Hogmany as well!!

For the Ladies . . .

Judging by my mail you are all frightfully curious about all this Science and Sputnik nonsense. And you know, dears, firing a rocket and splitting an Atom is really most divinely simple . . . like leatherwork, pokerwork, or just poker.

To get the thing in the air . . . take a strong enamel bowl the sides of which should be reinforced with a firm wrapping of brown paper and half fill with hard water or deuterium oxide. Now take a fairly large slab of pitchblende obtainable at any chemist or Q.M.s store and grate into a powder. Sort out all the black pieces and those remaining will be grains uranium.

Sprinkle into the water which will immediately boil. You now have the nucleus of a perfectly devastating dish.

Pass through a sieve in order to separate the neutrons from the protons.

Pour the neutrons back into the bowl and from a distance of two yards bombard the contents of the bowl with a handful of protons.

You will have at your disposal about 200,000,000,000 protons and it really is wasteful to use them all.

Bake in a hot oven and stuff in the forward container of the rocket.

Now take a week-end ticket to Paris and when you see a sharp flash in the sky to the north you will know the rocket has gone off, the Atom has been split . . . and so has your enamel bowl unless you followed my advice about the binding of brown paper.

Happy Christmas.

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R.S.M.s of the CORPS

R.S.M. J. V. Harding

R.S.M. J. V. Harding enlisted in Boys' Service in January, 1935. On entering into man's service he was posted to 4th Divisional Signals and the same year was drafted to Palestine. He remained in Palestine until 1941, when he left in the rank of Sergeant for the Western Desert. R.S.M. Harding served with the 8th Army in the Desert and Sicily until he was returned to the United Kingdom in 1944. In October of that same year he saw service in the North-Western Europe campaign. 1945 saw him promoted to S.Q.M.S. and he remained in Germany until 1949.

Since then he has served as an instructor in Royal Signals Wing, in Northern Command Signal Regiment, and in the Officers' Training Wing. In 1954 he was promoted to Regimental Sergeant-Major and posted to 1st Training Regiment.

Whilst a Boy he won the S.T.C. individual pole vault championship. He has represented the Corps at cricket and soccer frequently and has been included in Corps trials for hockey and tennis. He is an Army F.A. referee and a qualified Yorkshire County cricket coach. He is married and has one son.

STEEPLE BUMPSTEAD SIGNAL SQUADRON

We did not celebrate Guy Fawkes' Night with a firework display. The children of the Squadron unanimously voted that, in view of the Chancellor's warning about inflation, it would be better for the money to be invested in Premium Bonds—then when they win a prize they can have a much bigger display.

November brings to a close the cricket season, we always rely on an Indian Summer to enable us to complete our fixtures. Four years ago our wicket-keeper was sick for eight weeks during the height of the season, and we've been running late ever since.

The result of the Army Certificate of Education 3rd Class Examinations was most encouraging. All the officers passed—a great improvement on last year; and 80 per cent of all other candidates failed, which means that we keep our Education Instructor and that the Sergeants' Mess Caterer problem is solved once again. As regards the solution to the problem of a Squadron photograph, mentioned in our earlier notes, there was only one suitable answer, but the Editor regrets that he is unable to print it.

Guard duties are becoming arduous again and there is a serious shortage of eligible "bodies" since so many of H.Q. Troop are caretaking the surfeit of married quarters standing empty.

The Squadron was host to the Steeple Bumpstead Branch of the Association for their Annual Reunion. A Grand Dinner was held in the NAAFI at which the O.C. was guest of honour. It was not until after the speeches had been made that he realised that the gathering was that of the Automobile Association. It was little wonder that our visitors did not stray far from the M.T. Shed during the "At Home" in the afternoon. Great interest was shown in our Morris Commercial 15 cwt. (ineligible to be redesignated 1-ton; and also scheduled as an ancient monument), and the S.S.M.'s "Rolls-Vaux" saloon, which, the Sergeant-Major explained, is called by that name because "down the hills she rolls, and up the hills you vaux."

And now Christmas approaches, but little excitement is felt, due chiefly to the fact that this festive season always heralds the end of a financial quarter, and the preparation of the accounts and the Audit Board Ballot are always accompanied by an air of gloom and impending disaster.

BOUND VOLUMES of "THE WIRE"

we have available material to bind in book form 20 copies of the 1957 "WIRE" Messes and individuals who require bound volumes should please let the Editor know as soon as possible.

PRICE IS 35 SHILLINGS

GERMANY

18 ARMY GROUP SIGNAL REGIMENT

As is well known, the military year in Germany can be divided into two distinct parts: the period of collective training which includes the Spring (or windy season), the summer (or wet season) and part of the autumn; and the period of individual training which covers the late autumn (or dry season) and winter (or sports season). After the exercise which normally signifies the end of the first part, one expects a short period of comparative tranquillity before settling down in earnest to the problems of individual training, this latter period being interrupted only by Christmas and New Year celebrations and—probably—an Administrative Inspection. However, what one may expect and what happens are often very different.

At the time of writing, two other things have happened, although only one was unexpected. This was the visit of a part of the Planning Wing of the School of Signals to the regiment. To some, the most noteworthy aspect of the visit was its timing—quarter-to-twelve on a Saturday morning—to others there was an opportunity of meeting old friends; and to those who were involved in the demonstrations came the satisfaction of knowing that their experience and equipment was considered to be worth listening to and looking at by those whose activities are usually described as "crystal gazing."

The following day was Remembrance Day, and it was marked by a parade service followed by a march past at which the Commanding Officer took the salute in his capacity as O.C. Troops. On this occasion the service was held in the gymnasium instead of the Regimental Chapel so that a maximum attendance could be achieved. The service was conducted by the Chaplain, to whom must go much of the credit for the arrangements made. (The photograph shows how well the gymnasium looked when prepared for the service). Lance-Corporal Halliburton was at the organ, a portable field instrument which, although adequate to fill the Chapel, needed the electronic assistance provided by T.M. Troop to fill the gymnasium. The Last Post and Reveille were sounded by Corporal Roberts and Driver Lauder. Driver Tungate, who is Corporal Roberts's star pupil, was heard by a wider audience as he blew the trumpet calls for the service at the R.A.F. station, Butzweilerhof, which was broadcast by B.F.N.

Today we have had another visitation. Some film people "under the supervision of an officer appointed by the General Staff" are making a training film dealing with a subject of which we have some little experience, and have come from England to shoot some of their sequences here. Although it might possibly be a breach of security to mention the subject in these notes, it can do no harm to lift the veil of anonymity from the face of the officer appointed by the General Staff, thereby disclosing the likeness of Major Arthur Dale. Having some experience



The Gymnasium arranged for Remembrance Day Parade Service

of the film making business ourselves, we realise that Major Dale's job is not as glamorous as some suppose. We wish him "good shooting" and expect another good training film to reward his efforts.

In prospect we have what is certain to be one of the major events of the year: a visit from the Representative Colonel Commandant. By the time these notes are read General Scott's visit will be over so we can only hope to have a later opportunity of making a more detailed reference to it.

So much for the anticipated period of tranquillity! Yet despite all this the everyday life of the regiment continues. The turnover of officers does not seem to diminish. Since we last wrote, we have lost two more to the War Office: Major R. E. D. Mathews to M.L.10 and Captain G. J. Curl to Signals 7. Both of these officers served the regiment, and in particular No. 2 Squadron, well and they will be very much missed. But our loss is a gain to the War Office and we wish them (and it) well. During his last few months Major Mathews was second-in-command, and in this capacity he has been succeeded by Major D. M. Humphries. Major J. C. Alcock has also joined recently. Other new arrivals are Captain B. M. Ashcroft, Lieutenant D. F. B. Anthonisz and Second-Lieutenant R. D. Harries.

A special word of welcome goes to the Rev. Guy Greenaway, C.F., who has recently joined us. For as long as anyone now serving with the regiment can remember we have never had our own Chaplain, and from what we have so far seen of the Padre we are well pleased with the result of our battle to secure him. We hope he will come to a like opinion of us.

SOME THOUGHTS ON DISBANDMENT

5 AGRA (AA) SIGNAL SQUADRON

This is, alas, our farewell contribution. By the time it is printed, most of our stores and vehicles will no longer be here (sighs of relief from the "Q" department) and many of us will have departed to other Units in Germany. Those of us still here will be sweeping up the debris.

One of the tasks connected with disbandment is the lodging of our historical records among those of the famous. A few days ago a considerable gap in our history was filled when we received an interesting letter from the first wartime Command-

5 AGRA (AA) SIGNAL SQUADRON — OCTOBER 1957

Senior Ranks Seated (left to right) Staff Sergeant Wombwell, S.S.M. Austen, Lieutenant P. Goldney, Captain J. M. N. Lyons, Second Lieutenant I. Thomas, Staff Sergeant Wright, Sergeant Lamper, Sergeant Cowan



ing Officer of 5 AGRA Signals—Major K. A. Nichols. Having heard the announcement of the disbandment of 5 AGRA on the B.B.C. news, he states that he had "an irrepressible urge to write us." He goes on:

"My memory takes me back to a day in February, 1943, when I was called to the H.Q., R.A., 30 Corps, and joined Brigadier "Toc" Elton, who had just been appointed CAGRA, as his Signal Officer. That evening, the new 30 Corps R.A. Signal Section arrived at Corps H.Q. after a long trek from Cairo. From that Section, I was able to extract an unknown and untried AGRA Signal Section. An H.Q. was set up the next day and a few days later the R.A. part of the H.Q. arrived from Cairo to find H.Q. and all communications laid out ready for the battle of Medenine, 6th March, 1943. . . .

"It was my privilege to command 5 AGRA Signals throughout the remainder of the North African Campaign, to take it to Malta and Sicily and then home to U.K. in December, 1943. After a spell at Felixstowe, Clacton and Brentwood we embarked for 'D' Day at Tilbury.

"Our first H.Q. in France was at St. Martin des Entrees, outside Bayeux, and VE Day was celebrated at Selsingen, outside Bremen. Later 5 AGRA moved to Brunswick and it was there that I handed over the command to Eric Hughes in June, 1945, to join the Staff of C.S.O., 30 Corps."

5 AGRA was subsequently put into suspended animation and reconstituted as 5 AGRA (AA) in 1950 at Oldenburg, not far from its VE Day location. The first O.C. of 5 AGRA (AA) Signal Squadron was Major C. W. Ainsworth, to be succeeded during the next seven years by Major J. Ray, Major R. M. Bircumshaw, Major W. Nicholson, Major G. W. Blackburne and Captain J. M. N. Lyons.

Our outlook on life as an Independent Squadron has been bright and breezy. Our aim has always been to "have a go"; sometimes the results have been beyond all expectations, at others we have been able to say: "Well, we are only a mere Squadron after all." In the sporting world, our greatest achievement was winning the Royal Signals B.A.O.R. Football Competition in 1956. This year we reached the semi-final of the Royal Signals cricket, but suffered defeat at the hands of the "giants"—4 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment.

We have also had good sailing results, Major Blackburne skippering the Squadron crew in a 30 square metre to second place in the Royal Signals Passage Race and first in the AGRA Passage Race. (An account of the latter appeared in the October issue of THE WIRE). The Royal Signals Regatta held at Mohne See in August was won by Major Blackburne and Captain Lyons, both of whom took part in the triangular regatta later in the month.

As will be seen in the "departures" column, our senior ranks are being fairly liberally scattered around B.A.O.R. This applies to the remainder of the Squadron. To all we wish the best of good fortune and we hope they will be a credit to the Squadron.

Tailpiece

We cannot resist recounting the following true story. On our last Exercise we had a line detachment working with an R.A. Regiment. The line between Regimental and Battery H.Q. was reported "out" and the N.C.O. i/c line party, Lance-Corporal Doocy, proceeded down the line, testing systematically. Having trudged five miles on a wet evening, he eventually reached B.H.Q., where he discovered to his horror that the line was not connected to the switchboard. On pointing this out in no uncertain language to the Gunner switchboard operator, the latter replied:

"Oh, it doesn't matter, because the line isn't through anyway!"

The rest is unprintable!

("Gunner" Magazine and Goon Show please copy).

6 ARMoured DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

After an extremely heavy exercise season the Regiment is now actively preparing for the Annual Administrative Inspection on the 12th November. The vehicles and equipment have all received their various pre Administrative inspections by R.E.M.E. and everyone has worked hard to bring home a good chat for the Regiment.

In the realm of sport the Regiment has distinguished itself in the various Motor Cycle Trials throughout the season, winning the Divisional Motor Cycle Trial and with very good placings in the 4 Infantry Divisional, B.A.O.R., 2 R.H.A., and 2 Infantry Divisional Trials. Staff Sergeant Raffan, B.E.M., Sergeant Durrant, Sergeant Raistrick, Corporal Seaton (late of the Royal Signals Display Team), Lance-Corporal Bridgeland and Signalman Revill the senior riders of the Regiment, have contributed in no small way to the Regiment's success.

The football, rugby and hockey teams under the guidance of Lieutenant Brown, Captain Wing and Major Clarkson respectively, are gradually forming and great hopes are pinned on them for the various competitions in which the Regiment has entered.

The Regiment looking ahead to the long dark nights of winter, is busily preparing itself with the formation of a dance band under the leadership of S.S.M. Crich.

Regular Tombola nights are already a regular feature in the W.V.S. Lounge of the NAAFI Canteen, and the Camera Club is busily settling down to enjoyable evenings in the darkroom.

In the first round of the Army Challenge Cup our Regimental Soccer Eleven beat 4 Divisional Column R.A.S.C. by five goals to two in an exciting game. The team are now looking forward to the next round.

Last month we said farewell to Lieutenant K. Powell and Second-Lieutenant Wheawell on their departure to the Royal Military College of Science. We wish them all success on their course.

The Regiment is now the senior unit of Birdwood Barracks, H.Q. 6 Armoured Division, having handed over the responsibilities of Garrison duties and removed to Lubbecke. A Company R.A.S.C. and 1 ASSU now share our barracks.

Christmas is not far off now, and arrangements for the Regimental programme are going ahead, with S.Q.M.S. Caplin of 1 ASSU busily organising a Christmas Concert Party.

★

First Impressions of Berlin

By DRIVER HIRD

When we arrived in Berlin we were taken to our quarters in the Berlin Brigade barracks. For the most part of the first day the first thought was sleep but we did visit the NAAFI club in the evening. This club certainly proved a magnificent place, with all the amenities any soldier could want.

On the following morning we were all completely wide awake and it was arranged that we should make a tour of Berlin in company with our Troop Sergeant and Officer.

We began at 10.30 by visiting the well-known Olympic Stadium, which is situated near the barracks. This build-

ing is certainly striking. We spent at least half-an-hour wandering around the terraces, glancing continually at the magnificent views of Berlin. From here we walked the length of a very fine avenue to the underground station.

The underground, or U Bahn as it is called, took us to the centre of Berlin. When we got out we made our way down the Road of the 17th June to the Russian War Memorial, which is in the British Sector. We were impressed by the two Russian soldiers who mount guard there round the clock. From there we went to the Brandenburg Gate, which separates the West from the East in Berlin. At present the Germans are restoring the Gate under a complicated agreement between East and West. We crossed over from East to West just by the Gate. The only regulation that bound us was that we had to be in uniform. The stay in the Eastern Sector was made short by the fact that we were hungry and our Sergeant was thirsty.

Rather than go back to the barracks we found a place for a meal in the city. It consisted of a very thick soup and a massive helping of pork chop and red cabbage accompanied, of course, by a glass of beer.

Our next stop was at the famous zoo, where we spent nearly two hours. Following our visit there we went to the main shopping centre, where we had our tea.

Berlin is certainly a beautiful city and it is striking how the rebuilding programme in the Western Sector is far in advance of that in the Eastern.

BERLIN SIGNAL SQUADRON LISTENS TO THE SPUTNIK



They had read about sputnik in the papers, heard its recorded bleeps on the radio, and then decided to take a hand in the game themselves. "They" are Lance Corporal Walker (left) and Signalman Earnshaw of the Berlin Signal Squadron.

They tuned in one of the Signal Centre's receivers and twice during the night heard the peeping of the Red Moon. In all, the bleeps were heard for about forty minutes, rather longer than was expected. Perhaps reception was better in that, being in Berlin, the Squadron is stationed behind the Iron Curtain.

Photograph and matter contributed by Army Public Relations, Berlin.

FORMATING WITH THE RAF

WE ARE OFTEN ASKED "WHAT EXACTLY DO YOU DO IN AIR FORMATION SIGNALS?" — A SICK-MAKING QUESTION, BASED ON A FUNDERM — SORRY — PROFOUND IGNORANCE OF INTER-SERVICE REQUIREMENTS. SPEAKING, FROM RHQ. OF THE OFFICERS IN NO. 2 GROUP (II) AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT WE PROPOSE TO THROW SOME LIGHT ON THIS MATTER



FOR INSTANCE, MAJOR F.G. BARNES WHO COMMANDS 1 SQN, PLAYS A PRETTY GOOD GAME OF TENNIS AND LEANS TOWARD MATTERS OF A TECHNICAL BENT



INTER-SERVICE SPECIAL — NOT TO BE TAKEN VERY SERIOUSLY.

WHILE THE 2IC, MAJOR R.S. CAMPBELL, RIDES AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE, AND SO TENDS TO LEAN THE OTHER WAY.



THE REGIMENTAL LINES OFFICER, CAPT. (TOT) J.F. EVERARD AND CAPT. (TOT) D.F. BARRY SHARE THE SAME OFFICE AND DO PRETTY WELL AT BRIDGE AND BINGO



CAPT. W.B. FOOTE PLAYS RUGGER AND GOES ON SCHEMES, AND TO STRENGTHEN HIS ARM FOR WRITING, THE ADJUTANT

CAPT. H.A. JOHNSTONE, SWEATS IT OUT ON THE SQUASH COURT.



CAPT. (QM) H. SORFLEET IS VERY SUCCESSFUL ON THE 'POOLS'



MAJOR E. JORDAN LOOKS AFTER THE CASH AND IS A FIRST CLASS HOCKEY UMPIRE



WHILE THE CO'S GOLF GETS STEADILY WORSE.

OF COURSE, ALL THIS ACTIVITY TAKES PLACE AT HQ 2 GROUP — OUT ON THE AIRFIELDS THEY ARE BUSY HELPING TO KEEP THE AIRCRAFT FLYING. HOW? — BELT UP, CHAPS!

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SHAPE SIGNAL SQUADRON

Many people each year come as visitors to Paris. You perhaps are one of them, are going to be, or would like to be. If you are, and are coming by car, here is some brief, but not to serious advice from SHAPE Signal Squadron on how to tackle the traffic.

The basic rule of the road which the Parisian observes, is the "give way right" rule. Any car coming from your right has the right of way. You must learn to use this rule. The Parisian motorist automatically takes his right of way (and yours as well if you let him). You must be equally firm, or you will hold up traffic. So, expect cars from your right, and give way to them. Keep going when someone comes in from your left, the road is yours.

One of the most interesting obstacles to the motorist is the large island (don't let the Parisian hear you call it an island) in the middle of which stands the Arc de Triomphe. This is the Etoile, at which point converge twelve roads, including the Champs Elysees. Traffic circulates around here in quantity and at speed. It is strongly advised to drive with one foot on the throttle, one on the brake, and one on the clutch. The problem is, to make your way round the island without being hit by cars coming in first from the left as you enter, and then from the right. Once you are on the circuit, you are reasonably secure, but when the time comes to leave it, look out! Now, this is what those who know (or think they do), do. Pick a stooge in the shape of another car who is going your way. Station yourself alongside him and to his left. When he moves, you move, when he stops, you stop. He will protect you against right flank attacks. He will also help you to infiltrate through the traffic stream to the boulevard you are aiming at. In all seriousness, this method usually works. You can often use it. Particularly in large open areas like the Place de la Concorde.

You have now reached your boulevard and are driving along it. The sun is shining, the birds are singing, you are in Paris. Could anything be better? Then, crash! A car pulls away from the curb, you swerve out, and an overtaking car makes a mess of your rear door. The lesson is simple. Drive as straight as possible. If you must change direction quickly, first glance over your shoulders (each one in turn preferably). Even better have wing mirrors fitted to the car before you come to Paris. They are a tremendous help in heavy traffic.

You will notice at traffic lights that the Parisian driver seems to have a sixth sense in anticipating the change from red to green. He is usually well on his way before the green appears. The crafty fellow is not watching his own lights at all. He watches the corresponding lights facing the intersecting road, and as soon as they change from green to red, he's off. There is in fact, a slight time lag, while both sets of lights show red. Amber is only used when changing from green to red.

Well, there you are. More we could say, but more would bore. Our knowledge and successful application is borne out by the dents in our cars—they are only small dents.

M E L F

3 G.H.Q. SIGNAL REGIMENT

It seems a long, long time since we last appeared in print in THE WIRE; not that we haven't tried, we have, but on at least two occasions our poor efforts didn't pass the Commanding Officer's editorial table.

Since then, too, summer has come and gone in Cyprus and as you read this we are once more heavily involved in planning our Christmas festivities.

It will be better this time, because for the first time in three years there will be no EOKA to bother about—no I.S. duties, no pistols sticking out of civilian pockets, no patrols on quarters. Peace on earth—even in Cyprus.

The regiment seems to have settled down after its long journey from Fayid via Nicosia to Episkopi. The last of our outlying Squadrons, commanded by Major John MacLennan, disappeared this summer when main G.H.Q. M.E.L.F. in Nicosia rejoined Rear G.H.Q. at Episkopi after nearly three years' separation.

We reckon we're the most mobile static General Headquarters ever! We haven't finished yet, of course, we move into new

Barrack Blocks by Christmas and with luck we may have an Officers' Mess to take over too. That will leave us with a nice round trip of about four miles by road to cover our places of work, eating and sleeping. Roller skates are on indent!

This constant coming and going of troops (our troop at Aqaba has now ceased to exist) and squadrons have been an Adjutant's nightmare. Our minds have grown accustomed to operating in three directions simultaneously—like a carpenter's ruler. When discussing manpower, we talk about the old establishment, the present one, and the new one all in the same breath. (We are still on the "old one"!)

One of the results of our more static existence is the development of the married quarters on the hilltops overlooking the sea all round Episkopi.

The houses, messes and clubs are absolutely first class. Each promontory has its own village, the houses have two or three or four bedrooms, some of which have hand-basins. Others have separate showers in the guest's bedrooms and most houses have upstairs and downstairs toilets.

A hotted shopping centre has grown up, there is an indoor or outdoor cinema, churches for all denominations and a secondary school. With unauthorised sports grounds in nearby Happy Valley, a Saddle (and Polo) Club and wonderful sailing and swimming facilities, Episkopi is now an ideal families' station.

For the single Officer, Warrant Officer or Sergeant, life is still rather rugged—he lives in a tent and eats in a Nissen hut mess.

The rank and file will shortly occupy excellent new barrack rooms, but will continue to eat in a "temporary" cookhouse for some time to come—the latter not improved by the Corporals' Club's attempt at arson. It appears that the planners forgot to provide a cookhouse for our new barrack blocks! "Nuff said."

On the sporting side, we scored a notable sailing success when Major Norman Shaw, then 2 i/c, won the Island Firefly Championships in August. We only hope Norman is getting in a little sailing, in Catterick now!

We played hosts, too, for a Signals Cricket Week-end in September when all the major units and a team formed from the Infantry Brigade's Signal Squadrons competed in a Knock-Out Competition.

In the final, 2 Wireless Regiment defeated Major John Badcock's Brigade's team to win a handsome cup inaugurated by Brigadier Gardiner, C.S.O., M.E.L.F., and presented on his behalf by Colonel Prince, C.S.O. Cyprus.

Hockey is probably our best game—we have won the local league twice running, but this year, with the league expanded to take in five more regimental and battalion teams, we are having to work a little harder!

To be honest, we suffered our first league defeat in our first game—but we are not downhearted, and have not lost since.

We have always tried to combat the frustrations of living a rather primitive tented existence away from civilisation by making the maximum effort on sports (one wag says our weekly sporting programme is about as complicated as the knitting pattern for a Fair Isle Sweater), but we do manage to put in some time on Signalling.

We are drawn into most of the alarms and excursions that beset the Middle East and invariably contribute some men to the odd Signal parties sent here and there. After two years' experience we are beginning to understand this Tape Relay business—remember we started from scratch, built most of the rather Victorian Signal Centre fittings, partitioned off the various departments and generally set up shop on our own.

I can almost hear AWCIT gritting their teeth in Malta—and of course, they did help a little, but dear old Major Arthur Goat did wonders in those early days. Now that we've got all the machines clattering together in resonance and the Episkopi SigCen Skiffle Group is just forming, they're going to spoil everything by installing acoustic tiling to kill the noise!

Among the many old Episkopians who have left us recently, we send our greetings to Captain "Mac" McCormack, "Q" Graveling, Captains Peter McVey and Bill Marks, and all our other friends of the past few years.

Finally, we would like to welcome to the Regiment all our

The following goods, in Royal Signals Colours, are available from Association Headquarters. Cash should be sent with order.	
BADGES, Motor Car ...	35/- each
" Motor Cycle or Cycle ...	17/6 each
CUFF LINKS ...	7/- per pair
CRAVATS (Artificial Silk) ...	21/- each
TIE and SCARF SETS, Woollen ...	30/- per set (In boxes)
TIES, Terylene 12/11, Woollen 8/6, Heavy Weave 7/6. Reppe 5/6.	

new friends who have joined recently. May their stay be as happy—if not quite so pioneering as their immediate predecessors.

We would like to wish all past and present members of this Regiment and our COMCAN "contacts" a very Merry Christmas.

4 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT

Regimental Headquarters. 4 Air Formation Signal Regiment has finally rested at R.A.F. Nicosia, Cyprus, so now we have time to give you some news.

R.H.Q. is situated in a small building on a R.A.F. Maintenance Area. It is so designed that you have to walk in circles to find the departments you want. It houses our Colonel A. C. Galbraith; Major Salter, 2 i/c; the Adjutant, Captain M. E. Golding, recently taken over from Jimmy Treglown; Major Luscombe the Q.M.; Lieutenant Harwood, S.W.S.; and dear old Captain Ben Gough, Imprest Holder, who is tucked away in a hidden labyrinth, once upholding and now released an empire which was 2 Squadron, originally at Mafrag, Jordan, now handed over to Aden and commanded by Major Ball. Soon they hope to be autonomous—SNOBS. We control, but it needs a long arm, 12 Airfield Signal Troop at Habbaniya, Iraq (Captain Sydney), a detachment at El Adem and Aden. 1 Squadron, poor dears, are with us.

Drafts come and go and the sun still shines, but excitement still abounds: there is a rush to the windows by the clerks headed by Sergeant Crowson, Orderly Room Sergeant, and Corporal McNulty—EOKA? or a hidden bomb?? Relax or can we?? It is two Cypriot belles displaying their charms as they pass by.

No. 1 Squadron. This squadron having finally subsided, together with R.H.Q., alongside Nicosia Airfield, after hasty moves from various Middle East countries, has been engaged for some months in picking up the bits.

Thanks to the efforts of our long suffering and hard working Q.M., Major Trevor Luscombe, and the M.T.O., John Douthwaite, we are now emerging in reasonable shape.

The squadron is at present commanded by Major K. W. Jordan with Staff Sergeant High functioning very well as S.S.M. As far as can be ascertained, we have not appeared in THE WIRE for many a long year, so it might be a good thing to give a rough idea of how we are situated.

There is S.H.Q., with 9 T.E. Troop under Lieutenant (T.O.T.) Bill Hefferon manning the S.O.C. in Nicosia. This troop also has detachments manning the R.A.F. Transmitter site at Heraklis and the receiver site at Ayios Nicolaos, near the old Venetian port of Famagusta (with story book battlements and a bright blue sea, not forgetting Othello's tower).

3 Wireless Carrier Troop with its H.Q. in Nicosia has detachments at Capes Greco, Gata and Kormakiti, which are all the sharp bits sticking out to sea—except for Cape Andreas, pointing towards Syria.

Both 11 Airfield Signal Troop and 6 Line Troop are based on Akrotiri, the square southernmost peninsula of Cyprus. They are engaged on the maintenance of a remarkable field cable system of line communications, which will probably keep them occupied for the next 25 years, pending the installation of permanent communications by our friends in CITA (Cyprus Telegraph Authority).

15 Wing Troop, which has done much good work in the past in various countries, is now about to become redundant.

The tasks the squadron is required to do is many and varied. Anything can pop out of the bag without warning. A recent and happily popular job, done during October, was the installation of certain cables on Troodos.

Troodos was the summer seat of the Government, and is situated about 5,500 feet above sea level. It is a beautiful mountain area, with magnificent views in every direction, and under the shade of pine trees.

The detachment under the energetic Sergeant Coleman, lived in two 180lb. tents, and with the aid of Private Fulcher, A.C.C., plus generous rations, managed very well. The days were warm and sunny, but nights called for B.D. and Greatcoats.

The task took longer than expected since it transpired that some 600 yards had to be buried through near solid rock. Even so the Squadron Commander began to suspect that the detachment were becoming overfond of this semi "Blighty" atmosphere.

However, in the last two days the tents were nearly flooded out, and this, plus a goodly pile of hailstones, saw a rapid return to the warmer temperatures of Nicosia.

The journey in a service vehicle takes some 3½ hours, through some enchanting scenery, a winding tricky road, and a large village called Kakopetria where a prominent EOKA terrorist recently gave himself up to the Ulster Rifles, and revealed the whereabouts of two other "good" terrorists (gratifyingly stone dead).

Our football team which last year did well by winning the Episkopi Army Units League, and also the R.A.F. Episkopi Knock-out Cup, has got off to a reasonable start with three wins and a draw out of four games.

On the 31st October, there was a farewell parade for the retiring Governor of Cyprus, H.E. Field Marshal Sir John Harding. Of the sixty places allotted to R.A.F. Nicosia, three were for this Regiment, and were filled by Sergeant Andrews, Corporal Preece and Corporal Kilburn who, a little while back, was directly responsible for the apprehension of two EOKA terrorists.

And that for the moment is all from this Squadron which, by the time the next notes appear may be in the suburbs of anywhere. For those that may be interested in the subject, Cyprus is situated in the eastern part of the Mediterranean basin, and here Richard Cœur de Lion married Berengaria of Navarre. It is recorded that the King "Was glorious on this happy occasion, and cheerful to all, and showed himself very jocular and affable"—which is not entirely true of those at present serving in this attractive if troubled island.

VERY SPECIAL SIGNAL SQUADRON

We just cannot let the (so-called) Steeple Bumpstead lot hide behind this respectable, but slightly phoney *nom de plume*.

The place, and I give away no secrets which have not already, rather foolishly (on their part) been disclosed (please see their Cipher Troop notes, which gave our code-cracking section a real belly laugh), is commonly known at Plutnik Bleepstead. It lies in the Ural foothills in East Fantasia, and the Squadron was ferried out by a series of (as it turned out) misguided missiles, in a fantastically brave attempt to frustrate the evil machinations of the 22515935th (SOV SAP) Setterlite Gruppo—I cannot say more because what they actually did was contrary to D.O.R.A. and in any case—we thought of it first.

I know the Officer Commanding well (old Snerdy Toop). It is a canard to say that he could not find Signals 7, and he would be the first to admit it, being one of the old school (please see and later). He was actually looking, or rather searching, for (Signals 7(c), which as you know is now (Signals 6 (c) (Insert War Office as appropriate), and—correct me if you know who I am, old Snerdy was in on the plan to insert devil traps (transistor type) along the corridor which runs from (Signals 7(c) to what is now (Signals 6 (c)). Devil traps, by the way, are still on the T.S. list; we got the idea from the (clever devils these Chinese). Roughly speaking, they are right angles which bisect horizontals and, very occasionally, verticals. The Devil(s) bump(s) his/their head(s) if he/they try and get from (Signals 15), during power failures, to either what used to be Signals 7 (c), or what now is, as far as is known (Signals 6 (c)).

Of course, the plan has now changed completely, and Snerdy either just was not in the picture or had forgotten. Does it matter which?

Snerdy, by the way, is the natural son of Sir Mortified Snerd, and does he give himself airs; especially since this Plutnik Bleepstead racket started. He was at school at with and joined the Corps on the old exchange *au pair* system. He was, of course, by then, at his finishing school in Switzerland.

Incidentally, 80 per cent of this Squadron belongs to the Signals 7 Supporters' Club.

ABROAD. Nov. 24th, 5957, Anno Lucis

AFRICA

1 SQUADRON SIERRA LEONE SIGNALS

Our last notes, published in the September issue, resulted in our receiving two letters. The first was that from Major R. E. Scouller contesting the "innovation" of the Sapper-Signals dinner. Your correspondent must apologise for this inaccuracy but nevertheless point out that the "fixture" had lapsed. The

Mint Julep and its carriage was obviously quite a thing. Major Scouller and his compatriots would have smiled, with and not at us we hope, if they could have witnessed an "orange squash schooner race" fought by two non-hard liquor-drinking Sapper and Signals officers in this year's return night at the Sapper N.C.O.s' Mess. The culprit who put the gin in the squash has not been traced.

The other letter was from N. R. Cowan, Esq., who was the first Royal Signals N.C.O. to be posted to Sierra Leone. His link with Sappers here dated back to October 1922, and he remembered assisting the Engineers to instal electric lighting in Tower Hill Barracks in December 1922. The first electric lighting, he claims, in Sierra Leone. His original section of a Corporal and nine O.R. has now grown to three officers, thirteen B.N.C.O.s and 115 A.O.R.

Retrograde steps? The Daily Telegraph journalist observes that we are back to hurricane lamps! Our thanks are tendered to the Editor of THE WIRE for the republication of The Daily Telegraph comments on our degree of "Citoness"! The operations in the Yengema area against illicit diamond diggers are now virtually over as the infantry were withdrawn on 23rd October. The Squadron still, however, has detachments up country providing wireless communications for the Sierra Leone Police Force. Detachments must be completely self-supporting in every respect when engaged on this type of work. It took Captain McKail, our O.C., 56 hours to travel from Freetown to Yengema on one of his visits and travel was by landrover, the narrow gauge Sierra Leone Railway and native canoe. Sergeant David spent a day travelling each way when visiting an outstation at Yomandu about 20 miles from Yengema. This journey being over flooded roads at the end of our rainy season. Sergeant Orton has been out in the "bush" for 10 weeks now as the B.N.C.O. in charge of one of our control stations.

The flash of Zouave jackets, the stamp of feet and the swish of whitewash brushes bring our Administration Inspection daily nearer.

COMCAN SIGNAL TROOP

The battle against local wild life goes on. Various small creatures find our equipment a convenient place in which to nest.

The effect on communication is often quite interesting. We have almost perfected a modification to include chameleons as insect-excluding devices but, contrary to popular belief, we do not fit all visiting snakes with spade terminals and use them to replace broken connectors.

We have been sorry to say good-bye to Sergeant and Mrs. Hitchmough and take this opportunity of wishing Sergeant Hitchmough good luck on his foreman's course, next year.

The Sergeants' Mess socials have been much enlivened by the introduction of "Ernie," who with the aid of a car battery and some assistance from the entertainment committee, picks the winning numbers. We hope that, after a little further development work by foreman Swaby, "Ernie" will take over the entire duties of the entertainments committee.

FARELF

SINGAPORE DISTRICT SIGNAL REGIMENT

The last two days of August were two very important days in this part of the world. On August 31st, the Federation of Malaya attained its independence and became a sovereign state in its own right, to be known as "Persekutuan Tanah Melayu." A day before Malaya gained its independence, Captain "Pat" Morrison, our Adjutant, lost his. At St. George's Church, on 30th August, Captain Morrison was married to Miss Davida Nowland, of Brisbane, Australia. We, of the Regiment, would like to wish Captain and Mrs. Morrison "all the best" for the future, in their Scots-Australian venture.

This month the Regiment has won two District Cups. The first to be won was the Inter-Unit Knockout Cricket Cup. In a very exciting final, we managed to beat The Base Ordnance Depot by five wickets, much credit going to Lance-Corporal Bryant, who took 4-39 and scored 45 not out, and to the inspired leadership of our captain Lieutenant A. Yeoman.

The second cup to be won was at the District shooting, where our Sten team, consisting of Lieutenant C. Lord, Sergeant James, Corporal Woodhead and Craftsman Mason, came top in



**SINGAPORE DISTRICT SIGNAL REGIMENT
WINNERS, DISTRICT CRICKET KNOCK-OUT CUP, 1957**
Standing, left to right: Craftsman Mason, Signalman Killen, Major Fraser, Sergeant Halliday (scorer), Staff Sergeant Bligh, Corporal Scott, Second-Lieutenant Louffe
Front Row, left to right: Signalman Beck, Staff Sergeant Hulse, Lieutenant Yeoman (Captain), Lance-Corporal Bryant, Sergeant Blackman

the 40 teams competing. In the Major Units Rifle Competition we were runners-up, and in the overall competition, third.

On Saturday, 21st September, this unit was once again responsible for the organising of the Royal Signals Motor Cycle Trials. The weather was good to us; for the first day in over a fortnight we didn't have rain. The course consisted of ten observed sections and a timed cross-country run. Unfortunately, we were only runners-up this year, the shield being won by G.H.Q. Signal Regiment "A" Team. In the individual rider competition, Corporal Lasota of G.H.Q. Signal Regiment was first, with Corporal Kassim and Sergeant Abu Hassan, both of our Regiment, second and third respectively.

We congratulate Sergeant R. F. "Freezer" Frost on his passing the basic parachute course at R.A.F., Changi. He has only been back with us for a few days and is still too shaky to shoot any lines; however, time will tell.

Postscript.—In the Army Trial, Corporal Vincent of our L.A.D. was the individual winner, with Corporal Lasota of G.H.Q. Signals second. Our "A" Team reversed the Royal Signals meeting order by defeating G.H.Q. Signals and finishing fourth in the whole meeting.



Wedding of Captain S. P. Morrison and Miss D. Nowland, Singapore, 30th August, 1957

HONG KONG SIGNAL REGIMENT

A PRAYERFUL HEART-FELT POEM FROM THE SIGCEN TO THE STAFF

It happened once upon a time,
In a certain Comcan Section,
The General was a-coming round
For an overall inspection.

The Signal Centre Chief made sure
That all was spick and span,
That everyone made ready
For the entry of the man.

But one young op. was hamstrung
Upon his old machine,
And the overflow of traffic
Made it very hard to clean.

"Now soldier, what's the reason
For this ruddy awful mess?"
"Sir," the quailing soldier answered,
"It's the overload I guess."

"We're getting too much traffic,
Arriving by the bale,
Most of which could be sent
By courier or the mail."

"It seems to me, young soldier,
You have your problems too;
Clear up this heap of traffic
And I'll see what I can do."

The General left soon after,
And later on that day,
Dictated a brief memo
Which in part had this to say:

To all originators,
Who so much traffic yield,
I recommend you study
Staff Duties in the Field.

There is much for you to gather
From this instructive book;
The Signals Section gives the form,
So when in doubt—just look.

Eliminate those extra words
That waste both time and space,
And see the text does not mislead,
Nor's vague in any place.

Avoid all repetition
That's for emphasis alone,
Use the courier or the mail,
Or use the ruddy phone.

Be sure you choose the precedence
With a maximum of care;
Don't over/under classify,
If security you'd spare.

The Rules and Regulations
Are just plain common sense;
They're made to save you wear and tear,
And the Government expense.

The General called his P.A.,
And said with resolution:
"Please see that this directive
Gets the widest distribution."

So the worthy words of wisdom
Were displayed for all to see,
And the moral of the story is
So plain to you and me:

The Signals are just like the drains,
They keep on going strong;
It's never realised that they're there,
Until the things go wrong.

43 (Wessex) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment (T.A.)

Early History. The Unit had its origin in 1860 in the Devon and Somerset Volunteer Engineers, two detachments of which went to the South African War between 1899 and 1902. In 1908, the Wessex Divisional Telegraph Company, R.E., T.F., was formed in Exeter, with its H.Q. in Bath, under the Command of Major E. Heron Varwell. Many of the Volunteers came from the Head Post Office in Exeter. At this time, the primary means of communication within the Division was line down to Brigades and visual within Brigades.

The First World War, 1914-1918. In 1914, the Unit was mobilised and formed the first line, 27th (Wessex) Divisional Signals, R.E., T.F., and the second line, 2/1st (later 45th) (Wessex) Divisional Signals, R.E., T.F.

The first line Unit, under Major Heron Varwell, D.S.O., went to France on 21st December, 1914, the first complete Divisional Signal Company to serve abroad. The Unit laid cable and manned Signal Offices in France and Belgium and, after the second battle of Ypres, the O.C. received the following message from H.Q., 27th Division:

"O.C. 27 Divisional Signal Company. You are aware how the Major-General appreciates the devoted work which your Officers and men have performed during the recent hard and strenuous five weeks, but he wishes you to inform all ranks that the contempt for danger displayed by the linemen and despatch riders, the devotion to duty shown by all operators and their determination that the communications should be kept intact even during the hottest phases of the recent fighting was the admiration of all. The Major-General recently informed the Army Commander that he considered his Divisional Signal Company second to none in the Expeditionary Force. The Major-General congratulates you on being in command of

a Unit which has gained such a reputation and he congratulates your Officers, N.C.O.s and men in being members of such a Unit."—(Signed) H. L. Reed, Lieutenant-Colonel 27 Division.

At the end of 1915, the 27th Division embarked for Salonika and the Unit saw service in Turkey, Serbia, Hungary and Georgia.

In the meanwhile, the second line Unit, under Captain W. G. Michelmores, D.S.O., M.C., trained at Christchurch and Bulford. In 1916, it joined 58th (2/1st) London Division and was engaged on anti-invasion duties on the East Coast.

Early in 1917, the Division embarked for France and the Unit took part in the heavy fighting of the Hindenburg Line, at Passchendaele and, in 1918, on the right of the British Line with the 5th Army and the final victorious advance.

1918-1939. After the First World War, the 43rd (Wessex) Divisional Signals was retained with its Headquarters at the Priory Drill Hall, Exeter (now occupied by No. 1 Squadron), with Companies at Plymouth, Southampton and Salisbury. By 1939, the Unit had doubled its strength and formed a second line Unit, 45th (West Country) Divisional Signals.

The Second World War, 1939-1944. 43rd (Wessex) Division mobilised in the Salisbury area, with Divisional Headquarters at Mere. The Unit was at that time commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel E. R. Moore, a former Commander of the Southampton Company.

Part of the Unit was organised and equipped for operations in Norway and was moved to Scotland but, before they could embark, evacuation of British Forces from Norway had begun and the Unit was re-formed at Mere.

In 1940, the Unit moved with its Division to Hertfordshire and later played its part in providing communications for the defence of U.K. against the threat of invasion. For two years it trained under 12 Corps, taking part in Exercises "Spartan," "Blackcock" and "Tiger."

In 1944, it landed with its Division in Normandy and saw bitter fighting in the Bocage country, taking part in the battles of Hill 112, Mount Pincon and the closing of the Falaise Gap. Under 30 Corps, 43rd Division was the first to cross the River Seine in the advance into Belgium and Holland. The Unit provided communications for 43rd Division in the relief of Aachen, the battle of Reichswald, the Rhine crossing and Bremen. Throughout this period the Unit was commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel M. Trethowan, O.B.E., a pre-war T.A. Officer. The Unit was disbanded in Germany around V.J. Day.

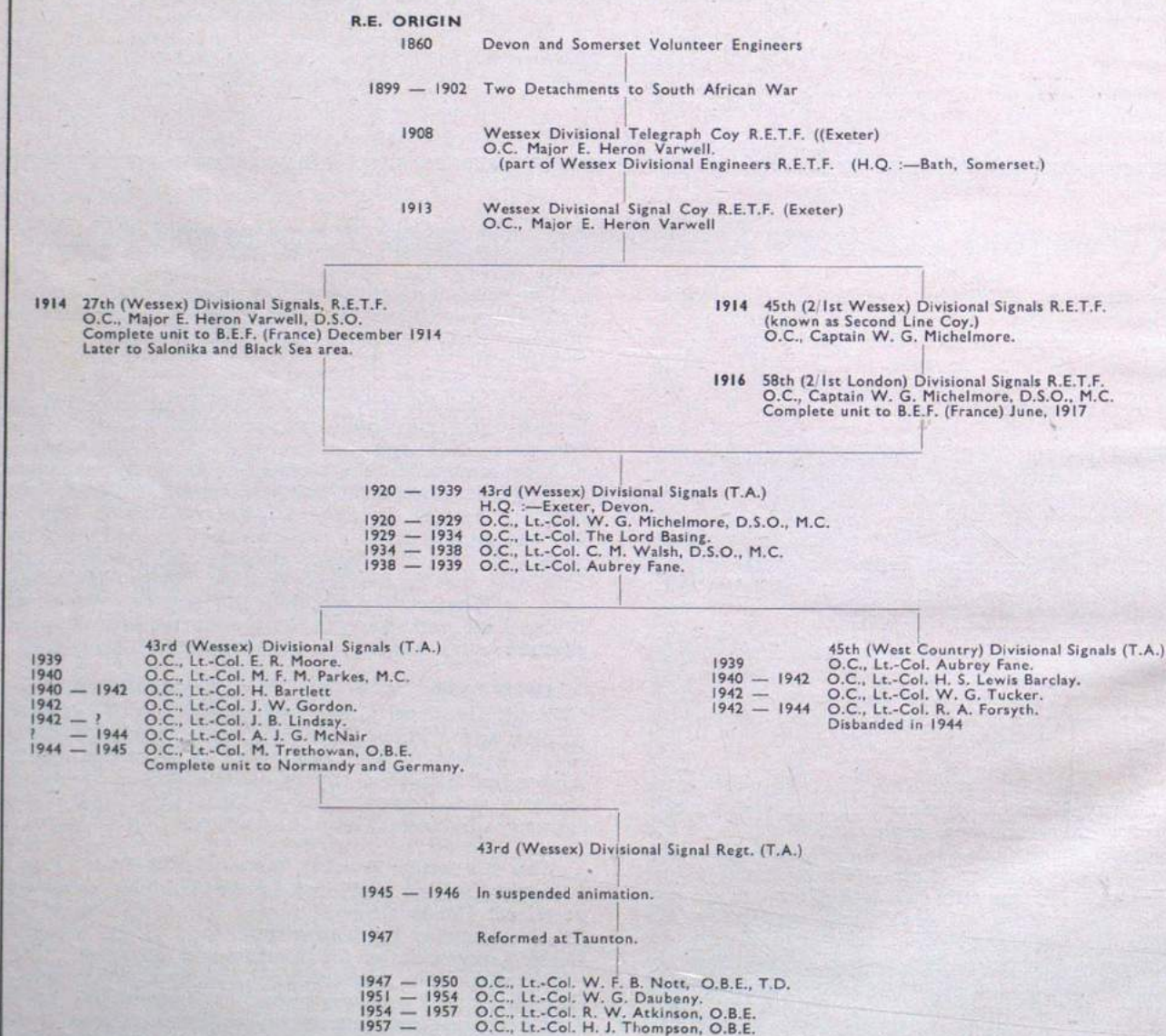
In the meanwhile, the second line unit, 45th Divisional Signals, was formed under Lieutenant-Colonel Aubrey Fane in the Exeter area with Headquarters at Crediton. In May, 1940, it moved to Kent and played its part, under 12 Corps, in providing communications for the defence of UK

against the invasion threat. At one time, the unit had over 500 miles of field cable "on the ground." Later that year, it moved to Yorkshire to the Doncaster area where it carried out intensive training. After various moves within England and Northern Ireland, it returned to the South of England where it took part in the transit organisation for D-Day operations. The Unit was finally disbanded in 1944. The Unit formed one of the Beach Signal Sections which took part in the Salerno operation in Italy and saw bitter fighting on the beaches.

Post-War Period. In February, 1947, 43rd (Wessex) Divisional Signal Regiment (T.A.) was re-constituted with Squadrons at Exeter (No. 1), Bridgwater (No. 2) and Torquay (No. 3) under the Command of Lieutenant-Colonel W. F. B. Nott, O.B.E., T.D. Since 1947 several changes have occurred. R.H.Q. is now at Taunton, 3 Squadron has moved to Bristol, "J" Troop has been established at Salisbury and "L" Troop in Plymouth. "B" Troop is located in Torquay. Thus the Regiment lives up to its name being truly "Wessex."

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

T.A. CENTRE, BISHOPS HULL, TAUNTON, SOMERSET



Back Row, left to right: Corporal P. C. Shiells, D. J. Carter, Staff Sergeant T. W. Wood, Lance-Corporal R. B. Hillbourne
Front Row, left to right: Sergeant A. V. Wrate, Captain K. A. Biggleston (Captain), Lieutenant R. M. Rogers, Lieutenant P. Goodman
Front: Staff Sergeant F. G. Gamble, W.O.II J. M. May

56 (London) INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT (T.A.)

With camp well behind us, we have now plunged into the winter season's training with the intention of providing even better communications in next year's Brigade and Divisional exercises.

Over the past year we have given the Shooting Team its head and they have recently, by dint of much enthusiasm and practice, been very successful.

The first indication of their improved standard came at Annual Camp when, in the 168 Infantry Brigade Rifle Meeting, versus teams from the London Scottish, London Irish Rifles and 23rd London Regiment, they won the Section Shoot and did reasonably well overall. More recently, in the Eastern Command Royal Signals (T.A.) Rifle Meeting at Purfleet, the team provided the winners for the following events:—

- Unit Challenge Trophy.
 - Falling Plate Competition.
 - Open Individual Competition (Sergeant A. V. Wrate).
 - Permanent Staff Competition (W.O.II J. M. May).
 - Young Soldiers' Competition (Lieutenant P. Goodman).
- We now hope that the Regimental Football and Basket Ball Teams will match this success.

No. 1 SPECIAL COMMUNICATION REGIMENT (CITY OF LONDON) ROYAL SIGNALS (T.A.)

The past few months have been full of interest and activity. General Sir Edwin Morris, K.C.B., O.B.E., M.C., paid his first official visit as our new Honorary Colonel to inspect our Regimental Parade in August. Afterwards he visited the Men's Canteen, the Sergeants' Mess and the Officers' Mess.



General Morris talking to Second Lieutenant Herbert during the Honorary Colonel's visit in August.

In September we held an Exhibition demonstrating every aspect of the work of the Regiment, including the W.R.A.C. Squadron. We were fortunate to have Sergeant Le Feuvre in attendance. He spent a year in the Antarctic with the advance party for the International Geophysical Year—his lectures, slides and equipment were all of great interest.

On 18th October, Lieutenant-Colonel T. Morgan, T.D., relinquished command of the Regiment on his posting to the Middle East. The officers and their ladies with General Morris, Major-General W. A. Scott, C.B.E., C.B.E., and Lieutenant-Colonel J. Sharpe (one of our former Commanding Officers) as their guests, dined him out. Our new Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel E. W. Milner, T.D., expressed all our feelings when, in proposing the toast of Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. Morgan, he recalled the energy and enthusiasm that he displayed while with us and the respect he commanded. Major R. H. Peacock is appointed Second-in-Command.

We extend a warm welcome to all past members of the Regiment and hope that many of them will not forget us, but will come and see us on any Thursday evening.

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21 (NM) CORPS SIGNAL REGIMENT (T.A.)

Despite various caustic comments from the editor and others, it would still seem that the function foremost in the minds of our big brothers, the regular army units, is the annual administrative inspection. Reports invariably record how long ago it happened or how soon it is about to rear its ugly head. We, too, have such an event to contend with in December but we leave it to others to tell you more about how busy it makes us and how good our report will be!

Our main pre-occupation is NOT the annual administrative inspection, nor our position in the Midland's Major Units darts league but the problem of getting hold of men and equipment. We are making slow progress in the recruiting field, but cannot report such success in the equipment field. Our penultimate 53 set vehicle had to be sent to workshops last month and no less than 23 good reasons were given for it to be classified BLR. We are now left with *The One* which, to put it mildly, taxes the



(Photo by courtesy Derbyshire Advertiser)
Standing (left to right) Captain W. James (G6 XM); Captain C. D. Didcott, M.B.E. (G2 FHF); Captain F. E. Wyer (G8RY)
Seated—Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) H. E. Jones (G3 JXL)

wear a distinctive

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Made entirely BY HAND to the approved Regimental design, in fine wire and silks, to last you for years. We supply on dark navy or black cloth, or on your own detached pocket (blazers must not be sent). The Royal Signals Badge costs 40/-, postage (including Forces air-mail) paid. Despatched within seven days from receipt of remittance, subject to immediate refund if you are in any way dissatisfied with our craftsmanship.

D. J. PARKINSON
GOLD AND SILVER WIRE BADGE-MAKER
15 Albert Road, Brighton, 1

ingenuity of the training officers when it comes to wireless exercises! This, of course, was the position at the time of writing, by the time you read this we may be up to the scale, but on the other hand we may well have a complete void. (Any bets?)

ANTRC remains our strong subject. We use it, lend it and mend it, but "Oh! how our aching backs wish we could mount it in vehicles!"

Some of you readers may not know where we live, and since this is not a matter of security here goes:—

R.H.Q. and 2 Squadron are at Derby; 1 Squadron is at Bulwell; 3 Squadron is at Chesterfield; 4 Squadron is at Nottingham.

You may say H.Q. Squadron is missing. May be you are right, but a visit to Chipping Campden Post Office may help to solve the mystery.

This month's highlight is the Northern Command Exercise "Overlay." Our contribution is, needless to say, ANTRC (man pack version!)

This month's jack-pot question is "who is the officer who spent all one Sunday morning demanding a Burma breakfast?"

As a tailpiece, our unit ham club (G3 LTL) will be very pleased to hear from all other such clubs or individuals. We have found this club has sparked the interest of all our operators (and others) in the "spirit of communications." Quite apart from the many contacts made there is a great feeling of security in the club—the equipment is modern and efficient and above all, ours and ours alone. Who knows, the day may come when it is our sole surviving terminal!

The Strange FandY Member

The animal known as the 54 East Anglian Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A. Beast happily spreads itself over five counties, Essex, Cambridge, Norwich, Bedford and Suffolk.

The heart of the beast gently pulses in Bedford, where the personalities of the permanent staff occasionally stab a work-weary finger at a coloured pin in a wall map and announce that, "This TAC will produce notes for next month's WIRE."

A short time ago the work-weary finger was stabbed in the direction of Essex, and it came to rest on the place name of Brentwood.

The w.w. finger fell away from the wall map and a world-weary voice said, "Ah, FandY troops. M'mm, yes, we'll have a bit of history—pen pictures of the che-aps, written record of achievements, and all that kind of thing!"

Picture now the sturdy limb of the Great East Anglian Beast whose conscientious and patriotic heart murmurs with somnolent persistence in Bedford. The limb, collectively called FandY, houses itself in two tiny offices, a slightly larger store, some hard standing, two rooms in a hut and, joy, oh joy, a space for a vehicle or two in a covered garage.

Round this limb is wrapped a body member of another unit—R Battery of 517 Light AA Regiment, T.A. Being a gunner animal this body member grunts encouraging noises at the sturdy limb of the Great East Anglian Beast.

The grunts take the form of social noises and training sounds. Social noises follow the invariable form of, "Pardon—the beer's a bit gassy tonight."

Training Sounds such as "Careful, you stupid b——" come from instructors whose enthusiastic pupils scrape the ceiling of the Dome with an over-elevated barrel of a power operated Bofors.

Mention of Training Sounds reminds the writer that the FandY limb sometimes makes involuntary Training movements without waiting for co-ordination brain signals from the parent body (an affliction common to all great beasts), but it should be said in FandY's defence that the reputation, personality, character, etc., of the East Anglian Beast can be accurately assessed from the results of the sometimes uncontrollable, but nevertheless well-intentioned, twitches of its nether parts.

The FandY limb itself is the beast's strong right arm and the arm is in the process of having the events of the Beast's current history tattooed on its bulging muscles. Designs such as a heart pierced with two East Anglian Arrows surmounted by the words "R.H.Q. loves FandY" are prominent among the messages of sincere affection, lastingly recorded by the tattooist's needle.

The fingers on the FandY limb are strong, too. If the strength and endurance of the East Anglian Beast is calculated from the number of drills put in by Senior N.C.O.s, then it should be truthfully stated that FandY's four fingers have achieved in one year a total of 1,350 drills between them.

The Fingers give strength to the Arm, the Arm confidence to the heart and brain, though at the moment the Fingers are suffering from Admin. Twitch—a yearly complaint (nervous, one is led to believe) which attacks the heart of the Great East Anglian Beast and prostrates it for long periods.

During the time of crisis, County limbs and fingers move with blind but unerring instinct, and when the stricken animal emerges from its lair, lo, the sun is shining and its active limbs and fingers have massaged into its coat a dressing of bull lotion which draws cries of admiration from all who view its first airing.

This encouragement enables the animal to give voice, and a characteristic sound is a gentle "NIS-ing"—not in any way to be confused with "HISS-ing." "NIS-ing" is a part of the animal's mating call and is followed, after a thirty-second interval, by another note, called NETTING. Thus we have "NIS-ing and Netting"—the rough equivalent of Billing and Cooging.

Gregarious by nature, the animal likes to be heard by others of its kind, though its common cry of "HOWDOYOU-HEARME" sometimes becomes plaintive and monotonous.

The FandY limb of the beast is occasionally called upon to speak up for itself, though recently it was out in the wilderness known as "WRONG FREQUENCY." On this occasion the FandY member had one of its fingers severely bitten by the Gunner animal it was serving.

It now awaits the parent to tattoo another device on the Strong Right FandY Arm of the Great East Anglian Beast. The design is to be—A Net pierced by A and B Frequencies, surmounted with the fond and loving words "Search the Dial, you Dope."

Watch this column closely for more information about the life habits of the Great East Anglian Beast.

WELFARE

SECTION

Below an attempt is made to describe, with suitable anonymity, eight cases taken from the Welfare Section files concluded during the first week in November, 1957. Also on this page is a simple statement of income and expenditure.

Signalman, 1950-56. Married, children. Last July he had an excellent employment on a very good wage and in his sickness his wife has had to manage on less than half the normal income. SSAFA recommended, the Association helped, and the letter of gratitude from the wife was out of all proportion to the sum given.

Widow of Signalman, 1943-46, who died in 1957. There are two children and the Association paid off the arrears on a bicycle for the elder.

Signalman, 1924-45. Married, one child. Since 1945 he was employed by the G.P.O. He now has T.B. and at age 58 will not work again. The Rowland Hill Benevolent Fund had previously helped and this time the Association set the daughter up in uniform for the school to which she has obtained a scholarship.

C.Q.M.S., 1937-45. Married. He had a stroke five years ago and he and his wife live on his Army pension and small State benefit. They have no debts but nothing to live for. On the recommendation of the concerned Branch of the Association a grant was made.

Signalman, 1956, serving. His very aged father died and there was no-one to arrange the funeral. There was no money available. In these unusual circumstances, the Association asked the nearest Signal Regiment to arrange things, and the Association helped by grant and loan.

Signalman, 1942-54. Married, one child. He has been in an iron lung since 1956. His Branch of the Association keep an eye on things and between the Branch and the Welfare Section his son does not lack.

Signalman, 1953-56. Married. The first child died aged 10 weeks and the Association helped with the heavy contingent expenses.

Widow of Signalman, 1936-46, who died 1956. There are two children. The Association and the British Legion continued to make their lot a little more tolerable.

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION AND BENEVOLENT FUND

The following subscriptions were most gratefully received during October, 1957:

	£	s.	d.
Officer Training Wing, School of Signals	6	5	0
2 Training Regiment	33	16	0
4 Training Regiment (Officers' Mess)	1	8	6
5 Training Regiment	30	5	6
7 Training Regiment	46	12	2
Signal Communication Wing, Royal Military Academy	1	0	0
C.S.O.'s Branch, Headquarters, Northern Command	15	0	0
Northern Command Signal Squadron	5	0	0
24 Independent Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron	4	0	0
10 Wireless Training Squadron	10	0	0
D. and M. School, R.A.C. Centre	11	0	0
3 (Independent) U.K.L.F. Reserve Signal Squadron, T.A.	7	7	0
Junior Leaders' Regiment	15	0	0
18 Medium Regiment R.A. Signal Troop	1	0	0
MES/SRDE	1	8	2
Signals Branch, School of Artillery	1	2	6
U.K. COMCAN Signal Regiment (Warrant Officers and Sergeants and 1, 3 and 4 Squadrons)	22	3	7
Signal Wing, School of Infantry	12	6	0
War Office Signal Squadron	1	18	6
Army Phantom Signal Regiment, T.A.	5	0	0
44 (HC) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A.	10	0	0
1 Special Communications Regiment, T.A.	8	6	0
Western Command Signal Squadron (including C.S.O.'s Branch)	6	0	0
Depot Regiment	10	0	0
11 Signal Park Squadron and 4 Signal Equipment Troop	9	15	0
1 Special Communications Signal Troop	3	15	0
U.K. COMCAN Signal Regiment (2 Squadron)	3	0	0
H.Q. A.E.R. Royal Signals	10	19	6
21 (NM) Corps Signal Regiment, T.A.	3	0	0
42 (L) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A.	15	0	0
53 (W) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A.	1	10	0
North-West District (M) Signal Regiment, T.A.	1	8	6
Scottish Command (M) Signal Squadron	6	18	0
Scottish Command (M) Signal Regiment, T.A.	8	0	0
4 Air Formation Signal Regiment	18	10	0
3 G.H.Q. Signal Regiment	37	10	0
C.A.F.S.O., H.Q. 2 T.A.F.	1	0	6
10 Air Formation Signal Regiment	12	0	0
6 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment	31	0	0
1 Wireless Regiment	21	6	5
Hong Kong Signal Regiment	15	7	3
Total receipts	£378	12	8

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION WELFARE SECTION

The following donations were most gratefully received during October, 1957:

	£	s.	d.
Junior Leaders' Regiment (Church Collection at West Country Reunion)	12	6	0
2 (LON) Signal Regiment, T.A.	2	0	0
Chaplain's Branch, H.Q., B.A.O.R.	3	0	0
Chaplain's Army Apprentices' School (Special Collection)	7	7	0
Port Talbot Branch	10	0	0
Brigadier Sir Ralph Rayner, M.B.E.	1	10	0
Anonymous, Rutland Arms Hotel	1	5	0
Total receipts	£36	4	5

EXPENDITURE DURING OCTOBER, 1957 (£461 13 8)
(Includes: Rent and Rates; Beds and Bedding; Furniture; Cots and Prams; General Assistance).

Analysis of Cases:	
Families of Soldiers serving in U.K.	3
Families of Soldiers serving in B.A.O.R.	1
Families of Soldiers serving in M.E.L.F.	1
Widows and Dependents	8
Released and Discharged Soldiers	38
Total cases assisted	51

34 cases of Soldiers who served in the 1939/45 War ... £359 13 0
17 cases of Soldiers who did not serve in the War ... £102 0 8

Lighter Fuel Packs

The following amounts were most gratefully received during October, 1957:

	£	s.	d.
Box No. 6 ... 1 Wireless Regiment	1	0	0
39 ... 1 Cyrenaica Signal Troop	2	2	0
60 ... 1 Essex Signal Regiment, T.A.	3	3	3
70 ... 50 (N) Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A.	1	0	0
95 ... H.Q. Royal Signals Association	1	3	2
127 ... Oslo Branch	2	0	0
Total receipts	£7	8	5



(Block by courtesy of Port Talbot Guardian)

PORT TALBOT AND DISTRICT BRANCH

The chief guest at the fifth annual dinner of the Port Talbot and District Branch of the Royal Signals Association on Saturday was Brigadier H. R. Firth, the General Secretary of the Association.

Mr. V. J. O'Brien, chairman of the branch, presided. Toast of Royal Signals Association was proposed by Mr. Ralph G. Hanford, past chairman of the branch.

Responding, Brigadier Firth paid high tribute to the Port Talbot and District Branch, and pointed out that at headquarters it was regarded as an example to other branches. He spoke of the forthcoming increases in membership subscriptions, and said that this was long overdue as there had been no increase for 20 years.

Praised

He referred to the fact that the Corps would retain its identity in the "new Army" and praised the thousands of National Servicemen who had so wonderfully upheld and even enhanced the high traditions of the Royal Corps of Signals.

He appealed to all ex-members of the Corps to join the Royal Signals Association, and stressed that the Welfare Section were only too ready to assist in cases of need or distress.

Mr. Haydn Thomas, D.C.M., President of the Port Talbot Branch of the British Legion, proposed the toast of the Port Talbot and District Branch.

Memorable Year

In his response Mr. Leslie Evans, President and Secretary, gave a survey of the work done by the branch during the year—a year which was a memorable one in the history of the branch, and one which marked the visit of the Corps Band to Port Talbot.

He pointed out that the branch was still quite a small one, and greatly deplored the indifference of ex-servicemen generally towards their respective regimental associations. Greater need existed today than ever before, he said, for the help and interest of every ex-serviceman, to present a united front in the fight for increased pensions.

Cheque

Mr. Evans then presented a cheque to Brigadier Firth for the Benevolent Fund, this being an addition to the sum already sent as a result of the Band concert.

Others who spoke were: Mr. V. S. T. Morris, Mr. Gordon J. Toms, Mrs. B. E. Evans (representing the Ladies' Section), and Mr. R. H. Lewis, treasurer, Wales Area R.A.F.A.

Entertainment was provided by Mr. G. Vivian Knowles, tenor, with Mr. Leslie Evans accompanist.

LOUGHBOROUGH BRANCH

We seem to get bigger and bigger agendas for our meetings these days. Whilst looking ahead to May, 1958, and planning for the Midlands Area Reunion, we have to keep our feet on the ground and decide what we are going to do for a children's Christmas treat. A recent poll of members' kiddies showed 58 in favour of a party and 46 for a pantomime outing—what would you do, chums?

Then again, we are also looking forward to our Annual Dinner Dance, an event that attracted over 100 members and friends last year. For this we are again booking the restaurant/ballroom

of a local cinema, so the Committee have a fairly easy night of it. Incidentally, if any reader within striking distance of Loughborough on January 14th would like to come along I would be most happy to hear from them and supply the necessary tickets and details.

Normal winter season social life continues apace and although members' support for our dances and socials could be a lot better, I suppose we do not do so badly considering all the counter-attractions of today. It was easier when there was only the B.B.C.—nowadays one has to look up both television programmes before fixing function dates!

No such problem for the New Year's Eve Dance though. Then we literally have to pack them in, I'm happy to say, and all will be well if our usual success is repeated this year.

Which reminds me that I ought to end these jottings with the compliments of the season to widely dispersed friends of the Branch and to all readers of Association news.

ROYAL SIGNALS YACHT CLUB

Annual General Meeting

The above meeting will be held at 1100 hours on Friday, 3rd January, 1958, in the War Office, Room 156.

Sailing

The sailing year is drawing to its close, except for Cyprus where Firefly racing is continuing throughout the winter.

A full report of activities during this successful season will be given at the Annual General Meeting on Friday, 3rd January, 1958 (see separate notice).

An indication of the keen interest in sailing is shown by the following ratings which have been approved by the Committee during 1957.

Major R. S. Clifton	...	...	...	...	Master
Major D. T. W. Gibson	...	...	...	...	Master
Captain I. C. Spear	...	...	...	...	Master
Captain D. W. Cooper	...	...	...	...	(Provisional) Master
Major G. W. Blackburne	...	...	...	...	Mate
Major P. J. R. Clifton	...	...	...	...	Mate
Major R. W. Bosworth	...	...	...	...	Mate
Captain R. H. Gilbertson	...	...	...	...	Mate
Captain L. D. Edinger	...	...	...	...	Mate Y
Captain J. F. Blake	...	...	...	...	QH
Lieutenant-Colonel J. Sheepshanks	...	...	...	...	QH Y
Major P. H. Massie	...	...	...	...	QH
Major A. P. Johnson	...	...	...	...	QH
Captain W. G. A. Cathcart	...	...	...	...	QH
Major J. M. Sawyers	...	...	...	...	QH Y
Captain D. A. Barry	...	...	...	...	QH Y
Lieutenant-Colonel H. Prince	...	...	...	...	QH

For anyone requiring information about sailing the following new officials have been appointed:—

MAJOR L. D. LINE, Secretary and Treasurer, c/o 88, Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1.

CAPTAIN R. H. GILBERTSON, Captain of Dinghies, c/o School of Signals, Catterick Camp.

MAJOR E. MCK. ERSKINE, Secretary, M.E.L.F. Regional Group, c/o Signals Branch, H.Q., M.E.L.F.

CAPTAIN D. A. L. CHARLES, Charter Secretary (Pegasus U.K. Cruiser/Racer), c/o War Office (Signals 5).

LIEUTENANT I. E. SIMPSON, Craft Manager (Pegasus U.K. Cruiser/Racer), o/c Royal Marine Signals School, Eastney.

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The new and departing Secretaries take this opportunity of wishing you all a very merry Christmas and good sailing in 1958.

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