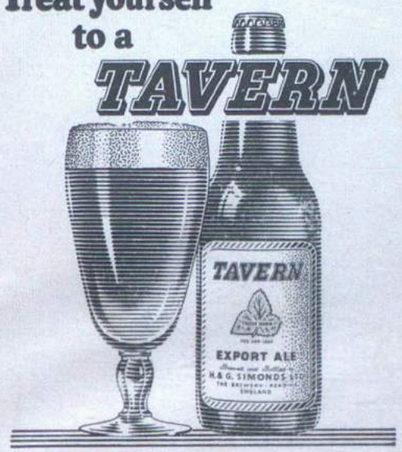
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THE WIRE

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

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.*

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JANUARY • 1959

Vol. 13 *(New Series)* **No. 1**

Editorial

THIS, the first month of 1959, the Editor's page contains an assortment of statements best chronicled under their own headings.

THANKFULNESS. The generosity of the serving members of Royal Signals during 1958 to aid the Welfare work of the Association has been very wonderful. Despite some reduction in total numbers and in some units they have given £4,745/8/1, which, believe it or not, is larger than the total which was given in 1957.

SADNESS WITH PRIDE. It was said in an earlier editorial that towards the end of 1956 all the top positions in Royal Signals were held, for the first time, by those who had started their career in Royal Signals. The planned reduction in all senior ranks has necessitated the retirement of very many of the distinguished officers, and many who know them well will say "What a pity 'he' should have gone so soon."

THE WIRE commenced in December, 1958, and will continue through 1959 to pay a small tribute to many who, having risen to high rank, have retired.

SIGNALMAN'S FRIEND. During the 1939-45 War this was the distinguished title of very many ladies who also served Royal Signals by their work in aid of the families of men whose service in the Corps took them from their homes. THE WIRE again pays tribute to Mrs. C. G. Fairlie who, from her home in Fifeshire, has during the years sent off 400 parcels of books to Royal Signals in Korea and on the conclusion of that emergency has sent a further 150 parcels to Malaya. Surely a very wonderful achievement, and the parcels continue.

INNOVATION. With guidance and help from the 3rd Training Regiment, THE WIRE starts this month its prentice hand at a Quiz. On page 7 are the questions, on page 28 the answers.

A good idea?

If the idea pleases any reader, THE WIRE will be grateful for suggested questions and answers for future numbers. No subject is barred except, for obvious reasons, technicalities in electronics. Not in that category:

Q. Who invented the morse code? A. Mr. Morse or who.

Q. Who invented the Heliograph? A. Messrs. Helio and Graph.

Anyway, whatever suggestions readers can give will be most gratefully received.

The 69th Meeting of the Corps Committee decided on the 6th December, 1958, that MERCURY HOUSE, BOURNEMOUTH, could no longer continue. As a result the house was closed on that day and no further guests will be booked.

The house, furniture and fittings are to be sold as soon as possible.

A statement about Mercury House by the Representative Colonel Commandant is on page 5.

VALE

MAJOR-GENERAL L. de M. THUILLIER, C.B., O.B.E.

Leslie de Malapert (Pete for short!) Thuillier was commissioned into the Corps from the Shop in February, 1926, and retired from the active list of the army in November, 1958. A review in detail of his services between those dates would demand much more space than the Editor could spare. It is a remarkable record of the varied life and service in peace and war, at home and abroad, of a really good, sound popular signal officer.

Pete served with four Divisional Signals, one of which was in India and he was adjutant of another; with two Corps Signals; with a G.H.Q. Signals and a Command Signal Company. He was at the Staff College when the courses were abruptly stopped at the beginning of World War II. He served in the War Office at different times in four different capacities; he was on H.Q. Signals Staffs in Italy and later became, in turn, C.S.O. Northern Ireland District, C.S.O. Air Formation Signals, Germany, C.S.O. Middle East Land Forces and C.S.O. Northern Command. His last appointment in the normal hierarchy carrying the rank of Major-General was that of Director of Telecommunications, War Office. Incidentally, he was the first holder of that post.

For nine months before his retirement he was loaned to a new high level Cabinet Office organisation for the Co-ordination of Communications-Electronics Policy. This post he still holds as a retired officer and it may well prove to be the most difficult and the most important assignment of his whole career. His selection for it is no mean tribute in itself.

It is a fine record and Pete's contribution has always been whole-hearted, cheerful and loyal to a degree. Just as in his day as a Rugby forward, he has always gone hard and doggedly, keeping his eye firmly on the ball.

The Corps—and indeed the Army—owe to Pete Thuillier, and his like, a great debt of gratitude.

Public recognition of his services came with a Mention in Despatches in 1945. The O.B.E. in 1944 and the C.B. in 1958. We of his Corps now assure him of our thanks, our admiration and our affection.

May he, his wife, Barbara, and their family long flourish and when Pete at last relinquishes high office may they all enjoy his well-earned rest and leisure.



[Photograph: Courtesy U.S. Army



Brigadier C. D. Gardiner

BRIGADIER C. D. GARDINER, C.B.E.

After his "Q" Course in 1928 Gardiner had for those days the unusual experience of four years in the 4th Divisional Signals at Colchester before going to India where he was to serve 1st Indian Divisional Signals so well from 1934 to 1940. He was a fine horseman and indeed enjoyed all the open country sports, riding, shooting, fishing available in the India of those days. He was a keen games player and excelled at hockey. Exactly when he acquired the "Jorrocks" from Surtees' famous character is not known but it stuck and he is thus known today by all his seniors and contemporaries. A Divisional Signals man par excellence, Jorrocks was fated not to command one of the many produced by the India Signals Corps. Like several of his contemporaries who started the war in India he was ordered to "Signals" staff after only eighteen months in Command of an L. of C. Signals, and when he left for home at the end of the war he had been Deputy Director of Signals at G.H.Q. in the temporary rank of Colonel for over a year. Good for India, good experience for Gardiner, but the last thing "Jorrocks" would have wished.

Immediately after the war Jorrocks was selected for the important post of officer commanding, Officer Training Wing, Catterick. This was an appointment which gave full scope to his enthusiasm and leadership. His sterling qualities and high principles brought great benefit to the hundreds of cadets who passed through his hands.

Two years as G.S.O.1, Aldershot District, was followed by promotion to Colonel and nearly two years as G.S.O. 1 in "Signals 5" at the War Office. His great success in the latter appointment brought him promotion to Brigadier and appointment as Chief Signal Officer, Southern Command.

His last appointment was C.S.O., M.E.L.F. in Cyprus,

which he held from July, 1956 to October, 1958. Only a signal officer of his calibre could have competed with the communication problems occurring with the crises that have arisen in the Middle East over this period. For his distinguished performance he was honoured with the C.B.E.

Incidentally, there were few Signalmen serving in the more unpleasant places in M.E.L.F. who did not see "The C.S.O." very shortly after their arrival.

November, 1958 begins a year in which many at the top of the list will retire. Jorrocks is one of the first to go and the Corps he has served so well for thirty years will miss him indeed. There is one compensating factor. In the face of keen competition he was chosen for a civilian appointment which will keep him in close contact with the Corps and give him further opportunities to render it service.

Jorrocks has many friends inside and outside the Corps. All will wish him well, and his wife and family, and a happy and prosperous future.

Obituary

Charles Walter Mepham

"The Captains and the Kings depart"

The older generation and not a few others who have attended the Association reunions at Catterick will remember the slight, straight soldierly figure of the first Regimental Sergeant Major of the Royal Corps of Signals when as Mr. C. Mepham he used to march in the church parade.

It will be a matter of great satisfaction to all that, commanding No. 1 Old Comrades' Squadron at Catterick, he gave his last commands on 29th June, 1958. His last "public" appearance was at the Chapel of the Savoy when, in company of many other famous Signalmen, he attended the Memorial Service to Major-General C. W. Fladgate in July.

Mr. Mepham was one of the very great of our Corps. On its formation in 1920 he was Regimental Sergeant Major at Maresfield and he remained a R.S.M. on his first engagement until he retired on pension in 1926.

He returned to his Corps in 1939 and rejoined as a Regimental Sergeant Major, finally reverting to the honourable status of "Old Comrade" in 1948.

Since then until now he has not missed the Annual Reunion at Catterick, nor indeed, as far as is known, has he missed a meeting of the Aldershot Branch of the Association.

He sets an example which may be equalled by a few of the very great. It cannot be surpassed.

He died on 26th November, 1958, aged 76 years.

The sympathy of all of Royal Signals and the Association goes to Mr. and Mrs. Loughlin, his daughter and son-in-law, at Kalmia, Krooner Road, Camberley, Surrey.

Record of Service and Medals

Royal Engineers. Home, 3rd July, 1899 to 11th November, 1900; Australia, 12th November, 1900 to 22nd April, 1901 (Opening Australian State Parliament); Home, 23rd April, 1901 to 25th November, 1901; South Africa, 26th November, 1901 to 23rd February, 1907; Home, 24th February, 1907 to 21st August, 1914; France, 22nd September, 1914 to 1st June, 1918.

Royal Engineers and Royal Signals. Home, 2nd June, 1918 to 14th May, 1926. Transferred to Royal Corps of Signals, 6th November, 1920. Retired, 14th May, 1926. (Regimental Sergeant Major).

Royal Signals. Home, September, 1939 to December, 1948.



The late R.S.M. C. W. Mepham

Medals and Mention in Despatches

Medals. South Africa, Queen's Africa Medal; 1914-1918, 1914 Star and Clasp, British War Medal, Victory Medal, Medal Militaire, Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.

Mentioned in the Despatch of Sir John French, L.G., dated 1st January, 1916; Mentioned in the Despatch of Sir D. Haig, L.G., dated 5th June, 1916.

1939-1945 War, Defence Medal, General Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal.

*

The funeral took place on 1st December in bright sunshine. A large number of his civilian friends and neighbours attended to pay their last respects. In addition to the family mourners the following retired Officers, serving Officers and Association members were present:

Major-General Sir Leslie G. Phillips, K.B.E., C.B., M.C.
Major-General A. E. Morrison, C.B., O.B.E. (also representing Royal Signals Association and as President, Aldershot Branch).
Brigadier F. J. Allen, O.B.E.
Colonel C. H. Stoneley, O.B.E.
Lieutenant-Colonel M. Fletcher, O.B.E. (also representing C.S.O., Southern Command).
Major H. B. de M. Hunter, S.O., Royal Signals, Aldershot District.
Major G. Peat, O.C., 16 Independent Parachute Brigade Group Signal Squadron.
Aldershot Branch, Royal Signals Association: Mr. L. V. Goodman, Captain C. H. Nicholls, Mr. A. V. Tent, Captain A. H. Holmes, Messrs. H. Fairclough, V. Hylands, E. Solley and G. Adams.
Guildford Branch, South African War Veterans' Association: Captain E. R. Napper and three others.

Bearer and funeral parties were provided by 16 Independent Parachute Brigade Group Signal Squadron. Gun carriage by Mons Officer Cadet School, and Trumpeter by Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Engineers.

JUNIOR LEADERS INTER-UNIT TEAM BOXING CHAMPIONSHIP

All in Royal Signals will congratulate the Junior Leaders Regiment in winning this Championship 1958/59 by beating successively the Royal Armoured Corps and Infantry Junior Leaders Regiment, and in the final the R.A.S.C. Junior Leaders Regiment. See page 11.

Mercury House

Statement by the Representative Colonel Commandant

Mercury House, Bournemouth, was purchased and equipped from money collected during the Second World War to provide a War Memorial Fund. Since the house was opened it has been the means of providing relatively inexpensive holidays for a great many members and ex-members of the Corps and their families, as was the wish of a large majority of the Corps.

During the last decade there have been many changes. The general prosperity and standard of living of the nation as a whole have substantially improved, but have brought in train a very considerable rise in prices. It is, unfortunately, no longer possible to run Mercury House in competition with other commercial houses of a similar type without a drastic increase in the present charges. The Corps Committee, after a careful review of the situation, have regretfully, but unanimously, decided that they would not be justified in spending the large sum that is at present needed to repair and re-equip the house and, furthermore, that with the prices that would have thereafter to be charged to make it self-supporting, it would no longer be fulfilling the original object.

It is for these reasons that the house has been closed. The disposal of the proceeds will be decided later when the amount is finally determined.

THE SIGNAL OFFICER-IN-CHIEF VISITS CANADA

During his recent visit to Canada and to the United States of America, Major-General R. J. Moberly, C.B., O.B.E., witnessed the inauguration of a new 30 Kilowatt radio transmitter working schedules from Ottawa to the United Kingdom.



Lieutenant-General S. F. Clark and Major-General R. J. Moberly, C.B., O.B.E., reading General Festing's message. The operator on the teletype machine is Corporal W. K. Embury, Royal Canadian Corps of Signals

The new system was inaugurated by Lieutenant-General S. F. Clark, Royal Canadian Corps of Signals, Chief of the General Staff of the Canadian Army, who sent a greeting to General Sir Francis W. Festing, Chief of the Imperial General Staff in London.

General Clark's message read:—

"New 30-Kw transmitter on Ottawa end of wireless circuit, Boddington to Ottawa, has just been formally put into service. This fulfills Canadian part of our agreement for high power equipment on this circuit.

In this, the first message over the circuit, I send you and the British Army good wishes from the Canadian Army."

A few minutes later General Festing's reply was received:—

"Thank you for your message of good wishes marking the opening of the service of your new 30-Kw transmitter which is a further link in the warm and effective relationship existing between our two armies."

AFFILIATION OF GURKHA SIGNALS AND THE ROYAL CORPS OF SIGNALS

The Representative Colonel Commandant has received the following "Signal" from the Commanding Officer of Gurkha Signals:—

"Have just learnt with pride and gratification that H.M. The Queen has approved the Affiliation between Gurkha Signals and Royal Signals. All Ranks Gurkha Signals pledge loyalty and friendship to their parent Corps and trust that ties will be ever strengthened."

*

It will be remembered that the November number of THE WIRE announced that Brigadier W. G. Tucker, C.B.E., had been appointed Colonel, Gurkha Signals on 1st September, 1958.

THE ROYAL CORPS OF SIGNALS

A History of its Antecedents and Development

BY

MAJOR-GENERAL R. F. H. NALDER, C.B., O.B.E.

with a Foreword by

FIELD-MARSHAL THE RIGHT HONOURABLE THE EARL ALEXANDER OF TUNIS, K.G., G.C.B., G.C.M.G., C.S.I., D.S.O., M.C., D.C.L., LL.D.

This volume covers the period from the Napoleonic Wars until 1955. Starting with the visual "telegraph," it traces the successive development for Army use of the "electric telegraph," the telephone and, finally, wireless. It deals with the telegraph organization of the Royal Engineers, which later was expanded into the Royal Engineers Signal Service and was eventually superseded by Royal Signals. It describes the formation of Royal Signals and its growth during the first thirty-five years of existence.

The book contains a section giving brief biographies, with photographs, of some 80 officers. It also includes the outline histories of 53 signal regiments, selected from those which have been in existence since the Second World War. It is illustrated with 12 plates and 26 maps, and, as a frontispiece, has a coloured reproduction of a portrait of the Colonel-in-Chief, Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal.

Published on 15th December, 1958, by The Royal Signals Institution, 88, Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1.

Price 30/- (including packing and postage).

Cheques/Postal Orders to be made payable to "The Royal Signals History A/C."

Commendations

Extract from Command Routine Orders by Air Vice-Marshal M. L. Heath, C.B., O.B.E., Commanding British Forces Arabian Peninsula, dated 13th November, 1958.

The Commander has awarded a Commendation to 2353881 Lance-Corporal G. Beaumont, Royal Signals.

Lance-Corporal Beaumont was the only Radio Technician with the Royal Signals detachment at Firq and was responsible for maintaining wireless sets for three different nets. The nearest R.E.M.E. repair facilities were over 240 miles away and Lance-Corporal Beaumont frequently carried out repairs normally considered beyond the capability of Royal Signals. On certain occasions he took over the duties of wireless operator due to the shortage of tradesmen. Throughout his time in Oman Lance-Corporal Beamont's cheerful attitude and determination to keep his sets serviceable has been an example to his colleagues.

*

The Commander has awarded a Commendation to 23480135 Signalman A. S. Edwards, Royal Signals.

Signalman Edwards has been the electrician/driver with the Royal Signals detachment at Firq. He worked extremely hard under adverse conditions to keep charging facilities in operation, due to this communications have never been affected by battery failure. His cheerfulness, initiative and resource have contributed greatly to the high morale at this detachment.

*

The Commander has awarded a Commendation to 2549609 Sergeant H. Stickley, Royal Signals, and 23423118 Signalman E. Greaves ,Royal Signals.

Sergeant Stickley and Signalman Greaves were amongst an organised party swimming from the Oil Company beach at Bait Al Falaj. One of the party was suddenly swept out to sea for about 500 yards by a strong undertow. Signalman Greaves immediately saw that he was in difficulties and swam to his assistance. He then held him afloat until Sergeant Stickley also reached him. Between them they finally brought the man to shore but were both completely exhausted in the process. But for the very prompt action of Sergeant Stickley and Signalman Greaves there is no doubt that the man would have drowned.

VALE

Mr. N. Dutton, B.E.M., Exchange Supervisor, H.Q., Western Command

Mr. Dutton retired on 19th December, 1958, after serving Western Command Signals for 39 years. He joined the R.E. Signals on 11th September, 1915, and as a Corporal he was the senior operator in charge of the switchboard at the Horse Guards until 8th May, 1917, he then went to H.Q., A.S.C., Gold Park, Eltham, London. He remained there until his discharge on 12th September, 1918.

Mr. Dutton joined Western Command Signals as a civilian switchboard operator on 19th November, 1919, and soon assumed the duties of Supervisor. He was awarded the B.E.M. in the Birthday Honours List of 1946.

ROYAL SIGNALS REUNION AND BUFFET SUPPER, 1958

The Royal Signals Reunion was held this year at the Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea, on Saturday, 6th December, 1958, by kind permission of Lieutenant-Colonel J. J. Collins, M.C., T.D., Commanding Officer of Middlesex Yeomanry Signal Regiment (T.A.). A total of 150 serving and retired Officers attended.

The Representative Colonel Commandant, Major-General R. F. H. Nalder, C.B., O.B.E., after reading a message of greeting from H.M. The Queen and H.R.H. The Princess Royal, proposed loyal toasts to H.M. The Queen and H.R.H. The Princess Royal.

Major-General Nalder then expressed his appreciation to Lieutenant-Colonel Collins and members of the Middlesex Yeomanry Signal Regiment for the excellent arrangements they had made for the Reunion.

PERSONAL COLUMN

New Year Honours List

K.C.M.G.
Major-General W. A. Scott, C.B., C.B.E.

O.B.E.
Lieutenant-Colonel R. Linton.

M.B.E.
Major J. N. Burrell.
Major J. F. H. Pearcey, T.A.

B.E.M.
Staff Sergeant (Acting) G. Donovan.
Staff Sergeant E. J. Elliott.
Staff Sergeant N. Tipton.
Staff Sergeant (Temporary W.O.II) R. J. McCombe, R.N.Z.C. of Signals, Territorial Force.

London Gazette

14th November, 1958
Major R. H. B. Evans retired, 13th November, 1958.

18th November, 1958
H.M. The Queen has been graciously pleased to confer the following awards:—
2nd Clasp to the Army Emergency Reserve Decoration:
Lieutenant-Colonel B. G. Lund, E.R.D.
Lieutenant-Colonel H. A. Metcalf, M.B.E., E.R.D.
1st Clasp to the Army Emergency Reserve Decoration:
Major A. P. Lawrie, E.R.D.
Captain (Hon. Major) T. A. Wilson (now R.A.R.O.), (now Canadian Army (Militia)).
Army Emergency Reserve Decoration:
Captain (T.O.T.) R. E. Playle.
Captain (Hon. Major) T. A. Wilson (now R.A.R.O.), (now Canadian Army (Militia)).
The undermentioned Lieutenant-Colonels (Temporary Brigadiers) to be Colonels:
H. Prince, A.M.I.E.E.
J. P. North, M.B.E.
M. A. Charlton, O.B.E.
C. T. Honeybourne, O.B.E.
R. G. Miller, M.A., M.I.E.E.
P. C. Williams, O.B.E.
Major L. J. Burrows, T.D., retired 30th September, 1958.

25th November, 1958
The undermentioned Majors to be Lieutenant-Colonels:
M.S. Hancock.
D. T. W. Gibson, M.B.E., B.A., A.M.I.E.E.
A. L. Galloway, B.A., A.M.I.E.E.
D. G. Jones.
P. E. S. Mansergh.
R. A. B. Brown.
G. S. Fenton, M.B.E.
J. J. H. Swallow, B.SC., A.M.I.E.E.
M. M. Evans.
D. P. K. Rennick, A.M.I.E.E.
G. H. Wotton, A.M.I.E.E.
G. W. Blackburne.
J. D. B. Thornton, M.B.E.

28th November, 1958
Brigadier D. St. J. Hoysted, C.B.E., retired 27th November, 1958.
Lieutenant (T.O.T.) J. A. Pyper to be Captain (T.O.T.).

2nd December, 1958
Major P. Smith retired 30th November, 1958.

9th December, 1958
Captain J. F. Mitchener to be Major, 9th December, 1958.

Movements — Officers

This column is now in a new form and is compiled by War Office A.G.11 and is therefore authentic.
Where no date is inserted after the name it means that the move has taken place.

Brigadier A. B. McVittie, O.B.E.	To	C.S.O., Northern Command.
Brigadier C. Nettleship, O.B.E., T.D.	,,	C.S.O., Western Command
Colonel A. C. Cox, O.B.E.	,,	H.Q., B.A.O.R.
Lieutenant-Colonel C. H. Howarth	,,	SHAPE.
Lieutenant-Colonel A. R. Brooke ...	,,	War Office.
Captain (T.O.T.) W. Ellis	,,	90 Signal Regiment.
Major A. P. Johnson	,,	Ministry of Supply.
Major R. A. Warren	,,	Aden.
Major (T.O.T.) A. Long	,,	School of Signals.
Major (T.O.T.) T. Bennet	,,	FARELF.
Lieutenant (T.O.T.) R. A. Dolbear	,,	FARELF.
Major B. H. Parsonage	,,	Malaya.
Captain (Tfc. Offr.) M. Turner	,,	Cyprus.
Captain (T.O.T.) H. V. Holton ...	,,	Malta.
Major (T.O.T.) S. W. E. G. Bowser	,,	B.A.O.R.
Major I. Gram-Hansen	,,	B.A.O.R.
Captain (T.O.T.) T. F. Jenkinson	,,	Cyprus.
Major (Q.M.) A. Sharp	,,	East Africa.
Lieutenant (Q.M.) J. C. Gosling	,,	44 (HC) Inf. Div. Sig. Regt. (T.A.)—1st appointment.
Retirements		
Captain W. F. Kent		6 November, 1958.
Lieutenant (T.O.T.) J. C. Ashman		11 November, 1958.
Major R. H. B. Evans		13 November, 1958.
Major P. Smith		30 November, 1958.
Major (T.O.T.) A. F. Goat, M.B.E.		1 December, 1958.

Births

THRELFALL.—To 2274494 Corporal and Mrs. K. E. Threlfall, a daughter, Angela Jane, born on 28th November, 1958, at Alton General Hospital.

Deaths

MEPHAM.—Ex-R.S.M. C. Mepham, of "Kalmia," Krooner Road, Camberley, Surrey, on 26th November, 1958. Served in Royal Signals from 1920-1926, and from 1939-1948. Member of Aldershot Branch, Royal Signals Association.

CHALMERS.—23532397 Driver A. M. Chalmers on 4th November, 1958, in B.A.O.R.

WHITE.—23564484 Signalman G. K. White on 21st November, 1958, in the Military Hospital, Catterick Camp, Yorks.

ROWLEY.—23389002 Lance-Corporal K. L. Rowley on 27th November, 1958, in Nairobi.

CATTANACH.—22537948 Signalman R. Cattanach on 29th November, 1958, at his home.

ROSE.—Ex-Corporal K. G. A. Rose, on 4th December, 1958, in Canada. served in Royal Signals 1947-1956. Annual member of Cardiff Branch, Royal Signals Association. H/A, 7, Somerton Crescent, Newport, Mon.

MOORE.—Colonel H. T. G. Moore, C.M.G., D.S.O., of 6, Folkestone Road, Hurnham, Salisbury, on 9th November, 1958.

PRICKETT.—Brigadier C. H. Prickett, D.S.O., of Newlands, Montrose, Maritzburg, Natal, on 24th September, 1958.

MALINN.—Ex-Coroporal J. Malinn, of 13, Sarsfield Square, Athlone, Co. Westmeath, on 4th October, 1958, aged 75.

Arrivals and Departures

2 Wireless Regiment
Arrivals: W.O.II T. J. Goeton, Staff Sergeants G. L. Jackson and Green, and Sergeants F. A. Gardiner, W. P. Smith and S. A. Price.
Departures: Sergeants Baylis, Todd and Brown (A.C.C.).

1 Training Regiment
Arrivals: Major (Q.M.) R. N. Richmond, W.O.II A. Morrison, Sergeant F. W. Wilson.
Departure: Sergeant P. R. Nash.

4 Training Regiment
Arrivals: Sergeant P. Drake.
Departures: Sergeant P. Smith.

* * *

Major B. Roe, ex-R.E. Boy and Signal Service Royal Engineers, last Unit 48th Divisional Signals, Birmingham, is very seriously ill in Northfield Hospital, Aldershot, and will be glad to hear from old friends.

R.S.M. W. A. Timbrell in Royal Free Hospital, London, wishes to thank the 4th Divisional Signal Regiment for assistance during his sudden hurried move to England which enabled Mrs. Timbrell to accompany her husband.

Chester to Australia by Landrover

Captain W. F. Kent and his wife and two children were duly reported in the November number of THE WIRE as commencing a journey by landrover from Chester to Australia. His first progress report comes from Kathmandu, Nepal, where he arrived on the 30th November and was accosted (he was wearing a Corps tie) by Major W. P. W. Robertson, Captain T. Rigby, Staff Sergeant Gough and Signalman Stone, all of 17 Gurkha Divisional Signals.

His report indicates that road conditions are reasonable though from Kathmandu to the Indian Frontier, 128 miles contains more bends per mile than any previously encountered including the Swiss and Italian Alps. At one stage the landrover had to be driven along the sleepers of the railway line. He also vividly describes crossing the Ganges at Patna by boat.

Charity Commission

In the matter of certain Charities consisting of the Trust Funds of disbanded Units and Establishments of the Royal Corps of Signals.

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; The Depot Regiment, Royal Signals, Chester; and copies can be purchased from the Charity Commission at the price of 1/6 each.

Objections or suggestions may be sent within 21 days to the Secretary, Charity Commission, Ryder Street, St. James's, London, S.W.1, quoting the reference RF.139438.

24th Divisional Signals 1914-19 Reunion

This took place on 11th October, 1958, Major-General R. F. B. Naylor, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., in command. The following were present:—

G. Bell, G. H. Elwick, A. P. H. Fowler, P. Halford, E. Hayden, A. E. Arnold, E. J. T. Groom, A. V. Smith.

J. Hopkinson, H. Hurst, R. Laing, F. Mackie, G. L. Olver, T. H. Croft, S. E. Hayward.

H. Singleton, W. J. Smyth, G. H. Walmisley, D. W. Ware, A. W. Rathbone, P. J. Curnew, J. Lyons.

5th British Infantry Division (1939-1945)

A 300-page History, with over 70 photographs, recounting the story of the famous "Y" Division will be published in March, 1959.

The number of copies will be limited and all those interested in reserving a copy should write to:

Lieutenant-Colonel Bill van Namen,
Huntley and Palmers Ltd.,
Reading, Berks.

QUIZ

1. There are nine Dominion and Colonial Corps allied to Royal Signals. What are they?
2. What is the most junior rank in the British Army?
3. Only one cavalry regiment has a firearm in its badge. Which cavalry regiment is this?
4. What former member of the Corps was Amateur Champion (Heavyweight) of Great Britain?
5. What is a spud-adjutant?
6. The following are Fusilier Regiments. All are Royal except one. Which is it? Irish, Scots, Welch, Northumberland, Lancashire, Inniskilling.
7. Which is nearer to Great Britain, Greenland or Iceland?
8. What is the difference between a Sprain and a Strain?
9. Who is the Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports?

See page 28 for answers to Quiz.

The British Legion Journal

This monthly magazine with very wide circulation has offered to publish, briefly, announcements of reunions, dinners, meetings, etc., of Branches of the Royal Signals Association (and, of course, others).

The announcement must reach the Editor, "British Legion Journal," Pall Mall, London, S.W.1, **before the 14th of the month.** The announcement will appear in the Journal of the following month.

BOUND VOLUMES of "THE WIRE"

We have available material to bind in book form 20 copies of the 1958 "WIRE." Messes and individuals who require bound volumes should please let the Editor know as soon as possible.

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Greetings

The following Seasonal Greetings Messages have been received and acknowledged by the Signal Officer-in-Chief.

Royal Canadian Corps of Signals.
Best wishes for a merry Christmas and a happy New Year to you and all ranks Royal Signals.

Royal Australian Corps of Signals.
Please accept and pass to all members, sincere wishes for a happy Christmas and prosperous New Year.

Royal New Zealand Corps of Signals.
Christmas greetings to you and all ranks Royal Signals.

Pakistan Signal Corps.
Accept best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Rhodesia and Nyassaland Corps of Signals.
Your kind message much appreciated. Best wishes for Christmas and New Year to you and Royal Corps of Signals.

United States Army Signal Corps.
At this holiday season, all members of the United States Army Signal Corps join me in extending warmest greetings and best wishes for the New Year to you and all personnel of the Royal Corps of Signals.

Royal Signals Display Team Centre Piece



This piece was presented to the Corps by the Royal Signals Display Team in 1949 to mark the tenth appearance of the team at the Royal Tournament. The Display at this time was under the direction and control of Captain J. St. C. W. Robinson and Captain N. G. R. Halliday.

For a great many years both before and after World War I many mounted Units of the Army, including Royal Engineers (Signals), and later Royal Signals, had provided "Cossack Riding, Vaulting and Tandem Driving" display which had all acquired a measure of local prestige by performing at agricultural and horse shows, but although these displays were quite delightful they were nevertheless a commonplace.

In 1928 Cavalry Divisional Signals astounded the spectators at the famous Tidworth Tattoo by putting on an entirely new type of display with 14 motor cyclists. Such a display had never before been seen or even envisaged. This outstanding display immediately received world-wide publicity, the *New York Tribune and Herald* publishing a full page action photograph with a glowing reference to the trick riding of the British Royal Corps of Signals.

In 1929 a combined team from Cavalry Divisional Signals and 3rd Divisional Signals consisting of 21 despatch riders performed at this Tattoo and in the opinion of General Montgomery Massingberd, the G.O.C.-in-C. Southern Command, "were even better than last year, which is saying a good deal."

The first motor cycle display to undertake a programme of outside engagements was produced in Catterick in 1930 under the direction of Captain (now Brigadier retired) H. R. Firth. This display appeared at the Royal Tournament in 1931.

At the end of 1932, while the Display was still under the direction of Captain Firth, it was decided to "try out" a "Combined Horse and Motor Cycle" display at the Reeth Agricultural Show and at the S.T.C. Gymkhana. Such was the success of this experiment that it was immediately booked up for the 1933 Royal Tournament. The Combined Display was continued until 1936, by which time the policy of the mechanisation of the Army had been decided and we were told to "drop the horses." Accordingly in 1937 a "Motor Cycles only" display was reverted to and continued until the outbreak of World War II.

In 1934 Captain Firth handed over to Captain (now Brigadier retired) H. N. Crawford, and in January, 1938, he in turn handed over to Captain (now Lieutenant-Colonel retired) H. L. B. Kealy.

The display was revived at the Signal Training Centre in 1947 and except for 1956, when owing to the Suez Crisis petrol was rationed, has continued ever since with an impressive list of engagements.

In the Southern Command, Royal Signals despatch riders continued to provide an item in the Tidworth Tattoo until 1939.

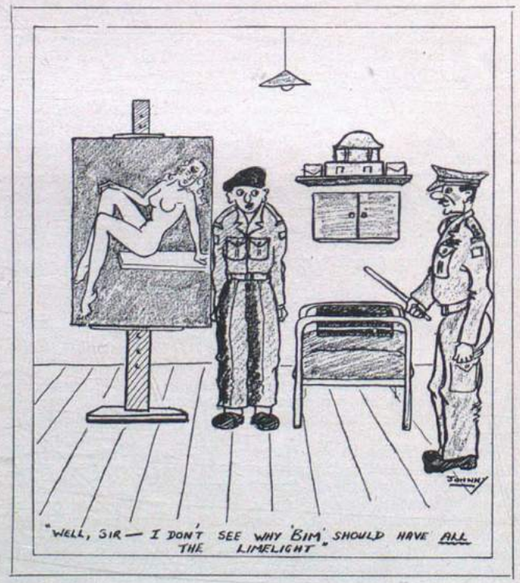
In the Territorial Army Royal Signals prestige was magnificently upheld by a team composed of members of the 1st London Divisional Signals (T.A.) (Adjutant—Captain H. R. Firth), led by Second-Lieutenant R. E. Denison Pender and C.S.M. (now Captain retired) E. J. Angell. This team had the honour of appearing at the Royal Tournament in 1937.

In 1937 also 48th (SM) Divisional Signals produced a very good motor cycle display at extremely short notice in response to an appeal from the Committee of the Shirley Hospital Carnival. While in London the "London Corps Signals, T.A." started a display team which, despite several breaks due to changes in the designation of the Unit and the interruption of a major war, has always been restarted. The Unit is now 2 (London) Signal Regiment, T.A.

In India in 1938 the Signal Training Centre developed a "modest display," using standard pattern Douglas motor cycles, and in Egypt in 1947 a Royal Signals motor cycle display team was in great demand for sports meetings in the Canal Zone.

It is a great tribute to the quality and training of Royal Signals despatch riders that a Corps as small as ours then was, should have been able to invent, and develop on so wide a scale, such a display.

The solo ride feature by this centre piece is known as the "Double Jimmy."



Forthcoming Events

NORTH LONDON BRANCH 4th Annual Dinner and Dance, at The Cambridge Hotel, Palmers Green, N.13, on Saturday, 14th March, 1959. Tickets from L. S. Kennett, 201, Lonsdale Drive, Enfield, Middlesex. £1 1s. 0d. each.

SATURDAY, 21st MARCH, 1959

Special General Meeting, Royal Signals Association. This will be combined with the Branch Representatives' Meeting, Duke of York's H.Q., Chelsea, London, S.W.3.

Wednesday, 27th May, 1959	...	Corps Dinner, Hyde Park Hotel.
Thursday, 28th May, 1959	...	Central Committee Meeting, Royal Signals Association. Regular Officers' "At Home," Hyde Park Hotel.
Saturday, 4th July, 1959	...	Royal Signals Association Annual General Meeting. Corps Week-End and
Sunday, 5th July, 1959	...	Association Reunion at CATTERICK.

Indian Army Reunion

26th June, 1959. Hurlingham Club. Tickets 12/- each, from Lieutenant-Colonel D. J. C. Wiseman, 59, Hyde Park Gate, London, S.W.7.

ROYAL SIGNALS RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB, FIXTURES, 1958-59

Date 1959	Opponents	Ground
†Jan. 21st	Royal Artillery	Catterick
†Jan. 17th	Preston Grasshoppers	Catterick
†Feb. 4th	Royal Military Academy	Camberley
Feb. 7th	Harrogate	Harrogate
†Feb. 12th	Oxford University Greyhounds	Oxford
Feb. 21st	Billingham	Catterick
Feb. 25th	Leeds University	Catterick
Feb. 28th	Durham City	Catterick
March 4th	King's College	Newcastle
March 11th	Sheffield University	Sheffield
March 18th	Command Cup	Catterick
March 25th	Command Sevens	Catterick

† Corps Representative Matches

ROYAL SIGNALS HOCKEY CLUB, FIXTURES, 1958-59

Date 1959	Opponents	Ground
Wed. Feb. 18th	R.M.C. of Science	Aldershot
Fri. Feb. 20th	R.A.O.C.	Blackdown
Sat. March 7th	Durham University	Catterick
Wed. March 25th	Welbeck College	Welbeck
March 27th—30th	Scarborough Hockey Festival ...	Scarborough

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required for design of Test Equipment. Should have O.N.C., preferably H.N.C. First class men are required, these posts have scope for advancement.

Write giving brief details of career, etc., to :

Personnel Manager, Box No. E.1., "The Wire," 67/68 Jermyn Street, London, S.W.1.

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL CLUB FIXTURES, 1958-59

Date 1959	Opponents	Ground
Wednesday, 4th February ...	Durham University	Home
Saturday, 21st February ...	Sheffield University	Away
Wednesday, 4th March ...	Manchester University	Home
... ... * ...	R.A.O.C.	Home
... ... * ...	R.A.C.	Home

* Dates not yet confirmed.

ENGLAND

1 TRAINING REGIMENT

One way and another this was a busy month, too.

Early on, General Hulton-Harrop, the District Commander, paid us a visit.

On Remembrance Sunday contingents paraded to the various Churches in the garrison. The ceremony at St. Martin's was attended by the local Branch of the Royal Signals Association.

A number of recent Officer arrivals has helped to spread the load a little and, incidentally, enhanced our chances in the Army Rugby Cup match, which we relinquished last year to the "Dukes," and are determined to wrest from them again this season.

Our Wives' Club, that little heralded band of enthusiastic ladies, continues to meet monthly. During the summer, attendances normally fall appreciably but I am happy to report are once again on the up and up.

Highlight of November was the indoor games evening in the Sergeants' Mess, when Officers, W.O.s and Senior N.C.O.s did battle for a very handsome wooden spoon presented by T.M. Troop. It was a stirring struggle and the Officers emerged victorious by the narrow margin of 31 points to 29. Later on we hope to have a return fixture.

In the sporting world we have had mixed fortunes. Our Boxers travelled to Chilwell and decisively defeated 6 Bn. R.A.O.C. in the Command semi-final. Our opponents in the final are 11 Hussars from Carlisle.

In spite of one defeat, the Soccer XI still leads in the District Championship, but failed narrowly against 16/5 Lancers in the Command Competition.

Cross Country runners continue to show a "clean pair of heels" to all and sundry in the District League where opposition is keen.

Rifle teams have got off to an encouraging start in the District Championship and Basket Ballers and Hockey players are more than holding their own.

Most successful so far is the Rugby XV which is forging ahead in Army and Command events. One can be over optimistic in these affairs but having seen them in action several times it is fair to say they have the Aldershot Stadium look, but more anon.

4 TRAINING REGIMENT

The Christmas season was ushered into this Regiment by a regimental concert. Captain Jenkins, having been made producer and compere, spent his time in rounding up volunteers, trying to arrange rehearsals that did not clash with trade tests, education examinations or barrack room inspections, and at the same time trying to see that two different turns did not put on the same act. For some time he was at the proverbial 10,000 feet, and it was unsafe to speak to him on any other subject.

The concert included an Inter-Squadron Skiffle Band competition, won by 1 Squadron. The Officers' and Sergeants' Messes also entered for this competition, but the Officers' effort was marred by the fact that Captain Marley, Father Jones, Second-Lieutenant Lonsdale and Second-Lieutenant Parsons, the leading performers, forgot both the words and the tune they were supposed to be playing. Fortunately, the audience came to their rescue by singing it for them. Of the Sergeants' Mess contribution, Staff Sergeant Weighell was the star performer, giving some excellent bird song imitations, a fine commercial "spot" in the middle, and a demonstrating of "tap" dancing. S.S.M. Firth provided the woodwind, with Sergeant Houston on the piano and Sergeant Hunt on the drums.

The Regimental Dance Band, consisting of Corporal Metcalfe,

Signalman Nicholson, Signalman Wilson, Signalman Reynolds, Signalman Kirkwood, provided the main musical items, with Signalman Acey and Signalman Pratt as the vocalists. Signalman Acey, in fact, was called back to do so many encores that he had to retire with a sore throat.

The dramatic side was looked after by Signalman Vaughan, Signalman McCaul, Signalman Mitchell and Private Stone, who put on a series of one act sketches, which were notable, if not for their drama, then certainly for their sense of humour.

Signalman McCaul provided the serious singing, Corporal White did a first-class performance with the harmonica, and Signalman Hamilton provided some brand new and completely baffling conjuring tricks.

Of the Officers, Captain Edwards was in his usual fine voice, and Padre Cribb's "Padres Ower" was a great success, in spite of the fact that he found on getting on to the stage that he had forgotten to bring his script with him.

All in all, it was an excellent performance and shows what a remarkable lot of talent can be produced from domestic sources at short notice.

The rest of the news is fairly unexciting. The Engineers, for some reason best known to themselves, are tearing up and replacing the floors of the Sandhurst block, though there is nothing noticeably wrong with them. Redecoration of the class-rooms in the radio relay and teleprinter lines is proceeding well, though why the Engineers should choose the winter to take out and replace all the window frames is just another mystery. There are rumours that the two camp cinemas are going to close down due to lack of support. Can it be that the trainees are working too hard to find time for going to the pictures? S.S.M. King has been promoted to that rank and taken over the cares and worries of 1 Squadron, and we wish him good luck in his new job. He will probably need it.

SIGNAL TRAINING WING, W.R.A.C.

Catterick weather is excelling itself at the moment, we have not had rain for at least two days! Of course, one of these days was the day of our Company's Annual Administrative Inspection. Although many of us had secretly wished for rain, we were more than delighted when it did not happen. W.O.II McCormack's hard work on the square was quite apparent when the time came for the parade and inspection which preceded the day's happenings. We were very proud to have a Royal Signals Band with us for this occasion. The Inspecting Officer was Brigadier J. S. Vickers, C.B., D.S.O., Deputy Commander, Northumbrian District, who was accompanied by Major M. E. Gribble, W.R.A.C., the D.A.D.W.R.A.C.

The parade, under the command of Captain P. Ruston, marched past in line and in column to the lilting strains of the W.R.A.C. Corps March. It was all quite exciting.

After the excitement of the Band and the parade, let us turn to more everyday things. A most interesting new achievement has been accomplished by the Messing Officer, Lieutenant Scott-Easton, and her Messing staff. With the help of such experts as Q.M.S.I .Sutherland and S.S.I. Elliott, they have introduced the self-service system into the cookhouse. The food is very good and nicely served. Diet sheets or extra P.T. will soon have to be enforced! Another pleasant surprise was the arrival of a cook N.C.O.; the Messing Officer was beginning to think there was no such beings, so we say a big welcome to Lance-Corporal Walton and please be happy with us!

During the month we have also had a visit from senior girls of the local secondary modern school. Sergeant Lysaght, in the Telephone School, let them try their hand on the switchboard and Corporal Dunn in the Teleprinter School let them see how the teleprinter and tapes worked. We enjoyed having the girls and hope to see others from the school at a later date. During the visit, games fixtures were arranged and we hope to go forth into battle in the very near future.

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ANNUAL ADMINISTRATIVE INSPECTION

Brigadier R. G. Yolland, O.B.E. (Commandant, School of Signals) presents L.S. and G.C. Medals to (left to right): S.S.M. Shepherd, S.Q.M.S. (F. of S.) N. A. Riley, Sergeant Westerman

SCHOOL OF SIGNALS

Several migrations have coincided with the arrival of the winter fogs. 42 "Q" Course have departed, to whom we wish the best of luck. We thank them on behalf of the Corps for the fine clock they have presented to H.Q. Mess. Staff Sergeant Chalker, it is reported, is on his high horse in 2 Training Regiment, and Captain (T.O.T.) Jenkinson has left to kidnap Colonel Grivas. Newly arrived are No. 5 T.O.T. Foreman of Signals Refresher Course and Major (T.O.T.) Long who has taken the telephony section in his charge.

Exercise "Autumn Leaf" was designed to transform the School of Signals into a unit working in the field. Various opinions concerning its success have been received. The greatest relief is that no signs of a retaliation gathering of local farmers have been discovered so far.

Just before the Administrative Inspection a gang of labourers arrived to put in some power cables. They were directed by a burly foreman shouting the Irish for "Heave" or words to that effect. One of our more impressionable young men who was ignorant of the Celtic tongue and had just read his W.O. Code 11841 went into action much to the surprise of the unit and the pleasure of the Unit Fire Officer, since he put into motion a full scale fire practice.

A most pleasant occasion was the regaling and dining-out of Brigadier Hoysted in H.Q. Mess, of which we are the custodians. We wish him good fortune and happiness in the future.

The Garrison Saddle and Polo Club is thriving under the management of Royal Signals. Major Newbold, Major Warren and Staff Sergeant Chalker hold organised rides and instruction on Saturday and Sunday mornings. Mrs. Warren looks after the children's classes. Congratulations to Brigadier Good who, as Chairman of the Club, organises the Polo team which won two cups in the latter half of the season.

In closing, a word of thanks to our civilian staff which works so hard. Ex-members of the School may be interested to know that Joe Mills and Mr. Foster are still here.

WINNERS REGIMENTAL SOCCER LEAGUE

Standing (left to right): W.O.II Shepherd, Lance-Corporal Ward, Signalman Macdonald, Signalman Connolly, Signalman Ramsbottom, Signalman Giddins, Signalman Appleby, Corporal Gallacher

Seated (left to right): Signalman Campbell, Signalman Ayrey, Signalman Addison, Major N. C. Gordon (O.C. H.Q. Squadron), Signalman Scott (Capt.), Signalman McCafferty, Signalman Hannah



JUNIOR LEADERS REGIMENT

Our Boys Top the Boxing Championships

News from Denbury this issue is highlighted by our great success at boxing. We beat the R.A.S.C. Junior Leaders, nine bouts to six, at Aldershot, thus winning the Junior Leaders Inter-Unit Team Championship, 1958/59.

A packed audience of supporters from this Regiment and other Signal Units saw our Junior Leaders power-punch their way to the top. No wonder that Captain Billy Robinson looks happy these long winter evenings now that the boxing team which he helped to coach has chalked up yet another victory in a long series of wins, which has involved the defeat of some strong competition in the form of the R.A.C. and Infantry Junior Leaders.

Among the many fine boxers who have put us on the boxing map, the names of Junior Signalman Keenan and Junior Signalman Jacobs stand out. Keenan along the road to the top out-boxed Army Champion Junior Private Marsden, and Jacobs packed dynamite in his gloves when he punched it out with the best.

*

The latter part of November and December was filled with excitement as the Christmas scramble started, and another term drew to a close. The G.O.C.-in-C., Lieutenant-General J. H. N. Poett, C.B., D.S.O., paid us a flying visit on 18th November and was "particularly impressed" with the fine turn-out of the Junior Leaders' Quarter Guard, but we wonder if his opinion of the British Riviera weather was quite as com-plimentary—for that particular day was damp, dank and dreary.

Yet, with the fog and the rain making Dartmoor and the immediate vicinity a quagmire, Junior Leaders continued undeterred with Outward Bound Training; the term culminating with Major Jackson, Captain Hartnett and Sergeants Curley, Greenwood and Wingate testing some of the elder boys for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

Major James, of "H.Q." Squadron, has been working over-time—nothing unusual for any of us—to put on the Christmas pantomime. As one wit in the "Junior Mercury" put it: "This was a novel and original production, devised, written and produced by members of the Junior Leaders Regiment, who would like to remain anonymous. Nothing quite like it has ever been seen on the stage—or anywhere else—and surely never again!" Other instigators were Captain Rowe and Captain Meyrick, both of R.A.E.C.

Sergeant E. W. Osborne returned from Eskdale to rejoin the Unit for a few days before the Outward Bound School pleaded that he return to them again for a week to instruct on moun-taineering. Such is fame! And talking about courses, a trip to Norway for Junior Leaders and one lucky Officer is being planned for March and April.

The end of November saw the farewell social for R.S.M. Thompson held in the Sergeants' Mess. More parties followed to bring the Yuletide season to an end with . . . parties . . . parties everywhere.

Congratulations to Mrs. Gray, who made Sergeant J. Gray a proud father of a baby girl recently at Newton Abbot. The weight, seven pounds. While we are on the subject of additions, we never thought that dentists could be so popular as our new "molar extractor," Lieutenant S. Robb, who hails from that rugged land of North of the Border. He is quite a character and has already spent a night out on the moors with an Out-ward Bound Group—quite voluntarily, we might add, and not as a result of threatening to work on certain brother Officers' teeth a few days previously, which was a pure coincidence. Another person seen outward bounding recently was the M.T.O., Second-Lieutenant K. Horne. He was helping to push one of his own 3-tonners on that occasion.

Among the many new faces to the Unit are Lieutenant Gregory, fresh from his Part II Course at Catterick, to add strength to our hockey team, which beat the Royal Naval College, Dartmouth; also National Service Subalterns P. Hunt—not to be confused with E. Hunt, of Korean fame, who has been with us for some time—K. Sheppard, M. Buckett, R. Green and M. Goddard, all on their first assignment. Needless to say that almost immediately they were absorbed into the mad whirl. . . . That's life down Denbury way.

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STEEPLE BUMPSTEAD SIGNAL SQUADRON

We regret our enforced absence from THE WIRE for the last few months, but it has been due to the deployment of the entire Squadron with the Ministry of Supply. Prior to the publication of the Grigg Report a group of average soldiers was required to carry out exhaustive tests with the new uniforms. Due entirely to the influence of the Squadron, it can now be reported that the new uniform will combine:

(a) A hat which will tuck under one epaulette.
(b) A belt which will hang from the other epaulette.
(c) Zip front jackets for casual wear in dance halls.
(d) Ties with fitments for attaching various formation signs.

The pleas of Driver Phillips were eventually discounted and the new jacket will not contain a sleeve pocket for carrying a bicycle chain.

Now that we have returned to Steeple Bumpstead there has been much to catch up on, notably leave, back numbers of *Eagle* and the new records in the NAAFI juke box.

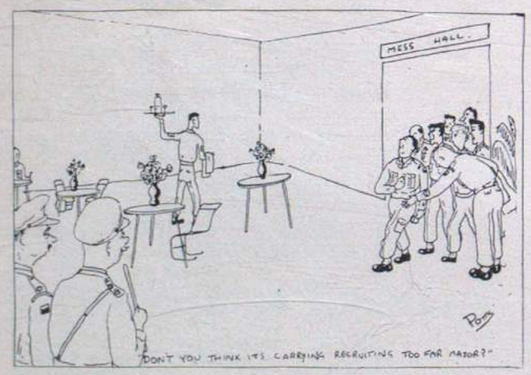
Following our last report about surplus married quarters, we now have among our residents no less than the Brigade Major, 34 (West Riding) Infantry Brigade, O.C. "POM" Packing Station, R.A.S.C., and Private Stormwallis, lately in charge of the Boot Stores with 7 Infantry Division Provost Company.

The O.C. is finding it very difficult to convince the Drivers that the so-called "Run Down" of the Army in 1962 will not involve their re-mustering as Radio Technicians.

The S.S.M. has already gone on leave to avoid the caustic remarks emanating from an article in *The Journal* entitled "Is Your Sergeant-Major Really Necessary?" Of course, the fact that he is so often on leave does tend to answer the question.

Indoor rifle shooting is now in full swing, following the initial disappointments of Lance-Corporal Henderson concerning a lack of clay pipes and coloured balls on water jets. The Squadron average has risen meteorically and now stands at 65, due mainly to steady 95s by the O.C. and Signalman "Swede" Sweetman.

The War Office has asked us "to what extent we can civilianise" and only the vigilance of the O.C. saved him from signing an answer drafted by the Duty Clerk stating, baldly, "100%."



3 DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

Training has been going full blast since our return from Cyprus, and has mainly taken the form of individual training. The D.R.s happily ploughing through the old familiar landscape of Friday Woods and the Wireless Operators "Opping" to their hearts content in the luxury of the training huts. To try out our equipment after its 2,600 mile return trip from the Middle East we took a day off from individual training and embarked on a regimental exercise. We split up into four echelons and deployed in the Colchester area. Much to our gratification everything still worked and we managed to get "through" without much difficulty. Now we look forward with renewed confidence to the many Divisional exercises scheduled for the coming year.

Sport is flourishing once again, particularly our Basket Ball team, who are averaging 50 points for and 10 points against per match in the Major Units League. On Thanksgiving Day we played a friendly game at Wethersfield against a "crack" American team. Basket Ball being a national game for the Americans we did rather well to hold the score to 60-40. Although at times we did think we were up against the Harlem GlobeTrotters. After the match we were entertained to the Thanksgiving dinner, which was a spread never to be forgotten. The menu consisted of everything from Tom Turkey to sweet corn and shrimp cocktails. Our team having due regard for the fostering of good international relations did true justice to the dinner and finally retired in a satiated state to the luxury coach that was to take them home. However, as a final gesture before leaving, the hosts showered bags of nuts and fruits, etc., on our team to keep them going on the way home. Now all that remains for us to do is to arrange a return match and to consider how best to present our guests with "a good old fashioned N.A.A.F.I. supper."

Our Hockey team are doing well this season, playing some good games but are unfortunately suffering from the lack of experienced players.

The Football community are using all their spare time to fight out the inter-troop matches in the Regimental League. From a neutral observer's point of view "B" Troop appear to be the favourites for the cup, although it is rumoured that "Q" Troop may well pull some surprises out of the bag, particularly if they play the Old Quartermaster, Lieutenant (Q.M.) R. S. Etherington, as centre forward.

We feel it only fair to warn the Ghurkha Signals that Sergeant I. A. Reid, our ardent Scottish Nationalist, is due to descend on them sometime in March. Sergeant Reid is best remembered for his medical services and his rendering of grace before our Sergeants' Mess dinners. The former service he supplied on the strength of having attended a butchery course and was normally applied in liberal quantities to both doctor and patient direct from a bottle bearing the VAT 69 label. Sergeant C. V. Forth is taking over Sergeant Reid's Mess dinner duties and is at the moment away on a qualifying course. It is hoped that Sergeant Reid's future Mess members in the Ghurka Signals will find a use for his many talents. He has promised faithfully not to let us down and has undertaken to learn how to speak English before the New Year.

Readers abroad will be interested to know that when they finally come home to suffer the rigours of U.K. soldiering they will most probably be accommodated in an up-to-date barracks. All over the country the dreary old camps are being bulldozed to the ground to make way for the modernisation programme. One of our barracks in Colchester was completely flattened early in the year and the reconstruction is now well on the way to completion. It is not known which unit will eventually have the honour of moving in, but if our projected move to Bullford falls through we should be near the top of the list of eligibles.

Festivity fixtures for the Christmas period commence on the 12th in the Sergeants' Mess between the Officers and Sergeants, a return match/battle being held on the Officers' Mess on the 19th. On the 18th the Sergeants invade the Corporals' Mess for a games evening, which may even start off by actually playing one or two games, as there is evidence of some keen competition in the table tennis field. However, to play games on a games evening is really a complete disregard for tradition, but will probably be enjoyed by some of the younger members and will leave the way clear for the old stagers to go ahead with their more serious activities.

New faces are appearing on the scene with alarming rapidity. We welcome Lieutenants Pickard, Deane and Cuerdon, also Second-Lieutenant Mansfield. We hope they enjoy their stay with the Regiment.

Congratulations to Captain Topple on getting his third pip with Bravo Troop.

By the time these notes appear in print we will have said farewell to our second-in-command, Major J. A. Waite, on posting to No. 2 Northern Command (M) Signal Regiment (T.A.). We take this opportunity to offer our congratulations on his promotion to Lieutenant-Colonel, and to warn everyone in his new unit to keep their batteries fully charged.

We are trying to bring the Regimental Photograph Album up-to-date and would welcome any photographs of personalities, winning teams, or any special events. We are particularly short of photographs for the period 1955-1958. Any contributions should be sent to the second-in-command of the Regiment who has been charged with the task of compiling the record.

4 Squadron, 3 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment

SINCE our last notes, several changes have taken place. Major J. A. Waite has left and did a rapid move to Cyprus via Colchester in July, Major K. N. Smartt arriving shortly before he left. Staff Sergeant Prime, brimming with knowledge from his recent F. of S. Part I Course, has replaced Staff Sergeant Rooke. Unfortunately, they didn't teach him how not to drop a battery on his foot, for he now hobbles around in plaster. Second-Lieutenant I. O. J. Sprackling, unable to go to Cyprus, filled in a couple of months in the Squadron as 2IC before departing for the scientific realms of Shrivenham. He will, no doubt, be well remembered for his flare for broken down motor cars, of which he had two.

Exercises were somewhat curtailed during the summer, due to the general situation. We still want to know which N.C.O., on one exercise, brought out the haybox from the cookhouse without the tea inside. In September, Squadron H.Q. Troop spent an enjoyable time acting as enemy in small vehicles against a Squadron of tanks at a time, retreating and fighting it out with smoke and thunder-flashes versus 20-pounder blank. We repeated the exercise six times for the benefit of individual squadrons, but the interest never palled. Lance-Corporal Webber and two other detachments became practised in retreating unobserved after engaging, though Lance-Corporal Webber and his detachment were captured on one occasion. Lance-Corporal Brown still goes about with celestial wings, for having thrown a thunder-flash at a tank, he was chased by it, cornered against a wall and virtually fired on at point blank range. The summer season was, however, wound up with a full scale three-day Brigade Exercise "Berka Berserk." Conditions on the exercise have been more than adequately depicted by S.S.M. Fawcet in the adjoining sketches though we must admit the weather improved considerably halfway through.

As we are responsible for communications at the Armoured Brigade H.Q. of 3 Infantary Division, we were left behind during the recent Middle East crisis, and as a result have become an independent self-accounting unit. We retained our connections with 3 Division Signals by being officially called 4 Squadron, although there is no such Squadron within the establishment of an Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment. We lent assistance, however, at both ends of the recent crisis, by driving vehicles to the docks and conveying personnel away from the airfield on the return of the Division. Dvr. Fuggle filled in some spare time at the airfield by getting a buckshee trip to the Isle of Wight in a Comet II of Transport Command.

Our three out-troops under the care of Sergeants Purdy, Brotherton and Humphries continue to do valiant work especially the Radio Technicians, who in two of the troops battle with the intricacies of the new VHF sets.



We at Squadron H.Q. now prepare, like many other units, for the Administrative Inspection. Nominal rolls show rifle classification results but they do not record, however, the O.C.'s 2/6 payment as a fine against anyone firing at the trial exposure which he imposed himself in hopes of boosting the prize money. There was only one more sinner.

Sporting activity is always a difficulty in a small Squadron of this nature. We combine with H.Q. Squadron R.A.C. Brigade for Soccer and Basket Ball and generally provide over half the combined team. The Soccer team faded out from the District Knock-Out Competition by losing 8-1 to 20 Company R.A.M.C. At the time of writing, Cpl. Wickham is in hard training, having been chosen for the 1 Division Salisbury Plain District Boxing team to fight against R.N. (Portsmouth). If it can be called a sporting activity, Lance-Coroporals Brimer and Webber, and Signalmen Beech and Williams volunteered for the recent anti sea-sick pills trial, and spent many days being tossed around in boats with varying effects. They all returned none the worse for wear.

EASTERN COMMAND SIGNAL SQUADRON

The quickening approach of winter finds us here at Crowborough half way between a warm and sunny Administrative Inspection, and a foggy, freezing festive season—for such it promises to be, down here in the Garden of England. Sussex rapidly loses its charm when viewed ten feet at a time through a wet English mist, which as everyone knows, is twice as cold as the Scotch variety!

On the Great Day, during October, the permanent rain clouds located over Warren Camp rolled back sufficiently long for the Inspecting Officer, Brigadier F. W. B. Parry, to inspect the parade and then the Unit lines in bright sunlight. This was a welcome change indeed after the many practices in drizzle and chill winds that had so dampened the Units enthusiasm for Administrative Inspections. All went well, considering that the carefully worked out programme went by the board as Brigadier Parry toured the camp at high speed, missing nothing except the items we expected him to see. It speaks highly of the effort put into preparing the entire camp, by everyone concerned, that no "clangers" were dropped, and the outcome was satisfactory all round.

After a long silence from this outpost of the Empire, your scribe finds that there have been many changes in the faces that peer through the fog—that of Second-Lieutenant C. Rogers disappeared on demob, to be replaced by Second-Lieutenant J. Winter as O.C. Mobile Troop. For a short time we were in the unusual position of having three Foremen of Signals on strength. Staff Sergeant J. Noakes, then awaiting posting to Germany; Staff Sergeant M. Davies arrived as relief, only to "click" for secondment to the Nigerian Military Forces as soon as he had paid his Mess subs. Hot on his heels came Staff Sergeant P. Swaby, ex Comcan, Accra. For a time, the T.M. Workshop was definitely overcrowded, but before long things were back to normal. Also newly arrived in the W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess are Staff Sergeant W. Douce and Sergeants Conroy and Marriot.

This Squadron has a remarkably high proportion of married personnel, especially among the National Servicemen, and hardly a month passes without new additions to the list; the most recent being Staff Sergeant Swaby, Corporals Bartram, Wood and White, Lance-Corporal Fryett, Signalmen Gregory and Smart. Congratulations to them all. Congratulations are in order, too, for Captain T. P. Canham, Royal Signals, Corporal Perham and Lance-Corporal Harling, on the birth of a daughter apiece, and to Signalman Spencer on the birth of a son.

The Unit Motor Cycle Club, formed in July and now twenty-five strong, formed the nucleus of a coach outing to the Motor Cycle Show at Earls Court on the 11th of November last. Great interest was shown in the new models being exhibited, especially the twin two-stroke engine models, of which there were numerous examples. There was a considerable lack of enthusiasm by the members for the "scooterisation" of popular machines, whilst envious glances were cast at the gleaming mechanics of the Bonneville Triumph and the Vincent which had attained 114 m.p.h. in third gear. Although the return journey was made by coach, many members were visualising themselves travelling homeward on gleaming new machines, or alternatively, trying to think of ways and means to purchase the latter!

The Warren Wanderers, our football team, have played some good matches lately and show a steady form: four won, four



Brigadier F. W. B. Parry with Major Scouller, inspecting Mobile Troop

drawn, four lost in the last twelve games—top scorers in these games were Lance-Corporal Lee and Craftsman Neale (R.E.M.E.) with ten goals apiece, and Corporal Bonner with six. The total of forty-three goals for, thirty-two against shows a nice margin on our side but we hope that the Wanderers will do even better in the future.

U.K. COMCAN SIGNAL REGIMENT

R.H.Q. and 1 Squadron. The main item of news this month has been our Administrative Inspection. Though we haven't had the final report the Inspection went off very well and the Inspecting Officer said he was pleased with everything he saw.

"C" Troop won the Squadron Small Bore Competition and are now the proud possessors (for the moment!) of the Small Bore Cup.

Our Rugby team under its energetic Trainer/Manager/O.C., Second-Lieutenant Barton have fought their way into the District Semi-Final defeating last year's holder, 2 Training Regiment, R.E.M.E. 6-5 after a real battle in which, unfortunately one of our opponents had the bad luck to break a leg.

Our Basket Ball team are also going great guns, and have reached the final of the District Competition.

We met the R.A.F. Innsworth in a Boxing match on 20th November and though we didn't win we gave our opponents an awful fright.

Results (Royal Signals first):—

Powell lost to Jones—cut eye.
Woodburn beat Moore—K.O., second round.
Bunce lost to Broom—K.O., first round.
Fields lost to Douglas—points.
Marsh lost to Wood—Referee stopped fight.
Terry beat Wray—Referee stopped fight.
Atkinson lost to Faulkner—points.
Binks lost to Thomas—points.
Brimble beat Bennett—Referee stopped fight.

Finally, in the Sporting World (incidentally, we do work also!) "B" and "D" Troops are in the final of the Inter-Troop Soccer Cup. They had one "go" to settle the issue, but fog blotted out the field and the Referee stopped play in the 51st minute when "D" were leading 4-1.

2 Squadron. Yet another quiet month, with little to report except departures, and very few new arrivals. We certainly seem to be losing ground in that direction. Very soon now we will have to have our Squadron Geese on parade to make up the numbers. It would not be the first time that our S.S.M. (W.O.II Webster) has given orders to the geese!

We held a very successful Squadron Dance on the 20th November when all the Squadron personnel turned up, and a good time was had by all.

Omitted from our last notes was the fact W.O.II Webster was presented with the Territorial Efficiency Medal by Brigadier Barlow at our Administrative Inspection in October.

3 Squadron. What can one say from a camp situated so remotely with more than our share of the seasonal weather? Although fuel is plentiful the S.S.M. decided we needed warming up and so his morning drill parades came into being. Boots were produced by our Receiver Hall Staff, and very creaky they sounded too. Quite a change from the light footwear they are accustomed to wearing. One young N.C.O. drilling the Squad could not think of the order to give for "retire" and the poor boys were last seen disappearing in the direction of the village. No doubt they will all be back in time to submit Christmas leave applications.

Cake and Pudding Season is in full swing and Major Nash (Messing Officer) and Corporal Wright (A.C.C.) are doing a little more stirring than usual. The cookhouse is slowly being modernised and new electrical appliances continue to arrive.

Just a thought. When the Corps Band programme is being arranged for 1959, how about sending them around the smaller Stations? Hospitality and enthusiasm guaranteed from this part of the world, at least, and to meet old friends of the Dorsetshire.

To Royal Signals everywhere a Very Happy New Year and Good Communications everywhere, and if anyone is interested, we have our own Piper for Hogmanay—a Lancashire lad from Manchester. Scotsmen please note.

4 Squadron. Our preparations for Christmas are well under way. Amongst our various activities and functions we are hoping to hold a Carol evening in the Squadron Canteen.

Oakhanger Detachment has been spending a large amount of time and energy on combating a veritable sea of mud which has threatened to cut off the place from civilisation. Did I hear mutterings in the background that it was anyway?

At Cobett Hill our gardening enthusiasts have been busy planting flowering shrubs and trees; in the Spring we should see the results of their efforts and the Camp will have taken on quite a new look.

We have put in some work in brightening up our dining hall and I think all agree it has been well worth the effort of all concerned. Someone was heard to say that it is just like home —well almost!

THE FOLLOWING GOODS ARE AVAILABLE FROM ASSOCIATION HEADQUARTERS:

Corps Paint Transfers:
"Jimmy"—on background of Corps Colours (each)
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Mounted on black plastic (each)
8/6 | 4/9 | 4/- | —

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The Royal Corps of Signals
A History of its Antecedents and Development

REVIEWED BY GENERAL SIR H. COLVILLE B. WEMYSS, K.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O., M.C. (RETD.)

IN the title of the book the period covered is described as "Circa 1800-1955." Any military history ranging over such time must require special treatment. Some years are full of action, while others are dormant. These fifteen decades also vary from earlier ones when scientific progress had to be sought for and later ones that are so abundant in inventions and developments that the selection of the more important is extremely difficult. When one merely casts one's mind over the complication of handling the subject it is clear that the most careful judgment is essential if the book is to be understandable.

I think therefore, in commenting on this work, my first duty is to reassure readers that General Nalder has not only appreciated the difficulties of producing such a history but has succeeded in solving them.

Readers will no doubt have varying interests. Some may think in terms of general history with a military flavour; others may look for the broad subject of military organisation, which is closely linked with intercommunication. Then the fact of scientific developments in the last century, especially during the latter half, produces a fascinating story. Lastly, let us not forget those to whom the work is dedicated: ALL RANKS PAST AND PRESENT WHO HAVE HELPED TO BULD THE GREAT TRADITIONS OF ROYAL SIGNALS.

In composing this monumental work the author has so thought of the requirements of all his different readers that the particular point being dealt with is carefully linked with associated factors.

After an opening chapter which reminds one of almost prehistoric times, such as that the Pharaohs used pigeons for conveying information, early times are referred to. Beacons were used to signal the approach of the Spanish Armada. The story leads on to the time of Napoleon. Military organisation had then developed and military forces had so increased in size and mobility that we find that organisation of signal communication was traceable. The "Circa 1800" had arrived.

Curiously this also coincides with the earliest electrical inventions that were to change completely methods of signalling. We then get references to Volta, Ampère, Ohm and their discoveries. A most important name follows—Wheatstone, who was a leading figure at King's College, London, and whose inventions in the use of electricity for practical signalling are still with us.

By the end of the nineteenth century sufficient progress in military organisation, manufacture of equipment and means of intercommunication had been made for literature on these matters to be established. The American Civil War and the Franco-Prussian War provided a start on the matter of intercommunication in particular. The British Army lagged behind in this respect. The effect was that up to the start of the First World War there was no doctrine on the principles of intercommunication. In reading Chapters IV to XIV, which tell the story of Signals in the First World War, this fact, particularly in the early days, should be appreciated.

Naturally, even in a book of this magnitude, there are limits to the number of points that can be made. In commenting, a balance has to be struck between points that provide grounds for criticism and others that tend to provide what may be called explanatory excuses. I think that the author has in the history of the First World War erred on the side of the critics. Perhaps three small examples of excuses may be given. First, before the First World War the Staff College was relatively small. R.E. Officers were given few vacancies and R.E. Officers also filled many different types of appointments. In 1914 only two Signal Officers were *p.s.c.* Secondly, the Army Signal School ran a three-month course three times a year for Officers of all arms chiefly to produce signalling instructors for cavalry, artillery and infantry. There were two lectures only, "Signals in War"! Thirdly, the more senior Signal Officers had little opportunity of serving together in peace. It is evident that in the early days of the 1914 War the building up of signal organisation and the evolution of a signal doctrine had far to go. The fault lay with an earlier generation than the one which had to tackle the wartime difficulties.

The story of Signals during the First World War is well set out. In particular the lessons drawn and the benefits derived in the Second World War are notable. To find in a few pages the short general notes on the various theatres of war is valuable as the years go by and memories of minor campaigns fade.

The years following the First World War were somewhat confused in regard to the policy of a separate Corps of Signals. One difficulty was the view held in some quarters that the post-war Army should, as far as possible, resemble the pre-war version. In processes by which the Royal Corps of Signals was slowly brought into being are well described. While they are interesting to the generation that experienced them, they are full of lessons for the future and those who may be involved in changing organisations.

The story is a lively one and shows that what is often called organisation and regarded as mechanical, is in fact a very human process. Problems such as "Can a Unit have three types of Officers?" or "Should a Corps be on an Imperial basis?" are illustrations that are not often thought of. Chapters XV and XVI are a valuable summary of the inter-war years. The second one carries the sub-title of "The Passing of the Horse." This is very apt as so many changes are wrapped up with the disappearance of that noble animal, so closely associated with war. The horse has always had a special link with message carrying. Lord Raglan's message conveyed by Captain Nolan is memorable. As described in "The Reason Why," it reads: "Any other horseman would have picked his way with care down that rough precipitous slope, but Nolan spurred his horse, and up on the heights the watchers held their breath."

The events of the Second World War are described in a manner slightly different from the First World War for reasons given in the Introduction. Each operation is dealt with in a comprehensive way and the Signals account follows. Naturally, as theatres differ in size, importance and degree of independence, there is an appropriate variety of treatment. Although this period is also dealt with in General Nalder's earlier work, *The History of British Army Signals in the Second World War,* the two accounts are largely complementary.

The Epilogue is extremely valuable in showing how after the War the commitments of the Royal Signals grew all over the world. Apart from changes in military organisation, technical developments continued. In addition to peaceful progress, there was the Korean War. This showed the ever-increasing changes in conditions of warfare. The formation of the Commonwealth Division and its Signals exemplified a degree of integration surpassing anything previously reached.

At the end of the book there will be found appendices, some of which are unique. The normal bibliography appears as Appendix 1. With Appendix 5 (abbreviations and code names) the book ends. However, the second, third and fourth appendices call for special comment. The second appendix has been inserted as a convenient way of dealing with a very important subject—Signals in India. It is a fascinating account of a brief phase in the history of India. The first part tells of the pre-1911 developments of signals in the three Corps of Sappers and Miners. Then follows the First War period when Indian Signal Companies played a full part. Lastly, the creation of the Indian Signal Corps which existed for twenty years and had a wonderful record. Its traditions live on in the Indian and Pakistan Armies.

The remaining two appendices are of historical interest. One (Appendix 3) gives particulars of Officers who built up the Corps. They are listed in two parts alphabetically. In seventy-five cases it has been possible to include photographs, but in ten other cases these have not been available. The information is brief but to the point, e.g., date of birth and first commission. The Officer's original arm of the service and his main record of active service are given as well as other senior appointments he has held.

Lastly there is the Appendix 4, which comprises a noble list of Regimental Histories. Regiments are, of course, Regiments of the Corps and were "Units" before the regimental classification was adopted.

In a new Corps and one which has expanded rapidly the Unit or Regimental history presents many difficulties. This is especially so when the organisation has had to keep pace with changing military requirements. A glance through this appendix makes this clear. Anyone who has served in the Corps will keep this appendix as a permanent record. Anyone who has not been intimately concerned but who has seen the Corps functioning or is interested in organisation will be fascinated.

It is extraordinary how an Army List of, say, a century ago, showing who served where and when, gives information to descendants of those listed. This book and its appendices will similarly thrill future generations of Royal Signals.

This very brief note on *The Royal Corps of Signals—A History of its Antecedents and Development* will, I hope, suggest to a wider public than the Corps itself that there are many aspects of military signalling worth discovering.

(With acknowledgments to the Journal of the Royal Signals Institution, November, 1958).

Major-General R. F. H. NALDER
C.B., O.B.E.

Representative Colonel-Commandant

VISITS B.A.O.R.

THE overnight ferry from Harwich to The Hook on Saturday, 15th November, 1958, brought Major-General R. F. H. Nalder, C.B., O.B.E., to commence a tour of B.A.O.R., as Representative Colonel Commandant.. Before most of us were up on Sunday morning, he was met from the boat at The Hook by a representative from The Hook detachment of 2 L. of C. Signal Regiment and escorted to the train. As his tour of Units was to start with 5 Divisional Signal Regiment in Verden, General Nalder had to spend his first Sunday morning in Germany travelling in the Scandinavian Express. He was met at Bremen by Major-General K. C. O. Bastyan, C.B.E. (C.S.O., B.A.O.R.), and Lieutenant-Colonel J. E. Anderson (C.R. Signals, 5 Division), and after tea with Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. Anderson at their house, drove to Eystrup, with Major-General Bastyan, to be the guest for the night of Major-General G. R. D. Musson, C.B.E., D.S.O., G.O.C. 5 Division.

Next morning his tour of Units started with a visit to 5 Divisional Signal Regiment at Caithness Barracks in Verden.



[Photo: Tiedge-Futo, Verden

● **The Quarter Guard, 5 Divisional Signal Regiment**





[Photo: Sokell, Soltau

● **7 ARMOURED BRIGADE SIGNAL SQUADRON**
(Left to right) Lieutenant Leonard, Sergeant Dunne, S.S.M. Hammond, Major-General Nalder, Major Elliott, Corporal Hoodey, Lance-Corporal Martin, Lance-Corporal Neilson, Signalman Walsh

After inspecting the Quarter Guard he presented Long Service and Good Conduct Medals to W.O.II Taylor and Staff Sergeant Bulloch at a simple ceremonial parade. During his tour of the Barracks he saw the Regiment hard at work preparing for its annual Administrative Inspection. A pre-lunch visit to the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess to meet the Seniors of the Regiment was followed by luncheon in the Officers' Mess, where he was able to talk with the Officers and their ladies.

In the afternoon there was a pleasant drive to Soltau to inspect 7 Armoured Brigade Group Signal Squadron (now the only remaining Signal Squadron who wear the famous Desert Rat formation sign) The Squadron was paraded by detachments with their vehicles and, after the inspection, marched past the General to the music of the Band of the Gordon Highlanders. After meeting some of the families of the Squadron, who had been watching the parade, General Nalder had tea with Major and Mrs. D. A. R. Elliott (the Squadron Commander and his wife), and returned to Eystrup.

In the evening General Nalder dined quietly in the Officers' Mess with members of 5 Divisional Signal Regiment, General Bastyan and General Musson and Brigadier Whistler (recently arrived as C.S.O. 1 Corps).

Tuesday morning saw General Nalder on the move again, this time to H.Q., 1 Corps, Bielefeld. After luncheon there with Lieutenant-General M. M. A. R. West, C.B., D.S.O., G.O.C. 1 Corps, he left for 4 Divisional Signal Regiment at Hammersmith Barracks, Herford, where he arrived a little after 3 p.m. to be welcomed by the Regimental Quarter Guard, under Sergeant Stevenson. He then met most of the Officers of the Regiment and spent some time renewing his acquaintance with a few old pieces of Signal equipment which he knew and being introduced to something new in the wireless set C42. A noticeable twinkle appeared in his eye as a brisk Drill and Duties Squad marched past him while he was on his way to have tea with the married Corporals and Signalmen and their families. This was prepared by Miss Marjorie Jones and the ladies of the Y.W.C.A.—old and loyal friends of the Regiment.



[Photo: Army Public Relations, H.Q. 4 Div.

● **(Above) Tea at 4 Divisional Signal Regiment**
(Left) W.O.II Taylor and Staff Sergeant Bulloch

The rest of Tuesday's programme was simple enough! A bath and a change at the house of Lieutenant-Colonel T. H. C. Grigg (C.R. Signals), where the "first today" was taken. The "second" (and possibly "third") was enjoyed in the company of the Warrant Officers and Sergeants and their families—and then a "glass" with the Corporals before the General bravely submitted himself to an informal Ladies' Evening in the Officers' Mess "Buttery."

General Bastyan had visited the "Buttery" on a previous occasion but not so Brigadier and Mrs. Whistler; so this was a suitable opportunity to indoctrinate them at the same time as General Nalder made his final "Endeavour" for the day. In accordance with the best military custom, time advanced beyond the scheduled hour and it is to be hoped that a very happy evening was enjoyed by everyone.

Wednesday's programme consisted of a visit to Signals Branch, H.Q., 1 (BR) Corps, which took about an hour; the remainder of the day with 2 Divisional Signal Regiment, and finally a private dinner party at Brigadier and Mrs. Whistler's residence, where both Generals stayed during their time in the area.

Sergeant O'Kane commanded 2 Divisional Signal Regiment's Quarter Guard which the Representative Colonel Commandant inspected on arrival at the Barracks in Bünde. The C.R. Signals, Lieutenant-Colonel D. R. Horsfield, then gave a briefing which ranged from establishments, to games, to B.A.O.R. Exercises. Afterwards it was the R.S.M.'s (W.O.I R. Davies) turn, and later the Warrant Officers and Sergeants were introduced in the Sergeants' Mess. Corporal O'Keefe took over from there and presented the pattern of life as he saw it, and various of the Unit's personalities were introduced in the Corporals' Club.

Luncheon with the Officers and their wives was in the Officers' Mess and was followed by a presentation by Major F. G. G. Rapsey and Captain A. A. G. Anderson, of the new Brigade Group System, as it affects the Corps.

To produce variety, and to allow the General to talk to as many of the crews as possible, the parade ground was used to display a very skeleton lay-out of Divisional Headquarters' communications and, in particular, to cover aspects of the system it was desired to emphasise. It is significant that the display of some very old wireless sets (including the one with Russian markings on, which was produced for the Minister of Defence earlier in the year), and our attempts to show other equipment problems, almost coincided with the debate on the Grigg Report in the House of Commons. During this debate some of the shortcomings to which the Unit drew attention were again stressed. "Z" Troop VHF net employing AN/TRC always receives a special place of honour, and development in the locally produced MK 5 remote was noted. "Z" Troop detachment commanders, Corporals Drury, Thorp and Yallop, gave good talks on their activities. To end the demonstration "C" Troop motored on to the square and debussed swiftly. This Troop was dressed in all its winter glory, smocks camouflage, jerkins leather, coats DR and items of gas clothing. It looked like any Divisional cable troop on winter Exercise, and the General and the C.S.O.s appeared to be struck by the apparent inadequacy of combat clothing. Perhaps a point was made that may lead to a respectable and useful winter working suit!



● **19 ARMY GROUP SIGNAL REGIMENT**
At lunch with a member of the Corps Band

The final item of 2 Divisional Signal Regiment's programme was a visit for tea to Corporal McHugh, his wife and child, which also gave the General an opportunity to look at a typical married quarter.

A 2½-hour journey by road to Azimghur Barracks, St. Tonis, near Krefeld, was the first item on the programme for Thursday, 20th November. This Barracks houses part of 19 Army Group Signal Regiment, and the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel P. W. Lonnon, M.B.E., met General Nalder on arrival. The appropriate compliments were paid by the Quarter Guard, under Sergeant Green.

After a general briefing on the composition and rôle of the Unit, the General met the Warrant Officers resident at St. Tonis, visited the Junior Ranks' Club and met Mrs. Botfield, of the W.V.S. A sample barrack living accommodation was shown, and then General Nalder visited the Dining Hall and Cookhouse, talked to some of the men and listened to the Dance Section of the Corps Band. The touring section of the Corps Band had recently arrived to entertain us for three weeks in B.A.O.R., and were at this time visiting some of the higher formation Signal Regiments.

Pre-lunch hospitality in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess was the next item and the General met the St. Tonis Sergeants, some of whom had served with him previously and no doubt suitable reminiscences were exchanged!

The Light Orchestra of the Corps Band played during luncheon in the Officers' Mess, and then the General left to visit 2 L. of C. Signal Regiment at Bradbury Barracks, Krefeld. Lieutenant-Colonel W. C. Burke, the Commanding Officer, greeted the General when he arrived. Captain C. H. K. Houghton commanded the Quarter Guard. After meeting the Officers and posing for a group photograph, he visited the Regimental training block, where members of the Line and Operating Troops were undergoing instruction. Radio relay equipment was also seen and discussed, and then the General moved on to the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, where he chatted with the R.S.M., W.O.I Finch, and Mess members.





● **(Left) 2 Divisional Signal Regiment, "C" (Line) Troop Detachment. Left to right: Lieutenant Goldney, Lance-Corporal Robertson, Signalman Kess, Driver Richards parading in winter clothing. (Right) Major-General R. F. H. Nalder, C.B., O.B.E. inspects 2 L of C Signal Regiment Guard of Honour on the occasion of his visit to the Regiment at Krefeld, Germany. Guard Commander: Captain C. H. K. Houghton, Royal Signals**

Just before visiting the Cookhouse the Colonel Commandant looked over the prototype one-ton truck belonging to a recently raised Wireless Troop. This has been designed by the Troop and carries a 53 Set and two R.209. The General appeared to be impressed with the lay-out and surprised at the amount of room for the operators and their kit. Before leaving the Regiment the Representative Colonel Commandant had tea in the Officers' Mess with the Officers and their wives. He then departed for H.Q., B.A.O.R., Rheindahlen, where he was to be the guest of General and Mrs. Bastyan for the remainder of his tour.

On Friday it was the turn of Air Formation Signals and the General visited 12 Air Formation Signal Regiment at Laarbruch, where he was introduced to the R.A.F. Station Commander, Group Captain C. V. Winn, D.S.O., O.B.E., D.F.C., and the Commanding Officer of the Regiment, Lieutenant-Colonel J. L. McNeil. He then inspected the Quarter Guard, appropriately drawn up at Regimental Headquarters.



[Photo: Gierkes, Krefeld

● **With the Officers of 2 L of C Signal Regiment**



[R.A.F. Official Photograph

● **12 Air Formation Signal Regiment Quarter Guard**

A short coffee party in the NAAFI gave many of the married families the opportunity of meeting the Representative Colonel Commandant, and the A.C.C. cook, Sergeant Howes, produced a special cake for the occasion, decorated with the Corps crest and colours. Then followed a short inspection tour of the Unit lines, which included the Training Wing, where trade training classes were in progress. A Drill and Duties Course of Junior N.C.O.s was also seen.

Luncheon took place in the R.A.F. Officers' Mess where, for the first time, all the Officers of the Regiment were able to lunch together. Normally this is not possible due to the fact that the Squadrons and Troops are dispersed. After luncheon the General returned to H.Q., B.A.O.R.

By the happy coincidence of the Corps Band touring B.A.O.R. at this time, in the evening General Nalder was able to attend a Band concert in the Garrison Theatre, where Major Judd and our Band entertained us so well with a programme of great variety. Afterwards all the Officers and their wives gathered in the Officers' Mess of 19 Army Group Signal Regiment, where General Nalder joined them at a buffet supper of most splendid proportions. This enabled him to meet not only the Officers and their wives of 19 Army Group Signal Regiment but also those other Royal Signals Officers and their wives on the Staff of our four Headquarters (H.Q. NORTHAG, H.Q. B.A.O.R., H.Q. 2 A.T.A.F. and H.Q. 2 T.A.F.), as well as those of other Signal Regiments in the area which he had not been able to visit individually.

Saturday, 22nd November, was the last day of the tour and the morning passed with a visit to 18 Army Group Signal Regiment at Essen. Although an informal visit, there was a Regimental Quarter Guard mounted in the General's honour, which greeted him on arrival. After inspecting the Guard, he accompanied the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel A. H. D. Llewellyn, to his office where—while coffee was served—he listened to a recording of the programme broadcast by the British Forces Network, Germany, on the previous 12th of July to mark the Regiment's twenty-first birthday. General Nalder heard the message to the Regiment which he himself had recorded in London for this event, and recalled that the last occasion on which he had visited the Regiment was when it was stationed at Storey's Gate, London, about sixteen years ago.

As General Nalder's visit was a purely social one, no demonstrations of the military arts by either man or machine had been arranged, so after a brief visit to the Regimental Chapel, moved to the Sergeants' Mess, where a number of members were introduced to him by the R.S.M., W.O.I R. Halford. A little later he met the Officers in the Officers' Mess, where he lunched.



● **With the Officers of 12 Air Formation Signal Regiment**

[R.A.F. Official Photograph

In the afternoon he returned to General Bastyan's residence and, for the first time since his tour began, he was free for a few hours of official duty. However, at eight o'clock that evening the official programme re-asserted itself and he left to catch the Rheingold Express, which took him to The Hook of Holland, where again 2 L. of C. Signal Regiment's Hook detachment saw him on to the boat to England.

Throughout the tour General Nalder was attended by Lieutenant P. B. Leonard, as A.D.C., and travelled the many hundreds of miles by road in the C.S.O.'s new black Mercedes 300 official car, which is the pride and joy of his driver, Corporal Finch, R.A.S.C.

We know the Representative Colonel Commandant enjoyed his tour, for he was kind enough to write and tell us so. We certainly enjoyed seeing him in B.A.O.R. and showing him a little of the lighter side of Corps life on this strenuous Continent!

Careers and Opportunity

A vacancy will occur between 1st April, 1959, and 31st March, 1960, for a civilian Chief Clerk in a Territorial Army Regiment in Sheffield. Wage approximately £10 per week. Post would suit a Chief Clerk who is retiring during this period. Apply to Commanding Officer, 2 Northern Command (M) Signal Regiment, T.A., Crabtree T.A. Centre, Sheffield, 5.

WATSHAM'S LTD., Chiltern Court, St. Peter's Avenue, Caversham, Reading, Berks: This Company specialises in the erection of overhead electrical transmission lines in various parts of U.K. and plays a large part in the construction of the National Electric Grid Scheme. W.O.s and Senior N.C.O.s due for release are invited to apply for training as Foremen. Applicants must be physically fit, willing to travel and preferably aged not over 40. Wages and allowances in accordance with the rates and scales of Civil Engineering. For further details write to Major E. C. Collett at above address.

The above are only two of the considerable number of vacancies which are notified to Association Headquarters each month. It is well worth while registering with the Employment Section to receive information for as long as it is required. It is, however, courteous to inform Association Headquarters when you are suitably employed. Other employment vacancies are notified on page 9 and inside back cover.

1 CORPS SIGNAL REGIMENT

There have been several events of unusual interest during the last month. We have welcomed with pleasure the move of 1 A.S.S.U. into our barracks, where although they are under our administrative command, they still remain a very independent Signal Unit. On 28th November the annual Administrative Inspection of the Regiment was made by Brigadier A. M. W. Whistler, C.S.O.1 (BR) Corps. Lastly, and possibly the main event, has been the two-day visit of the Royal Signals Band.

Because of the strength of our Regiment we had to hold the main Band concert on two consecutive afternoons so that everyone could be fitted in. The first concert was mainly for all our married families and guests, whilst the second was for all the single members of the Regiment. We took the opportunity to invite many military and civilian guests, including many of the local German residents who have helped us in the past. It was very pleasing to rediscover what a good Band we have in the Corps. The Band repertoir seems to be so much larger and varied than that of the average military Band and all sections, including the trumpeters, were given an opportunity to show their skill. On the first evening a section of the Band played for dancing at a most successful Mess Ball at which the Warrant Officers and Sergeants were hosts to the Officers. On the last night, the Royal Signals Dance Band played at an Other Ranks' Smoking Concert, whilst a string group and the trumpeters played at a Ladies' Dinner Night in the Officers' Mess.

In contrast, we turn now from music to boxing. The Regimental boxing team has already commenced training for their forthcoming matches, and Sergeant Simpson, from the Regimental Pay Office, can be seen on most afternoons putting them through their paces. Although many of last year's team have now left the Regiment, Lance-Corporal Keating, Lance-Corporal Gray and the twin Thorpe brothers are still with us. The team has also been strengthened by the arrival of Signalmen McGarry and Midgley. If fitness and enthusiasm are any guide, this year's team should prove themselves to be worthy successors to last year's winners of the B.A.O.R. Royal Signals Boxing Tournament.

Most Royal Signals Units in Germany are now taking skiing seriously, having discovered that more and more men are most anxious to try this sport. Apart from being fun, it is an excellent form of training and makes for team spirit. This Unit is taking full advantage of the Winter Training Centre at Winterberg, where it is intended to send parties of ten men for periods of one week. In addition, about ten Officers and men will be going to Austria in January for about a fortnight, where they will specialise in cross-country ski training in order to form a patrol and cross-country team, which will enter for the Ski Meeting being organised by H.Q., 4 Division.

Soccer is still the sport with the largest following. When these notes were written "H.Q." Squadron and "C" 1 Troop were at the head of our two co-equal Inter-Troop Football Leagues. The 1st XI has passed into the semi-final of the Morrison Cup soccer competition, having defeated 11 Air Formation Signal Regiment 1-0 in the second round, the only goal was scored by Porter. A Regimental 2nd XI has now been formed, as there are so many players verging on Regimental standard that they cannot all be played in the 1st XI. We are now encouraging other Units to form 2nd Xs.

In our two co-equal Inter-Troop Hockey Leagues, the leaders are Z1 Troop and Z2 Troop. The Regimental 1st XI played a very good match in the first round of the B.A.O.R. Hockey Cup, when they beat the 9th Lancers by five goals to two. Corporal McMahon scored four of these goals and Sergeant Howie the fifth. Having drawn a bye in the opening round of the Morrison Cup we are looking forward to playing 2 Division Signal Regiment in the next round.

The outstanding event in the rugger world has been Army Cup third round game against 1st Battalion Royal Hampshire Regiment. After a magnificent battle by both forwards and backs, the Hampshires emerged the winners by 11 points to five, the deciding points being scored in the last five minutes. The game was played at a fast pace against an exceptionally fit and well trained Hampshire team. Among those who shone were the captain, Lieutenant Hodgson, who by his untiring encouragement and cover play, saved many a nasty looking situation. Mitchell, as usual, played a storming game and on several occasions outjumped his much larger opponent in the line-out. Wibberley hooked extremely well and was ably backed up by the rest of the forwards. Praise must also go to Corporal Maisey, who played a cool and very safe game at full-back.

2 L. OF C. SIGNAL REGIMENT

R.H.Q., 1 and 2 Squadron. November has lived up to its reputation of fog, damp and cold as far as we in Germany have been concerned. And as these notes go to press the first snow has arrived to greet Christmas.

We have, as usual, a very full Christmas programme ahead of us, in which all ranks of the Regiment will be participating. The amount of Christmas leave passes which were submitted was over permitted entitlement and we hope very much that those who are not going home will have a Christmas they will not forget (for the right reasons).

Last month we had two big military occasions. The first was the visit of the Corps Band to the Regiment. In the morning the Regiment was on parade and marched past the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel W. C. Burke. The parade was watched by many of the families, who were astounded to see the improvement in bearing and drill of the Regiment, which was made as a result of the Band.

In the afternoon there was a Band concert which was attended by all ranks. The programme was enjoyed thoroughly by everyone who heard it, the Fanfare Trumpeters were close favourites to the Trombone Trio.

The same evening the Dance Band played in the NAAFI and a small ensemble were playing at the Officers' Mess cocktail party.

It was agreed that the Band deserve full marks for their work on that day and that their visit was really worth while.

(*Continued on page 21*)

The day after the visit of the Band the Regiment was visited by Major-General Nalder, C.B., O.B.E., the Colonel Commandant. Notes of his visit to Germany appear on other pages of THE WIRE.

In the sporting world our hockey team is really going to town, we hope. So far the 1st XI is unbeaten. The team, under the leadership of Major G. Smith, playing at centre-forward, seems to be going from strength to strength. We are very fortunate in having posted in this year amongst others Second-Lieutenant A. Petley, who plays for Derby, Captain G. Exell, Sergeant Crampton and Staff Sergeant Rose, who travels the length of B.A.O.R. to be in the goal.

The football team have had bad luck in not doing quite as well as was expected of them at the beginning of the season. But they are confident of doing well in the league, when the star turns return from leave, detachment, etc.

In our last notes we mentioned that the Regiment would be sending a deputation with members of the German Afrika Corps to the international cemetery in Holland. This occasion was arranged.

The report that follows is an eye witness account, written by W.O.II G. Parks.

A group of ex-8th Army members of the Regiment calling themselves "The Africanders" went with the ex-members of the "Afrika Korps" to lay wreaths at the British Cemetery in the Forest of Reichswald and the German Cemetery at Ijsselstijn in Holland. We met outside our barracks and proceeded in convoy (22 cars) to the Reichswald, strict convoy discipline was maintained, under the control of an ex-Captain of the Afrika Korps. The German party had a choir with them and when we reached the British Cemetery formed up by the shrine to sing hymns. Both parties had large wreaths for both cemeteries. The 8th Army wreath was made in the shape of the 8th Army Shield. W.O.II Parks and Sergeant Lock (old soldiers and young soldiers) marched up to lay the wreath, followed by Staff Sergeant Clarke, Staff Sergeant Wood, Sergeant Hunter, Sergeant Davis and Sergeant Jacobi.

The ceremony was very moving and impressive. We looked around the cemetery and paid silent homage to our fallen comrades and signed the visitors' book held in the sanctuary. This visit to the Reichswald was of special significance to W.O.II Parks, who was in the battle in 1944 with 30 Corps Signal Regiment.

Both parties then moved on to Venlo, on the border of Germany and Holland, where our passes were inspected, and then on to the Germany Cemetery at Ijsselstijn. Again the ceremony of laying wreaths took place at the cenotaph, and the President of the Kameradschaft of the "Afrika Korps," Paul Bernd Ulrich, made a speech in German and English, saying that once we were enemies, but now we were comrades in arms under N.A.T.O., and hoped that never again would there be another war where we would be opponents. After leaving the German Cemetery we were taken to a hotel in Venrag for a first-class lunch and toasts were made by both parties.

We then moved on to the War Museum at Overloon and spent two hours looking over British, American and German tanks, guns and other Second World War equipment. Our young soldier, Sergeant Lock, was most impressed and said that he never realised the significance of warfare until then. In the darkness we moved off and back into Germany to another reception, where we again had speeches. The day finished very fittingly with a serious rendering of "Lili Marlene," sung in our respective languages.

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After all this goodwill, I note that although our German typists are friendly and try hard, they make errors such as this extract from Part I Orders:

BOUNDS

The following places in Krefeld are *Out of Bounds* to all ranks. The R.M.P.s have been given orders to arrest all parsons from this Regiment found in these establishments. Perhaps we should be known as the *Saints!*

4 Squadron. Since the Squadron last sent notes to THE WIRE they had had two visits by Senior Officers. The first was Major-General K. C. O. Bastyan, C.B.E., Chief Signal Officer, B.A.O.R., accompanied by Brigadier C. Nettleship, O.B.E., Chief Signal Officer, 1 (BR) Corps, and the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel W. C. Burke.

The second visit was on the occasion of the Annual Administrative Inspection and was made by Brigadier A. M. W. Whistler, who is now Chief Signal Officer, 1 (BR) Corps.

Both visits were a great success and all ranks are pleased with their work.

We have restarted using the miniature range and the first practice shoots are now taking place under the able direction of W.O.II F. C. Gallacher.

We entered for the B.A.O.R. Minor Units Football Championship, but were unfortunately knocked out in our first match by 44 Field Park Squadron, R.E., who were a good team and deserved their victory. The Bielefeld League and championships have now started and we hope to do better in those.

We have joined the local basketball league and although we have very few experienced players, surprised ourselves by winning 32-4!

The social season has now started—long before Christmas. The H.Q., 1 (BR) Corps Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess have had their annual Ball, which kept up its reputation of being one of the best social functions in B.A.O.R., and was very much enjoyed by all those who attended. We have also had a giant tombola here, in which the prizes almost rivalled those reputedly enjoyed in Rheindahlen, and in which the interval entertainment was provided by one of the Squadron's musical groups, who are even now being booked for Christmas.

11 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT

On Wednesday, 3rd December, we were delighted to receive a visit from the Corps Band. This was doubly welcome since we only see the Band once every three years and naturally, being with the R.A.F., we were pleased to be able to throw our chests out.

The Band, under the direction of Major J. L. Judd, M.B.E., gave an excellent concert in the Astra Cinema in the afternoon to a capacity audience. In the evening there was a Ladies Guest Night in the Officers' Mess—at this dinner we had the string orchestra and the Fanfare trumpeters. It is true to say that everyone was most impressed and all the "Army Jobs" went away with increased sizes in head and chest.

The whole visit of the Band is still a good talking point.

Thank you, John.

The Quartermaster's Pools Office is doing well this season. Sergeant Gray won £16,500 for 22½ points one week and the following week the "Q.M.'s swindle" got 24 points but only received £18.

The Q.M., we understand, is trying to find some way to take Sergeant Gray's winnings on charge!

We were very pleased to welcome Major Eric Crombie, R.A.P.C., as our Unit Paymaster. In addition to the obvious benefit of having our own Paymaster. Eric is also a first-class Rugby referee.

Major Eddie Jordan, when leaving the skittle alley one evening, fell and broke a tendon in his foot. He has been in hospital for four weeks and here's hoping he will soon be up and about. Talking of skittles—the Officers of the Regiment formed a team and walked away with the Cup. Considering they are lucky to get seven members in the team for match purposes, they did well. Major Morrison has just joined us as Second-in-Command. We would like to say how welcome he is and hope his stay will be a pleasant one.

In the Morrison Cup two closely fought and enjoyable matches, Rugby (8-6) and hockey (2-1), were lost to 2 Divisional Signal Regiment. Our boxers, led by the R.S.M., Staff Sergeant Boynton and Sergeant Gray, are preparing to meet 4 Divisional Signal Regiment in the first round. The hockey team beat H.Q., 1 (BR) Corps 1-0 in the Army Cup first round.

12 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT

The past two months have been, on the whole, fairly quiet, and apart from one annual shooting competition held on the 6th, 7th and 8th November, and intensive preparations for our upgrading and individual training season, which started on the 1st November, there was little of note to report.

The Inter-Troop Shooting competition (Sten and Rifle) was won for the second year running by the R.E.M.E. L.A.D. who put up an extremely creditable performance, scoring 40 out of a possible 45. The runners-up were 7 Line Troop with a score of 39. Next year we hope to remove our Cup from R.E.M.E. and retain it thenceforth in the purely Royal Signals portion of the Regiment, although much hard practice is obviously indicated. Lt. Allan won the prize for the Best Officer Shot, and Staff Sergeant Morris the prize for the Best W.O. or Sergeants' Shot. Signalman Thorne and Signalman Smith tied as the Best Regimental Shot for the year.

On Friday, 12th November, we were honoured by a visit of the Representative Colonel Commandant, Major-General R. H. Nalder, C.B., O.B.E., accompanied by C.S.O., B.A.O.R., Major-General K. C. O. Bastyan, C.B.E., and C.A.F.S., 2 T.A.F., Colonel D. E. Harrison, O.B.E. A report of this visit appears elsewhere in THE WIRE.

The Representative Colonel Commandant left immediately after lunch much to our regret, as there were many aspects of the Regiment we were unable to show due to the short time available.

Lieutenant Allan and Lieutenant Wiltshire played as a team in the Royal Signals Golf Championships B.A.O.R. and we are happy to report won the Cup, which is not surprising when you realise that Lieutenant Allan is a Scot with a handicap of three. (After all they do say the Scots invented the game and Lieutenant Allan can certainly play).

Our Football team has started off well in the B.A.O.R. Royal Signals Championships beating 19 Army Signal Regiment by five goals to one, and we are now looking forward with some confidence to the next round against 19 Army Signal Regiment on 2nd December.

M E L F

2 WIRELESS REGIMENT, CYPRUS

Sailing. In spite of the almost continuous alarms and curfews the sailing clubs round the island continue to flourish. This exhilarating and exciting sport is the only means by which some hundreds of British inhabitants can safely enjoy themselves in the open air. Even the non-sailing wives and children can drop their cares at the clubhouses.

2 Wireless Regiment belongs to the Famagusta Garrison Sailing Club and was allotted, for 1958, four of the Club boats, two Fireflies, one Albacore and one Snipe. The Regiment has about 20 enthusiastic sailing members and several of these, Lieutenant-Colonel Gibson, Major Glover, Captain Grice, Corporal Wright, Corporal Gash and Bill Wrightson (civilian) have sailed for the club in various regattas. Major Collyer has shown great form as a helmsman in novices' races and crewing in others. The Commanding Officer and Bill Wrightson were the most successful of the Regiment, and Garrison, sailors and added several mugs to their beer drinking equipment; with Major Glover and Captain Grice they were in the Garrison team in the Inter-Club Championship final.

The Snipe has been used as the Regimental training ship, when not being refloated, painted or repaired. Those gallant sailors, Major Smith and Captains Trotter and Edwards all served their time before the mast in Snipe 2. Captain Edwards would love to have it in a bottle on his mantelpiece.

It is now the end of October and all boats have been carried well clear of the water because of the winter storms, although sailing will continue on many days throughout the winter.

The narrow, shallow entrance to the club harbour makes getting out very difficult in rough weather.

Lieutenant-Colonel Gibson is the Garrison Sailing Club Vice-Commodore for 1959, and, as many of our good helmsmen will still be here, the club should do well next year.

Further highlights in Wireless theory:—

1. Rectification means to rectify something. If you did something wrong in a problem and you went back and attended to it you would rectify it. (How right he is).
2. An oscillation is made by an oscillator which is a circuit designed to make a continuous oscillation. (This sounds reasonable enough).

Sports. As winter starts, and the hard, stony ground softens (very slightly), the spotlight swings over to winter games, in all of which the Regiment has made a good start.

Rugby. Under the determined and aggressive leadership of Captain Dawson Pratt, and inspired by large shandies, the Rugby team has made a good start to the season. Five games have been played, of which four have been won and one lost. Points scored: 91 for and 21 against.

Soccer. S.S.I. Hunter (A.P.T.C.) is again captain of the Soccer team and with a great deal of talent from which to choose we should have a good season. To ensure no talent is missed a Troop League has been started. So far the Regiment's 1st Team has played only six games, all friendlies, and all have been won: 40 goals for, 10 against.

Hockey. Captain of the 1st XI is Sergeant Godbeer. So far five friendly games have been played, the Regiment winning three and drawing two.

Guild of St. Helena. This Guild is run by ladies to assist Army charities. There is a thriving branch in this Regiment, the chairman being Mrs. Gibson, wife of our Commanding Officer. Last week the Guild, with unit help, ran a very successful fete that brought in £200 for Army charities.

TRIPOLITANIA SIGNAL SQUADRON

Another month has come and gone and with its passing the Squadron has had certain changes which will be noticeable to the old soldiers.

Lance-Corporal Grossett and Signalman Rowan left early in the month and are now once more in "Civvy Street," back at the *Manchester Evening Chronicle*, where they worked together. Unfortunately, they have had to leave behind Signalman Lamb, who has some time to do before joining them once more.

Lance-Corporal Nelson has also returned to U.K., but not for the happy day. He is to take a further course and should return to us in the New Year. Corporal Tunmore has returned from an eight-week course in Cyprus, shortly after the arrival of Signalman Baldwin from that much troubled Isle.

New arrivals include Second-Lieutenant Hicks, a keen basketball player, who has already joined the Azzizia team. Sergeant Yates, ex-School of Signals, takes the place of Sergeant Cadman, who was posted to Naples. We extend our best wishes to Sergeant Cadman and his family in their new posting. Other new arrivals are Corporal Dickinson, from Northern Ireland District, Lance-Corporal Roberts, ex-B.A.O.R., and Signalmen Balaam, Bedell, Neil, Turner and Edwards fresh from the Training Regiments.

Lance-Corporals "Chick" Chenery and "Hutch" Hutchinson kept the Signals "Jimmy" much in prominence during a scheme, involving the 6th Royal Tank Regiment, a few hundred miles in the desert.

The Squadron was complimented by the District Commander on the hard work that was put in to provide the firework display, watched by hundreds at Piccola Capri.

With the arrival of the rainy season, the swimming facilities suddenly become non-existent, due to the pool's annual face lift, and the seaweed that is swept up on the sandy beach at Piccola Capri, but if the weather prevents us from enjoying a daily dip in the "briny," it makes up for it with the colourful displays at sunset.

The Unit offers many congratulations to Corporal Zammit and his wife on the occasion of the birth of a daughter.

Our football team got off to a good start by beating B.M.H. 6-2 and 8 Independent Recce Flight 7-1. Under the inspired leadership of Signalman Lambie, we forecast great achievements from the team. However, we, like other Units, have the old trouble of our good players being demobbed and difficulty in finding new ones, but we hope to enjoy a good season.

Past members of the Unit will no doubt be very sorry to learn that the mascot dog "George Scouse" was knocked down and killed outside the gates of Azzizia Barracks. He was with the Squadron for some four years and was coming up for his sixth annual Administrative Inspection. A very popular dog in the Barracks, he has accompanied the Unit on many route marches to the Ranges and partaken in other Squadron activities. Just an ordinary dog, but one who will be missed by the Signals.

What with all new arrivals, old departures, internal and outside work, the Squadron is kept terribly busy but, like the remainder of the Corps, we all look forward to the Christmas festivities and we close with wishing the Editor and his staff of THE WIRE Magazine and All Ranks in the Corps a very merry Christmas and a bright and prosperous New Year.

1 SIGNAL SQUADRON, KING'S AFRICAN RIFLES

These notes are being written on a warm, sunny afternoon. The "small rains" have been threatening to arrive for the past month, but apart from a few short showers we have had almost uninterrupted sunshine for weeks. As a result work is going on well in preparation for our Annual Administrative Inspection on 9th December. We had a visit from the C.I.V. team to both parts of the Unit—"J" Troop at Nanyuki and the rest of the Squadron at Nairobi—during the month. Thanks to the hard work of All Ranks both inspections passed off well.



The big social event of the month was the wedding of our Quartermaster, Major O. M. Ditchfield to Malveen Jenks, of Nairobi. The reception was held in the Officers' Mess and the honeymoon spent at Nyali Beach on the Indian Ocean.

We welcome Captain (T.O.T.) S. Bristow and Captain H. A. Johnstone, who arrived during the month, with their families, and Major A. Sharp our new Q.M. who arrives on 4th December. We wish all the best to Major and Mrs. Ditchfield, Captain and Mrs. Kemp and Sergeant and Mrs. Kay who leave us next month, and we congratulate Captain and Mrs. Talbot on their baby son, born on 26th November.



A photograph taken at Nanyuki on 15 September, when the visit of Major-General W. A. Dimoline, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., coincided with a Regimental Signal Officers' Conference. Officers shown in the photograph, left to right, are Lieutenant Bushell (2 i/c J Troop), Major Holifield (O.C. 1 Signal Squadron), Lieutenant-Colonel Brown (C.S.O. East Africa), Major-General Dimoline, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., Major Skelly, T.D. (D.A.Q.M.G. H.Q. 70 Inf. Bde.) and Captain Kemp (O.C. J Troop)

Editor's Note: The younger generation may not be aware that Major-General W. A. Dimoline is a Royal Signals Officer.

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Made entirely BY HAND in our own workrooms to the approved Regimental design, in finest quality gold and silver wire and silks, to last you for years. We supply on neutral dark navy/black cloth, or on your own *detached* pocket (blazers must not be sent). The Royal Signals Badge costs 45/- post paid. Despatched within seven days from receipt of remittance, subject to immediate refund if you are in any way dissatisfied with our craftsmanship.
Also your REGIMENTAL TIE (STRIPED, PURE SILK) 15/- Post Paid.
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Brighton 27180

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

At this time of year we think it fitting to start our contribution to the columns of THE WIRE by according to all readers of that excellent publication, who are sufficiently interested to read our notes, the compliments of the season.

As our news is mainly of local interest in this issue we record Squadron activity as follows:

R.H.Q., H.Q. Squadron, No. 1 Squadron—Aberdeen. A Regimental D.R. team consisting of Captain E. R. M. Sutherland, Sergeant R. Duff, Corporal J. Greig and Driver P. Greig, participated in the annual HIDIS Motor Cycle Trials at Cultybraggan, Perthshire, on Sunday, 26th October, 1958. Captain Sutherland was placed first in the novice individual class. The course was a very difficult one and the event was held rather late in the year, making the timed road run a bit tricky in the early part of the morning. All our competitors completed the course, although it is rumoured that one member was still battling through hazards long after the judges had picked up their marking tapes and gone home.

The first winter dance was held on Friday, 31st October, 1958, and the attendance was estimated at about 300. The very well stocked bar hung up the "sold out" sign quite early in the evening and our Children's Christmas Party Fund was off to a good start. We are indebted to Mrs. I. N. Burton, Mrs. Duck, Mrs. McIntosh and Mrs. Greig for rallying round at short notice to look after the tea room service.

To celebrate the Territorial Army's Jubilee Year an invitation dinner dance was held on Friday, 28th November, 1958. The Aberdeen Steam Navigation Co. kindly loaned a set of ship's flags to decorate the Drill Hall roof space and the City Corporation provided plants to relieve the walls. The Regimental Silver "set off" the tables, which were very tastefully laid out, and some 150 members of the Regiment and their ladies sat down to dinner. The evening continued with dancing and a number of party games. The Officers' Hula Hoop contest seemed to show up a lack of essential suppleness, although Captain (Q.M.) Bill Tyers made a gallant effort. Our Honorary Colonel—Colonel T. P. E. Murray, O.B.E., T.D., A.D.C.—had a few words to say about "The Jubilee" and who better could do so with his active association in the Regiment over the past 36 years.

A Christmas and New Year dance has been arranged for Friday, 26th December, 1958, while the children's Christmas party will take place on Saturday, 27th December, 1958.

The Officers based on Aberdeen, including our Honorary Colonel—Colonel T. P. E. Murray, O.B.E., T.D., A.D.C.—and our Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel G. D. G. Mackinnon, T.D., attended what we hope will be the forerunner of many such occasions, when they were the guests at dinner of the Officers of 117 (H) Field Engineer Regiment (T.A.). It is intended to make this venture an annual affair on a reciprocal basis to foster and maintain the close bond between the Sappers and Signals.

In his speech Lieutenant-Colonel A. Wilkinson, of the Sappers, indulged in considerable historical research and his efforts were ably matched by Lieutenant-Colonel Mackinnon in his reply. Some of the statements made by each speaker with his tongue in his cheek (metaphorically speaking, of course, as no such physical disability was detected) brought almost ribald laughter and caustic comments from the respective sides of the gathering.

All in all, it was an excellent evening and early morning.

No. 2 Squadron—Stirling. Congratulations are due to Major George Louden, who has been awarded the Territorial Efficiency Decoration.

Sergeant Colin Graham, from 3 Divisional Signal Regiment, has now taken over as P.S.I. from Sergeant John Rees, who has been posted to 1 Divisional Signal Regiment. We wish Sergeant Graham a happy and fruitful (less raspberries) tour at Stirling.

We are pleased to welcome Lieutenant L. I. K. Ebbutt to the Squadron. Lieutenant Ebbutt might be described as unique in that being on the Squadron's strength, he lives near Stirling and in consequence will be able, we hope, to help Squadron Commander with the day-to-day worries of the Squadron.

News is not yet to hand of the Squadron Ball held on Friday, 5th December, 1958, but we could with conviction write it up as the usual success.

No. 3 Squadron—Dundee. Apart from the fact that we know that Sergeant McCallum leaves Dundee at the end of the

year for 1 Wireless Regiment and is being replaced by Sergeant E. Robinson, from 5 Divisional Signal Regiment, no news has emanated from No. 3 Squadron since Major Miller's retiral.

Whether this is due to the aftermath of farewell parties or to the new Squadron Commander being overwhelmed with "bumph," we would rather not comment.

Hand Grenades and Rum

By S.S.M. E. Griffiths, 2 Northern Command Mixed Signal Regiment, T.A.

Republished by courtesy of the East Midlands Electricity Journal

TO go to sea in a submarine is an experience which rarely befalls a member of the Territorial Army, or, for that matter, anyone else outside the jurisdiction of the Senior Service. It was not surprising, therefore, that when our Commanding Officer received a message from the naval authorities at Portland Base inviting him to nominate two senior N.C.O.s for a trip, both the Company Quartermaster Sergeant and myself jumped at the chance. After all, apart from the obvious interest of the cruise itself, we should also be on "excused duty" for 24 hours—always a major consideration in the Army!

Our first aim, of course, was to create a good impression with our sailor hosts. To this end we rose bright and early on the appointed day in order to spend rather longer than usual on our "spit and polish" chores. Then, immaculate in our best battledress, we drove down to Portland in time for breakfast at 7.0 a.m. aboard the depot ship lying at the dockside.

A Doubtful Prospect

As we were led below by the Chief Petty Officer who had taken us in hand, we caught our first glimpse of the submarine moored alongside. She was the 1,000 ton H.M.S/M. "Solent," built in 1943, and, so we learned, due to be pensioned off at Portsmouth in July owing to metal fatigue. She was, in fact, the oldest submarine still on service at that time and was used solely as a practice target during exercises by the Navy's latest anti-submarine frigates. That, indeed, was to be our "fate"—dodging about below the waves as surface vessels tracked and attacked us. It sounded an alarming prospect, and we were immensely relieved to know that hand grenades would be substituted for depth charges during the proceedings! Doubt returned, however, when the Petty Officer noted down the names and addresses of our next-of-kin, information which was to be filed on the depot ship pending our return!

We Board the "Solent"

After breakfast we were taken aboard the "Solent"—a tricky business achieved by crossing slender and none-too-steady gang planks and descending, via perpendicular iron ladders, through narrow hatchways. No wonder submarine crews are slimly built. Anyway, we somehow completed our hazardous entrance and were cordially greeted by the skipper—a lieutenant-commander—in the control room directly beneath the conning tower.

My first impression of life below decks was of being cooped up in a box. There was very little room in which to move about and few places where a man of my height—5 feet 10½ inches—could stand upright. I noticed, too, how maximum use is made of storage space, and was told that on long cruises the whole deck-floor is packed with crates of tinned food which are walked over and reduce the already limited headroom by some eighteen inches. Under such conditions it is, apparently, an easy matter to compile the menu. The crew simply start at one end of the boat and eat their way through to the other! Thus they may exist for three our four days on a diet of, say, tinned carrots, followed by a similar period on rice pudding, and so on, depending on how the food was stored.

Meanwhile, and as we accustomed ourselves to our strange surroundings, the crew were busy preparing to get the boat under way. At last "Harbour Stations" was sounded, the diesel engines began to turn, and the "Solent" nosed her way into the Channel. We were away, but it was not until Portland lay some 14 miles astern that the order which we had awaited with somewhat mixed feelings finally came.

"Diving Stations"

"Diving Stations." The sharp command from the captain on the bridge in the conning tower told us that the climax of our adventure was at hand. In a flash those members of the crew who had been on the outside hull came scrambling down the ladders, the bulkhead doors were slammed to, and the seamen took up their posts with a precision which stems from the strictest discipline and training. The next order—"Submerge to 45 feet"—was the signal for renewed activity which I watched from a corner of the control room. The crew moved swiftly, turning wheels, opening cocks, operating hydroplanes, and so on. I became conscious of a hissing and bubbling as the boat tilted gently forward, a noise which died away as she levelled out at the required depth and began to run on her electric batteries.

Now there was neither sound nor tremor, and certainly no sensation of being at sea. Apart from the lack of motion it was almost like travelling on a blacked-out train at night. The skipper had the periscope raised and surveyed the scene. Turning to we "Pongos" he invited us to do likewise. It seemed most peculiar to be standing there, 45 feet below the surface, and yet watching the antics of the frigates above.

We cruised at periscope depth for a while in order to allow the surface ships to get a good sight of the submarine. Then we dived again, this time to 100 feet, the maximum safety depth for a boat of the "Solent's" age, and settled down to normal cruise conditions.

Safest of All

The next ten hours were punctuated by explosions as hand grenades were dropped in a series of mock attacks. These gave the impression of someone hitting the hull with a seven-pound hammer, and were sufficient to convince me that the real thing must be pretty awful. As it was, we spent most of the time as guests in the Petty Officers' Mess, listening to the crew as they yarned about life underwater. We learned, to our surprise, that even in the roughest weather, the motion of the sea is hardly felt in a submerged submarine. We were told, too, that each member of the crew is a specialist in his own trade, and is encouraged to qualify in other duties in order to achieve maximum efficiency in the event of an emergency. All the lads had every confidence in their boat and were unanimous in their belief that, in wartime, a submarine is the safest vessel to sail in.

The Mess itself was a tiny room, measuring seven feet long, five feet wide and seven feet high. It contained a table, five bunks and lockers, and housed six men who ate, slept, and stowed their gear in its confines. Indeed, when they were changing into "civvies" to go ashore, most of them had to do so in the narrow corridor which ran the length of the boat!

"Tot-time"

Part and parcel of any sailor's life is the daily issue of rum, and we were delighted when, at 11.0 a.m., our initiation into the ceremony of "tot-time" was duly performed. This was a very "pukka" procedure, with the coxswain assessing exactly how much rum was required after making allowances for the non-drinkers and those under age. The ration was then taken from the store—its removal recorded in the ledger under the witnessing eye of the first-lieutenant—copper measures and funnels were produced, and the fiery liquid went down the hatch via a miscellaneous collection of containers. By jove, it was good stuff!

Later in the day we were taken by the coxswain on a tour of the boat. Starting at the forward torpedo tubes we made our way, always in a stooping position, to the escape hatch, galley, control room, wireless room, diesel engine room and, finally, the electric engine room. The captain himself invited us to handle the controls and gave a most interesting summary of the function and readings of instruments such as the depth gauge, inclinometer and spirit level.

The Sailor's Return!

Eventually it was evening and the end of our cruise was in sight. Following the diving procedure in reverse, the skipper brought the submarine up to periscope depth, checked that we were in no danger of being run down by surface ships, and then came to the top. Immediately the conning tower was opened and, with a loud hissing noise, the high pressure air escaped from the steel hull. Our first few breaths of cool, fresh air felt grand after the hot, stuffy atmosphere we had endured.

The "Solent" sailed home to Portland as we enjoyed our final meal with the crew. But the day was not ended yet, for the off-duty Petty Officers were eager to get ashore and equally determined that we should accompany them. Our goal was their favourite "local"—appropriately named "The Sailor's Return"—and there we capped a wonderful experience in the best possible way. Happily, too, we were able to return some of the Navy's hospitality by inviting our new friends to our Mess at Chickerell a few days later. But that's another story, and a very gay one!

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

Once again we take up our pen to describe the experiences of the faithful, alas all too few, who attended Blacon in 1958 to learn the new and relearn the not so new lessons of signals tactics and equipment.

As we have now come to expect, H.Q., A.E.R., had lined up everything (except, of course, the 1 + 4!) most admirably, and an extremely well balanced and instructive programme awaited us. Films and lectures on the effects of atomic weapons and an introduction to electronic warfare were the main themes of the lecture room training, whilst handling practice with radio relay and line carrier equipment, together with an extremely enjoyable day at Sealand ranges brought us back into more familiar fields. Before Friday, the problem of whether Bren or rifle should bring down the competition plates was keenly argued—Ken Parsons has now given the expert's opinion and most will agree experience has proved him right. So passed the first week.

Much midnight oil was burned (and, in different form, consumed internally) in strife with the tactical Signal Exercise set by H.Q., A.E.R. Once delivered of our brain child on this problem, we entered into the field Exercise with lighter hearts. We will say no more than this—the weather was kind, the equipment worked successfully and "Compo" rations gave a touch of nostalgia. This brief survey of the training would be incomplete without grateful reference to Air Commodore Moore (Air Ministry), Colonel Seddon (D.D. of S., A.F.S., Air Ministry) and Major Richards (11 Air Formation Signal Regiment), who found time to visit us and speak on R.A.F. Signals and A.F.S. matters generally.

A full year had passed since we last assembled at Blacon for annual training and inevitably, as time itself, we found ourselves welcoming new friends and saying farewell to old. Particularly do we greet Colonel W. Rowett as Commander, and in doing so bid adieu to Colonel "Bill" Blaker, who has given so much to Royal Signals, A.E.R., during his tour of duty at Blacon. To him and others of the H.Q., A.E.R., cadre, who soon will be gone, we wish all the best.

This year, as last, we also had a special and personal valedictory to offer—to our Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel D. J. Braine, E.R.D. As a Regiment, we are now almost eight years old and so must expect these departures, but in losing Donald Braine we lost not only a valued C.O. but yet another link with the pre-war S.R. and Air Formation Signals. He, together with Colonel F. S. Morgan, C.B.E., E.R.D., D.L., J.P., our Honorary Colonel, Colonel Alan Woodland, E.R.D. (founder C.O.) and Captain Vic Storey, E.R.D. (founder Q.M.), was one of the originals of Air Formation Signals before World War II. Happily we still have Colonel Morgan with us.



Donald Braine was first commissioned and appointed to Royal Signals in late 1931, since when he has had an almost unbroken active association with the Corps, either as a Regular in war or a Reservist in peace. The military strain is strong in the Braine family. The outbreak of war found Donald's father, Major F. A. W. Braine, E.R.D., commanding 4 Company, 2 A.F.S., with both sons serving as Section Officers under his command. Quite a family concern—Braine and Sons! This strong association with 2 A.F.S. is particularly appropriate as 50 A.F.S. became their post-war successors. In his six-and-a-half years' Regular war service Donald served in many Units and theatres and after the War did not long remain inactive, joining 50 A.F.S. as Second-in-Command on its formation in February, 1951. He took command four years later. Three clasps to his E.R.D. are some indication of his long service with the Corps.

The Regiment will miss Donald Braine. A big man in all things—from heart to moustache—he possessed a fine understanding of men and human character which enabled him, without apparent effort, always to get the best from those he commanded. We were particularly pleased that four stalwarts of the Corps and of Air Formation Signals in particular—his father, Colonel Morgan, Colonel Woodland and Vic Storey—should have been present when we formally wished him "God speed."



Field exercise. A happy group in camp at Bickerton in October 1958



Formal presentation to our retiring Commanding Officer — an antique silver sugar shaker — by the second-in-command



Informal presentation — a bowler hat — by the Q.M., who naturally insisted on a written receipt



[Picture reproduced by permission of the "Salisbury Journal."

The salute of Sergeant McInallen at Salisbury War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday, serves to express Salisbury and districts' tribute to the fallen of two world wars

63 COMMAND (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

The mention of Salisbury must bring nostalgia to many members and ex-members of the Corps. It therefore seems fitting to record that on Remembrance Sunday, 1958, Royal Signals were on parade once again in this ancient city.

The parade, which was organised by R.H.Q. and included a squadron of The Wiltshire Yeomanry and a company of The Wiltshire Regiment, was commanded by our C.O., Lieutenant-Colonel P. D. Randall, M.B.E., and formed up at the War Memorial.

An outstanding feature of the parade was our W.R.A.C. Band, who by the excellence of their turn-out and performance added quality and colour to the proceedings.

The above photograph, of one member of the band, and the caption as inserted by the local Press, seems to be a very appropriate illustration of the occasion.

At the War Memorial the parade was joined by the Mayor and Corporation, who in their ceremonial regalia were an effective complement to the setting.

The parade was inspected by the Mayor, who together with a senior officer laid wreaths at the War Memorial.

A March Past followed, at which the salute was taken by the Mayor.

The C.S.O., Southern Command, and Commander 128 Brigade T.A. were present.

Following the March Past, the parade marched to the Cathedral for a Service of Remembrance. A large congregation included about a hundred members of The Glider Pilot Regimental Association.

This was indeed a special occasion for the Regiment, on which we not only shared in a tribute to those who had fallen, but in addition, were given the privilege of "Showing the Flag" for Royal Signals.

Association Notes

Sheffield Branch

At the November gathering we had a good collection of serving members but only a few of our members from "Civvy Street." Also I wonder what happens to the Officers of the Territorial Army members—no doubt a scheme is in action on the first Friday of every month—who knows—I don't. They used to turn up, but perhaps that do not know that the drinks are cheaper now in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. Will someone let them know, as we do like to see them sometimes.

Our best wishes go to Ernest Lee, our oldest ex-Signal member, who has been in Sheffield Infirmary and lost his big toe and little toe, also having had a branch of the thrombosis family. Good luck, Mr. Lee. We hope that your troubles are now over. By the way chaps, this member came out of hospital in the morning and turned up to the Branch gathering in the evening. A good show! What about it you non-attenders. Surely you can come—tell the wife who is boss.

We also do not forget our past Chairman, Frank Elwood, who is in Rotherham hospital with a complaint contracted whilst in the Service. Best wishes to you also Frank. We at the Branch will have arranged to pick the next one to have a bash at our next Meet. Any offers.

Another very painful entry is to send our deepest respects to the widow of our Life Member, Mrs. Dixon, of 87, Archer Road, Millbouses, on the loss of her husband, who passed away suddenlv on the 13th June whilst at work for the G.P.O. Postman's Branch, at Abbevvale Junction, of his own road. I remember him as a Boy Despatch Rider in the old "F" Company in Catterick in pre-war days. His loss to his wife is also a great loss to the Corps and to the Branch. He was a fine despatch rider, a fine soldier and a very happily married man. We shall miss him even though his employment kept him away from our Branch. *We will remember him.*

A few 5/- subscriptions came rolling in but please don't forget that if our Treasurer has to send out a reminder it costs the Branch a 3d. stamp. To us that money would be better in the bank—so do your best chaps. We are not a rich company but we like to help anyone who is in need. That is the object of running these meetings. You never know, do you—it mav be your turn. There's good luck, and bad, and my notes tend to be in the bad period lately. Let us hope we can alter it for next month.

May I, as your Chairman, give my best wishes for 1959 and let us hope to see more of your faces then. Cheerio.

"BUSTY," Rotherham, Chairman.

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 December, 1958. Also on this page is a simple statement of income and expenditure.

Extract from a letter from S.S.A.F.A. Representative to Royal Signals Association. "I called at the —— Royal Infirmary to see ex-Signalman ——, he was overwhelmed when I told him of your generous grant and he said he could never express how grateful he was to everyone concerned.

Signalman, 1952-54 (N.S.). Wages were £10 in July, since when he has had £3 a week from the Welfare State and £1/10/- from his generous former employer whose services he left because he contracted tuberculosis. His wife expects a baby in January and the fund made a grant to help with the layette and a perambulator.

Widow of Driver, 1936-46, who died in 1956 leaving two school aged children. They have an income of less than £2 a week each for all purposes and not for the first time the fund helped to keep the family clothed.

Two Brothers served in Royal Signals, one had finished and was about to be married when the younger was killed serving overseas. The Association helped the elder son and his newly wedded wife to cost of fares to go and console the widowed mother.

Driver, 1942-45. Married, two children. He has been out of work (sick) since September and awaits an operation. The 5th London Corps Signal Trust gave substantial aid.

The Wife of a Signalman still serving (N.S.) writes to say how grateful she is for help necessarily and quickly given.

Mother of Signalman, 1954-56 (N.S.) who died in 1957. Her ex-Signalman son was her main support. The fund made her a small grant.

Ex-Signalman, 1953-55. During his Regular Service (Life member of the Association) was discovered to be an epileptic and was discharged. He immediately went back to the Merchant Navy in which he had served for 12 years, including 1939-45 War. He has six medal ribbons. Medically discharged from the Merchant Navy and on the strong recommendation of his local branch of the Association he was helped by grant and loan to set himself up in a suitable employment.

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION AND BENEVOLENT FUND

The following subscriptions were most gratefully received during November, 1958:

	£	s.	d.
School of Signals	14	0	0
3 Training Regiment	18	1	6
R.M.A., Sandhurst (Signal Communication Wing)	1	0	0
10 Wireless Training Squadron	10	0	0
50 (N) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A.	5	0	0
Signals Branch, School of Artillery		15	0
R.A.C. Signal Squadron	3	5	0
1 Special Communications Signal Troop	1	10	0
11 Signal Park Squadron		7	6
42 (L) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A.	1	10	0
53 (W) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A.	1	10	0
1/20 (SM) Army Signal Regiment, T.A.	4	0	0
North-West District (M) Signal Regiment, T.A.	2	10	5
H.Q., A.E.R., Royal Signals	3	0	0
52 (L) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A.		6	0
4 (S) Port Task Force Signal Squadron, T.A.	1	12	6
N.I.D. (M) Signal Squadron	5	0	0
18 Army Group Signal Regiment	25	3	9
Berlin Signal Squadron	5	14	0
C.S.O.'s Branch, H.Q., B.A.O.R.	3	15	3
2 L. of C. Signal Regiment (3 Squadron)	20	0	0
2 L. of C. Signal Regiment (4 Squadron)	12	10	1
1 Wireless Regiment	26	3	1
30 Wireless Squadron	2	10	1
Hong Kong Signal Regiment	6	5	9
Royal Signals Administrative Regiment, Singapore	350	0	0
Royal Signals Administrative Regiment, Signapore (Warrant Officers and Sergeants)	20	0	0
Singapore Base District Welfare Fund	23	6	2
Cyprus District Signal Regiment	20	0	0
51 Independent Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron	1	14	0
15 Signal Park Troop	1	2	6
H.Q., B.F.A.P. (Independent) Air Formation Signal Squadron	5	0	0
COMCAN Signal Troop, Ghana	14	5	6
Total Receipts	£611	8	1

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION WELFARE SECTION

The following donations were most gratefully received during November, 1958:

	£	s.	d.
Loughborough Branch	30	0	0
K. D. Anderson, Esq.	15	10	11
F. E. Foulds, Esq.		15	0
Sergeant Gonsalves, 4 Air Formation Signal Regiment		10	0
Total Receipts	£46	15	11

EXPENDITURE DURING NOVEMBER, 1958 ... ... £222 0 9

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

Analysis of Cases:

Families of Soldiers serving in U.K.	4	
" " " " M.E.L.F.	1	
Widows and dependants	5	
Released and discharged Soldiers	26	
Total cases assisted	36	

16 cases of Soldiers who served during the 1939-45 War	£101	6	11
20 cases of Soldiers who did not serve during the War	£120	13	10

CLOTHING

Since early October gifts of clothing have been received from the following:

Mrs. G. M. Fraser; Mrs. G. Evelyn; Mr. A. Stokes; Major H. K. Milward, B.SC.; Mrs. G. H. T. Shrimpton; Captain A. W. Hoare; Captain H. J. D. Cook; Colonel A. B. McVittie, O.B.E.; Lieutenant R. A. Dolbear; Major J. A. Waite; Major T. D. Shillcock; Major F. C. Forbes, T.D.; Major E. McK. Erskine; Mrs. G. G. L. Hinde; Miss G. Lancaster; Lieutenant-Colonel J. J. H. Swallow, B.SC.; Major J. N. Evans, T.D.; Colonel T. B. Graveley, O.B.E.; Mrs. Weir.

SPORT

RUGBY FOOTBALL

R.E. (OFFICERS) v. ROYAL SIGNALS (OFFICERS). PLAYED AT CHATHAM, ON 13TH NOVEMBER, 1958 (WON 20-0)

This was a closely fought, keen struggle between two good teams, each succeeding in producing excellent Rugby. Both packs were evenly matched, with the Signalmen pushing us in the tight scrums but the Sappers more than holding their own in the loose.

It was in the three-quarters that our superiority was marked, getting plenty of the ball they all ran well and delighted the large and exalted gallery who were attending the match.

The scoring was opened when Jordan took a successful penalty. This was after a fairly quiet and even start. After this tonic there were several good runs by our backs, but the Signals tackled well. Eventually, as a result of a forward rush led by Hadden, Hunter touched down for our first try.

After the interval the Signals tried hard to reduce our lead but after eight minutes we doubled it by Whitehorn running clear to touch down for a good try and then Iveson gave Phillips a perfect pass for him to score another try, neither of which could Walker convert. A further try was scored by Hadden and finally Priest broke away and after a good run scored between the posts, this try being converted by Jordan.

Team R.E.: R. Jordan, M. Heath, A. Whitehorn, N. Hope, S. Phillips, N. Sharpe, A. Iveson, W. Marks, A. Router, P. Hadden, D. Priest, D. Davies, A. Hunter, F. Walker, R. Homeshaw.

Team Royal Signals: G. Clive-Low, M. Adams, G. Mackay, J. Byas, A. Sproul, A. McKennon, J. Cook, N. Van-Dyck, J. Taylor, B. Kavanagh, J. MacPherson, J. Weston, W. Burrows, J. Hancock, B. Robson.

(By kind permission of: The Royal Engineers' Journal)

ROYAL SIGNALS HOCKEY

Three Corps matches were played during the period 2nd to 4th December, 1958, against the R.A.S.C. at Aldershot, which we won 4-1, the Royal Military Academy, at Sandhurst, which we also won 4-1, and against Aldershot Services, at Aldershot, which resulted in a draw, two goals each.

The game against the R.A.S.C. was the first occasion for several seasons where it was possible to turn out the best possible Corps side, and the selected team played really well and thoroughly deserved their win.

Their excellent form was maintained in the following matches against the Royal Military Academy and Aldershot Services and it was a great pleasure to have a forward line which was capable not only of constructive approach work but of scoring goals also.

Captain M. A. T. Hartnett has been playing for Devonshire in the County Championship matches, and Captain K. Kirkby and Signalman N. E. F. Harris have been playing for Yorkshire. The following Corps players have recently represented their Commands:

Northern Command	Captain K. Kirkby.
	Captain E. L. Rogers.
	Lieutenant A. B. Byng.
Eastern Command	Captain P. C. Tripp.
Southern Command	Lieutenant P. D. E. Gregory.
	Lieutenant J. Cook.

Lieutenant Cook has been selected to play for the Army against the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, on 17th December.

QUIZ

Answers to Quiz Questions on page 7.

1. The Royal Canadian Corps of Signals.
   The Royal Australian Corps of Signals.
   The South Africa Corps of Signals.
   The Royal New Zealand Corps of Signals.
   The Southern Rhodesia Signal Corps.
   The Ceylon Signal Corps.
   The Indian Signal Corps.
   The Pakistan Signal Corps.
   Singapore Corps of Signals.
   To these might well be added Gurkha Signals (although they do not come under the definition of a Dominion or Colony), because they are part of the British Army.
2. A "Boy."
3. 3rd Carabiniers (crossed carbines).
4. Signalman V. A. Stuart. Army Champion 1928-29-30; I.S.B.A. Champion 1928-29-30; Amateur Champion Great Britain and British Empire, 1930. Later well-known as a professional, "Fireman Stuart."
5. An Orderly Corporal.
6. The Lancashire Fusiliers.
7. Iceland.
8. A strain is overstretching of muscles or tendons; a sprain is the stretching or tearing of ligaments and parts around a joint.
9. Sir Winston Churchill, P.C., O.M., C.H.

More Questions and Answers, please.

THE FANE CUP

H.Q. A.E.R. Royal Signals

During the 1958 A.E.R. training season a small arms inter-unit team competition was organised, in which each unit had to field two teams of four riflemen and two Bren gun teams. Each competitor had ten rounds of ammunition and the task was to knock down 12 plate targets, after which two 4ft. targets were raised, at which the remaining ammunition could be fired during an overall period of two minutes. During this period the Bren gunners were required to change barrels and positions.

The competition was very popular and resulted in keen competition, both within and between Units.

50 L. of C. Signal Regiment, commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel W. H. Oliver, M.B.E., E.R.D., are to be congratulated on winning the competition in its first year.

The scores were:

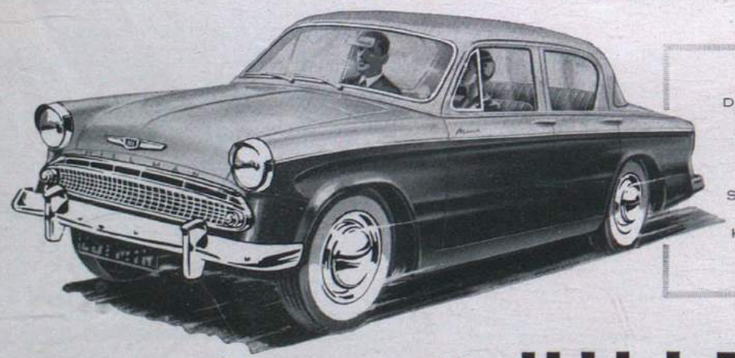
Highest Possible Score 272.

Winners:	50 L. of C. Signal Regiment, A.E.R.	156 out of 272
	50 Air Formation Signal Regiment, A.E.R. ...	132
	51 L. of C. Signal Regiment, A.E.R.	128
	3 Signal Construction Regiment, A.E.R.	114
	London District Signal Regiment, A.E.R. ...	110
	52 Air Formation Signal Regiment, A.E.R. ...	101
	22 Army Signal Regiment, A.E.R.	77
	21 Army Signal Regiment, A.E.R.	62
	52 L. of C. Signal Regiment, A.E.R.	46
	U.K.L.F. Signal Regiment, A.E.R.	33
	East Anglian District Signal Regiment, A.E.R.	33
	54 L. of C. Signal Regiment, A.E.R.	19

This competition has given new life to a trophy that has been originally presented by the Corps Committee and which has been redesignated The Fane Cup.

Selection of this trophy is very fitting, as the late Colonel Fane, who unfortunately lost his life in an air crash when on duty as a King's Messenger, was himself an Officer in the Royal Signals Reserve Army, who at the outbreak of War was commanding 47 Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A.

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These are staff positions and the salary is generally within the range of £13 to £16 per week.

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Men having a complete understanding of Telecommunication systems, complicated valve and transistor circuitry and delicate electronic test gear would be offered salaries from £875 to £1,025 for a 39½-hour, five-day week.

Whilst holders of Higher National Certificates or City and Guilds Full Technological Certificates in Telecommunications would be preferred, men with a good background of the right type of experience would be considered.

Will those who consider themselves suitably qualified and/or experienced please apply giving full details of age, qualifications and experience to: Personnel Department, The General Electric Co. Ltd., Telephone Works, Stoke, Coventry.

We also have vacancies for Test Engineers in the salary range of £775 to £850.

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or (iii) the R.A.F. as Communications Officers or Technical Signals Officers.

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THE WIRE

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

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.*

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FEBRUARY • 1959

Vol. 13 *(New Series)* **No. 2**

Editorial

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

ON the 21st of March, 1959, at the Duke of York's Headquarters in London, there is to be a Special General Meeting of the Association. This meeting, which takes the place of the morning session of the usual meeting of the representatives of branches of the Association, will have two main tasks.

The first is to approve a new Rule Book.

The second will be to approve certain statutory resolutions. These are necessary because on the previous day the Association will cease to be a "Friendly Society" controlled in the investing of its capital under the Act of 1896.

The New Rule Book

The question of obtaining release from the Register of Friendly Societies has been most amply considered. It was unanimously approved by the 13th Annual General Meeting in 1958, and by an overwhelming majority of those who replied to a postal referendum.

As a result, a small number of the existing Rules, particularly those dealing with the limitation of powers of investment of capital, have had to be rewritten.

Opportunity, therefore, has been taken to carry out a complete revision of the existing Rule Book. This has remained substantially unchanged since 1920: the alterations in rules passed by successive annual general meetings having been incorporated piecemeal with consequent damage to the clarity of the original text. Experience has also shown that the order in which existing rules are set out in the present book makes it difficult to appreciate the bearing which one rule may have on another.

A small sub-committee has been engaged in rewriting the book, without making any factual alteration which has not already been approved, but endeavouring to improve the sequence and wording.

The Statutory Resolutions are legal formulae to bring about on that day all that has already been agreed and approved; notably the setting up of the Royal Signals Association Trustee Limited, which takes the place of the present Trustees of the Association.

The new Rule books and the Statutory Resolutions were sent to branches of the Association early in February to give opportunity for study before the meeting. They are also available to individual members on demand, particularly to those who intend to be present at the Special General Meeting.

* * *

BRANCH REPRESENTATIVES' MEETING

The afternoon of 21st March will be devoted to the usual meeting of Honorary Secretaries (or other representatives) of branches of the Association at which matters affecting the Association are discussed.

VALE

BRIGADIER M. G. A. HEPPER, C.B.E.

Brigadier "Monty" Hepper comes of a military family. His grandfather joined the Royal Engineers in 1859 and his father, also a Sapper, was commissioned just in time to serve under Sir John (then Major) Fowler in the South African War.

"Monty" Hepper was commissioned into Royal Signals from the "Shop" early in 1926. After three years in Bulford with "E" Section, 3rd Divisional Signals, he took the newly formed "G" Cavalry Troop to Egypt, where he served in turn with the 12th Royal Lancers and the 11th Hussars. During this time he became interested in desert navigation and the use of the sun compass. Hepper returned to England after 5½ years with 17 of the original 32 men of this Troop on the same boat. Such was continuity in those days.

After a short spell in the S.T.C., Hepper was sent to M.G.O. 13 in the War Office, where he served for a time under Colonel J. A. S. Tillard. Thus began an eventful seven years in London, during which he did so much for the Corps and Army. In 1939, when development and production were transferred to the new Ministry of Supply, he was left at first with only one R.O. and two clerks to carry on with provision and issue of signal equipment at the height of rearmament. Before he left the War Office, however, in January, 1944, Hepper had expanded his branch to 100 and had become part of the Directorate of Warlike Stores. It is typical of Hepper's originality and resourcefulness that the mainstay of his organisation, beside the late Jock Laing, were two clever university girls, and three barristers, all of whom are now well-known in the Chancery Bar, while one, Sir Lynn Ungred-Thomas, was Solicitor-General in the last Labour Government. Under Hepper's able leadership this devoted team was responsible for calculating the quantities of signal equipment required to meet a constantly changing order of battle and then, when the equipment reached the Depots, trying to get it to the right people at the right time, and with all the essential bits and pieces.

Hepper had been away from regimental duty almost too long through no fault of his, but at last, in 1944, his chance came, and he gained experience as a Major in 43rd and 52nd Divisional Signals in France, Holland and Germany. However, in April, 1945, he was called on once again to sort out the problems of provision and issue of signal equipment, this time in G.H.Q., India.

This was Hepper's first experience of India and in August, 1946, he got his first command at Ranchi, where he took over 5th (Indian) Divisional Signals. His Second-in-Command was then Major (now Major-General) A. C. Iyappa, the present Director of Signals in Delhi. Hepper quickly gained the confidence of all in his Unit and when, with the coming of independence, he had to give up his regiment, it was a bitter blow to him.

He was transferred to Germany, where he served as D.C.S.O. at Hanover and for a short time as C.R. Signals, 7th Armoured Division, before returning to Catterick to command 1 Training Regiment in 1949, and to make a number of improvements in the Headquarters' Mess while P.M.C.

Hepper was promoted Colonel in January, 1951, and he served for three years as C.S.O., West Africa Command. Promoted to Brigadier in June, 1954, he was in turn C.S.O., A.A. Command, and C.S.O., Western Command, his last appointment. In these last three appointments of his career Hepper has shown himself to be a natural leader, trusted and liked by all who have worked with him, and a very able organiser with an original approach to many problems.

Music has been one of Hepper's life-long recreations. His collection of gramophone records numbers 2,500. At most stations he drew on this library to give gramophone recitals, his first venture being a series of performances of Gilbert and Sullivan operas in Bulford. He started the Cairo Gramophone Club in about 1934 (it was still in being during the War) and more recently gave recitals at the "Tuesday Club" in Accra, but the increasing amount of touring he has had to do in the last few years has greatly reduced the time available for music. He hopes, during his retirement, to make up some of the ground lost.



Brigadier M. G. A. Hepper, C.B.E.

Hepper's personal charm goes with a natural modesty. He has always tended to give credit for his own achievements to others. It was not until January, 1957, that his years of devoted work for Royal Signals was at last recognised by his well deserved award of the C.B.E.

"Monty" will be greatly missed by his many friends. We all wish him many years of happiness in his retirement.

QUIZ

1. Our present Director of Music is Major J. L. Judd, M.B.E., who was his predecessor?
2. How does the army inform the authorities concerned to apprehend or investigate an absentee?
3. What Regiment has the Paschal Lamb as its badge?
4. What former members (3) of the Corps have played cricket for the M.C.C. against Australia either before or during or after their National Service?
5. What Regiment is nicknamed "The Diehards" and how did it get this name?
6. The Comet, Centurion and Conqueror are three British Tanks. Which is the heaviest and which is the lightest?
7. What British Overseas possession has a superstition connected with the Monkey family?
8. What is the main difference in the treatment of a Strain and a Sprain?
9. Sir Winston Churchill, P.C., O.M., C.H., is Warden of the Cinque Ports. What are the Cinque Ports?

See page 54 for answers to Quiz.

The Representative Colonel Commandant

The positioning of five words on page 2 of the Royal Corps of Signals List in its January issue is the only indication of the annual change in the holder of this most important office. It is unnoticed by a very great majority.

It is not for THE WIRE to attempt to describe the innumerable duties of the Representative Colonel Commandant, indeed as far as the writer is aware, they are nowhere exactly defined.

Under Her Royal Highness, the Colonel-in-Chief, he is the titular head of the Corps during his year of office. He is the Chairman of the Corps Committee and visits a large number of Regiments and Squadrons. He has a very large correspondence on a very great variety of subjects, conducted in the main without any secretarial assistance.

On the 1st January, 1959, Major-General R. F. H. Nalder, C.B., O.B.E., handed over this high office to Major-General M. S. Wheatley, C.B., C.B.E.

All of Royal Signals will join THE WIRE in wishing General Wheatley and the Corps every success during his year of office.

Equally, all will wish to thank General Nalder for his year. And what a year it has been. Comparatively few know that on his retirement he took over and still holds a very full time appointment as General Secretary of an important organisation concerned with the welfare of ex-Servicemen, their widows and orphans.

"British Army Signals in the Second World War" was published in 1953.

"The Royal Corps of Signals," A History of its Antecedents and Development, was published in December, 1958.

Both these very large books were written by Major-General R. F. H. Nalder.

His friends have wondered how one man could do so much. He has been generous in praise of those who have tried to help him. Those who have helped him know how little has been their contribution and how great the industry of the author.

To have concluded this great task in the same year as he undertook the very arduous duties of Representative Colonel Commandant is indeed a most remarkable thing. By way of celebration of the completion of the History of the Corps, he immediately departed to visit the Corps in Germany. The pace and intensity of effort of this visit, as chronicled in the January WIRE, would have tired out most men of half his age. Immediately on his return he was heard to remark that he had thoroughly enjoyed himself.

All of Royal Signals will surely join in saying very simply, but very sincerely, "Thank You."

NEW SANDHURST SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME

The War Office now offers 40 scholarships a year to boys who wish to enter the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst. Twenty of these scholarships will be competed for in each half year, starting in March, 1959.

Each scholarship will carry a maximum tax free award of £200 a year, i.e. reimbursement of tuition fees up to £100 a year and a maintenance grant of up to £100, the amount of the latter being dependent on the parents' income.

The selection procedure is by interview at a local board, together with a short written examination followed by a further interview at the War Office for those recommended by the local board.

The scholarship is tenable for a maximum of two years while the holder remains at his school and prepares himself for the entrance examination for Sandhurst.

After passing the entrance examination a scholarship holder must then pass the Regular Commissions Board before he enters Sandhurst.

The course at Sandhurst lasts two years, no fees are payable and there is no charge for text books, equipment or uniform. An Officer Cadet is initially paid 12/- a day, which rises to 15/- a day after one year. He will be granted a Regular Commission after the successful completion of the course.

Candidates for the March, 1959, competition must have been born between 2nd August, 1942, and 1st November, 1943.

Full particulars and application forms are available on application to the Under Secretary of State, War Office, PA6(b), London, S.W.1.

PERSONAL COLUMN

London Gazette

12th December, 1958

Lieutenant-Colonel J. J. Lamb, O.B.E., retired, 11th December, 1958.

19th December, 1958

Lieutenant (Tfc. Offr.) A. F. Hounsom to be Captain (Tfc. Offr.).

23rd December, 1958

The undermentioned Colonels (Temp. Brigadiers) to be Brigadiers: C. Nettleship, O.B.E., T.D., A. B. McVittie, O.B.E.

Lieutenant-Colonel D. E. L. Gardiner, retired 24th December, 1958.

30th December, 1958

Her Majesty The Queen has been graciously pleased to confer the following awards:

1st Clasp to the Army Emergency Reserve Decoration: Captain (Hon. Major) C. Stagg (now R.A.R.O.).

Army Emergency Reserve Decoration: Major (Acting Lieutenant-Colonel) O. R. Corbett (T.A. Unit). Captain (Hon. Major) C. Stagg (now R.A.R.O.).

1st Clasp to the Territorial Efficiency Decoration: Major J. Baillie, T.D., Retired. Captain J. H. Lawrence, T.D., (now A.E.R.).

Territorial Efficiency Decoration: Major A. L. Bartholomew, Major J. Riley. Captain (Acting Major) T. I. Carmichael, Captain K. C. Russell.

Brigadier D. St. J. Hoysted, C.B.E., retired, 11th December, 1958.

Major-General A. E. Morrison, C.B., O.B.E., is appointed Colonel Commandant, 1st January, 1959, in succession to Major-General C. H. H. Vulliamy, C.B., D.S.O., tenure expired.

Major E. S. Coleman to be Lieutenant-Colonel, 19th October, 1958.

Lieutenant-Colonel A. L. Galloway, M.A., A.M.I.E.E.: the professional qualifications are as now shown, and not as in Gazette dated 25th November, 1958.

2nd January, 1959

Brigadier M. G. A. Hepper, C.B.E., retired, 1st January, 1959.

13th January, 1959

Major M. A. Philp to be Lieutenant-Colonel, 2nd July, 1958

Movements — Officers

This column is now in a new form and is compiled by War Office A.G. 11 and is therefore authentic.

Where no date is inserted after the name it means that the move has taken place.

Major H. Rowlands	To	Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Signals.
Major R. Stevens	,,	Ministry of Supply.
Major (Q.M.) R. F. C. Ashford ...	,,	Royal Signals Record Office.
Major A. Pagan	,,	2 Divisional Signal Regiment.
Major F. D. Williams	,,	2 Wireless Regiment.
Lieutenant (Tfc. Offr.) S. J. Wyatt	,,	B.A.O.R.
Lieutenant-Colonel T. I. G. Gray	,,	Staff College, Camberley.
Lieutenant-Colonel D. Dibsdall ...	,,	SHAPE.
Major J. C. Green	,,	The War Office.
Captain (Tfc. Offr.) H. E. Berwick	,,	B.A.O.R.
Captain (Tfc. Offr.) R. Lawrence	,,	B.A.O.R
Major D. L. Sylvester-Bradley ...	,,	1 Infantry Divisional Signal Regt.
Major C. E. Page	,,	90 Signal Regiment.
Major P. P. H. Morton	,,	5 Training Regiment.
Major J. W. Elston	,,	2 Training Regiment.
Major (Q.M.) R. N. Richmond ...	,,	1 Training Regiment.
Lieutenant (T.O.T.) P. W. Dale ...	,,	Southern Command Signal Sqdn.
Major R. S. Holbrook	,,	19 Indep. Inf. Brigade Group.
Major P. J. W. Stephens	,,	G.H.Q., M.E.L.F.
Major R. W. Millo	,,	3 Infantry Divisional Signal Regt.
Major M. F. Holliday	,,	4 Training Regiment.
Major (Q.M.) E. W. G. Cole ...	,,	B.A.O.R.
Major D. L. Pounds	,,	B.J.S.M., Washington.
Major E. J. Winn	,,	Headquarters, School of Signals.
Major W. A. Sykes	,,	Royal Military College of Science (Course).
Lieutenant-Colonel C. L. Wikner	,,	London Communications Security Agency.
Lieutenant-Colonel P. F. Yeatman	,,	Royal Armoured Corps Centre.
Major T. N. Skelly	,,	H.Q., Northumbrian District.
Major H. C. Howell	,,	90 Signal Regiment.
Captain (T.O.T.) L. S. Pettifer ...	,,	ALFCE.
Major M. E. Golding	,,	7 Training Regiment.
Lieutenant-Colonel J. W. Eagle ...	,,	5 Training Regiment.
Major J. H. Pearce	,,	52 (L) Infantry Div. Signal Regt.
Lieutenant-Colonel J. A. Waite ...	,,	2 Northern Command (M) Signal Regiment.

Major F. G. Bonnart	,,	H.Q., Scottish Command.
Major T. G. H. Jackson	,,	All Arms Junior Leaders Unit.
Lieutenant-Colonel P. G. Curry ...	,,	H.Q., London District.
Major E. M. Fox	,,	H.Q., Army Emergency Reserve, Royal Signals.
Major (T.O.T.) F. A. Davidson ...	,,	17 Gurkha Div. Signal Regt.
Major R. O. Dunmore	,,	19 Army Group Signal Regt.
Major J. B. D. Lane	,,	Cyprus District Signal Regiment.
Major J. L. McKellar	,,	19 Army Group Signal Regt.

Retirements

Lieutenant-Colonel J. J. Lamb ...	11th December, 1958.
Lieut.-Colonel D. E. L. Gardiner	24th December, 1958.
Major A. M. McCann	1st January, 1959.
Major R. W. Bosworth	6th January, 1959.
Lieutenant-Colonel P. A. Duke ...	January, 1959.

Births

CATHCART.—On 10th December, 1958, at Cardiff, to Kitty, wife of Captain W. G. A. Cathcart, a son (Nigel, Gordon, Clive).

SINGLETON.—To Staff Sergeant and Mrs. Singleton, at B.M.H., Hostert, on 4th November, 1958, a daughter, Monique Maria Louise.

HOWSON.—To Corporal and Mrs. Howson, at B.M.H., Hostert, on 23rd November, 1958, a daughter, Nicola Ann.

SEAFIELD.—To Signalman and Mrs. Seafield, at Chester City Hospital, on 1st November, 1958, a daughter, Georgina.

CHAMBERS.—To Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. T. G. Chambers (2 Training Regiment), on 26th December, 1958, a son.

Marriages

HELME—GREENAWAY.—Corporal W. Helme, of 1 Signal Squadron, King's African Rifles, to Miss Irene Greenaway at the Garrison Church.

Deaths

BALE.—23403053 Lance-Corporal A. F. Bale, on 28th December, 1958, in El Adem, near Tobruk.

PITT.—23491029 Signalman M. T. Pitt, on 4th January, 1959, in Nairobi, aged 21 years. Life Member of the Association.

LEWIS.—Ex-Lance Corporal B. Lewis, of 9, Ainsty View, Wetherby, on 25th October, 1958 (the day previous to his 46th birthday). Life Member of the Association.

BURGESS.—Ex-Signalman A. Burgess, of 50b, Cavendish Street, Keighley, Yorks., in December, 1958, aged 66 years.

VICKERS.—On 2nd January, 1959, aged 45, Mr. Thomas Vickers, of 52, Errol Street, Middlesbrough. Life Member of the Middlesbrough Branch, Royal Signals Association, and Sergeant Royal Signals, 1932-45.

ARMOUR.—23425677 Signalman W. M. Armour, on 4th December, 1958, in the Military Hospital, Catterick Camp.

FRASER.—23666417 Signalman D. F. Fraser (T.A.), on 7th December, 1958, at Lower Burghfield, near Reading, Berks.

BALE.—23403053 Lance-Corporal A. F. Bale, on 28th December, 1958, near Tobruk.

THURSBY-PELHAM.—Brigadier C. K. Thursby-Pelham, C.B.E., M.C., Retired, at Hildean, Crawley Hill, Camberley, on 14th January, 1959.

ROE.—Major B. Roe died at Northfield Hospital, Aldershot, on 18th January, 1959, one-time Chairman, Aldershot Branch, Royal Signals Association.

CREE.—Captain J. C. Cree, M.B.E., died on 12th January, 1959. Life Member of the Association.

WARBURTON.—Ex-Driver S. Warburton, in University Hospital, London, on 18th January, 1959, aged 33 years.

LANCASTER.—Ex-T.S.M. F. Lancaster, at Bury, Lancs., on 30th December, 1958. Served in Royal Signals 1921-44; India 3 Divisional Signals and Hong Kong; Prisoner-of-War Germany 1939-44. Life Member of the Royal Signals Association.

LE CORNU.—On 18th January, 1959, in hospital, Brigadier C. J. S. Le Cornu, O.B.E., M.C., of Little Shackles, Petersfield, Hants. Late Signal Officer-in-Chief in India, 1934-38. Director of Operations, Civil Defence, London, 1942.

Arrivals and Departures

19 Army Group Signal Regiment

Arrivals: Major (T.O.T.) S. W. E. G. Bowser, Major I. Gram-Hansen, W.O.II (R.Q.M.S.) J. Sarfaty, Staff Sergeant J. M. Thom, Sergeants H. J. Evans and D. F. Hansford.

Departures: Lieutenant (T.O.T.) R. A. Dolbear, W.O.sII J. Ingham and D. W. Stanley, Sergeants J. C. Will, J. L. Sutton and R. Elliot.

4 Training Regiment

Arrivals: Sergeant P. Love (R.E.M.E.).

Departures: W.O.II K. A. Kemp.

Hong Kong Signal Regiment

Arrivals: Major P. H. Palmer, W.O.II W. S. Stewart, Staff Sergeant R. S. Dobbs, Sergeants H. Godfrey, J. M. May, L. W. Paddon and D. W. Newsham.

Departures: Major W. J. Perry W.O.sII E. Bell, P. McNaughton and P. S. Mullin, Sergeants G. A. Howie, E. M. Short, P. A. Noble and H. D. Rees.

CIVIL DEFENCE

County of East Suffolk

Ex-Signalmen who are prepared to serve Civil Defence in intercommunication duties and who live in or near the following towns: Beccles, Bungay, Eye, Felixstowe, Halesworth, Ipswich, Leiston, Lowestoft, Saxmundham, Southwold, Stowmarket, Woodbridge, are asked to communicate with the Civil Defence Officer, County of East Suffolk, County Offices, The Marina, Lowestoft.

Forthcoming Events

NORTH LONDON BRANCH 4th Annual Dinner and Dance, at The Cambridge Hotel, Palmers Green, N.13, on Saturday, 14th March, 1959. Tickets from L. S. Kennett, 201, Lonsdale Drive, Enfield, Middlesex. £1 1s. 0d. each.

SATURDAY, 21st MARCH, 1959

Special General Meeting, Royal Signals Association. This will be combined with the Branch Representatives' Meeting, Duke of York's H.Q., Chelsea, London, S.W.3.

THE 3rd DIVISIONAL SIGNALS REUNION CLUB

are holding their next Annual Reunion at The Victory Club, 73/79, Seymour Street, London, on Saturday, 21st March, 1959. The Hon. Secretary, W.O.II E. Bayley, will be pleased to send details to ex-3 Divisional Signals past and present. Enquiries to AG11, The War Office, Stanmore, Middlesex.

Wednesday, 27th May, 1959 ...	Corps Dinner, Hyde Park Hotel.
Thursday, 28th May, 1959 ...	Central Committee Meeting, Royal Signals Association.
	Regular Officers' "At Home," Hyde Park Hotel.

CRICKET

23rd—24th June. At the Oval, London.

Royal Signals v. Royal Armoured Corps

Admission free without ticket. Wear a Royal Signals Tie.

Saturday, 4th July, 1959 ...	Royal Signals Association Annual General
Sunday, 5th July, 1959 ...	Meeting. Corps Week-End and Association Reunion at CATTERICK.

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL CLUB FIXTURES, 1959

Date 1959	Opponents	Ground
Saturday, 21st February ...	Sheffield University	Away
Wednesday, 4th March ...	Manchester University	Home
... ... * ...	R.A.O.C.	Home
... ... * ...	R.A.C.	Home

* Dates not yet confirmed.

ROYAL SIGNALS RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB FIXTURES, 1959

Date 1959	Opponents	Ground
Feb. 21st	Billingham	Catterick
Feb. 25th	Leeds University	Catterick
Feb. 28th	Durham City	Catterick
March 4th	King's College	Newcastle
March 11th	Sheffield University	Sheffield
March 18th	Command Cup	Catterick
March 25th	Command Sevens	Catterick
April 11th	Percy Park	Catterick
April 18th	Wakefield	Catterick
April 22nd	Bradford Charity Match	Bradford
April 25th	Huddersfield Sevens	Huddersfield

ROYAL SIGNALS HOCKEY CLUB, FIXTURES, 1959

Date 1959	Opponents	Ground
Wed. Feb. 18th	R.M.C. of Science	Aldershot
Fri. Feb. 20th	R.A.O.C.	Blackdown
Sat. March 7th	Durham University	Catterick
Wed. March 25th	Welbeck College	Welbeck
March 27th—30th	Scarborough Hockey Festival ...	Scarborough

ROYAL SIGNALS OFFICERS GOLFING SOCIETY FIXTURES, 1959

Date	Opponents	Course
Sun., 15th March	Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst	Camberley Heath
Wed., 15th April	York Golf Club	Strensal, York
Thurs., 16th April	Spring Meeting	Pannal
Fri., 17th April	Spring Meeting	Pannal
Sun., 26th April	Royal Military College of Science	Frilford Heath
9th-16th May	Army Golf Meeting	St. Andrews
Wed., 20th May	R.E.	Worplesdon
Fri., 17th July	R.A.	Sunningdale
Thurs., 10th Sept.	R.A.M.C.	Swinley Forest
Mon., 21st Sept.	A.G.S. Meeting	Sunningdale
Tues., 22nd Sept.	A.G.S. Meeting	Sunningdale
Mon., 28th Sept.	Autumn Meeting	Worplesdon
Tues., 29th Sept.	Autumn Meeting	Worplesdon
Wed., 30th Sept.	Autumn Meeting	Worplesdon
Sun., 4th Oct.	Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst	Camberley Heath
Thurs., 22nd Oct.	R.A.O.C.	Swinley Forest

PROMOTIONS

Technical Roster

To W.O.II	14473553	(180)	S Sgt.	Williams, J. V.
	2547745	(240)	S Sgt.	Curtis, C. G. C.
	19197176	(260)	S Sgt.	Wilson, F. G.
To S Sgt.	22250055	(240)	A/S Sgt.	Davies, N. D.
	25499631	(250)	Sgt.	Smethurst, J. D.
	2549532	(260)	A/S Sgt.	Hunt, A. A. E.
	22212369	(350)	Sgt.	Leach, A.
	22265235	(370)	Sgt.	Smith, C. G.

Signal Centre Supervisors Roster

A/W.O.II	2548937	(30)	A/W.O.II	Smithard, R. E.
	22561002	(40)	A/W.O.II	Pearson, W. H.
	2549570	(70)	S Sgt.	Weir, W.

Clerical Roster

To W.O.I	2327991	(280)	A/W.O.I	Lloyd, W. C. M.
To S Sgt.	14203628	(140)	A/S Sgt.	Edge, F. P. J.
	14093285	(160)	A/S Sgt.	Morrison, J. B.
	22242112	(190)	Sgt.	Palmer, W. H.

Lineman Roster

To Sgt.	14200249	(20)	A/Sgt.	Stevens, T. J.

Regimental Duty Roster

To W.O.I	2329508	(870)	A/W.O.I	Smillie, G.
	2329489	(880)	W.O.II	Ham, H.
To W.O.II	2583406	(520)	A/W.O.II	Hebdon, J. E.
	14691765	(1180)	S Sgt.	Bingham, J. J.
	22212073	(1190)	A/W.O.II	Hebden, W. H.
	14190758	(1260)	S Sgt.	Kay, R. W.
	2548688	(1280)	S Sgt.	Bailey, A. J.
	22265304	(1304)	A/W.O.II	Langston, D. F.
	6012378	(1310)	S Sgt.	Douce, W. J.
	3711289	(1330)	A/W.O.II	Jewitt, R.
	14444658	(1360)	A/W.O.II	Young, C.
To S Sgt.	14782313	(50)	Sgt.	Dunne, P.
	6088437	(220)	Sgt.	Fox, W. A.
	2548668	(250)	A/W.O.II	Pearsall, R. F.
	14406333	(260)	Sgt.	Walker, E. H.
	22265752	(300)	Sgt.	Stuckey, S. C.
	2549310	(350)	Sgt.	Quinn, T.
	865413	(360)	A/S Sgt.	Goddard, F. A. D.
	22295051	(370)	A/S Sgt.	Armstrong, D. C.
	15002573	(390)	A/S Sgt.	Gibbs, F. A.
	22265170	(270)	Sgt.	Bennett, B. A.

INSERTIONS

Clerical Roster

22212319 Sgt. Hutson, N. (1434)

Regimental Duty Roster

2329004 Sgt. Murray, F. L. (2702)

Operating Roster

14059356 Sgt. Rees, H. D. (7270)
19027045 Sgt. Hughes, K. (144)

DELETIONS

Regimental Duty

W.O.I	70					
W.O.II	242					
S Sgt.	2770	2100	2270	410	1240	

Signal Centre Supervisor

W.O.II 500

General Trades and Duties Roster

Sgt.	1480	670	50	1470	280	20	
	1170	850	960	2140			

Operating Roster

7210 6400 4700 10 1160 1220 1080 320 3320 540 1120

Technical Roster

Sgt. 1520 1930 1120 200

Clerical Roster

S Sgt.	420			
Sgt.	770	1090	1560	460

Foreman of Signals Roster

14465653 W.O.I Cox, N. A. (290) Commissioned LT (TOT) 7 Oct 58

Signal Centre Supervisor Roster

53366715 W.O.I Barrett, E. G. (110) Commissioned (LT Traffic Officer) 1 Sep 58

THE FOLLOWING GOODS ARE AVAILABLE FROM ASSOCIATION HEADQUARTERS:

Corps Paint Transfers:

"Jimmy"—on background of Corps Colours (each)

20" x 15"	10" x 7½"	7½ x 5⅝"	3 1/10" x 2 2/5"
4/-	3/-	2/8	1/6

Mounted on black plastic (each)

8/6	4/9	4/-	—

Corps Ties—Reppe	5/6	
Heavy Weave	7/6	
Woollen	8/6	
Terylene	11/-	
Corps Scarves Woollen	21/-	
Reppe Squares	21/-	
Cravats—Reppe	21/-	
Corps Cuff Links	7/-	
Association Buttonhole Badges or Brooches	3/-	Members only
Association Blazer Badges (Silver "Jimmy" on a shield of Corps Colours, as approved by the Corps Committee)	25/-	Members only
Blazer Buttons—Large (each)	2/3	
Small (each)	1/8	
Motor Car Badges (enamelled in Corps Colours)	35/-	
Motor Cycle Badges (enamelled in Corps Colours)	17/6	
Corps Plaques	26/6	Plus postage

PLEASE SEND CASH WITH ORDER for all the above articles *except* Corps Paint Transfers, for which an account will be forwarded.

Est. 1749 Phone 2108

W. METCALFE

The Sports Depot

STOCKIST OF APPROVED ROYAL SIGNALS SPORTS CLOTHING

CRESTED MALACCA WALKING CANES AND PACE STICKS

RICHMOND, YORKS.

The Chinese Junk

This very fine example of Chinese silver work was presented to the Corps in 1929 by the Royal Signals Officers of the Shanghai Defence Force. This Force had been hurriedly raised in January, 1927, when Japanese aggression in China began to make itself felt in Shanghai, to the detriment of British, and other European interests. 4th Divisional Signals on a mechanised basis, but less most of No. 2 Company, formed the Shanghai Defence Force Signals.

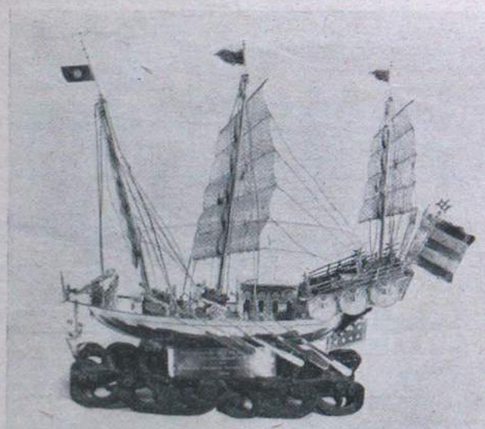
Accommodation in Shanghai was so restricted that no suitable building could be allotted for a "Signals" Mess and the officers were distributed in hotels and boarding houses. This was very unsatisfactory and in order that they might have a common meeting ground the Royal Signals Officers rented a private sitting room which was dubbed "The Signals Mess."

Towards the end of 1927 the political situation had improved and in consequence of the easing of tension it became possible to reduce the strength of the Defence Force. Many of the "Signals" were posted elsewhere, and only the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel J. W. Orange-Bromehead, M.C., Captains E. G. W. Pearse and R. H. R. Steward and Lieutenants N. H. Edes and T. C. Thompson remained. Colonel Orange-Bromehead's wife arrived in Shanghai so the remaining four officers decided to form a Mess of their own, and rented a house in the French concession. This had the full blessing of the G.O.C. and the house was officially designated the Signals Mess, but nevertheless the officers had to pay for it themselves.

Shortly after this Captain Steward, playing squash with the Brigade Staff Captain, "laid him out" so effectively that he was invalided home. Captain Steward was appointed Staff Captain in his place, and Lieutenant J. W. Gordon, Royal Signals, one of the original Defence Force Signals, returned to fill the Signals vacancy.

Late in 1928 the Force was still further reduced and only one Signals Officer was to remain. It was decided to give up the lease of the house and the question arose of the disposal of the accumulated funds of about £20. Someone had the bright idea of purchasing a piece of silver for the Corps, and the advice of two Shanghai businessmen was sought. One of them remembered that in "the old days" it was the fashion for all rich British merchants to buy a good silver Chinese junk when they retired, and although the fashion had died, he felt sure that one or other of the Chinese silversmiths would still have a good junk which he would probably sell cheaply. He supplied the names of several good silversmiths.

This junk was eventually located at one of these silversmiths and the usual eastern bargaining began. Eventually the officers succeeded in getting the junk for the amount of money they had available.



CHINESE SILVER JUNK
A fine example of Chinese silver work

Butchers : Grocers : Game Dealers
our aim in all Depts :—
Superb Quality
CHAS. JACKSON & SONS
63, 64 and 66 SKINNERGATE
Established 1894 **DARLINGTON** Telephone 2955
Sixty Years Satisfactory Service
"WE BUY THE BEST" "WE SELL THE BEST"
DAILY DELIVERIES IN YOUR DISTRICT

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 interest them by registering with the Employment Section. Jobs advertised in THE WIRE *are only a small proportion of those received).*

REQUIREMENT FOR RETIRED REGULAR OFFICER AGED ABOUT 30 YEARS. A very good opportunity indeed exists in North-East England for an Officer who wishes to enter business.

An established, expanding firm of Printers, who also supply office equipment in NORTH-EAST ENGLAND, require a trainee executive. Starting salary depends on interview, but will increase rapidly with increasing efficiency. The ultimate object is to appoint an Executive Director at a large salary. The post requires executive ability plus the social qualities of a Regular Officer; technical knowledge is not required.

For further information apply to Employment Section (see above).

TWO RADIO ENGINEERS required for employment in Nigeria on installation, maintenance, repair and testing of audio amplifiers with an output of up to 1.5 KW and also H.F. communication type receivers. Knowledge of V.H.F. transmitter and receiver practice would be advantageous. Age preferably not over 40; married or single applicants considered. Salary £1,400—£1,500 according to qualifications. Interviews will take place in April, 1959, but written applications will be welcomed meanwhile. For further details apply to Employment Section (see above).

RADIO MECHANICS and men with similar experience required for employment in testing, inspection, fault-finding, etc. (mainly tape recorders, and some industrial equipment). Commencing wage according to experience. No fixed age limits. Apply by telephone, letter or personal call to the Chief Inspector, Gate Electronics Ltd., 11, Tudor Grove, Hackney, London, E.9. (AMHerst 8484: ask for Mr. Davis). The firm will move to Hemel Hempstead, Herts., in about a year's time. Men willing to go with them can be offered permanent employment: others can be employed in London until the move takes place.

Employment Figures, 1958

	Quarter ending 31st December	Total in 1958
New applicants registered	46	169
Placings *confirmed*	40	107
Other queries answered	127	460

N.B. We have reason to believe that the true number of "placings" is considerably higher than that shown. The difference arises because *very few people* remember to notify the Employment Section as requested at the head of this column. hear at all. If YOU get a job through the Royal Signals Association, or THE WIRE, PLEASE REMEMBER TO NOTIFY THE EMPLOYMENT SECTION.

Other advertisements regarding employment appear on pages 30, 55, 56 and back inside cover.

United Kingdom

SCHOOL OF SIGNALS

On 28th November, 1958, the School of Signals plunged into the dizzy round of Christmas revellings and some are still gyrating or gently oscillating. On this date the Officers v. W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess games took place. All cadre officers were present to do battle royal, but as the result showed, their opponents were too strong a match for them. The Boat Race revealed some astonishing powers amongst the quieter members of the School—we had always known about the R.S.M.'s potentiality. An excellent buffet was provided.

The W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess Dance followed with the attraction of a mammoth draw. The dancing was very enjoyable in the pleasant atmosphere of the gaily decorated NAAFI building.

Then the Corporals' Mess, gracefully headed by Cpl. Furniss, took control of the NAAFI building which they superbly decorated for their dance and draw. Some claim to have noticed a darkly mysterious smile play on the lips of S.S.M. Summers as he stepped forward to claim his nth prize.

On the night before the Christmas break—the only safe time to hold this function — H.Q. Officers' Mess entertained the ladies. A formal dinner was followed by a dance and other pastimes. Unaccountably the Jimmy that stands in front of the Mess changed colour!

The following day a party was held for children in Catterick. The programme included a film show and a conjuror, besides an enormous tea. Mrs. Hamersley ably controlled over 300 happy children, amongst whom were 12 orphans from Darlington.

Amongst the many New Year resolutions that have been passed is one that we begin Christmas even earlier this year? What about just after the summer break?

4 TRAINING REGIMENT

As I write these notes, the first snow of January is falling and a bitter wind is blowing across the moors. Fatigue men are out with shovels clearing paths, and a severe shortage of fuel has developed in the classrooms. Those of you who have spent a winter in Catterick will find the scene familiar enough, but to the newly arrived trainees it must be a bit of a shock. You can see them arrive on a Thursday afternoon at Richmond Station, looking at the snow and the wind and wondering what on earth they have let themselves in for.

The most important event of the month in this Regiment has undoubtedly been the birth of a son and heir to the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel T. G. Chambers. The new arrival was taken on strength on Boxing Day, so celebrations did not, unfortunately, interfere with work.

The sporting world has been pretty quiet this month, due to Christmas leave and so on, so there is not much to report. The cross-country team continues to come in steadily in fourth position in the District League, out of 11 teams, and the squash team has continued to play in spite of the weather, though not so successfully.

The scheme for "civilianisation," which means employing civilians to do fatigue duties and thus allow the trainees to get on with training, is just beginning to come into force. If all goes well, it may be possible to do away with "squadding" in future, and thus save two weeks' training time. This is, however, still only a hope for the future, and its success depends a good deal on whether enough civilians can be transported to and from Darlington and Stockton. At any rate, past trainees of the Regiment will agree that it is a good move, and no doubt future trainees will earnestly hope that it will all happen soon.

In conclusion, we would mention that the Adjutant, Captain Edwards, emboldened by the Christmas spirit, became engaged to be married. This will be a severe blow to the ladies of the Richmond Amateur Operatic Society, of which he has been a keen member ever since he returned to Catterick.

Signal Training Wing, W.R.A.C. Hullo, again. December and all its festivity is now a thing of the past but we have lots of happy memories to help us through the cold days ahead. One of our happiest occasions was the visit to the Wing of the Signal Officer-in-Chief. He toured the Wing and saw the trainees at work. Another happy occasion was the presentation by the Training Brigade, Royal Signals, of a lovely picture of H.R.H. The Princess Royal. We are all delighted with it and extend our thanks to all who made the gift possible. Those are two happy occasions and now for the third. This concerns the festive season itself. We were delighted to hear from so many serving and ex-serving members of the Corps. Many of them referred to our notes in THE WIRE. Wherever possible we have answered our friends, but for those who did not include an address, may we wish them all good fortune in 1959.

Life in the Wing is still like a beehive with numbers still increasing and to stand in the corridor outside the O.C.'s office when she and W.O.II Neal are trying to do planning is very amusing. The conversation goes something like this, "One Lance-Corporal can't teach thirty and one-half girls for seven days without a break," or "Six girls to a table deal fold flat, three chairs, and we can manage," or "Thirty-five into twenty-four and fifty per cent won't go." Then suddenly you know it has become too much as the Warrant Officer's laugh is heard, and if you know W.O.II Neal, you will know what we mean!

Best wishes to Corporal Dunn, who got engaged during the Christmas period. Congratulations on promotion to Privates Hughes, Smart, Crowe and Willmott. We also hear Corporal Griffiths is joining us from Edinburgh, and Corporal Poulain from Salisbury. We look forward to meeting them and hope they will be happy with us. One departure is Private Green, our Wing Office clerk. She is going to Cyprus—we wish her all the best and say our loss is Cyprus's gain. We know they will like having her. More next month.

STEEPLE BUMPSTEAD SIGNAL SQUADRON

Highlight of the month has been the arrival in the Squadron of a "Ministerial Inquiry." The exact nature of the report cannot be disclosed, suffice to say that our subscriptions to the "Gardening Fund" were returned with almost indecent haste.

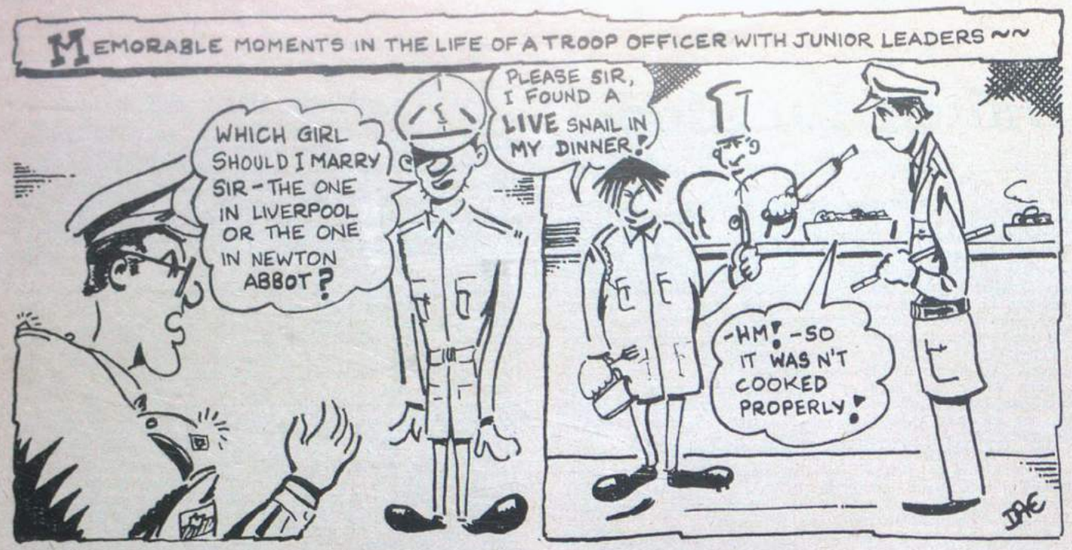
Civilianisation is having its effect and the O.C.'s office at times resembles a Labour Exchange. Steeple Bumpstead isn't exactly an industrial area and it is difficult to place applicants whose sole experience has been with sheep—despite the Sergeant Major's opinion that they would probably make ideal drill instructors.

The notes from the Trucial Oman Scouts in the December issue were most interesting. Their invitation to call in and see them when passing through is most generous—though it is thought that they will not be inundated with visitors. Perhaps when there is a road things will be a little better? However, the picture showing the headdress was enough for Lance-Corporal Trent, whose application to volunteer was received within one hour of pay parade. (Note: THE WIRE is sold at pay parade, along with SOLDIER, lanyards, blanco, embroidered formation signs and copies of Signal Training (All Arms) Pamphlet No. 7).

We narrowly escaped disaster the other day when the wife of a new arrival suggested the formation of a Wives' Club—after all the trouble we had in August, 1957, to disband the old one. However, the O.C.'s wife introduced the goodly soul to the local President of the W.I. and all is well. We hasten to add that our lack of a Wives' Club does not prevent everyone rallying when someone is in need.

There is now a properly organised "Baby Sitter's Roster" run most efficiently by Corporal Brady, our P.T.I. All those who wish to become eligible for selection pay a small subscription to the organising committee. An extract from their official scale of charges is shown below:—

Normal (to include Telly and supper) ..... 2/- per hour.
Notes (a) Where only B.B.C. is available a surcharge of 3d. per head is added.
(b) Minimum rate 4/-.
Special (where Telly is not available) ..... 2/6 per hour.
Nightly Detention Rate (to include bed and breakfast) ..... 10/- per night.
Excessive Charges (additional to normal rates)
(i) If child wakes and requires nursing ..... 6d.
(ii) If child wakes and requires changing 5/-
(iii) For every hour in excess of est. time of return ... 6d.
(iv) For every hour after midnight 1/-
Reductions
(i) For every glass of beer ..... 9d.
(ii) Where girl friend is also permitted ..... No charge



JUNIOR LEADERS REGIMENT

HALF way through last month boys and staff returned for the short Easter Term, after three weeks' leave, refreshed and ready to face the rigours of Dartmoor and Denbury.

At about the same time, two inmates of a nearby and well-known penal institution decided life was better on the other side of the wall. Several national newspapers sent their men down to get an on-the-spot story, and our training areas were described as "moors drenched by driving rain with thick fog." Some of the reports indicated nobody could survive out there in this weather—but Royal Signals Junior Leaders do . . . !

Although Easter chickens are already cheeping in many of the more enterprising stores, we return to the festivities of the Yule-tide season to give the results of a raffle held at the Sergeants' Mess dance: the Padre won a pair of scarlet nylon panties, and one of the cooks became the owner of a pork pie . . . who said these things were fixed?

Some of our better-known personalities, Major Jackson, Lieutenant E. Hunt and Sergeant E. Osborne depart for the mountains of North Wales, and the new, composite Junior Leaders Unit, which will be opening its portals in April. Too bad that the expression "our loss is their gain" has been used so often as to become meaningless, because we would like to have used it to describe our feelings.

Quartermaster Humpheries, B.E.M., received a movement-order too. His new job is with the Army Information Service. One of the "old" boys of the Regiment, he came down from Beverley when the unit settled here. His services with Junior Leaders were recognised by the award of the British Empire Medal, and our best wishes go with him in his new job.

A horticultural fanatic, Second-Lieutenant Sheppard, has frequently exhorted "L" Troop to put in more work on the gardens with the phrase "Boy, dig this!" It appears to have been mis-interpreted as, in the jazz expression "Oh boy, dig this!" by the members of his Troop. As a result, there are now more guitars and potential Private Presleys in his Troop than in the remainder of the Regiment put together. In all fairness, we record that their off-duty departure to realms of skiffle is quite pleasant on the ear.

A new addition to the strength of the Regiment is our large red bus. It was acquired with money donated by the Nuffield Foundation, to whom we are most grateful.

Christmas leave was notable for the fact that Lieutenant P. Gregory returned from it with a wife, and has now set up house nearby. Our best wishes for a happy life together go to them.

Rumour has it that Sergeant Keaney plans to marry sometime in March: we wonder if he has made plans yet to dispose of his Jaguar saloon in preparation for the event!



3 DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

May we take this oportunity to wish all readers a belated "Happy New Year." We have just returned from an enjoyable three weeks' Christmas block leave and are looking forward to an interesting programme for 1959. In the early Spring we are due to move from Colchester to Bulford, in the Salisbury Plain area. Our place in Britain's oldest recorded town being taken over by 1 Divisional Signal Regiment, who are already accommodated on the outskirts of the town at Cherrytree Camp. Whilst situated so close together we have taken the opportunity of working up a friendly rivalry on the sports field. Football and basketball have produced some exciting battles, particularly our last game of basketball between the two Sergeants' Messes, which, we are happy to report, terminated in a 42-20 point win in our favour. Our Regimental team are at the moment voted the favourites for the Garrison Cup, having played 23 games this season without being beaten. The hockey enthusiasts are off on a trip to Chatham to play in the second round of the Army Cup. Unfortunately, the weather is not really conducive to good hockey, as we are at the moment blessed with blizzards, snow drifts and sub-zero temperatures. However, we wish them the best of luck and hope they thaw out sufficiently on their return to join the rest of us on what promises to be a pleasant Exercise up in the wilds of Stamford P.T.A.

This month we say goodbye and congratulations to Major J. A. Waite, our Second-in-Command, who leaves us on promotion to take command of a Territorial Regiment in Sheffield. We are happy to report that Major E. W. Barrett, who has been with us for over three years, commanding 2 and 1 Squadrons respectively, has been granted an extension with the Regiment and has taken over as Second-in-Command. Major R. W. Millo has recently joined us from Royal Signals Records to take over command of 1 Squadron; we wish him a hearty welcome and hope his tour with us will be a happy one.

U.K. COMCAN SIGNAL REGIMENT

R.H.Q. and 1 Squadron. We can look back on a very successful festive period and hope that all our friends had an enjoyable Christmas and that 1959 will bring every success to them and the Corps.

We held our All Ranks' Christmas Dance on the 11th December, 1958, and our Christmas Dinner on the 22nd December, 1958. Both were first-class "do's" and Sergeant Grant, our A.C.C. "Chief," excelled himself in providing the "grub."

On the 19th December the Warrant Officers and Sergeants held their Christmas Draw—shouts of "Fiddle" seemed to have been the motto for the night. However, everyone seems to have enjoyed themselves and W.O. II Barrett can congratulate himself on his ability as a salesman—having sold over 2,000 tickets.

On the 20th the children of the Squadron, plus six orphans from the local orphanage came to the Children's party. Again a huge (and noisy) success, with Santa's arrival by rocket the highlight of the party. It's not true that Sergeant Cowling has gone into orbit after his "efforts."

2 Squadron. Like most other units, we are settling down after a hectic Christmas and New Year. The Unit's Christmas Day was an enjoyable affair, and the Children's Party for the local orphanage was also a great success.

The Unit geese came in very handy to supplement the Christmas fare, but it was quite a problem finding a person able to kill them, eventually we turned to our stalwart GD staff, headed by Signalman McLeod.

Congratulations to Sergeant Smith on his substantive promotion to Staff Sergeant. Unfortunately he is to be detached to 3 Squadron, for a short period we hope!

3 Squadron. As the snow lies round about we think of the lucky people soldiering merrily on in foreign climes. The festive season has passed and we look forward to another successful year of communication.

During the past month things here have been quiet and very little comings and goings. A lot of senior ranks are due for the boat, and a change of faces seems inevitable.

The Squadron geese said farewell two days before Christmas only to reappear on the dining table on Christmas Day; we noticed many a tear as the boys tucked into roast goose.

W.O.II Evans departed in December but only to our neighbouring Squadron at Pirbright. Happy hunting Ray and drop in to see us sometimes if only for some technical griff and advice.

4 Squadron. All Ranks worked hard to ensure that the Christmas festivities would be thoroughly enjoyed by all concerned, the only hitch being the painful return to normal routine.

The Children's Party took place on 15th December; a very successful All Ranks' Dance was held on 18th December; an All Ranks' Tombola and Christmas Draw on 19th December, and an excellent social evening was provided by the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess on 20th December. The official Christmas Day Dinner was on Tuesday, 16th December, and was honoured by the presence of the Commanding Officer, a gesture greatly appreciated by the Squadron. To wind up the festivities, Oakhanger Detachment held a well-attended Christmas Dance on the 22nd December.

For Cobbett Hill, December has been a month of much activity including several V.I.P. visitations, though Oakhanger has enjoyed a certain quiet.

It is difficult to assess what 1959 holds in these troublesome times but we can at least wish all members of the Corps a Happy New Year and hope for the best.

GUIDED WEAPONS REGIMENT (FIELD), R.A., SIGNAL TROOP

With the Moon Rockets, earth satellites and Swaffenham in the news we thought it time that we went to print and wrote some WIRE notes. Probably these are the first notes from such a Unit as ours. We cannot help thinking, as we write, of the ultimate extent to which we in the Corps will be involved in the era of the military guided missile and wonder who and what other similar Units will contribute in the future. A few weeks ago learned opinion stated that moon travel will be possible at the end of the century. Now we hear that a decade will suffice. Naturally, we also hear learned and elderly opinions which, in slightly humorous and forgiving phrases, enthusiastically damp everyone down.

The Unit formed early in 1958 with the senior ranks and a few others. By the middle of the year we had 90 per cent of our establishment, the remainder arriving just before Christmas. Training and individual Exercises have been very frequent and most of the Troop have seen many outlandish spots in Britain. We have had our first Administrative Inspection and discovered how simple such things are when one starts from the beginning with a Unit.

We live, for the moment, in Oswestry, in the county of Shropshire, or Salop as it should be called, were it not for the fact that many people are unfamiliar with the name. One Teleprinter Operator admitted one day that when he received his posting instructions he thought Oswestry was overseas and also was assured by his Training Unit that it was indeed overseas. Our soldiers, who come predominently from the North and South, are very rude about Oswestry. Nevertheless, we hear of several friendships formed here and two or even three local marriages may take place before we move to other lands.

The town lies about three miles from the Welsh border and is mainly Welsh in custom and speech. The name is derived from one King Oswald of Mercia, who was killed at the town

Part of a detachment on exercise last November. (Left to right) Lance-Corporals Newbury, Allsop, Hole, Signalman Findlay, Corporal Tickner



before the Norman conquest. The site was garrisoned by the Romans, who also had extensive lead mines at nearby Llanymynech ("Lanamunack"). Before the Romans the site was occupied by a tribe of coppersmiths from Wessex, who built over the centuries one of the largest earth forts in the British Isles. Today the fort is deserted and lies just outside the town proper. It is approximately ten acres in area and 120 feet high. Diggings have indicated the period of 300-400 B.C. After the Conquest the town was constantly involved in the successive Welsh rebellions but has been quiet since the early eighteenth century.

Nowadays the town is a bustling and very important agricultural centre, boasting the most important livestock market in the West Country. The surrounding country is mountainous to the West, almost flat to the East, and in an excellent training area. There is a fairly large military establishment just outside the town. This is the training Brigade of the Royal Regiment of Artillery. We inhabit a small piece of the camp, what some would term, perhaps, an encroachment. Naturally, we have much to do with the Royal Regiment and generally contrive to have excellent relations. There are times when the course of true love is not easy, but we are very fortunate to be serving with such an excellent Regiment.

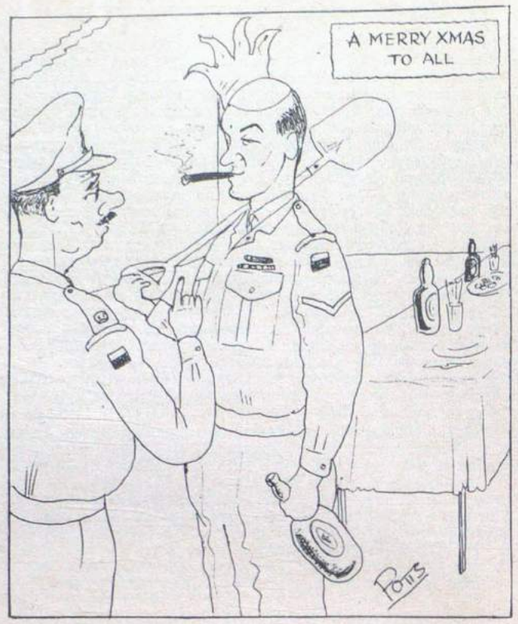
In more domestic affairs we have done quite well in the sporting world. Our team of cyclists, led by Lance-Corporal Blagden, have ridden in all Army events last season and we finished in eighth place. We are now training for this year. Our soccer team, captained by Lance-Corporal Allsop, is unbeaten as yet and we have seen off all other Units of Battery/Company strength in the area. Our aero-modelling enthusiasts are preparing to enter the National Championships this year, ably led by Signalman Senior. Corporal North frequently takes parties from the Regiment climbing on Snowdonia and recently all nearly succumbed to the Arctic conditions when there last in January. We have been fortunate in being given a generous sum of money by the Royal Regiment, which has helped us considerably. By the time this is at press we hope the Corps will also have made a small donation.

Some may ask if we notice any change in soldiering in what is a modern Unit. Our work as technicians is quite normal except that failure is not tolerated. The military aspect is interesting and strenuous. There is a noticeable absence of peculiar people and misfits. The whole attitude is very modern and futuristic with a definite soft pedal on the boffin element. Obviously, the expert exists, but the normal regimental soldiering predominates. All are eager to achieve the highest standards, both technically and militarily.

We, in the Corps, have excellent treatment and are proud to serve with such a Regiment.

A regimental demonstration. On the left the Erector. On the right the "Cherry Picker"





"Remember Corporal, we don't want this in *The Wire*!"

39 INDEPENDENT INFANTRY BRIGADE SIGNAL TROOP

So long is it since we paid our Corps Sports Subscriptions or sent any WIRE Notes that those long suffering people in Eccleston Square wrote to the C.S.O. and asked where we had moved to.

Regrettably, despite many rumours of mixing with the mixed squadron down the road (Oh, Peppah!) and leaving our "Butlinesque Nightmare" we are still in our huts on the shores of Belfast Lough. There have been some moves however. The O.C.'s office has been converted into a training room and the old training dungeon (ex coastal artillery magazine) has become the B.M.'s furniture store. We wonder if his radiogram will rust as quickly as our training sets Universal did.

We have recently said good-bye to Staff Sergeant Smith, B.E.M., Sergeant Howie and Corporal Lloyd. This leaves only Corporal Jock Morrison and Driver Taffy Love from the good old Kenya days. However, Sergeant Hall (late K.A.R. Signal Squadron) keeps their Swahili up to scratch, and even the O.C. says "Cuja happa Pronto" to his nasty yellow dog.

Despite the departure of the a/m stalwarts the I.R.A. have remained very quiet this winter. Can the arrival of Second-Lieutenant Prinree, Staff Sergeant Evans, Sergeant Taylor, Corporal Skinner and Signalman Les Thackoray have struck terror into their hearts? Nevertheless we have sent out our wireless dets to the Battalions to electrify a few fences with their aerials just in case.

Here in Ulster the marriage rate is booming. Is it the air or the splendid troop dances, Stone? Our best wishes to Corporal Ferguson, Signalmen Cosford, Brett and Stone, and congratulations to daddies Howie, Glenville, Prees, Morrison, Tuite and Haith. Should we mention sporting activities in the next breath? The Minor Units Cricket Cup was won by the 7 Signals members of the Brigade H.Q. team and especially by Demon Bowler Amp Hassall who, unfortunately, did not receive the message about the New Modern Army before his release. We are in second place in the Minor Units Soccer League but sadly miss Jock Collins. It's an ill wind 3 Divisional Signal Regiment. . . . In shooting our S.M.C. team came third at the Brigade meeting but we found they counted faster in England or perhaps it was the crossing.

Because of the difficulty in extracting vehicles from the Peat Bogs (i.e. one is confined to both disused airfields) exercises tend to be few and far between. Which is just as well because the linemen now know that when the O.C. stays behind to pick up cable and strawberries that is not all that he is after. However, his driver, David Mercer, says that Monk Export Ale and strawberries go well together. What Brett says is unprintable.

Before we return to hibernation (we wish we could all go on leave before inspections like the Steeple Bumpstead Signal Squadron) may we take this opportunity of wishing all those past members of the troop wherever they may be a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Our New Year Resolution is WIRE Notes once a quarter (we'll deal with Sports Subscriptions next year).

EUROPE

18 ARMY GROUP SIGNAL REGIMENT

"Now here is the weather report for the Leave Centre at Winterberg," said the British Forces Network announcer, just as the writer was turning over in his mind a selection of opening paragraphs. "Depth of snow: two-and-a-half- to three feet; condition, powder; ski-ing conditions: excellent."

Winterberg is only between two and three hours' journey from Essen by car (at least by some people's cars) but it was for Austria that a small party from the regiment, under the leadership of Lieutenant C. H. Glydon, left the other day for a fortnight's ski training. Following our policy of providing facilities for as many people as possible to take part in as wide a range of physical activities as can be covered by the expert supervision, instruction and money available, we decided this year to have a go at ski-ing. Lieutenant Glydon, having done a six week Ski-ing Course with the Norwegian Army, was only too willing to take on the organisation of this particular sport, and thanks to the profitable activities of the P.R.I. it was possible to make a generous grant towards the expenses of the expedition. We do not expect to take the B.A.O.R. Championship, but we hope that a number of people will have have had quite a lot of fun.

People tend to take Unit Pay teams for granted. Because in these days of "hot peace"—to use Mr. Mikoyan's hoped-for alternative term to "cold war"—pay is normally issued in barracks, with a double issue when an exercise disturbs the even and uneventful flow of life, it seldom occurs to anyone that the pay staff is as capable of issuing pay in the field as the Quartermaster's department is of issuing rations (the man who says: "that's a nasty thought," is speaking out of turn!) The main autumn exercise provided an opportunity for letting the pay people have a go. The task, if formidable, was instructive, and gave both experience and a day out to those responsible for it, while at the same time (we hope) giving the recipients something more than the hard cash they received.

Leaving barracks at 0700 hours one morning, the pay team set out with acquittance rolls and some 500 pre-prepared envelopes containing cash, hoping to find the detachments in some twelve localities spread over an area of about two thousand square miles. Some 18 hours later they returned to camp having successfully completed their task, but not without some rather amusing incidents, and caustic comments from certain detachment commanders. One was particularly amused when he accidentally met the team being lead by the German Police in the opposite direction to that in which his detachment was located. However, after a brief lesson in map reading, it was agreed that the detachment commander knew the location of his troops and was established beyond doubt that the map reference he had given the Paymaster was correct.

In barracks the pay people have been putting their experience on this exercise into practice, and one result has been the saving of over 300 man hours per week, as some 550 men can be paid out in a little over ten minutes. Naturally, to affect this saving of many hours, extra work has been placed on the unit pay team and our Unit Paymaster feels that R.A.P.C. personnel have well earned their keep. We agree.

As we expected, the Corps Band's visits before the turn of the year was most enjoyable. A somewhat pressed audience at the concert given in the gymnasium on a Friday afternoon was more than surprised when the curtain went up on a dance band combination, and when the show was over, applause was loud and long. We were particularly pleased when Major Judd suggested that the concert should be preceded by a fanfare from our own trumpeters, and we would like to express our thanks here, too, for the gift of trumpet banners which we have since received from the Band.

Smaller sections of the dance band played at dances held in both the Officers' and Sergeants' Messes, but the highlight of the visit was the concert given in Essen on St. Nicholas's Day. By arrangement with the city authorities, between four and five thousand people—mainly old folk, orphans and war wounded—were entertained in the *Gruga Halle*. The Band's programme was divided into three parts, to show its versatility, and each part—the dance band, the light orchestra and, finally, the full concert orchestra—was separated from the next by a ten-minute display of ice skating by the Essen Skating Club. Three items deserve special mention: Sergeant Creer's beautiful trumpet playing; the impressive and energetic solo performance of "Skin Deep" by the drummer; and the rhythmic clapping by the whole audience to the beat af the closing march "Alte Kameraden."

The concert was attended by *Herr Oberbürgermeister* Nieswandt, Mr. A. A. Franklin, British Consul-General in Düsseldorf, and Mrs. Franklin, the officers of their regiment and their ladies and some hundred other ranks and members of their families. Thirty members of the Essen Police Band and a similar number of members of *Die Brücke* (the Anglo-German Society) also attended as guests of the regiment. The event was a great success and was reported in the press and on the radio. It is another example of the good relationship which exists in Essen between the regiment and the city.

In December we lost our oldest inhabitant. Sergeant Maidment had joined the regiment as a National Serviceman direct from Catterick in 1951 and somehow or other managed to remain on strength for the next seven and a half years, having in the meantime, of course, signed on on a regular engagement. During this period the regiment had existed under three different names, and this may have confused the postings people. But for all that, it was a good run and we shall miss Sergeant Maidment as much as he says he will miss us. His own feelings on leaving were summed up in the words: "The regiment is the Army to me. It'll be like joining up again to go somewhere else."

At the Christmas Dance in the Sergeants' Mess just before he left for home, Sergeant Maidment was presented with a medal specially struck for the occasion—for "L.S. and D.C. in B.A.O.R." (*mit Trinkwaren*). The "D" is deliberate. There are many things it might stand for, but no prizes are awarded for guessing right.

19 ARMY GROUP SIGNAL REGIMENT

As far as this Regiment is concerned the last months of 1958 were packed with incidents, some of which are better left unrecorded. However, we did play a major part in the last big exercise in October which tested every Squadron to the full. The Regiment was literally dispersed to the four winds and detachments operated over a very large area of Germany with the various National formations taking part. Just to show that we are a Northern Army Group Signal Regiment, the Commanding



Lieutenant-Colonel P. W. Lonnon, M.B.E. stirs the Christmas Pudding. 1958



Quarter Guard. Administrative Inspection, 1958

Officer annexed a German helicopter to take him around the exercise area. He found it an interesting and on occasion a rather too exciting experience due to bad flying weather, but it certainly is the best method of getting around, if you like that sort of thing.

Hardly had the troops returned to barracks before the Annual Administrative Inspection was upon us. By stupendous efforts on the part of all ranks for a period of two weeks we managed to get a GOOD report from the Commander Base Garrison despite the fact that he had to take two full days to complete it because of our dispersal. The fact that the Corps Band arrived in the middle of the inspection may well have been a blessing in disguise, it produced a practical illustration of the complex problems with which we are continually being faced. In any case we were jolly pleased to have the Band with us and we got a good variety of entertainment from them during their stay with us. Whilst they were still with us and within a week of the inspection we were visited by the Representative Colonel Commandant, whose visit to B.A.O.R. has already been reported.

As for the past two years the Warrant Officers and Sergeants of the Regiment again invited two Chelsea Pensioners to spend Christmas and New Year as their guests. This year we were unable to get any Pensioners who had served with either Royal Engineer Signals or Royal Signals. However, we were very pleased to welcome Sergeant Jim Wood, a Cheshireman, aged 74, late of the Durham Light Infantry, and In-Pensioner Harry Morris, a 71-year-old Lancasterman, late of the King's Liverpool Regiment, who arrived with due ceremony at Dusseldorf Airport on 12th December, 1958, where they were met by Major C. M. Jenkins, Regimental Sergeant-Major Holdsworth and a selection of Warrant Officers and Sergeants. Their advent received such publicity as to get a write-up in the *London Evening News*, complete with supporting photograph. These two veterans not only visited all parts of the Regiment during their stay but also toured the wards of the British Military Hospital at Hostert. They got around so much that not only did one wonder where they would pop up next but how they managed to keep going at their age with so little sleep!



Part of the Signal Centre during the Administrative Inspection, 1958

The Christmas festivities at Rheindahlen started on 23rd December, 1958, with a "Technical Inspection" carried out on the combined Technical Maintenance and Signal Centre Technical Troops by the Commanding Officer and every other officer who knew a technician that would invite him! It is not explained in Electrical and Mechanical Engineering Regulations why a "Technical Inspection" should necessitate the provision of an enormous quantity of food, assorted, technicians, for the consumption of, nor why other refreshment, packed in about twenty crates should be needed. A study of the indent quoted this latter item as "Oil, neck, lubricating," but no vocabulary number is known! The "inspection" was a particularly arduous one, so arduous in fact that the majority of the members of both troops were barely able to stagger to their beds around 2000 hrs. local time.

Due to the split of the Regiment between two camps, all the usual Christmas functions were held in duplicate. However, on Christmas Day, the Commander-in-Chief, General Sir Dudley Ward, G.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O., accompanied by the Deputy Commander, B.A.O.R., the Chief of Staff and the Rheindahlen Garrison Commander visited the Dining Hall where not only the men but also the girls of our 5 (W.R.A.C.) Squadron were having their Christmas Dinner. On arrival the Commander-in-Chief was introduced to the Chelsea Pensioners, he then spent about ten minutes touring the tables, after which he made a short speech and drank a toast to wish all members of the Regiment a Happy Christmas. As he left he was followed by the heartiest cheers we have heard in Rheindahlen for some time.

The catering staffs at both camps are to be congratulated on putting on some first-class meals over the holiday period. As if they had not enough to do, the Rheindahlen staff produced a fairy tale Christmas cake which was presented to the Children's Ward at the British Military Hospital, Hostert. Miss Botfield, our W.V.S. lady at St. Tonis, is also to be congratulated on her arrangements for the men's entertainment in the Junior Ranks' Club at St. Tonis.

The St. Tonis half of the Regiment have been doing their best to foster good international relations with the Netherlands through the medium of their football team. In October this team played two matches against the Sport Club Hoogardie from Tilburg, winning one 6—3 and losing the other 6—4. The matches were followed by suitable social functions at which a good time was had by all.

The President of the Dutch Club, who is also the Mayor of Tilburg, has some connection with the Netherlands Royal Household and it is now rumoured that the football team of the latter may be issuing a challenge to St. Tonis in the near future.

The Regimental football team has continued its run of successes and still heads the District League. They reached the third round of the Army Cup with a win by 11—1 over 18 Army Group Signal Regiment and the final of the Morrison Cup by beating 12 Air Formation Signal Regiment by 6—3. We all with them further successes in the New Year.

The rugby and hockey teams have been less fortunate and are no longer in any Cup competitions.

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1 CORPS SIGNAL REGIMENT

Our first season with two co-equal troop soccer leagues is now over, and we offer our congratulations to the two winners, Headquarter Squadron, and the L.A.D. These two teams are to play each other in February, to decide which is, in fact, the better team. Undoubtedly these two leagues have achieved their aim and given the largest number possible, an opportunity to play football regularly. The final league placings were as follows:—

"A" Inter-Troop Soccer League

	P	W	L	D	GF	GA	Pts
H.Q. Squadron	7	6	0	1	20	4	13
Z1 Troop	7	5	1	1	27	9	11
B Troop	7	3	3	1	27	14	7
C2 Troop	7	3	3	1	14	17	7
Z3 Troop	7	3	4	0	20	10	6
D1 Troop	7	3	4	0	18	18	6
O2 Troop	7	3	4	0	11	21	6
P Troop	7	0	7	0	4	42	0

"B" Inter-Troop Soccer League

	P	W	L	D	GF	GA	Pts
L.A.D.	7	5	1	1	21	13	11
C1 Troop	7	5	2	0	32	21	10
Z2 Troop	7	4	2	1	24	21	9
A Troop	7	3	3	1	24	17	7
O3 Troop	7	3	4	0	17	15	6
C3 Troop	7	2	4	1	15	26	5
O1 Troop	7	2	5	0	17	22	4
D2 Troop	7	2	5	0	15	30	4

Still on the subject of soccer, we must congratulate our L.A.D. on reaching the second round of the R.E.M.E. Craftsmen's Cup before being beaten by 16 Infantry Brigade Workshops by 2—0. The Workshops' team was, of course, drawn from a much larger unit and our L.A.D. did well to hold them down to two goals, as until this game the Workshops had never scored less than four goals in any match this season. No one was outstanding in our side, but everyone pulled his weight. Once again, well tried the L.A.D.

Our co-equal inter-troop hockey leagues are also going well, but have not yet been completed because our second pitch has been out of action for several weeks for resurfacing. The present state of League "A" is very complicated. B Troop and Z1 Troop are leading with equal points although B Troop has the better goal average. Headquarter Squadron are only one point behind, whilst P Troop and Z3 Troop still have an outside chance of finishing at the top. The position in League "B" is much less complicated and the winners must be either the present leaders, Z2 Troop or "A" Troop, who are three points behind with a game in hand. Our 1st XI has two important games coming up in January. In the Army Cup we are to play the 1st Battalion Hampshire Regiment and in the semi-final of the Morrison Cup we are to play 5 Divisional Signal Regiment. To reach this semi-final we beat 2 Divisional Signal Regiment by 2—1. Signalman Patton scored a magnificent goal from a very difficult angle in the second half of this game and Corporal McMahon scored the other goal.

Things have been rather quieter in the rugby world, but intensive training has now started for the final of the Morrison Cup against 1 Wireless Regiment on 14th January, 1959. On 31st December we had a satisfying win in a friendly match with 4 Divisional Signal Regiment. Play was sluggish at first and all through the first half one could suspect that the Christmas dinner was still having an effect. Our opponents crossed our line twice, but failed to convert. To make up for this they kicked a penalty goal, but Beckett in his turn did the same and at half-time the score was 9—3 against us. The second half started in much the same way and then suddenly things started to go right. Williamson started by scoring a lovely try from a good three-quarter movement, and Pearce, Longley and Beckett all followed this example. Two of these tries were converted to give a final score of 19—9.

After a poor start our Regimental Cross Country team has now improved considerably and recently we finished second in a triangular match over our own course against the D.C.L.I. and a combined Engineers team. Lance-Corporal Blanchet and Corporal Clarke finished first and second respectively. Later in January there is to be an inter-squadron race and in February the zonal eliminating race for the Morrison Cup finals.

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5 DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT



Inter-Troop cross-country run. Second-Lieutenant Morgan leading the field, (second half), followed by Signalman Vickers (130) and Cfn. Joyce (L.A.D).



Major-General G. R. D. Musson, C.B.E., D.S.O., speaking to S.S.M. Crennel during the Administrative Inspection. Also in the picture are the C.O., Lieutenant-Colonel J. E. Anderson, Captain W. G. Cunningham, Major J. C. Lucas and Signalman Henderson.



R.S.M. and Mrs. Latimer at the Children's Party, on 20th December, 1958, with, we are now informed, Corporal Downie's youngest.

November and December has seen much activity in the Regiment. The end of the administrative inspection brought no respite because someone had the bright idea of a Troop cross-country run the next day. And, of course, it snowed hard and was bitterly cold.

Our G.O.C., Major-General G. R. D. Musson, seemed pleased with all he saw and we were fortunate in having Major John Judd and his boys for the parade. The inspection of barracks and stores was very thorough and time was short, so that the inspecting party, led by the General, doubled from place to place; there were one or two exhausted Squadron Commanders at the end of it all.

Christmas went off with a good swing; and to those members of the Regiment who were not able to come to the children's party, we are reproducing a picture of the R.S.M. holding the baby.

2 L. OF C. SIGNAL REGIMENT

As was prophesied in the last month's notes, Christmas has been and gone with no ordinary flourish. Everyone has entertained and been entertained not once and again, but again and again.

2 L. of C. Signal Regiment had as guests over the Christmas period two old soldiers who had formerly fought in the Colonies. These were Staff Sergeants King and Comins, who are spending their latter years in the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, founded in 1681 by King Charles II. Sergeant King was a soldier from 1900 to 1925, and his comrade, Comins, served from 1893 to 1919; two old veterans of the Boer War, aged 76 and 80 years. They were wearing the somewhat old style but handsome uniform which has been associated with Chelsea for centuries.

It was natural that several old African veterans, former members of the Kaiser's Colonial Troops, from the local Krefeld group, should also be invited to the get-together. And so it happened that we also met on Saturday in Bradbury Barracks, 71-year-old Herman Husen, for 27 years President of the Colonial Veterans' Association in Krefeld, and Franz Voss, who, at 81 years, is the oldest colonial trooper in Krefeld, and did in fact take part in the Boxer Rebellion in China. Two of Rommel's soldiers, Kurt Mertens and Karl Becker were there too.

Christmas started with a children's party, which was given by the Sergeants' Mess to the children from an orphanage in Krefeld. The party was a huge success and the arrival of Father Christmas, portrayed by Sergeant Jones, was greeted by a huge cheer.

Following this party was a dance given by the Corporals' Mess. This was organised by Corporals McEwan and Francis, whose efforts produced a first-class evening's entertainment. The Corporals and their wives turned out in full strength, and in spite of very heavy fog, everyone returned home without mishap and in good fettle. During the buffet interval, we were entertained by a lively skiffle group led by Signalman Bowden of 2 Operating Troop.

The Regimental Children's party was the next event, this, like the one held for the German orphans, was a great success. The organisers have now got the task of forwarding the unclaimed presents to the children who were too shy or too full of Christmas cake to come forward to claim them.

The Christmas Day lunch was served in the traditional manner by the Officers and Sergeants of the Regiment. The Officers gathered in the Sergeants' Mess before lunch, where they met the two Chelsea Pensioners, who were the guests of the W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess. These old timers marched the assembled Officers and Sergeants across the square to the Cookhouse in fours. This was a grand way to start the dinner, and I am quite sure that the spontaneous cheer that greeted the squad was a heart-left one, and one that none of us will forget.

The effect of this lasted throughout the Christmas, and it was good to hear the old soldiers say how strong the *esprit de corps* was in the Regiment.

On Boxing Day the Officers played the rest of the Regiment at football. The Officers' team was led by Major B. E. Tebbs, at centre-half; centre-forward was Major R. W. Bosworth, who by the time these notes are printed will be a civilian. Major A. G. Smith, dressed as a professional moth-catcher, flitted to and fro across the field in an indeterminate position. Intrepid in goal was Captain C. C. Cross, M.B.E., and in the back line were Captain J. A. E. Hasell, dressed as an escapee from St. Trinian's, partnered by Captain C. H. K. Houghton, dressed as an arab procurer. Amongst others in evidence were Captain E. Thompson, Captain J. Tompkins and Lieutenant (Q.M.) J. Hopkins.

The opposition was led by Staff Sergeant Howe, ably supported by Sergeant Woodward, dressed as his wife, and Corporal Church, the baby. Amongst others also on the field were Sergeant Crampton and Corporal McEwan.

The referee was Captain J. Hastings (Q.M.), and because there was no ball at the beginning of the game he played a dual role and the Officers scored their first goal by bundling him into the net.

On the night of the 27th, the Sergeants held their Christmas ball. The two Chelsea Pensioners were very much in evidence here, and Staff Sergeant King won a prize in the elmination waltz. Before the Officers left, the R.S.M., W.O.I G. Finch, presented the Pensioners with a Bavarian beer mug each.

Major Bosworth said his final farewells to the Regiment and the Army, appropriately enough, on New Year's Eve. It is certain that his mind was flooded with the memories of his many years' service as "Auld Lang Syne" heralded the New Year. We wish him all the very best of luck.

4 Squadron. This will be the last time we appear in THE WIRE under our present title, as we are shortly to leave 2 L. of C. Signal Regiment to become an independent detachment under H.Q. 1 (BR) Corps.

In the field of sport, we have acquitted ourselves well recently. Our basketball team, composed mainly of beginners, has lost only to the teams of wily, experienced players, while our football team has at last found its old spirits and skill.

We held a Squadron dance on 19th December, 1958, to which we invited as our partners the staff of the Deutsche Bundespost working in our Squadron. It was an excellent and successful dance, and we thank all those who helped to make it so.

Many tales are told about this night, including these, of one of our men found playing hockey by himself on the square in the early hours of the morning!

On the day following the dance was a league match against an unbeaten, and in their opinion unbeatable, team. A quarter-of-an-hour before the start, our team were found lying on their beds with splitting headaches and queasy stomachs. Nevertheless, the team staggered out saying they would do their best as long as they were not expected to head the ball, and shocked our opponents by beating them 5—3!

The next day it was suggested that the P.R.I. should finance a "drinking session" the evening before every important football match! Just before the Christmas break, a camp concert was held, most of the entertainers being from our Squadron, and we congratulate Corporal Brook, Corporal Rowe, Signalman Board, Signalman Hanlon and Signalman McInnes for their part in a very enjoyable evening.

The traditional Christmas festivities took place, including the rum and tea in bed on Christmas morning, and a comic football match between the Senior N.C.O.s and the Officers on Boxing Day.

The Christmas break seems mainly to have been spent having too much to eat and too much to drink, but fortunately, having plenty of time to sleep off the ill effects.

We have had many arrivals and departures this month, but we would mention especially W.O.II Tuley and W.O.II Sutherland, who have rejoined us from the Middle East, and Sergeant Clark, who has joined us from Krefeld.

We are sorry to say goodbye to Lieutenant Massey, and we welcome his successor, Lieutenant Wyatt.

We would like to extend our congratulations to Sergeant and Mrs. Acott on the birth of their third child, a son, and to Corporal and Mrs. Mancais on the birth of their daughter.

11 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT

This last month has been a very hectic one, what with Christmas dinner—fancy dress dance—many draws, parties, etc., that we welcome 1959 in order that we may "revert to normal."

We were delighted to see Colonel D. E. Harrison, C.A.F.S.O., who came up from H.Q. to wish us all the compliments of the season.

Before leaving the subject of Christmas festivities we feel sure that the following is worthy of note.

Date, 1st January, 1959, time approximately 1200 hrs.—a number of senior N.C.O.s decided to wish Mrs. MacDonald, our R.S.M.'s wife, a happy New Year.

They arrived at the quarter and were made welcome. The R.S.M. is now wondering who ate his lunch—we reckon these senior N.C.O.s should get on!!

Our congratulations go to Second-Lieutenant Ian Cutler who took the plunge over Christmas and is now a married man, and to Captain and Mrs. Bruce Foote who now have a sister for Michael. We are please to report that Mrs. Foote and Jane are doing well.

In the sporting world our boxers lost an interesting match against 4 Divisional Signal Regiment in the first round of the Morrison Cup, 18—15. We wish 4 Divisional Signal Regiment good luck in the next round.

We are now in the grip of our Training Officer.

Several budding R.S.M.s are strutting about the square—giving extra polish to their equipment and learning the basics of man management; we wish them luck.

12 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT

Items of note the last month were our departure from the Morrison Cup Soccer Competition as a result of a 6—3 defeat at the hands, or rather feet and heads, of 19 Army Group Signal Regiment. This was a replay of a match which earlier on in the month had been abandoned due to fog.

The Regiment achieved fame, however, by defeating R.A.F. Station, Laarbruch, by 9 points to 7 in a light-hearted Radio Quiz Programme called "It's up to you." Fortunately BFN has no repeat performance so those of us who broadcast will never have the misfortune of hearing our voices over the air.

W.O.II (R.Q.M.S.) Ham returned from a Guards Drill Course to find himself promoted to W.O.I (R.S.M.) and posted to 4 Divisional Signal Regiment. All I can say is watch out 4 Division.

I suppose it would be easy to give an account of the Christmas functions if one had a clear recollection of what had happened. In keeping with the R.A.F., H.Q. Squadron and 1 Squadron had their own beer bars in their barrack blocks. The bars, of course, were very tastefully decorated. In this respect, 1 Squadron bar deserves a special mention. The setting for this bar was a Sultan's Harem. The sight of several linemen dressed up (perhaps it would be more correct to say undressed) as the Sultan's ladies needs to be seen to be believed. However, their efforts were rewarded by a prize from the Station Commander, who judged the Station Bar Competition.

SHAPE SIGNAL SQUADRON

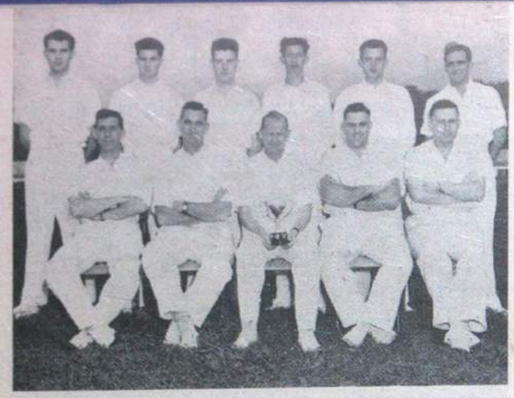
Our last contribution to THE WIRE was an article on life at SHAPE from the viewpoint of a married N.C.O. of the Squadron. The following notes on the same subject have been contributed by a National Service, single N.C.O.:

My reactions upon learning that I was being posted to SHAPE were rather mixed. On the one hand, I was pleased to be able to see a city I had always wished to visit and of which I had read so much, and on the other, I was sorry to have to take leave of all the friends I had made in training.

I arrived at SHAPE one gloomy winter evening after a smooth Channel crossing and was quickly installed as a member of the Squadron. After a brief waiting period I commenced my duties and soon became accustomed to the routine. I was placed on shift work immediately and after a short time found I preferred it to ordinary day work. At SHAPE the 24 hours is divided into three shifts—day shift from 08.30 to 17.00, evening or "swing" shift from 17.00 to 23.30, and night shift from 23.30 to 08.30.

The Communications Sections at SHAPE are staffed mainly by British and American personnel, with a small French element. Despite national peculiarities, everyone seems to get on well together. The work is interesting and the working conditions good. The most surprising aspect of SHAPE is the fact that though 15 countries are represented here, the day-to-day business of the Headquarters seems to run so smoothly in spite of the basic language difficulty.

Single American, French and British Service personnel live at Camp Voluceau, which is situated about half-a-mile from SHAPE. The living accommodation is comprised of 15 or more huts which are well heated and reasonably comfortable. Other buildings include a church, cinema and administrative offices. Each nationality has its own Mess Hall. The food served in the British one is generally considered to be well up to the standard of most British Units and every few months the cooks



SHAPE SIGNAL SQUADRON CRICKET TEAM — WINNERS SHAPE CRICKET LEAGUE, 1958

Back row: Lance-Corporal Denison, Lance-Corporal Dellow, Signalman Williams, Lance-Corporal Galley, Signalman Holmes, Sergeant Goad

Front row: Staff Sergeant Biles, W.O.II Gahan, W.O.II Bicknell, Sergeant Harris, Sergeant Lane

surpass themselves and produce a really good meal. On a few occasions I have eaten at the American Mess and the meals I have had would not do discredit to a good restaurant.

An International Club is provided to cater for personnel in their off-duty hours. Here one can write, play billiards or snooker, have a meal or enjoy a quiet drink in the bar. Occasionally variety shows are given by American and French artistes. In addition, the Club organises weekly tours to places of interest in Paris and the provinces during the summer. The tours have proved to be very popular. The best appears to be one to Rheims and the champagne firm of Moet et Chandon at Epernay. The highlight of the tour is a visit to the wine cellars, where wine is left to mature for three to four years, and explanation of the method used for bottling and storing the wine. The cellars are over 120 feet underground and branch out in all directions for many miles. Visitors are always shown a huge cask, embossed with Napoleon's coat-of-arms, presented by the Emperor to one of the founders of the firm, which is still used for storing wine.

American football and baseball are the chief sporting activities of the Americans. For most of the other nationalities soccer is the main sport. The British element provides many of the players for SHAPE soccer, Rugby and hockey teams, and the Signal Squadron is always well represented amongst those chosen. Keen competitions are held between the British Supporting Units at soccer, cricket, tennis, athletics and shooting. This year the Signal Squadron has won the cricket competition.

I have made frequent visits to Paris. Amongst the many attractions of Paris are her famous art galleries and churches. I have visited the Louvre, Notre Dame, Sacre Coeur and most of the others; all are well worth several visits, especially the Louvre. I find there is no lack of entertainment. In the evening I can choose between going to the theatre, cinema or just having an inexpensive meal in one of the many cafes. During the day I can take my camera and spend all day just strolling around the city, for Paris abounds in photographic subjects, both or architectural and human interest. For example, there is Les Halles (the main fruit and vegetable market), the Place de la Concorde and, most famous of all, the Arc de Triomphe.

M E L F

CYPRUS DISTRICT SIGNAL REGIMENT

The major changes of personnel which have been occurring or due to occur during the past few months have now come to a comparative halt. Major Sell has now returned with his family to U.K. to start melting the Golden Bowler, and Major Collison has taken over Second-in-Command; the void in 1 Squadron, created by his elevation to the management, has been filled by Major Whistler, who left the glamour of Fontainebleu to come here, Albert indirectly, and obviously notices and feels the difference.

Lieutenant Taylor has now departed to U.K. and we offer him our congratulations on his engagement. New Junior Officers who have arrived are Captain (T.O.T.) Jenkinson, Lieutenant Anderson, and Second-Lieutenants Wilson-Brown, Bucks, Nicol and Kavanagh as yet finding their feet (almost literally in the sea of brown mud around the Camp after the recent downpours).

Regrettably we have had to say farewell to our only recently arrived R.S.M. Jones, who unfortunately succumbed to a very distasteful skin complaint. Acting R.S.M. for another long period is W.O.II Kennedy and O.C. 2 Squadron goes without an S.S.M. for another period. Congratulations go to Sergeant Spedding on promotion to Staff Sergeant and Corporal Davies to Sergeant. Also to Staff Sergeant Dossor to A/W.O.II and Sergeant Miller to Staff Sergeant on their promotions. A general uplift all round.

Staff Sergeant Craig, our Orderly Room stalwart, has at last departed after voluntarily extending his tour for three months to help us, but his replacement only lasted a short while before being medically evacuated. However, Sergeant Crossly is coping well but appears to be losing "craniumic verbiage" slightly faster than usual!

No. 2 Medium Wireless Troop returned from Jordan, cleaned up, celebrated and departed on the *Empire Fowey*. Our thanks for their assistance in a period of stress and good luck in the future.

The Unit Wives' Club held a very successful "Tea Dance" at Wolseley Barracks recently and it was well patronised, children and all. The latter were given a tea and film show in a separate room and Staff Sergeant Coleman officiated there as part of his farewell effort. His aircraft to Kenya was delayed again and only a threat of putting him back "on the job" eventually finalised his departure.

As a result of this excellent work by the wives, the children in the hospital benefited to the extent of £12 worth of toys, the graves of six of the lads of the Regiment killed in the Island by terrorists were planted with evergreens and bulbs and £10 went to help with the Unit's children Christmas party.

There has been a spate of cleaning and painting in the Unit recently and a study of office colours is quite interesting. The C.O. now basks in a pale cream and eau-de-nil, O.C. "H.Q." Squadron in deep stone and eau-de-nil, O.C. 1 Squadron much the same, and O.C. 2 Squadron in light cream and pale blue. The Second-in-Command, who recently moved into a dull, dark beige office now talks of white and coloured stripes as the final effort of being different.

Of course, Christmas and all that it means is now almost upon us. We have children's parties, carol services, choral sessions, special films and, of course, the inevitable just plain sessions, scheduled for all Messes. But however they go and what ever they are, is no matter, as long as we remember a punch or two of goodwill in the mixture. Perhaps our locals may think akin to this and make 1959 a more pleasant year for everyone. (*It looks as if they may.—Editor*).

All ranks send good wishes to everyone for 1959, whoever and wherever they may be.

Other Overseas Stations

TRIPOLITANIA SIGNAL SQUADRON

December entered peacefully, but left rather noisily, due to the usual celebrations that accompany Christmas and New Year.

Early in the month Lieutenant Larrington arrived from U.K. to relieve Captain Witt, who has returned to civvy street to celebrate Christmas on his own hearth. To him we send our good wishes and the Squadron also wishes him every success in his future occupation. Other arrivals were Corporal Stocks, who will take the place of Corporal Aston, who is due to leave us very shortly, and Signalmen Draper and Isherwood, who came straight from training.

On 12th December Brigadier Pringle paid the Squadron a visit and in the afternoon attended a football match in which our opponents were a selected eleven from the 1 Royal Irish Fusiliers, the result being a win in our favour. Brigadier Pringle will, however, remember his visit to us more clearly, due to the Viking aircraft, in which he was leaving us, developed a fault in the under-carriage, resulting in a forced landing at El Adem.

The football team is at the top of the league, winning all matches played up to now this season, and it is hoped that the team continue with their present superiority on the football field.

Signalman Williams boxed superbly to gain a hard earned victory in the final of the lightweight class, in a novices' boxing tournament held on the camp. Signalman Wild also received an award for being the pluckiest loser.

"Scouse," our old mascot, has been replaced by two dogs. One, an Alsatian named "Rebel" and looked after by Lance-Corporal Davies, the other, of dubious ancestry, called "Coffee" and being looked after by Signalman Troy.

The usual custom, of Officers and senior N.C.O.s serving other ranks, was carried out at Christmas dinner. Brigadier Laing was present to wish us a merry Christmas and happy New Year.

In a local talent show on Christmas Day, W.O.II De Fazio kept the Signals in the forefront with a humorous sketch in song about a National Serviceman on a charge, all parts being played to perfection.

Thus 1958 comes to a close and the Squadron looks forward to a bright New Year.

MALTA G.C.

Mr. N. Camilleri has for many years now been a member of the C.S.O.'s staff in Malta, carrying out the duties of draughtsman. Outside his military duties he is a photographer and artist of merit. On several occasions he has designed and produced the special Christmas card sent by the C.S.O. and All Ranks to H.R.H. The Princess Royal.

Those who have served in Malta and know Mr. Camilleri will be pleased and interested to hear that one of his paintings —"Stage Lights"—has been selected for permanent exhibition in the Commonwealth Institute in London as an example of present day Maltese artistic achievement.

An example of Mr. Camilleri's work as a photographer accompies these notes. It is a photograph of part of the waterfront of the town of St. Paul's Bay near the point where St. Paul is believed to have been shipwrecked on his way to Rome (Acts, ch. 27). In the centre background is the hotel known as the "Harbour Bar" which, in summer, is a favourite haunt of those who enjoy eating lobsters, shrimps and other kinds of "seafood" under the stars in the cool of the evening. Washed down with a bottle of Chianti (at six shillings) there are many worse ways to end a summer day.

December, as usual, was devoted to the organisation of a series of social activities aimed at ensuring that a good time was had by all and some notes on the activities of the Comcan Squadron are typical.

The ladies of the Squadron were to be congratulated on the success of two functions, a Sale of Work and a Social Evening, as a result of which they were able to make an extremely generous and valuable contribution to the Unit Children's Christmas Party fund. This party called for a major feat of organisation, for not only were there the "military" children to contend with but also all those of our civilian staff. Families in Malta are large and some 240 eventually arrived to be entertained by a film show and an enormous tea. Throughout the proceedings two clowns from Malta Signal Squadron and No. 1 Ship Signal Troop gave welcome assistance. It is rumoured that these were actually N.C.O.s dressed-up, but of course no one knowing these two units would believe such a fairy-tale. Finally, bowed down with an enormous load of gifts and craftily disguised as the S.Q.M.S. came Father Christmas. With 240 gifts to dispose of it is not surprising he put in for leave soon afterward.

A Squadron All Ranks' Christmas Dance was held at the Queen's Hall, Sliema, on 18th December. It was attended by some 300 people consisting of military and civilian personnel of the Squadron accompanied by their wives. Many of our friends from R.E.M.E. and the R.A.M.C. were also guests on this occasion, which was voted one of the most enjoyable functions of its kind we have yet held.

After a traditional Army Christmas Day, Boxing Day saw us taking part in a "Comic Football Match" which was played with great gusto. A large variety of costumes were displayed and it was a cheering sight when Captain Jacob rode a mule on to the pitch. Unfortunately the animal, long trained in turning a water wheel, was more of an asset to the opponents despite efforts to persuade it to carry out its intended role of disorganising the other side's attack.



St. Paul's Bay, Malta G.C.

1 SIGNAL SQUADRON, KING'S AFRICAN RIFLES

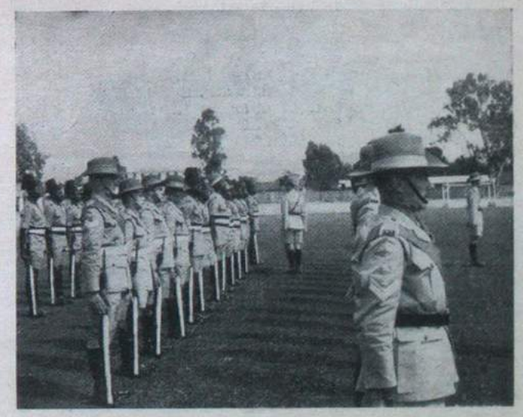
December has seen the Administrative Inspection come and go and we do not propose to bore readers with graphic accounts of white-washing, etc.; you will know what we mean. The Garrison Commander came and gave us the treatment and we hope he went away suitably impressed. Rumour has it that he did not allow certain jack knife to cloud his judgment and we have received a good chit.

Major Sharp arrived during the month to take over as Quartermaster and has been examining Troop stores with interest ever since.

Christmas was celebrated with enthusiasm by all ranks. The B.O.R.s held a dance which was well patronised and judging by the bar sales thoroughly enjoyed. The Askaris celebrated with an "Ngoma," which involved the slaughter of several bullocks and finished up with an exhibition of tribal dances.

The Askaris' children were not forgotten and a party was held on the sports field. Anybody who thinks they have children's parties buttoned up should try one of these. However, the ladies, notably Mrs. Holifield, Mrs. Henning and Mrs. Oakley, did a first-class job. a

The full misery of the "silly season" is now upon us and while nothing can really disturb the tranquillity of Squadron Headquarters, Captain Hugh Johnstone, at "J" Troop H.Q., 70 Brigade, is having quite a party.



The Garrison Commander Nairobi Garrison inspecting Administrative Inspection parade (Staff-Sergeant Gilder in foreground)

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother is visiting the Colony during February and the Squadron is providing wireless detachments to track the Royal aircraft and pass met. reports. Murchison Falls, Uganda, is on the itinerary and Captain Hartshorn, who is in charge of the detachments, has been heard murmuring about "elephant country" and seen polishing a double barrelled howitzer he is pleased to call a rifle.

Hockey is the major sport at the moment and the Unit provided five members of the Royal Signals' team which played the Royal Engineers. It was a good game but the Sappers beat us 2-1.

It would not be fitting to close without announcing the birth of a son to Captain and Mrs. Talbot on the 26th of November, just too late for last month's WIRE notes. We have also had a wedding, Corporal W. Helme married Miss Irene Greenaway in the Garrison Church on 13th December, 1958, and we wish them every happiness in the future.

COMCAN SIGNAL SQUADRON, NAIROBI

We did not expect a white Christmas in Kenya and in this we were not disappointed. The Christmas holidays were bright and sunny and all the traditional Christmas activities were carried out despite the absence of snow. Also, in addition, not quite so traditional, we had a very fine swimming gala in which Corporal Pedder and Lance-Corporal Saunders distinguished themselves in the swimming events, and Driver Burns carried off the individual diving champion's trophy.

The Squadron Theatre Club put on a pantomime, "Babes in the Wood," produced by Major Snell and Lieutenant Lockett. The panto gave a great deal of pleasure to a lot of people drawn from far and wide. It was a really professionally produced and acted piece of nonsense, and whilst it is perhaps invidious to pick out individual performances, Major "Sandy" Henning, of 1 K.A.R. Signal Squadron, as the Dame, was, as so aptly described in one of the songs, "glamour personified." Corporal Fisher and Signalman Johnson as the "Babes" gave excellent performances and added their own particular touches of humour. The youngsters of all ages loved it, and the younger youngsters, whose Christmas entertainment also included parties given by the Squadron Wives' Club and R.A.F., Eastleigh, were highly delighted with Christmas in the Tropics.

Since our last issue of notes, Squadron personnel have started —their studies of wild life (four-legged variety) in earnest. The Wives' Club organised another visit and picnic to the Nairobi Game Park, and this was enjoyed and very much appreciated by all who went. For the more venturesome spirits, W.O.II Haw took out a safari party in our newly renovated safari truck. They stayed out four nights and got some very good photographs of game and enough meat to supply some of the families with a Sunday joint.

We are now engaged busily on organising a carnival, whereby we hope to raise a good part of the price of a long wheel-base Land Rover and then we can have bigger and better safaris.

The Squadron recently took part in a motor cycle trial organised by the Motor Cycle Club of Kenya. Our riders were Lieutenant Lockett, Corporal Pedder and Corporal Moffitt, and we were not disgraced in our final placings. This was the first trial organised in the Nairobi area and we hope there will be many more. We might even persuade Captain Gilham to enter on his motor scooter in the next one.

The Receiver Station held a very successful barbecue and Christmas dance and the Transmitting Station are holding a similar function shortly. Although we understand that there is a strong feeling at Transmitters that "Emily," the large porker destined to take a leading part in the barbecue, should be spared, as she has now become so well trained that she lines up at the Cookhouse for her early morning bowl of "char," it is felt that she would be rather the "spectre at the feast" if she was now made to play the part for which she was originally cast.

The cricket season here has now been under way for just over three months and it has been noted that two or three players from the Squadron are of a high standard. At the present moment, no fewer than four players are in the station team, which is made up of R.A.F. and COMCAN players, and considering that the R.A.F. personnel outnumber us by approximately four to one, it is very satisfying indeed. The four at the moment playing for the station team are Corporal Noden, R.E.M.E., Signalman Allen, Signalman Barber and Signalman Thomson. These four have also played for the Combined Services XI. Corporal Noden is an opening bowler, bowling left arm round the wicket, and he is also an opening batsman. Signalman Allen is a first-class wicketkeeper and since he has made his place in the station team many more wickets have been taken behind the stumps. He is also an opening batsman. Signalman Barber is an opening bowler, bowling right arm round the wicket, and once again we have an opening batsman in Signalman Barber. Signalman Thomson is another opening bowler, bowling right arm over the wicket and he has the reputation of being the fastest European bowler in Kenya. Over and above these four, the Squadron have supplied Staff Sergeant Spurgin, Corporal Smith, Corporal Senior and Signalman Wrightson for the station team on one or two occasions. It is no wonder therefore that we look forward to the Squadron winning the Inter-Section Cricket League, which has not long started. Signalman Thomson has been selected to play for the Europeans v. Asians on the 27th, 28th and 29th December, 1958, and as far as we know, he is the first Serviceman ever to have that honour. A special mention must be made of Corporal Baxter, who played for the Squadron on the 19th November. It was his first game, after having been away from the game for months, due to a broken wrist, and he scored a very useful 20 runs in as many minutes.

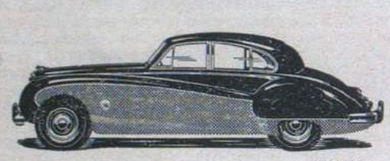
The Minor Units Hockey League has reached the halfway state and the Unit are joint leaders with Kahawa Garrison, who have a slightly better goal average.

We have up to present played ten games, winning eight and losing two.

The team has been playing quite well but we have just lost Sergeant Bonwick, who has returned to U.K. for leave, and W.O.II Rees will be R.H.E. in January.

This year it has been decided to enter a Signals team for the Craig Cup. We have played one game as a Signals team against the Royal Engineers and just lost by three goals to two.

As soon as the torpor aroused by the consumption of our abundant Christmas fare has worn off our Squadron sporting activities will get into full swing again and we are hoping for great things in the New Year.


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Corporal McGregor and Lance Corporal Ferguson with Lance-Corporal Ferguson's Grader in the background

No. 2 SPECIAL (CHRISTMAS ISLAND) AIR FORMATION SIGNAL TROOP

There are now thirty-five more chaps who have had the rather doubtful privilege of spending Christmas on Christmas Island. Since our last entry in THE WIRE we have lost several members of the unit, some on completion of their tour and others due to reduction in our strength. In November we lost Corporals McGregor and Ferguson, both of whom had given invaluable service during their time on the island. Both had voluntarily extended their year's tour on the island, and the surprising thing was that they seemed relatively sane when they left. In December, Sergeant Jamieson, Corporals Cooper, Coupe and ten others left in a chartered DC 7, which was one of several aircraft used for replacing 38 Corps Engineer Regiment by 36 Corps Engineer Regiment. Never have there been so many "Moon Men" on the island as there were in December.

Recreation wise most of the unit have had a go at water-ski-ing and several are coming back for more. Corporals Johnson and Welland have a thriving cine show and have compiled an excellent moving record of some of the unit's activities There is, however, a tendency for the odd 50 foot or so to be a rather doubtful film obtained from an unofficial agency in New York.

Although the face of the island is changing daily as the Sappers progress with the permanent buildings, the weather remains the same. Little rain has fallen since April last and little is expected. The temperature remains as it does the whole year round between 86 and 90 degrees, while the Grapple birds are enjoying a quiet spell after the last rather upsetting series of tests. Although it is a bit late we wish everyone a "Happy New Year," especially old members of the unit.

"BUTTERFLIES!" said the Brigadier

EDITED BY SECOND-LIEUTENANT A. W. F. CLAPPERTON

The subaltern was dosing peacefully in the hot Singapore sun when the telephone shrilled. Drowsily he reached out and picked up the receiver; "Field Signal Squadron," he breathed down the mouthpiece. "Brigadier here," said a voice, "tell Hope that he is not going to have an idle time in Kuching; he is going to catch butterflies." Our dreamer's polite laugh at this witticism was met with a pregnant silence. "Butterflies!" said the Brigadier; "Yessir," stammered the subaltern; and so was born "Operation Entomology."

The official cover for this operation was Exercise "Cobra-Head"—a month of goodwill—flagwaving and training with the Sarawak Constabulary Field Force. It was mounted by a Company from the 1st Battalion The Cheshire Regiment, with an HF wireless detachment from Field Signal Squadron (Far East), sent along to provide a link to Singapore.

Communications on Exercise "Cobra-Head" were a resounding success—Loud and Clear to Singapore for 14 hours a day, seven days a week, for five weeks, using a WS 53 with a WS 76 as standby. "Operation Entomology," on the other hand, got off to a less auspicious start. The enemy struck hard, sure, and swift on the very first fighting patrol. They had been sighted in the jungle in small numbers, and the patrol, with Pronto firmly on Net, closed with the intention of putting in a surprise flanking attack. Unfortunately, their movements were observed by a sentry, who sounded the alarm and then disappeared downwind with the rearguard of the enemy force. Flinging caution to the winds, the patrol gave chase and thundered through the Ulu like a herd of so many charging elephants—heads held high and chests extended. Naturally enough, the assumption of the rights of these kings of the jungle by such frail human creatures was bound to lead to catastrophe, and very soon Pronto was brought to an unscheduled stop, when he failed to observe a cunningly sighted and prepared enemy booby-trap of sharpened bamboos, which inflicted a serious wound in his right leg.

Two hours and five stitches later, the patrol limped back into camp, and reported by HF to the Brigadier in Singapore—"Enemy contacted in small numbers stop Short skirmish resulting in casualties to our forces stop No prisoners taken."

Remainder of the party had meanwhile been erecting tents; so, after one night spent in the "Jubilee Hall," an old cabaret spot, they were able to move into the accommodation which was to be their home for the next month, most of them sharing tents with three other people and a few thousand insects. Everything went swimmingly for the first week, particularly when it rained; and by the time the main party arrived, the camp was well and truly established with neat little picket fences to show where the paths had been in the event of a storm.

As time went by The Cheshire's patrols returned with fantastic stories of the hospitality accorded to them in the Longhouses they had visited; those of the party who had been confined to base grew restless and demanded to go on patrol. They finally won the day and got away on a short patrol after a particularly vicious Sunday Tiffin—it was the curry, they said. . . . However, they still managed to arrive at the chosen Longhouse at about 17.30 hours, although in a pretty poor state. Unfortunately, the inhabitants were in the midst of a week-long ceremony designed to ensure a good harvest, and no visitors were allowed. Rather disappointed, because they had heard that the village maidens had the prettiest faces in Sarawak, the party went back down the road a short way and then branched off to another Kampong.

Here they were welcomed by an excited crowd of locals who had evidently never before seen the British Army in all its might. Again they were dogged by bad luck, because a child had recently died and the villagers could not entertain them with music and dancing as would have been their wont. Nevertheless, the party thoroughly enjoyed their stay and slept soundly on the bamboo floor of the bachelors' quarters. They left the Kampong at 09.30 hours the following morning, after shattering the silence by showing off their FN rifles and Bren guns. The Chief and half the inhabitants then escorted them back to the road for a short photographic session, for which the three leaders had specially dressed up in their best clothes; after which the patrol drove away.

From the Officers' point of view the highlight of the visit was the dinner party given by His Excellency, the Governor of Sarawak. His residence, the Astana, lies across the river from the main part of Kuching, and the journey therefore entailed a sampan trip, which added an element of danger to the outing—particularly on the return voyage. The other ranks could not pinpoint any particular event as the highlight, because the whole of their existence there had been so different from the normal run-of-the-mill Army routine. However, several weeks later in the quiet of their barrack rooms they were forced to come to the conclusion that there must have been at least one event in their five weeks which it would take them a long time to forget.

When the time came for the force to leave Kuching they had begun to consider themselves as almost an integral part of the Sarawak Turf Club—because the camp was right up against the racecourse, and they awoke every morning to the tune of hoof-beats outside their tents. They were also many dollars to the good, having enthusiastically supported the chances of a Private in The Cheshires, who was successful in a race at one of the earlier meetings during their stay.

On return the budding entomologist was congratulated by his grateful Brigadier for effecting the capture of a rare specimen. "Quality before Quantity" fortunately seemed to be the latter's maxim, as he casually discarded the only other two prisoners captured, both of whom had all too obviously put up a fight to the death—and who turned out to be merely moths of an extremely common variety at that. Little did the Brigadier know, and the subaltern was certainly not going to enlighten him, but the butterfly in question actually gave himself up—flying into Pronto's Land Rover, and virtually dropping dead at his feet.

J.A.H.

Hong Kong Signal Regiment

Lyemun Receiver Station

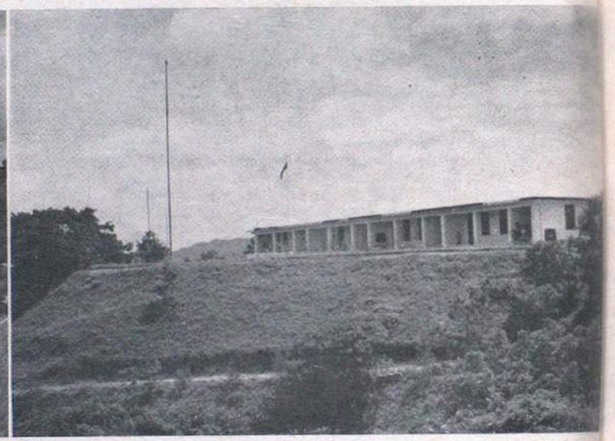
OUR Receiver site working Singapore, pictures of which appear here, lies on the south, and Island, side of the famous Lyemun Gap. The "Gap," as the entrance to Victoria Harbour and lying on the direct line of flight approach to the new civil runway built out into the harbour at a cost of five million dollars, acts as the gateway to the Colony. On the sentimental occasions of troopship arrivals and departures the troop usually lower the Corps flag in salute, a custom inherited from the former occupants of the area, 173 (Locating) Battery, R.A.

During the second world war this area was the scene of some of the first Japanese landings on Hong Kong Island and suffered much damage. Recent efforts of the Heavy Wireless Troop and the local Sappers have made great improvements to the station accommodation both for wireless equipment and living quarters. The garden which is extensive has been transformed after much hard work by very keen gardeners in the troop. In fact many of our predecessors would scarcely recognise the site, but former members of the Heavy Wireless Troop will be glad to know that "Sandy," the blue blooded chow guard dog, is still in good health and gives a vigorous welcome to visitors. There can hardly be a more beautiful site at which to work, anyway in this part of the world.



● 5 (HEAVY) WIRELESS TROOP PERSONNEL
Front row (left to right): Corporal D. H. Elliott, Sergeant J. P. F. Nay, Captain P. D. Tidey, W.O.II W. J. Warren, Corporal Aloysius Wong. Back row (left to right): Lance Corporal Lau Tsan Yuen, Signalman Chan Wing Leung, Lance Corporal B. Roberts, Driver Li Yung, Driver Chui Hung, Lance Corporal Lui Cheung

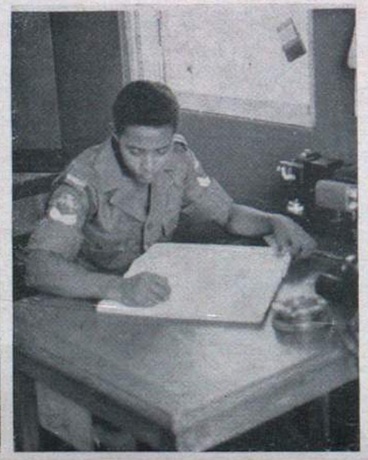




● (Left). View from front of Px Stn, Lyemun. Centre foreground, No. 5 FASD. Centre background, new runway at Kai Tak. (Right). View of Px Stn, Lyemun.

● (Left). Lance Corporal G. Roberts lowering the flag at the Px Stn. (Centre). Corporal Aloysius Wong in the Px Room, Px Stn. (Right). Lance Corporal Lau Tsan Yuen at the Equipment Rack in the Px Stn







ROYAL SIGNALS SINGAPORE ADMINISTRATIVE REGIMENT

Since our last notes we have said good-bye to Majors Renton and Rowlands who commanded COMCAN and Line Squadrons respectively. We welcome Majors Gray and Higgins who have taken their places. S.S.M. Armstrong also left for home last month.

The autumn saw the departure of the old hardcore of our only four National Service Subalterns from the now amalgamated District Signal Regiment, Second-Lieutenants Dutton, Loufte, Sergeant and Lesquereux. Finally, we welcome Major Harvey on his posting from 19 Air Formation Signal Regiment at Changi to Operating Squadron, Vice-Major Swan who moved from there to District H.Q. We congratulate Captain Fender on his promotion.

On the sports field the Regimental Rugger team goes from strength to strength under the able guidance of Major Fraser and Captain Woods. We congratulate Second-Lieutenant Con Powell on being selected to play on the wing for the Combined Services. As he has only recently recovered from a broken bone in his right arm, this performance is even more creditable. The Regimental hockey teams this year mourn the decision of Major Ian Illingworth who has decided that the time has come to finally cross his sticks. R.Q.M.S. Lambert now carries the whole weight of the organisation on his capable shoulders. The Maresfield team has now won their first round match v. 1st Battalion Cheshire Regiment in the major units cup, whilst the Princess Mary team were fortunate enough to draw a bye.

The new Officers' Mess is now well and truly christened. There were some 400 guests at our inaugural cocktail party in November, who were diligently plied with countless dozens of crates of innumerable intoxicants. The C.S.O., Brigadier Lewis, C.B.E., welcomed the guests as they arrived, distinctly damped by the torrential downpour which started two hours before the function and stopped soon after the last guest arrived. However, Major Higgins organised a very efficient ferry service between the Mess and the parade square after our Mess car park had disappeared beneath the surface. One ardent Signalman still cannot understand why his parking assistance was dispensed with after having reaassuringly urged an officer to reverse his car until it finally disappeared into a monsoon drain.

We now look forward to Christmas with its various festivities which will bring to a close this, the first year under the new re-organisation as the Royal Signals Singapore Administrative Regiment.

Two important events affecting the Permanent Staff at Brompton Road took place towards the end of the year: the wife of Staff Sergeant J. E. Saunders presented him with a daughter, and Staff Sergeant D. Convery married ex-Sergeant M. Hewitt, W.R.A.C., of 2 Squadron, at Camberwell Register Office.

Highlights of the year were a successful, though very wet, camp at Crowborough and good representative contingents in the Jubilee Review in Hyde Park, the T.A. Display for Jubilee Year held at The Duke of York's H.Q. ("Trumpet Voluntary") and again in the Lord Mayor's Show. Regimental personnel also accredited themselves in the London District Signals Annual Rifle Competition by carrying off the Young Soldiers' and W.R.A.C. events.

To bring us to the month of December, various functions within the unit were held, notably on the 13th, the Officers' Annual Christmas Party, and on the same date the Permanent Staff Party held in the O.R.s' Club; on Thursday, the 18th, an Inter-Squadron Christmas Social in the O.R.s' Club, and on Saturday, the 20th, was the Children's Annual Christmas Party, when, after film show enjoyed by all, piles of "eats" were eagerly devoured and to round-off the afternoon a distribution of presents by a very benevolent looking Father Christmas (Sergeant E. Marshall). On 31st December, New Year's Eve, a dance was held to welcome in the New Year.

So with the close of the old year, we are eagerly looking forward to a very successful 1959 and would like to take this opportunity of wishing all members of the Corps a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Two last reminders. A scrapbook of events of the Regiment's past, present and future is still in existence, ably being edited by Lieutenant I. H. Cohen, and he would welcome any interesting items and photographs in this connection. The London Branch of the Old Comrades' Association still hold their monthly meetings (every second Friday) in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, 206, Brompton Road, from 1930 hours onwards, and would heartily welcome all past and serving members of the Corps (both male and female) to come along. L.A.G.K.

T.A. and A.E.R.

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

The past year has been a somewhat memorable year for the Unit, which has seen quite a number of changes in many directions, perhaps in keeping with the T.A. Jubilee. Therefore, it is with pleasure that we record 1958 as being the first year since re-formation of the T.A., when our recruitment of volunteers has been a great success. We certainly hope that the coming year will continue and even improve in this direction; a great deal of credit must be given to Lieutenant-Colonel H. Ll. Daniel, Major E. Freeman, W.R.A.C., T.A., ably supported by the P.S.O. at Brompton Road, Captain W. J. Whitney, and Major J. Riley, O.C., and Captain F. Enright, P.S.O., respectively of the 1 U.K.L.F. Reserve Signal Squadron, for their combined zeal and ingenious advertising methods. (Play up, Chelsea!)

We welcomed over this last year:—

Lieutenant-Colonel H. Ll. Daniel when he assumed command of the Regiment vice Lieutenant-Colonel A. J. M. Atthill, O.B.E.

Major S. W. Foley, W.R.A.C., as W.R.A.C. Adviser, vice Major S. C. Puckle, M.B.E., T.D., W.R.A.C.

Captain D. Turner as Adjutant vice Captain H. Clarke.

Captain W. J. Whitney as P.S.O., vice Captain W. F. Joyce.

W.O.I W. J. Russell as R.S.M. vice W.O.I. R. Townsend.

We were very pleased to see the complete recovery and return to "harness" of Major Riley after his absence in hospital and very sorry to say good-bye to Major H. Cooper, who has left the Regiment after many years' service.

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54 (EA) INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT (T.A.)

"B" and "N" Troops. The Troops at Cambridge have recently said farewell to their P.S.I., W.O.II Angus, who has been posted to Germany after completing his second tour of duty with the Regiment—as Sergeant Angus he was the first P.S.I. of the old 3 Squadron of 61 H.Q. Army Signal Regiment, formed in Cambridge in 1948. He leaves us with our very best wishes for the future and thanks for his excellent work here. Equally warm is our welcome to our new P.S.I., W.O.II Leeson, who we hope will have a happy and successful tour with the Regiment. Still in the hail and farewell department, we are pleased to welcome Signalman Woor, our latest recruit, and to send good wishes to Corporal Jones (A.C.C.), who left us towards the end of last year on taking up a new post in Brighton prior to his marriage. Finally, congratulations to Corporal Rowley on his promotion to that rank.

Activities at Cambridge in the last few months have followed their normal pattern; training of both drivers and wireless operators has gone ahead, having done the best we could with our slender resources. We are hoping that more vehicles will one day be available so that more comprehensive training can be initiated as soon as the lighter evenings arrive. An innovation this winter has been the arranging of a visit to the local Fire Station to view the equipment used by the Fire Brigade, and further training of a practical nature has been laid on by the Brigade. Miniature range shooting is part of our staple diet at Cambridge, and our teams have acquitted themselves well in most of the competitions in which they have participated. Another, and more homely activity which has occupied us of late, is the redecoration of and structural alterations to the Unit canteen. Much of this work has been carried out by the Troop personnel, and though it has taken time, the operation is nearing completion as these notes are written. Thanks are due not only to all those who have organised and taken part in the work, but also to the local T. and A.F.A., who have so readily co-operated in providing whatever materials and assistance were requested.

Our plans for future training include our first open range shoot for 1959 due to take place on 22nd March, and it is hoped very shortly to arrange a week-end Exercise with personnel from another T.A. Centre within the Regiment, as was done so successfully last winter.

Finally, a word about recruiting.

We are maintaining our strength at Cambridge and are substantially ahead of most Units in the area as regards personnel on strength compared with establishment. However, like Oliver Twist, we want more, and should be very glad to welcome anyone who would like to join us, particularly ex-members of the Corps. Cambridge is recognised as a "difficult" area for recruiting, but it is felt that it must still hold some personnel, particularly potential wireless operators, who would enjoy being with us. We hope that any who read these notes will come and have a drink and a chat one Monday evening at the Coldhams Lane T.A. Centre.

No. 2 NORTHERN COMMAND (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A., AND No. 2 INDEPENDENT U.K.L.F. RESERVE SIGNAL SQUADRON, T.A.

On 20th December, 1958, the Regiment and U.K.L.F. Squadrons played their parts in the T.A. Jubilee Year by holding a Regimental dinner to which many prominent citizens of Sheffield were invited. Thanks are due to our Honorary Colonel for his efforts in securing the acceptance of our principal guests.

Joint guests of honour were the Lord Mayor of Sheffield, Ald. J. W. Holland, J.P., and the Master Cutler, J. Hugh Neill, Esq. The press was represented by the Editors of both the morning and evening papers. The Town Clerk and Chief Civil Defence Officer represented the permanent officials of Sheffield. We were also very glad to welcome Brigadier A. B. McVittie, O.B.E., our new C.S.O., for the first time.

The dinner was held in the Drill Hall at Crabtree T.A. Centre. The drab building was completely transformed by the long table upon which rested all the major items of Corps silver, so kindly loaned to the Regiment from Catterick. The Cable Wagon was the centre-piece, and this was greatly admired by all our guests.

The Corps Band played during dinner, and the highlight of the whole evening was undoubtedly the entry and playing of the Corps Trumpeters for the loyal toasts. The Lord Mayor referred to their playing, during his after-dinner speech, as



REGIMENTAL DINNER. No. 2 NORTHERN COMMAND (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

Major A. E. Famel, T.D., showing Silver "Jimmy" which he is presenting to the Officers Mess to Honorary Colonel and Commanding Officer

"Pageantry so sadly lacking in the present day which was all the more impressive for the perfect bearing and playing of the trumpeters." Our grateful thanks are due to Major Judd and his men for their magnificent support. This is always given splendidly, and we were all very much aware that the whole Corps was with us on this evening.

It was, all in all, a remarkable evening, and we can now say that we are well and truly "on the map" in Sheffield. It will be remembered, of course, that all other major T.A. Units in Sheffield have associations with the City stretching back nearly 100 years, compared with our eight years, so they have been "on the map" for a long time.



REGIMENTAL DINNER. No. 2 NORTHERN COMMAND (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

Honorary Colonel, Colonel M. W. Batchelor, J.P., Lord Mayor of Sheffield, Alderman J. W. Holland, J.P., Master Cutler, J. Hugh Neill Esq., C.S.O. Northern Command, Brigadier A. B. McVittie, O.B.E.

No. 1 SPECIAL COMMUNICATION REGIMENT, T.A.

The last three months of 1958 saw the Regiment concentrating on trade training—telegraph operators and drivers in particular making very good progress. Our stand at the "Radio Hobbies Exhibition" attracted a vast number of visitors, many of whom expressed an interest in the Regiment and its activities. Captains Bill Davidson and David Smith and Lieutenant Michael Herbert

put in some excellent work demonstrating equipment and answering countless questions. Other members of the Regiment, the W.R.A.C. Squadron and a contingent from No. 1 S.C. Troop (now at Gloucester) helped to make the four days a great success. More recruits are coming in from this enterprise.

Friday, 12th December, saw our end of the year celebration. The Officers held a reception in their Mess which was followed by an All Ranks' Dance ably organised by Lieutenant John Norris. Our guests included Dr. C. Hamilton-Turner, the Master of the Worshipful Company of Skinners, and Mrs. Hamilton-Turner, Brigadier and Mrs. W. R. Smijth-Windham, Group Captain and Mrs. R. G. Harman and Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. B. R. M. Hayles. We were also delighted that our Honorary Colonel, General Sir Edwin Morris, and Lady Morris were able to be present.

We said farewell to Major Roy Peacock, the Second-in-Command, who retires after eight years of loyal and enthusiastic service with the Regiment. We wish him good luck and hope to see him at our H.Q. in the future.

Greetings to our new Officers, Paul Baker, Tony Ashdown, Russell Wilson and John Colvin. We also announce the recruitment of our first married couple—Mr. and Mrs. Esson—to the Regiment and W.R.A.C. Squadron respectively.

Coming Events include:—

12th February: Visit by the Army Commander.

5th March: Our Farewell Parade to the Honorary Colonel.

17th-21st March: Visit our stand at the Electrical Engineers' Exhibition at Earls Court (1st Floor).

9th April: Visit of the Master and Court of the Worshipful Company of Skinners.

We have vacancies for Telegraph Operators who are prepared to parachute. If you are interested come along to see us on a Monday or Thursday at 7 p.m. Our address: T.A. Centre, 79/85, Worship Street, London, E.C.2 (close to Finsbury Square —look for the "Singer" sign in City Road).

24 ARMY TROOPS SIGNAL SQUADRON, A.E.R.

The Squadron held its first "out of camp" training day in December. This took place at the Duke of York's H.Q. in London, and we were indebted to the 1st Battalion London Irish Rifles (T.A.), who provided us with a warm and comfortable lecture room and also gave us the facilities of their club for lunch.

We understand that, immediately prior to the meeting, the O.C. and a certain Captain were seeking a Sunday breakfast, both officers having started their travelling in the early hours. At Sloane Square station the ticket collector was very helpful and directed them to the underground staff canteen near the station. "Go straight in and up to the counter," he said. "Don't 'esitate, and if anyone asks who you are—tell 'em yer clerks from Euston." So the officers pressed on and settled for bacon and eggs at the objective. They said that it might not have been quite Army and Navy Club standard, but it was good food and welcome—real service with a smile!

Only two members were absent from the meeting, but as both of them live north of the border it was quite understandable that travelling difficulties were involved. Although we had a morning and afternoon session time passed all too quickly, but we were able to settle a fair amount of the administration and training problems which crop up between camps. Our latest arrival—Staff Sergeant G. Pegler, of Totness—just failed to get his enlistment procedure completed in time to join us for the meeting, but we look forward to having him in camp with us in April.

As a result of liaison with the Bristol Telephone Manager, we hope that we shall soon have some good results to report regarding recruits from the Post Office in the Bath and Bristol areas. If all goes well we should have a greater strength for camp this year.

Major I. B. Jones attended the C.O.'s M.T. Course in Bordon during December and has reported it as a very instructive and helpful period, although he was sorry that the School did not have a waterproof suit big enough to fit him and so was prevented from driving through the testing pond. Sergeant P. C. Dight also attended the School for a two-week Course in January, so we have achieved some success in getting personnel away on Courses.

We have our scouts out for a Unit Paymaster — does any reader know an ex-R.A.P.C. officer or a suitably qualified civilian candidate who may be interested in joining us? Likewise, we are always pleased to hear from ex-members of the Corps who have an interest in A.E.R. service. All inquiries are very promptly dealt with!

SPORT

CORPS RUGBY

The Corps Rugby team has had a very good season to date winning seven of the ten matches played.

The most notable achievement was the defeat of the Cambridge LX Club at Cambridge in October. The game was hard, fast and very open. Some delightful movements were seen. We were 11-6 down at half-time but some excellent attacking play by Signalman Blackett, aided by equally excellent handling by forwards and backs alike in the second half, earned us victory 16-11.

Unfortunately, our annual match against the "Sappers" at Chatham did not finish as brilliantly. We went down.

The "going" was very heavy after a period of continual rain and the "Sappers," particularly their three-quarters, seemed to revel in it.

Sept. 3	Hartlepools Rovers	Hartlepools	8—17
17	Durham City	Durham	24—6
20	Gosforth	Gosforth	18—6
24	Percy Park	North Shields	3—3
Oct. 4	Darlington G.S.O.B.	Cancelled	
11	Sandal	Cancelled	
18	Huddersfield	Catterick	3—19
20	Cambridge LX Club	Cambridge	16—11
Nov. 1	Northern	Gosforth	11—6
8	West Hartlepool	Catterick	24—3
13	Royal Engineers	Chatham	—20
29	Huddersfield	Huddersfield	8—3
Dec. 13	Old Novocastrians	Newcastle	33—16

Points					
P.	W.	L.	D.	For	Against
10	7	2	1	148	90

Association Notes

Loughborough Branch

Over the past year television and the old baby-sitter problem have been making a progressively serious effect on the attendances at our monthly functions. So much so that we have been forced, reluctantly, to cut down quite a bit. One hates to bow the knee to Wyatt Earp, Matt Dillon and Michael Miles—and it is no consolation to know that other Branches and organisations have the same trouble.

However, nothing can compete with one function at Beaumanor and that is the Hogmanay Dance. Once more we made this an all-ticket affair and again we had a sell-out. All 160 of us enjoyed ourselves to the full—and if some became a little more than full, who cared? One of the Beaumanor Hogmanay traditions is the Conga, which takes place immediately after "Auld Lang Syne." Those who have been here can imagine the sight . . . an interminable snake of people jigging up the grand staircase, along the balconies, down past the stained glass window and back to the ballroom. Good job the dancers are never all in step, or the once-stately home might become even less stately!

Beaumanor and Messrs. Eric Dobson, Bernard Braithwaite and yours truly had scarcely recovered from that lot when 3rd January and the annual children's party was upon us. Ninety-five children (they were never in step either), plus a helpful number of escorting parents, were entertained from three until 6.30 p.m. Eric Dobson played a hero's part in conducting the games and competitions for toddlers in one room, whilst Bernard Braithwaite did likewise with the school-agers. Two sittings were required for the tea, prepared and served by a very able Ladies' Refreshment Committee. Afterwards there was a film show—managed by Sergeant Triann, from Garats Hey—and finally a children's talent show. Our members' children must be old-fashioned, for those who sang chose ballads or carols—not a Terry Dene or Nancy Whiskey amongst them!

In a few days we shall be holding our Annual General Meeting and amidst the other things I shall be telling the meeting is the gratifying fact that out of all the fluctuations over the year which saw the 5/- subscription introduced—we have an overall increase of three members. Cheers—in both usages.

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 January, 1959. Also on this page is a simple statement of income and expenditure.

Widow of Signalman, 1939-46, who died in 1957, leaving her with two school-aged children. She works part-time to augment her pathetically small income and the British Legion and the Association helped her to children's clothes and to pay her rates.

Signalman, 1941-46. Married, three children. Illness halved his income in March, 1958, and the fund helped a little with hire purchase entered into before his illness.

Sergeant, 1946-58, discharged after injury. Married, three children. Grant made to help clothe the children.

Corporal, 1951, Serving. His wife has been critically ill and the fund helped with cost of fares for her to go to convalescent home.

Corporal, 1956, Serving. Married, only child, infant, died and the Association and the concerned Signal Regiment each helped towards the cost of the funeral.

Widow of Driver, 1942-47, he died in 1958, having been permanently disabled since 1955. There are four children, all at school, and a very small income; since his total incapacity the fund has sent a small gift for Christmas each year and this was continued to his widow.

Driver, 1940-46. Married, two children; he has been chairborne since 1954, wrote "We wish to thank you all so very much for the wonderful gift you gave us; we greatly appreciate your kindness and the wonderful Christmas you brought into our home."

Signalman, 1945-48, is unable to support his widowed mother because he has been in an iron lung since 1949. Each year the Association sends him enough to buy her a small present at Christmas.

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION AND BENEVOLENT FUND

The following subscriptions were most gratefully received during December, 1958:

	£	s.	d.
H.Q. Training Brigade	1	18	9
3 Training Regiment	42	17	0
4 Training Regiment	7	18	0
21 (NM) Corps Signal Regiment, T.A.	1	10	0
No. 2 Northern Command (M) Signal Regiment, T.A.	5	5	0
2 Port Task Force Signal Squadron, T.A.	1	1	0
Junior Leaders Regiment	30	0	0
Life Guards Signal Troop	1	5	0
44 (HC) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment	4	7	0
1 Special Communication Regiment, T.A.	7	10	0
SHAPE Signal Squadron	3	13	0
12 Air Formation Signal Regiment	27	0	0
19 Army Group Signal Regiment	38	0	0
1 (BR) Air Support Signal Unit	10	8	0
Berlin Signal Squadron	3	0	0
2 L. of C. Signal Regiment (45 Unit Branch)	30	0	0
28 COMWEL Independent Infantry Brigade Group Signal Squadron	9	0	0
O.C.L.F. Signal Squadron	23	5	0
17 Gurkha Divisional Signal Regiment	4	9	7
K.D.G. Signal Troop	2	6	3
22 S.A.S. Signal Troop	2	12	7
48 Field Regiment, R.A., Signal Troop	1	5	7
12 Airfield Signal Troop, 1 Squadron, 4 Air Formation Signal Regiment	1	0	0
4 Air Formation Signal Regiment	8	7	0
C.R. Signals, Arabian Peninsula	1	17	6
C.S.O., Cyprus District	1	6	0
41 Independent Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron	1	14	0
L.F.P.G. Signal Troop	4	2	6
Malta Signal Squadron, A.W. Chain Team and 1 H.Q. Ship Signal Troop	12	0	0
Total receipts	£288	18	9

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION WELFARE SECTION

The following donations were most gratefully received during December, 1958:

	£	s.	d.
Robert Hart Trust	10	0	0
A. E. Tietgen, Esq.	3	0	0
Major H. McD. Webster	1	5	0
Major M. Simmonds	1	3	0
H. J. Wall, Esq.	10	0	
C. J. Mayes, Esq.	5	0	
G. Gregory, Esq.	3	0	
Total receipts	£16	6	0

EXPENDITURE DURING DECEMBER, 1958 ... ... £423 12 1
(Includes: Rent and Rates; Beds and Bedding; Furniture; Cots and Prams; General Assistance).

Analysis of Cases:

Families of Soldiers serving in U.K.	4
Families of Soldiers serving in B.A.O.R.	1
Widows and dependants	19
Released and discharged Soldiers	60
Total cases assisted	84

57 Cases of Soldiers who served during the 1939-45 War ... £268 17 6
27 Cases of Soldiers who did not serve during the War ... £154 14 7

Lighter Fuel Packs

The following amounts were most gratefully received during November and December, 1958:—

		£	s.	d.
Box 6	1 Wireless Regiment		9	0
	Torbay and District Branch		10	6
65	Scarborough Branch	5	0	0
67	43 (Wx) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A.		12	3
71	51 (H) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A.		10	0
103	Scarborough Branch		15	0
116	F. Dyson			
	Total receipts	£7	16	9

QUIZ

Answers to Quiz Questions on page 32.

1. W.O.I. Bandmaster Hibbert who died when touring with the Corps Band in 1942. He is buried in Hipswell Churchyard.
2. After four days' absence inform Civil Police of his home town, A.P.M. of the District and O.I.C. Records, after eight days his pay stops. Should a man be absent through sickness after 14 days the A.D.M.S. of the District in which he lives is informed.
3. The Queen's Royal Regiment (2nd of Foot).
4. D. B. Close—Yorkshire.
   F. J. Tyson—Northamptonshire.
   J. Mortimer—Gloucestershire.
5. The Middlesex Regiment. At the battle of Albuera in 1811 their wounded Colonel exhorted them "Die hard, men"!
6. Conqueror, 65 tons.
   Centurion (different Marks), 46 or 50 tons.
   Comet, 33 tons.
7. Gibraltar. A superstition has it that when the apes go from Gibraltar so will the British.
8. For a Strain a hot compress.
   For a Sprain a cold compress.
9. Originally: Dover, Hastings, Sandwich, Hythe and New Romney. Rye and Winchelsea added as "Ancient Towns."

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In other spheres too the Company's activities are expanding and men who have obtained technical experience in the Services are needed for work on electronic computors, electric traction, radio and television, telecommunications, electrical engineering, mechanical engineering, applied physics and metallurgy. Staff appointments are available as well as comprehensive training schemes leading to posts of responsibility.

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(b) Development of small TRANSFORMERS and INDUCTORS
(c) Investigation and assessment of COMPONENT LIFE
(d) Development and design of FILTERS and NETWORKS

RADIO SYSTEMS

(e) Development of MINIATURE VHF Equipment (2 vacancies)

TELEGRAPH SYSTEMS

(f) Development of TELEGRAPH equipment. Knowledge of transistor circuits required. Services experience an advantage.

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The Company's laboraotries are situated in the Taplow Court Estate, a very attractive location on high land overlooking the Thames near Maidenhead giving ideal working conditions.

An active Staff Club provides social, sporting and cultural out-of-hours activities for which excellent facilities are available for staff and their families.

Please apply to the General Manager, quoting ref. 4/59

THE WIRE

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

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 • 1959

Vol. 13 *(New Series)* **No. 3**

Editorial

ECONOMY

THE first quarter of the year is always unpleasant, especially when extravagance during the previous year brings the inevitable aftermath.

As all know, it was necessary to increase the price of THE WIRE from 1/- to 1/3 on 1st January, 1958. It was hoped that this would bring in a large additional income and that 1958 would show a large profit.

Three causes have nullified this.

Cost of Production. THE WIRE in its twelve issues printed the same number of pages in 1958 as in 1957, but the cost rose by over £100.

Basking in the occasional compliment "the last numbers of THE WIRE have been admirable," the Editor failed to see that if the reader is satisfied production is probably unduly lavish.

Circulation. Reduction in the number of Regiments/Squadrons and in the total number serving in Royal Signals has meant that fewer copies of THE WIRE have been sold and this has been reflected in a loss of income from advertisements.

Profit. The WIRE has indeed made a profit. It turned a loss in 1957 into a profit in 1958 BUT it is perfectly clear that great care will be necessary to hold the balance credit through 1959.

Remedy. The more pictures that are published, the better the appearance of the magazine, but these are expensive both in space and in the cost of making the blocks from which the pictures are printed.

Space is all important—28 pages a month is economic—32 pages a month is extravagant.

In a normal month it will not be possible to print more than 16 pictures in 1959; in 1958 the average was 22 or 23 pictures.

While on great occasions such as a visit to a Signal Regiment of the Colonel-in-Chief, great liberty will be given: Regiments are asked to send in only essential pictures.

Regiments sometimes for their own purposes wish to have a large display in a given number of THE WIRE. On such occasions it may be necessary to ask that a page be bought. A figure of £20 covers the cost of a page of THE WIRE with two pictures. This may, on occasion, suit some.

The Editor will continue to do all that he can within a limited budget to keep the magazine as attractive as possible.

CYPRUS

The dramatic success of the diplomatic exchanges in securing for Cyprus a constitution and independence will no doubt effect very considerable reduction in the Garrison with consequent movement of Brigade Signal Squadrons and Troops. It is hoped that the bulk of these will return to the United Kingdom. Any such redeployment always causes anxiety in THE WIRE office in an effort of crystal gazing, aided by the newspapers, to ensure that a parcel containing the current number of THE WIRE is not travelling towards Cyprus when the Squadron or Troop for which it is intended are travelling away from Cyprus.

Obituary

MAJOR-GENERAL St. J. D. ARCEDECKNE-BUTLER, C.B.E.

Desmond Butler received his promotion to the acting rank of Major-General at the early age of 45. A bald statement of this achievement conjures up the impression of a serious professional soldier who subordinated everything to his military career.

"The Archdeacon," as he was affectionately referred by many of his friends in the Corps, came much nearer to the "pattern of a modern major-general," created by W. S. Gilbert in "The Pirates of Penzance," who could produce "many cheerful facts about the square of the hypotenuse." For Desmond Butler was a man of great technical ability and outstanding charm, who was apparently always cheerful. He had an Irish sense of humour, which overcame prejudice and discontent wherever it existed, and which won over all those with whom he came in contact, whether they were soldiers, scientists or civil servants. During the 24 years of his married life he was ably assisted by his equally charming wife. Their hospitality and kindness will always be remembered with thankfulness by those who had the pleasure of serving with them.

Desmond didn't often give orders. He didn't need to, as he could achieve his object so much more easily by the gentle art of persuasion. His smile, coupled with his fund of light stories gained him his objective where an order would have created opposition. Particularly was this the case later on in his career when he was at the Signals Experimental Establishment and in the Ministry of Supply.

He enlisted in the Public Schools Battalion of the Middlesex Regiment on 7th September, 1914, at the age of 17½. Within two months he had been sent to Sandhurst as a cadet, and by April, 1915, he was commissioned as a regular officer in The Royal Munster Fusiliers. After service with his battalion in France he became a Regimental Signalling Instructor before being seconded to the Army Signal Service in 1918.

A large part of his service between the wars was spent in the Middle East and at Catterick, but in November, 1928, he had the unique distinction of taking an eight-months radio course at the Ecole Superieure in Paris, and of passing out top, although he was the only Englishman on the Course.

In 1934 he returned at short notice from No. 2 Wireless Company at Sarafand to take over the appointment of Superintendent of the Signals Experimental Etablishment—the forerunner of the present S.R.D.E. Apart from 18 months as G.S.O.1 of M.I.8 at the War Office at the beginning of the last war, he spent the rest of his military career in technical appointments, ending with over five years as Deputy Director General of Signal Equipment at the Ministry of Supply in the rank of Major-General. Between 1942-1945 he was a member of the Radio Board of the War Cabinet. He was created a C.B.E. in January, 1946. After retiring in November, 1946, he went to live in Eire where he became a member of the Eire Broadcasting Advisory Committee.

His wife died in 1953 and not long afterwards he had a heart attack which somewhat curtailed his physical activities. However, on the rare occasions on which he came over to London during recent years he appeared to be as cheerful as ever and he will long be remembered by his wide circle of friends as a charming Irish Gentleman. Of his two sons, the younger joined the Royal Navy and the elder is Captain St. J. P. Arcedeckne-Butler, B.A., Royal Signals.

BRIGADIER C. J. S. Le CORNU, O.B.E., M.C.

Charles James Seward Le Cornu was born in Jersey in 1887 and after being educated at Victoria College and Sandhurst was commissioned into the Royal Munster Fusiliers. He arrived in India in 1907 and served as a company officer in the Mohmand Operations of 1908.

In 1909 he transferred to 56 Rifles F.F. Indian Army, later known as 2/13 F.F. Rifles. In 1910 he obtained a "distinguished" at the Army Signal School, Poona, at the hands of C. S. Torrie. He then passed exams in Hindustani, Baluchi and Pushtu, having already a good knowledge of French. He was outstanding on a Mounted Infantry Course.

From 1912 to 1914 he served in 33 Indian Divisional Signal Company and then in France, Belgium and Mesopotamia with 1st Indian Cavalry Divisional Signal Squadron until 1916. He was awarded M.C. in 1916 and mentioned in despatches. Later in 1916 he was invalided to India, where he became an Instructor at the Signal Depot. By 1917 he was back in Mesopotamia with 1st Indian Corps Signals and 18 Divisional Signal Company. He became C.S.O. 1st Corps M.E.F. (Lieutenant-Colonel) and then Staff Officer to S.O.in-C. (M.E.F.). He returned to the Staff College in 1920 wearing the Mons Star, British War and Victory Medals, General Service Medal (Iraq) and having again been "mentioned."

He served in 2 Divisional Signals, Aldershot, for a few months in 1922 and also got married in this year. In 1923 he was back in India as C.S.O. Southern Command and Commandant Army Signal School.

In 1926 he was awarded the O.B.E. and was transferred to Royal Signals. After various senior signals staff appointments in India and China he became S.O.-in-C., India, from 1934 to 1938 when he retired.

He rejoined in 1939 as Commandant 2 S.T.C. in U.K. and retired again in 1941. He served as Deputy County Cadet Commandant for Hampshire and Isle of Wight from 1945-1952.

BRIGADIER CHARLES KENNETH THURSBY-PELHAM, C.B.E., M.C. (1893-1958)

Any one who ever met "Thursby" immediately took a liking to him, and those for whom he worked or who worked under him very soon learnt to appreciate his keenness and efficiency, and quickly found mixed up with these attributes a friendly nature, a wise head and an equable temperament under the most difficult of conditions, plus a loyalty and integrity unsurpassed.

Now that lovable character "Thursby" has left us, dying suddenly at his home, Hilldean, Crawley Hill, Camberley, on 14th January, 1959.

Born on 20th October, 1893, he was commissioned in the King's Own Scottish Borderers on 14th December, 1914, and served in France with them from July, 1915, to July, 1917, during which time he was wounded twice and awarded the Military Cross for bravery in the field.

After the first world war he served with his Regiment in India and Egypt doing a Regimental Signal Course at Poona and serving as Regimental Signal Officer.

He came home in 1923 to attend No. 7 "Q" Course at Maresfield and was seconded to Royal Signals from then until he transferred to the Corps in July, 1925.

From November, 1925, to October, 1928, he was adjutant of "A" Corps Signals at Aldershot and then he went to the War Office as Staff Captain, M.G.O. II, until January, 1933, over four years, a long time.

Then to Egypt, but after two years with 1 Company Egypt Signals he was summoned back to the War Office where he completed another four years of invaluable work for the Corps as D.A.A.G., A.G.7.

Promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in 1939 he passed from

1 Operators Training Battalion to 1 Army Signals, to 10 Corps Signals, and then to G.H.Q. Signals, Home Forces. Early in 1941 he became C.S.O. 5 Corps as a Colonel and so he graduated to C.S.O. 1st Army as a Brigadier in July, 1942.

It must have been as C.S.O. 1st Army in North Africa that he had to face up to the most difficult times of his distinguished career. Needless to say he did wonders for his Army Commander under the most arduous conditions of terrain, weather, immense distances and shortage of trained men and technical stores.

His great success here made him the obvious choice for Deputy Signal Officer in Chief 21 Army Group, which appointment he took up in December, 1943.

His vast experiences at the War Office in his early days, plus his battle experience as C.S.O. 1st Army in North Africa made him an invaluable Deputy both in the planning stage and for the actual invasion of North West Europe; his friendly imperturbability overcoming many a crisis, both within the Army Group and with the many other services and Allies we had to deal with.

Ill health unfortunately sent him home in February, 1945, and he was then appointed C.S.O. Southern Command, retiring from the Army in February, 1947.

"Thursby" gave 33 years of real service, using that word in its highest sense, to his country, and 23 years of this service was of the utmost value to the Corps, when it was young and developing and building its own traditions in peace and war.

He leaves a widow, two daughters and a son.

His daughters served with the A.T.S. Signals during the war, whilst his son is a regular captain in the Corps his father was so proud of.

All "Thursby's" friends of all ranks of the Corps, both past and present, will wish to express their deep sympathy to his bereaved family.

* * *

The funeral service took place at St. Peter's Church, Frimley, on Saturday, 17th January, 1959, and amongst those of the Corps who were present were:

Major-General A. E. Morrison, C.B., O.B.E., representing the Colonels, Commandant and the Royal Signals Association; Major-General V. J E. Westropp, C.B.E.; Colonel G. C. Winckley, O.B.E., M.C.; Colonel B. G. Rowley; Brigadier R. H. O. Coryton, C.B.E.; Brigadier W. G. Tucker, C.B.E.

MAJOR C. A. de FRECE

Born in 1884, he enlisted in the 9th Lancers at the age of 17 and served 12 years to 1912. He re-enlisted in 1915 in the Royal Engineers (Signal Service) and was commissioned in 1918. In 1919 he became a civilian again but joined the Officers' Emergency Reserve in 1937, being commissioned Second Lieutenant Royal Signals in 1939. In 1944, at the age of 60, Major de Frece returned to civil life and to his business as an Art Dealer. In this capacity and up to only a few years ago he was always on the look out for a bargain for his old Corps and a number of notable statues of Mercury thus found their way to Signal Regiments.

MR. REGINALD CAMPBELL BLAND

He enlisted in the Kent Cyclists' Battalion in 1914, served in France and Belgium and was gassed at Passchendaele. He joined Royal Signals in 1920 and retired in the rank of Company Sergeant-Major in 1945.

He served in Egypt and was later seconded to the Sudan Defence Force from 1928-1942, taking part in the campaigns in Italian East Africa and in the Western Desert from 1939 onwards.

For the three years before his illness he was deputy Mace Bearer to the Mayor of Wandsworth.

He was a Life member of the Association, and a member of London Branch.



Corps Silver

INDIAN SIGNAL CORPS COMMEMORATIVE CENTREPIECE

This Centrepiece was presented to the Corps by the Indian Signal Corps on the occasion of the withdrawal in 1948 of the British element from the Indian Signals Corps subsequent to the partition of "India" into the two Dominions of India and Pakistan.

At each corner of the silver base plate stands a model of an "Other Rank" of the Indian Signal Corps namely:

A Rajput Havildar
A Dogra Lance Naik
A Madrassi Sepoy, and
A Punjabi Sepoy

A plate bears the inscription:

To
The Officers
Royal Corps of Signals
In Commemoration of the association of the
Royal Corps of Signals
With
The Indian Signal Corps

The centerpiece is a replica of one presented by the Officers of the Royal Corps of Signals to the cadets of the Indian Military Academy, Dehra Dun, in 1934.

The idea of the presentation originated with Brigadier H. Clementi Smith, D.S.O., and its fulfilment was helped by the co-operation of the Corps at home.

It was decided by the Indian Military Academy to make the presentation piece a perpetual Boxing Trophy in compliment to the many successes of Royal Signals in this form of sport.

It will be seen that this piece of Silver is a replica of one designed in 1934. It was subsequent to that year that the classes recruited to the Indian Signal Corps were standardised. as

Madrassi, Punjabi Mussalman, Dogra, Sikh,
which was the official "class" composition of the Corps until 1947.—Editor.

The following was published in the "Daily Telegraph" of 13th February, 1959, which was the 100th anniversary of the Corps of Commissionaires.

The author, Michael Harrison, has just written a book, "In the Footsteps of Sherlock Holmes," published by Cassel and Co.

THE SERGEANT AT THE DOOR

By Michael Harrison

There is hardly a London business of any standing—bank, insurance office, newspaper, theatre, motor showroom, store—which has not its "Sergeant," spruce in his familiar uniform of black serge with facings of scarlet cloth. He is a member of the Corps of Commissionaires, and the uniform he wears is exactly 100 years old today.

In 1859, two major wars, the Crimean and the Indian Mutiny, as well as a number of smaller campaigns, had added some thousands of unemployed men to London's floating population.

One day, a young retired officer of Hussars, Captain Edward Walter, got into conversation with one of these ex-soldiers, listened sympathetically to the man's story, and decided, in a typical Victorian way, to do something to help him.

Captain Walter was just 35 and, having resigned his commission in 1853, he had missed both the Crimean and the Indian campaigns. Maybe his conscience troubled him as he came face to face with a crippled survivor of Alma or Lucknow. True to the spirit of the times, he insisted from the beginning of his great venture that his scheme for helping ex-soldiers be based on "the fundamental principles of thrift and self-help." Those principles are still fundamental in the discipline of the present-day Corps; indeed, it has not been necessary to alter his original "statutes" in any major respect.

London had not known the word *commissionaire*, until Walter adopted it for his uniformed, militarily-disciplined messengers. Up to then it had meant one of those street-messengers which were a familiar sight in Paris. Walter introduced both the word and the man to London—and improved on the original idea.

* *

For the first parade eight men, all crippled in the wars, were present. These originals had served with either the Army or the Navy; and it was Walter's intention to confine membership of the Corps to men who had lost a limb in the Service. But the demand for "neat, uniformed, trusty men to perform certain light duties" encouraged him to extend his idea.

So popular, in fact, did the Commissionaires become that within five years the Corps had grown to a strength of 250. It was at that stage that Captain Walter took the second decisive step in its history; he appealed to the public for an officers' endowment fund, to provide a staff of officers to assist him. The response showed the respect and esteem that the Commissionaires had gained for themselves in only five years; and long before the turn of the century eight regional headquarters (today there are nine) had been set up.

"A Study in Scarlet" was published in 1887, the year of the Golden Jubilee. Readers will remember the complimentary things that Sherlock Holmes had to say about the man who, when asked by Dr. Watson what his trade was, replied: "Commissionaire, sir. Uniform away for repairs." In that same year Captain Walter was knighted.

Walter did not live long enough to see the Corps reviewed by King Edward VII at Buckingham Palace in 1907; but he did see membership touch the 3,000 mark, a success far beyond his first bold expectations.

Today under its commanding officer, Brigadier Hopkins, the Corps maintains the traditions laid down by its founder. The latest figure of membership is 4,599—and that its strength is not greater is explained by the care with which applicants are admitted. Each is required to deposit, as security for good behaviour, a sum according to his rank; and it is not every old soldier who is judged fit to wear the honoured uniform.

The League of Remembrance (1914-45)

(Registered Under the War Charities Act 1940)

The League of Remembrance 1914-1945 first came into being over 40 years ago. It has its traditional and also its practical side.

In its Hall of Remembrance at Headquarters you will find a Bowl of Remembrance, which has been kept filled with Rosemary ever since the foundation of the League. Upon the walls are rows of little silver plaques, each bearing a Regimental Crest and a soldiers' name, set there by members of the League in memory of some relative or friend.

Also to be seen are Naval and Military trophies; the sword of a V.C., and those of other valiant soldiers. Close by is a map of the Western Front signed by "Haig and Byng."

In one corner is a wooden bucket from *H.M.S. Vindictive*. There is a Worcester Vase encrusted with semi-precious stones given by Queen Mary, two tattered Flags nearly 100 years old, and paintings which famous artists have dedicated to the League, and many other rare treasures.

The Lords of the Admiralty have recently presented the League with the History Scroll of *H.M.S. Norfolk*, and the name-plates of *H.M.S. Ajax* and *Achilles*.

As you stand on the threshold of this room, an atmosphere of utter tranquillity reaches out towards you like the embrace of a living eternal spirit.

The practical side is of equal importance—the assisting of widows and dependents of officers of the three Services, and the Nursing Services. These ladies form the Remembrance Workers' Staff, and receive a Grant in Aid for services rendered, i.e., the making of hospital dressings and other requisites for the sick. Luncheon and uniform are provided, but perhaps greatest of all is the provision of suitable work in happy surroundings, which in its turn defeats loneliness and has an uplifting effect, inasmuch as it proves that there is still use for those who are no longer young, but who refuse to become old. These ladies attend daily at seven of the large London Hospitals, including King Edward VII Hospital for Officers, and the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street.

In the year just ended over a quarter of a million articles were made.

The League is not State aided. Its resources are limited, though if funds were available its expansion is almost unlimited. Help and interest are needed.

There will always be small pensions to augment, always the spectre of idle loneliness to dispel and, fortunately, always a desire to do useful work. Work for the sick is both useful and unending.

The following appeared in *The Times* in December, 1958: "In remembrance of someone, will you help The League of Remembrance 1914-45? Donations will be gratefully received by the Secretary at 32, Great Ormond Street, W.C.I."

THE ROYAL CORPS OF SIGNALS

A History of its Antecedents and Development

BY

Major-General R. F. H. Nalder, C.B., O.B.E.

with a Foreword by

Field-Marshal The Right Honourable The Earl Alexander of Tunis, K.G., G.C.B., G.C.M.G., C.S.I., D.S.O., M.C., D.C.L., LL.D.

This volume covers the period from the Napoleonic Wars until 1955. Starting with the visual "telegraph," it traces the successive development for Army use of the "electric telegraph," the telephone and, finally, wireless. It deals with the telegraph organization of the Royal Engineers, which later was expanded into the Royal Engineers Signal Service and was eventually superseded by Royal Signals. It describes the formation of Royal Signals and its growth during the first thirty-five years of existence.

The book contains a section giving brief biographies, with photographs, of some 80 officers. It also includes the outline histories of 53 signal regiments, selected from those which have been in existence since the Second World War. It is illustrated with 12 plates and 26 maps, and, as a frontispiece, has a coloured reproduction of a portrait of the Colonel-in-Chief, Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal.

Published on 15th December, 1958, by The Royal Signals Institution, 88, Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1.

Price 30/- (including packing and postage).

Cheques/Postal Orders to be made payable to "The Royal Signals History A/C."

PERSONAL COLUMN

London Gazette

30th January, 1959

The undermentioned Officers to be Supernumerary to Establishment.

1st January, 1959.

Brigadiers J. N. Barker, O.B.E., F. W. P. Bradford, M.B.E., R. G. Yolland, O.B.E.

3rd February, 1959

Major R. W. Bosworth retired 6th January, 1959.
Major R. L. Downs retired 1st February, 1959.

Movements — Officers

This column is now in a new form and is compiled by War Office A.G.11 and is therefore authentic.

Where no date is inserted after the name it means that the move has taken place.

Major C. Robinson	To	Depot Regiment (Held strength).
Major R. J. Armstrong	,,	General Headquarters, FARELF.
Lieutenant (Tfc. Offr.) G. S. Massey	,,	Cyprus.
Major D. W. Gladstone	,,	School of Signals.
Lieutenant (T.O.T.) P. E. C. Davies	,,	1st Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment.
Lieutenant (Tfc. Offr.) G. Dibley	,,	1st Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment (First appointment).
Captain (Tfc. Offr.) E. H. J. Bridle	,,	Singapore.
Major H. R. Woodger	,,	1st Training Regiment, Royal Signals.
Major N. W. P. Pearce	,,	90 Signal Regiment.
Lieutenant-Colonel J. N. Boyland	,,	C.S.O., Northern Ireland District.
Major R. M. Armstrong	,,	School of Signals.
Lieutenant-Colonel B. R. M. Hayles	,,	52 (L) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment (T.A.).
Lieutenant-Colonel T. S. Foster ...	,,	3rd Training Regiment, Royal Signals.
Major G. B. Newman	,,	3 G.H.Q., Signal Regiment.
Captain (Q.M.) A. H. Knight ...	,,	Singapore.
Major (Tfc. Offr.) F. Lettin ...	,,	Hong Kong.
Lieutenant (T.O.T.) C. Ottley ...	,,	Singapore.
Major P. W. Fountain	,,	19 Army Group Signal Regiment.

Retirements

Captain (T.O.T.) C. Runeckles ...	8 January, 1959.
Major R. L. Downs	1 February, 1959.
Lieutenant-Colonel G. B. Stevenson	13 February, 1959.
Lieutenant-Colonel P. A. Duke ...	19 February, 1959.
Lieutenant-Colonel A. H. Costen ...	21 February, 1959.
Captain (Q.M.) E. C. Lonton ...	14 March, 1959.
Captain (Q.M.) H. E. Strype ...	15 March, 1959.

Births

JAMIESON.—To Sergeant and Mrs. A. Jamieson, a son, Lourie, at Richmond, on 27th October, 1958.

LAVERY.—To Sergeant and Mrs. V. N. Lavery, a daughter, Deborah Kim, at Shoreham-on-Sea, on 19th October, 1958.

SALISBURY.—To Major and Mrs. D. E. Salisbury, at 5, Oake Court, Putney, S.W.15, a daughter, Davina Alexandra Claire, on 12th December, 1958.

All the following of 2 L. of C. Signal Regiment.

GREGORY.—To Sergeant and Mrs. K. R. Gregory, a son, Allan, born at B.M.H., Hostert, on 9th November, 1958.

ROSE.—To Staff Sergeant and Mrs. J. A. Rose, a son, John Arthur, born at B.M.H., Hostert, on 9th January, 1959.

BENNETT.—To Sergeant and Mrs. M. R. Bennett, a son, James Henry Alen, born at Hohne, on 9th December, 1958.

Marriages

All the following of 2 L. of C. Regiment.

TOGHER—CARVICK.—Signalman Togher to Miss Ann Carvick, on 24th November, 1958, at Kingston-on-Hull.

PARK—BLACKETT.—Corporal Park to Miss Pamela Blackett, on 26th December, 1958, at Wycliffe, Yorks.

McNABB—O'BRIEN.—Driver McNabb to Miss Patricia O'Brien, on 27th December, 1958, at Perth.

Deaths

KING.—Ex-Corporal T. King, formerly of 58, Glenbryn Park, Belfast, on 16th January, 1959, aged 82 years.

GALLAGHER.—Ex-Signalman E. G. Gallagher, of 34, Howards Road, Kingfield,, Woking, Surrey, on 24th November, 1958, aged 43 years.

TONER.—23558659 Acting Corporal P. J. Toner, of 4 Training Regiment, Royal Signals, on 9th January, 1959, aged 19 years.

BOUGH.—Ex-Signalman M. J. Bough, of 138, Sparrow Farm Drive, Feltham, Middlesex, aged 21 years.

FELOSE.—Ex-Signalman J. Felose, of 5, Prospect Place, Lenton, Nottingham, on 8th January, 1959, aged 63 years.

CHATTERTON.—Ex-Signalman G. W. Chatterton, of 15, Cloister Road, Heaton Mersey, Stockport, Cheshire, on 10th September, 1958, aged 44 years.

DE FRECE.—Major C. A. de Frece, of 52, High Street, Waddesdon, Aylesbury, Bucks., on 9th January, 1959, aged 74 years.

ARCEDECKNE-BUTLER.—Major-General St. J. D. Arcedeckne-Butler, C.B.E., of Killnick, Co. Wexford, in a Dublin Nursing Home, on 4th February, 1959, aged 62 years.

BLAND.—Reginald Campbell Bland, of 18, Santos Road, Wandsworth, S.W.18, at Queen Mary's Hospital, Roehampton, on Thursday, 22nd January, 1959, aged 60.

PITT.—23491029 Signalman M. T. Pitt, on 4th January, 1959, at B.M.H., Nairobi.

Arrivals and Departures

1 Training Regiment

Arrivals: Major (Tfc. O.) R. Woodger.

Departures: Major (Q.M.) E. W. G. Cole, Majors J. L. McKellar and F. P. H. Morton.

4 Training Regiment

Arrivals: Sergeants B. G. W. Underwood, J. P. Baldry, L. A. Makinson and J. E. Jordan (R.A.E.C.).

Departures: Staff Sergeant J. M. Grant (R.A.E.C.), Sergeant G. E. Harrison

School of Signals Regiment

Arrivals: W.O.II G. R. Day, Staff Sergeant G. D. Wilson, Sergeant J. B. Thompson.

Departures: Sergeants J. D. Baldry, R. H. Forster, G. R. Harrison.

3 Training Regiment

Arrivals: Staff Sergeant Slavin, Sergeant A. Howie.

Departures: Staff Sergeants K. J. Allen, B. C. Oscroft and J. E. Snell, Sergeants C. B. Bumphrey, R. A. Peake and G. Rodgers.

2 L. of C. Signal Regiment

Departures: Staff Sergeant F. E. Wood.

Forthcoming Events

Electrical Engineers' Exhibition

Earls Court, London, 17th to 21st March, 1959.

SATURDAY, 21st MARCH, 1959

Special General Meeting, Royal Signals Association. This will be combined with the Branch Representatives' Meeting, Duke of York's H.Q., Chelsea, London, S.W.3.

The 3rd Divisional Signals Reunion Club

are holding their next Annual Reunion at The Victory Club, 73/79, Seymour Street, London, on Saturday, 21st March, 1959. The Hon. Secretary, W.O.II E. Bayley, will be pleased to send details to ex-3 Divisional Signals past and present. Enquiries to AG11, The War Office, Stanmore, Middlesex.

The Depot Regiment, Royal Signals.

Saighton Camp, Chester, will hold a Regimental Week-end on 9th/10th May, 1959.

Programme

Saturday, 9th May.
- 14.00 hours Regimental Sports (including Novelty Races for Association Members).
- 16.30 hours Tea on Sports Field.
- 20.30 hours Regimental Dance (Gymnasium).

Sunday, 10th May
- 10.30 hours Church Parade and Service.
- 12.00 hours Association Members and Old Comrades to Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess.
- 15.00 hours Cricket Match. Officers v. Warrant Officers and Sergeants.
- 17.00 hours Tea on Sports Field.

The Non-Touring Band of the Corps will be in attendance throughout the Week-end.

The Regiment regrets that only male overnight accommodation can be provided.

All applications to O.C., The Depot Regiment, Royal Signals, Saighton Camp, Chester.

Wednesday, 27th May, 1959 ... Corps Dinner, Hyde Park Hotel.

Thursday, 28th May, 1959 ... Central Committee Meeting, Royal Signals Association. Regular Officers' "At Home," Hyde Park Hotel.

THE CORPS CRICKET MATCH against ROYAL ARMOURED CORPS

takes place at THE OVAL, LONDON, on 24th/25th JUNE, 1959, and not 23rd/24th June, as stated in the February number of THE WIRE.

Admission is free, especially to those wearing a Corps Tie.

Tea can be obtained from the normal catering facilities of The Oval.

The Corps Band, or a R.A.C. Band, will play on both days for about an hour on either side of the afternoon tea interval.

Indian Army Reunion

26th June, 1959. Hurlingham Club. Tickets, 12/- each, from Lieutenant-Colonel D. J. C. Wiseman, 59, Hyde Park Gate, London, S.W.7.

Saturday, 4th July, 1959 ... Royal Signals Association Annual
Sunday, 5th July, 1959 ... General Meeting. Corps Week-end and Association Reunion at CATTERICK.

The 1959 Searchlight Tattoo

at the White City, London, organised by S.S.A.F.A. will be held on evenings between 17th and 28th August inclusive, with a matinee on Saturday, 22nd August. This year the Tattoo begins at 8 p.m. and finishes a little earlier (10.15 p.m.), so that people can catch their trains more easily. Tickets can be obtained from the Box Office, White City Stadium, Wood Lane, W.12 (Shepherds Bush 7220).

26th National Radio and Television Exhibition

Earls Court, London, 26th August to 5th September, 1959.

Ex-Boys' Sixth Annual Dinner

Saturday, 26th September, 1959. 6.30 for 7.30 p.m. At Victory Ex-Services' Club, 63/79, Seymour Street, London, W.2. One minute from Marble Arch Station and first left up Edgware Road. Lounge suit or uniform.

Tickets 17/6 flat rate for ex-Boys, their wives or guests. Apply preferably not later than 1st July to F. W. JACOB, Esq., T.A. CENTRE, 54 (EA) INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A., 40, ASHBURNHAM ROAD, BEDFORD, who is Hon. Secretary and Treasurer. Cheques payable "F. W. Jacob, ex-Boys' Dinner A/C."

Lieutenant-Colonel E. G. Brice, O.B.E., Royal Signals, has assumed chairmanship vice Major F. G. Strange (Retd.), who remains publicity member of the Committee.

Royal Signals Rugby Football Club, Fixtures, 1959

Date	Opponents	Ground
March 18th	Command Cup	Catterick
March 25th	Command Sevens	Catterick
April 11th	Percy Park	Catterick
April 18th	Wakefield	Catterick
April 22nd	Bradford Charity Match	Bradford
April 25th	Huddersfield Sevens	Huddersfield

Royal Signals Hockey Club, Fixtures, 1959

Date	Opponents	Ground
Wed., March 25th	Welbeck College	Welbeck
March 27th-30th	Scarborough Hockey Festival ...	Scarborough

Royal Signals Officers' Golfing Society, Fixtures, 1959

Date	Opponents	Course
Sun., 15th March	Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst	Camberley Heath
Wed., 15th April	York Golf Club	Strensall, York
Thurs., 16thApril	Spring Meeting	Pannal
Fri., 17thApril	Spring Meeting	Pannal
Sun., 26th April	Royal Military College of Science	Frilford Heath
9th-16th May	Army Golf Meeting	St. Andrews
Wed., 20th May	Royal Engineers	Worplesdon
Fri., 17th July	Royal Artillery	Sunningdale
Thurs., 10th Sept.	R.A.M.C.	Swinley Forest
Mon., 21st Sept.	A.G.S. Meeting	Sunningdale
Tues., 22nd Sept.	A.G.S. Meeting	Sunningdale
Mon., 28th Sept.	Autumn Meeting	Worplesdon
Tues., 29th Sept.	Autumn Meeting	Worplesdon
Wed., 30th Sept.	Autumn Meeting	Worplesdon
Sun., 4th Oct.	Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst	Camberley Heath
Thurs., 22nd Oct	R.A.O.C.	Swinley Forest

PROMOTIONS

The following promotions were authorised during the month of January, 1959:—

Technical Roster

To S Sgt.	22296222	(380)	Sgt.	Cadman, A.
	2549659	(390)	A/S Sgt.	Hughes, G. F.
	2549493	(400)	A/S Sgt.	Thomas, B. W.
	21126561	(410)	Sgt.	Lanyon, D. E. G.
To Sgt.	14449960	(50)	A Sgt.	Layton, D. S.
	2549617	(60)	A Sgt.	Moynan, D. M.
	4810152	(150)	A Sgt.	Tyzzer, J. B.

Regimental Duty Roster

To S Sgt.	3386248	(280)	Sgt.	Todd, E. G.
	2603389	(400)	Sgt.	Young, A. J.
	14957327	(410)	Sgt.	Arnold, E.

Operating Roster

To Sgt.	2325946	(40)	A Sgt.	Houldsworth, D. W.
	2325627	(150)	Cpl.	Gelston, H.
	21052583	(190)	A Sgt.	Davis, P. D. W.
	22242622	(200)	A Sgt.	Gore, J. G.

Foreman of Signals Roster

To S Sgt.	14457829	(3190)	A/S Sgt.	Clarkson, F.
	22274150	(570)	A/S Sgt.	Nugent, E. E.
	22548632	(660)	A/S Sgt.	Moore, G.
	22346425	(900)	A/S Sgt.	Stock, F. M.
	22525144	(910)	A/S Sgt.	Johnson, P.
	22902372	(1290)	A/S Sgt.	Armitage, C. N.
	2549663	(1370)	A/S Sgt.	Ashton, D. C.
	22289287	(1490)	A/S Sgt.	Johnson, M. A.
	22550319	(1820)	A/S Sgt.	Cherry, M. D.
	22794684	(1960)	A/S Sgt.	Prime, D.
	2236585	(130)	A/S Sgt.	Wood, R. J. R.
	22309274	(720)	A/S Sgt.	Lund, R.
	22537743	(810)	A/S Sgt.	Murray, A. J.
	22845429	(1010)	A/S Sgt.	Smith, F. A.

INSERTIONS

Technical Roster

	2549517	(744)	Sgt.	Berry, C. A.

Clerical Roster

	22539115	(1454)	Sgt.	Jones, T. G.

General Trades and Duties Roster

	22296607	(1548)	Sgt.	Callaghan, H.

Regimental Duty Roster

	22242164	(3444)	S Sgt.	Talbott, R. H. J.

DELETIONS

Regimental Duty Roster

W.O.I	180
W.O.II	2420
S. Sgt.	300

Clerical Roster

S. Sgt.	520

Operating Roster

Sgt.	4680	3620	10	5080	7140	3920

Technical Roster

Sgt.	870	1790

General Trades and Duties Roster

Sgt.	1410	2380	2230	880	1820	2180

Lineman Roster

Sgt.	70	180

Regimental Duty Roster

2323164 W.O.I 200 Gosling, J. C., Commissioned (Lt. Q.M.) 1 Dec. 58

STATUE OF JIMMY

Genuine antique silver gilt "ormulu" pair of Hermes/Iris candelabra. Price £22.—Ye Olde Mint House, Pevensey, Sussex.

BRICKLEHURST MANOR DAY AND BOARDING SCHOOL

Bricklehurst Manor is a Day and Boarding School for Boys and Girls aged 4 to 8. Children up to 16 years are welcome every holidays in a happy home while parents abroad.—Full particulars from *Miss Eberlie, Bricklehurst Manor, Stonegate, Wadhurst, Sussex.*

R.S.M.s of the Corps

L. A. DWYER, R.S.M.



R.S.M. Dwyer joined the Corps in September, 1936, via R.A. (T.A.), and his County Regiment, The East Surreys, where, after spending two weeks in their Depot, he decided that the P.B.I. was no place for him.

Having fulfilled the usual training commitments at Catterick he was drafted direct from Catterick to India (Kohat District Signals), in February, 1938. There, after being issued with a mule, No. 1 set and the usual "too large Topee," he proceeded to pound the provinces of the North West Frontier with "K" and "A" Sections.

He was promoted to Lance-Sergeant in 1941 and posted to 34 Indian Divisional Signals, with whom he spent a short spell in Ceylon. He then went back to India and joined S.T.C. (B) Mhow as an instructor on procedure in the Signals O.T.S. Wing, finally becoming C.S.M. of the Wing in February, 1944. (Many an ex-Cadet will no doubt recall his weekly cycle inspection parade, a la mounted drill. How often the remark of "Get your hair cut and some air in your back tyre," was heard! ! !)

He was appointed R.Q.M.S. of the S.T.C. in 1945 until early 1947 when the S.T.C. (B) disbanded and the Indian Signal Corps School took over. Whilst awaiting his boat, he returned to Signals O.T.S. Wing, leaving there in July, 1947, for U.K.

On arrival in U.K. he was posted to 11 A.A. (M) Signals Regiment T.A. and, after completing his tour with them, was posted to 3 Infantry Divisional Signals for a tour in the Canal Zone from October, 1951 to 1954.

R.S.M. Dwyer came home on promotion to R.S.M. in October, 1954, and is now with 2 Corps Signal Regiment (London) T.A.

He is keen on all sports with a preference for hockey and tennis, is married and has a family of three boys and one daughter.

Careers and Opportunity

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

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

KENYA POLICE. Vacancies for civilian Signal Technicians, aged preferably not over 40. Applicants must have wide knowledge of the installation, running and maintenance of HF and VHF fixed and mobile radio equipments; experience of VHF multi-channel equipments, fascimile, teleprinters is an advantage. Salary scales £813 x £33—£945; £1,056 x £39—£1,173 (efficiency bar); £1,215 x £42—£1,341 per annum. £40 outfit allowance on appointment; quarters at reasonable rental, or allowance paid if quarters are not available. Free medical attention for the officer, his wife, and children up to age 16. Equivalent of up to three adult passages for the officer and his family on appointment and when proceeding on leave. Normal tour of duty from 24 to 45 months, according to officer's age and station of employment. For full details apply to the Crown Agents, 4, Millbank, London, S.W.1.

Ideal opening will occur in late summer or early autumn of 1959 for a married couple fond of country life. A Senior Officer of Royal Signals is building a house at Burford, Glos., in the Cotswolds, which will be occupied chiefly at week-ends; also a small house near by for occupation by a couple to act as caretakers and give general help on the premises. The husband can find a job locally; wife can act as Cook/Caretaker when the house is occupied. Rent-free unfurnished accommodation, pay by arrangement for services rendered. Apply by letter to Lieutenant-Colonel D. G. Collins, M.B.E., T.D., D.L., Homeways, 19, Hardwicke Road, Streetly, Staffs.

CHRIST'S HOSPITAL, Horsham, Sussex. The following posts will become vacant in September, 1959. Enquiries should be addressed to Mr. G. Van Praagh (Senior Science Master). The School cannot provide houses, but new staff can find accommodation nearby.

(a) Senior Laboratory Technician (Head Physics Assistant), aged up to 40. Will be responsible for maintenance of physics equipment, and will have two workshops and a storeroom. Salary scale starts at £550 (at age 30) and increases by £25 a year to £750; pension scheme. Prospects of advancement for a man who will take a real interest in the science schools.

(b) Vacancy at slightly lower salary for man aged up to 50, to take charge of new science block. Duties are those of storekeeper and maintenance man rather than skilled technician.

Other advertisements about employment are on Pages 58, 83, and on the inside of the back cover.

QUIZ

1. The Corps March—that is the Quick March—is made up of "Begone Dull Care" and another tune. What is the other tune?
2. On which days is a charge against a soldier not heard by his O.C.?
3. What is the only form of bird life represented in Army Badges, excluding the Mobile Defence Corps?
4. *Boxing*
   Define the weight limits of:
   Light-middleweight.
   Lightweight.
   Lightweight (Army Boys).
5. A Flying Fox is a bat; a Flying Mare is a wrestling throw. What are:
   (a) A Flying Elephant?
   (b) A Flying Horse?
6. What are the Army ranks equivalent to the Naval:
   (a) Chief Petty Officer?
   (b) Petty Officer?
7. What is meant, geographically, by the Roaring Forties?
8. How many teeth constitutes a full set?
9. Who were the three sons of Noah?
10. (a) When; (b) Where; (c) By whom; was the first Army telegraph cable buried underground during active service conditions in war.

See page 82 for answers to Quiz.

ENGLAND

1st TRAINING REGIMENT

After the Christmas break everyone is back in harness again. Highlights of the month were our victories in the Army Rugby Cup and District Cross Country Championships.

When snow and ice had disappeared sufficiently to make play possible, Cup holders, The Duke of Wellington's, from Holywood, N. Ireland, visited us in the U.K. quarter finals. It was a thrilling match and in spite of serious injuries to two star players we emerged winners by one goal, thus avenging our defeat last year at their hands in the same stage of the competition. Second Lieutenant Robson, the Captain, who sustained a fractured leg, is making satisfactory progress and Second Lieutenant Cook's damaged knee is almost recovered.

For the eighth successive year, our Cross Country runners annexed the District championship. In all there were six runs and on each occasion not only did we show clean pairs of heels to the opposition but had the first man home to boot. A most praiseworthy effort indeed.

Most other sports have suffered because of wintry conditions, but a thaw is on the way or so we are told.

The Regiment is wearing quite a new look these days. Many old faces have disappeared and others are to follow suit in the near future.

Just before the Christmas holidays we had a visit from General Moberly, Signal Officer in Chief, and a former Regimental Commander. We are always delighted to welcome him back. Quite recently, Brigadier Hepp, the German Army Director of Signals, also spent a morning with us. It was most interesting to hear how our Saxon cousins are tackling their communication problems.

2 TRAINING REGIMENT

December. 1958, was a full month in all respects. A Dinner Dance was held in the Officers' Mess on the 12th and during the following week the Corporals' Club held a Dance at the NAAFI Club, the W.O.s and Sergeants' Mess Christmas Draw took place, and finally there was the Children's Party held on the 20th in the Regimental NAAFI. In the meantime all but about a hundred of the cadre and trainees had departed on Christmas leave. On Christmas Day after the W.O.s and Sergeants had visited the Officers' Mess and vice versa the excellent Dinner laid on by Captain Ben Gough and Sergeant G. Jones, A.C.C., was served by the Officers, W.O.s and Sergeants.

After Christmas 4 (OR 1) Squadron joined us from 7th Training Regiment. The Squadron is commanded by Major J. W. Elston. Captain Mike Allen, S.S.M. Newton and S.Q.M.S. Stephenson and a few others help make up the Squadron strength.

The cold weather has virtually put a stop to all Regimental Sport over the last few weeks and drill was only carried out on Le Cateau Square by 4 Squadron at one stage after snow clearance had been effected under the "supervision" of Sergeants Joyce, Hall and Jukes. Fortunately the Ranges do not have to be cleared before use!

Signalman Harris is congratulated on his choice for the Corps Hockey Team and also Signalman Oxford and Signalman Thomson who ran in the Cross Country Team. Signalman Bayles, Power and Spink have played Rugger in the Catterick Services XV. The Regimental Rugby Team met Richmond Grammar School on 3rd February and won a close game by 16 points to 12.

R.Q.M.S. A. E. Jones, Staff Sergeant E. Webb and Staff Sergeant C. Evis have left the Regiment, and arrivals include R.Q.M.S. P. Mullin and Sergeants D. Monteith and W. R. Thompson.

Congratulations to Major and Mrs. Elston on the birth of their daughter Joanna.

"bon voyage" on his journey into civilian life; the Corps will miss him greatly. At the same time we welcome Lieutenant-Colonel T. S. Foster and family, who have made the long journey from our District Headquarters in Nottingham. It is feared that he already knows too much about the Unit, but on the other hand he knows District Headquarters even more intimately, so a long and happy partnership is virtually ensured. Our Cricket team will undoubtedly benefit, after two barren years it is time it did something useful.

3 TRAINING REGIMENT

Out of the mist and fog of Lincolnshire emerges the first news for some time from 3 Training Regiment. A recent trainee arrival from 7 Training Regiment had heard of us, however, as he was overheard to remark "Oh, yes, isn't this the second best Rugby Regiment in the British Army?"—flattery indeed, but as 1 Training only pipped us by six points to nil in a fifth round Army Cup match and have since won the U.K. Cup, perhaps he was not so wide of the mark.

The Unit emerged from a welcome block Christmas leave and after heavy heads had been shaken on the 4th, settled down to work on 5th January, undeterred by fog and snow, which we hope has now departed until next year; our newly formed Schemes Squadron, under the helmsmanship of Major B. W. Beale, as a result have become the self-styled sharp end of the Unit; and if you want to know just how to exist in semi-Arctic conditions ask Schemes Squadron?

Undeterred by weather the units sporting activities have gone from success to success both individually and collectively. Signalman Gordon Blackett has brought honour to the unit in the Rugby world being on the short list for the forthcoming British Lions tour of Australasia, he is currently playing for the Army XV, and despite frequent absences from the Unit, shook his civilian instructors by classifying as a Telegraph Operator without being relegated; indeed as a rugger player he is not a bad Telegraph Operator, in common with one or two more members of the Unit. Lieutenant A. B. Byng is also currently flying the Unit flag high in the hockey world, playing for the Army XI; his life of ease, however, is due to end in June when he attends his Subalterns Part II Course with its associated technical clichés. Success in Cross Country circles has come to the unit who travel to Aldershot for the Army Championships on 27th February, 1959. Much of the success of our team is the reward of enthusiastic leadership and hard work by Lieutenant-Colonel A. C. R. Stead, O.B.E., Lieutenant F. A. Stork, Lieutenant P. A. Spooner, S.S.M. Ross, B.E.M., and Lance-Corporal R. M. Green, the team captain, who only just manages to scrape into the team for the Army Championships; although he is our number one runner he is due to report to A.E.R. unit on 1st March. Other personalities in the team are Lance-Corporal Simms, who alleges he fiddled his way into the unit from 10 Wireless Training Squadron because he liked sport, Signalman Clausen who, after a spell of very long distance running, in the wrong direction, returned to the unit and says he will not go absent again!

The Hockey team have had their successes, but are still smarting under a defeat by 6 Battalion R.A.O.C. in the Army Cup after extra time, although they have since reversed the tables in the Northern Command Cup. Overheard during the vetting of prospective Hockey players: "Yes, I've played quite a bit with Corpus Christi," to which the reply was: "That's funny, me too, I'm Corpus Signals."

In Rugby, too, we have had success, the XV, under the guiding hand of Captain D. W. F. Bayliss, and the aged and abusive captaincy of the Adjutant, have won sixteen out of its last seventeen matches, the loss being to 1 Training Regiment after a stirring battle; the result could well have been in our favour, with a little bit of luck, but our congratulations to 1 Training Regiment and good wishes for the final. Five of the side have represented Northern Command. Football, though short of any major successes is thriving, we run so many teams in so many leagues, civilian and service, that the R.S.M. (W.O.I F. Stockdale) remarked, during the absence in hospital of our Unit Soccer Officer, that he was lost in a maze of Cup and League matches and wanted a full time administrative staff to run the football.

Corporal John Bland in R.H.Q. now spends his time sorting out upgrading personnel and football fixtures; we will miss his large and genial form shortly on N.S. release, but if he heeds the advice he has received we may see him back in the future as a Regular.

Four of the Soccer 1st XI have been selected for the Corps XI and Lance-Corporal Blount's goalkeeping is still improving; shades of ex-Lance-Corporal Alan Hodgkinson (Sheffield United and England).

On the 5th February we sadly said farewell to our Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel A. C. R. Stead, O.B.E., who is retiring from the Army, although still a young man; Colonel "Sammy" brought the unit down from Catterick Camp to Lincoln in November, 1956, and our successes in all fields would not have been so pronounced had it not been for his inspiring leadership both on and off duty. We all wish him

(*Continued at foot of previous column*)

4 TRAINING REGIMENT

Past members of the Regiment will no doubt remember the schemes block at the bottom of Gaza Lines, where most Exercises and Education Examinations were centred. The other day a gang of men belonging to the Garrison Engineer arrived and started digging a large trench round the block. We naturally asked what they were doing it for, but no-one seemed to know. Full of curiosity, we questioned various knowledgeable people and received a wide range of answers, some funny and some not, but still no-one knew. Finally, the mystery was cleared up when another party of men turned up and planted a line of young trees in the trench. Now the schemes block is tastefully hidden behind a young forest, rather in the manner in which municipal authorities disguise sewage farms and such like. No-one, however, can yet explain why it has been done, and the general feeling is that they will not last beyond the early spring, when the issue of coal to barrack rooms ceases.

The Regiment has also been extremely fortunate in its dental services this month. As many of you will remember, there is a dental centre just across the road from us, and after being staffed for years by two rather overworked dental officers, the War Office had a sudden burst of generosity and sent along no less than eight. The result is that dentists have been practically touring the Unit lines begging people to come and have their teeth looked at and pleading to be allowed to do a stopping or at least a scale and clean. At first the response was not too good, but after the first batch had reported that there were several attractive lady dentists among them, custom improved considerably.

The civilianisation of the Regiment proceeds apace, to such an extent in fact that it is rumoured that Major Tucker has started calling himself our personnel manager and referring to his Squadron as a department. It has its serious side, however, and another rumour says that the Second-in-Command has to light his own fire in the morning now because all the Documents Office clerks are civilians. It is interesting to note, though, that some of the younger civilians, on comparing their rates of pay with those of the modern soldier, have gone off to re-enlist in the Army.

Our cross-country team continued to hold fourth place throughout the District League and finished up sixth in the Northern Command championships. An outstanding performer was Signalman Smethurst, who came in second on the final District run, and sixth in the Command run. Needless to say, 1 Training Regiment were angling for him, but our Cross-Country Officer, Lieutenant Watson, considered the transfer fee much too low and refused to part with him.

In the other sports, we continue to make satisfactory but not outstanding progress in spite of the efforts of Captain Rogers and Lieutenant Burrows to have the matches played on days most suitable for our own teams. Unfortunately, our opponents are not always as gullible as we hope and we are forced to play on a day when our star player is on leave, or sick, or taking an exam or any one of the hundred odd things they always seem to be doing when wanted.

SIGNAL TRAINING WING, W.R.A.C.

Hullo, again. Did we hear someone say spring was just around the corner. Well, it had better hurry to Catterick; the Medical Officer never had it so good! To combat this cold weather we have had posted to this Command a Staff Sergeant Thompson, affectionately know as "Killer." She has been organising games and P.T. Talk about broken legs and women with two left feet! W.O.II Neal has now returned from her holiday at Liphook and we are pleased to report it was sunny and warm! After Christmas Sergeant Lysaght surprised us all by getting engaged to a Sergeant in the R.A.F. She is rapidly trying to learn the R.A.F. patter and can often be heard to say "I'll see the Wingco for you," or "It's madly gay, isn't it?" All members of the Wing wish them both every happiness and hope they will pop in and see us when they get posted to R.A.F., Catterick (Ha-Ha).

Just lately when you walk around Wing Headquarters you are likely to meet a very well fed "pussy cat." Sergeant Thomson, our Wing Office Sergeant, has a fatal fascination for these dear creatures and do they know it! You hear the O.C. shout "Get out," the S.S.M. yells something indecipherable, and the poor cat dashes to Kit-Kat Office for safety.

After two-and-a-half years at the School Sergeant Dixon has got her marching orders and is about to proceed to Southern Command. We shall be very sorry to see her go and we just do not know what we shall do when the fuel runs short! Still, maybe she will keep us informed of the procedure. We wish her every happiness in her new job. Sergeant McLaren is taking over from Sergeant Dixon and we shall look forward to meeting her.

We were very pleased to see that Steeple Bumstead were back in the news. We have asked for the Unit to be placed on the list for trainees.

Our visitors this month have included Captain Price, W.R.A.C., Recruiting Officer for Nottingham. She looked around the School and talked with several of the trainees.

Since the arrival of Staff Sergeant Thompson the Unit has become very sports conscious and local teams had better look to their laurels. What with such champions as Major Fisher, who has played hockey and netball in many first-class teams, Captain Ruston, who, we are told, played something for the Nig-Nogs of Birmingham, W.O.II Neal, who led the Tulip Girls at ?, Staff Sergeant Slack, a goalkeeper of note, Sergeant Thomson, a known fiend with a badminton racket, Lance-Corporal Crowe with her bells, not to mention the many "killers" amongst the trainees. If Lance-Corporal Hughes's Medical Corps boy friend cannot cope we will send obituaries next month. — Bye.

5th TRAINING REGIMENT

This month's main event is two-fold, we say farewell to our Commanding Officer and welcome our new Commanding Officer.

The farewell and welcome was riotously (or should it be righteously) carried out in two ways.

Firstly the farewells, Lieutenant-Colonel A. H. Costen was dined out by the Officers of the Regiment with much flowing of the traditional beverages, and judging by the headaches the next morning a few of the officers had been sitting up all night with much "gnashing and wailing" because they were losing their Commanding Officer!

It was all arranged for Colonel Costen to ride through the brick wall in traditional Display Team manner, but the ice put the damper on that, so he rode the Lambretta through a Paper Hoop in the Mess.

The Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, not to be outdone by the Officers, arranged a sumptuous dinner to dine out the old Commanding Officer and dine in the new Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel J. W. Eagle, M.B.E., E.R.D., and an invitation to all the Officers to a "Games evening." (I will not explain the meaning of the word Games, it is a word used to cover a multitude of sins.)

But in the more serious vein, all ranks of 5th Training Regiment wish to Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. A. H. Costen all the very best in their future life.

In saying farewell we also extend a hand of welcome to Lieutenant-Colonel Eagle and congratulate him on his promotion to that rank, we trust that he will settle down with us in picturesque Ripon and enjoy its ancient charms. It is rather a chilly welcome with its snow and ice but to us it is home.

Since our last notes we have had quite a movement of personnel in and out, too numerous to mention here, but in future notes will be submitted monthly and so better record can be kept. Warrant Officer I. Kempton now fills the R.S.M.'s chair, and Captain J. Cooper has taken over the duties of Adjutant from Captain P. Mallin, who is shortly leaving us for B.A.O.R.



Lieutenant-Colonel A. H. Costen, R.S.M. D. Kempton, Lieutenant-Colonel J. W. Eagle.

SCHOOL OF SIGNALS

Our main concern after the New Year has been the visit of the War Office C8 Inquisition; this has now ended and, in general, we are pleased with their report, even though certain rearguard actions are being fought over a few details.

Not to be out-done by the cavalry and infantry, we have amalgamated No. 1 and 2 Squadrons under the joint command of Major J. F. Mitchener. In addition, Major (Q.M.) Rolls is busy centralising all General Stores Matters in the School—he has been wanting to do this since he came and we are wondering if the "go ahead" has been the cause of his present sickness.

Captain K. Watts is leaving us shortly, for Malaya he hopes, and we wish him the very best of luck.

Staff Sergeant Bartram has left us for Cyprus and there has been a distinct lessening of tension in the situation there already. W.O.II Golding is packing his kit for Hong Kong and is replaced by W.O.II Day, from 1 Corps Signal Regiment.

No. 45 Royal Signals Qualifying Course assembled in Catterick on 30th January. We were pleased to be able to welcome them on a clear, sunny, though cold day, when the rest of England was enveloped in fog. Four of the Course were selected to play for the Corps at rugger against Sandhurst. This brought the total players in the team from the School to eleven—the result, a convincing win.

JUNIOR LEADERS REGIMENT

A number of high ranking officers have been welcomed to Denbury in recent weeks including the D.G.M.T., Lieutenant-General Sir Gerald W. Lathbury, K.C.B., D.S.O., O.B.E. Now we hear we are to be honoured with a visit by H.R.H. The Princess Royal, C.I., G.C.V.O., G.B.E.

The Colonel-in-Chief will arrive at midday on 12th June, leaving about 1700 hrs. Details of her visit are being considered by the various authorities concerned and we are hoping for a firm programme to emerge shortly. Meanwhile, much preliminary planning is taking place—not least by husbands who are working out how to pay for the outfit their wives threaten to buy to grace the occasion.

Earlier WIRE notes reported the large influx of new recruits to the Regiment. In this Easter term the "bulge" has moved along from the Recruit Troop to the Squadrons, and both they and various courses have had to contend with much larger numbers. However, although some were a little apprehensive about the outcome of the mixture of many new boys and a number of new instructors, all have pulled hard together and results are quite good.

With new people come new ideas, and Second-Lieutenant P. Hunt is responsible for the establishment of a "recording company" producing ingenuity, interest, enthusiasm—and very good recordings of guitarists, skiffle groups, singers and the like. Any boy who wants to make a personal hit record, can now do so at little cost, the "Signatone" label, getting almost every effect or "gimmick" that a professional company can



Recording Session



"Over the land freckled with snow half-thawed." *Edward Thomas*

provide, coupled with the technical facilities of an experienced production team—(or so the note initialled P.H. tells me!).

In the field of sport, the Cadre Soccer team went down to the D.C.L.I. recently—which knocked us out of the Army Championships. Pity this, our only defeat of the season; however, hopes run high that we shall win the Calder Cup this year.

No. 1 Squadron Rugby team, under the guidance of Second-Lieutenant Buckett, beat "C" Company, A.A.S. Chepstow. The Chepstow boys were a stronger and much heavier side but the superior fitness and dash of our boys was obvious from the start and the final score of 26—0 tells its own tale.

The Boxing team continue to do well. Latest addition to their growing list of successes is the acquisition of three Championship and three runners-up medals at the Southern Command Championships.

We are grateful to Para Brigade Signal Squadron for the help and support they give to the boxing team on its visits to Aldershot. We are also amused to note the intensive indoctrination our team undergo on each visit. The first stage was racing through the tree tops and expert tuition on the packing of "chutes"; the next was higher still—in Beverly aircraft watching the Para Squadron jump. We are not quite sure if the boxing team are after championship medals or "wings." The boys love it, of course, but oh! if some mothers could see their sons!

U.K. COMCAN SIGNAL REGIMENT

R.H.Q. and 1 Squadron. It has been one of those months which, to use a well-known phrase, has been one of quiet consolidation of the position; in other words, little or nothing of note has occurred.

A mighty battle rages for the provision of two tennis courts and it is hoped that, if the valiant efforts of our Commanding Officer succeed, Wimbledon Week might well be held in Robinswood this year.

In sporting contests we have grounds for disappointment. In the District final of the basketball we lost 40-18 to the Junior Leaders Regiment, R.A.C. Our Rugby team reached the District semi-final, only to lose 22-17, against 42 Field Regiment, R.A., after having a comfortable lead at half-time. It was the old story of fitness telling in the long run. Finally, football: this should have been ours; again we reached the District final, but again victory eluded us.

Next year we must surely win something.

2 Squadron. Another quiet month in 2 Squadron, with little to report but atrocious weather conditions.

Staff Sergeant Smith is due back after a spell at Bampton and Staff Sergeant Head is due away on the X.I. Course at Catterick, otherwise the senior N.C.O. situation remains unchanged.

There is a lot of talk of civilianisation and if this comes about the S.S.M. wonders who he will be Sergeant-Major to!

3 Squadron. Having successfully mastered the first month of the "New Year," we continue on our "merry way." Our Handicrafts Club is progressing under the guidance of Foreman of Signals Lewis, although all its members seem to be making ironing boards. Would like to think the boards are

to be used for the pressing of Battle Dresses—I wonder? One character wanted to make a guitar "cos he'd heard all blokes what play guitars are getting out." There's an old mill by the stream—Terry Dene.

We are now members of the Army Saddle Club, with our own horses in stabling. Jodhpur-clad individuals are now heading for the stables and the Unit cinema has had a spate of Cowboy films. Atmosphere, we have bags of it. Someone is bound to suggest we start polo—nothing is beyond us.

In January we said farewell to Sergeant and Mrs. Conway (Malta) and Sergeant and Mrs. Simpson (B.A.O.R.). We also welcomed Sergeants Esson, Tyzzer and Bradford; may their stay with us be a happy one.

4 Squadron. Cobbett Hill has lost some well-known faces—W.O.II Knowles, Sergeants Tyzzer, Cox and Bradford—our good wishes go with them to their new stations. We welcome Sergeants Battersby and Whittingham and hope their stay will be a happy one.

With Christmas behind us and 1959 looming ahead, we decided, after much discussion, to concentrate on a "Hobbies" section. Amateur radio (oddly enough!) and photography proved to be most popular. W.O.II Evans applied for and was given a licence (G3LQC) for the Radio Club, which is ably supported by Lance-Corporals Garvey and Dillon (no relation to the Marshal), while S.Q.M.S. Redhead took over photography, assisted by Lance-Corporal Horsman, who has loaned the Club some of his own equipment. During the coming *summer* (there is such a season—I have looked it up) it is hoped to initiate a Boating/Canoe Club, so look out Bampton—better keep your equipment under lock and key.

Oakhanger Detachment is suffering from severe posting-out; it is with little or no "relief." While we wish Captain J. H. Hild every success in his new appointment, we extend a warm welcome to our new O.C.—Lieutenant A. R. J. Ainsworth. The Detachment has achieved real success in the promotion field, five Signalmen having completed, with excellent results, the last Drill and Duties Course. From a sporting point of view, however, there is little to report except our annual struggle to work our way up from the bottom of the local Small Units' Soccer League.

If your weather is as good (???) as ours—the best of luck.



[*War Office Signal Squadron*

"Surely Sergeant-Major, this one isn't Corporal Potts?"

27 GUIDED WEAPONS REGIMENT (FIELD) R.A. SIGNAL TROOP

It is strange how various members of the unit contrive to secure attachments to the local fair sex just when a Regimental move is forecast. How inconvenient it is can be seen from a study of the weekend leave figures but, doubtless, our smoother gentlemen could utilise even this unfortunate circumstance to their own advantage.

To be more precise our move is most certainly taking place and we look forward to meeting our new superior formation. Also it is with regret that we shall leave our present home for we have indeed had so much help and advice from Brigadier Nettleship and the staff of Western Command.

We are now packing.

STEEPLE BUMPSTEAD SIGNAL SQUADRON

The absence of notes from this famous Unit of Royal Signals will be regretted. The cause is civilianisation.

In the new establishment "Clerk N.T.Q. WIRE note writer" has been expunged and "Youth in training tea-makers assistant" substituted.

There is no obvious difficulty here, one would do the work as well as the other. Alas, the Witeley Council has stepped in and argues that the writing of WIRE notes should be regarded as "overtime" and paid for. Sanction for the necessary payment has not yet been obtained.—Editor.

BASIC ELECTRICITY

Published in January, 1959, in Manual form by The Technical Press Ltd. are the first five parts of a new illustrated Course of Technician Training in "*Basic Electricity—Basic Electronics*," which may prove a landmark in technical education in Britain and the Commonwealth.

Carefully planned, brilliantly simplified, and carrying at least one clear diagram or cartoon-type illustration on every page, the Manuals present the essentials of a Course devised some years ago at the request of the U.S. Navy. More than 50,000 Navy technicians have since been trained on the Course; and a wide sale has been achieved to individuals, schools, trade unions and technical institutions of many kinds.

The work of adapting the Manuals to British usage and terminology was (with War Office approval) undertaken by a special Electronics Training Investigation team of the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, and the revised edition has been adopted as a basic text for the training of future R.E.M.E. technicians.

Profusely illustrated in easily understood pictures and diagrams these five Manuals are the complete Instructor's compendium. The writer of the review has not seen any text book which is so comprehensive and so easily understood since he himself learnt simple Electricity and Magnetism from the old Royal Engineers' Manual on the subject.

Parts I and II take the class from "What is Electricity?" through Direct Current Circuits, Resistance to D.C. Parallel circuits.

Parts III and IV cover alternating currents in series and parallel, Impedence, Transformers and Meters.

Part V A.C. and D.C. machines.

Careful reading informs the writer of this review that the possession of these five Manuals would have saved him considerable effort both as a pupil and instructor in the 1920's and even at the expensive Bookshop Edition 12/6 a part, 55/- the five books would have been money well spent.

The Publishers. The Technical Press Ltd. have, however, produced a "Services Edition" at 35/- a set (7/6 a copy).

Regiments of Royal Signals, particularly Training Regiments, the Junior Leaders Regiment and the Signal Training Wing of the Training Centre of other Arms of the Service will earn considerable gratitude from Instructors and students if they stock a supply of these Manuals for retail sale.

Incidentally, Part V even goes so far as to explain how the starter works in a motor car.

Any who obtains copies of these Manuals on Basic Electricity will look forward eagerly to the publication of the more advanced series—Basic Electronics.

For further information apply The Technical Press Ltd., 1, Justice Walk, Lawrence Street, London, S.W.3.

Making technicians for the Army

Brigadier Noel Chamberlain, C.B.E., M.A. formerly of the Royal Army Educational Corps and now of Harrogate, recently wrote of the Army's "public school" at Welbeck College. In this concluding article he deals with another kind of military educational establisment, the Army Apprentices' School at Harrogate.

This article is republished through the kindness of the "Harrogate Advertiser," in which it appeared on 13th September, 1958, and by kind permission of the author.

THE Army Apprentices' School, Harrogate, is the newest of the three Army Apprentices' Schools now existing. The school at Chepstow started in 1924. That at Arborfield followed in 1938, and the school at Harrogate was opened in 1947.

These schools are not merely technical boarding schools with a strong military bias. True they aim at producing well-educated and skilful technicians, but more than that they aim at developing boys who will rise to ranks of importance in the Army's great technical corps.

In point of fact, several hundred ex-apprentices have already risen to commissioned rank. These include Captains, Majors, Lieutenant-Colonels and even Brigadiers, so the ladder of promotion is certainly available for those who prove capable of climbing it.

It must be admitted that the accommodation now used by the Army Apprentices' School is not as good as that of equivalent civilian establishments. It is always difficult to adapt buildings to a different use from that for which they were intended. Nevertheless, the school is not badly served. Apart from workshops, classrooms, dining rooms, cookhouses, offices and barrack rooms, there are excellent playing fields, a parade ground and a complete set up of amenity buildings such as a library, a cinema, a Y.M.C.A., a gymnasium and two chapels. The sleeping accommodation in particular, complete with rest rooms, lavatories and bathrooms, all under one roof, is good.

Experience and Variety

The present Commandant is Colonel N. A. C. Croft, D.S.O., M.A. He went to school at Lancing and Stowe and completed his education at Christ Church, Oxford, and Manchester School of Technology. Therefore, to an unusual extent, he has had the breadth of experience and variety of training to fit him for his present responsibilities. Moreover, he spent three years in the Arctic on pre-1939 expeditions, served in Commando and Airborne operations during the Second World War, and subsequently has been specialising in cold weather warfare. Before he came to Harrogate he commanded the Infantry Boys' Battalion at Plymouth. He is well fitted to get the best out of British youth, and he exerts himself to stimulate self-reliance and love of adventure among the apprentices.

The Apprentices' School has a staff of 272 soldiers and civilians. This is a large number, but not only is it a boarding school, but the boys have to be clothed and paid as well as educated and trained. They need to be occupied seven days a week, and if it were not for the three leave periods every year, the military side of the Instructional Wing would be overtaxed. One of the most interesting features of the school is the variety of clubs, societies, hobbies, games and outdoor activities which take place outside normal working hours. The most popular form of character development is the self-reliance training on the Yorkshire moors. This takes place during week-ends, when apprentices cover 35 to 40 miles of difficult country, carrying their food and equipment. In their second and third years they also participate in five-day Exercises. These test initiative and stamina, and teach the art of improvisation and river crossing technique and include instruction in mountaineering and rope craft. In their last term selected apprentices attend the Army Outward Bound School at Towin for three weeks.

Time-honoured Functions

At present the Harrogate School trains its apprentices in field survey and printing, time-honoured functions of the Royal Engineers; the building trades, also a traditional Royal Engineers' commitment; and finally the new and highly complicated skills connected with radio and tele-communications, which are the responsibility of the Royal Corps of Signals. The Army recognises that all its trades do not demand the same intellectual attainments. The building trades, except the electricians, quantity surveyors and draughtsmen are graded as "B" trades. Field survey, electricians, quantity surveyors and draughtsmen are "A" trades. The Signal trades are graded "X," extra difficult, one might say.

At any rate, different types of boys are fitted for different types of trades. The mixture of trades has very little influence on the workshops where boys work according to their trades. But in general education, the instructors are faced with an exceptionally heavy task. Boys are admitted to the school between 15 and 17 years of age, and pass through a three-year course. The age range, 15 to 20, is therefore very wide. In addition, the standard of pre-enlistment education varies widely. A larger staff than that provided is need to cover so wide a spread.

Nevertheless there is ample evidence that the situation in general education is far from discouraging. The link between civilian and Army education is the G.C.E. examination, set by Cambridge University for the fighting Services. It is good to note that at the Harrogate Army Apprentices' School the number of boys who enter for the G.C.E. is steadily rising year by year.

Filling the Ranks

The result of the technical training is easier to assess in practice than in theory. Due to the wastage during and after the Second World War, the great technical corps were hard put to filling their ranks. National Service itself was a deterrent to Regular recruiting. An annual output of trained apprentices flowing regularly into the Army has been of the utmost importance. In effect, these keen young Regulars have become the backbone of their respective corps, and the outlook for the future is entirely altered as a result of their influence. The Army is no longer threatened with a dearth of skilled technicians. It should have plenty.

The apprentices are not disinclined to discuss their personal ambitions and their opinion of this school. All agree in one thing, namely, that to make a success of his career, an Army apprentice should have a liking for Army life. This does not mean that a boy must belong to a family with long Army associations. Some have, others have not. Take for example, David Sugden, of Bradford. He was nearly 17 when he enlisted when still a pupil at a grammar school. His intention is to be a radio technician and he found that he could not get a civilian apprenticeship anywhere near his home. So he joined the Army instead. Here, according to himself, he is getting the training which he always wanted. In his spare time he plays cricket, and he has also learnt to operate a cinema projector, and he became a leader in the Apprentices' Radio Club. So satisfied is David with his life that he introduced a friend, who is under training as a surveyor. As for the conditions of service, David considers that £6/2/6 a week, everything found, ten weeks' leave a year, and free warrants to and from home are ample inducements. True, he draws more money than most, because at 17½ years of age he "came on man's service." But everyone in turn reaches that state.

Stephen Stokes is 16 years old and comes from Coventry. He had no particular trade in mind when he sat for the entrance examination. While at his secondary modern school he was attracted to the Army as a career, and now he is learning to be a Royal Engineer, a painter and decorator by trade. His family had no previous connections with the Army, but Stephen hopes to rise in due course to be a warrant officer. He admits that he found Army life strange at first, but now he likes it. As for money, he is paid £2/2/- a week and saves most of it for his next holiday.

Then there is David Anderson from Nottingham. He has a different background, for his father was in the Scots Guards and both his elder brothers are Sergeants. "Regular" Sergeants, he emphasised, in R.E.M.E. and the R.A.S.C. respectively. David was educated at a well-known grammar school, and he is training to be a topographical surveyor. He speaks highly of the training, and of the £6/2/6 a week, all found, which he earns. He is undoubtedly the type of boy who ought to go a long way in the race for promotion.

Of Different Background

Another promising boy is Brian Maltby, 17½ years old, from Cambridge. He, too, went to a grammar school and remarked that he thought that the standard of instruction at the Army Apprentices' School compared favourably with that of his old school. He felt the urge to learn a trade, and as the prospects in the Army seemed good, he came to Harrogate. He hopes in times to become a Foreman of Signals. He enjoys his work and for amusement he shoots and goes in for model making.

I met another boy of different background. His father is a Lieutenant-Colonel in the Royal Engineers, now serving in Cyprus. The boy's early education suffered from frequent moves and at 17 years of age he found himself with scanty hope of obtaining G.C.E., the "open sesame" to the professions. So off he went to join his father's corps, and was sent to Harrogate. Here he is learning to be an electrician, and hopes to go next to the School of Military Engineering, Chatham. Since his studies are improving at the Army Apprentices' School, he thinks he will aim at the National Certificate. Meanwhile, he is self-supporting, and like the others of his age, draws £6/2/6 a week, all found. Incidentally, he hopes to get a free trip to Cyprus and back, "on the Army" during his next leave. Ernest's present idea is to become a clerk of works, but he may get a commission before he expects to.

These boys are probably above the average of the apprentices at Harrogate, but not excessively so. Taken as a body, the boys look smart, confident and alert. I agreed with the boy who said without prompting that his comrades were "a fine lot of blokes." Undesirables are quickly weeded out, and the wastage in the first year is not inconsiderable. This in itself keeps up a high standard, and makes the school a good school for a good boy.

Stiffer Entrance?

This wastage in the first year is uneconomic and points to the need for a stiffening in the entrance examination. Here is a school which offers a wonderfully good technical education, a continuation of general education, a sure future career, every reasonable amenity for fit and healthy boys, and all the free "services" which the fighting Service provide. On top of all that the boy is paid, according to his age and his advancement, at rates varying from £1/18/6 a week on first arrival to £6/2/6 at 17½ years of age.

It seems then that admission should be more competitive than it is, and the first thing to do is to impose a severer test of suitability than that required at present.

Meanwhile, the Army Apprentices' Schools are virtually open to any healthy boy of good character between the ages of 15 and 17. Once a boy is accepted by the Army, his parents are relieved of any liability for his clothing, food, and pocket money, and can sit back while he acquires a highly expensive "skill." The one essential is that the boy should complete a three-year course as an apprentice and should remain in the Army until he becomes 27 years of age. In view of the high cost of training, which far exceeds £1,000, this requirement cannot be regarded as unreasonable.

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PLEASE SEND CASH WITH ORDER for all the above articles *except* Corps Paint Transfers, for which an account will be forwarded.

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ANDY AND THE DISPLAY TEAM

By Reginald Taylor (*Hamish Hamilton 6/6*)

This "Antelope" series book will have a special appeal for young children, particularly those connected with Royal Signals. Its delightful story, by a Royal Signals T.A. Officer, is full of laughter and excitement and shows the author's insight into the "characters" to be found in the Army.

The younger generation in a discreetly vague Depot form their own Red Devils display team for a big tattoo. They practice the famous trick riding carried out by the real Royal Signals Display Team and there is a wonderful surprise for the children at the end.

This is a "must" for all the young children of "R. Signals."

L.J.P.



OFFICIAL CAR BADGE

The badge illustrated above is the only official car badge for Royal Signals, and is obtained from the headquarters of the Association, 88 Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1. Price **£1 : 15 : 0**

We understand an unauthorised copy is on sale at some retail shops at £2 : 10 : 0

A BAD CASE

The Association is sometimes criticised because of its alleged undue generosity to men who are not members of the Association.

The number of Signalmen who use the fact of service in the Corps to obtain improper advantage is very few.

This true story is one of them.

Signalman X, a married man, who had previously served in another Arm of the Service, enlisted on a Five Years with the Colours, Seven Reserve, engagement. Barring that he served in Malaya and later was recalled from the Reserve for the Suez affair, there is nothing unusual.

Having been married since 1950, he was allotted a Council house in 1957, and, reasonably, applied through S.S.A.F.A. for help to purchase a gas cooker and gas boiler, and was given a sum sufficient to pay the initial deposit on each. In a letter to the applicant it was made clear that this sum, £8, was a Grant and not a loan, BUT it was made clear that it would be appreciated if he became a member of the Association, and still more if, at a later date, he found it possible to repay some of the money given to him.

This letter was not acknowledged.

Within three months, he applied, through S.S.A.F.A., for help to pay off arrears of Hire Purchase. On an income of £9/10/-, he had contracted to pay £4/1/6 in rent, insurance and Hire Purchase. This was obviously improvident. He had three children, and, with five to feed and clothe, a Hire Purchase agreement of £1/15/- a week was obviously impossible. Assistance was refused, and he was told why.

Currently, he had applied to the Forces' Help Society and Lord Roberts' Workshops, and received a small sum from that Society, unknown to S.S.A.F.A.

He applied again in 1959 through Forces Help Society—not S.S.A.F.A., to whom he was known, perhaps, too well.

He has a long history, since 1957, of too frequently changing his employment of his own choice, thereby giving himself two weeks' holiday (without pay) and never bettering himself.

During periods of four or six months of employment which could have been permanent, he had made no effort to save, had not joined the Association, had not offered even a small sum to help others as he had been helped himself. He was still paying Hire Purchase for goods he could not afford. He had vacated his Council house and again lived with his father-in-law.

His predicament being entirely caused by himself, aid was again refused.

GERMANY

18 ARMY GROUP SIGNAL REGIMENT

February . . . fog, frost and now—'flu.

If this contribution ever appears in print it will be a near miracle. As the Editor could tell, for months past the writer has been exhibiting a touching faith in the efficiency of the postal services (or thumbing his nose at the goddess of chance!) by despatching his copy so that it arrives precisely on the last day permitted. This time, however, fate, in the form of 'flu, has taken a hand; and it is now too late to remember the wisdom of the old maxim, "never put off 'til tomorrow what you ought to be doing today." In the advertising world, these lapses are hidden from the man in the street. When John Bull turns a page in his magazine and sees a quarter-page display bearing only the stirring words, "Reserved for Flippets," he thinks—if anything—that it's an advance advertising stunt for a new kind of pancake mixture or the like, whereas the truth is that the publicity man has been late with his copy.

Quite a lot of other things are not what they seem, and this goes for the ordinary everyday things, too, like—well, to avoid changing the subject completely—collecting the mail. Lance-Corporal Godfrey, our Post N.C.O., leaves the barracks daily at half-past-eight or thereabouts and, within seconds, has vanished into the gloom of fog that Essen has been wearing like a dirty grey muffler these last few weeks. Hours later he returns, as likely as not empty-handed, after a damp and draughty drive to Düsseldorf. No aircraft has arrived from London, so he arranges to go back in the afternoon. By teatime, everyone has his newspaper, but there is no mail. Next day, just to surprise us, old man Essen has doffed his foggy muffler, and although the sun isn't actually shining, it's quite clear. Off goes Godfrey again, and before lunch he is back with a load of mail but no newspapers. Some Charley is sure to comment, in a down-to-earth fashion, of course, on the effortless efficiency with which these things are contrived. Little does he realise that the mail really came in on the afternoon plane with the newspapers the day before, but was too late for sorting, and that today's plane is still sitting, like a cold duck at Heathrow, waiting for London to take its head out of the soup. It seems almost superfluous to add that on the very next day, with fog billowing around Essen like nobody's business, Lance-Corporal Godfrey confounds the Charleys by bringing back a bumper load of mail and two days' newspapers! There are morals here for those who wish to see them, and if anyone envies the Post N.C.O. his job—well, apply in good time before next winter.

We were very happy to act as hosts again this year to the finalists in the Royal Signals, B.A.O.R., Boxing Championship. Although events of this nature inevitably mean a lot of extra work from a lot of people, they are well worth the effort. Not only do they provide us with an evening's good entertainment, but they enable us to meet a lot of old friends, particularly in the Officers' and Sergeants' Messes afterwards. Both teams—despite the fog—brought coach-loads of supporters, and in addition to the main contest, a between-bout cheering contest developed. As with the boxing, the highly organised, "Two, four, six, eight; who do we appreciate?" of 1 Corps Signal Regiment withstood the vocal "jamming" of their opponents. As onlookers, perhaps we may say what the victors would be too modest to say of themselves: that they well deserved their magnificent victory by winning every fight of the evening.

Although we were not amongst the gladiators in the noble art of boxing, we did not leave our entire representation in the ring to W.O.I. (R.S.M.) Halford, the Master of Ceremonies. During the interval a fifteen-minute exhibition of the (so-called!) gentle art of judo was put on by our P.T. Instructor, C.S.M.I. Mitchell, Army Physical Training Corps, and members of the recently formed Judo Club. C.S.M.I. Mitchell, who is of the grade Black Belt (First Dan), already has about thirty members in the club. He is also on very friendly terms with the judo clubs in Essen and we were, therefore, able to see three members of the German national judo team—including their captain—in addition to the five members of the regimental club.

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The progress made by beginners in mastering the art of falling was most impressive; but the performance of the experts in turning the tables, as it were, on the slightly less expert was well nigh incredible! The exhibition was well received by everyone, and we hope that we may have done a little to promote interest, in the Corps, in this fascinating activity.

By contrast with the evening we have just described, the finals of the Rhine District Individual Boxing Championships, which were also held in our gymnasium the following Tuesday, were most disappointing. But one can't have everything!

1 CORPS SIGNAL REGIMENT

At last things are slowly returning to normal. The individual training season is coming to an end: trade boards are being convened in ever-increasing numbers, and Part II Orders proclaim the successes of those who have achieved upgradings in their trades. But above all, we know that life is returning to normal because the first of the 1959 exercises—Ground Zero XVIII—has come and gone. Not all of us were able to go out on this exercise, but we are not too alarmed as there is a wide and continuous range of exercises extending into the distant future designed to cater for all tastes.

Our main sporting news this month is of boxing and hockey. Before that, however, just a few words on football, cross country running and shooting.

Football, in common with most other outdoor games, came to a grinding halt during the January wintry conditions. Before the snow clamped down on all these activities, however, we were able to play our match in the local league against 9th Queen's Royal Lancers. The Lancers had already defeated the fancied Royal Dragoons 5—1 in the B.A.O.R. Cup and were confident of an easy victory over us. To add to our misgivings, at least six of our 1st XI were away on leave or had been demobbed. The fact that the score went to 5—1 against us by half-time tended to confirm these misgivings. At this stage our forward line was re-arranged and in the second half the team suddenly came to life with continuous attacks bringing goals to Porter (2), which completed his hat-trick, Mooney and Henshall. In the last two minutes, Morrison nearly scored again, but in the event the match ended in an exciting draw at 5—5.

In preparation for unit events the Inter-Squadron Cross Country run was held on 22nd January and 3 Squadron, who had trained conscientiously for this event, were the well deserved winners. The Squadron placings were as follows:—

		First Five Places	Points Against
1st	3 Sqn.	3, 4, 7, 9, 11	34
2nd	1 Sqn.	5, 8, 19, 24, 33	89
3rd	2 Sqn.	2, 6, 16, 32, 38	94
3rd	5 Sqn.	10, 15, 17, 23, 29	94
5th	1 ASSU	12, 18, 21, 26, 28	105
6th	4 Sqn.	1, 22, 25, 36, 39	123
7th	H.Q. Sqn.	13, 20, 27, 30, 34	124

Congratulations to Cpl. Clark (4 Squadron), the individual winner, and to the other leaders. The first ten home were:—

1. Cpl. Clark (4 Sqn.)
2. 2/Lt. Watson (2 Sqn.)
3. S.g. Mitchell (3 Sqn.)
4. Dvr. Roberts (3 Sqn.)
5. Sig. Richards (1 Sqn.)
6. Sig. Williamson (2 Sqn.)
7. Sig. Brophy (3 Sqn.)
8. Sig. Glover (1 Sqn.)
9. 2/Lt. Davies (3 Sqn.)
10. Capt. Kenning (5 Sqn.)

We are now looking forward to the Morrison Cup semi-final on 18th February.

Although shooting has been out of our news in recent months, there has been a steady rate of activity. Our unit team has been competing in the local Major Units League, and at the date of going to press we are at the head of this league, which includes infantry, artillery and armoured regiments. Most of our Squadrons shoot in one of the local Minor Units Leagues and the outstanding Squadron at present is undoubtedly H.Q. Squadron, which is well out in front of all other teams in the league in which it competes.

Although our Boxing team had been in regular training for some time, the first occasion we saw it in public as a team was in a friendly match against 1st Bn. Royal Hampshire Regiment early in January. It must be recorded right away that the Hampshires were altogether too good for us, nevertheless, the evening was of tremendous value not only to the team but also to our supporters. The change in the latter from polite interest, through mounting excitement, to outright enthusiasm as they realised they had a team worth supporting, played a large part in carrying our team to victory in their next match against 4 Divisional Signal Regiment in the semi-final of the Morrison Cup.

We saw a first class performance from our Boxing team against 4 Divisional Signal Regiment and won by 7 fights (3 of them

K.O.s) to 4. Signalman Sennet at bantam started the ball rolling and was an easy winner after a fast hard-fought bout. Signalman Barker at feather kept up the good work and after a very close fight was just about in front. Lance-Corporal Gray at lightweight also had a hard fight and by the end of the second round was in front, but after a very good last round in which neither boxer relaxed, he just lost the decision. Signalman Hampson, our second string light welter, produced the first K.O. of the evening when he landed a very good left to his opponent's chin in the second round and sent him crashing to the canvas. In the first string light welter contest, Lance-Corporal Keating—who had been one of our only winners against the Hampshires—struggled well against an opponent who spent far too much time clinching for it to be an enjoyable fight; nevertheless, it was a fast and hard-fought contest, and with neither boxer yielding an inch was extremely close. It was only after some judging hesitation that the decision was given against Keating. Signalman Paxton at second string welter also fought well, but just lost the decision.

The light middle contest produced the second K.O. of the evening. Signalman Weekly, hitting very hard, soon had his opponent in trouble and kept up the pressure throughout the bout. He put his opponent down for counts of 8 and 9 in the first and second rounds and achieved a K.O. in the last round. Although the middle weight bout was much slower, Signalman Brewin landed and took many hard punches before he took the verdict after a very close fight. Signalman Mitchell, boxing at light heavy, followed up with a comfortable win, and then the heavy weight bout produced the last K.O. of the evening. Starting slowly, Second-Lieutenant Allan exchanged a few blows, but it was all over by the middle of the opening round. A left which drove his opponent to the ropes was followed by a right which travelled no more than 9 inches to produce a K.O. which lasted for several minutes. The last fight of the evening saw Second-Lieutenant Clifford our first string welter, and no mean performer, up against a very fast opponent who was also a good performer and who took the decision after a very good fight. So ended a very enjoyable evening with the score at 18—15 in our favour. We are now looking forward to the final of the Morrison Cup against 1 Wireless Regiment on 8th February.

The highlight of the Hockey world has been our 2—0 win over 5 Divisional Signal Regiment in the semi-final of the Morrison Cup. We were continually on the attack and had most of the play, but our opponents had such a good centre-half that much of our scheming came to nothing. Both our goals were scored by centre-forward Corporal McMahon. We now go forward to play 2 L. of C. Signal Regiment in the final.

Against this success, however, we must record a defeat in the Army Cup at the hands of our old friends and rivals the 1st Bn. Royal Hampshire Regiment, the score being 4—6.

2 L. OF C. SIGNAL REGIMENT

R.H.Q., 1 & 2 Squadrons. Christmas is now behind us and the Unit is gaining strength to face the New Year. January was heralded by dances for all ranks on New Year's Eve and nearly all resolutions to do this, that, and the other thing, have been broken. There is one exception at least to this. Warrant Officer II Marris gains in stature daily due to his continued abstinence from lady nicotine.

We have had considerable success with our hockey team who have won the Rhine District Major Units Hockey Championships. The cup was presented to Major A. J. Smith at the end of the game by the District Commander, Major-General A. E. Brocklehurst, C.B., D.S.O. The game was very exciting indeed, the winning goal being scored by Staff Sergeant J. A. Rose in the first half of extra time. The team now go forward to the quarter-finals of the Army Cup and we wish them the best of luck in their future games.

During the last month the Regiment sent a small party of skiers to Austria to train for the winter sports at Winterberg. There is only one member of the team who has skiing experience and he attempted to instruct the remainder. Over a period of a fortnight good progress was made and it is hoped that they will not disgrace themselves in the Patrol Race and novices' competitions at Winterberg.

The Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess invited the officers of the Regiment to a games night for the first time in Krefeld. The officers just beat the Sergeants by one point on the boat race.

The Unit entered two men for the Rhine District Individual Boxing Championships held at 18 Army Group Barracks, Essen. Both of them, Sergeant Togher and Signalman Latimer, were successful in their semi-finals, but Togher unfortunately was unable to go through to the final because of an injury to his hand.

Latimer fought extremely well in the final, having already boxed one fight during the evening. He met Private Armstrong, R.A.O.C., who was generally expected to win his fights by a walk over. Armstrong came into the ring very fresh and fit, not having had a fight throughout the championships. Latimer fought very hard indeed and was very narrowly defeated on points in what was generally accepted as the best fight of the evening. We understand that although he lost he will go on to the individual B.A.O.R. Championships and we wish him the best of luck there.

3 Squadron. The New Year has come "a-freezing in." In Belgium we have had our snow, and now we are in the grip of a good hard frost and everyone hurries to work to be dehydrated by the central heating. Of course everyone peered at the new Motorway from Antwerp every morning looking for cracks and bubbles but none appeared and it's 20 miles long at present—oh! after all that talk in the cafes about springing, camber, etc., on British roads.

Plans are already underway for summer holidays and people are talking of Spain and the falling peseta, Italy, towing speeds, camping grounds and hotels, so hurry on those warm days.

Sporting activities have been curtailed slightly by the bad weather, but the soccer team is steadily gaining ground; in fact we have been winning handsomely. We no longer speak of the first four games and the goal average. Several people have taken advantage of the cold and are skating on our lesser canals. Slopes for tobogganing are very few and far between in this part of Belgium.

The small bore teams are still doing well in the face of a very high standard in the Advance Base.

The model club is now about to enter the boat-building industry by constructing two canoes—but we shall send the builders out first to face the evils of the Albert Canal because these bargees throw toffee papers and all sorts of things into the "Crystal Clear Waters."

As these notes are coming to an end I notice everyone rushing out and pointing excitedly at an enormous ball of fire in the sky —"Where's my dark glasses?"

H.Q. 2 T.A.F. (INDEPENDENT) A.F. SIGNAL SQUADRON

We are becoming increasing well known in B.A.O.R. and due to overwhelming popular request hereby publish our various designations with dates.

10 A.F. Signal Regiment until 23rd March, 1958.

H.Q. 2 T.A.F. (Independent) A.F. Signal Squadron until 1st July, 1958.

1 Squadron II A.F. Signal Regiment until about September.

Then we settled for H.Q. 2 T.A.F. (Independent) A.F. Signal Squadron. During the last year we also had one move from the almost holiday camp situation of Cologne to Wildenrath, near Munchen Gladbach.

The exercise period was well filled with 9 Line Troop managing seven exercises (one of which included the Cologne area!). The culminations of the exercising was the full Squadron scheme where we practised our unique roll in the picturesque Belgian training area at Vogelsang. During the exercise we were visited by C.S.O. B.A.O.R. Major-General K. C. O. Bastyan, C.B.E., entertained the Belgian cavalry officers sharing the training area, met the Belgians for an international soccer match, and put in a lot of hard work. Also we welcomed our new Second-in-Command, Captain H. E. Luker, while at the camp. (He arrived "organised" with Belgian francs which were useless as the Belgians could not change them for their scrip. He borrowed some B.A.F.V.s which they were happy to accept.) We took full advantage of the superb rocket ranges and can boast of a very short course on 3.5 rocket launchers—three hours from first seeing to actually firing.

In the close of the exercise season, 5 Heavy Cable Troop showed their adaptability providing communications for the Royal Engineers demonstration "Maiden Over," ferrying the American atomic cannon across the Rhine.

At sport the Squadron has done extremely well and as well as troop teams have the following representatives in station teams (comparable to most Army District standards):

Soccer—Signalmen Johnston, Mundy and Winchester.

Rugby—Lieutenant Amos, Second Lieutenant Norminton, Signalmen Box and Valentine.

Hockey—Lieutenant Hinds and Second Lieutenant Gladwyn.

At small bore shooting no other team on the station can hold our team skippered by S.S.M. Langham. At weightlifting we have challenged the rest of the Station, once to be narrowly beaten by them.

The Warrant Officers and Sergeants challenged the Officers to a game of skittles and gleefully trounced them. The Officers insisted on a return match and (without any extra practice) turned the tables. We also had a married families' garden party where Major Morrison, ably assisted by Mrs. Roper (Major and Mrs. Roper have now left us for Cyprus), met the families of the Squadron. It proved to be an enjoyable afternoon and one remark is perhaps worth quoting, "So charming—yet still a bachelor!"

As valuable extra training we have planned and installed a rediffusion system on the camp. "Radio Wildenrath" serves every barrack room, the sick quarters and the NAAFI with a hundred and forty speakers altogether. Two channels are put out over the system.

When we were visited by the Corps Band in November, the opportunity was taken of putting Royal Signals on the R.A.F. map. The concert in the afternoon impressed everyone as we expected. In the evening a cocktail party was held in the Officers' Mess with two hundred invited guests. With the trumpeters drawn up in the Mess, the guests were quite taken aback and later the brilliant fanfare was a delightful and striking interlude. Meanwhile the remainder of the band was entertaining in the NAAFI, which was packed when visited by the R.A.F. duty officer at closing time. He generously granted an extension and stayed himself.

Major Morrison has wandered to 11 A.F. Signal Regiment where he is now Second-in-Command. As we expect to amalgamate with them and become their 1 Squadron we do not consider that he has really left us. In his place we welcome Major B. C. Skelly, T.D., as Officer Commanding.

11 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT

BERLIN

There is magic in a name. Never can there have been as many volunteers for hard work as there were when it was heard that 7 Heavy Cable Troop were to do a job in Berlin. From their dim and forgotten corners came some who were thought to have been posted, or even demobbed, many months before. However, at length the party was selected, and moved off full of enthusiasm, cigarettes, tea and haversack rations.

The trip was quite uneventful. Despite the warnings of what goes on behind the curtain the natives were quite friendly.

Gatow is an interesting place to work, the airfield boundary being the border. There is a constant and menacing rattle of small arms fire from the other side of the fence—one presumes (and hopes) from a range. Despite the opposition and snow work proceeded. This was thanks in a large part to the M.O. and a vehicle which, passing as a quite reasonable St. Bernard, brought kegs of rum to the rescue.

As for Berlin as a city—well, this is a respectable magazine (?) Suffice to say that it fulfilled all expectations. After two happy weeks we ran out of excuses and money and turned for home—Sergeant Taylor looking like Santa Claus in a lorry laden with Christmas trees, champagne and happy memories.

SKI-ING IN EHRWALD

Christmas and the New Year having been safely laid to rest, a hardy band of survivors gathered together at Sundern to go on a two-week ski-ing trip to Austria. None was deterred by the fact that the total came to 13—there was reliable information to hand that casualties averaged one in fourteen.

Despite a genuine high altitude flap concerning passports, all arrived safely at Ehrwald, a very pretty little village twelve or so miles over the border from Garmisch. The party had now grown to fourteen as we had been joined by Lieutenant Hinds from Widenrath—an omen?

Soon we were all out meeting the local slopes, more often than not head first, tail first, or in one of the extraordinary positions only those who have skied can appreciate. This could be a painful business as, thanks to some unseasonable rain, there was a solid sheet of ice under an all-too-thin layer of fresh snow.

In the evenings those who could walk, and some who could not, went down into the village—not on business! However, despite the usual return in the small hours, everyone amazingly managed to be "on parade" for the ski school the following morning.

The ski instructors are possessed of immense patience and a great sense of humour. They quickly gave us up for lost—one of the favourite occupations being to go supersonic on the run down from the top of the ski lift. One member really did show them something, however. When trying to do some small jumps he turned a slow and exquisitely graceful forward somersault in mid-air. A very shaken instructor then offered to take lessons from us.

The two weeks passed and all too quickly we were on our way home. Casualties? Well, we only had two in plaster, plus one concussion (when supersonic), plus . . . . oh well, everyone enjoyed himself.

Mediterranean

MALTA

WIRE notes this month came from one of the smallest, but by no means least important, units in the Command: No. 1 Ship Signal Troop, an independent and at present all Regular troop.

No. 1 Ship Signal Troop. The tanned and weather-beaten faces of the troop seem to appear in other magazines but seldom in THE WIRE, so we thought that this should be rectified. Very few people in the Corps seem to have heard of us, let alone know what we do, so here goes.

We are a small troop of assorted tradesmen who serve with the Amphibious Warfare Squadron Mediterranean, based on Malta. The Squadron comprise a number of Landing Ships and Craft and the Squadron Headquarters Ship is H.M.S. *Meon*, a converted River class frigate. The Troop, when we are at sea, are unofficially trained in various duties which are not normally done by a soldier: we have a whaler's crew, a crew for a landing craft raider (22 knots), and some have even taken the wheel of the ship as Quartermaster. More normally, however, they stand watches on the bridge or in the wireless office as communicators.

The function of the A.W. Squadron is to keep alive the doctrine of Amphibious Warfare and also to have available the means of transporting military formations for operations in the Middle East; to this end we work closely with the Royal Marine Commandos.

The Troop is responsible for the Army side of communications in joint amphibious operations and sometimes use Naval sets for these duties—a pleasant change from field wireless sets. We also send a detachment ashore quite often to provide any special links which may be required.

During the past year we have had exercises in Sardinia, Cyprus and North Africa, and have paid visits to Naples, Tunis, Augusta, Catania and Trapani, the last three being in Sicily. Due to the crisis in the Middle East we missed our summer cruise to the French and Italian Riviera and spent three months doing the anti-smuggling patrol round Cyprus instead. This was quite interesting but uncomfortable as at night we had to darken ship which meant battening everything down — the resultant smell each morning coupled with the heat had to be experienced to be believed. The boarding parties were truly Combined Operations, consisting of a Royal Signals officer, Royal Marines and a Royal Signals operator. One night we chased a most suspicious darkened ship which turned out to be an American frigate investigating us.

Whilst on the subject of Cyprus we should like to thank Cyprus District Signal Regiment and 51 Independent Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron for their very kind hospitality towards us during our stay in those waters. Our gratitude must also go to Cyrenaica District Signals for a liquid run ashore in Benghazi.

No unit's contribution to THE WIRE seems to be complete without its report of an Administrative Inspection. Well, we've had one too, only it was different from most in that we had an Admiral to DO us. We formed part of a combined Guard of Honour and the whole troop was in No. 1 Dress—a pleasant change from the eternal "battlesack."

We are now having a respite from exercises during a short refit, but will soon be at it again—and from the programme it looks as though we are to have a busy time. We have, however, two eagerly awaited visits, Capri and the Riviera. Any volunteers for the Ship Signal Troop? We are taking these trips with a pinch (a big one) of salt—the Mediterranean Silly Season starts very easily.

Finally, if anyone in the Corps happens to see us in some foreign port or lying off a beach they will be made very welcome on board. Our hull number is L369 and the bar opens at 1200 hrs. (Local time).

TRIPOLITANIA SIGNAL SQUADRON

Although the weather here is far better as regards amount of sun per hour, the daily temperatures have been low enough to give members of the Squadron colds, as well as having a considerable amount of rain.

Fortunately, or unfortunately, there was not the slightest trace of rain on the 7th January, when we had our Annual Administrative Inspection. The District Commander, Brigadier G. Laing, C.B.E., was the Inspecting Officer and after taking the salute, he made various visits to the Signal installations and offices around the Barracks. Judging from the very satisfactory report we have received on the inspection, it seems the Brigadier and his Staff were very pleased with all they saw and we all managed to breath again.

January saw the disappearance of Signalmen Skinner, Mavin and Corporal Hayes. They have all left for the happy day. Signalmen Marriot, Smith, Henderson and Hawker have left to go to Benghazi, a mere odd 500 miles along the coast eastwards. In February, we have lost Signalman Blackie, Lance-Corporal Winskell, Signalmen Davies and McCallum, all enjoying the "waiting time" for demob at the Depot Regiment.

Our sincere congratulations go to Lance-Corporal Sayor, who was married in the U.K. whilst on leave, we wish both he and his wife long happiness in the coming years.

Our best wishes go to Corporal Tunmore who also, whilst in U.K., became engaged on leave

With envy, we extend our congratulations to W.O.II Defazio, our Signal Centre Supervisor, who won first prize on the local Radio Tombola, of £60 and our condolances to Corporal Zammit who got "pipped" at the post with the second prize, sometime later, of only £10.

On the sports side, the Squadron has been well represented, Corporal Aston, Lance-Corporals Lambie and Milroy, Signalmen Almeroth and Neil, all playing for the Tripoli North in the Major League Soccer competition.

Second-Lieutenant Hicks and Signalman Henderson have just returned from Malta where they played with the District Tripoli Touring team at Rugby.

In Basketball, we have Corporal Dale, Lance-Corporals Lambie, Milroy and Parkinson who have been selected for the Azzizia Voltagers. All these players, by the way, have just completed a PT and Minor Unit Games Course, organised by the District Physical Training Corps, and have all been graded as "B."

Steps are being taken to open a Branch of the Royal Signals Association in Tripoli. A committee has already been formed and we hope to fill more space in THE WIRE with news next month.

AFRICA

COMCAN SIGNAL SQUADRON IN NAIROBI

We started the New Year in a very gentlemanly manner, with a day's holiday. An old East African custom very much appreciated by everyone in the Squadron—except the unfortunate shift workers for whom it was "business as usual."

The Transmitter Site held a very jolly Barbecue and dance. Alas! sad to relate, despite vigorous representations, Emily, the pet porker, did grace the festive board, and very nice eating she was too. Which all goes to prove once again that there is little sentiment in service life. No more will poor Emily line-up with the lads for her early morning "cupper" or grunt disdainfully at inspecting Officers.

Signals Association matters have been well to the fore this month. Both the Squadron Branch and the East Africa Branch held their A.G.M.s in the Unit Social Centre (Hangar Club to you), and both branches elected real live-wire committees, and great things are promised for the coming year. Many of the gatherings will be combined efforts, and, in addition, each Branch is preparing its own programme of social activities.

The Squadron Wives' Club continues to run Tombola and Whist Drives on alternate weeks, and these gatherings are well attended both by the Squadron and R.A.F. wives.

The "Ham" club is now meeting regularly each Thursday, and a programme of lectures is being given in preparation for the May Radio Amateurs' Examination, for which five members have entered. A rather bitter blow to our aspiring licence holders is that the cost of licences in East Africa has now gone up to £5. The club transmitter is once more "singing" and there has been much calling of "CQ 20 metres," but not so much answering as yet. However, we were relieved to hear that COMCAN R.E.M.E. Workshop, situated at least three hundred yards from the transmitter, is able to pick up the signals perfectly—so we live in hope.

The Safari Club have been out again this month. Lieutenant Lockett, Corporals Smith, Drummond, Driver Marriot and Signalman West spent three days in the jungle around Bissel and managed to bag some Zebra, Gazelle *and* a wild pig (small, very). There seems to be some doubt as to whether the pig was wild or just simply terribly angry at being set upon by our happy band of hunters. We have since heard that a warrior living in his little mud hut in the nearby Masai reserve has complained to the District Commissioner that a roll call of the village piglets has revealed an absentee.

It should be mentioned that another member of the Squadron, Corporal Sinnett, bagged a Zebra without going on safari at all. He was on a day's outing in his car with his family, when a herd of Zebra ran out of the forest in front of him. One Zebra was struck fairly and squarely, and the car was completely wrecked. Fortunately, no one was hurt—except the Zebra.

Since writing the last notes on Cricket, we have only played one game in the Inter-Section League. This game we won comfortably by 8 wickets. We put our opponents all out for 35 and we scored 57 runs for the loss of 2 wickets. Signalman Barber took 2 wickets for 15 runs, Signalman Wrightson 4 for 18 runs, and Corporal White 3 for 12 runs. Signalman Wrightson had a good knock, scoring 26 not out, and Signalman Holden scored 22 not out. With this victory we are now in second place in the league, 1 point behind the leaders. We have lost the services of Corporal Noden, R.E.M.E., who flies home soon, and all we can say is "Good luck, we will miss you." Also, Signalman Thomson and Barber played for the Combined Services side in the 11th Nairobi Cricket Festival, and in the match against Nyanza Province Signalman Barber took 7 wickets for 24 runs.

It is with real regret that we say goodbye to W.O.II Rees and Mrs. Rees. W.O.II Rees has been a noted local Rugger player and brought much credit to the Corps here in Kenya. He has captained East Africa four times against the Oxford and Cambridge Touring Side and four times against Capetown University Touring Side. We wish him every success in his new job with the T.A., and, as his new H.Q. is situated behind the Twickenham Rugby Ground we are sure that it will not be long before we are reading about his sporting exploits again.



The afternoon tape relay shift ready for inspection prior to going on duty

1 SIGNAL SQUADRON KING'S AFRICAN RIFLES

At the time of writing all East Africa is waiting expectantly for the visit of Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, who is arriving at Embakasi Airport, Nairobi, on 5th February. The Squadron has been given the honour of providing wireless communications for the visit and already detachments are travelling along the roads of East Africa to take up their stations. The furthermost detachment will be at Murchison Falls, which is about 800 miles from Nairobi, at the Western Frontier of Uganda.

In Nanyuki "J" Troop are in the throes of collective training and are out in the field most of the time. A series of Exercises, under the most inappropriate name of "Snow Queen," is just about to begin, and for a month the Troop will be sweating in the arid wastes of the Northern Frontier Province. This is a land of rock, scrub and dust, with merciless sun and little water. The area is very sparsely populated and one can travel many miles without meeting a human being. Even game is scarce and only lizards, snakes and scorpions seem to be at home.

It is high summer in Nairobi. Brilliant sunshine but cool breezes. The city is aflame with many shades of Bougainvilia, which vie with—and outshine—the efforts of mere man in the form of flags, bunting, etc., erected in honour of the Queen Mother's visit. The temperature hovers around the 80-degree Farenheit mark in the middle of the day and the grass is beginning to look scorched. However, the rains will be here in April, bringing fresh green grass—and for those on Exercises —mud.

We welcome to the Unit Sergeant Slaughter and Sergeant Longhurst, who arrived last month, and wish the best of luck, on their departure, to Sergeant and Mrs. Burman and family.

Captain Leslie Bainbridge has done it at last, or should we say Mrs. Bainbridge has, and their baby girl, Susan Jane, born 16th November, is bonny, and we do congratulate them, as do, we are sure all their friends. (He has given up smoking). Other new arrivals include W.O.sII Duncan and Drugan, Lieutenant Stubbs and Captain Bridle, daughters for W.O.II Finister and Sergeant Crump, and a son for Corporal E. Stephenson, not necessarily in order of seniority. Welcome!

In the sporting field we can but try, and if we are not outstanding with our teams, we are certainly well represented in Regimental and Corps games. Now that the Signal Centre is air-conditioned, the old cry "Get out and get some fresh air," has lost a lot of weight. However, and seriously, we do take an active part, and inter-squadron matches are a frequent feature. So, senior or junior, if you hear that you are posted to Operating Squadron, do not be depressed; bring your boots or spikes, or just your keenness, and you will be welcome.

That's all for this time, and to all Signal Centres everywhere, "*Happy Day Off.*"

FARELF

OPERATING SQUADRON, ROYAL SIGNALS, SINGAPORE

We will start start by wishing all our friends a happy New Year and success wherever they may be serving in the Corps. The Squadron has suffered a slight change of face lately, in that Major Bob Harvey's has been substituted for Major Ian Swan's, but work and play continues on its same course, happily, we hope, within the sometimes irksome limitations of shift work.

Old members would find that considerable structional alterations have been effected within the Squadron, carried out by a capable firm of contractors, ably directed by Commander, Royal Signals, Colonel J. P. North, C.B.E., and their decision, that the old "edifice" with its "Troops by Trades" was unwieldy and difficult to administer seems, to date, to have been a sound one. The new Composite Troops, each capable of running all tasks in the Signal Centre, are producing greater efficiency and a troop spirit not easily attained before. THE WIRE is not the place to go into detail, but we thought that you would like to know that we are not standing still and that despite the eternal ferrying, spirits are good.

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HONG KONG SIGNAL REGIMENT

Stanley Transmitter Station

Our Transmitter site working Singapore, a picture of which appears here, lies on the most southerly tip of Hong Kong Island. The little building which allegedly started as a gas chamber, contains two SWB 8, neither of which have the right amount of "synopsis" air space. The detachment which is alternate between two and three, live in the station which has recently had all mod. con. added.

This locality has a number of claims to fame. Stanley Fort was one of the last bastions to fall to the invading Japanese on Christmas Day, 1941. The ultimate surrender was only achieved after the water supply to the Garrison had been cut. In all, the siege of Stanley lasted some five days.

In addition to the Army Camp there is a large civilian prison on Stanley Peninsular. This is modern and very photogenic, at least from the outside. Some local wags in the camp say that it is difficult to distinguish which is the prison. Actually the camp, which is spread over a large area, is popular and the married quarters in this area are generally considered to be the best in the Colony.

The main unit occupying the camp, The Green Howards, are very hospitable and offer excellent sports facilities to the small Royal Signals detachment manning the station.

In the latter part of the typhoon season the Rhombic aerial, which is cunningly laid out in a re'entrant, snapped. The masts of the alternative typhoon aerial (caged dipole), to meet just a contingency were, unfortunately, not ready and a hectic period resulted.

A temporary matched cut dipole was erected on 36ft. masts and worked fairly well, though our control at Singapore complained our signals arrived in a rather sickly strength at their end.

Of the "old timers" at the station only Corporal (Ginger) Elliott remains and he with the rest of his detachment are at the time of writing busily preparing for the visit of the Signal Officer-in-Chief, who is arriving in Hong Kong later in the month (February).



Stanley Transmitter Station





● (Left) Break from an Escape and Invasion Exercise. Left to right: Corporal Petts, Signalman Davies, Signalman Sands, Corporal Smith, Signalman Goodwin, Signalman Murray, Corporal Coombes, Corporal Henson, Signalman Woodley. (Right) An Airborne Wireless Detachment

The Middlesex Yeomanry Signal Regiment

(The Duke of Cambridge Hussars)

ACCOUNT RENDERED, 1958

The year began in a turmoil of planning and hopes. 1 Squadron, who work with the Royal Engineers, hoped to see their first full operation year, 3 Squadron were hoping for more jumps than ever, and 4 Squadron were preparing for their 100th recruit. Although some of these aims did not materialise quite as expected and, in spite of financial difficulties, the Regiment had a very full and successful year.

4 Squadron really set the year rolling by their exercise in Scotland. Ten members spent a fortnight amidst the snows of February in the Cairngorms, near Newtownmore. In this exercise they used a hut belonging to the Lovat Scouts and made climbs using pack ponies or sleds. A W.S. 62 was taken up Cairn Barn and communications maintained via the Base Hut to Uxbridge. The Base hut team used a sledded W.S. 52 for communication to London.

3 (Para) Squadron were next to move with an exercise in the Aldershot Area. They were based for this weekend in 7 Weekend Training Centre which was run, until recently, by an officer of the Regiment—Captain J. Anderson. In spite of rain and snow this exercise was very successful both for the line and wireless crews.

At the beginning of March, both 1 and 3 Squadrons assisted in the signal training of units of the formations which they serve. 1 Squadron visited the home of the Engineers at Chatham and 3 Squadron ran a Regimental Signals week-end course for the units of 44 Independent Parachute Brigade.

April and May were spent in general training, including a long range exercise by 3 Squadron with outstations at Darlington, Lincoln, Pembroke, Biggin Hill, and Chelsea. Though some thought it to be too ambitious, communications were maintained for two days and nights.

At this time there was an air of expectancy pervading—men being measured for blues and discussions as to whether we would be allowed to wear our yellow (Hussar type) trouser stripes, and chain mail. Eventually honour and tradition were satisfied and the Regiment was able to turn out in strength for the Jubileee Review in Hyde Park.

Twenty men marched with 44 Independent Parachute Brigade and thirty with Eastern Command Corps Troops. The Regiment also operated the wireless and line net which controlled troop movements and the March Past. Consequently, at the end of the day, there were as least seventy wet and bedraggled men to be seen at Regimental Headquarters.

On the 3rd and 5th of July two detachments took part in the London Territorial Army Jubilee Display. The first detachment, provided by 4 Squadron, were mounted on horses loaned by the Household Cavalry, while 3 Squadron produced a wireless detachment for the 44 Independent Parachute Brigade tableau.

Immediately after the round of ceremonial, everybody started preparing for camp, 3 Squadron were to be found one morning in the wilds of Folkestone and Hawkinge on a Parachute Brigade exercise. 1 Squadron departed first to camp at Penhale in Cornwall, they were followed by 4 Squadron and R.H.Q. to Crowborough, 3 Squadron went to their Brigade Camp at Castlemartin and they were followed by the Westminster Dragoons Signal Troop.

With camp completed, Major Beazley and Captain Pearson were able to organise some serious shooting and the regaining of the Eastern Command Trophy which had been lost the previous year. Their efforts were well rewarded when the Middlesex Yeomanry B team won the trophy.

From July 22nd-25th certain extremely fit and tough men were taking part in the Nijmegen Endurance Marches. As many most probably know this is four days of marching, 25 miles a day. For the past three years the Regiment has entered a team of at least ten men. We believe we were the first Territorial Army Regiment to do this and we still wait to be contradicted. Unfortunately we will have to forego it this year as it required a lot of financial backing, mainly from members of the Regiment. Major S. J. Williams as usual led the marchers and it is due to his enthusiasm and foresight that the contingent was able to take a member of the Red Cross with them for the past two years. During training each member of the team completed at least 430 miles on foot.

The tactical year was rounded off by two large escape and invasion exercises. The first was held with R.A.F. Fighter Command around the Uckfield Area. In this exercise not very many prisoners were taken, but a certain subaltern captured 40 invaders in a 'bus five minutes before the finish of the exercise. The second exercise in Norfolk yielded about 120 prisoners and a very enjoyable weekend, except for a very erratic convoy run back to Chelsea.

Among the more unusual activities there was a combined work and sports weekend with 90 Signal Regiment at Colchester. We unfortunately lost all the sports: hockey, soccer and basketball, but the Sergeants' Mess won the boat race! 4 Squadron provided the communications at a Sprint Hill Climb and a motor cycle scramble and also aided marshalling in rallies held by E.M.I. and Kodak Ltd. They also took part in a raid on the Royal Army Education Corps Depot at Beaconsfield with the 8th Battalion the Middlesex Regiment.

3 Squadron have become very helicopter conscious. At camp practically everybody in the Squadron had a fairly long flight and on two occasions relief operators were taken out by helicopter to remote airfields. The air contact team is now becoming very popular. They have not had to operate in Scotland as yet, but stalwarts such as S.S.M. Judd and Corporal Petts have been seen as far apart as mid Wales and Tyneside.

In addition to the usual functions, both the Officers' Mess and the Regimental Canteen gave informal parties which are increasing in popularity. Also the Officers' Mess and Sergeants' Mess each held their annual dinner, while 4 Squadron had their own all ranks' dinner at Uxbridge.

Christmas parties for the children were given both at Uxbridge and Chelsea, and some young guests were invited from a local orphanage to the Uxbridge party.

To commemorate Remembrance Day a detachment of 24 officers and men took part in the service at Northwood War Memorial, while a party of cadets from 25 (MX) Independent Cadet Squadron attended the service at Uxbridge.

Activities, not directly connected with the Territorial Army, continue to flourish at Uxbridge where an amateur radio club has been formed; the riding class is still flourishing and operates on Thursday evenings and Saturday mornings. The squadron at Uxbridge also have the Regimental Band which has recently been re-formed.

A weekend's boating was arranged by 4 Squadron and 220 (Heston) Field Squadron Royal Engineers during Exercise "Guy Fawkes." It was held on the 1st and 2nd November when, after marching five miles at night in pouring rain, the detachment crossed a lake in boats manned by the Royal Engineers.

Drill nights at Uxbridge are on Monday, and in order to train new operators in telegraph operating, a link was maintained with the Life Guards at Windsor. This will bring back to the older members of the Regiment and old comrades, happy memories of pre-war days when Easter and Whitsun weekends were spent riding with the Household Cavalry at Windsor.

This article, it is hoped, will serve to show that the Middlesex Yeomanry, though changed many times in recent years, has adapted itself to its new role. In fact most members of the Regiment feel they are very lucky to have the opportunity of taking part in some fairly vigorous and diverse, yet worth while, activities.

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

The W.O.s and Sergeants of H.Q. and No. 1 Squadron together with their ladies dined at the Bridge Hotel, Aberdeen, on Friday, 12th December. The company, numbering fifty, returned to Fonthill T.C. after dinner and enjoyed an evening's dancing, singing and party games. The company was augmented at this latter stage by some thirty guests.

A Christmas/New Year Dance at Fonthill T.C. on Friday, 26th December, attracted a large gathering of H.Q. and No. 1 Squadron members with their ladies and friends.

The Children's Party on Saturday, 27th December, provided seasonal entertainment to 170 children (under twelves mostly) accompanied by either or both parents. Col. T. P. E. Murray, O.B.E., T.D., A.D.C.—our Hon. Colonel—had quite an arduous task distributing gifts. Punch and Judy provided a popular innovation, many seeing it for the first time, while the current "hula-hoop" craze exercised a fascination for all ages. The tables were decoratively set under the supervision of Mrs. J. H. Moonie and Mrs. D. M. Sutherland. Games were led by a "very overgrown schoolboy" and a "clown"—Sergeant G. McIntosh and Signalman A. C. Cruickshank respectively—and considerable credit for the success of the Fonthill functions is due to S.S.M. (Reg) I. N. Burton and S.Q.M.S. J. Duck, without whose efforts little would have been achieved. Decorations for the Drill Hall—that vast roof—was provided by the generous loan of a set of ship's flags by R. A. Fairley, Esq., General Manager of the Aberdeen Steam Navigation Co. Ltd. A very popular raffle comprised a picnic basket of two magnums of champagne and six "baby bubblies," presented by Messrs. Wm. Hay and Sons (Aberdeen) Ltd., who also most kindly provided sixteen dozen bottles of lemonade for the children (who says Aberdonians are tight-fisted?)—assistance that was most appreciated.

In conjunction with the serialising of Field Marshal Montgomery's Memoirs in the local paper the T. & A.F.A. arranged a recruiting display with stands by various T.A. Units in the exhibition room at Aberdeen Gaumont Cinema. The displays, with one exception, comprised photographs only—the odd man out: Royal Signals. Daily for a fortnight volunteers from the Regiment have worked in three "shifts" to interest the general public with wireless sets No. 19 HP, teleprinters, exchanges and superposed telephone-fullerphone operating. The Q.M., Captain W. Tyers, was heard to remark that it would have been more simple to take the projector and seating from the cinema to Fonthill T.C. when he saw the amount of display equipment. Regimental "boffins" have in the past expressed the view that teleprinters required careful handling, but it is estimated that at peak periods from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. most of the city's schoolchildren pound out their messages—admittedly the odd key has to be straightened but they have proved extremely robust—the teleprinters I mean, not the children.

THE WELFARE SECTION STILL REQUIRES MORE CHILDREN'S CLOTHING

54 (EA) INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT (T.A.)

3 Squadron. To bring the record of 3 Squadron activities up to date we must record that water, both internal and external, has loomed large in our activities during the past year. This did not lead to damp spirits, however—they were always drunk neat—nor did it dampen the spirit of one newly-joined recruit, Signalman Ellis, left with a drum of cable marooned under Lowestoft Pier as the tide came in. Only just enlisted on Part II Orders and at that time without a uniform he has since got over his initial watery introduction to Signals in Norwich and in company with many others has now qualified as a lineman.

The earlier part of our training this year consisted of preparation for the local T.A. Jubilee Celebrations which took the form of a display in which each unit in Norfolk took part. This display was duly held at The Firs Stadium (The Dirt Track) in Norwich as the first half of the evening's entertainment which the public paid to attend. The Norwich Signal Squadron gave a demonstration of the various methods of line laying both on foot and in vehicles, finishing up with D10 squirting out of the back of a Champ like the proverbial dose of salts. As we have yet to see the machine which winds the stuff in again we had to recover it by hand under cover of the next part of the demonstration, which consisted of Despatch Riding and a specimen conversation over the air—broadcast by Tannoy from the C.V. To round off the nine minutes allowed to us two dozen pigeons were released so that all branches of Signals were represented. Out of all the Units taking part it was noticeable that Royal Signals were the only ones to hazard a march past the Saluting Base at the end of their demonstration.

Captain Bruce, Staff Sergeant Anderson and Corporal Ward represented the Unit at the London Jubilee Celebrations whilst the rest were able to watch on TV—and without umbrellas.

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Sergeant Mitchell and Corporal Ward are to be congratulated on winning the local R.A.S.C. Car Trial. The course was a difficult one and the trial went on from Saturday afternoon round the clock to 9 a.m. on the Sunday. The result was particularly gratifying since all the Norfolk T.A. Units were represented and our team was well ahead of them all on points.

Before going to camp the Unit had two further engagements to undertake. As in the past we had a Signals Tent at the Royal Norfolk Show. We showed a 53 and a 19 set suitably bulled for the occasion, 2 teleprinters and an oscilloscope. There was also a compartment at the rear for the refreshment of Squadron members at the Show.

The other event before Camp, to which a brief reference has already been made, was the laying of a telephone line across both the inner and outer harbours at Lowestoft. This line worked for three months until the short across the Tele F's terminals became monumental and the line detachment became exceedingly wet looking for a fault. The following lessons were learnt as a result of this piece of research and are recorded for what they are worth:—

(a) Fish lay eggs on the outside of the cable after 14 days (they may do it before, but we didn't look as we love our civilian jobs);

(b) Sea-water on B.D. trousers keeps them damp almost indefinitely, and after prolonged soaking they can be made to stand without their usual occupant;

(c) Linemen should step neither on the gunwale (edge) of a rowing boat nor down from any height greater than three feet into it without adequate consideration of the consequences;

(d) D VIII will stand up to sea-water much better than the pamphlet would have you believe, but spun yarn soon rots;

(e) Fishermen lose their hooks (and we our insulation resistance) on line sunk in water where they fish;

(f) The line should ideally be recovered after last light if you have any intention of subsequently flogging the hooks, lines and sinkers which are knitted (quoere "Cable Stitch") with the line and which are harvested as you reel in;

(g) The inter-action of blanco and sea water has to be seen to be believed;

(h) Signalmen should not be left under piers for any time exceeding six hours if the tide was coming in when they were originally left there.

Camp last year was at Crowborough—well within easy reach of Brighton. 3 Squadron won the Regimental Sports as well as the Regimental Rifle Event and Lance-Corporal Mann is to be congratulated on winning the individual event. The three-day scheme was not entirely uneventful. The first part consisted of a simulated waterborne landing followed by a cross country march up on to Beachy Head where your blankets were available if you could find them. For those of 3 Squadron who did not arrive at the RV the answer seemed to be a camp fire in the middle of the Queen's highway (until picked up by the D.S.).



[By courtesy of the Eastern Daily Press

The C.O. (Lieutenant-Colonel G. S. H. Dicker, M.B.E., T.D.) handing over a cheque on the occasion of 3 Squadron winning the Regimental Recruiting Competition

Many of our new recruits passed their trade test at Camp and are to be congratulated on their results.

Since Camp the canteen has been reorganised under Lance-Corporal Pond and many thanks are due to him for the amount of work he is putting in to make it a success. During the year under the direction of our P.S.I., Sergeant Hopkins, we have built a stage next to our Club Room and several revues have been organised for our Social Evenings with Signalman DeLacey in the principle roles, Sergeant Mitchell, M.C. and Chief Dame, ably abetted by Corporal Ward with balloon bust, and musicians Oliver, Bunyan, Moore and many others.

Before Christmas there had been some brisk sales of draw tickets and the proceeds went towards a Children's Party at which the 65 potential recruits of the Squadron and the W.R.A.C. enjoyed themselves immensely. All 65 were children of members of the Squadron which, considering the number of bachelors on our strength, makes an illuminating mathematical calculation as well as an interesting social study.

Rounding off the activities for the year the Annual Dinner and Dance was held at The Grosvenor Rooms in Norwich. This was well attended and a most enjoyable function.

Recruiting during the year has been good and we are now well over 60 per cent strength. This has been due largely to our own members' efforts in publicising our activities both social and in the training line. We were fortunate to win the C.O.'s Recruiting Prize—fortunate because we had spent the money in anticipation on an amplifier a few days beforehand.

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

The month of January is usually a very quiet month following the Christmas holiday, and it is generally after the first week that we get down to serious training; despite the very bad weather that we have been experiencing attendances have been good and additional recruits are still coming along. In fact, never a week passes without fresh attestations!

The annual Administrative Inspection was carried out on Thursday, 22nd January, by the C.S.O. London District, Lieutenant-Colonel B. R. M. Hayles, who, after a parade of the Military and W.R.A.C. Squadrons in the Drill Hall, expressed his great satisfaction at the unit's general turn-out and efficiency.

Two social occasions occurred during the month. On Saturday, 10th, the W.O.s and Sergeants' Mess held their Annual Dinner at the Rembrant Hotel, followed by a social in the Mess, the evening being a great success.

On Friday, 30th, the Deputy Lieutenant for the Royal Borough of Kensington, Brigadier B. Chichester-Cooke, O.B.E., T.D., D.L., entertained His Worship the Mayor of the Royal Borough and the Lady Mayoress, Councillor and Mrs. A. N. E. McHaffie, many local businessmen and employers to a Sherry Party in the Officers' Mess, for the purpose of interesting them in the Territorial Army, particularly Royal Signals. It was a great success, and it is hoped that it will help to stimulate and support further recruitment.

We are sorry to have to say goodbye to Major G. J. Sard on his leaving the Regiment to take up an appointment for his firm in the Far East. We, nevertheless, wish him good luck and *bon voyage*, hoping that it will be only *Au Revoir*.

We are also sorry to say goodbye to W.O.II "George" Skitt on his retirement after many years both with the Regular and T.A. Royal Signals, and we wish him all good luck in the future.

Don't forget that the London Branch of the O.C.A. still hold their meetings on the second Friday of the month in the W.O.s and Sergeants' Mess at 206, Brompton Road. The Annual General Meeting will take place this year on Friday, 10th April, at the above address.

1 Independent U.K.L.F. Reserve Signal Squadron, T.A.

S.S.M. G. F. SKITT

The final retirement from Territorial Army service of this Warrant Officer ends a somewhat unusual 42 years of service in the armed forces.

He joined the Royal Navy in 1910 and after serving as a Leading Telegraphist in the battles of Heligoland, Dogger Bank and Jutland he took his discharge in 1919.

In 1920 he joined the Royal Irish Constabulary and left it in the rank of Head Constable, i/c Wireless Telegraphy in 1922.



[Photo: Croydon Times

S.S.M. G. F. Skitt with his two sons S.Q.M.S. G. Skitt and S.S.M. F. Skitt both serving with the Middlesex Yeomanry Signal Regiment, (T.A.)

In 1923 he enlisted in the Royal Corps of Signals and served in all ranks to R.S.M., being discharged in 1945.

He again enlisted in Royal Signals in the Territorial Army in 1952 and, as stated, took his discharge in February, 1959, in the rank of Squadron Sergeant-Major.

REGULAR FORCES' EMPLOYMENT ASSOCIATION

During 1958, employment was found by the Regular Forces Employment Association for 19,763 ex-Service personnel. Of this number, 8,162 were from the Army, including 660 from Royal Signals.

The organisation has 52 Branches covering the whole of the United Kingdom. Its services are available free of charge to ex-Servicemen of good character who (a) served for not less than three years on a Regular engagement, or (b) served for at least five years between 3rd September, 1939 and 3rd September, 1945.

The address of your nearest Branch of the Regular Forces Employment Association can be obtained from the Royal Signals Association, 88, Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1.

Association Notes

Southampton Branch

"UNLUCKY FOR SOME"

Many of you will not have heard that expression since those war-time days in a smoke-filled canteen as you carefully watched your card and hurriedly placed a counter over number 13.

And it will certainly be unlucky for those old comrades of the Association in Southampton—and especially ex-members of the 43rd Divisional Signals—who do not know of the forthcoming 13th Annual Dinner, which this year is to be held at Blighmont T.A. Centre, Millbrook Road, Southampton, on Saturday, 9th May, at 7.30 p.m.

The change of venue this year has been decided upon after careful consideration by the Committee in an effort to bring down the cost of the function and thus, it is hoped, attract more members and ex-members of the Corps, whose attendance has declined in recent years.

The tickets at 7/6 are just half the cost of last year, and offer a menu comparable with the previous dinner. The amenities of the hall, kindly loaned by the Officer Commanding, 10 A.S.S.U. (T.A.), are excellent, and guests will also be pleased to know that bar prices will be extremely reasonable.

Arrangements are well advanced and already His Worship the Mayor of Southampton and the Chief Signal Officer, Southern Command, who was prevented from attending last year, have kindly consented to attend, and it is confidently expected that the jovial representative from Headquarters, Brigadier Firth, will occupy his usual chair.

Tickets are obtainable from W. Loveless, of 6, Nile Road, Southampton, who will be glad to hear from all interested members, particularly those who live at a distance and who may require accommodation overnight in Southampton. And if anyone is out of touch with an old friend who he wishes to meet again, an early note to this effect will enable the necessary liaison to be made.

The Committee aim to double last year's attendance—your effort to come along will help them reach their goal.

Torbay Branch

Since our last notes a Branch darts team has been organised, with the intention of playing friendly games against the various other ex-Services organisations in the area. Our first game resulted in our losing both the match and the beer leg, but everyone seemed to enjoy themselves, which we consider is the main thing.

Our Social committee are at present busy organising our first Branch dinner and dance. We hope this is a success, and if so we intend to make this an annual event. Due to our financial position we will be unable to invite many guests but we certainly hope to invite someone from Headquarters.

We have received an invitation to pay another visit to The Dartmoor Prison Officers' Club, at Princetown. This was accepted immediately, for our previous visits were very successful to say the least.

Next week is our A.G.M., when all officials say they wish to retire and let someone else do the work, yet finish up by doing the same job as before. However, we shall see.

To maintain a keen interest it is our intention to spread the work, e.g., one man to organise sales of THE WIRE, and another to organise coach trips. Whatever is decided, my annual report should be a pleasant one to make. What Secretary is not pleased to be able to report a sharp increase in membership over the past twelve months?

I am very grateful to the local T.A. for an opportunity to talk to their members on the subject of The Royal Signals Association. Most of them are already members, but I hope to interest the others, and swell our membership.

Our best wishes go to S.S.M. Roy Banham, who was married recently. We wish him and Mrs. Banham the best of luck and happiness in their life together.

Congratulations also to Alan Redwood, one of our Branch committee, who has made the Sergeants' Mess. I am glad to report that his promotion gave our Association members the chance to claim "drinks all round" as it was "on orders" the same day as our last meeting.

Sheffield Branch

At our February meeting we got off to a better start than the January one, because on that date owing to our Secretary running round loose at Christmas, he forgot to inform members of the date, therefore five rolled up to the T.A. Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess to no fire, no bar, and no welcome.

We ran a Housey-Housey swindle with hot pies and sausage rolls. The quietness during this period made one wonder whether they feed at home, being on a diet myself it was a sight to see; there would have been a good trade in bibs.

By the way, the R.S.M. and his wife, of the T.A. entered into our game both on opposite tables. All one could hear was Mrs. Barnes Murphy shout "House." We did think we had a land agent in the game; if she had been one she could have cleared a fortune. As a matter of fact the R.S.M. carried her handbag—it weighed a ton in silver. We think there is some wangle as the steward at the bar called the tune.

We regret to say that the C.O. of our parent T.A. unit is off to Northern Ireland on posting, to be C.S.O. Northern Ireland. He will miss our sunshine in Sheffield. Take care, sir, of your sun tan. I hear they can turn to blisters if you get too much. Anyway, good luck Lieutenant-Colonel Boyland; may we see you again?

In the meantime, if any ex-member of the Corps who served with me in the D.R. Sections of Catterick pre-war days—Mobile Divisional Signals—late 1st Armoured Divisional Signals, 2nd S.T.C. North Wales (Prestatyn), and lastly 8th Armoured Divisional Signals, I would be very pleased to hear from you what memories they bring? If Tommy Rees, of Training Battalion Catterick D.R. Instructor days, is still living in Wilton Salisbury, I send my best regards to you. Last time I saw you, Tommy, was in the old Cinema opposite the Salisbury Hospital. You were C.S.M., T.A., November 1939. How goes it? I was on an anti-gas course at the time. I wouldn't go on one again for a fortune.

Our Annual Meeting is next month. There will be another silence when it comes to the election of 1959/60 members. Heads go rolling. Ernest Tayor, our Secretary, has still got his and he has been Secretary since the Branch about started. What about it members of Sheffield. Don't you think he wants a rest?

All our best wishes to E. Lee and F. Elwood now out of hospital. We have no volunteers for these vacancies.

By the way, our ex-A.T.S. member, Miss M. Kirkwood came with a partner this time. You're wrong, her mother always attends our Branch. We mean? You know what I mean. You have done it yourself haven't you? D.R.R.

QUIZ

Answers to Quiz Questions on page 65.

1. "Newcastle Air."
2. Sundays, Good Friday and Christmas Day.
3. The Eagle.
4. Light-middleweight, 11—2 and under.
   Lightweight, 9—7 and under.
   Lightweight (Army Boys), 9—7 and under.
5. (a) A barrage balloon.
   (b) A Gloster Gladiator aircraft.
6. (a) Colour Sergeant or Staff Sergeant.
   (b) Sergeant.
7. Nautical name of steady North-West anti-trade winds between latitude 40° and 60°.
8. 32.
9. Shem, Ham and Japhet.
10. (a) 1854.
    (b) Crimea.
    (c) Royal Engineers.

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 February, 1959. Also on this page is a simple statement of income and expenditure.

Signalman, 1920-27. Married (children married and gone away), unemployed since May, 1958. The fund helped him to pay his coal bill and rates and to some of the mortgage on his house.

Signalman, 1947-49. Married, two children. Has had polio since mid-1957 and has been helped by the British Legion. The fund helped him.

Widow of Signalman, 1939-41, who died in 1944. Combining with other organisations the Association made a grant to help his eldest daughter to start work.

Signalman, 1929-44. Married, three children. He has been ill since November, 1957, and the fund made a substantial grant to clear his debts.

Signalman, 1958. Serving. Married, got into a muddle on being called for N.S., though recently married, and C.O. strongly recommended a grant.

Widow of Signalman, 1940-46, who died in October, 1958. A small grant made to help settle his affairs.

Driver, 1942-46. Married, five children. Has been ill for four months. The British Legion, R.A.F. and Royal Signals Association helped his children to needed clothing.

Signalman, 1943-46. Married. Children now grown up. He is permanently disabled and has been helped since 1950, but in this case the Association and others helped to start him mending watches and clocks in his own home.

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION AND BENEVOLENT FUND

The following subscriptions were most gratefully received during January, 1959:

	£	s.	d.
1 Training Regiment	15	1	0
2 Training Regiment	18	4	0
3 Training Regiment	21	16	0
4 Training Regiment (Officers' Mess)	4	18	4
5 Training Regiment	26	18	6
7 Training Regiment	47	16	5
D. and M. School, R.A.C. Centre		12	6
2 Independent Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron	2	18	5
M.E.S./S.R.D.E.	1	10	4
Signals Branch, School of Artillery	1	2	0
1 Special Communications Signal Troop	3	7	6
U.K. COMCAN Signal Regiment (1 Squadron)	10	0	0
U.K. COMCAN Signal Regiment (3 Squadron)	3	3	6
U.K. COMCAN Signal Regiment (4 Squadron)	6	7	10
12 Command (M) Signal Regiment T.A.	3	0	0
63 Command (M) Signal Regiment T.A.	1	12	10
4 Independent U.K.L.F. Reserve Signal Squadron T.A.		5	6
Eastern Command Signal Squadron	1	2	6
Army Phantom Signal Regiment T.A.		10	0
7 AGRA (A.A.) Signal Squadron	8	2	0
The Depot Regiment	8	15	6
42 (L.) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment T.A.	1	1	0
Scottish Command (M) Signal Squadron	7	13	0
Scottish Command (M) Signal Regiment T.A.		13	0
4 (S) Port Task Force Signal Squadron T.A.		3	3
C.A.F.S.O.'s Branch, H.Q. B.A.O.R.	1	6	0
20 Armoured Brigade Group Signal Squadron	3	19	0
19 Army Group Signal Regiment	34	10	0
1 Corps Signal Regiment	41	11	0
4 Divisional Signal Regiment	23	9	9
5 Divisional Signal Regiment	70	0	0
2 L. of C. Signal Regiment	16	9	1
H.Q. 2 T.A.F. (Independent) Air Formation Signal Squadron	6	13	11
1 Wireless Regiment	25	2	4
Allied Land Forces Central Europe Signal Squadron	5	0	0
19 Air Formation Signal Regiment	200	0	0
Cyprus District Signal Regiment	25	0	0
3 G.H.Q. Signal Regiment	30	0	0
51 Independent Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron	2	7	0
625 Ordnance Depot	5	0	0
2 Wireless Regiment	20	17	6
Total Receipts ...	£708	0	6

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION WELFARE SECTION

The following donations were most gratefully received during January, 1959:

	£	s.	d.
Aldershot Branch	8	17	0
P. R. Rees, Esq.	1	0	0
Lieutenant-Colonel C. B. Minns		13	0
H. W. Palmer, Esq.		10	0
D. L. Maclean, Esq.		5	0
2 (L.O.N.) Signal Regiment T.A. (Sergeants' Mess)	2	0	0
Total Receipts ...	£13	5	0

EXPENDITURE DURING JANUARY, 1959 ... ... 332 19 10
(Includes: Rent and Rates; Beds and Bedding; Furniture; Cots and Prams; General Assistance)

Analysis of Cases:

Families of Soldiers serving in U.K.	2
Families of Soldiers serving in F.A.R.E.L.F.	1
Widows and dependants	5
Released and discharged Soldiers	37
Total cases assisted ...	37

29 cases of Soldiers who served during the 1939-45 War	...	£260 5 10
16 cases of Soldiers who did not serve during the War	...	£72 14 0

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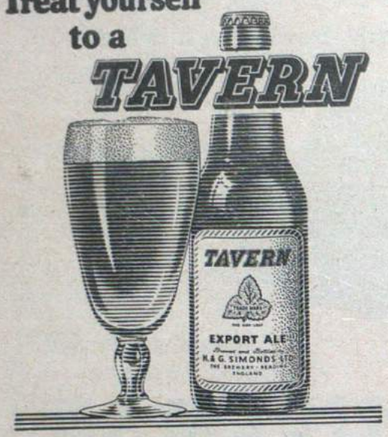
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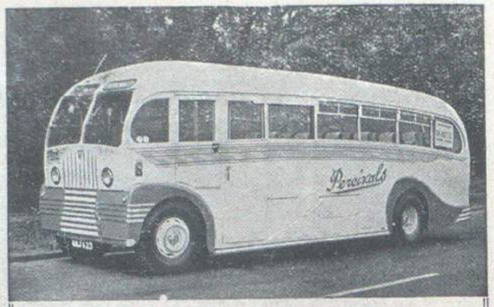
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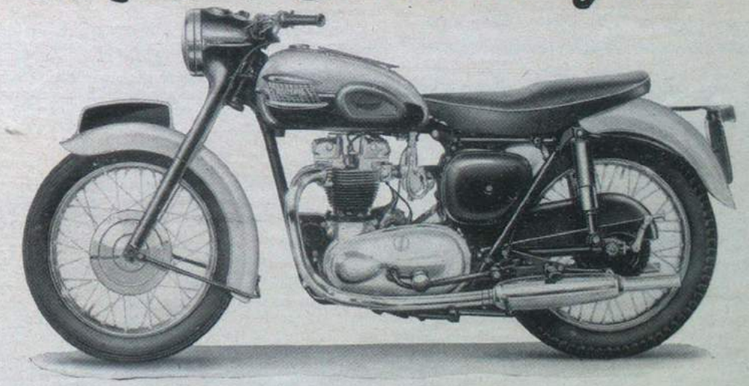
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THE WIRE

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

The Official Organ of the Signals Association

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BRIGADIER H. R. FIRTH

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☆

APRIL • 1959

Vol. 13 (*New Series*) **No. 4**

All ranks Royal Signals and all members of the Royal Signals Association will join in congratulating our Colonel-in-Chief and Patron, Her Royal Highness, The Princess Royal, C.I., G.C.V.O., G.B.E., R.R.C., T.D., D.C.L., LL.D., on the occasion of her birthday.
25th April

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

Minutes of a Special General Meeting of the Royal Signals Association held at the T.A. Centre, Middlesex Yeomanry Signal Regiment, T.A., Duke of York's Headquarters, London, S.W.3, at 10.30 a.m. on Saturday, 21st March, 1959.

The Chairman, Major-General C. M. F. White, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., addressed the meeting:—

"This, Gentlemen, is an unusual occasion and it is very rare for our Association to convene a Special General Meeting.

"Before explaining the business and the reasons that have led up to it I know you will wish to join in thanking Lieutenant-Colonel J. J. Collins, M.C., T.D., and the Middlesex Yeomanry Signal Regiment, T.A., for so kindly making this hall available to us.

"All organisations governed by Committees and General Meetings move slowly and indeed it has been said that your Association might have started some years earlier that which we are now to conclude, yet successful evolution takes time.

"In 1956 a member of the Association suggested that we were too conservative in our investment policy and that if we spread a portion of our investments into high-class equities we should not only gain in income but also on occasion gain from the appreciation in value of the capital.

"At that time and until now the Association has been Registered as a Friendly Society and subject to the rules laid down by Act of Parliament. These rules, until yesterday, permitted us to invest in what are known as Trustee Securities (Government and Corporation Stocks) only. These Stocks are safe, they pay a reasonable rate of interest and after a given number of years they repay £100 for every £100 originally invested. It will be realised that the value of the Pound Sterling has been depreciating. All this and much more was explained to Branches and to all who attended the Annual General Meeting in 1957 and was later sent out as a postal referendum to 23,958 members of the Association. As a result of this it was perfectly clear that the Association wished to be released from the Register of Friendly Societies and as a result the Registrar has agreed that we are no longer under his jurisdiction. He, in his wisdom, has also approved of the machinery which is now to be set up for the government of our financial policies.

"I will now come to the actual business of this Special General Meeting which will, I hope, bring to a successful conclusion what has taken nearly two years of careful study and negotiation to bring to its final stages, enabling it to be placed before you for final decision."

Resolution I.—That the name of the Association be changed from The Signals Association of the Royal Corps of Signals to the Royal Signals Association.
Proposed by: T. Black, Esq., Liverpool Branch.
Seconded by: E. A. Leavesley, Esq., York Branch.
In Favour: ALL. Against: NIL.

At the direction of the Chairman, the General Secretary then went through the Draft Rule Book dated 21st March, 1959, copies of which had been in possession of Branches of the Association since the 13th February and copies were in possession of all at the meeting, at the conclusion of this a vote was taken.

Resolution II.—That the rules contained in the draft submitted to the meeting, and for the purpose of identification signed by the Chairman, be approved and adopted as the Rules of the Association, in substitution for, and to the exclusion of, all the existing Rules of the Association.
Proposed by: A. W. Smith, Esq., London Branch.
Seconded by: Capt. A. F. Wiggins, Leeds Branch.
In Favour: ALL. Against: NIL.

The Chairman then signed the Rules.

Continued on facing page.

The Chairman then introduced the third Resolution:—

Resolution III.—That the Royal Signals Association Trustee Limited be appointed the sole trustee of the Association in the place of the existing Trustees, namely

Brigadier Robert Hugh Willan, D.S.O., M.C.,
General Sir Henry Colville Barclay Wemyss, K.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O., M.C.,
Major-General Sir William Ronald Campbell Penney, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., M.C.,
and Brigadier Alfred Cedric Cowan Willway, C.B., C.B.E., T.D., D.L., J.P.
whose resignations are hereby accepted.

Proposed by: W. E. Harrison, Esq., Catterick and District Branch.
Seconded by: Capt. C. R. Nichols, Aldershot Branch.
In Favour: ALL. Against: NIL.

During the introduction, the Chairman paid tribute to the very great services rendered to the Corps and the Association by Brigadier R. H. Willan, Colonel Commandant, 1934, and General Sir H. Colville B. Wemyss, Colonel Commandant, 1942. The meeting applauded.

The Chairman also expressed the gratitude of all that the undermentioned had accepted the invitation of the Central Committee to become the first Directors of the Royal Signals Association Trustee Limited:—

Major-General Sir W. Ronald C. Penney, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., M.C.
Brigadier A. C. C. Willway, C.B., C.B.E., T.D., D.L., J.P.
Brigadier Sir George H. Walton, K.B.E., C.B., T.D., D.L.
Major W. W. Ruff.

The following message was despatched to Major-General Sir W. Ronald C. Penney, who is in hospital recovering from an operation:—

"Special General Meeting Royal Signals Association send wishes speedy recovery."

The meeting closed at 11.30 a.m.

* * *

Also held on Saturday, 21st March, 1959, was the 13th Annual Meeting of the Representatives of Branches of the Association. The Minutes of this meeting are on page 112.

* * *

This number of "The Wire" is to be despatched on 16th April. The delay has been caused by the dates of Easter.

The Army Rugby Final, 1958/59

1st TRAINING REGIMENT ROYAL SIGNALS 12; 1st Bn. THE ROYAL SCOTS 9

The 1st Training Regiment met 1st Bn. The Royal Scots—the B.A.O.R. champions—at Aldershot on 11th March, 1959.

Despite heavy rain during the night the pitch was in perfect condition, but unfortunately a strong wind had blown up during the morning and continued for the rest of the afternoon. To say that it caused near heart failure to certain spectators on several occasions is putting it mildly.

Playing with the wind in the first half Signals were soon in their opponents "twenty-five," and obtaining more than their fair share of the ball, due to Lance-Corporal Bedson's hooking, put in a series of attacks on the Royal Scots line. Their defence was sound, even if desperate at times, and they held the Signals at bay.

After ten minutes' play Signals were awarded a penalty, but Signalman Langton was wide with the kick from a difficult angle.

The Royal Scots forwards were putting in some good old-fashioned forward rushes—shades of Scottish forwards pre-war—and made lengthy journeys into the Signals territory on several occasions. However, Lance-Corporal Dalby, aided by the wind, quietly put them back into their own "twenty-five."

Lieutenant Taylor nearly scored from the blind side of the scrum and shortly afterwards Corporal Williams, on the left wing, was just prevented from scoring by a magnificent tackle by his opposite number.

It was nearly twenty minutes before the first score came: a penalty kick taken by Signalman Langton just short of the half-way mark sailed between the posts. Wind, or no wind, it was a very fine kick which deserved the cheers of the anxious spectators. Shortly afterwards he repeated this achievement with an even finer kick from the touch-line.

Despite several attacks by Signals backs the Royal Scots held firm. Their three-quarters were "lying up" to deaden the assault, this, however, was to be their undoing, as Lance-Corporal Dalby put a short punt over the heads of their centres and Lance-Corporal Carter took it on "the burst" and went

I TRAINING REGIMENT, ROYAL SIGNALS, WINNERS ARMY RUGBY FOOTBALL FINAL, MARCH 11th, 1959

Lance-Corporal A. L. Carter, Second-Lieutenant J. MacPherson, Corporal R. Higgin, Signalman W. Langton, Signalman W. R. Cunningham, Signalman J. T. Brown, Signalman M. W. Baxter, Second-Lieutenant J. Byas, Lance-Corporal W. B. Fiddes, Major W. A. Adam, M.B.E., Lieutenant J. Taylor, Lance-Corporal R. A. Bedson, Signalman R. L. Coglan, Corporal D. A. Williams, Second-Lieutenant J. C. Cook, Lance-Corporal G. Dalby

[Photo: Reader & Ward, Aldershot



through the Royal Scots cover defence to score an excellent try. Strange to relate Signalman Langton missed the conversion which was not particularly difficult.

Following a set scrum the Royal Scots started one of their few three-quarter movements which began well but terminated badly. One, who shall be nameless, kicked ahead into the wind. Unfortunately, it went high instead of low, and the outcome staggered both sides so much that nothing came of it. In the resulting melée the referee was seen picking himself from "the deck."

Just before half-time a stirring forward rush—one could imagine the sound of bagpipes—took the Royal Scots to the Signals "twenty-five" from their own. It was "panic stations" and an over-anxious Signals forward pretending to be one of the Royal Scots backs was duly punished. The kick was in front of the posts and Lance-Corporal Chisholm showed his contempt for the wind by putting the ball between them.

A 9—3 lead at half-time was not as comforting as it could be.

Playing into the wind in the second half the Signals found themselves on the defensive, and after a scrum infringement Second-Lieutenant Cook reduced the lead to 9—6 with an extraordinarily good kick with the instep which reminded one of K. J. F. Scotland, who played for Signals two years ago.

Due to excellent tactical kicking by Lance-Corporal Dalby and Lance-Corporal Fiddes in particular, Signals repeatedly worked their way into the Royal Scots half, and having arrived there put in some "hair-raising" attacks.

Second-Lieutenant Byas, changing direction, went through half the Royal Scots side before being brought down inches from the line. A quick passing movement gave Corporal Williams room to move and after a thirty-yard run only a desperate tackle, and good it was, by Lance-Corporal McDonald prevented him scoring.

At this stage, for some unknown reason, the Royal Scots appeared to have forgotten the wind, and it was only their pack, with tremendous forward rushes, that brought them back into Signals twenty-five, and on one occasion a penalty kick to Signals under their own goal posts must have been very welcome. The spectators' sigh of relief momentarily silenced the gale that was blowing. Touch was gained, and having restored the situation the Signals proceeded once again to work themselves up the touch-line into an attacking position from which came the best try of the match.

The ball was "whipped" out to Corporal Williams, who was pulled down on the line after a twenty-yard dash by Lance-Corporal McDonald, who was playing the game of his life.

A five-yard scrum was ordered, Signals obtained the ball and "held it." Very slowly, in a battle of strength, their pack moved forward, nearer and nearer to the line, and eventually over it. The Royal Scots back row dare not break—the ball was released and lay there waiting for Lance-Corporal Fiddes to touch it down.

The Royal Scots were far from finished. Perhaps Robert Bruce spoke from "his grave." They came back with yet another of their devastating forward rushes, which, although it did not bring them a try, gained a penalty kick which Second-Lieutenant Cook made no mistake about. The whistle went shortly afterwards and 1st Training Regiment were safely home.

In general it was a most exciting Final and a fair result. The Signals strength lay in a well balanced side which was tactically sound whilst the Royal Scots had a very fine fighting pack. Their forward rushes were a joy to watch, causing panic and alarm to the Signals side and their spectators respectively. Captain R. F. Richardson may not have won the day, but he has a pack of which he has every reason to be proud, as has Lieutenant Taylor who took them on.

The Royal Scots backs, although not seen in attack, were defensively sound.

Mother Nature, as usual, had a hand in affairs, as the strong wind cut down the chances of the stronger Signals backs.

Congratulations to both sides on a very fine display.

The teams:

1st Training Regiment, Royal Signals

Signalman W. Langton, Signalman J. T. Brown, Second-Lieutenant J. Byas, Lance-Corporal A. L. Carter, Corporal D. A. Williams, Lance-Corporal G. Dalby, Lance-Corporal W. B. Fiddes, Lieutenant J. Taylor, Lance-Corporal R. A. Bedsom, Second-Lieutenant J. MacPherson, Corporal R. Higgin, Signalman W. R. Cunningham, Signalman R. L. Coglan, Signalman M. W. Baxter, Second-Lieutenant J. C. Cook.

1st Bn. The Royal Scots

Lance-Corporal T. W. McDonald, Cpl. R. W. Howden, Corporal J. Thompson, Lance-Corporal D. H. Chisholm, Private A. A. Pow, Sergeant C. G. McCullock, Second-Lieutenant M. O. Cook, Corporal J. E. Weir, Corporal W. T. Holmes, Private W. Arbuckle, Lieutenant D. R. B. Allan, Lance-Corporal W. G. H. Murray, Second-Lieutenant I. McLaughlan, Captain R. F. Richardson, Lieutenant A. R. G. Addison.

The Way to the Final

1st Trg. Regt. R. Signals, U.K.		*The Royal Scots, B.A.O.R.*	
1st Round	Bye.	1st Round	Bye.
2nd ,,	A.A.S. Harrogate 57-3	2nd ,,	1 Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers 23-3
3rd ,,	Bye.	3rd ,,	1 Wireless Regiment, Royal Signals 12-0
4th ,,	11 Hussars 60-3	4th ,,	1 King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry 14-0
5th ,,	3 Training Regiment, Royal Signals 6-0	Semi-Final	7 Royal Tanks 17-12
6th ,,	1 Duke of Wellington's Regiment 5-0	Final	1 Training Regiment, Royal Signals 9-12
7th ,,	3 Training Regiment R.E. 48-6		75-27
Semi-Final	1 South Wales Borderers 3-0		
Final	1 Royal Scots 12-9		
	191-21*		

* 1 Try only.

Movements — Officers

This column is now in a new form and is compiled by War Office A.G.11 and is therefore authentic.

Where no date is inserted after the name it means that the move has taken place.

Colonel A. Fitz McGill	To	SHAPE.
Lieutenant-Colonel A. F. Freeman	,,	54 (EA) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment (T.A.)
Lieutenant-Colonel C. E. Booth-Jones	,,	School of Artillery.
Lieutenant-Colonel J. E. D. Farr	,,	5th Divisional Signal Regiment.
Major I. H. A. Illingworth ...	,,	Ministry of Supply.
Major C. Robinson	,,	Royal Signals Records.
Lieutenant-Colonel G. H. Hulme	,,	12 Air Formation Signal Regiment.
Major O. J. Peck	,,	Joint Services Staff College (Course).
Major W. J. Perry	,,	2 Northern Command (M) Signal Regiment (T.A.).
Major A. Begg	,,	7 Training Regiment, Royal Signals.
Major A. W. Stewart	,,	1 AGRA (Fd.) Signal Squadron.
Major J. E. Denton	,,	19 Army Group Signal Regiment.
Major W. D. S. Renton	,,	School of Infantry.
Major L. M. Rutherford	,,	The War Office.
Major T. Cunningham-Burley ...	,,	H.Q. AFNE.
Major (Q.M.) V. C .T. Honor ...	,,	50 (N) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment (T.A.).
Major (Q.M.) D. M. Banham ...	,,	56 (London) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment (T.A.).
Major (Q.M.) R. H. A. Salisbury	,,	Singapore.
Major (Q.M.) W. R. Pearse ...	,,	Singapore.
Major (Q.M.) K. Parsons	,,	G.H.Q., M.E.L.F.
Capt. (T.O.T.) R. Marsh	,,	Scottish Command (M) Signal Squadron.
Lieutenant (T.O.T.) P. J. Mitchell	,,	B.A.O.R.

Retirements

Lieutenant-Colonel P. H. Smitherman	20 February, 1959.
Major J. R. Camp	28 February, 1959.
Major B. G. Sell	12 March, 1959.
Major M. J. MacLennan	12 March, 1959.

QUIZ

1. Can a W.O. or N.C.O. of the Corps refuse promotion?
2. What is the strength of a Guard of Honour for:
   (a) H.M. The Queen and members of the Royal Family?
   (b) The First Sea Lord, C.I.G.S., C. of Air Staff?
3. If you looked at the "tail" of a penny piece of which Regimental cap badge would it remind you?
4. What events constitute the modern Pentathlon?
5. Where did the expression "Hobson's choice" originate?
6. What does the abbreviation S.A.C.E.U.R. stand for?
7. Name:
   (a) The longest river in the world.
   (b) The largest island in the world.
   (c) The highest mountain in Great Britain.
8. What is the Treatment for fainting?
9. Where or what is Dum-Dum?

See page 115 for answers to Quiz.

The Colonel-in-Chief visits Gibraltar



Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal taking the salute of the Squadron during her informal visit to Wellington Front. Brigadier Snow (Deputy Fortress Commander) and Lady Boyne (Lady in Waiting to H.R.H.) are on the left, Major West-Watson is commanding the Squadron

January and February this year have been memorable months for Gibraltar Signal Squadron. In the middle of January we were informed that 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., was coming to stay with His Excellency the Governor for a holiday from 3rd to 19th February and would most probably wish to visit the Squadron during her stay. We were pleased at the thought of an extra and unofficial visit from our Colonel-in-Chief. The preparation of the baracks was going to be easy because we had just had our annual "spit and polish" for the Administrative Inspection, and so we would only require a little titivating here and there, and could concentrate on the finer points of detail.

However, the weather clerks thought otherwise—they produced 11½ inches of rain in a matter of eight hours on 30th January. This caused extensive flooding throughout the city and Wellington Front Barracks got more than their share as we are low-lying. We had 4ft. of water on the parade ground, and every room was flooded with between two to four inches of muddy water and debris. It took two fire tenders several hours' hard pumping to get the water under control. Members of the Unit were to be seen wading around in bathing trunks salvaging equipment and rescuing the female staff of the switchboard and offices, for which there was keen competition on both sides. One signalman was seen to swim the length of the parade ground (just to say he had done it!). Communications were disrupted all round, including Radio Distribution (F.B.S.) and Radio Gibraltar, both of which are in our Barracks. However, most communications were back in operation within 48 hours, and Radio Distribution was on the air within 24 hours, which speaks very highly of their engineers, who had to do a large amount of indoor re-wiring.

The next problem was the preparations for our Royal visit. The Barracks looked a sorry sight on the morning after the flood. Fire points had floated miles away from their normally well-ordered positions. There was debris, silt and rubble by the ton everywhere; lino and floorboards were sodden and dirty, walls had gruesome tidemarks on them. All stores on the lower shelves in the Radio Distribution studios and Q.M. Stores were virtually a write-off, much to the Quartermaster's delight.

Needless to say, with a lot of hard work and goodwill, and the co-operation of our brothers—the R.E.s—we had the place spick and span by 3rd February.

To mark the occasion of Her Royal Highness's visit, the Squadron was granted permission to mount guard on the Convent, the residence of His Excellency the Governor, during the time Her Royal Highness was in Gibraltar. This was the first time the Royal Corps of Signals has performed this duty in Gibraltar. The members of the guard were Sergeant Lilley, Lance-Corporal Lynas, Signalman Lees, Signalman Singleton and Driver Senior, who all did great credit to the Corps by their bearing and turnout and in their performance of their duties.

On the Monday following her arrival, Her Royal Highness paid a visit to Wellington Front—23 out of the total strength



H.R.H. the Princess Royal inspecting the Ranks of the Squadron, Major West-Watson is in the foreground and W.O.II (F of S) Burrows and Signalman MacBain



Royal Signals Guard preparing to dismount. On the balcony are from right to left: His Excellency the Governor (General Sir Charles Keightley), Her Royal Highness, Lady Boyne, Lady Keightley. Members of the guard are Sergeant Lilley, Signalman Lees, Driver Senior, Lance-Corporal Lynas

of 35 men were on parade. Her Royal Highness first took the salute and then inspected the Squadron, speaking to many of them. Afterwards Her Royal Highness was escorted by the Officer Commanding, Major E. C. W. West-Watson, through the Telephone Exchange and then to the studios of Radio Distribution and Radio Gibraltar, where she met the staff.

After this Her Royal Highness and her Lady-in-Waiting, Lady Boyne, were introduced to the wives of the Squadron by Mrs. West-Watson and Mrs. Paterson in the Corporals' Club, where they were able to talk informally over a cup of coffee. The wives present were Mrs. West, Mrs. Lloyd, Mrs. Harding and Mrs. Rolls, and Corporal Bell, W.R.A.C. was a great help in handing round the coffee.

Her Royal Highness left Wellington Front to visit the Fortress Signal Centre at work. In the Cipher office she met four officers' wives doing an Auxiliary Cipher Operators' Course.

Also during her holiday here, Her Royal Highness visited the W.R.A.C. Company and met the members of their association. The Squadron was represented at both these functions.

We were very glad to welcome to the Rock, W.O.II Wilde, who has taken over the duties of Port Sergeant. It is probably the first time in history that a member of the Corps has held this unusual appointment. Unusual because, by tradition, it is his duty to "secure the Fortress" at night, which is still carried out once a month as a ceremonial parade which is known as the "Ceremony of the Keys." The famous Keys of Gibraltar. In our next issue we will endeavour to describe the ceremony and hope to show some photographs of W.O.II Wilde taking part.

We are very sorry to say farewell to Sergeant Lilley, who goes out to civilian life, Lance-Corporal Lynas and Signalman Woodhall. Here's wishing them the best of luck for the future. We are very pleased to welcome Sergeant and Mrs. Burnham, Lance-Corporal and Mrs. Hanson, and Signalman Derrick, and hope they will enjoy their "Mediterranean holiday" on the Rock.

We foolishly allowed Foreman of Signals (W.O.II Burrows) to go home to U.K. on leave without an "escort," so he found his own, got married, and now we are looking forward to welcoming Mrs. Burrows into our midst.

Indian Signal Corps Centrepiece

Colonel R. M. Adams writes about the Indian Signal Corps Centrepiece pictured and described in the March number of "The Wire":—

"Sir,

On page 61 of the March WIRE appears a photograph of the Indian Signal Corps Centrepiece. The statuettes do *not* include a Rajput havildar. The classes of the Indian Signal Corps were fixed before 1930 and the Rajputs, Gurkhas, Ahirs, Jats, Mahrattas and Pathans wasted out during the early '30s. The bearded havildar was Puran Singh, a jat sikh ex-clerk (but had also served on the trades roster). He became a V.C.O. and subsequently an E.C.O.

I am of the opinion that the original centrepiece was purchased for the Jubbulpore Mess by Royal Signals Officers in 1934 and is, I believe, the one given us on our withdrawal. The next to be made was the one given to the I.M.A. A third was made for the Pindi Mess, but the members of that Mess disliked the "Jimmy." They carved up the centrepiece and mounted the soldiers separately.

The "Jimmy" was not copied from the statue by Giovanni Da Balogna. The writer of this letter visited Messrs. Barton, of Bangalore in 1933, while the original centrepiece was being made. Barton's were grateful for the many photographs, from different angles, of the soldiers, but said they could have found models easily. The "Jimmy" of which we sent no photographs was a different matter, and they were using the P.T. Master of Bangalore High School as a model!"

Mobile Radio Telephones

BY H. N. GANT, A.M.BRIT., I.R.E.

As a text book for Royal Signals Mr. Gant's admirable book, written for the layman rather than the expert, is not of universal use.

It is of interest, in that, the VHF system now working so successfully in Cyprus is operated with equipment purchased from A.A. Command. This equipment was in origin simply that supplied by a well-known firm of manufacturers to police forces, owners of fleets of taxis and similar operators.

Officers of Royal Signals should read this book because in this year 1959 this type of installation consisting of a powerful central station and less powerful vehicle, or portable stations, is the only one which will work in heavily built up areas.

Cyprus with its ideal central station in the Troodos Mountains communicating to fixed stations in the plains is a simple example of its use. In London a number of operators have their central station on the high ground in the Hampstead district.

Some years ago in trials of the prototypes of the A.A. Command equipment a most incompetent aerial on the roof of Horse Guards gave coverage extending beyond the boundaries of the Metropolitan Police District to vehicle equipment, not fitted but merely placed on the passenger seat of ordinary motor vehicles.

So much for the utility of these equipments. Other uses will quickly come to mind.

As said before, Mr. Gant has written for the layman. It is understandable by even as low I.Q. as is possessed by the writer of this review.

General Officers should read it and then they will goad Royal Signals and the Ministry of Supply until this most useful type of equipment is brought into more general use.

It is not expensive, it is readily obtainable from most of the leading manufacturers; it requires very little skilled manpower; it works when nothing else will. *Published by Messrs. Chapman and Hall, 37, Essex Street, London, W.C.2.* £1/1/-.

PERSONAL COLUMN

London Gazette

13th February, 1959
Lieutenant-Colonel G. B. Stevenson retired on 13th February, 1959.

20th February, 1959
Lieutenant-Colonel P. H. Smitherman retired 20th February, 1959, and is granted honorary rank of Colonel.
Lieutenant-Colonel P. A. Duke, O.B.E., retired 19th February, 1959.
Lieutenant-Colonel A. H. Costen retired 21st February.
Lieutenant (Traffic Officer) E. J. Brooks to be Captain (Traffic Officer), 20th February, 1959.

24th February, 1959
Lieutenant (Q.M.) R. G. Furtado, B.E.M., to be Captain (Q.M.), 21st February, 1959.

Births

COPLAND.—To Sergeant and Mrs. R. Copland, a daughter, Angelina Mary, on 21st February, 1959, at Chiswick.

RICHARDS.—To Corporal and Mrs. J. C. T. Richards, a son, Simon Gerrard, at West Middlesex Hospital on 16th January, 1959.

TULLOCH.—To Colonel and Mrs. J. M. S. Tulloch, a daughter, on 4th March, 1959, at B.M.H., Kinrara.

Deaths

WEMYSS.—On 2nd April, 1959, at Warsash, Hampshire, General Sir H. Colville B. Wemyss, K.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O., M.C.

STEVENS.—23498747 Signalman J. R. Stevens of Berlin Signal Squadron, on 16th February, 1959, in a road accident.

GWILLIM.—Ex-Lance-Corporal H. Gwillim of 59, Griffin Crescent, Wick, Littlehampton, Sussex, on 21st February, 1959.

PEASE-COX.—Ex-Sergeant J. A. Pease-Cox of 15, Airthrie Road, Green Lane, Goodmayes, Essex, during February, 1959.

FARRINGTON.—Ex-Signalman A. Farrington, of 12, Adshead Road, Dudley, Worcs., on 11th February, 1959, aged 40 years.

CHARLESWORTH.—On 17th February, 1959, at 3, Manor Road, Taunton, Beatrice Anne Colpoys, wife of Brigadier J. F. Charlesworth, O.B.E.

CREE.—Captain J. C. Cree, M.B.E., of 88, Whitchurch Lane, Edgware Middlesex, on 12th January, 1959.

MOSS.—Ex-Second-Lieutenant O. H. N. Moss died on 23rd March, 1959, whilst caving in Castleton Caves.

Arrivals and Departures

1 Training Regiment
Departures: Major (Traffic Officer) F. Lettin, Major N. W. P. Pearce.

School of Signals
Arrivals: Major D. W. Gladstone, T/Major R. M. Armstrong.
Departures: Major P. S. Westmacott, Staff Sergeant J. F. Bartram.

4 Training Regiment
Arrivals: Sergeant J. J. Fenton, Staff Sergeants C. A. Brown and D. W. Thomson.
Departures: Sergeants L. N. Whitmore, W. G. MacLeod, R. G. Turvey, L. A. Makinson, R. W. Webster and F. H. Pemberton.

19 Army Group Signal Regiment
Arrivals: Majors R. O. Dunmore, P. W. Fountain, M.B.E., I. L. McKellar, Captain (Traffic) A. G. Satchwell, W.O.sII Jones, Hill and Caines, Sergeants Hingley, Nichols, Walker, Hawkes and Rees.
Departures: Majors C. Mitchell and C. M. Jenkins, Lieutenant (T.O.T.) R. D. Willingale, W.O.sII Stanley, Ingham, Saunders, Richards and Sandham, Staff Sergeants McCullogh, Singleton, Bushnell and Acting Sergeant Brooks.

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DAILY DELIVERIES IN YOUR DISTRICT

Ex-Staff Sergeant Short welcomes personnel and families to his boarding house at "Ingledene," 22, Esk Terrace, Whitby, Yorkshire. Interesting views of Upper Harbour, Old Town and Abbey, a few minutes' walk from Town and Country. Hot and cold water, spring interior beds in each bedroom, T.V. lounge, good food provided. Moderate charges.

Forthcoming Events

The Depot Regiment, Royal Signals,

Saighton Camp, Chester, will hold a Regimental Week-end on 9th/10th May, 1959.

Programme

Saturday, 9th May,
14.00 hours Regimental Sports (including Novelty Races for Association Members).
16.30 hours Tea on Sports Field.
20.30 hours Regimental Dance (Gymnasium).

Sunday, 10th May
10.30 hours Church Parade and Service.
12.00 hours Association Members and Old Comrades to Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess.
15.00 hours Cricket Match. Officers v. Warrant Officers and Sergeants.
17.00 hours Tea on Sports Field.

The Non-Touring Band of the Corps will be in attendance throughout the Week-end.

The Regiment regrets that only male overnight accommodation can be provided.

All applications to O.C., The Depot Regiment, Royal Signals, Saighton Camp, Chester.

10 Wireless Training Squadron. Regimental Week-end at Garats Hey, Near Loughborough.

Saturday, 23rd May. Afternoon, Gala. Evening, Dance.
Sunday, 24th May. Church Parade. Band Concert.

Loughborough and District Branch of the Association are assisting. Royal Signals Band (non-touring) is to play throughout.

Any other members of the Association who wish to attend should apply for details to Mr. J. S. Peddie, 150, Byron Street, Loughborough, Leicestershire. (See also page 97).

Wednesday,	27th May, 1959 ...	Corps Dinner, Hyde Park Hotel.
Thursday,	28th May, 1959 ...	Central Committee Meeting, Royal Signals Association. Regular Officers' "At Home," Hyde Park Hotel.

THE CORPS CRICKET MATCH against ROYAL ARMOURED CORPS

takes place at THE OVAL, LONDON, on 24th/25th JUNE, 1959, and not 23rd/24th June, as stated in the February number of THE WIRE.

Admission is free, especially to those wearing a Corps Tie.

Tea can be obtained from the normal catering facilities of The Oval.

The Corps Band, or a R.A.C. Band, will play on both days for about an hour on either side of the afternoon tea interval.

Indian Army Reunion

26th June, 1959. Hurlingham Club. Tickets, 12/- each, from Lieutenant-Colonel D. J. C. Wiseman, 59, Hyde Park Gate, London, S.W.7.

Saturday,	4th July, 1959 ...	Royal Signals Association Annual
Sunday,	5th July, 1959 ...	General Meeting. Corps Week-end and Association Reunion at CATTERICK.

The 1959 Searchlight Tattoo

at the White City, London, organised by S.S.A.F.A., will be held on evenings between 17th and 28th August inclusive, with a matinee on Saturday, 22nd August. This year the Tattoo begins at 8 p.m. and finishes a little earlier (10.15 p.m.), so that people can catch their trains more easily. Tickets can be obtained from the Box Office, White City Stadium, Wood Lane, W.12 (Shepherds Bush 7220).

Royal Signals Rugby Football Club, Fixtures, 1959

Date	Opponents	Ground
April 18th	Wakefield	Catterick
April 22nd	Bradford Charity Match	Bradford
April 25th	Huddersfield Sevens	Huddersfield

Royal Signals Officers' Golfing Society, Fixtures, 1959

Date	Opponents	Course
Thurs.,16thApril	Spring Meeting	Pannal
Fri.,17thApril	Spring Meeting	Pannal
Sun.,26th April	Royal Military College of Science	Frilford Heath
9th-16th May	Army Golf Meeting	St. Andrews
Wed., 20th May	Royal Engineers	Worplesdon
Fri., 17th July	Royal Artillery	Sunningdale
Thurs., 10th Sept.	R.A.M.C.	Swinley Forest
Mon., 21st Sept.	A.G.S. Meeting	Sunningdale
Tues., 22nd Sept.	A.G.S. Meeting	Sunningdale
Mon., 28th Sept.	Autumn Meeting	Worp'esdon
Tues., 29th Sept.	Autumn Meeting	Worplesdon
Wed., 30th Sept.	Autumn Meeting	Worplesdon
Sun., 4th Oct.	Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst	Camberley Heath
Thurs., 22nd Oct	R.A.O.C.	Swinley Forest

Royal Signals Cricket Club, Fixtures, 1959

10th May	v.	Ampleforth College	Ampleforth
20th May	v.	Welbeck College	Worksop
8th-9th June	v.	R.A.O.C.	Bramley, Hants.
10th June	v.	R.M.A., Sandhurst	Camberley
11th-12th June	v.	R.A.S.C.	Aldershot
20th-21st June	v.	R.E.	Aldershot
24th-25th June	v.	R.A.C.	Kennington Oval
8th-9th July	v.	R.E.M.E.	Colchester

Unit Cricket Officers who consider any players up to Corps standard should forward full details to Captain S. G. de Clive-Lowe, Royal Signals, 3rd Training Regiment Royal Signals, Lincoln.

PROMOTIONS

The following promotions were authorised during the month of February, 1959:

Regimental Duty Roster

To W.O.I	1878276	(890)	W.O.II	Pavey, S. G.
To W.O.II	2325934	(250)	A/W.O.II	Whatmough, A.
To S Sgt.	22515131	(110)	A/S Sgt.	Boynton, A. L. (Accelerated)
	22540914	(870)	Sgt.	Thomas, E. (Accelerated)

Signal Centre Supervisor Roster

To W.O.II	22168977	(80)	A/W.O.II	Wallis, D. K.
To S Sgt.	2547737	(1410)	Sgt.	Dixon, P. V.
	22540138	(1540)	Sgt.	Godden, C. D.
	22265389	(2070)	Sgt.	Macleod, W. G.
	2549664	(2300)	Sgt.	Kent, P. B. R.

General Trades and Duties Roster

To Sgt.	543286	(24)	A/Sgt.	Sadler, W. J.
	21005705	(40)	A/Sgt.	Waterton, A. R.
	21005109	(144)	A/Sgt.	Moffatt, D. F.
	22515788	(150)	A/Sgt.	Moss, J. C.
	22244641	(180)	A/Sgt.	Biggs, G. E.

Operating Roster

To Sgt.	22295705	(250)	A/Sgt.	Fernie, P. J.
	22482133	(320)	A/Sgt.	Shirley, P. W. F.
	22522181	(350)	A/Sgt.	Cox. R. W.
	22246916	(360)	Cpl.	Andrews, J. A.
	22539270	(380)	A/Sgt.	Tuffin, A.
	23537165	(384)	A/Sgt.	Pollard, L.
	22248800	(390)	Cpl.	Oriordan, E. D.
	22231527	(400)	Cpl.	Elcombe, E. C. H.
	22537334	(410)	A/Sgt.	Harris, P. J.
	22537122	(420)	Cpl.	Broome, D. S.
	22515737	(450)	Cpl.	Simonet, E. J.
	22296579	(460)	A/Sgt.	Dunnett, J. A.

Technical Roster

To Sgt.	22286089	(280)	Cpl.	Mannion, P.
	22524725	(310)	A/Sgt.	Jones, J. E. L.
	22126265	(340)	A/Sgt.	Bright, C. M. J.
	22718309	(380)	A/Sgt.	Hill, T. G.
	22526483	(500)	A/Sgt.	Truran, M. A.
	22309310	(650)	A/Sgt.	Todd, A.
	22265883	(690)	Cpl.	Edwards, R. B.
	22550278	(740)	Cpl.	Selby, V. B.
	22537866	(840)	A/Sgt.	Haines, L. T. W.
	22548968	(870)	Cpl.	Pearson, J. S.
	21005074	(880)	A/Sgt.	Punnett, G.
	22401594	(910)	A/Sgt.	Maidment, K.
	22289332	(940)	A/Sgt.	Crane, F. R.
To S Sgt.	22296348	(290)	Sgt.	Wagstaff, R.
	2549330	(420)	Sgt.	Curtis, G. E.
	2549765	(430)	Sgt.	Murray, R.
	2549323	(440)	Sgt.	Tompkins, P. J.
	2549332	(460)	Sgt.	Jarratt, A. R.

Clerical Roster

To S Sgt.	22237502	(220)	Sgt.	Wilson, S. H.

INSERTIONS

Technical Roster

	2325863	(04)	S Sgt.	Erskine, D. C.

DELETIONS

Regimental Duty Roster

W.O.II	960,	2230

Foremen of Signals

W.O.II	530
S Sgt.	10

Clerical Roster

S Sgt.	80	
Sgt.	430	1790

Lineman Roster

Sgt.	20

Operating Roster

Sgt.	6690	2560	4260	5020	1890	3330

General Trades and Duties Roster

Sgt.	1460	1110	44	

Technical Roster

Sgt.	2190

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).*

RHODESIAN RAILWAYS: Vacancies on the Permanent Staff for two Assistant Engineers (Civil), three Assistant Engineers (Signal and Telecommunications), 36 Signal and Telegraph Technicians. Salary according to grade; prospects of advancement. Medical and pension funds. Housing provided, or acommodation allowance in lieu, but married men must be prepared to travel out alone in the first instance. For full details apply to The Immigration Officer, Office of the High Commissioner for Rhodesia and Nyasaland, Rhodesia House, Strand, London, W.C.2.

Vacancy in East London for civilian Chief Clerk: no fixed age limit. Initial salary £485 rising by annual increments to £725, plus 12/- per week supervisory allowance. Additional allowances, etc., can be earned if employee joins the Territorial Army, but this is not obligatory. 42-hour week, 18 days' annual holiday. Apply to the Adjutant, 1st (Essex) Signal Regiment (T.A.), Selsdon Road, Wanstead, London, E.11. (Tel. WANstead 5131). Post to be filled by August, 1959.

(N.B. This is one of several Chief Clerk vacancies reported to the Association. Members interested in such appointments should apply to the Employment Section—see above).

Other advertisements about employment are on back inside cover.

The following goods are available from Association Headquarters: (See also page 102).

Corps Ties—Reppe		5/6
	Heavy Weave	7/6
	Woollen	8/6
	Terylene	11/-
Corps Scarves Woollen		21/-
Reppe Squares		21/-
Cravats—Reppe		21/-
Corps Cuff Links		7/-
Blazer Buttons—Large (each)		2/3
	Small (each)	1/8

ENGLAND

1 TRAINING REGIMENT

First of the voluntary church services was held in St. Martin's on Sunday, 8th February, and was very well attended. The Lessons were read by members of the Regiment.

On 11th February some 850 soldiers travelled down to Aldershot by coach and special train to see the Rugby XV do battle with the 1st Battalion The South Wales Borderers in the U.K. Army Cup final.

It was a dour struggle and only a dropped goal separated the contestants at the end.

Prior to the kick-off, ardent S.W.B. fans paraded with a six-foot leek decorated in their Regimental colours of emerald green. This was captured by an audacious Signalman and by courtesy of 90 Signal Regiment now reposes in the Rugby Club with a host of other "ill-gotten" gains. There is no truth in the rumour that a formal acknowledgment has been sent to Brecon.

And now for 11th March and our encounter with 1st Battalion The Royal Scots in the final proper. Another large contingent is getting ready to make the long journey southwards to shout the lads home.

Having won the District and Command Cross-Country Championships, our runners took on the elite in the Army event on 27th February. It was a very close race but we were beaten into fourth place.

In the Small Bore League our first string are so far unbeaten and badminton, hockey and soccer players are more than holding their own in local competitions.

In common with most other parts of the country, 'flu has taken its toll here too but did not in fact reach epidemic proportions. Perhaps the Catterick air has something to do with that.

4 TRAINING REGIMENT

This month has been full of entertainment, what with the Inter-Squadron boxing, another Regimental concert and another visit from the blood transfusion team. Perhaps the latter cannot really be classed as entertainment, but it does provide an opportunity of getting a free cup of tea and of lying in bed during working hours, having one's hand held by a pretty nurse. At any rate there are many worse ways of spending a morning, as a large number of people seemed to think, judging by the strain of volunteers.

The Squadron boxing produced some notably spirited performances, though we do not seem to have anyone of any marked skill. The referee several times congratulated the participants on putting up a good show, Signalman Williams, of 1 Squadron, Driver Excel, of "H.Q." Squadron, and Corporal Ray, of "H.Q." Squadron, being particularly good. The best boxer was Signalman Ecclestone, of "H.Q." Squadron, who, although a welter-weight, boxed at middle in order to make up the team, and very nearly won, despite of his handicap of lack of weight. The competition was won by 1 Squadron rather surprisingly. One does not normally look upon clerks and technicians as pugilists. The competition was, as usual, organised by Major Maudsley, for is it the eighth or ninth year running?

Due to the success and interest shown in our Christmas concert it was decided to have another "go." After much heavy going, due to the loss of star artistes through postings and last minute alterations due to 'flu victims, the show was presented on 3rd March.

Even then there were a few shocks for the organisers—Signalman Acey, who became such a popular vocalist at Christmas, was suffering in throat and chest and made a false start with the first number, but he recovered and was able to render his usual popular numbers, much to the enjoyment of the audience. The Band now boasts a "pukka" bass, instead of a tea chest, and a complete set of drums, provided by district welfare. With Corporal Metcalfe on the piano and Signalman Nicholson on saxophone, the rhythm simply flows. In addition, the Skiffle Group provide a different type of music.

Padre Cribb gave one of his humorous lessons—"The Prodigal Son"—The Padres' Crib. With sketches and other short items, including a 15-minute spot by the Sergeants' Mess and some finely rendered choruses by the singing Adjutant, Captain Edwards, time sped by.

A point still debated is "Can Captain Jenkins really play the mandolin, or *did* somebody 'get at it'?"

Radio Relay personnel will no doubt be pleased to hear that the W.S. C 14 has at last arrived in this Regiment, after many false alarms and rumours. I am sure that Major Sand and Captain Shaw, of Eastern Command Signal Regiment, T.A., will be glad to know that their firm's efforts have at last reached daylight. We have, of course, got to learn how to work them ourselves first, but it is hoped to start instruction on them within the foreseeable future, though it would be rash to forecast a date at this stage of the proceedings.

4 (Independent) Squadron, Royal Signals. During the winter season we have been reading about the snow, ice and fog over the rest of the country, but in Brighton we have enjoyed our usual good weather (planning departments please note!).

The Squadron cannot report any outstanding sports successes or failures, but due to the kind weather we have been able to maintain a reasonably good sports programme.

Our Messing staff have excelled themselves and we have now won the District eliminator of the Festing Trophy, which is presented to Command winners of a catering competition and covers all aspects of catering from the C.S.D. stock cattle back to the swill contractors' pig. One of the new trainees thought the dining room was a dance hall, a doubtful compliment.

Obituary. It is with sincere regret that we have to report the death of Corporal Toner, who died of a heart complaint on the 9th January, 1959, whilst on a Map Reading Exercise with the S.A.S. Selection Troop in Brecon, Wales.

The Squadron offers its deepest sympathy to Mr. and Mrs. Toner in the tragic loss of their son.

Signal Training Wing, W.R.A.C. Well, Spring is here again and all members of the Wing are busy planting seeds in anticipation, sheep willing, of a good trade in the cut flower business later in the season. The Company netball team, including Corporal "Short Shorts" Blacker, left today to fight its way in the Inter-Unit Competition at Aldershot.

A most remarkable thing happened this afternoon, the S.S.M., trying to step into the breach and take recreational training, decided on a little wood gathering expedition. Was she surprised when Course 95 Q returned with two bridges, four packing cases, five telegraph poles and half-a-mile of fencing! The glib answer to her question was "The man gave it to me, Ma'am!" and "We got a lift, Ma'am."

To brighten life in the Wing, this month we had a "break in." The only thing found to be missing was the tea fund, and are we thirsty!

Congratulations this month to Sergeant Thomson on getting her G.C.E. in English at recent examination, and also to Corporal Cakebread on her recent promotion to Corporal.

To end our notes this month we would like to give you a few howlers from recent happenings:

Who was the trainee who asked the S.S.M. if she could see the trained cockroaches reputed to be living in the camp?

Who was the trainee who said the D.A.D.W.R.A.C. was a member of the Army Council?

Who said the Brigadier wears six crowns, three gorgeous patches and a star?

Who said the Routing Clerk must consider how many people are waiting for transmission?

5 TRAINING REGIMENT

"Gen" from Ripon, believe it or not, the "reorganisation front" appears as static as the Maginot Line, whether it will remain so after the vigorous skirmishing with "C.8" is anybody's guess. The optimists, looking to *Wunteear's* successful encounter, are calculating the additional pensions likely to accrue, but what hope has our honest, simple peasantry against the Lion animal cunning of the Brainy Boys.

Other than reconnaissance in depth on the See-I-Vee Sector and a little probing on the M.T. Advisory Front there is little to report from those facing the Annual Administrative, Visiting Paymaster, Fire Inspector, Documentation team, KomSeck Audit, A.C.C. Advisor, Quarterly Audit Boards, etc., etc. Doubtless with the advent of Spring more will be heard and felt. Taking advantage of the "lull," the "Brighten Harper" movement is under way, and many are rapidly qualifying for

transfer to the Engineer Works Services; rumours that the successful efforts of the movement are likely to spark off the provision of some elementary facilities—are just rumours—have you ever tried to teach a squad the mysteries of "Servicing" in a Yorkshire blizzard or to wash down a vehicle with the aid of a frozen water point? Or even one from which only a trickle of water flows? An interesting exercise in leadership is getting a bloke whose terms of employment justify him to refuse to wash down a vehicle—when there is water—to lie on his back in three inches of snow and show a highly intelligent trainee just how the Army competes with the problem of teaching M.T. Servicing. We thrive on such minor problems —give us plenty of time for extra NAAFI breaks.

Talking of problems, rumour has it that "Fifeteear" are not sufficiently known and the publicity hounds are getting more than a little anxious about our public relations branch—well, I can report that at a mass rally both of those present decided to "have a bash" at blowing the trumpet and to give you some idea of just how good we are, so here goes. Quite modestly we admit to being the best Driver Training Unit in the British Army, and those doing a second tour here, or have failed in Upgrading Course will testify to the very great strides that have been taken in the right direction—at the time of writing 17 of the instructional staff have qualified at the Advanced Wing of the Metropolitan Police Driving School (reputed to be one of the very toughest of its kind), five more are attending current courses, while 19 of the staff have been elected to membership of the Institute of Advanced Motorists, with 11 more candidates keeping their fingers crossed. Many of them are young soldiers and it proves what can be taught when the right amount of time is devoted to teaching as opposed to the modern trend to rush'em through, in the hope that the rest will be picked up in the Field Units—between periods of preparation for the numerous Inspections, Leave and Exercises.

From work to sport. We do not win much but everybody "has a go" at something—at the moment pride of place is held by the Unit soccer team, who lead the Ripon and District League with the very creditable record of: Played 17, Won 16, Lost 0, Drawn 1, Goals for 100, Goals against 12, and *no* fiddling—no parking—true!

During the month we have said goodbye to many, but those deserving special mention are Captain Mallin, who held the fort as Adjutant during three most difficult years, Staff Sergeant Jones, one of our highly qualified driving instructors, whose efforts in the National Lorry Driver of the Year Competition did so much to put the Unit on the map, and Staff Sergeant Simpson, of Display Team fame, another who has qualified at Hendon. Both the latter are first-class senior N.C.O.s and will surely be missed. From departures to arrivals—to Mrs. Eagle and Mrs. Morton a very hearty welcome to the station reinforcements for the Wives' Club; we have not yet caught up with Steeple Bumpstead. Few notes are not complete without marriages and births—we just cannot keep pace, the numbers are only exceeded by the re-enlistments hoping for compassionate postings.

At a later date it is hoped to contribute a more serious article on "Training the Driver." Whether the Editor will publish it is quite another matter. In the meantime, a word of praise for our very keen band of National Service Driving Instructors, who have qualified at the Army M.T. School before being brought on the strength, and are still trying to fathom the reasoning that reckons they are worth only 35 bob a week to train an unqualified bloke drawing five quid a week, particularly when the civilian instructor gets roughly eight times the amount—with eight times less to worry about. Of course, "I" understand the reasons, I've been in the Service long enough to understand anything. Au revoir!

SCHOOL OF SIGNALS

Not very long passes in the School without a farewell party taking place. This month No. 7 Foremen of Signals Part 2 Course left us showing, we regret, no reluctance to go. They assure us, however, that their stay had been a pleasant and happy one. The two Australian students, Bill Dickinson and Jock Hogan, have left in their brand new cars; they were always hard up. John Jupe has left for Nairobi, where the local Foremen of Signals Union Branch will no doubt flourish. Ken Rutter is air bound for Singapore and the notorious switchboard at Changi. The highlight of the Course came at the end with Vic Brown's marriage, in spite of advice and pleadings from married members of the Course. The Course paraded in



7 F OF S Pt. II COURSE

Standing : Staff Sergeant Mingaud, Staff Sergeant Capon, Staff Sergeant Grigsby, Sergeant Hogan (Royal Australian Signals), Staff Sergeant Fairburn, Staff Sergeant Brown

Sitting : Staff Sergeant Jupe, W.O.I Dickinson, Staff Sergeant Hoe, Staff Sergeant Davies, Staff Sergeant Rutter (Royal Australian Signals)

strength to wish him luck and Ray Hoe, the only remaining batchelor, stood around looking very smug—but, oh, how near to the altar was he at Stone? Stone must hold many memories for past Foreman's Courses. Suffice it to say that our reputation was maintained by a "hard core," and that "Jones the Auto" is still holding forth. Incidentally, the tune "The Umbrella Man" has a dark and significant meaning for a certain member of the Course . . . no names, no boomerangs!

Hockey players throughout the Corps will be interested to know that this season we have regularly fielded two teams. We greatly miss Major Peter Westmacott, our late captain and the architect of our successes over the past three seasons; we also miss Sergeant Dicky Forster, who has scored many goals for us. Despite our losses, the ball continues to run in our favour—so far! The "A" team were unbeaten in the District League and the "B" team gained fifth place. We have also retained the District Challenge Cup for the second year. With some trepidation and much determination we now look forward to the final of the Northern Command Cup against the Army Apprentices' School and the next round of the Army Cup, which will be played in Edinburgh.

"H.Q." Squadron have won the Cross-Country Running Shield. We would like to congratulate the team captain, Signalman Biggs, on gaining second place and Signalman Parker on gaining third place.

Once again it is brought to our notice that being a regular reader of THE WIRE can be extremely helpful. Whilst serving in B.A.O.R., W.O.II Day, who had just heard that he had been posted to the School, read in THE WIRE that an old friend, W.O.II Shepherd, was in the School Regiment. W.O.II Day was, therefore, able to get the latest news about his new job and, of course, the red carpet was out when he arrived in Catterick!

JUNIOR LEADERS REGIMENT

Off to Norway . . .

In the January issue of THE WIRE we mentioned that a trip to Norway for a group of Junior Leaders was in preparation, and on 28th February a party of seven in charge of Captain Billy Robinson left Newton Abbot for the snows of Lillehammer to be guests of the Norwegian Army for a three-week period. The aim of the trip was to foster closer understanding and friendship between the younger members of both armies.

This is only the first part of the programme and during the mid-summer months we will act as hosts to a contingent of young Norwegian soldiers. We feel rather proud of the achievement because it is the first international exchange of military personnel on a Junior Leader level.

Among the seven selected for their all-round ability was the Junior Sergeant Major, C. Briant, who assured sceptics that the trip was not merely a sight-seeing trip, but a serious and very energetic part of military training. Strength was added to his argument by the fact that for many weeks before they left they went for long, early morning runs, and strenuous gym work-outs to get into tip-top physical condition.

Boxers Bring Home More Titles . . .

Although a 'flu epidemic struck the camp and put many to bed, our Boxing team went up to Harrogate for the Army Junior Individual Boxing Championships. At the weigh-in more than 30 were declared unfit to fight because of the sniffles, among them



Junior Leaders Regiment Royal Signals Boxing Team—Winners of Army Junior Leaders Inter-Unit Championships 1959

was one of our most promising boxers, Junior Signalman Keenan, who fell victim of the virus at the last moment. Nevertheless, out of the five who fought for us, three became Army Champions. Now two of these are Inter-Services Boxing Association title-holders. Becoming part of the I.S.B.A. team, Crowe and Jacobs went on to the quarter-finals of the Amateur Boxing Association Championships. For Jacobs the next stop is the Albert Hall and maybe the A.B.A. title and it is said that few seem able to stand up against the power punching of this boy.

A sport to which this writer has unintentionally not given much space in his coverage of regimental activities is soccer as played by the Cadre XI. To them I extend my sincere apologies because their record of achievement this season is of a very high standard. The team requires only two points to top the Torbay Wednesday League with over half-a-dozen games left to play, and they are running high in the Eastern Cup competition. Corporal Harvey and Signalman Neve are level pegging it as top goal scorers as the team prepares itself for the final round of the Calder Cup and Mid Devon Junior Cup competitions. Although not prone to prophecies, I think the team which has strength and confidence, is going to win all their remaining games.

The Annual Administrative Inspection this year was a wash-out—only in the fully literal sense I hasten to add—the parade started off fine, as did the weather but by the time the Inspecting Officer had reached the third squadron for inspection a strong wind was blowing and ominous storm clouds were gathering. The march past started, the heavenly sluice-gate opened, and I bet nobody has ever seen a parade scatter so fast for shelter as the square was pounded by hailstones of exceptional dimensions. Everything else that an "Admin" involves went off well.



Captain W. G. Robinson discusses plans with some of the boys bound for Norway before their departure

As you read this preparations are under way for a long Summer term which this year will involve a summer camp and a visit by H.R.H. The Princess Royal. Captain John Joyner's main interest will be the training of an athletics' team. During the Christmas and Easter terms he could be seen leading a long stream of cross country runners over hill and moor. There are many young subalterns who have their doubts, including myself, on whether they could stay close in his footsteps as he leads the chase. Yet his rugged training techniques paid off at Aldershot. Here, on a heavy three-mile circuit, his team was placed sixth out of seventeen. Junior Signalman Bentham from this regiment led for most of the course but in the final stages tripped to finish seventh, only twenty-two seconds behind the winner, with a time of 17 min. 37 sec. He was the fourth Junior Leader to get home.

Captain Joyner said afterwards: "The results were an improvement on last year, and we can hope for a still greater improvement next time as our team ages were well below the maximum of eighteen years." Junior Signalman Sharp who finished second in the team is not yet sixteen!

3 DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

Periods of bright sunshine and the singing of birds herald the coming of spring at Sobraon. A brisk accompaniment is provided by the slapping of paint brushes as we prepare to baffle the brains of the visiting C.I.V. and Tels. inspection teams. These two inspections have brought their usual work and worry. Troop Officers and Sergeants can be seen almost every day taking a worm's-eye view of their vehicles, and never has there been a more opportune time to inspect the state of repair of drivers' boots. The moment of truth approached and we are confident the results of the inspections will justify the hard work put into the preparations.

Before the period of spit-and-polish arrived, time was found to do a little Troop training. "C" Troop managed to get out of barracks most often and, in spite of a high vehicle casualty rate, put in some good training. The weather was often cold, wet and foggy, but spirits were cheered by Staff McKenna's own version of "Tom Dooley"—"hang doon yet heed and greet." This was the last performance of "C" Troop proper, for, in a movement towards bigger and better Troops, they have amalgamated with the embryo "Z" Troop to form "C/Z" Troop. The "Charlies" seem to get on well with the "Zulus," and they wait now for the arrival of some equipment before starting combined training.

In the field of sport, there has been much activity, and the Regiment has tried hard, in some cases gaining distinction. The hockey team has played with enthusiasm and had some success. The backbone of the team has been provided by the "old soldiers," Lieutenant (Q.M.) R. S. Etherington, Captain (T.O.T.) A. G. Pritchard and the O.C. L.A.D., Captain B. T. Stanworth, R.E.M.E. The Regiment provided several entrants for the 3 Divisional and East Anglian District Individual Boxing Championships held in Colchester in February. Considering the small amount of time available for training and instruction, and the high standard of the opposition our boxers, seconded by Sergeant H. J. Stevelman, put up a very creditable and plucky performance. Lieutenant W. R. Deane (whose hair is now almost long enough to make a parting) reached the light welterweight final, where he was narrowly defeated by a stronger and more experienced opponent. Sergeant R. I. Williams and Signalman J. Kevill, who drew byes, go on to box in the Command Championships.

Soccer, as always, is a most popular sport. A keenly contested inter-Troop competition has produced the players to form a successful Regimental team. The Regimental side, led by Captain D. A. Davies and guided by F. of S. W. Rooke, has reached the finals of the Divisional Competition to be played against the 11th Hussars on 24th March. In the Colchester Garrison Cup (Minor Units) Competition, "H.Q." Squadron has reached the final after knocking out the holders, 3 Divisional Provost Company, in the semi-finals.

The cross-country running team has shown great enthusiasm and has had a busy season. It took part in two invitation meetings. In the first, organised by 20 Field Regiment, R.A., it came third with, Signalman R. Gobey and Sergeant A. Hope gaining second and third places respectively. The team was also third in the second meeting, organised by 36 H.A.A. Regiment, R.A., and here Signalman Gobey and Sergeant Hope took first and second places. We took fourth place in the E.A.D. Championships, our two individualists again doing well.

The Regimental basket-ball team are having a very good season, losing only five games in 37, three of which were to American teams, one against R.A.F., Akrotiri (Cyprus), and to Training Battalion, Guards Depot, in the Command Final. In the Colchester Garrison Cup, our "A" team, with only one game to play, are unbeaten and must be hot favourites for the League Championship. The team is indebted to Captain E. T. Bolt, the basket-ball officer, who has looked after them well. It has been said that opposing teams were distracted by our "Continental-style" shorts, which expose an almost indecent amount of thigh. There may be some truth in the rumour, but no one can deny the enthusiasm and skill of the players themselves. The most improved players are: Signalman Wallace, Craftsman Stone, Sergeant Hope (Geordie), and Lance-Corporal Gilbert, with Sergeant R. I. Williams ("Old Contemptible") still trying hard.

We are pleased to report that Captain H. McI. Paterson has gained his long overdue selection for the Army Rugby Team. He has represented the Army in two games against the Navy and against the Harlequins.

The Regiment moves to Bulford on 18th and 19th March. Already advance parties are stirring and Troops are making their plans for loading. A great deal of work awaits us on arrival in preparation for the Annual Administrative Inspection, on 23rd or 24th April.

We bid fond farewell to Captain J. P. Brian, for two years O.C. "A" Troop, who leaves us for warmer climes. He is posted to Cyprus District Signal Regiment, where we wish him all success. He has promised to be on the quayside to welcome us when the Middle East "silly season" starts again in August.

We welcome Second-Lieutenant J. J. S. Gorman, the first National Service Officer to join the Regiment for some time. We hope he enjoys his service with us.

U.K. COMCAN SIGNAL REGIMENT

R.H.Q. and 1 Squadron. Our co-partners in Robinswood Barracks, The Depot, The Gloucestershire Regiment, have now departed to their new Brigade Depot at Exeter. This association, which began in September, 1954, has been a most pleasant one, and we have learned to appreciate and like the P.B.I. They were always most willing to help and advise and their assistance with Drill Instructors on our Drill and Duties was of real value.

We wish them all success in their new surroundings and are indeed glad to know that they are leaving a small R.H.Q. which will, we are sure, do much to keep alive in Robinswood Barracks the memory of "The Glorious Gloucesters." We are most grateful for the magnificent silver rose bowl which they have presented to our Officers' Mess.

We would like to welcome Sergeants O'Riordan, Butterton and Biffen on joining the Sergeants' Mess.

"D" Troop met "B" Troop in a long-delayed Inter-Troop Cup Final and after a really hard fought game "D" Troop won 2—0.

2 Squadron. The Squadron regrets the loss of Sergeant Jones to Bampton but welcomes the arrival of Sergeant Copley from Singapore.

Congratulations to Sergeant Wagstaff on his promotion to Substantive Sergeant.

Major Armour has just returned from a ski mountaineering holiday in Austria. He even won a medal!

3 Squadron. Canoeing has again taken over the limelight and this year we are entering two teams in the Devizes to Westminster Race, and a new canoe is practically finished. This will be crewed by Sergeants Blohm and Norton, both ex-boys with lots of energy to get rid of. In boat No. 2 will be Lance-Corporal Thorpe and Signalman Powell, N.S. men, but very enthusiastic. Daily training has been the routine so look out for them finishing at Westminster steps. "Jimmy" will be prominently displayed on both boats.

Several days of sunshine has caused the Cricket representatives (Staff Sergeant Tombs) to check the cricket gear. A good fixture list is arranged and although our players are of unknown quality, we feel we cannot be much worse than the mob who went to Australia.

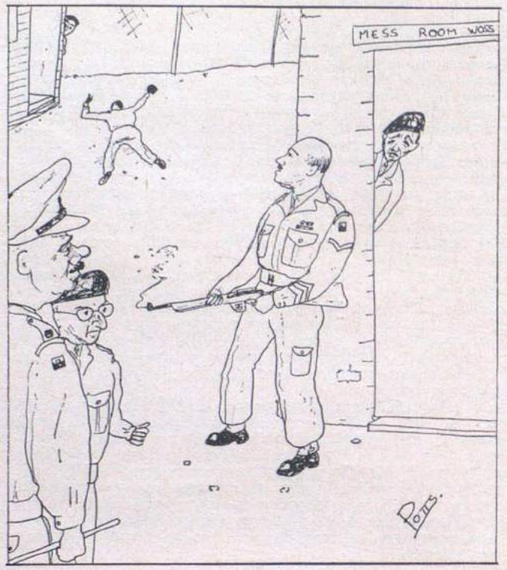
Improvements to the tennis courts have been authorised, so maybe the "Wimbledon" boys will be more to the fore this year.

4 Squadron. At Cobbett Hill we welcome the arrival of W.O.II Sneddon, our new S.S.M., and hope he will enjoy his tour with us. He has passed this way before so he should know all the pitfalls! We bid farewell to W.O.II Sharp and wish him every success in "civvy street."

Our Hobbies Club goes from strength to strength in a "negative" sort of way in that the Photography section membership has "developed" from eight to 17, thereby making approximately 25% of the Camp keenly camera-conscious. More equipment is required, of course, our main need being an Enlarger (all offers gratefully accepted) and some good weather.

Life at Oakhanger pursues a normal course in spite of continued postings in and out. The few days' fine weather we borrowed from Spring enabled our Linemen to discover that their handiwork in the Aerial Fields had stood up gallantly to the vagaries of winter.

A group of ardent sportsmen, encouraged by an indefatigable O.C., are endeavouring to prepare a suitable pitch for Volley Ball or Seven-a-side Football, which should result in a healthy source of entertainment for personnel present and future.



[War Office Signal Squadron

"He's been like this since the cook told him there wasn't enough for a second helping!"

ROYAL SIGNALS WING, A.A.S., HARROGATE

So much has happened since we last submitted notes that it is difficult to decide just how much is news and how much is history.

At the moment the School is enduring the birth pangs of a three-term year and at the same time planning goes forward for the expansion of the Signal Wing and the consequent transfer to other schools of the R.E. trades.

It is anticipated that this School will eventually be devoted to the teaching of Royal Signals trades and the number of apprentices will reach a maximum of 1,000. It follows from this that the situation must of necessity be very flexible as much depends on the date of the R.E.s move and the completion of the building projects going ahead at this station.

Having got rid of that preamble my main difficulty now is to look back over the last six months and decide what I should include to try and give it some chronological sequence.

First, I think I should mention that W.O.I (F.O.S.) Churchill left us for Boddington in the late summer, to be followed by Major Armstrong (destination Singapore) in January and Sergeant Agatsiotis to Nairobi about the same time. Staff Sergeant Gill and Sergeant Todd have also left us for civilian life. With them go our best wishes for their future. Arrivals include Captain Hickman, as a replacement for Major Armstrong, Staff Sergeant Curtis, Sergeants Gwynne, Downie and Bashford. They have arrived at a difficult time but we feel sure that they will quickly settle down. We extend to them a hearty welcome.

At the last pass-off parade, held just before Christmas leave, we were honoured by a visit from the S.O.-in-Chief as Inspecting Officer. The usual trades exhibition was not held, but each department put on a show for his benefit. The S.O.-in-C. naturally found much to interest him in Signal Wing but, unfortunately, was not able to spend as much time with us as he or we would have wished. Our show was designed mainly to indicate new trends in Telecommunications, and the Mayor of Harrogate, together with his deputy, who were visiting us at the same time, displayed keen interest.

We have now been joined by Messrs. Guthrie, Base and Baldwin who will in future be responsible for the maintenance of equipment in the Wing generally. They have just completed the installation of a small auto-exchange for the training of telegraph technicians in the Signal Wing. This will also relieve pressure on the camp exchange and should speed up business between departments.

Sergeant Downie has also been responsible for some installation practice having converted a garage and installed the necessary equipment for indoor cricket practice. It is obvious from this that Major Pocock has decided on some intensive cricket coaching during the coming season.

Still pursuing the subject of installations, W.O.I Churchill may be interested to know that the combined Churchill/Hill effort at the church is now complete and the recordings of church bells are broadcast regularly from the loudspeakers, calling the faithful to prayer.

The North Ireland exhibition in September was an undoubted success. At least 57,000 people visited the exhibition, one of the focal points being our stand, which attracted large numbers. It is hoped that this may have favourable consequences in regard to recruiting.

The expansion in the Signal Wing has meant an increase in the training cadre. The proposed establishment calls for a large number of civilian instructors who will be recruited as the numbers of A/T justify their need.

We have been fortunate in that Sergeant Sharpe has completed his Army engagement and has returned to us as a Grade III Instructor, together with Mr. Purcell. Sergeant Murray also is expected to join us in that capacity on the completion of his current engagement.

The prizes offered by the local branch of the Signals Association for the best all-round A/T in passing out here have so far been won by three technicians, namely, A/T C.S.M. White, Sergeant Sugden and Sergeant Blagg, who are now the proud possessors of a handsome set of tools each. They are already in their units, and we wish them every success in the Corps.

The Chief Instructor, Lieutenant-Colonel G. G. L. Hinde, has now received for the School authority to purchase locally signal components for the manufacture of electronic training aids. These are now being made in the Signal Wing so that each A/T can perform his own experiments on basic valve circuits, superhet receivers, transmitters, etc. Another innovation has been the try-out of Trainer Tester sheets for fault finding during training prior to work on Army equipment. Their usefulness is at present being considered.

The School has been visited by hundreds of schoolboys (potential A/T!) and numerous headmasters and masters from schools all over the country, who have watched our apprentices at work. The remark of one A/T when asked by a visiting headmaster, "What do you dislike most?" was (quick as a flash), "Getting up in the morning, sir." It would appear that our A/T are quite capable of original expression when the circumstance arises.

16 INDEPENDENT PARACHUTE BRIGADE GROUP SIGNAL SQUADRON

England, home and Christmas. We made it. Admittedly in fits and starts, but eventually everyone reached U.K., the majority early in November and the last by the 1st December. Disembarkation leave, followed by four to five weeks' really hard work and then a few weeks' Christmas leave.

There has not even been a single hard luck story in the Squadron about being back in U.K. There has not been time!

The hours are occupied with parachuting, route marches, road runs, sport, wireless exercises and various inspections of a rather trying nature, enough said! Parachuting has taken first priority and virtually every man has had at least three jumps since returning to U.K. Some, like Lieutenant Jeremy Cook, are born scroungers and have had seven jumps!

That most popular of all activities, the route march, has been much in evidence and the countryside is now familiar to even those who previously associated the rural side of life with Hans Anderson's Fairy Tales.

Sport has also been much in evidence and suffice to say that the Squadron (135 strong) now produces hockey, rugger, soccer, basketball, cross-country (third in the Brigade Championships this season) and boxing teams.

We still manage a bit of work on the side and our time has been cut out providing communications for the 2nd Battalion The Parachute Regiment in all their Exercises before their departure for Cyprus. Needless to say, we sent a detachment with the Battalion. Another detachment was, of course, already with the 1st Battalion, still in Cyprus.

We are now ready for the next operation and we even like to think that we could move in *six* hours if need be. Admittedly, this is the O.C.'s private theory, but we would modestly add that 12 hours would be the maximum time necessary to pack.

We say farewell to Captain and Mrs. Ultan Ryan (and son), off for a couple of years' really hard life in Fontainebleu (on the Staff!). Welcome Captain John Benjamin, already well-known in the Brigade, and wish them both the very best of luck in their new jobs.

10 WIRELESS TRAINING SQUADRON

On Saturday and Sunday, the 23rd and 24th of May, the Squadron will be holding a Regimental Week-end. The programme for Saturday will include the finals of the Unit Athletic Championships. There will be teas and refreshments, under the able management of the Signals Association, and music will be provided in the intervals by the Corps Band (non-touring) and an added attraction will be the Royal Signals Association fete, also being held on the Sports Ground. Our up-to-date barracks will be open for inspection. In the evening, as a fitting end to the day, an "All Ranks' Dance" will be held in the main dining room.

On Sunday morning there will be a church parade and in the afternoon the Corps Band will give a concert.

All parents and friends will be welcomed at these functions.

STEEPLE BUMPSTEAD SIGNAL SQUADRON

It was noted with delight that the speech by the Secretary of State for War in presenting the Army Estimates informed the nation in general, and Signals 4 in particular, that "The Army throughout the world would be equipped with new range sets by the end of 1961." It will certainly be a joy to exchange our WS 18 and WS 22 for this new WS 19.

One other effect of the Estimates debate is that Signalman Rumsey, the O.C.'s batman, has signed three copies of a certificate stating that any washing of underclothes that he does is performed voluntarily (except that he thereby avoids all muster parades and guard duties).

Lance-Corporal Slade was amazed at the high standard of polish imparted to the floor of the Signal Centre of 19 Army Group Signal Regiment. Nevertheless, Corporal Church, our cynical cipher operator, was heard to remark that he hoped the General noticed the wireless sets as well.

We enjoyed the forthright notes from a Guided Weapons Regiment (Field), R.A., Signal Troop, especially the revelation that there is a "noticeable absence of peculiar people and misfits" in their Troop—this is hardly surprising, as we seem to have them all.

Still no sports results, we regret to say; there just is not anyone who can play anything this season—other than the wretched guitar!

It is rumoured that A.G.11 and Royal Signals Records have applied for more staff with effect from 1st April, 1959, to deal with the anticipated applications for postings once the new Disturbance Allowance rates are effective. Already our paper strength is down to one Officer, two married (home only) Sergeants, 53 National Servicemen and goodness knows how many civilians. With all the advertisements for jobs in THE WIRE it is a wonder there are any Regulars at all.

4 DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

I was walking past the Y.W.C.A. Club last night when I heard the "Skiffle Group"—or what sounded like it—playing a vaguely familiar tune, but it was not till I had picked out the words of the last two lines and got the swing of the thing that I recognised "The old Maharajah of something or other" and remembered also that it was St. Valentine's Day. One lusty voice was unmistakable and belonged to an old singing partner of mine (MacManus) and the words he sang were:

"Keep your palaces and keep your pearls
The boys will settle for the 'Y' Dub girls,"

and speaking of the "Y" Dub I hear it rumoured that there's a Commonwealth flavour about the place.



I wanted to go up to the second floor of Block 1 (Y.W.C.A. Club) and join them but I had other things on my mind. It was earlier the same evening and half way through a breathless game of squash that the Colonel asked me if I had written THE WIRE Notes." I have often wondered what the precise meaning of: "Stopped in his tracks" was. Now I know and I lost the game!

The moral of the story is "Get on with THE WIRE Notes when you are told to write them." Days so quickly pass into weeks and weeks into months and before you can say: "Noch einen bitte" (everybody learns to say this in Germany) and you find yourself confronted with three whole, round, big, horrible months to remember. And who do you suppose is going to prompt you? The orderly room sergeant has gone on leave; the adjutant is no longer the "bloke what was" and some low down crab has whipped your office diary. Not that you had anything in there—if the truth were known. But, one never knows every crumb counts and there might have been just one *little* entry somewhere.

You want to know who I am? That finishes it! This article is copyright and things—d'ya see? *And*, you may not republish it in the *Mirror*. *And*, we have such a thing as a WIRE Notes Writers' Convention (WNWC). *And*, don't misinterpret the abbreviation either, *And*, you mind your own business. "*Cleah?*"

Anyway, let's have a stab at those notes. It's very nearly coffee break time and that is something I simply must not miss—just to keep in touch with affairs. Ah! And speaking of affairs, here's something I scratched out of the earth last night: "It would appear that Holistair (have you seen his black tie?). Holistair that . . . um, is actually teaching the officers to rock'n roll. Yeh, what do you make of that?" No wonder we haven't



seen the 2 i/c about for days—and they call it flu. My . . . . beg pardon, please, forgetting self." Now for that cup of coffee.

THIRTEEN DAYS LATER

"St. Ah-Ah-Ah-Ah-ffff puff! puff! puff! Staff, have you got anything for THE WIRE *Notes*—November, December, January? Surely Shuarly you must have sarmerthing? I thought this would happen. The fellow stands there scratching his head, assumes an air of angelic innocence and looks b.....y annoyed at the number of files sitting on my dest. I didn't want them. He put them there. Huh!

Well, must get down to it now. Let me see, what happened in November (1958)? The Colonel Commandant came to see us; but, of course, his tour was fully reported in the January issue of THE WIRE. So we can strike him off. (Risky sentence that)! In the same month we had the Corps Band—from the 27th to the 29th.

Ah! Now that period was full of activity—and the Director of Music. He filled our ears with cascades of trumpet calls and lectured the officers on the merits of good music. And you





should have seen the chap who arrived late and tried to duck under the conductor's baton. He was very nearly a dead "duck." Ha! Ha! and to the music of The Corps Slow March too! Never mind. Where were we? Ah, yes, the Corps Band.



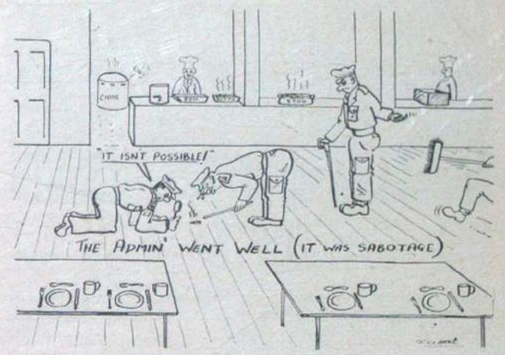
Mein Vater war ein Wandersmann
Major (He's a hard man) Warren conducting *his* choir

The Officers took the opportunity of doing their stuff after the band concert and choir. Apparently the Colonel smiles every time he thinks about the mischief that took place that night.



All ranks had a bit of a jolly on the 29th, and as it was near enough to Christmas, hairpins were undone—just a little! I was particularly impressed by a small group of National Servicemen singing patriotic songs in a corner of the Gym. The dance was actually held there.

Something else I've just remembered: Sandwiched between the Colonel Commandant and the Corps Band we had another annual affair:



See what I mean?

Then Christmas came and went! But the season and the music chosen by our Captain Potter to go off and get "spliced" nearly ended in disaster. The officers, appointed to attend the Captain on this nuptial occasion on the 20th December, 1958, mistook the guard of honour for a "free jolly" on the said Captain Potter and showed their appreciation by doing a sword dance outside the church. Captain Potter being a good athlete managed to steer his pretty lady through the danger and carried her off to the R.A.S.C. Officers' Mess where the celebration and "carryings on" were meant to take place.





We had a Christmas. Didn't we, sir? It might have been a quiet affair had the Colonel not insisted on getting his orderly room staff into trouble. The Q.M. followed his example and the Squadron Commanders were determined not to be outdone. The situation finally got a little out of hand when Thompson adorned the 2 i/c's hat, poured himself into the C.O.'s chair and proceeded to try the 2 i/c under some section or other. He was dutifully supported by Helman, among others, and it was only the adjutant's long neck appearing through the port-hole connecting the C.O.'s office to the 2 i/c's office that saved the day and the honour of all. The children's party that followed was as you may imagine a spirited business.

The padre maintains that he has never had a fuller house at midnight service, nor had he heard lustier singing! The skiffle group started the good work in the NAAFI. Warriors occasionally falling out (as warriors will) sobering up at the 'Y' Dub



and coming back for more and, finally, the surviving company setting off for Church singing a mixture of Tom Dooley and Come All Ye Faithful.



" Hang down your head Tom Dooley "
" O Come all ye Faithful "

POSTCRIPT

1958 has been a good year for us. We have made many new friends and had a go at everything. The families are happy and their children blooming. The Regiment has earned a fine reputation and very properly so. But the old order changeth. So many of us are leaving. This is sad and there is nothing any of us can do about it.

I wonder what sailors do when they leave a ship? Anyway, here's a hand to the Captain for his great understanding and kindness and for his unwavering sense of duty and responsibility. And the other hand to his charming partner who helped him



create in the words of a wife: "One big family to which we all feel we belong."

But the moral of the story still is: "Get on with the notes when you are told to write them."

P.P.S.—I told that fellow Clarke it was Squash and not Tennis.

Diary of Recent Regimental Fixtures

1. Rugby v. 1 Corps Signal Regiment (Army Cup 1st Round), 15th November, 1958, Lost 6—3.

2. Hockey v. 5th Divisional Signal Regiment (Morrison Cup 1st Round), 4th December, 1958, Lost 3—0.

3. Basketball v. 9th Lancers, 5th December, 1958, won 68—40.

4. Cross Country v. 20 Brigade Championships, 16th December, 1958, Finished 5th out of 10 teams.

5. Boxing v. 11 Air Formation Signal Regiment (Morrison Cup 2nd Round), 16th December, 1958, Won 18—15.

6. Boxing v. 1 Corps Signal Regiment (Morrison Cup Semi-Final), 15th January, 1959, Lost 18—15.

7. Basketball v. 45 A.E.C. (20 Brigade Cup Final), 21st January, 1959, Won 46—28.

8. Basketball (20 Armoured Brigade Knock-out Championships), 27th January, 1959,

1st v. 5 DGS	Won	43—13
2nd v. 9th Lancers	Won	56—24
3rd v. Royal Hamps.	Won	65—26
4th v. 3rd Tanks	Won	67—18
5th v. 1 R.H.A.	Won	43—18
Final v. 652 A. Op. Flt.	Won	53—21

9. Basketball v. 1 Wireless Regiment (Morrison Cup Final), 4th February, 1959, Won 48—22.

10. Cross Country v. Morrison Cup Semi-Final Zone 'A'), Placed 1st out of five teams.

11. Basketball (B.A.O.R. Knock-out Championships), 25th February, 1959,

v. 94 Loc. Regiment	Won	57—27
v. Royal Canadian Transport Coy.	Lost	50—29
v. K.O.Y.L.I.	Lost	27—22

12. *4th Divisional Signal Regiment winners Cross-Country Morrison Cup. (Late news).*

18 ARMY GROUP SIGNAL REGIMENT

We seem to have reached another high level in the rate of departures of members of the Regiment, particularly officers. Major A. W. Stewart leaves No. 1 Squadron to command a Signal Squadron at Carlisle and is succeeded by Major J. E. Denton. Captain R. F. Thirkell, en route for Cyrenaica, is succeeded as Regimental M.T. Officer by Captain D. A. L. Murray from the Royal Signals School, B.A.O.R., which has now, unfortunately, closed. Lieutenant F. R. Fletcher is on the point of departure for Catterick to attend a Subalterns' Part II Course, and Captain P. A. Dally, who started this run-out, will by now, be well-known in the U.K. Comcan Signal Regiment.

The Rev. G. E. Greenaway, who has been our Chaplain for nearly 18 months, has returned to civilian life, and we shall miss him very much. At the moment of writing, we are expecting a successor—it somehow doesn't seem appropriate to say a replacement for him—but only events will show. As if this were not enough, Captain W. S. Dawson has left and is now attending a resettlement course at the end of his service on the active list, and Major J. C. Alcock is on the point of leaving us on voluntary retirement.

This departure of the largest number of officers (and with equal truth, a number of the largest officers!) for some time, will leave us with a surplus of married quarters; so if anyone is looking for a centrally-heated house . . . .

Now that the Royal Signals School has closed, the large barrack block they moved into on their arrival from Lemgo nearly two years ago, again reverts to our use. It is, alas, far too vast for us to fill completely, but the top floor makes a most palatial Education and Recreation Centre. Whereas in the old accommodation there was only room for a library, an information and reading room and some classrooms, there is now also a cinema seating about a hundred, a music room and separate accommodation to enable art and woodworking classes to be started. W.O.II G. Crump, R.A.E.C., has made a very good job of the new centre, and already many more people are making use of its facilities.

April brings many things, apart from the spring and the Budget, and this year it has brought another reduction in the price of petrol to members of the Forces in B.A.O.R. Just as we had got used to Esso, and knew where all the filling stations were, B.P. offered a vast reduction in price, and so secured the contract for the next year. 3/6 for nearly two and-a-quarter gallons of normal grade (and only 5/3 for top grade) fuel. It really isn't fair, is it?—and this counts as home service!

The month also marks the tenth anniversary of the formation of N.A.T.O., and the Regiment has been invited to take part in a small ceremony at the Luftwaffe barracks at Kupferdreh to mark the occasion. (We are not, as we write, quite sure what form the affair will take, but it will afford another opportunity of strengthening the link between two important components of the N.A.T.O. Forces in Western Germany).

Past members of the Regiment will no doubt be interested in the news that we shall shortly cease to wear the well-known Crossed Swords sign, which goes back to the days of our arrival in Germany as 21st Army Group Signals during the late war. This sign, which is a purely British one, is the sign of Headquarters, British Army of the Rhine, and has, up to the time of writing, also been used by Headquarters, Northern Army Group, which is, of course, a N.A.T.O. and not a national headquarters. Now a new and more appropriate sign has been approved for this latter headquarters, and we—not quite alone, but nearly—have been authorised to wear it. (Some may recall that we were known in 1953 as Northern Army Group Signal Regiment, so we think we are getting no more than we deserve!).

The sign itself, known as the Francisca sign, depicts a battle-axe in yellow on a blue shield. It is taken from a period of history with a marked similarity to the present day.

In 451 A.D., Attila, with his Mongol Army, had overrun a large part of Western Europe. He was forced back and brought to battle at Chalons-sur-Marne by the Roman General, Aetius, who was commanding an allied Army of Gauls, Visigoths, Burgundians, Franks, Alans, Saxons and Britons. After a fierce battle, Attila was decisively defeated and, as a result, there was no further invasion from the East for five centuries. In this battle the main missile weapon of the Frankish warriors, forming the centre of the Armies, was the Francisca, or throwing battle-axe.

In connection with this sign, General de Gaulle's statement, after his meeting with Dr. Adenauer, in March, 1950, is of some interest. He said: "Owing to the common effort of Gauls, Germans and Romans, Attila was defeated on the Catalaunic plains. I feel entirely impressed by the strength of such co-ordination."

19 ARMY GROUP SIGNAL REGIMENT

Since we last contributed to THE WIRE two months ago, our main interest, apart from work and the inevitable exercises, has been centred on our sporting activities. These activities have been widespread and, like our regimental messing, there has been something to appeal to almost every taste.



A highly edible Christmas tableau made by the Catering Staff of the Regiment and presented to the Childrens Ward of the British Military Hospital



19 ARMY GROUP SIGNAL REGIMENT—WINNERS ROYAL SIGNALS (BAOR) FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

Standing : Signalman Cullen (Trainer), Signalman Roud, Signalman Morrison, Lance-Corporal Hall, Signalman Coney, Signalman Tovey, Signalman Sweeney, Signalman Dyson, Corporal Lightfoot, Signalman Fox

Seated : Lance-Corporal Garry, Corporal Greenwood, Lieutenant-Colonel P. W. Lonnon, M.B.E., Signalman Metherall, Captain N. D. Urquhart, Signalman Grant, Signalman Nalty

Absent : Signalman Hopper

In January we met 1 Wireless Regiment in the zone final of the Royal Signals (B.A.O.R.) Team Boxing Championships. The effect of sickness on our boxing team led to grave doubts about our ability to produce eleven men at the correct weights at the right time, but after some moments of fear, despair and hope at the weigh-in we eventually formed a team which lost by an extremely narrow margin. The decision was in doubt to the last bout of the evening, after which the score stood at 16 points each. Our opponents, however, won six bouts to our five and so won the match.

The Rhine District Individual Boxing Championships were held in February and we were delighted to produce the Bantamweight Champion in Signalman Paisley of 2 Squadron, Signalmen Sheldon, Shields and Worrell were runners-up in the Light, Light-Welter and Middle weights respectively.

Our football has been our greatest pride and joy over the period. After beating 2 Divisional Signal Regiment to win the Royal Signals (B.A.O.R.) Football Cup, the team went on to reach the semi-final of the B.A.O.R. rounds of the Army Football Cup Competition. This is the first time a Royal Signals Unit has reached this stage of the competiton, and our team has received much attention and much support from neighbouring units of all arms of the Service. Unfortunately, we were beaten in the semi-finals by a very good team of the Royal Scots Greys who are now the favourites to win the final in B.A.O.R., and, we hope, will go on to win in U.K. However, our team are still top of the District League table and we hope they finish that way.

Our fencing team received a walk-over to win the Rhine District Team Fencing Championships and will now go forward automatically into the B.A.O.R. Championships to be held in Berlin. The walk-over was a great disappointment because our team is very strong and anticipated a well earned victory. Some of its members entered the Rhine District Individual Championships and we offer our heartiest congratulations to Second-Lieutenant Hamblin on winning the foil competition. We wish him and his team the best of luck for the B.A.O.R. Championships.

In February, Major Thomas and Lieutenant Borland took a team of six men to the Ski-centre at Winterberg where, after preliminary training, they participated in the B.A.O.R. Ski-ing Championships. During these championships Major Thomas won a brass ashtray for his achievement (he claims!) of coming second in a race of two competitors—and that in his 40th year too!

Lieutenant Borland did very well in the Slalom event against very experienced opposition and Signalman Casey put up a very creditable time in the novices downhill race.

We hope to have more time for training next year, and to secure more brass ashtrays!

In concluding these notes, the Commanding Officer and all ranks of the Regiment congratulate Staff Sergeant Donovan, our late Chief Clerk, on the award of British Empire Medal in the New Year's Honours List. All ranks who had dealings with him know that the award was very well deserved.

1 CORPS SIGNAL REGIMENT

At last we are able to report our first victory in the final of one of the events of the current year's Morrison Cup competition. We achieved this by defeating 1 Wireless Regiment in the finals of the Boxing Championship, by the fine result of eleven bouts to nil. We are very proud of our team, and apart from those who actually boxed, most of the credit must go to W.O.II Edmonds who trained the team. There were three changes from the team which beat 4 Divisional Signal Regiment, the new—or perhaps we should say the old faces—being those of Signalman McGarry and the brothers Thorpe. A bout-by-bout account of this match is given at the end of these notes.

The final state of the Inter-Troop Football competition has now been resolved and H.Q. Squadron are the supreme champions having defeated the L.A.D. by five goals to two. By defeating "D" 1 Troop by three goals to nil, H.Q. Squadron have also put themselves at the top of the "A" Inter-Troop Hockey League. They have eleven points and can now be challenged only by "B" Troop with eight points and two matches to play. As "Z" 2 Troop have already won the "B" League the final will be between "Z" 2 and either H.Q. Squadron or "B" Troop.

Our Cross Country team has gone a stage further in the Morrison Cup, having won through to the finals from the Zone A Semi-Final where we came second to 4 Divisional Signal Regiment. Our runners finished as follows:—

5th	Corporal Clark (O 3 Tp.).	16th	Second-Lieutenant Watson (B Tp.).
6th	Lance-Corporal Blanchet (C 3 Tp.)	21st	Signalman Roberts (C 2 Tp.).
13th	Signalman Mitchell (3 SHQ).	25th	Signalman Harris (C 1 Tp.).
14th	Corporal Rumball (P Tp.).	31st	Captain Kenning (P Tp.).
15th	Signalman Glover (Z 3 Tp.).	36th	Signalman Crew (C 1 Tp.).

This month we are very pleased to be able to introduce a new subject in these notes—Drama. On Friday, 27th February, the Unit Drama Group presented "Misadventure" by Roland Cargell, in the first round of the Inter-Services Drama Festival. In his comments the adjudicator said of it, "I was thrilled when I read this play, and as thrilled when I saw it. It is unusual and challenging. . . . Although one could see that the actors were inexperienced, they performed with a sincerity and integrity which answered the challenge." The group is to be congratulated on achieving this result in the face of numerous obstacles and against strong competition. We now go forward to the semi-final, to be held at R.A.F. Station, Sundern, on Wednesday, 11th March, 1959. The Group is under the leadership of Signalman Higgins.

Lastly, here is an account of the Royal Signals B.A.O.R. Inter-Unit Boxing Championship, 1959. 1 Wireless Regiment versus 1 Corps Signal Regiment.

Bout 1—Bantam Weight. Signalman Knapton v. Signalman McGarry.

Round one was fought at a very fast pace, McGarry was punishing and upsetting his opponent with good punches from both hands and was well in front at the end of the round. The second round was McGarry's, but Knapton came into it more and the pace slowed down slightly. In the last round the pace quickened and both boxers went in for the kill but were unable to land the right punch and the round went to McGarry. At the end McGarry got a well deserved win to give 1 Corps a very good start.

Bout 2—Feather Weight. Signalman Ardettoe v. Signalman Barker.

A very good first round in which Barker did not let his opponent settle, he landed many good lefts and rights which upset Ardettoe's defence and the round went to Barker. The second round was a more even round and both boxers landed good scoring punches and Ardettoe settled down. The last round was Barker's, he settled down to some serious boxing and at the end was a very good winner in a hard-fought fight.

Bout 3—Light Weight. Signalman Robertson v. Lance-Corporal Gray.

There was a very fast opening round, and Gray landed some punishing blows to the body which told on Robertson by the end of the round which went to Gray. Round two was close but was spoiled by the boxers going into clinches and this caused it to be much slower than the first round but again the round went to Gray. In the last round Robertson was very tired, Gray, who had a bad cold, also started to tire, but he won the round and a well-fought fight.

Bout 4—2nd String Light Welter Weight. Signalman Hadacrea v. Signalman Hampson.

This was a very short fight, both boxers exchanged blows and after about one minute Hampson landed two punches to the chin which put Hadacrea out of the fight.

Bout 5—2nd String Welter Weight. Signalman Young v. Lance-Corporal Annels.

The opening round was a very fast round in which Annels landed many good scoring and telling punches to his opponent's body and face and he was well on top at the end of the first round. Annels kept up the good work in the second round and had many more good punches before putting Young to the canvas for a count of eight towards the end of the round. In the last round Annels was again on top, he did not allow Young to settle and at the end was a very good winner to give 1 Corps a comfortable lead of five bouts to nil at the interval.

Bout 6—Light Middle Weight. Corporal Hickman v. Signalman Weekly.

A very fast first round in which Weekly's left was working like a piston and it was troubling Hickman, who had no defence against this left. The round went to Weekly who was well on top. In the second round the pace was still very fast and Weekly had Hickman in trouble and put him to the canvas for eight; again Hickman was down for eight, only to take more punishment before the referee stopped the fight to give Weekly a very well deserved victory.

Bout 7—1st String Light Welter Weight. Driver Ardett v. Lance-Corporal Keating.

This was a very fast fight in which both boxers exchanged punches before Keating put his man to the canvas for nine. Keating seeing his chance went after his opponent and again sent him to the canvas for nine. At this stage the referee stopped the fight and sent Keating to his corner as he was too strong for his opponent.

Bout 8—Middle Weight. Sergeant Cooper v. Signalman T. Thorpe.

This started with a very hard and fast fought round and Cooper had Thorpe on the ropes more than once. Thorpe covered up well and was not hurt and at the end of the round it was very close. In the second round Thorpe got well on top and landed telling punches and finally sent Cooper to the canvas for a very hard and well deserved knock-out.

Bout 9—Light Heavy Weight. Corporal Rawley v. Signalman P. Thorpe.

A very good first round in which Thorpe was just in front by landing very good punches with both hands. In the second round Thorpe increased his lead and kept up the good work of the first round. In the last round both boxers boxed well and it was another close round, the bout finally going to Thorpe in a hard fight.

Bout 10—Heavy Weight. Lance-Corporal Taylor v. Signalman Mitchell.

A very fast pace was set by Mitchell which upset Taylor, who was slow. Mitchell landed many good punches and was on top at the end of the first round. In the second round Mitchell kept up the fast pace which made Taylor miss a lot and Mitchell put him down for six. Mitchell then went after his man and put him to the canvas in yet another knock-out.

Bout 11—1st String Welter Weight. Sergeant Sale v. Signalman Paxton.

At the start of this bout everyone was wondering whether Paxton could make it eleven wins. The pace of the first round was very fast and it was very close at the end after both boxers had exchanged good punches. In the second round Paxton went to work and had his opponent worried by strong body and face punches. He had Sale down for nine and it was then that the referee stopped the fight to give Paxton a well-deserved victory.

The following goods are available from Association Headquarters: *(See also page 92).*

Association Buttonhole Badges or Brooches	3/-	Members only
Association Blazer Badges (Silver "Jimmy" on a shield of Corps Colours, as approved by the Corps Committee)	25/-	Members only
Motor Car Badges (enamelled in Corps Colours	35/-	
Motor Cycle Badges (enamelled in Corps Colours)	20/-	



Lieutenant Goldney crosses the finish line in the B.A.O.R. Individual Cross Country



Signalman Rollings waiting for the start of the 15 kilometre Cross-Country

2 DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT at the DIVISIONAL SKI MEETING, 2nd February to 7th February, 1959

The Regimental Ski Team arrived at the 2 Divisional Winter Warfare Training Centre, near Winterburg, a few days after their three weeks of hard, but enjoyable training, at Ehrwald in the Tirol. The snow was in good condition, but not as plentiful as it had been in Austria. Fortunately, the hard frosts at night, and the persistent cold wind during the days that followed, prevented the sun from diminishing the snow appreciably during the meeting.

The first race of the meeting was the 4 x 10 kilometre cross-country relay race, in which the Regiment entered two teams. The "A" team (Lieutenant Goldney, Lieutenant Leonard, Lance-Corporal Hellings, Signalman Biggs) finished fourth out of 15 starters, and the "B" team were ninth.

Signalman Rollings put up an excellent performance in the novices' downhill race to win the medal for the runner-up. He was ably backed up by Signalman Frazer, Driver Moores and Lance-Corporal Burt, giving the team second place out of the five teams entered.

On the third day of the meeting the individual cross-country race was run over 15 kilometres. Lieutenant Goldney ran a well-judged race to gain fourth place in the field of 58. Lieutenant Leonard was 11th, Lance-Corporal Hellings 15th, and Signalman Biggs 21st. The aggregate of the best three times placed the Regiment third in the team result.

The Alpine events showed the fact that the Regimental team was somewhat lacking experience and practice in downhill technique, having concentrated more on cross-country racing, and were placed sixth out of seven teams in the open downhill race. It is hoped to remedy this failing next year.

The unit team patrol race was the final cross-country event. Eleven teams started on the 18 kilometre course, and the Regiment's "A" team (Lieutenant Goldney, Sergeant Lay, Lance-Corporal Hellings, Signalman Biggs) ran very well together to come in fourth place. The "B" team (Lieutenant Leonard, Sergeant Shirley, Lance-Corporal Burt, Signalman Rollings) finished ninth.

Having entered a team for every event of the meeting, the Regiment qualified for the best all-round unit competition, the result being: 1st, 40 Field Regiment, R.A. "A"; 2nd, 19 Field Regiment, R.A.; 3rd, 40 Field Regiment, R.A. "B"; 4th, 2 Divisional Signal Regiment. We are well satisfied with the results of our second year in competitive ski-ing and aim to improve our performance next year with this valuable experience behind us.

British Army and B.A.O.R. Ski Championships, 1959

The experience gained by 2 Divisional Signal Regiment in 1958 was used to good effect in planning the training for 1959, with the result that we can now claim that as a Corps we are second only to the Gunners in cross-country ski-ing. Below are the detailed results of the more important events held at Winterburg.

The meeting started with the Army/B.A.O.R. cross-country relay, on 14th Febuary. In this event four competitors in each team cover 10 kilometres. 2 Divisional Signal Regiment (Lieutenant Goldney, Lieutenant Leonard, Lance-Corporal Hellings, Lance-Corporal Burt) finished sixth out of 41 teams. The first five teams all came from Gunner Regiments and, of these, three had international cross-country skiers as team captains.

On 16th February, 153 competitors started in the British/Army/B.A.OR individual cross-country race over 15 kilometres. The best five Royal Signals placings (British Championship) Lieutenant Goldney, 16th; Lieutenant Leonard, 27th; Sergeant Lay, 44th; Lance-Corporal Burt, 48th; Lance-Corporal Hellings, 52nd. The best three represented Royal Signals in the Corps team event, finishing fourth, being beaten only by R.A. "A," "B" and "C" teams. Sergeant Lay and Lance-Corporal Burt are both novices, so their performances are particularly commendable.

The Army/B.A.O.R. unit team patrol championship was run on the 18th February. 37 teams started on the 15 kilometre course; 2 Divisional Signal Regiment "A" team (Lieutenant Goldney, Sergeant Lay, Lance-Corporal Hellings, Lance-Corporal Burt) finished sixth in 1hr. 24min. 12sec., 3min. 48sec. behind the winners. The "B" team (Lieutenant Leonard, Sergeant Shirley, Signalman Fraser, Signalman Rollings) finished 19th.

Finally, the Regiment won the runners-up prize in the military team combination, which is for the best combined result in the team patrol and relay races.

Bottle and the Major's Trunks

By

Ex-Corporal A. C. Salter (6th Indian Divisional Signals)

THE Unit had been up in Persia several months. The novelty of fiery sunsets reflected on the mountains and bleak sunrises had begun to pall. This is not surprising for the beauties of the country were rather offset by the rockiness of its soil. Tents were always dug-in to a depth of two feet six inches. This had the advantage of increasing both the width and the headroom of the one hundred-and-eighty-pounders they had come to regard as home, but the amount of soil that occupies such an area is considerable, especially when composed mainly of rock, and took weeks of back-breaking work to move.

In the evenings the boys had taken to playing bridge. Harry, the schoolteacher, introduced the rest to the game, naturally, he and his partner for the time being always won! They were grateful for the mental exercise and relief from boredom.

The nearest town, Kermanshah, was ten miles away, and even that outpost of civilisation could offer nothing better than a "Hammam," the Persian equivalent of a Turkish Bath, and a few dilapidated shops selling miscellaneus goods, most probably stolen from the previous occupants of the camp site! The tiny free glasses of tea offered by the shopkeepers hardly compensated for the inflated cost of the merchandise.

The Persian and the Arab peasant had brought the art of thieving to its highest pitch. Even certain British Quartermasters admitted with awe they'd never known such skill! In fact, the term "Rafique" was accepted as a term of friendly admiration, instead of its actual meaning, "thieving blighter"! The Persians were particularly fond of the Unit's telephone wire, a few hundred yards were often missing, cut down from the twelve-foot poles. Next favourite were the little canvas tents like bathing huts (for officers only), these disappeared with monotonous regularity, the interior furnishings left open to the gaze of the

curious. On one occasion a complete marquee belonging to the Mobile Bath Unit had been taken and only the water pipes remained standing in their naked glory. Perhaps, if the night had been longer those too would have vanished! All this in spite of patrolling sentries and frequent Very lights! A new interpretation of the Arabs who folded their tents and softly stole away.

On this particular evening the bridge school had been under way for some time when suddenly the Cipher Clerk gave a yell, leapt up from the table and ripped off his trousers! His companions stared aghast—a touch of the sun? No, just a centipede which was leisurely climbing his thigh! Scarcely had this been disposed of when the bottom of the tent flap was pushed quietly aside and a small head insinuated itself into the gap. A pair of brown eyes between two quizzical ears surveyed the scene for a few moments. A shaggy rotund body followed by a tasselled tail wriggled its way in and caught up with the head. Bottle had arrived! It was never discovered for certain whence he came. Some said he belonged to the Field Ambulance Section. Nobody bothered to enquire, least of all Bottle, who had decided that he liked his new companions.

After a meal of Army biscuits and tinned milk—the latter a gift from the Indian's Mess (they always had more than they could use)—he curled up on the Radio Mechanic's bed and went to sleep. Highly annoyed he was to find when the card game finished that he had to share it with a human being! He cannot have been more than six months old, and although black and white was not rough-haired enough to qualify for the name of Whisky. So, by a process of Pelmanism too involved to explain, he became known as "Bottle."

Shortly after the dog's arrival the Unit moved from the mountains of Persia to the plains of Kirkuk in Northern Iraq. Bottle was highly delighted with the move, although puzzled on arrival by the lack of trees or rocks. He travelled with the "bobajees," or cooks, in their 30cwt. van, surrounded by tins of milk, biscuits, atta flour and ghee. He was always foremost in the line-up for tea at the periodical "brew-ups." Like all of us, when we exchanged the crushed rock of the Persian roads for the tracks of Iraq, Bottle became a grey ghost, emitting clouds of acrid dust whenever he shook himself. We never could get dust goggles to stay on his nose!

Like the rest of the Unit he soon settled down in his new quarters and spent the hours of heat asleep in the shade of the tent flap with cold water from the chaguls dripping down upon him. He thought we humans were mad to work like mad dogs in the noon-day sun—so we were!

The absence of trees and rocks proved a bore to the dog and so he found a new diversion. Around the Oil Refinery were numerous small ditches carrying away the waste water. Bottle delighted in ploughing through these channels like an express train, and like an express train took in water as he went in great gulps. Unfortunately, these ditches also carried a film of crude oil and, not surprisingly, Bottle became very ill.

There were no vets. with the Unit. They had not yet exchanged their wireless trucks for mules. So, on the theory that it was necessary to clear the dog's system of the oil, and at the same time to counteract the drastic effect of the clearance, he was dosed alternately with Army pills No. 9 and Maclean's stomach powder. The M.O. must have wondered why all the British ranks of the Signal Section should have suddenly developed disorders of the alimentary system! To everyone's relief the scheme worked, and within a few days the dog was once more trotting about. His enthusiasm for the channels, however, had noticeably diminished.

Shortly after this, G.H.Q. became concerned at the number of pets of all kinds that the lonely British Ranks were accumulating in their Units all over the Command. Some high-ranking officer in Baghdad issued an Army Order that all unauthorised pets must be destroyed. It was necessary to regularise Bottle as soon as possible. Sitting at the table—part of the Signal Office equipment—by the light of a 12-volt battery—on charge for one of the Units—the Corporal laboriously wrote out an application to keep a dog and addressed it to the Signal Officer.

The next morning, whilst making his usual report on stores and equipment to the C.O., the Corporal produced his application.

"Why are you asking permission to keep a dog now? As far as I know, for the last three months you've been doing so very successfuly without it!" The Captain had a note of asperity in his voice. The Club at the Oil Company had been entertaining again, and the increasing heat of the morning did nothing to relieve his headache.

"Yes Sir, but G.H.Q. have just issued an A.O. making it necessary to authorise all pets."

"Is that so?" mildly interested. "I never get time to read the things."

"No Sir." The Corporal knew what would happen if he didn't—he'd never get those Sergeant's stripes even though, in the absence of a Section Sergeant, he was already doing a Sergeant's job.

"All right—passed to the B.M. for approval." The Captain squiggled on the letter and flung it into the Out tray as he passed out on his way to his tent and some Alka-Seltzer.

Several days later, the Corporal received orders to report in the afternoon to the Brigade Major's office together with one dog. Promptly at two-thirty the two of them arrived at Headquarters. The Corporal in freshly ironed Khaki-drill. Sleeves folded up and pressed to the regulation width of a cigarette packet. Shorts starched so much that the creases stood out like the twin prows of a ship. The dog was as clean as Army soap and towels could make him, his coat carefully parted in a straight line from ears to tail root.

"So you want to keep a dog, eh?" boomed the Major, who seemed none the worse for *his* night out.

"What's his name, eh?"

"Bottle, Sir."

"Bottle? Why?—Oh, I see, black and white, jolly good, what! Well, he seems a nice dog." Here the Major gingerly extended a finger. The Corporal tightened his grip on the lanyard around the dog's neck. Bottle, with commendable restraint, contented himself with a perfunctory lick, instead of taking a good mouthful as he had feared. After all, they had fed him especially well at lunchtime against this very contingency. The Major was highly delighted. He wasn't used to being liked.

"Application granted, Corporal. Tell your O.C. to put him —it *is* a him, isn't it?—on the strength as Signals watch dog. You can draw rations for him, of course. Dismiss!"

With a smart salute, and a jerk on the lanyard to awaken the dog, who got tired of this new game, the Corporal marched to the Mess hut and ordered an extra plate to be set for dinner!

The Signals Guard Dog was now officially recognised, and cheerfully he did his job. Sleeping most of the day, he spent his nights romping around the camp, barking his head off at real and imaginary intruders. The Indian sentries were grateful for his company once they had grown accustomed to his habit of creeping up quietly and nipping their heels. If he kept the sentries awake, they, for their part, retaliated by setting off their Very Light pistols as close to the Corporals' tent as they dared.

Some weeks later the Corporal was once more requested to attend the B.M.

"Corporal, I've had complaints from the Officers' Mess that your dog is keeping them awake at night with his barking."

The N.C.O. might have made an unkind comment here, but felt it would be unwise to do so.

"I know he barks, Sir, but the Sergeants' Mess dog does so too, and I'm sure he keeps away loose-wallahs."

The B.M. might have remembered that, so far, Brigade Headquarters had been immune from the taking ways of the local inhabitants. A neighbouring Unit had lost seven rifles and one Bren gun in a night. This in spite of the fact their owners slept tied to them and on them! Admittedly, they had been recovered after the village headman had had selected members of his tribe bastinadoed at the request of our Security Police.

"I'm sorry—he'll have to be tied up at night in future. Dismiss!" With that the B.M. nipped into his truck and was off on his way to the Club.

That night, much to his disgust, Bottle slept uneasily shackled to a tent pole. For some reason the Corporal could not sleep. About three in the morning a tremendous rumpus started in Headquarters lines. Slipping into his clothes the Corporal went across to investigate. The Brigade Major, apparently just returned from the Club, was dancing with rage in the middle of his tent. A tent that was completely bare. Bed, bedding, trunks and kit of every description had vanished.

Fortunately the trembling sentries were unable to understand most of the names the Major was calling them, but a complaint was made to the Jemadar-Sahib next morning about those they did!

"You!" screamed the Major, catching sight of the Corporal. "Have you lost anything?"

"No Sir."

"Well, don't just stand their smirking like an idiot, get that dog—Bottle or whatever its confounded name is—back at work this instant!"

THE ROYAL CORPS OF SIGNALS

A History of its Antecedents and Development

BY

MAJOR-GENERAL R. F. H. NALDER, C.B., O.B.E.

with a Foreword by

FIELD-MARSHAL THE RIGHT HONOURABLE THE EARL ALEXANDER OF TUNIS, K.G., G.C.B., G.C.M.G., C.S.I., D.S.O., M.C., D.C.L., LL.D.

This volume covers the period from the Napoleonic Wars until 1955. Starting with the visual "telegraph," it traces the successive development for Army use of the "electric telegraph," the telephone and, finally, wireless. It deals with the telegraph organization of the Royal Engineers, which later was expanded into the Royal Engineers Signal Service and was eventually superseded by Royal Signals. It describes the formation of Royal Signals and its growth during the first thirty-five years of existence.

The book contains a section giving brief biographies, with photographs, of some 80 officers. It also includes the outline histories of 53 signal regiments, selected from those which have been in existence since the Second World War. It is illustrated with 12 plates and 26 maps, and, as a frontispiece, has a coloured reproduction of a portrait of the Colonel-in-Chief, Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal.

Published on 15th December, 1958, by The Royal Signals Institution, 88, Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1.

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Cheques/Postal Orders to be made payable to "The Royal Signals History A/C."



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R.S.M.s of the Corps

R.S.M. J. R. LATIMER, B.E.M.

5th Division Signal Regiment, Northern Army Group

Another of the Corps' outstanding personalities, W.O.I Latimer, joined Royal Signals in 1937, and is now serving in B.A.O.R. as R.S.M. of 5th Division Signal Regiment.

On completion of his basic training in 1937, he was posted to G.H.Q. Signals in Glasgow (Records got it right, as he is a Glaswegian) and he served with the Regiment as part of the B.E.F. in France from September, 1939, until he was repatriated via Dunkirk.

He served for some time after this in London, where he was seconded to the G.P.O. on bomb damage repair work on cables. Subsequently, he helped in the formation of 21 Army Group Signals, with whom he served throughout the final campaign in N.W. Europe.

He returned to U.K. as S.Q.M.S. and joined 7 Training Regiment in Catterick and then, in 1952, was drafted to FARELF, where he served with Hong Kong Signal Regiment, Singapore District Signal Regiment, and the Signal Training Centre, and it was whilst serving with the latter that he was awarded the British Empire Medal for his excellent work.

On completion of his tour in FARELF, he returned to Catterick, this time to 3 Training Regiment, as S.S.M., and attained his present rank of W.O.I (R.S.M.) in July, 1956. On promotion, he joined 7 Armoured Division Signal Regiment as R.S.M., and still serves with the redesignated Regiment—5th Division Signal Regiment.

He was a Regimental footballer and a good boxer in his day, although he never aspired to Corps or Army honours.

R.S.M. Latimer is married, and his only daughter, who is now resident in Australia, presented him with a grandson just a year ago.

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.

CORPS SILVER



The KATCOM Lineman

In 1951, the 1st Commonwealth Divisional Signal Regiment was formed for service in Korea. This was a new departure in Commonwealth Signals relationships. The Regiment was commanded by a Royal Signals Lieutenant-Colonel and included "Signalmen" from the United Kingdom, Australia, Canada and New Zealand.

The Commonwealth Divisional Signal Regiment proved a great success, every man worthily upholding the high traditions of his own Corps.

As time went on, the establishment of the Regiment was augmented by the local enlistment of some South Koreans, many of whom, in time, became useful linemen.

In 1954, on the cessation of hostilities in Korea, when it became apparent that the Regiment would soon be disbanded, all ranks decided to present to each of the four associated Signal Corps a piece of silver to commemorate this unique Regiment.

They chose as the subject a "Korean Augmentation Troops Commonwealth Division," i.e., a KATCOM lineman.

2 L. of C. SIGNAL REGIMENT

R.H.Q., 1 and 2 Squadron. We are at last having good weather! We have had fog, rain, and cold, which brought with it casualties from influenza, which not even the Commanding Officer and his Adjutant could avoid.

Some of us were lucky enough to spend ten days at Winterberg where we watched or competed in the Army Ski Championships. The competitors were not glorious, but we had a go, causing amusement to those who watched our antics. Although we were not very successful in any event, we all gained useful experience, which should prove very instrumental in putting ski-ing on the map as far as Royal Signals are concerned. The Regiment provided an excellent "Tannoy" system for the organisers of the meeting, and Corporal Walker and his party may be justly proud of the Kudos which the Corps gained as a result of their hard work and efficiency.

On the 21st February, 1959, the Regiment reached the finals of the Royal Signals (B.A.O.R.) Cross Country Championships and as these notes go to press they will be competing in the finals; so we hope that next month we shall be able to write a favourable report on their activities.

The Regiment danced February out of this year's calendar. A very excellent All Ranks' Dance was held in the Gymnasium where we danced to a Band from 2 T.A.F. H.Q. The music was good and the drink flowed and the verdict of the Regiment was that "this was a good thing, to be done again."

Tailpiece. We have a N.C.O. who thinks "Clean Fatigue" is the cleaning of ablutions and toilets.

Typist's Error. The following appeared in Regimental Pt. I Orders. Signalman Whippet will report to the Depot Regiment free of all LOVE entitlement.

COMCENTRE TROOP
ALFCE SIGNAL SQUADRON

Comcentre Troop is about 100 miles from Squadron H.Q. at Fontainebleau and, unfortunately, 70 miles from Paris. Being limited to a small area of 20 miles radius for recreational transport meant that there was no opportunity to visit any place of interest, as the local area is truly rural.

Some months ago we came in possession of a War Office letter giving details of the activities of the Nuffield Trust for the Forces. Having studied it at some length we came to the conclusion that the Trust would help us, so the wheels were duly set in motion.

Just before Christmas, a most appropriate time, we took delivery of a 12-passenger Morris Minibus, complete with internal heaters. As the result of a Troop vote we had chosen light blue with red seating.

We now have a wonderful means of getting around without the restrictions of W.D. transport and equally important we can travel in comfort.

It is hard to express one's appreciation of the kindness of the Nuffield Trust in giving this Minibus, which will transform our once restricted life here, for example we were able to go to Paris, to watch France beat Scotland for only 500 francs per person instead of 2,000 francs and we included a quick tour of the sights for this cost.

Next scheduled is a trip to Holland and, as the weather improves, a visit to Brussels. The hiking and camping fraternity are now working out what it would cost them for a tour of Southern France, and O.C. Troop, as P.R.I., is becoming very interested in M.T. cost accounting.

The Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess have also taken advantage of the 'bus to play a darts match at Albert against members of the War Graves Commission. It appears that these characters had been in France so long that they had almost forgotten how to play darts but definitely not how to drink.

The Troop is now in possession of six very fine bicycles, also given by the Nuffield Trust, and a Cycling Club is in the process of formation.

We welcome the arrival of Captain (T.O.T.) and Mrs. Pettifer vice Captain and Mrs. Marsh, who have left for Scotland; also the wives of Sergeant Hartley (R.A.E.C.) and Corporal Ingles (R.E.M.E.). There is now quite a British colony in Soissons and the ladies are a very welcome addition to our social life.

We recently gave a "Bal Britannique," which lasted until the small hours and was attended by the local population, who liked champagne so much that we had sold out halfway through the evening. At the end of the dance the single ladies returned, duly chaperoned, via Minibus to Soissons and, part of the detachment service, were safely deposited at their homes much to the indignation, or frustration, of certain prospecting members of the Troop.

Tombola has become a regular fortnightly feature, but no large fortunes are made. Corporal Chatterton (A.C.C.), our "Chef de Cuisine," usually provides refreshments for these affairs, chips complete with newspaper and vinegar being the most popular. Why do chips taste so much better eaten from the "Daily . . . "?

Microwave Troop, who are based with us, continue to thrive, but they are most elusive people who seem to delight in being in two, or even three, places at the same time. Another of their favourite sports is to baffle P.R.I. with rates of exchange for the Belgian francs, German marks and English pounds they always manage to collect on their travels. We are not sure whether a "Fresnel Zone" is a technical term or one of their private hide-outs in Belgium.

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Left to right: Signalman H. Taylor, Corporal S. McDougall, Signalman H. Smith, Signalman A. Henderson, Signalman S. Marriott, and Lance-Corporal B. Williams

1 L. of C. SIGNAL SQUADRON — CYRENAICA SIGNAL TROOP

From an Article by Sergeant A. J. Goodson, Military Observer

As the morse keys are tapping away and the messages are being transmitted to and from the British Army's District Headquarters at Benghazi, there must be quite a number of Royal Signal personnel in units elsewhere who can relate with pride the story behind the unit which keeps the communications open in Benghazi—The Cyrenaica Signal Troop.

For through the tireless efforts of these men, the Troop which was slashed to a bare skeleton staff in accordance with the overall run-down of Cyrenaica District, sprang once again into full-scale activity when the District was re-activised.

The Signalmen—taking the roles of pioneers, engineers and technicians—worked night and day to set the wires humming at the Italian-built D'Aosta Barracks, on the fringe of the war-famed Mediterranean city.

From Germany

The story really began back in July last year when selected personnel from Royal Signals units based in Germany were formed into 1 Line of Communications (Independent) Signal Squadron and were flown out at short notice to Cyprus.

Certain elements were sent over to Jordan and others stayed on the Island, but the Medium Wireless Troop was dispatched to Libya to begin the groundwork and a couple of months later it was followed by Headquarters Troop and Signal Centre Operating Troop.

But the life of 1 L. of C. was limited to six months and gradually as the man-sized assignment was completed, the men returned to their own Regiments in Germany. Apart from a small nucleus of 1 L. of C. who are remaining, the change-over has now been completed and the new Cyrenaica Signal Troop for which the foundations had already been hewn, is now made up of volunteers from other Royal Signals Regiments and from recruits flown from the United Kingdom.

Says the Troop's Commanding Officer, Captain A. J. Harrison, who was with 1 L. of C. and took over from Major R. W. Bosworth, "Personnel of 1 L. of C. have done a great job in extremely difficult circumstances and have maintained the high tradition of the Corps of Signals in 'keeping through.'"

For the men of this young Troop, who have the desert as their back garden and the blue waters of the Mediterranean just a gharrie-ride away, life is far from humdrum.

Training exercises which entail journeys out into the barren wastes of Libya are not infrequent, and the Troop's dispatch-riders travel daily through a countryside dotted with Arab villages and on roads on which camels and donkey-carts are an every-day sight.

There is sport too—and the Royal Signals team at Benghazi recently took second place in the local Army Football League, losing only to the 1st Battalion, The Welch Regiment, who are based at nearby Wavell Barracks.

Aero-modelling, Scottish Country Dancing and visits to the Army beaches are among the popular pastimes, but when there has been no entertainment the Signalmen have made it. A six-

man sfliffle group, led by Corporal S. McDougal from Edinburgh, was formed and has entertained in the N.A.A.F.I. Club and Messes.

Special film shows were put on too. The Signalmen made a CinemaScope screen, borrowed equipment and gave shows in the Messes.'

By courtesy War Office. P.R. photograph by Sergeant J. Perks, R.A.O.C.

TRIPOLITANIA SIGNAL SQUADRON

Now that February is over, the temperatures are rising once more to a height that we appreciate, after surviving through the very cold 40's of the winter months, and the rain that we had on two or three days.

All members of the Squadron are eagerly looking forward to the opening of Piccolo Capri beach. Although many of the chaps, who will be leaving during the coming months, have already started to get their "panic tans."

The members of the Squadron were increased by size when Signalmen Blackmore, Brook, Gray, Innes and Douglas arrived from England, but to make up for the increase we have lost, to civvy street, Signalman Mchale, to whom we send our best wishes. Lance-Corporal Nelson returned to the fold after an extended Christmas leave due to there being no flights from London to Malta for a week and no flights from Malta to Tripoli for another week.

During the last month the branch of the Royal Corps of Signals Association was revived and during the two meetings that were held it was decided that a 'bus trip to Sabratha, some 50 miles along the coast, where there are some Roman ruins, would be held, and several evening barbecues would also be organised.

Three members of the Squadron took part in a cross country race over 5½ miles of sand, as part of H.Q. Tripdist team. They were fairly well placed but unfortunately their team was placed last.

The Football team were top of the league and got through the first round of the cup by beating Station Workshops R.E.M.E., Gurgi, 3—2.

The Darts team which is composed of six players that vary from week to week due to shifts, is doing very well. In all matches played they have won handsomely, gaining a total of six points out of a possible six.

So ended February and we hope that there will be as many events in March as in the first two months of the year.

AFRICA

COMCAN SIGNAL SQUADRON, NAIROBI

This month in Kenya the visit of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, has been the supreme event, and although we here at COMCAN have not been directly involved, our fellow tenants of Eastleigh Airport, the R.A.F., have been heavily engaged in servicing 'planes of the Royal party's flight, besides providing a guard of honour.

Within the Squadron our main activity outside working hours has been the Squadron Fair and Fete. This was held on Saturday, 14th February, and was a financial success, besides giving a great deal of pleasure and entertainment to a large number of visitors. The proceeds have been devoted to the purchase of a long wheel-base Land Rover for use as a Squadron welfare and safari vehicle. All the fun of the fair was provided at the Fete, and the scene was somewhat reminiscent of Hampstead Heath on a Bank Holiday, with coconut shies, roundabouts and swings all in full swing—literally. Bowling for a pig proved a very popular attraction and the lucky winner, Squadron Leader Walker, very kindly presented the pig back to the Squadron just in time to avoid its being be-ribboned and let loose in his office at the R.A.F. Signal Centre. The linemen produced a very ingenious "Bomber" and the R.E.M.E. technicians produced a selection of very ingenious and complicated machines with flashing lights, ringing bells and shrieking sirens, also, unfortunately in one case, with very short odds! Lieutenant Lockett and W.O.II Haw, with their Committee and helpers,



Routine maintenance at R.A.F. Eastleigh, Nairobi—Comcan and R.A.F. style

are to be congratulated on producing such an enjoyable and successful show. So successful in fact that we have stored the side-shows and other bits and pieces with the intention of making the Squadron Fete an annual event.

Two very enjoyable Royal Signals Association functions have been held this month in conjunction with the East Africa Branch. The fish and chip supper held on 20th February was particularly well attended and the skittle alley is producing some very fine "skittlers" besides some handsome profits.

We have also instituted a monthly Association "darts and dice" contest for a presentation tankard, and Staff Sergeant Ewens was the first lucky winner.

Our Safari Club is again in the news with a visit from the P.R.O., who has had some photographs taken of one of our parties "on safari" in the Masai Reserve, near Kajiado, with a view to giving us a write-up in "Soldier" Magazine. We suggest the caption may be "Join the Army and go big-game hunting."

Since writing last month's notes the cricket season has ended. We played three games during this month and finished runners-up, due to losing two of these games. However, we had the pleasure of beating the eventual winners in our last game by six wickets.

FARELF

Royal Signals Singapore Administrative Regiment

The most recent highlight has been, of course, the visit of H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh on Monday, 23rd February, 1959. British and Malayan Other Ranks of this Regiment and of 19 Air Formation Signal Regiment joined forces to line the part of the route that runs past our Barracks. The Regimental Pipes and Drums of Gurkha Signals attended and played the Royal Salute as the Duke's car passed. We were disappointed that a visit to this Regiment was not included in the itinerary.

On 20th February we were visited by the S.O.-in-C., Major-General R. J. Moberly, C.B., O.B.E., whose great interest in the Regiment was very much appreciated by all. During his visit to the Barracks he met and talked to a large gathering of Mess members in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. He also managed to find time to visit one of our Malay families in the Clementi Estate before having lunch in Princess Mary Officers' Mess. In the evening Royal Signals, Singapore, beat the Royal Engineers, Singapore, at hockey by three goals to two after a hard, fast game watched by the S.O.-in-C. and C.E., FARELF.

After the game the Pipes and Drums beat Retreat and we were very well entertained by the Sapper Officers.

On the 21st there was a cocktail party, followed by a buffet supper and dance held in the S.O.-in-C.'s honour in the Officers' Mess. This was attended by all Royal Signals Officers and their wives stationed on the Island of Singapore. It was a great success and General and Mrs. Moberly found time to have a word with nearly all present.

On 23rd January Major-General C. L. Richardson, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., G.O.C. Singapore Base District, held the first annual Administrative Inspection of the Regiment since its formation last year. Everybody stood up well under the critical eyes of the inspecting team, and the somewhat sticky and humid heat experienced at this time of year did little to damp our ardour.

In the sporting field Royal Signals, Singapore, played 1st Battalion New Zealand Regiment in the final of the FARELF Rugby Cup, at Seremban, on 28th February, but were decisively beaten by 33 to nil.

Comcan

The Administrative Inspection is past us, Major-General J. R. Moberly, C.B., O.B.E., has just left us; H.R.H. Prince Philip is with us, and in three months I too will be departing, so now is as good a time as any to have a little re-cap on local news, views and what have you's.

Singapore is still the same as ever; hot and humid. Our work never seems to vary except in pace. We seem to lose many old faces over the months and hardly see any new ones, but the job seems to get done as always, although perhaps the means and methods used on occasions may seem to savour a lack of scruple.

We had a pretty hectic Christmas session, as opposed to season, and one of the grand attractions on the entertainment side was the COMCAN variety show. Various aspects of Army life were shown in numerous unmilitary-like situations. The powers that be would no doubt deny that such things could ever happen in an O.C.'s office, but nevertheless, the script writer states that the scenes were authentic, only the names and places were changed to avoid overcrowding on the redundancy roster! The final act in the show consisted of four serving gentlemen giving a heart rending performance of the Quartet from "Rigoletto." Believe me, it was not only the song that was rendered, talk about the uncouth vocal utterances of the people, this performance left the audience gasping for breath, to say nothing of Captain Bell, Lance-Corporal Smith, Corporal Hinchliff and Sergeant Nicholas, who performed. However, great was the applause, and satisfied were the performers, who promptly retired to ease their throbbing throats at the cheap beer bar. The other Squadrons also put on their own shows and a good night's entertainment was had by all.

Sergeant "Joe" Willis is off to Australia soon on a course at the Australian School of Signals, and rumour has it that more chaps will be following too. Quote A.C.I. 1647/384/26, "See how the other half live." Unquote.

The Signals Administrative Regiment are playing Rugby in the finals of the FARELF Rugby Cup at Seremban on the 28th February and many are the married men who are going along to support them. Most of them are taking 72-hour passes. . . . "The old car won't get there in a day, dear," and here is hoping that the final result will not be published with a black edging to it.

To the uninitiated Seremban is 200 or so miles "up country" from Singapore, and I am sure you readers will appreciate that it is a long trip for pre-war vintage cars to make. These, of course, are what the majority of us proudly own. I dare not tell you the real year of some of them, or someone will chop the L.O.A.

One or two of the Squadron are leaving the Army very shortly and are industriously preparing themselves for the way ahead. Staff Sergeant Bill Cooper took a welding course which nearly cost him an arm due to the flames going the wrong way and has now decided to take a cooler job, draughtsman.

No doubt readers will notice that these notes are written in a rather lighter vein than some, but as COMCAN is world-wide our technical reputation goes before us, so we try to show you that as well as doing our job, quite well we think, we also find time to enjoy ourselves a bit.

To finish, may we wish you all a prosperous 1959 and success in all you attempt academically and athletically in and out of the Corps.



DINNER TO MAJOR AND MRS. W. J. BUSH AND LIEUTENANT AND MRS. P. J. MITCHELL

Back row : Captain Trotman, Lieutenant Brockhurst

Centre row : Second-Lieutenant Louis Lee, Major Bush, Lieutenant Pickard, Major Bennett, Lieutenant Mitchell, Major Higgins, Lieutenant Dolbear, Major White

Front row : Mrs. Dolbear, Mrs. White, Mrs. Trotman, Mrs. Mitchell, Mrs. Higgins, Miss Dodswell, Mrs. Bush

Line Squadron, Royal Signals, Singapore

Our first attempt at writing notes for THE WIRE is really a series of farewells to various officers of the Squadron. This culminated in the departure of Major and Mrs. W. J. Bush and Lieutenant and Mrs. P. J. Mitchell, who left in January and February.

The officers of the Squadron entertained them at a farewell dinner at a local Chinese restaurant (in bounds!). This was a traditional Chinese meal consisting of some ten courses. The organiser of this outing, Second-Lieutenant Louis Lee (standing next to Major Bush in the photograph) is the first Malayan officer of Royal Signals to be attached to the Squadron.

Now that the rainy season and the Annual Administrative Inspection are over, our Soccer team is in full training under S.S.M. J. Findlay (yet another new arrival). Whilst Lieutenant R. Pickard is organising a Squadron Canoe Club.

Field Signal Squadron (FE)

This month, Field Signal Squadron (Far East) celebrated the first anniversary of its formation. We have already carried out exercises in Malaya, Hong Kong, Sarawak and North Borneo and hope to extend our travels even further. This month we had the honour of providing the V.H.F. wireless communications for H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh during his visit to Army installations on 23rd February. We also provided a short line from the Royal Yacht to the passenger terminal. This gave Lieutenant Treseder a fine chance to see the yacht, which he seized with both hands (one with a glass in it).

Congratulations to our Cycling Club, particularly Lance-Corporal Large, Corporal Hemmings and Signalman Wood, who came 1st, 2nd and 4th in the R.A.F. Trial. Corporal Hemmings also took first place in the 30-mile R.A.F. Time Trial.

Operating Squadron (FE)

Whew! That's over—the Administrative Inspection, we mean—and now, apart from a very welcome visit by the S.O-in-C. and a possible glimpse of H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh at the end of the month, we can concentrate on our task of "clearing by the quickest, safest and most economical possible means," to coin a phrase. Seriously, the Admin. went well, and it is hoped that the result justified the effort put in by all ranks. Corporal "Painter" Eastman will never be the same again they say.

A little red-hot news at this stage concerns the Inter-Squadron Seven-a-Side Rugby competition played on Saturday, 31st January, and won by us after a hard final battle against a very game and energetic team from S.T.C. Coupled with the fact that we had six representatives in the Regimental team which won the Singapore Section of the FARELF Cup, we can feel that we have had a good season. Thoughts are turning now to football, cricket and athletics with more inter-Squadron feuds to maintain the blood relationship.

Nostalgia for departed members is the sound of crackers and bangers heralding another Chinese New Year. Accompanied, as it is, with a two-day vacation we have a really long week-end to look forward to. Get out your picture albums by the fireside, and think of us. There will be the normal party with our ten Chinese members, and no doubt bags of "Yam Seng" followed by "Fatt Heds." All good fun and part of the Eastern picture.

This month we have said goodbye to Sergeant and Mrs. Bunston and Sergeant and Mrs. Martin, other than that we are fairly static, thank goodness. We did have Lieutenant Stubbs for a few hours, but he didn't seem to like what he saw and moved on to Hong Kong. Lucky man, did you say? Well, at least we have our own Aberdeen here now, and for a small sum the pleasures of a floating meal can be yours—and the pungent, exotic odours that go with it. With such malodorous thoughts, we leave you once again.

NOTES FROM MALAYA

The state of the emergency in Malaya has changed considerably in the last three months.

The whole of Malaya from Selangor to Johore Bahru is now "white" except for one small pocket of terrorists in Pahang.

This means that the Gurkha Infantry Brigades are now out of operations, and only the Commonwealth Brigade Group is in action in the North. 99 Gurkha Infantry Brigade is now in Singapore, so O.C.L.F. Signal Squadron have yet another Signal Centre on their books.

Thoughts now are on training and ridding the system of some of the ideas that have crept in due to the emergency.

All our units have had their annual inspections, which were not easy ones. All ranks must have worked very hard to have achieved the results which were recorded by the inspecting officers.

Sport. The emphasis has been on rugger. From the resources of the Corps in Malaya we formed a Royal Signals rugger team to play in the Army Rugger Competition (F.E.). We beat the 2nd Field Regiment, R.A., and 13/18 Hussars to find ourselves pitted against the New Zealand Regiment in the Malayan final.

We wonder if we made some Corps history by doing this. The Kiwis were a very large, heavy side. They were fast and had several extremely good players.

Although we were thrashed 43—3, the Corps team went down fighting.

We will be cheering on Royal Signals, Singapore, against the Kiwis in the final.

It has not been very easy collecting our team together, and the greatest credit is due to Lieutenant Alexander, the organiser, and Sergeant Dunn, the captain, for doing so well.

Apart from the Army Cup, Royal Signals in Seremban (O.C.L.F. Signal Squadron plus British Other Ranks of Gurkha Signals) joined forces and won handsomely the Negri Sembilan seven-a-side tournament.

Royal	Signals,	Seremban	13	All Blues	0
,,	,,	,,	15	H.Q., Gurkha Div/OCLF	0
,,	,,	,,	21	2 Field Regiment, R.A.	3

A Lesson in Co-operation. The new cantonment for the Commonwealth Brigade Group is being built near Malacca. The stage has been reached whereby the Engineers were being held up for lack of telephone facilities, which the Department of Telecommunications said they could not instal at this stage.

A scratch line party was formed to do the job. The composition is interesting:

O.C., Captain Ward, O.C.L.F. Signal Squadron.
Staff Sergeant Gardner, O.C.L.F. Signal Squadron.
Line Detachment of Gurkha Signals.
Line Detachment of Commonwealth Brigade Signal Squadron (U.K.O.R. plus Australian Other Ranks).

A truly mixed party.

The work which had to be done was such that a lot of it could not be divided up into detachment jobs. All O.R.s were put into the hat, mixed up, and they worked together and camped together.

There were no difficulties at all, and all ranks of all types got on like a house on fire.

It was interesting to watch a Gurkha Signalman trying to understand a "Cobber."

But, as is the way of the British soldier, wheresoever he is, whoever he is talking to, and whatever the circumstances, he has some curious gift of being able to "get through."

S.O.-in-C. Visit. We are now greatly looking forward to General Moberly's visit, which will be a tiring and comprehensive one squeezed in three days.

28 Brigade + N.M.S.D. Signal Troop

Yet another full Christmas has come and gone. However, I think we must all agree that this one was better than most.

Our next major activity was the Squadron Grand Draw and Tombola night. The Squadron has run a very successful weekly tombola for nearly a year, and this was the culminating night for the committee, consisting of S.Q.M.S. Rigby and Corporals Ward, Widdicombe and Kinsella. There was an excellent turnout of all ranks, attracted partly, no doubt, by the £90 worth of draw prizes, and partly by the excellent buffet. We were very glad to have with us Brigadier H. J. Mogg, D.S.O., our Brigade Commander, who kindly consented to draw the winning tickets with Mrs. Hanley, wife of Lieutenant A. F. Hanley, Royal Australian Signals. It was found that the first ticket drawn, the Brigade Commander's own, won a golliwog. The main prizes, a hi-fi record player and a six-valve radio went to our civilian clerk and Sergeant Hillier respectively, and another popular win was the large hamper, including a chicken, won by Corporal Clapperton, the N.C.O. in charge of our detachment in Penang.

In order to dispel the possible impression that the Squadron has done nothing since Christmas, it should be stated that, apart from normal operations, at long last our linemen have had a real task to do. This proved to be a most interesting three-week job at Malacca, some 300 miles away. Two detachments were required, one from this Unit (naturally, half U.K. and half Australian), and one from Gurkha Signals, so it was a truly integrated affair. A further job done in January, on the East Coast, with its miles of glorious beaches, proved most popular.

We were very sorry to say goodbye in November to Major P. G. Carruthers, Royal Australian Signals, whom many will remember from the attachment to the British Army in B.A.O.R. in 1954/55, and Mrs. Carruthers. It suffices to say that both were truly integrated. Their departure is a great loss, both to the Squadron and to the Wives' Club. We wish them both well.

In their place we welcome Captain W. D. Mostyn, Royal Australian Signals. This is Captain Mostyn's first tour away from "down under."

Congratulations to Major and Mrs. Wainwright on the birth of a son, Andrew Charles, at 3 a.m. on New Year's morning. One consolation at least is that it was not on the expected day, Christmas Day.

Another recent arrival is S.S.M. A. Parish who, after four years' service in the King's Royal Rifle Corps, transferred to Royal Signals in 1936. During World War II he served in the 8th Army and later with Force 136, being parachuted into China in 1944. After the war he served in Japan, Java and Korea. In 1955 he took his discharge and enlisted in the Royal Australian Corps of Signals, did another tour in Korea and joined the Squadron in Malaya in February, 1959.

Signal Troop, 22 S.A.S. Regiment

Since our last notes, our strength has increased in as much as Corporal Tongue has taken unto himself a wife; our best wishes go to him and Mrs. Tongue. The marriage took place in St. Martin's Garrison Church, Kuala Lumpur, the service being conducted by the Rev. Gibson, C.F. The reception was held in the W.V.S. Room, Wardieburn Camp; the excellent buffet was produced by the Cook Sergeant.

Early on the morning of 22nd December, 1958, three members of the Troop who were at base, jumped with Headquarters Squadron at Kajang. Of the three, Corporal Yorke caused dismay to the detachment of the Air Support Signal Troop, providing ground to air communication, by landing on top of their wireless set and demolishing the aerial.

Signalman Nutt has successfully passed his Jungle Training Operation and a Parachute Course at Changi. This makes him a fully-qualified member of the Troop.

We welcome Lieutenant Russell who has just arrived from the Junior Leaders Regiment to take over command of the Troop.

The Regiment has now completed all operations in Malaya and is due to return to the U.K. in March. We shall miss all the numerous friends we have made in this country, and take this opportunity of wishing them our very best wishes for the future.

2 (LONDON) SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

This Regiment's notes return after a lengthy absence. Perhaps the reason for their non-appearance is that everyone has been too busy. Any rate, the Regiment has finished settling down to its new role and new Headquarters. The latter has been generously redecorated and additional garages and a "Q" block have been built.

Many old and familiar faces have been fading away over the past year or so. One of those which will be most missed, is that of Major L. Burrows, T.D., who has handed over 1 Squadron to Major R. Thorne. Another O.C. who will be missed is Major J. D. F. Stow, T.D. His place in 2 Squadron has been taken by Major E. Barker. 3 Squadron is now commanded by Major J. A. Lawrence vice Major Thorne. Congratulations to Majors Barker and Lawrence on their promotion.

Several "old sweats" and some young ones too, have had to leave, at least temporarily, on account of being moved by their firms. One is now indulging in a veterinary course, despite the fact that we lost our horses quite some years back.

However, on the bright side a large number of young volunteers have come in, completely off-setting this drain of older and wiser members. Already several have been claimed for a short while by National Service where they find the sergeants are not so gentle.

Last year annual camp was held at Crowborough where everything went off well. It was a comparatively quiet camp with a three-day scheme in the second half. During the middle week-end the Regiment retired en bloc to London to watch our Motor Cycle Display Team in the Jubilee Show at Chelsea Barracks. Afterwards everyone dispersed to their own homes for the night. As camp was long ago that brief resume should suffice.

51 (EA) INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT (T.A.)

No. 2 Squadron, Ipswich. Since our last contribution to THE WIRE in June, 1958, the Squadron has steadily increased in strength. A recruiting drive in June, by means of the local Press, resulted in us receiving many telephone calls and personal enquiries. We are happy to say that in three weeks our numbers had doubled.

Training has been in full swing despite our accommodation difficulties (one lecture room for six different Trades), and steady progress is being made. Drivers, and potential drivers, are still receiving instructions from Sergeant Hewitt on how to miss cyclists and stationery vehicles. It is hoped that this is sinking in. One U/Driver (this means (Unnamed Driver not Unpaid Driver), however, still bitterly complains that "Kangaroo Juice" is being used for petrol.

"Outdoor" training has been rather limited this winter, but what little we have done has exceeded our expectations and this was very encouraging, especially to certain instructors who had been going around with worried looking faces.

We are hoping to increase our social activities in the near future and, to experiment on such lines, a Social and Dance was held at the T.A. Centre on Saturday, 31st January, 1959. Again, this exceeded our expectations, for it was a tremendous success, with no fewer than 108 people turning up. An outside caterer was engaged to supply a buffet and did this excellently. Members of the Entertainments Committee, who arranged the Social, were congratulated and have now decided to put into operation all possible legal means of obtaining funds so that more functions such as this can be arranged.

Congratulations go to the following on their promotions in the Squadron since June, 1958: W.O.II R.Q.M.S. Palmer, W.O.II Whiteside, Staff Sergeant Burman, Sergeant Hewitt, Lance-Corporal Risby and Lance-Corporal Murdy. W.O.II Palmer and Staff Sergeant Burman have now established themselves in the Squadron Stores and are seriously thinking of setting up a Machine Gun Post at the entrance. Lance-Corporal Risby has taken the Electrician/Drivers under his wing and "POSITIVELY" baffles them with his knowledge of Battery Charging.

Our O.C., Major Godfrey, is still slaving away with the Radio/Technicians and assisting the Royal Signals (A.C.F.) Detachment which is situated with us here, despite some caustic "Why don't you take your bed with you" etc., remarks from his wife.

Finally, all members of the Squadron wish our C.O., Lieutenant-Colonel G. S. H. Dicker, M.B.E., T.D., all the very best of luck for the future when he retires shortly. At the same time we welcome his successor, Lieutenant-Colonel A. F. Freeman, M.C., and hope that his stay with this unit will be a very happy one.

56 INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT (T.A.)

The "Mercury Cup," first put up for competition by the Royal Signals Rifle Association in 1958, has been won by 56 (London) Infantry Division Signal Regiment (T.A.).

The Cup is awarded annually to the Royal Signals Unit making the highest score in the T.A.R.A. Decentralised Competition for the Lord Lieutenant's Challenge Shield.

The results of Royal Signals units for 1958 were as under:

1.	56 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment	765
2.	43 (Wessex) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment	698
3.	2 (London) Signal Regiment	682
4.	Scottish Command (M) Signal Regiment	616
5.	Home Counties District (M) Signal Regiment	606
6.	52 (Lowland) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment ...	553



The "Mercury Cup" being presented by Major-General R. J. Moberly, C.B., O.B.E. (S.O. in C.) to Captain K. A. Biggleston, Team Captain, 56 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment Shooting Team, on 5th January 1959 at Signal House, Balham, in the presence of Major-General R. N. H. C. Bray, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O.

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

Affairs continued in rather a quiet vein during the first two weeks of the month, the foggy weather still curtailing activities, but since the prospect of an early Spring made itself evident in the better days towards the end of the period, we have already started moving towards an interesting training programme, looking forward to quite a deal of outdoor schemes and exercises in the near future.

Recruiting is still going strong, particularly on the male side, and it is a pleasing and interesting point to note that the various Commonwealth countries are being represented amongst the newcomers.

Social events are rather restricted at present due to the Drill Hall being redecorated, but a very enjoyable Social and Dance was held on St. Valentine's Night.

On Saturday, 21st February, a party was held in the Officers' Mess to say farewell to Major G. J. Sard, T.D., after 12 years T.A. service; it is understood that he appreciated both his bowler hat and suit of K.D.! (Although we believe that jungle-green is the fashionable colour in the Far East these days). All attending thoroughly enjoyed themselves and we hope the occasion will long remain a pleasant reminiscence to Major Sard, who has definitely promised to look up the Regiment as soon as possible on his return to the U.K.

Meeting of Branch Representatives

The Minutes of the 13th Meeting of Branch Representatives of the Royal Signals Association, held at HQ, Middlesex Yeomanry Signal Regiment T.A. on Saturday, 21st March, 1959.

The meeting was attended by 58 representatives of the following 45 Branches: Aberdeen, Aldershot, Bath, Birmingham, Blackpool, Bournemouth, Bristol, Cardiff, Catterick and District, Chester, Chesterfield, Chislehurst and District, Croydon and District, Darlington, Harrogate, Hull, Jersey, Leeds, Liverpool, London, London—East, Loughborough, Manchester, Middlesbrough, Newark, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Northern Ireland, Nottingham, Oldham, Portsmouth, Reading and District, Salisbury, Scarborough, Shrewsbury, Southampton, Torbay and District, York, Tunbridge Wells, No. 25 Unit Branch (4th Training Regiment), No. 26 Unit Branch (7th Training Regiment), No. 30 Unit Branch (11 Signal Park Squadron), No. 36 Unit Branch (5th Training Regiment), No. 44 Unit Branch (Eastern Command Signal Squadron), Glossop and District R.S.O.C.A., 1st London Corps Signals O.C.A.

The Minutes of the 12th meeting were **approved** and signed by the Chairman.

1. The Chairman, Major-General C. M. F. White, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., Colonel Commandant and Chairman of the Royal Signals Association opened the meeting at 11.40 a.m., he said:

"This meeting cannot follow the usual pattern and I am sure you will agree that, for once, change is desirable.

"It is normal to ask the Representative Colonel Commandant to address you and we are always grateful that he does so. The Signal Officer-in-Chief or his representative is also always a welcome speaker. I for one am sorry that the important and necessary meeting this morning has left no time for these talks.

"Again, it is customary for me to make a report to you of what has been going on in the Association; again I think you will agree that I should not do this this morning. I shall, of course, be prepared to answer any questions you may wish to raise under 'Any Other Business.' What is really important was dealt with this morning.

"Before we get on with this afternoon's Agenda I would like to express my own feelings in one matter on the Agenda —at item 6. Incidentally, I am going to bring this forward so that we can have a good talk about it. This is the effect, on Branches, of the wise and absolutely necessary decision taken at the Annual General Meeting in 1957 to increase the Annual Subscription to 5/- and to ask Branches to send to Headquarters 2/- of each Annual Subscription received. We are not collecting a large credit balance, in fact we are struggling hard to avoid a debit balance. This has caused Branches to lose a substantial number of members. If you reflect, I think you will agree that we have lost few, if any, really worth while members. At the same time, I know how disheartening this loss has been to Branch officials. It has also been more difficult to collect subscriptions. I have to emphasise this matter because it is the one which causes you and the other members of Branch Committees great concern. We cannot alter the Rules and the amount of subscriptions, but as I said a moment ago let us at least have a good talk about it."

2. He then called on the General Secretary to make a statement about Rule 8 and the effect of the increased rate of Annual Subscription and consequential obligations to Association Headquarters. A general discussion followed, to which the following Branch representatives contributed—Aldershot, Hull, Chester, Loughborough, Torbay and Newcastle.

On the Chairman's direction the General Secretary will prepare a considered paper dealing with most, if not all, of the points made by Branches both at the meeting and in previous and subsequent correspondence. This paper will be sent out during April.

The meeting then adjourned for luncheon.

3. The meeting recommenced at 2.15 p.m. and the Chairman announced that as the result of a ballot, held during the luncheon recess (Item 5 of the Agenda)

Mr. L. V. Goodman, Chairman Aldershot Branch, had been elected to the vacancy as "Representative of a Branch of the Association" in the membership of the Central Committee.

4. The following Branches agreed to send an Observer to Meetings of the Central Committee :—

30th meeting of the Central Committee, 28th May, 1959	London, Leeds and York.
31st meeting of the Central Committee, October or November, 1959	Chislehurst, Loughborough and Darlington.

5. At the request of the Chairman, **Captain E. P. E. Montagnon,** Secretary of the Reunion Committee at Headquarters Training Brigade Royal Signals, addressed the meeting. He said that the programme this year would be the same as in recent years.

Saturday, 4th July ...	Retreat. Entertainment in Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Messes.
Sunday, 5th July ...	Church Parade. Annual General Meeting. Luncheon. Displays. Supper. Depart.

NOTE : The General Secretary promised to ensure that the time and place of the Annual General Meeting would be given out before the Church Parade.

Captain Montagnon continued :

Meal Tickets. Emphasising that while it was necessary to ensure that unauthorised persons did not obtain free or cheap meals at the expense of the Association, he said that his object was to avoid delay and formality to members of the Association and their families. This year there would be two types of tickets for meals, in different colours : one for members of the Association and the other for use on Sunday by their families. These tickets will be serially numbered and a record kept of the tickets sent to each Branch. Tickets are to be collected at the door before each meal. *Branches are especially asked*

(a) to request tickets in advance as far as possible.
(b) to ENSURE that unused meal tickets are returned to the Secretary of the Reunion Committee **as soon as possible.** This will avoid Branches being asked to pay for family meals which have not been consumed.

For obvious reasons it will be possible for families to purchase tickets at the door before a meal, but only if accompanied by a member of the Association. The fewer who have to pay at the door the less the chance of a queue and delay.

Questions by Branch Representatives and replies :—

LEEDS BRANCH
Q. What will be the cost of family meals?
A. Much the same as last year. Prices have not risen since then.

BIRMINGHAM BRANCH
Q. Will Branches have to pay for family meals before going to Catterick?
A. No. Pay for meal tickets issued to Branches and not returned, or, as said above, in emergency pay at the door.

LEEDS BRANCH
Q. Can meal tickets and identification badges be sent to Branches earlier?
A. Yes, if Branches put in their bids as soon as they can.

ALDERSHOT BRANCH
Q. Will Branches be accommodated by the same Regiments as in previous years?
A. If possible, Yes. To ensure this Branches should send their bids for accommodation as early as possible.

BRISTOL BRANCH
Q. What are the plans for Sunday afternoon?
A. Not yet fixed. Depends on military factors but there will be a Motor Cycle Display, a Drill Display and probably a Communication Race.

6. At the direction of the Chairman, ALDERSHOT Branch then proposed "that all members attending the Annual General Meeting, and Reunion at Catterick or Area Reunions, where expenses are incurred by the Association, should pay a small fee (amount to be decided by this meeting) to help defray costs of the Reunion which is being borne entirely by the Association. Members' guests to be charged fees as in previous years."

Introducing the proposal Aldershot Branch suggested that members attending could, and willingly would, pay a small sum, say 2/6, towards the cost of their accommodation, food and entertainment.

Leeds, Hull, Blackpool and Croydon Branches spoke against the proposal, to the effect that members were hard put to it to find the money for the cost of the journey, etc., and that the charging of a fee would cause decrease in attendance.

At the request of the Birmingham Branch the General Secretary explained that costs, based on £1 per member attending were borne by Association Headquarters to cover charges necessarily made for accommodation, food, and the heavy item of tentage on the Sports Ground. Last year Headquarters Training Brigade had secured a grant on the grounds that the reunion was an aid to recruiting and rebate from the NAAFI for sales on the sports ground was also credited.

Bar profits in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Messes offset to a small extent the cost of the lavish meals provided there on the Saturday evening. The remainder of the cost being borne by members of the Messes.

Torbay Branch emphasisng that they had furthest to travel considered that some contribution should be made.

Liverpool, Catterick and other Branches while disagreeing with the Aldershot Branch proposal strongly recommended that any Branch having funds surplus to immediate requirements should make a generous donation to Headquarters, *without specifying the object,* Headquarters would then dispose of the donation to the best advantage.

Major-General C. M. F. White, summing, up, pointed out that the Association was finding it difficult to balance its budget on the "Association side" as apart from the "Welfare side." That was why subscriptions had been raised. The full effect of this would not be apparent until, at the earliest, the end of 1959. He would not wish to put pressure on Branches by making it compulsory to contribute to the cost of the Reunion in the way suggested. This at 2/6 a head might bring in £50. He would prefer to rely on Branches sending in surplus money.

By consent the Aldershot Branch proposal **was not put to the vote.**

7. By order of the Chairman the General Secretary then explained the reasons why it was not proposed to hold an **Area Reunion in London in 1959.**

AND explained to the meeting that a **Lighter Fuel Collecting Box** which did not produce an income to Headquarters of at least 15/- a year was uneconomical. One box in a Territorial Army Drill Hall produced over £30 a year.

8. **Mercury House.** Under any other business, at the request of Aldershot Branch, the Chairman explained the reasons which caused the Royal Signals CORPS COMMITTEE to decide to close and sell the house. Other Branches had also raised this matter in conversation before and after the meeting.

On the Chairman's direction, the General Secretary will prepare a paper on this subject which will be sent to Branches during April.

9. **New Zealand.** Hull Branch said that one of their founder members had recently gone to New Zealand to live and was anxious to get in touch with other Association members there and to advise intending emigrants to New Zealand.

10. Loughborough Branch proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman which was warmly applauded. In his reply the Chairman paid a most generous tribute to the work of the Staff at the Headquarters of the Association.

11. The meeting closed at 4.10 p.m.

Welfare Section

Below an attempt is made to describe, with suitable anonimity, seven cases taken from the Welfare Section files concluded during the first week in March, 1959. Also on this page is a simple statement of income and expenditure.

Widow of Signalman, 1943-47 (who died January, 1959). He had not been able to work since April, 1958. After the funeral his widow and one child had little left except furniture and wished to go to North-East England to live with relatives. The R.A.F. Benevolent Fund (she served in W.R.A.F.) and his own Association shared the not inconsiderable cost of the move.

Signalman, 1934-41. Married, three school-aged children. He has been unable to work since 1954 and the fund, aided by the Royal Welch Fusiliers in which he had previous service, helped to clothe his children.

Widow of Signalman, 1936-41 who died in 1950. His daughter suffered from tuberculosis but has now recovered sufficiently to work. In order to give her a fair start the Association paid the fees for a course at Pitmans.

Signalman, 1920-1927. He had to give up work in May, 1958, and he and his elderly wife now have £5/10/0 instead of £10 a week to live on. The fund helped them.

Signalman, 1950-52 (N.S.), married, two children. Illness (T.B.) halved his income in January and the fund helped his wife to adjust to start a much lower standard of living but free of debt.

Corporal, 1939-58 until death. The fund helped his parents to unexpectedly heavy cost of funeral.

Signalman, 1939-54. Married, income drastically reduced by illness since December, 1958. The Royal Iniskilling Fusiliers in which he served, 1911-19, and Royal Signals helped him a little.

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION AND BENEVOLENT FUND

The following subscriptions were most gratefully received during February, 1959:

	£	s.	d.
School of Signals	20	0	0
C.S.O.s Branch, H.Q. Northern Command		7	6
H.Q. R.A.C. Signal Squadron	2	8	0
C.S.O.'s Branch H.Q. London District		4	6
54 (E.A.) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment T.A.	1	10	0
Middlesex Yeomanry Signal Regiment, T.A.	4	13	0
1 Independent U.K.L.F. Reserve Signal Squadron, T.A.	1	14	0
Western Command Signal Squadron	2	14	0
11 Signal Park Squadron		15	9
23 Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron, T.A.		6	0
27 G.W. Regiment (Fd.) R.A. Signal Troop	1	6	0
C.O.M.C.A.N. Signal Squadron, Nairobi	25	0	0
Ghana Signal Squadron	15	9	0
18 Army Group Signal Regiment	25	3	9
20 Armoured Brigade Group Signal Squadron	1	14	8
Total Receipts ...	£103	6	2

ROYAL SIGNALS' ASSOCIATION WELFARE SECTION

The following donations were most gratefully received during February, 1959:

	£	s.	d.
North West District Signal Regiment	1	0	0
49 (W.R.) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A.	1	1	0
H.Q. Rhine District—Collection at Garrison Church, Essen-Kray	5	0	0
L. W. Mann, Esq.	5	0	
Total Receipts ...	£7	6	0

EXPENDITURE DURING FEBRUARY, 1959 ... ... £349 9 11
Includes; Rent and Rates; Beds and Bedding; Furniture; Cots and Prams; General Assistance.

Analysis of Cases:

Families of Soldiers serving in U.K.	1	
Widows and dependants	5	
Released and discharged Soldiers	36	
Total cases assisted	42	
22 Cases of Soldiers who served during the 1939-45 War		£236 1 9
20 Cases of Soldiers who did not serve during the War		£113 8 6

CLOTHING

Since early December, gifts of clothing have been received from the following: Lieutenant-Colonel C. A. Henn-Collins; Colonel T. B. Graveley, O.B.E.; K. J. Williams, Esq.; G. E. Stringer, Esq.; Brigadier E. A. James, O.B.E., T.D., D.L., J.P.; Mrs. J. Hinde; A. Stokes, Esq.; Major J. H. Lawrence, T.D.; Mrs. E. A. James; Colonel M. A. Charlton; Lieutenant-Colonel J. D. Elliott; Sergeant G. Punkett. **Thank You.**

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Loughborough Branch

Spring is in the air, so are thoughts of good times to come at Chester and Catterick—even the typewriter bell seems more musical today. Here at Beaumanor, the spacious lawns and shrubberies are already showing promise of the delightful picture they always present in May and June. Readers long departed this area may not know that the trees which formed the well-known Beaumanor Avenue of Elms were felled a couple of years back for safety reasons, but all were replaced with young saplings, and so the view which pleased so many will be there again for future generations.

The analogy to Association affairs doesn't quite apply to Loughborough Branch—we have not axed any of our old stalwarts—but we do see encouraging signs for the future, in the quality of young blood coming into the Association fold from Colour Service.

Our social season activities end with a dance in early April, but we have one or two summer items to work on, notably our garden fete and the children's sports. Our friends and neighbours at Garats Hey are holding a Regimental Week-end on 23rd/24th May, and the Branch is co-operating in an ambitious programme which includes the fete, more like a gala this year, the Regimental dance, a church parade and band concert. The Non-Touring Band is to be present, and Major Bovey intends having an "Open" day for the parents of the young National Servicemen under his command, with the comparatively new barracks and facilities on view. This, of course, in addition to the attractions of the gala, sports, and miscellaneous displays.

Meanwhile, let us wish success to the many (I hope) members at present engaged in overcoming domestic opposition to their joining the Loughborough expedition to Catterick on July 5th!

North London Branch

The 4th Annual Dinner and Dance of the Royal Signals Association, North London Branch, was held at the Cambridge Hotel, Palmers Green, on Saturday, 14th March.

The guests included Major-General C. M. F. White, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., Colonel Commandant of the Royal Corps of Signals, Chairman and Treasurer of the Royal Signals Association, Brigadier H. R. Firth, General Secretary, the Mayor and Mayoress of Hornsey.

In proposing the toast to the Branch, General White said: "Before I do anything else, thank you very much indeed for your hospitality to me tonight, which I am enjoying and am going to enjoy for some time yet. I want to make it quite clear that it is to me an honour and a pleasure to propose this toast; it is an honour and a pleasure to propose the toast to the Branch for two reasons.

Firstly, the honour I have having served with the Army for 36 years, up to my retirement, and I am still pretty active and keep in touch with the Army. It is an honour to have anything to do with the Royal Signals Association.

Secondly, it is a pleasure to be able to tell somebody they are jolly good people when they are and they deserve it.

I do feel that the North London Branch of the Royal Signals Association, I can with great pleasure and with sincerity and truth, congratulate you on this Branch. This Branch is a strong Branch, it has active people all through it.

Three main things make a good Branch. The first one is that all members of the Branch must be loyal and help it. Secondly, which is comparable with the first, activity and sincerity, and the leadership supplied by the Officers of the Branch —President, Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. All over England, Scotland and Wales, and Northern Ireland I see the different Branches, and this Branch stands out as one of the best. I do congratulate you all very much. Thirdly, I am glad to see you have ladies at your annual dinner and at other functions, because in peace time 'the more we are together, the merrier we shall be.'

I am very pleased to hear that you are in process of getting a Standard. I would remind you that in the first week of July there is the Annual Reunion of our Association at Catterick, and I very much hope that your Standard will be up there to be dedicated, and the more of you up there, the better.

About fifteen or sixteen different Branch Standards come up and are placed around the Sanctuary of the Church and then the Standard which is to be dedicated will be placed on the altar, and then the opening words of the service explain the importance and objects of the Royal Signals Association. I had, I thought, put into my pocket the words which are actually used, but unfortunately I have not got them. Might I remind you the chief objects are:

1. To maintain the spirit of comradeship throughout the Corps, a most important point. One aim in life we all learned so well during the last war; it is easily forgotten in peace time; we want it throughout the nation at all times to be remembered—our country must come first.

2. Our duty to those of us who are more unfortunate than others, who get into trouble in one way or another, chiefly financially, because of their misfortunes, and it is up to us, particularly with widows and orphans, to help those who require it. This is a tremendous aim. It is our boast that all of our ex-members of the Royal Signals who are now in the Association, any orphans or any widows who are really in distress—they all get help.

The subscriptions that are paid up by members of which a certain amount goes to Headquarters. The subscriptions of all serving Officers and men—they pay on an average of sixpence a month—amount up to a tremendous amount of money, and helps to keep the benevolent fund going. The investments from which we get interest for the benefit of our soldiers, prisoners-of-war and at home.

It is an effort to find the money to ensure that our boast is a real one, and it is being done at the moment, but we cannot relax in any way. Try to get in new members. I ask you to go on producing activities which raise a certain amount of money. It is the continuous efforts on the part of members which raise money.

The Headquarters of the Royal Signals Association — the head man is one Brigadier Firth who has done so much for the Corps and since then has done wonders for the Association. They are a team of people of experience, with willingness to serve. They are not paid vast sums of money to be Chief Welfare Officer or whatever it may be. They get a fair wage, but they do not get the best money, because they have a pride in the Signals Association. Some of you know this, though some of you don't. We realise all the difficulties that you have, and we at 88, Eccleston Square try to help you all we can. It is only by getting the information at the right time that we can help more people and get a better organisation. Any problems you have, we shall be delighted to see you all."

The President, Lieutenant-Colonel K. B. Baldwin, M.B.E., T.D., responding to the toast, said:

"What more can I say after what General White has just told us? You know me and you know my mind as far as this Branch is concerned. We have gone one step further. At least we have increased the celebrities on our top table in accordance with the wishes of the Branch. We are a step ahead of what we were last year. You may expect me to give a review of what went on last year. All those members who were at the Annual General Meeting received it then. I do, however, want to say one or two things about the Branch which, to my mind, have stood out.

Your Chairman, Major Freemantle, took a very small party up to Catterick last year and we did have our representation up there last year due to the efforts of your Chairman and keen members. Partly as a result of that our representation, I am absolutely certain in my own mind, will be more than last year.

I am equally certain and am quite certain that those members at the Annual General Meeting are themselves equally certain, that we cannot go this year without our Standard. It was brought up at the Annual General Meeting and some members were dubious about how to get the Standard, but it was passed as a general thing at the meeting that if we wanted our Standard we would pay for it and so would open a subscription list, which has produced half the amount of money towards the Standard. I feel sure, therefore, that every member of the North London Branch will ensure that he has his little bit of the Standard. We shall have it dedicated at Catterick this year—even if I have to pay for it myself. We shall have the banner at Catterick this year and it will be dedicated in the magnificent style as described by General White. Any member of this Branch who is an honourable member of the Branch will ensure that he gives a little subscription towards the Standard. The Treasurer will be glad to receive it tonight.

Secondly, at the last Annual General Meeting we did agree to start our own Benevolent Fund, some means of subscription to a fund which we would have within our own control, quite apart from what the Headquarters of the Association does for us. This Branch this year has had a very sad case on its hands. The founder treasurer of this Branch has had a very long and painful illness and the Headquarters of the Association have enabled us to give some form of alleviation. There is not very much we can do, I am afraid.

I do feel myself that it is very nice to know that we do have something in the kitty to help unfortunate people. There will be a large and beautiful collection box at the monthly meetings, produced by Mr. Solly, and if we have not got any means of disposing of the funds, the Headquarters will have.

I really only want to say one other thing, and that is in order to provide the money for these things I am taking the advice of Brigadier Firth. We have elected two Vice-Presidents, and I would like to say to the Southgate members of this Branch, the first Vice-President is Major J. H. E. Baker. We have also, in deference to his past association, also elected your Chairman, Major G. G. Freemantle.

May I thank Major-General White personally and very sincerely for proposing the toast, particularly by virtue of his own personal presence here tonight. It is not every Branch that Major-General White honours by his presence."

The toast to the visitors was proposed by Major G. G. Freemantle, Vice-President and the Branch Chairman.

"It is, of course, my privilege and pleasure to propose the toast to our visitors and to bid you all welcome.

Major-General White, Colonel Commandant, Chairman of the Royal Signals Association, Chief Signal Officer of the 8th Army in the Western Desert, Sicily, Italy and parts of North Western Europe, the most outstanding and distinguished of our senior officers. He was known by all rank and file (to his knowledge) as General 'Slap' White. We are delighted that he is here with us this evening. 'May his shadow never grow less.'

We are also very much honoured by having with us the Mayor and Mayoress of Hornsey. We feel that it is very appropriate that we should have them as our guests as we meet at the Drill Hall of the 7th Bn. Middlesex Regiment, T.A., in Hornsey. How delighted we are that you have honoured us this evening.

Of course, Brigadier Henry Firth needs no introduction, genial and hard working Secretary of the Royal Signals Association, and we do hope he will be our guest for many years to come.

Major John Baker—he is not a visitor, he is one of us. Twenty-five years ago we formed the first of what we know as the No. 3 Company, 44th Divisional Signals from the staff of the Standard Telephones and Cables Ltd., and at that time we had the privilege of working with John Baker at the Southgate Section, and we know how much we owe to his leadership and organising ability.

All the rest of our visitors, we do bid you welcome, in particular the wives of the members. When we have our Standard at Catterick we do hope the ladies will grant their husbands a week-end pass for July 4th/5th.

In conclusion, we are enjoying your company, and we hope you are enjoying ours."

The Mayor of Hornsey, Ald. G. W. Watson, J.P., in responding, said:

"My opening gambit this evening is an abject apology for arriving so late. Almost five-sixths of my term of office having gone, I think I can honestly say that it is the first time we have been late, and I deeply deplore that it should be this particular function at which we have arrived so late.

I do not know why you have honoured the Mayoress and me to be here this evening. I am proud to know that you do meet in our Borough. I do know that you are clutching a viper to your bosom this evening. During the action which we had with Comrade Schicklegruber, I wore a blue uniform. But allow me to hasten to add that it was light blue and not dark blue, so I was a member of the Junior Service. It was my dear wife who decided that I should go into the R.A.F., and thus save me from a fate worse than death.

But of course I did meet the Army. I came in very close contact with the Army in Germany. I was involved in the disarmament fiddle for eighteen months. The thing which impressed us most about the Army was the discipline.

You may notice that I am wearing badge and ribbon this evening. It has nothing to do with the recent incident in South London. A Mayor wears his chain only in his own borough; badge and ribbon when visiting another. In future though, I shall sleep with it under my pyjamas instead of outside.

I am not a soccer man, being born and bred rugger. But being born and bred in a village in Nottinghamshire, I am glad to accept your congratulations for Notts Forest reaching the Cup Final for the first time this century.

It is not a very easy task to get down to business. I have to attempt to express warm thanks for your hospitality here this evening. I have that privilege and I hope I do not fail in expressing the gratitude and privilege which we feel in being with the Branch this evening. We hope that as time passes you will grow from strength to strength, not only in this atmosphere of comradeship but also in the wonderful work you are doing for people less fortunate than yourselves.

On behalf of all guests I say thank you very much indeed.

Although I am not a Signal or an Army man, I hope I may have the privilege of being here again with my Mayoress."

The Toastmaster and M.C. was Mr. J. T. Murphy, and music for dancing was provided by The Grovelanders.

ROYAL SIGNALS HOCKEY

The Corps Hockey Team had a very enjoyable game against the Royal Military College of Science at the Officers' Club, Aldershot, on 18th February, 1959. The College won by two goals to one and deserved to do so by virtue of being quicker on the ball and generally faster than the Corps Team in all respects. Playing conditions were ideal, and although the work of the Corps defence was reasonably good, there was very little thrust among the forwards. We deserved to be beaten.

The same team, apart from three positional changes, beat the Royal Army Ordnance Corps at Blackdown by four goals to nil on the following day. This too, was a most enjoyable game and, on this occasion, the Corps team, by their speed and general play, was infinitely better than it had been the day before. Captain M. A. T. Hartnett played especially well at inside right, where his experience and constructive play were a great asset.

Lieutenant J. Cook has been playing regularly for the Army this season, and Lieutenant A. B. Byng has played occasionally.

Corps "Jimmies" have been awarded for the 1958/59 season to the following:

Captain S. C. Finch
Captain M. A. T. Hartnett
Captain K. Kirkby
Captain P. C. Tripp
Lieutenant A. B. Byng
Lieutenant J. Cook
Lieutenant P. D. E. Gregory
Sergeant S. B. C. Peberdy
Signalman N. E. F. Harris

QUIZ

It must be clearly understood that the Editor cannot possibly be held responsible for the absolute accuracy of the answers given. THE WIRE *is NOT an official publication and anyone who takes a question and answer in this Quiz as being "published by authority" may do himself considerable ill service.*

Answers to Quiz Questions on page 88.

1. Yes. He will not, however, be considered again until he withdraws his refusal and one year elapses after that withdrawal.
2. For (a) Not exceeding 96 Rank and File.
   (b) Not exceeding 48 Rank and File.
3. Royal Norfolk Regiment (Britannia).
4. Riding—Ability to ride and jump.
   Fencing—Eppé.
   Shooting—Pistol or revolver, 25 metres.
   Athletics—4,000 metres cross country.
5. At Oxford where Hobson, owner of a livery stable, would not allow favouritism, no matter what the rank or wealth of the applicant to hire a hack, he had to take take the next one in line whether it was good, bad or indifferent. Therefore "Hobson's choice" was no choice at all.
6. Supreme Allied Commander Europe.
7. (a) Mississippi-Missouri (4,221 miles); (2nd, Amazon).
   (b) Australia; (2nd, Greenland).
   (c) Ben Nevis (4,406 ft.); (2nd, Snowdon).
8. Plenty of Fresh Air. Loosen all tight clothing, but keep patient warm. Give hot sweet tea when patient is able to drink it. No alcohol.
9. A soft nosed bullet or one which has been "nicked" at the top. These produce a very bad wound since they spread when they strike the body. The use of this type of bullet was forbidden by the Geneva Convention.



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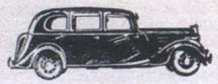
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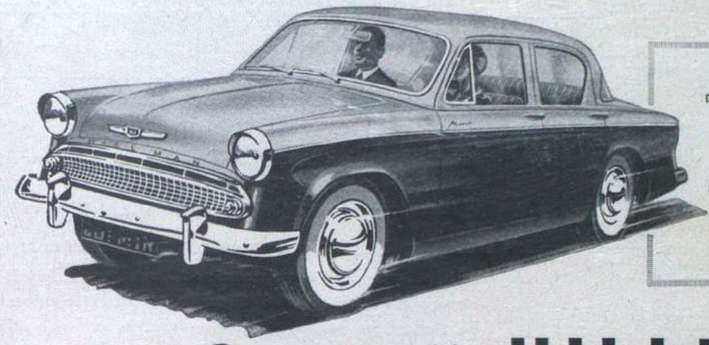
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THE WIRE

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

The Official Organ of the Signals Association

Editor:
BRIGADIER H. R. FIRTH

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☆

MAY • 1959

Vol. 13 *(New Series)* **No. 5**

Editorial

ON the occasion of the birthday 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., the following telegram was sent:

> ***"All Ranks your Corps send you loyal and affectionate Birthday Greetings (.)***
> ***Representative Colonel Commandant Royal Signals."***

To this Her Royal Highness was most graciously pleased to reply:

> ***"The telegraph I have received from you and all ranks of my Royal Corps of Signals on the occasion of my birthday has given me very great pleasure. Will you please convey my grateful thanks to them all for this message.***
> ***Mary, Colonel-in-Chief."***

* * * *

ALL will mourn the death on 2nd April, 1959, of General Sir H. Colville B. Wemyss, K.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., the first Officer of Royal Signals to be a member of the Army Council. A fuller notice appears on page 119 of this number of "The Wire."

In all his very busy life he never ceased his most active interest in the work of the Association, of which he was a Trustee from 1943 until 1959.

"THE WIRE"

During 1958 and until now the number of copies of THE WIRE bought by serving and ex-Service members of the Corps has decreased. Between May, 1957, and May, 1959, this loss amounted to 17½%.

This is in part due to reduction in the numbers of those serving in the Corps and partly due to the disbandment or change in composition of many Units.

In 1958 it was necessary to increase the cost of each copy from 1/- to 1/3—a small sum to enable the magazine of Royal Signals to keep up its standard.

It was hoped that this would enable a substantial profit to be shown. Alas, the decrease in sales, and indeed other causes caused a drop in revenue from advertisements and production was perhaps a little lavish in view of increasing charges for printing.

If we could sell another 500 copies of "The Wire" each month there would be a very considerable increase in income, against cost of production. Some Regiments and Squadrons accept for sale many more copies of THE WIRE than apparently exactly similar Units. Cannot we all do a little better?

QUIZ

In January, 1959, as an innovation THE WIRE commenced to publish each month a small number of Questions and Answers. In the Editorial of that month the Question was put "Is this a good idea?". Clearly it is not and the Quiz will cease after the last set of Questions and Answers in this the May number.

Obituary

GENERAL SIR HENRY COLVILLE BARCLAY WEMYSS, K.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O., M.C.



No-one can have done more for the Corps as a whole or for individual members of the Corps than General Sir Colville Wemyss, who died at his home at Warsash, Hants, on 2nd April, 1959. "Chicken" Wemyss, as he was known throughout the Army, was commissioned into the Royal Engineers in 1910 after having been the Senior Under-Officer and having won the sword of honour at the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich. He was soon posted to the 2nd Divisional Signal Company, R.E., and served with the R.E. Signal Service throughout the First World War. In 1914 he went with the British Expeditionary Force to France, where he won the D.S.O. In 1915 he was sent to Gallipoli and thence to Egypt, where he became Staff Officer to the Director of Army Signals, Brigadier-General Bowman-Manifold. For his services in Egypt and Palestine he was awarded as a Captain the comparatively rare distinction of a double brevet, which accorded him immediate promotion to Brevet Major, and deferred promotion to Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel on attaining the substantive rank of Major.

In 1919 he was posted to the School of Signals, where he pioneered the original electrical syllabus of the "Q" courses which commenced in 1920. On the formation of the Royal Corps of Signals he elected to transfer from the Royal Engineers. A year or two later he passed into the Staff College and between 1925 and 1929 he was a Staff Officer in S.D.6 at the War Office. During this time the Corps was experiencing such serious teething troubles that a proposal was made at a very high level that it should be re-absorbed into the Royal Engineers. Wemyss had the temerity to cross swords with his seniors by submitting a reasoned memorandum against this proposal. This was not too well received, but at any rate nothing more was heard of the proposal, for which intervention the Corps may have been greatly indebted to him.

After a period of regimental duty he was again in the War Office in 1935, as A.A.G. of the Mobilisation Branch. He attended the Imperial Defence College in 1938, whence he returned to become Director of Mobilisation in 1939 and Adjutant-General in 1940, at the age of 49. In the following year he was selected for a new and highly important post, Chief of the British Army Staff in Washington. He finished his active career as Military Secretary from 1942-46.

On retirement from the Army he was offered the post of Director of the Brewers' Society, which entailed much hard work of a very varied nature. Despite this, he gave a great deal of his time to voluntary work with many different organisations. He was a Colonel Commandant of Royal Signals from 1942 to 1948, and was Honorary Colonel of Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment, T.A., from 1947 to 1957.

Always an indefatigable worker, General Wemyss had a very wide knowledge of many subjects and a remarkable flair for elucidating the essentials of any problem. During his distinguished career he was time and again called upon to play a leading part in some new activity or departure from the commonplace. Always calm and unruffled, he was ever ready to find time to help others with their personal difficulties. He had a very warm human sympathy and right to the end took an intense interest in Corps matters.

By his death the Corps has lost a wise counsellor and one of its most dearly loved members. We extend to his widow and to his family our deepest sympathy in their bereavement.

Corps Silver

THE AUSTRIA PLAQUE

On the withdrawal from Austria in 1955 of all Allied Forces Royal Signals were allotted a portion of the surplus funds with which to purchase a piece of silver commemorative of the service in Austria of the Corps.

It was decided to have a plate inscribed with the map of Austria and showing the four zones of occupation—American, French, British and Russian.

The main towns in which Royal Signals served are also shown.



PERSONAL COLUMN

London Gazette

10th March, 1959

Captain J. E. Trotter retires 1st March, 1959.

Captain (Hon. Major) The Earl of Malmesbury, T.D., is appointed Hon. Colonel No. 1 Special Communications Regiment, Royal Signals (T.A.), 10th March, 1959, in succession to General Sir Edwin Morris, K.C.B., O.B.E., M.C., tenure expired.

13th March, 1959

Lieutenant (Tfc. Offr.) R. L. Ruckledge to be Captain (Tfc. Offr.) 14th March, 1959.

17th March, 1959

Her Majesty The Queen has been graciously pleased to confer the following awards:

Army Emergency Reserve Decoration: Captain (Hon. Major) V. H. G. Page.

Territorial Efficiency Decoration: Captain P. G. Bennett.

Captain (Q.M.) E. C. Lonton relinquishes his commission on completion of service, 14th March, 1959, and is granted hon. rank of Captain (Q.M.).

Captain (Q.M.) H. E. Strype relinquishes his commission on completion of service, 15th March, 1959.

31st March, 1959

Territorial Army

Captain (Hon. Major) J. G. Morrison, T.D., D.L., J.P., M.P., is appointed Hon. Colonel, 63 Command (M) Signal Regiment (T.A.), 31st March, 1959.

3rd April, 1959

A.E.R. Lieutenant-Colonel G. H. T. Shrimpton, T.D., to be Colonel, 1st April, 1959.

7th April, 1959

Captain (Q.M.) H. Sorfleet relinquishes his commission on completion of service, 5th April, 1959.

10th April, 1959

Lieutenant-Colonel E. G. Day, O.B.E., T.D., retired on 9th April, 1959.

14th April, 1959

Awarded for Distinguished Service in Cyprus during the period 1st July to 31st December, 1958:

M.B.E. Major J. M. W. Badcock.

Mentioned in Despatches:

Major P. Wolfendale.
Captain A. M. Hewson.
Staff Sergeant H. Craig.
Staff Sergeant E. P. D. Howe.
Corporal R. M. Walker.

Movements — Officers

Lieutenant-Colonel P. F. Pentreath	To	Joint Services Staff College (Course).
Lieutenant-Colonel J. H. Collis ...	,,	4th Divisional Signal Regiment.
Major F. J. Brooks	,,	3 G.H.Q. Signal Regiment.
Major J. M. W. Badcock	,,	Joint Services Staff College (Course).
Major D. S. A. Hutley	,,	90 Signal Regiment.
Major F. M. Holliday	,,	3rd Training Regiment.
Major L. G. Swan	,,	B.J.S.M. (AS), Washington.
Major W. T. M. Gaskell	,,	Ministry of Supply.
Major W. A. Sykes	,,	H.Q., Northern Army Group.
Major W. L. Ward	,,	4th Divisional Signal Regiment.
Major D. M. Haslehust	,,	War Office.
Major N. Pidsley	,,	War Office.
Major S. E Dutton, M.B.E.	,,	G.H.Q., M.E.L.F.
Major D. E. Warren	,,	G.H.Q., FARELF.
Major W. Harbottle	,,	H.Q., B.A.O.R.
Major W. T. A. Collyer	,,	90 Signal Regiment.
Major C. Mitchell	,,	H.Q., N.I.D.
Major P. H. F. Webb	,,	J.S.A.W.C.
Major M. M. Barker	,,	H.Q., B.A.O.R.
Major G. M. Allen	,,	1 Divisional Signal Regiment.
Major (Q.M.) R. F. C. Ashford ...	,,	Regimental Pay Office, Newcastle-on-Tyne.
Major (Tfs. Offr.) J. J. Pearson ...	,,	2 Wireless Regiment.
Lieutenant (Tfc. Offr.) R. Davidge	,,	H.Q., A.F.N.E., Oslo.
Lieutenant (Q.M.) J. Worsley ...	,,	Junior Leaders Regiment.

Retirements

Lieutenant-Colonel E. G. Day, O.B.E., T.D.	9 April, 1959.
Lieutenant-Colonel A. C. R. Stead, O.B.E.	9 February, 1959.
Major J. D. Norfolk	2 April, 1959.
Major (T.O.T.) J. A. Brown ...	16 March, 1959.
Major G. H. Axson	16 March, 1959.

Births

BUNNET.—To Signalman and Mrs. Bunnet, a son, Cheyne Larue, at Clacton Hospital, on 10th February, 1959.

Marriages

AIKEN—EATON.—Lance-Corporal Iiken to Miss Elizabeth Fairweather Eaton, at Arbroath, on 27th February, 1959.

WESTCOTT—GRIFFITHS.—Signalman Westcott to Margaret Griffiths, at Cardiff, on 20th February, 1959.

Deaths

ROBERTS.—Ex-Signalman L. Wynne-Roberts, of 72, Crescent Road, Alexandra Park, London, N.22.

STAINTHORPE.—23497415 Signalman R. G. Stainthorpe, of 1 Wireless Regiment, B.A.O.R., on 30th March, 1959, in B.M.H., Hanover, B.A.O.R.

LEWIS.—Ex-Corporal G. J. Lewis, of 40, Highland Gardens, Shildon, Co. Durham, on 23rd March, 1959, aged 52.

RUSHIN.—23490265 Driver K. W. Rushin, on 4th April, 1959, in Cyprus. H/A 138 Bardolph Street, Leicester.

NEWTON.—Ex-R.S.M. A. A. Newton, in Pinderfields Hospital, Wakefield, on 23rd March, 1959.

RIGGOTT.—Ex-Signalman K. Riggott, of 177, West Street, Doe Lea, near Chesterfield, Derbyshire, on 2nd January, 1959, aged 28.

PUSSER.—At his home in London, F. C. Pusser, Royal Signals 1942-46. Association 1947 to 1959.

FORTESCUE-HITCHINS.—Brigadier E. N. Fortescue-Hitchins, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., of Border Lodge, Brewham, Bruton, Somerset, on 10th April, 1959.

Arrivals and Departures

Eastern Command Signal Squadron

Arrivals: Sergeant A. Smith.

Departures: Major J. A. Brown, W.O.s II Eley, Kitson, Sergeants Melia, Evans, Marriot.

1 Training Regiment

Arrivals: W.O.II D. Cunningham, Staff Sergeants R. F. Fairbairn and H. Davies.

Departures: W.O.II J. Beale.

School of Signals

Arrivals: Staff Sergeant C. Blake and W.O.II R. A. Riley.

Departures: Lieutenant-Colonel A. F. Freeman, Captain (Q.M.) H. Sorfleet, W.O.II H. Golding, Staff Sergeants R. F. Fairbairn, H. Davies, B. A. R. Yates, U. C. Brown, R. J. Hoe, R. J. Murray, J. B. Jupe and K. A. Rutter, Sergeants A. W. Bird and G. A. Aven and Acting Sergeant E. Hitchmough.

4 Training Regiment

Arrivals: Sergeants R. Jones, S. Hamer (R.E.M.E.), L. Appleton (R.A.M.C.), W. W. Moss, B. A. C. Burt.

Departures: Sergeants R. G. Turvey, L. A. Makinson, H. Bain (R.A.M.C.), Staff Sergeant T. Henderson, Acting Sergeant J. E. Jordan (R.A.E.C.).

2 Wireless Regiment

Arrivals H W.O.I/I J. I. Jenkins, Sergeants A. G. Riddel and F. W. Jones.

Departures: Majors W. T. A. Collyer and J. H. Smith, R.S.M. J. T. Holmes, Staff Sergeant G. S. MacDonald, Sergeants S. M. Ferguson, A. Gordon and L. Cooper.

OBITUARY

R.S.M. A. A. NEWTON

R.S.M. A. A. Newton, Royal Signals 1927 to 1949, Royal Signals Association, Life Member 1955, member of Leeds Branch and York Branch. He died in Pinderfields Hospital, Wakefield, on 23rd March, 1959. Captain (Q.M.) J. R. M. Sweeney, R.S.M. E. R. Wall, Staff Sergeants J. Reynolds, R. Pearson and Sergeant J. Northgreaves represented 49th West Riding Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A., at the funeral on 26th March. Flowers were sent by the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess of the Regiment, Royal Signals Association Leeds Branch, Royal Signals Retired Sergeants, Leeds.

MILITARY ESSAY COMPETITIONS

BERTRAND STEWARD Prize Essay Competition, 1959. Prize £80. Closing date, 22nd June, 1959.

Subject: "As a nation we have to be prepared for cold war, limited war and global war. In each case the individual soldier is the same, and in one, if not two, of the cases, we will be involved in an exchange of nuclear weapons. Though we have always had training problems in preparing men for warfare in environments different from their own, the preparation of the soldier for the unknown quality of nuclear war will be an infinitely greater problem than equipping the townsman for the jungle. It is likely to need psychology as well as military instruction.

Moreover, recently it has been said that some of our methods are out of date (e.g., drill to instil discipline) as a different kind of soldier will be needed on the nuclear battlefield.

Discuss these problems from the Regimental officer's point of view and give your views as to how they can best be met."

General conditions for this essay competition are contained in ACI 3/1959.

GEORGE KNIGHT CLOWES Memorial. Prize Essay Competition, 1960. Prizes, First prize £35; Second prize, £15. Closing date, 31st March, 1960.

Subject: "Since 1945 drastic changes have taken place in Britain's military commitments, and in the likely pattern of a future war.

What, in your opinion, should be the future role of the Territorial Army in these new conditions?

Give your views on how it should be organised, equipped and trained to fulfill the role, or roles, you suggest."

General conditions for this essay competition will be the same as for the 1959 competition and can be found in ACI 350 of 1958.

GOLD MEDAL and TRENCH GASCOIGNE Prize Essay Competition, 1959. Prize, Thirty Guineas and Gold Medal. Closing date, 16th November, 1959.

Subject: 1. N.A.T.O. was established in order to secure Europe against Soviet aggression; so far this has been achieved. Soviet aggression is, however, taking place beyond the boundaries of N.A.T.O. Can this best be halted by extending the sphere of influence of N.A.T.O. or is there a need for some global organisation to embrace existing alliances such as N.A.T.O., S.E.A.T.O and the Baghdad Pact?

or

2. "Seapower will be vital for the Western Alliance in any future all-out contest between East and West" (Field Marshal Montgomery). Discuss this in the light of the Communist threat.

General conditions for this essay competition are contained in ACI 82/1959.

THE ARMY ART SOCIETY

Patron: Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Kent

The Society, which exists to encourage art in the Army and Sister Services, is holding its 28th Exhibition during October, 1959, at the Commonwealth Institute, South Kensington, S.W.7.

All ranks of the Army, Royal Navy and Royal Air Force, past or present, permanent or temporary, may submit works for consideration.

The Society is an entirely unofficial organisation and for several years very successful Exhibitions have been held in London each autumn. Service artists can derive more interest from their hobby by aiming at submitting works for the Exhibitions, which also give them an opportunity to compare their standard and style with others.

This year there will be two awards of five guinea vouchers and two awards of one-and-a-half guinea vouchers (on Messrs. Winsor and Newton's shop) for the pictures deemed by the Committee the best and second best, both in oils and water colour, submitted by non-member "serving" artists.

As the Society is non-profit making, the entrance and hanging fees are kept as low as possible.

Intending exhibitors are invited to apply after the 1st of May for particulars. Applications should be addressed to: The Honorary Secretary, The Army Arts Society, Captain A. J. Daldy, 16, King Edward's Grove, Teddington, Middlesex.

Forthcoming Events

10 Wireless Training Squadron. Regimental Week-end at Garnts Hey, Near Loughborough.

Saturday, 23rd May. Afternoon, Gala. Evening, Dance.
Sunday, 24th May. Church Parade. Band Concert.

Loughborough and District Branch of the Association are assisting. Royal Signals Band (non-touring) is to play throughout.

Any other members of the Association who wish to attend should apply for details to Mr. J. S. Peddie, 150, Byron Street, Loughborough, Leicestershire.

* * *

Wednesday, 27th May, 1959 ... Corps Dinner, Hyde Park Hotel.

Thursday, 28th May, 1959 ... Central Committee Meeting, Royal Signals Association. Regular Officers' "At Home," Hyde Park Hotel.

* * *

THE CORPS CRICKET MATCH against ROYAL ARMOURED CORPS

takes place at THE OVAL, LONDON, on 24th/25th JUNE, 1959, and not 23rd/24th June, as stated in the February number of THE WIRE.

Admission is free, especially to those wearing a Corps Tie.

Tea can be obtained from the normal catering facilities of The Oval.

The Corps Band, or a R.A.C. Band, will play on both days for about an hour on either side of the afternoon tea interval.

Royal Tournament, Earl's Court, London

3rd to 20th June, 1959, includes the Royal Signals Motor Cycle Display.

Indian Army Reunion

26th June, 1959. Hurlingham Club. Tickets, 12/- each, from Lieutenant-Colonel D. J. C. Wiseman, 59, Hyde Park Gate, London, S.W.7.

Saturday, 4th July, 1959 Sunday, 5th July, 1959 ... Royal Signals Association Annual General Meeting. Corps Week-end and Association Reunion at CATTERICK.

The 1959 Searchlight Tattoo

at the White City, London, organised by S.S.A.F.A. will be held on evenings between 17th and 28th August inclusive, with a matinee on Saturday, 22nd August. This year the Tattoo begins at 8 p.m. and finishes a little earlier (10.15 p.m.), so that people can catch their trains more easily. Tickets can be obtained from the Box Office, White City Stadium, Wood Lane, W.12 (Shepherds Bush 7220).

26th National Radio and Television Exhibition

Earls Court, London, 26th August to 5th September, 1959.

Ex-Boys' Sixth Annual Dinner

Saturday, 26th September, 1959. 6.30 for 7.30 p.m. At Victory Ex-Services' Club, 63/79, Seymour Street, London, W.2. One minute from Marble Arch Station and first left up Edgware Road. Lounge suit or uniform.

Tickets 17/6 flat rate for ex-Boys, their wives or guests. Apply preferably not later than 1st July to F. W. JACOB, Esq., T.A. CENTRE, 54 (EA) INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A., 40, ASHBURNHAM ROAD, BEDFORD, who is Hon. Secretary and Treasurer. Cheques payable "F. W. Jacob, ex-Boys' Dinner A/C."

Lieutenant-Colonel E. G. Brice, O.B.E., Royal Signals, has assumed chairmanship vice Major F. G. Strange (Retd.), who remains publicity member of the Committee.

Royal Signals Officers' Golfing Society, Fixtures, 1959

Date	Opponents	Course
Wed., 20th May	Royal Engineers	Worplesdon
Fri., 17th July	Royal Artillery	Sunningdale
Thurs., 10th Sept.	R.A.M.C.	Swinley Forest
Mon., 21st Sept.	A.G.S. Meeting	Sunningdale
Tues., 22nd Sept.	A.G.S. Meeting	Sunningdale
Mon., 28th Sept.	Autumn Meeting	Worplesdon
Tues., 29th Sept.	Autumn Meeting	Worplesdon
Wed., 30th Sept.	Autumn Meeting	Worplesdon
Sun., 4th Oct.	Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst	Camberley Heath
Thurs., 22nd Oct	R.A.O.C.	Swinley Forest

Royal Signals Cricket Club, Fixtures, 1959

20th May	v.	Welbeck College	Worksop
8th-9th June	v.	R.A.O.C.	Bramley, Hants.
10th June	v.	R.M.A., Sandhurst	Camberley
11th-12th June	v.	R.A.S.C.	Aldershot
20th-21st June	v.	R.E.	Aldershot
24th-25th June	v.	R.A.C.	Kennington Oval
8th-9th July	v.	R.E.M.E.	Colchester

Unit Cricket Officers who consider any players up to Corps standard should forward full details to Captain S. G. de Clive-Lowe, 3rd Training Regiment Royal Signals, Lincoln.

QUIZ

1. There are two Territorial Regiments of Royal Signals who wear different cap badges from the Corps Cap Badge. Who are these Regiments and what are their cap badges?
2. (a) What colours are carried by most Infantry Battalions on Ceremonial Occasions?
   (b) Who carries the Colours?
3. Which Regiments include a "bugle" in the cap badge?
4. Who is the Old Lady of Threadneedle Street?
5. When was the last Cavalry charge by the British Army?
6. When does an R.S.M. draw his sword when on parade?
7. What is meant by "being in the Doldrums"?
8. How many pints of blood are there in the human body—approximately?
9. What is the Goldstick in waiting?

See page 144 for Answers to Quiz.

This article is reproduced from "The Times" of 9th April, 1959, through the great kindness of the Editor and the Author.

Lieutenant-Colonel A. J. Deane-Drummond, M.C., who is at present commanding the 22 Special Air Service Regiment, is a distinguished officer of the Royal Corps of Signals, and it is for this reason in particular that this account of a very remarkable, but insufficiently known operation, is repeated in THE WIRE.

Brilliant But Little Known British Desert Action

FROM OUR MILITARY CORRESPONDENT

OF the countless small campaigns fought by the British Army the recent operations in Oman are likely to rank as high as any. It is now possible to piece together the story of these operations, in which the hired donkey was as important as the modern aeroplane, and an Arab legend that had been 10 centuries in the making was turned to remarkable account by soldiers who combined intelligence with physical fitness.

The situation last autumn was this. The rebels had retreated after the defeat of the Omani Liberation Army by British troops operating at the Sultan's request in August, 1957, to the Jebel Akhdar—a kind of mountain oasis. The mountain is 7,400 ft. to 8,000 ft. high with sides that are near-vertical in many places. On top is a plateau about 20 miles by 10, where men have lived for centuries and the rainfall is enough for peaches and pomegranates to flourish. It is described by Lieutenant-Colonel A. J. Deane-Drummond, who led the 22nd Special Air Service Regiment to the top in the recent operations, as a Shangri-La in the desert.

The rebels were led by three men, Suleiman bin Himyar, the self-styled "Lord of the Green Mountain" and paramount Sheikh of the Beni Riyam tribe; Ghalib, the Imam of Oman; and Talib, the latter's younger brother. With them were 180 hard-core rebels and about 500 armed tribesmen. They had plenty of arms, including both light and heavy American mines as supplied to the Saudi Arabian forces. Between March and November last year the rebels blew up 150 vehicles by the indiscriminate laying of mines. A squadron of the Life Guards which went out to Muscat last August escorted all convoys in central Oman in their Ferret scout cars. It was a hazardous duty, for they were blown up so regularly that they were virtually acting as mine-sweepers. All 18 of their Ferrets were mined at one time or another.

Such was the situation when two squadrons of the 22nd Special Air Service Regiment arrived in Muscat from Malaya, the first in November and the second in January. They had little information to go on. The rebels had plenty of money, more than enough to offset the price put on their heads by the Government (13,000 Maria Therese dollars on Ghalib and Talib, 5,000 on Suleiman) for which there were no takers. Above all, the rebels could not believe that Colonel D. de C. Smiley, the commander of the Sultan's Armed Forces, and the exiguous British forces attached to him, could be in earnest. In the tenth century the Persians tried unsuccessfuly to conquer the mountain with, it is said, 10,000 troops, of whom 9,000 were killed. For ten centuries, therefore, the legend had flourished that the Jebel was impregnable.

As it was clear that no guides would be forthcoming from the local population, the parachutists' first task was to find out the routes up the mountain for themselves. Reconnaissances were made on both sides of the mountain, and on the north side a half squadron of the S.A.S. seized a footing at the top, about 3,000 yards short of a strong rebel picquet at Aqbat al Dhafar. All patrolling took place at night, since daylight movement on the sides of the mountain, where there was no cover, would have been suicidal against the rebel defences, which were based in caves covering the known donkey and foot tracks up the Jebel. The going was extremely tough: special rubber-soled boots with which the troops were issued lasted about ten days only, and many of the slopes had gradients of one in one.

There followed a month of small but fierce engagements with the rebels, who combined fire and movement in a way that indicated efficient training. At the end of December an S.A.S. patrol had a notable success, killing nine rebels without loss after almost hand-to-hand fighting in a dawn raid on a cave. Altogether, "D" Squadron of the S.A.S. killed about 40 hard-core rebels during this period. To allow the S.A.S. to patrol without losing their precarious base on top of the mountain, a dismounted troop of the Life Guards was formed to hold it. This troop used up every available man, including R.A.M.C. orderlies, R.E.M.E. mechanics, and signallers, and was equipped with Browning machine-guns taken from the Ferrets which had been mined. Detachments from the Trucial Oman Scouts were also employed.

Meanwhile a team of more than 100 donkeys with civilian handlers was being built up, partly as an insurance against the failure of air supplies and partly to maintain the troops nearest to the bottom of the mountain. The problem that faced Colonel Deane-Drummond was that all possible routes up the mountain was overlooked by the rebels. Movement up any of the wadis would be very hazardous because of the high ground, sometimes as much as 4,000 ft., on either side. It was therefore vital to draw the attention of the rebels away from the chosen route and achieve surprise.

This was done most skilfully. First, an unlikely route was chosen, on the high ground above the Kamah wadi, which meant 10 hours' hard slogging over the rough face of the mountain, with the aim of using a faint track up to the plateau which could be seen on air photographs. Then feint attacks were put in at Aqbat al Dhafar, which was seized after two hours' fighting at close quarters, and at another place called Tanuf, eight hours' journey away but within easy reach of the real route chosen for the attack. The S.A.S. Squadron which had captured Aqbat then marched over appallingly difficult country to join the other S.A.S. squadron at Tanuf, and at last light on January 26 both squadrons were switched to Kamah camp, the final assembly point.

The hope was that the rebels would think the attack was coming from either Aqbat or Tanuf, with the latter the main threat since the march of the Aqbat squadron down the mountain to Tanuf could probably not be kept secret. The civilian donkey handlers were an obvious security risk, and the final step in the deception plan exploited this suspicion. Twenty-four hours before the assault, four of the 100 donkey handlers were given a confidential briefing in which they were told that they would be taking their donkeys up the Tanuf route. They were warned on pain of death not to pass on this information. Inevitably, the rebels were apprised within 12 hours that the attack would be coming from Tanuf.

The march started at 2030 hours on January 26, with the S.A.S. troops leading, followed by the dismounted troop of the Life Guards, with a company of the Northern Frontier Regiment (part of the Sultan's armed forces) in the rear. Surprise was complete. The rebels had doubled their picquets to more than 100 strong at Aqbat, and had taken all their picquets except one away from the chosen route to reinforce the Tanuf area. The picquet that remained was the crew of a .5 Browning machine-gun which had proved too heavy to move.

This post was winkled out by the S.A.S. on the way up without loss. The two men manning the machine-gun, which could have mown down the attackers in the moonlight, had withdrawn to their cave, secure in the knowledge of ten centuries that Jebel was impregnable. The only loss sustained during the assault was when a stray bullet from a sniper hit and exploded a grenade which an S.A.S. trooper was carrying on his back, mortally wounding two men.

The most anxious moment came when the faint track which had been seen on the air photographs could not be found. It was not in fact discovered until daylight, but in the meantime two S.A.S. troops dropped their rucksacks and pushed on unencumbered, reaching the summit of the mountain 15 minutes after first light.

Possibly the most awkward feature of the ascent was the reluctance of a few of the donkeys bred on the plains of Aden and Somalia to climb the mountain. In theory they were there to carry loads of 50 lb. or more for the soldiers. In practice, some highly disgruntled soldiers had on one occasion to carry both loads and donkeys up part of the mountain.

Once the troops reached the top, resistance crumbled. The R.A.F. kept up almost continuous patrols over the plateau in Venoms, and the rebels could see supply parachutes floating down from Valettas. By January 29 resistance had virtually ceased and the rebel armoury was soon rounded up. It included 12 Bren guns, eight mortars, six heavy meachine-guns, rifles, hand-grenades, light and heavy mines, and much ammunition.

It had been victory at the first attempt by a numerically inferior force against an able enemy with geography on his side. The mountain itself was conquered by the astonishing physical fitness of the British troops. Within a few days of their arrival from the swamps of Malaya the S.A.S. troopers were operating with their usual efficiency 7,000 ft. above sea level in totally novel conditions, and the dismounted troop of the Life Guards had turned themselves into first-class infantry. As for the enemy, they were conquered by surprise, not slaughter: a brilliant example of economy in the use of force.

PROMOTIONS

The following promotions were authorised during the month of March, 1959 :—

Technical Roster

To S. Sgt.	22248735	(470)	Sgt.	Saxton, H. J.
To Sgt.	22836476	(1030)	A/Sgt.	Field, A. J.
	2549630	(1060)	A/Sgt.	Wise, E. W.
	22384533	(1220)	A/Sgt.	Glendinning, J. S. I.
	22537098	(1310)	A/Sgt.	Cook, A. J.
	22761293	(1330)	Cpl.	Freeston, D. J.
	19037429	(1070)	A/Sgt.	Nixon, E. D.
	22295982	(1340)	Cpl.	Fraser, M.

Operating Roster

To Sgt.	22248040	(510)	A/Sgt.	Hunt, F.
	22801621	(600)	Cpl.	Butterton, A. S.
	22515008	(630)	Cpl.	Biffen, N. G.
	22537532	(740)	A/Sgt.	Cooper, W. A.
	22569225	(750)	A/Sgt.	Hazard, J. Q.
	22952052	(770)	Cpl.	Higgins, J. M.

Foreman of Signals Roster

To W.O.II	2548924	(440)	S Sgt.	Fairbairn, R. F.
	2548640	(600)	S Sgt.	Brown, N. C.
	22111588	(820)	S Sgt.	Jupe, J. B.
	2548923	(880)	S Sgt.	Capon, D. W.
	22242523	(890)	S Sgt.	Rutter, K. A.
	22306345	(930)	S Sgt.	Davies, H.
	2549499	(940)	S Sgt.	Grigsby, J. E.
	2549785	(1010)	S Sgt.	Mingaud, S. R.
	22309250	(1084)	S Sgt.	Hoe, R. J.

General Trades and Duties

To Sgt.	22265254	(200)	A/Sgt.	Hardman, P. R.
	21005235	(220)	A/Sgt.	Amers, A.
	22515704	(240)	A/Sgt.	Horne, A. F.
	22548295	(254)	A/Sgt.	Neill, S. G.
	21005722	(80)	Cpl.	Kent, V. T.
	19047399	(274)	Cpl.	Price, L.

Signal Centre Supervisor Roster

To W.O.I	22265320	(230)	A/W.O.I	Gill, J. E.

Clerical Roster

To S Sgt.	22242105	(240)	A/S Sgt.	Levins, M. J.

Regimental Duty Roster

To W.O.I	2326640	(894)	W.O.II	Haughney, D.
To W.O.II	2547752	(1370)	A/W.O.II	Reid, R.
	2339500	(1380)	A/W.O.II	Crummey, G. A.
	2340172	(440)	A/W.O.II	Hammond, W. T.
	2327640	(1030)	A/W.O.II	MacDonald, A. R.
To S Sgt.	22063793	(80)	Sgt.	Edwards, M. G. A.
	2573261	(440)	Sgt.	Thorpe, A.

INSERTIONS

Operating Roster

14401990	S Sgt.	Boxall, R. K.	152
22308700	Sgt.	Smith, P.	4724

Signal Centre Supervisor Roster

14759394	W.O.II	Bee, D. E.	774
14453145	S Sgt.	Davies, A. J. D.	22
19041120	S Sgt.	Castle, G. J.	28
22212484	S Sgt.	Hudson, A. A.	62
2549540	S Sgt.	Bell, E.	64
2548668	S Sgt.	Pearsall, R. F.	310

Regimental Duty Roster

21005277	S Sgt.	Nicholls, T. A.	3102

DELETIONS

Technical Roster

S Sgt. 490
Sgt. 340 810 2210

Regimental Duty Roster

S Sgt. 3450 3480 1670 3040 3860 3890 4113
W.O.II 2670

Clerical Roster

S Sgt. 480
Sgt. 380

Operating Roster

Sgt. 6140 7040 5020 5190

General Trades and Duties Roster

Sgt. 1680 1600 1930

AMENDMENT TO PAGE 35, FEBRUARY, 1959

Clerical Roster

Sgt. 1560 should read 1590.

R.S.M.s of the Corps

R.S.M. J. DIGNAN

51 (H) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A.

Commencing his career in 1935 he became Operator Signals in "E" Company, S.T.C., Catterick. Posting to 1 Divisional Signals, Aldershot, followed, proceeding from there to Hong Kong in 1937, where he got his first appointment as Lance-Corporal. After being a Japanese prisoner-of-war, he returned to U.K. in 1945 and saw service with War Office Signal Regiment, becoming Corporal and Sergeant in the process. A further tour to Egypt and the Sudan followed in 1948 to 1951, when he returned to U.K. and became P.S.I. with Liverpool and St. Andrew's University Training Corps. Several of the Cadets whom he trained are now serving Officers in the Corps.

Promoted successively S.Q.M.S., S.S.M. and R.Q.M.S., he attained his present rank on 2nd July, 1956.

As a young soldier, R.S.M. Dignan represented the Corps, Army and Inter-Services at swimming, water polo and diving.

He is now married with a young daughter.



United Kingdom

1 TRAINING REGIMENT

By this time everyone will have heard that the Army Rugby Cup is back in the Regiment for the seventh time since the war.

On 11th March some 900 soldiers travelled South by coach and special train to watch the encounter, which was just as keenly contested as the score 12-9 suggests. A word of commisseration to the Royal Scots who went down fighting very gallantly indeed.

Later on we added the Northern Command Cup to our collection at the expense of 3 Training Regiment, who opened the score and were twice in the lead before succumbing 25-6.

After the Aldershot game, Royal Signals Officers, serving and retired, were our guests to tea in the Club. This was a very pleasant party and many old acquaintances were renewed.

Other activities are apt to be overlooked at times like this but a special word of praise is due to the indoor range riflemen who have annexed the District League I championship and were runners-up in the League II competition. Well done.

In the semi-final of the District Soccer Cup we met very tough opposition in the 16/5 Lancers, Army Cup semi-finalists, and had to give them best.

Our Catering Officer is wearing a happy smile these days. First of all he is about to join the ranks of the Benedicts and to add to his bliss the Regiment has walked off with the District Inter-Unit Cookery Competition and were runners-up in the Command. May all his troubles be little ones!

It is nice to see Second-Lieutenant Robson, our Rugby Captain, out and about again albeit encased in plaster which did not apparently deter him from "marching up the aisle" a fortnight ago.

For some time past there has been an air of despondency over "Helles 5." This has now given way to rejoicing since it became known that "Lord Liffey" Adam would continue in residence a little longer. We shall miss almost as much "Baron" Malins, who leaves us soon, for what cannot be any more delectable pastures.

No longer will we be regaled with stories such as "from Catterick to the Rhine with my boar in the boot" and how "Lightning" won the Waterloo Cup. Presently, too, the Moors are going to be a lot more healthy for the Commander's small dog. Good hunting.

2 TRAINING REGIMENT

March will be remembered by many members of the Regiment primarily for the Mobilisation Scheme which has dominated all Regimental activity. Many amusing incidents resulted, the most unusual perhaps was the display by trainees who were dressed up to look more unlike Reservists than one would have imagined possible. Most prominent among the disguises used were Army pyjamas supported by such random articles as duffle coats, P.T. shorts and a bold selection of socks and ties. The Exercise proved to be quite successful and many points to aid future organisation were raised and solved.

Another more permanent move also took place during the month. The Pay Office after some time of patient waiting has been moved nearer the R.H.Q., which will aid considerably in the smooth running of this most important piece of Regimental activity.

March seems to have been a month of moves and, of course, with the opening of the fishing season large scale migrations as to the local rivers took place. So far this season has not been blessed with stories of the elusive fish of doubtful size—no doubt time will fill this serious omission to the sport so far undertaken this season.

"H.Q." Squadron has had two valuable additions this month. The first and perhaps the most sensational, a civilian clerk whose feminine charms have turned the hitherto avoided office into a centre of activity. Needless to say such additions to the Regiment are very desirable. The other newcomer to whom we extend a warm welcome is Lieutenant C. D. Brown, who has joined us from 2 Divisional Signal Regiment. He amazed everyone by volunteering to play for the Regimental soccer team. Ably hindered by his Continental style, we lost the match against the 14th Field 3-2 and although he is still recovering from the great battle we hope he will play regularly next season.

It is to the Sergeants' Mess that we owe the greatest Regimental honour this month in the field of sport. After a very successful season they have won the billiards and snooker competition for the Catterick Garrison Cup. The most outstanding break is held by Sergeant Wagstaff. Congratulations to Staff Sergeant Blake on his promotion to S.S.M., and to Sergeant Hall, who has taken over 1 Squadron stores, having moved from 4 (OR 1) Squadron.

4 (OR 1) Squadron is now well settled in and is quickly building up a reputation in the Regiment which is not altogether unfavourable. The intake numbers have dropped, but in contrast the percentage of successful trainees with the War Office Selection Board has increased.

The month of March, in traditional form, having come in like a lion, went out like a lamb, disguised in the form of a much deserved Easter Leave.

4 TRAINING REGIMENT

The most notable event this month was undoubtedly the presentation of the Meritorious Service Medal to Mr. (ex-R.Q.M.S.) Hodges. After giving thirty-six years' service to the Corps as a soldier, Mr. Hodges is still serving us as a civilian instructor, and his many friends of pre-war years, as well as the trainees who have passed through his hands recently will be delighted to know that he has won this well deserved award. The medal was presented by the Brigade Commander in a full muster parade of the Regiment, with the citations read by the chief instructor, Major Chapman.

The same parade also saw the presentation of the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal to R.Q.M.S. A. J. Judge, also now serving with this Regiment. Actually he has served longer than eighteen years, having enlisted in the Territorial Army in 1934, in 43 Divisional Signals at Devonport. I wonder if anyone in that Regiment still remembers him. The T.A. usually have long memories.

The Regimental Rugby team have been covering themselves with glory at the end of the season. Under the leadership of Captain Gittins, O i/c Rugby, and Lieutenant Burrows, captain of the team, they won the District Cup by beating the 16/5th Queen's Royal Lancers by 26 points to nil in the final. Without wishing to belittle their achievement, it must be mentioned that 1 Training Regiment had not entered their best team for this competition. Signalman Jarvis celebrated his last game for the team by scoring three tries. Lance-Corporal Maitland, our little scrum half, played the game of his life, being everywhere whether in attack or defence. Signalman Moorhouse proved that not only a threequarter can side-step his way through to score. Out of 21 games played this season we have won 12, losing the remaining nine, scoring 377 points for and conceding 144 against.

The month also saw the annual Inter-Squadron Rifle meeting, when the Regiment moved out to Bellerby ranges for the week-end. We were fortunate in having reasonably fine dry weather, and a good time was had by all. The best individual was Captain Lettins, who recently joined the Regiment, with Corporal Metcalf second and S.S.M. Firth third. The winning squadron was 2 Squadron, by a fairly comfortable margin. The proceedings closed with some discomfort to the officers who found that the keen and enthusiastic tent unpitching party had started work on the Officers' Mess tent while the officers were still having lunch. There was a certain amount of alarm and confusion, particularly among those officers who were having a liquid lunch and were afraid of spilling it, and on the part of Sergeant Baldry, the Mess Sergeant, who claimed to have lost a ham and six bottles of beer in the process. However, all ended well. Lunch was cooked on the spot by a team of trainees from 4 C.I.C., who are to be congratulated on the results of their efforts.

Footnote

The following extract from a NAAFI catalogue may be of interest to Scotsmen. It reads :

"For Scotland read Scotland, Cumberland, Westmorland, Northumberland, County Durham and the sector of North-East Yorkshire bounded by a line from Darlington to Richmond to Thirsk and then due East to Scarborough inclusive of these towns."

Is this territorial aggression on the part of the Scottish Nationalists?

Signal Training Wing, W.R.A.C.

Hullo again, we are feeling happy here in Catterick. We had a fine day last Tuesday and the seeds we reported in our last notes have decided to pop up. We are now afraid to let the trainees loose on the garden in case they cannot tell a weed from a budding seed! Since our last notes we have had a visit from Brigadier E. D. Good, C.B.E. He toured the Wing and talked to many of the trainees. They all assured him they liked being in Catterick. Corporal Griffiths smiled and said the same. We are glad she now likes it here because we like having her. A short time ago our murderous hockey team went forth and tackled a Squadron team from 5 Royal Tanks. It was obvious from the first whistle why women live longer than men; the energy those men expended had to be seen to be believed! Needless to say, despite dreamy eyed Cummings (93 Q) doing a "bully" dance and Johnson, C. (93 Q) biting the dust every two minutes, we were given a sound beating. Still it was good fun and the noise made by the rest of the Unit from the sidelines must have been heard in Richmond. The Chief Instructor of 4 Training Regiment has now been approached for a game but, we gather, he is being a little cautious. We wonder, has he seen the crutches issued to 5 Royal Tanks? St. Trinian's has nothing on this Wing, we assure you! Congratulations to Lance-Corporal Wilmott on her recent engagement. We gather he is a member of Royal Signals, so the Officer Commanding does not mind. She gets upset if we are seen out with a different cap badge! Congratulations also to Private Snape, our Orderly, she is a traitor but we still wish her all the best. During rest periods, the Instructor's rest room has recently become a hive of industry. It all started with Corporal Cakebread convincing Lance-Corporals Smart, Hughes and Crowe that, to get anywhere, you must be educated. The Commanding Officer of 4 Training Regiment kindly let these budding scholars attend education with members of his Unit. We only hope the education instructor there is not completely exhausted by the inquisitiveness of women. The S.S.M. keeps telling them that women are usually brighter than men but, at the moment, they do not seem very convinced.

We welcome Sergeant McLeod, Royal Signals, from 3 Training Regiment, who has come to give us a helping hand. Signalman Swallow, our G.D. man, viewed the arrival, we think, with mixed feelings. He has been the only male member of our staff for quite a time. To end our notes, how are our ex-Instructors, Sergeant Dixon and Sergeant Lysaght? We offer them an invitation to come and see us when they are in the area—if they dare! For Sergeant Dixon—remember fuel. Was it Charlie or Bill? Bye.

SCHOOL OF SIGNALS





No. 43 ROYAL SIGNALS QUALIFYING COURSE

Second Lieutenant's L. A. Wood, D. S. Mullineaux, D. M. O. Miller, Captain A. Coates, Lieutenant's R. J. Tanner, A. N. de Bretton-Gordon, G. Wilkie-Snow, "Lucky," J. W. Oliver

This month we lose two Young Officers' Courses—No. 43 Qualifying Course and No. 18 Part II Course. We think it best to let each Course tell its own tale.

The story of 43 "Q" Course, who arrived in Catterick on a particularly cold and wet day in January, 1958, from such far flung outposts as Accra, B.A.O.R., Sandhurst, U.K. COMCAN and the Training Brigade, may be likened to that of the ten little nigger boys.

We started the Course twenty-one strong, and our first casualty was a Gunner who discovered that the ways of Signals were not for him. Whether the offer of a posting to the Isle of Wight affected his decision is still a subject for debate. Halfway through the mysteries of basics group one Officer understandably ran amok with his small red Austin Seven and damaged the Staff car in which a General was riding. The first real blow, or "Chop," came at the end of this phase when we lost five of our number to later "Q" Courses and other Corps. Three others who were destined for higher things went to the Royal Military College of Science, Shrivenham.

The remaining phases—Wireless, Line and Multi-Channel were not without incident. We feel sure that Ron Tanner is among the very few in the Corps who have managed to load a 53 set using several miles of telephone lines as his aerial. We also discovered that connecting mains to a teleprinter motor is not the kindest thing to do to it. We suffered the full brunt of the northern winter while trying to send elusive tones from one end to the other of radio relay systems.

Everything else a young Signal Officer should know was taught in Tactics Group. Those of us who still remained duly tried to assimilate this information in the last few weeks of the Course.

In spite of the many well advertised disadvantages of a posting to Catterick Camp all of us managed to find much to enjoy both in and away from the camp. The well-known hospitality and excellent beer of the Yorkshire pubs was enjoyed travelling between such places as Windermere, Harrogate, and on our Exercises in the training area. With the Course completed all of the students are looking forward to their new postings.

Writing notes on No. 18 Royal Signal Subalterns Part II Course is difficult because though we have many qualifications they are neither academic nor athletic in the accepted sense. The only definite result of our stay in Catterick is the increase in beer sales in the North Riding.

No. 18 ROYAL SIGNALS SUBALTERNS PART II COURSE

Back : Lieutenant M. J. Flynn, Lieutenant P. J. Rowland, Captain D. G. Alexander (Royal Marines), Lieutenant M. B. Sykes, Lieutenant J. G. Billingham, Lieutenant H. R. Williams, Captain P. H. Riddlington

Front : Lieutenant R. Ping, Lieutenant J. R. Roberts, Captain Jassim El Basri, Lieutenant B. B. Gallagher, Lieutenant P. D. E. Chase, Lieutenant Karim Mudhafer, Captain H. M. Ashton, Lieutenant J. M. Hewson

Absent : Lieutenant W. Simpson

JUNIOR LEADERS REGIMENT

S.O.-in-C. Pays Tribute at Prize Day

"I am proud of this Regiment," said Major-General R. J. Moberly, C.B., O.B.E., at the end of Easter Term Presentation Parade. He had just returned from a tour of the Far East. In Pakistan, where he met Mohammad Sulliman—an ex-boy himself and now S.O.-in-C.—he mentioned that he could not stay longer because he had promised to visit us at Denbury. He added in his speech to more than 450 Junior Leaders, "I am convinced that the boy system must go on; it is the best way of training operators and technicians." He encouraged the boys to take their education and trade training seriously because they were growing more and more important, but they must not forget also, that "Signals can turn its hand to fighting. . . ."

Among those he met were the seven Junior Leaders, bronzed and windswept, who had just come back from the glistening snows and crystal fiords of the land of the midnight-sun, Norway. He awarded the "Best Boy" Prize for the Easter Term to one of them, Junior Sergeant-Major C. Briant.

Successful Rugger Season Closes

Royal Signals have not won both Army Rugger Championships this year, but at one time the prospects of a double were favourable. On the Junior level, the boys from 1 Squadron reached the semi-finals. Even if they were unable to go any further, they deserve congratulations for reaching this stage.

After travelling from Denbury to Chepstow, the team met "A" Company from the Army Apprentice School. It was a wet and windy afternoon, but the ground was firm for the start. The heavier Chepstow XV came on to the field and put on an impressive display of calesthenics and expert ball passing before the game; it looked as if the semi-final was going to end up as a full scale slaughter for the Royal Signals Junior Leaders, but this never materialised.

Chepstow won the toss and decided to play with the wind in their backs, but even with this advantage the 1 Squadron team managed to outplay the Apprentice team magnificently, pushing them back in the scrums, passing well and tackling low. It looked dangerous for the home side with only miracles preventing a score being made against them.

At half-time there was still a stalemate. Would the Signals side be able to take advantage of the wind now and turn the tide completely in their favour? The answer was "No." The wind all but reversed its position and rain was streaming down. Where the smaller, but more energetic Denbury lads had dug their heels into the turf in the first half, they were now being forced back by the weight of the opposition. Taking full advantage of the weather conditions the heavier Apprentice forward line pushed slowly but relentlessly on. The first score came in the fifteenth minute of the second half, and with it some of the hope of reaching the finals for the 1 Squadron team.

With a mud bath for a pitch, Chepstow drove home again, and when the final whistle blew the score board showed eight points in their favour. Our Junior Leaders were out of the Cup, but not without a fight which had everything stacked against them, except their own fighting spirit.



"Get that ball!"—'A' Company, Chepstow v. 1 Squadron, Denbury

The Rugger season closed for the Regiment with a victory however, when the Regimental team overcame one of the strongest sides in the South-West, the Torquay Colts. Also both Squadron teams, playing powerfully, drew 0-0 in the Glossop Cup battle.

Sergeants v. The Officers

The Sergeants challenged the Officers to a tournament which included both indoor and outdoor sports. The results are quite unimportant because both sides claimed victories. It was quite amusing to note that Sergeant-Major Jack Cox did his darnedest to fiddle the shooting results. We have it on reliable authority that he spent long, late hours trying to discover a method whereby the Sergeants would not even have to fire to win at shooting! The competition ended with a boat-race in beer . . . Who won? . . . Can't say, we were lying cold on the floor.

Two Sergeants' wives here at Denbury believed in keeping the tradition of Spring going by giving birth to a couple of boys. Sergeant Peake, we're told, ran a "book" on whether Sergeant Curley's wife would beat Sergeant Turner's in the baby scramble. Sergeant Curley's newborn pipped Sergeant Turner's at the post by a matter of five days!

A Regimental Appointments List has just been published and gives the name of the official recorder for THE WIRE. Since it came out I've discovered I'm a very popular individual and everybody smiles at me. Invariably, after the smile comes the question: "How can I get my name in THE WIRE? To all those who have approached me I dedicate this next paragraph:—

1. Sergeant Wingate: "I'm the pride of the Regiment."
2. Sergeant Greeves: "I've got a new Moped. . ."
3. Sergeant Keaney: "I've been posted. . . ."

For almost the first time, 2 Squadron has beaten 1 Squadron almost outright in the S.O.-in-C.'s Cup competition. Luck did it mainly. I hasten to add, before Major Parker, O.C. 2, breathes down my neck, that I'm a 1 Squadron man myself and maybe somewhat biased. Anyway, congratulations to Lieutenant John Hancock and his Troop who led the field.

Jacobs Fights at Albert Hall



I.S.B.A. Champion and A.B.A. Semi-finalist Junior Signalman K. R. Jacobs

The Albert Hall, London: an excited audience sits tensely watching the birth of new A.B.A. champions. The air is filled with smoke and white spot beams fill the square ring with light, while predatory TV cameras pan and hover transmitting the second-by-second developments of the bout in progress to a watching nation.

Junior Signalman Jacobs, from the Junior Leaders Regiment, weaves and darts, slim arms packing quick-fire pain at their tips, stabs mercilessly at his opponent in the semi-finals. The two boxers dance with the fast fury of hungry panthers—both determined the next stage will be their's.

The clock ticks on . . . painful colour explodes in front of the boxers' eyes as they inflict their punishment . . . the smack of leather flaying flesh, and the rubber legs—the spirit of two who will not acknowledge defeat.

Then it's suddenly all over for another year. A prince has been found, and possibly even a new king—monarch of a kingdom of punch balls, canvas, sweat and pain. His name goes down in boxing history. For the defeated, only the satisfaction of knowing he gave his best . . . and that person was Jacobs.

ALL ARMS JUNIOR LEADERS REGIMENT

On 6th May the first intake of Junior Leaders began to arrive at this new Regiment composed of Royal Armoured Corps, Royal Artillery, Royal Signals and Infantry, which is situated at at Tonfanau, near Towyn, North Wales. The camp, which has its own railway station, is surrounded on three sides by the beautiful Welsh Mountains of the Snowdonia National Park and on the fourth by the sea. (Those who have attended Outward Bound Courses may not agree with this!).

The Staff, which in the initial stages was mainly Royal Signals but has now evened itself out, is working hard to get the camp ready. In R.H.Q. the Corps is well represented with Captain D. A. Barry and Lieutenant R. F. Hills as Adjutant and Assistant Adjutant respectively, and Sergeant H. R. Bennett from S.R.D.E., as Orderly Room Sergeant. S.Q.M.S. A. S. Marchant from 90 Signal Regiment is to be found in the Q.M. Stores, and S.S.M. C. D. Evis from 2 Training Regiment, controls H.Q. Company until the Royal Signals Company exists as a separate entity.

"C" Company, which initially will have two Platoons of Gunners and two Platoons of Signals (a unique organisation!) is commanded by Major T. G. H. Jackson, M.B.E., with a strong representation from the Corp's own Junior Leaders Regiment of Sergeant D. M. Eldridge (hockey stick in hand), Sergeant E. W. Osborne (last seen hanging from some rocks), Sergeant P. F. Simmonds and Sergeant H. Chitticks. S.Q.M.S. J. R. Overton from 4 (Independent Squadron), 4 Training Regiment, and Sergeant W. Coxon, after a very long stay in Scotland, have quickly settled into the team. Captain E. W. Hunt, also from Denbury, who is to become second-in-command of the Recruit Company when it forms in June, is again at work in the Social Club getting the top twenty sorted out.

In our next issue of notes we will give you news of the remainder of our Permanent Staff and our first intake.

STEEPLE BUMPSTEAD SIGNAL SQUADRON

It is most regrettable that our proximity to London encourages nearly every official committee to visit us. The hospitality enjoyed at the "George Inn" could be one reason for our popularity, whilst another could be the lack of public transport necessitating the use of private cars—which, at the higher rate, all helps to aggregate this magic 1,000 miles.

Our latest visitors have been a Select Committee on Pay and Allowances. The S.S.M. dictated that if a plausible case was to be presented advocating a pay rise, then it would be necessary for the many cars outside the W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess to be moved. He suggested that they should be parked outside the Officers' Mess, but this was immediately vetoed by the O.C. for the same motives. The result was that the village green resembled a B.M.C. showroom, which did not pass unnoticed by the Committee, but was successfully passed off as a meeting of the local Hunt.

It was thought that a change of 2 IC would take place this autumn as Captain Milligan anticipated going to the Staff College. However, the prospects have diminished somewhat since Captain Milligan's interview with the District Commander, who asked him why he aspired to become a Staff Officer, only to be told "I need the money."

Sergeant Farnsbarns, our "Schoolie," has planned a P.R.I. excursion to Eastbourne this summer to prove to the much-doubting M.T. Troop that there is a Corps Band.

Many members of the Squadron have remarked how pleasing it was to see and read of the "recording company" established in the Junior Leaders Regiment. What a wonderful idea and, as Sergeant Turton remarked, "There you are, we are more technical than the R.A.S.C."

The notes from the Signal Training Wing W.R.A.C. have caused the O.C. much embarrassment. Their request to be posted to us has caused petitions, applications and painting on walls demanding to know when the girls are coming. The Principal of Steeple Bumpstead Girls' College also welcomes the idea in the hopes that it may ease the pressure; she is of the opinion that, coming from Catterick, the W.R.A.C., unlike her girls, may have mastered the art of dancing with a soldier who wears ammunition boots.

A recent secret letter from District Headquarters enquired of our "Mob Plans." After many conferences and quasi-ABCA's the O.C. replied that it appeared that most of us intended to go to South America.

39 INFANTRY BRIGADE GROUP SIGNAL TROOP

Note the title change, which will have come into effect on May 1st. As a result of Brigades becoming Brigade Groups, most Signal Troops become Squadrons. This, however, is Northern Ireland, so we are being reduced by nine men. Rumours of our move to Lisburn are growing more concrete. Last Thursday, it was to be next September; on Friday, next April; and today, Monday, 13th April, October is the hot tip. The O.C. is off to K.A.R. Signal Squadron in May, and is leaving the move firmly on the new O.C., Captain Hall's (late of 3 Division) plate. Captain Savage has promised to run another "Troop riot" in Newtonards Town Hall before he goes. We will report on this in a later issue.

We had the Annual Administrative Inspection on 10th April and, except for Mick Winfield telling the Brigadier that when we had soup, the meals were hot, and when we had salad they were cold, there was no untoward incidents. This is apart from Taffy Love's cleaning rag! Our recruiting average was the best in the Brigade, there being 11 re-enlistments and extensions during the year, giving an extra 103 man years. We feel that for a Troop of 64 (not always up to strength) this is not bad. Anybody done better? We also feel that the O.C.'s boast to the Chief Education Officer: "We don't resettle them, sir, we re-enlist them," may not have helped the administrative report's education paragraph.

May we record our congratulations to Staff Sergeant Hall on his recent promotion; our best wishes to Staff Sergeant Evans on his posting to 3 Training Regiment; to Corporal Prees at 3 Training Regiment on a course, prior to his posting to Aden Protectorate Levies; to "Snuffy" Oakden, some five feet above sea level on Christmas Island; also thanks for services rendered by ex-Signalmen "Mac"millan (LE loved climbing Irish mountains in Army-pattern shoes at night with a WS 62 on his back), "Dabber" Stone (the C.V. has not moved from workshops since he left), and "Jock" Hall (neither has the 6 KW); and last of all, welcome to "Louis" Dane, who joined the Army to travel, and is now at least 80 miles from his Enniskillen home and a new Stone called Fred.

WAR OFFICE SIGNAL SQUADRON

After a stay of just over two years at Grange Lane Camp, Dulwich, this Unit has now moved into Beavers Lane Camp, Hounslow, where we have become neighbours of London District Signal Troop.

We were all sorry to leave our old camp, which was situated between some woods and a golf course and within seven miles of the heart of London, and become a lodger Unit in a larger camp.

Civilianisation has, alas, taken its toll and the military strength of the Unit is such that it was uneconomical to run our own camp.

As usual, we had to move our accommodation stores to the new camp before we could move in.

The Unit is now so small that it is amalgamating for sport with London District Signal Troop under the title of Royal Signals, Beavers Lane Camp.

Our move was made more difficult due to the fact that shift duties at the War Office had to continue. Our motto, like that of the Windmill Theatre, is "We Never Closed."

"A thing of beauty is a joy for ever"

wear a distictive

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3 Divisional Signal Regiment Return to Bulford

"There's no place like home."

The Regiment has returned to its old home at Bulford and at first view we were forced to admit the truth of the old saying. The barracks, unused for a considerable period, presented a dismal picture, being both unclean and unkempt. However, we were not dismayed. The Regiment set to work in a great spring-cleaning programme. Loud after load of rubbish was driven off to the Royal Engineers' dump. Floors, walls and corridors were scrubbed and polished. Pathways were cleared and gardens prepared. Troop stores were built in a variety of styles, extending from plush shining lino and work benches of "Z" Troop to the home-made wire caging of "O" Troop. This latter we are told bears a close resemblance to "Death Row" at Alcatraz and will provide a useful extra lock-up in the event of over-crowding at the guard room.

As a result of the hard work put in by the whole Regiment the camp has been transformed in a very short space of time and now bears a smart and business-like appearance.

Our move from Colchester was made on the 18th and 19th of March. In the small hours of the morning on these two days convoys set off in the darkness for Bulford. The early time of departure was to avoid heavy traffic as we moved round the North Circular Road and all convoys reached Bulford without serious delay or mishap.

A great spur to the cleaning and polishing programme is provided by the knowledge that the Annual Administrative Inspection will be held on the 23rd April. We all hope that in spite of the disadvantage of facing an inspection of this sort after only four weeks in Bulford our hard work will bring a good result.

Some brief excitement was provided by a fire in the cook-house shortly after our arrival. It was tackled promptly, although perhaps in rather unorthodox fashion and quickly put out. The civil fire brigade arrived some time later and seemed just a little annoyed that we had not been able to keep the blaze going long enough for them to deal with it.

We reported in our last notes that "C" and "Z" Troops had amalgamated. This union proved very short-lived and the two troops exist again as separate bodies. "Zulu" Troop is now officially re-named "Romeo" Troop, and it is rumoured that the Troop Commander's correct designation will be "Chief Lover."

Due to the move we have not shown our usual activity in the field of sport. In the final of the 3 Division Soccer Cup we put up a brave fight but were beaten 9-1 by a very strong team from the 10th Queen's Own Hussars. H.Q. Squadron, who reached the final of the Colchester Garrison Minor Units Soccer Competition, were beaten 2-1 by The King's Shropshire Light Infantry. This was a very close match and we were leading 1-0 until seven minutes from the end of the game. Our Basket Ball team finished a very successful season by winning the East Anglian District Inter-Unit Competition. They were also runners-up in the Eastern Command Inter-Unit Championship.

We bid welcome and (alas !) farewell to Captain F. C. Lockwood who, after a short but energetic period with us as O.C. H.Q. Squadron, leaves to join the 1st Guard Brigade. We wish him every good fortune. We must also say good-bye to the Adjutant, Capt. D. Hall. He has occupied a large place, in many ways, in Regimental life and we shall miss him. He goes to serve in Northern Ireland. We wish him good luck and in all fairness give warning to the I.R.A.

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3 Divisional Signals REUNION DINNER 1959

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Some eighty odd members of the 3rd Divisional Signals Reunion Club gathered at the Victory Ex-Services Club, Seymour Street, W.C.2, on Saturday, 21st March, for their eighth annual reunion dinner. At the brief but necessary business meeting immediately before dinner the Secretary's and Treasurer's reports were formally adopted; the latter showed the Club as being in a healthy financial state. The Club's serving officers, namely Major C. Stagg, E.R.D., M.I.E.E., Chairman; W.O.II E. E. Bayley, Secretary; Mr. V. J. Kontzle, Treasurer, together with the five standing Committee members were re-elected en bloc.

Ex-Sergeant W. J. Webb was elected to fill the vacancy caused by the death during the year of ex-Sergeant F. Hooker (Shoey) who had served as an active member of the Committee since the Club's formation nine years ago.

Dinner followed at 7.00 p.m., the Royal Toast and that to The Princess Royal being proposed by the Chairman, Major C. Stagg. The guest of honour this year was Mr. Ronald Shiner, the popular actor and film star; full marks must go to the Secretary for being quick off the mark in contacting Mr. Shiner immediately following his appearance last autumn in the T.V. programme "This Is Your Life," which disclosed his service with 3rd Divisional Signals some years before the war.

Proposing the toast to the Visitors, the Club's President, Major-General R. F. B. Naylor, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., welcomed Mr. Shiner, and said how delighted he was to accept the invitation to become the Club's first President. In passing, he referred to the sad loss to the Corps during the past year by the deaths of Major-General C. W. Fladgate, C.B.E., and Brigadier G. J. S. Le Cornu, O.B.E., M.C. In his reply, Mr. Shiner said how delighted he was to be present and gave a most amusing resumé of his service with the Unit, particularly when, as an A/U/Lance-Corporal, he found himself in charge of the stores.

Brigadier F. W. Nicholls, C.B.E., whom it was good to see present once more, proposed the toast of The Regiment and recalled those hectic days of 1939 when, during his period of command, the Unit was ordered to mobilise and proceed with the Division to join the B.E.F. in France at very short notice. Many of those present were with him during those days and well remembered the incidents he mentioned. Lieutenant-Colonel M. D. Price, who commands the present Unit, replied and gave a most interesting account of their recent activities; it was good to learn that, after an absence of twenty years, the Unit had at last returned to its old home at Bulford on Salisbury Plain. Before proposing the toast to Absent Friends, Sergeant-major Bayley read the many letters and telegrams of good wishes from those unable to attend.

Dinner over the company, ever true to form, gathered round the bar and as the evening progressed, memories revived and old times were recalled. Eleven o'clock came all too soon and with it another successful and very happy reunion came to a close.



Major D. Metcalfe, O.C. the Depot, The Gloucestershire Regiment presenting a silver rosebowl to Lieutenant Colonel J. B. Birkett, O.B.E. inscribed : "Presented to 1 Squadron, U.K. Comcan Signal Regiment from the Regimental Depot, the Gloucestershire Regiment to commemorate five years of sharing Robinswood Barracks, Gloucester, March 1959"

U.K. COMCAN SIGNAL REGIMENT

1 Squadron. This month saw the departure of Regimental Headquarters to London, so now we are on our own.

May we hope that their stay in the "Land of Bowlers and Rolled Brollies" is a happy and successful one and that they don't completely forget us.

The highlight of the month was the official closing of the Depot and the opening of Regimental Headquarters, The Gloucestershire Regiment, within Robinswood. The occasion was marked by a Press reception given by Major D. Metcalfe, O.C. The Depot, at which he presented a beautiful silver rose-bowl which now has an honoured place in the Officers' Mess.

We welcome to the Squadron S.S.M. Palmer, who has taken up duties as the Squadron Sergeant-Major.

2 Squadron. We welcome on attachment, Sergeant Jamieson from 1 Training Regiment, and Sergeant Hogan, Royal Australian Signals, who has just completed his Foreman's Part II.

S.S.M. Webster has been very busy in the unit garden and is very proud of his seed potatoes.

Our football team has reached the semi-final of the local league but fear that our recent successes will be broken, as so much talent has been lost in recent demobs.

Another successful Unit Dance has been well received.

3 Squadron. Devizes to Westminster Canoe Race—Easter, 1959. The race covers a distance of 125 miles, during which the canoe has to be carried round 77 locks, the last 17 miles are tidal so the time of arrival at Teddington Lock must be carefully planned or else no progress will be made against an incoming tide. The Canal section from Devizes to Reading, a distance of 53 miles, is by far the worst and our aim was to cover this in daylight. The rules of the race allow a start any time between 0800 hrs. Friday to 0800 hrs. Saturday.

This year there was a record entry of 72 crews, and as a considerable number planned to start at 0800 hrs. on Friday, all our crews decided to wait until early Saturday to ensure that they completed the Canal section in daylight.

The R.A.P.C. Depot had kindly given accommodation overnight, and at 0430 hrs. on Saturday, 28th March, the crews were awakened from their slumbers by Captain Turney, final preparations and adjustments were made and then down to the Canal bank in the bleak first light for the commencement of the ordeal.

Tender Giselle "A" was first away at 0556 hrs., crewed now by Sergeant Blohm and Corporal Shaw, they made good progress, the weather was rather breezy but warm and dry, several misfortunes befell them but nothing serious and they were nearly out of the Canal when, in the dusk, they took a wrong turning and were heading straight for a weir, they realised their mistake but by now they could do nothing about it as the current was sweeping them along very fast, the quick decision made was to attempt to shoot the weir, but unfortunately a metal spike beneath the surface of the water struck the canoe and threw it over. The crew salvaged themselves and all the kit and it was discovered that the canoe had a hole in over a foot square, so they were well and truly out of the race.

The second crew of Sergeant Norton and Corporal Thorpe in Tender Giselle "B" were away at 0600 hrs. and after a cheerful blast on a hunting horn from the starter, paddled away strongly in great heart, with very little happening to them they pulled into the steps at Westminster 32 hours later.

Our last minute entry of a folding canoe, crewed by Signalman White, our expert, and Signalman Sharp—who had not been in a canoe until three weeks ago—were away at 0633, they should have been away at 0630, but the starter was having a cup of tea and required a hail from Capt. Turney to get him on to his task. This crew were away in great hopes and were determined to complete the course, this they did in 28 hours and gained the overall position of fourth, truly a terrific achievement.

So the final position of our crews, still unofficial but practically guaranteed, is :—

Signalman White and Signalman Sharp—Overall position fourth. Winners of Folding Canoe Class.

Sergeant Norton and Corporal Thorpe—Overall position tenth. Second in Home Built Class.

Sergeant Blohm and Corporal Shaw—Withdrew at Reading after 50 miles due to hole in canoe.

An extract from a newspaper report is quoted :—

"The conditions of the race were good for those who started on Good Friday before 12 noon, but towards the end of Saturday when the late starters had reached the tideway, the wind had veered and crews had to punch into it all the way from Teddington Lock. There were many retirements. One or two boats were reported holed, one with a gash of 18 inches in the hull, but, in the main, the failure was in the human element. Few of the failures could have realised the degree of fitness required for this race.



The three teams complete with canoes (left to right) Sergeant Norton, Corporal Thorpe, Tender Giselle 'B', Signalman Sharp and Signalman White, Hammer Folding Canoe, Corporal Shaw and Sergeant Blohm, Tender Giselle 'A'

"The winners of the Tyne Trophy for the first folding boat home were P. White and B. Sharp of U.K. COMCAN Signal Regiment. This is only the second attempt at the race by this Unit, and a fourth place is an excellent show for a unit which is on a fully operational footing and therefore has the less time for proper training."

4 Squadron. This month we bid farewell to Captain Grace and extend a warm welcome to Captain Dally. W.O.II Gent has left us for Christmas Island and Corporal Adamson for Hong Kong.

Cobbett Hill is getting a handsome face-lift by Roads and Ranges, and with the gardens putting on their Spring suits, we ought to present the Administration Inspecting Officer with quite a pleasant outlook.

Oakhanger Detachment have been busy on the Rifle Range, their rather mixed bag consisting of six rabbits and one hedgehog, none of which responded to artificial respiration in spite of First Aid lectures delivered on weekly Regimental days.

Both camps are preparing calmly and efficiently for "A" Day but no doubt the tempo will increase as we approach the "Merry" (?) month of May.

EASTERN COMMAND SIGNAL SQUADRON

Recent months have seen the departure of some of the oldest inhabitants of Warren Camp, and on the 31st January, a farewell social was held in the W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess to mark the leaving of W.O.II Eley, Sergeants Melia and Evans. As a social function, it bore the unmistakable stamp of Wally Eley-easy-going good humour, and considerable refreshments passed under the bridge! One of the highlights of the evening came when presentations were made by Major R. E. Scouller. To Sergeants Evans and Melia went a handsome travelling clock apiece, but S.S.M. Eley, of course, had to be different. His parting gift was a pair of marble ornaments that had adorned the fireplace in the Mess for longer than most of us care to remember—unloved by all save he. No doubt they get their daily dusting from Mrs. Eley. When S.S.M. Eley left us it was to prepare for demob—but it was not to be, for last week he showed up again, this time as a W.O.I, en route for Colchester. We wish him the best of luck in his workshop, and extend the same good wishes to Sergeant Melia in Cyprus and Sergeant Evans in Germany.

In March the officers dined out Major (T.O.T.) J. A. Brown en route to hostelry keeping in Kent. Major Brown spent the last six months of his service in the unfamiliar role of Quartermaster and, although given a full "plate" on account of the re-organisation, civilianisation and re-siting of accommodation remained cheerful and undamaged. His most frightening spell was undoubtedly that as Producer of the Wives' Club Pantomime which, no doubt to his relief, had to be at last abandoned owing to casting and rehearsal difficulties.

The fair weather enjoyed around here lately coincides with a livening interest in the Motor Cycling Club. Plans are afoot to enter a Trials team in the Army competitions later this year, and in the meantime members are practising on their own machines. We have a miniature scrambles course in the woods here—only about a hundred yards long, but with a hazard about every five yards. As soon as the back wheel leaves one hole behind, the front is in the next. The Foreman had his first taste of this sort of thing last week, and says that he isn't sure whether the bike carried him, or he carried the bike. Ex-Accra readers may be interested to note that the Chairman of this Club and of their own late Comcan Car Club, is the same—F. of S. Swaby—he can't stay away from his engines for long!

Some interesting developments in Commercial Radio and Television were seen by members of this unit on a visit to the Annual Exhibition of the Radio and Television Society in London. Tickets to the Exhibition were arranged by the T.O.T., Major J. Spafford. One of the interesting exhibits was an eight-gun TV tube— could this perhaps be the answer to the problem of which programme to watch? One has visions of a family of eight, all watching their own channel of course, one would need a pretty high mountain for the aerial. . . . Other exhibits included 110 degreee tubes, colour TV, and a very neat remote controlled closed circuit TV hook up which fascinated everyone.

Science has made some startling advances here in Warren Camp, new theories are being expounded along several lines. Things long taken for granted, are now being shown up in a new light. A team of boffins, working under the pseudonym of a "Lineman's Upgrading Course," divulged some gems of information recently. One of these was a primary cell using a sal ammoniac depolariser and nitric acid electrolyte. Obviously, this will result in a great saving of carbon and other chemicals, and most probably in a faster promotion rate for linemen. Yet another new law of magnetism, yet to be released to the broader world of science, incidentally, may explain some of the problems of collapsing pole routes which occasionally inflict themselves upon linemen the world over. According to our boffin, who shall be nameless (security, of course), "Light poles retract Heavy poles protract! No doubt our friends the Russians can tell us who first discovered this effect, but we feel proud that one of our linemen figured it out for himself—it has possibilities, I kid you not!

In the 1959 Eastern Command Signals postal shoot, C.H.Q. Troop are doing well to date, with the placing for February as follows:—

"C" Team C.H.Q. Troop, 1412 points. 1st place.
"D" Team C.H.Q. Troop. 1325 points. 5th place.

The silver spoon for the best individual for February was awarded to Corporal Jones, with a score on the two cards of 191; Captain Stagg scored 180 and was placed 8th; Lance-Corporal Thompson came 10th with 179. Well done, C.H.Q. Troop.

In the broader field of sport, there has not been much activity of late, though in the Army Basketball Knock-out Cup, the Unit beat its nearby rivals from Maresfield. Unfortunately, in the next round, we were thoroughly trounced by the 1st Cameronians at Dover.

Captain Canham has delivered some interesting lectures on Civil Defence; as a result of which, we are all somewhat relieved to know that all is not lost in the event of an H bomb attack. The bogey has been whittled down a little, at least.

The perennial bogey, "P.E. Tests," also fortunately behind us for another year, and as feet return to normal, the M.O. begins the task of writing out next year's stock of "excused boots" chits. The nine miles "bash" took us across some very beautiful Sussex countryside, though few were in a mood to appreciate it at the time. Odd how the senses seem to gravitate to their feet and their suffering at such times!

At the end of March, we were very fortunate to be visited by the Corps Band—the highlight of their brief stay being a band concert in the NAAFI. Well supported by all ranks, the concert was a complete success, but that can be nothing new to Major Judd and his men. We all hope that the Band will find the time to come to Crowborough again before very long.

Our vigorous Wives' Club continues its weekly meetings and has recently started what promises to be a successful innovation in the way of social evenings for all ranks. Highlight of the first was the out of breath arrival of a special D.R. with a most important packet for S.S.M. Douce—which proved, on opening, to be a handsome Valentine from ALL the wives of the Squadron. It has not been finally established whether he was flattered/embarrassed/disconcerted/terrified.

GERMANY

1 CORPS SIGNAL REGIMENT

Congratulations to 1 Wireless Regiment, who again have won the Morrison Cup—for the year 1958-1959. This year the Cup competition was run under new rules: with nine sports, four points were awarded for a win, three for the runners-up and one for an entry, in each sport. In common with every other Royal Signals Regiment in B.A.O.R., we did our best to replace 1 Wireless Regiment as Morrison Cup holders, but they were clear overall winners with 24 points, having won athletics, Rugby and shooting. We were pleased to see our local friends, 4 Divisional Signal Regiment, at second place with 19 points, having won basketball and cross-country running. We thought this a very good effort considering the present size of a Divisional Signal Regiment. We came a close third with 18 points. Although we won only boxing outright, we were runners-up in three other events—hockey, Rugby and shooting. Fourth were the soccer winners, 19 Army Group Signal Regiment with 12 points, and at equal fifth with 11 points came 2 L. of C. Regiment—the hockey winners, and 12 Air Formation Signal Regiment, who won the cricket.

The final of the Morrison Cup hockey competition was played at Rheindahlen on 25th March, 1959, under the most atrocious conditions on a waterlogged pitch. Nevertheless, it was an excellent game to watch and one of the most hard fought



1 CORPS SIGNAL REGIMENT BOXING TEAM
This is the team which won the Morrison Cup Boxing Competition without losing a fight in the Final

Back (left to right): Signalmen Brewin, A. Thorpe, Weekly, W.O.II Edmonds (Trainer), Signalmen Mooney, P. Thorpe, Mitchell, Lance Corporal Annels
Front (left to right): Signalmen Hampson, Barker, Lance Corporal Gray, Signalman McGarry, Lance Corporal Keating, Signalmen Paxton, T. Thorpe

matches that we have seen for a long time. 2 L. of C. Signal Regiment settled down immediately and being well on top scored fairly quickly: it was probably this goal which decided the match. 2 L. of C. scored again at the end of the first 20 minutes, but after this our team was starting to play really hard hockey and just before the interval McMahon scored. In the second half we were getting much the better of the play and although both teams scored one more goal—ours from McMahon—by the end of the second half 2 L. of C. were just about hanging on to win by three goals to two.

At the tail end of the football season the Inter-Troop Knock-out Competition has been run. At the time of going to press the final result is not known, but the competition has caused great interest, if only because of the emergence of O 3 Troop as one of the finalists. After a shaky start involving a replay against D 2 Troop, they went on to win their half of the competition. In the other half those old rivals, "H.Q." Squadron and "A" Troop, met in the semi-final, where after extra time "A" Troop won in the replay by 5-0. "H.Q." Squadron reached the semi-final by beating Z 1 and C 1 Troops, and "A" Troop by defeating Z 2 and "P" Troops.

Although the results of the Morrison Cup cross-country final are a few weeks old, we must include a word of thanks to those who ran for us and congratulate them on coming third. Lance-Corporal Blanchet ran a very good race to come fourth in a field of 60, and Corporal Rumball provided his best performance of the season and a fine farewell display in achieving 12th place. Other placings were:

19th	Driver Roberts	28th	Signalman Mitchell
20th	Second-Lieutenant Watson	36th	Signalman Harris
21st	Corporal Clark	44th	Signalman Glover

Finishing as runners-up in the Royal Signals (B.A.O.R.) Morrison Cup match concluded a most successful season's shooting. Firing our Morrison cards on 20th, 23rd and 24th March, the scores of our nearest rivals, 1 Wireless Regiment and 19 Army Group Signal Regiment, added considerable excitement to the shooting. After the first two shoots we had a two-point lead over 19 Army Group Signal Regiment and 10 points lead on 1 Wireless Regiment. The atmosphere in the range as we fired our last cards was, as can be imagined, very tense. We congratulate 1 Wireless Regiment on their remarkable recovery from their first day's score to finish up 17 points ahead of us, and consider ourselves lucky to have beaten 19 Army Group Signal Regiment by the narrow margin of one point. Captain Garratt's aggregate of 578 out of a possible of 600 got him a "mention," being placed sixth in the individual order of merit. Both Captain Garratt and Lieutenant Pickup achieved a 99 on one of their cards. Sergeant Donaghy maintained a very steady average throughout the match, totalling 576. Corporal Williams finished up with 571. Others who fired in the Regimental team included A.Q.M.S. Warner, Signalman Gray, Captain Burton, W.O.II Whittington and W.O.I Page. We were also runners up in the local league of the B.A.O.R. Championships, and "H.Q." Squadron are to be congratulated on their very fine achievement in winning their league in the Minor Units' Championship. Unfortunately, they were knocked out in the semi-finals of the second stage. Our estimated score of 4,437 in the A.R.A. Unit Team Championship would have got us fourth position last year, so we are hoping to get a "mention" in the handbook for this. Despite our efforts last year in this match we were sorry to hear that the Cup for the best Royal Signals Unit was not awarded. Let us hope that a few more Units will have entered this year to warrant the award of this trophy.

2 L. OF C. SIGNAL REGIMENT

R.H.Q., 1 and 2 Squadron. As we approach the camping season, several well-known personalities in the Regiment are busy shaking out their equipment and spare petrol coupons, though there is no truth in the rumour that on the next sports afternoon the Commanding Officer and Second-in-Command are to give a demonstration of sausage frying on their field cookers.

The Regiment entered two men for the District Individual Boxing Championships, held at Essen. Both of them, Signalmen Togher and Latimer, were successful in their semi-finals. Togher was unable to continue due to injury, but Latimer fought gamely in his final and was narrowly beaten after an impressive performance.

Our Regimental hockey team lost their match with the Royal Hampshire Regiment in the B.A.O.R. semi-final by the narrow margin of 1-0, but were successful in the Morrison Cup hockey when they defeated 1 Corps Signal Regiment by 3-2 in a thrilling game played in appalling conditions.

It was unfortunate that in the closing seconds of the match that Major Smith and Staff Sergeant Windebank had an argument of heads and were both slightly injured.

Major-General K. C. O. Bastyan, C.B.E., kindly presented the trophy.

The Shooting Officer reports that although the team scored 57 points more than last year's winners in the Morrison Cup shooting, they only managed to gain fourth place. It looks as if he must not only pick the right team, but the right year as well.

1 WIRELESS REGIMENT

Somewhat taken aback by a surprisingly mild winter, we have worked our way through another season in which the Regiment has kept its end up in all fields, particularly sport.

We are not quite at the end of the sporting year, as we still have the District seven-a-side to come and the football is not yet over, but we can fairly say that this is one of our best years.

The Morrison Cup is ours for the second year running and although we fell short of our aim to get all nine events we were happy to get three firsts, three seconds and three also rans, a total of 24 points.

In District competitions we won the athletics, swimming, basketball, Rugby and cross-country. We competed at Rhine Army level in the same events. We are in a very rarified atmosphere at this level but did well to come second in the swimming and were beaten out of the Rugby by the Royal Scots, who were eventual Army finalists.

On the individual side we won five events in the District individual athletics, the Rhine Army 1,500 metres and the Army mile.

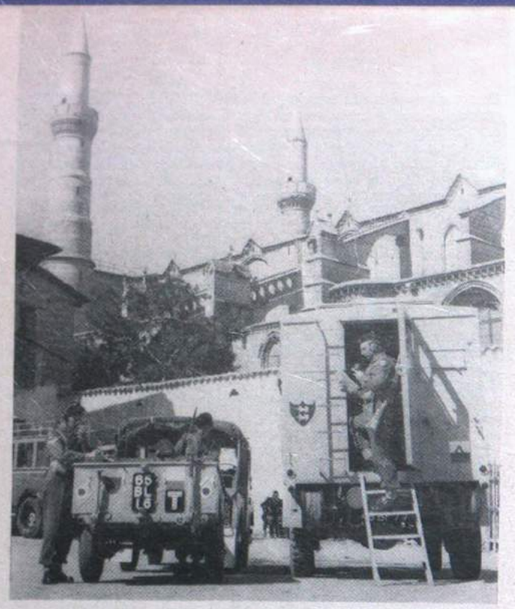
After three very good years at it, we can hardly complain at not doing so well at football this year but the teams have kept on plugging away, which is the important thing and we shall pick up again next year. We look like being second in the District League, which is some compensation. We went down the drain a bit at cricket also, but talent is coming in and we hope to get back to normal this summer.

We shall try harder at .303 shooting this year but this is, of course, an expensive business in time and men. Ex-members of the Regiment will know what that means.

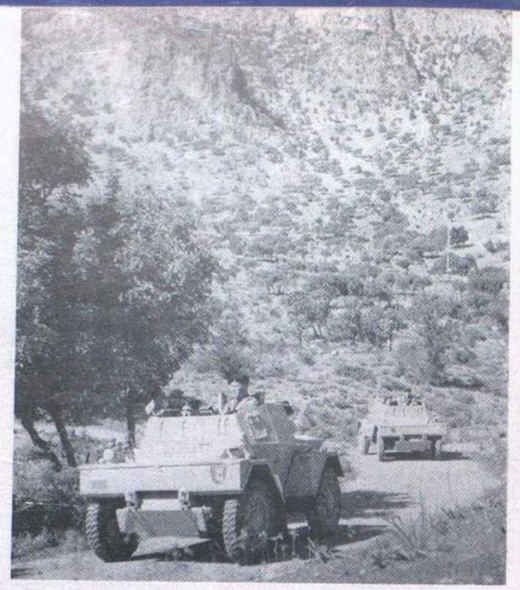
The indefatigable Theatre Club has produced another play, the last, we fear, in which Staff Sergeant and Mrs. Orwin will engage. It was very well done and most enjoyable.

For those of you who remember other days, the wooden spoon presented on Officers v. Warrant Officers/Sergeants games' nights is *still* in the Sergeants' Mess. There is talk of having it rivetted to the wall!

The words "Nijmegen Marches" keep cropping up and some slightly anxious looking faces can be seen around as the purpose of those long marches in the P.E. tests becomes increasingly obvious.



Under St. Sophia's mosque, Nicosia. Corporal F. Lace, Signalmen R. Bennett and J. Williamson



These two "Dingoe" cars operate the daily Signals Despatch Service through the Kyrenia Range of mountains. Corporal K. Highway is the driver of the front vehicle, with Signalman Kennedy as his escort. In the rear vehicle Signalmen Harrison and R. Johnson

CYPRUS

C.S.O. Branch, H.Q., Cyprus, has been in existence for just two years. Matters had become rather complicated in Cyprus —it had originally started with a simple (?) request from the "G" (Ops.) Staff. They wanted a Cyprus-wide voice communication system, at loudspeaker strength, to be guaranteed effective 24 hours a day. That was all. Fortunately A.A. Command was just disbanding in the U.K. and its excellent VHF sets were available. So was Mount Olympus—a large piece of real estate with a summit 6,200ft. up in the clouds, and very soon a relay station was perched on top of it.

The success of this enterprise brought the usual demands for more and more variations on the theme, after the initial installation with the help of the A.A. Command experts. Occasionally the sort of people who write the text books came to visit and they were led down from Mount Olympus visibly shaken. The impossible (but working) electronics horror of the mass VHF and SHF aerial arrays pointing to all parts of Cyprus and carrying over 30 radio links was unsettling (not to mention the dangerous ride down the hairpin bends back to Nicosia, often right through an active operational area).

Developments in other fields had been rapid—the use of "Dingoe" scout cars for some S.D.S. and Auster aircraft for A.D.S. were welcome improvements, and Brigade Signals out on cordon and search operations and extended patrols had to try quite a few new methods and equipments.

One of the highlights of improvisation, or is it the shape of things to come, was the use of helicopters for *local* delivery within Nicosia during curfews. Another unusual technique developed was the secret wrapping at dead of night of P.L. routes in such a way that they could be instantaneously restored before civil line parties could "repair the break."

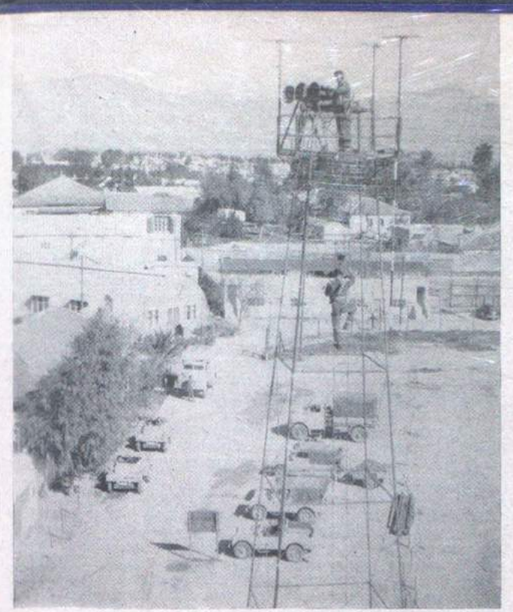
In April, 1957, Colonel H. Prince became C.S.O. Cyprus, with special responsibilities to the Director of Operations for co-ordinating Signals activities affecting internal security operations. A small staff was set up in Wolseley Barracks, Nicosia, of whom Major D. J. Benson has been the one constant member and for his work was "Mentioned in Despatches." Those who have ever served in the Corps in Cyprus will doubtless remember Mr. Carlettides, who was looking after S.W.S. before the emergency started and has continued his job, which has grown out of all recognition, as the only civilian officer in the Branch, incidentally, one of the very few in the H.Q. He remains working hard, fit and during one of the biggest Cyprus curfews his wife presented him with a son.

Since 1957, in the words of the Editor of THE WIRE, we have "sprung lightly from crisis to crisis," always, fortunately, landing on the peak, never in the trough. It is a small Branch and we have had the usual change over, i.e. the result of National Service, but everyone has fitted into the niche extremely well and it has remained a very happy party. Signalman Fudge is a most important member of the District Headquarters football side which so nearly won the Minor Units Trophy recently; Signalman Gloyne sings regularly in hotels; and W.O.II Lewis keeps the Branch working harmoniously.

The really certain thing about the Middle East is that the unexpected can always be relied upon to happen. Those who were swiftly transported from Internal Security activities in Cyprus to other troubles on the Muscat Coast of Arabia in 1957 will endorse that. So will those who, the following year, took off for Jordan. The Internal Security in Cyprus itself has been a constant surprise party, not least of all the recent Zurich and London agreements.

While busily involved in the rather complicated Signals arrangements for these affairs we have always been pleased to see visiting friends in the Corps such as 3 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment Parachute Brigade, Guards Brigade, 19 Brigade Signals and the detachments of 90 Signal Regiment and 2 L. of C. Signal Regiment. Of course, we were glad to fix up all their telephones for them. We particularly remember the doughty Sergeant Turner, ex-Cyprus Signal Regiment and now Parachute Brigade Signal Squadron, who returned to his old domain and very quickly had a few mysterious circuits organised (on "authority KEO" and friends in the civil authority?). The 2 L. of C. Signals detachments seemed to hit Cyprus and disintegrate rapidly between Tripoli, Cyprus and Amman on the well-known Signals principle of making the smallest Units stretch the mostest. We regret that there was never time to entertain our visitors or see as much of them as we would have liked but we were most grateful for the way they all settled down in the not over-luxurious Cyprus camps and willingly took their fair share of the burden of keeping communications effective. We did, however, detect a slight anxiety to return to Europe quickly when the crisis subsided.

Many changes are in the offing now, and no doubt the 1959 season Middle East surprise item will be included in the list (will visitors this summer please bring their own thermos flasks for keeping cool drinks). Neither W.O.II Barnes-Murphy (nowadays with the T.A. in Sheffield, we understand), nor W.O.II Lewis, his replacement as Chief Clerk, has been known



Corporal Esdale at the top of the tower at the Signal Centre in Nicosia

to register anything but polite interest at the astonishing sequence of flash orders and new arrivals. Their main concern has always been that their barometer—the height of the in-tray in milimeteres—never seems to fall.

Finally, we must add a word of appreciation and news of two civilian Nicosia personalities who are connected with the Corps and who have been very faithful friends to us here—Mr. G. W. Portsmouth (1914-18 Royal Engineer Signals, Middle East), General Manager of the Cyprus Inland Telecommunication Authority, and Mr. J. McIlvride, a one-time Regular Officer of Royal Signals, of his engineering staff. Mr. Portsmouth had his medals polished up to appear before H.E. The Governor to receive a very well deserved O.B.E, and we hear that Mr. McIlvride has now almost completely recovered back home in Scotland from the several bullet wounds he received from an EOKA gunman last October when he was ambushed by his stores building.

CYPRUS SIGNAL REGIMENT

As will by now be well known, the situation in Cyprus has changed considerably from what it was at the beginning of the year. Slowly but definitely, everyone political has co-operated rather more than anticipated and a final acceptable solution all round has been found.

Militarily, this has resulted in all the original restrictions being removed and we are all free once more to roam where we will, do what we like and are free from the encumbrance of weapons wherever we are.

Naturally the precise nature of the island's future is, as yet, barely known, as is that of the Regiment, which was really formed for an emergency which, on the face of it, no longer exists. We await developments.

Meanwhile, normal life goes on. New arrivals have settled in, including Major Stephens as O.C. H.Q. Squadron, replacing Major Wythe, who now commands 3 Brigade Signal Squadron. Captain Howe is now 2 IC H.Q. Squadron and Major Lane is quickly settling in. Captain Williams is on "holiday" at Troodos giving—or getting—some ski-ing and snowcraft experience in case the Middle East is completely snowbound next year. Our new R.S.M., W.O.I Pratt, has arrived, and a new S.S.M. for 1 Squadron, W.O.II Trevethick. Lieutenant Postlethwaite has flown off to U.K. on R.H.E., with his Messerschmidt in his hand baggage, and Sergeants Davies and Reid, with families, have similarly departed by sea. Families are now slowly coming



[*Photographs by Corporal J. Jefford, R.A.O.C., Army Public Relations*

The daily Army Air Corps plane at the Kermia airstrip, Nicosia. Lance Corporal K. Hankey and Signalman A. Ryder

out to join husbands and making life a little more pleasant for them.

The Regiment has unfortunately not excelled itself at sport this season apart from the Rugby side but a valuable amount of exercise has been taken. Sport has seriously been affected by work and restrictions in the past but should now improve. Climatic conditions in the island have been rather worse than usual this year and snow has fallen on at least two occasions in Nicosia, a feat that has not occurred for many years. For those who know Cyprus, the Kyrenia range was a mass of white snow the other morning, and the relay station at Yaila was demanding skis! We must really pay tribute in these notes to the gallant "Oates" of the regiment at the radio relay station at 6,400 feet on Mount Olympus who have endured gales of over 100 m.p.h. and temperatures of 10°F. there, and in spite of which aerials have been cleared of ice and snow and even replaced 60 feet up a mast. We are very pleased with F. of S. Flint and his men and send them our congratulations on their fortitude and hard work.

They have a television set at Olympus now, which is the highest in Cyprus and, we are told, in the Middle East as a whole.

Stop Press news must contain the fact that 11 Line Troop have "misplaced" a one-ton truck at Olympus. It was left out at night in an exposed area and by morning was reported buried in snowdrifts and lost to sight. The radiator was drained!

2 WIRELESS REGIMENT

Although it is invidious to pick out individuals, we feel we must note with regret the departure of so long a serving Officer as Major J. H. Smith, who left the Unit and the Army in February. Although his last tour here was for less than three years, his association with the Regiment stretches back to pre-war days and his going was marked by a very large circle of friends.

By a kind of inverse ratio law the first signs of the long hot summer ahead have come in hand-in-hand with a drop in the political temperature on the Island. The Regiment has been able to expand beyond its familiar bounds and already a host of extra-mural activities have sprung up. The Sailing Club is over-subscribed to bursting point; the heights of Kyrenia are being scaled most week-ends, and the recently revived Royal Signals Association Branch has leapt into fame with its offer of free beer as an aid to recruitment.

The 1958-59 Rugby season was probably the most successful the Regiment has enjoyed during recent years. The strength of Inter-Troop competitions and seven-a-side knock-outs, coupled with a strong nucleus of the 57-58 side, have led the first XV to victory 21 times out of 28. With 435 points to its credit, and only 160 against it, the team bids fair to setting up a Unit record. The 51 Brigade Cup was won from Command Workshops, but not even the presence of nine members of the Corps XV (Cyprus) could bring the Unit success against the Royal Welch Fusiliers in the Army Cup (Cyprus) semi-final.

The hockey team has done equally well in capturing the Eastern Cyprus Hockey Cup and was narrowly defeated in the semi-final of the All-Island Major Units' competition after extra time had been played.

In all three of the major winter sports the first team has been but a showpiece, reflecting the high standard of Troop and Squadron players who have competed keenly on every conceivable and some inconceivable occasions.

The soccer XI has more than held its own, having won six out of ten games, to the cost of the Royal Air Force and neighbouring R.A.O.C. teams.

Now that the winter season is over, minds are turning to the lighter sports and a whole new series of cups and challenges. Enthusiasm runs high, perhaps too high, as the Sergeant-Major said on arrival on the square for Guard Mounting drill to find a badminton net stretched across it. Perhaps the next WIRE will record whether or not for those particular enthusiasts virtue was its own reward.

STATIC SIGNALLING IN CYPRUS

APRIL, 1958, to MARCH, 1959

The letters "I.S." tacked on to "operation," "precautions," "restrictions" and so on are all too well-known by most British soldiers these days. As we plough our way through the cold war, "Internal Security" is upset by hostile enthusiasts of all political opinions, and it is our unrewarding job to see that the attempts to disrupt the normal life of the society are firmly but discreetly held so that the diplomatists can get to work.

In the piping days before Internal Security trouble in Cyprus a lonely guardroom was built to cover two isolated wireless stations. For a short time some years ago this was manned by the Gunners and then it was disused. Of course, in the event of real trouble, someone would come to protect the valuable operators and equipment, at least that was the theory. In practice, when trouble became acute, all teeth arms were fully extended and so 2 Wireless Regiment quite rightly had to look after itself.

During the past year we have learnt a lot. Our first incident was a bomb in a NAAFI bottle store—the bottles stood up to it better than the back wall and the result was quite spectacular. Full searching of all those entering the Lines was intensified and a proportion were completely stripped. The load fell largely on the Regimental Police, who had to be reinforced with tradesmen off their trade until G.D. reinforcements arrived.

The summer heat increased, weapons had to be carried ready for action; very strict discipline and increased practice on the range was needed to keep down accidents. Only one serious wounding occurred, as a result of careless handling, and the victim lived, after prompt evacuation by helicopter. No weapons were lost to the enemy. The Regiment's record was therefore reasonably good.

In mid-summer our EOKA neighbours turned their attention to the rough dirt track that led two miles off the main road to the isolated guardroom and its wireless stations.

One night a bang was heard and a flash was seen; the midnight shift truck lost its floor and its rear half was severely damaged. Fortunately the mine had gone off rather late under the rear wheels so that the occupants were only severely shaken, but it was obvious that midnight reliefs must cease and alternative tracks must be used to make mining less easy. However, three weeks later another truck was blown up. This time an electrically detonated mine was used on a side track and the front of the truck suffered severely, but again the occupants escaped. It was obvious that regular shift changes were too risky, in any case the drivers were normally Greek Cypriots, who although very loyal, were understandably becoming reluctant to make the trip.

The long deserted guardroom was therefore opened (with a crowbar—the lock had rusted with age), cleaned up, given electric power, furnished roughly and occupied. The operators had to add more patrols and static guards to their shift work. The patrols kept the shepherds at a respectful distance and the operators on watch were given their much needed security. The complete relief was changed, rationed and watered once in the day, and the number of trips down the track cut to one or two at varied times.

For four-and-a-half months, from the burning heat of summer to the middle of the coldest winter in Cyprus for nine years, this extra guarding and patrolling continued. The yellow dried and cracked flat plain vibrates with heat in summer; it turns to deep mud and becomes surprisingly cold, damp and bleak in winter.

The N.C.O.s and men involved deserve great credit for the way they did their job and morale kept high. Static guards and limited patrolling, always defensive, hardly ever eventful and producing no visible results, are very frustrating.

Messes, NAAFIs, stores and the cinema all had to be searched daily. All vehicles had to have armed escorts. We ran and covered the road block on the main road near our main Unit guardroom for eight months and many small incidents resulted.

Morale rose one night when the remains of an "EOKA hero" who had blown himself up while making bombs were being brought back to Famagusta. About 100 men of the Unit had to be turned out and extra dannert wire put across the open ground to stop the large and excited crowd, and to filter out those who belonged to Famagusta, from those coming in from outside villages.

An occasional suspect was passed on to the police, so that our contribution to the Internal Security work was not wholly negative. All the time our continuous heavy load of operational signalling continued.

The teeth arms were working long, irregular hours all the time, often under more dangerous conditions, but at least they had more variety and saw more of the countryside. To compensate for the fact that we were confined to barracks, as much swimming and sailing as possible was encouraged and then, as the weather cooled, as many games of rugger, soccer and hockey as the grounds allowed were organised. This encouraged EOKA to play us a dirty trick in their search for "soft targets."

At half-time in a game of rugger, someone spotted something odd by his feet and moving the top dust carefully he uncovered the treadboard of a sizeable electrically detonated mine. It had probably been laid the night before and could have killed a number of players had it been set off near a scrum. Play was interrupted while it was disarmed and removed and all pitches everywhere had to be searched before play after that.

Much useful work was done by our four dog handlers (Royal Signals volunteers from various trades) and their formidable dogs. Their work was mostly done at night, but daytime Exercise routines were also used usefully to cover our large area. We wanted to keep shepherds away from the playing fields after the mining incident and one day the N.C.O. handler was warning a shepherd off when his sheep dog jumped straight at him from the top of a six-foot rock. The war dog, "Bunter," took off from a sitting start and broke the neck of the sheep dog before it hit the ground. In the words of the brief report, "the shepherd then made off appearing to be alarmed." Perhaps he is not to be blamed. Before the troubles the shepherds were always friendly and good relations seem already to be largely restored.

British soldiers are rarely unpopular as individuals and the Army is a reasonable employer. The loyalty of our Greek and Turkish employees has been remarkable throughout. We have got about 49 Greek and 35 Turkish Cypriots working for us. The worst that EOKA intimidation achieved was when eight Greeks failed to turn up one day. Half of these could not reach Famagusta anyway because the 'bus service was stopped by the "total strike" ordered. When it is remembered that EOKA discipline was based on selective murder and not on awards of C.B., the standard of loyalty can be appreciated.

Well, we can now move about unarmed and visit all the numerous beauty spots on this interesting Island. Those who served in the Unit during the last three years have learnt a lot about small arms soldiering, more than in most Signal Units because few of them are fully responsible for their own military security under such conditions.

Static Signal Units are very much a part of the modern scene. Strategic reserves can only be moved quickly and efficiently if all the possible bases are linked by secure, militarily dependable signal communications. Perhaps some of the experiences mentioned above may help the planners when they are deciding on the amount of civilianisation that should be done.

It would not be fair to newspaper readers to end an article from 2 Wireless Regiment without mentioning *Tents*. Suffice it to say that they still exist and no doubt they will leak again sometime. However, now that conditions have stabilised, rumours are heard of barracks to be built.

In a year or two we may well have diminished our news value, but we should have improved our home comforts.

MALTA G.C.

COMCAN SIGNAL SQUADRON

"Now I know why they calls us COMCAN," said the D.S.O. one night, surveying the latest log from one of our outstations. Especially the 'CAN' part."

Past members of Tech Troop will be interested to know that System Control now has a "new look" following a time and motion study by Captain (T.O.T.) Holton. The machines and patching panel have all been put on the same level and the engineering phones converted to CB. Hoorah for progress! Mind you, time and motion mean quite a lot to Corporal Hogg, one of the System Controllers, who has been playing for the combined Army/R.A.F. team at Basket Ball. Our other sporting achievement is in the Minor Units Soccer League, where we remained unbeaten except by the winners, Malta Fortress Squadron Royal Engineers.

We welcome Sergeant Conway and his family who joined us from 3 Squadron U.K. COMCAN and we wish them an enjoyable tour. Sergeant Conway is already loading up on his own transmitter and hopes to form a Ham Club very soon. Listen out for ZBISA between 2100—2300 hrs. daily.

The usual feverish activity preceded our turn for that inspection which this year was carried out by Major-General C. H. Colquhoun, C.B., O.B.E., G.O.C. Troops, Malta. Unfortunately he only had time to inspect the Squadron Parade and visit Headquarters, and so the Transmitter and Receiver stations were denied the pleasure of displaying all the results of the hard work they had put in. Next year, to even things up, we intend to start with the visits to the various stations and hold the parade at the end, if there is time. We have not seen our report yet but we believe the Inspecting Officer was well satisfied. When talking of the Transmitter station perhaps we should explain that, unlike our other establishments on the island, the personnel who man this station are permanently detached and live all by themselves surrounded by enormous wireless transmitters and aerial masts. That they seem to thrive on it, you can judge by this description, submitted by two of the senior N.C.O.s stationed there.

Fort Zonkor

Situated in a "Beau Gueste" type of Fort, on a rocky headland on the eastern coast of the Island of Malta, lies Zonkor, which is the site for the Transmitter Station. The fort, originally built as an artillery observation post during the Second World War, has since been adapted to house the transmitters and personnel of this detachment.

Due to its former use as an observation post, the fort has an extremely pleasant setting overlooking the blue Mediterranean, and nearby are ideal facilities for swimming, fishing and boating. A first class tennis court is situated within the camp, and a dark room has recently been provided for our relatively large number of budding photographers.

The number living on the station is usually around twenty, and a recently modernised kitchen and dining hall with a well-stocked canteen contribute towards congenial off duty hours for all. The living accommodation largely consists of individual chalet type dwellings, and with the long sunny days, life at Zonkor can be very pleasant.

A recent innovation was the redecoration of the living rooms where conventional "military" shades were dispensed with and a pleasing mixture of matching colours substituted.

The Tx Hall, "The Heart Throb" of Zonkor, is of more recent construction, well ventilated and newly decorated and offers a bright and airy housing for our selection of Transmitters.

Zonkor is conveniently situated for sight-seeing excursions to other parts of Malta, and with our extremely congenial and pleasing position will, no doubt, hold very pleasant memories for past and present members of this Detachment.

1 SIGNAL SQUADRON, KING'S AFRICAN RIFLES, NAIROBI, KENYA

Since time immemorial the Unit Parade ground has been a trap to snare the unwary. In dry weather the all pervading dust serves to dim the most scintillating toe-cap, and when the rains come mud is all abounding. However, great things are afoot and the Ministry of Works, having dumped innumerable heaps of murram over the parade ground, are now levelling and rolling it. Before this article appears in print we hope to have the best parade ground in East Africa.

The main event of the month has been Exercise "Desert Fox." For the first time the Staff and Signals of the British 24 Brigade and the K.A.R. 70 Brigade were exercised at the same time. The area of Garba Tula, selected as the venue for the exercise, was extremely bare and hot and a temperature of 120°F. in the shade was recorded on most days. The high standard of communications provided by the two signal units was a tribute to the stamina and endurance of the operators. "J" Troop, who carried the entire weight of the exercise in so far as 1 Signal Squadron was concerned, are now back in Nanyuki having a well-earned spell of peace and quiet. As they have been in the field more or less continuously since the beginning of the year, they certainly deserve a rest.

The Easter holiday period provided the opportunity for an Inter-Troop Knock-out Football Competition. It would seem that we should have explained to the Askaris that the knock-out referred to the elimination of teams from the competition and not the elimination of players during play! The contest was waged in a robust, full-blooded fashion and a queue of limping soldiery outside the M.I. Room on Tuesday morning bore witness to this. We congratulate Operating Troop on ultimate victory.

We congratulate Sergeant and Mrs. Bodys on the birth of a daughter, at the B.M.H., Nairobi; and send our best wishes to Sergeant and Mrs. Burman and family on their departure to U.K.

COMCAN SIGNAL SQUADRON, NAIROBI, KENYA

Increased flying activity at R.A.F., Eastleigh, where we are stationed, has brought new problems this month. As our Administrative Block is beside the main runway we are quite used to cutting our conversation short whilst aircraft are taking off and landing, but now that the new fighter Squadron boys are practising take-off in threes, we not only have to stop talking and hold the "bunf" down, we have to hold the furniture down as well! However, every cloud has its silver lining and the new Squadron have lengthened the station duty roster very considerably, besides providing us with some very worthy new sporting opponents.

Although Bonfire Night does not come in this month—even in East Africa—we had a blaze this month that put the station Guy Fawkes's Night to shame. One of the R.A.F. buildings that housed our Carpenter's Shop caught fire and was quickly burnt out. Captain Hipperson and the shift from the T.R.C. were quickly on the scene and did all the right things until the arrival of the Fire Brigade. Old members of the Squadron will no doubt remember Tech Troop's Kikuyu carpenter, who now sits disconsolately beside the ashes.

Our social activities have been rather curtailed this month, due to the Hangar Club being closed for re-wiring, but we managed to hold the monthly meeting of the Royal Signals Association, for which there was a good attendance. The monthly "darts and dice" tankard and shield was won by Signalman Holden. The tankard was duly filled by the winner and the shield now reposes in the midst of Traffic Troop's collection of trophies—but for the last time, according to the dart champions of "H.Q. Troop.

Swimming is still the favourite pastime here, although now that the long rains have started it is quite possible to swim without leaving the office, as the rain seems to find its way through the walls as well as the roof. There is a fine pool at the R.A.F. station and the wireless sites use their static water tanks. All the budding champions are training hard for the next swimming gala.

A new Forces Club has just been opened in the city centre. The Club is very much appreciated and the ladies have rallied round to help out with serving "cuppers" and in the bar. The Club is situated in Haig House, the old British Legion premises, a spot well-known to you who have served here.

The Squadron entered a team in the recent Kenya European Hockey Festival. We played nine games, winning six, losing two, drawing one, and finished up second in our league. Although the Inter-Troop Soccer League is not yet finished, it looks as though Tech Troop are the champions, with Traffic Troop as runners-up.

This month we say farewell to the Shakeshaft, Andrews and Warman families. We wish them good luck and rather envy them sailing next week in *T.T. Dilwara* for a nice Mediterranean cruise home.



Photo: Courtesy Army Public Relations, G.H.Q. F.A.R.E.L.F.
Sergeants Gray and Mourant and Lance Corporal Jacob doing pioneer work

COMMANDER ROYAL SIGNALS, SINGAPORE

Royal Signals Singapore Administrative Regiment

In contrast to the first two months of the year March has been somewhat quiet. This may be due in part to Rammadan, which is now in full swing, causing the Muslim members of the Regiment to refrain from eating and drinking during the hours of daylight.

The Rugby and hockey season is over once again and we are now getting into the groove with soccer and cricket. Unfortunately there has been so much rain of late that the grounds are barely playable and Second-Lieutenant J. M. Thompson and his staff are kept busy trying to keep them going.

The season of fetes is now upon us and plans are already in hand for the Royal Signals Singapore fete which is to be held on 20th June. Many firms have come forward and generously given some very fine prizes for the grand raffle; among them articles such as a wireless set and a steam iron.

Field Signal Squadron (FE)

On the 1st of June, 1958, a detachment of 6 Malayan Other Ranks from H.F. Troop, Field Signal Squadron (FE) made the long train journey to Naka, near the Thai border, in North Malaya—a notorious terrorist area—to start a new phase in the activities of the Squadron.

Their job was to provide communications for a detachment from 84 Field Survey Squadron, R.E., engaged in surveying large areas of Malaya.

The equipment used was six WS 62 powered by dry batteries, which the operators man-packed through the jungle, aerial wire and any handy length of bamboo.

In October, 1958, the whole Unit moved South-East to Grik, still in the terrorist area, where conditions are mountainous and most patrolling takes place in a vertical plane.

Conditions have, however, always been rugged and the patrols quite often depended on air drops for their food supplies. On one occasion the weather was so bad that it was not possible to drop supplies and the men were without food for three days.

On two occasions when patrols had to wade across flooded rivers our operators have been swept off their feet. Lance-Corporal Joseph Lee and Signalman Ghani, the latter now with Federation Signals, are thankful that the rocks which saved them were placed so conveniently.

Our only casualty so far occurred when a patrol which was climbing up a mountain track went astray in heavy rain. Signalman Sulaiman slipped and fell 30 feet down a steep slope, damaging his ankle so badly that he had to be evacuated by helicopter. His injury proved, however, to be less serious than at first thought and he returned to the Unit after a short holiday in the B.M.H. near Taiping.

Officers from the Squadron have visited the detachment at regular intervals and we are glad to report that the men, whose number has now increased to eight, are in good spirits and fit enough to beat the Sappers at football.

Line Squadron Royal Signals, Singapore

The Squadron's main out-of-hours occupation during the month of March has been assistance to a local civilian Boys' Club in the centre of Singapore. A volunteer party from the Squadron has almost completed the construction of a concrete outdoor badminton court for them. Next month we hope to produce a photograph of the completed court.

Despite our forecast last month, the rainy weather is still with us and consequently our sporting activities have been somewhat curtailed. However, our soccer team continues to thrive and our first canoe should take to the water in April.

Operating Squadron Royal Signals, Singapore

The trouble with these Notes is not what to put in, but what to leave out. However, we do not seem to have "hatched" or "despatched" any noteworthy characters this month, sporting activity has been quiet and apart from the routine everyday tasks which must go on, we have enjoyed catching up with leave and easing up on chores after inspections and V.I.P.s.

Let us generalise then for the benefit of those who are Ex, and any others who are interested. We are, of course, in the midst of the big fast, and our Muslim members, who form more than half the strength of the Squadron, have to perform their duties and observe their strict religious beliefs at the same time. We are looking forward to the great celebrations of Hari Raya Puasa which will mark the end of the fast on the 10th April. It is these occasions which add to the interest of soldiering here and prove that the words "East is East" do not apply if you conglomerate Chinese, Indians, Malay and U.K. tradesmen together, as we do, and give them a common task.

We have had two young Malay Officers attached recently, Second-Lieutenants Lee and Thompson. This helps greatly, of course, to promote understanding of local problems. We hope that when their continuation training in Australia is completed we shall see them back again.

We have never officially welcomed Lieutenant Rachel Turnbull, W.R.A.C., who now commands our detachment of girls employed at the Signal Centre. She and they do a grand job and we would not be without them, although the speed with which they marry and leave us shows that the reverse is not true.



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Everybody anxiously waiting for a message from control. This picture was taken on the way to R.P. 35 which is about five miles from Siam border

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This was the Air drop we received on R.P. 24. This was one of the last two Air drops done by the Bristol Freighter when we were near the Siam border

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Visit of the Signal Officer-in-Chief to FARELF

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ON the 11th February, a cold and wintry English day, Major-General R. J. Moberly, C.B., O.B.E., left Lyneham by R.A.F. Comet to visit FARELF. Forty-two hours later he was being welcomed to Singapore by the C.S.O. FARELF, Brigadier H. L. Lewis, C.B.E., and his A.D.C. for Singapore, Lieutenant P. D. Evans. The day temperature had been nearly 90° and it was a sultry, humid evening.

For the next three weeks the S.O.-in-C., accompanied by Mrs. Moberly, who arrived care of B.O.A.C., toured FARELF, being conducted by Brigadier Lewis from country to country and Unit to Unit. For convenience, this article deals separately with the visits to each of the three countries involved, namely Singapore, Hong Kong and Malaya.

Singapore

The General began his FARELF tour by visiting the Royal Signals Squadrons commanded by C.R. Signals, Singapore, Colonel J. P. North, C.B.E. These six Squadrons are grouped for administrative purposes under the Royal Signals Singapore Administrative Regiment, commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel A. J. Blower, T.D. Both Colonels North and Blower are old friends of General Moberly and right away the tour began to form a pattern of old friendships being re-established.



● **S.O.-in-C. talks to R.S.M. H. McMorran; Lieutenant-Colonel A. J. Blower, Colonel J. P. North and Brigadier H. L. Lewis look on**

The Squadrons' tasks include local and inter-theatre communications, COMCAN and trade training, a well mixed bag of signal responsibilities. It is a mixture of Malayan and British Signalmen who do the job and the two racial groups combine well together. How well may be judged from the fact that, on the evening of the General's visit to the Regiment he saw a Royal Signals Singapore hockey team just beat Royal Engineers Singapore after a lively, hard match.

The General spent a great deal of his time talking to soldiers and he met many old comrades, particularly from his days in pre-partition India. R.Q.M.S. Collar and W.O.II Ware were among those introduced by R.S.M. MacMorran in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess.

In the Officers' Mess the splendid personage of Katir Singh, who now helps to look after the Mess accounts, recalled days when he was a riding instructor under Major Moberly, of Peshawar District Signal Regiment. Later on, Captain (Q.M.) Ben Sellar, O.C. 13 Signal Park Squadron, produced his well remembered grin as the General inspected the Squadron's activities in the Ordnance Park. The same high standard was shown as that produced by R.S.M. Sellar at the Signal Training Centre, Jubblepore, when Colonel Moberly commanded in 1946/47.



● **Mrs. Moberly talks to R.S.M. Samad and S.S.M. Hussein**

Later, at R.A.F. Station, Changi, the S.O.-in-C. was met by the C.A.F.S.O., Colonel G. S. K. Maydon, and visited 19 Air Formation Signal Regiment. Lieutenant-Colonel K. M. Evans, the Commanding Officer, was there to greet the General, who was well pleased with the Malay Guard mounted in his honour, under the command of Lieutenant G. C. M. Newton.

During this visit the S.O.-in-C. presented vehicle badges to drivers who had driven for periods varying between eight and eleven years without an accident. While visiting a Married Quarter he met Mrs. Stubbs, wife of the R.S.M., and Mrs. Webster, wife of the R.Q.M.S. Finally, he joined Mrs. Moberly, Mrs. Lewis and the Officers and their wives at the R.A.F. Officers' Club for lunch.

At all these visits to barracks and Messes on Singapore Island General Moberly saw many of the Regimental activities. He found time to talk to many soldiers and to visit a few families—Malayan and British—in their homes. At the social events held in his honour, both he and Mrs. Moberly had a few words with everyone present.

Hong Kong

The S.O.-in-C. and Mrs. Moberly, with Brigadier Lewis, arrived in Hong Kong by R.A.F. Hastings from Singapore on



● **S.O.-in-C. with the Quarter Guard at Murray Barracks**



● **In the W.O.'s and Sergeants Mess, the S.O.-in-C. seen with R.Q.M.S. Scott and R.S.M. Crosby; looking on Sergeant Law and W.O.II Conlon**

23rd February. There was talk of the aeroplane being diverted to Manila but a fortuitous break in the clouds enabled the pilot to land on time.

At Kai Tak airfield the visitors were met by Air Commodore P. D. Holder, D.S.O., D.F.C., the Station Commander, Kai Tak. Group Captain H. A. S. Disney, O.B.E., Lieutenant-Colonel P. E. S. Mansergh, O.B.E., C.R. Signals Hong Kong, and Captain J. A. H. K. Findlater, A.D.C. to the S.O.-in-C. for this part of the tour After a short Press conference and much filming by television and Press cameras, General and Mrs. Moberly went to the Repulse Bay Hotel, where they lived during their visit.

The next day the S.O.-in-C. met the staff of H.Q., Land Forces, Hong Kong, and the Commodore Hong Kong, Commodore G. D. A. Gregory, D.S.O. He then visited the H.Q. Land Forces Signal Centre and the underground telephone exchange, manned by 328 Telephone Switchboard Operating Troop, W.R.A.C. A visit to Hong Kong Signal Regiment in Murray Barracks followed. This began with an inspection of a Guard of Honour before visiting 1 Squadron, commanded by Major D. L. Swallow. After a tour of the Squadron lines, the S.O.-in-C. inspected the transmitter hall, where he saw terminals working to Singapore. Later, in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, R.S.M. Crosby introduced senior N.C.O.s of the Corps in Hong Kong.

Across to the mainland by launch in the afternoon for a visit to 2 Squadron, commanded by Major T. P. Furlonge. Here the General also met the Signal Troop of 32 Medium Regiment, R.A., commanded by Staff Sergeant Line. Then on to Kai Tak for a visit to the Hong Kong detachment of 19 Air Formation Signal Regiment, commanded by Lieutenant (T.O.T.) K. Pattison. In the evening General and Mrs. Moberly attended the H.Q. Land Forces and Hong Kong Signal Regiment Officers' Mess cocktail party, where they were introduced to H.E. The Governor and Lady Black and met all the head "communicators" in the Colony.

The following day was spent in visiting Units in the New Territories. These included 48 Independent Gurkha Infantry Signal Squadron (who were taking part in an Exercise), New Territories Signal Troop, commanded by Captain C. G. Ridley, 49 Field Regiment, R.A., Signal Troop and 1 Royal Tanks Signal Troop, with Staff Sergeant Copley and Sergeant Fenwick the N.C.O.s-in-Charge these respective Troops.

During the evening a buffet supper was held in the Mess, at which all Royal Signals Officers in Hong Kong and their wives were present.

After a most successful visit, the S.O.-in-C. and Mrs. Moberly left Hong Kong on the afternoon of 26th February, having spent the morning shopping in Nathan Road for a few mementos of their happy stay.

During the visit battle dress had been the order of dress, but now on return to Singapore it was olive green once again, this time for a visit to the jungles of Malaya.

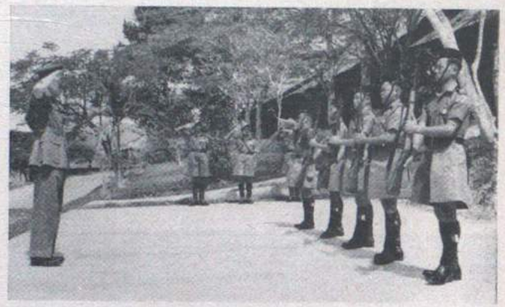
Malaya

The Gurkha Signals of 17 Gurkha Division backed by 28 Commonwealth Brigade and O.C.L.F. Signal Squadron provide the British Army Communications in the Federation.

Royal Signals Units in Malaya are scattered over the length of the country, but the S.O.-in-C. was determined to meet the maximum number of Officers and men, and their wives. The programme was a heavy one and entailed journeys by rail, road and air. It kept the A.D.C. (in Malaya Lieutenant G. J. P. Browne) very fully employed.

Colonel Tulloch, O.B.E., C.S.O. 17 Gurkha Division/O.C.L.F., met the visitors at Seremban. There Mrs. Moberly detrained to attend a wives' tea party organised by O.C.L.F. Signal Squadron. The General continued in the train to Kuala Lumpur to meet the Chief-of-Staff Federation Armed Forces, Lieutenant-General F. H. Brooke, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O. General and Mrs. Moberly were reunited later at Flagstaff House in Seremban, where they stayed with the General Officer Commanding, Major-General J. A. R. Robertson, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., who gave a dinner party for them.

On Monday, after a short discussion with the G.O.C. and C.S.O., the S.O.-in-C. paid a visit to O.C.L.F. Signal Squadron



● **The S.O.-in-C. and the Quarter Guard, 17 Gurkha Divisional Signal Regiment**

in Paroi Camp. Major B. H. Parsonage introduced his Officers, S.S.M. Giles and the senior N.C.O.s, together with two representatives of 2 Field Regiment, R.A., Signal Troop.

The S.O.-in-C. was shown round the Signal Centre by Major (Tfc. Offr.) L. J. Sharp. He was very interested to see the way in which the Gurkhas were working and was surprised to find that they had tape relay working to Brigades (using equipment hired from the Telecommunications Department!).

Then to 17 Gurkha Divisional Signal Regiment. The first visit of a Signal Officer-in-Chief to Gurkha Signals started with an inspection of a very smart Quarter Guard and the presentation of Long Service and Good Conduct Medals to Lieutenants (Queen's Gurkha Officers) Birbahadur Rawat, Ranbahadur Gurung and to R.S.M. W.O.I Kharakparsad Pun. Lieutenant-Colonel G. W. Blackburne, Commander 17 Gurkha Divisional Signal Regiment, then presented to the General a scroll with



● **The S.O.-in-C. inspects a WS 53 Landrover prepared for loading into a Hastings aircraft**

an illuminated message of welcome to the Regiment from the Colonel Gurkha Signals, Brigadier W. G. Tucker, C.B.E. Unfortunately, Brigadier Tucker was unable to be there in person. After the presentation the Commanding Officer described Exercise Protain, for which three Officers and 100 G.O.R.s have been in Nepal since last November, providing communications for the first general elections. The General then inspected wireless and line detachments which were specially equipped for airportability.

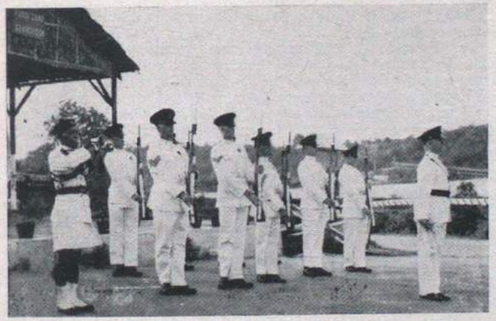
In the Gurkha Signal Training Squadron, Major J. E. Evans, M.C., showed the S.O.-in-C. the Signals recruits in their sixth month of trade training. The General talked to a batch of trainees who are going to the Signal Training Brigade in Catterick in April, to learn to become radio technicians, radio relay technicians and operators.

Before an excellent curry lunch in the Gurkha Signals Officers' Mess, General Moberly met the Queen's Gurkha Officers, led by Major Q. G. O. Dhanbahadur Gurung, the Gurkha Major. They were delighted that the S.O.-in-C. still conversed in fluent Urdu.

During the morning Mrs. Moberly had coffee with Mrs. Tulloch and discussed the welfare and family problems which affect the Royal Signals soldier in Malaya. Mrs. Blackburne then took over and showed her around the family lines of Gurkha Signals, where she was most interested in the display of Gurkha wives' handicrafts.

After lunch the General and Mrs. Moberly visited the family lines and the school, where the time honoured ceremony of presentation of garlands was followed by a dancing display by the children.

At 6.30 p.m. the Pipes and Drums of Gurkha Signals started the Beating of Retreat to a very large number of spectators, both military and civilian, on the Station Padang. The Commander-in-Chief Far East Land Forces, General Sir Richard A. Hull, K.C.B., D.S.O., was also present. The Major-General, Brigade of Gurkhas, Major-General Robertson, was particularly interested in the marching speeds, to check which he used a stop-watch. Seven o'clock saw the lowering of the Corps and Gurkha Signals flags and the Band marched off to the Gurkha Signals Regimental March, "Scotland the Brave," played,



● **O.C.L.F. Signal Squadron Quarter Guard under Captain R. T. Martin greet the S.O.-in-C. at Paroi Camp**

according to the M.G.B.G., in correct rifle time of 132 to the minute.

After the Retreat, the Royal Signals Officers gave a cocktail party in the Gurkha Signals Officers' Mess, to which all the Staff were invited to meet General and Mrs. Moberly. In the middle of the party the S.O.-in-C. was taken to the Gurkha Signals Sergeants' Mess, where a joint Royal Signals and Gurkha Signals social was in progress. He managed to meet a number of Warrant Officers and Sergeants of the Corps and was entertained by the Gurkha nautch party. Then back to the Officers' Mess for a buffet supper, from which the General and Mrs. Moberly were allowed to go at about 11.30 p.m.

The rendezvous, next morning at 7.30, was Paroi Camp to inspect O.C.L.F. Signal Squadron on parade. A Quarter Guard in No. 3 Dress, under Captain R. T. Martin, welcomed the S.O.-in-C. and received encouraging words from him.

The Squadron then gave a General Salute, followed by a march past. The Pipes and Drums of Gurkha Signals were in support. Afterwards, in an address to the Squadron, the General made the point that, in his opinion, such parades were of great value and showed people what a Unit was made of. He congratulated both the Squadron and the Gurkha Signals Band on their turn-out. After breakfast the S.O.-in-C. motored to Kuala Lumpur to meet the U.K. High Commissioner, Sir Geofroy Tory, K.C.M.G., who appeared to be having a Generals' Orderly Room. General Moberly was marched in one of three!

Thence to visit Federation Signals and lunch with Brigadier Green, acting Chief-of-Staff, Federation Armed Forces, and Mrs. Green. After lunch the General visited Air Vice-Marshal V. E. Hancock, C.B.E., D.F.C., A.O.C. in Malaya, with whom future plans were discussed. Major E. H. C. Chaffey, S.O. 2 Air Formation Signals, explained his job, followed by Major (T.O.T.) F. R. Cox, S.O. Tels., H.Q., 17 Gurkha Division /O.C.L.F. After a short visit to the Joint Operations Centre, Captain R. Plant, O.C. Air Support Signal Troop, took the S.O.-in-C. up the hill to the R.A.F. transmitter site where his Troop is based. Here the General found a parade in which were representatives of Batu Signal Troop, the Royal Signals of 22 Special Air Service Regiment and the Air Support Signal Troop. During a short discussion of some of the problems particular to air support in Malaya, the General was let into some of the secrets, which have been so successfully used in the emergency.



● **28 Comwel Brigade Signal Squadron on Parade. S.O.-in-C. talks to Sergeant B. G. Hillier, Royal Australian Signals**

After a quick tea General and Mrs. Moberly watched the end of an exciting hockey match between Royal Signals Malaya and Federation Army Signals. This resulted, very satisfactorily, in a draw after extra time. The Officers of Federation Army Signals later gave an excellent cocktail party in the General's honour in the old Imphal Mess of Malaya Command days. Another late night.

About 1 a.m. Kinrara Hospital were telephoning to announce the arrival into the world of Miss Tulloch. She will never appreciate how the prospect of this event complicated planning for the visit but, had it been included in the programme, a better time could not have been chosen. A distinct load was lifted from at least two people implicated in the tour.

At 8.30 a.m. the party were taking off in a Beaver aircraft to visit 28 Commonwealth Brigade Group Signal Squadron 300 miles away in Taiping. The General sat in front with the pilot, taking photographs and showing great interest in the extraordinary country round Ipoh which unfolded under him. At Taiping, the S.O.-in-C. was met by Major F. A. Wainwright and taken to Brigade H.Q. for a briefing on the current emergency situation in the Brigade area. The General quickly realised that Malaya gave plenty of support to the latest orders for Infantry Signallers to be trained to read morse at 12 words per minute.

The Squadron paraded under Captain Mostyn, Royal Australian Signals, and the S.O.in-C. said it was the first time he had inspected an integrated Signals Unit. He stressed how important it was to make integration a success and congratulated the parade on a high standard of drill, smartness and turn-out. Arms drill was particularly good. Next came a quick visit to the Signal Centre of the North Malay Sub-

District Signal Troop, under Captain E. G. Thomas, followed by a tour of the Squadron lines. General Moberly met the Signal Officers of the Royal Australian Regiment and the New Zealand Regiment, both of whom are Officers of their respective Signal Corps. He also met W.O.II Wilford and Sergeant Stephens, representing the Signal Troop of 13/18 Hussars, Corporal Clapperton from the Penang Signal Detachment, and Sergeant Hooker, Royal Australian Signals, also from Penang. The S.O.-in-C. was most interested to meet W.O.II Parish, the Squadron Sergeant-Major, who has served as a Warrant Officer in both Royal Signals and (now) in Royal Australian Signals. The acme of integration!

The General had a families' briefing from wives during a visit to the Squadron Wives' Club, where he expressed his great pleasure that so many of the Australian wives supported the Club and that he was able to meet them. After a quick lunch in the Commonwealth Brigade Officers' Mess the visitors set off in the Beaver again.

At Kluang, 450 miles to the South, Captain M. C. Barrett, O.C. "K" Troop, 17 Gurkha Divisional Signal Regiment, met the aircraft and took the General to H.Q., 63 Gurkha Brigade. There he described the Signals aspects of the recent operation in which the Brigade took part (Operation "Badak"), which eliminated the last Communist Terrorists in Johore. The General had a useful ten minutes with the Brigade Staff on the employment of Signals and Signal equipment. He noted the urgent need to speed the replacement of the A.510 wireless set. Representatives from Johore Bahru Signals Detachment and "L" Troop were then inspected and, after a hurried cup of tea, at 5 p.m. the S.O.-in-C. left to fly back to Singapore.

On the 5th March General Moberly finally left Singapore. The FARELF tour was over, although before returning to U.K. the S.O.-in-C. was to visit India and Pakistan.

An account of this nature cannot explain adequately the task involved in going everywhere and seeing everything and everybody. It is a most tiring experience. The tour had covered many thousands of miles in a little over 14 days and had included a variety of climatic conditions.

We all felt that this inexhaustable man, the S.O.-in-C., had helped to bridge the distances between us all and had made our remoteness and our vastness seem far less real than perhaps we had thought.

It was a wonderful trip for us and we are extremely grateful to General Moberly and Mrs. Moberly for making it. We sincerely hope that in days to come it will provide many happy memories for them both.

19 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT

Lethargy may be a common characteristic out here in South East Asia, but we cannot say that our Regiment has become inflicted by this distressing ailment. In fact, since last November we have been leading a rather hectic existence. Festivals, varying from the spectacular and colourful Hindu Deepavali and Thaipusam to our own Christmas, and the noisy Chinese New Year, have been interspersed with two successful Administrative Inspections, a hard, energetic and equally successful Hockey season and several notable Christmas festivities.

The first Administrative Inspection was taken by Brigadier W. S. F. Hickie, O.B.E., at R.A.F. Changi on 13th November, 1958, whilst Colonel J. W. Bossard, M.B.E., inspected Hong Kong Troop towards the end of the year. Both inspecting officers appeared favourably impressed during their visits.

On the Hockey field our team has really proved its worth under the able leadership of our Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel K. M. Evans, and our experienced trainer, Major (Q.M.) A. W. Fisk, we won the six-a-side Singapore Base District Hockey Championship when we narrowly beat 2/2 K.E.O. Gurkhas in an exciting final. Our most recent success was our victory in the final of the Singapore Base District Major Units Hockey Cup, when we beat District W/Shops R.E.M.E. In the FARELF competition we defeated the Malay Champions but lost the Challenge Match to R.E.M.E. Singapore by three goals to two.

Our Christmas celebrations began in November when our Annual All Ranks' Dance was held at the R.A.F. Station Changi. The whole evening proved a notable success and was a particularly remunerative occasion; over £200 was raised for various military charities, the majority being given to the Royal Signals Benevolent Fund. Among those present were the Commander-in-Chief Far East Air Force, Air Marshal the Earl of Bandon, K.B.E., C.E., C.V.O., D.S.O., and the Chief Signal Officer, FARELF, Brigadier H. Lewis, C.B.E.

The Wives' Club also became a hive of activity during November, when they held a successful sale of work, the proceeds of which went towards the children's Christmas toys. A wide variety of goods were displayed, all of which were soon devoured by a large cosmopolitan crowd.

At the moment the Regiment is awaiting the arrival of S.O.-in-C., whose visit to R.A.F. Changi is scheduled for 27th February, 1959.

The last few months have seen several key changes in the Regiment. We welcome Major G. Byrom and Major A. H. Dennis, who have taken over command of 1 Squadron and 2 Squadron respectively. We have also lost two much respected officers, Major F. G. Bolam and Major W. L. Ward. Both Major and Mrs. Bolam have given unflagging support to all Regimental functions and their departure is a great loss to the Regiment. With his expert knowledge of the people, customs and cultures of the East, Major Ward was unique. We have all learnt much from both his conversation and his lectures; he will be very much missed. To all three we extend our sincere wishes for the future.

Radio Relay in Hong Kong

To everyone in Singapore a trip to Hong Kong is a must. For the Radio Relay Troop it was fortuitous that the narrow path of duty also coincided with the broad road of pleasure.

Preparations for a trials programme in Hong Kong included the filling in of forms, weighing of vehicles and there was some talk of an issue of battledress. The Squadron Commander and O.C. Radio Relay Troop flew over for a preliminary reconnaissance. Both Officers had a wonderful tour of Hong Kong and the New Territories, which ended with a 24-hour stay at Saigon on the return trip. This was by courtesy of the R.N.Z.A.F., whose Bristol Freighter broke down. It is believed that the crew, who were shortly returning to New Zealand, were determined to extend their local knowledge of the night spots. The freighter arrived back in Singapore 72 hours before the Radio Relay Troop were due to sail for Hong Kong. Captain Simms-Reeve, the Troop Commander, found this quick turn round a trifle hectic.

Our Troop, with their vehicles, were tactically loaded on the *LST Frederick Clover*. The vehicles were loaded down a steep ramp into the depths of the LST. Our drivers had no previous experience, but managed well, being helped at tricky periods by R.A.O.C. personnel more used to the work. Once the vehicles were inside the LST, they were secured and greased and batteries were disconnected.

We were seen off by Colonel J. P. North, C.B.E., C.R. Signals, Singapore, and our Squadron Commander, Major Butler.

The weather was fine and it was not long before the ship was clear of the docks and steaming past the waterfront of Singapore. Everyone was soon eating their first meal afloat—with no repercussions afterwards. The trip to Hong Kong takes seven days, during which time only a few islands are sighted. Most of us were grateful for some lazy days, with two hours' military training and an hour's preparation for Master's rounds as the only chores. Everyone practised hard at deck tennis and quoits preparing for the Troop knock-out tournament. Unfortunately this was halted at the semi-finals by rough weather, three days out.

The number appearing for meals fell sharply at this stage. Certain of the landlubbers were worried by eerie noises from the hold, which were diagnosed as the movements of a large crane and several pieces of sheet metal. The amount an LST can bend in a swell also caused alarm and despondency, mainly among the non-swimmers.

After a week at sea it was a great relief to see land again, albeit Communist China. Large numbers of small junks passed us as we got nearer to Hong Kong. How some of the more heavily laden kept afloat was a mystery.

We passed the Kai Tak airstrip, which juts out a mile into the Hong Kong harbour, as it began to get dark. Tall buildings winked at us from both sides and the harbour was alive with craft of all descriptions. Slowly we nosed on to the ramps at Jordan Road Hood, Kowloon. As soon as we moored, we were met by embarkation staff and two weary Squadron representatives from the Kowloon and Hong Kong Island Squadrons of Hong Kong Signal Regiment. Apparently our E.T.A. was 06.00 hours. We were over 12 hours late—no change—at least



The view looking across Hong Kong harbour to Kowloon, taken from WS B70 Detachment at Middle Gap. At top right may be seen the new runway at Kai Tak airport

it was the right day! It was now past 8 p.m. and everyone was thinking of tomorrow except Captain Simms-Reeve, who whipped us into feverish activity, unshackling vehicles, connecting batteries and generally preparing to disembark. All the vehicles except one started and within 11 minutes, much to the surprise of ourselves and the ship's crew, we were ashore and parked on the main Kowloon road.

The Troop then split in two, one half going across on a vehicle ferry to Hong Kong Island, the other half basing itself on Kowloon, at Whitfield Barracks. After a hasty meal, all concerned set forth to sample the well-known delights of this truly magnificent town.

Apart from the usual appurtenances of a Radio Relay Troop we took a detachment from the H.F. Troop with us with a 76 set so that we could maintain contact with Singapore. We also took some WS C42 and WS B44 to conduct trials with them.

We shall all treasure our memories of the wonderful views from the various peaks used as B70 sites. These included Tates Cairn, Middle Gap and Tai Mo Shan. The latter is over 3,000ft. high and overlooks Communist China. All the sites proved to be a photographer's paradise, comparable with some of the Cheongsams worn by the very attractive Chinese girls.

For one period the weather was particularly cold and the detachment on Tai Mo Shan resembled the Arctic expedition, down to the rum thoughtfully provided from the Troop Commanders' Mess bill. Eventually the weather improved and one detachment in particular had a glorious day during a trial at Repulse Bay, sunning themselves on a rocky summit above a golden beach.

The results of the WS B70 trials were generally good, though shipping obstructions were a real snag from the sites near the harbour. Circuits were provided from the Forces H.Q. at Hong Kong to Kowloon and the New Territories. C.R. Signals, Hong Kong, Lieutenant-Colonel P. Mansergh, O.B.E., made several calls and was well satisfied.

Trials of the WS B44 were conducted from launches which patrol the coastal areas and were enjoyed by us all. One N.C.O. found himself with one foot on each of two launches, steadily drifting apart, with his aerial gear somewhere in between. He solved the problem by doing the splits and lives to tell the tale. Sergeant Callaghan had great fun at the helm of the G.O.C.'s launch, which we are glad to report is still seaworthy.

The WS C42 trials covered the whole of Hong Kong and Kowloon, including the New Territories. All of us had the opportunity for plenty of sightseeing and at least half the Troop got as far as the Chinese border. Even Lance-Corporal Hartley, who was pounding away on the WS 76 with some success, managed to join the rubber neckers. It is interesting to record that several long sitreps were sent over this 1,700-mile link to the WS 53/209 at Singapore, though conditions at the best were extremely difficult.

Before we returned we had four glorious days' leave, during which the experiences of various members of our party would fill a book. Sufficient to say that *no* Provost reports followed us back.

The return trip was very calm and we all enjoyed using the swimming pool rigged on the deck. It was a wonderful trip and everyone in the Troop was most grateful to Lieutenant-Colonel P. Mansergh, O.B.E., and all ranks of the Hong Kong Signal Regiment which he commands for their help. Our thanks are due particularly to Major J. Shaw, M.B.E., Major T. P. Furlonge, Major D. L. Swallow and Major A. S. Rawson, who all took a large part in the trials. Lastly, congratulations to the Training Operatives from ASSU Troop and 1 Squadron in Hong Kong, who did such sterling work on the WS 76 link.

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).*

Vacancies at WAR OFFICE and AIR MINISTRY for Messengers, aged 38-58. Commence £8/17/6 per week, rising to £9/2/- after one year's service. Five-day week, generous annual leave and sick leave, public holidays. Uniform provided. Prospects of promotion to Paperkeeper, with immediate pay increase of 16/- per week. Apply between 9.30 a.m. and 4.30 p.m., Monday to Friday, to the Chief Office Keeper at the appropriate address as follows:—

War Office, Room 148, Northumberland House, Northumberland Avenue, London, W.C.2.

Air Ministry, Room 0316, Whitehall Gardens, London, S.W.1.

EMPLOYMENT FIGURES FOR QUARTER ENDING 31st MARCH, 1959

New applicants registered	40
Placings *confirmed*	21
Other queries answered	125

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Re-staying a pole at an observation post

HONG KONG SIGNAL REGIMENT

New Territories Line Troop

The New Territories Line Troop of this Regiment live in Sek Kong which is on the mainland of China about six miles from the border between the Colony and Communist China. Their role is to construct and maintain all telephone lines, both U.G. and O.H. in the New Territories, and their main "customers" are the Gurkha Brigade who are located in this area. In addition to this, they man two telephone exchanges and a fault control.

The composition of the troop is roughly half British and half Hong Kong Chinese Other Ranks. In addition they have attached permanent Chinese civilian cable jointers and linemen. The bulk of the labour employed on any cable project are local coolies who do the digging and burying under service supervision. The country is, in general, very hilly with peaks of up to 3,000 feet high. A short time ago the troop were burying a U.G. cable from the top of a 1,000 feet high observation post to the valley below and the cable run was planned to pass through a small wood at the foot of the hill. As the "run" approached the wood they were accosted by a little Chinese from the nearby village who protested that the cable would disturb the local dragon which lived in the wood, and thereby bring misfortune and poor crops to the villagers. The troop wisely diverted the cable run. They had heard of the battle involving one death that occurred when a rival village tried to drive a footpath through the "dragons wood."

THE MIDDLESEX YEOMANRY SIGNAL REGIMENT

(The Duke of Cambridge Hussars)

1959 was ushered in by the Regiment with a social evening in the Regimental Club. This party was shortly followed by another very noisy one—the Children's Party on 4th January.

During January, February and March, the major part of the training has been indoors, but S.S.M. Judd, Sergeants Polden and Dawson and Corporal Turner have gallantly continued to give driving instruction in open Champs.

In January, 3 (Parachute) Squadron visited Fleet, near Aldershot, and took part in a combined wireless and line exercise, while outstations were located near Bognor Regis and Brighton. Personnel who stayed at 60 W.E.T.C. are still enthusing over Corporal Baker's porridge (made from oatmeal blocks) and Lance-Corporal Duncan's Corden Bleu baked beans.

1 Squadron cover an area from Colchester to the South Coast, and in the West, to Epsom. In this very large area, they co-operate with, and train, 27 Engineer Group in signalling. Consequently, it is very infrequently that any of 1 Squadron are to be seen at Regimental Headquarters.

In February, 3 (Parachute) Squadron decided they must hold a really long-range exercise. On 27th February, they "emplaned" at Euston Station on a slow train to Glasgow. On the Saturday morning they were met in Glasgow by their own command vehicle and the Regimental Signal Officer, Lieutenant Stevens of 15th (Scottish) Parachute Battalion, who transported them to Gaerlochhead. In a short time they had established communication both on voice and telegraph with a detchment at Louth, working WS 19 HP to a WS 52. In the afternoon, when more operators had arrived at Duke of York's, Chelsea, they maintained communications using WS 52 with Chelsea and Louth. A forward command net was set up on Saturday morning and, using manpack WS 62, they set up observation posts on surrounding peaks. To complete the week-end, two vehicle patrols were sent down Loch Long and Loch Lomond. On Sunday morning, all that remained to be done was to thank the Scots for their hospitality and catch the 10 a.m. train for London.

4 Squadron have been fittening for the coming exercise season by taking 12-mile route marches. Later in the year the County of Middlesex Territorial Army Association are to hold an initiative and fitness test, and, with this end in view, 4 Squadron, which is based at Uxbridge, has already held two inter-Squadron competitions. In both of these, wireless crews have been used to umpire and direct the competing teams. The final test in both competitions has been range firing of the Bren and rifle.

The beginning of March heralded more field training, and with this aim, recruits, D.R.s and linemen went to Crowborough. There they found that a cooper portable No. 2 can be a beast to start, and also, that a map is an opponent worthy of respect.

To enliven their Easter, a large number of 3 (Parachute) Squadron were transported to within eight miles of an objective on the Downs near Brighton. In crews of four to a manpack WS 62, they then had to march to their objective while keeping in contact with a wireless set located at their objective. This provided many with fatigued bodies, and also showed up their map-reading ability, but the following day, making traffic reports on the London to Brighton road, on an Easter Sunday, made many a mind weary.

On 24th March, 4 Squadron provided a Guard of Honour at Wembley Town Hall for the S.S.A.F.A. Ball, they were dressed in the original Yeomanry full dress, but were dismounted. They were highly complimented on their dress and bearing.

The Air Contact Team, which communicates with parachutist-carrying aircraft, has been in heavy demand already this year. They have already been as far north as Shipley Moor, and as far west as Dorset, besides trips to Coventry and York.

The Old Comrades' Association continues to meet in the Sergeants' Mess in the Duke of York's H.Q. At their last meeting, a large number of photographs were passed round, all of them being of the Regiment in the Great War, at Gallipoli, Suvla Bay, and Palestine.

54 (EA) INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT (T.A.)

R.H.Q. Our main news item this month is, of course, our change of Commanding Officers. After many years of service with the T.A. in East Anglia, the last three of which were in command of the Regiment, Lieutenant-Colonel G. S. H. Dicker, M.B.E., T.D., retired on 25th March, 1959. There would be insufficient space in any one issue of THE WIRE to give a complete review of Colonel Dicker's service, so we will merely say that during his tenure of command here the Regiment has doubled its strength of volunteers and now has the highest proportion of establishment actually "signed on" in the Division.

On the 21st March, 1959, the "dining out" ceremony duly took place in the Bedford Officers' Mess. In the presence of the Lord Lieutenant of Bedfordshire, the G.O.C. 54 Division, the Honorary Colonel of the Regiment and many other distinguished guests a silver salver was presented to Colonel Dicker by the Officers of the Regiment as a token of the esteem in which he is held. After suitably replying to the speeches of The Lord Lieutenant and The Hon. Colonel, Colonel Dicker presented a magnificent silver trophy to the Regiment which will be competed for annually by the Squadrons and Troops. The whole Regiment wishes Colonel and Mrs. Dicker much happiness in the future and hopes to see them at our various future functions.

We also extend, at the same time, a very warm welcome to Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. A. F. Freeman, who join the Regiment from the wilds of Catterick. Colonel Freeman returns to Regimental Duty from a Staff Appointment at the beginning of what promises to be a very interesting period of training. We hope that his stay with the T.A. will be a happy one for him.

Whilst on the subject of arrivals and departures we must mention that the Training Major, Major L. J. Parker, is also on the move. With the abolition of his appointment with this Regiment he has been posted for duty with the Ministry of Supply in his native county of Hampshire.

No. 1 Squadron. Training and preparations are now in full swing for annual camp at the end of June. This year we have a "Greenfields" or mobile camp which is a novelty for us. It is a refreshing change for the old stagers.

There have been a number of personnel changes in No. 1 Squadron at Bedford. Major P. G. Duce, T.D., and S.S.M. Dodd have retired due to pressure of business. They have been with the Squadron for many years and will be greatly missed. Sergeant Bermingham has taken over the duties of P.S.I. from W.O.II McGrath. Sergeant Bermingham has come from the 7th Armoured Brigade in Germany.

Recruiting has been going very well in the Regiment and all T.A.C.s are benefitting, although some more than others. The number of young men with no previous military service has called for a change in the training syllabus and is reducing the average age of the Regiment which had been becoming unduly high.

The Bedford motor cycle team has been continuing its successful participation in both military and civilian trials and new members are coming forward to understudy the experts. In recent months we have given demonstrations to various A.C.F. units and have been pleased with the interest shown by them in Signals work and equipment.

No. 1 SPECIAL COMMUNICATION REGIMENT

Honorary Colonel. We were very sorry to say good-bye to our Honorary Colonel, General Sir Edwin Morris, K.B.E., O.B.E., M.C., who relinquished his appointment on 10th March. The Regiment and the affiliated No. 1 Special Communications Squadron W.R.A.C., T.A., and No. 11 Signal Squadron A.C.F. held a farewell parade for General Morris on 5th March. We were delighted that Lady Morris was able to be present. Our guests included Dr. C. F. Hamilton-Turner, Master of the Worshipful Company of Skinners, and Mrs. Hamilton-Turner, Major-General Sir William and Lady Scott, the Earl and Countess of Malmesbury, Brigadier McKechnie and Group Captain Harman, Chairman and Secretary of the City of London T. and A.F. Association; Lieutenant-Colonel E. Sykes, A.D./W.R.A.C., London District; and Lieutenant-Colonel P. G. Curry, C.S.O. London District, and Mrs. Curry. We thank General Morris for the keen interest he has taken in the Regiment and we hope to see him frequently at our H.Q. in the future.

We extend a very warm welcome from all ranks of the Regiment and affiliated Squadrons to the Rt. Hon. the Earl of Malmesbury, T.D., who has succeeded General Morris as Honorary Colonel of the Regiment.

Proposed Skinners' Squadron. Second-Lieutenant P. Baker commands the Old Boys and present members of the three Skinners' schools who are now carrying out weekly training on Friday evenings at The Judd School, Tonbridge. We are proposing to form a Skinners' Squadron later this year as our numbers are increasing speedily. We welcome Derek Medcalf, a master at the Skinners' School, Tunbridge Wells, who has just been commissioned in the Regiment.

General Scott's Visit. On Thursday, 26th March, Major-General Sir William A. Scott and Lady Scott paid an informal visit to the Regiment. After inspecting training they were entertained in the W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess and then had supper in the Officers' Mess.

Exhibition. The Regiment had a stand at the Electrical Engineers' Exhibition at Earl's Court from 17th-21st March. Captain Sidney Hopper organised the stand, which proved a great success. Congratulations to all who assisted, particularly to Signalman Stanley, an old boy from the Skinners' School, who gave up four days' leave to be on the stand throughout the exhibition.

Visit of the Master and Wardens of the Skinners' Company. The Regiment was adopted by the Worshipful Company of Skinners in 1955. On 9th April the Master and the Wardens honoured the Regiment with a visit. The Master, Dr. C. F. Hamilton-Turner and the Wardens, Mr. D. O. Beale, Lieutenant-Colonel J. F. E. Goad, O.B.E.; Captain C. W. Malins, D.S.O., D.S.C., R.N.; and Sir Folliott H. Sandford, K.B.E., C.M.G., entertained to dinner at Skinners' Hall the Commanding Officer, Major Milner, together with their other guests, Mr. E. F. Maltby, C.B.E.,; Brigadier W. R. Smijth-Windham, C.B.E., D.S.O., A.D.C., C.S.O. Eastern Command; Group Captain R. G. Harman, D.F.C., and Lieutenant-Colonel E. Sykes. The Master later inspected the Regiment and, with the Wardens and his guests, visited all three Messes. He presented to Sergeant A. Silverman an inscribed tankard from the Worshipful Company of Skinners for outstanding services to the Regiment during 1958.

No. 1 Special Communications Squadron, W.R.A.C., T.A. We welcome the new O.C., Major C. H. M. Milner, O.B.E., who took command of the Squadron during February.

Annual Camp. This year the Regiment will be at its Summer Camp for a fortnight commencing 4th July, when it will be deployed in various locations along the East and South Coasts. We can offer a wide variety of technical activities with interesting and realistic training—including parachuting—plus a good portion of free time by the sea. We shall be pleased to see new members—both men and women—at the T.A. Centre, 79/85, Worship Street, E.C.2. Telephone No. BIS 8749. We normally meet on Monday and Thursday evenings. Nearest station Moorgate—for Worship Street "Look for the Singer sign in City Road."



The illustration shews yet another method of Mechanising the Cable Wagon—Cambridge University 192?

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY OFFICERS' TRAINING CORPS — ROYAL SIGNALS WING

The University Lent term ended on Friday, 13th March, and with the Tripos examinations due in only ten weeks' time most undergraduates are hurriedly catching up with their revision work.

With this inevitable temporary lull in the activities of the Wing it is perhaps a good opportunity to review our past activities and the outlook for the future.

The strength of the Wing has increased considerably; at the end of September, 1958, there were 30 members and on 1st January, 1959, the number had risen to 43, only seven short of our establishment.

The Wing has provided the communications for the "Gunners" live firing at Stanford on two occasions, in November and February. On the latter occasion we were left at the post, but after collecting the reins caught up with the rest of the field and produced some creditable signalling.

In addition to Stanford we have successfully completed a mobile wireless and map reading Exercise—no search parties being necessary—a training week-end with wireless detachments at Dunstable and Brighton, and a further week-end sponsored by 44 (HC) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment (T.A.) at Crowborough.

W.O.II Jenkins has now left the Wing Permanent Staff and we welcome Sergeant Glendinning and his family.

Looking ahead, the most important aspect of the summer months is camp. This year all Wings of the Corps are being attached to their Arms Schools with the exception of ours (Catterick being full up), which is being looked after by Eastern Command Signal Squadron at Crowborough from 21st June to 4th July.

Finally, a word for those people coming up to Cambridge in October.

The Corps offers many worth while attractions both military and non-military. Regular Commissions are granted under the University entry scheme. The antedate of such Commissions compare very favourably and in some cases are better than those granted to candidates who go direct to Sandhurst.

Similarly T.A. Commissions are also granted to those serving with the Corps and members are much sought after by Territorial Units.

We very much hope that our aim of being up to our establishment strength by November will be fulfilled; if so, it will be the first time ever.

QUIZ

It must be clearly understood that the Editor cannot possibly be held responsible for the absolute accuracy of the answers given. THE WIRE *is NOT an official publication and anyone who takes a question and answer in this Quiz as being "published by authority" may do himself considerable ill service.*

Answers to Quiz Questions on page 121.

1. (a) Middlesex Yeomanry Signal Regiment (T.A.), (The Duke of Cambridge Hussars).—Six pointed Star.
   (b) Army Phantom Signal Regiment (T.A.) (Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment). The Arms of Kensington.
2. The Queen's Colour and the Regimental Colour carried by junior officers of the regiment, commonly called the Ensigns.
3. All Light Infantry Regiments.
4. The Bank of England.
5. 1941—Syria—The Cheshire Yeomanry. (Later became a Signal Unit).
6. When in charge of the Colours during a Trooping Parade.
7. Making no progress—becalmed—The Doldrums is an area of calms near the Equator.
8. 8¾ pints.
9. An ancient personal appointment of senior officers of the Household Cavalry to protect the life of the Sovereign. In State ceremonies there is a "Goldstick" and "Silverstick" in attendance close to the Sovereign.

Association Notes

London Branch

The Annual General Meeting was held at Brompton Road on 11th April, 1959. Colonel T. W. Vigers, O.B.E., M.C., T.D., D.L., President of the Branch, was "in the chair" and directed Mr. A. W. Smith, Chairman of the Branch, to make his report.

Mr. Smith said: Before I give you my report on last year's work, I would like first of all to introduce you to Lieutenant-Colonel H. Ll. Daniel, the Officer Commanding the Regiment, who is a Life Member of the Association, and now a member of the Branch, and to thank him for allowing us to hold our meeting here tonight, and for the use of the Sergeants' Mess for our monthly meetings. I am sure you will agree, we are very grateful to him for his help. We are also very grateful to R.S.M. W. J. Russell and the members of the Sergeants' Mess for their co-operation in making the Branch welcome here.

During the past year we have suffered, like many other Branches, a considerable drop in membership. This is partly due to the increase in the subscription, and partly due to other activities, such as T.V., etc., taking up people's interest. However, the fact remains that we now have 66 paid up members instead of 211.

In response to the appeal to Life Members for a contribution towards the postage account, if they were interested to receive the newsletter, etc., 63 have replied. The membership of the Branch therefore now stands at 129. In view of the very large decrease we have experienced, I do hope that this will encourage every member present to do their best to enlist new members.

With regard to finance, the balance sheet for this year shows that there is a slight increase on last year's figure. The subscriptions received for the past 13 months, we were a month late this time, were £22/2/-, but under the new Associaiton Rules, we have out of that sum paid to H.Q. the sum of £7/2/-.

In December a small sum of money was spent in making a cake, which was raffled and auctioned, which brought in a sum of approximately £5 to help the Unit Christmas Party Fund.

Hospital Visiting. Whenever we have heard of a Member of Signals being in hospital, Miss Archer and myself have been along, and R.S.M. Russell has also visited someone known to him. These people are always pleased to see us and we should be very grateful for volunteers to help us with this part of our work.

Branch Activities. In March, 1958, a visit was made to the Sorting Office and Post Office Tube Railway, which was very much enjoyed by those attending. A collection was made and this was donated to the Post Office Sanatorium Society.

During the year two visits have been made to the Tower of London—a visit always enjoyable—the last being only last week.

It was arranged for a party to go over the Battersea Power Station but, unfortunately, this had to be cancelled owing to lack of support.

I have been asked to announce that No. 1 Special Communication Regiment (City of London) Royal Signals, T.A., are holding a Grand Dance at the T.A. Centre, 79-85, Worship Street, E.C.2, on Saturday, 18th April, at 8 p.m., until 11.30. Tickets are 3/6 and can be obtained at the Centre or at the door on the night.

That is all, Ladies and Gentlemen, except to say I wish very much that you would come along to the monthly meetings more often, as it is very difficult to arrange social activities if we do not see you. However, I am very pleased indeed to see you here tonight.

At the conclusion of the report Colonel Vigers unfortunately had to leave and asked Brigadier H. R. Firth to deputise for him.

On behalf of Colonel Vigers and all members of the Branch a handsome eight-day clock was then presented to Mr. A. W. Smith in recognition of the ten years he had been Chairman of the Branch and had guided its activities so successfully.

Brigadier Firth spoke briefly of the very successful way in which the London Branch was conducted by its Chairman and by its very able Honorary Secretary, Miss M. Archer.

The officers and committee were then elected :— Chairman : Mr. A. W. Smith; Vice-Chairman : Mr. L. J. Burrows; Secretary/Treasurer: Miss M. Archer; Committee : Messrs. Palk, Ruthven, Kimble, Oliver, Peck, R.S.M. Russell, Miss Hart, Miss Zeale, Morris and Sergeant; Auditor : Mr. C. E. Meager.

The meeting ended and the bar re-opened.

Sheffield Branch

First we wish to welcome to the T.A. section of our Branch, Lieutenant-Colonel J. A. Waite. He has offered, and been accepted as the new President and we hope his stay will turn up to his liking, and that the Branch in general will expand with his knowledge and help. All this is because of the old C.O., having gone as C.S.O. Northern Ireland, Lieutenant-Colonel J. N. Boyland.

Our Annual General Meeting was held last month in my absence, owing to illness, but there are no changes; same old clique in charge. No doubt if there had been any chance of the usual money gain, or promotion in this game, we would have all been pushed out of office long ago?

The following were voted in :—

President: Lieutenant-Colonel J. A. Waite.
Chairman: H. Rotheram.
Secretary: E. Tayler.
Treasurer: R.S.M. M. A. Barnes-Murphy.

We all send our regards to Frank Elwood, who is ill at home. Best of luck to you and family. May we see you soon. Also to E. Lee. He never misses a night, even though he is minus some toes. Good luck to you also Ernest.

We are holding a dance at Crabtree Lodge, or should I say will have run, with the great help of the R.S.M. T.A. and his stalwarts on the evening of Saturday, 2nd May. I hope I can say it's been a great turn out.

An extra news flash printed in the Sheffield "Star" to the extent that our relations in Chesterfield Branch state that they have made history at their Annual Meeting, that they had an ex-Signals A.T.S.; never been known their way before. Well, we in Sheffield, can counter claim. Ours is very old history. We have A.T.S. members who have been coming sinee 1948. In fact, we would like to give our Branch's best wishes to one

A.T.S. member who has decided to get married. Best of everything to Margaret Lockwood and her future husband Harry, who, in fact, works for the Sheffiield "Star." This will mean an extra addition to our strength. It is a pity you cannot claim on the old Part II orders in the usual army way.

We see that the sum of £1,000,000 is going to be spent at Catterick in the coming months. As a man who spent four-and-a-half years there and well knowing the place as a Don R, if it took a certain sum mentioned to build the NAAFI Club, I am afraid little will alter the state of the little fridges I slept in after coming in wet through off runs. All I can see is that it won't go far. What with the news of new uniforms, and re-building, I as an ex-Serviceman can only say that the men in charge are only cutting the corners off the whole thing. What we can remember even as Don Rs, it took a war to alter even our riding kit from an old second issue of a great coat to riding breeches and jack boots, so I am afraid they have a long way to go to reach the young man of today who has heard the moans of his father who has served more than his two years of National Service. The price of one bomber won't alter things, will it friends?

Jersey Branch

The Branch continues to meet regularly on the first Tuesday of each month in the upper room of the Cosy Corner Hotel, Royal Square, S. Helier, at 8 p.m. Any member or ex-member of the Corps living in, or visiting, Jersey is cordially invited to come along. Those visitors who are not able to attend a monthly meeting may care to get in touch with the Hon. Secretary of the Branch, W.O.II E. A. Strutt, Royal Signals, c/o Army Recruiting Office, Jersey. He will gladly arrange contacts with other members.

The monthly meetings are always cheerful affairs. Even the reading of the official "Corps Black List" cannot damp our spirits, as those of who appear in it (under assumed names, of course) are confident that we have covered our tracks. After formal business, the rest of the evening is spent in what the local paper calls "a convivial manner." The Past-Presidents tell their well-known funny stories; Captain J. M. N. Richardson—a pillar of the Jersey Honorary Police—keeps us *au fait* with local crime; the Branch Representative explains unconvincingly why he can't rermember much about the recent London meeting. . . . And there is always MARY ANN. (You've never met her? Then drop in and put that right!)

WELFARE SECTION

Below an attempt is made to describe, with suitable anonymity, seven cases taken from the Welfare Section files concluded during the first week in April, 1959. Also on this page is a simple statement of income and expenditure.

Signalman, 17 years' broken service. Widower, one child, school age, remains at home; out of work since July, 1958. Help given to pay electricity bill and for some bedding. Clothes sent to father but nothing available for son aged 13.

Corporal, 1921-45, and in T.A. 1947-57. Married. Illness stopped his work in July, 1958, and the fund made a grant for clothes and hire purchase, and some clothing was given in kind.

Signalman. After four years in Royal Navy he became a volunteer in Royal Signals, T.A., and met with an accident while on duty. The fund gave substantial help to his wife.

Corporal, 1951-56. Married, one child. Both husband and wife were working until the wife's illness in November, 1958, and in December they were allotted a council house so damp the child got pneumonia. Expenses of moving into a house and the child's illness have brought them down. The fund helped.

Driver, 1946-49. Married, three children. Had a good income until January, 1959, when he became ill. The fund helped to pay his bills for gas and groceries.

Signalman, 1946-48 (N.S.). Married, two children; had a very good income until an accident in December, 1958, and the fund helped with arrears of rent and electricity.

Widow of Sergeant-Major, 1943-46, who died in 1950. Until now she has managed to support herself and her son is now working to help her with costs. The fund made a grant to help with repair of their small house.

CLOTHING

Men's, Children's and Ladies' Clothing Urgently Required.

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION AND BENEVOLENT FUND

The following subscriptions were most gratefully received during March, 1959 :

	£	s.	d.
H.Q. Mess	3	16	9
1 Training Regiment		18	9
3 Training Regiment	39	8	6
4 Training Regiment	23	18	2
Northern Command Signal Squadron	1	14	0
50 (N) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A.	1	0	0
Junior Leaders Regiment	15	0	0
3 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment	20	0	0
1 Independent U.K.L.F. Reserve Signal Squadron, T.A.	1	9	6
1 Squadron, 51 (H) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A.	2	6	9
SHAPE Signal Squadron	3	9	0
C.S.O.'s Branch, H.Q., B.A.O.R.	2	18	0
2 Divisional Signal Regiment	26	9	0
5 Infantry Brigade Group Signal Squadron	9	0	0
Hong Kong Signal Regiment	10	0	0
4 Air Formation Signal Regiment	10	2	0
COMCAN Signal Squadron, Malta	3	13	2
51 Independent Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron	1	13	3
Total receipts ...	£176	16	10

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION WELFARE SECTION

The following donations were most gratefully received during March, 1959 :

	£	s.	d.
Glossop and District Branch	21	0	0
Harrogate Branch	10	10	0
Total receipts ...	£31	10	0

EXPENDITURE DURING MARCH, 1959 ... ... £365 6 7

Includes: Rent and Rates; Beds and Bedding, Furniture: Cots and Prams; General Assistance.

Analysis of Cases :

Families of Soldiers serving in U.K.	2
Families of Soldiers serving in B.A.O.R.	1
Widows and Dependants	3
Released and discharged Soldiers	28
Total cases assisted ...	34

17 cases of Soldiers who served during the 1939-45 War ... £251 10 5
17 cases of Soldiers who did not serve during the War ... £104 16 2

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ROYAL SIGNALS HOCKEY

Sergeant Peberdy, Lance Corporal Harris, Lieutenant Cook, Captain Finch, Captain Lettin, Captain Kirkby, Captain Rogers, Captain Hartnett (Capt.), Captain Tripp, Lieutenant Byng, Lieutenant Adams

ROYAL SIGNALS HOCKEY

A team of Officers visited Welbeck College on the 25th March, 1959, for a most enjoyable afternoon. A very good game resulted in Royal Signals winning by two goals to one; playing conditions were excellent though the ground was very wet from recent rain. Play was very even to start with but about 20 minutes after the bully-off Major Gladstone scored a good goal when he penetrated with the ball from the right wing. The score was 1-0 at half-time and soon after Lieutenant de Bretton-Gordon scored a good goal when a short corner was well stopped for him by Second-Lieutenant Adams.

Welbeck then attacked strongly and scored after one of the Corps' defenders had made a slip; from then onwards for the rest of the game Welbeck pressed hard but good play by the Corps' defence kept them out.

A factor which helped to make the game so enjoyable was the excellent manner in which it was umpired.

The Corps team was:
Captain K. Kirkby, Captain S. C. Finch, Lieutenant A. N. de Bretton-Gordon, Colonel J. E. S. Sanders, Captain F. C. Lettin, Captain D. H. Briggs, Major D. W. Gladstone, Second-Lieutenant M. R. Adams, Second-Lieutenant G. Wilkie-Snow, Second-Lieutenant L. M. MacDonald, Lieutenant A. B. Byng.

Second-Lieutenants Adams and MacDonald are Old Welbexians. Another Old Welbexian, Second-Lieutenant R. J. Lettin, was unable to play because he was in hospital.

A fairly represented Corps side went to the Scarborough Easter Festival, where we played some very strong opponents. We lost our first match against the Lancashire Witches 4-2. The Witches have not been beaten at Scarborough for many years and once again they produced a strong side, including the present England right-wing, Hindle, and a final trialist, Cooke, who played at inside-right. The Corps team were well on top during the first 15 minutes and went into a deserved lead from a goal scored by Signalman Harris. The Witches fought back and equalised following a scrimmage on the goal-line and added to their lead before half-time. During the second half the Witches got well on top and scored two more goals but finally a well timed pass from the winged half enabled Harris to score a second goal.

Our old enemies, the Thistles, beat us 5-3 on Saturday, 28th March. During the first half play was rather scrappy and the Thistles' goalkeeper made at least one very good save to prevent an early goal for the Corps. The Thistles led by three goals to nil at half-time; two of these were scored by Hopkins, the Irish International, who scored a third goal immediately after half-time. From then onwards the Corps played really well and the score became 4-3 as a result of goals scored by Sergeant Peberdy, Lieutenant Cook and Captain Hartnett, but just before the final whistle blew Hopkins added another goal to make the final score 5-3.

The Scarborians were played on Sunday, 29th March, and the Corps won this match 1-0. It was apparent during this game that the "Festival spirit" had sapped some of the energy from several players and the only score came from a penalty corner taken by Sergeant Peberdy in the first half.

The final game, on 30th March, was against Nottingham Pilgrims, who won 1-0. Bad weather made it necessary for this game to be played on the sands, on which surface the Corps side failed to do itself justice. Neither side looked like scoring, although there were several close shaves at both ends towards the end of the game; from one of these the Pilgrims scored the only goal of the game during the last minute of play.

The overall record of the Festival—three games lost and one game won—does not do justice to the very good hockey played by the Corps side in the first two games, both of which were against exceptionally strong sides.

The record of games played during the season, including those played at Scarborough, is as follows:
Played 14, won five, drawn one, lost eight.
Goals for 27, goals against 29.

Lieutenant J. Cook played many games for the Army and Lieutenant A. B. Byng and Signalman N. E. F. Harris played on occasions for the Army. No one, however, gained his Army Colours by playing in the Inter-Services matches.

ARMY HOCKEY UMPIRES

The Corps has been very well represented in umpire circles during the past season.

Colonel J. E. S. Sanders and Major R. L. J. Shove are among five Army umpires on the Combined Services Umpires' Panel. Major Shove umpired the Royal Navy v. Royal Air Force game.

Colonel J. E. S. Sanders has been appointed to take over as Chairman of the Army Hockey Umpires' Association as from May, 1959.

The following appointments were held during the 1958/59 season:
Colonel J. E. S. Sanders, Chairman, Eastern Command Army Hockey Umpires Association Sub-Committee.
Lieutenant-Colonel T. G. Chambers, Chairman, Northern Command Hockey Umpires Association Sub-Committee.
Major R. O. Edwards, Secretary, Northern Ireland District Army Hockey Umpires Association Sub-Committee.
Major E. A. Knott, Secretary, B.A.O.R. Army Hockey Umpires Association Sub-Committee.
Major R. L. J. Shove, Secretary, Northern Command Army Hockey Umpires Association Sub-Committee.
Captain G. J. Curl, Secretary, Eastern Command Army Hockey Umpires Association Sub-Committee.
Captain M. G. Paton, Secretary, West Africa Army Hockey Umpires Association Sub-Committee.

Captain P. C. Tripp has been Secretary of the Eastern Command Army Hockey Committee.

HOCKEY — SINGAPORE

The Royal Signals Singapore Hockey team completed the 1958-59 season without defeat, winning six games and drawing one.

The drawn game was against R.E.M.E., whose fast forwards took advantage of a re-organised Signals defence and were two goals up in the first ten minutes, the side then settled down and the score was 2-1 at half-time; the second half was all Signals but good goalkeeping and poor finishing resulted in our getting the equaliser but no more.

One of the best games of the season (as is often the case at home), was against the Sappers. This was played on a near perfect ground before a large crowd which included the S.O.-in-C., the C.E. and C.S.O. Far East Land Forces. The conditions were ideal for the Malay's speed and clever stick-work. The Corps were a goal up after three minutes' play but incorrect marking gave the Sappers a chance to equalise and just before half-time a break-away goal put them into the lead. In the second half the speed and accurate passing of the Corps forwards always looked like bringing goals but the Sappers' defence, brilliantly held together by Captain D. M. R. Eagen, of Great Britain and Olympic fame, kept them out and it was not until ten minutes before the end that the Corps drew level and two minutes later scored the winning goal. Signals' goals were scored by Sergeant Nizar and Lance-Corporal Abdullah two. The team was S.S.M Haig, Lieutenant-Colonel Evans, Sergeant Samsuddin, Signalman Samsuddin, R.Q.M.S. Godfrey, Signalman Sadul Singh, Corporal Jaffar, Sergeant Nizar, Sergeant Lee Kim Ann, Lance-Corporal Abdullah and Signalman Noordin.

On the 6th of March the Corps side visited Malaya to play Royal Signals Malaya, at Seremban, and on the following day Federation of Malaya Signals at Kuala Lumpur. Unfortunately, the first game had to be abandoned because of heavy rain soon after the start, but it was agreed to replay it the following morning before the side left for Kuala Lumpur. Our younger side took advantage of the morning heat and finished comfortable winners by eight goals to nil.

The evening game against the Federation Signals was a very good one, we were matched for the first time for speed and fitness and did well to win by four goals to two.

Colonel J. P. North, C.B.E., President and Chairman of the selectors, and Major I. A. H. Illingworth, Secretary, are thanked for their encouragement and hard work.

Results:

v. R.A.P.C.	Won	8-0	v. R. Signals Malaya	Won	8-0
v. R.A.S.C.	Won	3-0	v. Federation of Malaya Signals	Won	4-2
v. R.A.O.C.	Won	3-0			
v. R.E.M.E.	Drawn	2-2	v. R.E.	Won	3-2

GOLF

The result of the match Royal Corps of Signals v. R.M.A. Sandhurst played at Camberley Heath on 15th March, 1959:

SINGLES

Royal Corps of Signals		*R.M.A. Sandhurst*	
Major-General Cole	0	O/Cadet Winckley	1
Major-General Vulliamy	1	O/Cadet Hughes	0
Major Schofield	1	Lieutenant-Colonel Oborne ...	0
Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke ...	1	O/Cadet Porteous	0
Colonel Winckley	1	O/Cadet Gascoigne	0
Major-General Morrison ...	1	O/Cadet Wishart	0
Major Scott	0	O/Cadet Castle	1
Colonel Rowley	1	O/Cadet Randel	0
Total	6	Total	2

FOURSOMES

Major-General Gole, Major-General Vulliamy	1	O/Cadet Winckley, O/Cadet Hughes ...	0
Major Schofield, Major-General Morrison	1	O/Cadet Wishart ..., O/Cadet Gascoigne	0
Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke, Colonel Winckley ...	½	O/Cadet Hill ..., O/Cadet Castle ...	½
Major Scott ..., Colonel Rowley ...	1	O/Cadet Porteous ..., O/Cadet Randel ...	0
Total	3½	Total	½

Final result: Royal Signals won by 9½ matches to 2½.

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●

The following is an extract from a review of "Basic Electricity" which appeared in the March, 1959, issue of THE WIRE.

"Published in January, 1959, in Manual form by The Technical Press Ltd. are the first five parts of a new illustrated Course of Technician Training in "Basic Electricity—Basic Electronics," which may prove a landmark in technical education in Britain and the Commonwealth.

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The work of adapting the Manuals to British usage and terminology was (with War Office approval) undertaken by a special Electronics Training Investigation team of the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, and the revised edition has been adopted as a basic text for the training of future R.E.M.E. technicians.

Profusely illustrated in easily understood pictures and diagrams, these five Manuals are the complete Instructor's compendium. The writer of the review has not seen any text book which is so comprehensive and so easily understood since he himself learnt simple Electricity and Magnetism from the old Royal Engineers' Manual on the subject. . . .

. . . Careful reading informs the writer of this review that the possession of these five Manuals would have saved him considerable effort both as a pupil and instructor in the 1920's and even at the expensive Bookshop Edition (12/6 a part) 55/-, the five books would have been money well spent. . .

. . . Regiments of Royal Signals, particularly Training Regiments, the Junior Leaders Regiment and the Signal Training Wing of the Training Centre of other Arms of the Service will earn considerable gratitude from Instructors and students if they stock a supply of these Manuals for retail sale."

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THE WIRE

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

The Official Organ of the Signals Association

Editor:
BRIGADIER H. R. FIRTH

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☆

JUNE • **1959**

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The Royal Signals Dinner Club

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., Colonel-in-Chief, was graciously pleased to dine with the Officers of her Corps at the Hyde Park Hotel on the 27th May, 1959. Mrs. Cuthbert was in attendance. One hundred and eighty-nine Officers were present, including 17 General Officers.

The guests included Brigadier M. K. R. Colvin, O.B.E., T.D., A.D.C., Director, Women's Royal Army Corps, and Officers representing the Signal Corps of the Commonwealth.

Her Royal Highness proposed the toast to Her Majesty The Queen, and the Representative Colonel Commandant, Major-General M. S. Wheatley, C.B., C.B.E., the toast to the Colonel-in-Chief.

He read the following telegrams:

To: Private Secretary, Her Majesty The Queen:

"The Colonel-in-Chief, Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, and Officers Royal Signals assembled at their Annual Dinner on Wednesday, 27th May, 1959, at the Hyde Park Hotel send their loyal and humble greetings to your Majesty."

And the reply:

"Please convey to the Colonel-in-Chief and all Officers of the Royal Signals dining together this evening my warm thanks for their kind message of loyal greetings. —Elizabeth R."

The Colonel-in-Chief spoke to her Officers:

General Wheatley, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to be dining with you this evening and to see so many here who I have known since I became your Colonel-in-Chief.

I am especially pleased to welcome the representatives from the Commonwealth Signal Corps who are dining with us. It demonstrates the ties between us and strengthens the understanding and co-operation which exists between our Corps.

I know you will share my satisfaction that the Queen has given approval to an affiliation with Gurkha Signals, also an alliance with the First Signal Squadron King's African Rifles and the Federation Signals of the Federation of Malaya. I am very pleased that the appointment of Colonel Gurkha Signals has been approved.

The Garden Party last year at Harewood for Officers and their wives of the Territorial Army and Army Emergency Reserve to mark the centenary celebrations of the Territorial Army gave me great pleasure. I should like to thank those who contributed to its organisation.

Since I last dined with you I am well aware that my Corps has passed through difficult times. Frequently faced with commitments at short notice and on a world-wide basis. Yet in spite of difficulties communications have always been maintained. This reflects great credit on all ranks and is in the highest tradition of my Corps.

I now speak of a rather difficult problem for me. A question of divided loyalties. It has arisen over the Army Rugby Finals this year, when my First Training Regiment Royal Signals beat my First Battalion The Royal Scots. I have been told my Royal Scots put up a splendid fight. I am sure of that. I have also been told the best side won. I send the winning team my best congratulations on their victory against a very determined adversary.

I thank you, General Wheatley, for giving me this opportunity of dining with my Corps tonight and meeting so many old friends.

Major-General Wheatley:

Your Royal Highness,

May I on behaf of all those here thank you for your kind and gracious speech.

I know I am voicing the thoughts of everyone when I say how pleased and proud we are to have you dining with us as our Colonel-in-Chief.

We are indeed conscious of your busy public life and the many calls upon you and we are grateful to you Ma'am for sparing us this time. May I take this opportunity of thanking you for the great interest you take in the affairs of your Corps and your keen personal interest in all of us.

The Build-up of the Regular Army

As it is now less than three years before the all-Regular Army is due to come into being, I think it would be of interest to say a few words on the subject of recruiting for the Corps.

The policy in Royal Signals has been aimed at constructing a firm and adequate foundation within the manpower allotted by the Army Council.

To achieve this the maximum importance has been attached to recruiting of Boys. We now have under training a greater number of Junior Leaders of higher quality than at any time in the past and our Junior Leaders Unit is full to capacity—480.

This is most encouraging.

To absorb the additional Boys who can be recruited a new All Arms Unit has been established for a period of three years and it will contain a Royal Signals Squadron of 170 boys.

We are also taking over the Apprentices' School at Harrogate.

In recruitment generally the Corps is more concerned with quality than quantity. There has been a considerable improvement both in numbers and length of engagements and we are well up to the Army average.

The signs point to a steady and confident progress towards an all-Regular Corps.

The Re-numbering of Signal Regiments

The Corps Committee, at their meeting in December last year, approved in principle a proposal by the Signal Officer-in-Chief to re-number all Signals Regiments of the Regular and Territorial Army and the Army Emergency Reserve.

This proposal, together with a re-numbering scheme for all our Squadrons and Troops is now being considered by the War Office.

Changes in the Army Order of Battle have often caused Signal Units to be re-designated, disbanded and re-formed. This has caused a lack of regimental continuity and therefore many problems relating to traditions, funds and property have arisen. To quote two examples. Four regiments have been designated 2 L. of C. Signals Regiment since 1940 The 2nd (London) Signal Regiment, T.A., has had no less than 10 different titles since 1921.

The object of this re-numbering proposal is to achieve a permanent and uniform system and thus ensure that Units of Royal Signals, like those of the Royal Artillery and Royal Engineers, maintain their identity.

The proposals give proper consideration to the seniority of Regiments and to the designation and geographical titles of regiments of the Territorial Army. Every facet of the subject has been examined and I am certain that the best solution has been arrived at.

United States and Commonwealth

Her Royal Highness has mentioned our close ties with the Signal Corps of the Commonwealth, and it is certainly very nice to have their representatives dining here as brother Signal Officers on an occasion when our Colonel-in-Chief is with us.

I should like to say how sorry we are that Lieutenant-General Clark, of the Canadian Army, was unable to be with us. General Clark is a distinguished Signal Officer who has recently been appointed Chief of the General Staff of the Canadian Army. This is the first time a Signal Officer has held such an appointment. I hope it is the forerunner of many more. I am sure you would wish me to offer him our congratulations and good fortune in the future.

I should like to extend a warm welcome to Brigadier Colvin, Director of the W.R.A.C. The W.R.A.C. personnel serving with Signals in the last War did a really wonderful job and they continue to do so today; unfortunately there are all too few of them.

Our relations with the United States Signal Corps continue on the base of close co-operation and friendship. General O'Connell was promoted Lieutenant-General last year and I believe this is the first time that a Chief Signal Officer of the United States Army has held this rank.

General O'Connell has been a very good friend of the Corps and has just retired. I would like to take this opportunity of wishing him a very happy retirement.

His successor is Major-General Nelson.

Sport

During the past year the Corps has maintained its reputation in all sporting activities. 1 Training Regiment won the Army Rugby Cup in March—their seventh success in the last ten years. This is a formidable record.

We have had a number of successes in other spheres. In 1958 Lance-Corporal Williams, of 2nd Training Regiment, won the Army Cross-Country Individual Championship and the Army Individual three-mile race, and 7th Training Regiment won the Army Inter-Unit relay swimming race. In the Army Motor Cycling Championships in October 5th Training Regiment won the Team Trophy and three other cups, and Lance-Corporal Lampkin, of the same Unit, won the Army Individual Trophy.

The Challenge for the Future

The Corps will face a tremendous challenge in the years ahead.

In common with the remainder of the Army, it will be reduced in numbers and be wholly made up of Regulars. This will create a number of problems during the transition period.

The complexities of any future war, the introduction of new weapons and the continuous advance in the field of electronics are having and will continue to have far reaching results on the systems of command and control.

The need for good communications will be more important than ever.

This is the challenge of the future and I know the Corps will meet it.

VALE

BRIGADIER W. G. TUCKER, C.B.E.

On or about the 1st of June, 1959, Brigadier W. Guise Tucker retired after over 32 years on the active list and after having reached nearly the top of the Signals' pyramid. Yet, but for three of life's "accidents," he might well have finished at a different level, or even on some other pyramid. But for indifferent eyesight he would have joined the Royal Navy; but for lack of success in examinations, he might have become a Sapper like his father before him; and but for being posted to Northern Ireland in 1930, he might never have met his wife, Joan, whose charm, capability and loyal support have helped him so much and for so long. Without her, he could never have pulled his full weight so well in serving the Corps.

"Guy" Tucker, as he has always been called in the Army, was commissioned into Royal Signals from the R.M.A., Woolwich, in January, 1927, and went straight to Catterick for his "Q" Course. There, his personality and his enthusiasm for sports caught the eye of Major F. R. Cobb, then O.C. "F" (Boys) Company, and Tucker had the distinction of being posted direct to that Company as an instructor, on completion of his course.

From Catterick he went to Belfast, where he met his fate and got engaged, and then followed five years' foreign service with Egypt Signals, where Lieutenant-Colonel Geoffrey Mansergh selected him as Adjutant, at what was then a very early age for the appointment. In 1933 he came home to get married; later on his elder son was born in Egypt.



In those days his main Army interests were definitely recreational. He played all games keenly, most of them well. Either at home or in Egypt he earned his Corps "Jimmy" for rugger, hockey, boxing, athletics, cricket and tennis.

On returning to England he first went to 2nd Divisional Signals; then in 1938 he was selected as Royal Signals representative instructor at the R.M.A. He was still at Woolwich when war was declared, but was soon posted to the B.E.F. in Europe on the Staff of C.S.O. 2 Corps. Boredom with the "phoney war" led him to apply for a war course at the Staff College, and it was this decision, perhaps, that settled the long-term course of his Army career. He missed Dunkirk and presently he disappeared into the gloom of the War Office for his first appointment there, with M.T.8. He little dreamed then, poor innocent, that no less than five more such appointments lay ahead of him down the next 18 years, with only intermittent escapes into the light and freedom of active service and foreign tours. Indeed, one way of describing Tucker's progress is to tell about the good times he had when he *was* not at the War Office.

During 1942-43 he was allowed out for just over a year, during which time he helped to train the Guards Armoured Divisional Signals and also commanded 45 Divisional Signals and 11 Armoured Divisional Signals for short spells. Then in 1943 he become D.C.S.O. South-Eastern Command, whence he returned to the War Office for his second appointment there, this time with M.T.3.

In February, 1944, he emerged again, to become O.C. Guards Armoured Divisional Signals; he held this enviable command throughout the B.L.A. campaign from Normandy to Germany, and was awarded the O.B.E. for his work on active service.

No sooner was the war over, however, than Whitehall got its grip on him anew—and back he went to two successive jobs in the Signal Directorate, first with Signals 7 and then as D.D. Signals (Tels). Then abroad to an appointment outside Signals, which gave him three happy years on the Canal at Fayid as D.A.A.G., G.H.Q., M.E.L.F., and in 1950 back he flew once more to his spiritual home for his fifth appointment, this time to explore the reputedly inhuman mysteries of C.8

For his final escapade outside the precincts he did himself very well indeed Now firmly on the red flannel level, he enjoyed three first-class C.S.O.'s appointments in succession, each with its own unique flavour. From 1952-54 he was C.S.O. Malaya; his responsibilities included sponsoring the formation of the Gurkha Divisional Signal Regiment. In 1954 he was promoted to Brigadier and appointed C.S.O. 1 Corps in B.A.O.R. Thence he went suddenly to an even more active appointment, when in August, 1956, at 48 hours' notice, he was selected to act as C.S.O. 2 (Br) Corps for the contemplated landings at Suez. Subsequently he landed at Port Said on D + 2, and was one of the last of the British troops to re-embark. For his share in this operation he received the C.B.E.

For what has turned out to be his last appointment before retiring, he was posted to—guess where? Since March, 1957, as Deputy Signal Officer-in-Chief, he has borne much of the administrative load of the Signals Directorate, enabling his chief to get out and about without having to worry about what is going on in the office. Those who should know say that the job could not have been better done.

Guy Tucker provides another proof, if one is wanted, that in Signals, even in the highly technical atmosphere of today, there is opportunity for Officers of moderate technical ability to get to the top; for his mental qualities are good without being exceptional. He is direct in manner, and he can be tough. He makes up his mind quickly and accepts responsibility readily. He is easily accessible to anyone who needs help or guidance and is therefore popular with his subordinates. He admits to a deep and lasting affection for the Corps. His advice to the young is never to try and "work" an appointment or to avoid one, but to get on with whatever job they are given.

In September, 1958, he was appointed Colonel of Gurkha Signals and is justly proud of the honour. Those who can remember seeing him in the boxing ring, or who more recently have watched his attitude when faced with unreasonable opposition, will readily appreciate his pleasure in being connected in any way with a weapon so effectively destructive as a kukri.

Nowadays his main outside interests are his home and garden and his hospitality. In the latter connection, as in other things, he can think big. Not many Officers before him, if any, have celebrated their final release from the War Office by inviting the Signal Directorate *en bloc*, at G.II level and above (a total of more than 50, including wives), to a farewell luncheon at home! And not all wives would play up to it.

The Corps will wish him success in his chosen civilian employment on the staff of the British Broadcasting Corporation, and happiness to them both. But one thing is certain, whatever he does, and wherever they go, they will always keep close contact with Royal Signals.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

As announced in the National Newspapers, the printing of a large number of magazines and periodicals is at present subject to delay. This number of "The Wire" may well be five or more days behind schedule.

The Editor makes no apology for bad proof reading. He has not done any.

The production of the July number of "The Wire" may be very difficult, indeed it may be impossible.

Memorial Service

for the late

GENERAL SIR HENRY COLVILLE BARCLAY WEMYSS, K.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O., M.C.

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., Colonel-in-Chief, was represented by Major-General M. S. Wheatley, C.B., C.B.E, Representative Colonel Commandant at the Queen's Chapel of the Savoy on 12th May, 1959. The Army Council was represented by Major-General E. D. Howard-Vyse, and the Home Office by Sir Austin Strutt. The Rev. Cyril Cresswell officiated, assisted by the Rev. Selwyn Cox. Amongst those present were:

Family and Friends: Lady Wemyss, Major and Mrs. Graham Wemyss, Miss J. Wemyss, Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. A. F. Wemyss, Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. C. L. Wemyss, Lieutenant-Commander and Mrs. Alastair Wemyss, Mr. and Mrs. Nigel Wemyss, Lieutenant and Mrs. Pierce Wemyss, Mrs. George Wemyss, Mr. and Mrs. Dudley Mozley, Colonel and Mrs. E. B. Gordon, Miss E. Hobbs, Mr. F. Hobbs, Mr. A. W. Inglis.

The following members of Royal Signals were present:

The Colonels Commandant Brigadier R. H. Willan, Major-General G. G. Rawson, Major-General R. F. B. Naylor, Major-General Sir Leslie G. Phillips, Major-General Sir Ronald and Lady Penney, Major-General R. F. H. Nalder, also representing the Royal Patriotic Fund Corporation, Major-General A. E. Morrison.

Mrs. M. S. Wheatley.

Major-Generals R. E. Vyvyan, V. J. E. Westropp.

Brigadiers R. Chenevix-Trench, F. S. Straight, G. B. Bell, B. B. Kennett, G. S. O'N. Power, W. G. Tucker representing the Signal Officer-in-Chief, R. G. Yolland representing Royal Signals, Catterick, A. C. Sykes, H. I. Allen, W. R. Smijth-Windham, C. P. Prescot, F. P. L. Gray, C. A. H. Chadwick.

Colonels C. J. Aston, R. V. Montgomery, T. W. Vigers, W. A. Peachell, G. H. T. Shrimpton, G. Mellor, R. M. Peachey, R. P. A. Helps.

Majors J. L. Judd, T. G. H. Jackson.

Brigadier H. R. Firth represented: Major-General C. H. H. Vulliamy, Major-General Sir Douglas Campbell, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., M.C., President, and the Council of Association of Service Newspapers and Combined Service Publications Limited, with Mr. G. N. Ketcheson, Major-General Sir Leslie Nicholls, Major-General Sir Claude F. Liardet, Brigadier Sir Ralph Rayner, Brigadier A. C. C. Willway, Brigadier Sir George H. Walton.

Representing the Royal Signals Institution: Major-General D. A. L. Wade, Brigadier W. T. Howe.

Representing the Royal Signals Association: Major-General A. E. Morrison, Brigadier H. R. Firth, R.S.M. L. A. Whittingham, Mr. A. W. Smith, Mr. A. E. Stead, Miss V. Shannon.

Representing Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment, T.A.: Colonel R. Wasey, Lieutenant-Colonel B. R. Wood.

Representing the Kensington's Old Comrades' Association: Colonel W. H. Godfrey.

There was a very large representation of members of the Brewers' Society, including Mr. H. W. Lake, Vice-President, Mr. S. A. Horwood, Secretary, and amongst other members of the staff, Mrs. Brown.

Representing the Bedford School and the Holborn Youth Club: Sir William and Lady Cleary, Messrs. A. G. A. Hodges, W. M. Liesching, Sir Douglas Gordon, Mr. W. M. Brown, Headmaster, Bedford School, with Mr. A. G. A. Hodges, Mr. E. H. Bull, Mr. E. F. Piercy, Mr. H. F. S. Emerson, Mr. Ronald Warlow, Mr. George Layton, Secretary, Mr. W. M. Liesching.

The Hon. Sir Arthur Howard, King's College, London, Dr. P. S. Noble, Principal, King's College, London, with the Dean of King's College, and Mr. I. P. Shaw, Secretary, Professor D. H. Hey.

Major-General Sir John Kennedy, Major-General Sir Reginald Scoones, Colonel J. B. Cossens representing Marshal of the Royal Air Force, The Lord Tedder, G.C.B., D.C.L., LL.D., Major H. E. Mudford.

Representing the United Services Club: Commander J. C. Allan.

The arrangements were made by Lieutenant-Colonel P. G. Curry, C.S.O., Headquarters, London District, and Captains R. L. Murray, C. N. Le Gassick, W. G. A. Cathcart and P. C. Tripp.

Trumpeters of the Band of the Royal Corps of Signals sounded Last Post and Reveille.

Cobb Memorial Trophy



The Ex-Boys' memorial trophy to the late Lieutenant-Colonel F. R. Cobb, M.C., Royal Signals, will be on view at the Royal Signals Association Annual Reunion at Catterick Camp, Yorkshire, on 4th/5th July, 1959, prior to the formal presentation at the Junior Leaders' Regiment, Royal Signals. By this arrangement many members of the Corps, past and present, will be able to see the completed silver statuette of Mercury, in Catterick, whereas it will not be possible for so many to be present at the formal handover of the trophy.

The Appeal Committee are particularly anxious that as many Ex-Boys as possible should see the trophy towards which they so generously subscribed. The statuette itself is just under 16 inches high, on an eight-inch plinth.

The Committee also wish it to be known that after very considerable thought and discussion, bearing in mind the possible future reorganisations of Boys' Training Establishments, the trophy is being presented to the Corps for the specific purpose of being awarded annually, under conditions which may have to change from time to time. This will ensure that the statuette remains the property of the Corps in perpetuity and will be awarded only to serving Royal Signals Apprentice Tradesmen or Junior Leaders. With the small balance remaining from the funds subscribed, it is the hope of the Committee that a fund will be established whereby the annual winner or winners of the trophy will receive a personal memento of their achievement.

It will be of interest to note that the statuette is a reproduction almost identical with the original, larger, statue of Mercury which was made by Giovanni de Bologna in 1567 and now in the Barjello, in Florence.

DRUM MAJOR'S STAFF

The Band of the Junior Leaders Regiment is shortly to receive a handsome Drum Major's Staff which is to be presented by the 42 Lancashire Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A. The Staff surmounted by the figure of "Jimmy" was in use by the Band of the 42nd East Lancashire Divishire Divisional Signals until 1939.

Obituary

BRIGADIER E. N. FORTESCUE-HITCHINS, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C.

Born 16th January, 1884

Many will have read with great sorrow the announcement of the death of Brigadier Hitchins—"Hitch" to his many friends. To one who served with him for some years at Aldershot and Catterick in the 1920s and 1930s, his death is a particular loss. Like so many of the senior Officers in the early days of the Corps, he started his Army life in the Infantry, firstly with the 3rd Bedfordshire Regiment Militia and then, in 1904, having obtained a Regular commission, with the Duke of Wellington's Regiment. In 1912 he was seconded to the Army Signal Service and for the next 31 years, until his retirement, served with Signals. "Hitch" was a man of many parts, passionately devoted to the Army and to Signals and passionately devoted also to sport, in particular hunting and cricket. It was as a result of hunting that he suffered severe damage to a leg which was to cause him increasing trouble as his years advanced. My most vivid memories of him were in the realms of sport, particularly cricket. Because of his leg he could never be an outstanding performer, but what he lacked in ability was more than compensated by his enthusiasm. In 1927 he was commanding 2nd Divisional Signals at Aldershot and I had the honour to be his Adjutant. At that time the powers that be decided there should be a cricket competition at Aldershot with a cup as a prize for all major Units in the Command. Naturally, 2nd Divisional Signals entered, although at that time we were but 360 strong, with 16 Officers. We won the first round and then for the second were drawn against the Training Battalion, R.A.S.C., reputedly the strongest side in Aldershot. As luck would have it, "Hitch" had arranged for a night Exercise for the Unit on the eve of the match. All efforts on my part and others down to play failed to sway "Hitch" and the Exercise went on. After a sleepless night we took to the field and, miracle of miracles, knocked up our highest score to win a great victory. Alas, we went out in the next round to a team of no repute—the result presumably of going to bed too early!

Another of "Hitch's" attributes was his ability to soothe recalcitrant Generals. What his secret was we were never able to discover, but this at work is borne out by the following anecdote. At Aldershot there was a particular dragon of a General known to all and sundry by the somewhat unattractive, albeit, fitting name of "Hungry Face." Many was the time when, as Adjutant, I was appealed to by a senior Staff Officer, exasperated and shattered by the tantrums of the same dragon, to persuade Colonel Hitchins to visit H.Q. and to seek an interview with the General on some urgent pretext. "Hitch" never refused, and the result was a foregone conclusion; in a matter of minutes "Hungry Face" was purring and peace and harmony restored to Divisional Headquarters.

In the late 1920s Colonel Hitchins moved from Aldershot to Catterick to command the Training Battalion and there must be hundreds of members or ex-members of the Corps who remember those happy years when work and sport proceeded apace. Other home appointments followed, firstly as C.S.O. Eastern Command and then as Officer, I.C. Records, culminating in 1938 in the years of peace to the plum of all overseas appointments—Signal Officer-in-Chief, India. Difficult and exciting days lay ahead but his foresight and planning in India in the early days of the War were to be of inestimable value to Signals in the years of war ahead.

In 1941 he left India and after a short spell of retirement in July, 1941, was appointed Commandant, 2nd Signal Training Centre. In 1943 ill-health and age compelled him finally to retire.

Such was the man, and in his departure the Army and Signals have lost an old and valued friend. That, in his last years, he was unable to take part in old associations was, I'm afraid, solely due to his leg, which made travelling difficult if not impossible, but he will be remembered.

Amongst others, Brigadier R. H. Willan, D.S.O., M.C., attended the funeral.

SIR STANLEY ANGWIN

Sir Stanley Angwin, K.C.M.G., K.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., died on 22nd April at the age of 75.

He became Engineer-in-Chief of the Post Office in 1939, which post he held till he became Chairman of Cable and Wireless Ltd. in 1947. Subsequently he became Chairman of the Commonwealth Telecommunications Board in 1951, until his retirement in 1956.

When the Territorial Force was inaugurated, Stanley Angwin raised the Lowland Division Signal Company. The unit was mobilised in 1914 and formed into the 52nd Divisional Signal Company with Major Angwin as Officer Commanding. He served through the 1914-18 war with the unit, in Gallipoli, Egypt, Palestine and France, and was awarded the M.C. and D.S.O.

In 1920 he reformed 44th Home Counties Divisional Signals and commanded from then until 1927.

He was knighted in 1941, appointed K.B.E. in 1945 and K.C.M.G. in 1957.

When the second world war started in 1939, the Fighting Services were indeed fortunate that Stanley Angwin occupied the post of Engineer-in-Chief. With his appreciation of the communication requirements of the Services, he provided communications in this country for the R.A.F., the Observer Corps and the Anti-Aircraft on a scale in excess of those considered necessary for the whole of the B.E.F. in the first war. In the early stages of the second war, the communication requirements of the Royal Navy were also heavy, but not so the Army.

Our greatest demand on the Post Office, through Stanley Angwin, came when plans for the invasion of N.W. Europe were formulated. Our requirements for the colossal scale of communications required for the headquarters at Portsmouth, for the submarine cable heads, for submarine cable to lay across the Channel, for terminal equipments and for specialised personnel of the Post Office to assist in the operation of these equipments were met in the full. We are indeed indebted to him for such success as attended our efforts.

Despite all the high offices he held, Stanley Angwin was a most unassuming person. At high level meetings he never said much, but what he said was never contested, because everyone appreciated that he was a maestro of his profession.

We in Signals are indeed grateful for all he did to help us when we were faced with the provision of communications on an unprecedented scale. We would like to express our depest sympathy to Lady Angwin and her sons and daughter in the great loss they have sustained.

* * *

The Memorial Service to Sir Stanley Angwin was held at the Queen's Chapel of the Savoy on 14th May, 1959, and was attended by Major-General Sir W. Ronald C. Penney, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., M.C., and representing the Royal Signals Institution, Brigadier W. T. Howe, O.B.E.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL D. G. COLLINS, M.B.E., T.D., D.L.



We regret to hear that Donald George Collins died on 9th May at the early age of forty-seven. He will be remembered as one of the efficient officers of the 48th Divisional Signals T.A. and a very likeable man with many friends in the Corps.

Collins joined the 48th Divisional Signals T.A. in 1932 and went to France with it in January, 1940. When the Germans attacked on 10th May he was commanding No. 2 Company, but he was not for long employed in this capacity. The CRA 48th Division—Brigadier Hon. E. F. Lawson — commanded an improvised mixed force holding the canal line near La Bassee and afterwards organised the defence perimeter at Dunkirk. Collins was the Force Signal Officer for both these operations, which were good tests of his ability.

After two years in England, Collins went with the 48th Divisional Signals to form the 78th Divisional Signals—again as O.C. No. 2 Company. With this division he served in North Africa, Sicily and Italy up to Lake Trasimene. He then went to the 46th Divisional Signals as second-in-command. But an attack of jaundice in early 1944 was still affecting him and he was medically downgraded in December, 1944 and became—in March, 1945—S.O.2 (Royal Signals) Central Mediterranean Training Centre. In May, Collins was appointed S.O.1 to CAFSO (Brigadier R. Patten) where he remained until release in October, 1945. For his service in the Italian campaign he was mentioned in despatches and awarded the M.B.E.

He returned to the family business of C. H. Collins and Sons Ltd., manufacturing jewellers in Birmingham, and after his record, including over three years overseas on active service, might have considered his soldiering finished. But, when the Territorial Army was revived in 1947, Donald Collins was persuaded to form and command the 1/20 Army Signal Regiment, which succeeded the 48th Divisional Signals. With a handful of pre-war Territorials he laid the foundations of a good unit and all ranks were sorry when his period of command finished.

He had been ill for over five years and all this time showed a magnificent courage and cheerfulness and made most determined efforts to overcome his disability. His memorial service at St. Peter's Church, Little Aston, Sutton Coldfield, was attended by many officers who had served with him. He leaves a widow and two daughters.

E.A.J.

INDIAN SIGNAL CORPS

A list of the honours and awards earned by Indian ranks of the Signal Service, Sappers and Miners and of the Indian Signal Corps between 15th February, 1911, and 15th August, 1947, has been published by The Editor, The Signalman, Mhow, India. Price 1/6, plus postage—say 2/-.

It contains a very great number of names known to those of Royal Signals who served with the Indian Signal Corps before 1947 and with the Corps of Signals of India and Pakistan since then. The lists are classified by decades. Part I—Signal Service Sappers and Miners 1911-1920. Part II— 1921-1939 and Part III—1939-1947. Curiously Part I including the first World War contains about the same number of names as does Part III.

PERSONAL COLUMN

London Gazette

17th April, 1959

Lieutenant-Colonel J. McNeil retired 9th April, 1959.
Captain C. L. Lewis-Barclay retired 11th March, 1959.

28th April, 1959

Her Majesty The Queen has been graciously pleased to approve that the following be mentioned in recognition of gallant and distinguished conduct in Malaya for the period 1st July to 31st December, 1958:

Major J. E. Evans.
Captain R. T. Martin.
Staff Sergeant O. J. Gough.
Sergeant L. Kendrick, B.E.M.

1st May, 1959

Captain A. L. Dowell to be Major, 2nd May, 1959.
Major (T.O.T.) P. S. Harris relinquishes his commission on completion of service, 1st May, 1959, and is granted the hon. rank of Major (T.O.T.).
Major (Q.M.) H. Russell relinquishes his commission on completion of service, 1st May, 1959, and is granted the hon. rank of Major (Q.M.).

Territorial Army

Lieutenant-Colonel J. J. Collins, M.C., T.D., to be Bt. Colonel, 1st May, 1959.

5th May, 1959

Captain T. P. F. Unwin to be Major, 6th May, 1959.
Lieutenant (T.O.T.) M. Hogan to be Captain (T.O.T.), 5th May, 1959.
Lieutenant (Q.M.) R. Burge to be Captain (Q.M.), 6th May, 1959.

Regular Army Reserve of Officers

Lieutenant-Colonel and Bt. Colonel D. J. Braine, E.R.D. from A.E. Reserve of Officers, to be Lieutenant Colonel and Bt. Colonel, 22nd February, 1959.

Movements — Officers

Brigadier P. M. P. Hobson, D.S.O.	To Commander Training Brigade.
Colonel G. H. Starr	,, SEATO.
Colonel H. J. Thompson, O.B.E. ...	,, D.D. Signals, A.F. Signals.
Lieutenant-Colonel T. H. C. Grigg	,, School of Signals.
Colonel C. H. Stoneley, O.B.E. ...	,, Appointed D.S.O.-in-C.
Lieutenant-Colonel J. E. Anderson	,, Federation Armed Forces, Malaya.
Major F. G. Barnes	,, Ministry of Supply.
Major C. W. Ainsworth	,, Depot, Regiment (Held strength).
Major C. B. Masser	,, Air Formation Signal Regiment, B.A.O.R.
Major I. G. Swan	,, B.J.S.M. Washington.
Major L. J. Parker	,, Ministry of Supply.
Major D. E. Warren	,, G.H.Q., FARELF.
Major G. J. C. Sumner	,, C.O., 7 Training Regiment.
Major J. R. Rahilly	,, 1 (Essex) Signal Regiment (T.A.).
Major R. R. Morrison	,, G.H.Q., M.E.L.F.
Major E. J. Buirski	,, 4 Air Formation Signal Regiment.
Major H. J. Rae	,, 5 Training Regiment.
Major K. E. Haycock	,, R.A.F. Staff College (Course).
Major F. G. Bolam	,, 4 Training Regiment.
Major D. H. Scarfe	,, ALFCE.
Major (Tfc. Offr.) T. J. Winder	,, 1 Cipher Equipment Troop.
Captain (Q.M.) J. F. McQuade ...	,, 1 Corps Signal Regiment.
Lieutenant (T.O.T.) P. Thompson	,, FARELF.
Lieutenant (Tfc. Offr.) V. R. Clarke	,, M.E.L.F. (Cyrenaica Signal Troop).

Retirements

Lieutenant-Colonel T. G. V. Stephenson ...	27 April, 1959
Major (T.O.T.) P. S. Harris	1 May, 1959
Major (Q.M.) H. Russell	1 May, 1959

Births

PARKER.—To Corporal and Mrs. Parker, of Malta Signal Squadron, at Malta G.C., on 20th February, 1959, a daughter, Susan Ann.

CASEY.—To Sergeant and Mrs. Casey, of Malta Signal Squadron, at Malta G.C., on 13th March, 1959, a daughter, Julie.

All the following of 19 Army Group Signal Regiment

CORNELL.—To Sergeant and Mrs. T. S. Cornell, a son, Christopher John, at B.M.H. Hostert, on 13th April, 1959.

BERGIN.—To Lance-Corporal and Mrs. G. R. Bergin, a son, Alan Robert, at B.M.H. Hostert, on 31st March, 1959.

FEATHERSTONE.—To Corporal and Mrs. M. J. Featherstone, a son, Robin, at B.M.H. Hostert, on 17th March, 1959.

HUTCHNGS.—To Lance-Corporal and Mrs. R. H. Hutchings, a son, Martin Derek, at B.M.H. Hostert, on 13th March, 1959 .

WESTERMAN.—To Lance-Corporal and Mrs. T. Westerman, a daughter, Sylvia Waltrand, at Southmoor Hospital, Hemsworth, on 6th February, 1959.

All the following of 2 L. of C. Signal Regiment

EXELL.—To Captain and Mrs. G. A. S. Exell a daughter, Belinda Denise, born at B.M.H., Hostert, on 16th March, 1959.

LUCEY.—To Captain and Mrs. J. F. Lucey a daughter, Catherine Anne, born at Herentals, Belgium, on 15th February, 1959.

PHILP.—To Captain and Mrs. J. E. P. Philp a son, Robin John, at B.M.H., Hostert, on 13th February, 1959.

DAVIS.—To Lieutenant and Mrs. L. F. Davis a daughter, Sandra Jane, born at B.M.H., Hostert, on 21st January, 1959.

Marriages

MURRAY—ANDERSON.—Sergeant A. Murray, Malta Signal Squadron, to Miss Margaret Anderson, at Darlington, on 18th February, 1959.

All the following of 19 Army Group Signal Regiment.

CLENSON—WHITBY.—Driver K. Clenson to Miss Elsie Whitby, at Northwich, Cheshire, on 28th March, 1959.

WILL—DAWSON.—Corporal R. R. Will to Miss Catherine Dawson, at Wintlow, on 14th February, 1959.

GADDAS—SMITH.—Driver D. Gaddas to Miss Hazel Smith, at Rother Valley, on 14th March, 1959.

COYLE—TOMP.—Signalman H. Coyle to Frl. Karin Tomp, at Krefeld, on 28th February, 1959.

FROST—ROOME.—Sergeant R. M. Frost to Miss Sheila Roome, at Derby, on 5th March, 1959.

MOULD—HOUGH.—Signalman H. Mould to Miss Janet Hough, at Melton Mowbray, on 21st March, 1959.

Deaths

RUSHIN.—23490265 Driver K. W. Rushin on 4th April, 1959, in Cyprus.

TOZER.—Colonel L. A. E. Tozer, B.A., in Catterick, on 22nd May, 1959.

Arrivals and Departures

School of Signals

Arrivals : W.O.I A. C. Ilett.
Departures : Major L. G. Warren, Staff Sergeant D. W. Capon.

Malta Signal Squadron

Arrivals : Sergeants Casey, Christie, Bowman, Maidment and Hills.
Departures : R.Q.M.S. Marsden, Sergeant Moynan.

1 Training Regiment

Arrivals : Sergeants N. Parvin, J. Blacklock and J. M. Rhodie.
Departures : Sergeants A. Charlton and R. H. Manson.

Scottish Command (M) Signal Squadron

Arrivals : Captain (T.O.T.) R. Marsh.
Departures : Captain (T.O.T.) E. J. Larner, Captain (Q.M.) E. C. Lonton, Sergeant Stuart.

19 Army Group Signal Regiment

Arrivals : Lieutenant-Colonel J. R. West, M.B.E., Major R. P. D. Painter, Captain M. Petheram, Lieutenant (Traffic) E. Gill, Sergeants Beake and Davis.
Departures : Lieutenant-Colonel P. W. Lonnon, M.B.E., Majors E. Davies, J. Pearson and E. Buirski, Captains D. C. Hibberd and C. L. Lewis-Barclay, W.O.II Jones and Staff Sergeant Close.

4 Training Regiment

Arrivals : Sergeant N. McLeod and Staff Sergeant I. T. Lawlor, A.P.T.C.
Departures : Major M. Holliday and W.O.II J. Millar.

2 L. of C. Signal Regiment

Arrivals : Staff Sergeants G. Donovan, B.E.M., K. Cowburn, E. W. Howes, and Sergeant E. J. Simpson.
Departures : W.O.II R. A. Riley, Sergeants E. D. Woodward and R. Hunter.

Forthcoming Events

The Corps Cricket Match against Royal Armoured Corps

takes place at THE OVAL, LONDON, on 24th/25th JUNE, 1959, and not 23rd/24th June, as stated in the February number of THE WIRE.
Admission is free, especially to those wearing a Corps Tie.
Tea can be obtained from the normal catering facilities of The Oval.
The Corps Band, or a R.A.C. Band, will play on both days for about an hour on either side of the afternoon tea interval.

Indian Army Reunion

26th June, 1959. Hurlingham Club. Tickets, 12/- each, from Lieutenant-Colonel D. J. C. Wiseman, 59, Hyde Park Gate, London, S.W.7.

Saturday, 4th July, 1959 Royal Signals Association Annual
Sunday, 5th July, 1959 ... General Meeting. Corps Week-end and Association Reunion at CATTERICK.

1st Divisional Signal Regiment — Regimental Week-end, 11th/12th July, 1959, Colchester

1st Divisional Signal Regiment is to hold, at Colchester, a Regimental Week-end on 11th and 12th July, 1959. The Corps Band will be present. A summary of the programme is :—

Saturday, 11th July
1230 hrs. Lunch.
1430—1600 hrs. Demonstration by each Troop. (1230—1430 hrs. / 1600—1730 hrs. Fete in aid of Royal Signals Benevolent Fund.)
1630 hrs. Tea.
1730—2000 hrs. Sergeants' Mess open house for Old Comrades.
2000—2400 hrs. All Ranks' Dance.

Sunday, 12th July
1030 hrs. Church Parade Service followed by March Past.
1200—1245 hrs. Band Concert.
1300 hrs. Lunch for All Guests in Messes.

All parents, wives, etc., of those now serving in the Regiment and all past Commanding Officers are being invited individually. Amongst those who are expected are the Representative Colonel Commandant, Major-General M. S. Wheatley; another Colonel Commandant and a Past Commanding Officer, Major-General R. F. H. Nalder, C.B., O.B.E., and the Signal Officer-in-Chief, Major-General R. J. Moberly, C.B., O.B.E.

All will be most welcome who at any time served with:—
"C" Telegraph Troop.
1st Telegraph Division of the Telegraph Battalion.
1st Telegraph Company.
1st Divisional Telegraph Company.
1st Signal Company.
1st Divisional Signals.
1st Infantry Divisional Signals.
1st Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment.
1st Divisional Signal Regiment.

Will those of All Ranks who intend to come please write to P.R.I., 1st Divisional Signal Regiment, Sobraon Barracks, Colchester, who will inform the appropriate Mess and provide more detailed information. As far as numbers allow, barrack room accommodation can be provided on the Saturday night.

The 1959 Searchlight Tattoo

at the White City, London, organised by S.S.A.F.A. will be held on evenings between 17th and 28th August inclusive, with a matinee on Saturday, 22nd August. This year the Tattoo begins at 8 p.m. and finishes a little earlier (10.15 p.m.), so that people can catch their trains more easily. Tickets can be obtained from the Box Office, White City Stadium, Wood Lane, W.12 (Shepherds Bush 7220).

26th National Radio and Television Exhibition

Earls Court, London, 26th August to 5th September, 1959.

Ex-Boys' Sixth Annual Dinner

Saturday, 26th September, 1959. 6.30 for 7.30 p.m. At Victory Ex-Services' Club, 63/79, Seymour Street, London, W.2. One minute from Marble Arch Station and first left up Edgware Road. Lounge suit or uniform.

Tickets 17/6 flat rate for ex-Boys, their wives or guests. Apply preferably not later than 1st July to F. W. JACOB, Esq., T.A. CENTRE, 54 (EA) INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A., 40, ASHBURNHAM ROAD, BEDFORD, who is Hon. Secretary and Treasurer. Cheques payable "F. W. Jacob, ex-Boys' Dinner A/C."

Lieutenant-Colonel E. G. Brice, O.B.E., Royal Signals, has assumed chairmanship vice Major F. G. Strange (Retd.), who remains publicity member of the Committee.

Royal Signals Display Team — Engagements, 1959

June	3—20	ROYAL TOURNAMENT	London
	27	Staveley Iron and Chemical Gala Day	Chesterfield
July	4/5	ROYAL SIGNALS AT HOME ...	Catterick
,,	8	Eastern Command Recruiting Drive ...	Hounslow
,,	11	Leeds Schools' Athletic Day	Leeds
,,	18	Boroughbridge Agriculture Show ...	Boroughbridge
,,	23	Malton Agricultural Show	Malton
,,	25	Border Union Agricultural Society Show	Kelso
,,	31/Aug. 1	Blackburn Agricultural Show	Blackburn
August	3	Tyneside Agricultural Show	Hexham
,,	6	Bakewell Agricultural and Horticultural Society Show	Bakewell
,,	19	Home Counties Recruiting Drive ...	Gillingham
,,	22	Ashbourne Shire Horse Society Show	Ashbourne
September	5	1 Training Regiment, Royal Signals Parents' Week-end	Catterick
,,	10/20	SCOTTISH Command Recruiting Drive	Perth/Stirling
,,	26	2 Training Regiment, Royal Signals Parents' Week-end	Catterick

Royal Signals Lawn Tennis Fixtures, 1959

Date	*Opponents*	*Location*	
June 15-20	Corps Tournament	Catterick	(Home)
June 20	Welbeck College	Worksop	(Away)
June 29	Royal Army Ordnance Corps	Catterick	(Home)
June 30	Royal Electrical & Mechanical Engineers	Catterick	(Home)
July 1	Royal Engineers	Catterick	(Home)
July 18	Staff College, Camberley	Camberley	(Away)
July 20	Royal Army Service Corps	Aldershot	(Away)
July 21	Royal Army Education Corps	Aldershot	(Away)
July 22	Royal Military Academy	Camberley	(Away)
Sept. 9	Royal Artillery	Catterick	(Home)

Royal Signals Officers' Golfing Society, Fixtures, 1959

Date	Opponents	Course
Wed., 20th May	Royal Engineers	Worplesdon
Fri., 17th July	Royal Artillery	Sunningdale
Thurs., 10th Sept.	R.A.M.C.	Swinley Forest
Mon., 21st Sept.	A.G.S. Meeting	Sunningdale
Tues., 22nd Sept.	A.G.S. Meeting	Sunningdale
Mon., 28th Sept.	Autumn Meeting	Worplesdon
Tues., 29th Sept.	Autumn Meeting	Worplesdon
Wed., 30th Sept.	Autumn Meeting	Worplesdon
Sun., 4th Oct.	Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst	Camberley Heath
Thurs., 22nd Oct	R.A.O.C.	Swinley Forest

Royal Signals Cricket Club, Fixtures, 1959

20th May	v.	Welbeck College	Worksop
8th-9th June	v.	R.A.O.C.	Bramley, Hants.
10th June	v.	R.M.A., Sandhurst	Camberley
11th-12th June	v.	R.A.S.C.	Aldershot
20th-21st June	v.	R.E.	Aldershot
24th-25th June	v.	R.A.C.	Kennington Oval
8th-9th July	v.	R.E.M.E.	Colchester

Unit Cricket Officers who consider any players up to Corps standard should forward full details to Captain S. G. de Clive-Lowe, 3rd Training Regiment Royal Signals, Lincoln.

PROMOTIONS

The following promotions were authorised during the month of April, 1959 :—

Technical Roster

To W.O.I	2327710	(70)	A/W.O.I	Knight, R. G.
	829075	(130)	W.O.II	Eley, W.
To W.O.II	2325863	(04)	S Sgt.	Erskine, D. C.
	2549472	(270)	S Sgt.	Cole, B. C.
	21027031	(280)	S Sgt.	Leppington, L. W.
	2549268	(290)	S Sgt.	Singleton, D. W.
	4192508	(310)	S Sgt.	Burgess, G. A.
	22248614	(320)	S Sgt.	Tucker, L. L.
To S Sgt.	2549619	(480)	A/Sgt.	Welch, M. H.
	22246015	(550)	Sgt.	Strange, B. F.
	2549511	(560)	Sgt.	Walke, J. L. E.
	22309266	(610)	Sgt.	Moody, B.
	22236772	(620)	Sgt.	Downie, T. A. M.
	22289302	(630)	Sgt.	Cull, M. A.
	22246031	(690)	Sgt.	Willis, J. C.
	2549755	(710)	Sgt.	Gilyeat, J. M.
	2549635	(720)	Sgt.	Nichols, D. A. W.
	2549468	(730)	Sgt.	Butler, M.
	22307639	(740)	Sgt.	Yates, G. E.
	2549487	(746)	Sgt.	Wilkins, D. K. H.
	2549598	(750)	Sgt.	Latham, J. E.
	2549567	(780)	Sgt.	Short, E. M.
	2549749	(790)	Sgt.	Fisher, B.
	21005089	(800)	Sgt.	Boiling, J.
	22265689	(820)	Sgt.	Martin, C.
	22288400	(830)	Sgt.	Howes, D. W. M.
	22307755	(840)	A/Sgt.	Pollard, D.
	22539014	(860)	Sgt.	Conway, R.
	2549750	(890)	Sgt.	Shakeshaft, G. E.
	22280325	(930)	Sgt.	Lidstone, I. R.
	22269315	(940)	Sgt.	Sharp, A.
To Sgt.	22246022	(1420)	Cpl.	Wilson, A. G. E.
	22845378	(1430)	Cpl.	Potter, D. F.
	23237560	(1450)	A/Sgt.	Kay, D. T. P.
	22771744	(1470)	A/Sgt.	Stoneham, L. V.
	22801743	(1480)	A/Sgt.	Lee, W.
	22550245	(1510)	A/Sgt.	Abbott, A. E.
	22971367	(1520)	Cpl.	Fordom, G. W.
	22771315	(1580)	Cpl.	Bracey, D. I.
	2549666	(1720)	A/Sgt.	Ashton, B.
	22550274	(1740)	Cpl.	Mackie, J. B.
	22776078	(1750)	Cpl.	Kirton, J. C.
	22569902	(1820)	Cpl.	Evans, D. W.
	22965464	(2010)	A/Sgt.	Smith, R. W.
	23211809	(2482)	Cpl.	Morris, R.
	22550265	(2850)	A/Sgt.	Smith, P.
	22821829	(3040)	A/Sgt.	Nay, J. P. F.
	22821046	(3080)	A/Sgt.	Groom, M. J. D.
	23200846	(3540)	A/Sgt.	Lee, J. C.
	22569737	(3794)	Cpl.	Webb, B.
	22524058	(3890)	Cpl.	Wilkes, A. F.
	22981470	(4074)	A/Sgt.	Lay, B. R.
	21005113	(80)	Cpl.	Slater, M. W.
	22821009	(3920)	A/Sgt.	Pritchard, J. P.
	22515538	(334)	A/Sgt.	Greenall, R.
	22547427	(270)	A/Sgt.	Cross, T. H.

Operating Roster

To Sgt.	22232015	(780)	Cpl.	Wharmby, J. E.
	22801291	(810)	A/Sgt.	Harmsworth, W. R.
	22526371	(920)	Cpl.	Dutton, K.
	22844578	(940)	Cpl.	Easter, L. A.

Signal Centre Supervisors Roster

To W.O.I	22232632	(240)	A/W.O.I	Grant, P. H.
	2547741	(260)	W.O.II	Ilett, A. C.

General Trades and Duties Roster

To Sgt.	22794390	(350)	A/Sgt.	Brown, E. C.
	22265876	(450)	A/Sgt.	Harris, G.
	22265570	(480)	Cpl.	Isgate, R. A.
	22287924	(500)	A/Sgt.	Pickett, R. T.
	22522213	(560)	Cpl.	Dale, K. H. R.
	3608586	(620)	Cpl.	Phillips, J. F.
	22586926	(630)	Cpl.	Driver, J. T.
	22537692	(634)	Cpl.	Shaw, B. E.

Clerical Roster

To W.O.I	2347693	(130)	A/W.O.I	Nicholls, E. J. G.

Regimental Duty Roster

To W.O.II	14116539	(1300)	S Sgt.	Wright, K. G.
	14474618	(1390)	A/W.O.II	Barnes, W. A.
	2328644	(1434)	S Sgt.	MacLeish, R. M.
	2328358	(1440)	A/W.O.II	Austin, C.
	5948927	(1450)	A/W.O.II	Mitchinson, H. G.
To S Sgt.	2035173	(450)	A/S Sgt.	Brady, J. M. H.
	22247168	(460)	A/S Sgt.	Francis, J. D.
	2329139	(100)	Sgt.	Butt, K. W.
	19036721	(110)	Sgt.	Grainger, A.
	4698865	(120)	A/S Sgt.	Morgan, D. L.
	22229309	(104)	Sgt.	Charlton, A.
	22203213	(120)	A/S Sgt.	McLoughlin, I.
	7888926	(140)	Sgt.	George, E. D.

INSERTIONS

Regimental Duty Roster

	21126462	(2454)	W.O.II	Palmer, C. W.

Operating Roster

	22559092	(3254)	Sgt.	Montgomery, R.

DELETIONS

Regimental Duty Roster

W.O.I	240					
W.O.II	430	1270	630	1330	290	
S Sgt.	3790	2750	3560	2540	110	1000

Signal Centre Supervisor Roster

W.O.I	170	
W.O.II	250	680

Clerical Roster

W.O.I	20					
S Sgt.	460					
Sgt.	540	170	60	1530	530	

Operating Roster

Sgt.	40	3150	2730	540	330	120	1740
	5280	5240	5210	2950	950	170	60
	5980	6150	4350	1870	310	1930	

General Trades and Duties Roster

Sgt.	2480	2110	159	1330	220	138	185
	260	1560	700	1840	1400	1220	

Lineman Roster

Sgt.	1430	1620	910

Home Stations

1 TRAINING REGIMENT

During the month our Rugby players successfully defended the Command Seven's Cup, and several players were honoured in representative games. Second-Lieutenant MacPherson played for the Army against the T.A., Corporal Higgin was reserve in this game, and Cpl. Williams turned out for the Army against the R.A.F. and the French Army.

At the moment the Soccer XI shares first place in the District League with 16/5 Lancers, Army Cup winners, and a test match seems likely.

As a curtain raiser for the District championships, the Regimental athletics meeting was held on 27th April. Rain spoiled the opening events but cleared up during the afternoon when some very useful talent was on view. 3 Squadron retained the Inter Squadron Challenge Cup, and 2 Squadron annexed the Tug-of-War. Most exciting race of the day was the three-miles, won by Second-Lieutenant Sellers by a neck from Lance-Corporal Evans. The Old Soldiers' gallop found Sergeant Carmichael just slightly ahead of Major Shaw.

At its monthly Dinner, the Officers' Mess bade an official farewell to Brigadier E. D. Good, C.B.E., the Commander Signal Training Brigade, who retires in the near future. Fortunately he is remaining in our midst in an "out of uniform" capacity.

And now for Rifle meetings, Queen's Birthday Parade, Old Comrades' Reunion Church Fetes and Administrative Inspections, all just round the corner.

2 TRAINING REGIMENT

Contemplating writing WIRE Notes, one wonders why. It seems that Regimental Notes are read avidly by those serving in the Regiment, who know anyway what happened, but get a kick out of seeing it in print, particularly if names are mentioned. Ex members of the Regiment take a desultory interest, and after this one wonders if anyone else reads them.

The mere fact that Regimental Notes appear at all is a good thing. It reminds other Regiments of our worthy existence, and a record is made which in years to come may be of value to settle bets or compile Regimental history. The Editor is also no doubt pleased to have "copy."

The outstanding event in terms of effort was Exercise "Parcel Post." In March the Regiment turned hundreds of pseudo reservists into soldiers again. In April we followed on by collecting hundreds of tons of mob stores. As this was done within twelve hours from Depots many miles away and all returned the next day, it involved a great deal of organisation and work. Major Williams was the brain behind the Mob Scheme, and needless to say it was successful.

Otherwise this month has been devoted to the usual activities which Spring in Catterick brings.

Captain Philp is hard at it organising Regimental Shooting with high hopes for the Brigade Meet, and on through District Meet and the rest to Bisley.

Small bore shooting completed a successful season under Captain Watson, by winning the .22 for the Mackworth Trophy, and coming second in the District League.

Major Elston (O.C. (O.R. 1) Squadron) is whipping up enthusiasm in the Athletics field with the Chief Instructor, Major Kennett, taking particular pride and joy in the Tug-o-War team.

Captain McKail has the makings of a good Cricket XI, and much is expected under the captaincy of Sergeant Ruddy. Our successes will duly appear in later issues.

Corporal Annis represented Northern Command in Boxing.

Captain Willmott is heavily engaged organising the District Motor Cycling Events.

Apart from sport, R.S.M. Taylor has moved his Sergeants' Mess from the long and well known location in Le Cateau Lines, into the spaciousness provided by the former Mons Lines NAAFI Canteen. The official opening in May is expected to be a good party. Old Comrades please note that we may not need the beer tent this year.

There is an odour of Administration Inspection gently stealing on the breeze, made manifest by the appearance of paint, polish and C.O.s Inspections.

Other events whose shadow has started to touch us are "Old Comrades' Week-end" and Queen's Birthday Parade (R.S.M.'s Drill Parades are the thin end of this wedge).

Oddly enough training continues with 4 (O.R. 1) Squadron still turning out first-class officer material, which they hope will pass on eventually to Mons Cadet School (there is quite a queue to get in). The basic training of Linemen, Tech Storemen, Cable Jointers and Draughtsmen still carries on, under the wing of S.S.M. Blake.

Upgrading continues at its usual high standard, despite the peculiarities introduced in the way of division of responsibilities between Training Brigade and Field Regiment. Mr. Callender and Staff Sergeant McKay, ably assisted by Staff Sergeant Piper and Sergeant Stockwell wrestle with these problems.

Apart from these things life proceeds evenly and placidly.

4 TRAINING REGIMENT

The month of April has been a highly successful one for the Regiment in the sporting world. The month started with the Regimental cycling team coming second in the Northern Command 25-mile road race, with Lance-Corporal Weeks coming in second individual. The rest of the team were Corporal Stone, Signalman Hastings and Signalman Banister. Lance-Corporal Weeks, it may be added, has in the last two months been fifth in the Army 25-mile road race, second in the Northern Command mountain trial, first in the Bournemouth three-day trial, where he represented the Army, first in the Dover to London race, where he represented Northern Command, and will shortly be representing the Army in the tour of Britain race.

Mention must also be made of Corporal D. Gardiner, who played in the F.A. Amateur Cup Final for the winning side, Crook Town, and showed himself incidentally to be a fine television performer when receiving his medal from H.R.H. The Duke of Gloucester. Corporal Gardiner has also been invited to tour Europe with the English amateur side in late May.

Nearer at home, the Rugby seven-a-side won the District seven-a-side competition. We nearly went out in the first round when 5 R.T.R. scored a try early on in the game, but the side managed to rally and get the necessary five points to go through to the next round. This try proved to be the only points scored against us during the whole competition. Congratulations to Captain Gittins and Lieutenant Burrows and the team for achieving this double with the District Rugger Cup.

In the domestic world we have held our Regimental Athletic Meeting, which was won by "H.Q." Squadron and which



4 TRAINING REGIMENT RUGBY PLAYERS 1958-59. WINNERS OF THE NORTHUMBRIAN DISTRICT RUGBY CUP AND NORTHUMBRIAN DISTRICT SEVEN-A-SIDE CUP

(Back Row) : Signalman Dowdell, Sergeant Biddlecombe, Staff Sergeant Jones, Lance Corporal Bullivant, Signalman Moorehouse, Lance Corporal Reynard, Staff Sergeant Grant, (RAEC), Signalman Spark, Corporal Syme

(Front Row) : Signalman O'Boyle, Corporal Bunn, Corporal Warren, Signalman Nestor, Captain Gittins, Lieutenant W. W. Burrows, Signalman Hall, Lance Corporal Maitland, Lieutenant Colonel T. B. Chambers, M.C.



At a Regimental Parade in April, Mr. R. E. Hodges being presented with the Meritorious Service Medal. Lately RQMS of the Regiment he is now a Civilian Instructor. *(Right)* The present RQMS A. J. Judge receiving the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal from Brigadier E. D. Good, C.B.E., Commander, Training Brigade

produced some promising material for the District championships. Not least of the fine performances was that of Major Tucker, who won the Old Soldiers' race, though an objection was lodged in that he ran in his socks, thus gaining that little extra turn of speed over more conventional old soldiers, who kept their shoes on. The objection was, however, overruled. In the chain of command race, on the other hand, he disappointed his backers by coming in a bad third in the sack race, and although R.Q.M.S. Judge made a noble effort to close the gap in the beer drinking section, he was up against Sergeant-Major Webb, of 1 Squadron, and it proved an impossible task.

The Regimental shooting team came third in the Brigade competition, the only outstanding performer being, as usual, Sergeant McAlister, who got the second highest aggregate and was second in the practices for both the Roupell and Henry Whitehead Cup. Sergeant McAlister has now won so many spoons at shooting that the task of cleaning them all is seriously interfering with his Sunday morning's leisure.

Signal Training Wing, W.R.A.C.

Oh, what a glorious feeling, the sun is shining here in Catterick and everyone is going around with smiling faces. Since our last notes we have had posted into the Unit for Signal Centre operator training a most useful person by the name of Private Nelson, alias the Phantom Artist. Due to waiting for an operation she has been given a variety of jobs to do, all of which she has carried out with song, paint and efficiency. The fire buckets never looked so bright and the floor in "you know where" is positively gleaming! We were all very sorry when she had to go into hospital, but the ward sisters assure us she is still the life and soul of the place.

The gardening is still going strong, Privates Bisson and Minty Ex 93Q have made, as their final contribution, a rockery. The Officer Commanding is still trying to trace the trainee who she is convinced is buried under this pile of stones. During the past month the Technical Warrant Officer, W.O.II Neal, has had a very busy time dealing with the personal problems of many trainees. She is now confident that she could be considered a qualified "Auntie Mamie" and deal with "problems de Coeur." Her services are free, so please write if you have any troubles, but do not blame us if you do not like the answer! Remember we introduced you to Staff Sergeant ("Killer") Thompson, the P.T.I., well, she is now busy training girls to give a display of dancing with hoops, but she assures us it does not include Hula. . . . Pity!

Our next social function is the wedding of our Administrative Subaltern, Lieutenant Scott Easton. On 23rd May, 1959, she marries Lieutenant J. Clements, K.S.L.I. We in the Wing wish them both every happiness but plead with her to take away her pet cockroaches when she goes.

To end our notes, congratulations to Lance-Corporals Derbyshire, Horsley and Siddall on their recent promotion. Was it Sergeant Dixon who ordered the front garden of the Teleprinter School to be dug up and a telephone cable laid? It will take Sergeant McLaren a long time to get over the shock of seeing the workmen performing this deed and we reckon the workmen were a little surprised by Sergeant McLaren's reaction.

5 TRAINING REGIMENT

It is gratifying to note that so many ex-members of the Regiment read THE WIRE, and to those who wrote in following the publication of the last notes we say, "Thank you." In answer to the queries about the articles on Training the Driver; there are two completely different aspects—training the bloke who thinks he can drive, and training to produce a chap from scratch as a capable driver. Well, well, more of this for a later issue.

Pride of place this month has been shared between the Football team, ably managed by Captain Canning, and led on the field by C.S.M.I. Spoors (A.P.T.C.); and Corporal Lawrence, of No. 1 Squadron, for his showing in the Training Brigade Rifle Meeting.

The Soccer team finished the season in a blaze of glory, by winning the following trophies : York and District Half Holiday Challenge Cup, York and District Half Holiday League Championship, Ripon and District Challenge Cup, Ripon and District League Championship and the Harrogate Visitors Cup. Both the League Championships were won without conceding a defeat throughout the season. To Lieutenant D. S. Neill, who prior to his posting was the mainstay of the right wing, thank you for your brilliant efforts and contributions during your stay with the team.

Corporal Lawrence of No. 1 Squadron—one of the Regiment's Weapon Training Instructors—took two firsts and a second at the Brigade Rifle Meeting, the prizes including that for "The Best Shot of the Meeting."

The C.I.V. team have departed, having rated the Regiment as "Good," a very rewarding result for all the hard work and long hours, and the assistance of unseasonably fine weather.

Last, but by no means the least important, is our "drive" for the Royal Signals Association. It's going on and shortly we hope to report some very real and substantial success.

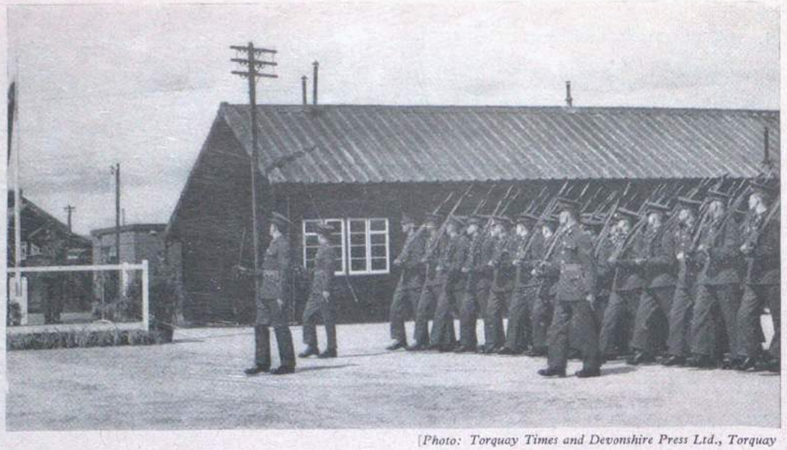
Who are they ? Where are they now ?



For names see foot of col. 1, page 160

Junior Leaders Regiment

☆



Lieutenant-Colonel R. E. Baker takes the salute at his farewell parade

[Photo: Torquay Times and Devonshire Press Ltd., Torquay

A Family Left Behind . . .

Lieutenant-Colonel R. E. Baker, O.B.E., has retired from the Army. After three years with the Junior Leaders Regiment, during which time it has expanded from 120 boys to over 450, he left at the end of April.

A Farewell Parade was held in his honour and it was clearly evident that the boys have never drilled or looked smarter. It was a moving moment as Lieutenant-Colonel Baker addressed for the last time the boys he held so dear. His voice echoed over the silent parade square to the waiting ranks, bayonets and belt brasses gleaming in the morning watery sunshine.

"My 'goodbye' goes to each one of you personally," he said. "You have served me well, and it has been a very great honour to me to have lived and worked with you. May God bless you and prosper your work."

As he drove to the gate, the route lined by the cadre, civilian staff and boys cheering him success in all his future undertakings, what were his thoughts? . . . Sorrow and pride.

When comes the day armies are no longer needed, Lieutenant-Colonel Baker will still be remembered. Remembered for his beliefs, remembered for efforts in producing soldiers—and worthy citizens—at a camp called Denbury.

Also, another friend departs, Captain B. Stokoe, our Q.M., for hot Hong Kong.

To Carry On . . .

"June is busting out all over," say the words of the song, and in Denbury it's no different. Did I say no different? How foolish can you get. This Unit is unlike any other, any place!

"You don't write anything about us," said members of the cadre soccer team. So I did. It was published and it was read (I hope it was read). Anyway, it must have gone to the heads of the players, because they immediately lost their next game. However, recovering from the shock, they went ahead to win the Calder Cup and Torbay Wednesday League.

The Calder Cup game was probably the most exciting of the season. From being 3-0 down, they won 4-3. Lance-Corporal Eckersall scoring all four goals for the Signals side. He has since been approached by many soccer scouts to play for their teams.

Some people take these notes too seriously. An interesting sequel to a paragraph that appeared sometime back about Second-Lieutenant K. Sheppard and his "horticultural ability" was that a man from somewhere or other appeared with a cameraman (from the same place) to do a feature on "Denbury's Delicious Dahlias"—I think that was the title. Poor fellows went away quite disillusioned. . . . 'cos he only digs d'Elvis.

Taken outside the W.O's and Sergeants Mess S.T.C. (I), Jubbulpore, India, 1931?
Reading from left to right, (Standing) : C.S.M.. H Hartley, D.C.M., M.S.M., CQMS Andrews, M.S.M.
(Seated) : RQMS Nixon, RQMS Earwaker, M.S.M., RSM May, D.C.M., M.S.M., RQMS Sewerin, M.S.M.
When this photo was taken : Total Service 133½ years. Total Indian Service 116½ years. Average Service 22 years. Average Service in India 19½ years. Total Medals, 38. Average 6½

This month I felt compelled to include the picture of Corporal Roseman and the exhausted lamb he found while Outward Bounding with the boys. It was taken by Junior Signalman Wraith, of "G" Troop, and it captures that inherent quality of kindness in the British soldier of which Lord Montgomery spoke so glowingly.

To all WIRE columnists come little tit-bits of news—some printable, most not. So here goes with the first of a series called :

We Hear That . . .

. . . The Sergeants' Mess, wishing to be on the best of terms with the local constabulary, have invited several P.C. 49s to join them in a pint.

. . . Sergeant Peake thinks "it's the end" that I should ref . . . oops . . . umpire cricket. Apparently it's not the done thing for an Anglised "Yank" or an Americanised Briton —me.

. . . Sergeant Aven, minutes after his arrival, was given a large chunk of instructions in a "Q" Course here, because "we've heard you did such a splendid job at the School of Signals." Such the penalties of gaining a reputation.

. . . That while all the rebuilding of the camp is going on, all doors are being raised by about three feet for the benefit of our C.I., Major Dunkley.

. . . One pair of twins in a Troop can lead to confusion, but to have had three pairs in one Troop has completely bewildered Second-Lieutenant M. Buckett.

I spoke to one set, the lads from Petteridge, Kent, 17-year-olds, Michael and John Ledger. John joined at the end of last summer, but Michael made his decision four months later.



Photo: Torquay Times and Devonshire Press Ltd., Torquay

Lieutenant-Colonel R. E. Baker leaves for the last time



[Photo: Junior Signalman Wraith

Corporal Roseman and a lamb that lost its way

"We are in different classes and barrack rooms now," said Michael, "so it's not so bad. But when we were together people used to shout 'Where's old Ledger?'—meaning my brother, whose been here the longest." However, his brother in actual fact, is the *younger* by twenty minutes, which only adds to the confusion.

By the way, John Ledger was awarded the Castle Hoare Cup when on leave recently at Matfield for his his shooting ability.

I am told that in a "simple, yet touching, ceremony" in 1 Squadron Office, Sergeant Major Irving handed over his pace-stick to Staff Sergeant Snell, now S.S.M. Sergeant-Major Irving moves to the Quartermaster's department, haven of peace and plenty (. . . well maybe!). They finish work at tea-time.

Among the others newly arrived at Denbury are: Captain G. Rogers, Lieutenants P. Chase and D. Whitehead, together with Sergeants Tamlyn and Angell.

I went into Torquay the other evening and saw some of our cadre lads. The Navy's boys in blue were there too. I'm happy to report, however, that the expression, "The Army gets the gravy, but the Navy gets the beans" was not coming true. "The beans" were going strictly to our men.

Without bragging unduly, let's just say: Denbury always does its duty—no matter in which particular field!

SCHOOL OF SIGNALS

Much has been said about life in Catterick but we can find no record of the first impressions of Young Officers arriving for their "Q" Course. In order to put this right the following from a recent course are included in these notes :—

"To the majority of us this was not our first glimpse of Catterick country, as we had spent two summer cadet camps here, in the past. But it was our first winter visit, and after fourteen hours in a train and the knowing smiles and condolences from sympathetic friends still in our minds, one expected at least the Northern Lights ! Our first evening we were welcomed, and entertained to drinks in the Mess, by senior officers of the School. For the third or fourth time in our lives we were 'new boys again' and despite such encouragement as 'We are all brother officers together, and each one an equal member of the Mess' we realised a Second-Lieutenant is very junior indeed ! After two days of conducted tours and interviews we settled down very gradually to work, to whit, Basics. Academically our Course represents a very large cross section indeed, with an Agar prize winning, Cambridge qualified scholar, at one end of the scale, and the post National Service Officers, who discarded mathematics years ago, at the other. From what we have seen so far, we are sure that our fifteen month stay here will be an enjoyable one, and then, perhaps an overseas posting, and some soldiers to command ! "

As our regular readers know the School is organised into various specialist Groups. This month we include notes on the Military Training Group and as this is their first contribution to THE WIRE please excuse us for explaining why and how the Group came into being.

The O.T.W. closed down in June, 1958, as all cadets now go direct to Mons O.C.S. at Aldershot where they undergo 16 weeks' training prior to Commissioning. The problem was to produce a "Royal Signals Officer" from an "Infantry Officer" so Military Training Group came into being. The Group was founded by Major T. H. Howat, M.B.E., and is now commanded by Major D. W. Gladstone, well-known in Scottish Command Staff circles. Captain D. Handley came over when the O.T.W. disbanded; a W.O.II, a Sergeant Instructor and a P.T.I. Sergeant from A.P.T.C. complete the Cadre. We also have Captain W. J. Pritchard and a Sergeant Instructor from the Methods of Instruction Troop now included in the Group. We are situated in one of the outposts of Catterick, Vimy Lines at the top of the hill (hence the name "The Lavender Hill Mob" with which we were christened when we first set up shop with our consistent begging, borrowing and . . . . .) but easily found, being well signposted along the road, and the only group to boast a flag pole. It is rumoured that it appeared immediately after the O.C. murmered one day, "a flag pole would set our sign board off just right, Sergeant-Major." Since the Group was formed in June, 1958, a total of 152 National Service Young Officers have "Passed this Way," including four Malayan Officers. The N.S.Y.O. Course is of two weeks and consists of instruction and a little practical work, to give the National Service Young Officer a general background to the Corps, how it is organised and an introduction to some of its equipment. We also have the ACF/CCF Courses commitment, taken over from O.T.W. During August and September of last year we had three Cadet Courses and two Cadet Officer Courses, a total of 118 Officers and Cadets, with 58 School Cadet contingents represented.

If we say that the Cadet Courses were an experience, even to our usually imperturbable Captain Handley, it would be an understatement. One cadet asked the Sergeant-Major who was instructing on the 3.5 R L "Can it be used against low flying aircraft?" When the last batch of Cadets on the final course were seen off on the train at Richmond Station, we returned to a quieter School of Signals feeling somewhat worn out, but judging from the letters from parents of Cadets and from the Cadets themselves it appeared they learnt a lot and enjoyed themselves. What more can one ask? We have just finishd a Weapon Training Cadre Course for N.C.O.s of the School of Signals Regiment, and with Methods of Instruction Courses running almost continuously throughout the year we have a full programme already filled and forecast.



[War Office Signal Squadron

"Look corporal, that's dust ! "



Major-General R. G. S. Hobbs, C.B., D.S.O., O.B.E., Inspecting Quarter-Guard of 1st Divisional Signal Regiment. (Lieutenant-Hancock and RSM Liley attending)

1st DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

After a lapse of two years, during which time the Regiment has been reduced to a Cadre of some 15 all ranks, we make our re-appearance in THE WIRE, and we send greetings to all past members who have served in the many places in which this Regiment has had the honour and distinction to communicate.

We are now, once again, a fully fledged Divisional Signal Regiment and have taken up our home in Colchester. Since last October, when we began to re-form, a steady flow of the old and bold, together with a leavening of eager young enthusiasts (?) straight from the forcing pots of Catterick, has been busily re-establishing the past traditions of the Regiment and preparing newer ones.

Amongst those who have joined us we welcome Lieutenant-Colonel Hancock as our Commanding Officer and we wish him and Mrs. Hancock a pleasant and profitable tour of duty. Mr. Lilley, our R.S.M., has already taken a firm grip on those matters which are correct and with which it is proper for any self-respecting R.S.M. to concern himself—I'm told in Colchester—with very good effect!

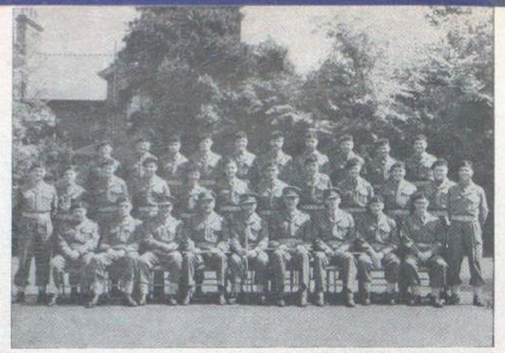
Major Glanvill, our Second-in-Command and Training Officer, has already been having an exhilarating time getting us out on Exercises such as "Black Boy," "Flash Point" and "Spring Fever." After four days of "Spring Fever" in Stanford P.T.A., your scribe is now able to pen these notes during that inevitable period of convalescence following any fever! I'm told that the Second-in-Command has even better and bigger plans for our tactical and technical edification and discomfort.

Captain Peter Davison, our Adjutant, together with Staff Sergeant Beadle, have established themselves in their enclave with the inevitable bumff necessary to any well run Orderly Room and Adjutantal preserve.

Our Squadron Commanders, Major D. L. Sylvester-Bradley, Major G. M. Allan and Captain R. C. Anderson, are busily trying to determine which of the many priorities takes priority in this fascinating period of re-formation (albeit hardly renaissance).

And, in the midst of all of this, our Quartermaster, Lieutenant K. B. Ulrich, very ably backed up by R.Q.M.S. Sherard and R.Q.M.S. Kendrick (who, incidentally, received his first stripe from Second-Lieutenant Hancock in this Regiment twenty years ago) somehow manages to produce what is required like the magician pulling white rabbits out of his hair—or have I mixed my metaphors here?

In spite of this spate of activity we have managed nevertheless to begin showing our teeth on the sports fields. During the first few months of our reincarnation we managed to field a soccer team which reached the semi-final of the Colchester Garrison competition, when we were narrowly beaten 2-1 by 1 K.S.L.I. In the Basketball League we were local runners-up to the Garrison champions (3rd Divisional Signal Regiment), and in boxing we had success from Lance-Corporal Dennis, who won the featherweight final contest, and Signalman Mason, who was runner-up in the lightweight final. We have now begun the business of raising our swimming and cricket teams, and I feel sure from the enthusiasm already being shown we shall have some interesting results to report later in the season.



[Photo: Donald Osbourne, Colchester

1 DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

(Left to Right) Back Row : Sergeant's Finney (ACC), Boxall, McKenzie, Geddes, Holland, Staff Sergeant Cockcroft, Sergeant's Rees, Kilburn, Noble, Rawlings
Centre Row : Staff Sergeant Downs, Sergeant's Inglefield, Nicholls, Frazer, Neill, Cook, Walton (REME), Lightowler (RAPC), Bradley, Staff Sergeant Redhead
Front Row : Staff Sergeant Beadle, AQMS Knowles (REME), RQMS Sherard, W.O.I Hutley, Major A. R. Glanvill TD, W.O.I (RSM) Liley, Lieutenant Colonel M. S Hancock MBE, Captain P. A Davison, RQMS Kendrick, W.O.II McNaughton, Staff Sergeant Thomas

I feel that this is a good place to say how grateful we all are to Major Edwin Brown who, during the period of comparative de-activation of the Regiment, so well kept the flag flying until such time as the powers that be ordained our re-activation.

We are now in the throes of preparation for our first Regimental Week-end, which is to be held on 10th/11th/12th July next. A notice regarding this, together with an invitation to all past members of the Regiment is on page 156 of this number. We would be delighted to see any old friends who can come.

So, on to our next mad round of activity, which will indubitably be called "Summer Madness."

STEEPLE BUMPSTEAD SIGNAL SQUADRON

The highlight of this month's notes must be the opening of the "McLeod Room" in the W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess. The room is, of course, named after the great benefactor to all Royal Signals W.O.s and Sergeants, and the opening ceremony was a scene of great splendour and merry-making. In his speech, the S.S.M., W.O.II Peabody, recalled his own meteoric rise up the Regimental Roster, whilst Sergeant Turton recounted how his wife was convinced he was masquerading when, having set off one morning as Lance-Corporal I/C Salvage Stores, he returned as Sergeant I/C the same stores.

Many readers have enquired about the progress of the letter to the War Office, mentioned in the April, 1958, edition of THE WIRE, in which we asked for authority to disclose the role of the Squadron. It appears that the matter has been referred to "another Ministry," so the file has been endorsed "B/F Apr. '60."

Sergeant Farnsbarns, our enthusiastic schoolie, started a Music Appreciation Society but disbanded it when Private Lush, A.C.C., ostensibly the leading light, declared that Monteverdi's "Vespers' was an Italian motor scooter club.

Officialdom has decreed that the term "married family" will be discontinued and that the word "family" only will be used. In addition to a considerable amount of amusement, the announcement has caused a great deal of additional work in the Pay Office.

The book "Andy and the Display Team" has been added to the Unit Library.

Recent press reports prompted Driver Phillips to complain of psychiatric disorders, whereupon the S.S.M. put him on coal fatigues and appears to have effected a remarkable recovery.

For years we have wondered why military zest and efficiency always show a marked increase in the months following Christmas and then diminish in the Spring. It could have been the anticipation of the cricket season, or the sharpness in the weather, or perhaps the relief after the usual November Administrative Inspection. Alas, it is none of these, but is due entirely to the impending preparation of Confidential Reports and the need to prove and justify the usual, "honest, sober, hard-working—should do well."

WAR OFFICE SIGNAL SQUADRON

The Squadron has now been in its new home at Beaver's Lane Camp, Hounslow, for about six weeks, and order is beginning to emerge out of chaos.

It is pleasant to think that, but for a couple of unfortunates on gate-police, the Squadron is no longer responsible for guards and picquets, but we are now only guests in the various Messes and have not the same say in our personal well-being. Although our landlords, 70 Company R.A.S.C. (M.T.), go out of their way to make us feel at home, it was nice to be masters of our own destiny, as we were before the move.

Having at last nearly got ourselves organised we are now preparing for our Annual Administrative Inspection on 21st May, 1959, when Brigadier Hon. M. Fitzalan-Howard, M.V.O., M.B.E., M.C., Chief of Staff London District, will inspect the Squadron between 1400 and 1450 hours.

We have now lost our tame cartoonist but he has left us some illustrations of life in the Army which will appear in months to come.

U.K. COMCAN SIGNAL REGIMENT

1 Squadron. We are busy at the moment preparing for a visit by the Signal Officer-in-Chief on 12th/13th May, 1959. We hope to be able to cut down enough of the vast acres of grass to enable the Signal Officer-in-Chief to see his way round.

Drill and Duties Course No. 15 passed out on 17th April, and Corporal Murdock of "A" Troop is to be congratulated on winning the Cane. We hope one day to see him using it as a Warrant Officer. Course No. 16 started on 2nd May, 1959, under R.S.M. J. F. Farley, and is now in the throes of A, Q and G matters, plus drill.

Congratulations to No. 1 Special Communications Signal Troop, who live with us, on "whipping" the Basket Ball Cup as winners of the Inter-Troop Competition. One is assured by some of the other teams that it is only on very temporary loan.

There is a story going round of the sentry at the Main Gate who stopped an Officer in civilian clothes and asked him for his Identity Card. It was duly produced, the sentry scrutinized it very carefully, returned it and remarked, "O.K., thank goodness you aren't an officer"!

Cricket, Athletics and P.E. Tests fill our spare moments at the time of writing, and we are hoping that success attends the first two, and that we survive the last.

May we congratulate Corporal and Mrs. Brock on the arrival of a daughter, Linda May.

We would like to say "good-bye" to Major and Mrs. Winder on their posting from the Squadron to No. 1 C.E.T., Brighton. We are going to miss them both very much, and hope that their stay in Brighton will be very pleasant. I should think Tom and Rea are going to have a lot of visitors this summer—just to see how they are getting on!

2 Squadron. Life goes on much the same in 2 Squadron. We seem to be spending all our time on a major spring-clean—paint and distemper everywhere. The Corporals' Mess now has a very modern bar and we are hoping to record a large increase in P.R.I. profits.

Our Football team entered the semi-final of the local league but unfortunately lost after a replay. However, it was a good fight and a very close result.

3 Squadron. Strange how suddenly a Squadron has a quiet time and folk are somewhat inactive. Such has happened here during April, maybe due to the change of seasons bringing a change of sports.

Hottest thing here at the moment is the resettlement activities of Capt. W. C. Goodsir and S.S.M. Farquar. The S.S.M. we know wants to be a baker, but we are not sure if Captain Goodsir is plumping for butcher or candlestick maker. Observing from the sideline, your scribe is convinced it would be easier to soldier on. Never mind, eh!

Inevitably the faces of Squadron personnel change. Suddenly you miss a well-known face and on enquiry you find "the face" was demobbed two months previously. We have one or two "R.E. fixtures," namely Staff Sergeant Nicholls and Sergeant Blohm, but they have been noted and are FARELF bound in October.

Ex-Bampton residents will like to know that our gardens are aflame with colour as usual, the Squadron pub—the Jumbo—has been rebuilt, and the Shirt Racers are in training for the annual Whitsuntide festival.

4 Squadron. We hope to send you more interesting "notes" next month. At present everything that stands still for more than two minutes at Cobbett Hill, gets whitewashed, painted over or tucked away out of sight in preparation for our forthcoming Administrative Inspection. Oakhanger Detachment having obtained an excellent report, Cobbett Hill must achieve perfection.

We can, however, wish W.O.II Gent and S.Q.M.S. Redheard every success in their new postings, and we welcome W.O.II Brown and Staff Sergeant Menzies to the unit.

"Notes" from Oakhanger Detachment are overdue but understandably so; they cannot have totally recovered yet.

SCOTTISH COMMAND (M) SIGNAL SQUADRON

Recent months have seen great and literally sweeping changes as the Squadron begins to take on its new look and sheds its many surpluses. With the summer season bursting upon us, Mobile Troop have emerged from hibernation and are busily engaged on preparations for the new camping season, models, training aids are the mode, and they are a necessity for the eager inquisitive young cadet minds who certainly tax our linemen to the full.

The amalgamation of the Highland Light Infantry and the Royal Scots Fusiliers has seen the innovation of a new section into the Army Manual of Drill (all budding S.S.M.s please note). The problem—marching, placing, and connecting, two microphones in position for the Consecration Service. This was preceded by a full if rather primitive technical explanation by the F. of S. to an Infantry S.S.M., aforesaid S.S.M. then explained to the two Fusiliers responsible as follows :—

(1) "You grabs that there. . . ! ! ! mike, pause, swing to a horizontal position, and then march smartly away.
(2) "On arrival at marked spot, halt, order the thing, and place on the ring (make sure you have the three legs part on the ground)."
(3) "You picks the one plug up and pushes it home securely into the other plug on the ground—Barked question—Are you married Fusilier? Reply—No, sir.—Oh!—well you've got to learn sometime."

You can imagine the horror of the technical types as the mikes special STC were then thrown around like a rifle.



[Photo: Edinburgh Evening Press

H.R.H. Princess Margaret will present the Colours in a most impressive ceremony, as the combined regiment has both brass and pipe bands, the precision and handover of which are something to behold.

The sight of innumerable W.R.A.C. girls dressed overall, setting forth from camp has led to many queries, but the situation was finally resolved when it was learned that the girls are being used as models for new types of walking out dress. Your correspondent is wholeheartedly in favour of the new green uniform. The photograph explains why the green suit is preferred.

It has been definitely reputed that the sun never shines in Bonnie Scotland, but bronzed men are now appearing from the Dundee area much more presentable than our hermits from Saint Kilda. They appear from time to time in these civilised parts, much to the discomfort of the Unit Barber. It is also reported on the best authority that the Chief Shepherd of the Isles, Captain (T.O.T.) Earl has a large shepherd's crook and a trained collie for the herding of unwilling linemen to their windswept posts, though no demand as yet has been received for sheep or cattle bells.

Our congratulations go to Corporal Slater on his selection to tour with the Scottish football team in the summer.

Now for news of the W.R.A.C. of the Squadron.

During March and April our ranks were depleted by overseas postings, postings to Western Command, and weddings. Privates Batchelor, Wilkinson, Timoney and Dempsey were all married during Easter and they left the Service with our best wishes for their future happiness. Private Dempsey left in a blaze of glory, having sent ZHN 1 to Northern Command without waiting to receive their test tape. Of course, it had to be the one occasion when our receive machine was out of order and the fault was not discovered until the discrepancy in the first channel number check an hour later. Two more grey hairs for the Teleprinter Room Supervisor!

On the 1st April, Lance-Corporal Reynolds and Privates Dean, Moore and Roper left us on posting to Western Command. We believe they are the first W.R.A.C. Signals to operate in that Command for many years, and we are sure that they will uphold the good name of their predecessors who served there before 1950.

W.O.II Parker, our indefatigable S.S.M., departed to be "mine hostess" with her husband, at a hostelry in Lincolnshire. Best wishes to them both in civilian life, and let's hope they will serve as long as they did in the Army!

22 SPECIAL AIR SERVICE REGIMENT SIGNAL TROOP

This is a unit about which so little is known that we have been asked if we are in the R.A.F. or part of the Post Office despatch service.

It is felt, therefore, that as we are now on a more permanent footing in U.K., a word of explanation is necessary for any would-be applicants to this Troop.

The Regiment was formed on an all-volunteer basis in Malaya to operate in a deep jungle penetration role and has continued in that role for the last 8/9 years. The Signal Troop was drawn from volunteers within the Corps, supplemented by regimental signallers when volunteers ran short or were not to standard.

Volunteers for the Troop now do the S.A.S. selection course in Wales and, if successful, a parachute course before joining the Regiment. If of S.A.S. standard, both physically and as an operator, they become accepted as S.A.S. soldiers and are awarded the wings peculiar to this Regiment.

The Royal Signals operators in this unit are not normally used below Squadron level, but several of the Troop have acted as L.O.s and Troop operators. Some of the older members have as many operations and jumps as anyone else in the Regiment.

There is, at the moment, a great shortage of the right kind of soldier, the essential qualifications being physical and mental endurance and an ability to operate a variety of sets under any conditions, over long ranges at up to 20 w.p.m. We will also have vacancies for a limited number of other trades, radio technicians, electricians, drivers, etc.

It will be a great shame if, due to a lack of volunteers, either in number or of the proper quality, the Royal Signals personnel are replaced by Regimental operators in this, probably the most operational of all units within the Corps.

On 13th February, 1959, Corporal Bartlett, at 12.00 hours gave a final A.R. to the "B" Squadron operator buried in the distant jungle and switched off his set. For the first time in eight years the Regimental Net was closed. Operations in Malaya were over. The net had been open continuously, 24 hours a day, during that period, and tens of thousands of signals, routine and emergency, asking for potatoes in the next air supply or telling of the death of yet another Communist, has passed over it.

The next weeks were spent in hurried packing, taking time off for Captain Russell and Corporals Bartlett and Yorke to jump into the sea at Changi from a Valetta, and then the advance party were away by air to England.

One of the first tasks in this country was to meet the last remnants of "Vector Force" returning from the Oman. Staff Sergeant Stephenson, Sergeant Newbury and some ten of the Troop had served in that short and highly-successful operation. They are now carefully preserving their fading sun-tans, ostentatiously wearing desert boots and refer to the Malvern Hills as "jebels" (Arabic) instead of "bukits" (Malay).

In June the Regiment reforms, and one of the first tasks of the Troop is to refurbish its stores and fill the large gaps in its ranks. There are rumours of expansion to a Squadron and with exercises in Wales, Scotland, Germany, Norway and Tripolitania before Christmas we should be in for a busy time.

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 DE LA RUE COMPANY LTD. offers an interesting career with good opportunities of advancement to Instrument Technicians for work on fault-finding, repair and maintenance of electro-mechanical and electronic instruments. Applicants should be aged 25-30, possess G.C.E. at "O" level or an O.N.C. or Armed Forces examination of equivalent standard, and have successfully completed either an apprenticeship in electro-mechanical instrument engineering or the equivalent Forces trade training. City and Guilds or H.N.C. an advantage. Knowledge of a second European language desirable but not essential initially. Initial training period may involve some overseas work; subsequent employment is organised on a regional basis in U.K. Technicians will be employed in their home districts as far as possible. Salary £750–£950 according to qualifications and experience. Lodging allowances during training; good pension scheme. Short-listed candidates will be required to take short written and practical tests early in July, 1959; training starts in late August. Apply immediately, stating age, education, qualifications and experience, to Chief Personnel Officer, The De La Rue Company Ltd., 84/86, Regent Street, London, W.1.

Man aged preferably 25–40 wanted as assistant to programme co-ordinating engineer of guided missile project. Broad background in electronics, electricity and power required, but not a degree or professional qualifications. Work concerns the long-term planning of equipment and co-ordination of the missile building programme. Applicant must be able to present information in a clear and grammatical manner, compile the relevant documents, and contact colleagues at all levels (programming calls for liaison between the design and manufacturing sides). Commence £750. Job based on Central London. Five-day week, luncheon vouchers. Apply initially to Employment Section, Royal Signals Association (see above).

ARMY APPRENTICES' SCHOOL: A selection board will be held in September, 1959, for appointments as Temporary Civilian Instructor Grade III, to teach Radio, Line and Telegraph Technicians. Applicants should have served an acceptable apprenticeship and be capable of teaching subjects included in one or more of these trades; O.N.C. or equivalent qualification in maths and physics desirable. Commencing salary at age 28 or over £746, rising to £870; lower starting rate for younger entrants. Apply to Chief Instructor, Army Apprentices' School, Harrogate, Yorks. Closing date 1st September, 1959, but early application advisable.

British Railways, North Eastern Region, have vacancies for drawing office staff. Age preferably under 25. Applicants up to middle 30s considered if they possess O.N.C. (Electrical and Mechanical) or City and Guilds Intermediate Certificate in Telecommunications; such men may be employed in the Signal Engineer's Department at about £520—£750 a year (depending on age) with prospects of advancement. Men without these qualifications may start as Tracers at about £500—£550, and can improve their prospects by studying. Pensionable service. Apply to Signal Engineer, British Railways (N.E. Region), York.

R.S.M.s OF THE CORPS

2323906 W.O.I (R.S.M.) F. LINDLEY

Forty-three year-old W.O.I (R.S.M.) Francis Lindley, known to many as Frank, is one among the comparative few serving in the Corps today who remembers the Catterick Camp of the early thirties. No. 2323906 Signalman Lindley entered the Service in December, 1934, and, for the next 18 months, received his military training as a recruit in the Dismounted Wing and as an Operator Signals in "Eddie" Company. In April, 1936, he was posted to India, where he joined "A" Corps Signals, in Rawalpindi. It was while serving on the North West Frontier with "C" Pack Section of this Unit that he got his first appointment as Lance-Corporal and passed the trade test of Wireless Operator BI. His next two postings were to S.T.C. (B), Mhow, where he was promoted to Sergeant, and thence to S.T.C. (I), at Bangalore, where he served till August, 1941.

From Bangalore, in 1941, Sergeant Lindley was posted to Eastern Army Signals, where he saw active service and was involved in the move back from Burma. From here he tells a story with a strong Anglo-American flavour. An American Army Lieutenant came to him with an authority to borrow some field telephones. On being asked to give the inevitable signature, the Lieutenant signed himself "Theodore Roosevelt Churchill." A little too much for S.Q.M.S. Lindley, he asked to see the officer's identity card. Sure enough, this was his name. "You won't go far wrong with us with a name like that," was Lindley's apt comment.

Thence to 14 Army Signal Regiment in Bengal and Assam and, after a spell at 14 Army Headquarters, S.Q.M.S. Lindley returned to U.K. in November, 1943, and was posted to 42 (E.A.) Divisional Signals.



In 1945, he returned to Catterick, to 150 O.C.T.U., as S.Q.M.S. (I), where he served for 18 months, before joining the Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst in June, 1947. Here, on the formation of Victory College, he had the distinction of being the first member of Royal Signals on the Staff.

In 1950 he was posted to 11th Armoured Divisional Signals, in B.A.O.R., where he was promoted to W.O.II and then appointed R.Q.M.S.

East, in 1954, to Egypt, where, as R.Q.M.S., he helped move 3 G.H.Q. Signals to Cyprus. He was, in fact, the last member of Royal Signals to leave Alburhera Camp in Fayid.

Since January, 1955, when he was promoted W.O.I, R.S.M. Lindley has given the benefit of his wide experience to the Territorial Army, firstly with 53rd (Welsh) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment (T.A.) and, latterly, with 43rd (Wessex) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment (T.A), in which Regiment he is at present serving.

Throughout his entire career, which has undoubtedly been an interesting one, Frank Lindley has worked and played hard for his Corps. His prowess on the Rugger field in his younger days, and at cricket and hockey is well-known to many who have served with him.

R.S.M. Lindley is fond of opera and ballet music and, above all, of an outdoor life. He is married, with two sons; Roger, aged 11 years, and Keith, aged 5. On the field of sport it looks as if Roger is going to follow in father's footsteps—he played cricket for his school at the age of 8, a feat of which his father is justly proud.

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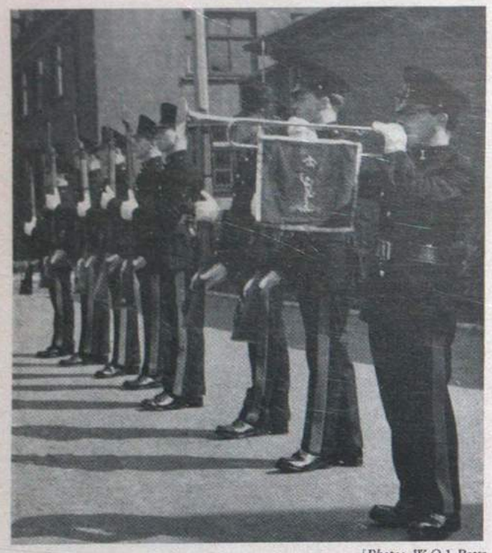
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GERMANY

18 ARMY GROUP SIGNAL REGIMENT

The recent guessing game with the *Eisheiligen* — the Ice Saints, who, traditionally, bring a very cold three days round about the end of the second week in May, does not appear to have been won conclusively by either side. The guessing is to decide when to introduce the wearing of shirt-sleeve order. Two years ago, when these matters were not so well understood, shirt-sleeve order was started after the weather had been consistently hot and apparently settled for nearly a week. Immediately, however, the hot spell broke and there was much groaning among the goose pimples. Last year, not to be caught out, we waited a little longer; we met the cold spell in battle-dress all right, but almost on the point of heat exhaustion from what had preceded it! This year the contest was somewhat complicated by the fact that the Annual Administrative Inspection was to take place somewhere in the vague meteorological no-man's land between the hot and the cold, so we decided to let events take charge and go into shirt-sleeve order immediately after the inspection; and, oddly enough, we seem to have got away with it. Whitsuntide is already with us and the weather continues fine. Could the *Eisheiligen* have arrived early—during the first three or four days of May—someone may ask. Perhaps; but we could have been forgiven for confusing them with the normal arrival of official summer in B.A.O.R., which is heralded by the turning off of the central heating on May Day.



[Photo: W.O.1 Potts

Extreme left : Corporal Wright ; *Trumpeter :* Signalman McGarry

For the first time for some years, a ceremonial parade was enhanced by a lovely day, as will be apparent from our photographs. There was a fine turn-out of families to watch their menfolk on parade and to see the salute taken by Brigadier J. L. Brind, D.S.O., Commander of the newly re-designated Rhine Area. An impressive sight met the Brigadier as he was escorted on to the parade ground by Staff Sergeants McGahan and Edwards (if anyone wants to know how to stand at the slope, look at Staff Sergeant McGahan in the picture); behind the Regiment drawn up in line was the Royal Artillery Portsmouth Band, and behind the saluting dais were flying the Union flag, the Corps flag and the "Flying Battle-axe." This latter is an innovation and is, of course, taken from the Francisca Axe sign which we now wear as a mark that we directly serve Headquarters, Northern Army Group. Immediately upon his arrival at the barracks, Brigadier Brind was received with a General Salute from the ceremonial Quarter Guard, under the command of Corporal Wright, and we make no apology for including a picture of the Guard as it was the smartest that the Regiment has yet found. Signalman McGarry used one of our presentation fanfare trumpets to sound the General Salute.



[Photo: W.O.1 Potts

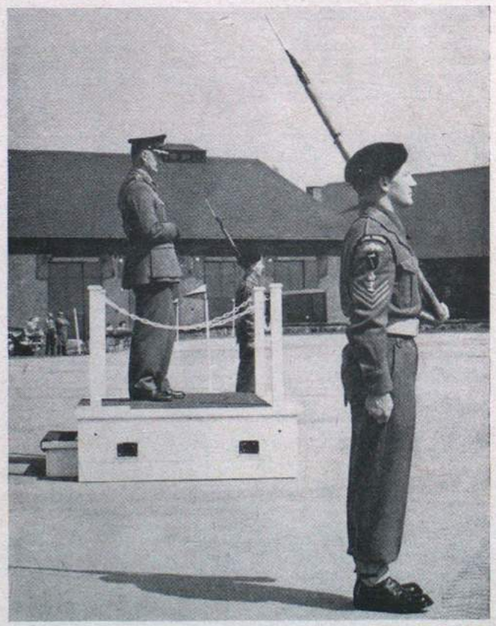
Families watching the parade from behind the saluting base

Old members of the Regiment would scarcely recognise what used to be the dim and dusty model room on the top floor of the Regimental Headquarters building. It has now been converted into a permanent chapel for the benefit of the Roman Catholic members of the Regiment, and although there is still a little more to be done to it, it is already a welcome addition to the amenities of the Regiment.

We welcome the Rev. A. F. Littleton, our new Church of England Chaplain, and find that he is no stranger to the Army, having served for twelve years with the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers before being ordained. We wish him, and Mrs. Littleton, who will be joining him at the end of July, a happy tour of duty with us. We also welcome Major and Mrs. J. E. Denton and their family, who have recently joined us from the rather more rarefied atmosphere (in more senses than one!) of Rheindahlen. Major Denton has taken over command of No. 1 Squadron, and as a side-line is recruiting and training a choir for the Regimental Chapel. No. 1 Squadron also has a new Sergeant-Major in W.O.II Yates, who has joined within the last few days.

We must record our congratulations to Second-Lieutenant B. I. Weston on his being granted a Regular Commission. He has been with us for just over two years now and will, we hope, remain here until he goes to Catterick to join a "Q" Course. Congratulations also to W.O.II Burgess on his recent promotion.

This year we are holding our Regimental Athletics Meeting at the *Stadion TuS Helene* in Altenessen, and if the weather keeps fine it should provide an enjoyable day's activity for a lot of people. Apart from finding—we hope—some good talent to represent the regiment in the Royal Signals, B.A.O.R. Athletics meeting in July, we are holding an Invitation Relay Race in which the local *Luftwaffe* Battalion, the Essen Police and the Fire Brigade are entering teams. In June, we ourselves shall be entering teams for two invitation events at the Essen Police Sports at the same stadium, and they will be led by Second-Lieutenant Henderson, who recently won the 220 yards sprint in the Rhine Area Individuals' Athletics Meeting. Signalman Lydiate won the one and three-mile events at the same meeting, and we wish both of these runners the best of luck in the forthcoming B.A.O.R. Athletics Meeting in Berlin.



[Photo: W.O.1 Potts

Left to right : Brigadier Brind, Staff-Sergeants Edwards and McGahan

19 ARMY GROUP SIGNAL REGIMENT

Perhaps it is fitting that the termination of Lieutenant-Colonel Lonnon's tenure as Commanding Officer should be preceded by a successful participation in the Command Exercise. We understand that he is destined for a region of Arizona abounding with a weird type of vegetation known as "Cholla." One hopes that his acquaintance with the same will not be too close.

Suitably dined out in traditional style by the Officers' Mess, Colonel Lonnon made it quite clear that he intended to "go the rounds" and he left us wondering whether Arizona is likely to become an outpost of the Empire. What a pity we possess no budding Giles.

Farewell parades were held at both Rheindahlen and St. Tonis. At St. Tonis Colonel Lonnon inspected a parade of 1 and 4 Squadrons and L.A.D., commanded by Major A. McAnsh. He presented the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal to Squadron Sergeant-Major Johnstone, of 4 Squadron, after which the occasion was suitably celebrated in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess.

Although sorry to see both Colonel and Mrs. Lonnon depart, all ranks wish them the very best of good fortune at their new station.

The words of farewell to a Commanding Officer are similar to a certain Royal proclamation and, as we wish his predecessor good luck, so do we extend our congratulations to Lieutenant-Colonel J. R. West, M.B.E., on his promotion and hope that both he and Mrs. West spend a very happy and fruitful stay with the Regiment.

The Regimental football team has, at long last, come to the end of its scheduled matches, being beaten 3-0 by our old rivals, 1 Wireless Regiment, in the semi-final of the Rhine Area Major Units Cup. This season has been, without doubt, the most successful the Regiment has had; a summary of the results shows us as winners of the Morrison Cup and Rhine Area Major League, semi-finalists of the Army Cup and Rhine Area Major Units Cup. During the season we only lost three matches, goals for 146, against 55. We also played a representative game as Rhine Area League winners against a visiting Royal Air Force London Combination League XI, losing 4-2, after a good game worthy of Army football. It is flattering to know that they were surprised to find that we were a Regimental team and not a representative XI.

The usual "rash" of athletic meetings has appeared on the list of forthcoming events and, urged on by much well meaning but often unfruitful advice from the less juvenile of our number, our budding Olympians strive to achieve credible times and distances in the various events. Doubtless the weather will, as in last year's meetings, have the last word.

Before the Garrison sports ground was deprived of its goal-posts the Area and Garrison seven-a-side rugger matches were played off. Entering two teams in each competition, our "A" team lost in the semi-final by 6-3 to the eventual winners, 1 Wireless Regiment. In the Area matches 1 Wireless Regiment again proved to be our nemesis defeating our "A" team in the first round and our "B" team in the second round. It is some consolation to mention that our "A" team won the Area Plate, defeating 40 Adv Engineer Stores Regiment in the final.

Major J. L. McKellar, Second-Lieutenant E. A. McIlwain, Sergeant S. Finlayson and Signalman A. Philp represented the Regiment in the Royal Signals Golf Championship on 27th April. Our congratulations go to Signalman Philp on winning the individual Stableford.

1 CORPS SIGNAL REGIMENT

We have been pestered by our "hams" (amateur radio enthusiasts to the uninitiated !) for some months, to record some of their activities in these Notes. We thought that this would be a good month for "ham" activities as the winter season has now ended and the summer season has not really started.

Amateur Radio Club. Have you ever heard a Russian who can't speak English in conversation with an Irishman who knows no Russian? You haven't? Neither had several of our operators—until they began to take interest in the unit amateur radio club. By means of a common tongue—morse—amateurs from Timbuktu to Siberia make themselves understood without difficulty.

Our unit club station (DL 2 AD) was licensed in October, 1958, and initially was operated mainly by the license holder (G3HN, ex VP1HN and VP5HN). There are now many active enthusiasts and there are entries in the log for most days. A 100-watt transmitter and an old (but still very popular) HRO receiver have been used to bring us in contact with "hams" in 70 countries, in all continents.

Most of our contacts have been made on CW, in the 20 metre band (14 megacycles), but with the arrival from Singapore of VS1DS, we expect to be more active on "fone." Any WIRE readers who listen on the short wave bands, and who hear our call, are invited to drop us a line giving details of the transmission heard. In return we shall be glad to send our club QSL (confirmation) card. Write to DL 2 AD, 1 Corps Signal Regiment, B.F.P.O. 15. You don't need a licence just to listen. All you need is a short-wave receiver and a pencil ! Even for the uninitiated the "ham" bands provide interesting listening.

So far we have been in contact with two "ham" stations operated by members of the Corps : ZC4CS (Cyprus District Signals) and ZB1FA (Staff Sergeant Bob Conway, COMCAN, Malta). There are several Royal Signals amateurs in different parts of the world whom we would like to hear on 20 metres. What say there VQ6AB in Somaliland? (Tune the lower end of the bands, please, OMs: 14010 kcs CW, and 14150 kcs 'fone). U.K. and Continental stations are listened for on forty and eighty metres. G3CO (Catterick Amateur Radio Club) please note.

Sailing. The first of this year's Royal Signals Training Courses at the British Kiel Yacht Club starts on 6th May. Four members of the Unit have been selected to attend this "Course" which lasts for a week. The object of the course is to enable as many people as possible to obtain Baltic Rating Qualifications so that they may take out boats on their own or at least be useful "hands" on a boat.

The boats at the B.K.Y.C. consist mainly of 30 square metres, an excellent small cruiser and a good racing craft with berths for four. They weigh about 4½ tons and are about 27ft. long.

Members of the Unit attending the first course are Second-Lieutenant Jansen, Lance-Corporals Hendron and Smith (749) and Signalman Winlove-Smith. Captain Garratt who attended the course last year and obtained a Baltic Helmsman's rating, is going as an assistant instructor.

The next course being run from 20th-26th May, is being attended by Second-Lieutenant Allen, Lance-Corporals Scriben and Miller, and Signalman Blewett. Lance-Corporal Barrett who has had previous experience in this type of craft, is going as an assistant instructor.

It is hoped that out of these courses we shall have sufficient qualified personnel to enter a strong team for the Royal Signals Passage Race, being held from 5th-8th June. Dependent on the availability of boats and personnel, it may also be possible to hold a Regimental cruise for three to four boats later in the season. For the present we wish these hardy seafarers "Bon voyage."

Stop Press — Amateur Radio Club. Yet another station operated by Royal Signals has been added to our log of contacts. The station is VS9MI, Maldive Islands, operated by Lieutenant (T.O.T.) V. Render. For interested "hams," he was on 14060 kcs, CW and prefers 1700 GMT for "skeds." At the time of our QSO (1730 GMT, 3rd May) he was being called by about thirty European stations. Lieutenant Render used to run our unit amateur radio club here, so it was doubly interesting for us to contact him. Staff Sergeant Caplan (1 ASSU) was at the key here for this QSO.

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5 DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT

This month we have said farewell to Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. Anderson and we wish them every success with the Federation Army. Colonel Anderson came to us two years ago when we were 7 Armoured Division Signal Regiment. He first joined the Regiment in Egypt when it was formed in 1939, and served with it through all the early campaigns in the Western Desert. It was a sad day in April, 1958, when the Division, and with it the Signal Regiment, was finally disbanded.

However, the spirit that had been developed with such care in the Regiment since its inception has lived on in the newly created 5 Division Signal Regiment, and this has been due in a very large measure to Colonel Anderson's leadership and complete unwillingness to accept anything that was second best. We welcome Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. Farr into the family and sincerely hope their stay with us will be a happy one. Colonel Farr has just returned from Washington and prior to that was with 6 Armoured Division Signal Regiment in Germany.

April has also seen great success for our Unit Fencers who have amazed themselves and everyone else this year. The team was formed well past the seasonal half-way mark and entered the 5 Divisional Championships "for the experience," and brought away two first, a second, a third and a fourth in the individuals, and swept the board in the team competitions. Promotion to the Rhine Army Championships was accepted "for the experience," and resulted in two individuals and the team going forward to the Army Championships in Aldershot, having come second to the current Army champions. We were delighted to see 19 Army Group Signal Regiment there, too. They were not so fortunate as we were, but the Corps was well represented, and Brigadier M. A. Whistler, C.S.O. 1 (BR) Corps, presented the prizes. The "runners-up" trophy was, incidentally, an enormous shield which outshone the run of the Mill Cup presented to the winners.

The team are going to Aldershot "for the experience" and every one of them is fully determined to learn to fence in time for next year.

The "experience" included being runners-up in the Army Fencing Team Championship. *See page* 178.

2 L. OF C. SIGNAL REGIMENT

R.H.Q., 1 and 2 Squadrons

As the Annual Administrative Inspection approaches, the tempo quickens, 48 hours' passes are harder to get and the weeds seem to grow faster. Speaking of weeds, we are eagerly awaiting a package of Belgium varieties promised by W.O.II Marris before he left us recently to recuperate as S.S.M. of 3 Squadron. We wish him success in his new appointment and hope that liberal applications of "Sloan's" liniment will prove beneficial.

We welcome to the Unit Lieutenant Simpson and second-Lieutenants Prince and Merryweather. Almost in the same breath bon voyage to Second-Lieutenant Merryweather, who has obviously got friends on the Christmas Island and who has quickly arranged to spend the rest of his service with them.

On Wednesday, 6th May, the Regimental football team met their old rivals, 1 Wireless Regiment, in the final of the Rhine Area Major Units Cup and were successful by six goals to two.

Taking a lead of two goals after 25 minutes, scored by Mackay and Haig, they maintained this lead until the interval. The scores were levelled by an own goal and a very good shot from the edge of the penalty area by 1 Wireless hard working inside-right. This livened up the game, but further goals by Haig, MacKay, Gill and Henley put the issue beyond doubt. Brilliant saves were made by both goalkeepers, and the standard of play was very high throughout.

Both teams played hard, clean football and thoroughly deserved the applause they received at the end. Colonel G. MacLeod, O.B.E., A.D.S.T., H.Q., Rhine Area, kindly presented the trophy.

We are pleased to record that Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. W. C. Burke celebrated their silver wedding anniversary on 5th May, 1959. A simple but moving service in commemoration of the event was conducted by the Rev. Francis in the Garrison Church. We should like to take this further opportunity of wishing the Commanding Officer and his wife many more happy and prosperous years together.



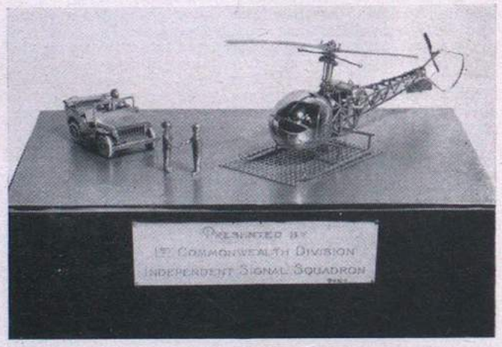
2 L OF C SIGNAL REGIMENT HOCKEY TEAM
Winners: Royal Signals (BAOR) Hockey Cup, Rhine Area Major Units Cup
Standing: Corporal Cooper, Sergeant Ruffels, Second Lieutenant Petley, Staff Sergeant Rose, Sergeant Crampton, Corporal Haines
Sitting: Captain Philp, Captain Hastings, Major Smith, Lieutenant Colonel W. C. Burke, Captain Exell, W.O.I Brown, Sergeant Boughton
Staff Sergeant Rose (4 Squadron), Sergeant Barnes (3 Squadron) and Sergeant Woodward have played regularly for the team but were unavailable when the photograph was taken

In closing, perhaps we should not be too naughty to say that in the near future the Regiment will be carrying out its first major Exercise for some time and preparations are going apace for this event.

I think we shall all welcome a change from barrack life for a few days.

This Exercise follows a smaller display of force in the Munster Area by 2 Squadron, under Major B. E. Tebbs, who recently had an energetic two weeks "in the field," and who reports that all ranks thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

The Helicopter Centrepiece



Following the cessation of hostilities in Korea, in 1954, and the consequent reduction in the size of the United Nations Force, the 1st Commonwealth Divisional Signal Regiment was reduced to an Independent Signal Squadron, and named the 1st Commonwealth Division Independent Signal Squadron.

In 1956, this Squadron, while under the command of Major D. L. Sylvester Bradley, Royal Signals, was disbanded, but prior to this all ranks expressed a wish to present to the Corps a piece of silver which would serve to commemorate the splendid spirit of co-operation which had grown in Korea between the Royal Signals and the United States Signal Corps serving there.

The Squadron chose this silver model of a Royal Signals Despatch Rider with jeep collecting packages from a United States Signal Corps helicopter—a familiar feature of Signal life in Korea.

The Squadron also expressed the wish that this centre piece should be kept permanently in the Headquarters Mess, Royal Signals.

12 AIR FORMATION SIGNAL REGIMENT

During this past few weeks various senior Officers of this Regiment have been seen stalking the Unit Lines with knowing, slightly cunning expressions on their faces. Those of us who have served some time in this Corps, immediately recognising this not unfamiliar attitude, went into hiding as soon as a senior Officer came into view. For the quarterly hunt for this "WIRE Correspondence" was in full cry. We felt sorry for the younger Officers, inexperienced as they were, in the niceties of this sport, but the law of self-preservation prevailed, and we left them to their fate. Not that this did any good—we all have to contribute now!

Those readers who have not had the pleasure of serving in this part of Germany, may be interested to know that the R.H.Q., "H.Q." Squadron and 1 Squadron of the Regiment are stationed at R.A.F., Laarbruch, only a few miles from the towns of Goch and Kleve and the Reichwald Forest. These places are well-known to the readers or students of the battles fought by 21 Army Group after the Nijmegen and Arnhem operations.

The General Administrative Inspection with all its attendant horrors of preparation, was carried out on 5th May. Colonel D. E. Harrison, O.B.E., the Chief Air Formation Signal Officer, was the Inspecting Officer and although the official report has not yet been received, we are vain enough to think that the inspection was successful.

R.Q.M.S. R. M. Callaghan was presented with the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal by Colonel Harrison during the parade.



Inspection of No. 2 (Parade) Squadron

The Regiment has been busy, especially the Wing Troops, in the N.A.T.O. Exercises, recently. 7 Line Troop, in Exercise "Top Weight," were successful in providing assistance to the Army Signal Regiment and laid vast quantities of Quad Cable—some of which they hope to recover.

Being fortunate to have the use of the generous R.A.F. sports facilities, our activities in this field show reasonable promise: Second-Lieutenants Allan and Vulliamy obtaining second place in the Royal Signals B.A.O.R. golf meeting; the Regimental squash team reaching the finals of the Rhine Area competition; and the cricket XI having started the season with a draw against R.A.F., Laarbruch, and a convincing win against R.A.F., Goch.

The shooting team is in training for the Royal Signals B.A.O.R. rifle competition and the remainder are very busy preparing for the Regimental athletics meeting on 6th June.



Presentation of LS and GC Medal to RQMS Callaghan, R.M. by Colonel D. E. Harrison, O.B.E.

Arrivals and Departures

Lieutenant-Colonel J. L. McNeil handed over the Regiment on retirement in April and we welcome Lieutenant-Colonel G. H. Hulme, who joined us from the School of Infantry.

Major E. F. Proctor departed to become a "Gilded Staff Officer" at Northag and Major P. J. Jaggard arrived to take over 1 Squadron.

S.S.M. Webb removed our one and only typist and departed for Paris. We now understand that they have legalised the allowance with the assistance of a church service. We wish them every happiness.

Lieutenant (T.O.T.) P. Thompson left for 19 Air Formation Signal Regiment in Singapore and, it is said, hopes to go there together with one wife and three children in a Standard Eight.

Captains Massie and Cox managed to increase the Regimental strength by two—a girl and a boy respectively. Although the husbands appeared to take all the credit, we offer our congratulations to the wives for their part in the proceedings.

☆

MARCH PAST
No. 1 (Parade) Squadron

☆





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CYPRUS SIGNAL REGIMENT

Very little of general interest has occurred since the last notes (which unfortunately missed going to print for the April issue) and we can say little more than all are waiting to know about the future of the Regiment and their own ultimate destinies.

Peace, of course, reigns supreme with isolated differences of opinions here and there which are now solved by words rather than strong deeds. Personalities in the Regiment have changed very little. Second-Lieutenant Rourke has arrived, followed by Captain Brian, both of whom are settling in quite well. Lieutenant Stork has appeared as well and is already to be seen tearing about in a track suit at every available opportunity.

The unit has now acquired a bus which has already proved most useful and above all rather more comfortable than normal WD transport. Apart from conveying our sports teams around it has been put to very good use on half-day picnic trips for wives and children of 2 Squadron, and a more ambitious programme of full-day visits for them to places of interest in Cyprus in the near future is being arranged.

All our mountain snow has vanished and the island in general is warming up. The green fields are quickly browning and the dry desolate areas developing once again. The Middle East in general is entering its "silly season" and we are quite resigned to waves of Arab nationalism, Cypriot patriotism and even Communist intervention. Whether such incidents would oust the Berlin or Tibet problems must be left to history to record but we must and will be prepared for any eventuality.

Unit activities continue. A sports meeting was held on 23rd April in a blinding Khamseen, ghibli or sirocco, according to where you were educated but, in spite of this, some very creditable efforts resulted. H.Q. Squadron won the trophy, closely followed by a depleted 2 Squadron, whose stalwarts were unfortunately operationally engaged. Whether the absence of these experts would have made any difference to the final result will always be a matter of controversy.

Underwater swimming and skin diving continues under the guidance of Staff Sergeant Wright, who battled with a 5½ feet shark only last week and proudly exhibited its jaws around the next day (unfortunately uncleaned or boiled and just a wee bit high).

The Amateur Radio Club is now fully licensed as ZC_4 and is on the air on 14 mcs most evenings and week-ends and always pleased to have a natter. In the near future with a new transmitter, 21 or 28 mcs should be inhabited and the DX improved a little.

MALTA SIGNAL SQUADRON

Having seen 1 Ship Signal Troop's invitation in The Wire (April, 1959), certain members of the Squadron decided to check up on the facts stated. It can be confirmed that the hull number is L.369; it is also correct that the bar opens at 12 o'clock. We recommend that all persons accepting the invitation do so on a full stomach (i.e. with plenty of "blotting paper").

Since Christmas a variety of jobs have come our way. "Mercury," our new automatic telephone exchange, is making steady progress under the guidance of our Standard Telephones representative, Mr. G. Simms (ex-Corporal Instrument Mechanic, 7 Armoured Divisional Signals), and we hope that, in a week or two, subscribers will be able to derive full benefit from their secretary sets, Plan 7's, loudspeaking sets and coloured telephones (red, white and green)—a few of the less fortunate have had to make do with plain 332s. A recent cable fault on Comino provided a novel experience for our cable gang. The sea was too rough for us to land from a launch, but we were able to obtain a "chopper" from the nearby Royal Naval Air Station. A helicopter is certainly an ideal way of getting jointing stores on the job. The spring rainstorms have produced their usual assortment of line faults and we are told that our local G.P.O. woke up the other morning to find that they had 2,000 P.G.s on hand. WE had under 15.

Our Annual Administrative Inspection took place on 3rd April, the Inspecting Officer being Major-General C. H. Colquhoun, C.B., O.B.E., General Officer Commanding Troops, Malta. Even the T.O.T. and the Foreman wore boots for the occasion. The Garrison Engineer decided to make a mass attack on our barrack rooms a couple of days before the "Admin," but we were able to steer the G.O.C. round the piles of sand, rubble and tiles, and he appeared to be well satisfied with all that he saw.



[*Photograph and Caption from D.A.D.P.R. 1 Public Relations Service*

Second Lieutenant J. R. Selby with Signalman T. Taylor and J. Watson of 4 Airfield Signal Troop at El Adem

In June, 1958, one of our line parties, under command of Sergeant Grech, rescued two men and a woman who were in danger of drowning, and Sergeant Greech had to apply artificial rescuscitation to one of the men for two hours before he came round. Sergeant Grech's conduct has been recognised by the award of a Royal Humane Society's Certificate, and in April we held a special parade on which Sergeant Grech was presented with the Certificate by the Chief Signal Officer, Malta, Lieutenant-Colonel J. D. Elliott. In writing up the story, the local newspaper promoted our Commanding Officer full Colonel. We understand that the C.S.O. was the first to offer his congratulations and enquire the date of the double promotion party.

We have had quite a successful sporting season. Our basketball team were runners-up in the Troops, Malta, Basketball League, losing 26-38 to 37 H.A.A. Regiment in the final. We have an outstanding player in Signalman Bagnall, who has played regularly for the Army in Malta. The Squadron Inter-Troop Soccer Cup was won this year by Signals Works Services Troop, Operating Troop being the runners-up.

The Squadron Wives' Club holds regularly monthly meetings and have recently visited the Hotel Phoenicia and a glove factory. Their Christmas Bazaar, in aid of the Squadron's children's party, realised the very welcome sum of £24. Thank you, ladies, for all your help. Our P.R.I. shop provides us with a steady income—a large increase in the consumption of electricity has occurred in the barracks since the P.R.I. started selling electric razors. We congratulate Captain (T.O.T.) J. A. Pyper on being awarded the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal, and are grateful for all the fatherly advice he has given us ever since. Sergeant Christie has promised to introduce his Borgward Isabella to Malta in the near future. (11 Air Formation Signals, please note).

Finally, anyone passing through Malta by trooper is cordially invited to come along and see us. Our 'phone number is Mercury 2222, or alternately, contact our wireless detachment on the ship to shore link.

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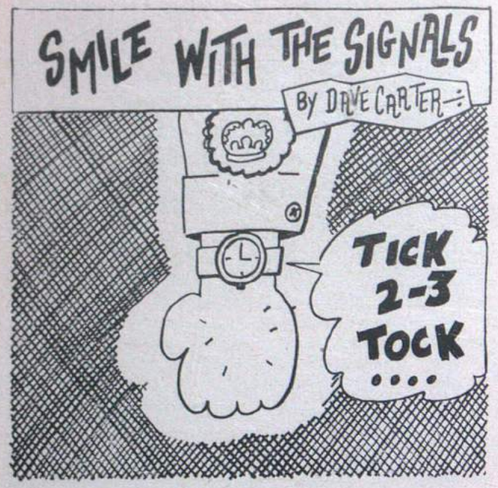


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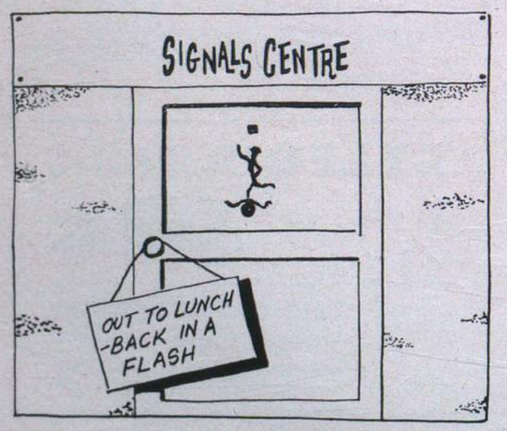
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COMCAN SIGNAL SQUADRON, NAIROBI

This month we have at last been able to purchase a long-wheel base Land Rover for the Unit Safari Club. The truck will carry ten passengers and has been fitted out with seats and luggage racks. Complete camp kit and equipment has been provided, rifles and a hunting licence are held by the Safari Club, and parties of Squadron members wishing to spend their leave on hunting or photographic Safari will be able to do so at a very reasonable cost. The truck will also be used by families for picnics and such-like outings and should prove a very welcome and popular amenity.

The long rains have started and everything is looking very green and lush. Rugger enthusiasts are practising daily in anticipation and the Hockey team are still winning matches.

The school children are about to return to school after the Easter holidays and no great events have disturbed our placid existence in this month of April.

The Squadron have two darts teams playing in the Nairobi League and are doing very well. Staff Sergeant Ewens and Corporal Morris are the captains and great things are expected of the teams as they have been practising hard and can all throw a nifty dart.

1 SIGNAL SQUADRON, K.A.R., NAIROBI

We were honoured on 2nd May with a visit from Brigadier Goode, D.S.O., O.B.E., Commander 70 Infantry Brigade, King's African Rifles. The visit started with a parade on the Unit parade ground, with the K.A.R. Kenya Band in attendance, and finished with lunch in the Officers' Mess.

During the month official approval was given to the new walking out dress for askaris. The dress will consist of a white shirt, grey slacks, black shoes and stable belt. The latter will, in the case of this Unit, be dark blue, light blue and green in colour.

Unit sporting interest over the month has switched from Basket Ball to Hockey and Soccer. At the present time the British ranks' team can beat the askaris at Hockey, but are usually soundly thrashed at Soccer. We try to blame the altitude and the climate for our Soccer defeats but the truth is that the opposition is just too fit for us !

Our new Officers' Mess opened on 15th April, and is proving very comfortable. On opening day the Mess looked a little bare but since then additional furniture, pictures, new curtains, etc., have appeared and we are now "up to scale."

The next few weeks will see the departure of two stalwarts from the Unit—Captain Talbot and W.O.II Bailey. We wish them both and their families, a safe trip home and the best of luck in their new appointments.

"SIGNALS" IN THE KING'S AFRICAN RIFLES

By Corporal P. C. Everett, Military Observer in East Africa. Photos—Corporal V. Crawshaw, Public Relations Photographer.

Buller Camp, Nairobi, is the Headquarters of the King's African Rifles 1 Signal Squadron and its Signal Training Troop. The only Unit of its kind in the King's African Rifles, it is responsible for training all the African wireless, morse and telephone operators, as well as linemen. The Squadron also provides the staff for the Signal Centre Headquarters, East Africa Command, in Nairobi.

About one-fifth of the Squadron are British Army personnel. They are volunteers from the Royal Corps of Signals who normally do a three-year tour with the King's African Rifles.

These Royal Signals personnel are mainly responsible for administration of the Squadron. As far as training is concerned they act in a supervisory capacity. Nearly all the actual instruction is carried out by African N.C.O.s.

The standard of education demanded by the Signal Squadron is the highest in the King's African Rifles. All recruits must be able to speak and write English fairly fluently and legibly.

After basic military training at a King's African Rifles's Infantry Battalion in one of the three territories—Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika—those chosen for Signals work arrive in Nairobi for a 30-week course.

During this time they are taught one of five trades; wireless and morse operator; switchboard operator; lineman; despatch rider or driver. Due to the great distances involved and the contours of the country it is uneconomical and impractical to have a comprehensive military telephone system. This means



Operators at the Signal Centre Headquarters, East Africa Command

that high-speed morse is the main method of contact. Naturally, the need for linemen is small, and on the average only four or five are trained each year.

Signal despatch riders and drivers are trained by 92 (MT) Company, King's African Rifles, also at Buller Camp.

The Askari has a natural affinity for the work of a Signalman. He makes a first-class morse operator, mainly because he does not anticipate the English and therefore tends to be very accurate.

During the course trainees go on two Exercises. On one lasting two to three weeks, the Training Troop set up a line of communication between places as far apart as Mombasa and Jinja—600 miles as the crow flies.

Recruits are also taught the basic maintenance on their sets and equipment as well as methods of erecting aerials and other accessories.

On completion of their training, they either return to their Battalions and become part of a Signal Section responsible for communications between H.Q., East Africa Command Signals Centre and all King's African Riffes Units in the three territories, or they become members of 1 Signal Squadron.

Telephone operators may go to 70 Infantry Brigade Headquarters, King's African Rifles, Nanyuki, to Kahawa Exchange, near Nairobi, or they supplement the civilian operators at H.Q., East Africa Command. Linemen go either to H.Q., East Africa Command, in charge of the internal communication lines or to Nanyuki for operational line work.

Wireless operators, who form the nucleus of recruits, are liable to be sent anywhere in East Africa.

Those who stay in Nairobi and staff the Signal Centre at Headquarters, East Africa Command, are kept very busy. Supervised by a small British military staff, they are responsible for communications between all Battalions of 70 Infantry Brigade and for relaying messages for East Africa Command Units and other destinations. The route is through either 24 Independent Infantry Brigade Group Signal Centre at Kahawa, or the COMCAN network at Eastleigh Airport, Nairobi.

As a rule all British personnel in the Squadron have radio-mechanic qualifications and the only department of the Unit that is staffed purely by Europeans is the radio workshops. Although the Squadron would very much like to include radio-mechanics in their training the technical facilities are not available. Otherwise, wherever practical, British and African troops work side by side doing identical jobs.

Formed just over 18 months ago, the Signal Squadron stemmed from the East Africa Command Signal Squadron, staffed by British and African Imperial troops. Then on the 1st July, 1957, the Squadron was taken over by the King's African Rifles, and the badge of "winged-heeled Mercury" was replaced by the bugle-horn of the King's African Rifles. At the same time the East Africa Signal Training Centre moved from Jinja, in Uganda, to Nairobi, becoming the 1 Signal Squadron Training Troop.

Many unusual requests are made of the Squadron, especially on important occasions. For instance, during Her Majesty The Queen Mother's recent tour they were responsible for setting up ground-to-air controls at all the "up-country" landing strips used by Her Majesty.

The men of the 1 Signal Squadron, King's African Rifles, British and African, work side by side with one object—to make sure the Army "gets the message."

FARELF

C.R. SIGNALS, SINGAPORE

We do not often have anything to add to the notes of the Regiment and Squadrons—this month is an exception however. Our Malay draughtsman, Lance-Corporal Mohammed Ghazali Bin Abdul Jalil was awarded a Commander-in-Chief's Certificate in recognition of his good service. We all congratulate Lance-Corporal Ghazali on this well merited award.

Field Signal Squadron (FE)

The past month has been a period of re-organisation after a series of exercises. We are now "resting" on our laurels? We are sorry to lose Second-Lieutenant A. W. F. Clapperton, who goes on local release and is returning to the U.K. via Australia and America. We wish him a good trip.

Sergeant MacKinnon also leaves to train as a signal centre supervisor. We all wish him luck, even the O.C., who, we understand, is two packing cases deficient from his private store.

We are steadily improving our position in the District Football league and are top of the Squadron league (much to our surprise).

Line Squadron Royal Signals, Singapore

This month the Squadron has been busily preparing for the change-over of the automatic telephone exchange at G.H.Q. This has now been successfully completed and everybody appears to be pleased with the result.

The Squadron has also planned and produced a camp of a week's duration for 64 civilian boys at Paula Ubin Island off the northern coast of Singapore. The boys were drawn from a variety of clubs throughout Singapore. The staff thoroughly enjoyed themselves and are now requesting dates of the next holiday camp.



[*Photo: Army Public Relations, G.H.Q., FARELF*

W.O.II (F of S) W. G. Davis of 90 Signal Regiment supervises the automatic telephone exchange he installed

Operating Squadron, Royal Signals

I wonder if those of you who have never been out here know as little about the composition of Corps Units in Singapore as we did before we arrived. Perhaps a racial analysis of this Squadron will be of interest and prepare you for the future,

should it be in this direction. The pattern is much the same in other Squadrons, and is pleasing to work in and with, presenting as it does, problems outside the normal run.

Only one-third of the Squadron come from the United Kingdom, the remainder being locally enlisted. The majority of these are pure Malay, mainly recruited up in the Federation, the balance are the sons of Chinese and Indian families settled in Malaya or Singapore, who have felt the call of service life either for interest or economic reasons. Their common language is Malay, and so we have the first of our problems. They are trained, at a small equivalent of Catterick, in the many technical trades that we need and they are encouraged to learn English, but at the outset, many of them scarcely have a working knowledge. It is amazing how well they work alongside their U.K. fellows. The majority of the senior N.C.O.s speak English and act as interpreters for such things as orders and interviews. Most young Officers from England attend a Malay language course which gives them a basic knowledge, but as usual the local boys learn English much more quickly and ably than we learn Malay.

The second big and interesting problem is administrative, the question of feeding. U.K., Chinese, Indian and Malay all require separate cook-houses and dining rooms, because of their religious beliefs in connection with the food they eat. They also have their periods of fasting. To be a successful Messing Officer under such conditions is an achievement indeed, and a fitting background for opening a new "spot" in Soho.

Add to the soldiers a large number of civilians of many races and creeds, plus the prolific families, and when assembled together for some occasion in their best and brightest, you have as colourful a gathering that can be found in service circles anywhere in the world.

MARI-LAH KITA BERSAMA-SAMA
LAI CHAM GUAN
VANGAL VANTHU ONRU KUDNGAL

All of which means "Come and join us."

Signal Training Centre (FE)

As ever, STC (FE) is in a constant state of flux and we would like to welcome the new arrivals, S.S.M. Clayton, W.O.II Rutter, Corporal Braithwaite and Corporal Driver. We have to say "good-bye" to S.S.M. Shilson, W.O.II Wood, Sergeant Petrie, Sergeant Jays, Corporal Butt and in the near future, Foreman Hazel. We shall miss them all and wish them the best of luck in their new appointments. We congratulate Sergeant Brown and Sergeant Hassan on their recent promotion.

The advent of a new C.B. Exhange is causing a certain amount of turmoil and upheaval at the moment. The draughtsmen have been served with a notice to quit; the Battery Shop is to become "Y" Troop Office and Store; the IOR cookhouse will be the Battery Shop, and the IOR dining room (we hope) a new wireless room. Several buildings are to be pulled down, the DR Bay, the present wireless room, the MOR ablutions, and if rumour has it correct, that epitome of architectural design, the Basha Area—Improvements galore!

At the moment STC (FE) is busy with preparations for the Regimental Fete to be held on 20th June. As usual, we are displaying an assortment of stalls and sideshows, with certain money-making gadgets which must surely rival the Casino at Cannes.

Royal Signals, Singapore Administrative Regiment

Last year an addition to the regiment was one Signalman Ayob Bin Dun (lit. Ayob "son of" Dun), a young Malay who had signed on to complete an eight year engagement. We only saw him for the last week in March, for with the new leave year beginning on the 1st April, he was off for all of his 30 days' leave entitlement at home in Kampong Besar, 5¼ milestone Kuala Pilah.

Returning from his leave, he threw himself into the life of the regiment, working furiously in his trade of driver until the time came for the annual C.I.V. when the hot sun and the pressure of work was just too much for him. Driving his one-ton truck down the Bukit Timah Road one morning, he ran into a herd of 53 water buffalo, giving one of them mild concussion, another a very nasty graze behind the left ear, and inflicting on the truck damage to the extent of £2,332/15/2¾. It was a badly shaken little Ayob who paraded outside his O.C.'s office the following morning. He was not at fault, he knew that, and, as he explained through the interpreter (who seemed very much on the O.C.'s side in the matter)—this was just one of those things, water buffalo would be water buffalo. But somehow "Tuan" didn't seem to understand this, and pronounced seven days' CB, a sentence so unfair that Alob's "hitam manis" (lit. "sweet black") skin went quite pale at the injustice of it all.

After this trying time, Ayob decided that he needed some more leave, so he wrote to his brother who worked in the Police Department at Kuala Pilah. Soon results were achieved, and a telegram from the O.C. Police Department arrived. "Bonda Sakit Kuat" it said, which as Ayob explained means "Mummy's mighty poorly." His new O.C., a National Service subaltern fresh from Mons and determined to help the poor little fellow, sent him on two weeks' compassionate leave.

Ayob then receded into the background for a time, until one night he spent too much in the Great World Park and ran out of money. His father's birthday was very soon and the old man would slay him if there was nothing in the way of a present from Ayob. So he was up in front of his O.C. again asking for a P.R.I. loan. His father, he said, had had his hand bitten off by a tiger in the rubber plantation; his brother had fallen over in the rice padi field and drowned; there was no source of income for the family save through Ayob. He was granted a loan of 20 dollars. His O.C. had learned Malay now (so he thought) and it had been even easier than usual to fool the poor chap without any suspicious Sergeant interpreting.

Then in March, Bulan Puasa, Ramadhan, or the fasting month began. Along with all the M.O.R.s of the Regiment, Ayob, being a Muslim, was not allowed to eat while the sun was up. Breakfast at 02.00 and dinner at 19.30 was all very well, but with his friends he looked forward to Hari Raya Puasa, the day of reprieve, when they would all have a feast to celebrate the successful end of their fast. The fact that a few banana leaves suspiciously like those from which a Malay eats had been found in the barrack rooms from time to time was forgotten; the thing was to get home for Hari Raya—but how, with no leave entitlement left?

Practically in tears, Ayob explained to his O.C. that his father had written to say that he had found a wife for Ayob and ordered him to return home immediately. Ayob gesticulated and explained that he just did not feel like marriage; he had never, of course, seen the girl, and besides he did not much fancy 13-year-olds, as this one was bound to be be. But, he said, according to his religion (that'll fool him) he *must* return home. When the O.C. had the audacity to refuse the request, Ayob felt he must have overacted the part—either that or else the man had no respect for a chap's religion, which was unthinkable.

Foiled in his attempt to get home for Hari Raya, Ayob turned to the oldest and surest way. Along with many others, a "Bonda Sakit" telegram arrived from him just before Hari Raya. But this time he had underestimated his keen young O.C.; that bright Officer had done a little checking and had discovered that Ayob's mother had been dead for the past four years.

T.A. and A.E.R.

44 (H.C.) INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT (T.A.)

Once, we could boast of a strength approaching full establishment. Now, without the National Service elements, we number some 140 only, and certain reorganisational developments have been inevitable. Our headquarters is still at Stamford Brook, London, and houses, with "R.H.Q." and "H.Q." Squadron, "A" Troop and "O" Troop of 1 Squadron, and 3 Squadron (less "K" Troop). 1 Squadron is situated at Chatham, 2 Squadron at Bromley (but with Field Regiment Troops at Brighton), and "K" Troop at Walton. Individual trade training has been made difficult with so much dispersion, but by means of collective training at each location, it has been possible not only to maintain an effective instructional level, but also to give some the opportunity of getting a second trade rating. Notwithstanding, now that the number of recruits is increasing, we are planning a reversion to normal methods.

As frequently as is allowed, the Regiment gathers in force at one location. Brighton—we trust because of its situation rather than its reputation—is often chosen as the venue for week-ends, and again this year, the annual all ranks' dinner was held there in conjunction with a full regimental training programme. Another highlight of such combined location training was an all-night driving, map reading and wireless competition between London and Chatham, when many potential Monte Carlo aspirants were noticed among our numbers.

In other fields, too, there has been much activity. Our rather excellent P.A. equipment was used in the Divisional/District motor cycle trials, and the Middlesex T. and A.F.A. Rifle meeting. A team of "volunteers" entered for the T.A. Cross-Country Championship and did considerably better than anyone thought possible. We were represented at Remembrance Day parades at Chiswick, Chatham and Brighton. The Drill Hall at Stamford Brook was temporarily converted into a G.P.O. sorting office at Christmas, and that at Chatham became a miniature "Crufts"—unfortunately scheduled at the same time as a stores check (and while it is believed that all the stores were found to be in working order, whether the same may be said of the dogs subsequently, is doubtful). The children's Christmas party attracted over a hundred eager visitors to Santa Claus (Staff Sergeant Castle) who, with the aid of proceeds from raffles, draws, etc., was able to find presents for them all. We lost in the final of the Divisional Soccer Competition, having secured byes in all the earlier rounds.

Mention must be made of Staff Sergeant W. D. Holden, who has been with the Regiment longer than most people can remember, and whose invaluable services were honoured by the award last year of the B.E.M.

The 53rd (Middlesex) Independent Cadet Squadron, A.C.F., who train at our headquarters, and are attached to us, have doubled their strength in the last year, and now number nearly 30 all ranks. In the County Physical and Recreational Training Competition, they won the cup, and all members of their team received medals.

Our Permanent Staff came sixth out of 36 in the recent Eastern Command Royal Signals Postal Shoot, and, indeed, were first out of the 14 T.A. Unit entries.

Annual Camp this year will be at Scarborough in July, and preparations are well under way. The customary warning to all fathers, husbands and brothers within a 10 miles radius of the camp has already been circulated as a result of observations by the Camp Recce Party.

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

Here we are, very busy preparing for annual camp and if the fine weather continues the prospects look very hopeful for a very pleasant two weeks at Penhale, Cornwall. At any rate, after the past few years with the deluges we have endured, it is as if we deserved a dry, sunny fortnight and with everyone's memories, of Penhale, it is a wonderful place in good weather. Here's hoping.

The various activities during the past month have been a mixture of training, social and sports. 1/2 Squadron spent a week-end at Crowborough on VHF Communications and the keen interest shown by the new recruits is very encouraging indeed. The Warrant Officers and Sergeants held a social to celebrate the re-opening of the Mess at Brompton Road (and very attractive, clean and modern it looks). Lieutenant-Colonel H. Ll. Daniel and the senior Officers were invited as guests and the evening was a successful one. The "Annie Oakleys" of the Regiment, namely the W.R.A.C. shooting team, put up a very good show on the W.R.A.C. annual sports for London District, held this year at the Drill Hall of the Special Communications Regiment, T.A., Worship Street, E.C.2, and congratulations go to Sergeant Blackwell, Corporal Hart, Lance-Corporal Jacobs and Private Jee on their attaining runners-up to the 327 Battalion W.R.A.C., the winners for the past three years. Our girls do very well at small bore shooting, despite the fact that we have no miniature range of our own and are dependent on other Units for practice.

The London Branch of the O.C.A. held their Annual General Meeting on the 10th April, Colonel T. W. Vigers and later Brigadier Firth being in the chair. Quite a good gathering of members attended and the Chairman, Mr. Smith, was presented with an electric clock as a mark of appreciation for ten years' service. The monthly meeting is still held every second Friday in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess at Brompton Road.

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24 ARMY TROOPS SIGNAL SQUADRON, A.E.R.

Since the last notes appeared, our labour in the cause of recruiting has borne fruit. It is encouraging to report an increase of 100 per cent in less than a year and to welcome our new entrants in the persons of Lieutenants J. A. Brown, R. O. Stinton, M. B. Gravett and R. I. Banister. Also Sergeants F. Fortey and R. J. Ollis, Corporals J. Potter, G. Smart, W. R. Kernick and D. Edworthy. We also congratulate Sergeants A. Dods and P. Curtis upon sampling the comforts of the Sergeants' Mess. A West Country bias in membership is now apparent in the unit and although our recruiting efforts are concentrated in this area this does not mean to say that new members are not welcome from other parts of the United Kingdom.

Annual camp in Blacon during April/May can be considered a successful training period and once again we were attached to and well administered by 22 Army Signal Regiment. As a result of our increase in numbers we were able to make a more useful contribution to camp and exercise duties. During the camp period Captain (Q.M.) E. Manton together with Staff Sergeant S. Lockwood and Sergeant C. Curtis spent three days with an Army Signal Park Squadron. This enabled them to study the "set up" and formulate plans in case their own Troops has a similar role one day.

During Exercise "Rearview" in the second week of camp an interesting experiment was conducted by the detachment at Church Stretton, led by Captain L. Mallett. Having set up their B70 link to Bickerton Hill (34 miles) and established communication, the B70 was realigned to work to a detachment near Leek (52 miles) and reported 59's each way. Although the distance is not claimed as a record it would be interesting to hear of greater distances which have been worked with this set.

The winner of our small bore shooting competition this year was Lieutenant H. Bambridge (89), who just beat last year's winner, Captain A. Greenhalgh (87), a close third was Sergeant A. Dods. The "lucky dip" prize was won by Lieutenant M. Gravett who, together with Lieutenant R. Banister, paid us a social visit during the day. Comparing the scores with those achieved last year one must admit that the Officers' Guest Night should not immediately precede the shoot!

Hear ye—all ex-T.O.T.s and those about to leave the Corps, we have a vacancy which is waiting to be filled. The post is also open to a Foreman of Signals who can qualify for a commission.

As the camping system stands at the moment, it is unlikely that we shall camp again before September, 1960, so that we have a long wait before we see Blacon again. However, it is hoped that we can hold a Squadron "meet," probably in Bristol or London during the out of camp period.

☆ Southampton Branch ☆



[Photo: Courtesy Southern Newspapers Ltd., Southampton

The 13th Annual Reunion Dinner of the Southampton Branch was held on Saturday, the 9th May, and was a very happy and successful occasion.

The venue had been changed from the comfort of one of Southampton's premier hotels to the more suitable surroundings of the T.A. Drill Hall, which allowed greater freedom for "Old Comrade" activity and equally important gave a 50 per cent reduction in the price of the ticket.

A prelude to the dinner was the additional attraction of the ceremony of Retreat, admirably beaten by the only Territorial W.R.A.C. Band in the country—that of the No. 2 Squadron, 63 Command (M) Signal Regiment, T.A., by the kind permission of Major W. H. Mullineaux, T.D. The pride and precision with which these girls carried out this inspiring display was greatly enjoyed by those hundred odd members who watched on this beautiful May evening and gave a unique beginning and the right atmosphere for the dinner that followed.

The years before had shown a steady decline in the numbers attending and it was a great achievement of the Branch to have rallied over a hundred members and visitors—a number not equalled since 1947. All representatives of the Corps attended—the Regular Army, serving Territorials, National Servicemen, original volunteers of the first 1920 Signals, and many members of the 1939 Ack-Ack T.A. Units and the 43 Divisional Signals. The last wartime Officer Commanding of the latter, Lieutenant-Colonel M. Trethowan, O.B.E., and many of his Officers made long journeys to be with their old friends again.

The Chairman of the Branch, Major J. A. Taylor, T.D., welcomed the gathering and told of the activities of the Branch during the year and of the difficulties of keeping in touch with old members and friends. He was followed by Brigadier F. W. P. Bradford, M.B.E., Chief Signal Officer, Southern Command, who, in proposing the toast of the "Association," mentioned the support the regular signal units had given to the Association and went on to describe the present trends in the Corps.

In reply, Brigadier H. R. Firth, a regular and welcome visitor to Southampton, paid tribute to the help referred to by the C.S.O. By contrast he told of the fall in support from most of the Association branches, Southampton included, since the raising of subscriptions, and by analogy illustrated the necessity for the increase. His sincere reproach was well received and many members sought out the Treasurer afterwards and paid up their outstanding subscriptions.

Captain W. C. Loveless, T.D., proposed the toast of the Visitors. He mentioned with regret that Brigadier Bradford was unlikely to attend another dinner in his present official position. He then paid a special tribute to His Worship the Mayor of Southampton, Alderman R. R. H. Hammond, O.B.E., J.P., who had given the town and the T.A. and kindred Associations in particular, an unequalled record of service. In this year of office he had attended an average of four official functions a day—something like 1,500 in all—and the Branch were deeply conscious of the honour that in the final crescendo, the Mayor could find time to dine with them.

The Mayor, who is also Admiral of the Port, began his reply in jocular mood, mainly at the expense of the Brigadiers present. Then in more serious vein, he outlined the highlights of his year of office and made special reference to last year's T.A. Jubilee Celebrations and the great pride he felt on that memorable occasion. He spoke of his recent visit to Poland and after some interesting and amusing descriptions, he said how fortunate we were to be British, and how vital it was to keep the spirit of comradeship alive; this, and the spirit he had seen by the Girls' Territorial Band before the dinner, were such that could not fail to preserve our freedom.

One item not mentioned at the Dinner is the regret the Branch Association feel over the departure of "Mine Host" of the Association Branch H.Q. at the "Black Horse," Shirley. Bill Frost's premature retirement has been occasioned by ill-health. All wish him a speedy recovery to good health, success in whatever venture he may undertake, and gratitude for his and his wife's hospitality during the past years.



[Photo by courtesy Southern Newspapers Ltd., Southampton

Lieutenant B. M. Weeks, W.R.A.C., His Worship the Mayor of Southampton, Alderman R. R. H. Hammond, O.B.E., J.P., Brigadier F. W. P. Bradford, M.B.E., and Major J. A. Taylor, T.D.

WELFARE SECTION

Below an attempt is made to describe, with suitable anonymity, cases taken from the Welfare Section files, concluded during the first week in May, 1959. Also on this page is a simple statement of income and expenditure.

Signalman 1957, still serving (N.S.). His wife helped to cost of fares for very long journeys to see him in hospital.

Father, aged 72, of Signalman killed in action 1944. The fund gave the father a small gift in a time of difficulty, as the son would have done.

Signalman, 1940-46. Married, three children, the cost of a bicycle to help him to work, despite severe arthritis, was shared with British Legion, Red Cross Society, County Benevolent Fund, Stowmarket S.C., the man himself, and some friends of his.

Driver, 1948-50. Married. He was injured in accident July, 1958, and is still not able to work. The fund helped him.

Widow of Signalman, 1940-46. who died February, after a long illness. The fund helped to pay for the funeral and some debts.

Widow of Signalman killed in action 1944. Their daughter has just obtained a place in a school where uniform is obligatory, and the fund provided, as her husband would have done.

Signalman, 1941-45. Married, four children. Injury stopped him from working in January, 1958, and he is now completing a rehabilitation course. The fund helped him.

Signalman, 1940-47. 100 per cent disability pensioner, lives with widowed mother. He is still sick and had great need of clothes until Forces Help Society and the Association helped with cash, and the Association was able to send him a good parcel of clothes.

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION AND BENEVOLENT FUND

The following subscriptions were most gratefully received during April, 1959:

	£	s.	d.
School of Signals Regiment	20	0	0
1 Training Regiment	16	0	4
2 Training Regiment	15	1	0
4 Training Regiment Officers' Mess	4	16	0
4 Training Regiment Sergeants' Mess	3	8	10
5 Training Regiment	27	3	6
7 Training Regiment	50	5	6
1 AGRA (Fd) Signal Squadron	3	0	0
10 Wireless Training Squadron	10	0	0
3 Divisional Signal Regiment	7	16	0
D. and M. School, R.A.C. Centre		8	0
M.E.S./S.R.D.E.	1	7	2
Royal Signals Records		15	0
School of Artillery	1	7	0
U.K. COMCAN Signal Regiment (1 Squadron)	10	0	0
U.K. COMCAN Signal Regiment (3 Squadron)	4	17	3
U.K. COMCAN Signal Regiment (4 Squadron)	6	0	3
63 Command (M) Signal Regiment, T.A.		18	0
Home Counties District (M) Signal Regiment, T.A.	4	10	6
4 Independent U.K.L.F. Reserve Signal Squadron, T.A.		7	6
90 Signal Regiment	13	7	6
London District Signal Regiment, A.E.R.	5	5	0
Scottish Command (M) Signal Squadron	7	3	6
52 (L) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A.		7	0
4 (S) Port Task Force Signal Squadron, T.A.		3	3
Scottish Command (M) Signal Regiment, T.A.		13	0
C.S.O.'s Branch, H.Q., B.A.O.R.	1	15	0
12 Air Formation Signal Regiment	18	9	9
19 Army Group Signal Regiment	31	8	0
Berlin Signal Squadron	6	2	6
20 Armoured Brigade Group Signal Squadron	1	13	4
1 Corps Signal Regiment	40	15	9
2 L. of C. Signal Regiment	14	14	7
2 T.A.F. Independent Air Formation Signal Squadron	5	0	0
3 G.H.Q. Signal Regiment	26	5	0
51 Independent Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron	1	16	6
2 Wireless Regiment (21 Unit Branch)	12	19	6
Total receipts	£376	1	0

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION WELFARE SECTION

The following donations were most gratefully received during April, 1959:

	£	s.	d.
2 London Signal Regiment, T.A. (Sergeants' Mess)	2	0	0
Birmingham Branch	8	15	0
Chislehurst Branch	5	5	0
Aldershot Branch	1	1	9
Lieutenant W. J. Quinn	5	0	0
Total receipts	£22	1	9

EXPENDITURE DURING APRIL, 1959 ... £518 15 9
((Includes Rent and Rates; Beds and Bedding; Furniture; Cots and Prams; General Assistance)

ANALYSIS OF CASES

Families of Soldiers serving in U.K.	2	
Families of Soldiers serving in B.A.O.R.	2	
Families of Soldiers serving in M.E.L.F.	1	
Widows and Dependants	6	
Released and Discharged Soldiers	46	
Total cases assisted	57	

36 Cases of Soldiers who served during the 1939-45 War	£352	19	8
21 Cases of Soldiers who did not serve during the War	£165	16	1

Lighter Fuel Packs

The following amounts were most gratefully received during the period January—April, 1959:

	£	s.	d.
Box 25 ... 4 Training Regiment	1	7	3
26 ... 7 Training Regiment		10	0
36 ... Croydon Branch		19	1
37 ... Croydon Branch		13	6
52 ... York Branch Club		11	0
66 ... 42 (L) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A.		15	0
67 ... 43 (Wx) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A.	12	7	6
88 ... Mercury House, Bournemouth	1	2	7
Total receipts	£18	5	11

CLOTHING

Since early March, gifts of clothing have been gratefully received from the following :—

E. W. Ashley, Esq.
Miss Joan Smith.
Mrs. J. J. H. Swallow.
Major J. N. Evans, T.D.
Major I. G. Swan.
J. A. Robinson, Esq.
A. C. J. Chalmers, Esq.
Mrs. R. J. Moberly.
A. Stokes, Esq.
Lieutenant-Colonel C. L. Ommaney, O.B.E.
Mrs. Davey.
A. W. Smith, Esq.
Lieutenant-Colonel J. D. Elliott.

URGENT

There is a great need for Men's Children's and Ladies' Clothing. All urgently required for very needy cases.

Books and Magazines are also required. Mystery; Adventure; Travel and Biographies.

SPORT

ROYAL SIGNALS OFFICERS GOLFING SOCIETY

Match v. York Golf Club—15th April, 1959.

This match was played at York Golf Club, Strensall, with the following results:

Royal Signals		*York Golf Club*	
Major R. Croskin	0	A. Powell	1
Lieut.-Col. M. S. C. Shardlow		J. Tulloch	
Major W. Macdonald	0	J. C. Patterson	1
Major J. Y. Ferguson		A. E. Simpson	
Major S. Schofield	1	W. H. Wilson	0
Captain D. W. F. Bayliss ...		R. Richards	
Major-General A. E. Morrison	0	Lieutenant-Colonel Kellehan	1
Captain Low		A. C. Walsh	
Captain R. G. Dore	0	J. W. Ruddock	1
Major P. M. C. Spence ...		W. Rank	
	1		4

Spring Meeting

The Spring Meeting was held at Pannal Golf Club, Harrogate, on 16th, 17th April, 1959. The course was unplayable on the afternoon of the 16th April, and all 36 hole competitions were played on 18 holes on a.m., 17th April.

Mrs. D. Morrison kindly presented the prizes at the end of the second day:

(a) *Junior Officers Challenge Cup (Stableford)*
Winner Lieutenant T. H. Blashill.
Runner-up Second-Lieutenant A. M. Willcox.

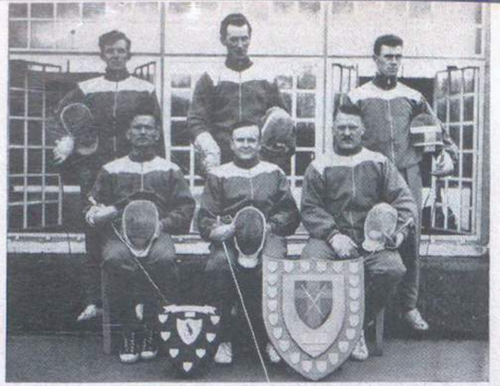
(b) *Royal Signals Individual Challenge Cup (Stableford)*
Winner Major J. Y. Ferguson.
Runner-up Major P. M. C. Spence, M.B.E.

(c) *Royal Signals Foursomes Challenge Cup (Stableford)*
Winners Major-General A. E. Morrison, C.B., O.B.E and Major J. Y. Ferguson.
Runners-up Lieutenant-Colonel M. S. C. Shardlow, M.B.E., and Major P. M. C. Spence, M.B.E.

(d) *Royal Signals Handicap Challenge Cup*
Winner Lieutenant-Colonel M. S. C. Shardlow, M.B.E.
Runner-up Major-General A. E. Morrison, C.B., O.B.E.

(e) *Royal Signals Championship Challenge Cup (Regular Officers)*
Winner Major J. Y. Ferguson.
Runner-up Captain G. A. Thompson.

(f) *Royal Signals Open Championship Cup*
Winner Lieutenant-Colonel M. S. C. Shardlow, M.B.E.
Runner-up Major J. Y. Ferguson.



5th DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT FENCING TEAM
Seated left to right : W.O.II T. Walker, Captain R. A. King, Lieutenant R. D. Willingale
Standing left to right : Second Lieutenant H. Brewster, Lieutenant M. J. Hales, Staff Sergeant (F of S) D. Alblas

ARMY TEAM FENCING CHAMPIONSHIP

Six teams competed in the final at Aldershot on 7th May, 1959.

R.M.A., Sandhurst.
5 Divisional Signal Regiment.
2nd Royal Tank Regiment.
5th Royal Tank Regiment.
Depot, The King's Own Royal Regiment.
The Household Cavalry Training Centre.

The initial result was a tie for first place between three teams, and the result was finally decided by a count off of the total number of victories scored by each team.

The final result :—

1st	R.M.A., Sandhurst	43 victories.
2nd	5th Divisional Signal Regiment	41 victories.
3rd	2nd Royal Tank Regiment ...	39 victories.

The names of 5th Divisional Signal Regiment Team were :—

Captain R. A. King.
Lieutenant R. D. Willingale.
Lieutenant M. J. Hales.
Second-Lieutenant C. H. Brewster.
W.O.II M. Walker.
Staff Sergeant F. of S. D. P. Alblas.

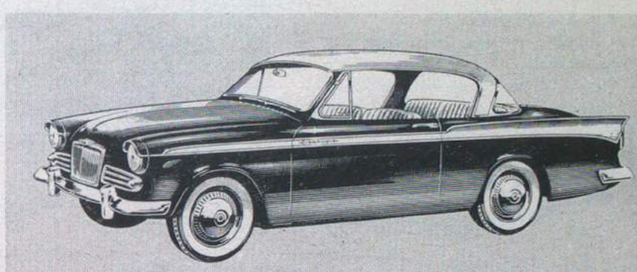
Two members of the Regiment also reached the finals of the Individual Fencing Championship :—

Captain R. A. King in Epee.
Lieutenant R. D. Willingale, in Sabre, and on Friday, 8th May, in a final pool which included two international epéeists. Captain King tied for first place, and won the fight off to become the present Army epée champion.

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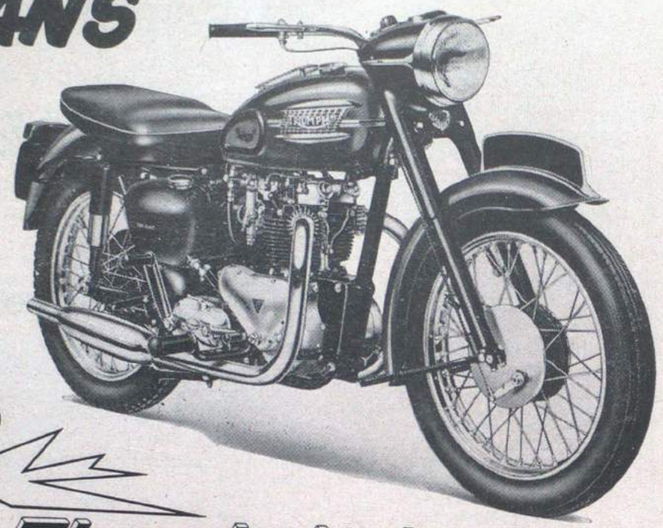
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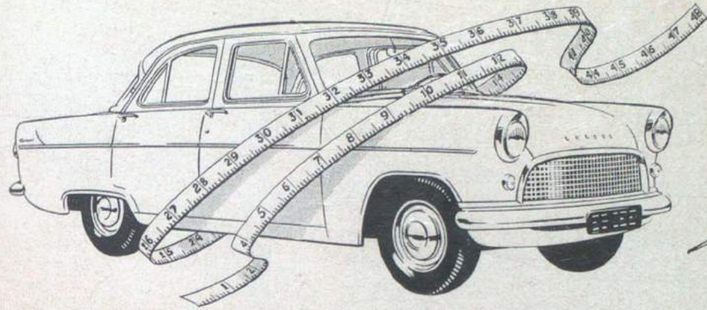
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THE WIRE

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

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/AUGUST • 1959

Vol. 13 *(New Series)* **No. 7**

Editorial

BECAUSE of the dispute in the printing trade THE WIRE failed to publish its July, 1959 number. This is the first failure since February, 1920. Remember that the Royal Warrant ordering the formation of the Corps is dated 28th June, 1920, and thus THE WIRE preceded the Corps.

THE WIRE, astonishingly, continued publication until December, 1941, and recommenced after the war in November, 1946.

* * * *

The number July-August, 1959, will be peculiar. In order to publish quickly after resumption of work in the printing trade, articles of general interest have been sent to the printer during the stoppage so that work on THE WIRE can start at the earliest moment.

So much has happened during June and July that without incurring great delay by asking too much of our printer in the first days of high pressure after resumption of work it has been necessary to publish only a short précis of all that has come in of Unit Notes.

The précis having been made, the notes so laboriously prepared, will have to be regarded as cancelled.

For the same reason such normal features as the Personal Column and the Welfare Section have been severely curtailed.

* * * *

It had been hoped to get this July/August number printed by 20th August or about two weeks after the end of the dispute in the printing trade. Alas this has not been possible and this number will be despatched on 2nd or 3rd September.

* * * *

For this reason the September number will be late. By October we hope to be back to normal.

THANK YOU

ALL OF THE ASSOCIATION who went to Catterick on 4th/5th July will wish to record their very sincere thanks to ALL ranks of the Training Brigade and School of Signals for their wonderful hospitality.

* * *

The Collection at St. Martin's Church was £40 6s. 0d.

'Daily Mail' BLERIOT anniversary AIR RACE



Photo by Courtesy of the Observer

Captain F. St. C. **ROBINSON** *on the* **"Death Ride"** *Chelsea Embankment to the Helicopter*

WHEN the *Daily Mail* first advertised the Blériot Anniversary Air Race, Major P. P. H. Morton, Royal Signals, 5 Training Regiment, suggested that the Training Brigade should enter a team. The Signal Officer-in-Chief was enthusiastic and later a proposal was made to the Corps Committee who agreed that half the cost should be met from Corps Funds and half should be found by the Training Brigade.

Detailed planning then started. First the route and method of travel had to be decided. The rules of the race only required a competitor to go from Marble Arch to the Arc de Triomphe or from the Arc de Triomphe to Marble Arch in the shortest possible time, the Channel having to be crossed by air. Normal British and French land and air rules and regulations were to be obeyed.

It rapidly became clear because of air regulations that most of the possible bright ideas were out, if a fast time was to be achieved—no parachuting into congested areas; no winching up to helicopters; no low flying over congested areas. The problem therefore resolved itself into using the fastest possible conventional means of transport, using the most convenient airfields and landing grounds. The best airfields appeared to be Northolt or Biggin Hill in England and Villacoublay in France. Helicopters would probably be needed between these airfields and the nearest possible landing points to the starting and finishing posts unless road transport direct to the airfield would be quicker. The possibility of winning the special prize for the "most praiseworthy" effort also had to be kept in mind.

It was first envisaged that the co-operation of civil aircraft firms should be obtained in the provision of aircraft, and a start was made to this end, Westlands Aircraft Company agreeing to the use of one of their helicopters at each end. As it was proving difficult to get a jet aircraft for the main link, the Royal Air Force was approached. Several days of frustration and near despair followed until finally it looked as if it would be agreed that subject to the necessary high level authority being obtained, Service transport could be used.

Planning based on the assumption that there would be authority for the use of Service transport then went ahead. The R.A.F. nobly allotted us four sorties (two in and two back) in a Hunter T7 from R.A.F. Chivener. The Joint Experimental Helicopter Unit (JEHU), Middle Wallop, undertook to provide a Whirlwind in London and a Sycamore in Paris. Chief Signal Officer, 1 Corps, agreed to provide Despatch Riders, motor cycles and wireless sets in Paris; 7 AGRA Signal Squadron agreed to provide wireless communications in London. Signals 7 in the War Office hoped to lay on a direct RTT link over COMCAN between the Command Posts in London and Paris. The Training Brigade and Eastern Command were providing Despatch Riders for London. Triumphs had generously agreed to provide two motor cycles free (they eventually produced five, driving one down themselves with two new tyres for one of the originals). In Paris equally marvellous co-operation was being got from Lieutenant-Colonel Schreiber and all ranks of 7 U.S. Signal Battalion (SVC) and SHAPE and ALFCE Signal Squadrons. Lieutenant-Colonel Donald Persons of the U.S. Signal Corps volunteered to assist us with his private Porsche car—this offer was gratefully accepted.

The morning of Wednesday, 1st July, the entries having to be in by midnight, was a bleak morning, the motor cycles from 1 Corps were meeting financial difficulties in movement; it was ruled that we could not have a helicopter in Paris and that we could not use either Chelsea Hospital or the Duke of York's Headquarters for the helicopter in London as this gave an unfair advantage to Service competitors.

The Signal Officer-in-Chief's aid was enlisted in getting a reversal of the ruling on the helicopter for Paris, and a possible alternative landing site for the helicopter—a shingle patch at low tide near Chelsea Bridge—was quickly re-investigated. We became more confident on this site when we accidently discovered the R.A.F. were using the same place.

By 5 p.m. we still did not know about a Service helicopter in Paris, although Westlands were still prepared to help if necessary. However, entries had to go in. Out of the many volunteers of all ranks four competitors were selected, Major Morton himself, as team captain, Captain F. St. C. Robinson, 5 Training Regiment, Lieutenant J. Westlake, 1 Corps Signal Regiment, and Second-Lieutenant B. Lynch, 2 Training Regiment. We wanted to separate the attempts because of possible weather difficulties, and so Tuesday, 14th July, and Saturday, 18th, were chosen. These could be put back if necessary as each competitor could rebid for later times during the period of the race. A few days later in fact the first attempt was put back to Wednesday as Tuesday was Bastille Day in Paris.

Our Hunter pilot wished to use Biggin Hill and Villacoublay, so the jet part of our route was firm. There was only one low tide during the race hours on Tuesday and Wednesday, so one



[Photo by Courtesy of the Daily Mail

● **Major P. P. H. Morton runs to the Helicopter**

competitor would have to use Battersea Heliport. We were still anxious about helicopters in Paris so at least one competitor should be scheduled to use road only from Villacoublay. Finally the entries were put in as follows:—

Route 1. Second-Lieutenant Lynch. Marble Arch—by motor cycle relay—Battersea Heliport—by Whirlwind—Biggin Hill—by Hunter—Villacoublay—by motor cycle/car relay—Arc de Triomphe.

Route 2. Major Morton. Arc de Triomphe—by motor cycle/car relay—Villacoublay—by Hunter—Biggin Hill—by Whirlwind—Chelsea Reach—by motor cycle relay to Marble Arch.

Route 3. Lieutenant Westlake. Arc de Triomphe—by motor cycle relay—Issy Heligare—by Sycamore—Villacoublay—by Hunter—Biggin Hill—by Whirlwind—Chelsea Reach—by motor cycle relay—Marble Arch.

Route 4. Captain Robinson. Reverse of Route 3. ,

Confirmation was received on 3rd July that we could have a Sycamore in Paris. Rehearsals then started. Squadron Leader Howlett of R.A.F. Chivener, our Hunter pilot, and Lieutenant-Colonel Coyle and the helicopter pilots, Squadron Leader Twigg (Paris) and Captain Richardson (London) of JEHU, co-operated marvellously. Rehearsals were held at Chivener, in London and in Paris. D.R.s were assembled, routes were reconnoitred. Competitors were rushing between London, Paris and R.A.F. Chivener. Meanwhile the Control Staff consisting of Lieutenant-Colonel T. R. Warburg and Major P. Newbold, located at the Horse Guards, were busy with planning, insurance, publicity and the other innumerable details which had to be tied up. Major J. F. Cheesewright and Captain S. G. Walker were similarly employed in Paris.

The organisation was now complete in embryo and had to be built into a single smooth-running entity. It was clear that with our comparatively modest effort, limited as it was to four attempts with only the three aircraft available, compared with the R.A.F.'s massive attempt with at least a dozen aircraft deployed, our only hope lay in good overall control and maximum speed on the ground. We had an excellent team of D.R.s in London, found by the Training Brigade, 7 AGRA Signal Squadron and Eastern Command Signal Squadron, under Sergeant R. J. W. Blake and Sergeant F. Snowdon of 5 Training Regiment, Signalman P. G. Taft being one of the leading lights of this team. We had another excellent team in Paris under Sergeant J. V. Burrows of 2 Divisional Signal Regiment with D.R.s from 1 Corps Signal Regiment, 2 Divisional Signal Regiment, 4 Divisional Signal Regiment and 5 Brigade Signal Squadron. These teams worked out their plans, based on traffic control pointsmen at each intersection and relay motor cycles located at all traffic lights so that competitors could run across the lights if they were at red and continue on the relay motor cycle. All motor cycles were fitted with flashing headlamps to give warning of approach and some wireless was deployed over the route. It is rumoured that on one occasion two Other Ranks carrying a long ladder "happened" to be crossing a side turning as our competitor approached down the main road, but this is not confirmed. This excellent organisation combined with the speed of the motor cycles, so generously lent by Triumphs, undoubtedly gave us the record for speed on the ground and earned special praise in many newspapers including the *Observer*.

The wireless in London was found by 7 AGRA Signal Squadron using a B44 net with a rebroadcast station on the War Office roof. They had sets at Biggin Hill, Battersea Heliport, Chelsea Reach, Marble Arch, with one static and one mobile Traffic Post, control being in the Command Post in the Horse Guards. Largely due to the untiring efforts of Sergeant R. A. Leech this net worked perfectly throughout. The Command Post had a direct radio teleprinter link via COMCAN to the Paris Command Post in SHAPE Signal Squadron, which in turn controlled an HF wireless net generously provided by 7 U.S. Signal Battalion deployed at Villacoublay, Issy Heligare and the Arc de Triomphe together with some 31 sets on Traffic duties manned by 1 Corps and SHAPE Signal Squadron personnel. Captain H. N. Bates was to be at the Paris Control Post.

The problem of getting the competitors between the helicopter on the shingle at Chelsea Reach at low tide and the top of Chelsea Embankment was enthusiastically tackled by Major J. Field, R.E., and Sergeant Hazelwood of 101 Engineer Regiment (T.A.), who designed a "death ride" for the downward route whereby the competitor slid down a cable hanging on to a pulley, and a ramp and pulley arrangement for the up route. Here again, in spite of R.A.F. claims to the contrary, we achieved the best times of any competitors using Chelsea Reach, the time between leaving the motor cycle and the helicopter taking off and vice versa being well under 10 seconds in every case.

● (*Left*) **Lieutenant J. Westlake after checking in at Marble Arch with a record time.** (*Right*) **Second Lieutenant B. Lynch at Battersea Heliport**

[Photographs: Keystone Press Agency Ltd.





On Tuesday, 14th July, we did a practice run in each direction with aircraft not fully extended. Our times on that day left us fully confident that we could beat easily the time put up by Captain Walker of 23 S.A.S. Regiment on that day.

Wednesday, 15th July, came and everything was ready for our first attempt by our slowest route. Second-Lieutenant Lynch started on schedule at 11.25 on the back of Sergeant Snowdon's motor cycle (bearing a message from the Signal Officer-in-Chief to the Supreme Allied Commander Europe), several changes of motor cycle and he was taking off from Battersea nine minutes later, eleven minutes later he was in the Hunter, after a total of forty-four minutes he was landing at Villacoublay thence by Colonel Persons' car and motor cycle to the Arc de Triomphe.

Communications worked perfectly and we quickly knew his time, 57 minutes 3 seconds, a new record; but excitement followed fast: Group Captain Ryder, R.A.F., clocked 47 minutes 45 seconds, then the Royal Navy 46 minutes 58 seconds and it was our turn. Major Morton and Lieutenant Westlake started from Paris at 1510 hours, Lieutenant Westlake reached the Hunter first and so went on, Major Morton falling out; hardly time for a cigarette and our operator at Biggin Hill was giving a graphic account of his movements: "He's out of the Hunter. He's running across. He's in the Chopper. He's off!" Ten minutes later the same from Chelsea, and in what seemed to be no time the motor cycle's flashing headlight was in view of the finish. The loud speaker blared out his time—45 minutes 53 seconds. A new record. But again a short-lived one, an hour later Group Captain Ryder's motor cycle rushed in—time, 44 minutes 37 seconds.

Our attempts on Saturday, 18th, also went smoothly, Captain Robinson doing 46 minutes 21 seconds and Lieutenant Westlake on the return trip 43 minutes 32 seconds. Unfortunately on both occasions we had slight trouble in the air and neither time was good enough to beat the new record of 41 minutes odd.

Captain Robinson took out a message of fraternal greeting from the Signal Officer-in-Chief to the French Chef de Transmission, Lieutenant Westlake bringing back the reply. Both were generously entertained in Paris by the French Signal Corps at a champagne party.

There we had to stop as we had used up all our allotted



● Sergeant F. Snowdon pilots Second Lieutenant B. Lynch

sorties, but any disappointment that was felt that we could not try again, confident as we were that we could put up a better time, was counteracted by the satisfaction that as a humble land-based Corps team organised on an impromptu basis and largely financed by Corps and Training Brigade funds we could put up such a magnificent effort against the experts of the air in Sky-ways, the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force, whose normal organisation was well suited to the conditions of the race. It was also an excellent exercise in inter-service co-operation—the way that Squadron Leader Howlett managed with only one Hunter aircraft at his disposal and considered by his colleagues to be in the enemy camp, is beyond praise, as were the efforts of the two helicopter pilots, again with only one aircraft each, whose timing, speed and placing were miraculous.

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PERSONAL COLUMN

London Gazette

15th May, 1959
Her Majesty The Queen has been graciously pleased to confer the following awards:
First Clasp to the Army Emergency Reserve Decoration: Captain E. A. Macbay.
Army Emergency Reserve Decoration: Captain C. E. Cheyney, Captain E. A. Macbay.
First Clasp to the Territorial Efficiency Decoration: Major R. H. Stock.
Territorial Efficiency Decoration: Captain (A/Major) J. Cunliffe.

19th May, 1959
Major C. M. Jenkins retired 20th May, 1959.
Captain J. MacLean to be Major, 17th May, 1959.

22nd May, 1959
Captain R. M. Armstrong to be Major, 23rd May, 1959.
Major L. G. Warren, D.C.M., relinquishes his commission on completion of service, 21st May, 1959, and is granted the hon. rank of Lieutenant-Colonel.

26th May, 1959
Captain P. H. F. Webb to be Major, 27th May, 1959.

29th May, 1959
Lieutenant-Colonel R. G. Baker, O.B.E., retires 28th May, 1959.
Major A. J. Hamilton retires 28th May, 1959, and is granted the hon. rank of Lieutenant-Colonel.
Captain P. J. L. Wickes to be Major, 29th May, 1959.
The undermentioned Captains to be Majors on the dates shown:
W. R. G. Hencher, 7th December, 1954.
A. G. Smith, 4th December, 1956.
L. M. Evans, 4th December, 1956.
G. Klosser, 4th December, 1956.
W. Macdonald, 6th December, 1956.

2nd June, 1959
Major J. Potts retired 3rd June, 1959.
Major R. E. Rooks relinquishes his commission on completion of service, 1st June, 1959, and is granted the hon. rank of Major.

9th June, 1959
Major J. C. Alcock retired 2nd May, 1959.

12th June, 1959
Colonel A. M. W. Whistler to be Brigadier, 4th April, 1959.

13th June, 1959

H.M. The Queen's Birthday Honours List

C.B. Major-General K. C. O. Bastyan, C.B.E.

O.B.E. Lieutenant-Colonel P. W. Lonnon, M.B.E.
Lieutenant-Colonel K. D. Patterson, T.D.
Lieutenant-Colonel (Q.M.) F. Spearpoint.

B.E.M. 2328463 Staff Sergeant A. Bullock.
22222602 A/Staff Sergeant L. N. D. Collins.
22844578 Corporal L. A. Easter.
4985925 Staff Sergeant F. J. Hogan.
2320614 W.O.II (Band Sergeant-Major) E. Marsh.
22238199 Sergeant G. F. Stockham.
2549621 Staff Sergeant D. G. O. White.

16th June, 1959
Lieutenant (T.O.T.) J. Pickering to be Captain (T.O.T.), 16th June, 1959.

19th June, 1959
Captain R. L. Murray to be Major, 18th June, 1959.
Captain M. H. L. Kenning retired, 15th May, 1959.
Captain (Q.M.) E. C. Lonton relinquishes his commission on completion of service, 17th April, 1959, and is granted the hon. rank of Captain (Q.M.).

23rd June, 1959
Captain M. L. Willway to be Major, 16th June, 1959.

30th June, 1959
Brigadier W. G. Tucker, C.B.E., retired 28th June, 1959.
Captain D. M. F. Barker to be Major, 30th June, 1959.

3rd July, 1959
TERRITORIAL DECORATIONS
Major F. P. Tridgell.
Captain P. A. Lancaster.
Major B. E. M. Prophet.
Captain G. K. Thorne.

First Clasp
Lieutenant-Colonel W. H. Lamb.
Major T. C. Harding.
Major P. M. Luttman-Johnson.
Major W. H. Mullineaux.
Major G. J. Sard.

Third Clasp
Lieutenant-Colonel C. Vincent-Smith.

ARMY EMERGENCY RESERVE DECORATION
Major O. J. Williams.

First Clasp
Major A. L. Mather.

7th July, 1959
Brigadier E. D. Good, C.B.E., retired 6th July, 1959.
Captain (Q.M.) E. Launders to be Major (Q.M.), 10th June, 1959.

10th July, 1959
Colonel R. N. Seddon, O.B.E., retires 9th July, 1959.

Majors to be Lieutenant-Colonels, 1st April, 1959:
P. S. Banbury, M.B.E.
M. J. R. Fletcher, M.B.E.
C. L. Wikner.
P. H. Brown.

14th July, 1959
Colonel C. H. Stonley, O.B.E., to be Brigadier, 8th June, 1959.
Captain R. C. Bryson to be Major, 2nd February, 1959.

17th July, 1959
Warrant Officer Class I A. F. Stubbs to be Lieutenant (Q.M.), 29th May, 1959.

Movements — Officers

(Taken place or forecast for period ending 15th July, 1959).

Colonel P. W. Lonnon	To U.S.A.
Lieutenant-Colonel L. H. M. Gregory, M.B.E.	„ C.O., Junior Leaders Regiment.
Lieutenant-Colonel R. H. E. Robinson	„ Ministry of Supply.
Lieutenant-Colonel R. S. King, T.D.	„ A.F.M.E.D.
Lieutenant-Colonel J. D. T. Brett	„ C.O., 3 Divisional Signal Regiment.
Major R. A. Warren	„ School of Signals (Inst. Wing).
Major D. S. A. Hutley	„ Depot Regiment (Cadre).
Major F. Parker	„ A.A.S. Harrogate.
Major J. E. Evans	„ 51 (H) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment (T.A.).
Major J. N. Burrell	„ School of Signals (Inst. Wing).
Major W. R. G. Hencher	„ Signal Squadron, B.A.O.R.
Major E. H. C. Chaffey	„ G.H.Q., FARELF.
Major P. H. Flear	„ H.Q., Singapore District, FARELF
Major D. H. Thursby-Pelham ...	„ Far East Defence Secretariat.
Major D. H. Freeland	„ War Office (Sigs 7).
Major G. E. Johnson	„ Ministry of Supply.
Major L. F. Ball	„ Ministry of Supply.
Major H. Rowlands	„ H.Q., ALFCE.
Major C. B. Tony	„ Corps Signal Regiment, B.A.O.R.
Captain R. B. Carroll	„ Signal Regiment, FARELF.
Captain D. C. Woodbridge	„ H.Q., N.A.G.
Captain G. W. A. Stephenson ...	„ J.E.H.U.
Captain E. L. Rogers	„ School of Signals.
Captain T. I. McL. Robinson ...	„ O.C.L.F., FARELF.
Captain H. M. Ashton	„ Signal Squadron, FARELF.
Captain R. J. Savage	„ Signal Squadron, East Africa.
Captain K. A. Reggler	„ U.K. Comcan Signal Regiment.
Captain E. Wells	„ Air Formation Signal Regiment, FARELF.
Captain P. M. Steele	„ School of Signals.
Captain A. Coates	„ Signal Squadron, FARELF.
Captain K. A. C. Wilson	„ L.A.C., R.A.F. (Course).
Major (Tfc. Offr.) C. Walton ...	„ East Africa.
Captain (T.O.T.) E. J. Larner ...	„ FARELF.
Captain (Q.M.) W. E. Parks ...	„ East Africa.
Captain (Q.M.) J. A. G. Stokoe ...	„ FARELF.
Captain (Q.M.) R. F. Thirkell ...	„ M.E.L.F. (Cyrenaica Signal Troop).
Captain (Tfc. Offr.) H. W. J. Hickman	„ U.K. COMCAN Signal Regiment.
Lieutenant (Q.M.) J. W. Douthwaite	„ 2 L. of C. Signal Regiment, B.A.O.R.

(Taken place or forecast for period ending 15th August, 1959)

Colonel A. L. Atkinson, O.B.E. ...	To Chairman, European Radio Frequency Agency.
Colonel R. Linton, O.B.E.	„ A.A.G., A.G.11, War Office.
Colonel M. D. Price, O.B.E. ...	„ War Office, M.T.1.
Colonel H. Prince	„ Ministry of Supply.
Lieutenant-Colonel H. V. Brandle	„ O.C., H.C. District (M) Signal Regiment, T.A.
Lieutenant-Colonel W. W. Barron, M.C.	„ Depot Regiment (HS) for retirement.
Lieutenant-Colonel E. A. Sinnock	„ O.C., Depot Regiment.
Lieutenant-Colonel J. Dodd ...	„ 3 G.H.Q. Signal Regiment, M.E.L.F.
Major P. E. Hutchins	„ H.Q., 1 (BR) Corps.
Major M. R. Hewitt	„ U.K. COMCAN Signal Regiment.
Major J. T. R. Sylvester-Bradley	„ School of Signals (Eqpt. School).
Major A. S. Rawson	„ ALFCE Signal Squadron.
Major M. L. Willway	„ Signal Squadron, East Africa.
Major W. Brackenbury	„ FARELF.
Major K. W. Jordan	„ 2 Training Regiment, Royal Signals.
Major J. Y. Ferguson	„ School of Signals (Tactics Wing).
Major A. S. Lashmar	„ Air Formation Signal Regiment, FARELF.
Major E. W. Barrett	„ 1 Nn Command (M) Signal Regiment, T.A.
Major A. T. Burrows, M.B.E. ...	„ Signals 3, War Office.
Captain J. R. Garratt	„ A.A.S., Harrogate.
Captain G. L. Davies	„ H.Q., ALFCE.
Major (Tfc. Offr.) J. E. Myddleton	„ 19 Army Group Signal Regiment, B.A.O.R.
Major (T.O.T.) K. E. White ...	„ Northern Ireland District (M) Signal Squadron.
Major (T.O.T.) F. R. Cox	„ Shoeburyness S.W.S. Troop.
Major (Q.M.) R. Hodgson	„ A.C.C. Training Centre, FARELF.
Major (Q.M.) J. J. Ryan	„ 19 Army Group Signal Regiment.

Lieutenant (T.O.T.) A. D. Martin	,,	COMCAN Signal Squadron, FARELF.
Lieutenant (Q.M.) H. R. H. Dunlop	,,	Mid-West District (M) Signal Regiment, T.A.
Lieutenant (Tfc. Offr.) N. Macleod	,,	U.K. COMCAN Signal Regiment.

Retirements

Brigadier E. E. Good, C.B.E. ...	6 July, 1959.
Brigadier W. G. Tucker	27 June, 1959.
Major J. C. Alcock	2 May, 1959.
Major C. M. Jenkings	20 May, 1959.
Major C. E. Kilminster	1 July, 1959.
Captain M. H. L. Kenning	15 May, 1959.

Births

BROOKS.—To Corporal and Mrs. K. E. Brooks, R.H.Q. and COMCAN Co-ord Group, London, a son, Mark Anthony, born at Military Families Hospital, Woolwich, on 26th March, 1959.

ROWLAND.—To Lieutenant and Mrs. R. S. Rowland a son, Christopher John Seymour, at B.M.H., Hostert, on 18th May, 1959.

Engagements

JOHNSON—MOORE.—The engagement is announced between Staff Sergeant E. W. Johnson and Miss Margaret Moore on Saturday, 16th May, 1959. Wedding to take place at Newcastle, 22nd August.

Marriages

TOLL—WOOD.—On Wednesday, 3rd June, 1959, at St. George's Garrison Church, Tanglin, Singapore. Corporal John Toll, to Miss Rosemary Wood.

Deaths

ALLAN.—2321035 F. G. (Frank) Allan, a Life Member of the Association since 1934. Died in hospital at Nottingham on 4th June, 1959, two days after admission, aged 49 years. Leaves a widow and four children, at 101, Birdhill Road, Woodhouse Eaves, Leics.

EDGINGTON.—Ex-Signalman G. Edgington, of 72, Coburn Street, Cathays, Cardiff, on 9th May, 1959, aged 67 years.

BRAZIER.—Ex-Signalman A. E. Brazier, of 21, Brownlow Road, Finchley, N.3, on 12th June, 1959. He was a founder member of the North London Branch of the Royal Signals Association and served in the Corps from 1939-46.

LOUGHRAN.—23594098 Signalman M. Loughran, of 7 Training Regiment, on 16th June, 1959.

GOODMAN.—22569163 Sergeant R. Goodman, of War Office Signal Squadron, on 18th June, 1959, at West London Hospital, Hammersmith, W.6.

POOLE.—Ex-Corporal P. B. Poole, of 194, St. Fagan's Road, Fairwater, Cardiff, during June, 1959, aged 55.

BRUMPTON.—Ex-Signalman B. F. Brumpton, of 17, Hollands Avenue, Scunthorpe, Lincs., on 14th June, 1959, aged 28 years.

CONNOGHTON.—On 30th June, 1959, Major J. J. Connoghton.

FIRTH.—On 3rd June, 1959, at The Studio, North Holmwood, Dorking, Helene Sarah, wife of Colonel C. R. H. Firth.

HALL.—22983346 Acting Lance-Corporal S. Hall, of 2 Wireless Regiment, on 9th July, 1959.

COCHRANE.—23437821 Signalman G. Cochrane, of ALFCE Signal Squadron, on 9th July, 1959.

CONWAY.—On 8th July, 1959, at 9, Major Road, Canton, Cardiff, Captain P. A. Conway, a Life Member of the Association.

BINION.—Ex-Signalman H. W. Binion, of 102, Kildare Road, London, E.16, on 7th May, 1959, aged 52.

DANCE.—Ex-Signalman A. C. J. Dance, of 41, Whitegate Road, Southend-on-Sea, on 14th April, 1959, aged 53.

* * *

Sergeant P. (Jock) Patterson announces that on retiring from the Corps he assumed as landlord of The Harrow Inn, Woodside, near Luton, Bedfordshire (Luton 2981) and hopes that his friends, particularly of 1 Wireless Regiment, will visit him.

RADIO TESTERS

Men with experience of fault-finding on telecommunication and allied equipment are invited to apply for this interesting and progressive position. Write with details of experience and qualifications to Personnel Officer, British Communications Corporation Ltd., Exhibition Grounds, Wembley, Middx. WEMbley 1212.

Indian Signal Units, 1911-1926, Old Comrades' Association held their 12th Reunion Dinner in London on 30th May, 1959. At the Annual General Meeting it was decided to cancel the period 1911-1926, and extend it to all those who served in any Signal or Wireless Unit in India at any time. We hope many more will join us. Further particulars may be obtained from: The Secretary, 153, Mytchett Road, Mytchett, near Aldershot, Hants.

GENERAL J. D. O'CONNELL

On the eve of the retirement from the United States Army of General J. D. O'Connell, Chief Signal Officer, Department of the Army, Washington, the following message was sent from Major-General R. J. Moberly, Signal Officer-in-Chief, The War Office, London:

From: War Office
To: C.S.O. Department of Army, Washington.
For O'Connell from Moberly.

On the occasion of the farewell party given by the United States Army Signal Corps for you and Edith, the Royal Corps of Signals join with their friends in wishing you both many years of happiness in your well-deserved retirement. You have shown the way to a close understanding between our two nations in the field of communications electronics and we in Britain will miss you.

* * *

The following reply was received from General O'Connell:

From: C. Sig. O. H.Q., D.A., Washington
To: Major-General Richard J. Moberly, C.B., O.B.E., Signal Officer-in-Chief, War Office, Whitehall, London, S.W.1, England.

I deeply appreciate the message of best wishes from all ranks of the Royal Corps of Signals on the occasion of my retirement from the United States Army. I do wish to say that during the past eight years of close association it has been an inspiration to me to be associated with such an outstanding organisation as the Royal Corps of Signals. I do hope that many future associations with your members lies ahead.

(*Signed*) J. D. O'CONNELL.

Forthcoming Events

ASSOCIATION OF HARROGATE APPRENTICES

The fifth Annual Re-union is to be held on 12/13th September, 1959, at the Army Apprentices School, Harrogate.

Programme of events:—

12th September, 11.30 a.m. Annual General Meeting.
2.00 p.m. Members are invited to watch the School Soccer XI play a specially selected fixture.
8.00 p.m. Re-union Dance.
13th September, 9.30 a.m. Church Services.

All Ex-A/T's who are members are cordially invited to attend. Requests for accommodation (male only) should be addressed to "The Commandant," A.A.S., Harrogate.

Royal Signals Hockey

The Royal Signals Hockey Trial will be played at Catterick Camp on Friday, 25th September, 1959.

Individuals wishing to be considered for this trial should submit their names, together with playing position and record to: Captain K. Kirkby, School of Signals, Catterick Camp, before 14th September, 1959.

Fixtures for the 1959/60 season are as follows:

1959		
Sat., 26th Sept.	Thistles	Catterick Camp
Wed., 21st Oct.	R.A.	Woolwich
Thurs., 22nd Oct.	R.E.M.E.	Arborfield
Sat., 14th Nov.	R.E.	Catterick
Tues., 1st Dec.	Durham University	Durham
Thurs., 12th Nov.	R.A.S.C.	Aldershot
Wed., 2nd Dec.	R.M.A.S.	Sandhurst
1960		
Wed., 17th Feb.	Royal Military College of Science	Aldershot
Thurs., 18th Feb.	Aldershot Services	Aldershot
Fri., 19th Feb.	R.A.O.C.	Blackdown
Wed., 23rd Mar.	Welbeck College	Welbeck
15th-18th April	Easter Festival	Scarborough

The Editor makes no apology for this very unorthodox number. It has been produced with great difficulty.

Ex-Boys' Sixth Annual Dinner

Saturday, 26th September, 1959. 6.30 for 7.30 p.m. At Victory Ex-Services' Club, 63/79, Seymour Street, London, W.2. One minute from Marble Arch Station and first left up Edgware Road. Lounge suit or uniform.

Tickets 17/6 flat rate for ex-Boys, their wives or guests. Apply preferably not later than 1st July to F. W. JACOB, Esq., T.A. CENTRE, 54 (EA) INFANTRY DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A., 40, ASHBURNHAM ROAD, BEDFORD, who is Hon. Secretary and Treasurer. Cheques payable "F. W. Jacob, ex-Boys' Dinner A/C."

Lieutenant-Colonel E. G. Brice, O.B.E., Royal Signals, has assumed chairmanship vice Major F. G. Strange (Retd.), who remains publicity member of the Committee.

24th Divisional Signals, 1914-19, Reunion, 1959

Saturday, 17th October
3 p.m. Divisional Memorial, Battersea Park, London, S.W.9.
6 p.m. Chevrons Club, 3, Dorset Square, London, N.W.1.
The Divisional Officers' Dinner is on Friday, 16th October, 1959.

* * *

54 (EA) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A.

The annual Officers' Ball will be held in the Hyde Park Hotel, Knightsbridge, on Saturday, 31st October, 1959. Applications for tickets should be made to the Adjutant at 40, Ashburnham Road, Bedford.

31st Meeting of the Central Committee of the Association at 10.45 a.m. at the War Office on Tuesday, 3rd November, 1959.

CORPS BAND

Summer Tour, 1959

August 21st—30th	Edinburgh
September 6th—19th	Eastbourne
September 20th	Worthing
September 27th—October 4th	Eastbourne
November 12th—December 8th (approx.)	B.A.O.R.

ROYAL SIGNALS DISPLAY TEAM

September 5th	1 Training Regiment Royal Signals Parents' Week-end	Catterick
September 10th/20th	Scottish Command Recruiting Drive 2 Training Regiment Royal Signals	Perth/Stirling
September 26th	Parents' Week-end	

2 LONDON SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A., DISPLAY TEAM

September 5th	Southend Show	Southend
October 8th	County of London	Duke of York's H.Q.
October 9th		
October 10th	T.A. Tournament	London

Royal Signals Officers' Golfing Society, Fixtures, 1959

Date	Opponents	Course
Thurs., 10th Sept.	R.A.M.C.	Swinley Forest
Tues., 22nd Sept.	A.G.S. Meeting	Sunningdale
Mon., 28th Sept.	A.G.S. Meeting	Sunningdale
Mon., 21st Sept.	Autumn Meeting	Worplesdon
Tues., 29th Sept.	Autumn Meeting	Worplesdon
Wed., 30th Sept.	Autumn Meeting	Worplesdon
Sun., 4th Oct.	Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst	Camberley Heath
Thurs., 22nd Oct.	R.A.O.C.	Swinley Forest

The Autumn Meeting will be held at Worplesdon Golf Club on 28th, 29th and 30th September, 1959. All entries to Honorary Secretary, Major W. Macdonald, Royal Signals, Headquarters London District, Whitehall, S.W.1, by 14th September, 1959, at the latest.



BRIGADIER E. D. GOOD, C.B.E.

Brigadier Derek Good is one of the few serving senior Officers of the Corps who started their military career at the Royal Military College, Sandhurst. That was just over 33 years ago. After his "Q" Course he was posted to India, where he served for the next ten years with the 1st and 4th Indian Divisional Signals, the S.T.C. and with both the Kohat and Waziristan District Signals.

In 1938 he returned to the U.K. to become Adjutant of the 5th Divisional Signals and during the war years he served successively with the 8th Armoured Divisional Signals, H.Q., 8th Army—where he was G.S.O.1, next 13 Corps Signals, and finally as C.S.O. of 13 Corps in C.M.F.

After the War Derek attended the Staff College Course and 1948 saw him again overseas in M.E.L.F., commanding the 1st Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment. He returned to the U.K. in 1951 and after various appointments—including a tour with the Signals Directorate at the Air Ministry—he once again went overseas, this time to FARELF as C.S.O. at G.H.Q. In 1957 he returned to the U.K. and was appointed Commander of the Training Brigade, which appointment he still holds.

Such, in brief, has been Derek's career—a succession of interesting and varied regimental appointments in many parts of the world and that he has performed these tasks ably and loyally is witnessed by Mentions in Despatches with the B.E.F. in 1940 and with C.M.F. in 1945, and also with the awards of the O.B.E. in 1953 and the C.B.E. in 1945.

As a sportsman, Derek is outstanding. There can be few games or sports at which he has not tried his hand with great success, but it is perhaps his love for horses which specially marks him out. Ever since his "Y.O." days he has excelled in this sphere and he is undoubtedly one of the finest horsemen the Corps has produced.

Those of us who have had the good fortune to serve with him will always remember his unfailing cheerfulness and imperturbable temperament under all circumstances, and as a delightful and loyal friend always ready to lend a helping hand.

The Corps wish him and his most charming wife all good fortune and every happiness for the future.

A NEW SYSTEM FOR THE NUMBERING OF SIGNAL UNITS

Details have been issued in an Army Council letter of a scheme to re-number all Royal Signals Regiments, Squadrons and Independent Troops of the Regular Army, and all Regiments and Squadrons of the Territorial Army and Army Emergency Reserve. The scheme has been agreed by the Corps Committee and the council of the T.A. Associations, and has received the approval of H.R.H. The Princess Royal. The new re-numbering will be effective from 1st September this year. Later the Independent and Brick troops of the T.A. and A.E.R. will also be re-numbered. Signal units affiliated to Regiments of the R.A.C., R.A. and R.E. are not affected by the changes.

The aim of this re-numbering is to produce throughout the Corps a logical and uniform system of unit titles which will be permanent, and at the same time gives each Regiment, Squadron and Independent Troop a separate and distinct identity.

In preparing the scheme consideration was given to the seniority of regiments and to the geographical affiliations of the regiments of the Territorial Army.

Under the scheme the role of a Signal Regiment will not form part of its title, but will be included in brackets afterwards when essential for reasons of clarity. For example:—

1st Signal Regiment (Divisional).

The role of a Signal Squadron or Troop will form part of its title and will invariably be shown in brackets afterwards. For example:—

200 Signal Squadron (Armoured Brigade).
606 Signal Troop (Medium Wireless).

From the date of the implementation of the new system the Signal Officer-in-Chief will in future control the allocation of all unit titles within the Corps.

When submitting notes for THE WIRE under no circumstances will details be given of the formation H.Q. to which a Unit is affiliated. This ruling applies to all Regiments, Squadrons and Independent Troops.

THE RE-NUMBERING OF SIGNAL REGIMENTS

A Warrant Officer writes:

I was very interested in the above item published in THE WIRE (June, 1959). In addition to the advantages mentioned, it will greatly assist a primary function of Royal Signals, viz. THE TRANSMISSION OF MESSAGES. Let there be one essential exception, viz. Depot, Royal Signals. This is, or should be, CORPS HEADQUARTERS, and as such should *head* the numbered Signal Regiments simply and correctly as DEPOT ROYAL SIGNALS, in accordance with normal Corps and Army tradition.

With the run-down of the Corps, as National Service terminates, 7 Training Regiment will presumably become part of the Depot, thus reverting to pre-war Depot routine plus a Drafting Staff (until units can handle their own drafting as they did pre-war). Let it be mentioned now, for the information of those who may not know, as a Corps Depot, Depot Royal Signals, in addition to *Certa Cito* bears the unofficial motto *Nulli Secundus* (No. 1) may this always be so!

If the Depot, Royal Signals, has already been allocated a number, this might well be held in abeyance and reserved for possible future requirements viz.

Regiment
No. ..... Signal Regiment
Role
Royal Signals Drafting Regiment.

The embryo of the Royal Signals Drafting Regiment will, as in pre-war, be ever present in Depot, Royal Signals, viz. Drafting of Cadre and Discharging of Regulars ex-Overseas.

Whatever other Disbandments and Amalgamations may occur in the Army, Royal Signals MUST retain:

Unit	*Telegraphic Address*
DEPOT, ROYAL SIGNALS	SIGDEP

(*This letter was written in early July, 1959*).

OBITUARY

COLONEL L. A. E. TOZER

"Len" Tozer, who died suddenly at Catterick, where he had long been a familiar figure, on 22nd May, 1959, will be remembered by his many friends in the Corps, in the rest of the Army, and in civil life for his ability, his charm and his kindly wit. The son of literary and artistic parents—his father was a journalist and author and his mother a violinist of distinction—he was not only an able technical officer but also a man of wide interests and quick artistic appreciation. Possessed of a ready wit, and a gift for the apt word and telling phrase, and at the same time the most kindly and sympathetic of men, he was a most entertaining companion and the staunchest of friends.

Born on 10th January, 1900, Leonard Arthur Edward Tozer was first commissioned in the Royal Artillery in December, 1919, but very soon found his way to Signals, serving with various signal units at home, on the Rhine and in the Middle East, and eventually transferring to Royal Signals in July, 1924. After a long spell on special wireless duties he came home in 1927 with something of a reputation as one of the abler of the younger officers of the Corps in technical matters, and was almost at once selected for Cambridge, to which at that time only two officers were sent each year.

Coming down in 1929, he was posted to the School of Signals for a tour of duty as an instructor; and from there went to North China, where he had the misfortune to fall seriously ill. Invalided home in 1936, he spent more than a year in hospital and on sick leave and eventually made a good enough recovery to go back to duty in 1938 as Signal Officer of what was then called a Tank Battalion. But he was never again passed fit for service overseas, a disability which wrecked his chances of promotion, and seriously restricted the appointments open to him even in the United Kingdom. It is a tribute to his character that he never complained of this stroke of fortune.

After postings to the A.F.V. School at Bovington and to 1st Armoured Divisional Signals, Tozer spent the last war in a series of technical appointments at the Ministry of Supply, the War Office and the School of Signals until in 1945 he was posted in command of the then newly formed 1st War Office Signal Regiment in London. From there he went in 1949 for three years to the Military College of Science as the first Director of Studies to be appointed from Royal Signals. His last appointment as a serving officer was as Chief Instructor, School of Signals, from which he retired with the rank of Honorary Colonel in July, 1954. However, retirement did not mean his leaving the School, as he accepted an appointment there as a retired officer, editing signal training publications, in which he was still serving when he died.

His death leaves a gap at Catterick which will be difficult to fill, not only in his official appointment, but as a wise and experienced counsellor whose knowledge and advice and help were always at the disposal of anyone who needed them.

CAPTAIN C. SHEPHERD, M.B.E., D.C.M.

BY CAPTAIN R. D. HARDY, Vice-President, Chester Branch, Royal Signals Association.

Captain Shepherd died on the evening of Wednesday, 29th July, 1959, at the Military Hospital, Chester, he was 79. From a letter I had from his wife he had, I gather, been ill for some time, but was improving, and making plans to go to the Brighton Convalescent Hospital. Mrs. Shepherd had visited him on Wednesday and left the hospital at 7 p.m., but was called back at 8 p.m. when he died. Captain Shepherd had walked down the corridor of the hospital that afternoon with Mrs. Shepherd.

The Funeral Service was held at the Parish Church, Upton-by-Chester, and was attended by Lieutenant-Colonel B. T. Sherman, O.B.E. (Retd.), representing also the Chief Signal Officer, Western Command, myself and wife (I was representing H.Q. Royal Signals Association); the following represented the Chester Branch of the Royal Signals Association, E. Lavis-Jones, Esq. (President), Captain K. West, T.D. (Vice-Chairman), S. R. Pointon (Social President and Past Chairman), R. Ryan, Esq., (Past Secretary). A number of the Chester Branch Old Contemptibles were also present.

Captain Shepherd was, for a number of years, the Treasurer of the Chester Branch, Royal Signals Association, and together with Mr. Richard Ryan, re-formed the Branch after the war.

I had personally known Captain Shepherd for nearly 20 years, and know of his seven-day a week service for the welfare of "Signals" past and present. When I was Assistant Secretary to Brigadiers Wheeler and Murphy at 88, Eccleston Square, I saw for myself what he was doing here in Chester, and also previous to that when I was Chief Clerk to the C.S.O. here in Chester in 1940, I had a lot to do with him, and knew his value.

I don't think he actually served in the Corps (he was with the D.W.R.), but even so, no one could have had the interests of the members of Signals more at heart, and his help is going to be missed.

ALEXANDER McKINTOSH COWIE, D.S.M., A.M.Brit. R.E.

No one could have been more enthusiastic in his approach to the teaching of boys in the Signal Wing than Alex, as he was known, who died at his home in Harrogate on Friday, 29th May, 1959.

He joined the Royal Navy as a boy telegraphist entrant, and saw much active service during World War I, winning the D.S.M. and being mentioned in despatches. He was commissioned, but retired and took up a position with the Indian Marines until 1925. After service in the Persian Gulf he came home to teach "budding" operators for the Mercantile Marine throughout World War II.

He came to this school in the latter half of 1948 when it had just been opened up to train boys for Royal Signals. During this period he taught many boys the basics and technicalities of the trade as required for Army tradesmen and more from his vast practical experience.

He was promoted to Supervisor in 1956, but that did not keep him tied to an office chair. He was always on the move, particularly where boys required advice or a "rocket." He was quick to spot anything out of place and acted accordingly. It appeared as if he was re-enacting his own service as a boy and was still planning what he was to do when he got back to the school.

By his death the Wing and the School have lost a wise counseller, colleague and friend. We extend to his widow and daughter our deepest sympathy in their bereavement.

The Mounted Troops of the British Army

BY COLONEL H. C. B. ROGERS, O.B.E.

Colonel Rogers has written a second book of immense erudition, which was to be expected after his excellent Pageant of Heraldry, but also in most pleasing readable style. In proof of this the writer of this review, which could not be published anyway for some weeks, lent the book to a friend. "Read and write a review." The friend had the least qualifications, no knowledge of military history and a knowledge of the horse and its rider limited to an appreciation of the Royal Tournament and an affection for watching Show Jumping on television. This unpromising reader has found the book enthralling, reads a dozen or more pages each day, has got up to the battle of Omdurman and demands the immediate return of the book to read of the greatest of all Cavalry rides in Palestine and Syria in World War I, of the Cheshire Yeomanry in World War II and indeed a little of the Royal Corps of Signals.

Noted already as pearls for the British Transport Commission are the all too few pages devoted to the running of the mail coaches with two hundred horses working in relays to pull one coach two hundred miles *and* exactly to time. The Minister of Pensions should read to learn of how widows' pensions originated.

It is repeated—the book is most easy to read; and yet it contrives to tell of the various types of horse used by the British Army, of their breeding for size and shape and endurance and of how these factors have varied in importance through the ages.

In parallel we are told of the Arms, offensive and defensive, and the uniforms of the various types of rider.

Throughout the theme is illustrated by short, concise and vivid accounts of Cavalry actions of the period. "But the Saxons were not horsemen and after the collapse of British resistance (1066) it is likely that the horse soldier was seen no more on British battlefields until some 400 years later a largely cavalry army destroyed the last of the Saxon Kings."

The age of chivalry which ensued ensured that the armed horseman retained his supremacy in war.

The Household Cavalry of today had origin in 1660, being a continuance even then of Regiments which had fought either for King or for Commonwealth during the Civil War.

From then the history is continuous, the Campaigns of Marlborough and of Wellington; the latter we read had little opinion of most of his cavalry. It was in the Peninsular War, however, that cavalry unaided attacked and captured a sizeable garrison town.

The story continues through the Crimea and, incidentally, the best short description of the action of the Heavy Brigade and Light Brigade at Balaclava, to the almost incredible and near disastrous charge of the 21st Lancers at Omdurman.

South Africa was a Cavalry war to an extent that World War I was not until that greatest of all Cavalry rides, a Corps of three Divisions, nine Brigades, twenty-seven Regiments from Bursheba to Damascus. On the plain of Armageddan at dawn two Squadrons of the 2nd Indian Lancers, the advanced guard, surprised a Battalion of Turkish Infantry on the march.

If that doesn't wet your imagination nothing will.

The book is magnificently illustrated in colour and in black and white. It will be read in the Royal Armoured Corps and it should be as eagerly read in Royal Signals; we should know our military history, we have tradition as a "Mounted Arm," and what pleasanter way of studying history than through this delightful book.

Seeley, Service and Co. Ltd., London. Price 42/-.

EMPLOYMENT FIGURES FOR QUARTER ENDING 30th JUNE, 1959

New applicants registered	31
Placings *confirmed*	24
Other queries answered	118

The Honorary Secretary of the Leeds Branch of the Royal Signals Association reports that within the past few years he and his associates have assisted 24 ex-Servicemen of Royal Signals to obtain employment. Well done, Leeds! Perhaps other Branches are doing equally good work in this field; if so, we urge them to let Association Headquarters know of any success they achieve.

The following goods are available from Association Headquarters:

Corps Paint Transfers:
"Jimmy"—on background of Corps Colours (each)

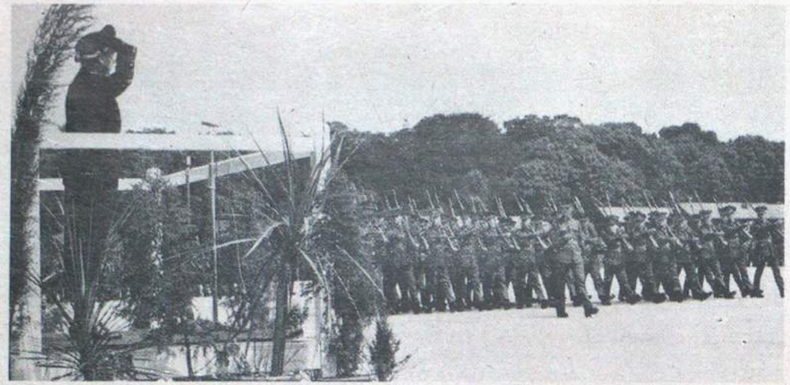
20" x 15"	10" x 7½"	7½ x 5⅝"	3 1/10" x 2 2/5"
4/-	3/-	2/8	1/6
Mounted on black plastic (each)			
8/6	4/9	4/-	—

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Heavy Weave	7/6	
Woollen	8/6	
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Woollen	21/-	
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Association Blazer Badges (Silver "Jimmy" on a shield of Corps Colours, as approved by the Corps Committee)	25/-	Members only
Blazer Buttons—Large (each)	2/3	
Small (each)	1/8	
Motor Car Badges (enamelled in Corps Colours)	35/-	
Motor Cycle Badges (enamelled in Corps Colours)	20/-	
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PLEASE SEND CASH WITH ORDER for all the above articles *except* Corps Paint Transfers, for which an account will be forwarded.

H.R.H. THE Princess Royal *visits* JUNIOR LEADERS REGIMENT



Her Royal Highness, The Princess Royal, C.I., G.C.V.O., G.B.E., T.D., R.R.C., D.C.L., LL.D., Colonel-in-Chief of the Royal Corps of Signals, visited the Junior Leaders' Regiment at Denbury on June 12.

Denbury Camp is located in the green, undulating hills of South Devon; washed on one side by the waters of the English Channel and bounded to the North by rambling Dartmoor.

In pre-Christian times, rumour says Roman Legions marched close by, and rugged Saxons tilled the rolling soil until the coming of the Normans. Later, it was from this area that England's mighty explorers and adventurers set sail for new worlds.

It seems fitting, therefore, that it is in surroundings such as these, steeped in tradition and bold legend, that the future warriors of a nuclear-age are being trained to take their place in the Corps.

It was to a Regiment, proud as the land to which it belongs, that Princess Mary came on a warm June day.

She flew to Exeter with her Lady-in-Waiting, Lady Paynter, where she was met by the Lord Lieutenant of Devon, The Right Honourable Lord Roborough, J.P., Major-General M. S. Wheatley, C.B., C.B.E., Representative Colonel Commandant, Brigadier F. W. P. Bradford, M.B.E., Her A.D.C. for the day was Captain M. A. T. Hartnett of the Junior Leaders' Regiment, Colonel R. M. Bacon, Chief Constable of Devon, travelled in the leading car.

Third Meeting

The Princess in her uniform as Colonel-in-Chief of the Royal Corps of Signals was greeted by the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel L. H. M. Gregory, M.B.E., who then presented Major S. F. Dunkley, the second-in-command, and the Adjutant, Captain P. S. Davis.

For Colonel Gregory this was the third occasion he has met the Princess Royal. He was first presented to her in 1949 at Edinburgh as the composer of the "Signals Reel," a Scottish country dance which has become part of the Corps tradition. Seven years later he again appeared before her at St. James' Palace, London, to receive her Royal Banner as the original Commanding Officer of the famous Gurhka Signal Regiment of Her Majesty's Brigade of Gurhkas.

The Princess immediately walked to the parade ground and took the Royal Salute before inspecting the 369 boys on parade under Junior Sergeant-Major B. J. Cole. Carrying the Standard was Junior Sergeant H. Henderson, and the guard was made up of Junior Signalmen, Coope and Pickens. They had been especially trained for this duty by Sergeant R. Peake, and were in "blues" specially shipped from the Four Divisional Signal Regiment.

The Corps of Drums was also in "blues" under Junior Drum-Major J. Fisher.

Following her inspection, the Princess returned to the saluting dais to watch an impressive march past. She then addressed the Regiment.

The Princess said that throughout the world today, in all walks of like, there existed an urgent need for sober, honest, and imaginative leadership.

A Great Mission

"Seldom has a greater mission been entrusted to my Corps than the maintenance of a ceaseless watch over communications so vital to our Commonwealth and International obligations. The task is one of high trust and a challenge to the skill and integrity of all ranks in my Corps," she said.

"Should the horror of war burst upon us again these activities will be extended on to the battlefield and we must bear ourselves there, with courage and fortitude, as we have done in the past."

"The eyes of every Regiment of my Corps are upon you," she told the boys on parade, "they are keen to receive you as full and equal members, and potential junior leaders, of the Corps to which we all are proud to belong. You may be assured of their help, their encouragement, and their support. You must not fail to live up to the standards they have set for you."



The Princess Royal continued by congratulating the boxing team for their recent fine performances, and she said she was delighted to see the variety which the training programme offers. She believed that visits, such as the one to Norway, and the participation in the International Marches in Nijmegan planned for this July, were of good value; and she wished the newly-formed Regimental Choir every success when it makes its first appearance in London next year.

She announced that academic, military and trade training would be knitted together more closely because it is felt this will give greater continuity and closer command in Troops and further opportunities for leadership training.

"The interests of your Social and Games Clubs are to be widened and affiliated to schools and Youth Clubs in the towns and villages that surround you," the Princess Royal said. She was convinced the boys would be a credit to the Corps wherever they went.

In conclusion, she said: "I have asked your Commanding Officer to grant you a holiday on the 27th of June to mark the occasion of this my first visit to my Junior Leaders' Regiment. I am pleased to learn from him that you will be holding a Carnival on that day open to the public of Newton Abbot." She then congratulated the boys on their excellent turn-out and bearing.

After the Parade, the Princess Royal and Her Lady-in-Waiting were escorted to lunch in the Officers' Mess. One of the first people to greet her here was the 13-year-old daughter of the Second-in-Command, Keren Dunkley. She presented the Princess with a bouquet of red and cream roses.

The officers of the Regiment and their wives were presented to the Princess Royal. During lunch part of the string section of the Corps Band, under Lance-Corporal Simpson, played selections from "My Fair Lady" and the music of Ivor Novello.

Lunch had been prepared under the expert guidance of award winning Captain Arymar, and Warrant Officers Lawton and Munt, of the Army Catering Corps. It consisted of fresh Salmon, braised ham with new potatoes and peas, followed by strawberries and Devonshire cream.

Next came a tour of the camp. Along the way she watched with interest a demonstration of "Outward Bounding" which Second Lieutenant A. Sproul had organised. She spoke to members of the Recruit Troop and saw the hobbies centre, NAAFI, and M.R.S., where there were three sick boys.

Later, on one of the sports' fields, where big marquees had been specially erected, the Princess attended a tea-party with the wives and men of the Regiment. As the time of her departure neared, she moved informally chatting with Junior Leaders and Sergeants.





The Princess Royal is met by Colonel Gregory on arrival.

At a few minutes past five in the evening, she left the camp to return to Exeter Airport where she met Her Majesty the Queen Mother, who had just completed a tour of the South-West. The Royal Party returned to London.

It was quite obvious throughout the Princess Royal's all-too-brief stay at Denbury, that she had captured the affection of all those around her. The boys felt rewarded after the long hours they had spent rehearsing—in particular the Corps of Drums.

Besides being memorable to the Regiment, the Royal visit will be remembered by the hundreds of civilians who lined the route from Denbury to Exeter cheering as the Princess Royal passed by. For many of the local school children who watched the ceremony on the parade ground in the morning, it was the first time they had seen a member of the Royal family.

Undoubtedly the Princess Royal has left a mark on the hearts of all who were present, and greatly enhanced the ever-growing reputation of Her Junior Leaders' Regiment in Devon.

Other News in Brief

Lieutenant P. Chase brought the Regimental Shooting Team back victorious from the Southern Command Small Arms Meeting at Bulford. They had won a total of 37 trophies—all, except two, that were up as awards! The team includes Lance-Corporal Holmes and Staff-Sergeant Watson, and they hope to repeat this "impossible" feat at Bisley.

The Unit newspaper, *Junior Mercury*, has changed its format. On June 1 the first, eight-sheet printed edition, containing cartoons and photographs appeared. Produced by Junior Leaders under supervision of Sergeant-Major Wheatley, R.A.E.C., carries advertisements and is self-supporting. It will be issued monthly in future.



QUICKSILVER X

	Row 1	Row 2	Row 3	Row 4	Row 5
1.	Colonel Clement	Mr. Woods	Lieutenant Colonel Foster	Major Broadway	Second Lieutenant Bonaker
2.	Brigadier Whistler	Mr. Forshaw	Lieutenant Colonel Yeatman	Major Lamb	Second Lieutenant Storey
3.	Brigadier Pringle	Mr. Gadsby	Lieutenant Colonel Brown	Major Hamer	Lieutenant Stevens
4.	Brigadier McNeill	Lieutenant Colonel Davis	Lieutenant Colonel Banbury	Major Page	Captain Jarrett
5.	Brigadier McVittie	Lieutenant Colonel Maxwell	Lieutenant Colonel Philp	Major Ronald	Major Watson
6.	Brigadier Barker	Lieutenant Colonel Athan	Lieutenant Colonel Fenton	Major Hoerder	Captain Message
7.	Brigadier Bradford	Colonel Cooke	Lieutenant Colonel Galloway	Major Johnson	Captain Harrison
8.	Brigadier Lewis	Colonel Williams	Lieutenant Colonel King	Major Mathews	Captain Russell Jones
9.	Brigadier Smijth-Windham	Colonel Swainson	Lieutenant Colonel Jordan	Major Piddington	Major Webb
10.	Major General Bastyan	Colonel Blaker	Lieutenant Colonel Horsfield	Major Garnett	Major Chappell
11.	Major General Price	Colonel Harrison	Lieutenant Colonel Robinson	Major Wood	Major Emley
12.	Lieutenant General Lathbury	Colonel Rowett	Lieutenant Colonel Marshall	Lieutenant Colonel Ward	Major Winter
13.	Major General Moberly	Colonel Stoneley	Lieutenant Colonel Elliott	Lieutenant Colonel Salter	Major Proudman
14.	Lieutenant General Goodbody	Colonel Hobson	Lieutenant Colonel Hamersley	Lieutenant Colonel Gray	Major Gladstone
15.	Major General Howard-Vyse	Colonel Mozley	Lieutenant Colonel Boyland	Major Smith	Major Robinson
16.	Major General Cole	Colonel Charlton	Lieutenant Colonel Chambers	Major Gaylard	Major Armstrong
17.	Major General Thuillier	Colonel Miller	Lieutenant Colonel Griffiths	Major Evans	Major Handy
18.	Brigadier Good	Colonel Cameron	Lieutenant Colonel Hancock	Major Morrison	Major Pegg
19.	Brigadier Yolland	Colonel Cox	Lieutenant Colonel Jones	Major Clarke	Major Fairman
20.	Brigadier Nettleship	Lieutenant Colonel Grainger	Lieutenant Colonel Swallow	Major Burrows	Captain Hackworth
21.	Brigadier Gardiner	Lieutenant Colonel Innes	Lieutenant Colonel Wotton	Major Valle	Captain Campbell
22.	Brigadier Muir	Lieutenant Colonel Bartley-Denniss	Lieutenant Colonel Brooke	Major Winn	Captain Roberts
23.	Brigadier Power	Professor Lee	Lieutenant Colonel Eagle	Major Howat	Captain Dacre
24.	Brigadier Vickers	Mr. Bayly-Pike	Lieutenant Colonel Booth-Jones	Captain Alexander	Second Lieutenant Wilcox
25.	Captain Mackenzie	Mr. Hunt			
26.	Group Captain Morgan				

EVERY two years the Signal Officer-in-Chief holds a large-scale indoor exercise in the "Quicksilver" series. This event is attended by all Chief Signal Officers at home and overseas, a number of commanding officers, Corps representatives at Other Arms schools and guests invited from the Royal Navy, Royal Air Force and government departments. The exercise gives an opportunity of discussing some major development or problem connected with communication and of studying the practical application of the principles in the field.

This year the 10th "Quicksilver" was held in Catterick from 19th to 22nd May. Under the direction of Major-General E. S. Cole, C.B.E., Director of Telecommunications, the task of producing the exercise fell on the School of Signals in general and on the Signal Tactics Wing in particular.

Some 130 officers were scheduled to attend the exercise. The School has no suitable hall for a presentation of this type—but with the co-operation of H.Q., Signal Training Brigade and 7th Training Regiment, North Hall was made available for the occasion. This building was most suitable for the purpose—there was adequate space in front of the stage for tiered seating to be installed around a floor model, while behind a partition there was room to lay out examples of current electronic equipment. The setting was "all right on the day" and justified the two weeks of preparation and judicious application of the big stick, gentle persuasion, flattery, or sheer blackmail by those directly concerned so that things were done and excess stores issued.

By the evening of 18th May, about 85 visiting officers had arrived in Catterick. Only a quarter of these could be absorbed in Headquarters Mess — the balance were accommodated privately, mainly with cadre officers of the Training Brigade and the School.

Major-General R. J. Moberly, C.B., O.B.E., opened the exercise on Wednesday morning. Lieutenant-General Sir Gerald W. Lathbury, K.C.B., D.S.O., M.B.E. (D.G.M.T.) and Lieutenant-General Sir Richard Goodbody, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., (G.O.C.-in-C Northern Command) attended, and the rest of the Army audience consisted of seven major-generals, 19 brigadiers, 16 colonels, 34 lieutenant-colonels, 33 majors and (in strict defiance of Parkinson's Law) six captains. Representatives were present from the Dominions—Australia, New Zealand and the Directors of Signals of Canada (Colonel J. B. Clement C.D.) and of Rhodiesia (Lieutenant-Colonel D. H. Grainger). The distinguished civilian element included the Deputy Scientific Advisor from the War Office and the Director of S.R.D.E. The first day's discussion covered general problems of wireless communication under the conditions envisaged in the concept of future tactical land warfare.

For the second day the presentation started with a single-house performance by the Williams and Wotton Strolling Tactical Players. In the evening, as a relaxation, after eight hours' discourse, debate and discussion, a cocktail party was held in Headquarters Mess, attended by over 250 officers and their wives. Later the party seemed to move en masse to continue at the Officers' Club, where even the reserve supplies of bacon and eggs were exhausted.

The following night there was a Corps Guest Night in the Mess, with the Corps Band and Fanfare Trumpeters in attendance. The S.O.-in-C., dining with his C.S.O.s, Commandants of the School and Training Brigade and commanding officers were host to the Army Commander, guest Directors from War Office and representatives of Other Arms and Services, both British and N.A.T.O. It was a distinguished gathering, and the formality of dinner gave place in due course to the divertissements which invariably follow such an occasion.

Friday morning's session saw the final stages of the exercise, culminating in the closing address by the S.O.-in-C. In cars, and by a special diesel train from Richmond, the visitors left Catterick Camp. By 12.30 hours an unnatural calm had settled on North Hall and Headquarters Mess. "Quicksilver X" was over—and as far as the School was concerned, the D.T.O. suffix "BQ" and "AQ" (before "Quicksilver": after "Quicksilver") would no longer be used as life returned to normal.



Major General R. J. Moberly, C.B., O.B.E., Chief Signal Officer of the British Army, inspects a Fort Monmouth Honour Guard of approximately 100 soldiers on his arrival at this Army Signal Corps installation, yesterday. The formation and ceremony was held in front of Post Headquarters as the British General arrived there for a two-day visit. Escorts for review of troops above are Lieutenant Richard Brito (centre), Commander of Troops, and Brigadier-General A. F. Cassevant (left), Fort Monmouth Commander.

The Visit of the Signal Officer-in-Chief to the United States

October, 1958

An event of much interest and importance occurred a few months ago when The Signal Officer-in-Chief visited the United States.

It came about that since the Chief Signal Officer of the U.S. Signal Corps would be retiring in May 1959 the visit of the SO-in-C scheduled to take place in the financial year 1959-60 would have been too late for him.

The C.S.O. Lieutenant-General James D. O'Connell promptly arranged that the Department of the Army should send an invitation to the War Office for Major-General Moberly to come over in October, 1958, as guests of the American Army, and all concerned lost no time in putting the scheme into effect.

Thus, on a bright and warm Saturday morning, the 4th October, at Andrews Air Force Base near Washington, a tall khaki-clad figure stepped down the boarding stairway of an aircraft of the Military Air Transport Service.

The C.S.O. of the U.S. Signal Corps, with his aides, some senior officers from the Pentagon, and G.S.O.1 Signals of the British Joint Services Mission, were awaiting him. The reception was warm and quite informal; the reception party, the aircraft and all around were filmed by the SO-in-C and we departed for Washington.

So began three weeks of a very concentrated series of visits, discussions, amusements and instruction. Sleep was at a premium. Needless to say that as often happens on similar occasions, the two chiefs were always ahead of the accompanying staff who galloped with only slightly more dignity than a pack of school boys, in the rear.

As an appetizer, the SO-in-C was shown, that very afternoon, the Engineer Corps, atomic reactor power plant. This has, as yet, no Signals significance but is a first step to a mobile atomic power plant.

A little sight-seeing around Washington, in lovely weather, followed on the Sunday and then on Monday, the whole party—the two chiefs and their entourage—embarked by air for Arizona where visits started in earnest.

What is so pleasant on these occasions is the order of travel. We climbed into a V.I.P.s aircraft of M.A.T.S. in which there was lots of room and comfortable seats. The SO-in-C received his briefing on the activities of the Signal Corps whilst en route to the West, interspaced with suitable moments of refreshment.

We moved in two "hops" to Fort Huachuca, arriving after dark but in the glare of floodlights and the blare of a large military band. An impressive and again, a warm welcome.

Fort Huachuca, some 2,300 miles from Washington, is the seat of the Army Electronic Proving Ground of which we have, in Great Britain, no exact counterpart.

The SO-in-C attended the annual U.S. Army Chief Signal Officer's Conference which had been set up for the first time in this important post. The conference was an outstanding event in the subject matter discussed and the precision of organisation. With regard to the latter point, two notable facts are worth recording. The first was the ingenuity of the aids to pictorial presentation which were adopted. We have much to learn in British military circles in this field. The other was the action of the American Chief Signal Officer who pointed out that he had been allotted 10 minutes in which to address and open the conference. He only needed five and requested all following speakers to cut their talk likewise. No little embarrassment was caused because most American "presentations" are read from prepared scripts, but the rapid use of a pencil achieved wonders and the Conference proceeded all the better.

Of what was discussed, nothing can be said here but the recent elevation of a satellite carrying recording and retransmission equipment—you recall the President's Christmas message from space—was not without significance. Whilst in the area of Fort Huachuca the SO-in-C was entertained in a most generous, original and at times, alarming manner. The town of Tombstone, famous for Wyatt Earp, Boothill Cemetery and many "wild west" stories, went out of its way to entertain their guests. We were entertained by the Chamber of Commerce at Tucson, a city which has grown rapidly from a hamlet, only a few decades ago. We were taken by car over the Mexican border where, in a small and not unattractive Mexican town, had dinner in a restaurant housed in old caves in the hillside. The food was typically "hot"; the air sultry, the cactus wine sticky, but the floor show—sadly indifferent.

LEAVING HUACHUCA FOR CHICAGO

Left to Right: Lieutenant General J. D. O'Connell, Colonel R. B. Ridley-Martin, Major General R. J. Moberly, Brigadier General F. W. Moorman, Commanding General, U.S.A.E.P.G., Fort Huachuca.



At a grand dinner in the officers club at Fort Huachuca, the entertainment was provided by a Mexican guitar band. At a suitable moment, an eulogy to the SO-in-C was recited and he was crowned with a Mexican hat fully 3 ft. 6 in. wide and was swathed in a serape.

A final event on the A.E.P.G. was a demonstration of a large number of new equipments under test, highly interesting, some highly unmentionable and one—cable laying from a helicopter, very jolly if one has a helicopter.

Even the dear old horsed cable wagon would have been defeated by the top of the mountain to which that cable was laid.

The next leg of the SO-in-C's tour took us back to Washington but if you consult a map, it is apparent that it is just as easy to return via Chicago as via the southern states. That is the reason we stick to, anyway.

Incidentally, landing at night at the particular aerodrome in the middle of the suburbs of Chicago is both enthralling and nerve racking to the back-seat driver. The blaze of lights, illuminations, advertisements, etc., outshine Piccadilly and the concentration of aircraft, also covered in flashing lights, pouring into a double set of runways, is tremendous.

We stopped overnight in Chicago so that we could attend, the next day at the town of South Bend, the annual football match between the Military Academy of West Point and the University of Notre Dame. This is an old feud but on this occasion produced a very good, clean and exciting game, won by West Point, much to our gratification as we were all in uniform.

A reception followed in the University at which the U.S. Army Chief of Staff, General Maxwell Taylor, and his Deputy General Lemnitzer were present, among a distinguished gathering.

Back in the Washington area, some very serious business was conducted between the two chiefs and the U.S. Signal Corps Staff before the SO-in-C set off again. He was received at Fort Monmouth, New Jersey, by a resplendent honour guard before touring the U.S. School of Signals and the Signal Research and Development Laboratories. It is perhaps unnecessary here to say more than that a large programme of demonstrations was excellently layed on. Many of the demonstrators, when concluding their talk by the routine phrase "any questions," were confronted with some very searching questions from the visitor. It is a slight digression to recount an amusing incident in the tour.

One demonstrator described an infra-red intrusion detection device which had been focussed on a point beside the screen of the theatre we were in. He held his hand in line with the "beam" and the detector duly sounded its alarm, a small buzzer. The next speaker, a little man with a bald head, in describing a slide he had had projected on the screen fidgetted about on the stage. Of course, he was detected, the buzzer sounded. The projectionist moved the next slide on, the little man moved forward again—and so on for about six slides, until the joyous laughter of the audience, not the least audible being the SO-in-C, terminated the pantomime.

Some other HQ and installations were also visited by the SO-in-C in the Eastern States. At each a tremendous effort had been put into welcoming the visitor and showing him all they could.

At every place in the long programme there was always a good deal of two-way discussion. The value, from the Allied standardisation aspect, was immense. Diplomatically, the tour which incidentally included the visit of Mrs. Moberly to Washington was a triumph and sealed very firmly the immediate friendship between Royal Signals and the U.S. Signal Corps.

As a final word, it has been evident, in this account, that the American hospitality was wonderful and those who were privileged to take part in the tour will long remember it. The goodwill that exists between the Corps can perhaps be summed up by recounting that the SO-in-C was invited, at the end of the conference at Fort Huachuca, to address the assembly. He mentioned some of the work being done in the signal world in the U.K., the value of interdependence, the fact that he had an American Lieutenant-Colonel in the Planning Team. He reminded the audience of the immense importance of being prepared, and in fact, of leading scientific thought and development in this signal business, as the U.S. were doing.

He ragged them about their wonderful hospitality mixed with a little hanging episode in Tombstone, a stifling big hat, some curious cactus beverage—but he could take it all.

And when he stopped, the whole conference spontaneously leapt to their feet and gave him a standing ovation that must have echoed for minutes around the hills of Arizona.

It was a very wonderful moment.

THE INDIAN SIGNALS CORPS COMMEMORATIVE CENTRE PIECE

At the Indian Signal Corps Conference of 1932, presided over by Brigadier H. Clementi-Smith, the question of purchase of plate for the headquarters and local Royal Signals officers' messes in India was discussed. At this conference, Lieutenant-Colonel R. V. Montgomery undertook to obtain quotations for "statuette" figures of the various Indian ranks of the Corps. It was considered that the statuettes could be supplied singly or could be suitably grouped to form a centrepiece. This, it was considered, should meet the requirements of both large and small messes. At the 1933 Conference, the details and estimates of the centrepiece were discussed and it was decided to obtain the consensus of opinion of officers in the Corps.

At the same conference, it was decided that a trophy should be offered to the Indian Military Academy from the officers of the Royal Corps of Signals. It was considered that this trophy should come from the Royal Corps of Signals as a whole and not only from the officers then serving in India. It was also the wish of the Conference that the trophy should be used as a prize in perpetuity for some form of military competition in the Indian Military Academy in which team spirit was essential. The Signal Officer-in-Chief was to take up the question in the first instance with the Commandant, Indian Military Acamedy and, after ascertaining his views, with the Royal Signals Committee in England. The minutes of subsequent conferences are not to be found, but it would appear that the matter was proceeded with expeditiously.

The trophy, which consisted of the figure of Mercury surmounting four figures representing the four classes of Indians recruited by the Indian Signal Corps, was executed by Messrs. Barton, Son & Co. of Bangalore, and presented by the officers of the Royal Corps of Signals to the Cadets of the Indian Military Academy in 1934, the year in which the Indian Signal Corps expected its first officers from that institution. It was intended to make the trophy a perpetual trophy for Inter-Team Boxing in compliment to the many successes of the Royal Signals in this form of sport. The officers of the Royal Corps of Signals in England contributed towards this trophy, in addition to those in India.

The models for the four figures surrounding the Jimmy were: Havildar Major Puran Singh (Sikh), Jemadar Sita Ram (Dogra Hindu), Subedar Venkateswarlu (Mixed Madrassi) and Signalman Jan Mohammad (Punjabi Mussalman). (The information regarding these names was given by the first named model, Puran Singh, who recently retired from the Corps as a commissioned officer, having held the rank of major for several years). Although the date of presentation shown on the trophy itself is 1933, the formal presentation by Brigadier C. J. S. Le Cornu, the Signal Officer-in-Chief, was performed in 1934.

After the presentation of this trophy, similar trophies were purchased as centrepieces for the Royal Signals Officers Messes at Signal Training Centre (I), Jubbulpore, and at Rawalpindi.

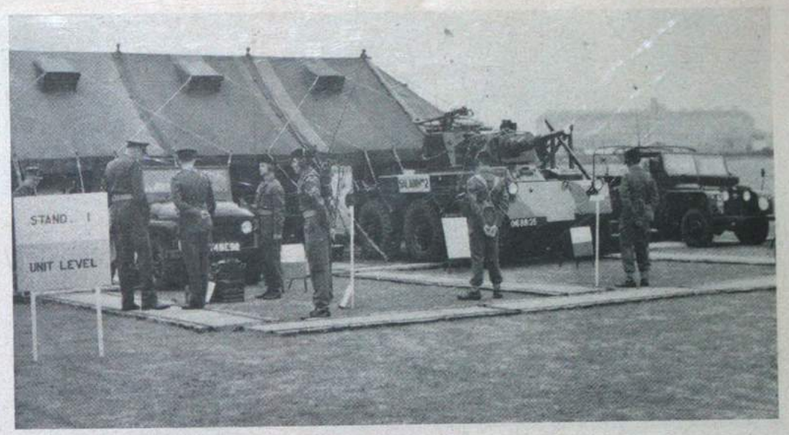
After the partition of India, the centerpiece from the mess at Rawalpindi was transferred to England. The trophy at the Indian Military Academy is still at Dehra Dun, and that at the Signal Training Centre, Jubbulpore, is a cherished possession of that mess and of the Corps of Signals in India.

The statuette of the Madrassi Signalman (see "The Wire" August 1958, Page 233) presented to the officers of Waziristan District Signals by the officers of that unit in 1936 to commemorate the Silver Jubilee of the raising of 34 Divisional Signal Company, the predecessor of that unit, is a copy of the corresponding statuette on the larger centrepiece.

SIGNAL OFFICER-IN-CHIEF'S BIENNIAL CONFERENCE

Demonstration of Signal Equipment at Middle Wallop

By NACERBY



The Unit Level Stand.

We've all of us at some time or another had that feeling that the "hot inspiration of today will be the cold perspiration of tomorrow," and particularly where inspections and demonstrations are concerned have we had a cold feeling that despite intensive, slogging effort "something" would go awry on the day.

But not where 90 Signal Regiment are concerned! Oh, no.

One has come to expect "that little extra" for many reasons—the quiet effective control by the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel A. R. Marshall, the infectious enthusiasm of the Demonstration Troop Commander, Major L. H. Dutton, and above all a team spirit imbued with keenness, pride and personal achievement.

Extravagant praise? Not in the slightest and the Chief Signal Officers and other Corps representatives of the Signal Officer-in-Chiefs Biennial Conference will certainly bear witness to that.

The demonstration itself at Middle Wallop on 26th May depicted the new range of communications equipment and vehicle installations at Unit, Brigade, Division and areas rear of Division levels, with two displays by the Signals Research and Development Establishment showing Development trends in both radio and line.



(*Left to right*) Brigadier C. H. Stoneley, O.B.E., Major-General R. J. Moberly, C.B., O.B.E., Stand Conducting Officer, Major-General K. C. O. Bastyan, C.B., C.B.E.

The equipment live and working "as in the field," were displayed and demonstrated in the appropriate vehicles and in marquees at the various communication levels, culminating in the airlift of a radio-relay terminal by helicopter and message and stores drop by light aircraft (piloted by a Royal Signals officer).

But I think that the greatest impact, evidenced by the professional interest and probing questions of the visitors, was the realisation that the long arduous years of planning and development of equipments for the Corps was at last coming to fruition.

The Signal Officer-in-Chief (Major-General R. J. Moberly, C.B., O.B.E.) welcomed the visitors in a speech of "Signal" importance with particular emphasis on interim and future planning and requirements, and as he passed from stand to stand conversing with his visitors, his "happy equipment" expression and obvious pleasure of the whole demonstration hallmarked another tremendous day for the Corps in general and 90 Signal Regiment in particular.

Among the distinguished visitors were Mr. J. Biggs-Davison, M.P., and Mr. Henry Hynd, M.P., together with the Canadian Director of Signals (Colonel J. B. Clement, C.D.); the Rhodesian Director of Signals (Lieutenant-Colonel D. H. Grainger); representatives from the Australian and New Zealand Signals; the Director (Mr. H. Forshaw, C.B.E.) and Superintendents S.R.D.E.; and representatives from the Treasury. A memorable day indeed—and certainly one of pride for 90 Signal Regiment.

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CROSSES

Richmond for Beauty — Cherry's for Quality



Lieutenant Colonel A. R. Marshall pointing out an installation to the Secretary of State for War. In attendance the Signal Officer-in-Chief.

Secretary of State for War Visits Middle Wallop

It was particularly fitting that 90 Signal Regiment and the demonstration layout should be honoured on 1st June with a visit from the Secretary of State for War (Mr. Christopher Soames, M.P.).

Accompanied by the Signal Officer-in-Chief and Colonel R. G. Miller, the distinguished visitor evinced keen interest at all equipment levels with his personal delving questions and attention to detail, and expressed his intense pleasure at seeing such a comprehensive display of communications equipment, and the high standard set by all demonstrating personnel.

In the afternoon the Secretary of State visited the Army Air Corps Centre and included in his helicopter inspection a panoramic view of the demonstration area.

(The photographs are by kind permission of the Director, S.R.D.E.).

R.S.M.'s OF THE CORPS

555452 R.S.M. L. C. BROADHEAD

He started his career in Catterick in 1938, where he was trained as an Operator, Signals. In 1939, exactly one year later, he was posted to Peshawar, in the North West Frontier Province of India, where, in 1940, he obtained his first stripe. A competent horseman before joining the Corps, he was one of the very few O.Rs privileged to hunt for two years with the renowned Peshawar Vale Hunt. His great fondness for horses did not prevent him from attending a Driving and Maintenance Course at the Armoured Fighting Vehicles School at Ahmednagar in 1941 and gaining an "Above Average" pass.

Early in 1943 he was posted to Calcutta, and there was given the unusual task to train the first W.A.C.(I) as wireless operators. Out of a class of 27, no less than 25 qualified as BIII Wireless Operators and took their places as operators on the Air Raid Defence links of India. From Calcutta he was posted to Assam and spent nearly two years is Assam and Burma. He was repatriated to the U.K. late in 1944, having by then attained the rank of Staff Sergeant.

After a short spell in England, early 1945 saw him drafted to Europe, where he served in Belgium, France and Germany, during which time he was promoted Warrant Officer Class II. Late 1948 he returned to the U.K., but after only five months at home was posted to Hong Kong in 1949, and remained there for a year, when he was repatriated once more.

For the next five years he stayed in England, except for a short period of six months in France. During his spell in England, in 1955, he attended a Guards' Drill Course and



gained distinction by obtaining a "B" pass. In February, 1956, he was promoted to his present rank and posted to B.A.O.R.

As a young soldier he was very keen on hockey, rugby and horsemanship, and always excelled at rifle shooting.

He is married with two sons, and is at present stationed in Birmingham as R.S.M. of 1/20 (SM) Army Signal Regiment (T.A.).



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HOW TO JOIN THE SPECIAL AIR SERVICE REGIMENT SIGNAL TROOP

The amount known about this Regiment is indicated by the remarks passed to the recruiting team as they went from regiment to regiment of the Training Brigade during June.

"Can we really transfer to the R.A.F.?"
"Are you a battalion of the Paras?"
"How many hours have you in?"

It is to be hoped that their visit, combined with the article which the Editor of THE WIRE kindly allowed us space for last month, have cleared up most of the misunderstandings. We are most definitely an Army unit, comprised, not only of Regulars, but also, we hope, professional soldiers.

The purpose of this article, therefore, is to give the would-be aspirant some idea of how to join and what is expected of him during his selection course and after. The basic requirement is that demanded of any S.A.S. soldier, and I quote from the leading article of *The Soldier*, speaking of our recent campaign in the Oman.

"Success was due . . . to the fighting spirit, tenacity, superb physical fitness and intelligence of the men of the Special Air Service Regiment." For the Royal Signals applicant who wishes for an operational job there is also the necessity for him to be a first class tradesman.

If, therefore, having seen the requirements of this unit, and being interested by the idea of service with a regiment of this calibre, you, the reader, wish to join, here is how to set about doing so.

You should preferably be over 22 and a Class II tradesman, though neither are essentials. Your pulheems grading must be FE and you must be prepared to parachute.

The next move is to fill in Appendix 'A' to A.C.I. 241 of 1955, which any unit Orderly Room can supply. The A.C.I. gives details of service and the Appendix is the actual request for service with the S.A.S.

After submitting your application you will be called forward to undergo a period of selection and, if successful in that, training at Brecon at the S.A.S. Depot. The training will include simulated operations as well as all the necessary knowledge in S.A.S. techniques.

By this time many will have fallen out, but if successful, after about six weeks, you will emerge an accepted S.A.S. soldier and pass on to do a para course, after which you join the Regiment proper.

Exactly what is entailed in the selection course it is hoped to reveal in an article by one who went through it recently in next month's WIRE.

*

Precis of Unit Notes

UNITED KINGDOM

School of Signals

Quicksilver X reported on page 194 did not prevent normal instruction to Courses and extra mural activity continuing as usual. The Annual Rifle Meeting and the Athletics Trial were held in May.

1st Training Regiment

The Northumbrian District Athletics Team Championship was recovered from the 11th Hussars, but alas we lost to this Regiment the Northern Command Team Championship. 3 Squadron won the Inter-Squadron Competition in the Regimental Rifle Meeting and the Regiment retained the Royal Signals Cup at Bisley; Sergeant Morrell and Corporal Dean were members of the Corps Team. The Badminton Team retained the District Championship and added the District Challenge Cup to the Regiment's collection of Trophies.

2nd Training Regiment

Winners of the Team Championship at the Northumbrian District Rifle Meeting; Signalman Waxman won the Young Soldiers' Cup and was second in the Individual Championship. Corporal Balch being the best shot amongst the Corporals. The Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess moved into the "Mons NAAFI building" newly decorated for their arrival. Signalman Bell has competed in the Western Command 50 Miles Time Trial Cycling Championship.

4th Training Regiment

Have been engaged in a Fete successfully raising funds for St. Oswald's Church and other organisations. Also a team took part in a recruiting exhibition in Manchester. The Regimental Cycling Team—Corporal Stone, Lance-Corporal Weeks and Signalman Hastings won the Northern Command 25 Miles Road Race; Lance-Corporal Weeks being second in the individual placings. In the Army 100 Mile Road Time Trial the team was third and Lance-Corporal Weeks was fourth in the individual placing. Corporal Slater was a member of the Royal Signals Team in the "Daily Mail" London to Paris race.

Signal Training Wing W.R.A.C.

The Wing has been visited by the Director W.R.A.C. and some members of the Wing have expressed a desire to be transferred to Steeple Bumpstead Signal Squadron.

3 Divisional Signal Regiment welcomes Lieutenant-Colonel J. D. T. Brett to command. After a successful Administrative Inspection the Regiment moved into Camp on Dartmoor for Troop, Squadron and Regimental training.



Scottish Command (M) Signal Squadron provided the P.A. System for the presentation of New Colours to The Royal Highland Fusiliers. The W.R.A.C. Wing took part in a parade service in Glasgow Cathedral, followed by a March Past to celebrate the 10th birthday of the W.R.A.C. Signalman Dalton was Despatch Rider for the Lord High Commissioner of Scotland during his residence at Holyrood Castle. Corporal R. Slater, Army Association Football Team, has finished his National Service.

These pictures were printed before the strike. — Editor.



W.R.A.C. 10th Anniversary — Signal Squadrons, Regular and Territorial Army

Northern Command Signal Squadron is in the throes of reorganisation and in September becomes a "Mixed" Signal Squadron being augmented by 39 (All Ranks) W.R.A.C.

Eastern Command Signal Squadron has been taking part in combined exhibitions of all Arms to stimulate recruiting at Ramsgate, Wisbech and elsewhere. An article on this subject by Second-Lieutenant J. Winter is reserved for a future number of THE WIRE. At Wisbech the first soldier of any arm of the Service to gain two Regular Army recruits was a National Service Signalman.

16 Parachute Brigade Signal Squadron has been engaged in exercises in Norfolk and Cornwall, giving demonstrations to the Staff College and for H.M. King Hussein of Jordan, and a volunteer detachment have been giving very arduous assistance in tests of survival sustained only by the new "combat" ration.

22 Special Air Service Regiment Signal Troop

Individuals have been exercising with the Territorial Army but as from 8th June the entire Unit reassembled for schemes, weapon training, canoeing, driving, parachuting, etc. As the report says "we appear to be in for an interesting time" (and *perhaps* a little Signal Training.—Ed.).

Apprentices and Junior Leaders

Junior Leaders Regiment

The visit of the Colonel-in-Chief is reported on page 192. The "Junior Mercury," Volume 1, No. 2 has been received. It is an excellent publication and draws attention to a well worthwhile scheme wherein the ten Troops of the Regiment are each adopted by one of the Regular Regiments of the Corps.

All Arms Junior Leaders Regiment

Within "C" Company (Royal Artillery and Royal Signals) "Tunisia" Troop (of 45 Junior Signalmen) under Second-Lieutenant Wilkins and Sergeant Eldridge have already made their mark. Second-Lieutenant G. Mitchell accepted a Troop, at present unnamed from the second intake on 22nd June.

Signals Wing Army Apprentices School, Harrogate, provided a number of performers for a film "Apprenticed to Adventure." The Wing instructors had some success in the Northern Command Rifle Meeting. The Harrogate Branch of the Association which embraces many of the Staff of the Wing, successfully entertained a contingent from York and Hull Branches of the Association.

STEEPLE BUMPSTEAD SIGNAL SQUADRON

It has been announced that a numbering scheme is to be introduced for all Regiments and independent Squadrons or Troops. A special application has been submitted for this Squadron to retain its present title and thus maintain the singularly local connections which previous O.C.s have striven to build. A further justification is that it is most unlikely that we should ever be called upon to fulfill a role which differs from our present one.

This month's entertainment (other than the Saturday morning Drill Parades) included a Military Brains Trust. The panel consisted of members of the Staff from District Headquarters. Captain Milligan, our erudite 2 i/c, was in the chair. Unfortunately, there was only time for one spontaneous question and this came from Driver Phillips. He asked, "does the panel agree that the money spent on administering the W.D. Hiring Scheme greatly exceeds that required to build sufficient quarters"? After much discussion the Panel agreed with Driver Phillips and also put forward a secondary recommendation that "where sufficient capital outlay could not be authorised to build quarters, then families should be given a rental allowance and told to fend for themselves" (which is what they have to do anyway).

It was good to read about the successes of 1 Corps Signal Regiment in the sphere of Amateur Radio. Unfortunately, our WS18 will not receive 14 Mcs, so we cannot give them a QSO (whatever that means). However, fired with enthusiasm, the Foreman has found his Course Notes and is busily constructing a Spark Transmitter. It has meant disconnecting the generator from the Village Hall, but it has been agreed that we shall not interfere with the standing arrangements for Tuesdays (W.I.) and Thursdays (Bingo).

Out latest arrival, when interviewed by the Officer Commanding, stated that his parents were in the iron and steel industry. Asked for further details, he would only say that mother did the ironing whilst father did the stealing.

Comcan

U.K. Comcan Signal Regiment

Colonel J. B. Clement, C.D. Director of Signals, Canadian Army, and the Signal Officer-in-Chief visited some of the Squadrons, and No. 1 Squadron was successful in the Royal Signals Southern Command Rifle Meeting. Staff Sergeant White has been awarded the British Empire Medal, and Signalman Gartshore is competing in Southern Command and Army Tennis Championships.

Comcan Signal Squadron, Nairobi, mention with appreciation a scheme run by the East Africa Women's League, whereby men of the Squadron can spend a leave on a farm as one of the family. The Squadron has entertained the East Africa Branch of the Association to a games tournament. The Squadron's Safari Truck is being well used. Association Football is played in the summer; Signalmen Gorton and Walker played for the Football Association of Kenya, and with Signalmen Hazard and Cooke played for the Army (E.A.) XI. Members of the East Africa Branch of the Institute of Electrical Engineers were entertained on 19th June and exchanged greetings with members of the I.E.E. who were conferring at the School of Signals.

EUROPE

1 Corps Signal Regiment

The Cricket season has started with satisfactory prospect, having beaten The Royal Hampshire Regiment and Headquarters 1 (Br) Corps. No. 3 Squadron won the Inter-Squadron Athletics meeting and the Regiment finished sixth in the B.A.O.R. Major Units Athletic Championship.

5th Divisional Signal Regiment entered two boats for the Royal Signals Baltic Passage Race and "Korsar," skippered by Major Bardell, won the race. The Regimental Motorcycle Trials Team—Staff Sergeant Rowthorne, Corporal Rennie and Signalman Murfin were third in the Divisional Trials. The Cricket team shows promise.

4th Guards Brigade Group Signal Squadron

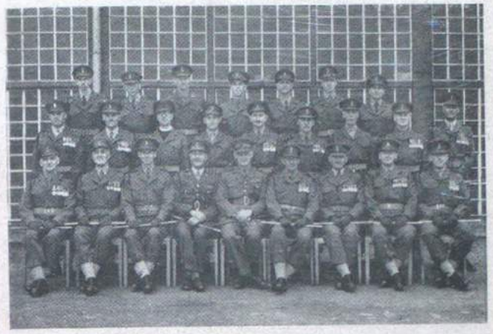
Major Woodrow has assumed command and the Squadron provided detachments in a display of equipment to the Secretary of State for War by 2 Grenadier Guards. The Squadron won the Brigade minor units Cross Country Championship.

2 L. of C. Signal Regiment

The Unit "Africanders Club" ex-members 8th Army, were entertained by the Krefeld Branch of the Afrika Corps Veterans Organisation. The Regimental team has done well in the B.A.O.R. Rifle Meeting. Captain G. A S. Excell won the Officers' Rifle Match and in the Individual Championship was runner-up to Captain Carr, 1 Wireless Regiment; two members of the Corps beating all comers in B.A.O.R.

12 Air Formation Signal Regiment held a successful Regimental Athletics meeting and is engaged in the Royal Signals Athletics meeting and the Nijmegen Marches. The Administrative Inspection was carried out by Colonel D. E. Harrison, O.B.E.

SHAPE Signal Squadron won the Cross Country Race open to British Support Units. 1 Wireless Regiment's Hockey team visited the Squadron and played games against the SHAPE international team and a team from ALFCE. Corporal Astell, Drivers Reynolds and Whitehead won their fights in an Inter-Unit Boxing competition and the two latter represented SHAPE against ALFCE.



Lieutenant-Colonel W. C. Burke and the Officers of 2 L of C Signal Regiment with the Inspecting Officer on the occasion of the Annual Inspection 1959

Rear : Second Lieutenant A. W. D. Petley, Second Lieutenant G. H. Gandy, Lieutenant R. Ping, Lieutenant W. Simpson, Second Lieutenant J. C. Riddiough, Second Lieutenant H. N. Edwards, Second Lieutenant J. A. Eastgate

Middle : Captain D. Nunn, Captain (Q.M.) C. C. Cross, M.B.E., Rev. A. J. H. Francis, Captain M. J. H. Williams, Captain J. C. Baker, Captain R. C. Bryson, Captain C. H. K. Houghton, Captain (T.O.T.) E. Thompson, Captain (Tfc) J. O. Tompkins

Front : Captain (Tfc) J. Hastings, Major A. G. Smith, Captain G. A. S. Exell, Lieutenant-Colonel W. C. Burke, Brigadier J. L. Brind, D.S.O., Major J. L. Waller, Major B. E. Tebbs, Major J. A. Waites, Lieutenant (Q.M.) J. Hopkins

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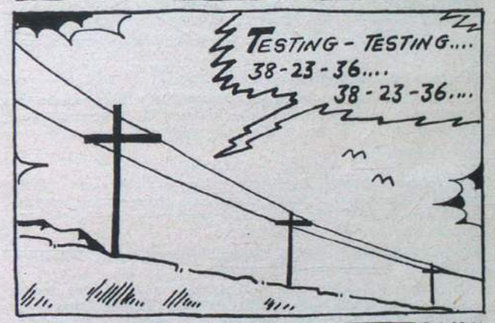
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6′ x 3′	@ 48/6	4′ 6″ x 2′ 3″	@ 22/6
4′ x 3′	@ 42/6	8′ x 4′	@ 55/6
4′ x 2′	@ 38/6		
3′ x 2′	@ 35/6		
2′ x 18″	@ 27/–	PLUS POSTAGE	

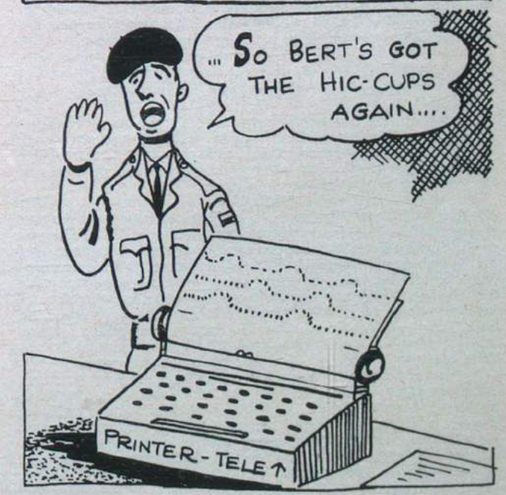
Accounts are sent direct to the Unit from the makers if the Unit is situated in the United Kingdom.

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.









[Photo: Courtesy Army P.R.

Major D. Baynham, G.M. and Staff Sergeant J. Wright both of Cyprus Signal Regiment are members of the British Team competing in the World Spearfishing Competition off Malta.

Middle East and Africa

Cyprus Signal Regiment

Communication requirements continue very high despite the departure of many units from the island. An Athletic meeting has been held and parties are being organised by the Wives' Club.

Tripolitania Signal Squadron writes of "the new Signal Centre, a dream palace" and of the help given by the Installation Troop from COMCAN, Malta, and by a line party from Cyprus who helped to establish it.

24 Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron

In May, 1958, they went to Kenya—as a permanent station—but within a week of arrival went to Bahrain, thence in November back to Kenya, and the L.S. and G.C. Medal for Lieutenant (Traffic Officer) Macleod. They invite applications to join the Signal Squadron serving a crack formation.

OFFICERS' WIDOWS' PENSIONS

It may not be generally known that The Officers' Pensions Society, 171, Victoria Street, London, S.W.1, does much work on behalf of the widows of retired Officers whom they consider to be amongst the hardest hit and most neglected members of the community in this age of inflation.

It is realised that many Officers' widows have no idea of their eligibility for a pension, nor do they know how to set about making a claim for one when their husbands die. The Council of the Society decided some time ago that when a member died his widow should immediately be offered a year's free membership and all assistance she might need in making application for her pension. When a member's death is reported, therefore, a letter is sent to his widow at once, offering the sympathy of the Society in her loss and explaining exactly how and to whom she should make application for her pension according to the branch of the Service in which her husband had served.

Although, on the Society's representations, widows' pensions were practically doubled in 1953 and the Means Test was then abolished, they are still pitifully small, and many widows without other means cannot hope even to exist on their pensions alone without finding some other form of employment. This, of course, is extremely difficult for an elderly lady who has led a comparatively sheltered life and had no training for earning her own living.

The Ceremony of the Keys Gibraltar

This ceremony dates back to the Great Siege of Gibraltar (1779-1783) when the Spaniards were desperately trying to recover Gibraltar from us.

The Defender of the Fortress, Sir George Elliott, inaugurated it with a view to lessening the risk of the Fortress being captured.

He ordered that the three main Gates, Ragged Staff, Waterport and Landport, should be locked half an hour after the evening time gun fired at retreat from the Signal Station. All aliens had to be out of the Fortress by then and the gates remained locked until morning time gun.

Every night Sir George Elliott took charge of the keys which he wore on his sword belt.

A Sergeant known as the Port Sergeant was appointed and he received the keys from the Governor each night. Escorted by an armed Guard he made the round of the Fortress, locking each gate in turn then he handed back the keys to the Governor.

As a warning to non-residents that the Gates were being closed the drums or other music of the Regiment on duty accompanied the Sergeant on his rounds.

The custom fell into abeyance later but the keys remained in the Governor's possession and were always in evidence on ceremonial occasions.

The ceremony was revived in 1933 and when, later, it became necessary to send out an outpost Company to protect the Fortress on North Front frontier, it was revived. At Retreat, a platoon of the Outpost Company now parades on Casemates Square, and marches out to its battle position before the Fortress is closed.

The ceremony may be briefly explained as follows.

The Port Sergeant, the Band and an Escort of one N.C.O. and three men from the Unit performing the Ceremony, Parade at the Alameda (about the centre of the Colony) 35 minutes before Retreat.

Immediately before moving off to the Governor's residence (known as The Convent), "Half-hour Dress" is sounded, representing the old Time Gun.

As the Port Sergeant and Escort pass The Convent on their way to Casemates via Main Street and Linewall Road, The Convent Guard turns out and presents Arms.

Before the arrival at Casemates Square, a sentry is posted at Waterport Gate.

A platoon of the outpost company (found from the unit performing the Ceremony), parades with fixed bayonets 30 minutes before Retreat on Casemates Square. The platoon comes to attention as the Port Sergeant and Escort enter Casemates Square. The Band, Escort and Port Sergeant take up their positions on the parade ground. His Excellency the Governor and Commander-in-Chief arrives carrying the keys, takes up his position on the dais and a Royal Salute is given. The Port



W.O. II Wilde, Royal Signals receiving The Keys from Brigadier J. F. Snow, C.B.E., Deputy Fortress Commander, who Deputised for His Excellency the Governor on this occasion.



W.O. II Wilde, Royal Signals, and Escort marching off to the Convent after the ceremony. Interesting note the escort is comprised of Royal Engineers.

Sergeant then marches forward and receives the keys from the Governor and rejoins his Escort. The band now marches and counter-marches in slow and quick time in front of the outpost platoon. Retreat is sounded by the band and bugles and is timed to begin as the evening six o'clock gun is fired.

The Outpost Platoon followed by the keys and Escort march off through Waterport gate. The keys and Escort are halted and challenged by the Sentry at the Gates, as follows:

Sentry: "*Halt—who comes there.*"
Port Sergeant: "*The Keys.*"
Sentry: "*Whose keys?*"
Port Sergeant: "*Queen Elizabeth's Keys.*"
Sentry: "*Advance Queen Elizabeth's keys all's well.*"

The Port Sergeant locks the gates and faces the Escort, a Royal Salute is given.

The Port Sergeant says "*God preserve Queen Elizabeth*" the Escort replying "*Amen.*"

Finally, the Port Sergeant and Escort fall in at the rear of the Band, and march off past the Saluting base. They return to The Convent via Main Street where the Port Sergeant hands over the keys to His Excellency The Governor for safe keeping.

His Excellency nowadays comes out of the Convent to receive the keys, whereas in the old days the Port Sergeant, after completing his tour of the Fortress took the keys into Convent and handed them to H.E. at the dinner table. This part of the Ceremony still exists but in a slightly different form in that whenever His Excellency gives an official dinner in the Convent, the keys are brought into the dining room by the Port Sergeant.

When the Guests are all assembled and His Excellency has taken up his position at the centre of the dinner table the Port Sergeant carrying the keys on a velvet cushion and led by a drummer marches in and hands over the keys to His Excellency saying:

"*Sir, the Fortress is secure and all's well.*"

The keys used today are the original set of three from the days of Sir George Elliott.

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GIBRALTAR SIGNAL SQUADRON

The dread sword of Damoclas has at long last fallen on our poor old Squadron, in the guise of *Civilianisation.* Soldiers are being posted to the four corners of the earth, and Civilians are creeping in to take their places. Soon we will be down to nine military, four W.R.A.C. and an army of Gibraltarians and Spaniards. It is a sad day to see this tough little Squardon broken up when it has upheld the name of Royal Signals on the Rock with such distinction in all aspects of Service life. In sport we have always had to compete against units many times our size and have always given our opponents a jolly good run for their money and many times beaten them particularly in Hockey, Cricket and Rowing. One of our greatest sporting successes was our most recent and our final appearance in the arena, when we won the Minor Units Hockey Knock-out competition. Our fight to the top was stiffly contested. We met the R.A.S.C. in the final and beat them 2—1 after extra time. The credit for this whole success must go mainly to the first class leadership and play of W.O. II (Taffy) Lloyd who trained the team from scratch and ground them into the pitch if they didn't carry out his instructions.

On 23 May the Squadron had a wedding—gave a wedding—got married—no they all seem wrong! Any way there was a wedding in the Squadron which was very much a unit affair, as it was between Lance-Corporal Victor Sparrey and Private Marjorie Cave, W.R.A.C., both of this parish—I mean—Squadron.

They were married at Kings Chapel and had the reception in the Squadron Canteen where a good time was had by all. Only one man ended up in the guardroom for having too good a time.

TRUCIAL OMAN SCOUTS

It is now over six months since we submitted notes for the Wire but the Signal Squadron Editorial Committee has at last been flogged into activity.

After our last notes appeared we received a number of letters from readers and an application to join the Scouts from an N.C.O. in Steeple Bumstead Signal Squadron. Unfortunately we had to turn down the application—we have no establishment for a "Despatch Rider, also trained in tea making."

One letter from a reader in Nottingham asked (having seen our photograph of a primus stove in action) if we had heard of a Benghazi Burner. We have—but the petrol evaporates too quickly in this climate for it to be of any use.

We now possess a 3-ton Bedford FFW. Originally we called it a Command Vehicle but found that there was no room for the staff so we've changed the name and moved the staff elsewhere. In addition to fitting this out to our own, somewhat unusual, design, we have also recently mounted sets on dhows, donkeys and camels. The only casualty so far has been caused by a donkey rolling on to the set it was carrying.

A new course has just started at our Training Wing with 15 boys and five men. They are, at present, learning the alphabet and the morse code simultaneously and as they learn them parrot fashion the monotonous chant of "Alpha-Dit Dah. Bravo—Dah Dit Dit Dit" echoes round the Training Wing all morning. Some of the boys (ages from about nine) are so small they find it difficult to reach the tables.

The weather is getting warmer (maximum shade temperature so far this summer is 113°) and we have organised several moonlight barbecues on the sea shore for British ranks in the Squadron. Corporal Caple, as chief organiser, produces steaks, hot dogs, baked potatoes and, of course, cold beer. Swimming between courses is optional.

FARELF

Royal Signals, Singapore

Royal Signals, Singapore Administrative Regiment. Apart from necessary work the main activities have been Regimental Sports in May and Corps Week in June. The latter included a very extensive fete reported elsewhere. Other Corps Week events were marred by rain.

COMCAN Signal Squadron reports the Fete q.v. and a boat trip to some of the islands round Singapore.

Operating Squadron mentions the Sports meeting that was part of Corps Week, and the departure of Captain and Mrs. Bainbridge.

Signal Training Centre (F.E.) write of departures to U.K., and the Fete.

Field Squadron (F.E.) have been engaged in a SEATO Exercise as well as in all the activities of Corps Week.

Line Squadron Royal Signals invited 250 boys from local Youth Clubs to picnic at Pasir Ris and provided the winners of several races and field events at athletic meetings.

Hong Kong

Hong Kong Signal Regiment write from Murray Barracks, named after the Quarter-Master-General to the Forces 1846, and send excellent photographs of the area of the barracks, unfortunately it is not possible to publish them.

48 Gurkha Infantry Brigade Group Signal Squadron note various changes amongst their Officers and the necessity for physical fitness when accompanying a mule carrying a wireless set.

Malaya

The report consists mainly of a chronicle of achievement in sport and a detail of the deployment of OCLF Signal Squadron.

28 Comwel Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron and North Malaya Signal Troop report the opening of a swimming pool at Taping and of a Corporals' Club. It chronicles the work of the line detachment under command of Lieutenant Roberts, Royal Australian Signals.



Captain (Q.G.O.) Birkhabahadier Gurung says Good-bye to Major A. Rawson.

Royal Signals Fete Corps Week, 1959

The Royal Signals fete which was organised by the Royal Signals Singapore Administrative Regiment, was held on Saturday, 20th June, 1959. It is felt, however, that these cannot reflect the very great and wide effort which was put into this most successful undertaking.

"To be or not to be" — "Will it rain or won't it?" These questions were on the lips of all, especially the Second-in-Command, Major R. S. Campbell, for whom this was his first Singapore Corps Week. After hearing protestations by R.S.M. MacMorran and others to the effect that last year the Sports Field was ankle deep in water right up to 10 o'clock on the day of the fete, Major Campbell was heard to mutter: "Well, I hope you're right."

One "Mem" busily making cakes in her Kenwood suddenly smelt the most peculiar "Chinesy" smell coming from her back door. On investigation she found her amah lighting joss sticks so that "plenty lain no come tomollow for mem's party."

Whether it was the R.S.M.'s prayers or Ah Fong's joss sticks we don't know, possibly both, but June 20th dawned with a rather watery sky which proceeded to clear as the day wore on, and by lunch time Meiktila Sports Ground had every appearance of the village fair.

Promptly at 2 o'clock Mrs. Lewis, wife of our C.S.O., Brigadier C. L. Lewis, O.B.E., arrived and cut the tape, at the same time declaring the fete well and truly opened.

Judging by the rush to the Jumble Stall, the Malays had been saving up for this day for weeks, and Mrs. Lambert and her helpers were inundated with customers.

The tea tent proved to be a popular resting place and the smile on Mrs. Stewart's face got broader as the amount of money taken exceeded last year.

The potted plants and fruit and vegetables were made all the more attractive by the baskets made by Mrs. North, wife of Colonel J. P. North, C.B.E., with the result that the fruit was sold in a flash.

Mrs. Purdon was once again in charge of the handkerchief stall, and in spite of her idea "that handkerchief stalls had outlived their usefulness" her artistic arrangements resulted in yet again a higher profit than last year.

Lack of space forbids mention of many names, but a great effort has been put in by the wives of the Regiment and those attached to the Regiment in Singapore, their efforts being co-ordinated by Mrs. Blower, wife of the Commanding Officer.

We say "Thank you ladies for all you did," also for the $100 donation from the Wives' Club.

Captain Ronnie White, our M.T.O., made an excellent Stationmaster, Northville Station, Blower Halt and the Lewis Tunnel were a never-failing attraction to the youngsters.

The Wheel of Fortune, by the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess; Roll-a-Coin, by S.T.C.; Find the Bottles, Comcan Squadron; Tin Shys, Operator Squadron; Lucky Zoo, Line Squadron, and Escalado—all added to the fun of the fair.

For those who felt like eating an Indian Curry in the middle of the afternoon, Jewalla Coffee ran an Indian Food Stall (for those who remember Jewalla, he claims to have been with Royal Signals for 50 years as a bearer).

To finish off the afternoon our Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel A. J. Blower, changed his profession and became "Auctioneer of the Day." Judging by the fantastic amounts he got for various unsold cakes, we now know where to go if we want to sell anything.

The raffle, for which there were some 94 prizes, was a great source of income, and our thanks are due to the help given by other Signal Units throughout the Command.

At the end of the day we all went home, tired but happy in the knowledge that the fete had been a success and that Royal Signals Corps Week was well and truly launched.

All things considered—it is not surprising that we can send at least the same as last year's £350 to the Corps Benevolent Fund. (£360—*and very many thanks.—Ed.*).

The following are specially mentioned:

Tea Tent	$276.00
Jumble	$270.00
Potted Plants	$113.00
Handkerchiefs	$157.00
Children's Train	$150.00
Wheel of Fortune	$248.00

Our thanks are due to the following units outside the jurisdiction of the Regiment for their great assistance to our raffle (which, unfortunately, is subject to local entertainment tax at 10%).

17 Gurkha Divisional Signal Regiment	$77.00
Signal Training Squadron, Brigade of Gurkhas	$20.00
99 Gurkha Brigade Signal Troop	$13.00
19 Air Formation Signal Regiment	$150.00
48 Gurkha Brigade Signal Squadron	$30.00
28 Comwel Brigade Group Signal Squadron	$30.00
13 Signal Park Squadron	$31.00
Singapore Military Forces	$30.00
Federation Army Signals	$52.00

THE MIDDLESEX YEOMANRY SIGNAL REGIMENT (T.A.)

(The Duke of Cambridge Hussars)

R.H.Q. The retirement on 30th April of the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel J. J. Collins, M.C., T.D., was indeed a loss to the Regiment, after a happy and successful tour of duty. Colonel Collins is now an active member of the Old Comrades' Association.

On 1st May Lieutenant-Colonel S. R. Beazley assumed command of the Regiment and all ranks extend congratulations to Colonel Beazley and wish him a successful tour of duty.

The Permanent Staff, at the Eastern Command Royal Signals Shoot, on 3rd June, obtained second place, and members of the team have been selected to shoot at Bisley.

No. 1 Squadron, comprising H.Q. 27 Engineer Group Signal Troop, 134 Corps Engineer Regiment Signal Troop, 114 Army Engineer Signal Troop, 121 Army Engineer Signal Troop, Westminster Dragoons Signal Troop and 32 Guards Brigade Signal Squadron, is experiencing an extensive period of training. The Squadron, under the command of Major A. R. Birch, is really keen and eager. An energetic Squadron Commander, with an equally energetic and enterprising S.S.M. (S.S.M. J. C. Clark), organise week-end training, such as a recent exercise, "Get Through," when Signal Troops were situated at Ipswich, Dover, Southend and London. Contact was established and maintained over two days, during which period much useful information was gained.

The Westminster Dragoons Signal Troop, under S.Q.M.S. C. Evans, have just completed their annual camp at Lulworth, Dorset.

No. 3 Squadron (44 Independent Parachute Brigade Signal Squadron) is having a successful spring and summer. Under the command of Major L. C. Udell, M.B.E., the Squadron has undertaken tasks all over the country, and has been deployed in such divergent locations as the Scottish Lowlands and Stonehenge.

Recruits continue to join the Squadron and are now posing problems of training from scratch, as four out of five have no previous military service. Their enthusiasm and intelligence is refreshing, and with such activities as participation in the Brigade entry for the London-Paris *Daily Mail* Air Race, it is not surprising that they are keen to become trained parachutists and tradesmen.

Parachute Battalion air drops, followed by night exercises at Larkhill, Fylindale and Otterburn, have given the trained men well-taken opportunities to display their efficiency. The Brigade Command Net works well, and the Air Contact Team has talked in some 30 aircraft this year.

No. 4 Squadron, under the command of Major S. J. Williams, M.B.E., T.D., is the Phantom Squadron, with a parachute detachment. It is stationed at Uxbridge, the town where the Regiment was originally raised in 1797 as the Uxbridge Yeomanry Cavalry. This Squadron also undertakes amateur wireless activities on Thursday evenings on the 20 metre band. A mounted escort was provided in full dress (early 1800, and in use until 1914) for the Mayor of Uxbridge, Alderman G. A. Shuter, on the occasion of the Hillingdon Annual Community Fair, on Saturday, 23rd May. This was the first public function of the Mayor.

The formation of a club, "The Uxbridge Yeomanry Cavalry Club," is in the offing, its policy, to maintain the traditions of the Regiment, to inculcate the history, traditions and ideals of Yeomanry Cavalry. No doubt the club would enable the Regiment to be represented with mounted teams at events in the future, a revival which would indeed be welcomed greatly.

The Regiment may perhaps be able to fulfil its privileged function of providing the Sovereign's Escort in Middlesex, but time will tell.

An exercise in conjunction with the Army Phantom Signal Regiment, T.A., was held by the Squadron during the week ending 30/31st May, for which the Squadron supplied a wireless net of three stations and control. The control was situated at Coleshill, Chalfont St. Giles, and in the first seven hours on the Saturday, handled some 25 phantom messages, whilst on the Sunday 65 messages were passed in seven hours.

Range Classification. This year has shown a good percentage of marksmen, and perhaps the Regiment may again excel itself on the occasion of the Eastern Command Royal Signals T.A. Shoot in September.



The Annual Dinner and farwell to Lieutenant Colonel Collins, M.C., T.D. (centre), C.S.O. Eastern Command Brigadier Smijth-Windham, C.B.E., D.S.O., A.D.C. (left) and the Honorary Colonel Lord Malden, T.D.

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10 AIR SUPPORT SIGNAL UNIT (T.A.)

There have been a number of changes in the last year. Major N. T. Warren, M.B.E., T.D., J.P., who was our O.C. from 1948 to 1958 has now gone on to the T.A.R.O. "Nick" was a very popular T.A. Officer and well known in the Corps. We were all very sorry to lose the founder of the Unit. S.S.M. F. W. Williams has left us to emigrate to Australia. His son is a Corporal in the Unit. S.S.M. A. F. Whitemore has been promoted to replace him. He has been with us since 1950.

Major P. J. R. Clifton is now O.C. He did his National Service in 1 A.S.S.U. and joined the Unit in 1950.

Capt. E. A. Ward, M.S.M., is our P.S.O. "Tashy" is another well-known figure in the Corps since its formation, transferring from R.E. Signals to the Corps.

HEADQUARTERS, ARMY EMERGENCY RESERVE, ROYAL SIGNALS

If ever the Army had to mobilize, either for a major war or a comparatively minor action such as the Suez incident of 1956, it would be found that large portions of the required order of battle do not exist in the peace-time Army. They are even less likely to do so with the end of National Service in 1962. In order to make sure that the order of battle is fully implemented the Army Emergency Reserve exists.

Unlike the Territorial Army, the A.E.R. must be ready and willing to mobilize for an immediate overseas role. From a Royal Signals point of view it includes, among others, Line of Communication, Air Formation and Army Group Signal Regiments. On paper, it is a very sizeable proportion of the Corps. Funny how few people know about it!

The bulk of the O.R. strength of the A.E.R. is made up of National Servicemen during the period of their Reserve liability —most of us have seen posting orders for "Signalman So and So—A.E.R. General Pool." Quite obviously this General Pool is the end of most people's knowledge of the Army Emergency Reserve; the name itself gives a false impression of vagueness, which is belied by the facts. Signalman So and So who blithely entered the General Pool on release from Colour service and thought of himself as being in mere oblivion is now Signalman So and So, such a Troop, such a Squadron, of that Line of Communication or other Higher Formation Signal Regiment, A.E.R. If the balloon went up, he'd be "on board."

In order that this can in fact take place Headquarters, Army Emergency Reserve, Royal Signals, exists. Its function is two-fold. First it has the task of training what are, at present, in effect the volunteer cadres of the A.E.R. Regiments. Second, it is responsible for the documentation and posting of the many thousands of Reservists who do not train, but who fill a niche on mobilization.

Annually the A.E.R. Regiments come to camp for two weeks —usually at Blacon on the outskirts of Chester. Here they learn something of the latest general military developments, fire their annual range course, and carry out a fairly extensive Signal exercise. In this they are assisted by the small Regular staff of H.Q., A.E.R., Royal Signals. As was the state in the T.A. until a few years ago, so is the volunteer strength of the A.E.R. today. That is to say the strength in Officers, Warrant Officers and Sergeants is not at all bad. The volunteer strength in Other Ranks is lamentably weak. Partly this is due to ignorance as to the A.E.R.'s function, partly lack of publicity. Possibly too many Troop and Squadron Officers in Regular units have seen their soldiers off to the anonymity of the General Pool to realise that the real A.E.R. is a live and vital reserve—the "First Reserve" with an overseas role in emergency. This weakness in recruiting causes the Regiments in camp to be top heavy—so that it becomes difficult to train officers and key W.O.s and N.C.O.s in their proper jobs—although they gain an extensive knowledge of the actual operation of equipment. It can be fairly said that the annual training serves two valuable ends: it keeps in being a number of Regimental cadres with a high unit esprit de corps, and it gives to a limited number of key men a detailed knowledge of the technical side of their job. It is questionable whether this is good enough. The National Service element will shortly begin to waste out. The speed of modern events is such that any force mobilized by this country must both be ready rapidly and be fit to operate without too great a time lag. In other words the National Serviceman must be replaced by the trained volunteer, capable of taking his place alongside his Regular counterpart. Such a volunteer can best be steered into the volunteer portion of the A.E.R. by his Troop or Squadron Commander at the end of his Colour Service. Most of the recruiting at present is done by word of mouth by people actually serving in the A.E.R. One Regiment by going flat out has more than doubled its strength in twelve months. Many of the men enlisted are from the G.P.O., mostly from the engineering branch, and therefore exactly the type that the A.E.R. needs. But even this is not enough. It is sad but true that the number of men coming in at the end of their Colour Service is lamentably low—so few as to be negligible.

From all this it may seem that A.E.R. Royal Signals is a sad organisation. This is far from true. The Regiments are small but good. The amount of work they get through in a fortnight is fantastic—particularly when a heavy "Social" and sporting side is added to the straightforward training commitment. We would like to know how many units in the Corps regularly work an overland B70 link of over thirty miles; site their AN/TRCs at the opposite sides of 1500 foot ranges and over twenty miles apart, and successfully operate; once worked a B70 link over fifty miles without relays; have a normal exercise covering six counties in two countries; know quite a lot about nuclear warfare, the pentomic concept, grid systems (nothing to do with the electricity authority), Civil Defence, electronic warfare, and motor mileage allowances. All this they know, in addition to their normal signalling jobs and normal administration. You have to be good to be in the A.E.R. But there must be more of you.

P.S.—Regular rates of pay during training, and a Bounty. Plutocrats!

THE ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

MINUTES of the 14th Annual General Meeting held at Catterick Camp, Yorks, on Sunday, 5th July, 1959, at 12.30 p.m.

Present: Major-General C. M. F. White, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., Colonel Commandant, Chairman of the Association.

Of the Central Committee :—Brigadier Sir George H. Walton, K.B.E., C.B., T.D., D.L., Mr. A. Woolley.

Also :—Major-General R. F. H. Nalder, C.B., O.B.E., Colonel Commandant; Major-General D. A. L. Wade, C.B., O.B.E., M.C., Chairman of Council, Royal Signals Institution; Brigadier W. T. Howe, O.B.E., Secretary, Royal Signals Institution; and approximately 110 members of the Association.

1. The Meeting APPROVED the Minutes of the 13th Annual General Meeting held at Catterick on 29th June, 1958, and of the Special General Meeting held in London on 21st March, 1959. These Minutes had been issued to all Branches and had been published in THE WIRE. The Chairman signed the Minute Book.

2. 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., the Chairman, said :—

"Before I start the business of the meeting I know you will wish me to express publicly—and it is to be recorded in the minutes—the thanks of all of us to the Training Brigade and School of Signals for all that they have done and are doing for our comfort and entertainment. (Applause).

I know that Brigadier P. M. P. Hobson, the present Commander of the Training Brigade, will be the first to agree that much of the preliminary work was done under the direction of his predecessor, Brigadier E. D. Good, now Chairman of the Catterick and District Branch.

I feel we should thank the Choir and the Dean of Ripon (who was Chaplain General to the Forces) for the inspiring and moving service this morning. I will write to them on your behalf.

I was very pleased to see so many on the Church Parade and to note that 21 Branch Standards were paraded.

We have a longish Agenda and I must not keep you, so we will now take the dull but very important matter of the Accounts. You have in front of you a shortened form of the Balance Sheet and Income and Expenditure Accounts. The full and detail audited statements are available and it was these that were studied by your Central Committee. The outstanding matter is the deficit in both Funds. The General Fund shows a continuing though decreasing deficit; it is less by £500 than last year. The Welfare Section shows a deficit for 1958 of £2,000 but you will be glad to hear that this has been replaced by a generous grant of £2,000 from the Army Benevolent Fund. Nevertheless, your Central Committee are rightly concerned about these deficits and I am very glad to say that the Directors of the Trustee Company under Major-General Sir Ronald Penney, are now making a close and detailed study in an attempt to find a solution."

As there were no questions on the General Fund Accounts, **Captain A. F. Wiggins, Leeds Branch,** PROPOSED, and **Lieutenant-Colonel R. W. Atkinson,** O.B.E., **No. 26 Unit Branch (7th Training Regiment)** SECONDED that

The Balance Sheet, Income and Expenditure Account of the General Fund be APPROVED.

They were APPROVED unanimously.

As there were no questions on the Welfare Section Accounts, **Mr. J. A. Robinson, Manchester Branch,** PROPOSED, and **Captain L. Jackson, Chester Branch,** SECONDED that

The Balance Sheet, Income and Expenditure Account of the Welfare Section be APPROVED.

They also were APPROVED unanimously.

The Chairman then continued :—

"Before leaving the Accounts I would like you to record in no uncertain way your gratitude to those serving in the Corps in 1958. Although fewer in numbers than in 1957 they gave an even greater sum in 1958 than in any previous year—a total of over £5,000. (Prolonged applause).

On 21st March, 1959, we took the unusual step of holding a Special General Meeting. This approved three things :

(i) The Title of the Association was changed from the cumbersome name adopted in 1920—"The Signals Association of the Royal Corps of Signals"—to the title which has been in normal use for many years—THE ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION.

(ii) The Rule Book of that date. A considerable number of Rules had been changed by successive General Meetings and opportunity was taken to incorporate all of these in a partially rewritten book. I am sure we should all be grateful to the small committee under your Vice-Chairman, General Morrison, who undertook the work. Certainly the new Rule Book is clearer than the old one.
One of the important alterations to the Rules was made by the Central Committee; I mentioned this to you last year. The composition of the Committee was altered so as to include THREE Representatives of Branches of the Association and you will see the result of this in your Agenda Paper at Item 5.

(iii) The Special General Meeting also formally and finally approved the setting up of the ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION TRUSTEE LIMITED to take the place of our four Trustees in the management of our investments. The Central Committee was delighted to appoint
Major-General Sir W. Ronald C. Penney, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., M.C.; Brigadier A. C. C. Willway, C.B., C.B.E., T.D., D.L., J.P.; Brigadier Sir George H. Walton, K.B.E., C.B., T.D., D.L., Major W. W. Ruff
as the first Directors of the Trustee Company which now has the fullest powers to invest the capital of the Association to the best advantage.

I think it right, however, to warn you, indeed I did last year, that we are late in entering this field of investment which was entered by others at a time when the value of the Pound Sterling was depreciating. Quoting from our Trustee "we must not expect spectacular results and indeed there may initially be some capital loss and indeed some diminution of Income as the price of eventual establishment of the Funds on a sound basis as regards capital and income."

The Chairman then spoke of the retiring Trustees, Brigadier R. H. Willan, D.S.O., M.C., and the late General Sir H. Colville

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION
GENERAL FUND
Balance Sheet as at 31st December, 1958

1957					1957			
£	£		£	£	£		£	£
		ACCUMULATED FUND			613	CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND ..		364
10,901		Balance at 31st December, 1957 ..	9,955		3,406	SUNDRY DEBTORS AND PAYMENTS IN ADVANCE		3,448
		Less: Excess of Expenditure over Income for year ..	1,644		69	LOANS TO BRANCH ASSOCIATIONS		40
	2,136	*Less:* 22 years Interest on National Savings Certificates realised	—			INVESTMENTS—at Cost		
	210				5,430	British Government Securities	5,430	
1,926						Dominion and Colonial Government Securities ..		
					197		197	
								5,627
8,975			8,311			Market Value of the above Investments as at 31st December, 1958 was £5,189 (1957-£5,033)		
		Add: Life Membership Subscriptions			632	STOCKS ON HAND		474
980		received during year	1,015			OFFICE FURNITURE—at Cost less		
		Income Tax recovered on National Insurance Contributions			361	Depreciation		354
		for previous 7 years	148			LEASEHOLD PROPERTY—at Cost	200	
—					70	*Less:* Amount written off to date	144	
								56
9,955				9,474				
		SUNDRY CREDITORS AND				C. M. F. WHITE, Maj.-Gen., *Chairman*		
823		ACCRUED CHARGES ..		889		H. R. FIRTH, Brigadier, *Secretary*		
£10,778				£10,363	£10,778			£10,363

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

We have examined the above Balance Sheet and accompanying Income and Expenditure Account with the books and records of the Fund and we report that in our opinion they present a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Fund at 31st December, 1958 and of the Excess of Expenditure over Income for the year ended on that date. Lloyds Bank Ltd. has certified as to the correctness of the Bank Balance and that they hold for safe custody one of the Securities representing the Investments and the Fund's Solicitors have certified that they hold the other Securities.

Gresham House, 24, Old Broad Street, London, E.C.2.

H. S. BAKER & CO.,
Chartered Accountants, Auditors.

Income and Expenditure Account for the Year ended 31st December, 1958

1957					1957			
£	£		£	£	£		£	£
		Administration Expenses:			1,000	Subscriptions ..		1,139
		Salaries, National Insurance and Superannuation Contributions of Headquarters			159	Income from Investments—Gross ..		158
	5,280	Staff..	5,274		151 (*loss*)	Income from Publications		136
		Other Administrative			274	Sundry Income, Corps Clothing, Badges, etc.		244
	2,856	Expenditure ..	2,938			Excess of Expenditure over Income for the		
	8,136		8,212		2,136	year		1,644
		Less: Contributions to these expenses from:						
		Officers' Benevolent						
	250	Fund ..	250					
		Welfare						
	2,300	Section ..	2,300					
		Royal Signals Association and Benevolent						
	2,200	Fund ..	2,350					
	4,750			4,900				
3,386				3,312				
		Taxation:						
23		Income Tax ..	—					
9		Corporation Duty ..	9					
				9				
£3,418				£3,321	£3,418			£3,321

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION — WELFARE SECTION
Balance Sheet as at 31st December, 1958

1957					1957			
£	£		£	£	£	£	£	£
		ACCUMULATED FUND			4,967	CASH AT BANK ..		2,760
100,138		Balance at 31st December, 1957 ..	100,677			INVESTMENTS—at Cost		
		Add: Profit on Investments sold during			38,497	British Government Securities	35,542	
—		year	81		31,204	Dominion and Colonial Government Securities	34,214	
		Transfer of Minor				British Municipal Se-		
455		Trust	—		25,391	curities	25,391	
		Surplus of Income over Grants made by			1,922	Other Securities ..	1,922	
—		Minor Trust ..	5		97,014			97,069
11		Cash	—			Market Value as at 31st December, 1958 was £84,562 (£80,255-1957)		
		Transfer from Mem-						
20		orial Fund ..	—		464	INCOME TAX RECOVERABLE		494
						LEASEHOLD PROPERTY—		
100,624			100,763		1,800	at Cost	1,800	
		Less: Excess of Ex-				*Less:* Amount written		
	53(cr.)	penditure over Income for year ..	2,003		1,160	off to date	1,288	
100,677				98,760	640			512
		SUNDRY CREDITORS AND				LOANS AND INTEREST OUTSTANDING		
3,526		ACCRUED CHARGES		2,450	949	War Memorial Fund	—	
					169	Other Loans ..	375	
					1,118			375
						C. M. F. WHITE, Maj.-Gen., *Chairman*		
						H. R. FIRTH, Brigadier, *Secretary*		
£104,203				£101,210	£104,203			£101,210

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

We have examined the above Balance Sheet and accompanying Income and Expenditure Account with the books and records of the Section and we report that in our opinion they present a true and fair view of the affairs of the Section at 31st December, 1958, and of the excess of Expenditure over Income for the year ended on that date. We have ascertained that the Inscribed Stocks stood in the names of the Trustees and Lloyds Bank Limited has certified as to the correctness of the Bank Balance and that they hold for safe custody the other securities representing the Investments except one for which the Section's Stockbrokers were obtaining the Certificate.

Gresham House, 24, Old Broad Street, London, E.C.2.

H. S. BAKER & CO.,
Chartered Accountants, Auditors.

Income and Expenditure Account for the Year ended 31st December, 1958

1957					1957			
£	£		£	£	£	£	£	£
5,155		Benevolent Grants ..		6,468	1,174	Grants Refunded ..		1,918
		Donations:				Donations:		
		Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Families				Corps Units (specified donations) and Corps		
	100	Association ..	110		1,327	Funds	403	
		Shaftesbury Homes and Arethusa Training Ship	150		479	Donations from Individuals and Local Branches	294	
		National Association for the Employment of Regular Soldiers,				Estate of the late		
	336	Sailors and Airmen	335		431	Blanche Curtis ..	—	
	100	Forces Help Society	100			Royal Signals Association and Benevolent		
		Royal Alexandra &			2,200	Fund	2,350	
	50	Albert School ..	40		4,437			3,047
	50	Star and Garter Home	130		64	Lighter Packs ..		31
		Sundry other Charitable and Welfare Organisations for service and ex-service-			3,543	Interest from Investments—Gross ..		3,668
		men and their families	102		—	Interest on Deposit Account		56
888	102			967	9,218			8,720
128		Amount written off Leasehold Property		128	—	Balance, being excess of Expenditure over Income for the year ..		2,003
		Administration Expenses—						
	2,300	Contribution to General Fund	2,300					
		Cost of Association						
	568	Reunions	361					
		Audit and Professional						
	79	Charges	128					
	47	Sundries	43					
2,994				2,832				
		Expenses towards obtaining Release from						
—		Friendly Societies ..		328				
		Balance being Excess of Income over Expenditure for the year ..		—				
53								
£9,218				£10,723	£9,218			£10,723

B. Wemyss, K.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O., M.C. He stated that he had written to Lady Wemyss expressing the regret of all members of the Association on the death of the latter.

The Chairman then continued with the business of the annual election or re-election of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman. On the nomination of the Central Committee, **Mr. T. Black, Liverpool Branch,** PROPOSED, and **Mr. R. Cartwright, Association Headquarters Member,** SECONDED, and the Meeting aunanimously AGREED to the re-election of

Major-General C. M. F. White, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., Chairman and Treasurer.

Major-General A. E. Morrison, C.B., O.B.E., Vice-Chairman.

The Chairman continued : "I must add that though I expect to be with you next year I shall then be your out-going Chairman, having indicated to the Central Committee that I wish to be replaced next year. I shall have done six years as Chairman and Treasurer and feel it is time for a change. Also, I am particularly getting tied up as being Deputy Controller of Southdown Group Civil Defence which is taking up more and more of my time."

Under the direction of the Chairman, the General Secretary then read out and explained what had been set out in the Agenda (Item 7) on the War Memorial Fund.

The Chairman then read his own proposal, which had been "tabled" at the Meeting and accepted a minor amendment. The proposal in brief is as follows and was APPROVED unanimously by the Meeting :—

The £7,000 remaining as capital under the direction of the Corps Committee be invested by the Trustee of the Royal Signals Association to the best advantage.

The interest, but not the Capital, to be available annually, or as required, for the furtherence of any project approved by the Corps Committee.

It is to be recommended that a portion of the Interest, say £50 a year, be added to the Capital as a guard against depreciation of the value of money.

Branches may recommend to the Central Committee and the recommendations of the Central Committee will be passed to the Corps Committee each year. Considering these and other recommendations from Regiments of the Corps, the Corps Committee will decide as to the use of the Interest.

The Central Committee will do its utmost to dissuade the Corps Committee from using the interest or any portion thereof for a purpose which can be covered by other Funds.

The General Secretary was directed to amplify the above and place the views of the Association before the Corps Committee.

The following subjects were raised under "Any Other Business" :—

(a) **Attendance at the Annual General Meeting. Lieutenant-Colonel L. R. Hall, Catterick and District Branch,** drew attention to the small number then present and reminded the meeting that when a few years ago the Annual General Meeting was held in another place the number attending was very much larger.

Various suggestions were made including that of **Lieutenant-Colonel R. W. Atkinson,** O.B.E., **No. 26 Unit Branch (7th Training Regiment)** that the meeting should be held in the Baghdad Gymnasium with proximate facilities for refreshment.

The Meeting DECIDED that the General Secretary should investigate and take any steps short of coercion to increase attendance.

(b) **Royal Signals Association March. Mr. J. S. Peddie, Loughborough Branch,** received general approval to a suggestion that modern music should be substituted for some of the more traditional tunes played by the Band marching to and from church. The General Secretary was directed to see what could be done and the Chairman's suggestion that

"Get me to the church on time" (My Fair Lady) — arr. Judd, would be appropriate was accepted with enthusiasm.

(c) **Corps Christmas Cards. Captain K. R. West, T.D., Chester Branch,** asked if recommendation could be made to the Corps Committee for the production of a better Corps Christmas card; a coloured photo of the Corps Band could be inserted. **Brigadier E. D. Good, C.B.E.,** informed the meeting that the Corps Committee had already been thinking on these lines and had given the task to the Commander of the Training Brigade.

The Chairman then paid a generous tribute to the work of the staff at Association Headquarters, which was applauded; he mentioned a statement made at the last Central Committee Meeting by Major-General Sir Ronald Penney: "I would like to express on behalf of myself and my fellow Directors our appreciation of the work of the General Secretary and those members of the staff of Association Headquarters who have been concerned with the setting up of the Trustee Company. Only we know the considerable addition which has been made to their normal endeavour."

He concluded: "I have the pleasure to give you my impression of the Royal Signals Association today. They are: The whole Association is healthy and virile, and Rule 4 is being carried out with very satisfactory results. I think your Central Committee are very highly interested in, and direct successfully the well-being of your Association, but this does not mean that Branches may sit back and leave all to them. We depend on our Branches for the activities and ideas which they most of all, as being in closest touch with the members of the Association can give us, and, with our Regular serving members, find the money to keep us all on our toes to attain the high ideals of our Association."

Mr. W. A. Woolley, Liverpool Branch and Member of the Central Committee, proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman for his work for the Association and for his clear exposition of the various matters placed before successive General Meetings. This was adopted by acclamation.

WELFARE SECTION

Below an attempt is made to describe, with suitable anonymity, nine cases taken from the Welfare Section files concluded during the first week in June, 1959. Also on this page is a simple statement of income and expenditure.

Signalman, 1942-47. Married, four children. Has been ill and away from home for some years. His wife and four children have a total of £6 a week and after paying rent have less than £1 a week each to live on. The fund helped her.

Sapper (Signal Service R.E.) 1915-19. He and his wife are both in poor health and live on the old age pension. The British Legion alternate with the Association in paying 10/- a week to help them.

Signalman, 1939-41, when found permanently unfit. Married, three children. His second leg has recently been amputated. He has put on girth during long time in hospital and now cannot take exercise. The fund gave a little money to help with clothes and hope that in due course some kind person will find an old suit to fit him. Chest 44-46 and shirts 17½ collar.

Corporal, 19 years Regular Service, now A.E.R. He had considerable expense owing to wife's long illness and received a loan to help him. Now he has become most seriously ill and wholly paralysed. The fund turned the loan to a grant and gave him an electric razor because he cannot use an ordinary one.

Widow of Signalman, 1943-46. Two children survive with her and the three of them have £5 a week for all purposes. The fund which has helped before helped again.

Signalman, 1952, still serving. Married, three children, a fourth child died of an infectious disease and all connected bedding had to be destroyed. The fund helped to replace some of it.

Signalman, 1938-40. (Permanently unfit). Married, two children, he used to earn £10/16/-. Now through illness he earns nothing and despite his wife's endeavours the income is much reduced. The fund helped a little with clothes for the children.

Sergeant, 1953-56. (Medically discharged). Married, one child. Had good employment until hit by tuberculosis in August, 1958, but state aid does not extend to provision of a cot and bedding for child now one year old. The fund helped.

Signalman, 1939-51. Disability pensioner, was helped to some clothes.

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION AND BENEVOLENT FUND

The following subscriptions were most gratefully received during May, 1959 :

	£	s.	d.
3 Training Regiment	19	15	6
C.S.O.'s Branch, H.Q., London District		4	6
Eastern Command Signal Squadron	5	6	0
H.Q., R.A.C. Signal Squadron	2	2	0
1 Independent U.K.L.F. Reserve Signal Squadron, T.A.	2	8	0
2 (London) Signal Regiment, T.A.		6	0
Depot Regiment	42	0	0
Western Command Signal Squadron	1	17	0
11 Signal Park Squadron	1	0	0
16 Wireless Squadron		9	0
40 AGRA (AA) Signal Squadron, T.A.		13	0
1/20 (SM) Army Signal Regiment, T.A.	4	0	0
42 (L) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A.		16	6
North-West District (M) Signal Regiment, T.A.	11	12	0
H.Q., A.E.R., Royal Signals	3	0	0
C.S.O., H.Q., 1 (BR) Corps	2	0	0
18 Army Group Signal Regiment	25	3	9
20 Armoured Brigade Group Signal Squadron	1	13	4
2 Divisional Signal Regiment	14	8	4
1 Wireless Regiment	22	3	8
51 Independent Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron	2	0	0
Total receipts	£162	18	7

The following subscriptions were most gratefully received during June, 1959 :

	£	s.	d.
Headquarters' Officers' Mess	3	15	0
1 Training Regiment	17	9	0
3 Training Regiment	43	19	6
4 Training Regiment	16	3	4
7 Training Regiment	48	12	10
10 Wireless Training Squadron	21	4	0
Northern Command Signal Squadron	1	11	0
17 Wireless Squadron, T.A.	2	14	1
Junior Leaders Regiment	30	0	0
63 Command (M) Signal Regiment, T.A.	10	16	9
Eastern Command Signal Squadron	8	15	0
Eastern Command (M) Signal Regiment, T.A.	6	8	5
7 AGRA (AA) Signal Squadron	6	16	0
53 (W) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A.	1	16	0
5 Independent U.K.L.F. Reserve Signal Squadron, T.A.		4	6
H.Q., A.E.R., Royal Signals	3	0	0
107 (U) Independent Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron, T.A.	7	0	0
3 Squadron, 2 L. of C. Signal Regiment	4	19	0
5 Divisional Signal Regiment)Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess)	12	0	0
1 Corps Signal Regiment	37	13	0
30 Wireless Squadron	5	0	0
20 Armoured Brigade Group Signal Squadron	3	6	8
5 Infantry Brigade Group Signal Squadron	4	10	0
3 G.H.Q. Signal Regiment	26	0	0
51 Independent Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron	2	0	10
Total receipts	£325	14	11

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION WELFARE SECTION

The following donation was most gratefully received during May, 1959 :

	£	s.	d.
St. George's Garrison Church (collection at Regimental Week-end)	5	16	3
Total receipts	£5	16	3

EXPENDITURE DURING MAY, 1959	£254	19	0

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

Analysis of Cases

Families of Soldiers serving in U.K.	1
Families of Soldiers serving in B.A.O.R.	2
Families of Soldiers serving in M.E.L.F.	1
Widows and Dependants	4
Released and Discharged Soldiers	22
Total cases assisted	30

12 cases of Soldiers who served during the 1939-45 War	£155	8	0
18 cases of Soldiers who did not serve during the War	£99	11	0

EXPENDITURE DURING JUNE, 1959	£341	3	8

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

Analysis of Cases

Families of Soldiers serving in U.K.	1
Widows	1
Released and Discharged Soldiers	38
Total cases assisted	40

24 cases of Soldiers who served during 1939-45 War	£249	5	2
16 cases of Soldiers who did not serve during the War	£91	18	6

Lighter Fuel Packs

The following amounts were most gratefully received during May and June, 1599 :

		£	s.	d.
Box No. 36 ... 1	Independent U.K.L.F. Reserve Signal Squadron, T.A.		6	0
67 ... 43	(Wx) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A.	7	0	0
77 ...	Port Talbot Branch	3	17	6
87 ... 10	Wireless Training Squadron, Warrant Officers and Sergeants	1	5	6
	Total receipts	£12	9	0

THE BLUE BOOK

The Sixth Edition of the Blue Book has been despatched to C.S.O.s, from whom bulk Unit orders can be obtained. Individuals can be supplied direct from Association H.Q.

Price 2/6.

*

SPORT

ROYAL SIGNALS TENNIS, 1959

The annual Corps Tennis Tournament was played at the Officers' Club, Catterick Camp, during the week 15th-20th June, 1959. The standard of play and entries were good, there being no fewer than 48 players who took part in the Open Singles.

Results in the finals of the various events were:

Open Singles

Signalman J. Howden (7 Training Regiment beat Signalman M. Parker (School of Signals Regiment), 3—6, 6—2, 7—5.

Open Doubles

Signalman J. Howden (7 Training Regiment and Signalman M. Parker (School of Signals Regiment) beat Second-Lieutenant H. Mill (5 Training Regiment) and Corporal B. Mitchell (1 Training Regiment), 6—1, 6—4.

Regimental Doubles

Lieutenant-Colonel J. W. Eagle and Second-Lieutenant H .Mill (5 Training Regiment) beat Major H. Chapman and Second-Lieutenant R. Taylor (4 Training Regiment), 2—6, 6—2, 6—3.

Other Ranks Singles

Signalman J. Howden (7 Training Regiment) beat Signalman M. Parker School of Signals Regiment), 6—4, 6—4.

Other Ranks Doubles

Signalman J. Howden (7 Training Regiment) and Signalman M. Parker (School of Signals Regiment) beat Corporal B. Mitchell (1 Training Regiment) and Lance-Corporal B. Meyor (1 Training Regiemnt), 6—2, 6—2.

The Corps Lawn Tennis team has played the annual series of matches in the Aldershot area. Results were as follows :—

18th July. **Royal Signals beat Staff College** at Camberley by 8 sets to 1. Team : Colonel J. Sanders and Captain L. Bamber; Major J. St. C. Robinson and Second-Lieutenant H. Mill; Lieutenant-Colonel J. W. Eagle and Major P. O. J. Nicholson.

20th July. **Royal Signals beat R.A.S.C.** at Aldershot Club by 7 sets to 2. Team: Signalman J. Howden (7 T.R.) and Signalman M. Parker (School of Signals); Captain L. Bamber and Corporal B. Mitchell (1 T.R.); Colonel E. L. V. Vulliamy and Major H. Chapman.

21st July. **Royal Signals beat R.A.E.C.** at Aldershot Club by 7 sets to 2. Team : As for R.A.S.C. match.

22nd July. **Royal Signals beat R.M.A.** at Sandhurst by 6 sets to 3. Team : Colonel E. L. L. Vulliamy and Major J. St. C. Robinson; Lieutenant-Colonel J. W. Eagle and Major H. Chapman; Captain L. Bamber and Second-Lieutenant H. Mill.

Army Lawn Tennis Championships

Signalman J. Howden (7 Training Regiment) and Signalman M. Parker, won the Army Open Doubles Championship, 1959.

Colonel E. L. L. Vulliamy was runner-up of the Veterans' Singles.

Sailing

Royal Signals B.A.O.R. Passage Races

On 5th June a descent on the British Kiel Yacht Club was made by nearly 40 Royal Signals officers and men for the annual passage races. The BKYC had kindly reserved nine 30 square metres for us and, although not without firm cajolery of commanding officers by the keen, all nine had a crew of four levered out of operational duties.

The race started at 9 o'clock on Saturday with only a little hatred at the weather end of the line, when a skipper who knew the rules forced the windward yacht trying to barge in, to tack to avoid the start boat. The course was direct to Faaborg (Denmark), but included a few buoys intended to discourage any tendency to cut corners amongst the islands. This gave a reach and run, and, as the haze obscured much of the land, navigation was called for. A wide divergence of view on the course was soon apparent, and a dinghy racer's addiction to luffing spread yachts out even further. The committee laughed a bit smugly at three boats who appeared to follow her for she had decided to taken another course through the islands. The laugh wore a bit thin when she found that her navigation was not so hot either and she had made a landfall too far down wind, so the plan was promptly changed. Eight bells in the afternoon watch found all yachts in the vicinity of the north west point of Aero island and the wind changed to the north-west. This put all yachts to the west of the course in a good position and they sailed on into Faaborg, most managing to lay the course without tacking. The first yacht in was sailed by Major Bardell with his crew from 5 Divisional Signal Regiment, who finished soon after six o'clock. Second was sailed by Corporal Jones, also of 5 Divisional Signal Regiment, followed by Lance-Corporal Barrett of 1 Corps Signal Regiment, only seven seconds behind. All others finished during the next hour and tied up alongside the quay in Faaborg's delightful little harbour.

On Sunday all yachts were to sail to Sonderburg independently. Some chose the southern route and arrived in the late afternoon, but others set off on the longer but more interesting northern route which included a narrow channel between Als island and the mainland, ending up through the swing bridge at Sonderburg. Unfortunately the rain came and the wind went so at 7 o'clock six yachts were becalmed with ten miles to go. But the sun came out again and a gentle breeze came in from the west so that all eventually arrived, though too late to see much of Sonderburg.

Monday tested ability to trim sails and steer a good course to windward as, after a close reach to the Flensburg light vessel, all yachts were close hauled all the way to Kiel. The first two had a close and interesting race, won eventually by Major Sawers with a crew from 4 Divisional Signal Regiment, by just over four minutes from Major Gram-Hansen of 19 Army Group Signal Regiment. Third was Major Brindley from 2 Divisional Signal Regiment.

Points were given for finishing positions in each race and the overall result was :—

1st	Major Bardell,	5 Divisional Signal Regiment.
2nd	Major Brindley	2 Divisional Signal Regiment.
3rd	Major Sawers	4 Divisional Signal Regiment.



Corporal Gowan, Signalman Rollings, Corporal Laing.



Left to Right: Signalman Rollings, Corporal Gowan, Signalman Matthews, Captain Lyons of 2 Div. Signal Regiment.

ROYAL SIGNALS SAILING IN B.A.O.R.

Last year the British Kiel Yacht Club started a series of training cruises in the Baltic aimed at widening the interests of all ranks in sailing. A number of signal units sent parties on these cruises and it was evident that they would prove to be both useful and popular. This year the idea has been extended and, apart from officers, some thirty other ranks have experienced the joys of being at sea helming one of the very fine "30 square metres" owned by the B.K.Y.C.

This is a good beginning and is enabling us here to catch up with some leeway on the Gunners and Sappers who have, since the end of the war, been able to send parties out on the Baltic in their own boats, for example, a "100 Square metres" owned by R.E.Y.C., Avalanche of Aldershot.

Each training cruise has lasted for one week, starting with the first two days on the theory of sailing and seamanship coupled with plenty of drills at harbour. Gradually the course worked up with trips into the Kiel Fiord. It was a pity that on the second cruise, which was predominately taken up by Royal Signals, the wind force never dropped below Force 5, in spite of continued sunshine and blue skies. Although this gave plenty of interesting sailing in quite heavy seas, it prevented trips being taken to the Danish islands.

Apart from the enjoyment, and it would be difficult to find a body of soldiers with higher morale at the end of the cruise, the training in individual initiative was invaluable. It is hoped that further efforts will be made to increase interest in this stimulating activity. The regiments that respond to the call of sailing in B.A.O.R. are those which have keen officer sailors. Some regiments are not well provided in this respect, and it is a pity that, as a result, their soldiers are denied an activity of such character building and invigorating results. Still there is so much going on in B.A.O.R. anyway that this is just another activity, but in spite of this, sailing has a claim and the numbers involved at any one time are small.

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WINNERS OF THE WOOLWICH TROPHY

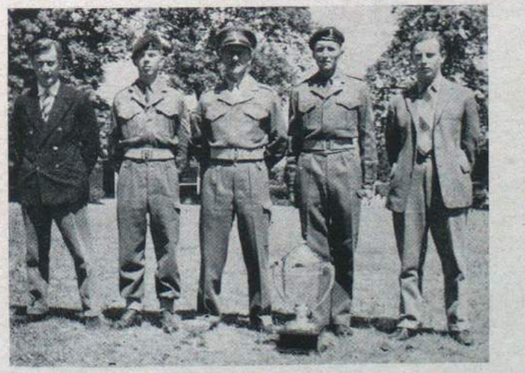
Corporal K. Dean Second Lieutenant D. H. Insall Sergeant G. Morrill. Lance Corporal P. Moppett
Captain P. Carr Major C. V. Walsh Lieutenant Colonel M. J. R. Fletcher (team Captain) Captain G. A. S. Exell
Captain M. S. Jarrett
Signalman P. A. Waxman (9th man)

On 3rd July the Royal Signals Methuen Cup team won the Woolwich Trophy for the first time. The Trophy was presented by the Royal Regiment in 1954 for annual competition between the three Woolwich Arms—R.E., R.A., and Royal Signals. In the course of winning the Trophy the Corps team also achieved the best placing of any Royal Signals team since the war, with the possible exception of 1951, both in the Methuen Cup and R.E.M.E. Trophy matches with which the Woolwich Trophy is fired concurrently. Royal Signals came 15th out of the 31 teams competing, and sixth out of the 18 Army teams.

In keeping with the trend to replace square targets by figure targets at ranges of 300 yards and under, N.R.A. figure 11 targets were used this year in the rapid practice and from 300 yards onwards in the fire and movement practice. As this is a difficult target to score well on, even assuming it is struck by all the shots fired at it, the discerning reader will appreciate why scoring was lower all round.

At the A.R.A. meeting, which took place between 22nd June and 4th July, several individuals and teams from units of the Corps distinguished themselves.

Of the 77 Royal Signals competitors, 27 succeeded in getting through to the second stage of the Army Championship and 4 of these into the Army 100. At this point Corporal K. Dean (1 Training Regiment) was lying sixth in the overall order of merit, 26 points ahead of his nearest rival in the class "B" Championship and well in the running for one of the first three places in the Army Championship itself. Unfortunately, a disastrous rapid practice in the final stage allowed the rival to catch up; they ended equal with Corporal Dean being placed second on the count out. Second-Lieutenant D. H. Insall (School of Signals) was also unlucky and lost his lead in the Young Officers' Cup in the last practice. Lance-Corporal P. Moppett (2 Training Regiment) however, made up for much of our disappointment by winning the Rifle Brigade Cup and so becoming the Champion Young Soldier of the Army. Captain M. S. Jarrett (School of Signals), the fourth Royal Signals competitor in the Army 100 Cup, unfortunately failed to repeat his very good Methuen score. Major C. V. Walsh (Royal Signals, Southern Command) was unlucky to be one of two, gaining the lowest qualifying score, counted out of the Army 100.



Left to Right : Captain M. Jarrett (Army 100), Corporal K. Dean (Army 100, runner up Class "B" Championship), Lieutenant Colonel M. J. R. Fletcher, M.B.E., Captain Royal Signals Team, Lance Corporal P. Moppett (Army 100, Champion Young Soldier, winner of the Rifle Brigade Cup), Second Lieutenant D. Insall (Army 100, runner up Young Officers Championship, 9th man Army Revolver VIII).

We failed to get anyone into the SMG XXX, but the School of Signals team did well to come in 8th out of the 71 entries in the Parachute Regiment Cup (SMG).

In the Bisley Cup (SR(b)) Match, four Royal Signals competitors achieved the prize list: Captain D. W. W. Cooper (1 Divisional Signal Regiment) was 9th out of the 240 entries with the good score of 141.

The outstanding Royal Signals success in team events was that of 2 Training Regiment who came 9th out of the 39 entries in the Small Arms Cup and who were well up in the K.R.R.C. Cup. Royal Signals Western Command also did very well to get into the 4th round of the R.U.R. (Falling Plate) Match. 1 Training Regiment, the highest placed of the Corps teams competing in the Britannia Trophy, won the Royal Signals Bisley Trophy.

Lieutenant-Colonel Fletcher and Second-Lieutenant Insall subsequently fired for the Army in the Inter-Services XX with Colonel H. J. Thompson; Signalman Waxman was also awarded his Army Colours as Reserve for this match, and Second-Lieutenant Insall achieved a triple by being selected as Reserve for the Army Team in the Inter-Services Long Range Match. Further notes on the N.R.A. meeting, in which the Corps reached the semi-finals of the Bargrave-Deane (Revolver) Match and came 4th in the Steward Trophy, will be included in the next issue of THE WIRE.

Of these successes we should be modestly proud, but not complacent; more sacrifices, work and planning are needed before the Corps can be said to have established itself in the shooting world. Towards this end a Corps Shooting Bulletin will be issued quarterly as a means of circulating information, offering advice and ensuring that known shots are not lost sight of.

STOP PRESS. During the N.R.A. Service Rifle Championship taking place at the time of writing, Lieutenant-Colonel M. J. R. Fletcher was placed 13th in the "Sitting Position" Match, scoring two points less than Leading W.R.E.N. Boughton. He was dissuaded from lodging a protest based on the grounds that a female has at least four advantages over the male in this position. (Neither the Editor nor the author are prepared to enter into correspondence on this subject; work it out for yourself).

ROYAL SIGNALS OFFICERS' GOLFING SOCIETY

Match v. Staff College, Camberley — 25th April, 1959

This match was played at "The Berkshire" Golf Club with the following results:

Royal Signals		Staff College, Camberley	
SINGLES			
Major-General E. S. Cole	1	Lieutenant-Colonel Baird	0
Major J. Y. Ferguson	0	Lieutenant-Colonel Lowry	1
Major S. Schofield	0	Major The Lord Alvingham	1
Major-General C. H. H. Vulliamy	½	Major Lynch	½
Colonel G. C. Winckley	1	Major Greville	0
Lieutenant-Colonel W. Clarke	1	Captain Freeman-Wallace	0
Major-General A. E. Morrison	1	Captain Bell	0
Major C. E. Page	0	Lieutenant-Colonel MacLachlan	1
	4½		3½
FOURSOMES			
Major-General C. H. H. Vulliamy / Major J. Y. Ferguson	0	Lieutenant-Colonel Baird / Major The Lord Alvingham	1
Major-General E. S. Cole / Major S. Schofield	½	Lieutenant-Colonel Lowry / Major J. Lynch	½
Major-General A. E. Morrison / Lieutenant-Colonel W. Clarke	1	Major P. Greville / Captain Freeman-Wallace	0
Colonel G. C. Winckley / Major C. E. Page	1	Captain Bell / Lieutenant-Colonel MacLachlan	0
	2½		1½

Royal Signals won by seven matches to five.

Match v. Royal Military College of Science — 26th April, 1959

This match was played at Frilford Heath Golf Club with the following results:

Royal Signals		Royal Military College of Science	
SINGLES			
Major J. Y. Ferguson	0	Dr. Cochran	1
Captain J. L. Stiles	0	Lievers	1
Captain J. B. Prince	0	Ewing	1
Major N. E. Padwick	0	Mr. Daish	1
Major-General A. E. Morrison	1	Bell	0
Mr. Shaw	0	Dr. Hawkes	1
Major P. M. C. Spence	1	Trouter	0
Major G. R. Price	0	Mycroft	1
	2		6
FOURSOMES			
Major J. Y. Ferguson / Captain J. L. Stiles	0	Dr. Cochran / Lievers	1
Captain J. B. Prince / Major N. E. Padwick	0	Mr. Daish / Ewing	1
Mr. Shaw / Major-General A. E. Morrison	1	Bell / Dr. Hawkes	0
Major P. M. C. Spence / Major G. R. Price	1	Trouter / Mycroft	0
	2		2

Royal Military School of Science won by eight matches to four.

Army Golf Meeting — St. Andrews, 9th-16th May, 1959

ORDNANCE CUP

The Corps team won a bye into the second round, but were defeated by the R.A.S.C. three games to two (10 holes to six).

THE GENERALS CUP

We congratulate Major-General E. S. Cole, C.B.E., on winning the "Generals" Cup.

Match v. Royal Engineers

This match was played at Worplesdon Golf Club on the 20th May, 1959, with the following results:

Royal Signals		Royal Engineers	
SINGLES			
Major Macdonald	3/2 1	Colonel Wehner	0
Lieutenant-Colonel Shardlow	5/3 1	Second-Lieutenant Hatch	0
Major-General Vulliamy	2/1 1	Major Hale	0
Colonel Longfield	0	Colonel Caldwell	1 Up 1
Colonel Winckley	0	Brigadier Daldy	3/2 1
Major-General Morrison	7/5 1	Captain Oborne	0
Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke	0	Colonel Harte	1 Up 1
Major Spence	1 Up 1	Major Cunningham	0
	5		3
FOURSOMES			
Major Macdonald / Major-General Vulliamy	½	Second-Lieutenant Hatch / Colonel Wehner	½
Lieutenant-Colonel Shardlow / Colonel Longfield	3/2 1	Brigadier Daldy / Major Hale	0
Colonel Winckley / Major-General Morrison	5/3 1	Colonel Caldwell / Captain Oborne	0
Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke / Major Spence	0	Colonel Harte / Major Cunningham	5/3 1
	2½		1½

Royal Signals won by 7½ matches to 4½.

Match v. Calcot Golf Club

This match was played at Calcot, Reading, on the 3rd July, 1959, with the following results:

Royal Signals		Calcot Golf Club	
SINGLES			
Major Schofield	2/1 1	W. Parker	0
Major Brown	½	B. S. Hill	½
Major-General Vulliamy	2/1 1	Major Padwick	0
Captain Prince	0	E. Wilson	8/7 1
Lieutenant-Colonel Clark	7/6 1	F. Thackery	0
Major-General Morrison	6/4 1	W. Shaw	0
Colonel Winckley	0	K. P. Burridge	4/2 1
Major Price	0	F. Hampshire	4/2 1
	4½		3½
FOURSOMES			
Major Schofield / Major Brown	4/2 1	W. Parker / E. Wilson	0
Major-General Vulliamy / Lieutenant-Colonel Clark	2/1 1	Major Padwick / W. Shaw	0
Major-General Morrison / Colonel Winckley	4/3 1	B. S. Hill / K. P. Burridge	0
Captain Prince / Major Price	3/1 1	F. Thackery / F. Hampshire	0
	4		0

Royal Signals won by 8½ matches to 3½.

CORPS CRICKET

Results:

R.A.O.C. 195 for 8 (Signalman J. Marshall 4 for 61) versus ROYAL SIGNALS 133 (Capt. S. G. de Clive-Lowe 50 not out).
Result: Match lost.

* * *

ROYAL SIGNALS 172 (Captain S. G. de Clive-Lowe 89; Officer Cadet N. E. N. Harris 32) versus R.M.A., SANDHURST 173 for 2.
Result: Match lost by 8 wickets.

* * *

ROYAL SIGNALS 151 (Lance-Corporal D. Jones 80) and 91 (Lance-Corporal G. Blackett 53) versus R.A.S.C. 154 (Signalman T. A. Hare 6 for 66) and 91 for 5 (Signalman J. Marshall 3 for 37).
Result: Match lost by 5 wickets.

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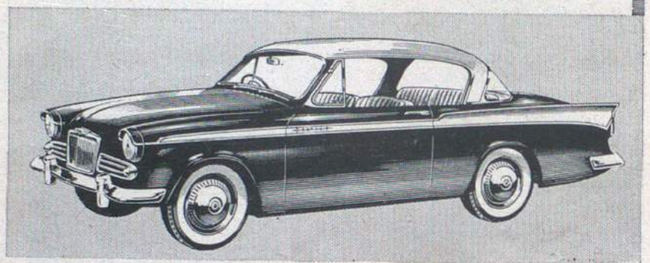


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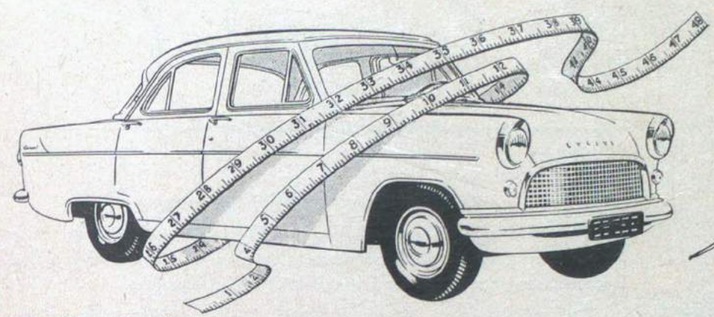
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THE WIRE

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

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, 15/-; *single month,* 1/3.

☆

SEPTEMBER • 1959

Vol. 13 *(New Series)* **No. 8**

Editorial

New Numbers for Old Regiments

NEW NUMBERS FOR OLD REGIMENTS. THE WIRE was permitted to make only a brief announcement that on 1st September, 1959, all Regiments and Squadrons received PERMANENT Numbers.

That this is a good thing is unquestioned. It is a reform that has long been requested. Why should a Regiment or Squadron change its identity whenever it changes its job? It remains, or should remain a living entity with a personality of its own.

That THE WIRE is full of praise of this overdue measure does not detract from the difficulty of implementing it.

In this the September number the Editor has substituted the new titles at the head of each Regiment and Squadron notes. In some cases there has been time to alter titles within the text, in others it has not been possible.

Incidentally, all praise to two, but alas only two Regiments who sent in articles in August for publication in September AND put their new titles at the head.

* * * *

Date of Publication

Every effort is being made to get the small September number of THE WIRE published on or about the 15th of that month. The backlog of work in the printing press may prevent this. It is considered that the October number will be the first to be processed normally.

* * * *

The Royal Corps of Signals List

The publication of the July number of this together with the List of Retired Regular Officers has been delayed by the strike. The List has suffered most formidable amendment as it has been kept under amendment until mid-August. It has now been decided to make the alterations in the title of Signal Regiments and Squadrons. The July List will, it is hoped, be published in September.

The Edition of the list normally published in September will appear in November.

* * * *

Distinguished Service Order

Lieutenant-Colonel A. J. Deane Drummond, M.C., has been awarded the D.S.O. for his leadership of 22 Special Air Service Regiment in the assault on Jebel Akhdar 26th/29th January, 1959. The Action was reported in THE WIRE Vol. 13 No. 5 of May, 1959.

THE EMPIRE FIELD OF REMEMBRANCE, 1959

The Empire Field of Remembrance, 1959, will be held at Westminster from the 5th to 11th November (both dates inclusive). It will be opened at 12 noon on Wednesday, 5th 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 Field-Marshal Lord Ironside, G.C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., LL.D., Grand President of the South African War Veterans' Association, to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the outbreak of the South African War, 1899-1902.

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, 5th November, and wish to attend the opening, they should notify Headquarters, the General Secretary, Royal Signals Association, 88, Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1.

The following are available from the British Legion Poppy Factory for the Memorial Space, and if ordered will be placed on behalf of Branches by the official representatives of the Association:

Badge Crosses	at 21/-	Wreath Crosses	at 5/-
Field Crosses	at 15/-	Remembrance Crosses	
Poppy Crosses	at 10/-		at 6d.

Correspondence and Orders relating to the Field should be addressed direct to the Secretary, British Legion Poppy Factory, Richmond, Surrey (copy to Association Headquarters) and cheques made payable to "The British Legion Poppy Factory Limited," and crossed.

PERSONAL COLUMN

London Gazette

7th August, 1959.

Captain D. A. L. Charles to be Major, 10th August, 1959.

The undermentioned Lieutenants (T.O.Ts.) to be Captains (T.O.Ts.) on the dates show:

J. U. Wolfenden, 26th June, 1959.
P. E. C. Davies, 10th August, 1959.
K. Pattison, 10th August, 1959.

18th August, 1959

Lieutenant-Colonel A. W. Barron, M.C., retires, 21st August, 1959.

Major G. P. R. Anslow, M.B.E., relinquishes his commission on account of disability, 22nd August, 1959, and is granted the hon. rank of Major.

Lieutenant (Q.M.) H. W. Newsham to be Captain (Q.M.), 21st August 1959.

Movements — Officers

(Taken place or forecast for period ending 15th September, 1959)

Brigadier D. White, O.B.E. ...	To	C.S.O., Southern Command.
Colonel C. H. Howarth, O.B.E. ...	„	ALFCE
Lt.-Col. J. R. Piddington	„	30th Signal Regiment.
Lt.-Col. W. E. Jelf	„	School of Signals G.S.O.1.
Lt.-Col. J. H. St. G. Hamersley	„	H.Q., Gurkha Div./O.C.L.F.
Major C. Newbold	„	26th Signal Regiment.
Major G. H. Hoerder ...	„	2nd Signal Regiment, B.A.O.R.
Major D. W. Sutherland ...	„	A.A.S., Harrogate.
Major J. N. Burrell	„	School of Signals.
Major D. E. Willett	„	Pool of Mil. Sup.—Film Production.
Major H. A. Leece	„	H.Q., B.A.O.R.
Major D. L. Swallow	„	Ministry of Supply.
Major E. J. Beale	„	B.M. H.Q., Trg. Bde.
Captain W. Batty	„	Sigs. 7, The War Office.
Captain A. P. Baker	„	The War Office, G.S.O.2.
Captain D. R. Beadon ...	„	Junior Leaders Regt.
Captain J. A. Baker	„	School of Signals.
Captain J. Telfer	„	S.P. Estab.
Captain R. H. Gilbertson ...	„	Aden Protectorate Levies Sig. Sqn.
Captain S. C. Finch	„	226 Signal Squad. (Wireless).
Lieutenant D. Ward	„	8th Signal Regiment.
Lieutenant L. J. Borland ...	„	24th Signal Regiment.
Lieutenant M. J. Hales ...	„	607 Signal Troop (A.S.S.).
Lieutenant J. M. Hewson ...	„	Junior Leaders Regt.
Major (Q.M.) E. R. Haxell ...	„	17th (Gurkha) Signal Regt.
Major (T.O.T.) W. J. Bush ...	„	14th Signal Regiment.
Major (T.O.T.) G. A. Stanley, D.C.M.	„	229 Signal Squad. (Berlin).
Major (T.O.T.) H. N. Ransome	„	8th Signal Regiment.
Major (Tfc. Offr.) S. C. Moore	„	239 Signal Squadron (Eastern Command).
Lieutenant (T.O.T.) H. W. Galloway	„	2nd Signal Regiment.
Lieutenant (T.O.T.) K. Pattison	„	School of Signals.

Retirements

Colonel R. M. Adams ...	...	2 September, 1959.
Major J. H. Smith ...	...	9 July, 1959.
Major A. E. Wood ...	...	31 August, 1959.
Major W. Mecready ...	...	1 September, 1959.

Births

COOPER.—To Sergeant and Mrs. Cooper, a son, Alan Charles, at Staines, Middlesex, on 21st March, 1959.

WHITE.—To Corporal and Mrs. White, a daughter, Dawn, at Pembury, Kent, on 30th March, 1959.

WOOD.—To Corporal and Mrs. Wood, a daughter, Kim Lorraine, at Kingston, Surrey, on 21st March, 1959.

HANCOX.—To Signalman and Mrs. Hancox, a daughter, Cheryl Josephine, at Coventry, on 28th February, 1959.

ROBINSON.—To Signalman and Mrs. Robinson, a daughter, Elaine Maureen, at Cuckfield, Sussex, on 6th June, 1959.

McMILLAN.—To Signalman and Mrs. McMillan, a daughter, Catherine, at Bridge of Allan, on 7th July, 1959.

JOHNSTON.—To R.Q.M.S. and Mrs. C. W. Johnston, at Malta, on 12th August, 1959, a daughter, Kathryn Elizabeth.

WILSON.—To Signalman and Mrs. Wilson, a daughter, on 24th June, 1959, at German Civilian Hospital, Kevelaer.

PRIME.—To W.O.II and Mrs. A. G. Prime, a son, Ashley Walter John, at Dorking, on 6th August, 1959.

MACDONALD.—On the 15th August, 1959, at Military Hospital, Colchester, to Mary (née Woolnough), wife of Major W. Macdonald, a daughter.

Marriages

WARD—LOFTUS.—Corporal Ward to Colleen Mary Loftus, at Edmonton, on 4th April, 1959.

BUCKLOW—PRATT.—Signalman Bucklaw to Iris Pratt, at Nottingham, on 20th June, 1959.

CHAPMAN—TAYLOR.—Signalman Chapman to Doreen Taylor, at Uckfield, Sussex, on 20th June, 1959.

RICHENS—SUMMERFORD.—Lance-Corporal Richens to Iris Ethel Summerford, at Lambeth, on 11th July, 1959.

LEITCH—SYMONDS.—Sergeant Leitch to Linda Mary Symonds, at Isfield, Sussex, on 18th July, 1959.

Arrivals and Departures

239 *Signal Squadron*

Arrivals: Staff Sergeant Bell, Sergeant Kinrade.
Departures: Sergeant Drage, Sergeant Howe.

Ex-Staff Sergeant Short

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Forthcoming Events

24th Divisional Signals, 1914-1919, Reunion, 1959

Saturday, 17th October, 3 p.m., Divisional Memorial, Battersea Park, London, S.W.9.
6 p.m., Chevrons Club, 3, Dorset Square, London, N.W.1.
The Divisional Officer' Dinner is on Friday, 16th October, 1959.

The 31st Meeting of the Central Committee of the Royal Signals Association

at the War Office at 10.45 a.m. on 3rd November, 1959.

The Radio Hobbies Exhibition

will open at the Royal Horticultural Society's Old Hall, Westminster, on Wednesday, 25th November, 1959, and will close on Saturday, 28th November.

ROYAL SIGNALS CORPS BAND

27th September — 4th October — Eastbourne.
12th November — 8th December — B.A.O.R.

ROYAL SIGNALS OFFICERS' GOLFING SOCIETY, Fixtures, 1959

Sunday, 4th October, Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, Camberley Heath.
Thursday, 22nd October, R.A.O.C., Swinley Forest.

ROYAL SIGNALS HOCKEY FIXTURES, 1959/60

1959			
Wed., 21st Oct.	R.A.	...	Woolwich
Thurs., 22nd Oct.	R.E.M.E.	...	Arborfield
Sat., 14th Nov.	R.E.	...	Catterick
Tues., 1st Dec.	Durham University	...	Durham
Thurs., 12th Nov.	R.A.S.C.	...	Aldershot
Wed., 2nd Dec.	R.M.A.S.	...	Sandhurst
1960			
Wed., 17th Feb.	Royal Milit'y C. of Science	...	Aldershot
Thurs., 18th Feb.	Aldershot Services	...	Aldershot
Fri., 19th Feb.	R.A.O.C.	...	Blackdown
Wed., 23rd Mar.	Welbeck College	...	Welbeck
15th-18th April	East Festival	...	Scarborough

47th SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A. — DISPLAY TEAM

October 8th	County of London	... Duke of York's H.Q.
October 9th		
October 10th	T.A. Tournament	... London

Annual Buffet Supper and Reunion

Saturday, 5th December, 1959, at the Drill Hall, 41st Signal Regiment (Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment), 190, Hammersmith Road, London W.6, from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m.

CANDELABRA

This matched set of one seven-branch and two four-branch candelabra was presented to the Officers of the Corps in 1927 by the then Commandant of the Signal Training Centre, Colonel (later Brigadier) H. Clementi Smith, D.S.O.

These were the first candelabra to be presented to the Corps.



Visit of H.R.H. The Princess Royal

C.I., G.C.V.O., G.B.E. R.R.C., T.D., D.C.L., LL.D.

To 64th (M) Signal Regiment (T.A.) and 312 Signal Squadron (T.A.) on 5th August, 1959



[Photo: Newcastle Chronicle

H.R.H. accompanied by the C.O. Lieutenant-Colonel J. A. Waite, inspecting 2 UKLF Squadron

Wednesday, 5th August, 1959, dawned as a slightly cloudy day, neither too hot nor too cold, indeed the perfect day for the occasion. At 11.0 a.m. Sergeants Stockdale and Bradley led the escort out of the Camp gates to its rendezvous on the Great North Road, as last minute checks were made before the Squadrons assembled on the parade ground. Captains Frank Mansfield and John France could be seen briefing television and press cameramen who were present during the day.

Her Royal Highness arrived at 11.30 a.m. with her Lady in Waiting, Mrs. Cuthbert. She drove to the Officers' Mess and was met by the Chief Signal Officer, Northern Command, Brigadier A. B. McVittie, O.B.E., the A.D.W.R.A.C., Lieutenant-Colonel M. S. F. Millington, O.B.E., and the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel J. A. Waite, who introduced her A.D.C., Captain Manners, W.R.A.C./T.A. of No. 2 Squadron. Meanwhile, the Commanding Officer's other guests, the G.O.C. Northumbrian Area, Major-General The Lord Thurlow, C.B.E., D.S.O.; the Chairman of the West Riding T.A. and A.F.A., Colonel R. B. Holden, D.S.O., T.D., D.L.; and the Honorary Colonel of the Regiment, Colonel M. W. Batchelor, J.P., were assembled by the Saluting Base.

At 12.0 noon Her Royal Highness arrived on the parade ground and was accorded the Royal Salute by the Regiment after which, the Commanding Officer accompanied Her Royal Highness during her inspection.

She inspected first, No. 1 Squadron from Beeston, commanded by Major G. H. Hillier, Royal Signals T.A., followed by the Sheffield No. 2 Squadron commanded by



[Photo: Newcastle Chronicle

H.R.H. Brigadier A. B. McVittie, C.B.E., C.S.O., Northern Command, Lieutentant-Colonel M. S. F. Millington, O.B.E., T.D., A.D.W.R.A.C. Northern Command, and Captain E. Manners W.R.A.C./T.A., A.D.C. to H.R.H. for the day



[Photo: Newcastle Chronicle

H.R.H. accompanied by the C.O. Lieutenant-Colonel J. A. Waite, Royal Signals, inspects W.R.A.C.

Major A. E. Farnol, T.D., the U.K.L.F. Squadron, commanded by Captain T. W. Turner, and the W.R.A.C. members of 1 and 2 Squadrons, commanded by Major K. Bridgewater, W.R.A.C./T.A. Her Royal Highness then met the Bandmaster, Mr. M. H. Pryce, and inspected the Band of the 3rd Carabiniers (Prince of Wales Own) Dragoon Guards.

After the march past Her Royal Highness returned to the Officers' Mess where the guests and officers of the Regiment were presented to her. After lunch she chatted with some of the officers and met the Mess Staff before the official photograph was taken.

In the afternoon Her Royal Highness saw a Communications Race between 1 and 2 Squadrons. Messages signed by Her Royal Highness were handed to an orderly from each team who took the message to a Signal Centre table in front of Her Royal Highness's dais.

After the message had been registered it was handed to a D.R. who took it to a wireless vehicle on a nearby hill. As the D.R. was leaving, three vehicles from each team appeared from below the brow of the hill, drove to their locations in the field before Her Royal Highness, and set up the chain of communications by which the message was to travel. When the first of these vehicles was in position, the message was received by morse from the Hill and relayed by teleprinter to the team's second vehicle on the opposite side of the field. From there it was transmitted over a radio relay link to the third vehicle and by telephone back to the Signal Centre where it was registered and handed to the Chief Instructor, Major J. R. Long.

The teams and their vehicles then lined up before Her Royal Highness who presented a cup to Major Farnol, Captain of the No. 2 Squadron winning team.

Her Royal Highness then visited a recruiting display which had been used by the Regiment in Sheffield during the previous week on the occasion of the annual Sheffield Show. She showed a keen interest in the various items of Royal Signals equipment on display, which included a working telephone switchboard and teleprinters working through multi channel equipment operating over a model permanent line route. Her Royal Highness also saw model wireless aerials and a photographic display of the Regiment's activities; she took away with her copies of the recruiting literature used by the Regiment.

After visiting the Cookhouse Her Royal Highness saw a display of Scottish dancing performed by W.R.A.C. members of the Regiment, who had been trained by the Adjutant, Major W. J. Perry. She then entered the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, where the R.S.M, Warrant Officer I Barnes-Murphy presented the members to Her Royal Highness. Finally at 4.30 p.m. all ranks cheered Her Royal Highness as she left the Camp after a most memorable visit.

During the evening many members of the Regiment were able to see themselves on the television screen as the visit was well covered in the News by both the B.B.C. and I.T.V. networks. An account of the Communications Race recorded by Major J. R. Long during the afternoon was broadcast on the B.B.C. sound service. Several provincial papers, in their first additions after the printing strike, also carried accounts of the visit.

Her Royal Highness took a keen interest in all she saw and many were surprised at her vast detailed knowledge. Throughout the visit she spoke to at least fifty per cent of the men and women and the impact on morale was incalculable. It was a long and tiring day for Her Royal Highness but her presence and unflagging interest inspired tremendous enthusiasm, and she appeared to enjoy it.

The cheers as she left were given with full throated warmth, pride and affection. It was indeed a momentous and thrilling occasion which will be long remembered with nostalgia by all who had the privilege and honour to take part.



[Photo: Newcastle Chronicle

Sergeant Smith of No. 2 Squadron and a few of the girls

United Kingdom

24th SIGNAL REGIMENT

The Printing Dispute has foiled our attempts to get a story published, but, with luck, it may be possible this month to see the notes in print, and thus to assure past members of the Regiment that we are still very much alive and kicking.

The month of July began with Old Comrades' Reunion, and the Regiment took its share in playing host to the "old 'uns." The Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess was suitably decorated for the occasion, and one S.S.M. who happens to be the proud possessor of an estate van arrived on the Saturday morning with the inside of the van piled high with flowers. We gather he was more than a little put out when a member of the Mess was heard to ask where and when was the funeral to be held—perhaps it had been unwise to arrange the flowers in shapes similar to wreaths!

On Saturday, 25th July, we held our Annual Parents' Day. The weather was more than kind to us, and a day of brilliant warm sunshine showed Catterick at its best to our visitors. The programme began with a short ceremonial parade and was followed by a conducted tour around the Regiment and Camp area. Lunch was provided for the Parents with their sons in Gaza Gym, and they were agreeably surprised to find that home cooking is not all that much better than the Messing Officer can provide. For the afternoon we put on a P.T. display, and a message passing race between Teleprinter Operators and Cipher Operators, a short Radio Relay demonstration, and also a pageant of Signals, tracing the development in humorous vein of signalling systems throughout the ages—including a couple of pigeons which had been borrowed for the occasion. Throughout the day there was a static display of equipment enabling one to write a message and see it passing through the various systems via W.S. C41 and back into page copy at the other end of the display. The general comment of the fathers when they left us at the end of the day was, "I wish it had been like this when I was in . . . ." and from the mothers ". . . . It is a much better life than we thought . . . ."

We won the Northumbrian District Swimming Championships on 15th July, and thus qualified to enter the Army Championships which are taking place at the time of writing these notes, so we are hoping to have some good news to give in next month's edition.

On Saturday, 8th August, we had a Cricket Match between the Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. The latter batted first and managed to knock up 80 for eight wickets, Sergeant Brooking having top score with 25. After some suitable refreshment the Sergeants took the field and skittled out the Officers for 46—Captain Powley being top scorer with 11. Despite the fact that some of the players treated the game as a Test Match, everyone entered into the spirit which was intended and thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon.

Signal Training Wing, W.R.A.C.

Well hello, here we are again, just panting to tell you all what has been going on, and off, in Catterick Camp.

Since our last notes we have had lots of visitors, including Major Wilkinson, W.R.A.C., the S.P.S.O. designate, and Major M. Campbell, W.R.A.C., who is now the Youth Liaison Officer for Scotland, but who at one time, was with Signals. One visitor we must not forget to mention is the "Iced Lolly King," who was so much in evidence during a recent visit! The O.C. hasn't stopped blushing yet!

A sad bit of news, W.O.II Neal is to leave us for Germany, and Sergeant Thomson, our Chief Clerk, is leaving for Cyprus. We know they will both like their postings, because they are gluttons for work. W.O.I Baylis is coming to the Wing. (The O.C. says "I didn't say a word, Miss Baylis"). We all look forward to meeting her and hope she will enjoy her second tour with the trogs. We also welcome Sergeant Rose, our new Chief Clerk—she will soon be on net!

Painting and decorating has been uppermost in the O.C.'s and W.O.'s minds during the recent holiday.—Someone mentioned that someone's father knew a lot about this subject. W.O.II Neal was enthused, she painted round the window and then went on leave. Having heard the above, someone mentioned in a passing conversation, the O.C. made discreet enquiries, and forth came Lance-Corporals Derbyshire and Lucas to finish the W.O.'s office and to also do the O.C.'s office, and a very fine job they made too. Their parents are to be congratulated on their fine instruction.

Sergeant McLaren, our Teleprinter School Sergeant, held a jumble sale the other day. It went well, the salesladies were W.O.II Neal, Sergeants Thomson, Griffith, etc. Can you wonder, the trainees didn't have a chance!

To end, here is a message for the O.C., Steeple Bumpstead. Quote: "What a disappointment, the first contingent of W.R.A.C. arrived there on August Monday to find this notice at the station: 'Steeple Bumpstead Signal Squadron away on summer vacation, 1st August to 1st December. Any urgent business please contact the headmistress, local girls' school. She has all the files, P.R.I. cash, etc.' The mention of a girls' school made the W.R.A.C. contingent get back on the train and, led by Private Nelson, they headed straight for B.A.O.R." Unquote.

More next time.

11th SIGNAL REGIMENT

The long silence from the Depot does not mean that we have ceased to exist. We plod on merrily despatching and releasing as most overseas Units will realise. Because we have been considerably civilianised during the past twelve months, our sporting achievements and outside activities are perhaps less great than other Units and these make the most interesting reading. However, we still field regular teams for cricket, Rugby, soccer and hockey. The Rugby team probably had the best record last season, playing 21, won 15, drew three, lost three. The cricket team is doing well and good scores have been achieved by Second-Lieutenant Masters and Sergeant Brooks, R.A.P.C., whilst Corporal Meredith and Lance-Corporal Winrow have done well with the ball.

The Regiment has just changed Commanding Officers. We said farewell (many times) to Lieutenant-Colonel "Tim" Barron, M.C., after nearly 30 years' service. He has been with the Unit for three years and now leaves the Army for civilian life in Loughborough. He was ceremonially ushered to the main gate on his departure as our picture illustrates. We wish him all the best for the future.

We welcome Lieutenant-Colonel Sinnock, our new Commanding Officer, and hope that his tour will be both successful and enjoyable.

R.S.M. T. Rawlinson left the Unit and the Army in June and our best wishes go to both he and Mrs. Rawlinson in civilian life. We welcome R.S.M. and Mrs. J. Dignan to the Unit.

The Regimental Week-end was held in early May during fine weather. The Corps Band was in attendance and gave some delightful selections during the Week-end. The "Old Soldiers" race proved to be most dangerous, in which the C.S.O. and the Commanding Officer were disqualified for obstruction. A very successful All Ranks' dance was held on the Saturday and a pleasant service and church parade on Sunday, which was well attended by the York and Chester Branches of the Signals Association.

We were glad to send £50 to the Signals Association from the proceeds of the Week-end.



Lieutenant-Colonel A. W. Barron, M.C.

14th SIGNAL REGIMENT

1 Squadron. This has been a quiet month, and probably the last quiet one we shall experience for some time, as full preparations must now begin for our Annual Administration Inspection in November, and the dulcet tones of our Squadron Sergeant-Major, W.O.II Palmer, will no doubt soon continually echo round the camp.

"A" and "C" Troops took their annual outings to Brighton and Bristol respectively, and it is understood that a good time was had by all. The only possible exception is the gentleman whose own firm instruction as to the time of departure of the hired 'bus from Bristol was unfortunately obeyed to the letter.

Our hopes of winning the South-Western District Cricket Championship disappeared very abruptly when we went in on a batsman's horror against the R.A.O.C. Vehicle Depot at Aschurch. We were skittled out for 35 and the opposition just managed to pull it off, after some anxious moments.

We welcome Lieutenant (Traffic Officer) McLeod, Second-Lieutenant Patrick and W.O.IIs Edmonds and Flanagan to the Squadron and hope that their stay will be a happy one.

2 Squadron. Life in the Squadron is much as usual this month. We seem to have had so much to report last time that these notes are inevitably rather "flat."

Most of our recent effort has been directed to the aerial field. We are likely to begin extending our present towers during the next twelve months and have been very busy with costing and slide rules. We have even got the County Drainage Officer interested in our "swamp," so may have an army of trenchers and diggers at work before the winter rains.

3 Squadron. Looking back over past contributions, it is noted that one entry referred to the difficulty experienced in selling THE WIRE. Funny, we had no such trouble in July. With the prospect of an early return to print we eagerly look forward to a bumper edition in September.

In June we had the satisfaction of learning that one of our number, Staff Sergeant Bullock, had been awarded the B.E.M. in the Birthday Honours List. To him we offer our sincere congatulations.

On the technical side, we are pleased to report that after much probing and visits to Ordnance, we finally collected two new Marconi R.217 receivers. Foreman of Signals Lewis "collected all the Gen" and has been busy with classes of instruction, and we hope all our "Rx Hall types" are suitably trained in the use of the R.217. It has been on circuit for one week and reports are most favourable.

239 SIGNAL SQUADRON

On the 7th and 8th of July, Eastern Command Headquarters threw wide its gates and invited the public to enter—the Army was once more "At Home" to all and sundry. We of the Signal Squadron were well represented by a wealth of equipment and sideshows artistically laid out to catch the public gaze. A pair of C.F.S. Command Vehicles operated a Teleprinter link, and a V.H.F. multichannel carrier phone system was the central item of the comprehensive static display. For amusement there were a number of special "gadgets" built for the occasion by T.M. Troop. One such was the cause of much embarassment and some amusement for Second Lieutenant Drew, in charge of the team from Crowborough. During his preliminary tour of the exhibits, General Sir Charles Coleman, K.C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., O.B.E., was invited to try his skill at the venerable games of "noughts and crosses" against the "Skull." When the General played his cross there was a long and painful silence, during which could be heard the sound of running feet—finally, over the hidden speaker came the mystery voice of the Skull. Not the sepulchural voice we awaited, but the unmistakeable cockney accents of Signalman Smart, complaining bitterly, "Well, the perishin' light ain't come up yet!"

Exit one General and entourage, laughing.

Standing alone and resplendent before the Signals stand was "Jimmy," a twelve-inch silver statuette of Mercury, suitably mounted on red velvet. Jimmy was coupled to a proximity sensitive oscillator, so that he squealed at anyone coming closer than a foot to his stand—another Foreman Swaby special. The aforementioned F. of S. is unpopular with Sergeant Gardiner (R.E.M.E.), who spent two very hot days fighting off hordes of children who seemed to think that the idea was to swipe our Jim before he had time to holler. We are happy to say that they are both still with us! The public turned up in force throughout the times of opening, and what seemed to us like several thousand children had the time of their lives, swarming over everything, bellowing down telephones, hammering teleprinters, winning hand over fist at sideshows. One grubby young urchin wanted to get in with the R. 209 that was working immersed in a tank of water! During the construction of this display piece, the F. of S. predicted that it would float—which it did—whereupon an officer (who shall be nameless) said "Pour some more water on top."

Exit Foreman, speechless.

Saturday the 18th of July was another great day, when Sergeant (Alec) Leitch and Miss Linda Symonds were married at Isfield Church, well supported by the officers and senior N.C.Os of the unit. Best man was S.S.M. Douce, who gave the impression of having done that sort of thing before, so smoothly did the whole affair go off. At the reception in the Sergeants' Mess afterward, the guests did justice to the impressive spread organised by Sergeant Lowrie, our tame A.C.C. Cook Sergeant. In the evening, a Mess Social served well to round off a very full, and for Sergeant and Mrs. Leitch, a very happy day. We wish them a long and contented life together.

A popular variation on the theme of morning P.T., as practised here at Crowborough, is the Thursday morning trip to the swimming baths in Tunbridge Wells—for training of non-swimmers. Your correspondent is pleased to report after visiting the baths that most of the non-swimmers are learning uncommonly fast!

The team entered by the Unit in the Home Counties District Motor Cycle Trials consisted of Corporal Potter, Signalman Hyde (835) and Signalman Burns. The Trial took the form of a morning Road Test by route card and map references from Ashford to Shorncliffe, and twelve cross country hazards in the afternoon. The team had two punctures during the day, the first being sufficient to disqualify the team. Signalman Hyde, due to a misunderstanding, imagined that he had been eliminated as a result of his, and so completed the road test at a more leisurely pace, thereby exceeding the time limit, although losing no points whatever for inaccurate map reading. Corporal Potter meanwhile put himself into the Top Ten competitors with good roadwork, marred only by running repairs on a petrol leak with a piece of chewing gum just one hundred yards the wrong side of a secret check point! In the afternoon, all three riders lost well below the average of fifty points lost by the majority of competitors. Signalman Burns, in spite of a puncture half-way through, completed the course most creditably for his first trial. Signalman Hyde was a constant source of amazement to the Official Observors who, on seeing his performance, would not believe that he had been disqualified and was just going round for experience.

He had the distinction of being the only competitor to get a B.S.A. through one hazard which had even foiled the majority of Matchless riders. The most deserved honour of the day went to Corporal Potter. On one hazard, he sat waiting for a previous competitor to be carried away for medical attention to an injured leg, then went straight through to become only the second rider throughout the whole day to get further than half way. It was with such determination as this that he eventually completed the hazards with a loss of 43 points only. His final total of 49 points for the whole period of the trial placed him fifth of the hundred novices entered and earned him a special award.

With the experience gained at this trial it is hoped that the unit will be able to enter two teams in future events. Congratulations to our team on their first attempt, and better luck for the future.

Our last Commanding Officer's Drill Parade saw a departure from the usual routine, when the Commanding Officer, Major R. E. Scouller, Royal Signals, presented a Silver Spoon for shooting to Lance-Corporal Davies, who represented the Unit in the Eastern Command shoot at Purfleet, and later at Bulford and Bisley.

Lance-Corporal Davies, we feel, sets an excellent example—already a Class I Operator, and well on his way through a Radio Tech X 3 course, the sort of soldier tradesman our Corps badly needs both now and in the future.

The Squadron Wives' Club still continues to do good for the Corps and itself. The Sale of Work and Raffle on the day of the Annual Sports raised a commendable sum for the Association as will have been seen elsewhere. In July, the ladies relaxed to enjoy themselves and husbands fended hungrily at home while they had their annual outing—this year to the bright lights of the Smoke itself. The bargain counters at some of the sales are reported to have suffered severely before they withdrew to the comparative peace of the Palladium. At the moment they are co-operating with the Training Officer, Captain Canham, in putting across Civil Defence knowledge under the W.V.S. "one-in-five" scheme.

240 SIGNAL SQUADRON

You will recall, gentle reader, that in the September 1958 issue of THE WIRE No. 1 Command (M) Signal Regiment, T.A. (with whom we maintain a state of friendly rivalry being, as it were, their Regular Army opposite number) described the 'Cleveland Lyke Wake Walk' and their adventures on this 40 mile trek?

There can be no doubt that this walk constitutes 40 miles of the toughest going you would wish to find (or avoid!) anywhere in the British Isles and it is not a project to be tackled lightly.

Fired by the T.A. example (they completed the walk with a mixed party and for part of the way were in darkness) we started to train by teams of four in March this year and finally on Thursday, 2nd July, four teams of four, backed of course by an administrative 'tail' twice as strong, started for Arncliffe (near Northallerton) to spend what was intended to be a restful night under canvas, prior to starting out at dawn the following morning.

By 2100 hours all was reasonably quiet. It is true that little groups were playing nap "for amusement only" and the S.S.M. was making a little noise "limbering up" before taking to his Spartan couch in the heather (why did he greet the dawn from the back of a truck?).

Suddenly an obvious "deputation" hove in sight of the Officers' tent. Lieutenant Apps opined that they had come to negotiate the purchase of a 'Battleship'! but it was not so.

"We cannot sleep." "There are five pubs not two miles away." "It will help us to sleep." "We promise to be back by ten."

Four Officers (including the O.C.) sprang forth in silence; "of what use are words in such a situation?"

In a trice there was a tremendous flurry of activity (did I omit to say that the party was handpicked and comprised some real old fashioned types?). Nap and sleep were abandoned and in a steady stream we flowed—pubwards.

Never was such talk heard in Osmotherly, Dirgers of all ages converged on the Queen Catherine, the Black Bull and the Ship Inn. Records were broken and re-broken and Mr. Arthur Pucksin of Middlesborough was quoted as having done the walk no less than seven times, including there and back in 24 hours.

By 2300 hours the last straggler of a somewhat chastened 'Commando' had bedded down. How many slept for more than half an hour? I didn't. Anyhow it seemed that but five minutes had passed when the fiendishly cheerful (ex-naval, or is it R.A.F.?) voice of Staff Sergeant McCormick was heard, advising all and sundry that to "rise and shine" would "keep the sun out of our bleedin' eyeballs." There was no sun, it was strictly rain and more to come. It hissed on the canvas and dripped off our splendid ponchos; down our legs and into our boots! Downhearted? of course not! After hot sweet tea and Naafi biscuits we set off in our teams at two-minute intervals. The hour was 0345, the rain had stopped and all we had to do to reach the first halt, the 'Buck Inn' at 'Chop Gate', eight miles away, was to plough through eight miles of waist high wet bracken, bog and heather. The O.C. appointed himself rearguard with the firm intention of keeping the last team in sight, but in his zeal to inspect the first of the tumuli (ancient burial mounds) he covered rather more of Whorlton Moor than was strictly necessary and arrived at the Buck Inn somewhat behind schedule. At Chop Gate a quick cup of soup and away was the drill. By this time the pattern of future events was set and S.S.M. Herring and his team were well out in front, followed closely by Lieutenant Apps and the Command Troop team. Both teams were clear of Chop Gate en route for Rosedale Head by 0630 hours. From then on it was slog, slog, slog, a solid breakfast at Rosedale Head, a brief stop at Wheeldale Lodge Youth Hostel and then that delightful slope down to the railway at Ellerbeck Bridge which S.S.M. Herring and his team took at a full gallop. We were met at Ellerbeck by the C.S.O. Northern Command, Brigadier A. B. McVittie, O.B.E., who watched us consume a 'light' lunch, soup, salad, hard-boiled eggs, cold meat. Someone (not a potential 'Dirger') was heard to say, "wot, no duff?"

There was a small drama at Rosedale where the O.C. was met with the news that Captain Montague's team had gone astray, somewhere near Bloworth Crossing on the disused Railway which runs across Farndale Moor (part of Lord Faversham's estate). The O.C. set off to the rescue, driven by Driver Millar. They got around the locked gate at the start of the Railway somehow, and halfway across the Moor were met by an irate Game-keeper, also in a Landrover, who was incensed to hear that a party of brutal and licentious soldiers might be lost somewhere on his beloved grousemoor. He was finally pacified and allowed the rescue party to proceed. They found a crippled but quite content Signalman Gorton with another and more friendly keeper, who had very kindly shared his beer and 'chicken' sandwiches. On arrival back at Rosedale the remainder of the missing team was breakfasting heartily and with one exception was fit to continue.

All teams were clear of Ellerbeck (28 miles from the start point) by 16.00 hours. The S.S.M. and his team left on this, the last lap, at 14.00 hours and arrived at the Raven Hall Hotel (the bar of which is the official finishing post), Ravenscar at 17.21 hours, having completed the 40-mile march in the record time of 13 hours 21 minutes, including meal halts. The last stragglers staggered in at 19.50 hours and it was unfortunate that the Command Troop team which started hot favourite should have gone astray on the last lap. They finished up ten miles off-route, at a village called Broxa, so failed to qualify as "Dirgers." In fact, this was a splendid effort because they had marched 46 miles in just over 14 hours. Better luck (and map reading!) next time. Fourteen out of 16 starters completed the specified distance but since the Lyke Wake rules as regards route are strict, only the following qualified as "Dirgers" and their names will now be enscribed on the Goulton tankard:

W.O.II D. W. Herring, D.C.M., Corporal P. Lethbridge, Signalman K. Alsop, Signalman G. Scott (Time: 13 hours 21 minutes).

Second-Lieutenant D. J. Byrne, Royal Signals, Signalman J. E. Rimmer, Corporal K. Halliwell (Time: 16 hours 15 minutes).

There were, of course, many incidents en route but the one of most interest to all ranks was that the Squadron Sergeant-Major should be the sole "bog trotter." He thought that this particular bog had dried up; or perhaps he thought that bogs were meant to engulf lesser mortals. Supposition notwithstanding, he was immersed to the waist! I think it was the same bog that caught Major Willett, Training Major (No. 1 Command Signal Regiment, T.A.), last September.

There is now, of course, a Unit "Lyke Wake" Cup, to be competed for annually, and who can say how many years it will take to better the time of 13 hours 21 minutes?

STEEPLE BUMPSTEAD SIGNAL SQUADRON

All training programmes for this summer have been cancelled due to the large number of applicants for Agriculture Leave (A.C.I. 158/59 refers).

There are now so many training films being issued we are finding it awfully difficult to get through them all. Those dealing with the "Theorem of Pythagoras" and "The Stellar Universe" were most interesting, except to Driver Phillips, who sleeps through most of our programmes.

It is noted that the Editor intends to cease the monthly Quiz because of lack of interest. It is felt that this impression has been gained through apathy on our part in indicating our approval. Certainly, we of this Squadron find the Quiz most interesting; in fact, after the "Retirements" notice, it is the first item we read. Perhaps other WIRE notes writers would indicate their views.

On reading that the Freedom of Stratford-upon-Avon had been accorded to the Royal Engineers, our local Council held an extraordinary meeting (extraordinary because they all turned up) to consider whether or not a similar Freedom should be bestowed upon our Squadron. However, after Councillor Payne stated that we already appeared to do as we wished, the meeting adjourned without reaching a decision.

The canoeing feats of UK COMCAN Signal Regiment created a great impression upon Driver Phillips who, apart from his monthly application for a posting, submitted a request to be issued with a canoe. He quoted all sorts of Educational Grants which permitted such an issue, and the matter has now been referred to District. We are only grateful that UK COMCAN Signal Regiment didn't compete in the Torbay to Lisbon Schooner Race!

We conclude with more notes from our Cipher Troop: —

WRTZA FVQPO LTEBR TTUOK NFQOM
XAYND BSCNA TRMGU HWAPV LYSAJ

GERMANY

7th SIGNAL REGIMENT

In anticipation of a small amount of space here is a summary of events of interest which occurred during the printing strike period.

This year each Squadron in turn has been in camp beside the Mohne See for a week at a time. During this camp period P.E. tests, swimming and games have been the general form of activity.

Probably the highlight of individual achievement in the Regiment during this period was the entry of Lieutenant J. Westlake in the "Daily Mail" Blèriot Anniversary Air Race. His best time was 43 minutes 32 seconds and but for a slight mid-air mishap to his Hunter jet he could hardly have failed to have won.

As usual, we had a team in the Nijmegen Marches and although this is not competitive the team achieved the odd distinction of being first team to finish. The team was led by Second-Lieutenant Janssen.

Athletics are almost forgotten now we must record the tremendous enthusiasm of our team which finished third in the Morrison Cup athletics meeting.

Cricket is still with us. In the Morrison Cup competition we were put out by 2nd Signal Regiment in a high scoring, exciting game, whilst in the Inter-Troop knock-out competition we must congratulate our L.A.D., who defeated "T" Troop in the final. An Inter-Troop League is now in progress, but more of this next time.

16th SIGNAL REGIMENT

R.H.Q., 1 and 2 Squadrons. The Regiment's main sporting success this summer has been in shooting. Instructed and encouraged by Major B. E. Tebbs, the Shooting Officer, and inspired by the example of Captain G. A. S. Exell, the Adjutant, we are so proud of our shooting team that we enclose a photograph of the marksmen.

Their first success was when the team won the Rhine Area competition and were selected to go forward to the B.A.O.R. Rifle Meeting. While none of the teams distinguished themselves in the Officers, Warrant Officers and Sergeants or Corporals and below matches, we gained useful practice for the Royal Signals (B.A.O.R.) Meeting. Captain Exell was second in the individual rifle match, yielding first place to Captain Carr, of 13th Signal Regiment, by only one point. He won the 600-yard rifle match and shot his way into the B.A.O.R. Pistol 20.

In the Royal Signals (B.A.O.R.) Meeting our "A" team of Captain Exell, Staff Sergeant Berry, Corporal Cratton and Signalman Buckley won easily, and our "B" team came fifth. Captain Exell was again among the leaders in the individual tournament.

On to Bisley, where Captain Exell and Corporal Cratton reached the second stage of the Army Championship and but for a mere five points Captain Exell would have qualified for the Army Hundred. However, he did shoot for the Corps in the Methuen Cup.

The Regimental cricket team has had a good season, so far; we are in the finals of the Rhine District Section of the B.A.O.R. Inter-Unit Cup competition and are hoping for a resounding victory over H.Q., B.A.O.R., team on Sunday next, the 9th August, 1959. Second-Lieutenant Petley, Sergeant Peters and Signalman Thomas have been the mainstays of our batting side, aided by some vigorous and high scoring innings by Captain Williams when he is available. Major Smith and Signalman Hewett have provided the pace element in the attack and Lance-Corporal Buckley has remained calmly confident behind the stumps.

Our athletic team was hampered in its preparations by the pre-Administrative Inspection endeavours and by Exercise commitments, but did well to come fifth in the Royal Signals (B.A.O.R.) Athletic Meeting. Our congratulations go to Lance-Corporal Keighley and Signalman Roe, winners of the high jump, Signalman Ridley and Signalman Thornton, winners of the shot putt, and to Major Smith, Sergeant Simpson, Lance-Corporal Miller and Corporal Piper, the runners-up in the 120 yards high hurdles.

In spite of the calls of sport, a considerable amount of work has been done in the last two months. Exercise "New Harpoon" came and went and the Regiment did its part well. The Cable Troop and Medium Wireless Troop are seldom to be found in barracks and everyone who can is "getting out into the field" as often as possible. In addition, a successful Substantive Sergeants' course has been run and pre-course training for other courses goes on, it is not all play.

We welcome the Reverend T. F. Fehily and Lieutenant (Q.M.) J. W. Douthwaite to the Regiment and have said farewell to the Reverend A. K. Cluderay, who has joined 4 Guards Brigade, and to Second-Lieutenant Jones and Sergeant Hancock, who have returned to civilian life. Second-Lieutenants Gill, Gandy and Riddiough are now audibly counting the days to their release and will be gone before another edition of THE WIRE appears. We wish them the best of luck in civilian life and especially, perhaps, to Mr. Gill on his impending marriage. Sergeant Walker has left us on posting to Catterick.

From this month's mail: "Taps in drains will be turned off hard to the right. Troop Commanders will be inserted where required."

3 Squadron. As suggested in our last "notes," we are indeed now basking—not perhaps so much in any glow of satisfaction (nevertheless our "Admin" was satisfactory enough)—as in the semi-tropical sunshine which seems to have invaded all Europe this summer. Liquid consumption has broken all records and it is even suggested that someone has been drinking the O.C.'s ink! It is also strongly rumoured that the technicians are installing an ice-cream plant behind the battery shop, although they stoutly maintain that it is "a new generator."

In the field of sport our cricketers have joined those of the R.A.S.C. to form a Grobbendonk Camp team. They are enjoying moderate success, both against other Units and in a local league.

The basketball team is fulfilling its early promise and we have won five of our first seven league matches, which puts us among the leaders of the eight-team league.

It is not a very comfortable feeling to be living beside so many thousand gallons of petrol when everything is tinder-dry, and a single spark could bring disaster. Last week-end fire broke out about a mile from the Depot and, at the request of the local Belgian Fire Brigade, all hands went eagerly to help. Fortunately, what wind there was carried any sparks away from the Depot and eventually the fire was brought under control and put out.

One happier consequence of the heat wave is that the Squadron has enjoyed two excellent trips to Zilverstrand for swimming. This small country resort has two swimming pools and a boating lake, which are surrounded by sands and pleasant scenery (both vegetable and human!). In fact, we almost had to leave behind three particularly ardent students of nature.

Two sunburned foot-sore soldiers returned to camp on



16th SIGNAL REGIMENT WINNERS OF THE BAOR (ROYAL SIGNALS) RIFLE MEETING UNIT CHAMPIONSHIP

Standing left to right : Sergeant Felton, Staff Sergeant Howe, Signalman Glynn

Sitting left to right : Corporal Gratton, Captain G. A. S. Exell, Major B. E. Tebbs, Staff Sergeant Berry, Signalman Buckley

Saturday from Nijmegen. "I hope to go again next year," said one! All credit to Lance-Corporal Hurt and Signalman Franklin for finishing the gruelling march in such good spirits.

As many as possible are now taking some summer leave before returning refreshed and keen (we hope!) for the autumn "Exercise season."

We say good-bye next month to Staff Sergeant Lawlor, our S.Q.M.S., and wish him and his family all the best on his return to U.K. and posting to 24th Signals Regiment.

21st SIGNAL REGIMENT

The Regiment has been showing the flag in many ways this month.

Second-Lieutenant Allan and Sergeant Irvine spent the early part of the month training a team for the Nijmegen Marches. The team covered 100 miles in four days and marched into Nijmegen, at attention, on the 24th July to receive very well deserved gold medals. Particular praise is given to Second-Lieutenant Allan for marching the last with a badly poisoned foot.

The Air Officer Commanding, Air Vice-Marshal Crisham, C.B., C.B.E., carried out the Annual Inspection of R.A.F. Laarbruch on 20th/21st July. The Regiment mounted a Quarter Guard for the occasion and thoroughly earned the compliments they received on their drill, bearing and turn-out.

1 Squadron have been making good use of the Haltern training area. 7 Line, 9 and 10 Heavy Cable Troops have each been out there, although one of them spent a long time floating a cable-end across the Dortmund-Ems Canal in a half-ton trailer. Not only did they gain a great deal of experience, they also had a pleasant break from normal routine.

When writing these notes 2 Squadron are often left out. Whereas H.Q. and 1 Squadron supply the men for our more ceremonial occasions, 2 Squadron provide the day-to-day operational rôle. 2 S.H.Q. is based on R.A.F. Bruggen, with Wing Troops at Bruggen, Wildenrath and Geilenkirchen. 10 Heavy Cable Troop has recently joined them from Laarbruch, while 2 Wing Signal Troop has been absorbed by 1 Squadron. The Squadron Commander and Troop Officers have a divided responsibility towards the Regiment and the R.A.F. Station they serve. It is to their great credit that they honour this responsibility without friction, disagreement or breakdown.



21st Signal Regiment Quarter-Guard for A.O.Cs. Inspection, 21st July, 1959

22nd SIGNAL REGIMENT

Writing Unit notes for THE WIRE is an unremunerative form of freelance journalism at the best of times, but writing them at a time when the printing strike makes it likely that they will never get printed amounts to an act of faith only justified by the knowledge that this will be "positively the last appearance" of 11 Air Formation Signal Regiment in the pages of THE WIRE.

Highlights of the past few months have included the achievement of Driver Higham, of 4 Wing Signal Troop, in becoming B.A.O.R. 100-metre backstroke swimming champion for the second year in succession; the distinction of the Adjutant, Captain J. Tate, in being selected to captain the Royal Signals B.A.O.R. rifle team and in being runner-up in the individual championship of the Royal Signals Rifle Meeting at Bulford; the winning of the R.A.F. Sundern Station Athletics Championship by the Regiment's team, trained by Captain P. A. Thompson; and the successful participation of our team, led by Captain P. A. Spooner, in the 125-mile long trek known as the Nijmegen Marches.

Other people's Annual Administrative Inspections have, as we are repeatedly reminded by the Editor, poor news value for readers of THE WIRE. But we plead indulgence to the extent of a few inches of space to record our Inspection on 30th June. To mark the occasion as a farewell parade of the Regiment all ranks wore No. 1 Dress and Officers carried swords. The Salute was taken by the Chief Air Formation Signals Officer, Colonel D. E. Harrison, O.B.E., who commended the parade as an impressive ceremony worthy of the tradition of Air Formation Signals in Germany.

At about the same time as the Regiment changes its rôle and identity we shall be losing our Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel K. A. Nash. Throughout the past three years he and Mrs. Nash have supported with characteristic generosity and enthusiasm every branch of activity on the Station; they will both be greatly missed not only by the Regiment but also by the Royal Air Force and, not least of all, by the Gutersloh Golf Club, of which Colonel Nash was a founder member.

After a brief tenure of the appointment of Second-in-Command, Major R. R. Morrison, M.B.E., left the Regiment on promotion to a G.S.O.1 appointment at G.H.Q., M.E.L.F., and was replaced in May by Major W. L. Ward. The Adjutant's chair changed hands in April, Captain J. Ridge being relieved by Captain J. Tate; and, shortly afterwards, W.O.I McDonald was succeeded as R.S.M. by W.O.I Pavey, who has the distinction of being one of the youngest R.S.M.s in the Corps.

28th SIGNAL REGIMENT

Since you heard from us last we have had a "General Post" within the Regiment. R.H.Q., which waged war from Rheindahlen, is now doing so from Francisca (in other words St. Tonis) instead.

With true British phlegm we embarked on our programme of Athletics meetings knowing that they would be rained off. We were wrong. We were treated to a series of the most blistering hot days that can be imagined. Our efforts in the Rhine Area individual and team meetings were unspectacular, save from the Javelin throwing by Signalman Arnold. We enjoyed particularly our own meeting in which the two halves of the Regiment (Rheindahlen and Francisca) competed against one another. Rheindahlen had a comfortable win, but Rheindahlen smugness about their victory took a nasty knock when they compared the relative strengths available to the two team selectors. Particularly good performances were put up by Major Gram-Hansen with the hammer, Signalman Arnold with the javelin, and Lance-Corporals Dutch and Fyles, and Signalmen Metherall, Brewster and Meldrum in the track events. All the events were contested most keenly, and the favourable comments of the spectators proved that it was not only the competitors who had enjoyed their day.

Those of us who were here last year will remember the monsoon-like rains which resulted in the frequent postponements and, finally, the cancellation of the Garrison Sports. This year was quite different. The Regiment competed against the remainder of the Garrison, not as one unit, but by sending separate teams from the Rheindahlen and Francisca contingents. Despite the handicap, the Rheindahlen team came first and the Francisca team third out of a field of 16 teams. Again the spirit of the Regimental teams was excellent, and again Signalman Metherall was conspicuous by winning the long jump, the 440 yards and coming second in the hop, step and jump, which resulted in his being awarded the trophy for the best athlete. Signalman Arnold again won the javelin.

In the Morrison Cup athletics meeting, we came seventh out of all the Signal units in B.A.O.R., and our relatively low placing does not bear proper witness of the effort and spirit of our team. Under Lieutenant Norman Merrifield, the tug-of-war team won without any doubt at all. Signalman Arnold won the javelin, and particularly fine efforts were made by Lance-Corporal Shields and Signalman Metherall in the 200 and 400 metre relay events. Better luck next year.

The Royal Signals B.A.O.R. Rifle Meeting saw the Regimental team, led by R.S.M. Holdsworth, come as runners-up to 2 L. of C. Signal Regiment in the team championships.

The Morrison Cup cricket matches have provided our more serious cricket. We have played three teams in this series up to now and we have won all games. We have defeated 2 T.A.F. Independent Signal Squadron, No. 1 Wireless Regiment and 12 Air Formation Signal Regiment so far, and because of this, we are through to the finals. Our new Paymaster, Major Quick, is proving to be a most competent skipper, and we have great hopes of winning the Morrison Cup Cricket.

On cricket, but in a lighter vein, we must record the victory of the Rheindahlen Officers over the Warrant Officers and Sergeants in a most enjoyable match. Having been 81 for one wicket, the Warrant Officers and Sergeants were all out for 89, a collapse attributed in some circles to a general tightening up of the game when the bar was declared open. In another match, "A" Operator Troop dismissed another Troop (nameless) for five runs, the latter's collapse is as yet unexplained.

Our water polo team has been doing well. The recent successes against 2 L. of C. Signal Regiment and the 1st Battalion The Scots Guards, saw us into the B.A.O.R. Championships. Here we came to grief at the hand of 54 Locating Regiment, R.A.

The Nijmegan marches are now again with us and Second-Lieutenant Stallard and his men once again under training for this famous event. Some colour has been added to the marches for us this year by the arrival, at short notice, of two teams from the Junior Leaders Regiment from Newton Abbot. The Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Gregory, came with them. We hope that their stay with us next time will be less hurried.

MALTA, G.C.

Royal Signal Corps Week

At the end of June we entertained the Royal Engineers on the occasion of the Corps Birthday. The guest night was proceeded in the afternoon by a cricket match, which was won by our guests. The spectators passed a pleasant afternoon in the shade of the trees, and we hope the players also enjoyed themselves, despite looking very hot.

This event was followed in the first week of July by a Corps Week, which commenced with a Church Parade on the Sunday, at which Padre Lawrence Mathews (well-known to many in Catterick and Sandhurst) preached an excellent sermon. By some means, even the National Servicemen had No. 3 dress for the occasion, and the march past that followed, was well up to Corps standard.

In the days that followed there were swimming sports, won by 235 Signal Squadron (COMCAN), and an athletics meeting, run on rather pentathlon lines, which was won by 234 Signal Squadron (Malta). There was also an open day, when families and friends could visit the various signal centres and installations.

The social events of the week started with a cocktail party, given by the officers. For this occasion 234 Signal Squadron (Malta) converted a tennis court until it was quite unrecognisable as such; it even had a fountain playing in the middle, by courtesy of the S.W.S. Troop. From the complimentary remarks passed we gather (and hope) that the 250 people present enjoyed the evening.

The same location was used on subsequent days for an all ranks' dance and a Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Ball; by no means the least attraction at both these functions were the magnificent prizes offered for the draws. However, the colourful decorations and the excellent dance band of the 1st Battalion Royal Fusiliers provided the essential basis for the success of both dances.



CORPS WEEK ATHLETIC SPORTS IN MALTA

Mrs. Elliot, wife of C.S.O. Malta, presenting an individual trophy to Lance Corporal Sammut of Malta Signal Squadron. Behind Mrs. Elliott are Sergeant Black (very dark glasses), Staff Sergeant T. Williams and W.O.II (F of S) Thompson

On the actual Corps Birthday, No. 1 Ship Signal Troop was at sea on an amphibious exercise, but by permission of the Captain of *H.M.S. Meon*, the Corps flag was on that day flown from the yardarm. This unusual "signal" provoked a query, and subsequent "Happy Birthday" signal from one of the Allied warships.

During the past month we have said a regretful farewell to Captain K. F. J. Mogridge, of 235 Signal Squadron (COMCAN). In addition to his duties in the Signal Centre, he has been a stalwart in many forms of sporting activities; he has represented his Squadron, representative Signals teams and Troops, Malta, on many occasions at cricket and hockey. We wish him and his family all good fortune in Germany.

1 SIGNAL SQUADRON, KING'S AFRICAN RIFLES

The Orderly Room is under new management since we said good-bye to Captain Wilton-Steer and Sergeant Underwood. Both will be missed. Sergeant Roberts is now paper fundi and has already distinguished himself with his mastery of Kiswahili.

Sergeants Slaughter and Meacher have covered themselves with glory in the recently held Jaribuni Motor Cycle Trials at Langata, coming first and fourth respectively. A good effort, which we are assured had nothing to do with the fact that Sergeant Bodys was Clerk of the Course.

The S.S.M., W.O.II Jenkins, will be leaving us shortly and we welcome W.O.II Young, who has come to us from the 24 Brigade Signal Squadron.

The Signal Centre continues to function with its usual efficiency and the Administrative Officer would like to place on record that he has seen Sergeant Willoughby in uniform at least once. Lest this should seem to be a reflection on the military bearing of those who work for the "Kremlin," it is understood that on duty he is a model of martial rectitude (or something like that).

"J" Troop, 70 Infantry Brigade, has been having a fairly quiet life to date, a lull before the Kenya version of the "silly season" starts.

THE BLUE BOOK

The Sixth Edition of the Blue Book has been despatched to C.S.O.s, from whom bulk Unit orders can be obtained. Individuals can be supplied direct from Association H.Q.

Price 2/6.

Two R.S.M.s of the Corps



R.S.M. F. J. PAVEY

Enlisted in Peshawar, India, at the age of 13 years and 11 months on 9th March, 1935, R.S.M. Pavey joined "F" Boys Company.

During his Boy Service, he excelled in Athletics, Hockey, Soccer and Cricket, and in 1939 represented the Corps at Athletics in the javelin event. He played Hockey consistently for the Training Battalion during this period.

At the outbreak of the war R.S.M. Pavey went to France with 3 Division, being posted home during November 1939 to join 1 General Trades Training Battalion at Catterick, where he was appointed Lance-Corporal.

He served for a short time with the 45th Divisional Signals as Corporal and was posted to 9 Armoured Divisional Signals until its disbandment in 1944. Thence to Burma and service with 33 Corps Signals and, quite naturally, very shortly after he arrived in the Far East, the Japanese Forces capitulated! He remained in Burma in the same unit, although it changed its designation a number of times, eventually becoming Burma Command Signal Regiment. During his last two years of service, R.S.M. Pavey held the appointment of R.Q.M.S. and was Mentioned in Despatches.

On the Home Establishment once more he served with 5 A.A. Group (M) Signal Regiment in such rough stations as Derby and Scarborough.

In September 1949 he was with 29 Independent Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron at Colchester and found himself posted to West Africa a week before the Reds crossed the 38° parallel and the Brigade was listed for service to Korea.

In West Africa he served for three years with the Gold Coast Signal Squadron as R.Q.M.S. and then for a year with 3 Training Regiment at Catterick as S.S.M. until in May 1955 he was promoted R.S.M. and posted to 1/20 Army Signal Regiment T.A. at Birmingham.

In September 1958 after being sorted out at the All Arms Drill Wing, R.S.M. Pavey was posted to Junior Leaders Regiment, his present appointment.

R.S.M. Pavey is married with three children, two girls and a very Junior Leader, who already shows signs of becoming a future R.S.M.

R.S.M. S. G. PAVEY

Enlisted as an R.E. Boy on 10th July, 1939, at the age of 14½ years, was claimed by his brother into "F" Company Royal Signals in October of the same year. Represented the Boys at Soccer, Rugby, Hockey and Cricket, also Catterick Garrison at Soccer and Hockey. Left Boys' Service in October 1942 as Lance-Corporal Boy. Served with War Office Signal Regiment until December 1943, when he was claimed by his brother into 9th Armoured Divisional Signals, where they served together until the Division was disbanded. Both were then drafted to 33 Corps Signals in Burma, where he saw service in 19 Indian Division and 7 Indian Division and rose quickly to the rank of W.O.II (Lance-Corporal, 1st February, 1945; Wireless/Corporal, 25th July, 1945; Wireless/Sergeant, 26th May, 1946; Wireless/Warrant Officer II, 4th October, 1946). Returned to U.K. on repatriation in November, 1947. Posted to 4 Training Regiment Catterick as S.S.I. Posted to 40 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment in August 1948 and moved to Hong Kong for the emergency of that year, during his stay in the Colony represented the Army and Colony at Hockey, returned to U.K. in September 1952 and was reverted to Sub rank of Staff Sergeant and posted to R.S.W. Catterick. Promoted to S/W.O. II, 26th January, 1954, and took over H.Q. Squadron. During this stay in Catterick he represented the Corps at Hockey. Was posted to 53 (W) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A. Cardiff, as P.S.I. in April 1955; moved to 90 Signal Regiment on promotion to R.Q.M.S. in September 1957. Promoted to R.S.M. on 10th February, 1959, and moved to 20th Signal Regiment on 1st April, 1959.

He is married and has three daughters.



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HEADQUARTERS, BRITISH FORCES ARABIAN PENINSULA (INDEPENDENT) AIR FORMATION SIGNAL SQUADRON

The Squadron has undergone considerable changes during the past few months. We have said goodbye to Major L. F. Ball and Lieutenant (Q.M.) J. W. Douthwaite, whom we wish the best of luck. We welcome Major T. A. Hall, our new O.C., and hope that he enjoys his stay.

We also welcome Second-Lieutenant Soulsbury, Sergeant Dunkley, Lance-Corporal McConville and Signalmen Rice, Stewart and White. There are many others whom we would like to mention but shortage of space does not permit. However, we do wish all those who are about to leave us either this month or next, the best of luck for the future.

Unfortunately, in a small, hard-working Squadron like ours, sport tends to languish, but we do hope to gather a football team together and to participate in the local league during the coming "cool" season.

At present the weather is abnormally cool and the temperature never rises much above ninety (in the shade). Certain members of the community state also that it has rained quite recently, which provokes me to ask, "Is this a record?" Summer in Britain enters its last few weeks while Aden prepares itself for the second when the sun passes overhead again on its way south to give Australia a warm Christmas Day.

To end on a cheerful note. At Salalah Airfield (Salalah is one of our responsibilities and is about 600 miles up the road) there was a severe "Yankee" type hurricane which took upon itself to remove all clothing, bedding, stores, etc. (including all but two of the buildings, one of which was the Signals billet).

However, all communications remained intact and Salalah was able to retain contact with the outside world. A fine tribute to our Signalmen here.

ADEN PROTECTORATE LEVIES SIGNAL SQUADRON

Although these are the first WIRE notes submitted for several months, the Squadron, in fact, has been very active indeed, on numerous and varied tasks, very often at short notice.

The strength of the Squadron is approximately 50 British and 150 Levy Signallers, whose trade is mainly that of Wireless Operator. Half the British troops are stationed in Aden, and the other half scattered over the Protectorate with the Levy Garrisons. Communications are maintained with C 11s, C 12s and 62 sets at ranges up to 160 miles, and we feel that the high reputation of the Corps is held in good stead. The Arab Operators, mainly on C.W., at speeds varying from 15 to 20 w.p.m., but have slightly more difficulty with R.T., due to the language barrier.

The Squadron is at last almost up to strength, and the volunteers are flowing in steadily (they have probably all read A.C.I. 554/56 and subsequent amendments, which refer to the higher pay, shorter tours and longer leave).

The climate in Aden is very humid and, at the time of writing these notes, we are experiencing the dust storms which, the experts say, will last another week or so. The cooler season is from October to April, but does not cool down enough to wear battledress.

We have now been without a Squadron Commander for eight months, but the position has been held by Captain D. Shaw. We hear now that an O.C. is forthcoming and Captain Shaw is busily planning a well-earned leave in the U.K. Lieutenant I. N. Lee is at present Second-in-Command, and has just returned from U.K. leave. We would like to congratulate him on his recent marriage. We also have with us Lieutenant I. R. D. Shapter, and it has been said that if he gets a darker tan he will have to report to the Immigrants Department on return to U.K. S.S.M. Gubler joined us in April, when we bade farewell to S.S.M. Robertson, B.E.M., who returned to U.K. at the end of his tour. S.Q.M.S. Richards, having survived the ordeals of the Comsec, is now at the end of his tour and ready to depart. Staff Sergeant Tait is at present on leave in the U.K. with his family, and it is hoped that the Sergeants' Mess takings will pull up shortly after his return. On the technical side of the Squadron, the wheels are kept moving at a fast rate by Staff Sergeant Campbell and Sergeant Smales.

Although the Squadron is not able to field its own teams in the sporting field, we do provide a number of players for the A.P.L. hockey, cricket and football teams. In the recent Camp Swimming Competition, successes were gained by Lance-Corporal Billings, Signalmen Mitchell and Ramsdin in the relay and individual races.

RECRUITING

Some up-to-date Lessons

Combined military displays or exhibitions of all arms have been a feature of recruiting in U.K. this year. Although the responsibility for planning and organising these is that of the Recruiting Organisation, the actual exhibits have been provided by "normal" static U.K. units. One of the Royal Signals units which has been treading this unfamiliar territory is Eastern Command Signal Squadron. This unit's Mobile Wireless Troop has, in addition to its otherwise very full summer programme, provided a small team with C.V.s, fitted with W.S. 53 and C.F.S. equipment installed according to a lay-out designed by the Unit T.O.T. Major Jack Spafford, before the "official" version was published. A few minor attractions to draw a crowd, such as W.S. 31 for visitors to operate are also carried, and it is planned to add a topographical model (with, of course, flashing lamps) on which Royal Signals trades may be illustrated.

The Troop received three days' notice of its first engagement at Ramsgate. The success of this confirmed that "ordinary" soldiers as distinct from "professional" recruiters could play a big part in recruiting. The display itself (which rivalled even the Centurion Tank in popularity with youths and adults if not small boys) showed that even slightly outdated equipment, if shown actually working and given the approprite presentation, is a powerful attraction. Spurred on by its success, the troop, in the time available before the next appearance at Wisbech, in Norfolk, rubbed off the "rough edges" and gave the display a more polished air. The demand for the display is now growing so quickly that the Squadron Commander is beginning to wonder how often in future he will be able to lay hold of his C.V.s for normal uses. In the following notes the Troop Commander, Second Lieutenant J. Winter, a National Service Officer, whose home is in King's Lynn, gives his impressions of the Wisbech display.

Having been initiated into the rigours of recruiting at a Careers Exhibition at Ramsgate earlier in the year, a Demonstration Team attended the Wisbech Trades Fair from 3rd to 10th June, 1959. The team consisted of three high-powered Command Vehicles, two Generators, a Land Rover, one officer and nine N.C.O.s and men. On arriving at the show ground, we successfully negotiated a hazardous course bestrewn with trailers, tents, vehicles and even a Centurion Tank. We were allocated a generous amount of space on which to park the vehicles and equipment and were then invited to a Lecture. The Lecture, given by representatives of a Sales Consulting Firm, proved to be highly instructive and each soldier was given hints on how to "sell" the Army. During the remainder of the day, equipment was tested and the vehicles cleaned up in readiness for a grand opening ceremony. Being in the midst of a predominately agricultural area, Wisbech was considered fair game for recruiting and thus hopes of a successful campaign were high.

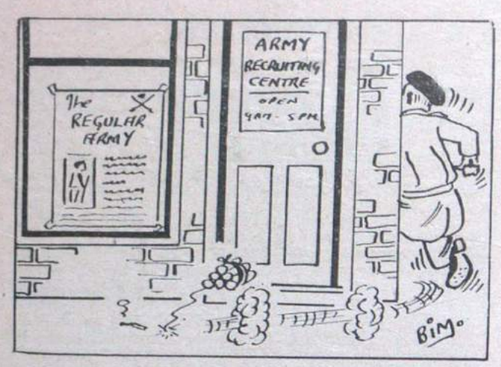
As the time for the opening of the Exhibition approached, the members of the team formed up in front of the highly

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"bulled" demonstration vehicle, each resplendent in No. 1 Dress. This proved to be the first mistake. The potential recruits took one look and were immediately convinced that to sign on would mean a life of keeping an immaculate shine on all forms of military equipment. The No. 1 dress certainly proved to be an attraction, but only to members of the opposite sex. The W.R.A.C. benefited somewhat, however, from this profusion of material.

The main theme for the demonstration was an "intelligent teleprinter" which could successfully answer questions typed out on it by members of the visiting public. The Command vehicle housing the teleprinter was thrown open for inspection and an added attraction was provided by two 31 sets. As the exhibition progressed several interesting observations were made.

In spite of the presence of eye-catching photographs of typical army occupations, the most popular exhibits were those that could be operated by members of the public. The average visitor regarded photographs or pictures as being specially staged and not truly representative. It is, on the other hand, simple to adapt standard items of equipment to provide a "gimmick" which will attract attention to the exhibit. This is necessary because, although visitors to the fair are quite prepared to view the display from afar, they are much more reluctant to inspect at close range. A small group of people will soon snow-ball into a large crowd and two 31 sets were therefore placed at their disposal.

By operating these sets themselves, visitors encouraged others to try, and these in turn attracted more spectators.

By conveniently placing a sign advertising our Intelligent Teleprinter nearby we were able to entice people to inspect the Command Vehicle and then it was just a matter of trying to answer the many questions posed. In fact one has to be somewhat short with the veterans who insist that the Army "aint wot it was like in my day," and need two hours to attempt to prove it.

Another item used to attract attention was a blackboard showing Test Match scores and all the latest racing results. Needless to say these had to be maintained up to date and accurate in accordance with "Certa Cito."

It was found that the best recruiter is the signalman or junior N.C.O. actually operating the equipment displayed. If an interested young spectator was approached by an officer, immaculate in No. 1 dress, he tended to about turn and rapidly disappear in the opposite direction. He was on the other hand quite prepared to talk to an actual operator as he regarded him as a source of reliable information that would not be punctuated with unnecessary sales talk in order to persuade him to sign on the dotted line.

At first it was decided to put the reserve Command Vehicle on a car park, but due to the difficulty of extricating it from the Show Ground it was left in its original location, a penthouse was erected, and four signalmen took up residence. This proved to be a success as potential recruits could actually see soldiers living in the field.

The total of recruits obtained has not yet been received from the Recruiting Organisation, but the mixed team of regulars and National Servicemen are confident they reached double figures. A pointer to the team spirit of the detachment is that the first soldier of any arm to get two recruits in one day was a National Service signalman.

43rd (WESSEX) SIGNAL REGIMENT (T.A.)

Taking things by and large, the year 1959 has, so far, at any rate, been quite an eventful one for the Regiment. Heading a host of events and changes which have occurred in this sunny year is the appointment of Lieutenant-Colonel G. A. L. Davies, Royal Signals (T.A.), to command the Regiment—the first Territorial Army officer to do so for nine years.

Colonel Davies's appointment as C.R. Signals, 43rd (Wessex) Signal Regiment (T.A.), followed the move of our former C.O. to the Air Ministry as Deputy Director of Signals (Air Formation Signals). We take this opportunity to congratulate Colonel H. J. Thompson, O.B.E., and wish him—and his family—good luck at the new station. The Regiment benefitted a great deal from Colonel Thompson's experience, and he will long be remembered by all of us.

The first task which faced Colonel Davies, on his appointment, was the move of some 60 vehicles and five times as many men from nine different T.A. Centres, spread over the West Country, to annual camp at Castlemartin, Pembrokeshire.

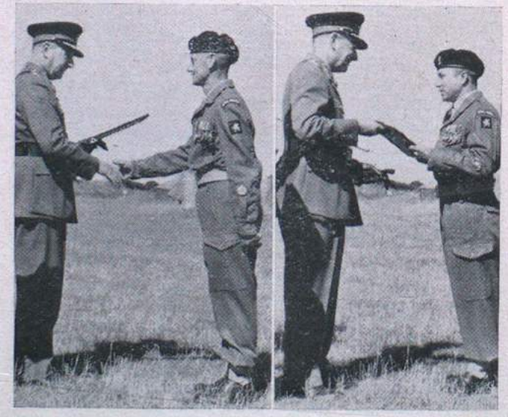
The movement instruction ran into 10 foolscap pages, and we are proud to say that the journey went off without a single hitch or breakdown. We extend our thanks to O.C. 1 Squadron, 14th Signal Regiment, for the excellent staging arrangements made at Robinswood Barracks, Gloucester, for both the inward and outward journey.

This year, too, we went to camp with our Divisional Headquarters. The G.O.C. of the Division, Major-General H. A. Borradaile, C.B., D.S.O., singled the Regiment out for praise for the excellent communications provided for the two Brigade Group exercises which took place during Camp, and here we mention how pleased we were to have with us in camp 310 Signal Squadron (ASSU), who lent valuable assistance on the exercises.

The G.O.C. inspected the Regiment on parade and presented Lord Lieutenant's Certificates for Meritorious Service to R.Q.M.S. Pauley (Exeter), W.O.II Mitchell (Plymouth), Sergeant Scott (Torquay) and Sergeant Clothier, A.C.C. (Taunton), all of whom are to be congratulated. He had a special word of praise for the recruits who paraded separately. The cup for the best recruit was presented to Signalman Mockridge (Bridgwater).

Now safely back at our respective T.A. Centres, we are preparing for a number of exercises which are scheduled to take place soon, and our motor cycles are being tuned up for the various motor cycle trials planned between now and the end of the training year.

We wind up with the encouraging statement that our volunteer strength has gone up by no less than 100 in the past 12 months. We are now recruiting a steady 12 T.A. volunteers a month. We still have room for more and would welcome any ex-regulars who find themselves retiring to the West Country. How about that then?



Major-General H. A. Borradaile, G.B., D.S.O., presents the Lord Lieutenant of Devon Certificate to R.Q.M.S. Pauley (right) and S.S.M. Mitchell (left)

45th (ESSEX) SIGNAL REGIMENT (T.A.)

For Camp this year the Regiment returned after a break of three years to very familiar territory in the Folkestone area. From the 7th to the 20th of June we were under canvas on the "heights" of Dibgate, near Shorncliffe, and although we were sharing the compact site with three other units, which was a novelty for us, relations were very cordial and the camp proved to be quite congenial. Indeed, the R.S.M., W.O.I Derwent, M.B.E., for whose untiring efforts, ably assisted by the P.S.I.s, we are more than grateful, has, it is whispered, found it extremely congenial, even to being the recipient of a number of pictorial tributes to his parade ground eloquence; Baa, baa!

The spirit of the unit was put to the test very early on, when two days of gale force winds and driving rain at the beginning of the first week caused considerable discomfort and might well have begun a "browning off" process. In fact, however, everyone rose to the occasion splendidly, and this was exemplified on the first Tuesday when a party handling new equipment for the very first time erected three 72ft. radio masts in double quick time. Soaked to the skin, they stuck to their task and finished the job in time for the equipment to be in working order the following day when the unit was visited by the Director General of Military Training and the C.S.O. Eastern Command.

The equipment concerned, the carrier frequency shift Golden Arrow station, is the latest addition to the wide range of apparatus we now hold. Also being deployed under realistic conditions for the first time at this Camp were the unit's new B70 S.H.F. sets, which we had been training on at our Wanstead H.Q. for the past six months.

In addition to the radio side, intensive training has been going on at Dibgate for the despatch-riders, line parties and the learner-drivers. The first six months of the year were devoted to improving technical standards and just before Camp a Trade Board was held, as a result of which some 40 men were upgraded in their trades.

Camp concentrated on applying this increased technical skill in actual exercises on the ground and when the Regiment went off on the three-day exercise in the second week some twenty radio stations were deployed and over 50 miles of cable was in use.

Our R.E.M.E. light aid detachment also took part, keeping in touch with the progress of the exercise by means of their own wireless equipment, and stood by with the recovery section, which now includes a big new Scammell. It may not be quite fair to say that they wish us to break down, but at least we know they are very keen to show us what they can do in difficult recovery work!

We slept out this year for two nights, instead of one as in previous years, and the exercise ended with a night marshalling of the Regiment by separately conducted convoys from their different sites into a harbour area near Canterbury, followed by a convoy back to Dibgate.

The exercise provided a stiff test for the "Q" side in providing and cooking rations in the field, and in supplying fuel for vehicles and power plant scattered over a considerable area of the Kent countryside. Sergeant Benton of the A.C.C., in charge of the cookhouse (he is in civil life head chef at Claybury Hospital, Woodford Bridge) sees to it that an exceptionally high standard of messing is maintained at Camp. An innovation this year has been the hot-plate servery, made possible by the use of butane gas, ensuring that the meals reached the men really hot.

The usual functions were held by the Messes, the C.O. and officers being right royally entertained on the first Friday evening by the W.O.s and Sergeants, all of whom seemed to have developed ailments so distressing that it seemed somehow to involve the C.O. completely! The W.O.s and Sergeants in turn visited the Officers' Mess at lunch-time on the second Friday.

On the evening of Friday in the first week an all-ranks party was held in the N.A.A.F.I. canteen, and it proved a great, if noisy, success.

The middle Sunday being a free day, the P.R.I. arranged a coach from London to bring families and friends down for the day. They were entertained to lunch in the W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess on arrival, and had tea before departing back to Town in the evening.

Squadrons held their own parties on the final Friday evening at various hostelries in the vicinity, and at least one party persisted after return to Camp.

It is said that at this unofficial extension a young subaltern gained at least three undertakings to re-engage on the strength of a rather "spirited" test which the officer passed. He even survived (or should it be revived) to assist in serving "gunfire" at Reveille, to the amazement of his troops!

The Regiment takes great pride in having been officially "adopted" by the Borough of Wanstead and Woodford in 1951 and this link with the civil life of the district in which our Headquarters is situated is most carefully preserved and strengthened. Evidence of this was provided in the second week when the Mayor, Councillor G. C. E. Dixon, attended a guest night in the Officers' Mess together with Colonel R. W. Dale, D.L., who in addition to being a Borough Alderman is the Honorary Colonel of the Regiment, Alderman R. A. Dalton, Alderman R. S. Edwards and Alderman D. L. Forbes. The guests also included Lieutenant-Colonel P. J. Curry (C.S.O. London District), Colonel J. L. Lilley, T.D., D.L., and Lieutenant-Colonel L. H. Gentry, T.D. (former C.O.s of the Regiment), Lieutenant-Colonel W. B. Edwards (previous Q.M.) and Major R. F. A. Weaire (a former Second-in-Command).

At this function, too, were said our regretful farewells to the Adjutant, who has kept us up to the mark in the past three years, and served us well indeed.

Best wishes to Captain F. B. Saul and Mrs. Saul in their new appointment in Germany.

May we take this opportunity to welcome to the unit our new P.S.O., Major J. R. Rahilly, successor to Captain Saul, who is already in our midst, and express the hope that he will enjoy his tour with us.

No. 1 Squadron carried off the championship in this year's six-a-side soccer competition, beating No. 3 Squadron in the final. W.O.II (S.S.M.) Harry Bowers, of H.Q. Squadron, won the Silver Cup as first prize in the safe driving competition, second prize to Corporal Taylor, and Lance-Corporal Stables was third. The awards were presented by the C.O. at the H.Q. Squadron party at the Guildhall Hotel, Folkestone.

After Camp the Regiment went into recess until 4th August, when we started an intensive recruiting campaign with a target of another 150 men on the strength by the time National Service concludes in 1962. There are excellent chances of promotion for young men joining the unit now because a turnover phase is taking place, with a number of the older members dropping out because of their age, leaving vacancies for the younger men. **Can we interest any Regular or National Service men whose homes are in the London area and are due for demob. soon?**

All enquiries will be welcomed on Tuesday or Thursday evenings between 1930 and 2130 hours at the T.A. Centre, Selsdon Road, Wanstead, E.11, telephone WAN 5131, **without obligation,** or by day the R.S.M. or P.S.O. would be pleased to explain engagement conditions.

The following goods are available from Association Headquarters:

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PLEASE SEND CASH WITH ORDER for all the above articles *except* Corps Paint Transfers, for which an account will be forwarded.

52nd (LOWLAND) SIGNAL REGIMENT (T.A.)

This Regiment, like many others, will have changed its name by the time these notes are printed and we will then be 52nd (Lowland) Signal Regiment. It is not the first time we have changed our name and we can take it in our stride without any fuss or bother. Originally this Regiment was formed in 1859 as 1st Lanarkshire Military Volunteers, R.E., Glasgow, and we are therefore celebrating our centenary during the coming year.

As we rarely burst into print, you might think that we had succumbed to old age, but this is far from right, and the Regiment is as active and as vigorous as ever it was and an infusion of new blood in the form of recruits during the past six months speaks well for the future health of the Regiment. At the time of going to press the strength of the Regiment is 290 all ranks, which is some 100 more than the strength of the Regiment a year ago.

During the past year there has been a considerable change in Regimental H.Q. of the Regiment, as the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel B. R. M. Hayles, the Second-in-Command, Major H. E. Lang, and the Adjutant, Major J. H. Pearce, are all new. However, many of the old hands, such as Majors Muir Waddell and Ian Carmichael, R.Q.M.S. "Charlie" Lowe, Sergeant "Wee Wullie" Agnew and many others are still in the Regiment to help guide the newcomers.

We had a fairly eventful year and after much social activity around Christmas and especially New Year, we got down to training our new recruits. Most of them had no previous service and so we had to start from scratch; however, their keenness soon proved their worth and it was not long before we were able to cease purely military training and begin trade training, and by camp most of the new recruits were able to take an active part in assisting with the provision of communications for the various formations which we serve. But to do this meant splitting the Regiment for its annual camp. R.H.Q. and Nos. 1 and 2 Squadrons went to Granwich in Norfolk, No. 3 Squadron went to Sennybridge in Wales and a detachment from Nos. 1 and 2 Squadrons went to Barry in Scotland.

Our camp at Cranwich was most successful and in spite of the journey of 380 miles by road, all the vehicles and motor cycles arrived at Cranwich without incident. We were fortunate in having a hutted camp, although tents would have suited us equally well, as we were favoured with excellent weather throughout the camp.

The facilities at Cranwich for training were excellent, but those who are used to the bright lights of Glasgow found them lacking in Norfolk, and it was only on the middle Sunday of camp when the Regiment organised a 'bus trip to Great Yarmouth, that those who like a bright life found a little "civilisation."

Our Pipe Band, under Pipe-Major Sutherland, is rapidly growing in strength and undertook several public engagements at camp by Beating Retreat at King's Lynn and Swaffham and at the large U.S. Air Force Base, Lakenheath. The latter engagement was very popular and the 90% proof whisky which was thrust on the Band after their performance was much appreciated. The R.S.M. went along to help supervise the performance and his car was parked outside the Warrant Officers' Club well after the performance was over, as was the three-ton truck which carried the Band.

Our Pipe Band have been given the privilege by the Earl of Airlie, Head of the Ogilvy Clan, of wearing the Ogilvy Dress Tartan, and after much hesitation War Office have given their financial approval for the provision of the kilts and plaids, so we hope during this our Centenary Year to get our Pipe Band fully equipped with its new No. 1 Dress. When we are so equipped we will be the first Regiment to wear this tartan.

In the field of sport this year we have not been prominent, but the nucleus of a useful football side was discovered in a spirited sub-unit football competition held in camp at Granwich. The final was played between the Sergeants and the Recruits from No. 1 Squadron, and although the Sergeants started favourites the odds against them winning soon lengthened when the effects of entertaining the Officers the night before began to show and it was seen that Sergeant Dineen was playing in every position on the field at once. The recruits finally won by five goals to one.

The camp at Sennybridge was also hutted and 3 Squadron were lodged primarily with the 8th Royal Scots, but the Squadron spent more time under canvas in the shape of tents and vehicle canopies than they did under the roofs of their huts, for they carried out three-day Exercises in both their first and second weeks.

The Squadron entered for the Brigade Sports at camp, but unfortunately were not conspicious at the prize table, although they managed to get into the final of the Inter-Unit tug-o'-war, but succumbed to a strong team of 155 Brigade Field Ambulance.

The detachment of the Regiment camping at Barry return with the remainder of Glasgow at the end of the Glasgow Fair fortnight and although they had good weather at the beginning of their camp, it is suspected that they will need DUKWs to get them out of the camp.

So by the time these notes are published we will have returned from camp, having had a successful year, and looking forward to camping again as a complete Regiment in 1960, when we will be celebrating our Centenary.

54th (EA) SIGNAL REGIMENT (T.A.)

Annual Training, 1959, took the form of a "Greenfields" Camp, which was carried out with the Divisional R.E.M.E., each R.E.M.E. Workshop representing a Brigade H.Q. In this way very close liaison was maintained between the two Corps and many new friendships made.

Notes from "B" Troop. A tour of England and Wales is probably a fitting description of this year's camp. It was no holiday tour, however, as a great deal of work was done by all personnel throughout the fortnight.

We set off for our first destination, which was Fornham Park, near Bury St. Edmunds. Here we met the remainder of the Signal Regiment and ironed out the normal teething troubles.

The following day we moved to join the R.E.M.E. Workshops, with whom we were to work for the next fortnight. They made us very welcome and provided us with a good meal. Already it was obvious that in this out-of-doors type of camp, food was going to be uppermost in most people's minds. A practice move by the combined units was made later that day, fortunately only a matter of a few miles.

Our first real task came during the move the next day. The Workshops had been allocated the task of Traffic Control and Recovery for the move of the Divisional Signals and R.E.M.E. over two routes to a location near Sheringham. Wireless detachments were responsible for reporting progress of the convoys.

The move on the following day was a fairly long one, to the Lincolnshire Wolds. We all arrived safely, but the crew of the C.V. had their first—there were more to come—experience of being on tow. The location this time was a disused airfield. During the night a very strong wind blew up and, without a vestige of natural shelter, most people spent a chilly night. An early start, and we were on the road again, this time heading for Sherwood Forest. This was a beautiful spot, so the powers-that-be decided that we should do a night move out of it. We were due to move at 03.00 hours, so, except for the Drivers, who were really being tested, few of us slept.

We were all admiring the sight of dawn breaking over the Peak District and looking forward to reaching our destination, which was to be a hutted camp near Leek, when once more the C.V. broke down. This time it was on an extremely narrow road and nothing could get past. However, it was eventually moved, but not before a few tempers had frayed.

So for the next four days we once again slept in proper beds, and it was only now obvious just how tired everyone was. Although there was plenty to do in the way of battery charging, vehicle and set maintenance, most people had ample time for "gonking," as sleeping had become to be known. Highlights of the stay in Leek were a trip to New Brighton and a visit by the G.O.C. 54 (EA) Division (T.A.).

After a most welcome rest, we set off again on Tuesday of the second week; our journey this time taking us to Wales. This part of the journey was the most picturesque of all, and we now know why Welshmen sing about their valleys. An accident, involving one of our D.R.s, put a dampening effect on rather high spirits. However, we are pleased to be able to record that Signalman Smith is now progressing favourably and was soon transferred from Oswestry to Cambridge.

It was at this location that the Troop took over the task of doing its own cooking. Supervised by the P.S.I., S.S.M. Leeson, and very ably assisted by Signalman Simpson and Driver B. Strangward, our meals were always ready on time and were well prepared. In fact, many of us who have eaten POM in the Regular Army avowed that it had never tasted as good as when cooked by Simpson—surely an achievement to be proud of by an amateur. On Wednesday, the Troop went on a march over the mountains to Harlech, but failed to find "The Men of." This march was originally estimated at six miles, but due to a map-reading error by the officer-in-charge, it turned out to be nearer 10. I hasten to add that this, of course, was not an officer of the Royal Signals! Staff Sergant Moore enlightened the inexperienced ones as to what they should and should not do before setting off on the march. Thanks to his useful hints, all managed to complete the march with the minimum of discomfort.

Thursday brought the commencement of the return journey and a rather breath-taking trip down the Welsh mountains. Clutches and brakes certainly had a part to play this day.

By tea-time we were in location at Cannock Chase. (No sign of "Reilly-Foul").

Then, on Friday, we were off to our starting place—Fornham Park, where a meal, prepared by our Cook Sergeant, who had been detached throughout the exercise, was awaiting us. The usual party ensued during the evening. The commencement of a violent thunderstorm at midnight broke the party up, and we awoke to find everything soaked. Because of this, our departure was speeded up, so I suppose it is an ill wind that blows no one any good.

In conclusion; this type of camp was very different from anything we had previously experienced, but has proved extremely useful in pointing out our weaknesses. Certainly we shall need to press on with recruiting so that we can get proper shift sytems working on any other exercise of this nature and duration. To the wireless operators, under Sergeant Peachey, must be extended hearty congratulations for the way they coped with all situations, although their numbers were few. It is a credit to them that at no time were communications hampered by things which were within their control. Drivers did a good job in terrain in which only one or two had previous experience. The despatch riders did well also, for, with the exception of Corporal Rowley (a lineman by trade) all were recruits in their first year at the job.

Although it is difficult to single out personnel for special mention on a camp of this nature, where one is dependent on another, a reference must be made to Staff Sergeant Moore, who, by his tireless assistance on any job—"Q" matters, operating, driving, marching or cooking, really helped to keep the wheels turning at times when they came very near to halting.

55th (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT (T.A.)



2557186 W.O.II (R.Q.M.S.) Henry Healy Caseley has been awarded his fifth Clasp to the Territorial Efficiency Medal, having completed 42 years' reckonable service in the Territorial Army.

Enlisting on 31st August, 1921, at the age of 18 years, he has served continuously to date and attended every possible annual camp, including one in 1931, when no pay or allowances were available. He enlisted originally into the 3rd (London) Corps Signal Company, which was the forerunner of his present Regiment, although after many changes in designation. He completes his current engagement in July, 1961.

The Regiment must have been on its very best behaviour this year as, bearing in mind the old saying about "weather" and the righteous," the sun shone throughout the whole of the period of annual camp.

On 24th May there was activity at a very early hour at our many T.A.C.s as train parties assembled and very much later on the same day, re-assembled at Penhale Camp, Cornwall, for the Regiment's annual camp. Over 200 all ranks attended, almost the majority of whom were new recruits, many of them attending their very first T.A. camp. The consolidation of all ranks for annual camp is always something which is very much looked forward to, but this year annual camp was approached with even greater interest than ever, mainly because of the influx throughout the year of so many new recruits.

The first week of camp was devoted in the main to individual training and this really went with a swing. Our W.R.A.C. Squadrons joined forces in a central hutted area of the camp which the advance party had equipped as training rooms and a rather lavish Signal Centre. The W.R.A.C. certainly made very full use of this area and all credit is due to the W.R.A.C. Officers and N.C.O.s for producing and carrying out such a very full programme.

Our Royal Signals Squadrons stuck to the practical side of training and there was much coming and going of Line detachments, Wireless detachments, despatch riders and the like throughout the whole of the week.

In spite of the heavy training commitment there still appeared to be time for a good deal of social activity. On Tuesday and Friday evenings in the first week All Ranks' dances in the NAAFI were arranged. Both dances were very well supported and it seems that Regimental P.R.I. benefited to some extent. I suppose that the most memorable evening of the whole camp was the first Wednesday when the Squadrons held their Squadron parties. Newquay seemed the favoured spot and at least two well-known hotels in that delightful town must have done a very fair trade for that time of the year.

On Saturday morning, 30th May, the Commanding Officer inspected the Regiment on parade and took the Salute at a March Past. The "turn-out" and marching was good and the majority of our recruits it would appear had been well instructed in the art of "bulling up" for a Regimental parade.

Exercise "Rapier" was the focal point of camp in the second week. Communications in an extended line from Penhale Camp to Tavistock with fully operational Signal Centres at Penhale, Liskeard and Tavistock certainly gave all ranks something to get their teeth into. AN/TRC links between each location were provided with Quad tails to Signal Centres, wireless nets overall and a rather comprehensive S.D.S. service completed the picture. Sunday evening communications were established and maintained, albeit in skeleton form, at all times throughout the Exercise, which closed down on the following Tuesday evening. The administration of isolated detachments, living "in the field," the programming of moves, delegation of authority and responsibility, and all the hundred-and-one things which make such an Exercise, proved to be

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very successful and in this connection only proved that there is still a great deal to be learnt and practised. It was a first-class Exercise and worth all the headaches caused in preparation and fulfilment.

On the lighter side, mention must be made of the Officers and Sergeants fancy dress football match, which was really staged for the benefit of the recruits, who turned up in force to support the team of their choice. It was really a comic affair and resulted in a 10-6 victory for the Sergeants. The result is still in dispute as, after all, the ball should proceed in the direction of the goal and not the goalposts in the direction of the ball, as was the case!

On Thursday, 28th May, the Regiment was honoured by visits from many distinguished guests, of whom Colonel G. F. Houghton, O.B.E., D.C.S.O. Eastern Command, and Colonel J. G. Grierson, O.B.E., D.D.W.R.A.C. Eastern Command, and the Secretaries of the Counties of Surrey, Sussex and Middlesex were only a few.

The return to TACs at the end of camp was an Exercise in itself and it is good to be able to report that all ranks arrived home safely, with the exception of two W.R.A.C. Officers, who came to grief in their car on a very slippery corner; the car suffered the damage and I am happy to say the two Officers are back in harness.

At the moment, comprehensive training programmes covering all Squadrons are in full swing and thoughts are turning toward fresh efforts for recruiting. Range practice in preparation for the Command Signals T.A. Rifle Competition in September is taking up a deal of our time. As Organising Unit for the competition, we feel morally bound to put in first-class teams and the Regiment is working to this end. Incidentally, W.R.A.C. Corporal C. J. Hart won second place in the "Forces Day" small bore (.22) postal shoot Group VI (Women's Services) and was awarded a silver medal, her score being 290 on three targets, an average of 96.5. The male element must look to their laurels. Good shooting, Corporal Hart.

64th (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT (T.A.) and 312 SIGNAL SQUADRON (T.A.)

Lieutenant-Colonel J. A. Waite took over command of the Regiment in January this year and was joined a few weeks later by Major W. J. Perry, who took over the duties of Adjutant. The primary task was recruiting, organising and training in preparation for annual camp to be held at Washington, County Durham, from 26th July to 8th August.

It was originally intended that the first week of camp would be spent in training and preparation for the C.S.O.'s Exercise to be held during the second week, in conjuntion with our sister Regiment, No. 1 Northern Command (M) Signal Regiment (T.A.), in our mobilisation locations. About five weeks before camp it was confirmed that we would be honoured by the visit of Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, in her capacity as Controller Commandant of the W.R.A.C., on the 5th August. As the visit was to last from 11.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. considerable preparation and changes in the training programme had to be made, as we would not be able to take part in the C.S.O.'s Exercise. An account of the visit is given separately.

Recruiting began in earnest in March and was continued up to the time we went to camp. We achieved a fair degree of success, particularly at Beeston, where No. 1 Squadron was built up from 16 to 37 Royal Signals and from one to 24 W.R.A.C. The Derby Detachment, commanded by Captain Dorothy Henfrey, went from a strength of 13 to 22. Similar success was achieved at Sheffield. A total of about 60 Royal Signals and 40 W.R.A.C. new volunteers had joined by the time we went to camp. Several of the men and none of the women had any previous military training or experience. We were very fortunate in persuading Captain Peggy Snowden, who had just finished Regular service, to join the T.A. to look after the W.R.A.C. at Beeston. One thing the new volunteers had in common was zest and enthusiasm.

The move to Blackfell Camp went smoothly but despite our recruiting success we were only able to muster 140 Royal Signals and 47 W.R.A.C., as so many were unable to attend. The shortage of W.R.A.C. Officers was a problem, particularly for the first week. Apart from the W.R.A.C. P.S.O., we had only Captain Henfrey, who in her normal cheery way worked wonders. Preparations for the camp had been well made and we got away to a very smooth start, thanks to the efforts of our Q.M., Major Dunbar, and the Permanent Staff, headed by S.S.M. Hufton.

On the evening of assembly the long spell of warm, sunny weather broke and gave way to violent storms for the first few days, but everyone was in good heart. The appearance and bearing of all ranks on that first evening inspired confidence and a feeling that they would give a good account of themselves.

Training was started at 8 a.m. on the first morning, with Major J. R. Long, the Second-in-Command, as chief instructor. Being a headmaster by profession and having a great deal of military experience and technical know-how, he was very soon in control. Major Perry, the Adjutant, and R.S.M. Barnes Murphy soon had the Regiment in reasonable shape, training for the ceremonial parade.

The training day was long and arduous but every moment was crammed with interest and no time wasted. There was a marked lack of anxiety and a great deal of encouragement by the Officers and N.C.O.s to which the volunteers responded. The progress was remarkable, the feeling of achievement and Inter-Squadron competition was the spur.

Despite the arduous and concentrated training, everyone seemed to find time in the evening to visit the local seaside resorts and enjoy themselves in true T.A. fashion. On the 4th August Lieutenant-Colonel M. S. F. Millington, O.B.E., T.D., A.D.W.R.A.C. Northern Command, played the part of Her Royal Highness for our dress rehearsal. She gave us several useful hints and was a real help. The floral decorations in the Officers' Mess, arranged by Captain Anne Quarmby, attached for camp from a Liverpool W.R.A.C./T.A. Unit, were delightful. We were lucky in obtaining potted plants and cut flowers from the Sheffield Show, Washington Council and Sunderland Parks Department. The camp staff, under Mr. Hutchins, worked hard to make everything look spick and span. All was ready for the momentous occasion.

The visit of Her Royal Highness on the 5th August will long be remembered as a great day in the lives of everyone who took part. The impact on morale was tremendous and everyone gave of their best. The evening was given to mutual congratulation and celebration. 2 U.K.L.F. Squadron had anticipated success and had reserved a room at the local for a Squadron celebration taking care to invite some of the W.R.A.C. from the other Squadrons. An impromptu dance was held in the canteen, which ended with an Inter-Squadron jive competition, which was won by Signalman Copley, of 2 U.K.L.F. Squadron, partnered by Private Topliss, W.R.A.C., of No. 1 Squadron. A most enjoyable occasion, which ended with due decorum at midnight.

The Officers' Regimental Guest Night on Thursday was a great success and the guests, all Regulars, except for Lieutenant-Kilner, of No. 1 Command (M) Signal Regiment, were impressed by the high standard. Thanks are largely due to Captain Crabtree for the excellent arrangements and to the Mess staff, under Sergeant Ripley and Mrs. Lindley, for their hard work. Friday was given to packing up for our return the following day and although everyone worked cheerfully and willingly, very few were pleased at the thoughts of returning to the old routine. In the evening No. 1 Squadron held a dinner dance at the Springfield Hotel in the ballroom, which provided a suitable setting for the "Bevy of Beauty from Beeston," all prettily dressed and escorted by the men on their very best behaviour. The Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Waite, Major Bridgewater, O.C., W.R.A.C., and Major Perry, the Adjutant, were guests and thoroughly enjoyed themselves before they had to leave to attend an All Ranks' dance being held by No. 2 Squadron and U.K.L.F. Squadron in the canteen at Blackfell Camp. Corporal Hulse, W.R.A.C., daughter of Staff Sergeant Hulse, P.S.I., of 2 U.K.L.F., was busily initiating newcomers into a society known as the "Cruds," whilst the "Canteen Cowboys," of 2 U.K.L.F., and the "Andy Caps," of 2 Squadron, dealt with their own initiates.

Saturday saw our departure, albeit reluctantly. We had fulfilled our recruiting slogan to provide interesting and worthwhile training. A good foundation had been laid on which to build, a new esprit and pride of achievement created, many old friendships renewed and new friendships made. There were several with lumps in their throats and a few tears here and there as the various parties left for their homes in Sheffield, Beeston and Derby. Their home towns can be justifiably proud and we can look forward to the future with confidence. A truly successful camp in every respect in the best "Terrier" tradition.



Corporal Burton setting up on the Scheme

80th SIGNAL REGIMENT, A.E.R.

In June this year the Regiment met once again for its Chester working holiday, under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel I. W. K. Smith, the new C.O., who amazed us all by popping up over skylines at all improbable hours of the night, and during the four-day scheme, leading a nomadic existence, hunted by a baffled H.Q. staff.

In spite of Sergeant (Rex) Harris cooking up imaginary enemies with Staff Sergeant Aitken, out of a party of harmless and rather startled cadets, minding their own business, on their own private exercise, the scheme was a great success, both operationally (we actually got through), and from the point of enjoyment had by all.

Our team shoot for the Fane Cup was another fine day, it being a pleasure to be on Seeland range, especially as our team achieved the highest score yet, and we hope the highest score of the season. Our recently-retired C.O., Colonel Lund, will be pleased to know that we made no objections.

Our old friends, and many long service members of the Corps will be pleased to hear that Major (Willie) Wattle is still with us, and can invariably chat with any visiting or inspecting "Brass" about the old days on the Frontier.

Our strength in volunteers keeps fairly steady, and is, we believe, due for a substantial increase in the coming year. Our Recruiting Officer, Captain H. W. Scott, of 9, Richmond Avenue, would be pleased to hear from any old members, or interested serving or released National Servicemen who would like to join us.

Association Notes

WELFARE SECTION

Below an attempt is made to describe, with suitable anonymity, eight cases taken from the Welfare Section files current during the second week in August, 1959. Also on this page is a simple statement of income and expenditure.

Widow of Signalman, 1942-46, who died 1959, writes most grateful thanks for a grant which enabled S.S.A.F.A. to make her a small weekly allowance.

Sergeant, Royal Engineers 1915-18, Royal Signals 1920-22. Married, children have long left home. Royal Engineers and Royal Signals combined to clear arrears of rent incurred during sickness.

Driver, 1942-46, with a 60% Disability Pension. Married, one child. He can only do occasional light work, and the Association helped by paying a coal bill and giving him some clothing.

Signalman, 1942-46. Married, has not worked for two years. The Fund paid his debts to a clothing club.

Widow of Driver, 1939-40, who died 1959. The Fund helped when the husband was taken ill, and helped her to clear debts incurred during his long illness.

Signalman, 1938-46. After illness 1953-59, he wishes to start work on his own, and the Fund paid to enable him to do so.

Signalman, 1943-46. Married, four children. Illness hit him in March, 1959, and he will probably never be fit to work again. The Fund helped.

Signalman, 1939-46. Married, one child. His wife was A.T.S. He has been ill and incapable of work since 1954, and the two Funds, not for the first time, helped the family to a holiday.

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2 Training Regiment	16	7	6
4 Training Regiment (Officers' Mess)	4	14	0
4 Training Regiment	9	12	5
5 Training Regiment	30	0	0
42 AGRA (A.A.) Signal Squadron (T.A.)	9	13	5
D. & M. School, R.A.C. Centre		15	0
M.E.S./S.R.D.E.	1	10	0
Signals Branch, School of Artillery	1	7	6
1 Squadron, U.K. COMCAN Signal Regt.	11	10	0
3 Squadron, U.K. COMCAN Signal Regt.	2	12	10
10 Air Support Signal Unit, (T.A.)		3	0
12 Command (M) Signal Regt. (T.A.)	4	0	0
63 Command (M) Signal Regt. (T.A.)		19	6
4 Independent U.K.L.F. Reserve Signal Squadron (T.A.)		6	0
36 G.W. Regiment (A.A.) R.A. Signal Troop	1	0	0
Army Phantom Signal Regiment (T.A.)	1	0	0
1 Independent U.K.L.F. Reserve Signal Squadron (T.A.)	1	9	6
2 London Signal Regiment (T.A.)	2	2	0
The Depot Regiment	37	6	6
Western Command Signal Squadron	1	17	0
41 AGRA (A.A.) Signal Squadron (T.A.)		9	0
87 AGRA (A.A.) Signal Squadron (T.A.)		9	0
Scottish Command (M) Signal Regiment	4	19	0
Scottish Command (M) Signal Regiment (T.A.)		9	9
51 (H) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment (T.A.)	4	1	3
52 (L) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment (T.A.)		8	0
4 (S) Port Task Force Signal Squadron (T.A.)		3	3
19 Army Group Signal Regiment	39	1	1
2 L. of C. Signal Regiment	18	0	8
H.Q. 2 T.A.F. (Indep.) Air Formation Signal Squadron	5	0	0
28 Commonwealth Brigade Group Signal Squadron	7	10	8
Hong Kong Signal Regiment	8	11	11
R. Signals, Singapore Administrative Regiment	360	0	0
O.C.L.F. Signal Squadron	17	10	0
17 Gurkha Divisional Signal Regiment	9	10	0
C.S.O. and H.Q. 17 Gurkha Division O.C.L.F.	5	19	0
2 Field Regiment R.A. Signal Troop		16	4
13/18 Hussars Signal Troop	1	0	0
22 S.A.S. Signal Troop		16	4
Malta Signal Squadron	11	0	0
Malta Signal Squadron (50 Unit Branch)	10	0	0
2 Wireless Regiment	10	4	6
51 Independent Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron	3	11	0
Total Receipts	£677	13	11

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION WELFARE SECTION

The following donations were most gratefully received during July, 1959:

	£	s.	d.
2 London Signal Regiment T.A. (Sergeants' Mess)	2	0	0
Captain W. F. H. Herdon	1	0	0
P. E. Stuart, Esq.	1	0	0
Total Receipts	£4	0	0

EXPENDITURE DURING JULY, 1959 (Includes: Rent and Rates; Beds and Bedding; Furniture; Cots and Prams; General Assistance)	465	13	8

Analysis of cases:

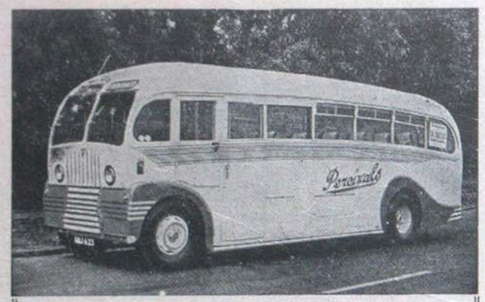
Families of Soldiers serving in U.K.	4
Widows and Dependants	5
Released and discharged Soldiers	24
Total cases assisted	33

15 cases of Soldiers who served during the 1939-45 War	£262	10	6
18 cases of Soldiers who did not serve during the War	£203	3	2

CAREERS AND OPPORTUNITY

WAR OFFICE — Technician Grade I (Station Officer) required by 1st November, 1959, at Army COMCAN Radio Transmitter Station, Droitwich, Worcs. Would suit retired Captain (T.O.T.) or man with similar experience. Salary £1,035 rising to £1,260. No age limit. Immediate application advisable (selection board late September), but men applying too late may be considered for other appointments. Write to the War Office (C.5(A)), Northumberland House, Northumberland Avenue, London, W.C.2.

Successful applicants MUST notify Employment Section, Royal Signals Association, 88, Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1, of their engagement.



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ROYAL SIGNALS SOUTHERN COMMAND RIFLE MEETING, 1959

The Meeting was held at Bulford on the 10th and 11th June. Eighty-five individuals and eleven teams competed. The matches fired were the Roupell, Henry Whitehead, Roberts, Parachute Regiment (S.M.G.) and the Falling Plate.

The weather was excellent for shooting and the standard of shooting reasonably high. The Junior Leaders Regiment team had trained hard and reaped their reward by sweeping the board. They were closely pressed in two matches, winning one by only three points and the other by five. Staff Sergeant W. Watson, Lance-Corporal H. R. Holmes and Lance-Corporal M. C. Burbidage all shot consistently well for them. The Command Signal Squadron were worthy runners-up. Corporal Sullivan shot as well as ever and Corporal Gallagher, a first year man, shot very well. 16 Parachute Brigade Signal Squadron had not been able to devote much time to practice this year but still did well and were placed third in the team championship.

Mrs. M. J. R. Fletcher presented the team and individual prizes to the following:

MATCH 6 (Roupell)				
Team		Junior Leaders Regt.	Score	377
Individual	*Class A*	Major C. V. Walsh	,,	115
	Class B	L/Cpl. H. R. Holmes	,,	107
MATCH 7 (Henry Whitehead)				
Team		Junior Leaders Regt.	,,	484
Individual	*Class A*	Major C. V. Walsh	,,	164
	Class B	L/Cpl. H. R. Holmes	,,	132
MATCH 8 (Roberts)				
Team		Junior Leaders Regt.	,,	385
Individual	*Class A*	Major C. V. Walsh	,,	121
	Class B	L/Cpl. M. C. Burbidage	,,	105
MATCH 25 (Para Regt.) S.M.G.				
Team		Junior Leaders Regt.	,,	475
Individual	*Class A*	S/Sgt. W. Watson	,,	128
	Class B	Sigmn. L. Hart	,,	131
FALLING PLATE		Junior Leaders Regt.		
Winner		3 Sqn. Comcan Sig. Regt.		
Runners-up		Junior Leaders Regt.	,,	2,367
CHAMPION TEAM		Major C. V. Walsh	,,	522
CHAMPION SHOT		S/Sgt. W. Watson	,,	439
RUNNER-UP				

ROYAL SIGNALS RIFLE MEETING, 1959

The Meeting was held at Bulford on 15th, 16th and 17th June. There were 96 individual competitors and from these were selected teams to represent each of the Home Commands, the Training Brigade, the School of Signals and B.A.O.R.

The matches fired were the Roupell, the Henry Whitehead, the Roberts, the Methuen and the Parachute Regiment (S.M.G.). The team and individual championships were decided on the rifle matches only.

The standard of shooting was higher than in previous years and the competition between teams was very keen. It was pleasing to note that the old weakness in rapid and snap shooting had, amongst the better shots at least, been almost eliminated this year. This improvement will mean a much stronger Corps team in the future.

The team matches were fairly equally shared, two going to B.A.O.R., one to Southern Command and one to the Training Brigade. The Training Brigade also won a very close match with Southern Command for the S.M.G. Cup match. W.O.I J. Holdsworth from B.A.O.R. shot very steadily throughout the Meeting and was a worthy Champion Shot. Colonel H. J. Thomson produced his usual good score in the last match, The Methuen, and gained many points on Captain Tate to finish joint runner-up. Of the young soldiers Corporal K. N. Dean, Signalman P. A. Waxman and Lance-Corporal Moppett all shot well.

Major-General E. S. Cole, C.B.E., congratulated the firers on their greatly improved standard of shooting and on their keenness, which he hoped would lead to a much higher standard of Corps Shooting in the future. Mrs. Cole presented the team and individual prizes to the following:—

MATCH 6 (Roupell) and Maresfield Cup				
Team		Southern Command	Score	752
Individual	*Class A*	Capt. F. C. Lettin	,,	122
	Class B	Sigmn. P. A. Waxman	,,	103
MATCH 7 (Henry Whitehead) and S.O.-in-C.'s Cup				
Team		The Training Brigade	,,	1,055
Individual	*Class A*	S/Sgt. W. Watson	,,	166
	Class B	Cpl. K. N. Dean	,,	153
MATCH 8 (Roberts) and Colonel Commandant's Cup				
Team		B.A.O.R.	,,	797
Individual	*Class A*	W.O.I J. Holdsworth	,,	126
	Class B	Cpl. D. B. Finch	,,	112
MATCH 30 (Methuen)				
Team		B.A.O.R.	,,	885
Individual	*Class A*	Lt. E. C. Vulliamy	,,	135
	Class B	Cpl. K. N. Dean	,,	133
MATCH 25 (Para Regt.) and Catterick Cup				
Team		Training Brigade	,,	507
Individual	*Class A*	Major C. V. Walsh	,,	142
	Class B	Sigmn. L. Hart	,,	136
CHAMPION TEAM		B.A.O.R.	,,	3,551
RUNNER-UP		Training Brigade	,,	3,382
CHAMPION SHOT		W.O.I J. Holdsworth	,,	486
RUNNERS-UP (Tie)		Colonel H. J. Thompson		
		Captain J. Tate	,,	474

THE N.R.A. MEETING, 1959

With the co-operation of C.S.O., Southern Command, the Commandant of the Schools of Signals and the Commander of the Training Brigade, and with financial assistance from Corps funds, the N.R.A. (who provided two free Class "H" entries) and a generous voluntary subscription from those members of the Corps who shot during the practice days at Bulford, the Corps was able to enter four representatives for the major S.R. (b) matches, two of whom also fired in the S.R. (a) matches, at the N.R.A. Meeting at Bisley this year.

This "pilot" effort was made to assess current standards and costs with a view to entering strong Royal Signals teams in future N.R.A. Meetings. It succeeded beyond expectations.

Of the four "sponsored" entries two, Lieutenant-Colonel M. J. R. Fletcher and Second-Lieutenant D. H. Insall, were selected to shoot for the Army XX in the Inter-Services XX match, and a third, Signalman P. A. Waxman, was selected as reserve for this match. Colonel H. J. Thompson, who was unfortunately able to shoot on only one day of the Meeting, was also selected for the Army XX—thus gaining his eighth bar to his Army XX Medal. The fourth sponsored entry, Major C. V. Walsh, initially handicapped by an unreliable rifle, showed his real form by being the only one of the four to get through to the second stage of the Queen's Prize; a piece of sheer bad luck robbed him, in the last practice of the second stage, of a place in the Queen's 100.

Second-Lieutenant Insall, who was awarded his Whitehead Cup Medal as reserve for the Army Revolver VIII, was also selected as reserve for the Army Long Range XII. He thus



Junior Leaders Regimental Shooting Team, 1959

achieved the distinction of being the first member of the Corps to obtain three Army "colours." In addition, to these achievements he gained high places in many other matches, notably the "St. George's," in which he was placed sixth, of the "Donegall," where he came second with an HPS of 50; he also gained a second place in the "Stickledown" (at 1,000 yards) and in the "Revolver Tyros" match.

Lieutenant-Colonel Fletcher won "The Barlow," an unsquadded "blind" shoot at 600 yards, with a HPS of 35.

In team events Corps teams were placed fourth in the "Steward" and got through to the semi-final of the "Bargrave Deane"—the Revolver Falling Plate match—claiming some distinguished victims in their progress.

Altogether the results achieved—of which those mentioned are a selection only—were very encouraging. It is quite apparent that it requires only a little more effort—including, unfortunately, further sacrifices by some Commanding Officers—to turn a creditable performance into the resounding success which we hope to achieve at the N.R.A. Centenary Meeting next year.

More detailed news and information will be included in the Corps Shooting Bulletin, the first number of which should soon be published. In the meantime, a register of known shots in the Corps is being compiled; if any reader wishes to be included—his present location is immaterial—he should send his name and a brief record of his achievements with rifle (S.R. (a), S.R. (b) and smallbore, both No. 8 as issued and match), S.M.G. or pistol, to the Captain of Corps Shooting, c/o C.S.O.'s Branch, H.Q., Southern Command, Salisbury, Wilts.

CORPS COLOURS

The following are awarded Corps Colours for Shooting:
Lieutenant-Colonel M. J. R. Fletcher.
Major C. V. Walsh.
Captain G. A. S. Exell.
Captain P. Carr.
Captain M. S. Jarrett.
Second-Lieutenant D. H. Insall.
Sergeant G. Morrill.
Corporal K. N. Dean.
Lance-Corporal P. Moppett.
Signalman P. A. Waxman.

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First ever Win in Triangular by Corps Yachtsmen



MEMBERS OF THE WINNING TEAM

Left to right : Brigadier Whistler, Lieutenant-Colonel Brindley, Major Pagan, Captain Massie, Captain Lyons, Major Barker, Major Sawers, (captain), Major McAnsh, Major Gram-Hansen, Major Bardell, Captain Ramsbottom, Captain Leonard, Lieutenant-Colonel Dickson, Colonel Cox

After nine years of hard and always disappointing struggles, the Royal Signals yachtsmen in Germany have just brought off their greatest-ever victory.

By making the most of what little wind there was, they repeatedly raced over the finishing line in the top positions to win this year's triangular regatta from the Royal Engineers and the Royal Artillery.

This was the first time since the two-day event was started in 1950, that the Royal Signals have ever succeeded in winning the regatta.

And although a number of protests, involving all the teams, slightly confused the overall positions during the last afternoon, it was never really in doubt that the Signals would win. All that was left to speculation was how big the margin would be.

At the end of the racing, the Corps team collected 305 points, 12 ahead of the Sappers, while the Gunners trailed way behind on the 240 mark.

The scene for the regatta was the Mohne See. Mention the name to anyone, and their immediate thoughts are of the Dam Buster raids, which helped to smash the industrial power of the nearby Ruhr.

But take a look at the Mohne now, and it's anything but a battle scene. All round the edges are camping sites and, bobbing across the water, are dozen of yachts and cabin cruisers.

Racing took place in boats of two classes—the Stars, a 20ft., sleekly-built, fixed keel craft, with a vast amount of sail area, and the gunter-rigged Sharpies, not nearly so fast or so elegant as the Stars, but which are still able to capture that exhilarating thrill of speed as they almost plane across the water.

Within each class the boats were divided into three groups, fast, medium and slow. Each crew had to compete in all three groups. Quite often though, a medium boat would beat a fast one, and once or twice the slower ones even pulled off surprise wins. The 12 officers representing each Corps were divided into two teams, which raced alternatively in both the classes

Before the two-day regatta started on the morning of Thursday, 23rd July, the Sappers and the Gunners were generally regarded as joint favourites.

The Sappers, last year's winners, completed their regatta a fortnight earlier. Besides giving several members of their previous team a chance to refresh their memories of the lake, it also brought forward one or two promising new helmsmen.

The Gunners, who have only twice failed to win the regatta, had not had this advantage, but as their team contained seven officers who had raced in the triangular before, they looked strong contenders.

Little was known about the Signals team. They had, however, held their own regatta at the beginning of the same week and, as it turned out, our crews were the best acclimatised to the light and very fluky winds.

From the very start it was the Royal Signals who went into the lead. We took the first two places in the opening Star race, with Major Gram-Hansen winning and Major Sawers following close behind, although he had made a false start and had to work his way up past the rest of the fleet.

This set us off to a good start, and friendly rivalry mounted steadily throughout the day as there were grim struggles for every place, with each team needing all the points it could muster. A fitting climax to the first day's racing came in the very last race, when three boats, one from each of the Corps, raced round the first leg with less than two lengths between them. Then gradually Captain Massie drew away and at the gun he had a two-minute lead over the Gunner boat.

By lunchtime on Friday, the Royal Signals had substantially widened their previous day's three points lead over the Sappers, by winning all four of the morning races. But exactly how great this lead was, no one was to know, until the several protests that had been lodged were heard by the committee.

The atmosphere became so tense that one helmsman almost put in a protest when he saw that one of the Signals' team had lost his hat overboard.

But an easy win by Major Barker, and a third place by Major Bardell in the final Star race, completed the Royal Signals victory, and Brigadier A. M. W. Whistler, C.C.R. Signals, 1 Corps, presented the Shield to Major Sawers, captain of the Royal Signals team.

The Royal Signals team and the individual successes at the helm were as follows:

Helmsman A TEAM	*Stars*	*Sharpies*	*Total Points*
Major M. Sawers, 4 Div. Sig. Regt. (Capt.) Capt. P. B. Leonard, 2 Div. Sig. Regt.	2, 4, 5	6, 7, R	44
Major Gram-Hansen, 19 Army Gp. Sig. Regt. Major I. McAnsh, 19 Army Gp. Sig. Regt.	1, 7, 1	4, 1, 2	62½
Lt.-Col. A. D. Brindley, 2 Div. Sig. Regt. Capt. J. M. N. Lyons, 2 Div. Sig. Regt.	6, 2, R	D 5, 5,	21 16
B TEAM			
Major M. M. Barker, H.Q., Northag. Lt.-Col. D. A. Dickson, H.Q., Northag.	4, 2, 1	 8, 8, 7	32½ 16
Major E. J. Bardell, 5 Div. Sig. Regt. Capt. F. Ramsbottom, 2 Div. Sig. Regt.	1, 3, R	3, 4, 2	55½
Major J. Pagan, 2 Div. Sig. Regt. Capt. P. Massie, 12 Air Fmn. Sig. Regt.	3, 7, 8	 1, 1, 1	21 36½

Undoubtedly, the most successful helmsman for the Royal Signals was Captain Massie. He only took the helm three times and each time he did, he crossed the line first.

Corps Regatta

There were also plenty of thrills earlier in the week when the Royal Signals in B.A.O.R. held their Corps Regatta. When this meeting opened on Monday, 20th July, a low mist hung over the Mohne. Although the mist, which appeared again on Tuesday, soon gave way to blazing sunshine, it was not until the last two races that the wind picked up and then only into a light breeze. So it was common to see helmsmen standing up to scan ahead for the slightest ruffles on the otherwise placid waters.

One of the most successful at picking out the slight puffs of wind was Major Bardell. He was constantly coasting ahead while others lay becalmed. With his crewman, Staff Sergeant Rodrigues, also from 5 Divisional Signal Regiment, he obtained two firsts and a fourth in the Star class.

Most dramatic finish of the first day's racing came in the last Sharpie race, when five boats crossed the line within half-a-minute of each other, Major Bardell once again getting the gun.

In the lead at the last buoy was Lieutenant-Colonel Dickson, just a few yards ahead of W.O.I Needham, of S.X. Branch, H.Q., B.A.O.R. The gap increased until the boats reached the mooring ground. Then Lieutenant-Colonel Dickson moved on to another tack, which gave W.O.I Needham the one chance he had been wanting. Pulling up his centre plate and moving close into shore, he crossed the line less than a length ahead of Lieutenant-Colonel Dickson.

This win for W.O.I Needham was exceptionally creditable since he had started last. It gave him and his crew, Corporal Gibson, of H.Q., Northag, first prize in the Sharpie Class.

But that second place in the Sharpies was enough to make Lieutenant-Colonel Dickson and Major Barker, who had three easy wins in the Star class, overall winners of the Regatta. Very close runners-up were Major Sawers and Corporal Birch, who might well have been the winners if they had not missed out one of the buoys when way out in front of the fleet in their last race.

Final results in the different classes were: *Stars :* Major Barker, Lieutenant-Colonel Dickson 1st; Major Bardell, Staff Sergeant Rodrigues 2nd; Major Sawers, Cpl. Birch 3rd.

Sharpies : W.O.I Needham, Cpl. Gibson 1st; Major Sawers, Cpl. Birch 2nd; Capt. Lyons, Cpl. Cutler 3rd.

The two days of excellent sailing culminated with Mrs. Whistler, wife of the C.C.R. Signals 1 (BR) Corps presenting the prizes.

ROYAL SIGNALS CRICKET — 1959

The Corps cricket season closed with the annual game against the Armoured Corps at the Oval on the 24th and 25th June. In the course of the season no matches were won, three matches lost, and two drawn. The scheduled final game of the season against the R.E.M.E. was cancelled due to an unfortunate clash of Inter-unit cup games with the Corps fixture.

The Corps possessed probably the best opening attack of any other Corps in the persons of Signalman G. A. Hare, 1 Training Regiment, a medium fast left-handed bowler, whose cricket has been learnt in that hard school of Yorkshire Council Cricket, and Signalman G. Taylor, 4 Training Regiment, a product of Lancashire League cricket; both players might well in the future reach higher honours. Signalman J. Marshall, 2 Northern Command (M) Signal Regiment (T.A.), bowled legbreaks and googlies and undoubtedly possesses much potential although he did not enjoy the control required to regularly take wickets.

The batting was once again brittle and only three batsmen, Captain S. G. de Clive-Lowe, Lance-Corporal G. Blackett and Lance-Corporal D. Jones, all of 3 Training Regiment, scored consistently well. Blackett's 53 out of 91 in the second innings against the R.A.S.C. was the best innings of the season, and gave promise for the future.

The ground fielding of the side left much to be desired. Duff's wicket-keeping was adequate and improved throughout the season.

Match Results

v. R.A.O.C. at Bramley, 9th June. Match reduced to a one-day game

R.A.O.C. 195 for 8 declared (Lance-Corporal Stubbs 41, Signalman J. Marshall 4 wickets for 61).
Royal Signals 133 (Captain S. G. de Clive-Lowe 50 not out, Second-Lieutenant J. Byas 28, Captain A. Yeoman 18, Corporal P. C. Williams 18).

A feature of the match was the opening bowling of Signalman Hare and Signalman Gibson for the Corps who both bowled well without any luck; Lance-Corporal Stubbs of the R.A.O.C. batted well for his 41 (he has since played for the Army). Whilst Byas and de Clive-Lowe were together the Corps did not look in danger of defeat until Byas forewent attack for defence. The match was lost in the last over of the day when Signalman Gibson was caught off the fourth ball.

v. R.M.A. Sandhurst, at Camberley, 10th June.

Royal Signals 172 (Captain S. G. de Clive-Lowe 89, Officer-Cadet N. E. F. Harris 32, Signalman G. A. Hare 13).
R.M.A. 173 for 2 wickets (Officer-Cadet P. W. F. Stutchbury 99 not out).

The Corps batting first lost Captain Yeoman and Lance-Corporal Jones with only 15 runs on the board, Harris and de Clive-Lowe steadied the innings against some steady but not penetrative slow bowling. When Harris was bowled, after resuming an innings interrupted by an arm injury, with the score at 106, wickets began to fall too rapidly. After a stand of 33 between Signalman Duff and de Clive-Lowe, which took the score to 151 for 6 wickets, the latter was caught in the deep after batting for 127 minutes, his score including 12 boundary strokes. The Academy's ground fielding was first class.

The Academy openers struggled for 70 minutes for 40 runs against hostile bowling by Hare and Gibson, but when Lofting was caught by wicketkeeper Duff, Stutchbury showed his worth, and from the very first ball of his innings was untroubled by a good Signals attack.

His 99 not out was punctuated by some first-class driving, particularly through the covers; he reached his 50 in 42 minutes.

v. R.A.S.C., at Aldershot, 11/12th June.

Royal Signals 151 (Lance-Corporal D. Jones 80, Captain S. G. de Clive-Lowe 15, Lance-Corporal Blackett 11)
and 91 (Lance-Corporal G. Blackett 53, Signalman Duff 12).
R.A.S.C. 154 (Col. W. M. E. White 88, Signalman G. A. Hare 6 wickets for 56 runs)
and 91 for 5 (Signalman J. Marshall 3 wickets for 37 runs).

The final match of the Corps Southern week produced, as it did the previous season, some enjoyable cricket. Jones' innings of 80 was, after a scratchy start, a very fine knock, his driving and cutting being particularly well executed and judged. The brittleness of the Corps batting, particularly against slow bowling, was shown up.

In the R.A.S.C. innings Signalman Hare bowled unchanged and only an innings of 88 by Colonel White saved the R.A.S.C. from a lower score. Both Signals opening bowlers, Hare and Gibson, on a fast wicket made batting somewhat difficult.

The Corps collapsed in their second innings, only Lance-Corporal Blackett batted with any degree of assurance; most of his runs were scored driving to the off side off both the front and back foot with equal facility. Again the Corps weakness against slow bowling was shown up, Colonel White taking 5 wickets for 25 runs.

The R.A.S.C. needing 89 runs to win lost 2 wickets for 46 runs and seemed to be heading for a comfortable win, but a fight back by the Corps saw 3 wickets fall for the addition of only 16 runs; however, Major Mercer and Colonel White hit off the necessary runs without further loss.

v. R.E., at Aldershot, 20th/21st June.

Royal Signals 184 (Lance-Corporal G. Blackett 68, Captain S. G. de Clive-Lowe 38, Lance-Corporal D. Jones 35).
and 154 for 7 wickets declared (Lance-Corporal D. Jones 68, Lance-Corporal G. Blackett 32, Captain P. C. Tripp 22).
R.E. 175 (Signalman G. A. Hare 7 wickets for 67 runs, Signalman J. Marshall 2 wickets for 28 runs)
and 79 for 9 wickets (Signalman G. A. Hare 8 wickets for 26 runs).

With memories of last season's crushing defeat by our opponents, the Corps were determined to extract vengeance—and were so very nearly successful.

The Corps, winning the toss, batted first and for the first time in the season the batting showed some semblance of solidarity. After Second-Lieutenant Cooper (7 Training Regiment) had been dismissed with the score at 24 Jones and Blackett added 60 runs, followed by a further partnership between Blackett and de Clive-Lowe of 58 runs. With the fall of the fourth wicket at 164 runs the Corps batting failed to press home its initial advantage, only Tripp, who scored 14 runs, getting into double figures.

The Sappers, despite an opening stand of 78 between Major Newman and Captain Withall, found runs hard to get against opening bowlers Hare and Signalman Taylor (on his first appearance) with good support from Marshall, bowling legbreaks economically. With 4 wickets down for 138 they collapsed against Hare, who bowled admirably throughout.

The Corps batting in their second innings went out for runs from the start, and admirable batting again from Jones, Blackett and Tripp enabled Colonel Williams to declare after 37 overs.

The Sappers started dismally, Newman being caught by wicketkeeper Duff from the first ball by Hare. A stand of 20 runs between Withall and Sapper Collett temporarily restored fortunes, but with Hare in devastating form with his left arm medium paced inswingers the Sappers completely collapsed. With 9 wickets down for 71 runs ten minutes remained for play, but the last pair managed to hold out and the Corps departed having wiped out the stigma of the overwhelming defeat the previous season.

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TELEPHONE: REGENT 3021

v. R.A.C., at Kennington Oval, 24th/25th June.

Royal Signals 196 for 8 wickets declared (Lance-Corporal G. Blackett 59, Captain S. G. de Clive-Lowe 54, Signalman E. Duff 42)
and 139 (Major G. D. M. Pocock 69, Second-Lieutenant A. Cooper 21).
R.A.C. 173 (Major P. J. Howard-Dobson 51, Major G. D. M. Pocock 7 wickets for 56 runs, Signalman G. Taylor 3 wickets for 50 runs)
and 141 for 9 wickets (Signalman G. Taylor 5 wickets for 56 runs, Signalman G. A. Hare 2 wickets for 40 runs, Major G. D. M. Pocock 2 wickets for 43 runs).

A feature of an exciting match was the valuable and excellent all round performance of Major Pocock on his first appearance for the Corps of the season. The match result was in doubt until thirty minutes from the close of play when the R.A.C. were struggling to avoid defeat with 7 wickets down for 123 runs.

In Signals first innings Blackett and de Clive-Lowe added 87 in 47 minutes after 2 wickets had fallen for 6 runs, taking 80 minutes and 45 minutes over their respective half centuries. Despite losing three quick wickets, wicketkeeper Duff unexpectedly turned up with a sound, valuable, but somewhat slow, near half century.

The R.A.C. batted attractively, Captain Featherstonhaugh and Major Howard-Dobson added 74 runs for the second wicket in fifty minutes. Major Pocock bowled aggressively to take his 7 wickets in 17 overs with splendid support from Taylor.

Signals second innings was saved from complete collapse by Major Pocock, who, going in with the score at 4 wickets for 55 runs, was last out after hitting two sixes off Lieutenant Small from consecutive balls before being stumped attempting another big hit.

The R.A.C. were left to score 163 runs in 137 minutes for victory. Once again Featherstonhaugh and Howard-Dobson provided most of the substance of the innings adding 50 runs together; but following their dismissal the R.A.C. found runs hard to get.

With 4 wickets remaining the R.A.C. still required 49 runs in 40 minutes, but against penetrative bowling by Pocock and Taylor were hard pressed to avoid defeat.

Fifteen minutes remained for play with one wicket left to fall, but once again, and with the assistance of one missed chance, the R.A.C. held out. For the second time in consecutive matches the Corps were deprived of victory.

Surrey County Cricket Club once again were admirable hosts and the music provided by the Corps band was much appreciated. It was a pleasure too to see a number of Corps supporters at the match.

Averages — Season, 1959 (Corps Representative Matches only)

Batting	*Matches*	*Inns.*	*Not Out*	*Runs*	*H.S.*	*Av.*
Capt. S. G. de Clive-Lowe (3 Training Regt.)	5	8	1	265	89	37.86
Major G. D. M. Pocock (A.A.S., Harrogate)	1	2	0	69	69	34.50
L/Cpl. D. Jones (3 Training Regt.)	4	7	1	206	68	34.33
L/Cpl. G. Blackett (3 Training Regt.)	4	7	0	234	68	33.44
2/Lt. J. Byas (1 Training Regt.)	2	3	0	35	28	11.67
Sgmn. E. Duff (1 Training Regt.)	5	8	1	80	42	11.43
Capt. P. C. Tripp (Signals 6)	3	5	0	50	22	10.00

Also batted:—Signalman G. Taylor (4 Training Regt.), 3, 7, 1. Colonel P. C. Williams, O.B.E., 18, 5, 7, 3, 0, 4, 8, 6. Lieutenant A. Yeoman, 18, 2, 7, 2. Signalman G. A. Hare (1 Training Regt.), 1, 13, 1, 0, 3, 4, 0. Signalman J. Marshall (No. 2 Norco Signal Regt.), 0, 1, 3, 0, 0, 0, 11, 2. Signalman J. Gibson (1 Training Regt.), 0, 0, 0, 1, 3. Signalman V. Fontaine (2 Training Regt.), 2, 0, 0. Captain P. A. Davison (1 Div. Signal Regt.), 9. Officer Cadet N. E. F. Harris (Mons O.C.S.), 32. Second-Lieutenant A. Cooper (7 Training Regt.), 9, 4, 0, 21. Lieutenant-Colonel A. J. Griffiths, 2.

Bowling	*Overs*	*Maidens*	*Runs*	*Wickets*	*Av.*
Major G. D. M. Pocock	27	3	99	9	11.00
Signalman G. A. Hare	129.5	35	357	24	14.88
Signalman G. Taylor	48.4	11	138	8	17.25
Signalman J. Marshall	62	7	239	12	19.92
Signalman J. Gibson	70	14	198	6	33.00
Captain P. C. Tripp	12.5	4	43	1	43.00

Also bowled: Signalman V. Fontaine, 0—20; Lieutenant A. Yeoman, 0—13; Captain S. G. de Clive-Lowe, 0—14.

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SUNDAY TIMES

THE WIRE

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

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.*

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☆

OCTOBER • 1959

Vol. 13 *(New Series)* **No. 9**

Editorial

THE WIRE

THIS is staging a rapid recovery after its midsummer malaise. The September number was very nearly got out on time—only one day early.

THE CORPS AND THE ASSOCIATION

Contributions to aid the work of the Association continue at a very high level. We are assured by those who should know that the Corps is smaller; its generosity is such that during the first half of 1959 £1,952 was received, being only £260 less than in the first half of 1958. During July, August and September this scale of giving has continued.

THE WEATHER

The remarkable summer of 1959 continues, to the time when this is written. Probably it is the best within memory of most of us and judging by people who work in offices and factories in and around London it is no longer necessary to go "East of Suez" to acquire a healthy tan. "The Country," we are told, "has never had it so good."

PENSIONS AND THE GENERAL ELECTION

Before this number of THE WIRE is printed a new Government will have been elected to Westminster. Very many candidates of all parties will be asked to promise support to the continuous and gentle pressure of the Service Associations to continue the improvement in the conditions of the War Widows and War Disabled.

There is a Standing Committee under the Chairmanship of the British Legion in which a large number of the Service Associations, including our own, maintain pressure on the Government of the day.

Whichever political party is elected this gentle, temperate pressure will continue and hopes to achieve in the future the same reasonable if unspectacular success as in the past.

* * * *

Reprinted from a Scarborough newspaper.

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(On the instructions of the War Office)

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BURNISTON BARRACKS

Situate in a most advantageous position in the North Bay, adjacent to the Scalby Mills Hotel, the Open-Air Theatre, North Cliff Golf Course, and Peasholm Park, and served by a frequent bus service. A station on the North Bay Railway line is on the boundary of the property, and it is confidently expected that an extension of the railway along the Royal Albert Drive and Marine Drive will shortly give direct access to the South Bay.

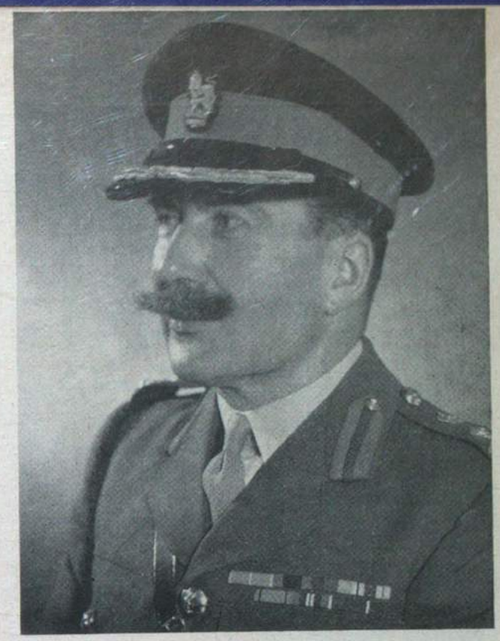
Occupying 20 ACRES APPROX.

The well-laid-out buildings are of post-(Boer)-war construction and are ripe for conversion into a holiday-camp.

Further particulars and permission to view may be obtained any year now (you cannot hurry the War Office).

VALE

BRIGADIER F. W. L. BRADFORD, M.B.E.



This is the Vale to another of those senior officers who have been retired prematurely during 1959. None will be missed more than Bill Bradford and it must be a great disappointment to all his friends that he has retired a year earlier than he expected when he became C.S.O. Southern Command.

He was in one of the early batches at the "Shop" where he joined in 1926. He enjoyed a not unduly distinguished time there, but he was awarded his "Rep" for rugby, tennis and athletics. In the latter field he distinguished himself as a long-jumper, but he alleges that he represented his company at several field events and ran in the sprints and up to the half-mile. After his Q course, during which he continued his rugby and tennis prowess for the Corps, he joined 1st Divisional Signals at Aldershot and commanded a Gunner Brigade Signal Section.

In 1930 he went to India, and his five-year tour there included service with Waziristan District Signals and with the 2nd and 3rd Cavalry Brigade Signal Troops. He also went to Saugor and qualified as an instructor. His Indian tour, in his opinion, gave him the grounding for his subsequent career. His Commanding Officers were Captains, none more senior to this rank, and he received considerable individual attention!

He returned to England in 1935 and from August of that year until November, 1939, was Adjutant to the Air Defence Formation Signals. The strength of this Unit was about 150, all ranks, when he joined. By the time he left it, it had increased to two Units, 1st and 2nd A.A. Divisional Signals, each of a strength of 1,000. This was one of the hardest tasks he ever undertook, and he was rewarded by the award of the M.B.E. After more than four years he was quite glad to be posted to the less onerous appointment of Adjutant of the 3rd Operator Training Battalion at Whitby.

In August, 1940, he went to the Staff College at Camberley.

After qualifying at Camberley he was posted as G.S.O. 1 Signals G.H.Q. Home Forces.

In March, 1942, he was posted, for what was little more than a flying visit, to Guards Armoured Divisional Signals —that distinguished Unit to which so many good officers belonged. His worth, however, had been recognised by now, and it was only a short time before he was promoted Lieutenant-Colonel and appointed C.O. of the 4th Divisional Signals in Scotland. He commanded the Unit when it went to North Africa, but much to his dismay he was winkled out in October, 1943, to command the Signals of the 1st Armoured Division. The circumstances attending this posting made necessary the appointment of an officer of ability and experience tempered with a sense of humour, and Bill was a "natural" to take the job on. He remained, however, only for five months, when General Phillips, who had become Director of Signals, sent for him to become G.S.O. 1 Signals 5 in the War Office. His staff ability and his unfailing cheerfulness during the months preceding D-Day, when the Signals Directorate were working under tremendous pressure, provided a considerable contribution to the organisation of Corps effort in the invasion of Europe.

From the War Office, Bill went to Austria, firstly as G.S.O. 1 to the C.S.O. and subsequently in July, 1947, as C.S.O. Perhaps his claim to fame at this time was his success at Polo and show-jumping. For two years he was a member of the successful Army polo team and later he organised and captained the B.T.A. show-jumping team, which took part in many events including one against the full Italian Olympic team. His greatest personal success was the first post-war Vienna Show when in a "hit and out" event he had two clear rounds, which no one else in a distinguished field including many international riders could match.

His riding successes brought him friends in many countries and his popularity undoubtedly helped in his work as the U.K. member of the Quadrupartite Signals Committee. The Russians were greatly appreciative of his endeavours and showed it by the many invitations to their parties, where, to his embarrassment, he often found himself the only British guest below the rank of General.

In May, 1949, Bill went back to the War Office as G.S.O. 1 of M.T.13 (subsequently changed to 8). After nearly three years he had another "diplomatic" appointment as U.K. member of E.M.C.C.C. This was followed by G.S.O. 1 to the C.S.O. ALFCE, where he spent much time successfully reconciling the American, French and British points of view.

In February, 1956, Bill was appointed to be the first Colonel of the Planning Team. This team was the innovation of the S.O.-in-C., General Wheatley. The long-term effects of the first recommendations of the team have not yet been felt, but there is no doubt that Bill Bradford's mark as the first "planner" will be left on the Corps for many years to come.

The expression "Gay Cavalier" has become a cliché, but it is difficult to think of a better way of describing Bill—his impeccable turn-out in uniform and civilian clothes, his sense of fun, and his utter integrity are characteristics of a man who will be a great loss to the Corps. So too will Jean, a charming friend, a dear hostess and a trenchant wit. To her, their daughters, Sue and Jenny, and to Bill go all our best wishes.

It is nice to know that he will not be completely lost to the Corps as he has been appointed R.O.III on the Staff of C.S.O. 1st British Corps in Germany—but how are the mighty fallen!

THE BLUE BOOK

The Sixth Edition of the Blue Book has been despatched to C.S.O.s, from whom bulk Unit orders can be obtained. Individuals can be supplied direct from Association H.Q.

Price 2/6.

Obituaries

MAJOR GEORGE WILLIAM WEEKS



George Weeks was born at Hayling Island and joined the Royal Engineers as a sapper in 1920, transferring to Royal Signals when the Corps was formed.

He went to India in 1922 and served with a Pack Mule Section on the Frontier. Returning to England in 1930 he served at Bulford until 1933 when he returned to India for a further tour of duty, during which time he was Pay and Accounts Sergeant with 1st Indian Divisional Signals at Rawalpindi.

In 1939 he was posted back to England and joined the British Expeditionary Force shortly after the outbreak of war. He was in the Dunkirk evacuation and was posted to the Middle East in 1941. From 1941 to 1943 he was Chief Instructor of the School of Signals at Maadi and from 1943 to 1945 was with Air Liaison at Alexandria. Returning to U.K. in 1945 he was then posted to the Depot Regiment at Pocklington where he remained until his retirement in 1950.

After leaving the service he took over a public house at Allerthorpe, near York, and then in 1951 became manager of the Castle Hotel, York, where he stayed until 1958.

George Weeks joined the Association as a life member in 1938 and always took a great interest in the Association. During the time he was at the Castle Hotel the Branch Meetings were held there and he and his wife Lilian played a leading part in York Branch activities.

Major Weeks left the Castle Hotel in 1958 to take up an appointment as Assistant Personnel Manager with Hammonds United Breweries at Bradford and he died on 13th September, 1959, whilst on holiday at his York residence.

George Weeks had always taken the deepest interest in Corps and Association matters and liked nothing better than to talk over old times. He was especially happy to meet old friends at the Branch Meetings and the Annual Reunion, and he and his wife had a large circle of friends in the York area. The York Branch will be eternally grateful to him for his help and encouragement at a time when the Branch was at a somewhat low ebb and his unfailingly friendly and cheerful nature did not desert him even during a serious illness in 1958. By his untimely death at the age of 55 the Corps and Association has lost a sincere and loyal member and we all offer his widow our deepest sympathy.

SIGNALMAN A. THURSTON

It is with a deep sense of loss that All Ranks of the 7th Signal Regiment, past and present, will have heard of the death of 23237465 Signalman Alan Thornton on 20th September, 1959. Signalman Thornton was a promising young Regular Despatch Rider who had just reached the highest class September, 1959. Signalman Thurston was a promising young his duty as a soldier. He was on a D.R. run between Rear and Main Corps H.Q. in the field when his motor cycle left the road and struck the side of a house. He was killed instantly.

The deepest sympathy of all ranks is extended to his parents and widow.

THE EMPIRE FIELD OF REMEMBRANCE, 1959

The Empire Field of Remembrance, 1959, will be held at Westminster from the 5th to 11th November (both dates inclusive). It will be opened at 12 noon on Wednesday, 5th 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 Major-General Sir Eric Girdwood, K.B.E., C.B., C.M.G., President of the South African War Veterans' Association, to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the outbreak of the South African War, 1899-1902.

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, 5th November, and wish to attend the opening, they should notify Headquarters, the General Secretary, Royal Signals Association, 88, Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1.

The following are available from the British Legion Poppy Factory for the Memorial Space, and if ordered will be placed on behalf of Branches by the official representatives of the Association:

Badge Crosses	at 21/-	Wreath Crosses	at 5/-
Field Crosses	at 15/-	Remembrance Crosses	at 6d.
Poppy Crosses	at 10/-		

Correspondence and Orders relating to the Field should be addressed direct to the Secretary, British Legion Poppy Factory, Richmond, Surrey (copy to Association Headquarters) and cheques made payable to "The British Legion Poppy Factory Limited," and crossed.

LONDON — PARIS AIR RACE

Major R. E. Scouller, 239 Signal Squadron (Eastern Command), writes:

"As a result, no doubt, of an understandable misapprehension, your contributor on the London-Paris Air Race (July/August) issue), has unduly flattered one Unit and been unjust to another.

"It is true that Eastern Command Signal Squadron nominated, at short notice, D.R.s to assist. We were already, however, so heavily committed in other directions (motor cycle trials, demonstrations and formation exercises), that the riders still available were insufficiently experienced or familiar with the routes to take their place in the 'team.' Those with whom your report credited the Squadron were almost certainly from London District Signal Troop, a completely independent unit, with, indeed, smaller resources. I think I am further correct in saying that the successful organisation and vital 'bread and butter' administration of the D.R.s was almost entirely the work of the Officer Commanding the Troop, Captain D. C. Sidney."

THE STAR AND GARTER HOME FOR DISABLED SAILORS, SOLDIERS AND AIRMEN

The Secretary writes:

We are most grateful to the members of the Royal Signals for the very generous contribution of £160 which you have been so good as to send us, and for which the official receipt is enclosed.

The great interest and help which your Association gives to us is deeply appreciated, and we do therefore ask that you will accept and convey to all concerned our very warmest thanks.

PERSONAL COLUMN

London Gazette

21st August, 1959

Lieutenant (T.O.T.) W. R. Hefferon to be Captain (T.O.T.), 25th August, 1959.

28th August, 1959

Major A. E. Wood retires, 31st August, 1959.
Major W. Mecready retires, 1st September, 1959.

1st September, 1959

Colonel R. M. Adams retires, 2nd September, 1959.
Captain (Traffic Officer) E. H. Bennett to be Major (Traffic Officer), 4th September 1959.

4th September, 1959

Captain F. M. Parthington to be Major, 8th September, 1959.

Movements—Officers

Taken place or forecast for period ending 15th October, 1959.

Brigadier E. J. C. Harrison, O.B.E.	To	Chairman, B.J.C.E.B.
Lieutenant-Colonel D. R. Horsefield	,,	P.S.O. M.D. Malaya
Major S. D. Allaway	,,	H.Q., Northern Command.
Major P. G. Castner, M.B.E.	,,	H.Q., B.F.A.P.
Major R. M. Watterson	,,	German Staff College.
Major L. D. Line	,,	S.T.C. (FARELF).
Major I. T. Butler	,,	R.M.C.S. (Course).
Major K. S. Newell	,,	16th Signal Regiment.
Major J. G. Melsom	,,	16th Signal Regiment.
Major B. Butler	,,	40th Signal Regiment.
Major J. H. Cooper	,,	1st Signal Regiment.
Major D. S. Clarke	,,	R.M.A., Sandhurst.
Major K. E. Rees	,,	9th Signal Regiment.
Major J. H. Dirs	,,	23rd Signal Regiment.
Major D. Galbraith	,,	H.Q., Northern Command.
Captain R. G. Phippard	,,	R.M.C.S. (Course).
Captain J. D. Cathcart	,,	H.Q., Western Command.
Captain A. A. Dacre	,,	17th (Gurkha) Signal Regiment.
Captain G. A. Thompson	,,	17th (Gurkha) Signal Regiment.
Captain J. P. Edwards	,,	C.A.F.S.O. (T.A.F.).
Captain R. J. Costello	,,	3rd Signal Regiment.
Captain W. A. Montague	,,	4th Signal Regiment.
Captain F. V. B. Philp	,,	14th Signal Regiment.
Captain A. D. Lewis	,,	School of Signals.
Captain M. J. Wilton-Steer	,,	4th Signal Regiment.
Lieutenant L. F. Davis	,,	23rd Signal Regiment.
Lieutenant G. J. Bennett	,,	8th Signal Regiment.
Lieutenant W. A. F. Morgan	,,	5th Signal Regiment.
Lieutenant H. S. Wilson	,,	26th Signal Regiment.
Second-Lieutenant R. C. G. Lister	,,	26th Signal Regiment.
Major (T.O.T.) J. Spafford	,,	600 Signal Troop.
Major (Tfc. Offr.) E. C. W. Stagg	,,	H.Q., A.L.F.C.E.
Captain (Q.M.) B. Sellar	,,	7th Signal Regiment.
Captain (Tfc. Offr.) L. Bainbridge	,,	16th Signal Regiment.
Major (T.O.T.) W. L. P. Brennan	,,	25th Signal Regiment.
Lieutenant (Tc. O.) A. W. Bartram	,,	14th Signal Regiment.
Lieutenant (Q.M.) W. A. Timbrell	,,	4th Signal Regiment.
Lieutenant (T.O.T.) P. W. Dale	,,	South Western S.W.S. Troop.
Lieutenant (T.O.T.) G. E. Pinder	,,	J.I.B. (Army Increment).

Retirements

Colonel R. N. Seddon, O.B.E.	9 July, 1959.
Lieutenant-Colonel A. W. Barron, M.C.	21 August, 1959.
Major R. W. Hill	1 September, 1959.
Major J. R. Romaines, D.C.M.	4 August, 1959.
Major G. P. R. Anslow, M.B.E.	22 August, 1959.
Captain R. V. Taylor	31 August, 1959.
Captain R. G. Thomas	4 September, 1959.
Captain J. R. Reeves	30 July, 1959.
Captain T. C. L. Davidson	1 September, 1959.
Captain F. N. Spencer	2 September, 1959.
Captain B. D. Gough	12 September, 1959.

Births

STRINGER.—To Staff Sergeant and Mrs. Stringer, of 8th Signal Regiment, a son, at C.M.H. Catterick Camp, on 23rd July, 1959.

Engagements

HEWSON—SANDERS.—The engagement is announced between James Massey Hewson, Royal Signals, younger son of the Reverend A. B. M. Hewson, of Corfe Vicarage, Taunton, and the late Mrs. Hewson, and Jane Susan, elder daughter of Colonel J. E. S. Sanders and Mrs. Sanders, of 1, Bourne Close, West Byfleet.

Marriages

RAMSAY—SHARP.—Sergeant W. A. Ramsay, 8th Signal Regiment, to Mavis Sharp, at Richmond, Yorkshire, on 15th August, 1959.

Deaths

CRIPPS.—Ex-Sergeant R. Cripps, of 63, Gassiot Road, London, S.W.17, on 24th August, 1959, aged 43 years.

HARRISON.—Ex-Driver W. Harrison, of 49, Thoresby House, Quarry Hill Flats, Leeds, 9, on 31st August, 1959, aged 41.

WEEKS.—Ex-Major G. W. Weeks, of 119, The Mount, York, a Life Member of the Association, on 13th September, 1959, aged 55.

Arrivals and Departures

8th Signal Regiment

Arrivals: W.O.II P. F. Soward, Staff Sergeants F. J. Hogan and J. Boiling, Sergeants G. S. Perkins and W. Walker.

Departures: Major C. Newbold, Sergeants A. J. Harvey, P. Galloway, B. C. Walling and K. F. Duffey.

27th Signal Regiment

Arrivals: Majors F. Lettin and H. D. Bould, W.Os.II J. B. Saunders, S. H. D. Golding and B. V. Link, Staff Sergeants T. N. Bennett, D. W. Chapman, D. Jackson and J. R. Burton.

Departures: Major L. M. Evans, Staff Sergeant H. F. Ryton, A. Sunderland and T. Simms, Sergeants G. B. Tann, P. E. Stock and E. R. Swalwell.

234 Signal Squadron (Malta)

Arrivals: W.O.II R. H. Tinto, G.M.

Departures: Sergeant F. G. Cracknell.

18th Signal Regiment

Arrivals: Major J. H. Walmesley-Cotham, Lieutenant (T.O.T.) A. D. Martin, W.Os.II W. Stewart, W. Hammond, G. Appleyard, J. Gerrard and K. Fish.

Departures: Major I. T. Butler, W.Os.II M. Lambert and R. MacLeish.

Staff Sergeant W. J. Edwards announces that on retiring from the Corps he assumed as landlord of The Butchers Arms, Wrawby Street, Brigg, Lincolnshire, and welcomes visits from present and past members of the Corps.

The Band • Retreat at Dunfermline



Forthcoming Events

24th Divisional Signals, 1914-1919, Reunion 1959

Saturday, 17th October:
3 p.m. Divisional Memorial, Battersea Park, London, S.W.9.
6 p.m. Chevrons Club, 3, Dorset Square, London, N.W.1.

The Divisional Officers' Dinner is on Friday, 16th October, 1959.

54th (East Anglian) Signal Regiment, T.A.

The Annual Officers' Ball will be held in the Hyde Park Hotel, Knightsbridge, on Saturday, 31st October, 1959. Applications for tickets should be made to the Adjutant at 40, Ashburnham Road, Bedford.

The 31st Meeting of the Central Committee of the Royal Signals Association

will be at the War Office at 10.45 a.m. on Tuesday, 3rd November, 1959.

The Radio Hobbies Exhibition

will open at the Royal Horticultural Society's Old Hall, Westminster, on Wednesday, 25th November, 1959, and will close on Saturday, 28th November.

The 72nd Meeting of the Corps Committee of the Royal Corps of Signals

will take place at the War Office on Saturday, 5th December, 1959.

Annual Buffet Supper and Reunion

Saturday, 5th December, 1959, at the Drill Hall, 41st Signal Regiment (Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment) T.A., 190, Hammersmith Road, London, W.6, from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m.

The Corps Weekend, Reunion and 15th Annual General Meeting of the Association

will take place at Catterick on Saturday, 2nd, and Sunday, 3rd July, 1960.

The Corps Band

November 12th — December 8th ... ... B.A.O.R.

Royal Signals Officers' Golfing Society 1959 Fixtures

Thursday, 22nd October R.A.O.C. ... Swinley Forest

Royal Signals Rugby Football Fixtures, 1959-1960

Nov.	4	Northern Command v. Lincolnshire ...		Lincoln
	7	Hartlepool Rovers		Hartlepool
*	12	Royal Engineers		Catterick
	14	West Hartlepool		Hartlepool
	18	Northern v. Western Command		Catterick
	28	Huddersfield		Catterick
Dec.	2	King's College		Catterick
*	10	Cambridge LX Club		Catterick
1960				
*Jan.	12	Royal Artillery		Woolwich
	20	King's College		Newcastle
*Feb.	3	Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst ...		Camberley
	6	Wakefield		Wakefield
	17	Sheffield		Sheffield
	27	Durham City		Catterick
Mar.	23	Northern Command Final		Catterick
	26	Sandal		Catterick
	30	Northern Command Sevens		Catterick
*Apr.	2	Percy Park		Catterick
	6	Harrogate		Harrogate
	13	Bradford		Bradford
	30	Huddersfield Sevens		Huddersfield

* Corps Representative Matches

Royal Signals Hockey, 1959/60 Fixtures

1959		
Wed., 21st Oct. ...	R.A.	Woolwich
Thurs., 22nd Oct. ...	R.E.M.E.	Arborfield
Sat., 14th Nov. ...	R.E.	Catterick
Tues., 1st Dec. ...	Durham University	Durham
Thurs., 12th Nov. ...	R.A.S.C.	Aldershot
Wed., 2nd Dec. ...	R.M.A.S.	Sandhurst
1960		
Wed., 17th Feb. ...	Royal Milit'y C. of Science ...	Aldershot
Thurs., 18th Feb. ...	Aldershot Services	Aldershot
Fri., 19th Feb. ...	R.A.O.C.	Blackdown
Wed., 23rd Mar. ...	Welbeck College	Welbeck
15th-18th April ...	East Festival	Scarborough

PROMOTIONS

The following promotions relate to the sixth edition of the Blue Book and Supplement despatched to Units in mid-August, 1959:

The promotions listed below were authorised during the period 2nd August, 1959—1st September, 1959.

Foreman of Signals Roster

To W.O.I	2547251	(551)	W.O.II	Carpenter, M. J.

Regimental Duty Roster

To W.O.I	2326700	(1050)	A/W.O.I	Sinclair, J. W.
To W.O.II	22515890	(1720)	S Sgt.	Blake, J.
	21005033	(1740)	A/W.O.II	Woodvine, J. R.
	14185951	(1760)	A/W.O.II	Summers, E.
	2547766	(1770)	S Sgt.	Peck, J. A.
	22212453	(1790)	A/W.O.II	Hoyes, L. A.
To S Sgt.	21187441	(240)	Sgt.	Curley, D. A.
	14581194	(670)	Sgt.	Nallon, W.
	2549328	(680)	A/S Sgt.	Sharif Bin Abdulah
	14452127	(270)	A/S Sgt.	Handley, D. R.
	22272339	(690)	A/S Sgt.	Burns, A.
	22539682	(290)	A/S Sgt.	Seaman, P. D.
	22539802	(250)	A/S Sgt.	Hatcher, A. P. G.
	22155176	(260)	A/S Sgt.	Peat, A. W.
	22296577	(710)	Sgt.	Worsdale, W. F.
	22523172	(730)	Sgt.	Harvey, L. H.
	14191893	(740)	Sgt.	Gwynne, W. G.
	2547295	(770)	Sgt.	Reed, D.
	22548293	(300)	Sgt.	May, E. J. B.
	22540633	(800)	Sgt.	Carnley, W.
	22239628	(270)	A/S Sgt.	McKay, A. Y.
	22242186	(280)	Sgt.	Clarke, V. J.
	22539675	(820)	Sgt.	Anderson, J. D.
	22537099	(290)	A/S Sgt.	Watkins P. J. M.
	22548789	(290)	Sgt.	Kerton, H. A.

Technical Roster

To. S Sgt.	22380007	(310)	Sgt.	MacMillan, I. D. C.
	22288399	(490)	Sgt.	Parker, D.
To Sgt.	22639355	(850)	Cpl.	Jeffery, R. A.
	22538707	(100)	A/Sgt.	Corbett, G. D.
	22569379	(1600)	A/Sgt.	Webb, C. G.
	22807784	(320)	A/Sgt.	Whenman, H. J.

Clerical Roster

To Sgt.	22537108	(40)	Cpl.	Murphy, A.

Operating Roster

To Sgt.	22546654	(1480)	Cpl.	Stogdale, T.
	22771400	(1820)	Cpl.	Enright, M. P.
	22659052	(1830)	A/Sgt.	Lee, R. G.
	22537798	(1860)	Cpl.	Sawkins, D. J.
	22524520	(1870)	A/Sgt.	Wood, P. C.
	22546444	(1880)	Cpl.	Green, A. T.
	22549469	(1890)	Cpl.	Knight, E. F. V.
	22771351	(1920)	Cpl.	Grierson, W. Y. N.
	22966450	(1970)	Cpl.	Bedwell, C. C.
	22787739	(1980)	A/Sgt.	McGee, C. D.
	22524488	(2010)	A/Sgt.	Brown D. R.
	22087309	(2030)	Cpl.	Boxall, S. H.
	22537092	(2050)	A/Sgt.	Brant, E.
	22265013	(2130)	A/Sgt.	Kyles, A. W.
	2230935	(2140)	A/Sgt.	Horton, B. H. W.
	22550293	(2150)	Cpl.	Davies, M. G.
	22550284	(2180)	Cpl.	Marr, J. A.

Lineman Roster

To Sgt.	22547433	(540)	A/Sgt.	Kerr, T.
	22560831	(550)	A/Sgt.	Loome, D. J.
	22525262	(600)	Cpl.	Read, M. A. C.
	22542404	(730)	A/Sgt.	Elsom, E. E.
	22265861	(740)	A/Sgt.	Payton, R. G.

General Trades and Duties Roster

To Sgt.	23221612	(1810)	Cpl.	O'Connor, D.
	19038079	(2000)	Cpl.	Lovatt, F. J.
	22515981	(2006)	Cpl.	Pedder, H. E.
	21124518	(2020)	A/Sgt.	Patient, R. G.
	22523064	(2080)	A/Sgt	Stalker, R.

Band Roster

To S Sgt. (Time Promotions) (Authorised in May, 1959)
2320614 (30) Sgt. Marsh, E.

DELETIONS

Foreman of Signals Roster

W.O.II 580

Regimental Duty Roster

W.O.I	690	260		
W.O.II	2030	130	524	
S Sgt.	3450	2460	1930	

Technical Roster

S Sgt. 10 800 940

Clerical Roster

Sgt. 20

Operating Roster

Sgt. 6380 7080 3720 5970 500 150 1990

General Trades and Duties Roster

Sgt. 630

Regimental Duty Roster

2323373 W.O.I Timbrell, G.B. 260 Commissioned Lt. Q.M., 7th July, 1959.

INSERTIONS

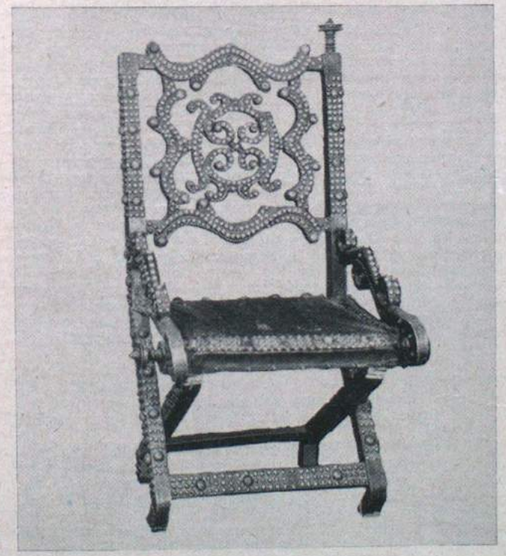
Technical Roster

2549755 Sgt. Gilyeat, J. M. (710)
22289325 Sgt. Lidstone, I. R. (930)

CORPS FLAGS

Units requiring Flags are recommended to place their orders with as much forecast as is possible. In the past it has usually taken about six weeks to supply a flag. This has now extended to three months. The delay factor is the small number of men who are capable of hand painting the crest.

Corps Memoranda No. 1 paragraph 9 refers.



R.S.M.s of the Corps



R.S.M. J. PHILLIPS

Commencing his career in the Boys "F" Company at the S.T.C. in 1935 he received his first promotion to Lance-Corporal in 1939. Throughout the war he served in Palestine, Greece and the Middle East until 1944 when he returned to U.K. for a short stay before being posted to N.W. Europe. Promoted a Sergeant in 1941 he passed through the ranks of S.Q.M.S., S.S.M., R.Q.M.S. and was appointed R.S.M. in 1956. During 1944 he qualified on a parachute course and served with 6 Airborne Division from 1944-1945.

As common to all ex-boys and as a young soldier he excelled in Athletics, Rugby and Hockey and has always been keen on sports.

Married, he has one daughter, Marlene, who shews a keen interest in technical matters rather than domestic.

KING PREMPEH'S CHAIR

Throne of King Prempeh of Ashanti

This throne was presented to the Royal Corps of Signals represented by Colonel E. G. Godfrey-Faussett, C.B., C.M.G., by Major-General Sir Reginald Curtis, K.C.M.G., C.B., D.S.O., in 1921 at West Farleigh in Kent.

In 1896 three men of a Telegraph Section R.E. commanded by Captain Curtis, were the first to enter King Prempeh's Capital of Kumasi, while laying a field telegraph line for the Force sent to depose the despotic Ruler of Ashanti.

The throne was presented to their Section in "Recognition of the hard work done—and as a memento of the unique fact that the enemy's capital was entered, and the news practically known in England before the town was captured by the fighting troops."

Captain Curtis, as he then was, was unfortunately invalided to the base with fever from Akusirem about 5th January, 1896, and the Cable party went on from there to Kumasi under the direct supervision of Sergeant Lowe, R.E. Kumasi was reached on 17th January, 1896. In the "Records of the 1st Division Telegraph Battalion" a small group photograph entitled "Cable Detachment Prahsu 23.12.95" shows Captain Curtis, Sergeant Lowe and five Other Ranks of the Telegraph Battalion.

Great Signals Show at Stirling



Band of the 51st Highland Signal Regiment, T.A.

Throughout Scotland during week commencing 6th September—towns have been holding their annual "Scottish Week." This idea started a few years ago principally to boost Scottish trade and advertise local products as well as bringing before the public local arts, crafts and skills—in fact presenting to the people as much of local activities which normally go on around them as possible. Last year when it was suggested that the "Army Touring Display" should visit Stirling in September, agreement was reached whereby this display was held during the same week as "Scottish Week." The idea has caught on and it is hoped that this will be an annual arrangement. This year the "Meet Your Army" Display was open to the public in the King's Park on Friday 11th, Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th September—with a dress rehearsal on the Thursday. It was a great show and it is gratifying to report that Royal Signals played a very large part in it. The Regular Army show consisted of various stands depicting the life of most of the Corps and many Regiments—with the Territorial Army, in some cases sharing stands with their regular counterparts and in others having their own. The "Live Show" which lasted for one hour each day was most impressive—being, in fact, a small-scale Tattoo. The highlight of this show was, without any doubt, the Corps Motor Cycle Display. Under Captain R. A. Burfitt and Lieutenant J. Liddell, a Scotsman from Edinburgh, they put on one of their best-ever shows, on this their first visit to the town of Stirling. Sergeant H. Sankey, who has ridden in the Army Trials was really superb and others like Lance-Corporal Fowler who has ridden in Northern Command trials and has captained 5 Training Regiment's "A" Team put on spectacular individual shows. Immediate local press comments are—*Stirling Observer*: "The large crowds revelled in what they saw and their spontaneous applause was a tribute and a big 'Thank You' to the men taking part. If pride of place is given to the motor cyclists of the Royal Corps of Signals from Catterick, it was because their display was so spectacular and thrilling. The riders and their passengers on the machines performed all kinds of tricky feats as they circled the arena in a way that seemed almost fantastic and calling for skill, nerve, balancing powers, daring and split-second timing"; and the *Stirling Sentinel*: "How great the gap between drivers and riders of motor cycles is, was underlined by the perfect precision of despatch riders of the Royal Corps of Signals who, like all real experts, made their art look supremely simple."

The principal Band in the display was the Corps Non-Touring Band from Catterick under Sergeant J. Lee, a Scotsman born in Greenock who was educated at the Queen Victoria School, Dunblane, which is only eight miles from Stirling. The Band was very well received and put on a grand show—they were smart and all 30 members appeared to be veterans although in fact a large majority of them have less than three years' service, slightly over half being National Servicemen. Sergeant Lee was praised for his very fine leadership and many comments were made that this appeared to be a big responsibility for so young looking a Sergeant to be carrying out so efficiently. The Band played the music for a Scots Guards Drill Display—this was surely a feather in the Corps Cap—and gave selections in the arena. Many military band enthusiasts remarked: "If this is your Non-Touring Band, what must your actual Corps Band be like?"

The other Corp's contribution to the "Live Show" was the appearance in the Massed Pipe Bands of the Pipes and Drums of the 51st (Highland) Signal Regiment (T.A.), under Pipe Major Stead and Pipe Sergeant Stewart, who carried the Pipe Banner presented to the unit by H.R.H. The Princess Royal in 1938.

In appearance and playing they measured up very well to the Pipes and Drums of Highland Regiments with whom they were playing. It is in fact now recognised in the Highland Division that the Divisional Signal Regiment has as good a Pipe Band as any of the Battalions. The Band is now established, being part of the strength of the unit, it has a total establishment of 32 and at present has about 22 members. Located at R.H.Q. in Aberdeen the Band pays frequent visits to Stirling, where No. 2 Squadron of the Regiment is located. During the afternoon of Saturday 12th a large parade of military and civilian vehicles and decorated floats was held through the streets of Stirling—the parade being led by our Pipes and Drums. Also in the parade were vehicles and Motor Cycles of No. 2 Squadron 51st (Highland) Signal Regiment (T.A.), and this Squadron had a stand as its contribution to the static display. On the stand were displayed the various equipment used in the Regiment, including teleprinters, which were, of course, a great attraction to the public as was speaking over wireless sets and telephones. Major George Louden, T.D., O.C. No. 2 Squadron and Secretary of the Central Scotland Branch of the Old Comrades Association had pleasure in welcoming many old friends who visited the stand, including Lieutenant-Colonel E. G. McHutchon, O.B.E., T.D., who was O.C. when the Squadron (Company) re-formed in Stirling after the 1914-1918 war and commanded the unit in the late 1920's, also Lieutenant-Colonel James Cochran, O.B.E., T.D.—another pre-war Territorial, who later commanded the Regiment during the second world war in the Western Desert and in North West Europe. And finally, the Corps was represented on the Army Information Stand by Sergeant White—who is an Army Recruiter now based in the Army Information Office in Stirling—the first time there has ever been a Corps Recruiter stationed in the town. After all this it would be expected that Royal Signals will see many new recruits joining from Stirling, a town which has in the past been strongly represented in the Corps.

The T.A. Squadron has done so well in recruiting during the past year or two—it is now over 100 strong—that it is only interested in enlisting men with previous Signals training and a very limited number of young men for training as wireless operators.

In honour of this large collection of members of the Corps, No. 2 Squadron held an "open-door" on the Saturday to which the Band, Display Team, Pipe Band, members of the Squadron and of the Old Comrades Association were invited. This was held in Goosecroft Drill Hall and took the form of a general "Get-together." The party was well supported and it appears that those present had a most enjoyable time.

Short History of the United Services Corps

The Corps was founded in 1908 by Mr. James A. Malcolm and the late Major Arthur Haggard under the title of The Veteran Corps. It was renamed "The United Services Corps" in 1934 as this was considered to be a more fitting title for an organisation open to ex-members of all three fighting services.

The Legal Constitution is that of a company limited by guarantee and carried on purely for the benefit of the Corps as a whole. It was incorporated and registered with the Board of Trade as a Non-Commercial Company. The guarantors are the actual members of the Company, known as the Council, and these consist of a number of distinguished persons under the Presidency of Major-General Sir Edward Spears, Bt., K.B.E., C.B., M.C. All the fighting services are well represented.

The governing body of the Corps is the Council, who appoint a Committee from their number, known as the Managing Committee, who directly control the affairs of the Corps.

The Chief Executive Officer is the Commandant, who is responsible to the Council for the organisation, administration and discipline of the whole Corps.

The object of the Corps is to assist ex-Servicemen of the Royal Navy, the Army and the Royal Air Force in their re-settlement into civil life and to provide employment for them. The Corps confines its operations mainly to the area of Greater London and some firms employing members of the Corps in New Towns endeavour to assist them to obtain suitable housing.

Applications to join it are invited from Warrant Officers, N.C.O.s and Men on their discharge from the Services or during the last year of service. Applications should be addressed to the Secretary.

The Corps supplies uniformed men in the smart and attractive uniform of the Corps, each acting under a Fidelity Guarantee, for various positions of trust and responsibility, permanent or temporary, without any fees from Employers.

The Corps provides men for the following categories of employment :—

COMMISSIONAIRES	WATCHMEN
LIFT ATTENDANTS	CLUB PORTERS
STAFF SUPERVISORS	TIME-KEEPERS
CLERK MESSENGERS	CLUB STEWARDS
RECEPTION CLERKS	FACTORY POLICE
GATE-KEEPERS	STORE-KEEPERS
CARETAKERS	

EXHIBITION ATTENDANCES, etc. etc.

Before a man can become a member of the Corps, he is required to sign a form of attestation in which he voluntarily agrees to subject himself to the discipline of the Corps and abide by its Regulations. By these, he pledges himself to live up to a very high standard of personal behaviour, cleanliness and sobriety and agrees to be subject to the Penal Code of the Corps.

No fees of any sort are charged to employers for finding or supplying men to suit their requirements, neither are any subscriptions solicited from employers in respect of members of the Corps employed by them.

Promotion in the Corps is governed by merit. Members are not promoted in the United Services Corps until they have proved their worth in civilian employment.

Annual Parades are generally held at H.A.C. Ground, City Road.

The present strength of the Corps is approximately 2,000 and over 80 per cent. of members are in regular employment.

The "United Services Corps" is well named because it unites all branches of H.M. Regular Fighting Forces in a common endeavour in civilian life with the same discipline, loyalty and devotion to duty that they showed in the service of the crown.

The fact that Warrant Officers, N.C.O.'s and men of the Navy, Army and Air Force are willing to unite in one Corps and voluntarily subject themselves to a high standard of discipline after leaving their respective Services, is not only an admirable example of collective endeavour, but provides employers generally with an organisation to which they may turn for men, for any type of Commissionaire or similar employment of responsibility and trust.

To men of all ages leaving H.M. Forces at the completion of their various periods of enlistment, it offers a settled career in congenial employment of a type for which, by reason of their past training and experience, they are best suited. The wearing of a recognised and distinctive uniform is both an advantage and a responsibility. Whereas the man in plain clothes excites no particular comment by bad behaviour, the slightest public lapse on the part of a man in the uniform of a great organisation is bound to be noticed and might well affect the livelihood of hundreds of his fellow members. No wonder, therefore, the United Services Corps pick their members with such care and discrimination that admission to membership is in itself an undisputed hall-mark of distinction.

It is encouraging to find that both employers and the Services realise the merits of the Corps, Even in the present not so settled times, the demand for men is such that it is often difficult to meet, and effective employment statistics have averaged over 95 per cent. for the past years.

From the service point of view, the number of candidates for enrolment gets larger every year. The total strength of the Corps has risen by over 100 per cent. since the cessation of hostilities. As there is always a considerable annual wastage due to deaths, old age and transfer to Corps Reserve, this rise in strength is significant.

The United Services Corps has the honour of staffing all the large Exhibitions taking place in London and the number of letters of commendation received at Headquarters testifies to the efficiency and high standard of service, given to employers by the members of the Corps.

Enquiries to: Commandant, 19, Hand Court, London, W.C.1.

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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Junior Leaders Regiment

☆



The March Past on the last day at Nijmegen

Boys March at Nijmegen. A printing strike and twenty-eight days' summer leave silenced this writer in the last issue, but we're back for the Winter term and short notes from the vicinity of R.H.Q. gave me the hint that I'd better not miss another dead-line. So here goes . . .

The International Marchers at Nijmegen saw a contingent of boys and staff from Denbury taking part for the first time, led by the Commanding Officer, and Captain M. Hartnett. Four teams from the Regiment completed the course successfully.

From the outset there were many problems which had to be overcome. Among these were travelling expenses and accommodation; but, thanks to the kind co-operation of the R.A.F. and various Royal Signal units in Germany, they were largely overcome.

At Nijmegen, hands were clapped and voices raised in cheers, but curiosity was not aroused until one of the Junior Leaders whispered to an onlooker, "Rusky," and pointed to his colourful woollen cap. This caused great amusement and every day special attention was paid to the boys, culminating in a tremendous ovation as they marched past the G.O.C.-in-C. Rhine Army, on the last day of the march dressed in full Service Dress and led by the Regimental Standard.

In the years to come, Junior Leaders may march again at Nijmegen but none can take the honour of paving the way from these, the first. As Sergeant Greenwood described it: "It was a thrill such as I have never experienced before."

Colour Added to the Unit. The wearing of Balaclavas by Junior Leaders for Outward Bound is the latest move to introduce colour into the Regiment. Up till now there has been no form of head-dress for adventure training.

Each Troop wear Balaclavas in their particular troop colour, while officers have white ones with a coloured pom-pom, or Toorie, identifying their Troop. Not only are Balaclavas serviceable and cheerful, but they have a deeper significance too:

They derive their name from the famous Battle of Balaclava with its immortal Charge of the Light Brigade which perished tragically because of a wrongly delivered message. The new caps will serve as a constant reminder to Royal Signals Junior Leaders that it is their first duty to ensure that messages get through—no matter the cost. It is not generally realised that the epic of the "thin red line" dates from the stand made by the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders at Balaclava in October, 1854.

Cycles and Canoes. Besides the boys who went to Nijmegen, several others went touring Europe also. Fourteen boys and two officers—split into two parties—cycled and canoed their way through the Low Countries.

Using four unit-built canoes, one group under Second Lieutenant P. Hunt paddled from Ostend through Belgium to meet Second Lieutenant R. Greene and the second group at Dendermonde. Here they changed over their means of transportation and continued to the Hook of Holland, finally boarding a steamer home.

During the course of the 14-day trip, which was financed by a War Office grant, the boys saw the *Atomium* at the World Fair Exhibition in Brussels.

"Cobb Trophy" Comes Home. The end of the summer term parade was marked this year by the presentation of the Cobb Memorial Trophy by Major-General Sir Hubert Rance, G.C.M.G., G.B.E., C.B., on behalf of all ex-Boys.

The two-foot tall silver Mercury commemorates the service of Lieutenant-Colonel F. R. Cobb, M.C., to the Corps, and, in particular, his work as Officer Commanding "F" Company—the original Boys' Company.

It was intended that the trophy should be for Inter-Troop Cross-Country Running, but it is felt by the Regiment as a whole, that it should be a Troop award covering all activities. The suggestion is being considered by the Trophy Appeals Committee and the Regiment will be guided by its wishes.

Ceremonial Mace for the Band. Old Comrades of 42 (Lancashire) Divisional Signal Regiment (T.A.) decided to forge a close link with the Junior Leaders Regiment, and at the close of the summer presented the band with their ceremonial mace.

The Drum-Major's Mace had been part of their Regiment since its inception in 1921. Major Lawson, who commands 1 Squadron, 42 (Lancashire) Signal Regiment, said he hoped the Band would visit them in Lancashire soon.

Americans and Norwegians as Guests. Denbury is rapidly becoming a centre of international goodwill.

On 6th September, part of the United States Marine Corps detachment stationed at the American Embassy, London, began a two-day stay at the camp. They had come to the area to play Newton Abbot "All Whites" at Rugger.

They said they were "most impressed by the neatness of the unit, and high morale," and hoped they could come again in the future.

Shortly after their departure, the first International exchange at Junior Leader level between Norway and Britain was completed. Seven Norwegian young soldiers and an officer arrived in return for the courtesy they showed our boys last March.

They toured many Signals' establishments, including No. 1 Signal Centre at Gloucester. Their stay in England was highlighted by a few days in London. We hope to have a more detailed coverage ready for the next edition of THE WIRE. In the middle of these pleasant events we received a surprise visit from three Junior N.C.O.s of Gurkha Signals and we hope they will make a practice of doing this in future.

Closer Ties With Newton. Why doesn't Newton Abbot adopt the Junior Leaders Regiment Royal Signals, and officially take advantage of the goodwill and co-operation which is available for the asking? That's the current question on the lips of many of the town's 17,000 inhabitants.

The Commanding Officer is a strong advocate of closer relations between the town and camp which is so close to Newton Abbot that its presence is bound to be felt. He is being supported in his beliefs by the West of England daily newspaper, *Herald Express*.

A few weeks ago, the newspaper, in a prominently placed, bold editorial, said: "Have the traders done anything to make the boys and staff welcome? Many were quick to speak against a recent proposed move which would take the Regiment away from the town and with good reason.

"With over 500 boys and staff to be catered for and entertained there is a fair amount of steady trade to be obtained. But benefits such as these need co-operation and help if they are to be successful."

The article continued to report that the Regiment had served the town well by supplying the band for many town functions, and by its donation to the Hawkmoor Chest Hospital—the proceeds from the June Carnival.

It is gratifying to see a military unit—such as our's—becoming an integral part of a town's life—full of mutual goodwill and practical assistance. And that's the way it should be!

This month's notes would not be complete without mentioning Second Lieutenant Sproul's recent departure from Denbury and the Corps, at the end of his National Service.

He has made more than the usual contribution to the Regiment by his enthusiasm and ability in all fields. He has left to take up the teaching profession in Scotland. All best wishes go with him.

ALL ARMS JUNIOR LEADERS REGIMENT

The first Parents' Day of the newly formed Regiment was held on Saturday, 25th July, and over 260 parents, brothers, sisters, relatives and friends travelled to Tonfanau to see for themselves where the Regiment worked and played. They were not disappointed, for on a beautiful day, they saw an excellent parade in which two companies and the Band of bugles, drums and fifes, marched past the G.O.C.-in-C. Western Command, General Sir Otway Herbert, D.S.O.

After the parade at the Prizegiving, Junior Lance-Corporal McDonald was presented with the prize for the best Junior Leader in Royal Signals, Junior Signalman Tiddiman, as Captain of Tunisia's (The Royal Signals Troop) Cricket Team, collected the Cup for the Inter Troop Cricket League and among the Form Prize winners were Junior Signalman Bellamy and Junior Signalman Forbes.

Another big event at the end of term was the Drill Competition where Tunisia Troop, after easily winning the turnout section, were pipped at the post by the Infantry Platoon Waterloo. The Corps, however, made their mark when Sergeant Simmonds, Royal Signals, steered Alamein Troop, one of the Royal Artillery Troops, into third place.

Royal Signals also play their part in H.Q. Company where Lance-Corporals Hughes and Cleminson are in the Regimental Police, Lance-Corporal King is Post N.C.O., and Lance-Corporal Duncan runs the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. However, after a recent Football trial it seems likely that the Regimental team will be mainly composed of Royal Signals headed by Signalman Firmin, late of Tooting and Mitcham, one of last season's giant killers.

Latest news on the September intake is that Royal Signals have the highest figures which should make the Corps Junior Leaders complete the century in this Regiment.

Mrs. Lake, wife of the Commandant All Arms Junior Leaders Regiment, presents the winners Cup to Junior Lance Corporal Tidiman who won the long jump in the Individual Athletics Championships



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1st Signal Regiment

A Short History

At Chatham in 1870 the Royal Engineers formed the first Regular mobile telegraph detachment "C" Telegraph Troop. It consisted of two Officers and 133 other ranks, 12 four-wheeled wagons, each with three miles of heavy three-strand cable on half-mile drums and heavy iron poles for crossings. One of its first Officers was Lieutenant H. H. Kitchener, later Earl Kitchener of Khartoum.

Their first active service was in 1879 when, reinforced to a strength of seven Officers, 209 other ranks and 110 horses, the "Right Half" of "C" Troop provided telegraph communications in the Zulu War. Whilst the "Right Half" was away, the "Left Half" moved from Chatham to Aldershot, where, except for absences for operations, the Unit remained for sixty years—until the start of the Second World War in 1939.

A detachment of "C" Troop, named for the occasion "No. 1 Section Field Telegraphs R.E." took part in the Transvaal War of 1881. In the Egyptian War of 1882, the whole Troop, commanded by Major Sir Arthur Mackworth, Bt., was used. It provided communication from the base to Force Headquarters and from there forward for the advance on Tel-el-Kebir, laying the last three miles in half-an-hour. The message to H.M. the Queen announcing the victory was acknowledged from London in 45 minutes. To guide the night approach to Tel-el-Kebir by the Highland Brigade, "C" Troop had erected two miles of poles in front of the outposts.

The "Royal Engineer Telegraph Corps" was formed on 1st March, 1884, but two months later was renamed the "Telegraph Battalion Royal Engineers." "C" Troop became "1st Division, Telegraph Battalion," remaining in Aldershot. (It is coincidence that this Unit later gave birth to the Unit which provides communication for the 1st Division).

Elements of the Telegraph Battalion provided communications for all the small wars of the next fifteen years: for the Bechuanaland Expedition and the Nile and Suakim Expeditions of 1884-85. In the last the British force was opposed by the Hadendowa Tribe (or Fuzzi-wuzzies), who were prone to murder brutally any lineman who was unfortunate enough to fall into their hands.

In 1896 in the second Ashanti War a cable detachment commanded by Captain R. S. Curtis, working ahead of the advancing British column, surprised King Prempeh on his throne. The throne is now in the School of Signals at Catterick.

One section of 1st Division, Telegraph Battalion, left Aldershot in September, 1899, for South Africa and joined General Sir George White's Headquarters in Natal on 27th October. They were soon cut off in Ladysmith with the rest of the force. The other three sections, arriving in South Africa soon afterwards, were attached to various other Headquarters. These were followed later by the 2nd and 3rd Divisions of the Telegraph Battalion. Lord Roberts in his report on the South African War said that "The main line telegraph was extraordinarily well done and the way repairs were made, lines renewed and new lines started was quite admirable throughout."

After the South African War there were many changes in Army organisation. 1st Division Telegraph Battalion was back in Aldershot in November, 1902, and in 1903, was listed as part of "Corps Troops" serving the Corps Headquarters which H.Q. Aldershot Command could become in war. In May, 1905, it was renamed "1st Telegraph Company" and became, for the first time, an integral part of the 1st Division and responsible for the telegraph and telephone communications from Divisional Headquarters.

In May, 1907, it was renamed 1st Divisional Telegraph Company. In 1912 motor cyclists were added to the establishment and the Unit became responsible for all three forms of communication (telegraph, telephone and signal despatch). This was marked by another change of title in June, 1912, when the Unit became "1st Signal Company": although "Divisional" was dropped from the official title, the Unit continued to serve 1st Division. At the same time Brigade Signal Sections, one for each of the three Brigades, were formed as part of 1st Signal Company.

The C.R.E. (Commander Royal Engineers) of 1st Division had under his command at this time one Signal Company and two Field Companies. At the start of the 1914-18 War these were:—

1st Signal Company (commanded by Captain P. R. Bald),
23rd Field Company,
26th Field Company.

The 1st Division served throughout the War on the Western Front; the 1st Signal Company provided its communications.

In 1920 1st Division and its 1st Signal Company were back in Aldershot. It was on 28th June, 1920, that the Royal warrant giving the King's approval to the formation of the "Corps of Signals" was signed by the Secretary of State for War, Rt. Hon. Winston S. Churchill. On 5th August the King conferred the title "Royal" in recognition of services rendered by R.E. Signals during the 1914-18 War.

In 1921 there was another change of title, this time to "1st Divisional Signals." At the same time it was recognised that with its Brigade Signal Sections the Unit had become too large for a Company organisation. A regimental headquarters was added although it did not become a Lieutenant-Colonel's command until 1925.

The Unit was not again involved in operations until it went to Palestine in September, 1936. Wireless and line communications were provided from a Headquarters in Jerusalem. In December the Unit formed "Palestine Signals" (17 Officers and 445 other ranks); the remainder, as a skeleton 1st Divisional Signals, returned to Aldershot, where their strength initially was 10 Officers and 183 other ranks.

In September, 1939, 1st Divisional Signals, commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel R. F. H. Nalder (now Major-General R. F. H. Nalder, C.B., O.B.E., a Colonel Commandant of the Royal Corps of Signals), moved to France. From 10th May the Unit took part in the advance into Belgium and the withdrawal to Dunkirk, a communication problem which became steadily more difficult as the days went by. At 23.30 hours on 1st June all wireless nets were closed down except for the set working to Dover: the wireless sets were destroyed. The final evacuation took place on 2nd June.

The Unit went first to Leeds; on 18th June to Lincoln; and in November to Branston. In November, 1941, it moved to Brandon and continued training there until in December, 1942, it moved to Troun, in Scotland, for training in combined operations. On 9th March, 1943, the Unit, commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel L. T. Shawcross, disembarked at Algiers. It moved up to the Tunisian front and took over from 78th Divisional Signals at Testour on 24th March. It was continuously operational until the Germans surrendered in Tunisia on 13th May. In June, when the Unit was in Sousse, a detachment provided signals for the seizure of Pantellaria.

On 7th December the unit landed at Taranto, in Italy. Six weeks later, on 22nd January, 1944, 1st Division (commanded by Major-General W. R. C. Penney, late Royal Signals; now Major-General Sir Ronald Penney, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., M.C.) assaulted Anzio from the sea. Although the assault was entirely successful Allied forces were held in a small perimeter until the main armies advanced to meet them in May. Rome was reached on 4th June.

On 20th August Lieutenant-Colonel C. H. Stoneley (now Brigadier C. H. Stoneley, O.B.E., Deputy Signal Officer-in-Chief) took over command of "1st British Infantry Divisional Signals." The world "Infantry" had been added in April 1944 to distinguish it from "Armoured" or "Airborne"; "British" was temporarily incorporated in the title to avoid confusion with the Americans and others in the Allied armies in Italy.

1st Division continued in active operations in Italy until January 1945, when it moved to Palestine. In July 1946 "Regiment" was added to the titles of all Royal Signals major units. Amongst other duties in Palestine in 1946 1st Divisional Signal Regiment provided communications for the operations to intercept and tranship illegal immigrants. Divisional training took place in Transjordan.

In May 1948 the main body of the Regiment moved to Tripoli in what was then Tripolitania although there were detached troops as far away as Salonika and the Suez Canal Zone. In October 1951, with trouble brewing in Egypt, the Regiment moved to the Canal Zone.

In November 1955, the Regiment provided 300 all ranks to form Cyprus District Signal Regiment and a draft of 100 all ranks for 10th Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment in Tripoli. As in 1936 from Palestine, a nucleus of the Regiment, this time 2 officers and 60 other ranks, plus detached brigade and field regiment signal troops, returned to the United Kingdom. The Regiment had been abroad for nearly thirteen years. Regimental Headquarters was at first at Winterbourne Dauntsey, near Salisbury, and moved to Bulford in September 1956.

In September 1958 the nucleus of the unit moved to Colchester and started to expand to a full divisional signal regiment. The title was changed to "1st Divisional Signal Regiment" since divisions are no longer especially armoured or infantry.

On 1st September 1959 there was one more, and it is hoped the last, change of title :—

1st SIGNAL REGIMENT

Acknowledgment

In compiling the above summary, "Royal Corps of Signals —A History of its Antecedents and Development" by Major-General R. F. H. Nalder, C.B., O.B.E., has been invaluable. Permission to use extracts is gratefully acknowledged.

Regimental Weekend

The Regiment, having been re-activated in October last year, held its first Regimental "At Home" at Colchester during the week-end 10th/11th/12th July last. To this Regimental Week-end invitations were sent to and accepted by a number of senior Officers of the Corps, including those who had commanded the Regiment in past years.

Amongst those present were Major-General R. F. H. Nalder —a past Commanding Officer of the Regiment, the Representative Colonel Commandant—Major-General M. S. Wheatley, the S.O.-in-C.—Major-General R. J. Moberly, the Deputy S.O.-in-C.—Brigadier Stoneley, and the C.S.O.s of Southern and Eastern Commands, Brigadiers Bradford and Smijth-Windham. During the Saturday afternoon and Sunday functions we were honoured by a visit from the Mayor and Mayoress of Colchester, Councillor and Mrs. A. Kay, and many other Colcestrian notables.

We also extended a personal invitation to the parents and relatives of each member of the Regiment throughout the United Kingdom and we were very pleased to be able to welcome over 200 parents and relatives to the functions.

The week-end began with a Regimental Guest Night in the Officers' Mess, at which some 40 guests and members dined. After an excellent dinner at the table graced by some of the finest pieces of Corps Silver, kindly lent for the occasion by H.Q. Mess, and during which we were entertained by the string section of the Corps Band, a very enjoyable evening was spent with old members and new getting together and either reminiscing over the past or discussing the future of the Regiment. We who are new more than appreciated the advice and experiences of our predecessors.

In spite of unfavourable meteorological reports the weather on Saturday was, on the whole, good. All assembled, after lunch, at the Regimental Sports Field, which had been well converted from a rather ordinary playing field to a very professional looking display arena and the day's activities began.

Each Troop gave a display of its rôle in the field, either in the form of a competition between detachments or as a combined mobile display. These included aerial erection races, communication races, a display of the establishing of a radio relay net and a cable-laying race between two detachments of "C" Troop. This latter demonstration certainly hit the headlines in the local Press and gave the spectators the thrill of the afternoon.

Interspersed between demonstrations and competitions "Oscar" Troop gave us some very amusing and apt representations of "Signalling through the Ages." We sometimes wonder if the first Signaller of all Signallers—Stone Age Man—was not the cheapest and most efficient form of Signalling. But then, of course, what would "M" Troop do with only a stone chisel to sharpen occasionally?

The afternoon ended with a Beating of Retreat by the Corps of Drums and Trumpets of the Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Signals. These boys were very smart and a credit to their Regiment and the Corps.

During the afternoon our guests had the opportunity to show their appreciation by patronising the various fun fair stalls and games which each troop had prepared. The result was that we were able to send a substantial donation to the Royal Signals Benevolent Fund. "Thank you" to all those who donated willingly—or perhaps by persuasion.

The evening festivities began with a visit, brief but enjoyable, to the Sergeants' Mess by the senior officers of the Corps—again much reminiscing amongst the old hands.

Then on to the all ranks' dance held in the Garrison Theatre. Members, old and new, of the Regiment, parents, relatives, girl friends and local civilians all mingled together in what was a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

Come Sunday—and the Regiment assembled for its Church Parade Service. After an appropriate service during which our Padre reminded us that the first C.S.O. in the Army was, in fact a member of the Chaplain General's Department way back in the 18th century, we held our march-past.

Major-General Nalder, accompanied by the Mayor of Colchester, took the salute, at what was, we are told, a creditable mach past.

This was followed by a Band Concert given by the Corps Band under the direction of Sergeant Lee. We cannot speak too highly of the effort and result of the Corps Band during our week-end and congratulate them on a magnificient show which helped us so much.

The week-end festivities ended with a luncheon in each Mess to which all guests were invited and which did credit to our very hard-worked A.C.C. staff.

DUNKIRK

May 27th-June 3rd, 1940

Author and research team preparing detailed history of Dunkirk evacuation for well-known publishers would like to hear from regimental survivors. No literary efforts necessary; will interview anywhere to suit convenience. Write in first instance Richard Collier, None-go-by, Burgh Heath, Surrey.

14th SIGNAL REGIMENT

1 Squadron. We have had a most successful cricket season with the following results :—

Played	Won	Lost	Draw
18	13	4	1

Our team captain, W.O.II Barrett, supported by the Vice-Captain, W.O.II Edmonds, did a sterling job between them—how they managed to talk players off shift is a trade secret.

Corporal Martin excelled in this particular activity and was seleced to play for Gloucestershire 2nd XI, versus Leicestershire. In his first innings he made 30 with the bat and in the second innings he partnered D. Carpenter in a stand of 135.

The tennis courts have proved immensely popular and are in constant demand.

This month we say "good-bye" to one of the Squadron's stalwarts—Major McLoughlin who goes to M.E.L.F.; we are going to miss him very much and wish him and his family all the happiness in their new sphere.

We have also said farewell to Major Sutherland, O.C. of No. 1 Special Communication Troop, who having been relieved by Captain Swindale, is off to the A.A.S. Harrogate. We wish him and his family well and would like to thank him for "mucking" in so well with us.

3 Squadron. A familiar parcel was delivered to the Squadron recently. Yes, THE WIRE had reappeared after an enforced absence and now "We are all right, Jack."

In spite of the tropical weather, football has taken over and the Squadron team looks quite useful. In a local six-a-side competition we did well and collected the runners-up medals.

As we go to press, a party is organised for a conducted tour of London Airport, which should be most interesting.

4 Squadron. Congratulations to Major and Mrs. Hewitt on the birth of a delightful small daughter.

We welcome Captain Dally to Cobbett Hill where we hope he will have a long and happy stay.

The Hobbies' Club flourishes. In spite of difficulties the Photography Club has produced some very pleasant photographs of a recent social function, while the Canoeing Club has built for itself an excellent craft which it is hoping to test out in the very near future on a near-by lake.

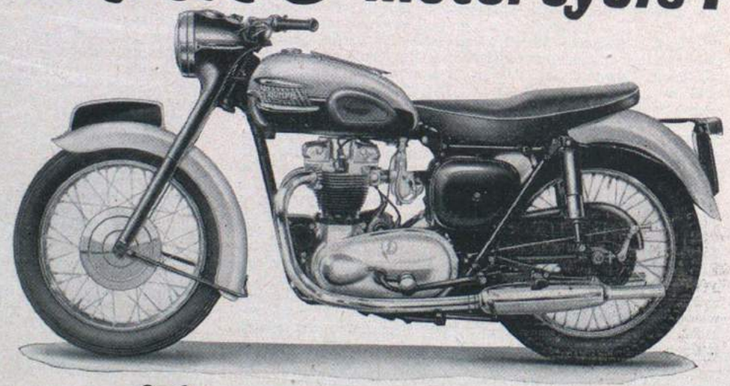
The Junior N.C.O.s' Club held a most successful social evening on the 11th July, 1959. Dancing, one or two novel games and Housey-Housey were judiciously mixed to keep the party going with a swing. The function was well attended, the numbers being swelled by several ex-Signals with their wives. Corporal Pestridge ably performed the duties of "Host," W.O.II Sneddon proved himself a master at the art of "calling out" for Housey-Housey, Sergeant Harrison compered with considerable fluidity and, at the right moment Corporal Wanklin (A.C.C.), attended to the needs of the "inner man" (and woman) with a varied menu of good things to eat—and drink, one of his main jobs being i/c bar. Altogether a smooth and enjoyable party thoroughly appreciated by everyone present. The Junior N.C.O.s' Club are to be congratulated on their effort Let's have another one soon !

Oakhanger Detachment, too, has had its moments. In saying a reluctant farewell to Captain P. A. Dally, we also welcome Captain Farmery and wish him every success.

The last few weeks have proved quite strenuous, a complete change from the normal placidity of the "back of beyond" detachment. Our one and only cricket match resulted in an unexpected win due to the fact that our rustic skill appeared to be admirably suited to the Bentley Green pitch, but the "Locals" had their revenge later in the Clubroom (disguised as "The Star" public bar) when they beat us at darts. The return match at Oakhanger, without the cricket this time, saw much activity in the paint and distemper line, giving the Canteen and Sergeants' Mess an entirely new look, as skilled and unskilled labourers splashed paint and distemper willy-nilly on the unsuspecting walls. In spite of the new dart board, however, we took another beating. The visitors were then introduced to horse racing, our track being on the reverse side of our one respectable piece of linoleum, interspersed with Housey-Housey which flourished under the benevolent guidance of W.O.II Curtis. The evening ended with no-one the worse for wear and leaving the Locals with a far more favourable outlook on the present day Army.

Our congratulations to Signalmen Sutton and Lilly on their recent and impending marriages respectively. We wish them all the best in their new venture.

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8th SIGNAL REGIMENT

Having disposed of the Administrative Inspection, those of us who could be spared scattered hurriedly in all directions to enjoy what we like to think was a well-earned rest.

Summer sports are almost over and although our supremacy in some has declined, cricketers can look back on a reasonably successfull season with the Area and Roxby Surtees Cups adorning the sideboard. In the Northern Command semi-final 11 Hussars, whom we trounced in the Area competition, took our boots off and in the Nevett Cup encounter I think the lads must have succumbed to the blandishments of Tina and the "Duck and Drake."

Quite recently the return match between Officers and Sergeants in the Oliver-Robertson Cricket Shield took place. Try as they would, and viewers witnessed a variety of strokes reminiscent of Gaelic football, the Officers were no match for their more polished opponents and for the time being the Shield now reposes beside the spoon. "Sir John" presented the trophy and a good time was had by all.

Must not let this opportunity pass without referring to our new look designation. In the past "1st Training" was a name to conjure with in any sphere of military activity but perhaps we were best known for our prowess as sportsmen. Now the famous 1st gives way to 8th but the spirit lingers on.

Just around the corner is parents' week-end, the annual get-together of relatives of serving members of the Regiment. All we ask is continuing fine weather and an interesting and enjoyable party is assured.

Brian Robson and John Byas have left for the cloisters at Oxford and Leeds and for the first time in a month the Parson and members of the Mess can get to sleep at night. We shall long remember their doughty deeds on the Rugby and cricket fields and the mighty thirst they acquired here.

24th SIGNAL REGIMENT

The most important event of this month has been the marriage of our Adjutant, Captain F. W. Edwards, to Miss Marion Childs at Acomb, York.

A strong contingent from the Regiment went down to ensure that the ceremony was properly carried out and a photograph proving the success of the operation is enclosed with these notes. It has been observed that the Adjutant now regularly goes home for lunch and the older married men are taking bets as to just how long Mrs. Edwards will put up with this. It is also noticeable that the whole Orderly Room now closes a good deal more punctually than it used to do.

Another success in the sporting world came when we won the Catterick Area Motor Cycle Trials. It must in all fairness be admitted that, owing to re-organisation of the area boundaries, 25th Signal Regiment no longer comes within Catterick Area. Nevertheless, there was stiff opposition and the team, consisting of Corporal Metcalfe, Signalmen Hosgood and Nicholson, had to work hard to win. Congratulations, too, to Lieutenant Borland, who "produced" the team, and also to S.S.M. Firth who, although he has left the Regiment now, was responsible for starting the team on their road to victory.

The tennis team also had a successful season and up to the end of August had won every game but one, rounding the season off by winning the Northern Command Inter-Unit competition. Having done this, however, they seem to have decided that they had done enough because they were early knocked-out of the area competition, which for some unknown reason was held after the Command championships. The team was, of course, led as usual by Major Chapman and included Captain McLean, our Medical Officer, Lieutenant Borland, Second-Lieutenant Taylor, Corporals Metcalfe (again!), Macree, Woodley, Robinson and Signalmen Craddock, Maynard and Mucklow.

Without wishing to overdo the sports element in these notes we must also mention that the Unit swimming team won the Northumbrian District swimming championships of 1959 and also the Inter-Unit swimming champions. We got first place in all the events except the 4 x 66 2/3 yards medley relay in which we tied for first place, and the 200 yards freestyle, in which we were second. The team was organised by Captain Witt and Staff Sergeant Moss and consisted of Second-Lieutenants Mathews and Glover, S.S.M. Cotton, Lance-Corporal J. Holmes and Signalmen S. Hargreaves, R. J. Jacobson, J. M. Blake, P. W. Johnson, J. K. Martell, P. Parkes, I. E. Wood and R. J. Sykes.



Captain and Mrs. F. W. Edwards

Changing the subject at last, we find the first touches of autumn appearing with the smoke of bonfires blowing over the camp. Here is a rather sad little story about that, as a matter of fact. Throughout the summer the R.S.M. had been saving the grass cuttings in order to make a compost heap and by the end of August the heap had achieved the proportions of a young hayrick and was clearly visible from the road. This unfortunately attracted the attention of the Area Fire Officer, who immediately pronounced it a fire risk and ordered its destruction. So now several tons of beautiful potential compost are being sorrowfully burned. However, we have every confidence that the Unit Gardening Officer and the R.S.M. will overcome this little difficulty and that next year our gardens will flourish in their usual exotic manner.

SIGNAL TRAINING CENTRE, W.R.A.C.

What a glorious summer; even Catterick has had three nice days in a row. The blackberries never had it so good! During the past month many changes have taken place. Sergeant Rose is now firmly installed and is well on net. W.O.II Neal and Sergeant McLaren have had their summer vacation and have returned looking like chocolate soldiers. Any minute now the new trainees expect them to melt and become chocolate sauce. What a hope!

We said goodbye to Sergeant Thomson, she left us in good spirits, by courtesy of the Sergeants' Mess bar, with instructions on the upbringing and care of geraniums and lupins. No doubt she will soon be at her new Unit where, we are sure, she will find many ex-trainees awaiting her arrival. Sergeant Griffiths is now working full steam ahead in the Signal Centre Operator School. This School looks like a mechanic's nightmare as the installation of the new switchboard is taking place. Course 100Q left us this week for all parts of the globe. We wish them every success in their new Units. Also during the month the Corporals held a Games Evening. This was attended by the Officers, Warrant Officers and Sergeants of the Unit. From the many successes that the visitors had it was apparent that "there was life in the old dogs yet." Us Corporals will have to give up our riotous living and get down to some serious practice before next time.

We were sorry to say goodbye to Corporal Blacker (Teleprinter School), who finished her service this week. She has done well and the netball team will miss her very much. Congratulations to Corporals Crowe and Morgan on their recent promotion. More next time. Bye.

30th Signal Regiment

On the occasion of the change of our regimental title to 30th Signal Regiment (Trials) it seems appropriate to give a short history of the Regiment under its old title 90 Signal Regiment —the name which will always hold pleasant associations for those who have been in the Regiment for the past three years.

90 Signal Regiment was formed from 5 Corps Signal Regiment in Colchester in June, 1956, under command of Lieutenant-Colonel A. J. M. Atthill, O.B.E. In August, 1956, Lieutenant-Colonel A. R. Marshall, T.D., assumed command of the Regiment until August of this year. His influence has been felt in every activity—even to the adoption of a Swan as the Regimental Badge. Lieutenant-Colonel Marshall is past Renter Warden of the Dyers' Company, which is responsible for the Thames' swans and annually performs the ceremony of "swan-upping." The Company has adopted our Regiment.

The Regiment's organisation has varied a little in the past three years, but its functions remain the same. Our new name gives an indication of them. User Trials Squadron joined us from Catterick under Major J. R. Romaines, D.C.M., and their comments on new equipment have helped to keep the boffins' feet on the ground! Radio Relay Squadron, now a troop, has assisted the development of this new system of communication. Special Wireless Squadron is concerned with that new addition to Appendix C of Staff Duties in the Field, E.W., otherwise Electronic Warfare. B.A.O.R. may think the activities of another part of the Regiment, the War Office Monitoring Team, is more appropriately called E.W.—they have yearly plagued harrassed divisional wireless nets in Germany. Many units have been visited by a team from the Regiment which gave demonstrations of the new range of wireless sets. This team has been formed into a Demonstration Squadron to organise annual signals demonstrations at the Staff College, R.M.A. Sandhurst, and other special occasions, for example the Signal-Officer-in-Chief's conference, as reported in the August number of THE WIRE. This squadron includes the Quicksilver Recruiting Team, which was taken over from 1 Training Regiment. To complete the picture the Radio Survey and Installation Team recently at Aldershot and the Hebrides has now joined the Regiment.

The highlight of 90 Signal Regiment's history was undoubtedly the Royal Guard of Honour commanded by Major D. Coatesworth, M.B.E, the Second in Command, at Colchester on 24th March, 1958. This was the first time a Signal Regiment has ever provided a Royal Guard of Honour for Queen Elizabeth II.

In August last year an advance party moved to Middle Wallop, the home of the Army Air Corps Centre, whose camp we were to share, and by the end of the year the move was completed. We have learnt a lot from our Air Corps friends —many of us have been up in Whirlwinds, Skeeters and Alouettes, and helicopters now appear in most of our demonstrations! More recently we have had considerable success in the station athletics meeting, which Engineering Group won, and in the Southern Command Tennis tournament, in which Captain L. S. Bamber, the Adjutant, and Mrs. L. H. Dutton won the mixed doubles.

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Lieutenant-Colonel A. R. Marshall, T.D., with members of the W.O.'s and Sergeant's Mess at a farewell party

It has been sad to say goodbye to our Commanding Officer since he has been with us practically throughout the Regiment's existence. A farewell Ladies' Guest Night was held in the Officers' Mess and the L.A.D. produced a splendid carriage from a modified ¼-ton trailer in the form of a swan, in which Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. Marshall were drawn away at the end of the evening. The Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess gave a most enjoyable party in the Colonel's honour and also two lives in the Officers versus Warrant Officers and Sergeants Cricket Match! Both Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. Marshall will be greatly missed and we wish them both the best of luck in retirement.

Finally, we welcome our new Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel J. R. Piddington, M.C., who has already had experience of fighting our battles in the War Office. We hope both he and Mrs. Piddington will be very happy with the Regiment.

GERMANY

21st SIGNAL REGIMENT

As is usual the month of August claimed its large quota of intrepid travellers, and as a result members of the Regiment were scattered between Aberdeen and Monte Carlo, Berlin and Amsterdam. Now with the general return to work and holidays receding into the background we are grateful for the continuing heat wave which at least helps to maintain the so hard-earned Riviera tans.

In spite of so many individuals being away, we have been able to carry on with Troop Training exercises. Both troops of 1 Squadron (7 Line and 9 Heavy Cable Troops) have revisited Haltern Training Area, and under the supervision of Captain Cox carried out a series of Line laying exercises set to test the toughest lineman!

This month we have said goodbye to Staff Sergeant Halbert who has left us on well earned promotion to 206 Signal Squadron at Munster. During recent months he has been Troop Sergeant for 7 Line Troop and acting S.S.M. 1 Squadron before the arrival of Warrant Officer II Howells; in both these appointments he has "cracked the whip" and we wish him and Mrs. Halbert the best of fortune at Munster.

Captain Symons (2 i/c 2 Squadron) who already "rises to great heights" has this month been able to attain his solo gliding certificate with the R.A.F. Gliding Club at Bruggen. For those who prefer to keep both feet firmly on the ground he says that we are missing something by not enjoying the thrills of motorless flight.

At the end of July, a team of twelve from the Regiment headed by Second Lieutenant Allan and Sergeant Irvine took part in the Annual Nijmegen Marches. After completing the gruelling course of 100 miles in four days, none were prouder or smarter than the team when it finally marched in the ceremonial procession through Nijmegen on the final day.

In the world of sport we have had a fairly peaceful month, however, Second Lieutenant Jones (21 Wing Signal Troop) has been keeping things going, in spite of strong R.A.F. opposition, by winning the shot and coming second in the high jump in the R.A.F. Bruggen Athletic Meeting. Other successes were Driver Bradford third in the mile and Lance-Corporal Mirless, second in the 100 yards and third in the high jump. Lieutenant Adams (20 Wing Signal Troop) on the other hand has been taking a gentle form of exercise sailing with the Kiel Yacht Club.



Nijmegen Marches, 1959—21st Signal Regiment Team

From various courses at Catterick we are pleased to welcome back Staff Sergeant Sparrow, Sergeants Wade and Sadler, and Corporal Thornton, while Sergeant Phyall and Corporal Turner have left us temporarily for the same destination to improve their trade qualifications.

Soldiers Help Gives Telephones to Remote Malayan Village

STORY: SERGEANT P. M. HOWARD (G.S.C.)
PICTURES: CORPORAL B. J. IVES (R.A.O.C.)

A mine is bringing prosperity to the little-known village of Rompin in the State of Pahang, Malaya, and to help this happy state of affairs along British, Australian and Gurkha soldiers have brought Rompin into telephonic communication with the "outside world."

Until two months ago many of the villagers had little or no idea what a telephone looked like.

If they wanted to use one a journey of 17 miles to Endeau, Johore, was entailed, and two rivers had to be crossed in the process.

Now Rompin has its own exchange, a small automatic type with 25 lines, which is linked with the Endau exchange.

Providing this link was quite a problem for the Tele-Communications Department of the Federation of Malaya and they appealed to the Commonwealth Forces for help.



Gurkha, British and Australian troops prepare to place a pole into position towards the end of the line at Rompin



Colonel J. M. S. Tulloch, O.B.E., and Captain R. Plant, pictured on one of the ferries which carried men and materials across the river Pontian during the project

The civilian concern had the money and materials—but not the men. This was the biggest problem, but by no means the only one.

On the practical side of the project there were many obstacles, some large, others small. The larger ones, in the shape of the rivers Endau and Pontian, were the cause of "brain-racking" moments.

The Army decided that despite all difficulties, the job was a good one to tackle.

There was an opportunity to help the civilians; an appealing chance of providing the soldiers with invaluable and out-of-the-ordinary training, and a means of testing the ability of the different types of soldiers to work together.

Now the task has been completed and the result has been a resounding and heart-warming triumph for the Britons and Australians from Overseas Commonwealth Land Forces Signal Squadron (Royal Signals), 28 Commonwealth Brigade Group Signal Squadron (Royal Signals and Royal Australian Signals) and the Gurkhas from 17 Gurkha Division Signal Regiment.

Two Officers and 40 men began the operation, with the British, Australian and Gurkha contingent camping under canvas at Endau, and the 20-strong Gurkha party later moved to Rompin.

"Signals Detachment, Endau"—as the group was named—was led by Captain R. Plant, aided by Lieutenant P. R. Buchanan, from 17 Gurkha Division Signal Regiment.

The two biggest problems were tackled last. River number one, the Endau, was overcome with the laying of submarine cable, and number two, the Pontian, was crossed with the aid of two massive 60-foot "H" poles.

To give an idea of the difficulties presented by the terrain, these poles had to be transported from Mersing to Pontian by sea. There was no means of hauling them overland.

The most difficult stretch of land was a ten-mile route between Endau and Pontian.

"Here we had to erect poles in swamp land," said Captain Plant. "It was a particularly difficult job and the men worked under most trying conditions. As fast as we dug a hole, it would fill up with water and cave in." During the erection of the first few miles of poles the men killed three cobras and at one particular period were constantly attacked by wasps and ants.

Having reached the River Pontian, digging on the other side was easier, the ground being firm, but there were still problems. When it came to lifting the poles they were invariably so hot that burned shoulders were the rule rather than the exception.

The Chief Signal Officer, H.Q., 17 Gurkha Division/O.C.L.F., Colonel J. M. S. Tulloch, O.B.E., visited the men towards the end of their task, and was very impressed with what he saw, particularly in connection with the co-operation of the various soldiers.

"I think they have done a jolly good job under extremely difficult circumstances," he said, pointing out that the men engaged on the line work were field-linemen, and not permanent linemen.

STEEPLE BUMPSTEAD SIGNAL SQUADRON

Enquiry reveals that the whole Squadron is on "block" leave and that Mrs. Suffolkpunch (Secretary W.I.) has taken over care and maintainance of the barracks. She expects all to return by the end of the month and takes a dim view of the rumour that W.R.A.C. personnel are expected to arrive before then.

SIGNAL TROOP, 22nd SPECIAL AIR RECCE REGIMENT

Our move into the new camp is now complete and sand-coloured berets are no longer a matter of speculation in Malvern.

We have spent the time since our last appearance in THE WIRE fairly heavily engaged on exercises. Trooper O'Connor and the O.C. went off to Germany at Whitsun with the Territorial Army. For O'Connor it was his 100th descent and from his impressions about the most precarious. Corporals Tongue and Murphy jumping into Lincolnshire a month later bore this out; the former by landing after his parachute when on an exercise with the same unit.

Apart from these minor forays we have been fully employed on Signals Cadres, the two Regimental Exercises in Wales and our own efforts which have, on two occasions, literally stretched from Land's End to John O'Groats.

Germany is our next move for six weeks, followed, we hope, by North Africa.

There are still large gaps in our ranks which we have attempted to fill by sending a small team around the Training Brigade. We hope to repeat the idea in October.

215 SIGNAL SQUADRON (INFANTRY BRIGADE)

Since our last news bulletin, quite a few changes have occurred. Major Badcock has left us for J.S.S.C., and Major Roper assumed command of the Squadron in February, arriving from C.S.O.'s branch, Nicosia. Lieutenant Wilson has more recently left for 26th Signal Regiment complete with momento, and being replaced by Captain Montague (who arrived from 20th Signal Regiment, Nicosia). Lieutenant Colman arrived from 29th Signal Regiment, and this brings the total number of Officers in the Squadron to three for the first time for a few years. Others who have left include Staff Sergeant Cooper, for a Foreman of Signals course, Sergeant Hope, for 23rd Signal Regiment, and Sergeant Payne, for 13th Signal Regiment. Before leaving Staff Sergeant Cooper helped design our very successful new Wireless Room. W.O.II Carnell is back with us now after some well earned U.K. leave, and a course to provide a free return trip.

Now that peace is with us, work and training in the Squadron has changed to meet the new situation. We did extremely well in the Brigade Marching and Shooting Competition, especially in discipline and timing on the march. The competition included all the Infantry and R.A.C. units in the Brigade, and we succeeded in beating two of them. The O.C. was the oldest competitor, putting many of the younger men to shame.

Another very notable effort by the Squadron was a "North African trek" led by Lieutenant Wilson. The aim of the exercise was to practice wireless operators in long range communications by day and night using the WS CII as a veh station, and to give everyone who went—Wireless Operators, Drivers, Radio Technicians, Vehicle Mechanics—experience in working in extreme heat and unpleasant conditions. Twenty-two men, all ranks, left Cyprus for the exercise—four Land Rovers and half-ton trailers, 2 x 1 ton vehicles and one-ton trailers from the Signal Squadron, plus a Land Rover and trailer RMP. The results gained were excellent, especially the communication side. The WS CII worked admirably back to Famagusta on both voice and CW, max distance 1,500 miles. Many, many miles of dusty desert were covered and the party had a write-up in the "Times of Cyprus." The whole Exercise took three weeks and many valuable lessons were learnt by all. It was the first adventure training exercise attempted in the Middle East, and Lieutenant Wilson and all ranks did well.

The UMI fell upon us in March. Sergeant Payne and his men, much to their surprise, got a "100 per cent battle worthy" for the annual vehicle inspection, one of the few obtained in this part of the world.

At this time of writing we are occupied quite fully by a series of Squadron Schemes in order to improve and develop the principles of concealment, camouflage and quick movement. Digging trenches in some of the Cyprus soil can be very hard work as Corporal Atkin and many others will tell you. We are also devoting much time to the subject of Air Portability so that when we come home, in December, to the Green Grass of England we will be better fitted for our new role.

Soon we have some shooting competitions coming up and Captain Montague, W.O.II Carnell and Corporal French are in the process of training our team on the new SLR.

In the sporting world we have been well to the fore, and much of the credit must go to Corporal Pfeiffer who has featured in every sport. He, Lacey and Pell have played Army (Cyprus) basketball. The Squadron won the area cup for the third consecutive year, and were runners-up in both the Island wide, and Royal Signals Cup this year. At cricket Corporal Pfeiffer, Lance-Corporals Middleton, Prince, Signalmen Jackson, Garner, Burchell and Hooper have all been consistent Squadron performers. Lieutenant Colman was called upon to play the day after he arrived, and has played regularly since. At soccer we won the area league last season and were runners-up in the Royal Signals Cup. Notable personalities were Corporal Pfeiffer, Signalmen Garner, Lacey, Standerline, Burchell and Corporal McKenzie. Lieutenant Wilson, Lance-Corporal Prince and Signalman Hooper represented us in the "Odds and Sods" Rugby team which was formed in the Famagusta area.

Corporal Pfeiffer is leaving us soon for B.A.O.R. and we shall miss him in the Squadron sporting activities. We wish him the best of luck and happiness in his coming marriage.



215 SIGNAL SQUADRON (INFANTRY BRIGADE)
BRIGADE MARCHING AND SHOOTING COMPETITION — JUNE 1959
Front Row: Signalmen Pell, Lacey, Staff Sergeant Cooper, Major H. E. Roper, Corporal Richardson, Signalman Corrigan
Centre Row: Lance Corporal Gregory, Corporal Baker, Lance Corporal Kidman, Signalmen Mitchell, Mackle, Garner, Hooper
Back Row: Driver Risk, Corporal Harvey, Signalmen Fisher, Betts, Hickson, Vives, Cooper 676, Gordon

222 SIGNAL SQUADRON (AIR FORMATION)

Once more the authorities have remembered us. Our file has been dug out from War Office archives and the designation of our Squadron has been altered. We are now 222 Signal Squadron (Air Formation).

Several members of the Squadron cannot face the change and are returning home; they include Warrant Officer II Byrne and Sergeant Griffin. To them, and to all National Servicemen who are about to achieve their ultimate aim, we wish the best of luck.

We welcome Warrant Officer II Bulloch, Staff Sergeant Gamble and Sergeant Stevenson and we hope Aden is kind to them. We also welcome back Lieutenant Ashford who has just been on leave to England; his round-trip cost him £5.

Major Hall, our O.C., has just returned from Air Ministry and War Office, London. It appears, moreover, that he has persuaded them to give him all he asked for. A truly remarkable effort.



[Photographs by R.A.F. Malta

234 Signa Squadron (Malta) Redesignation Parade—Signalman Delia, The G.O.C., Captain W. L. Wood

234th SIGNAL SQUADRON (MALTA)

The highlight of our activities during August was the provision of communications for the World Under Water Fishing Championships, and a separate report on Royal Signals activities during this event appears elsewhere in this issue. Operating Troop have now dried out their sets, but rumour has it that Sergeant Casey feels that the standard of oarsmanship in the Troop leaves something to be desired.

Two outings were held during August, to Military Bay and Comino. Both were well supported, and we hope that evening barbacues will become a regular part of our social life. The "Tuesday Club" now meets weekly in the Junior Ranks Club for a round of indoor games and "light refreshments." Having just succeeded in recovering from Corps Week, we are now making our plans for Christmas.

On 1st September we held a ceremonial parade to commemorate our change of name. Two troops and a representative selection of our transport were inspected by Major-General C. H. Colquhoun, C.B., O.B.E, General Officer Commanding Troops Malta. The Chief Signal Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel J. D. Elliott, then announced (in English and Maltese) details of the change of name; the Corps Flag was lowered to the strains of "Auld Lang Syne," played by the Royal Artillery (Malta) Band, and raised whilst the Band played the Corps March. The parade concluded with a march past the General Officer Commanding.

In passing it is of interest to note the history of the Squadron, which was formed, in 1923, as Malta Signal Section. Our earliest photograph, taken in 1925, shows the strength as one officer, 15 other ranks and 27 civilians (we are rather larger these days!). Included in the photograph is Q.M.S. Shave, whose son, Major J. S. R. Shave, M.C., Royal Engineers, now commands Malta Fortress Squadron Royal Engineers, with whom we share our barracks. A later photograph (1930) shows Charlie Xerri (now our technical assistant) and George Blow (now Chief Telephone supervisor), both of whom have been with the Squadron over thirty years. During the war we were upgraded to a Command Signals, changing to Malta Signal Squadron in 1947.

In August we combined forces with 235 Signal Squadron (Comcan) to produce a Royal Signals Team for the Troops Malta Small Arms Meeting. The team finished fifth in the minor units league, but we did rather better in the Garrison Swimming Championships, where we were runners-up in the minor units league.



234 SIGNAL SQUADRON (MALTA) REDESIGNATION PARADE—INSPECTION OF THE QUARTER GUARD
Captain A. E. Carter, the G.O.C., Corporal J. Zammit, Lance Corporal V. Zammit, Signalmen Eaves and Cassar

236 SIGNAL SQUADRON (COMCAN), NAIROBI

During the long school holiday period many of the married personnel of the Squadron have taken themselves and their families off to the sea-side on leave, taking advantage of the excellent Nyali Leave Camp at Mombasa. Others have ventured farther a field to the Game Reserves, or on photographic Safaris. Perhaps the most unusual (and uncomfortable) safari was made by Captain Gilham, who went 1,700 miles on a 125 c.c. scooter on a tour taking in Dar es Salaam, Zanzibar, Mombasa, arriving back in Nairobi relatively unscathed with no trouble except a broken front shock absorber and hair-raising tales about the scooter and rider being mistaken for her offspring, by a large female rhinoceros. We hope to publish more about the Safari later.

The unit Athletics were held on Saturday, 15th August, 1959, organised on an inter-troop basis to compete for the Unit Shield and to keep an eye open for any talent that might help the Unit retain the R.A.F. Wing (Unit Cup won last year, at the R.A.F. Station Sports).

Despite the heat and the altitude (5,500 feet), some remarkable performances were returned and can certainly be improved upon before Station Sports on Wednesday, 30th September. In fact, the team under Lieutenant Lockett, assisted by Warrant Officer II Haw (our Tug-o-War expert), Staff Sergeant Catton and Sergeant Gardiner, is already under training.

The Tug-o-War started in grand style with H.Q. Troop and Technical Troops' first pull lasting over five minutes, by which time both teams looked decidedly green and the coaches were almost hoarse. This pull just about finished both teams, and the event was finally won by Wireless Troop who well deserved their crate of beer.

Overall Technical Troop had amassed most points although they only took two cups and were awarded the shield. Mrs. Lyske kindly presented the prizes.

By the time these notes are in print, the hockey season will be well under way and more. This season, due to most of our old faithfuls having departed and very few players coming in we are combining with the R.A.F. to produce two United Services teams. Both of these have been entered for the European "A" and "B" Division leagues, and a much better standard of competition should be enjoyed as compared with previous years. The proof of the pudding, etc., etc.—albeit we are quietly optimistic.

Our fortunes in the soccer field during the past month have been rather mixed. The first team have only managed to collect one point from their three league games, that being from a 0-0 draw with league leaders, 1st Battalion Cameronians. The other two games saw defeat by Caledonians (0-3) and R.A.F. (0-2). In the latter game, unfortunately, we lost our left half and captain, Lance-Corporal Gorton, after five minutes with a badly cut eye. Earlier in the month we beat R.A.F. in a 1st round Girouard Cup tie and now meet the Cameronians.

The "A" team are still improving and have won their only two league matches against Caledonians "A" (3-2) and Nairobi Garrison "A" (5-1).

In the representative field, Lance-Corporal Gorton is now the automatic choice as captain for the Army (E.A.) XI and the League XI. Others who regularly receive honours are Signalmen Cooke, Hazard and Allen, Driver Marriott, Lance-Corporal Sadler.

The Darts season wound up successfully for the "A" team, who ran out easy winners of the North Division of the Nairobi league. COMCAN Receivers, after a grim struggle with two other teams, became runners-up in this division, having won

two more legs than the Red Lion who were level on points. The "B" team in the South Division were just spared the "honour" of receiving the wooden spoon.

In the doubles, Corporal Kirk and Signalman Armstrong covered themselves with glory by winning the Nairobi Championship. They played excellent darts throughout the competition and even "whitewashed" their opponents in one leg of the final.

1 SIGNAL SQUADRON, KING'S AFRICAN RIFLES

The big news of the month is that the long-awaited new pay scales for the East Africa Land Forces, which include this Unit, have been introduced, retrospective to 1st April, 1959, and we have all received a very welcome rise in pay together with a substantial lump sum in respect of back-pay. The switch-over of income-tax from U.K. to Kenya rates has been greatly in our favour and the NAAFI manager is working overtime selling washing-machines, radiograms, etc., to the "nouveau riche" of 1 Signal Squadron.

The "cold" spell is now ending and we can look forward to warm, sunny weather until next April or May, with a short interruption of cooler weather in October when the Short Rains arrive.

Next month we shall be out again, this time in the Moshi area of Tanganyika, recruiting askaris for the Squadron. Recruiting safaris always provide a pleasant change from normal routine and an opportunity to see a bit more of the country. Moshi is a particularly pleasant little town, situated on the lower slopes of Kilimanjaro.

With the arrival of the better weather the hockey season has started again and the results in our first few games are: Kahawa Garrison, won 3-1; Cameronians, lost 2-1; Command H.Q., won 3-2; and R.A.F. Eastleigh, draw 2-2.

Sergeants Meacher and Bodys are busy training a display team for the Kenya Regiment Agricultural Show. The team is drawn solely from British Units, including 24 Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron, and appears to be making excellent progress. The two instructors are still all in one piece and the team have taken a few tumbles without mishap. No askaris have, as yet, come forward as volunteer trick riders and we have a feeling that none will. Such capers, they consider, are best left to the mad Englishmen!

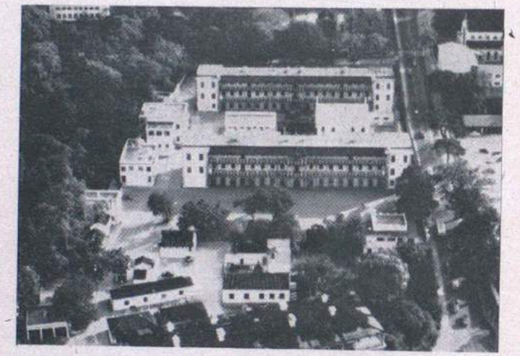
27th SIGNAL REGIMENT
Murray Barracks, Hong Kong

Murray Barracks was named after General Murray, Quarter-master-General to the Forces in 1846. 27th Signal Regiment have occupied the Barracks since 1947. The only Signal installation in the Barracks is the "Murray Transmitter Station" which houses Transmitters for Colony Internal communications. For the rest in the Barracks is living and/or office accommodation for C.R. Signals, Hong Kong, his Staff increment, R.H.Q., H.Q. Squadron and 1 Squadron of 27th Signal Regiment.

No. 1 Squadron is responsible for all military communications on the Island.

Some idea of the growth of the urban area of the Island can be gauged from the two photographs. One of these is a water colour, which hangs in the Officers' Mess, of the Mess in 1846. The second is a photograph of the Mess today from approximately the same spot as the artist sat some 113 years ago. The road junction to be seen at the far end of the Mess Building is reputed to be one of the "busiest" in the world. Because of this Murray Barracks is scheduled to be demolished in the not too distant future and a rumour has it that a round-about is to be constructed where C.O.'s and Adjutant's Offices are now situated.

The aerial photograph shows the whole Barracks with the exception of the M.T. Square L.A.D., Garages and Officers' Mess, the roof of which can be seen in the foreground. In case the uninitiated might be deceived we can assure readers that the Barracks are not so glamorous as they appear. The present D.A.D.H. in a letter from his father, who was also an Army Doctor in Hong Kong some 50 years ago, was asked if there were still bed bugs in Murray Barracks; needless to say the answer was "Yes." We are now, however, glad to report that a very recently imported mechanical "de-bugging" machine, which can throw insecticide to great heights, has disposed of these unwelcome "lodgers," at least for the moment.



Aerial view Murray Barracks, 1959



Murray Barracks, Officers' Mess, 1846



Photographs by Captain F. G. Hardy

Murray Barracks, Officers' Mess, 1959

THE AIR FORMATION SIGNAL INSTALLATION TROOP, GAN ISLAND
From Our Man in Gan

The troop has now been working on the island a year and we feel it is time that we made our first appearance in THE WIRE and let all those who may be interested in a "Robinson Crusoe" type of existence know what our "Island Paradise" is like.

The island is just over a mile long and half a mile wide, being one of ten similar islands forming a circle of about six miles diameter, the group being known as Addu Atoll. This group is sixty miles south of its nearest neighbour and Gan itself at six hundred miles south-west of Ceylon is the most southerly island of the entire Maldive Chain. The climate is cooler than might be supposed at a location forty miles south of the Equator, averaging eighty-five to ninety degrees all the year round. The rainfall averages one hundred and twelve inches a year, and it is not particular when, or for how long at a time, it falls, though records show that March is usually a dry month. If you have cables to lay, prepare to lay them then, the tears you will shed later as you fight the eternal battle with waterlogged ground and cable pits.

Gan was at one time a coral island covered with palm trees, now it is a coral island covered with concrete as we have a runway and hardstandings which are the pride of the Far East and the envy of all visitors who know their airports. The average height above sea level is four feet around the perimeter, and one foot in the centre with large areas of permanent swamp which seriously complicate building and cable laying. There used to be a highest point of nine feet above sea level but one afternoon's good work by a bulldozer disposed of that, so all is flat, and of no scenic beauty whatever.

We are the only Army representatives on the island apart from two members of the Royal Engineers who run British Forces Post Office 180. Our contribution on Gan consists of, installing all the usual cables and equipment required by the Royal Air Force to connect up their navigational aids and meteorological devices, the provision of a one hundred line automatic telephone exchange and, in addition, large numbers of control circuits and keying lines for the Royal Air Force equivalent of a COMCAN relay station. The late provision of the exchange and its associated parts complicated matters considerably due to the need of the Royal Air Force to use the main cables before we could properly terminate them; many indeed are the uses of Cases Distribution. The problem in this present period of emergency activity is to get sufficient time from the Signal Officer to allow us to put the cables where they should be, and many a midnight light shines out from the Frame Room. All is well, however, and not a "bleep" has been lost so far.

By far the larger part of the project is completed, for which thanks are largely due to the members of the original Troop who have now departed for lands afar after a year of hard work sustained in sometimes atrocious conditions, and with only the prospect of a return to primitive living accommodation ahead of them at the end of the day. Such is the lot of the pioneer but things are greatly improved now and complaints are few. Only the O.C., Lieutenant (T.O.T.) A. V. Render, the Foreman of Signals W.O.II A. Holmes, and two hardy volunteer Telegraph Technicians remain of the original troop, and it is most encouraging in these days to find junior ranks with so much pride in their work that they will volunteer to stay on to see the job completed, and this at a station which is freely acknowledged to be not one of the best, yet. Come and visit us in two years time however, there will be a remarkable change from the mud, dust, half completed buildings and coral tracks.

Relations with the local Maldivians are extremely good and old hands of the world's trouble spots would find it strange to know that the British Serviceman is always welcomed with a smile and genuine goodwill. They are, of course, a backward people but proudly independant and extremely quick to learn. This is fortunate, as a room boy straight from the jungle is rather apt to confuse boot polish and metal polish; try Brasso on your boots sometime, some of us have.

Notabilities of the Troop who have left were Staff Sergeant Openshaw, with Sergeants Stagg and Sammut, and we wish them well. In their place we welcome Staff Sergeant Waters, with Sergeants Martin and F. W. Wilson, and trust that their one year tour will see Gan grow into the island paradise that rumour would have us believe it will be.

Sport thrives on the island, particularly football; the Troop were runners-up in the league which has just been completed. Other sports followed including cricket, basketball, swimming, sailing, hockey which is just beginning, and Judo which was started a month ago by Sergeant T. M. Martin of the troop. Sergeant Martin, holder of a green belt, is now walking round with a broken arm, presented to him by one of his over enthusiastic pupils who hadn't heard that Judo is supposed to be the "gentle art of self defence."

After a one year tour here, two more years are spent at a normal families' station elsewhere in the Far East, so if the idea of "getting away from it all" appeals to you, apply now at the Records Tourist Bureau.



The "Allen" Trencher. The "Sigs Cable" sign is to warn all other would-be diggers of trenches that we were there first



A general scene during installation. The runway is in the foreground



A water pump; a very necessary piece of equipment being delivered to the site. The normal water level can be seen in the trench

CLOTHING

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. *See page* 267.

COMMANDER, ROYAL SIGNALS, SINGAPORE

In Perpetuium

They've changed their name
But they're just the same,
Business as usual,
Ne'er a refusal!

18th SIGNAL REGIMENT
(Formerly Royal Signals Singapore Administrative Regiment)

From a spectacular and interest point of view the highlight of this month was the team of motor cyclists who competed in the tent-pegging competition held during the Singapore Polo Club Gymkhana on 9th August, 1959.

With very little time for practice they arrived at the polo field in good time and in good heart. Dressed in white helmet with a black "Jimmy," No. 3 jacket, white breeches, white long puttees and black boots, they were congratulated by Brigadier B. T. V. Cower, D.S.O., Deputy Commander Singapore Base District, on their appearance.

The team of three pairs went on to the field with one man riding a motor cycle and the other standing on the pillion foot-rests, left hand on the shoulder of the rider and the right hand holding the 8ft. lance. The speed necessary was some 25 to 30 miles per hour.

The result was very satisfactory as the Royal Signals' team beat all comers, three teams of horses and the Royal Military Police on motor cycles. Their overall score was 24, with the R.A. Saddle Club in second place.

The Royal Signals' team consisted of:

(a) Riders—Corporal T. Taylor (R.E.M.E.), Lance-Corporal Che Mat and Signalman W. Evans.
(b) Lancers—Sergeants G. Spooner, Ibrahim and Signalman R. Gilks.

Corporal Taylor and Sergeant Spooner were the overall winners.

In the soccer world the Malayans of the Regiment were unfortunate to be beaten by the Singapore Guard Regiment in the final of the M.O.R. Cup. The score being 2-1. To a certain extent they had their revenge a week later when they beat the same opponents 1-0 in a league game. They are still in the Malayan Armed Forces Cup, having reached the semi-final, and we wish them all success.

The Regiment has been quite successful with its swimmers, only two water polo matches having been lost this season; both to the Royal Engineers.

The Army water polo team which came second in the Singapore Amateur Swimming Association League was composed entirely from players of these two teams. The Royal Signals' players being Sergeant P. Hincliffe, Lance-Corporal T. O'Donoghue, Signalmen P. Revill and J. Leonard.

The Triangular Corps Swimming Meeting, between 19th Signal Regiment, Princess Mary Barracks and Meiktila Barracks, ended in the cup returning to Princess Mary Barracks. In the District Championship Meeting Royal Signals tied for third place.



Sergeant Ibrahim, Signalman R. Gilks, Sergeant G. Spooner, Lieutenant P. A. Treseder, Lance Corporal Che Mat, Signalman W. Evans, Corporal T. Taylor (R.E.M.E.)

Line Squadron, Royal Signals

Sport has provided most of the Squadron news during the last two months.

Corporal Galway and Signalman Harun were chosen to represent the Army (Singapore) in the Inter-Services Championships (the Army won) and they both represented the Combined Services in the Singapore A.A.A. Meeting. This just about winds up a very successful season for them both.

The Royal Signals Annual Classification Shoot was held on 10th, 11th and 12th August. Lance-Corporal Amin of this Squadron did very well and gained the distinction of being the best Class "B" shot.

The Corps Gala was held on 22nd July, followed by the Singapore Base District Championships on 12th and 19th August the Squadron was well represented by:

Lieutenant R. Pickard: Second, 2 x 100 metres backstroke (Corps).
Staff Sergeant Webb: First, diving (Corps); first, 3 x 50 metres medley relay (District).
Lance-Corporal Stokes: Second, diving (Corps).
Signalman Webber: First 2 x 100 metres backstroke (Corps).
Signalman Leonard: Whose achievements were too numerous to list here; he is now in training to represent the Army (Singapore).

Operating Squadron, Royal Signals

Our notes this month can almost all be devoted to hatched, matched and despatched. We sincerely congratulate W.O.I Robinson on his forthcoming marriage, for which he has departed on leave to the U.K. We look forward to his return with his wife in September and hope he will quickly settle to married status. We also congratulate him on the news that he is shortly to be commissioned as Traffic Officer.

We have had no fewer than 12 reinforcements in the last few weeks from the Old Country, an unprecedented pleasure. Amongst them Sergeant Higgins and Corporal Back and their families.

We anticipate a welcome to a "little stranger" for Lieutenant and Mrs. Pendock early next month, and wish them all well, and we have said good-bye to a number of friends, including Corporal Le Geyt (a picturesque N.C.O.). It is always a saddening thing about the Army, the almost daily good-byes to people we can ill afford to lose.

Finally, a new item. We hope to give everyone a week on the Island of Pulau Ubin during September, for a change of air and environment, so we shall, next month, be able to recount the pleasures we will share with Line Squadron "Away from it all."

INDEX EXPURGATORIUS, which being translated means "Don't bring THAT book into the Signal Centre."



Major R. J. Harvey, Captain J. Fender, S.S.M. Harrison and some members of the D.R. Troop of Operating Squadron Royal Signals

249 Signal Squadron (Reserve) (Formerly Field Signal Squadron (FE)

Comings and goings over the past month have been frequent. Captain Woods has abandoned Internal Security Sub-Troop to Captain Coates for a quiet retirement in S.R.D.E. S.S.M. Essay should have gone — Who put that monsoon drain there? — and S.S.M. Hammond, from 7th Armoured Brigade, B.A.O.R., is now holding the fort. Corporals Eckersley, Foster and Chambers have all helped to swell the depleted ranks.

Otherwise we soldier on with jaunts to Borneo and even the odd trip over the Causeway.

Our progress on the soccer field is worth a mention—seven wins, three draws and only two defeats in the District Division III (North) League. Not bad for a small Unit and all due to team work and good coaching. We have yet to suffer a defeat in the Royal Signals Singapore League. Such boastfulness . . . why not?

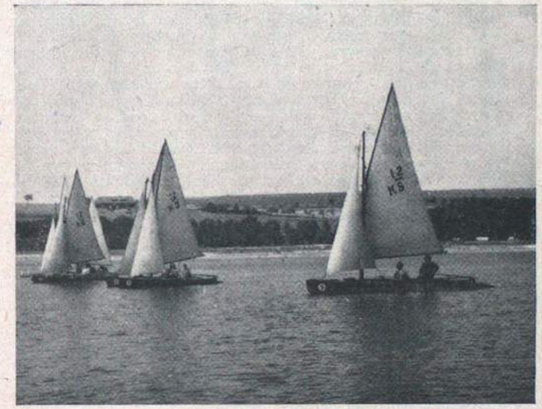
Signal Training Centre (FE)

Perhaps life has been a little less eventful of late, although training continues unabated.

Amongst the cadre changes we have gained Staff Sergeant Staniford from COMCAN, but regret losing Sergeant Cairns to that Squadron. Second-Lieutenant Powell, of "Y" Troop, has left on the completion of his National Service. We also congratulate Sergeant Ient on his recent promotion.

Any visitor to our D.R. bay will find a determined looking group of riders training under Second-Lieutenant Nelson and Corporal Kassim. They will not be on general release until the forthcoming Army Motor Cycle Trials, by which time we believe they will be a champion team. We wish them every success.

ROYAL SIGNALS REGATTA — MOHNE SEE, JULY, 1959



THE START OF THE LAST SHARPIE RACE

(*Left to Right*) : 8. Major Pagan, Corporal Laing; 6. Lieutenant-Colonel Dickson, Major Barker; 11. Major Woodrow, Second Lieutenant Prince; 1. Major McAnsh, A.Q.M.S. Ray; 3. W.O.I. Needham, Corporal Gibson; 5. Major Bardell, Staff Sergeant Rodriguez



THE START OF THE LAST STAR RACE

(*Left to Right*): 36. Captain Lyons, Lance Corporal Cutler; 39. Captain Massie, Lieutenant Adams; 31. Second Lieutenant Allen, Signalman Huntley; 28. Captain Ramsbottom, Lieutenant Baird; 35. Captain Leonard, Lieutenant Young

Jottings by NACERBY

A fate worse than debt . . . . . .

It all began when I tried to explain to my wife that we Army chaps can't buy new equipments just because they are urgently needed, and that it is no use arguing with the Treasury chaps about "last year's models" and "keeping up with the Joneses."

"Do I take it," she asked, with devastating simplicity, "that these Treasury chaps know better than the Army just what the Army needs?"

I countered with a discourse on full employment, and someone "holding the purse strings."

That did it. She took over our budget last month and announced things would be different. They have been.

I never had any money, and we seldom argue any more—in fact we hardly speak.

She just sits at the dining table each night moving Treasury notes and coins around from one pile to another.

She calls it preparing our funds for tomorrow.

She gets us so prepared for tomorrow that we don't have half-a-crown around the house that doesn't belong to a fund. There's a Food Fund, Breadman Fund, a Dry Cleaner Fund, an Egg Fund and a Paperboy Fund . . . .

There's a fund labelled "Plumber," in case the cistern needs fixing, and one marked "Misc. Savings," in case it doesn't.

Her system works, but has me baffled.

Take the matter of the milkman, who left us a note saying we owned him 3/6.

"He'll just have to wait until Monday," she said. "The Milk Fund is all gone for this week."

At that moment she was on the stepladder poking a small wad of bills into a vase.

"What about the 3/6 on the table?" I asked. "He can't have that," she snapped. "That's part of our Christmas, 1959, Fund."

"But couldn't we borrow and pay the milkman now?" I asked.

"*Really*," she snapped.

After she had flounced out of the room, I crept up the ladder. Inside the vase were three £1 notes, done up in an elastic band with a note reading "Savings—small 2nd car." There was no sign of any note explaining what savings we would use to finish paying for our 1st med.-sized car.

Since then I have found other funds in such places as the back of the radio (Elec. Dishwasher); inside a flower pot (Automatic Dryer); in the toe of an undarned sock (Week-end, Brighton), and in our silver cocktail shaker (Coal or TV Fund).

Most thrilling discovery was finding our Backyard Swimming Pool Fund in an ice-cube tray. This was the first time I had ever seen frozen assets in actual cold cash.

But her fund system has at least taught me what financiers mean when they say their money is all tied up.

Ours is too—mostly with elastic bands.

(*Continued on next page*)

For Jazz Fiends . . . . . .

You'd never believe it, but all you have to do is move the left framiscle on the portisduble from hardistack with the muscles, using a frammisanic embouchure . . . Just practice this three times daily, but remember the fundamental rule—two stanistrings in the pedigrate of the bordistrich, but always with the left hand.

The second instruction on how to play a mouth organ next month!

Utopia for Sergeants . . . . . .

M.P.s were recently told that a tribunal that assesses industrial accident claims, issued one certificate: "This man is fit for suitable work, which does not involve standing, sitting, bending or lying down."

Royal Signals and The World Underwater Fishing Championships

This year Malta was chosen as the venue for the world underwater fishing championships, which were held on Sunday, 16th August. Seventy-two competitors, representing 19 countries, were entered, teams coming from as far as Brazil, U.S.A. and Yugoslavia. One individual represented Australia.

In any operation of this type the resources of the Armed Services are usually in demand. This was no exception. The Royal Navy provided power craft, rowing boats and rescue facilities; crash tenders and launches came from the R.A.F., and the Army, among other things, produced grandstands, weighing-in stands, a competitors' base camp, and communications.

Royal Signals participated in a number of ways; Major D. Baynham (a Past President of the Malta Sub-Aqua Club) captained the U.K. team, of which Staff Sergeant J. Wright, 29th Signal Regiment, was also a member. Captain W. L. Wood, of 234th Signal Squadron (Malta), was a member of the Organising Committee, and was responsible for much of the administration, including the running of the base camp for competitors and visiting officials. Signals Works Services Troop of 234th Signal Squadron provided landline facilities and lighting for the weighing-in stand. Operating Troop provided radio communications, for control and safety precautions, throughout the competition. Once again the WS B44 proved its flexibility; the sets were mounted in Naval motor boats, crash tenders and police launches, and "loud and clear" communications were maintained throughout the day, although some of the sets (and operators) received a thorough soaking. Even Installation Troop COMCAN made its contribution, in the person of Captain D. W. Cox, who acted as steward in one of the competitor's boats.

Each team consisted of a team captain, three fishermen and a non-fishing team manager and had at its disposal a large power craft and one fisherman, a steward and an oarsman went in each rowing boat. The job of the team manager was to tow his "children" to a good fishing area and to move them if they did not do well.

It was a most impressive sight to see all the craft leave Mellieha Bay, bound for six hours' fishing in each team's selected area. The stakes were high, the biggest individual catch would win the title of Individual World Champion and the World Team Championship would go to the nation whose team had the biggest total catch (only the best three in each team to count).

At first conditions were ideal, but after about three hours a brisk wind got up and made it difficult for the rowing boats to stay with their individual competitors.

News of progress during the competition reached the crowds at Mellieha via 234th Signal Squadron's wireless set. Early on, a message was received that one of the Spanish team had speared a large grouper. At 47lb. this proved to be the biggest fish caught. Later, news came that Sapper Falzon, of the Malta team, was returning to base. This was a blow to 234th Signal Squadron, as Falzon belongs to Malta Fortress Squadron, Royal Engineers, with which the Signal Squadron shares a barracks. Falzon had caught a large grouper about 80 feet down and in recovering the fish had strained his lung (aqua lungs are not used in this competition). On medical advice he retired from the competition, after only two hours' fishing. Even so, he was placed 23rd.

Bad luck dogged Major Baynham and the U.K. team for most of the day. They had decided to operate off Xlendi, on the east side of Gozo, where they expected fish to be plentiful. Unfortunately, the area proved to be "thin on the ground" and fish were few and far between. In this sort of competition luck does, of course, play a big part. In addition, one member of the U.K. team ruptured an ear drum, which prevented him from making any deep dives.

As the catches came in it was apparent that the Spaniards were doing extremely well. But excitement grew as Terry Lenz, of the U.S.A., landed with three large groupers and a sack full of smaller fish. His total catch, over 100lb., made Lenz the Individual World Champion.

The team championship was won by Spain, with Italy second and U.S.A. third.

Once again Royal Signals were well to the forefront, with Major Baynham captaining the U.K. team, and the Corps providing the communications and many of the administrative services so essential for the success of any large operation.



[Photo: Courtesy Times of Malta

WORLD UNDERWATER FISHING CHAMPIONSHIPS—THE UNITED KINGDOM TEAM

Mr. T. Wells, Secretary of the British Sub-Aqua Club and team manager, Major D. H. Baynham, G.M., Team Captain, Mr. T. Buxton, Mr. L. Prean and Staff Sergeant J. Wright, 29th Signal Regiment



[Photo: Major Boyle, Royal Signals

WORLD UNDERWATER FISHING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Base Wireless Station—Signalman Haughton, Sergeant T. A. Casey and Corporal Knight

ROYAL SIGNALS OFFICERS GOLFING SOCIETY

Match v. R.A.M.C.

This match was played at Swinley Forest on 10th September, 1959, with the following results:

SINGLES

Royal Signals		*R.A.M.C.*	
Major MacDonald	0	Major Stother	1 UP
Major-General Cole ...	3/2	Colonel Clynton Reed	0
Major Schofield	5/4	Major-General Marsh	0
Major-General Vulliamy ...	5/4	Brigadier Phillipson	0
Major Brown	1 UP	Major Cook	0
Colonel Linton	0	Lieutenant-Colonel Lewis ...	5/4
Colonel Winckley ...	4/3	Brigadier Seaver	0
Major Walsh	7/6	Lieutenant-Colonel Hunt ...	0
	6		2

FOURSOMES

Major-General Cole / Major Brown	6/4	Major Stother ... / Major-General Marsh ...	0
Major-General Vulliamy / Major Schofield ...	7/6	Colonel Clynton Reed / Major Cook ...	0
Colonel Winton ... / Major MacDonald ...	5/3	Brigadier Phillipson ... / Lieutenant-Colonel Lewis ...	0
Colonel Winckley / Major Marsh ...	3/2	Lieutenant-Colonel Hunt / Brigadier Seaver ...	0
	4		0

Royal Signals won by 10 matches to 2.

CORPS COLOURS

The following personnel are awarded Corps Colours for Basket Ball:

Corporal D. J. Kewley, 8th Signal Regiment.
Sergeant G. Ainslie, 26th Signal Regiment.
Sergeant J. Lakey, 26th Signal Regiment.
Corporal G. Whitelaw, 26th Signal Regiment.
Corporal A. Gibson, 26th Signal Regiment.
Corporal T. Leahy, 26th Signal Regiment.
Corporal G. Mulhall, 26th Signal Regiment.
Lance-Corporal R. W. Barker, 26th Signal Regiment.
Signalman P. J. Dixon, 26th Signal Regiment.

☆

Territorial Army

54 (EAST ANGLIAN) SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

A Short History

In 1885 a retired officer of the German Army, Captain Glunicke, who was one of the masters of the Bedford Grammar School (now Bedford School) formed a cadet Engineer Corps at the School. This Cadet Corps was attached for administrative purposes to the Bedford Company of the Tower Hamlets Engineer Volunteers. The Cadet Corps was so successful that as a result in 1900 an Engineer Corps was formed in Bedford known as the 1st Bedfordshire R.E. (Volunteers) to which the original Cadet Corps of Bedford Grammar School, commanded by Major Glunicke, became affiliated. In 1908 on the inauguration of the Territorial Army the 1st Bedfordshire R.E. (Volunteers) became the East Anglian Divisional R.E., commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Geoffrey Howard and consisting of two Field Companies and the *East Anglian Divisional Telegraph Company*. It is of great interest that the Honorary Colonel about that time was Lord Kitchener of Khartoum whose family were for some time connected with Bedford.

1st (East Anglian) Divisional Telegraph Company R.E. was actually formed at Bedford on 4th April, 1908, under command of Captain R. Wilson. This unit mobilised in 1914 under Captain H. J. Randall, a member of a well-known Bedfordshire family, and served in Gallipoli as 54th (East Anglian) Divisional Signal Company, R.E., T.F. (The present 54th (East Anglian) Signal Regiment is in possession of the Signal Office flag which was flown at Divisional H.Q. at Suvla Bay, Lala Baba, and Australian Valley, Aghyl Dere Anzac).

After the first world war 54th (East Anglian) Divisional Signals was formed with H.Q. at Stratford, and the unit included a Field Regiment Signal Section at Bedford, under command of Lieutenant F. M. Greaves.

In 1939 the Regiment was used to form 4th Divisional Signals as well as 54th Divisional Signals, and later 18th Divisional Signals was also formed. All three regiments were later disbanded, 54th Divisional Signals as early as 1943.

When the Territorial Army was reformed in 1947 61 H.Q. Army Signal Regiment with H.Q. at Bedford was formed and included officers and O.Rs. from the old 54th Divisional Signals. 61 H.Q. Army Signal Regiment was commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel F. M. Greaves, who had formed the Field Regiment Signal Section at Bedford after the first war. The second-in-command was Major A. P. Angell of Ipswich, another old member of 54th Divisional Signals, and others were Major J. D. Cooke, Major C. R. Millen and R.Q.M.S. Thurley. 61 H.Q. Army Signal Regiment covered the Counties of Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex, Hertfordshire and Cambridgeshire as well as Bedfordshire, and included 161 and 162 Brigade Signal Squadrons, serving the two Independent Brigade Groups which had replaced the old 54th Division.

61 H.Q. Army Signal Regiment was redesignated 54th (East Anglian) Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment in 1956 and on 1st September this year it was given its present title.

Thus it will be seen that the present 54th (East Anglian) Signal Regiment T.A., whose H.Q. is at Bedford with sub-units in Norwich, Ipswich, Luton, Brentwood and Cambridge, owes its inception, appropriately, to the Cadet Corps of the Bedford Grammar School, and affiliated to it is the present Signal Platoon of the Bedford School Combined Cadet Force.



MEMBERS OF 3 SQUADRON, 54TH (EAST ANGLIAN) SIGNAL REGIMENT T.A. AT ANNUAL CAMP, 1959

Signalman P. Bunyan, Signalman P. F. Kelly, Signalman M. S. Holmes, Sergeant R. E. Ward, Signalman R. T. Browne, Signalman L. O. Green, Lance Corporal D. Moore, Driver P. F. Smith, Corporal H. J. Barker, Signalman M. C. Stowers, Local Inhabitant

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62nd (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT (T.A.)

The absence of any Unit Notes over the past few months is very much regretted but due to a very heavy commitment in training and preparation for Annual Camp, this was unavoidable.

During the early part of this year quite a lot of time was devoted to Weapon Training and the training of a team for various competitions including the 44 Division and Home Counties District Rifle Meeting held at Hythe on 9th and 10th of May, and the Eastern Command Meeting at Purfleet during early June. The 44 Division and Home Counties District Rifle Meeting was most successful, for not only did we win the T.A. Falling Plate Competition, but we came 11th in the Main Competition; this was a great improvement on our last year's result. At the Eastern Command Meeting our position was 6th and Sergeant Heacock, the P.S.I. of 2 Squadron, won the Individual Cup, this qualifying for the Eastern Command team which entered the Corps Shoot and competed at Bisley.

Annual Camp followed close on the shooting competitions and on 20th June the Road Party left their various T.A.C.s for Weymouth (Chickerell Camp), arriving there in the early evening. The Main Body left their T.A.C.s on Sunday, 21st June.

The camp was shared with the Middlesex Yeomanry Signal Regiment T.A. among whose members many new friendships were made.

The weather being kind to us allowed training to be carried out with few problems. The first week was devoted to individual training and trade boards, the second week to exercises, etc.

During the Camp we were visited by the Commander Home Counties District, and also by the Deputy C.S.O. Eastern Command, Colonel G. F. Houghton, O.B.E.

The entertainments were many and various including a Skittle Match, a visit to the Sergeants' Mess by the Officers and a return visit to the Officers' Mess by the Warrant Officers and Sergeants. On Friday, 3rd July, a regimental party was held at Dorchester when a presentation was made to our Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel N. C. Butler, T.D., who is transferring to the T.A.R.O. and our Chief Clerk, Staff Sergeant James, who is to leave shortly for duties at A.G. 11. Both will be missed very much by all ranks and we hope they will not lose contact with the Regiment.

We welcome our new Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel A. V. Brandle, M.B.E., and hope he enjoys his stay in the unit.

Recruiting is going well at present and with the various displays in which we are taking part should result in even higher recruiting figures than before Annual Camp, when 2 Squadron at Canterbury received a first prize of £17 for the best recruited sub-unit, W.R.A.C., in Kent



A joke—a laugh—and another lesson learned !
(*Left to right*) : Signalmen A. F. Johnson, F. A. Johnson, Sproston, Ewins, Biddles, C. R. Jones, Lance Corporal J. W. Waters, Sergeant Hamerton, Lance Corporal Brazier, Signalman Wood, Staff Sergeant Fry (Instructor)



It goes around and and around and comes out here !
(*Left to right*) : Staff Sergeant Jobling (Instructor), Privates Waddell, Massey, Martin, Marchant, Offen, Marshall

REGULAR FORCES EMPLOYMENT ASSOCIATION

This organisation has 52 branches in the United Kingdom whose services are available free of charge to all Regular ex-Servicemen of good character. Over 400 ex-Servicemen of Royal Signals have already been placed in employment during 1959. For the address of your nearest Branch write to Employment Section, Royal Signals Association, 88, Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1.

Careers and Opportunity

(Please Note : It is ESSENTIAL that anyone obtaining employment through answering advertisements in THE WIRE *notifies the Employment Section, Royal Signals Association, 88, Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1. Members may apply to the Employment Section for details of other vacancies).*

ARMY APPRENTICES SCHOOL, HARROGATE. Vacancy for Assistant Chief Instructor (R.O.III appointment: for conditions see ACI.521 of 1951 and amendments). Apply as soon as possible to The War Office (C.5 (RO)), Whitehall, London, S.W.1.

SCHOOL OF SIGNALS, CATTERICK. Vacancies on revised establishment for about 70 additional civilian staff in various categories. For details write to Employment Section (see above) or apply direct to Headquarters, School of Signals, Catterick Camp, Yorks.

PERMANENT STAFF OFFICER, TERRITORIAL ARMY. Vacancy at Salford, Lancs., for Administrative Officer on T.A. Consolidated Rates of Pay. Age limit 42. Apply to O.C., 59th (M) Signal Regiment, T.A., Everton Road, Liverpool 6.

GOVERNMENT EMPLOYMENT. Vacancy for man capable of installing radio transmitters and receivers, under supervision. Commence about £11/10/0—£12/0/0 per week according to experience. Job initially in Forfar, Scotland, for two/three years; possibility of permanent appointment elsewhere later. Address applications to A. J. Sharp, Esq., c/o Employment Section (see above).

CABLE TESTING. Male assistant, aged preferably 20-25, required for testing of telecommunication cables. Preferably with O.N.C. or some relevant experience. Apply stating age, details of education and career so far, and present salary, to Personnel Officer, Southern United Telephone Cables, Ltd., Chequers Lane, Dagenham, Essex.

BROADCASTING ENGINEER required for appointment in Liberia. Experience of Studio, Transmitter and Aerial installation, maintenance and operation is essential; experience of television station practice an advantage. Salary range £1,750—£2,250, plus house and transport. Full details on interview. Write Engineering Division, Central Rediffusion Services Ltd., Carlton House, Lower Regent Street, London, S.W.1.

NUMBER 50 UNIT BRANCH

So far as we know details of this Branch have not appeared previously in THE WIRE. We are located in Malta G.C. and our membership includes serving members from Royal Signals units stationed here, as well as some past members of the Corps, notably George Blow and Arthur Smith (both late Malta Command Signals).

Meetings are held monthly and are usually followed by a social and indoor games evening. We have entertained members of the Royal Army Ordnance Corps, and Army Catering Corps Associations, and hope to expand our social activities during the coming winter.

For the benefit of members of the Association posted to Malta—we should like to hear from you when you arrive. The Branch Secretary is Sergeant Perrier, the Orderly room Sergeant of 234 Signal Squadron (Malta).

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, 1959. Also on this page is a simple statement of income and expenditure.

Driver, 1944-46. Previous service Queen's Royal Regiment. Widower with four children. Before his dissability pension was in August, 1959, increased to 100%, his wife died and he incurred debts to pay a home help and for a washing machine, etc., to help provide for his children. The Fund helped him to get straight financially and to his 100% pension which should now suffice. Thanks to the gift of some clothes he was supplied with a much-needed outfit.

Signalman, 1941-46. He is 54 years old and it is difficult to restart work lost through illness. He is a musician and the Fund gave him in cash and kind clothes to enable him to seek employment with more chance of success.

Signalman, 1941-46. Married, five children, now permanently unfit for further employment and state aid brings in £1 6s. od. for each member of the family, rent, food, fuel, clothes. The Fund and the British Legion helped a little.

Signalman, 1945-48. Married, four children; illness stopped him working in March and 5 London Corps Signals Trust Fund came to his aid to pay rates and some of his mortgage.

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Driver, 1946-48. One child, his wife died in May after a very long illness. The Fund helped a little.

Corporal, 1946-49. Married, one child. He has not worked since 1956 when he took to a wheeled chair and is always in or out of hospital. The Association and the British Legion combine to make a small weekly grant.

Corporal, 1935-47. Married, two children. An accident stopped him working in July and the Fund gave a loan to ease his present difficulty.

Signalman, 1942-46. Married, two children remain at home whilst their father lives in Stoke Mandeville Hospital a helpless cripple. The income at home and to keep him in necessaries in hospital all earned is £5 10s. 6d. for four people ! The Fund was delighted to help in this case.

Clothing

Since early June, gifts of clothing have been gratefully received from the following :

A. Scott Esq.; Sergeant G. Punnett; L. F. Terry, Esq.; Manchester Branch, Royal Signals Association; Major G. J. C. Moss, M.B.E.,; Mrs. Spiers; Warrant Officer II and Mrs. Chambers; A. Stokes, Esq.; Captain J. F. Dunstan; Major F. E. Warner, M.B.E.; Lieutenant-Colonel J. D. Elliott; Lieutenant-Colonel C. L. Ommanney, O.B.E.; L. B. Simnett, Esq.; Major N. L. Baker; Captain R. H. Gilbertson; Mrs. G. Newton; Brigadier F. W. P. Bradford, M.B.E.

There is still a considerable demand.

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION WELFARE SECTION

The following donations were most gratefully received during August, 1959 :

	£	s.	d.
St. Martin's Garrison Church (Re-union collection)	40	6	0
W.Os. and Sergeants, 6th Royal Tank Regiment	1	11	3
Captain J. A. E. Hasell	2	2	0
Nicholl, Manisty & Co. (Bequeathed by Colonel H. T. G. Moore, deceased)	25	0	0
Total receipts ...	£68	19	3

EXPENDITURE DURING AUGUST, 1959	£562	13 3
Includes: Rent and Rates; Beds and Bedding; Furniture; Cots and Prams; General Assistance.		
Analysis of cases :		
Families of Soldiers serving in U.K. 1		
Families of Soldiers serving in B.A.O.R. 1		
Released and discharged Soldiers 31		
Total cases assisted ... 33		
17 cases of Soldiers who served during the 1939-45 War ...	£146	6 1
16 cases of Soldiers who did not serve during the War ...	£416	7 2

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION AND BENEVOLENT FUND

The following subscriptions were most gratefully received during August, 1959 :

	£	s.	d.
23rd Signal Regiment	22	6	6
24th Signal Regiment	7	12	10
60th (M) Signal Regiment, T.A.	6	13	4
64th (M) Signal Regiment, T.A.	4	6	6
218 Signal Squadron (AGRA (Field))	3	0	0
47th London Signal Regiment, T.A.	2	2	0
61st (M) Signal Regiment, T.A.	20	0	0
22nd Signal Regiment	150	0	0
21st Signal Regiment	25	0	0
229 Signal Squadron (Berlin)	10	10	0
13th Signal Regiment	21	7	11
10th Signal Regiment	25	3	9
210 Signal Squadron (Infantry Brigade Group)	6	0	0
228 Signal Squadron (SHAPE)	3	14	0
29 Signal Regiment	25	0	0
215 Signal Squadron (Infantry Brigade Group)	4	2	0
Total receipts ...	£336	18	10

Lighter Fuel Packs

The following amounts were most gratefully received during July and August, 1959 :

Box No. 25 ... 24th Signal Regiment (W.Os'. and Sergeants' Mess)	1	0	0
Box No. 66 ... 42nd (Lancashire) Signal Regiment, T.A. ...	1	0	0
Box No. 67 ... 43rd (Wessex) Signal Regiment, T.A. ...	7	0	0
Total receipts ...	£9	0	0

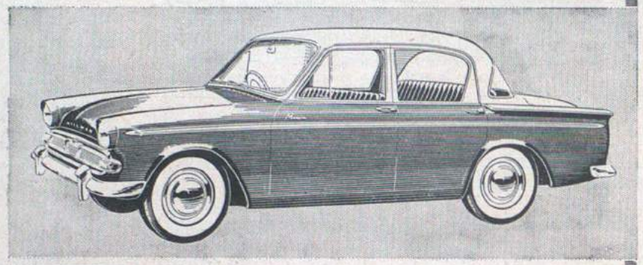


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Wall Shields 7″ x 6″ Royal Signals 26/- each.
Lanyards. Made to your specifications.
Lanyards White. 12/- per dozen.
Blanco Blocks, all shades 78/- per gross.
Pace Sticks. Regulation. 95/- each.
Sergeants' full size, Regimental Walking Sticks, Malacca, E.P., Ball or Pear cap. Crested. 43/6 each. Export 33/6 each.

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THE WIRE

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

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.*

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☆

NOVEMBER • 1959

Vol. 13 *(New Series)* **No. 10**

Editorial

NEW FEATURES

DURING September a large number of recommendations for improvement in THE WIRE were received from FARELF. The Editor is very grateful. Starting in November or December are the following:—

A series on new equipment of the Corps. One item, one page.

A series on modern Telecommunications equipment being produced for the civilian market. One installation, one page.

Introducing our Regular Recruits. The man of the month from 26th Signal Regiment. One column.

Turn About. Article on Gramophone Records. One column.

* * * *

The first two of these innovations were specifically asked for. The two latter are in the spirit of the suggestions.

* * * *

A causerie on the City and Guilds Examinations. Old examination papers can doubtless be acquired but publication of the examiners' solution may be more difficult.

Possible publication of outdated examination papers from the Army Second Class Certificate of Education—with answers?

What is your opinion on these last two suggestions? Please write to the Editor.

* * * *

UNANIMOUS RECOMMENDATION

The stereotyped form of "Unit Notes" are disliked by all in FARELF. Correspondents urge as the Editor has constantly urged that reports from Regiments and Squadrons be more objective and more interesting to readers not serving in the Unit concerned.

One Regiment, in FARELF, has already done a series of articles about the various locations in which the Regiment is dispersed. These are to be followed by an article about the regiments "locally enlisted personnel" and another about the civilian technicians who work with the Regiment. For the future are articles describing a typical "day" in the life of one of their tradesmen. There is obvious comparison here with men of the same trade in more normal surroundings.

Having, alas, relinquished the ONLY permanent "one man detachment" in the Corps another Regiment has started a column by "Our Man in Gan."

* * * *

SPORT

Many have stressed the importance of good reporting of sports and games and that one section of THE WIRE be devoted to it. There has always been such a Section. Readers of the October number will see it has been moved nearer the centre of the book.

Some recent reporting has been VERY GOOD.

* * * *

With this copy of "The Wire" is an Order Form for next year. It is the very greatest help to the Editor if these can be COMPLETED and SENT IN AT ONCE.

VALE

BRIGADIER A. B. McVITTIE, O.B.E.



With the retirement of Brigadier A. B. McVittie, O.B.E., the Corps loses one of its ablest and most gifted senior Officers. Throughout his service of nearly 31 years Arthur has shown himself to be possessed of a quick, incisive brain and a clear grasp of essentials. He does not suffer fools gladly and while this characteristic has not always endeared him to those who have served with him there is no doubt that his judgment has always commanded universal respect. Indeed, those who have served under him for any length of time have been proud to do so. His somewhat brusque exterior in fact conceals a warm heart, and the writer has seldom seen anyone more sincerely moved and sympathetically helpful than Arthur on the occasion when one of his Officers was killed by lightning during the 1948 manoeuvres in Germany.

Arthur McVittie was born in 1909 of a military family. He was educated at Radley and passed eleventh into the Shop. He passed out sufficiently high to secure a Commission in the Sappers had he wished, but he elected for Signals and became the senior Young Officer from the Shop entry on 19 "Q" Course. On completion of the usual courses he joined his first field Unit, 4th Divisional Signals, at Colchester in June, 1930, and remained with that Unit for 4½ years. It was probably at this period that he developed his consuming interest in horses and horsemanship, an interest which he has retained throughout his long service. The Regiment maintained a high standard of equitation, and Arthur found himself in the company of other well-known characters in the Corps, such as "Jorrocks" Gardiner, Henry Crawford and Selby Milner, who share his enthusiasm. He soon gave evidence of his own superb standard of horsemanship by winning the Corps Point-to-Point Race for three years running on his horse "Felix"—an achievement which probably gave him more personal satisfaction than any other incidents in his career.

Early in 1935 he was posted to India, a theatre in which he was destined (apart from active operations) to spend the next eleven years of his service. Except for two months all this period was spent on the strength of field Units. He was first posted to 3rd Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop at Meerut. Within a few months of arrival he was selected for one of the much-coveted vacancies on the Long Equitation Course at Saugor and spent a happy year at that incomparable establishment. He remained with the Troop for nearly six years and was still commanding it when World War II broke out.

In October, 1940, he was posted as a Captain to 1st Indian Armoured Divisional Signals, gaining field rank in September, 1941, and in April, 1942, he was promoted to command 32 (Indian) Armoured Divisional Signals. Early in 1944 he graduated at the Staff College, Quetta, and in November of the same year was selected to command 7th Indian Divisional Signals, an appointment which he held for the ensuing 18 months. He commanded that famous Unit, with the well-known Formation Sign of a golden arrow on black ground, throughout the intensive operational period of the war in the Far East. For his ability in command during active operations he was awarded the O.B.E. in November, 1945, and was Mentioned in Despatches in May, 1946.

Meanwhile, a happy event in the history of the Corps had occurred in July, 1937, when Arthur married Valerie, the sister of John Crichton. The union was subsequently blessed with two children, a charming daughter—now at St. Andrew's University—and a son, who has followed his father to Radley.

In July, 1946, Arthur was posted to Western Germany as C.R. Signals of 53rd Welsh Divisional Signals. When in February, 1947, by a stroke of the pen, this Unit was re-designated as 2nd Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment, Arthur remained in command of this key Unit for a further two years. His period of command saw the reconstitution of a Regiment with a long and famous history on a post-war peacetime basis. At the height of demobilisation he commanded the only active field force Signal Regiment in the British Army of the Rhine. He also piloted the Regiment through the difficult period of adjustment during the introduction of National Service.

In 1949, after a short period in a Staff appointment and in command of a Territorial Signal Regiment, he was selected for the appointment of G.S.O.1 (Signals) at G.H.Q., Far East Land Forces, a post which he held for three years. During this period, for his services during operations in Malaya, he was again Mentioned in Despatches in October, 1952. Early in 1953 he returned to Europe and for a year held a most interesting appointment as A.A.G. of the British Forces in Trieste.

In May, 1954, he was promoted to the rank of Colonel and given one of the most exacting and responsible jobs in the Corps by being made A.A.G. of the War Office, A.G.11. It is doubtful whether he found this task congenial, but he carried it out with his usual scrupulous impartiality and efficiency.

In the autumn of 1957 he was selected for another key appointment as Colonel of the Planning Wing at the School of Signals. This post gave him plenty of scope for the application of his powers of original thinking and clear perception, and the Corps has cause to be grateful for the comprehensive programme of studies which he drew up and directed during the ensuing year.

In November, 1958, he was promoted to the rank of Brigadier and assumed the duties of Chief Signal Officer, Northern Command, which was destined to be his last appointment on the active list. In this post, as in all the many others which he has held, he has exhibited a shrewd judgement and a breadth of military knowledge which is equalled by few others.

He now retires to Wales and all ranks will wish him and his family happiness and prosperity in the years which lie ahead. We shall hope to see him at many of the Corps' Reunions, and there will be many who will wish to renew their acquaintance on those occasions with a fine horseman and greatly respected Officer of the Royal Corps.

Farewell to
W.O.I. (SC) S. F Hart,
M.B.E., M.S.M.

On the 20th November, 1959, the senior Warrant Officer Class I, Superintending Clerk, leaves the Corps after 32 years' service. I interviewed W.O.I (SC) S. F. Hart, M.B.E., M.S.M., in his office at the Chief Signal Officer's Branch, H.Q., Southern Command, shortly before he started his terminal leave.

Sidney Hart, as he is affectionately known, had a host of interesting stories to tell of his long service, but as they would take up at least one whole edition of THE WIRE, I have had, reluctantly, to reduce this "farewell" tribute to him.

On questioning him about his service he stated that he joined the Corps at Catterick Camp on the 20th November, 1927, and was allotted the regimental number of 2318690, and it is interesting to note that he joined on the same day as that other well-known W.O.I—R.S.M. E. R. Gay, M.B.E.—who was given the number of 2318693. At this point Sidney Hart remarked, jokingly, "By number I am senior to him, you know." After the rigours of Catterick and training as an Operator Signals, he was posted to the well loved pre-war station—India—and joined the 2nd Indian Divisional Signals at Quetta. It was whilst at Quetta that he answered a "call" in Unit Orders and after a typing test transferred from Operator Signals to commence training and working as a clerk. It was in this capacity that he received his first promotion in May, 1931, when he was appointed Lance-Corporal. On returning home in November, 1933, he joined 2 Divisional Signals at Aldershot and in December, 1936, was promoted to the rank of Corporal.

In November, 1936, he first served in a Chief Signal Officer's branch and on that date joined Chief Signal Officer's Branch, H.Q., Aldershot Command; here he remained until September, 1939. During this period he served under Colonel G. E. Sampson, D.S.O., and Major-General (then Colonel) C. W. Fladgate, C.B.E.; he was granted the rank of Lance/Sergeant in September, 1938.

September, 1939, saw Sidney Hart as a Sergeant and as Chief Clerk to Chief Signal Officer, H.Q., 1 Corps, again with Colonel Fladgate, and with the advance party of the Unit moved to France. He served with the B.E.F. through the ill-fated collapse of the European front and returned to the U.K., via Dunkirk, and to rejoin the re-formed Chief Signal Officer's Branch, H.Q., 1 Corps, at Nottingham. Whilst with the B.E.F. he was promoted to W.O.II in November, 1939. In December, 1940, he was Mentioned in Despatches.

Promotion to W.O.I came in August, 1941, and he was posted to H.Q., 3 Signal Training Centre, at Huddersfield, where he served until March, 1943. During this time he was Superintending Clerk to Brigadier G. L. G. Pollard, C.B.E., and Brigadier C. Wheeler.

March, 1943, saw him en route for his second tour of duty in India and, by way of a change, he spent three months in South Africa, by courtesy of the German Navy. Once in India, after a brief visit to the Signal Depot at Mhow, he was again posted to H.Q., North Western Army, at Rawalpindi, where he served until April, 1946. During this time he served with Brigadier H. R. Firth and, later, with Brigadier R. T. Williams. In November, 1945, he was awarded the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.

From the heat of the Indian Plains he was posted home to face the cold of a Scottish winter and became Superintending Clerk to Chief Signal Officer, Scottish Command, who were at that time housed in the famous Edinburgh Castle. He remained in Scotland until August, 1953, and during that time served with Brigadier C. Knowles, C.B.E., Brigadier R. W. Morgan, O.B.E., and Brigadier W. M. Ponsonby, O.B.E. From August, 1953, until October, 1955, he was at the War Office serving in A.G. 11, at Stanmore; during his tour of duty he served under two A.A.G.s—Colonel D. R. Paterson and Colonel (now Brigadier) A. B. McVittie, O.B.E. It was whilst serving with A.G. 11 that he was awarded the M.B.E. in the 1954 New Year's Honours List for his service in Scottish Command.

Due to the unfortunate illness of W.O.I (SC) R. J. B. (Robin) Hood he was again on the move in October, 1955, and he was posted to Chief Signal Officer's Branch, Southern Command, where he served under Brigadier C. D. Gardiner, Brigadier



G. B. Bell, C.B.E., and Brigadier F. W. P. Bradford, M.B.E. It is here that at the age of 55 years, Sidney Hart, a well-known and well liked figure in the Corps, has, regretfully, to say farewell to "full-time service in the Corps" and in addition it was whilst in his last appointment that in April, 1956, he was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal.

Towards the end of the interview he said "I shall not be far away, however, as I am taking up a job as a civil servant in the H.Q." A gratifying thought for his successor to know that his vast knowledge of the Corps and experience is still on hand and available for those still serving.

Unfortunately, at the end of his service he was not with a Royal Signals Regiment to be given a farewell, but he was, however, "Dined Out" by the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, H.Q., Southern Command, and was presented with an inscribed brief case. In return he made a speech which, whilst amusing, contained much good advice to those continuing to serve; it was a speech which will long be remembered in that Sergeants' Mess.

His last official function in uniform was to attend the wedding of his eldest son, David, a Constable in the Wiltshire Constabulary, who was married on the 19th September, 1959. His youngest son, Mervin, is still at school in Edinburgh. Before saying farewell to him, he made one last remark which I am sure that all his friends in the Corps will be glad to hear, and that was "Tell them I shall be at the Old Comrades' Reunion at Catterick—so look out for me there in 1960."

"UN SOLDADO"

Obituary

It is much regretted that there were inexcusable errors in the October issue in the Obituary notice which is therefore reproduced below :—

Signalman A. Thurston

It is with a deep sense of loss that All Ranks of 7th Signal Regiment, past and present, will have heard of the death of 23237465 Signalman Alan Thurston on 20th September, 1959. Signalman Thurston was a promising young Regular Despatch Rider who had just reached the highest class of his trade.

Signalman Thurston was killed while carrying out his duty as a soldier. He was on a DR run between Rear and Main Corps H.Q. in the field when his motor cycle left the road and struck the side of a house. He was killed instantly.

The deepest sympathy of All Ranks is extended to his parents and widow.

PERSONAL COLUMN

London Gazette

8th September, 1959

Her Majesty The Queen has been graciously pleased to confer the following:—

Army Emergency Reserve Decoration: Captain R. H. O. Benson.

Territorial Efficiency Decoration: Captain W. Hill and Captain D. W. Petchey.

Major R. W. Hill retired 1st September, 1959.

Captain R. V. Taylor retired 31st August, 1959.

29th September, 1959

Major T. B. McVicker retired on 1st October, 1959.

2nd October, 1959

Lieutenant (T.O.T.) D. Crookes to be Captain (T.O.T.), 5th October, 1959.

Lieutenant (T.O.T.) J. E. Le Hardy to be Captain (T.O.T.), 5th October, 1959.

Lieutenant-Colonel Kenneth Beardshaw Baldwin, M.B.E., T.D., M.I.E.E., is appointed Honorary Colonel, 44th (Home Counties) Signal Regiment, T.A., 1st September, 1959, on succession to Captain Sidney Rogerson who retains the honorary rank of Colonel.

6th October, 1959

Lieutenant-Colonel (Tfc. Offr.) J. S. Martinson retired 7th October, 1959.

9th October, 1959

Captain C. N. Le Gassick to be Major, 11th October, 1959.

Movements—Officers

(Taken place or forecast for period ending 15th November, 1959).

Colonel F. J. Johnson, O.B.E.	...	To O. i/c Record.
Lieutenant-Colonel G. B. Donald	...	,, 10th Signal Regiment.
Lieutenant-Colonel W. Nicholson	...	,, 50th (N) Signal Regiment (T.A.).
Lieutenant-Colonel J. de D. Yule	...	,, B.J.C.E.B.
Lieutenant-Colonel A. S. P. Salter	...	,, Ministry of Supply.
Lieutenant-Colonel H. R. Jordan, M.B.E.	...	,, War Office.
Major A. B. Dryland	...	,, H.Q. Eastern Command.
Major H. E. Roper	...	,, R.M.C.S.
Major J. M. W. Badcock, M.B.E.	...	,, War Office.
Major J. C. Lucas	...	,, War Office.
Major B. E. Tebbs	...	,, H.Q. ALFCE.
Major C. C. Wardle	...	,, Transferred to R.A.E.C.
Major (Bt. Lieutenant-Colonel) P. F. Pentreath	...	,, 30th Signal Regiment.
Major L. S. McCarthy	...	,, 202 Signal Squadron (Infantry Brigade).
Major J. A. S. Fearfield	...	,, 7th Signal Regiment.
Major O. J. Peck	...	,, 5th Signal Regiment.
Major S. G. Hodgson	...	,, H.Q., Malta.
Major K. J. Hinton	...	,, 43rd (Wx.) Signal Regiment, T.A.
Major A. Lamb	...	,, 5th Signal Regiment.
Major H. C. Howell	...	,, 30th Signal Regiment.
Captain D. Pitkin	...	,, All Arms Junior Leaders Regiment.
Captain D. W. F. Bayliss	...	,, 8th Signal Regiment.
Capt. K. F. J. Mogridge	...	,, 16th Signal Squadron.
Captain D. W. Cox	...	,, School of Signals.
Captain S. G. de Clive Lowe	...	,, 210 Signal Squadron.
Captain P. W. Powley	...	,, 240 Signal Squadron (Northern Command).
Capt. K. W. E. Ferguson	...	,, A.A.S., Harrogate.
Captain P. A. Davidson	...	,, H.Q. 1 Division.
Lieutenant J. B. J. Halford	...	,, T.O.S., Aden.
Lieutenant W. E. A. Edmonds	...	,, 12th Signal Regiment.
Major (Q.M.) W. J. Howard	...	,, 24th Signal Regiment
Captain (T.O.T.) F. Gray	...	,, 25th Signal Regiment.
Captain (Q.M.) B. Sellar	...	,, 4th Signal Regiment.
Capt. (Q.M.) G. J. Bruce	...	,, 23rd Signal Regiment.
Captain (T.O.T.) R. G. Dore	...	,, 16th Signal Regiment.
Lieutenant (T.O.T.) J. A. Jackson		,, 17th Gurkha Signal Regiment
Lieutenant (T.O.T.) A. V. Render		,, 19th Signal Regiment.
Lieutenant (T.O.T.) D. J. Chetwynd		,, War Office.
Retirements		
Major J. A. Mathewson	... ...	30 September, 1959.
Major R. McN. Callum	... ...	3 September, 1959.
Captain A. H. Tant	... ...	1 October, 1959.

Births

SPRAGG.—To W.O.I (F. of S.) J. R. P. Spragg and Mrs. Spragg, a son, Richard James, at Catterick Camp on 11th September, 1959.

16th Signal Regiment
(All at B.M.H., Hostert)

WILLIAMS.—To Staff Sergeant and Mrs. K. J. Williams, a son, Stephen Hugh, on 11th May, 1959.

SMITH.—To W.O.II and Mrs. G. N. Smith, a son, Stephen Charles, on 13th July, 1959.

NORTHCOTT.—To Corporal and Mrs. D. G. Northcott, a son, Paul Antony, on 21st July, 1959.

PETERS.—To Corporal and Mrs. B. J. Peters, a daughter, Sharon, on 26th July, 1959.

Marriages

YOUNG—WILLIAMS.—Signalman Martin A. Young, 1 Squadron, Depot Regiment, to Miss Elanor Williams at St. John the Baptist Church, Hillingdon, Middlesex, on 3rd October, 1959.

PETERS—MOULDEN.—Sergeant T. J. Peters, 16th Signal Regiment, to Miss Judith Ann Moulden at Loughton, Epping, on 11th July, 1959.

Deaths

BLAND.—Ex-C.S.M. R. C. Bland, of 14, Alma Road, Wandsworth, London, S.W.18, Life Member of the Association, on 22nd January, 1959, aged 61.

Arrivals and Departures

3 Signal Regiment

Arrivals: Major K. N. Smart and W.O.I M. C. Buesnel.

Departures: Captain M. R. Topple, W.O.I C. W. Walsh and W.O.II R. H. Tinto.

8th Signal Regiment

Arrivals: Major (T.O.T.) H. N. Ransome, Sergeants B. J. Smith and D. O'Connor.

Departures: Staff Sergeants S. Richardson and R. J. Harris, Sergeants J. A. Coxon, R. Walmsley, W. A. Ramsay and B. A. C. Hardy.

16th Signal Regiment

Arrivals: Majors J. S. Newell and J. G. Melsom, Captain (Tffc.) L. Bainbridge and Lieutenant (Q.M.) J. W. Douthwaite.

Departures: Staff Sergeants F. Lawlor, J. Rose and A. Crossley.

Ex Staff Sergeant Short welcomes personnel and families to his boarding house at "Ingledene," 23, Esk Terrace, Whitby, Yorkshire. Interesting views of Upper Harbour, Old Town and Abbey, a few minutes walk from town and country. Hot and cold water, spring interior beds in each bedroom, T.V. lounge, good food provided. Moderate charges.

Ex Staff Sergeant W. J. Edwards announces that on retiring from the Corps he assumed as landlord of The Butchers Arms, Wrawby Street, Brigg, Lincolnshire, and welcomes visits from present and past members of the Corps.

The attention of The Army Apprentices School, Harrogate, is drawn to the notes of 223 Signal Squadron (Gibraltar) on page 290.

ROYAL VICTORIA PATRIOTIC SCHOOL

Hitherto this School has been exclusively for the daughters of deceased sailors, soldiers, marines and airmen. With the passing of the "bulge," following on the Second World War, and furthermore with the greatly improved living conditions of the country as a whole, there have recently been insufficient applications to fill all the available places.

The Royal Patriotic Fund Corporation, which administers the School, has therefore decided to extend the eligibility to the daughters of sailors, soldiers, marines and airmen who are living, whether or not they are still serving in the Forces or have been discharged into civil life.

From its foundation the School has aimed at providing a sound boarding school education, especially for children whose home conditions are difficult. There must be many cases in the extended field of eligibility in which home conditions are far from easy, for example, as the result of frequent postings of men in the Forces with all the attendant difficulties of changes in the education of the children.

Further information about the Royal Victoria Patriotic School at Hatfield, Hertfordshire, may be obtained from either the Secretary, Royal Patriotic Fund Corporation, 64, Victoria Street, London, S.W.1, or through Royal Signals Association.

THE ELECTRICAL SHOP WINDOW OF 1959

This is a 16 mm film in colour describing the Electrical Engineers Exhibition 1959; runs for thirty minutes. This film is available to potential buyers of electrical equipment, manufacturers and all industrial concerns, professional and technical organisations, trade associations, and others having an interest in electrical engineering. Applications for the film, which is free of hire charge, should be made to ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS (A.S.E.E.) EXHIBITION LTD., MUSEUM HOUSE, MUSEUM STREET, LONDON, W.C.1. (Museum 3450).

THE CORPS BAND

Ex-R.Q.M.S. F. E. Hester writes to Major J. L. Judd, M.B.E., the Director of Music :—

"As your touring season draws to a close, may I say how very much my wife and self have enjoyed your programme throughout the season. We have followed the Band wherever possible, including Eastbourne, Worthing and Victoria Embankment Gardens, and have thoroughly enjoyed all your programmes, especially those of your Pianist and Vocalist. We hope to be at the Winter Gardens for your final programme on Sunday next, and should appreciate it very much if Kenneth could sing Handels "Silent Worship" or "Count Your Blessings," as we do like to hear him sing these very much indeed.

In the meantime, should this be his last season with you, may I wish him the very best of luck in his career, which I presume will be as a Soloist somewhere.

We look forward with interest to the season of 1960, and through THE WIRE, shall no doubt find out where the Band will be throughout the Summer."

THE BRITISH LEGION OVERSEAS WREATH LAYING AND PHOTOGRAPHIC SERVICE

From many letters received at British Legion Headquarters, it would appear that their Overseas Wreath Laying and Photographic Service is still not widely known. The service enables relatives of the fallen to obtain photographs of individual headstones, memorials and cemeteries, and to have Poppy Wreaths placed on graves or at memorials when desired. At present more than 3,000 wreaths are placed each year at the request of relatives, and a similar number of photographs is obtained annually.

If you know of a relative to whom this service could render some comfort, he or she may obtain full information regarding the service by writing to British Legion Headquarters, Pall Mall, London, S.W.1.

PROMOTIONS

Signal Centre Supervisors' Roster

To W.O.II	2549540	(64)	S Sgt.	Bell, E.

Regimental Duty Roster

To W.O.I	2329031	(1060)	A/W.O.I	Buesnel, M. C.
To W.O.II	14457340	(1840)	A/W.O.II	Hughes, C. T. A.
	2576296	(1890)	A/W.O.II	Hill, K.
	2548988	(1950)	S Sgt.	Walls, P. J.
	14456390	(1980)	A/W.O.II	Gibson, E.
	2583864	(1990)	A/W.O.II	Young, R.
	4985925	(2000)	S Sgt.	Hogan, F. J.
	6921160	(2020)	S Sgt.	Snell, J. E.
	19040435	(2040)	S Sgt.	Halbert, S. W.
	2549271	(2070)	A/W.O.II	Evis, C. D.
	14916091	(2090)	A/W.O.II	Williams, J. P.
To S Sgt.	22248044	(810)	Sgt.	Campbell, J. R.
	22983981	(836)	A/S Sgt.	Scrafton, R.
	22540458	(840)	A/S Sgt.	Downs, T.
	22541828	(300)	Sgt.	Nichols, K.
	22550743	(310)	A/S Sgt.	Freeman, D.
	22212751	(850)	Sgt.	Felton, T. R.

Technical Roster

To S Sgt.	21122327	(324)	A/S Sgt.	Clark, G. S.

Lineman Roster

To Sgt.	22856528	(750)	A/Sgt.	Haydon, J. M.
	22826951	(830)	A/Sgt.	Brown, S.
	22249950	(860)	A/Sgt.	Watson, C. T.

Operating Roster

To Sgt.	22265552	(2230)	A/Sgt.	Akehurst, J.
	22537552	(2250)	A/Sgt.	Cooley, A. E.
	22537774	(2290)	Cpl.	Sinnett, J.

DELETIONS

Regimental Duty Roster

W.O.I	280											
W.O.II	2510	1370	930	270	400	560	100	310	580	190	2740	
S Sgt.	1220	2180	2170	3090								

Technical Roster

S Sgt. 730

Operating Roster

Sgt. 260 1600

Lineman Roster

Sgt. 570

General Trades and Duties Roster

Sgt. 1260 2500 2330 1090

INSERTIONS

Regimental Duty Roster

6012378 (1310) S Sgt. Douce, W. J.

Technical Roster

21182327 (324) Sgt. Clark, G. S.

OTHER DELETIONS

22246015 S Sgt. Strange, B. F. Commissioned 14 Aug. 59

WARNING TO RETIRED OFFICERS

Especially Those Who Commute Part of Their Retired Pay

(Major-General C. H. H. Vulliamy, C.B., D.S.O.)

An interesting example of what happens to retired officers has just come to my notice. Others may have suffered without noticing it.

Retired pay is granted at an annual rate. Those who have had a change of rate during a month are advised to check the payment received after the change of rate.

The Paymaster divides the annual rate by twelve to ascertain the monthly payment. When a change occurs he apportions the amount for the two periods in the month by the relationship between the days in each period and the total days in the month of his calculation of the monthly payment due. The fallacy is that the month is not one-twelfth of the year.

The following example shows how an officer whose Retired Pay was £1,200 a year would lose should he commute £600 on 21st August.

The Paymaster will pay him as follows up to the end of August:

	£	s.	d.
April, May, June, July at £100 a month	400	0	0
20 days in August, $\frac{20}{31} \times \frac{1200}{12}$	64	10	0
11 days in August, $\frac{11}{31} \times \frac{600}{12}$	17	14	0
	£482	4	0

The officer should have received the following as his retired pay is granted at an annual rate:

	£	s.	d.
1st April to 20th August, $\frac{142 \times 120}{365}$ days at 1,200 = ...	466	17	0
21st August to 31st August, $\frac{11 \times 600}{365}$ days at 600 = ...	18	0	0
	£484	17	0

In other words, from 1st April to 31st August the officer is deprived of £2/13/-. Why should he lose it owing to the Paymaster's method of calculation?

Officers who find this has happened to them can take it up with the Paymaster-General, who issues their retired pay vouchers.

Forthcoming Events

The Radio Hobbies Exhibition

will open at the Royal Horticultural Society's Old Hall, Westminster, on Wednesday, 25th November, 1959, and will close on Saturday, 28th November.

The 72nd Meeting of the Corps Committee of the Royal Corps of Signals

will take place at the War Office on Saturday, 5th December, 1959.

Officers' Buffet Supper and Reunion

The Royal Signals Officers' Buffet Supper and Reunion will take place on Saturday, December 5th, 1959, at the Drill Hall, 41st Signal Regiment (Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment), 190, Hammersmith Road, London, W.6, by kind permission of the Commanding Officer, from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m.

Tickets at 15/- per person may be obtained from the Hon. Secretary, Royal Signals Officers' Dinner Club, Room 102, Horse Guards, Whitehall, S.W.1 This subscription of 15/- covers the cost of the Buffet Supper only. Drinks have to be paid for when ordered; by holding the Reunion in a Drill Hall the cost of drinks is kept as low as possible.

All officers who have served, or are serving, with Royal Signals (Regular, Retired, T.A., T.A.R.O., A.E.R. and W.E.C. officers are all included) including Signal Corps of the Commonwealth and officers of the United States Signal Corps, will be most welcome.

Officers are asked to make an effort to attend and so ensure the success of the Reunion. They are also asked to tell their friends about it.

DRESS—Lounge suits.

Applications are requested before 27th November, 1959; the list will be closed on 1st December, 1959. Cheques should be made payable to Royal Signals Dinner Club.

4th Indian Air Formation Signals Officers' Reunion

The 13th Annual Officers' Reunion Dinner will take place at the Dominions Hotel, Lancaster Gate, London, W.2, at 7.30 p.m. on Saturday, 21st November. Further details may be obtained from Lieutenant-Colonel H. V. Hayfield, "Four Winds," 33, Crescent Road, Sidcup, Kent.

The Corps Weekend, Reunion and 15th Annual General Meeting of the Association

will take place at Catterick on Saturday, 2nd, and Sunday, 3rd July, 1960.

The Corps Band

November 12th — December 8th ... ... B.A.O.R.

Royal Signals Rugby Football — Fixtures, 1959-1960

Nov.	18	Northern v. Western Command	Catterick
,,	28	Huddersfield	Catterick
Dec.	2	King's College	Catterick
* ,,	10	Cambridge LX Club	Catterick
1960			
*Jan.	13	Royal Artillery	Woolwich
,,	20	King's College	Newcastle
*Feb.	3	Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst ...	Camberley
,,	6	Wakefield	Wakefield
,,	17	Sheffield	Sheffield
,,	27	Durham City	Catterick
Mar.	23	Northern Command Final	Catterick
,,	26	Sandal	Catterick
,,	30	Northern Command Sevens	Catterick
*Apr.	2	Percy Park	Catterick
,,	6	Harrogate	Harrogate
,,	13	Bradford	Bradford
,,	30	Huddersfield Sevens	Huddersfield

* Corps Representative Matches

BRONZE MODEL OF A D8 CABLE DRUM



Before the 1914-18 War the Signal Companies R.E. in the United Kingdom met together every year for "annual training" at a combined summer camp.

This model was presented as a trophy for an annual cable laying competition to be held at this camp.

The first competition was held at Woodhay in 1913 but it is not recorded which Unit was successful.

Royal Signals Association Football — Fixtures, 1959-1960

1959			
Wed., 25 Nov.	...	R.A.C.	Away
1960			
Sat. 13 Feb.	...	Manchester University	Home
Sat., 5 Mar.	...	Sheffield University	Away
Wed., 9 Mar.	...	Durham University	Home
... ...		*R.E.M.E.	—
... ...		*Billingham Synthonia	Away

* Dates not yet confirmed.

All above are Corps representative matches.

Royal Signals Hockey, 1959/60 Fixtures

1959		
Tues., 1st Dec. ...	Durham University	Durham
Thurs., 12th Nov. ...	R.A.S.C.	Aldershot
Wed., 2nd Dec. ...	R.M.A.S.	Sandhurst
1960		
Wed., 17th Feb. ...	Royal Military C. of Science ...	Aldershot
Thurs., 18th Feb. ...	Aldershot Services	Aldershot
Fri., 19th Feb. ...	R.A.O.C.	Blackdown
Wed., 23rd Mar. ...	Welbeck College	Welbeck
15th-18th April ...	Easter Festival	Scarborough

CORPS FLAGS

Units requiring Flags are recommended to place their orders with as much forecast as is possible. In the past it has usually taken about six weeks to supply a flag. This has now extended to three months. The delay factor is the small number of men who are capable of hand painting the crest.

Corps Memoranda No. 1 paragraph 9 refers.

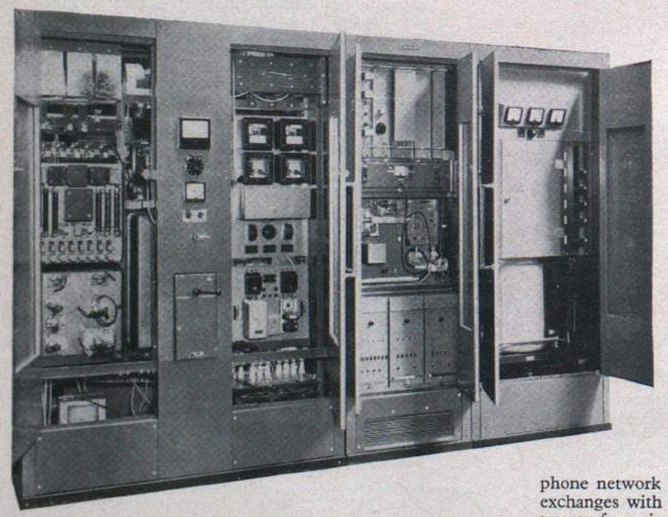
Multi-Channel "Over the Horizon" System for Bahamas

A CONTRACT for a high-power, forward-scatter radio telephone terminal for Nassau has been awarded to Standard Telephones and Cables Limited. The terminal will be part of a link to connect the Bahamas with the U.S.A. nation-wide telephone network. The contract will also include the installation of a multi-channel V.H.F. radio-telephone network to connect Nassau with the flourishing tourist centres in the Eleuthera Islands. The total value of the contract is approaching a quarter of a million sterling.

Forward-scatter transmission is a recent addition to the methods normally employed for long-distance telephone transmission. Using radio frequencies which do not follow the curvature of the earth, the method relies on the transmission of concentrated high-power radio beams and the reception, with very sensitive receivers, of the small fraction of this power which is scattered in the upper atmosphere.

Up to seventy-two trunk telephone circuits will be carried over the single 180-mile over-water path between Nassau and Florida.

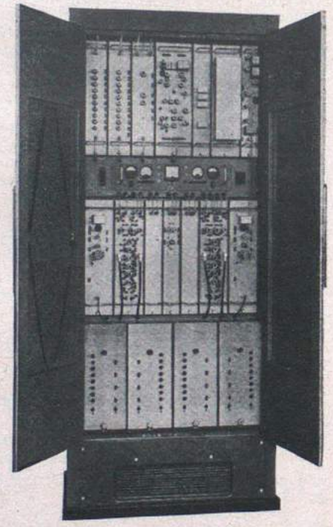
The Nassau terminal will use two 10-kW transmitters, operating in the 2000 Mc/s band, feeding into two 30ft. diameter parabolic reflector antennae. Two dual-diversity receivers, utilising the same anatannae as the transmitters, will be used to provide quadruple diversity reception. With this system the best of the four received signals is automatically selected at any instant to maintain the highest standard of reception. The transmitters, which are comparable in size to broadcast programme transmitters of much higher power, employ class "A" klystron amplifiers.



To protect the 10-kW klystrons from overload and subsequent damage the transmitters are fitted with an elaborate system of automatic control equipment.

The Nassau scatter terminal equipment will be manufactured in London by S.T.C. and will interwork with a similar terminal situated near Florida City. In addition to the forward-scatter system, S.T.C. will also supply and install a duplicated 7400 Mc/s line-of-sight, short-haul microwave link. This will transmit the entire baseband signals between the scatter terminal and the Telecommunications Centre in Nassau City, a distance of approximately six miles, where frequency multi-plexing equipment, having an initial capacity of twenty-four telephone circuits will also be provided, together with a new 15-switchboard position telephone exchange.

Power supplies for the forward-scatter terminal equipment will normally be derived from the local mains supply. S.T.C. will supply standby power supply equipment to ensure continuity of service. A 100-kVA diesel alternator standby machine will ensure at least single transmitter working in the event of mains failure and no-break power supply equipment will be installed to supply the receivers and the short-haul microwave link.



Left: S.T.C. forward scatter radio telephone transmitter equipment showing internal layout of cubicles.

Above: Forward scatter receiver equipment.

The proposed V.H.F. radio-telephone network will comprise three links and include three exchanges with a total of seven switchboard positions. One twenty-four-circuit telephone link will connect Nassau with Governors Harbour, a distance of 60 miles over water. The other two links, each over a distance of 20 miles, connect Governors Harbour with Rock Sound and Harbour Island respectively. Each of the two links will be equipped with six telephone circuits but have an ultimate capacity of twelve circuits.

The complete installation is expected to be in operation in mid-December, 1959.



[Photo : Craine, Roche and Co.

Ex-Boys Annual Dinner

THE accompanying two photographs clearly indicate that the Ex-Boys' sixth annual dinner was a happy affair. It was held at the Victory Ex-Services Club, Seymour Street, W.1, on Saturday, 26th September, when 98 Ex-Boys and guests sat down to dine. Some were prevented by illness from attending, otherwise the century figure would once more have been achieved.

This year's event was memorable for the fact that we had Lieutenant-Colonel R. G. Baker, O.B.E., and Mrs. Baker as the principal guests of honour; all the more so because Colonel Baker recently vacated the post of Commanding Officer of the Boys' Regiment at Newton Abbot. Our Chairman for 1959, Lieutenant-Colonel E. G. Brice, O.B.E., in welcoming Colonel Baker, spoke warmly of the interest, very keen interest, he had in the Boys and Ex-Boys of the Corps. It was also a tribute to Colonel Baker that the Regimental Sergeant-Major of the Boys' Regiment (R.S.M. F. J. Pavey, accompanied by Mrs. Pavey) came up from Newton Abbot with four other Ex-Boys and serving Boys to see their former Commanding Officer. In addition, S.S.M. Evis and Junior Corporal McDonald came from the newest of all Boys' Units in mid-Wales.

We should like to thank the present Commanding Officer of the Boys' Regiment at Newton Abbot, Lieutenant-Colonel Gregory, for allowing us to have on view at the dinner the Cobb Memorial Trophy which, earlier this year, the Ex-Boys of the Corps had presented to the Corps for the Junior Leaders' Regiment. So, thank you, Mr. Pavey, for so carefully transporting the trophy to and from the Regiment.

Our Chairman thanked the ladies for their continued attendance; we are really getting to know them quite well now and they, among themselves, are getting to know each other better. These dinners are truly a very happy family affair and are enhanced by the presence of the ladies.

Regrets at being unable to attend this year were received from Lieutenant-Colonel Bill Edwards, Majors George Flynn and Vic King, and also from that old friend of Ex-Boys, Mr. Frank Veness, of Records, also from Majors D. A. McDonnell, G. V. MacDowell, Freddie Oakes, and from Dixie Dean and Freddy Neeve.

Regrets were also sent from Lieutenant-Colonel Bob Peachey. He recently had a serious motoring accident but happily is now back at duty but not fit enough to do much travelling. Lieutenant-Colonel M. J. Conway (a guest last year) was also unable to attend on account of illness.

In replying to the Chairman, Colonel Baker thanked the Boys for the signal honour we had given to him for inviting him and Mrs. Baker to the dinner, and all present realised how very much he had the careers of Boys and Ex-Boys at heart. He pointed out that Boys are always the same—this generation has not changed from the last two—they all have to be moulded into good citizens, good soldiers and good leaders. The material is there, to be developed by those charged with the responsibility of training them.

To some of us, the older ones, the attendance this year of Major George Stone, all the way from Pickering in Yorkshire, was an extreme pleasure. In fact one of the committee had not seen George since they were boys together towards the end of 1914.

Captain Jock Terrell, who had a very serious illness last December, has now recovered and looked well near the top table. His guest was no other than "the" Ex-Sergeant Doughy Baker of the 1919 R.1 draft and of Kantara days of 1920-21. Joe Cottereli came again as the guest of Colonel Herbert and amongst the others present were Colonel and Mrs. F. J. Worth from Cheltenham, Major (Q.M.) Ron Shove and his brother Jeff, with their wives, also Jack Collins, all of whom were attending for the first time, but from their comments we can look forward to seeing them again each year.

We missed all those who for some reason or other were prevented from attending. Had they been able to attend our numbers would have been in the one-hundred-and-twenty mark. The popularity of the dinner increases each year. We confidently look forward to renewed attendance in 1960 from H. J. Archbold, Percy Andrews, Alf Brooks, Chas. Bunney, Bob Cox, Bert Elsmore, Dennis Gittins, "Bro." A. G. Hales, Tich Hamlin, George Kingman, Bill Medway, Bill Potts, Charles Storey and Teddie Price.

It is hoped all of these, and many others, will give early warning of their intention to attend in 1960 because the committee would have to ask for a much larger dining room for 160.



Mrs. Baker, Lieutenant-Colonel E. G. Brice, O.B.E., and Lieutenant-Colonel R. G. Baker, O.B.E., with the Cobb Memorial Trophy. ☛

[Photo : Craine, Roche and Co.

The next dinner, the seventh, is to be held on Saturday, 24th September, 1960. Full details will be circularised and notified in THE WIRE in due course. We know we can always reach the one hundred mark; but there must be many ex-Boys living near enough to London who are missing a grand opportunity to re-meet their old friends and acquaintances. Make a note of the date for 1960 and be sure to write to the Honorary Secretary, F. W. Jacob, Esq., T.A. Centre, 40, Ashburnham Road, Bedford, and book a seat. Do it now!

We are proud of our Corps and we know there will always be a keen demand for these annual reunions. The large banqueting hall at the Victory Ex-Services Club can seat 300. Will you, if you are an Ex-Boy, or a serving Boy, determine to come in 1960 and swell the numbers towards the 300 mark. Write now, to F. W. Jacob. The committee has to book a large room like the Banqueting Hall some ten months ahead, so don't delay.

A very happy evening can be guaranteed!

Est. 1749 Phone 2108

W. METCALFE

The Sports Depot

STOCKIST OF APPROVED ROYAL SIGNALS SPORTS CLOTHING

CRESTED MALACCA WALKING CANES AND PACE STICKS

RICHMOND, YORKS.

1st Signal Regiment

Photographs taken during the Regimental Week-End





(Left) The Regiment march past Major-General R. F. H. Nalder, C.B., O.B.E., Colonel Commandant, and the Mayor of Colchester. (Right) Cable laying at speed during a race between two detachments of "C" Troop.

3rd SIGNAL REGIMENT

The 3rd Signal Regiment has been most active during the last few months but in THE WIRE it can only have been noted by its absence. War-like activities on Dartmoor left no time for one set of "notes" and the printing strike combined with the editor's talent for précis reduced another to a couple of sentences.

Since our last notes we have survived an administrative inspection. The preparations for the inspection were extremely thorough and in most cases quite ruthless. However our better feelings were not altogether lost in the great effort toward cleanliness and smartness. R.Q.M.S. J. G. Stratton found an untidy bird's nest (complete with eggs) in a place where it ought not to be. Here was a problem! Showing true compassion and talent for compromise he took some scissors and trimmed up the nest so that it presented a smart and soldier-like appearance for the inspection.

The commanding officer and the inspecting officer were surprised to find a shining china receptacle under the bed in the commanding officer's caravan neatly numbered "RHQ1." No official investigation was made to find who put it there but all the evidence suggests that the Quartermaster, if not the actual perpetrator, had advance knowledge of the affair.

As a whole the inspection was a great success and the Regiment was congratulated on its efforts by the inspecting officer.

Once the inspection was over the emphasis on spit and polish gave way to a concerted drive on regimental training. The Regimental Concentration took place this year on Dartmoor. On the 6th May we moved onto the Moor and set up camp by squadrons. R.H.Q. were comfortably installed in Plasterdown Camp while those at the sharp end had to rough it in the heather.

We started with troop training, advanced to squadron training and ended the concentration with a Regimental exercise. This latter, called "Wild Honey," was on the face of it a whimsical affair involving the Pixies on Bodmin Moor and the discovery of a nectar with aphrodisiac properties. In spite of the fairytale narrative the exercise provided hard work and good training for the whole of the Regiment.

The weather was fine and the sun shining for nearly the whole of the time we were away and most of us developed a healthy sun tan. But after three weeks of tents and heather and continual contact with the enemy (Dartmoor sheep) we returned to civilization at Bulford tired but happy. We did not relax for long however for after a short leave the Regiment moved out on a Divisional Headquarters exercise. Here we saw the experience gained on the Regimental Concentration put to good use and the exercise went well. There were, of course, some minor tragedies. The lines officer in a Landrover narrowly avoided collision with a Champ coming from the opposite direction. He was about to remonstrate with the driver of the Champ when he saw that it carried the C.R. Signals, the C.R. Signals designate and the C.S.O.! There was no damage and (he hopes) the incident has been forgotten.

The Regiment took three weeks block leave at the end of July and beginning of August. We returned from this welcome break to tackle the signal problems involved in maintaining a brigade by air. There have been several exercises to practise this operation and there will be several more before the big demonstration exercise "Red Banner" in October. The demonstration lasting four days, will be watched by several V.I.P.s including the Minister of War.

During the period of the inspection and the concentration the Regiment had little chance to play any sports, but at the



3rd SIGNAL REGIMENT 1st XI

Standing: Second Lieutenant J. J. S. Gorman, Signalmen Hazelgrave, and Plested Craftsman Richmond, Corporal Winspear, Craftsman Hurdley, Lance Corporal Grant

Seated: Captain (TOT) A. G. Pritchard, Captain D. A. Davies, Lieutenant Colonel J. D. T. Brett, Captain B. T. Stanworth, REME, Lieutenant M. J. Pickard

Sitting: Craftsman Stone, Lance Corporal Cuthill



Those members of the Corps who from time to time come to Balmore House, will recognise (facing the camera) Colonel Blake, Mr. Edwards OIC Division III, Mr. Harris O.I.C. Machine Wing, Mr. Cox of Division III. Those nearer the camera are (*left to right*) Major Christopher Robinson (OIC Postings), Colonel Johnson, Mr. Frank Veness OIC Division II, Lieutenant Colonel N. I. Bower and, almost out of sight, Lieutenant Colonel R. G. Baker

first opportunity a cricket team was formed. In spite of its hasty formation and lack of practise the team had a remarkably successful season and reached the semi-final of the Salisbury Plain District knock-out competition.

An interesting and enjoyable afternoon's play was provided by the Officers' v. Sergeants' cricket match. Captain B. T. Stanworth, R.E.M.E., and Lieutenant M. J. Pickard put on 99 runs for the second wicket. This plus a hard-hitting innings by the Commanding Officer enabled the officers to declare at 184 for six. The sergeants put up a hard fight, with Sergeants D. G. Layton and A. E. Paternoster doing most of the scoring, but were all out for 123. Captain (TOT) A. G. Pritchard was the outstanding bowler, taking seven wickets for 31 runs.

Since our last full notes in THE WIRE we have said goodbye to Lieutenant-Colonel M. D. Price, O.B.E., who commanded the Regiment during its Middle East excursions and the move to Bulford. He is now a full Colonel in M.T.1 at the War Office.

8th SIGNAL REGIMENT

Parents' Week-end went off with its customary smoothness. Some 300 relatives turned up and thoroughly enjoyed the programme arranged for them. This included P.T., black and white boxing and D.R. Display Team contributions, music by the Band, Light and Dance Orchestras of the Corps, conducted tours of our very large empire and Regimental Services in the various Garrison churches on the Sunday morning.

After a mid-summer break, the Wives' Club has resumed its monthly meetings and attendances augur well for the future.

During the month two eminent churchmen visited Catterick; Canon Pike is no stranger in this part of the world, but it was the first occasion we had the pleasure of listening to the Bishop of Maidstone.

What should have been an Officers v. Sergeants Rifle Range encounter one fine Sunday developed into an Inter-Squadron shooting competition. Perhaps it was just as well because individual results distinctly favoured the "Afsah log," who took first and second places in rifle, S.M.G. and pistol matches. "Cheyenne" Bodie and "Bronco" Lane also distinguished themselves. Later on at the S.T.B. shoot the Regimental team performed disappointingly.

Fine weather and hard grounds made the Inter-Troop Rugby Sevens competition a little later than usual this year. Some 29 teams entered and for the first time since its inception 2 Squadron's monopoly was broken by T.M. Troop of "H.Q." Squadron, who deservedly won the final encounter with 3 Squadron by the convincing margin of 11 points. Signalman Langton, the Regimental full-back and Hunslet player, had quite a bit to do with this victory. It is early days yet but that Army Cup is going to be difficult to dislodge.

To conclude the season, tennis players retained the Garrison Inter-Unit Challenge Cup.

Soccer, badminton, basketball and hockey players too are getting into their stride and the outlook is encouraging. But more anon.

And now for Christmas and the New Year, just round the corner.

ROYAL SIGNALS RECORDS

We cannot recollect that WIRE notes have ever before been submitted by the staff of Royal Signals Records to mark the occasion of a social event connected with the military and civilian officers of the staff.

On 30th September they added an extra half hour to their lunch-time and met at the Grosvenor Hotel, Caversham, to say farewell and to wish good fortune to Colonel E. P. Blake on his retirement on completing his three-year tenure as Officer-in-charge Records.

There was a pleasant informality about the gathering. Luncheon was preceded by a stimulant or two whilst Major P. E. Mott, Deputy O.I.C. Records wished Colonel Blake, on behalf of all the officers, all success and good health in his civilian appointment in industry. During a brief reply, Colonel Blake renewed his thanks to the staff (he had spent most of the morning going the rounds of Balmore House and all the hutments seeing every member of the staff and had still not finished by lunch time) and at the same time welcomed his successor, Colonel F. P. Johnson.

STEEPLE BUMPSTEAD SIGNAL SQUADRON

With nearly everyone on Agricultural Leave it has been most difficult to produce these notes, particularly as the sole remaining clerk has spent at least two weeks inserting Amendment No. 7 in the Manual of Military Law. With Nos. 8 and 9 still to do, these notes have been submitted in manuscript.

The summer has been marked by the departure of S.S.M. Peabody on retirement. We wish him well in his new appointment with a well-known sweet manufacturer in the North.

The arrival of S.S.M. Blenkinsop has also made an impression on the Squadron. At an early conference, all N.C.O.s were told that in future the Squadron will be run by "command" and not by "committee." The most noticeable change has been that those living out and the "Q" staff now blanco their belts. C.B. has been re-introduced to replace the previous standard punishment, "seven weeks deprived Wagon Train."

The P.R.I. profits have swelled this summer due to a brainwave of Sergeant Farnsbarns; he ran a roadside canteen on the Staines Bridge.

The notes from the Signal Training Wing W.R.A.C. were most distressing. Obviously, a rival from B.A.O.R. had sent someone to our railway station to erect that most misleading sign. The Duty Officer, Lance-Corporal King, would have been available to receive them on August Bank Holiday.

We must congratulate 44th (Home Counties) Signal Regiment on being the first unit to get their new title mentioned in the National Press.

On seeing the new edict that "canteens" will, in future, be called "clubs," Driver Phillips lost faith when the local jeweller failed to understand his request to be shown a "club of cutlery."

As usual, the Regimental Police were on duty at the Polling Booth in the village on 8th October.



Lance Corporal Storeli—Norway's best rifle shot looks out against Denbury Camp

YOUNG NORWEGIANS AT DENBURY

By David A. Carter

After spending three weeks as guests of the Royal Signals' Junior Leaders' Regiment, Captain M. Spilde and seven young Norwegian Signal Corps apprentices from Lillenhammer, summed up their impressions of England in one word—"Wonderful!"

They arrived at Newton Abbot on 7th September as the second part of the first international military exchange at this level. Last March, British boys had visited Norway.

The Norwegians were older than the British lads, and their ages ranged between 18 and 20. All spoke excellent English. Lance-Corporal R. Larsen told me: "Most of us study it for the last two years at school." For all, except himself, this was their first visit to England. Before he joined the Army, Larsen was a merchant seaman and travelled the world over, including the United States and Britain, "but I prefer the Army," he said.

First Impressions

The morning after their arrival, the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel L. H. M. Gregory, M.B.E., officially welcomed the party, who were to be escorted throughout their stay by Captain H. Rothwell, M.B.E. Dressed in olive-green uniforms with the red, white and blue cross of Norway worked into their shoulder flashes, the boys looked very smart.

Following this they joined Lieutenant P. Chase on the range to watch a demonstration of the self-loading rifle. Captain Spilde, the Norwegian officer-in-charge, said: "In my country we mainly use the American Army carbine, so we find the British weapons most interesting."

The Norwegians had been selected for their all-round ability as soldiers, and among them was Lance-Corporal A. Storeli (20), from Hallingdal. He is one of Norway's crack-shots, and he handled the new rifle expertly after little guidance.

The next few days was a hectic round of *adventure* and *confidence* training, tours to Torquay and the Signal Centre in Gloucester. When they arrived back at Denbury, they were greeted by the G.O.C., South West District.

Eighteen-year-old Lance-Corporal Moekkelgaard was asked what he thought were the main differences between his camp and the British unit. He replied, "there's more drill here!" Captain Spilde added that in Norway the young soldier starts his service at 17, completing his training at the age of 21. He continued: "There are many differences, but it is being here and meeting the people that is really important."

A New Book for Dartmoor

Recently Captain J. W. Joyner took some Junior Leaders out to Fur Tor, south of Cranmere Pool, and discovered that the Visitors' Book there was in a "tatty" condition.

It was decided that it should be replaced by the Denbury Regiment when the Norwegians and their British hosts were going in that direction.

So, together with Colonel Gregory, Major R. Nye, R.A.E.C., and Captain Joyner, they all tramped across the rugged countryside—fully loaded with camping equipment—and carrying the new book.

Beautifully bound, the new volume has an inscription which reads: "This book is presented to Fur Tor—'The Queen of Tors'—by the Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Signals, of Denbury Camp, with three specific objects in mind:

"Firstly, to commemorate a combined visit by officers and Junior Leaders of the Regiment with their Norwegian Army Signal Apprentice School friends.

"Secondly, to follow the very good example of the Boy Scouts' Association, who presented the first book on June 3, 1957, and which has since been mauled and mutilated.

"Thirdly, to appeal to guests who visit Dartmoor to treat her gently and honour her house as their own."

Then follow the signatures of the entire Norwegian contingent, and a representative body of Denbury lads. Later Captain Joyner told me: "It is hoped that the new book will represent the strong friendship which exists between the youth of Norway and Great Britain."

A Visit to London

Their second week-end found the group touring London. They spent Saturday afternoon in the Houses of Parliament and the evening in the Norwegian Club.

Captain Spilde was taken to an oriental dinner by Captain Rothwell. "Curry? Not very hot!" exclaimed Captain Spilde afterwards.

On Sunday they were permitted to view the mounting of the guard at Buckingham Palace from the exclusive confines of the forecourt. Said Captain Rothwell, "Few civilians get in here." At one stage the guard was only ten yards away.

While visiting the Tower of London the next day, they discovered that Yeoman Warder (the official term for a Beefeater) Gavey (Captain Royal Signals) was on duty in the Crown Jewels room. He introduced them to Chief Warder Griffin, also an ex-member of the Corps and onetime Regimental-Sergeant-Major. The latter took them to parts of the Tower "which were not open to the general public."

The trip to London was followed by one to 30 Signal Regiment stationed at Middle Wallop. They saw operational equipment and helicopters belonging to the newly formed Army Air Corps, but unfortunately a flight could not be arranged since "all the pilots were on exercise over Salisbury Plain."

Naval Strength

The first military exchange at Junior Leader level between Britain and Norway closed with an impressive display of British naval power, much of which is incorporated in N.A.T.O. for peace, and for the seven boys it was a memorable experience.

They visited the shore-based, naval training establishment, H.M.S. *Fisgard* near Plymouth. On their arrival they were met by Lieutenant-Commander W. Ham, R.N., and were told that the school is named after a fifth-rate Frigate launched in 1819.

In a conference room, Commander Ham explained how naval artificers are trained. The two-year course at *Fisgard* covers most aspects of navy work, but specialisation is achieved elsewhere. "Boys choose their own trade, and both the needs of the Service and the individual are satisfied," said Commander Ham.

The Norwegians were then shown the elaborate network of classrooms, laboratories, and well-equipped machine shops. Finally, they all ate lunch in an excellent self-service dining hall—recently remodernized—alongside 650 "boys in blue."

Captain Spilde said: "Fisgard is very similar to our own apprentice school in Norway.

The group took a particular interest in all they saw since they are members of a seafaring nation which, although it has only a small navy for defence purposes, has a large merchant fleet. Besides this, they are descendants of the Vikings who ruled the Northern Seas in bygone times.

After *Fisgard* a tour of H.M. Dockyard at Plymouth, which employs 15,000.

The yard is continuously busy and was refitting Britain's largest aircraft-carrier H.M.S. *Ark Royal* at the time. Also there was the "A" class submarine, *Alliance*—which had just been installed with Hydro-Peroxide engines.

However, the highlight came when the young soldiers were invited aboard H.M.S. *Salisbury*—a sleek, smooth frigate of 2,100 tons just returned from a goodwill cruise to Canada and the United States.

In typical naval tradition, they saluted the Quarter-Deck as they came on board. It was explained that *Salisbury* "incorporates radical changes from orthodox warship design and attention has been paid to the possible requirements of nuclear-warfare."

Her role as an Air Direction vessel is to provide extra-cover by radio and radar to the Fleet, and to control fighter aircraft from up to 150 miles away.

The workings of the highly complex electronic apparatus was explained in detail to these Signals' apprentices.

As the Norwegian boys were leaving the Dock Yard, news came that Lord Montgomery was also visiting, but, unfortunately they did not meet him.

Sail Home with Memories

The three weeks had flashed past. The day of their departure arrived, and from Newcastle they waved their good-byes to Captain Rothwell—their constant companion during their stay—as the small ship steamed slowly into the North Sea—for home.

Later I spoke to one of the British junior leaders who had lived with them at Denbury Camp.

"The first comment made was about our food," reflected Junior Sergeant R. Butcher, aged 17, "they seem to eat nothing but bread, butter, and fish in Norway—and they like our's very much."

He continued: "Being very strong in mind and body, the Norwegians impressed us with their smartness—which is, perhaps, one of the reasons why they salute all Sergeants and Officers."

But, Captain Spilde had said earlier: "There are many differences, but it's being here and meeting people that is really important."

Next spring British boys from the Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Signals, will be showing the flag in Norway. Undoubtedly, after meeting the young soldiers from Lillenhammer, competition will be keen.



JUNIOR LEADERS' REGIMENT

An Army marches on its stomach says an old saying, and in today's modern Army it still holds true. Therefore it is not surprising to find that the Regiment at Denbury takes a great interest in good cooking.

Thanks to the kind co-operation of the management of Torquay's famous "Imperial" Hotel, every Wednesday sees several of the Regiment's cooks busily at work in its kitchens. As Second-Lieutenant P. Hunt, the Messing Officer, said, "The scheme provides our cooks with an opportunity of seeing how good food is prepared."

Junior Mercury — the newest publication produced within the Corps — written entirely by members of this Regiment, was on sale at Newton Abbot news-stands on 1st October. It was the first edition to be released to the general public.

Like all newspapers *Mercury* was hit by the printing strike, yet it continued to appear regularly. However, production costs have almost doubled as a result. To counter this, the print order has been increased for all subsequent editions in the hope of a circulation rise—the only way to maintain its present format.

Many Royal Signals Units are giving it full support. Many could do more for their future Junior Leaders!

Strongest Soccer Side. The Staff soccer eleven, current local league champions, have played five games at the time of writing and have scored a total of 63 goals against opposing teams. How many balls have landed in their net? The answer — six only!

In a recent game against Torquay Co-operative, the latter were utterly overwhelmed by the Signals' side. The Staff team swept in time and time again. It was embarrassing to watch the score mount and reach 19-0 before the final whistle blew.

Top scorer of the game was Signalman Sturch, from "H.Q." Squadron, with eight to his credit.

Brigadier P. M. P. Hobson, D.S.O., Commander, Training Brigade, visited the Regiment on 12th and 13th October, his first visit to Denbury.

The Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess "Tramps' Ball" was a very considerable success. Mrs. G. Gurden and Sergeant Osborne won the costume prizes.

THE BLUE BOOK

The Sixth Edition of the Blue Book has been despatched to C.S.O.s, from whom bulk Unit orders can be obtained. Individuals can be supplied direct from Association H.Q.

Price 2/6.

CLOTHING

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. *See page 297.*

14th SIGNAL REGIMENT

1 Squadron. September has been an eventful month for the Squadron. On the 29th we received a visit from the G.O.C., South-Western District, who toured the Squadron, and T. R. C. Boddington, accompanied by our Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel J. B. Birkett, O.B.E. In the afternoon a Squadron parade was held and the G.O.C. made the presentation of the B.E.M. to Staff Sergeant White, of System Control Troop. Staff Sergeant White's award attracted a great deal of publicity and we learnt that he has a family tradition which he might well be proud of; his father was awarded the M.B.E. in 1945, and his grandfather and great-grandfather both served in the Guards, the latter seeing service as far back as in the Crimean War. The award was covered by both newspapers and T.V., and we well know what the recognition which Staff Sergeant White received was fully deserved.

We were also pleased to welcome another visitor from the Dominions to the Squadron, Colonel R. K. Robeblade, M.B.E., Director of Signals, Australian Army. We hope that his visit was an enjoyable and interesting one.

Soccer and Rugby are getting under way and we hope for successful seasons. Basketball is very popular at the moment, but we think we will wait a little longer before dwelling on achievements!

We also welcome Second-Lieutenant I. Gilliland and Lieutenant A. W. Batram and his family to the Squadron and wish them a happy stay.

2 Squadron. If anyone now mentions the date 28th September, a slight smirk will be seen to cross the face of all who hear; for such a date was the memorable day of our Annual Administrative Inspection. For many months we have been digging and delving in the darkest corners looking for the inevitable skeletons and, most successfully, all had been peacefully laid to rest (or temporarily battened down) before the day. In turn, the transmitter hall staff had been intro-



Inspection of 2 Squadron

duced to daylight (and the glint in the eyes of A/W.O.II Talbott) and shown that the floors of the rest of the building could be made to shine to the standard always accepted in the "hall."

Having successfully passed through the long list of pre-administrative visits our merry throng of 80 rushed around in ever decreasing circles (without, thankfully, the final customary bang) and remained steadfast. Any injuries received were purely in the course of duty, including the patient in the Infirmary who insisted on polishing too hard on a plate glass window.

We are sure that the Inspecting Officer, Brigadier V. W. Barlow, D.S.O., O.B.E., must have found us a well trained Unit, particularly when the disciplined cookhouse cat insisted on "falling-in" as parade right marker, but apology was made for our inability to serve "espresso" coffee in our "Cafe Continental" dining hall.

Indeed, a satisfying day with, we hope, a highly satisfactory report to be forthcoming. And, of course, 29th September found us preparing for the Admin of 1960!

A final note, sad as it is, must be the loss of Sergeant F. M. Orr, who has been such a staunch worker in both the transmitter hall and on the field of military training. We wish him every success for the future in the FARELF.

3 Squadron. September and our eagerly awaited visit to London Airport. Thirty members of the Squadron journeyed down and after a briefing and a "cuppa" we set off on our tour led by Mr. Robertson, of B.O.A.C., who proved to be a fount of information. Workshops, offices, control tower, etc., were all open to us and the fantastic set-up at this giant airport is truly amazing. The highlight was to sit in the "Comet IV" just a few hours after it touched down from the Far East. We fully recommend a visit to the Airport to any Signal Units in and around London. Our opinion of British Civil Aviation has risen tremendously.

The fantastic summer continues and our canoeists are still at it; yes, in October, and really enjoying it.

We welcome Staff Sergeant Clarke, taking over the S.Q.M.S. rôle, fresh from a successful tour as Recruiter in Nottingham. May his stay with us be happy and may he enjoy working with some of his proteges from the Robin Hood area.

We would like to thank Steeple Bumpstead Signal Squadron for their kind remarks in the September issue. If they could supply us with details of the Lisbon-Torbay Schooner Race we may raise a crew next year.

4 Squadron. We bid farewell to Captain J. P. Edwards, who has been posted to Germany (their gain is our loss). He went out from the Squadron on a tide of goodwill and farewell parties. We sincerely trust the boat did not rock too much. Sgt. E. R. Parker has also left us; we wish him success in his new posting.

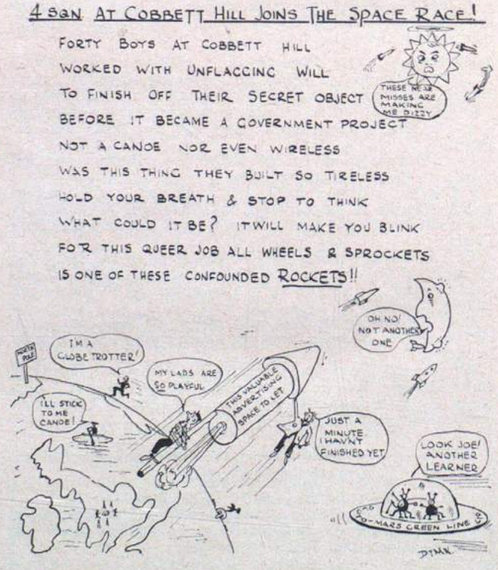
We have discovered a cartoonist in our midst with quite a pretty turn of wit. An example of his humour is enclosed for inclusion. Sergeant Dyer's friends will see how excellently he is applying himself to the rôle of fatherhood.

An All Ranks' dance was held on 25th September, 1959—a good time was enjoyed by all.

Our football team is covering itself with glory, conspicuously aided by Captain Dally, who is an enthusiast. A little bird whispers that his services are contended for in outlying villages.

The Canoeing Club has had several excursions, all successful—if anyone has been drowned, the Squadron has not been informed.

Signalman R. Joyce (middleweight) is to be congratulated on fighting his way to the Aldershot District quarter finals, where he unfortunately suffered defeat.



Twenty members of the Squadron paid a visit to 3 Squadron, Bampton,

(a) To see how the other half lives,
and
(b) To take up a challenge at cricket.

Having accepted their hospitality we reluctantly (!!) walloped them by seven wickets. In spite of this resounding defeat the gallant Bamptonians entertained us at an enjoyable social evening, which we thoroughly appreciated. We have now challenged them to a football match, the result of which will certainly go to press.

Mysterious action by S.S.M. Sneddon is striking terror at the hearts of the guilty—he has ordered the digging of a 9-foot pit and no reasons given—to be continued in our next!

Oakhanger Detachment appears to be on siesta—at any rate no WIRE Notes are forthcoming. However, they are not entirely static, for a friendly rivalry still exists between them and Cobbett Hill on the cricket pitch and football ground.

Heath fires still rage and one wonders how long this extraordinary weather will last. The thought that we might become a "tropical island" conjures up visions of grass skirts and bikinis.

24th SIGNAL REGIMENT

One result of the extremely dry summer this year has been the outbreak of several moor fires, which have necessitated a not unwelcome break in the training programme. A day in the country is always a pleasant change from interminable days in the class room, and there is always the chance of "finding" some attractive addition to the menu. The last one we had, which necessitated day and night shifts for several days on end, also coincided with a period of really thick wet misty weather. This had no effect on the fire, because the underlying peat had caught really and truly alight, but it made the whole trip quite adventuresome. Trying to find a party of men somewhere in the middle of a trackless moor when visibility is about ten yards takes quite a bit of doing, and in fact on several occasions contact was not established at all until the fog lifted. Mention must be made of a remark heard about the unit recruiting officer on this occasion. Everything was enveloped in a thick wet fog, a slight drizzle was falling, the last light was fading, and the relief party had failed to turn up. Then out of the fog a fed up voice was heard to say, "Where is old ——? Tell him I want to sign on as a regular."

The employment of a radio relay link connected to the area telephone exchange was extremely successful for type of job, but it produced one or two unforseen difficulties. At one time a certain well known cavalry regiment was fighting a fire, and the O.C. fire fighting party had occasion to ring up his Commanding Officer in barracks at about ten o'clock at night. The call, of course, came through via the radio relay link to the Commanding Officer's civilian telephone in his house, and the circuit was so good that he refused to believe that the O.C. fire fighter was speaking from the middle of the moor, and accused him of taking time off in a pub.

It is a bit early in the season to comment on our sporting activities, but we might mention that twelve members of the Regimental rugger team are playing in Corps or Area trials. This, of course, does not leave us with much of a rugger team for own games, but that is one of the penalties of living in a large garrison.

The Regimental motor cycle trials team, run by Lieutenant Borland, although knocked out of the command trials by 25th Signal Regiment, have been doing extremely well in several civilian trials. In the Rossendale Rally, Corporal Metcalfe won the best award for the over 250 c.c. class and the best Army award, and Lieutenant Borland, Signalmen Nicholson and Hosgood all got certificates of merit. This, we might add, was using army standard machines in competition with civilian specially adapted machines, and is no mean achievement.

SIGNAL TRAINING WING, W.R.A.C.

Well, here we are again. This month has seen the going of W.O.II Neal and the place does not seem the same without her. She was always so patient and kind, we shall all miss her very much. As yet we have not seen or heard from W.O.I Baylis but, no doubt, she will burst in on us like a ton of dynamite when we are having a quiet nap. Sergeant Griffiths has now taken over the Signal Centre Operator School from Sergeant McLeod, Royal Signals. He has rejoined 24th Signal Regiment. Sergeant Rose, our new Chief Clerk, is now well tuned in and transmitting loud and clear. She has just attended a Rat Catchers' Course, so woe betide any rodent that comes in this direction. Sergeant McLaren, the Teleprinter School Sergeant, has gone on an education course in preparation for her Class I education. The O.C., sitting alone in the building, is trying hard to think of a course she can go on when they all return. This search for knowledge by the permanent staff seems never ending.

During the past month we were pleased to welcome to the Wing, Lieutenant-Colonel De Garis Martin, W.R.A.C., Inspector of Recruiting. She toured the Wing and talked with several of the trainees.

Marriages are well to the fore this month. Lance-Corporal Hay got married last Saturday, and Lance-Corporals Smart and Lucas are getting married in the very near future. It was rumoured that one of our more stable Lance-Corporals had written to the lucky R.A.F. winners of the Pools. She had a lonely heart she said!

The really big event in this unit this month is that Staff Sergeant Slack, our C.Q.M.S., is back from hospital after four months. She is as lively as a cricket and is already busily checking to make sure no one has flogged the stores during her absence. It was noted that the Company Commander, Major V. Fisher, went on leave this week. We wonder!

More next month.

25th SIGNAL REGIMENT

Here at Ripon, sporting and social activities have been in full swing during the past few months. The Regimental Sports and Parents' Day held on 4th September in fine weather, was a great success and attended by many wives, sweethearts, parents and children. A most enjoyable day was rounded off by a Regimental all-ranks' dance in the Garrison Theatre.

The Sergeants' Mess and the Junior N.C.O.'s Club both held dances during September. The "jungle decorations" for the Junior N.C.O.'s dance were most effective and admired by the 400 dancers. The eagerly awaited beauty contest had a sensational effect on the audience.

The cricket team have had a successful and enjoyable season. Sergeant Dench has played throughout the season for Ripon City club.

The soccer team have started well by beating the Border Regiment by three goals to nil in the opening round of the Army Cup. Corporal Ellis has been the outstanding goal-getter of this season and we have a well-balanced and fit team. We should do well again in all the local league matches.

Rugby is just getting under way, although the concrete-hard grounds do not look very inviting. Our Medical Officer, Lieutenant "Dai" Rees, is taking over as captain when Lieutenant Kinghorn departs next month. An interesting and full fixture list promises some good games in the month's ahead.

We have been active in the motor cycling world, our "C" team winning the North Midland District Cup, with Lance-Corporal Fowler putting up the best individual performance. In the Northern Command Trials we swept the board, winning the first three team awards and all but one of the individual prizes. Both trials were held at Ripon and Staff Sergeant Pinkney, Staff Sergeant Handley and S.S.M. Hornby put in many hours of work in preparing the courses. In the Army Championships at Catterick we entered three teams, two of them coming fifth and sixth. Lance-Corporal Fowler won the prize for the best Royal Signals individual competitor. We much enjoyed having the Royal Swedish Army team staying with us for the Trials.

On the 22nd September the Officers of the Regiment entertained many guests to dinner. Brigadier Hobson, on behalf of the Corps Committee, presented Squadron Leader Howlett, of the Royal Air Force, with a suitably inscribed "Jimmy" during the evening. Squadron Leader Howlett piloted the Hunter aircraft that the Corps competitors used during the "Daily Mail" London-Paris Air Race. Brigadier Hobson also thanked many others who had helped the Corps' team during the race—among the guests were Group Captain Stubbs, Brigadier McVittie, Lieutenant-Colonel Warburg, Major Horner and Lieutenant Lynch. Later in the evening Squadron Leader Howlett achieved a few circuits on a jet propelled "penny-farthing" and successfully looped the loop in Major Morton's Messerschmitt.

The Regimental driving team represented Northern Command at the 1959 Army Safe and Skilled Driving Competition.

Our team tied for first place with the Western Command team and Lance-Corporal Ewen did extremely well to win the first individual award out of the 25 competitors.

At the A.C.U. Rally Second-Lieutenant Thomas, R.S.M. Kempton, S.S.M. Hornby and Corporal Yule all won special gold awards, Sergeant Jacobs and Sergeant Fayers winning gold awards. The 710-mile course, including 35 check points, had to be completed in 24 hours and there were well over a thousand competitors.

The Display Team have completed their engagements for this season, which included many recruiting displays and tours. It is sad to see so many of the team leaving within the next few months, but good to know Captain Burfitt and Sergeant Sankey will be here for the start of next season.

30th Signal Regiment

On 25th September the Regiment was visited by the Chief of the Defence Staff, Admiral of the Fleet Earl Mountbatten of Burma, accompanied by the Signal Officer-in-Chief, Major-General R. J. Moberly, C.B., O.B.E. A guard of honour was mounted, and Sergeant O'Connor, as Guard Commander, was congratulated on the turnout. Earl Mountbatten saw specialist vehicles held by the Regiment, and many of the new range of wireless sets.

Since March of this year an officer of the Norwegian Army Signal Corps has been attached to the Regiment. Major M. Langdalen was of great assistance in planning demonstrations and in No. 1 (Engineering) Squadron, and was replaced recently by Major H. D. Lien. On 21st and 22nd September a party of Signal apprentices from Major Langdalen's unit visited us and were shown new British signal equipment, and the helicopters on the airfield here.

No. 1 (Engineering) Squadron. This month we welcome Second-Lieutenant Porter who has joined us from No. 18 National Service Officers' Course; also Sergeant Morrell from Communication Troop, who is going to B.A.O.R. shortly, and Staff Sergeant Hill who replaced Staff Sergeant Shaw. Congratulations to Captain Hefferon, User Trials (T.O.T.), on his recent promotion; his team is preparing for trials of new equipment. Captain Amott's merry men carry on with their never ending mutual interference trials, at least until the graph paper runs out!

Sergeant O'Connor was married on 25th July and Signalman Lonsdale on 12th September, and we should like to offer them our best wishes.

No. 2 (Demonstration) Squadron. September has seen a considerable reduction in our numbers due to the disbanding of Communication Troop. Best of luck to Lieutenant J. B. F. Halford, who has left to learn Arabic before being posted to Aden, and to the other members of the troop who have been assimilated in the Regiment. The Squadron now consists of a small headquarters for planning demonstrations, and Quicksilver Troop. They will be returning soon from a busy recruiting season.

No. 3 (Special Wireless) Squadron. The Squadron returned early in September from wireless exercises in the Lulworth area where they gained useful experience on detachment, and in working with the R.A.C. Wireless School. One of our valuable Radio Technicians, Signalman Hanson, got away lightly when a No. 2 Cooker exploded, scattering sausages to all four corners of the field! Fortunately he was uninjured. Now that we are back in camp the long service operators are revising their morse, and the rest of the Squadron are preparing for the Annual Administrative Inspection.

War Office Monitoring Team. Our team returned in late July from a successful season monitoring exercises in B.A.O.R. We have now monitored about one hundred and fifty exercises since the team was formed in February, 1955, under Major D. V. Wellings, who still commands. These have ranged from company to N.A.T.O. exercises, the latest being the Staff College Exercise "Red Banner," and we hope our victims have been taught the need for communications security. In spite of constant movement the team fields a strong soccer side in both the Middle Wallop Camp League and Inter-Troop knock-out. Our hockey team has so far been more enthusiastic than successful!

Radio Survey and Installation Team. The team has, at last rejoined its parent unit in Middle Wallop and having completed the project in the Hebrides are looking forward to a new project due to start soon. A detachment under Major J. B. Robins is still at Stanmore, and as Captain Ellis is at Catterick on a refresher course, Captain (T.O.T.) Bewley commands the rest of team. Congratulations to Corporal Morgan on becoming the happy father of a second daughter, and to the troop clerk, Signalman Bell, whose wife has presented him with twins!

Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Cordey has had to put on his riding leathers again to come to work from his W.D. hiring. Low Flying Aircraft signs should be extended a further five miles from camp!

C.U.O.T.C. ROYAL SIGNALS WING

After an extremely enjoyable and valuable time spent at the School of Signals, 20th June — 2nd July, we dispersed to our various vacation employments. Our deep gratitude is due to all members of the staff who made this stay the success it was.

At the moment, the beginning of a new academic year, sees us with a new mode of training undergraduates for Regular and T.A. commissions. This aspect of O.T.C. life is now even more important with the ending of National Service, and we are confident that this Unit will supply a regular quota of Officers to both the Regular Army and the new Territorial Army.

213 SIGNAL REGIMENT (INFANTRY BRIGADE GROUP)

Hello, there, 213th Signal Squadron (Infantry Brigade Group) reporting from "Bogland." Since our last report we have said farewell to Captain Savage and welcome to Captain Hall, in addition to changing our title five times in four months.



Corporal Ford, Corporal England, Corporal Cairns, and Corporal Gillott

We have been hosts to the Irish public at the Army Day, where our HAM station (photo inset) run by Corporal Ron Ford (G13NKO) was a great success. The ladies using the practice parachute jump were our closest rivals (unfair competition?).

Exercise "Red Onion" brought the Welsh Guards and Parachute Brigade over to our shores, and we provided communications, lighting, etc., for the two Brigade Headquarters at once. Since then we have exercised all the Battalions under command, and our knees are the same colour as the tea we brew.

We were sorry to see the back of Sergeant Lockley's merry men (the 11 Hussars Signal Troop [PAO]), who were attached for three months. They were a great help when we needed them most.

The colleens here are more beautiful than ever and outnumber us three to one, but we manage to survive. The Officer Commanding says that we have five vacancies for single drivers; any offers?

Our Canoe Club is still very popular, even though two men broke the speed record to shore, having been frightened by a seal.

The football, hockey and small bore shooting teams are in full training and we are looking forward to a very busy winter programme.

Signalman ("Chops") Lordan (Tech Stores) is already looking forward to next summer, when he states that Surrey will reclaim the title on temporary loan to Yorkshire on AFG 1033!

We are still interested in old members of the Troop/Squadron and would welcome a letter. (Sergeant Glenville please note).

CHRISTMAS. Toys and childrens' books sent to Association, 88 Eccleston Square, London S.W.1., will be most gratefully received by families who cannot afford to buy much for themselves.

11th HUSSARS (PAO) SIGNAL TROOP

This is the first time that the troop has appeared in THE WIRE for some years owing to the fact that the Troop was disbanded when the Regiment took over the duties of a Training Regiment. The Troop was originally with 15/19 The King's Royal Hussars but was re-designated on the 1st of June when the 15/19 Hussars relieved the Regiment in its training role.

During the interim period of the change-over of Regiments we were attached to 213 Signal Squadron (Infantry Brigade) for retraining and we should like to take this opportunity of thanking them for all their assistance and hospitality during our stay with them. At the present moment the majority of the Troop are at Omagh, Co. Tyrone, with H.Q., "A" and "B" Squadrons, leaving Signalmen Bailey and McGilvray at the "sharp end" with "C" Squalron at Castle Archdale, Co. Fermanagh.

We have an Amateur Radio Station, G13NKO, the star operator being Corporal Ford (Ex VS2FN) we are on the air most nights and active on all bands and we would be pleased to Q.S.O. with any other "hams" in the Corps.

We should like to welcome Lance-Corporal Anderson, Signalmen Bailey and Waldron who, we hope, will have a long and happy tour with us.

GERMANY

5th SIGNAL REGIMENT

This summer we have branched out into a sport that is possibly new to the Corps. Under the active guidance of Major Lucas we have been playing softball. We have been fortunate in that the American base at Bremerhaven is close by and the U.S. Navy have been most generous in helping with kit and advice—and hospitality, which gave quite a few of our soldiers an opportunity to see how the other half lives. The general opinion seemed to be that it lived pretty well! On our side we gave a demonstration of cricket before a highly critical audience in Bremerhaven. In spite of a running commentary we feel that our friends were quite defeated by the game, though they have threatened to take it up.

We are not suggesting that softball should be included in the Morrison Cup, though it has advantages over cricket and provides a highly strenuous summer game for a large number of people in a short space of time. And we do not wish to hear any cracks about the Regiment taking up rounders.

We have hardly seen Corporal Raymond Russell in the last few months. He has had a series of swimming successes which culminated in his winning the Army 100 yards butterfly and coming second in the same event in the inter-services competition. We feel sure that Verden is the only town in Germany without a swimming bath so we have not had an opportunity to see Russell in action, but we offer him our congratulations on gaining his B.A.O.R. and Army swimming colours.

We have recently said farewell to Staff Sergeant Deas who tells us that there is a reference to his joining the Regular Army from 52 Division Signal Regiment in THE WIRE of December, 1934. We wish him the best of luck and hope he has not left behind the certificate the Sergeants' Mess gave him.

We have just finished the exercise season with 10 days of beautiful weather and an exercise that some wag re-named the Bore War of 1959. However we now face the administration season with a new General Officer Commanding and two January exercises when it will undoubtedly be snowing.

16th SIGNAL REGIMENT

Former members of the Regiment, who remember Bradbury Barracks as it was, would not recognise it today. Excavations abound, and so far only the square seems to have remained intact, much to the chagrin of those who are forced to use it. We foresee a major effort to put things straight when the Sappers have finished.

Most of the month seems to have been taken up with preparing for, carrying out, and cleaning up after, the year's major exercise. That all enjoyed themselves is beyond doubt —even the Adjutant was turned out for his share of duty, and we have all gained something.

The Cable Troop under Captain Ping, seemed to be well laden on return, but naturally reticent about their off duty labours.

We were pleased to welcome for the period of the exercise Lieutenant-Colonel W. M. Lamb, T.D., with a detachment of 1 (Essex) Signal Regiment T.A. They settled in well, and appeared to enjoy their stay with us. We hope we didn't work them too hard, and we look forward to seeing them again next year.

On the sporting side, teams are getting under way, and the football team under Lieutenant Hopkins, again looks promising. They are resplendent in new gear, and are keen to get to grips with their old opponents.

With a change of command next month, Lieutenant-Colonel W. C. Burke is to leave us on retirement; we are in the throes of stocktaking boards and all manner of checks. In addition we are looking forward to visits by the Representative Colonel Commandant, and the Commander-in-Chief, B.A.O.R. More of that next month.



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21st SIGNAL REGIMENT

The highlight of the past month has undoubtedly been Exercise "Blue Boy" which took the Regiment away from the Station and out into the woods for nearly a week. After all the Troop and Squadron outdoor training which has been carried out this summer, this latest exercise was in the form of a "grand finale" to the Regiment's collective training season.

Throughout the year the C.O. has stressed the need for personnel to "live hard" when taking part in field training exercises, so everyone was amazed (except perhaps the C.O.!) when on his first inspection of a certain Troop area, he found there that a table coffee and rug 6ft. x 3in. had somehow ("quite accidentally I can assure you, sir"!) been included in a vehicle loading table. Needless to say the C.O. in his most tactful manner suggested that perhaps the Troop's AFG 1098 was quite insufficient and should be amended at the first opportunity.

During September we have said good-bye to a number of very old members of the Regiment, particularly Major F. E. Berry, who was our second-in-command, and who has left us on promotion to the School of Signals. We hope that both he and Mrs. Berry will enjoy their stay in Catterick. In his place we have Major L. C. P. Jaggard, who has up to now been commanding No. 1 Squadron. In addition Second-Lieutenants Ufton, Stirk and Millar have left us for civilian life, and Corporal Humphries to 12th Signal Regiment.



Royal Signals Autumn Golf Meeting, 1959 - Signalman Williamson, winner (with Major H. A. Leece, H.Q., B.A.O.R.) of the foursomes match

New arrivals into the Regiment have been Second-Lieutenant Groom who has decided to join his brother David, and Staff Sergeant Flann, our new Chief Clerk, who is now in the process of taking over the reigns from Staff Sergeant Byrne who is going on well-earned promotion to 1 (BR) Corps.

The Regiment has had some successes in the Royal Signals (B.A.O.R.) Autumn Golf Meeting which was held at R.A.F. Station Bruggen on the 28th September. Signalman Williamson and Major Leece (H.Q. B.A.O.R.) were the winners of the foursomes, while Lieutenant E. C. Vulliamy and Second-Lieutenant Allan were the runners-up in the same event.

Although it is a little early in the season to forecast the possible chances of our football team, it is good to see that W.O.I Whitbread has found some excellent talent in the Regiment and is now busy welding it into a well balanced team. In this respect we are lucky in still having a number of the last year's successful team, such as Corporals Robertson and Jackson, Signalmen Patterson, Tansey and Davies. In the first round of the Army Cup to be played on 17th October, we are drawn to play 2nd Battalion The Grenadier Guards on our ground here at Laarbruch.

At the beginning of the month we held a very successful two-day Inter-Troop Rifle and Sterling Competition on the open range at Bruggen. A summary of the results are :—

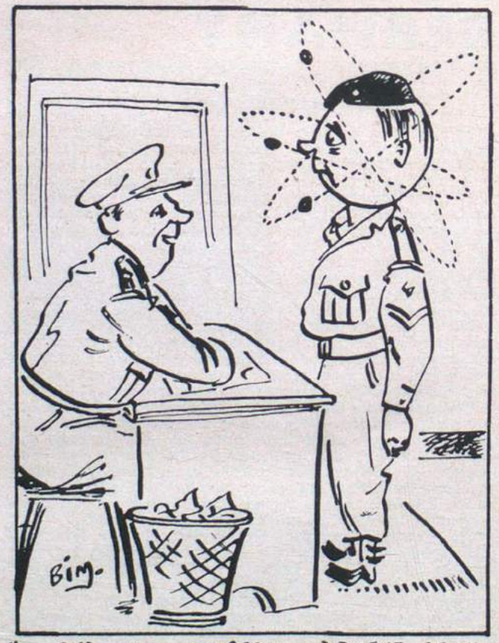
Inter Troop Challenge Cup ...	Winners	7 Line Troop.
	Runners-up	L.A.D.
Best Officer Shot ... ... (Officers' Match)	Winner	Lieut. E. C. Vulliamy.
	Runner-up	Major Rogers.
Best W.O., S/Sgt. or Sgt. Shot (N.C.O.s Match)	Winner	Sgt. Davies (R.A.P.C.).
	Runner-up	Sgt. Batten.
Best Other Rank Shot	Winner	Cpl. Baynes.
	Runner-up	L/Cpl. McLaughlan



221 SIGNAL SQUADRON (AIR FORMATION)

The standing joke concerning our change of designation continues, for since our last notes, in common with most others, we change again to make this our sixth title in two years.

Our major activity has been the Squadron summer camp. At Hameln, in a district largely "owned" by the Royal Engineers, we had both a satisfactory area for our Exercise ("Pied Piper") and enthusiastic support for dabbling in the province of our parent Corps's activities. The photo shows part of the Unit having taken to the boats—we claim a first time for Air Formation Signals. The Chief Air Formation Signal Officer, Colonel D. E. Harrison, O.B.E., and Station Commander, R.A.F. Wildenrath, Group Captain M. D. Lyne, A.F.C., honoured us with a visit, taking advantage of the Army Air Corp's latest toy—the Alouette helicopter—for travelling part way.



Relations with the Royal Air Force, which are normally good, have recently greatly improved after initiative taken by our U.F.O. (Unit Flying Officer), Lieutenant Hinds. Some 30 per cent of the Squadron have been airborne. Difficulties over pressurisation tests prevent many jet flights, but an hour or two flying in a piston aircraft gives a view of Germany not often seen by the Army.

Postings and new arrivals continue with rapidity and in December nearly 100 per cent turnover of Officers will have taken place within twelve months. Recently we have bade farewell to Staff Sergeant Horne and welcomed Sergeants Harvey and Gardner.

228 SIGNAL SQUADRON, SHAPE

This year our Summer "week-end" training camps were extended to four days each to enable Annual Range Classification to be added to the customary programme of initiative and map-reading exercises and P.E. tests.

The first camp was held in mid-June in an ideal wooded site with a French Army rifle range adjacent, near the President's summer residence at Rambouillet. The weather was perfect and all who attended the Camp voted it to be an enjoyable though arduous break from the normal business of manning SHAPE communications.

Unfortunately we were unable to obtain either the same site or weather for the second camp which was held at the end of June in pouring rain, in a field near Maisons Laffitte, with rifle classification conducted in the town in a semi-indoor 200 metre range. Lieutenant Dolan's improved French had to be employed to soothe irate local housewives whose washday routine was disturbed by the noise of successive details firing 10 rounds rapid and stray rounds of .303 whining over the clothes lines.

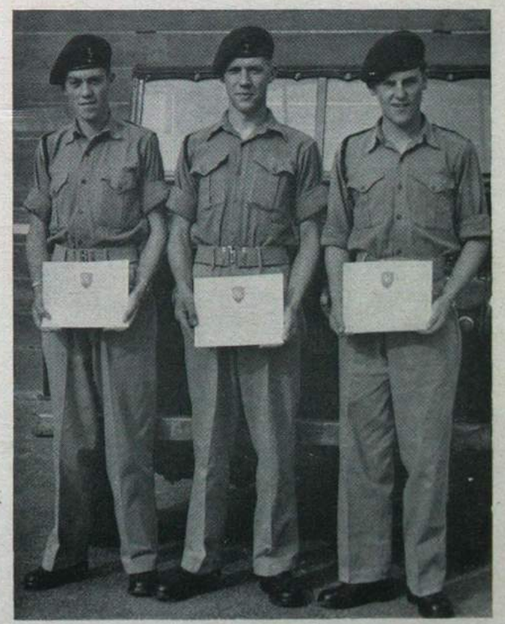


[Photo: Shape Pictorial Section

Major Cheesewright with the Squadron 'A' Team, winners of the British Support Units (SHAPE), Tuborg and Match One, at the Annual Rifle Meeting are : *left to right Front Row*, W.O. II Taylor, Staff Sergeant Coe ; *Back Row* Corporal Bell and Driver Dunnell

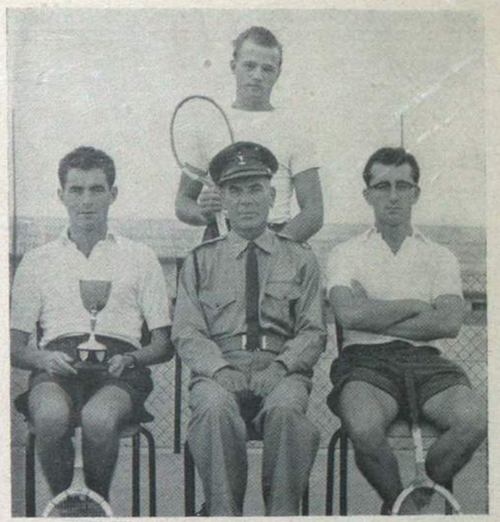
The even tenor of life in Squadron H.Q. was rather disrupted in June and early July by the *Daily Mail* Bleriot Anniversary Race between Marble Arch and the Arc de Troimphe. We were very pleased to be able, by virtue of our location, to assist the Royal Signals organisers and team at the Paris end. There was an infectious air of enthusiasm and excitement at Squadron H.Q. when the Royal Signals competitors made their runs on 15th and 18th July and considerable interest in progress of the Corps team was shown throughout SHAPE.

Driver Reynolds, who was for several weeks assigned with his Landrover to Royal Signals "air race duties," Drivers Dunnell and Nightingale were recently awarded SHAPE certificates for 8,000 miles driving without accident or traffic violation. To obtain such a certificate for driving in and around Paris is no mean achievement.



Drivers of 228 Signal Squadron (SHAPE) with their SHAPE Certificates of Achievement for 8,000 miles of accident free driving are (left to right) Drivers Nightingale, Dunnell and Reynolds

[Photo: Shape Pictorial Section



[Photo: Shape Pictorial Section

Major Prentice, Tennis Officer with members of the 228 Signal Squadron (SHAPE) team, winners of the British Support Units, SHAPE Tennis Competition 1959. Team members are (left to right) Lance Corporal Denison, Corporal Watts (rear) and Signalman Evans. Not present Lance Corporal Walton

The Squadron has continued to maintain its record as winners or runners-up of every inter-unit sporting competition held by the British Support Units, SHAPE, this year.

At the annual Athletics meeting in June we were runners-up for the meeting and winners of the Tug-o'-War. This was followed by a convincing victory for the Squadron team (Corporal Watts, Lance-Corporals Denison and Walton, and Signalman Evans) in the tennis tournament. More recently, our "A" shooting team (Staff Sergeant Coe (captain), Warrant Officer II Taylor, Corporal Bell and Driver Dunnell) has won the principal team prize and a subsidiary one known as the Tuborg Trophy, at the annual rifle meeting.

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Mediterranean

9th SIGNAL REGIMENT

2 Wireless Regiment died, the 9th Signal Regiment was born, on the 1st September, 1959.

The procession was led by a "Juke Box Band." The piano was mounted on a trolley and was pushed by the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel D. T. W. Gibson, and Regimental Sergeant-Major R. W. Scott. Then followed a stretcher, bearing the body of 2 Wireless Regiment, and the remainder of the Regiment.

The solemn procession turned out to be a very high spirited one, and the marching theme "Begone Dull Care" might have appropriately changed to "Beyond All Care" by the time it had reached the bonfire on the Sports Field.

After a short speech on the history of the Regiment, the Commanding Officer lit the bonfire, and the Last Post was played by Signalman Elks. As the fire died down, the strains of a louder Last Post pealed across the pitch. It was our good friends The Royal Ulster Rifles, who afterwards gave a finer display of bugles and pipes. The Barbecue then started.

Earlier this year the Commanding Officer led an expedition to Turkey on the Royal Signals Yacht *Cito*. The crew consisted of the C.S.O., Cyprus Colonel Prince, Captain Williams, Cyprus Signal Regiment, and Second-Lieutenant James, 9th Signal Regiment. The Port visited was Tesucu, and the people proved to be very kind and helpful.

On the 28th July, 1959, we had our Annual Administration Inspection, during which Staff Sergeant Godd was presented with his Long Service and Good Conduct Medal by Brigadier H. C. Baker-Baker, D.S.O., M.B.E.

The Sub-Aqua Club has a very keen following. Recently both Sergeant Day and Lance-Corporal Cable have speared Groupers over 20 lbs.

In eight league tennis matches, the Regiment has won six, and in the Famagusta Area Championships, Lance-Corporal Rowe and Lance-Corporal McLeod won the doubles, with LanceCorporal Phillips a finalist in the singles.

The main item of cricket news is the Final of the Royal Signals Inter-Unit Cup, which we have held for the previous two years. It would be unfair on our opponents, 20th Signal Regiment, to say that the third time was unlucky for us, for they well deserved their win. It was a very close game, and one that both players and spectators enjoyed. We won the toss and elected to bat. Thanks to good innings by Signalman Wills and Signalman Monk, we looked like building up a reasonable score, but the "tail" did not wag and the innings closed at 112. 20th Signal Regiment batted confidently and looked like passing our score with embarrasing ease; then wickets started to fall. With the last man in, Major Buirski—with heroic determination



Brigade Commander inspecting The Quarter Guard. Guard Commander—Sergeant Logan. Others present, Lieutenant-Colonel D. T. W. Gibson, Captain D. G. Pratt and R.S.M. R. W. Scott



Staff Sergeant Godd is presented with his Long Service and Good Conduct Medal

—made the winning hit. Our thanks to 29th Signal Regiment for providing such good facilities, and to 20th Signal Regiment for the excellent game.

Within the Regiment, cricket is drawing to a close and the hockey enthusiasts are trying to move us off "their" pitch. The season will end on a violent note, with the Officers' Mess v. Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess Cricket Match.

15th SIGNAL REGIMENT
Adventurous Training
R.A.F. Yacht "Goldamer" 50 Square Metres

Crew: Lieutenant-Commander Edwards, "Skipper," Second Watch; Second-Lieutenant Compton, "Bosun," First Watch; W.O.II Woolgar, "Mr. Mate," Third Watch; Corporal Irving, "Stoker," First Watch; L/Cpl. Richardson, "Steward," Third Watch; L/Cpl. Poolcy "Moses," Second Watch.

★

Outward Bound Trip — Route: Limassol—Cape Greco—Beirut

On Sunday, 16th August, at 14.15 hours, we set sail from Limassol Harbour. It was decided by the Skipper to sail eastwards until we made contact with Cape Greco lighthouse. As there was a good breeze, we made very good time to Cape Dolos and Zigo. We continued sailing eastwards until we located the light on Cape Kite lighthouse. Soon after, we could see the lights of Dhekelia and so were getting too close inshore. We altered our course to approximately south-east. We found it difficult to locate Greco due to a choppy sea, and it was decided by the Skipper to steer due North to locate Kite, before setting our course for Beirut. After sailing north for half-an-hour, we could make out the flashing light of Kite lighthouse. We then set a course 130 degrees for Beirut. Myself and the Stoker had the first watch, and as the wind by then was quite strong, we made excellent time. Our four hours soon passed, and when the Skipper took over the watch at 23.59 hours, the strong wind had settled in for the remainder of our passage. Unfortunately, in the early hours of the morning, the tiller broke. This caused quite a confusion, but was soon rectified by the Mate and the Steward who bound it together with copper wire and cord.

The coastline of the Lebanon was sighted on Monday at 13.00 hours, but we remained on 130 degrees for another hour. We then changed course to 110 degrees towards the Lebanon coastline to enable us to take a final bearing for our exact location. After we had established our position we set course for Beirut. During the afternoon the Skipper explained to members of the crew the way to use sea charts and how to set a course on the compass, take bearings and plot our positions.

We arrived at Beirut harbour at 17.15 hours and were given a mooring in the Yacht Club for a short stay in Beirut.

During our stay in Beirut members of the crew were made very welcome by the Yacht Club members. They arranged for the tiller to be repaired and provided us with ice and drinking water.

The Stoker, Steward, Moses and myself spent a very enjoyable day visiting Balbek Roman Ruins, and all members were very impressed by the beauty and gracefulness of the architecture. Many hours were spent in Beirut itself, buying presents and souvenirs of the Lebanon and having a general look at modern buildings and highways which have only recently been completed.

★

Return Voyage — Beirut—Cape Greco—Famagusta—Cape Andrea—Kyrenia

We departed from Beirut at 18.30 hours on Thursday, under engine, due to the lack of wind. We remained under motor until 23.00 hours, when the wind then became quite fresh, and we remained on a course of 310 degrees until sighting Cyprus, which was at 18.00 hours on Friday. The wind failed at 18.30 hours, and we therefore had to proceed under engine. That night a Naval Gannet dropped flares about us in order to determine who we were, and what we were doing there. The Skipper exchanged signals with the Gannet with a torch, and soon afterwards the pilot signalled goodnight and left us. The next morning the Skipper signalled to a Minesweeper who happened to be close by, for our position. Unfortunately, we misread their reply, and set course east, instead of west, for Famagusta. Our mistake was soon discovered, and it was decided by the crew to go straight to Kyrenia. The wind was very light in the morning but freshened up in the afternoon. We were soon around Cape Andreas, which is the tip of the Panhandle, and then set sail for Kyrenia.

During Saturday evening we sighted a Minesweeper coming towards us. We all dressed ourselves in our Arab headdresses and armed ourselves with our camel whips. The crew of the Minesweeper were very amused and asked us if we required any provisions. After exchanging a few words they departed and we continued on our way.

The wind remained good throughout the night, although it changed several times from north to west, and we were able to make good progress along the north coast of Cyprus. The next morning a Naval Frigate came alongside and threw us two loaves of bread.

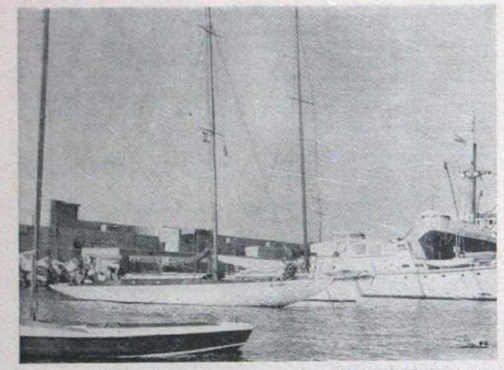
The wind remained good until 30 miles from Kyrenia, where we arrived at 14.30 hours on Sunday.

The Welch Fusiliers, who are stationed at Kyrenia Castle, made us very welcome and we were allowed to use the facilities of their camp.

On Tuesday morning, the Steward, Moses and myself visited St. Helerian Castle. The Stoker remained on board to check over the engine and repair the bilge pump, which had become blocked.

At 16.00 hours that afternoon we set sail for Episkopi, via Paphos, but unfortunately, after leaving the harbour, the

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[Photo by Corporal Irving

The Goldamer in Beirut harbour. She is a 50 square metres yacht of the Windfall class

shackle on the main halyard broke, and we had to return to Kyrenia.

When we returned I, as Bo'sun, climbed the mast and retrieved the broken shackle halyard which had stuck at the top. Soon all was well and after the broken shackle had been replaced, we sailed for Episkopi.

We had excellent winds all the way to the north-west corner but, unfortunately, it died, and we were under engine all Wednesday afternoon, until reaching Paphos.

A port security boat came out at Paphos to see us, but after we had identified ourselves, were allowed to continue to Episkopi.

The wind then blew up from the south-west, as expected, and we made good time along the south coast. During my watch we sighted a cargo boat on the port side at a distance of approximately one mile. When the ship still maintained its course, we shone a torch on the sail. It then gave way and passed half-a-mile aft of us.

At 23.59 hours we could see the lights of Episkopi, but we remained well out to sea, as it was decided upon to anchor at daybreak on Thursday. We dropped anchor off Tunnel Beach, and after tidying up the boat, went ashore for breakfast at the Beach Pavilion.

All members of the crew were told to report back on board by 23.00 hours, as we were sailing for Limassol the next day.

At 08.00 hours we sailed for Limassol, the final stage of our journey, and we arrived in Limassol Harbour at 17.30 hours on Friday. The rest of the evening was spent cleaning and painting the boat to hand over to the R.A.F. next day.

On Saturday morning we sailed for Ladies Mile and arrived at approximately 10.00 hours. *Goldamer* was then returned to the R.A.F. safe and sound.

All members of the crew thoroughly enjoyed the cruise, and I am sure that everybody benefited from the experience gained whilst at sea. The Skipper was very helpful to all and spent plenty of hours explaining to the crew such things as charts, signals, knots and action which should be taken when odd things go wrong. All members are very grateful to Lieutenant-Commander Edwards, R.N., for helping to make the trip a success for the Royal Signals Adventurous Training.

219 SIGNAL SQUADRON (TRIPOLITANIA)

Two hundred and nineteen Signal Squadron, how dull, how prosaic, what a staid, stencilled, steneotyped title compared with Tripolitania Signal Squadron which has a tinge of colour and a slight dash of adventure. Compare too, the exciting virile title of 7th Armoured Division Signal Regiment with 7th Signal Regiment, it's enough to make an old desert rat moult. I suppose someone had a very good reason for re-designating all the units in the Corps, but it was done with very little thought and with George Orwell 1984 imagination. However on with the notes.

Lance-Corporal Lambie, our draughtsman and sports storeman, has got the football kit made for the new season and we are looking forward to as good a season as last when we reached two finals, won one and lost the other by only one goal.

Swimming and skindiving is coming to an end. Some people are convinced that Second-Lieutenant Hicks is growing gills. He has been down 35 feet without oxygen and wants to do 40 feet before he heads for U.K.

Communication-wise we are keeping our noses clean. Phase two of Prinn Project is being glanced at now and then but not physically attacked during the recent ghibbly (hot winds to you). The Wireless Receiver Room has proved very popular with linesmen, D.R.s, drivers, sergeant majors and other non-entitled persons. Air conditioned y'know.

Captain Larrington led about 25 soldiers on a 15-mile hike to Magpie Ranges recently and for days after the topic of conversation was feet and thirsts. Questions are still being asked as to how certain soldiers reached their destination before the Sergeant-Major who, with Sergeant Dale, was the first to arrive there *on foot*. Everybody agreed that the swim at the end of the march was worth all the blistering and sweat. We're going again and again.

Things we want to know:

Why does the Sergeant-Major still collect money for WIRES we've never had? Who is the married soldier who claimed disturbance allowance when the Squadron changed its designation?

Magpie Marching Moans

Blistered feet, prickly heat,
Oh what joy, how sweet
To rest on a seat
By a pub in a street
In England.

Pint of beer would be sheer
Delight, but out here
There's no fear of some cheer
In a glass, but a peer
At a pub (hear! hear!)
In England.

Clothes stuck to my back,
A ton in my pack,
My hat's like a sack,
What I'd give to be back
On a one gallon track
In England.

Sand in my throat
Getting my goat
Make a mental note
Never to vote
For a match but a boat
To Magpie.

223 SIGNAL SQUADRON (GIBRALTAR)

What with civilianisation and change of title of the Squadron speculations are running high on the Rock as to what is the future of Royal Signals here. Military members of the unit are constantly being pestered with questions such as when are you going? When do Signals leave the Rock? Who the blazes do they think will maintain communications if we should pull out! Dammit! all we've done is to put a few "HA" linemen into "bowlers," otherwise business is as usual and will be for many moons to come.

Just to prove we are not fading away we have signed on another soldier, John West, for the Corps. (That foxed the "A" branch boys. They'd been sending in a "nil" return for attestations for so long that they didn't know what it was all about!). What's more he's not just another soldier! He's rather a special one, being the third generation of West.



The West(ernisation) of Signals

John "West" being attested for Boy Service with Royal Signals. Major West-Watson is reading the form of Attestation whilst W.O. II "West" (John's father) looks on.

John's grandfather, Bill West, started his army career in the Territorial Army in 1912, as a young lad of 15, three years after its formation.

As a regular he stayed on after the 1914 mobilisation and with the East Surreys saw action against the Turks in the Suez Canal zone and at Gallipoli.

After the war, as a regimental signaller, he was one of the first to volunteer for transfer to the Royal Signals, then being formed as a separate Corps. He retired as Major (T.O.T.) W. A. West, M.B.E., A.M.I.E.E., in November, 1956, after 45 years' service. Johns father, Ken West, joined "F" Company boys in May, 1937. During the war he saw service in India and Burma, and is now W.O.II K. S. West, S.S.M. of this Squadron. Now John has signed on the dotted line, and joined the Army Apprentices School, Harrogate, to be trained in electronic trades for Royal Signals, and so continue this unbroken family service with the Corps, which has been going on since the Corps was formed, some 39 years ago. Good luck to you John, and may you follow in your father's and grandfather's footsteps. Incidentally, here's a challange, can any other serving family in the Corps beat this record?

Commander Royal Signals Singapore

By Britannia and Nevasa
Office staffs they come and go
Staff Grivoel to the Depot
Mr. Harfield to Southco

Sergeant Smith comes in vice Grivoel
Now returned to climates cool
Seated now in chair of Chief Clerk
Mr. Rothwell from the School.

18th Signal Regiment

The Royal Signals Singapore Motor Cycle Trials were held in the Pasir Panjang and Ulu Pandan area on Saturday, 12th September, 1959.

The invitation classes were well supported and the following units in the Federation of Malaya sent representatives: 17th (Gurkha) Signal Regiment, 208 (Commonwealth) Signal Squadron, 230 Signal Squadron and the Army Air Corps.

Unfortunately for both riders and officials, the weather, after a promising start, failed to hold good. Competitors, beside having to compete with a somewhat stiff course also had to battle with the elements.

The result of the Royal Signals Triangular Competition was a win for Princess Mary Barracks.

The Invitation Team Championship resulted in a win for the R.A.S.C. School, FARELF, who also provided the best individual, Lance-Corporal Ahmad, R.A.S.C., who no doubt will also prove his abilities in the Singapore Base District Motor Cycle Championships to be held on 3rd October, 1959.

The President, Lieutenant-Colonel A. J. Blower, T.D., presented the prizes and congratulated the riders on their performance and the officials on their organisation.

This month we said "bon Voyage" to Major and Mrs. R. H. Stewart and welcome Major and Mrs. L. D. Line to Singapore.

237 Signal Squadron (Comcan)

Not only has the Squadron changed its name it seems to have changed about half the personnel.

We have said au revoir to a number of old friends. Staff Sergeant Johnson, Sergeants Rodger and Hinchcliffe have gone home. So has Lance-Corporal Gillan of the "Chain Gang" skiffle group and many others. Sergeant Nicholas has gone to B.A.O.R. He is greatly missed, for in addition to his shooting and staunch support of social functions he also used to write these notes. However, he left a sample of his work which is published on page 292. Congratulations to you chaps in 5th Signal Regiment on having R.S.M. Woodbridge. He also recently left here.

In their places we welcome S.S.M.s Gardiner and Appleyard, R.Q.M.S. Gerrard, Staff Sergeant Weir, S.Q.M.S. Howe, Sergeants Cairns and Mabbott, Corporal Birtles, also lots of keen young men, from whom great things are expected when their knees brown.

Signalman Hillhouse led the soccer team to victory in the Inter-Squadron Cup, supported by Lance-Corporal McMeekin, Corporal Hambleton, Lance-Corporal Bradshaw (R.E.M.E.), Signalman Downes, Lance-Corporal Gillespie, Signalman Hyndman, Lance-Corporal Hill, Corporal Waddingham, Lance-Corporal Harvey (R.E.M.E.) and Lance-Corporal Myles. Well done.

W.O.II Daw is fitting sound to his film projector, Sergeant Graham emerges from his beloved E 10s occasionally—to work his ham rig. Corporal Humphries is still making radio controlled model aircraft, and Sergeant Threlfall is busy constructing Hi-Fi loudspeakers.

Corporal Nicholls decided to show that the A.C.C. are not to be underestimated and built himself a receiver. Now that Signalman Wyatt has produced an electronic egg-timer he is jealously guarding his kitchen against other ambitious technicians.

Must dash—VIP visit imminent. More next time.

249 Signal Squadron (Reserve)

Once again we waved good-bye to detachments of HF Wireless Troop, off to North Borneo (they love it—can't think why) this time to Sandakan by Beverley Aircraft. Communications have been "Solid" ever since we are glad to know. Another diversion for the self same troop was provided by the cruise of Xarifa (reported elsewhere in the FARELF notes). Apart from having Signalman Keenan, heavily disguised as an able seaman, aboard her, they had the task of working daily wireless schedules from Princess Mary Barracks. If there had been any prize money, I reckon they earned their share.

An island-wide I.S. Exercise, the longest yet, gave the I.S. Troop plenty to do a few week-ends back—and very well they did it too. It's all routine they say, but the unexpected can always be relied upon to happen. S.S.M. Essay's broken leg has mended well enough for the family to fly home at last. The last amendment said 11th Signal Regiment. We are still wondering.

Captain Simms-Reeve has also moved, but only down the road into the somewhat rarified atmosphere of G.H.Q. from where no doubt he will cast a benevolent eye of his proteges, Radio Relay Troop and the Squadron Soccer team.

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Lanyards. Made to your specifications.
Lanyards White. 12/- per dozen.
Blanco Blocks, all shades 78/- per gross.
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To keep the tail end up, Corporal Taffinder shot his way to 2nd place in the Junior Ranks and was 3rd Individiual Rifle Shot in the Royal Signals Rifle Meeting. Corporals Eckersley, Syed Bakar and Signalman Grove did well under appalling conditions in the Royal Signals Singapore Motor Cycle Trials.

Operating Squadron Royal Signals

Off the North Coast of Singapore, and close to the Mainland of Johore, is a large narrow island called Pulau Ubin. Not a paradise exactly, but away from smoke, noise, and petrol fumes. From here with its vast natural quarries, came and still comes, most of the stone for the roads of Singapore, and in particular for the construction of the new civil Airport at Paya Lebar. To accommodate the workers, small self-contained camps, housing about one hundred were built. The Squadron together with our neighbours, Line Squadron, obtained the use of one of these camps and in the course of the last three weeks, nearly every member has had seven days "Change of Air," and thoroughly enjoyed it.

The idea was first formed with a desire to get shift workers away from their routine and air conditioning, for a few days, and to do some military training, relax and enjoy the sunshine, bathing, boating and fishing, facilities that the camp offers. Being organised on a three composite troop basis, we were able to go on to two shift working at the Signal Centre (pretty arduous) and take one Troop away at a time.

Camp Commandant, and his 2 i/c, Corporal Ros, together with very efficient cooks provided good food for all nationalities, film shows and the hundred and one necessities of life in the raw. The military training consisted mainly of performing their Physical Efficiency Tests under ideal conditions, plus a certain amount of "Jungle Bashing" in addition. Plenty of games and sport, including water polo, and of course no shortage of "Anchor." NAAFI were very co-operative in providing a small canteen, and the daily supply of ice made certain that heated activities could be suitably cooled by the amber liquid.

Certainly worth the effort and administrative problems involved and to all was done "a little good."

Signal Training Centre (Far East)

September has seen the departure of the Administrative Officer, Major Stewart. He will be missed in STC (FE) and we all wish him and his family good luck in their new station in U.K. Major L. D. Line, our new O.C., has arrived and is already assessing the yachting situation. He is no stranger to FARELF and we are sure he will enjoy his stay here.

Our D.R. team have done very well in the Royal Signals and R.A.S.C. Trials and we are hoping that they will do equally well in the Army Trials which take place the day after these notes are being written.

ANON REPORT

Dear Sir,

I had a shufty at your little Blue Box that came into the workshops the other day, and herewith the results of my findings.

There is a distinct lack of oil on the rear hinge, and the cloth that covers the speakers seems to savour of moth. This may be eliminated by the simple means of ripping cloth out, this incidently could be done for you at Base Workshops if you fill in the necessary proforma.

On closer inspection I noticed that the arm seemed to swing straight across the machine towards the little hole in the centre, and during its orbit it was leaving a clean cut line across the black disc which was lying there. This disc is there to protect the round rubber plate which I discovered underneath. I have stopped this happening by the simple method of tying the arm to the sides of the machine with an army boot lace, which was supplied for gratis by our obliging R.Q.M.S.

I do feel that you should not attach any great importance to the smoke that you say you found coming out of the gas vents at the side of the machine. This we have found happens with the control knobs in all positions, and is obviously a recent innovation put in by the manufacturers. I should imagine this would be to eliminate the chance of you watching television at the same time that you should be listening to your radiogram.

I don't wish to try and blind you with science, but I have found that the attenuation is only working at three-fifths of what it should, this would result in Beethoven's Fifth sounding like his Third, so may I suggest that you change the cover on the record accordingly and bash on regardless.

By the way, we had to remove the dead mouse that we found in the back otherwise we could not have got at the works. We do hope that you were not saving it for any special reason.

I also discovered that the left-hand control knob had a bad habit of stopping when turned to the left, that is anti-clockwise. This has now been overcome and you can keep turning it round, and round, and round, to your heart's content. We hope the children find this handy as well as yourself. The woodwork that the casing is made of is the very best, but I am afraid we have to admit that we have not come into contact with this type before. Could you please enlighten us as to what the trade-mark stands for, i.e. BEST JAFFA.

The little cream coloured switch, just inside the lid with all the numbers on it was found to be faulty, quite obviously you cannot play any record at three speeds. I have overcome this by wiring up the switch in series with itself, and you will now find that the machine only runs at one speed. This, for your information, is one hundred and fifty-six and one-third R.P.M. which figure is reached by adding all the little numbers together, quite simple really.

We also found that the best results were found when you tilted the machine on its side, and faced it three degrees off magnetic North. This counteracts the twist on the Stylus, and we also found that the machine took up so much less room on the table.

You probably noticed that you have two speakers inside, one of which is put there in case the other one breaks down. Well, I found that they were both playing together.—They aren't now—we cut the wires. As a matter of fact, sir, neither of them are working now so before I finish this report, may I advise you that when you use the Army type earphones which we will lend you temporarily, that you use them for only a few minutes each day, with a wet tea towel placed between the top of your head and the holding bracket, and I then almost guarantee you good listening for as long as you have the wireless on.

Yours hopefully, MECH.

Turn-About with DAVE CARTER

Million Dollar Contract

Young American singer Bobby Darin, who is currently hitting the top-pop jackpot with his version of *Mack The Knife*—rock record for London, where the guitars don't predominate—has signed a movie contract.

Paramount Pictures of Hollywood will pay Darin more than a million dollars for starring in at least one show every twelve months. He will be allowed to feature in other companies' productions. These same studios have Elvis on their books.

* * *

X-Certificate Disc

Paddy Roberts has penned many top-spinners for groove-cutters, but on the *Decca* LP, *Strictly For Adults*, he has decided to sing some of the numbers. Many of them dear old auntie B.B.C. will never broadcast.

One of the tracks is called "The Big Dee-Jay," and it goes something like this: *"I get the new records as soon as they come in, then pick out the ones that cause the most din. And the fools go out and buy everything I spin . . ."*

Although full of wit, I feel it's dangerous to bite the hand that feeds. Lovers of the off-beat will get their money's worth from this disc.

* * *

Army Boxer Hits Out

Mike Preston was once ex-London Army middleweight champion, and *Decca* think they've got a winner with his terrific double, *Mr. Blue* and *Just Ask Your Heart*. As I write, these two tracks are among the top twenty on the Stateside charts.

The *Mr. Blue* side is sung with charming sincerity, tunefully supported by Harry Robinson and orchestra—not forgotting a sweet-voiced female chorus.

The flip side is bright and breezy. Preston gets in the groove and hits out with a bounce when he says *Just Ask Your Heart*. This platter is definitely a two-for-the-price-of-one spin.

* * *

Big Sound, Big Line-up

T.V. isn't plugging the big-noise shows any more, but for the fans of B.B.C.'s "Drumbeat" series *Parlophone* have issued an LP which captures the frantic atmosphere of those thirty fast-moving minutes of rock entertainment. All the resident performers are "with it," including Adam Faith—they call him a British James Dean—Sylvia Sands, and Bob Miller and the Miller Men. As a bonus, there's Dennis Lotis—probably the most sophisticated artiste on this twelve inches of glittering wax.

* * *

Some Small Spins

Country and Western songs are on the up and up. Most of the labels are getting on the wagon-train in this direction. From *RCA* comes the good old-fashioned tear-jerker, *Old Shep*, by Hank Snow.

Meantime, on *Coral*, the McGuire Sisters, reigning queens of feminine close-harmony, follow up their last big-money earner, *May You Always*, with *Red River Valley*. These gals are assured of another top-spinner.

* * *

A Fine Tribute to Gershwin

Phillips secured the exclusive rights of the sound-track from Samuel Goldwyn's multi-million dollar movie of George Gershwin's immortal *Porgy and Bess*. Now, this superb collection of words and music is available in disc shape, packaged in a 12-page, full-colour album of photographs from the screen production.

Of all the LP's based on the famous opera, none has captured so vividly the moods of Catfish Row's inhabitants. Cab Calloway sings the part of "Sportin' Life"—a rôle originally written for him by Gershwin, while a fantastic cast including Pearl Bailey, Dorothy Dandridge and Sydney Poitier do more than justice to a breath-taking score.

As Mrs. Dorothy Hayward, widow of the author who wrote the book on which "Porgy" is based, said: *"I have never heard the music performed so magnificently."*

Without a shadow of doubt, this record will sky-rocket to the top of the best-selling long-players' list.

SHOOTING and SPORT

ROYAL SIGNALS, CHESTER, SMALL ARMS MATCH

11th Signal Regiment v. 241 Signal Squadron and H.Q. A.E.R. Royal Signals

On Friday, 25th September, 1959, the Annual Meeting, locally known as "Blacon v. Saighton," was fired on Sealand Ranges. Under splendid weather conditions the match was "a damned close run thing" with Saighton the eventual winners by the narrowest of margins. The standard of shooting was high, and the overall match result was decided on Snap and Rapid practices at 300 yards in Match II. Here two of the best Blacon shots had a momentary lapse and were heard afterwards busily explaining that the light/wind/timing/stoppage/O i/c Firing Point/O i/c Butts/Rifle went wrong at the crucial moment.

The SMC Match was a tie on points, decided in Blacon's favour by a better score on the first practice at longer range.

Lieutenant J. Stockhill, of 11th Signal Regiment, was the champion shot with an aggregate on the rifle practice of 282 out of a possible 340 points.

R.S.M. T. A. Vaughan, of H.Q. A.E.R. Royal Signals, is understood to have framed his "possible" at 500 yards, and hung it over the sideboard.

To the consternation of all (except themselves) the Blacon "B" Team managed to knock out the stars in the falling plate match, against the odds.

The prizes were presented by Brigadier C. N. Nettleship, O.B.E., T.D., C.S.O. Western Command.

The List of Prizewinners

Class A Rifle Match	Winner	R.Q.M.S. Haydon	(S)
	Second	R.S.M. T. A. Vaughan	(B)
	Third	Sergeant McIssacs	(S)
Class B Rifle Match	Winner	Corporal Lawrence	(B)
	Second	Lance-Corporal Mitchell	(S)
Match 1 Rifle	Winner	Second-Lieut. G. D. Thomas	(B)
	Second	Major A. E. Scaife	(B)
	Third	R.S.M. T. A. Vaughan	(B)
Match 2 Rifle	Winner	Lieutenant J. Stockhill	(S)
	Second	Corporal Lawrence	(B)
	Third	R.Q.M.S. Haydon	(S)
Rifle Matches Team	Saighton Camp		
SMC Match	Winner	Lieutenant J. Stockhill	(S)
	Second	R.Q.M.S. Haydon	(S)
	Third	Staff Sergeant Good	(B)
SMC Match Team	Blacon Camp		
Highest Score in any Practice		R.S.M. Vaughan Possible 500 yards.	(B)
Falling Plates	Winners	Blacon "B"	
	Runners-Up	Saighton "A"	
Pistol Match	Winner	Major D. Hutley	(S)
	Second	Major A .E. Scaife	(B)
Champion Shot (Rifle)	Winner	Lieutenant J. Stockhill	(S)
	Runner-Up	Corporal Lawrence	(B)
Challenge Bowl		Saighton Camp.	

EASTERN COMMAND ROYAL SIGNALS T.A. RIFLE MEETING, 1959

For the second year running the Eastern Command Royal Signals T.A. Rifle Meeting held on 20th September, 1959, at Pirbright Ranges, were blessed with a fine sunny day. Nearly 200 all ranks from some ten different Signal Regiments competed with competition keen and scores high.

The Meeting was organised most successfully by the 55th (M) Signal Regiment T.A. with assistance from 239 Signal Squadron (Eastern Command) and 605 Signal Troop (London District) who provided a large butt party and P.A. equipment. The messes and canteens were provided most successfuly by 65th Signal Regiment T.A.

The shooting throughout was rather dominated by the 40th Signal Regiment (Mx. Yeo.) T.A. who in the end won two of the individual competitions, the unit team competition, the Unit Challenge Trophy and were runners-up in the Falling Plate Competition.

At the close of the Meeting, the Chairman, Brigadier W. R. Smijth-Windham, C.B.E., D.S.O., A.D.C., C.S.O. Eastern Command, congratulated those responsible for running the Meeting, then Mrs. W. R. Smijth-Windham kindly presented the prizes and trophies.

The Meeting was closed by the Chief Umpire, Lieutenant-Colonel P. G. Curry, O.B.E., Royal Signals, C.S.O. London District, leading the cheers for Mrs. W. R. Smijth-Windham.

The results were:—

(a) *Unit Challenge Trophy*
40th Signal Regiment (Middlesex Yeomanry), T.A.

(b) *Unit Individual Championship Cup*
56th (City of London) Signal Regiment, T.A.

(c) *Open Individual Competition* (Possible 80)

	Score
1 Sergeant Thomas, 56th (City of London) Signal Regiment, T.A.	75
2 Captain Oliver, 47th (London) Signal Regiment, T.A.	71
3 Sergeant Hornby, 65th Signal Regiment, T.A.	70

(d) *Young Soldiers' Competition* (Possible 80)

1 Signalman Cannon, 40th Signal Regiment (Middlesex Yeomanry) T.A.	61
2 Corporal Denver, 41st Signal Regiment (Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment), T.A.	57

(e) *Permanent Staff Competition* (Possible 80)

1 Sergeant Waumsley, 40th Signal Regiment (Middlesex Yeomanry) T.A.	65
2 Major Bound, 41st Signal Regiment (Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment), T.A.	62

(f) *W.R.A.C. Competition* (Possible 50)

1 Second-Lieutenant Isemonger, 62nd (M) Signal Regiment, T.A.	36
2 Private E. Hurley, 55th (M) Signal Regiment, T.A.	32

(g) *Cadets Competition* (Possible 65)

1 Corporal Parkins, 54th (EA) Signal Regiment, T.A.	44
2 Lance-Corporal Sloan, 56th (City of London) Signal Regiment, T.A.	35

(h) *Unit Team Competition* (Possible 260)

1 40th Signal Regiment (Middlesex Yeomanry), T.A., "A" Team	183
2 65th Signal Regiment, "A" Team	146

(i) *Falling Plate Knock-out Competition*
1 44th (Home Counties) Signal Regiment, T.A.
2 40th Signal Regiment (Middlesex Yeomanry), T.A.

SCOTTISH COMMAND ROYAL SIGNALS RIFLE MEETING, 1959

The annual Rifle Meeting of Royal Signals Scottish Command was held at Dreghorn Rifle Ranges on 19th/20th September, 1959. The weather conditions were quite favourable except for a strong changing wind.

Two Regimental teams, 61st (M) Signal Regiment T.A. and 52nd (L) Signal Regiment T.A., shot in the Lord Lieutenants' Challenge Shield and Mercury Cup Match on Saturday, 19th September, 1959. Registers have been forwarded to T.A.R.A., London.

The essence of this match is the correct use of time and considerable pre-match practice is required.

The Command Matches were fired off on Sunday, 20th September, 1959, and the entries were very good. Ten teams entered for the Scottish Command Corps Shield and Hardy Challenge Cup for the best individual shot. In addition there were 12 individual entries. The Falling Plates Competition as usual was well supported by entries from twenty-one teams and keenly contested. Over one hundred firers took part in the various competitions. The Pool Bull and .22 RF Best Card shoot attracted many competitors.

The results were as follows:—

Scottish Command Corps Shield

Shield and Medals to Winning Team :

1st	242 Signal Squadron	471 points
2nd	52nd (L) Signal Regiment T.A. "C" Team	456
3rd	61st (M) Signal Regiment T.A. "A" Team ...	445

Hardy Challenge Cup

Cup and Replica : Winner, Staff Sergeant (F. of S.), J. J. E. Le Butt, 242 Signal Squadron 74

Young Soldiers' Medal

Winner, Corporal G. Petrie, 321 Signal Squadron T.A. 72

Falling Plates Competition

Medals to Winning Team: Winner, 61st (M) Signal Regiment T.A. "D" Team.
Runners-Up, 51st (H) Signal Regiment T.A. "C" Team.
321 Signal Squadron T.A. "A" Team.

Pool Bulls

Major H. E. Lang, 52nd (L) Signal Regiment T.A.
Sergeant H. Orton, 61st (M) Signal Regiment T.A.
Corporal A. King, 242 Signal Squadron.
Signalman S. Truelove, 51st (H) Signal Regiment T.A.

.22 Best Targets

1st Corporal A. King, 242 Signal Squadron.
2nd Corporal S. Swan, 321 Signal Squadron T.A.

At the conclusion of a well supported and enjoyable meeting the prizes were presented by Brigadier J. N. Barker, O.B.E., Chief Signal Officer, who complimented all present on their keenness and expressed the hope that ever increasing support for the meeting would lead to improvement in the results and added keenness in shooting generally. It also had a very considerable value in that representatives of all T.A. Regiments and Squadrons, who were the welcome guests of the Regular Squadron, did meet once a year at a function which all enjoyed.

The C.S.O. congratulated all concerned with the arrangements for the Meeting, especially 242 Signal Squadron who, despite their depleted numbers owing to establishment cuts, put on an excellent show which contributed in no small way to the general success of the two-day Rifle Meeting.

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ROYAL SIGNALS HOCKEY

The first Corps match of the 1959/60 hockey season was played at Catterick Camp on the 26th September, 1959, as usual, against The Thistles. They produced a strong side under the Scottish International A. Innes, and we did well to draw with them, the score being one goal all.

Playing conditions were perfect and both teams got into their stride at once; all players gave the impression that they had been playing for weeks and there was no indication of any beginning of season uncertainty. There were two newcomers in the Corps side, Lieutenant N. Moss, inside left, and Sergeant R. S. Briggs at centre forward, and these two, together with the whole team, quickly settled down to play good fast hockey. There were several very good combined movements among the forwards and from one of these Lieutenant A. B. Byng opened the scoring early in the second half. At this stage of the game we deserved to be in the lead, we had most of the territorial advantage and on the whole we had played the better hockey; later however our standard of playing fell away slightly and during the last twenty minutes of the game The Thistles looked the better side. It was about ten minutes before the end that D. Hopkins, the Irish International, scored for them from a long corner. It was a very good game and nobody would have complained if Royal Signals had in fact won.

ROYAL SIGNALS OFFICERS GOLFING SOCIETY

Autumn Meeting, 1959

The Autumn Meeting was held at Worplesdon Golf Club on 28th, 29th and 30th September, 1959. Thirty members took part in the meeting.

Mrs. M. A. Charlton kindly presented the prizes at the end of the third day.

Royal Signals Open Championship
Winner: Major S. Schofield.
Runner-up: Major-General E. S. Cole, C.B.E.

Royal Signals Regular Officers' Cup
Winner: Major S. Schofield.
Runner-up: Major-General E. S. Cole, C.B.E.

Individual Challenge Cup (Stableford)
Winner: Captain J. B. Prince.
Runner-up: Major-General A. E. Morrison, C.B., O.B.E.

Handicap Challenge Cup
Winner: Major C. V. Walsh.
Runner-up: Major S. Schofield.

Veterans' Trophy
Winner: Colonel B. G. Rowley.
Runner-up: Major-General Sir Leslie Phillips, K.B.E., C.B., M.C.

Foursomes Challenge Cup
Winners: Major-General E. S. Cole, C.B.E., and Major C. V. Walsh.
Runners-up: Brigadier W. C. V. Galwey, O.B.E., M.C., and Lieutenant-Colonel T. J. F. Fuller.

Match v. R.M.A.S.

This match was played at Camberley Heath on the 4th October, 1959, with the following results:

SINGLES

Royal Signals		*R.M.A.S.*	
Major Walsh	0	O/Cadet Winckley ...	7/6 1
Major Brown	0	O/Cadet Gascoigne ...	7/6 1
Colonel Linton	0	O/Cadet Hill	8/6 1
Colonel Winckley	0	O/Cadet Gibb	1 Up 1
Major-General Morrison	2/1 1	O/Cadet Kenney	... 0
Major-General Phillips	0	O/Cadet Hathorne ...	4/3 1
Colonel Rowley	0	O/Cadet Drew	1 Up 1
	1		6

FOURSOMES

Royal Signals		*R.M.A.S.*	
Major Walsh	0	O/Cadet Winckley	1
Major Brown		O/Cadet Hill	
Colonel Linton	0	O/Cadet Gascoigne	1
Colonel Winckley		O/Cadet Gibb	
Major Scott	½	O/Cadet Hathorne	½
Major-General Phillips		O/Cadet Kenney	
Major-General Morrison ...	1	Lieutenant-Colonel Oborne ...	0
Colonel Rowley		O/Cadet Drew	
	1½		2½

R.M.A.S. won by 8½ matches to 2½.

SAILING

The Corps Yacht Club has six Fireflies for charter in the U.K. Three are based on Catterick and the remaining three may be taken where the charterer wishes. The cost of chartering is £20 for the season. Anyone wishing to charter a boat for the 1960 season, or desiring further information, should write to the Captain of Dinghies, H.Q. Mess, Catterick Camp.

CYPRUS

Annual Triangular Dinghy Match

The annual triangular dinghy match between R.A./R.E./Royal Signals in the Middle East was sailed in Fireflies at Episkopi on 28th September.

Each Corps provided four crews, the Royal Signals helmsmen being Lieutenant-Colonel D. T. W. Gibson, Majors E. McK. Erskine and E. Glover, Captain T. E. Grice.

The first race was sailed in very light conditions and was notable for a bold decision by Erskine to stand on alone out to sea. The first three home were R.A./R.E./Royal Signals and the total points, after a protest against a Sapper, R.A. 41½, Royal Signals 41, R.E. 28.

The wind freshened a little for the second race and for a time Erskine and Gibson led the field, closely pursued by four Sappers. Then disaster struck, Erskine and Glover retired and Gibson was disqualified for trying to establish close hauled rights, which have disappeared under the new rules. Royal Signals only accrued 18 points for this race, which left them in a hopeless position.

The last race was a bustling two rounds of our small triangle in a rising wind. Gibson and Erskine led the field, this time to cross the line in that order. Grice was sixth but Glover was unfortunately disqualified for an early start. A good race in which Royal Signals were first, but did not gain enough points to recover from the disasters of the second race. The final points were R.A. 113½, R.E. 109½, Royal Signals 98½.



Lady Bower presenting a prize to Major Erskine with Colonel Crichton in the background between them.

T.A.

53rd (WELSH) SIGNAL REGIMENT (T.A.)

It is exactly three years this October that WIRE Notes for this Regiment appeared, with nobody but ourselves to blame! So much has happened during this period of time that it would be a virtual impossibility to chronicle all the events that have taken place. During this time many of the old faces have gone, whilst a tremendous number of new ones have appeared. In the three years the Regiment has almost tripled its volunteer strength.

The annual camp at Cark in 1956 catered for less than 120, 1957 saw little change, whilst at Lulworth in 1958 the camp held slightly over 200. This year, however, out of a total strength of 360, there were only 32 unable to attend. The diversity of Signal Trades within the Regiment were used to the full, engaged in Divisional and local Exercises, whilst the latest recruits underwent realistic and useful basic training culminating in a commendable "Pass-Out" Parade before the Commanding Officer. During the whole period of camp one attribute was foremost—applicable to Officers and men alike—and this was "enthusiasm." A unique situation arose during camp inasmuch as the Regiment arrived with one Commanding Officer and departed with another. On this occasion a reluctant farewell was bade to Lieutenant-Colonel V. F. A. Thorpe, who has commanded the Regiment for the past three years and who, incidentally, has served in every rank from Signalman to Lieutenant-Colonel within the Regiment.

For those who have had, may still have or who are likely to have, ties or connections with the Regiment, it may well be interesting to note the present composition. Firstly, the title has changed to that as given at the commencement of these notes—a very recent innovation. Commanded by a Territorial Officer—Lieutenant-Colonel R. S. P. Forbes, T.D., assisted by a Regular Army Training Major in the person of Major A. D. Inglis, with the mystery of stores efficiently supervised by Major (Q.M.) F. P. Walker, the Officer strength is 28. The Sergeants' Mess, under the watchful eye and energetic hands of R.S.M. G. Carter, is 55 strong, whilst a Regimental Canteen caters for 278 Corporals and below. R.H.Q., H.Q., 1 and 2 Squadrons are at the T.A. Centre, Park Street, Cardiff, the first including Major D. W. Cottrell as Second-in-Command of the Regiment, and the others commanded respectively by Captain E. P. Linton, Majors V. R. Lewis, Major H. C. Clifford. No. 3 Squadron is at Malpas Barracks, Newport, Monmouthshire, under the command of Captain K. C. Russell. No. 2 Squadron have also "X" and "N" Troops detached at Swansea, under the control of Lieutenant R. N. R. P. James. The Permanent Staff team, for the present, consists of S.S.M.s Clarke, Graveling, Doherty and Caplan, Staff Sergeants Rushbrook and Baker and Sergeant Higgs. The Regiment is unfortunate insofar as Staff Sergeant Rushbrook is departing shortly after nearly four years' association with the Unit, and S.S.M. Clarke departs next month to take up duty as R.S.M. with 57 (M) Signal Regiment (T.A.). To the Units who are receiving these gentlemen we would say that your gain is decidedly our loss.

For the first time for quite a few years our miniature range teams failed to get into the first three in the Western Command Shoot, but if the skill can match the enthusaism, then the 53rd should fill all three this season.

In closing, mention should be made of the Cardiff Branch of the Royal Signals Association, which meets every last Saturday of the month in the Sergeants' Mess, Park Street, Cardiff.

59th (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT (T.A.)

Our absence from the pages of this magazine has by no means been accompanied by an absence of activity and achievement within the Regiment. In this article of ours some attempt is made to present a brief picture of happenings and items of interest since January this year.

Our year opened with the good news that Sergeant E. M. Bruce, W.R.A.C. (T.A.), had been awarded the B.E.M. in the New Year's Honours List. We do not intend to review the T.A. career of Sergeant Bruce in these columns, suffice to say: Congratulations, Sergeant Bruce, and well done!

Armed with the knowledge that our annual camp was to be held early in May, we settled down to some serious Troop training right from the beginning of the year. Our T.A. Centres became positive hives of industry.

March brought us the sad news of the posting of our Adjutant, Major H. A. Waterworth, to duty in Cyprus. (It was strongly rumoured at the time that Archbishop Makarios got wind of this posting, and the fact that the situation out there was cleared up immediately prior to Major Waterworth's arrival would tend to support this).

Our new Adjutant, Major P. Ashlin, arrived the same month after service in Germany. Major Ashlin has had previous experience of the T.A. and, therefore, understands our problems and peculiarities.

In April a drill squad of our W.R.A.C. entered for the North West District Drill Competition, our first attempt at this type of adventure. Although our young ladies did not win the day, they were defeated by a very narrow margin.

May saw us at Scarborough for annual camp. The resort was out of season so far as holidaymakers were concerned, and we virtually had the place to ourselves. However, the weather could not have been better and, let's face it, the elements can make or break a camp.

This year the emphasis was on practical training in the form of two exercises. Here, at the culmination of a year's classroom training, the lessons were put to the test. The proverbial "clangers" were, of course, dropped—one or two of them resounding with impetus, but we worked and tried hard and found our weaknesses, and our strength. A great spirit of rivalry developed between Nos. 1 and 2 Squadron which, it is felt, served to increase the overall efficiency of the Regiment, and in the back ground H.Q. Squadron did a rattling good job.

One of several highlights was the visit of our new C.S.O., Brigadier C. Nettleship, O.B.E., T.D., who found us hard at it on the moors at Fylingdale and at York.

During the year, under the guidance of Lieutenant R. R. Morrison, a Rifle team has been formed, and in the West Lancashire Small Bore League we lost only one match, and came second in our division. In the Western Command League we came 7th.

In the Queen's Birthday Honours List we were delighted to see the name of our Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel K. D. Patterson, T.D., with a well deserved award of the O.B.E. in which we all take a great pride.

60th (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT (T.A.)

Although these notes come under our new title, it was as 1st Northern Command (M) Signal Regiment, T.A., that we proceeded to annual camp on the 26th July—this year to Burniston Barracks, Scarborough. This was our first camp ever at what could be called a "proper" Army camp. All our previous camps have been either tented or hutted and to be in real barracks was a welcome change.

This year's camp could well be termed the "Camp of Fond Farewells," as it is the last time that we shall have our Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Joe Kilner, T.D., with us. Major Kevin Geoghegan, Officer Commanding, "H.Q." Squadron, has also resigned because of pressure of business, and 2 Squadron has lost such stalwarts as W.O.II McEvoy, Staff Sergeants Laws and Gowland. Our thanks go to all of them for helping to make the Regiment the happy and efficient one that it was.

Amongst the "Regular" element making their farewells after this camp were Major D. F. Willett, our Training Major, and the ever popular Captain (Q.M.) George Bruce. Our best wishes go with them and their wives and a very hearty welcome to Major and Mrs. Edward Barrett, our new Training Major, and his wife, and to Lieutenant (Q.M.) Clive Hallett and Mrs. Hallett. During camp we were honoured with visits by Lieutenant-General Sir Richard Goodbody, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., G.O.C.-in-C., Northern Command, our Honorary Colonel, Major-General A. E. Morrison, C.B., O.B.E., and Mrs. Morrison.

Camp training this year climaxed in a four-day Signal Centre Exercise based on Northern Command Signal Centre at York, with Signal Centres at certain District and Area Headquarters.



From left to right, Back row : Sergeant P. Vaughan, Sergeant D. Conley, Sergeant J. Robinson.
Front Row : Major N. Bailiff, R. Sigs., O.C. 2 Sqn., Second Lieutenant D. Clark, W.R.A.C., Captain F. G. Holman, M.B.E., Team Coach

Whilst we had lots of difficulties to start with, we were quickly able to report loud and clear on all channels.

The highlight of this year's activities must surely be the outstanding success of the W.R.A.C. .22 shooting team (photo enclosed) of 2 Squadron in Newcastle (thus confirming the old adage that the female of the species is more deadly than the male). During the past year this team has won the Kolar Cup, which is open for competition amongst all W.R.A.C. Units, Regular and T.A.; won the Royal Signals, Northern Command League (as a concession our male Sergeant was allowed into the team); won the Northern Command W.R.A.C. trophy; won the T.A.R.A. League and provided the individual second in the W.R.A.C. competition. This is indeed a formidable record and one to be very proud of. We look forward to even greater records next year.

Recruiting continues to increase steadily and we hope to reach a total of 400 All Ranks before next camp. In the meantime everyone is busy preparing for our first winter Exercise, "New Broom II," in October and for our Annual Administrative Inspection to be held in November.

Association Notes

Port Talbot and District Branch

The Port Talbot and District Branch held their Seventh Annual Dinner at the Imperial Cafe, Maesteg, on 17th October, 1959. The very heavy gales and rain of that day and that some members were on shift work made the numbers of members slightly less than usual. Mr. V. S. T. Morris, Honorary Treasurer, proposing the toast of The Royal Signals Association, pleaded for brevity. Brigadier Firth responded. Mr. Arthur W. Williams, speaking to the toast "Port Talbot and District Branch," agreed with Brigadier Firth that he felt part of "the family."

Mr. J. Leslie Evans, Honorary Secretary and a Member of the Central Committee of the Association, spoke briefly but pointedly about the apathy of some members and pleaded for a resurgence of the spirit of 1952/53 when the Branch was newly formed.

Mr. Ian M. Speck, the Chairman of the Branch, spoke of "The Ladies" and Mrs. I. E. O'Brien responded. Mr. Cyril A. Smart, Vice-Chairman, very nearly made the speech of the evening in proposing the Guests, but he was outdone by Miss June Evans in a most charming maiden speech in which she expressed the thanks of the guests for their entertainment.

Mrs. Evans and her daughters conducted a raffle, the Kenfig Hill Gleemen, conductor Mr. J. Leslie Evans, gave of their best, and Mrs. Rita Thomas sang some charming songs as well as aiding the Gleemen. In a brief competition, now happily becoming an annual event after dinner, the Choir of the Royal Signals Association were adjudged to have won a contest in singing. The audience, however, were left in doubt whether the victory was on quality, voice production, an objection or a foul.

Loughborough Branch

It is quite a while since we appeared in print. For that there are two reasons, the first being the printing dispute, and the second the fact that there wasn't anything worthwhile to say. (Perhaps by the end of this article some readers will think the latter still applies, but no matter, at least they will know the Branch is still around!)

On the membership side, 1959 has seen quite a few changes as members come and go 'twixt Beaumanor and Cyprus, but the rejuvenated 21 Unit Branch, ably steered by Lieutenant Hogan and Mager Musgrave, see to it that continuity is not lost, whilst we at this end are happy to renew close contact with members who've been away for three years or so.

The year has also, most regrettably, seen the passing of well-liked members and valued friends of the Branch. First was Ralph Cook, a regular attender of our social functions, then Frank Allan, a Life Member since 1934, and more recently, the wife of member Sam Murgatroyd. Joyce Murgatroyd was a grand person, an ever-present when there was catering work to be done, and a particular asset at our Fetes and Children's Christmas Parties. We shall miss them all.

Misfortune has struck again only two days ago, when Eric Dobson, a stalwart of the Entertainments Committee and one of our party at Catterick this year, was involved in a road

accident and is now lying in hospital with a fractured skull. We all fervently wish him a complete and speedy recovery.

Apart from the Garden Fete, summer activity on the social front has been restricted to the Children's Sports and two Motor Treasure Hunts, both quite successful, at least sufficiently so to warrant their inclusion in next year's programme. Last Friday we launched the new social season with a special dance at Beaumanor to inaugurate a local Benevolent Fund. The dance was most successful socially, and the profit made a sizeable first donation to the Fund. Our next venture is a Social Evening on October 23rd, at which we hope to entertain parties from the Leicester, Nottingham and Derby Branches to a programme of tombola, dancing, "gripping," drinking, and a spot of cabaret.

Meanwhile, the list of diners for our Fifth Annual Dinner and Dance on November 7th has reached 83 and is still growing. Our Guests of Honour are to be the Signal Officer-in-Chief, Brigadier Firth, and Superintendent Freestone (Loughborough Police) and Mrs. Freestone. Next month's issue will, I hope, contain a full account, plus photographs.

Careers and Opportunity

(PLEASE NOTE : It is ESSENTIAL that anyone obtaining employment by answering advertisements in THE WIRE *notifies the Employment Section, Royal Signals Association, 88, Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1.*

Members may apply to the Employment Section for details of other vacancies).

INTERNATIONAL COMPUTERS AND TABULATORS LTD.: Vacancy for man of good general education, with some experience of electrical work, as Technical Writer. Work on manuals describing mechanical and electro-mechanical equipment. Commence around £700 per annum according to age and experience, but no age limits. Based London; good prospects.

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Apply by letter to Lieutenant-Colonel L. S. Stirling, Royal Signals (Retd.), I.C.T. Ltd., Gloucester House, 149, Park Lane, London, W.1.

EXPERIENCE RADIO ENGINEER, aged up to 40, wanted for interesting, well-paid post in Persian Gulf area. Families cannot accompany, but two weeks leave with air travel to U.K. is granted every four months. For details apply to Employment Section (address above).

Employment figures for quarter ending 30th September, 1959

New applicants registered	18
Placings *confirmed*	17
Other queries answered	92

WELFARE SECTION

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

Widow of Driver 1939-41, who died 1959. The widow's pension had not then been paid and she and her son lived on his small earnings as a "learner" electrician. The fund helped very promptly.

Signalman, 1958, still serving, met with serious accident, grant made to parents to help with expensive fares to visit him in hospital.

Widow of Sergeant-Major, R.E. Signals 1920, Royal Signals 1923-45, who died 1959, leaving also two school aged children. The Association and the British Legion gave generous help.

Ex-Signalman, 1938-46, married, four children, income much reduced since July when husband went into hospital. Grant made for clothes for children going to school.

Signalman, 1942-47. Married, three children; he has been in hospital since February and income halved. The fund paid off the last of a H.P. commitment.

Daughter of Signalman who served 1940-46 and died 1951. A grant towards purchase of uniform on getting a place in a Secondary School.

Driver R.E. Signals 1914, Royal Signals 1920-30. He and his wife both old age pensioners were helped with clothes kindly given to the Association.

Widow of Signalman 1942-47 who died in 1955, writes "I wish once again to thank you for all the nice clothes you have sent for my son and myself," *and thank you kind giver of the clothes.—Ed.*

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION WELFARE SECTION

The following donations were most gratefully received during September :

	£	s.	d.
1st Signal Regiment (Offertory—Church Parade)	7	0	0
304 Signal Squadron, T.A. (Armoured Brigade)	1	0	0
326 Signal Squadron, T.A. (Wireless)	5	5	0
Total receipts ...	£13	5	0

EXPENDITURE DURING SEPTEMBER, 1959 ... ... £203 16 1
(Includes: Rent and Rates; Beds and Bedding; Furniture; Cots and Prams; General Assistance).

ANALYSIS OF CASES :

Families of Soldiers serving in U.K.	2
Families of Soldiers serving in B.A.O.R.	1
Widows and Dependants	5
Released and Discharged Soldiers	16
Total cases assisted ...	24

13 cases of Soldiers who served during the 1939-45 War ...	£142 17 11
11 cases of Soldiers who did not serve during the War ...	£ 60 18 2

AN UNSOLICITED LETTER

Since I applied for assistance, I now find that the Ministry of Labour are sending me on a Rehabilitation Course with all expenses found, plus wages. So I do not wish to continue with my claim for assistance. I would like to thank you for dealing with my claim so promptly. Would you please send me particulars of the Royal Signals Association, as I would very much like to become a member of it.

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION AND BENEVOLENT FUND

The following subscriptions were most gratefully received during September, 1959:

	£	s.	d.
8th Signal Regiment	18	5	9
23rd Signal Regiment	43	13	6
24th Signal Regiment	17	5	0
25th Signal Regiment	5	0	0
224 Signal Squadron (Wireless Training)	20	0	0
46th (North Midland) Signal Regiment, T.A.	4	0	0
3rd Signal Regiment	10	11	0
14th Signal Regiment (1 Squadron)	12	0	0
14th Signal Regiment (4 Squadron)	6	7	10
30th Signal Regiment	10	7	2
57th (M) Signal Regiment, T.A.	2	0	0
1st Signal Regiment (Regimental Week-end Fun-Fare)	36	10	9
*1st Signal Regiment (Offertory—Church Parade)	7	0	0
36 G.W. Regiment (A.A.) Signal Troop	1	19	3
47th (London) Signal Regiment T.A.	2	2	0
55th (M) Signal Regiment, T.A.	4	0	6
236 Signal Squadron (COMCAN)	20	0	0
CAFSO H.Q., 2 T.A.F.	2	1	6
200 Signal Squadron (Armoured Brigade Group)	1	7	0
205 Signal Squadron (Infantry Brigade Group)	4	10	0
H.Q. Troops, Malta	10	0	0
Somaliland Scouts Signal Detachment	4	7	0
Trucial Oman Scouts Signal Squadron	1	0	0
15th Signal Regiment	26	0	0
215 Signal Squadron (Infantry Brigade Group)	1	15	0
Total receipts ...	£265	3	3

*Note : *Not included in total—£7 credited to Welfare Section—QV.*

Lighter Fuel Packs

The following amounts were most gratefully received during September :

	£	s.	d.
Box No. 30) ... The Manager, The Haven, Watercell Avenue, 35) Coventry ... ... 54)	1	0	0
67 ... 43 (Wessex) Signal Regiment, T.A.	4	10	0
Total receipts ...	£5	10	0

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R.A.F.		
	Air Radar Fitters.	Electrical Fitters. Electrical Instrument Fitters. Armourers.
ARMY		
	Foremen of Signals or R.E.M.E. Radar Technicians.	Electricians Control Equipment R.E.M.E. Ordinane Fitters.

(Note: Computer Engineers are selected from applicants who have either HNC (Electrical) or C & G Telecommunication and Radio III (Maths II and Telecomms. III).

Applications are invited from tradesmen in any of the above categories who are seeking civilian employment in the next six to nine months. Give a brief description of your career, and where you hope to settle after training, in a letter addressed to: THE PRINCIPAL, FIELD ENGINEERING PERSONNEL SECTION, I.C.T. LIMITED, 5/11, HOLBORN BARS, LONDON, E.C.1.

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Caretakers — *Watchmen*
Exhibition Attendants, etc., etc.

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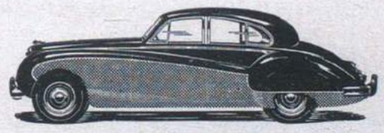
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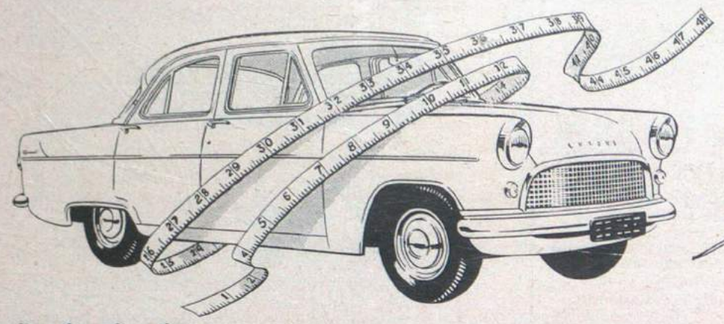
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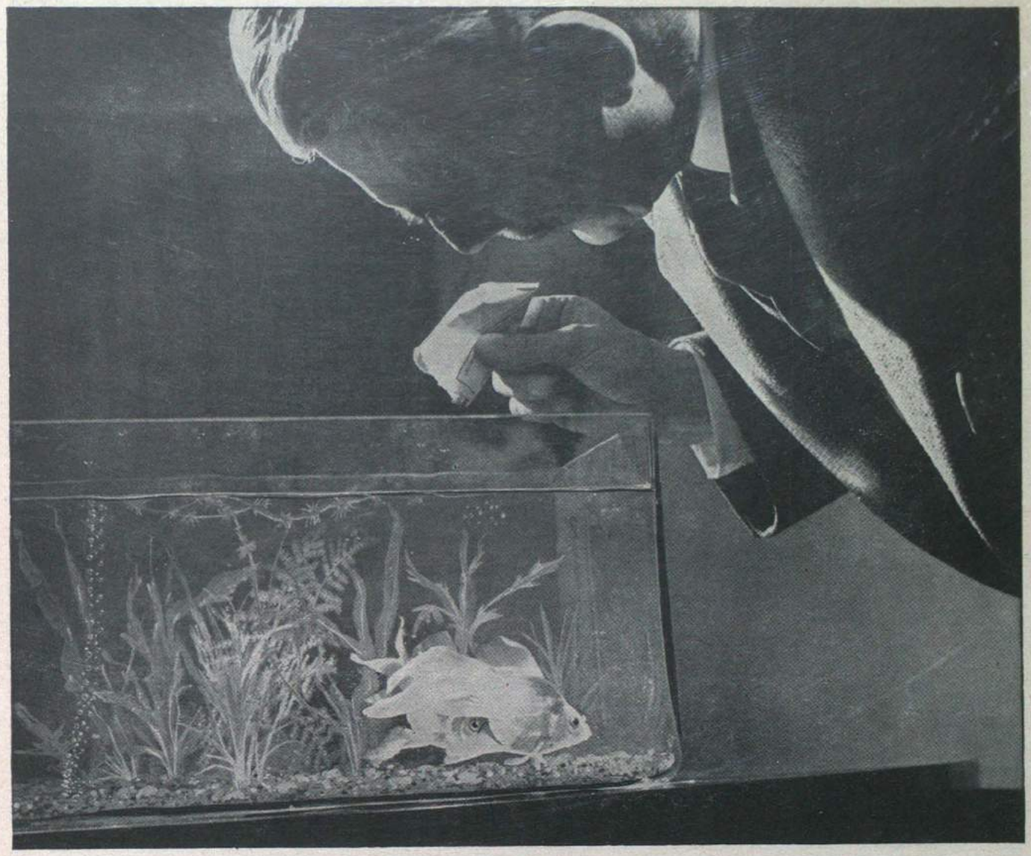
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THE WIRE

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

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.*

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☆

DECEMBER • 1959

Vol. 13 *(New Series)* **No. 11**

Editorial

CHRISTMAS comes after this month of THE WIRE has been delivered in Britain and Germany and before it is received in M.E.L.F. and FARELF. So be it.

The Headquarters Staff of the Association including those responsible for "The Wire" wish all of Royal Signals serving and ex-Service the best of good wishes for Christmas 1959 and for all of 1960.

Many of those still serving will be on duty during Christmas and those of us who are at home should spare a thought for those who are now serving will be in the Signal Offices on that day.

CONGRATULATIONS TO PRINCESS LOUISE'S KENSINGTON REGIMENT T.A.

An account of the celebration of the Centenary of the Regiment is on pages 330 and 331.

A NEW YEAR RESOLUTION

JUNIOR MERCURY the monthly news sheet of the Junior Leaders Regiment now enters its second year. It is certainly a most excellent publication, well got up, well printed and of interest to all in Royal Signals.

All, or nearly all Regiments have serving with them men who started their career in the Junior Leaders Regiment (or 6th Boys Training Regiment). It is most strongly recommended that each Regiment or Independent Squadron orders at least one copy of Junior Mercury, to see how the present generation of "Boys" are being trained to become the Junior (? Senior) Leaders of tomorrow.

For copies, price 4d. each, write to the Editor, Junior Mercury, Junior Leaders Regiment Royal Signals, Denbury Camp, Newton Abbot, North Devon.

A WORD ON RECRUITING BY SERGEANT R. HAMMERTON

Special Recruiter, Army Information Office, Bristol.

is on page 317, and is well worth reading.

FIELD OF REMEMBRANCE

In October THE WIRE asked for a strong representation of the Association at the opening of The Field of Remembrance at Westminster on 5th November. The response was gratifying (page 303). It was especially edifying that two Senior Warrant Officers of the Corps were able to spare the time to attend, in uniform, 55th and 65th Signal Regiments T.A.

A NEW LOOK IN THE WIRE

Constantly trying for new ideas it has been suggested that "Unit Notes" might well appear in future in numerical order of Regiments and Squadrons with a mention of country and location in the title.

This will be tried during 1960. The Editor will welcome opinion, pro or con this idea.

It is customary at the end of a year for THE WIRE to say thank you to its contributors, to its readers and last but not least to F. J. Parsons Ltd., who print it. THE WIRE, as a magazine, has many faults, it is rare that any of these are due to the printers. Normally much of what is good comes from the skilled help of the printers' staff.

EMPIRE FIELD OF REMEMBRANCE, 1959

Opened on Thursday, 5th November, 1959

The Dedication Ceremony was this year performed by Major-General Sir Eric Girdwood, K.B.E., C.B., C.M.C. (President of the South African War Veterans' Association), who mentioned primarily the dead of the South African War, as this year marks the 60th Anniversary.

Present for Royal Signals :—

In civilian dress :

A. W. Smith (Chairman, London Branch).
Mr. Fenn (Member, London Branch).
Captain D. T. Hunneyball (Chairman, Croydon Branch).
Mr. Cousins (Member, Croydon Branch).
F. Steel (Hon. Secretary, London (City) Branch, and Dunkirk Veterans' Association).
Major G. S. Freemantle (Chairman, North London Branch).
A. E. Stead (Association H.Q.).

In uniform :

R.S.M. Russell, W.O.II Ingham, Staff Sergeant Ward (representing 55th Signal Regiment, T.A.).
R.S.M. McKenna (representing 65th Signal Regiment, T.A.).

Crosses Placed	Badge Cross	Poppy Cross	Wreath Cross
Association H.Q.	1	–	–
Reading Branch	1	–	–
Chislehurst Branch ...	1	–	–
55th Signal Regt. T.A.	–	1	–
Chester Branch	–	–	2
Aldershot Branch	–	–	1
Croydon Branch	–	–	1
London Branch	–	–	1
London (City) Branch ...	–	–	1
Dunkirk Veterans' Association	–	–	1
65th Signal Regt. T.A.	–	–	1



CORPS SILVER

★

Ship's Bell

This Ship's Bell was made and presented to the Royal Signals Sailing Association by D. G. H. King, Esq., who served as an "Operator Signals" in Royal Signals from 1928 to 1935 and from 1939 to 1940.

It is to be presented annually to the Skipper of "Certa" or "Cito" who makes the most successful cruise during the year.

★

Mr. King served in the following Units: 1929 3rd Divisional Signals as a Signalman, 1931 1st Indian Divisional Signals as a Lance-Corporal, and 1940 1st Armoured Divisional Signals.

Introducing Our Regular Recruits



Signalman C. R. Hepworth

It is true of our Corps that all roads lead to Catterick but Signalman Hepworth, 20, chose an unusual route which began at his homestead at Gatooma, in Southern Rhodesia, and finished 5,000 miles away at Catterick.

It took Hepworth two years to save up the money for the trip spurred on by his ex-Army father, who holds strongly that the best soldier is the best trained soldier—and that this country gives the soundest military grounding to be had, anywhere.

Hepworth looks forward eagerly to a taste of active service conditions once he has completed his basic and trade training and become a wireless operator.

Meanwhile, Hepworth remembers the time when he was caught up in a native riot at Harrahi and the time of the elephant-shoot when he steadied himself, took aim, fired—and missed.

CHEWING-GUM "SOLDER"

BY SIGNALMAN F. H. PURDY

Whilst serving in the Royal Navy as a Leading Telegraphist (TG. OP.) I trained with the Royal Artillery in F.O.B. (Forward Observation Bombardment), which, most of us know, is as Spotter for heavy gunfire reporting "Fall of shot" of special or hidden targets.

On board the frigate *Sparrow* in Korean waters—in Yong-Pyong-do—it was decided to shell an enemy gun emplacement hidden behind a hill which was menacing shipping and reinforcements from upriver.

With a machine-gunner and a rifleman as defending escort (and battery carrier), I landed ashore at dawn and climbed a neighbouring hill laden with a "62" wireless.

With the inevitable jolting and slipping the single-core lead into the motor in the set had broken and zero-hour for the first shell gone a long ten minutes ago.

I had visions of courts of enquiry and gun crews cursing and wondering what "The Bridge" was up to.

Just then I looked up and saw the machine-gunner's jaws chewing rythmically and Eureka! Thinking back on days of sticky hair and backs of school desks for hiding places I innocently asked for a piece of his wet gum.

No doubt thinking me very unhygienic he wonderingly gave me a chewed piece. I gingerly 'soldered' the two bare wires together and allowing two minutes to harden I switched on again and the set sprang to life.

Soon getting in touch with my parent ship we had a successful shoot straddling the target often, and it is only now I can find courage to tell of my "chewing-gum solder."

PERSONAL COLUMN

London Gazette

13th October, 1959

Lieutenant (T.O.T.) D. J. Chetwynd to be Captain (T.O.T.), 16th October, 1959.

Captain B. S. Fordyce, T.D., to be Major, 17th October, 1959.

W.O.I A. W. Batram to be Lieutenant (Tfc. Offr.), 2nd September, 1959.

20th October, 1959

Lieutenant (T.O.T.) C. V. Impey to be Captain (T.O.T.), 21st October, 1959.

23rd October, 1959

Captain D. A. Barry to be Major, 25th October, 1959.

27th October, 1959

Brigadier L. C. C. Harrison, M.C., retired 29th October, 1959.

Colonel E. P. Blake retired 29th October, 1959.

The undermentioned Territorial Army Officers to be Colonels on the dates shown:—

Lieutenant-Colonel (Bt. Col.) (Actg. Col.) W. A. Lee, O.B.E., T.D., 1st July, 1959, with seniority 1st November, 1953.

Lieutenant-Colonel (Bt. Col.) (Actg. Col.) R. E. Pickford, T.D., 1st July, 1959, with seniority 1st November, 1956.

30th October, 1959

The undermentioned Majors to be Brevet Lieutenant-Colonels, 1st July, 1959:—

Major D. Coatesworth, M.B.E., M.SC., A.M.I.E.E.

Major C. E. Page, M.B.E.

Lieutenant-Colonel R. J. Western retired, 3rd November, 1959.

Captain (Tfc. Offr.) F. H. C. Bamford to be Major (Tfc. Offr.) 2nd November, 1959.

Territorial Army Reserve of Officers

Lieutenant-Colonel and Brevet Colonel G. S. H. Dicker, M.B.E., T.D., from Active List to be Lieutenant-Colonel and Brevet Colonel, 28th March, 1959.

3rd November, 1959

Captain F. Ramsbottom to be Major, 6th November, 1959.

6th November, 1959

Major J. W. Eagle, M.B.E., E.R.D., to be Lieutenant-Colonel, 18th June, 1959.

Major P. F. Yeatman, M.B.E., to be Lieutenant-Colonel, 1st September, 1959.

Captain H. A. J. Sturge to be Major, 9th November, 1959.

Captain W. Bell to be Major, 11th November, 1959.

Movements—Officers

(Taken place or forecast for period ending 15th December, 1959)

Brigadier W. B. Rowet	To	C.S.O., Northern Command.
Colonel P. E. M. Bradley, D.S.O., O.B.E.	,,	H.Q. 1 (BR.) Corps.
Colonel T. H. C. Grigg	,,	Commandant, H.Q., A.E.R.
Lieutenant-Colonel F. E. Berry, T.D.	,,	O.C. School of Signals Regt.
Lieutenant-Colonel P. F. Pentreath	,,	O.C. 7th Signal Regiment.
Major J. L. Purdon	,,	225 Signal Squadron, B.A.O.R.
Major A. W. Richards	,,	Ministry of Supply.
Major (Brevet Lieut.-Col.) D. Coatesworth	,,	R.M.C.S. (G.S.O.II).
Major C. C. Tucker	,,	30th Signal Regiment, U.K.
Major W. MacDonald	,,	211 Signal Squadron, B.A.O.R.
Major R. H. Borthwick	,,	J.S.S.C. (Course).
Major R. D. Elsmore	,,	22nd Signal Regiment, B.A.O.R.
Major R. G. Blackman	,,	17th Gurkha Division.
Major N. D. Shaw	,,	11th Signal Regiment (Depot).
Captain A. M. Hewson	,,	War Office, G.S.O.3.
Captain W. H. Turney	,,	8th Signal Regiment.
Captain T. B. Woods	,,	S.R.D.E. (T.S.O.3).
Captain J. Cox	,,	War Office Signals 3.
Captain N. R. F. Mackinnon	,,	H.Q., L.F., Hong Kong.
Captain D. J. Roberts	,,	3rd Signal Regiment, U.K.
Captain F. G. Hardy	,,	238 Signal Squadron (War Office).
Captain R. T. Martin	,,	14th Signal Regiment, U.K.
Captain M. R. C. Weiner	,,	Ghana.
Captain F. C. Lettin	,,	H.Q., Training Brigade.
Captain I. M. Horsley-Curry	,,	Light Aircraft Course to 22nd July, 1960.
Captain J. M. N. Lyons	,,	Mons O.C.S.
Captain P. J. Holland	,,	Staff College Course, Australia.
Captain M. A. F. Hiles	,,	G.H.Q., FARELF.
Lieutenant C. H. Glydon	,,	236 Signal Squadron, East Africa
Lieutenant G. R. Oehlers	,,	1st Signal Regiment, U.K.
Lieutenant R. K. Ward	,,	30th Signal Regiment, U.K.
Lieutenant G. Barnett	,,	1st Signal Regiment, U.K.
Second-Lieutenant P. J. Hodges	,,	606 Signal Troop, U.K.
Second-Lieutenant D. J. Jolly	,,	3rd Signal Regiment, U.K.
Second-Lieutenant R. J. Mulhern	,,	3rd Signal Regiment, U.K.
Major (Q.M.) A. E. Lunn	,,	Malayan Basic Training Centre
Major (Q.M.) A. W. Fisk	,,	65th Signal Regiment, T.A.
Major (Q.M.) R. O. Cant	,,	224 Signal Squadron, U.K.
Major (T.O.T.) C. G. Holland	,,	13th Signal Regiment, B.A.O.R.
Major (Tfc. Offr.) C. P. Kislingbury	,,	242 Signal Squadron (Scottish Command).
Captain (Q.M.) C. C. Cross, M.B.E.	,,	27th Signal Regiment, Hong Kong
Captain (Tfc. Offr.) E. H. Bennett	,,	238 Signal Squadron (War Office)
Captain (T.O.T.) D. F. D. Barry	,,	H.Q., B.F.A.P., Aden.
Lieutenant (Q.M.) B. McDonald	,,	2nd Signal Regiment, B.A.O.R.

Retirements

Colonel E. P. Blake, 29th October, 1959.
Lieutenant-Colonel R. J. Western, 3rd November, 1959.
Captain R. V. Taylor, 31st August, 1959.

Relinquishment of Commission

Captain J. H. Tasker, 3rd November, 1959.
Captain A. B. L. Anderson, 16th October, 1959.

Births

DAVIS.—To Captain P. S. Davis and Mrs. Davis, at Torquay, on 2nd November, 1959, a son, Richard Miles.

All of 16th Signal Regiment at B.M.H. Hostert

MUMBY.—To Corporal and Mrs. G. Mumby, a son, Douglas George, on 3rd November, 1959.

RIDLEY.—To Lance-Corporal G. A. J. Ridley, a daughter, Erika Trudi, on 19th October, 1959.

FINLAY.—To Staff Sergeant and Mrs. J. M. Finlay, a daughter, Fiona Maureen, on 31st October, 1959.

Marriages

GARTSIDE—DEMKO. — Corporal R. Gartside, of 16th Signal Regiment, to Miss Irene Demko, at Marple, Cheshire, on 24th October, 1959.

FRASER—SCHULZE. — Driver A. Frazer, of 16th Signal Regiment, to Miss Sigrid Hanna Schulze, at Hannover, on 26th October, 1959.

THEAKER—MAYDEW. — Signalman R. Theaker, of R.H.Q. 14th Signal Regiment, to Miss Maureen Maydew, at Birmingham, on 31st October, 1959.

MONTEITH—BLACK.—On 14th November, 1959, at the London Scottish Chapel, St. Columba's Church of Scotland, Pont Street, S.W.3, Lieutenant-Colonel Alexander Monteith, M.B.E., T.D., of Weston Turville, Bucks., to Sheila Margaret Shand Black, of Tankerton, Kent.

Deaths

JENKINS.—Ex-Corporal J. H. R. Jenkins, of 28, Kershaw Road, Heath Park Estate, Dagenham, on 16th, October, 1959; Royal Signals February 1936—October 1945; Annual Member of the Association since September 1945.

CHILDS.—Ex-Driver D. Childs, of 171, Portland Crescent, Stanmore, Middlesex, on 8th July, 1959, aged 53.

TROTMAN.—Ex-Corporal H. J. Trotman, of 6, Park Street, Aylesbury, Bucks., on 12th October, 1959. R.E. Signals 1915-1918. Annual Member of the Association from 1953.

Arrivals and Departures

8th Signal Regiment

Arrivals: Captain D. W. F. Bayliss, Sergeants J. N. Twigg, C. A. Thompson and D. G. McKean.

Departures: Captain A. J. Jackson, W.O. II F. G. Wilson, Sergeants C. W. Burden, C. D. Hatcher and L. Heyworth.

21st Signal Regiment

Arrivals: Major E. A. Knott, W.O. II (F. of S.) Hazel, Sergeant Turner, Corporals Ovens, Stapleton and McLaren.

Departures: Staff Sergeant Lewis, Corporal Littlejohn.

24th Signal Regiment

Arrivals: Major (Q.M.) W. J. Howard, Sergeant M. Graham, A.C.C.

Departures: Staff Sergeant R. E. Weighell, B.E.M., Sergeant L. Appleton.

Colonel A. J. G. McNair, Retd., goes to G.H.Q., FARELF on 20th December, 1959, and on that date ceases to serve the Officers' Wing, 11th Signal Regiment at Chester.

NOTICE OF INTEREST TO EX-BOYS 1944-1947 VINTAGE

Tony Arnold ("A" Wing) who has now left the Corps and is living at 87, Mayday Gardens, Blackheath, S.E.3, will be pleased to hear from anyone who cares to remember him. It will be of particular interest to those serving abroad to learn that Tony is a Customs Officer at London Docks and was instrumental in seeing the writer's MFO baggage through the usual formalities.

Forthcoming Events

The Corps Weekend, Reunion and 15th Annual General Meeting of the Association

will take place at Catterick on Saturday, 2nd, and Sunday, 3rd July, 1960.

Royal Signals Rugby Football — 1960 Fixures

*Jan.	13	Royal Artillery	Woolwich
,,	20	King's College	Newcastle
*Feb.	3	Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst	Camberley
,,	6	Wakefield	Wakefield
,,	17	Sheffield	Sheffield
,,	27	Durham City	Catterick
Mar.	23	Northern Command Final	Catterick
,,	26	Sandal	Catterick
,,	30	Northern Command Sevens	Catterick
*Apr.	2	Percy Park	Catterick
,,	6	Harrogate	Harrogate
,,	13	Bradford	Bradford
,,	30	Huddersfield Sevens	Huddersfield

* Corps Representative Matches

Royal Signals Association Football — 1960 Fixures

Sat.	13 Feb.	Manchester University	Home
Sat.,	5 Mar.	Sheffield University	Away
Wed.,	9 Mar.	Durham University	Home
...	...	*R.E.M.E.	—
...	...	*Billingham Synthonia	Away

All above are Corps representative matches.

* Dates not yet confirmed.

Royal Signals Hockey, 1960 Fixtures

Wed., 17th Feb.	Royal Military C. of Science	Aldershot
Thurs., 18th Feb.	Aldershot Services	Aldershot
Fri., 19th Feb.	R.A.O.C.	Blackdown
Wed., 23rd Mar.	Welbeck College	Welbeck
15th-18th April	Easter Festival	Scarborough

Are you Interested in Archæology

It is intended to form a Southern Command Royal Signals Archaeological Club. The object of the club will be to foster interest in archaeology and to enable personnel who are interested to be given the opportunity to take part in "field work."

It is hoped that during the winter period—November to March, during which time little or no outside work is carried out—to form the club so that when the 1960 "Field Year" commences the club will be in a position to arrange for members to start field work in the areas in which they are stationed. The work will be split into two categories and they are :—

(i) Weekend "digs"—consisting of working Saturday and Sunday on any one site.

(ii) Long "digs"—these are digs normally lasting 7 to 14 days where only people who can be made available for that whole period would be able to attend. This type would normally be covered by privilege leave for those who wish to take part in these "digs."

All help given to local archaeological authorities will be on a voluntary basis; previous experience is not essential. Personnel attending a site will come under the control of the Archaeologist in charge and will be given sufficient training and information to enable them to become a useful member of the team.

No special equipment is required by prospective members, although at a later stage it is hoped that the club will be in a position to obtain a small store of equipment of its own.

Details of lectures, books, and pamphlets on the subject will be given to all members through news letters; all "field work" will be arranged by the Club and introductions to local authorities will also be arranged.

In order that the club may be organised during the present "winter" recess will all personnel interested please forward their names and addresses, stating if they have previous archaeological experience to The Secretary, Southern Command Royal Signals Archaeological Club, c/o C.S.O.'s Branch, H.Q., Southern Command, Salisbury, Wilts.

When the number of applicants are known it will be necessary to request payment of an entrance fee, of about 2/6 per person, on receipt of which an "authorisation" card will then be issued which will enable the holder to identify himself when reporting to a working site.

It is hoped that all members of the Corps, Regular, T.A. and A.E.R., in Southern Command and any Ex-members of the Corps who may be interested will get in touch with the Secretary straight away. Don't delay — send in your name now !

PROMOTIONS

The following promotions were authorised during the month of October, 1959:

Foreman of Signals

To W.O.I 14909177 (560) W.O.II Bayfield, C. J.

Signal Centre Supervisors' Roster

To W.O.I 2548938 (280) A/W.O.I Archer, W. B.

Regimental Duty Roster

2327711 (660) A/W.O.I Lane, N.

SENIORITY ADJUSTMENTS

The following were granted adjustment on the Signal Centre Supervisors' Roster by the War Office, for seniority purposes, during October, 1959:

14759394	W.O.II	Bees, D.	From Serial	774	to 724	with date 20.7.58
2547737	S Sgt.	Dixon, P. V.	,, ,,	320	to 234	,, ,, 19.7.58
22265389	S Sgt.	Macleod, W. G.	,, ,,	340	to 254	,, ,, 19.7.58

DELETIONS

Regimental Duty Roster

W.O.I.	270	10				
W.O.II	350	1630	60			
S Sgt.	220	3120	3370	610	4620	4370

Signal Centre Supervisors' Roster

W.O.II 602

Foremen of Signals' Roster

S Sgt. 930

General Trades and Duties Roster

Sgt. 1800 1910 800
1010 2130

Lineman Roster

Sgt. 2270

Operating Roster

Sgt. 3670 4390 7190

Clerical Roster

S Sgt. 550

INSERTIONS

General Trades and Duties Roster

22539682	(290)	Sgt.	Seaman, P. D.
22791340	(1834)	Sgt.	Thorpe, T.

Lineman Roster

22265571	(854)	Sgt.	Jones, R.

Technical Roster

6922279	(954)	S Sgt.	Garner, E. J. F.

Regimental Duty Roster

21182805	(3864)	S Sgt.	Paterson, J. H.

Operating Roster

2563525	(16)	Sgt.	Oliver, U.
22515111	(5414)	Sgt.	Beddingfield, W. J.
22265208	(7194)	Sgt.	Melvin, R. A.

OTHER DELETIONS

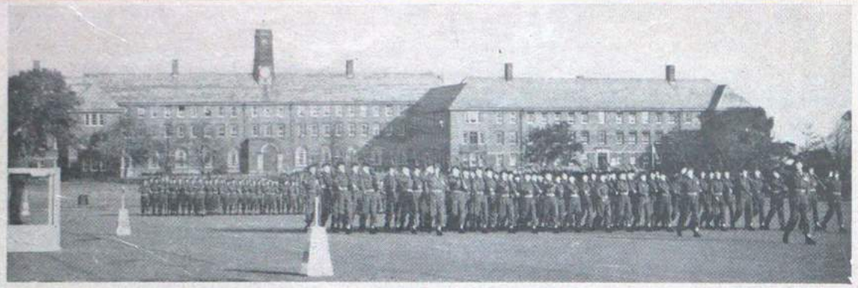
Signal Centre Supervisor Roster

22515791 (180) W.O.I Batram, A. W. (Commissioned) Lt. (TFC) OFFR 2/9/59

SCHOOL of SIGNALS

★

Annual Administrative Inspection



We have not featured in THE WIRE for some time—our fault, although we can make a plea in "mitigation," as we are in the middle of a complete re-organisation and partial civilianisation programme, and there has been a considerable change in the Command structure, and not a few changes in staff.

The old "School Regiment" is no more, and the Administration Wing has taken its place, and the School H.Q. now has a full "staff" complete with G.S.O.1, D.A.A. & Q.M.G., etc., etc., and now enjoy the status of a "formation H.Q.," with all its incumbent trials and tribulations.

Administration Wing. In the midst of chaos we had —you'll never believe us—our Administrative Inspection! What is more, we are rather proud of ourselves, as, with the minimum of time available (and, of course, the maximum of hard labour), we put up a creditable performance. The actual parade was a very dignified ceremony, and most accomplished; not quite up to Horse Guards standard, but, nevertheless, a reasonably satisfying parade, and well worth the extra drill periods put in beforehand. We have not had the results of the Inspection, but we are hopeful of a good report.

The "Indian Summer" has departed and Catterick is once more trying to live up to its reputation (ill-founded though it may be) and although we have not yet had snow, we are ready, with snow ploughs to the fore.

Our sporting activities have met with success, and we are the proud possessors of the Mackworth Trophy (awarded to the unit making the greatest improvement in all normal sporting activities). The School last held this trophy in 1938! Our grateful thanks are due to many members of the Unit, but in particular to the following: Corporal Maguire and Signalman Card, both cross-country runners (Card took part in the London to Brighton race), Signalman Parker, our tennis expert, who might yet finish up at Wimbledon, and Signalman Moore, who hails from the West Indies, and is a formidable cricket player. To the many others, we apologise for not mentioning their individual names, and hope they will continue the good work.

We offer our heartiest congratulations to the following members of the Unit, for the reasons given:

Marriage: Lance-Corporal E. J. Newitt to Miss Isobel Wharton.

Births: Sergeant and Mrs. L. R. Daines, a daughter, Patricia Lorraine.—Corporal and Mrs. R. Robinson, a daughter, Sylvia.

We welcome Sergeant Burden, recently joined us from 8th Signal Regiment, and as we also promoted him Staff Sergeant, offer our heartiest congratulations as well.

Warrant Officer Day was presented with the L.S. & G.C. Medal on the Administration parade, and we all join in congratulating him and wishing him all the very best for the future. We understand that his fiancé watched the parade, so perhaps we shall be giving him our congratulations again, before very long.

School. Nos. 44, 45 and 46 "Q" courses are going strongly; No. 44 will finish in November, to the relief of certain members, and not a few of the instructors. We congratulate Lieutenant Bhaja Singh (Malaya) and Second-Lieutenant Jolly on finding the time to "acquire" wives during 44 "Q" course; such enterprise is certainly worthy of mention.

45 "Q" course appear to have "roaming fever," and at least two members "roamed afar." Second-Lieutenant MacDonald went parachuting in France, and Second-Lieutenant Insall managed to get to Nairobi (hitch-hiking?). Yet another managed to persuade the U.S.A.F. to take him on the "grande tour," and so far he hasn't returned!

46 "Q" course have only been with us a few weeks, and in that time seven members managed to qualify for the Military College of Science, and have duly departed for Shrivenham, to be replaced by other "worthies." It is early yet to judge, but they seem to be possessed of the same "potential" as previous courses, and will, no doubt, grace these pages again and in more interesting form.

Our sporting activities grow and grow, and both our hockey and soccer teams are making good impressions in the local leagues. Our Rugby team is also coming along nicely under the able directions of Captain Birtwistle, and we have every reason to be confident of a successful season.



Presentation of L.S. and G.C. Medal to W.O.II G. R. Day by Brigadier R. G. Yolland, O.B.E.

8th SIGNAL REGIMENT

Officially, Winter is here but the Indian Summer lingers on.

The annual Cocktail Party in the Officers' Mess went off with a swing. Upwards of 200 assembled to sample the fun of the fair which must be voted a huge success. A little later, the "tramps" held their second ball and this, too, was a rollicking affair.

A welcome visitor was Captain Mawson, lately of 3 Squadron and at present enjoying inter-tour leave from the Somaliland Scouts where he is Force Signal Officer.

Our Blood Transfusion friends from Newcastle paid us another successful visit. In this field our record is second to none. How much the very pretty nursing staff has to do with that I wouldn't like to conjecture.

An old friend in the person of John Byas tore himself away from the cloisters at Leeds and spent a week-end with us recently. Not unnaturally, things began to happen. Everyone appeared to be full of the joy of something or other. Budding Sir Malcolm's were to be seen in the small hours putting the Helles Philharmonic through its paces and the ghost of Dobbin still walks.

Regimental cyclists made history when they narrowly defeated 24th Signal Regiment in the Garrison Inter-Unit Championship, a competition organised for the first time this year. Signalman Beck performed the duties of team captain and featured in every race. Well done.

Winter sports are all under way and the barometer is set fair. In the Army Soccer Cup we performed rather disappointingly and literally handed the tie to near neighbours, 12th Signal Regiment.

With the imminent run down of National Servicemen planners are already at work and very soon now we hope to learn what the future holds.

12th SIGNAL REGIMENT

Shortly after our last Wire Notes were printed; it now seems to be a long time ago, the Administrative Inspection was held and is now just a rosy memory. The cricket season also has closed and even the red caps which were awarded to first team members are hazy in the memory. We beat the then, 4 Training Regiment, in our last game in August in spite of the very strong wag of their tailenders. The overall results for the season included only five lost matches.

Different teams of personnel from this unit took part, in the Summer, in two Line communication race demonstrations. These were given for the Institute of Electrical Engineers and the Old Comrades. The D10 cable layers aroused great interest in the Old Comrades and it seems that perhaps things are progressing since "their days"!

On the 24th September, the Regimental Shooting Team took part in the Brigade Rifle Meeting. It was placed 2nd to 26th Signal Regiment in Match 38 (Rifle) and won Match 39 (S.M.G.). Our team members in the S.M.G. match took 1st, 2nd and 3rd individual places. Overall with an aggregate of 1,168 points it seems that unless 23rd Signal Regiment have undisclosed strength we must win the Brigade Shield. Captains Philip and Watson have now been posted from the unit and our thanks are due to them. Perhaps Squadron Commanders will now be free of the endless requests for butt officers! Corporal Moppett, distinguished himself at Bisley in the Summer when he won the Rifle Brigade Cup for the Champion Young Soldier.

Parents Day took place on 26th September, when some 170 parents came to the unit for the day. In the morning they were shown round the Training School where they saw Linesmen, Draughtsmen and Technical Storemen training. A stall was also set up on which the Regimental Silver was displayed. All Barrack Rooms and the Cookhouse were also open for visitors. Lunch was served in the Cookhouse in two sittings and in the afternoon on Colburn Sports Ground a miniature "tattoo" was staged. The demonstration of the fire power of a platoon by 4 (O.R.I.) Squadron seemed to please as much as the more conventional line communication race, black and white boxing display and the Motor Cycle Display Team. The Corps Band played during the afternoon and money was raised for S.S.A.F.A. at the same time by various side-shows.

The following weekend virtually all our trainees departed on a block weekend in order that accommodation could be made



The National Serviceman Line Communication Race Team that performed on Old Comrades' Weekend



The Regimental Shooting Team with some of the prizes won during the Season.

Back Row (left to right): Corporal J. P. Simms, Signalman P. A. Waxman, Corporal T. Balch, Lance Corporal K. Hutchinson, Lance Corporal W. Platt, Lance Corporal A. Hobday, Lance Corporal W. N. Furness.
Front Row (left to right): Lance Corporal P. Moppett, Sergeant W. K. Hammond-Haley, Captain F. V. B. Philp, Lieutenant Colonel P. S. Banbury, M.B.E., Captain D. P. Watson, Sergeant A. Hill, Sergeant J. Wilson (REME).

available for personnel taking part in the Army Motor Cycle Trials. These Trials were organised and administered by this Regiment and possibly Captain Willmott's losses of sleep before the day explained the smoothness which followed.

In October the Regiment was twice committed to aid the Civil Power when it undertook periods of duty fighting the Moor fire (lit by the R.A.F.?) on the high ground between Swaledale and Wensledale.

The winter sporting season is well under way and all our unit teams are doing well.

The Rugby Football team has so far won four games out of five. Second Lieutenant Page, who is Officer-in-Command, Rugby, started us off on sevens, on a blazing hot day in September — this might account for the winning spell. Signalmen Young and Wigglesworth have contributed considerably in tries and goal-kicking points to our "100 for" whilst the Against figures are only 38.

The Unit Soccer Team is so far undefeated in the Catterick and Northumbrian Area League. They beat 8th Signal Regiment in the preliminary round of the Army Cup when Corporal Barr scored an opportunist goal, the only one of the match. Lance-Corporal Lyon, our goalkeeper has played for the Army and with Signalman Edisbury and Corporal Barr for the Corps.

R.S.M. Taylor still seems to be the rock on which the Unit's Hockey Team is built — he will be missed, in this respect as well as the many others when he leaves us shortly.

R.S.M. Ward, R.S.M. Taylor's successor led the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Messes to victory at a Games Evening played against the Officers' Mess early in October. The writer must coin the phrase involving misspent youth!

Sergeant Block and the Basketball Team have won three out of the four League Matches played so far this season.

The Regimental Wives Club is still flourishing and their activities recently have included a demonstration by the Hoover Representative and a talk by the local County Librarian. Husbands please note that a shopping expedition to Leeds is planned in early December!

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

24th SIGNAL REGIMENT

The first snows of winter have come early to Catterick this year (11th November), with falls on the high ground round Reeth and Muker, and parties returning from the rifle range with the usual stories of watering eyes which cannot see the targets and fingers too stiff to load the rifle. The Regimental moor fires piquet has now assumed its winter title of flood relief piquet and, in short, Catterick is getting back to normal after the summer.

Guy Fawkes Day was celebrated with the usual festivities, the Quartermaster providing an enormous bonfire which it would be indiscreet to enquire too closely into and the R.S.M. providing fireworks and roast potatoes. Down at the Officers' Club, we might mention, things were not so well organised. Owing to lack of fire precautions on the part of the firework operator the whole box containing the evening's supply went up in one glorious display lasting about half a minute. A very impressive spectacle it was too, though it cut the evening's entertainment rather short.

Remembrance Sunday was fine but cold and the usual parades were held. We were able to field a complete contingent in No. 1 Dress this year, which certainly helped to make the parade look smarter than usual, even though it meant, of course, that most of the contingent had to be N.C.O.s.

In the sporting world, the cross-country team has got off to a good start. Under the command of Captain Watson, and with last year's key man, Signalman Smethurst, again in the lead, we won the first area run and were second in an invitation meet at Harrogate, which included six R.A.F. and six Junior Leaders' teams. This looks a promising start to the season and it will be interesting to see whether the team can keep it up.

The Unit rugger XV, under the leadership of Captain Gittins, has got through the third round of the Army Cup, the first time this Regiment has got so far. We succeeded in beating the School of Signals by 12-0, which has given us a great deal of satisfaction and confidence for the future.

Incidentally, it will hardly be necessary in future to report sporting events in THE WIRE, because a rival journal, the "Northern Dispatch," has now started printing a "Catterick Column," which will contain all the news of sporting and social activities in the camp. This should certainly make the work of writing THE WIRE notes a lot easier in future, though presumably it would not do if the notes from all the Regiments in Catterick were identical copies from the newspaper.

We can tell you that the camp is becoming really up-to-date now and we even have a "Launderette," which is seriously rivalling "Johnny's" as the social meeting place for all the youth and beauty of the garrison and is a great help for those of us who, unlike President Truman, have not been taught how to do our own dhobi.

SIGNALS TRAINING CENTRE (W.R.A.C.)

Well, winter is on its way and Catterick Camp is apparently as popular as ever to the God of Cold Winds. The place has had a lovely white surface for the past few mornings.

Is there such a thing as Anti-Freeze Lotion for Personnel we wonder; it would be jolly useful here.

Warrant Officer I Baylis is now here and is resettling very quickly. Congratulations to Warrant Officer I Neal, we hear that she is doing "very nicely, thank you," in Germany.

We have said goodbye to the Company Sergeant Major—Warrant Officer II McCormack—and have welcomed Warrant Officer II Bell in her place. We hope she will be happy with us

This week the instructor strength is down a little and Major Ruston and Warrant Officer I Baylis can be seen bumping into each other as they dash from classroom to classroom. Corporal Cakebread and Lance-Corporal Miller are involved in supporting Major Fisher on the hockey field at Aldershot. Lance-Corporal Smart has gone and got married, silly girl. Still he is a muscles man with Royal Signals, so we are not too disappointed.

The really big event of this month is the arrival of O.C. Wings new car. We won't tell you of the dent she put in it the first day, that would be too unkind!

During the month the Corporals' Club have been active again in their quest for funds for their Christmas Party for Orphans. They ran an all ranks dance which many of the units in Catterick Camp supported. From the exhibition of the "Cha Cha Cha" given by Killer Thomson it is obvious that a certain dance teacher does not know she is around. The buffet was provided by the Messing Staff and a jolly good effort it was too. At times, Lance-Corporals Hughes, Smart and Rogers could be seen behind the counter keeping away the hungry wolves until the interval. Still, in spite of the noise, a good evening was had by all. We cannot understand why no members of Steeple Bumpstead Signal Squadron turned up? Maybe they are still on summer vacation!

Table tennis in the unit is flourishing under the guidance of Sergeant Hughes and Sergeant Griffith. Matches are played regularly with male units, but the results are not published!

JUNIOR LEADERS REGIMENT ROYAL SIGNALS

"Ten Tors"

One night in September a small patrol of young soldiers was moving across Dartmoor, when one of them said: "Everyone should experience this. Why not an international adventure for teenagers? Call it a competition, a challenge, a youth congress — anything you like."

The idea was born. It became the talk of Denbury, and the plan began to take shape. The details of the proposed scheme are simple: Patrols of ten young people aged between 16 and 18 will set off from Hay Tor and cover a course of ten tors in thirty-six hours. A new route would be chosen each year and would not be disclosed to the competitors until the "adventure" was actually under way.

For a team to prove successful "a high standard of map reading would be required combined with endurance, fitness and initiative," states the outline plan.

As a prize, the winning group might be awarded a replica model of Fur Tor. This could be held by the winners for one year. Also, it is understood, "miniatures" for individual retention.

At the conclusion of the expedition a youth jamboree would be held to mark the end of the international gathering. The plan reads: "Round an open camp-fire, youth from many nations will sit together linked by a common purpose, singing their national songs and dancing their own traditional dances."

Wot a Guy!

A bonfire thirty feet high, its flames lighting up the laughing, singing faces of 471 Junior Leaders, their girl-friends, and hundreds of all-age visitors, began the November 5th festivities.

Sergeant-Major J. Cox of Headquarter Squadron, ably assisted by his men used up £40 of fireworks to the delight of the excited crowd. Explosions of bright colour and sound punctuated the cold mid-Devon night. Up went the rockets — one hissed and spluttered only. "Another Cape Canaveral!" quipped Captain G. Mitchell, R.A.E.C.

An inter-troop "Guy" competition was held, and O.C. 'F' Troop was a most realistic sabateur. His name: Captain Guy Rogers!

At eight o'clock the theatre was filled to capacity for the "Do-It-Yourself Show," thus named by Captain D. G. Rowe, who was in charge of production, because he kept telling the boys "do it yourself." Meanwhile, a band was playing the opening numbers of a dance organised by Sergeant R. A. Peake for the Sergeants' Mess.

Precisely at 9.45 the concert ended and the results of the eagerly awaited "Grand Draw" with its top prize of £100 were announced. Unfortunately it had not been "fixed" well enough, and the big-money went to a young lady outside the Regiment.

The majority of the profits are destined for an under-privileged children's party at Christmas.

The dance ended at midnight and the visitors went home, the boys to bed, and the officers and sergeants . . . . .

'J' Troop has a new shape quite unique to itself because the Regiment believes in progress, and progress is developed by experiments. It is hoped that this troop, commanded by Lieutenant D. C. Whitehead, will answer the question: "Which is the best way to produce a Junior Leader?"

The current method of training requires boys on their pass-out from Junior Wing to move in directly with members of senior troops. An intake is therefore distributed as equally as possible within the Regiment. "But is this a good thing" ask many of the staff, "or would it be **better** if each intake formed a new and complete troop?"

The best method will be judged in 18 months when the young men of "J" Troop complete their training here, for they will have stayed as a complete unit from the day they walked through the "Gateway to Leadership."

3rd SIGNAL REGIMENT

After a brief lapse, the voice of the "Fighting Third" is raised once more from the depths of Salisbury Plain, this time to to proudly acclaim that the decreasing prospects of a summit conference taking place are mainly due to the Regiment's fine performance on Exercise "Red Banner," and the gloom and apprehension pervading thereby in the Kremlin.

"Red Banner" was the first big exercise to demonstrate the practicability of supplying and reinforcing, by helicopter, a strategic reserve brigade group carrying out a "police action" role in the Middle East. It lasted for nearly a week during the middle of October and aroused much interest and comment in the newspapers. Visitors to the exercise area included the Defence Minister, the C.I.G.S., television commentators, and numerous gentlemen of the Press.

The period between our return from block leave in August and "Red Banner" was necessarily hectic, what with P.E. tests, range classifications, the Divisional Rifle Meeting and three other exercises; however, we expected it, having been warned by the Commanding Officer that we would be having a busy time and that everyone must be prepared to knuckle down to some hard work; even the S.S. (Sanitary Squad) saw the writing on the wall. This period also saw the passing away of two much loved (?) institutions, "O" Troop and "C" Troop, and the christening of a couple of chirpy youngsters, "O1" and "O2" troops. Any similarity now between 1st Works Parade and the academy award film ceremony is purely coincidental.

For the present we are in the grip of the individual training phase and the annual hoary plaintive cry "I can't get the men" echoes once again through the empty Troop Offices and Stores and dies away in the deaf ears of our Training Officer. Anyone left on parade after "Fall out course personnel" finds himself the uncomprehending prize in a three-cornered fight with Troop Commander, S.S.M. and "Regimental Duties" battling for his favours.

In the realm of sport our first major football match was in the Army Cup against R.A.P.C., Devizes, last season's winners, on our home ground. Excitement raged at fever pitch when with only ten men (cobbler, knobbled, hobbled off) we had managed, when the full-time whistle blew, to draw 2-2, and extra time was ordered. Alas, the drain on nervous energy resources was too great and we finally went down, fighting, to our more experience opponents, the final score being 2-9.

A recent feature of social life in the Regiment has been a series of squadron smoking concerts held in the NAAFI. To start with the right atmosphere, a free bottle of beer per man was provided by P.R.I., and the entertainment was provided by all who drank it and the other 600. "Nuff said." Let it suffice that a good time was had by all.

14th SIGNAL REGIMENT

1 Squadron. Winter activities are now well under way, and our Training Officer and P.R.I., Captain H. W. J. Hickman, M.B.E., is already beginning to wear a worried frown as he thinks forward to the Christmas preparations.

We wish to report that the Squadron soccer team is having quite a successful season; all games have been won to date. Due to the A.F.A. regulations, we were drawn against—for the umpteenth time—C.V.D., Ashchurch, in the first round of the South-Western District Cup, and finally emerged as winners by the odd goal after extra time. Although an exciting game, it was spoilt by the high wind and the fact that a full-back could only be provided at the last moment by arousing a somewhat reluctant gentleman from his after-lunchtime reveries in the Sergeants' Mess.

W.O.II Barrett coached System Control Troop to win the Inter-Troop Knock-out Competition and shame the critics by beating 602 Signal Troop on the now famous Gloucester City ground, and without the assistance of Henry Blythe. The standard of play was extremely high, the man of the match being Lance-Corporal Sparks, although he was a slipped disc suspect. System Control Troop commiserated with 602 Signal Troop by sharing the port and beer supplied, an extra bottle being given to the members of 602 Signal Troop, who gave up part of their demob leave to play. Our Rugby players try hard and we report with pride that the basketball team have won a victory!

We also received our first visit from Brigadier D. White, O.B.E., C.S.O. Southern Command. We hope that he enjoyed his tour of the Squadron and the T.R.C., and that he will visit us again soon.

This month we have said goodbye to Second-Lieutenant Barton, who has done such a lot for the Squadron as M.T.O. and Unit Sports Officer. We wish him well and welcome four new Subalterns and Captain Philp and his family to the Squadron. Captain Philp is taking over as Officer-in-Charge Shooting and we hope that our small bore team will be as successful this year as last.

3 Squadron. Gone has the glorious summer and you lucky people overseas will be pleased to know that we had frost and fog this morning.

October had us "Admin" minded. It came and it went and we think we did quite well.

From our small establishment we have 22 people attending extra mural study classes at Witney Technical College and Oxford College of Technology. Subjects from German language, book-keeping and advanced maths, etc., are all covered. Just another example of the opportunities available to Regulars and National Service men alike.

New arrivals are Sergeant Glendenning and Sergeant Wilkes. The Receiver Hall is becoming a little congested with this increase. May their stay in rural England be a pleasant one.

4 Squadron. There is little to report this month. We do, however, congratulate Corporal and Mrs. Ainge on the arrival of a son.

Football appears to be the main highlight. The Squadron team continues to make excellent progress, the scores reading more like Rugby results, the last one being 15-3! We have drawn a bye in the first round of the local league and hopes are riding high.

The Canoeing Club, having had an excellent season, is resting on its paddles.

The Junior N.C.O.'s Club held a successful social evening on Friday, 30th October, which was well attended and thoroughly enjoyed.

30th Signal Regiment

Congratulations to Lieutenant-Colonel D. Coatesworth, M.B.E., and to Lieutenant-Colonel C. E. Page, M.B.E., on their recent promotion to Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel. With three Colonels in the Regiment we feel very high powered!

On 29th October the Annual Administrative Inspection was conducted by C.S.O. Southern Command, Brigadier D. White, O.B.E. Since it had rained on the dress rehearsal we were thankful for a fine day for the parade, at which the Meritorious Service Medal was presented to Captain (Q.M.) J. H. W.



Presentation by Brigadier D. White, O.B.E., of the L.S. and G.C. to Sergeant W. Adams

Roake, and the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal to Sergeant W. Adams. Afterwards the Inspecting Officer and his Staff Officers visited the Squadrons. To the question "What is the Army Act?" two replies were that it was "All about stealing" and "Just commonsense"! We await the official report and expect the other answers to have been satisfactory.

As a change from Squadron notes it is proposed from time to time to highlight the work of one or other parts of the Unit. As they have recently returned from their summer tour, this time it is the turn of the Quicksilver Recruiting Team.

Expedition Exhibition

The Royal Signals mobile Recruiting Exhibition "Quicksilver," commanded by Lieutenant J. H. Wheeler, began its annual summer tour in late April with a trip to Lowestoft on the East Coast. The local Rotary Club had organised a school-leavers' exhibition, in which we were invited to take part. The Troop descended upon Lowestoft South Pier, where the exhibition was being held, amid protestations from the Borough Engineers and from the Pier, which sagged noticeably under the 20 tons of each vehicle. Fortunately, the weather was good during our stay and we were able to motor off again without mishap.

In the middle of May "Quicksilver" headed for Shrewsbury. Unfortunately it rained almost continuously throughout the show, but by the time we were due to move on to Stafford, to a similar agricultural show, things had brightened up. The sun brought the farmers out in their hundreds and many of them paid us a visit. Their expressions of amazement and wonder led us to believe that they were probably more accustomed to cows and corn than modern signalling equipment.

Soon we were on the move again to Scotland; a short stop at Catterick on the way was our last contact with the civilised world! Our first exhibition in Scotland was at Edinburgh, where we joined the Scottish Command mobile recruiting display called "Meet Your Army"—a seething mass of youngsters soon got us into the way of life in the far North! We were luckier than the Royal Engineers' team, who had to limp off to Stirling Workshops for major repairs after most of their exhibition had been blown away on one particularly windy night.

Our next move took us to what must be one of the bleakest outposts of the British Army today, Barry Buddon Camp, near Dundee, where we were joined by two new members, Staff Sergeant Miller and Corporal Bonner, who soon settled in with the rest in their tents. Thank goodness the weather improved and there was an immense public attendance at the shows and many interested visitors. In the middle of June we set off for our last call in Scotland, Hamilton, near Glasgow. This show proved uneventful and we moved off to Chester to prepare an exhibit for the Manchester Exhibition. Our task was to produce a small display in one of the many side booths, and took the form of a "Ground Wireless Station" operating to sets outside the Exhibition Hall.

During our stay at Manchester more replacements were sent to join us. Corporal Smith came as the all-important Line Technician to replace Corporal Nicholls, who went on a Foreman's Course at Catterick. Signalman Atkinson and Signalman Blackburn replaced the two National Service Telegraph Operators, Signalman Chaston and Signalman Burns. The next move took us only a short distance to Liverpool, where the conditions were similar to those of Shrewsbury earlier in the year, after which we moved to a one-day show at Malton, Yorkshire, where we had our friends the farmers to entertain again. One local insisted upon showing to his pet goat our display, and much to our amazement it gave a very varied recording of what one can only assume to be goat talk! On playback the animal took fright, bolting through the door, never to be seen again, by us anyway.



Lieutenant J. H. Wheeler, Corporal Nicholls, Corporal Duffy, Driver Wigley, Signalman Chaston and Signalman Wakefield at Lowestoft

After a short display at Bourley Camp with the C.C.F., the tempo of the tour speeded up and visits were made to Gillingham, Stroud and War Office, Stanmore. In the middle of September we returned to Scotland, where we rejoined the Army touring display for its last few weeks. At Perth the Troop took over a hotel, which was enjoyed by all except possibly the night porter, who had a sleepless week.

From Perth we moved to Ayr, when we had our only mechanical trouble of the season. The three-ton C.V. driven by Corporal Duffy came to a grinding halt at the top of a hill, but thanks to the assistance of Craftsman Johnson it was not long before we were on the road again.

The week in Ayr was wet and blustery, but the small town managed a good turn-out for the week-end. From Ayr we went to Edinburgh again for the last stage of the season's tour. The good weather had returned and the last week was a great success. Finally we made the long run back to Middle Wallop to prepare for next year's tour.

216 SIGNAL SQUADRON
(PARACHUTE BRIGADE GROUP)

The reason for the absence of our contribution in this journal over the last few months is fairly straightforward—we have been on other duties in other countries. Having first of all ensured that we obtained an "Excellent" in our Administrative Inspection Report in April, we then set about the business of training and exercises and despaired of seeing Aldershot for more than two or three days at a time (though despair is hardly the correct word!)

The first exercise was a medical test on the new combat ration which involved a dawn drop on Ben Nevis without sleep the night before. On this, 15 Royal Signals personnel combined with the Parachute Field Ambulance. Having dropped, they then proceeded to march 78 miles in 48 hours as a preliminary to further exhausting expeditions into the Cairngorm Mountains. All socks were found to be in the same condition as morale—extremely high.

The majority of our exercises have included a parachute descent, but more importance this year has been attached to the word "mobility" which has, and still is, causing far more trouble than we ever imagined when we were first earmarked for "Mobility Trials." The object of these trials has been to fit a Brigade Group with its equipment prepared to operate for 28 days into the minimum number of Landrovers and Trailers. Consequently, one of the main essentials to join this parachute squadron has not been the ability to leap out of aeroplanes but rather to leap into the back of a Landrover with ten or so other heaving bodies.

Nevertheless, it is hoped that we have persuaded any "powers that be" that a Brigade Group Signal Squadron instead of having 20 vehicles in Brigade H.Q. varying between APCs and 3-tonners, can operate on a basis of six Landrovers and trailers with a few marching troops. The result is that all vehicles have been so heavily modified that it is almost a LAD job to fill up with petrol. We don't mind, as we are all now fully convinced of the practicability and efficiency of these methods, having as our greatest reward the sight of innumerable incredulous Senior Officers!

Having now finished our trials, it is with a sigh of relief that we hand over our equipment and our findings to another Brigade for further ideas and trials. Let us only hope that it has not all been in vain!

This year, blessed as it has been with an abnormal amount of good weather, has provided unfailing opportunities to parachute and in the last 10 months members of the squadron have made nearly 13,000 descents including "recreational training" from the balloon (in which field of entertainment the endeavours of Sergeant Duke have been admiringly recognised). Many



O.C., Major G. Peat and Major T. Johnsen (Norwegian Signals) before their "lob" into the Arctic Circle

exhibitions for various military colleges have been given and also one of H.M. King Hussein, upon which occasion Corporal Jenkins attempted political assassination by the unorthodox method of jettisoning his equipment container upon that royal head. Luckily for Anglo-Jordanian relationships this man's aim is notoriously poor.

Our next big exhibition was for the Training Brigade, Royal Signals, on Barden Moor, where thanks to tremendous co-operation from Catterick we had an extremely successful recruiting demonstration. Approximately 2,500 observers saw the whole squadron parachute, followed by two platforms with ¼-ton vehicles and trailers. The rather rambling and incoherent commentary was due to the drop being delayed two hours and the necessity for Lieutenant Jeremy Cook, the Air Adjutant, to maintain morale on a rather damp, drizzling day. What price the old cuff?

These exhibitions were the prelude to our preliminary exercises, both military and parachuting, which for the most part took place on "The Plain." These activities took us as far as mid-July when, for the purpose of relaxation and general training we departed to Penhale Camp (Newquay). Here we enjoyed a marvellous two weeks of early morning P.T. and general training (which the O.C. decreed should include the training of each troop in turn to provide and cook a complete day's food for the squadron. The competition was keen and the food was dreadful, but no one can say we did not have our laughs). Also a night infantry exercise was arranged against a T.A. Unit with the reward consisting of a crate of beer—the results were sensational, but it was felt that little was gained from a tactical aspect. The finale was provided by an unofficial cliff assault by certain members of the squadron on the "Blue Lagoon" Ballroom with small reward for those concerned, as the Senior Ranks had already gained unfair access (by paying) and had monopolised all worthwhile inhabitants. The squadron returned then to Aldershot, some by military transport, and the unfortunate ones by means of initiative tests having to procure on their travels such objects as a feather from a Windmill Girl's fan accompanied by the girl's signature.

The Squadron, bronzed and healthy, proceeded on leave for three weeks, only to return pale and unfit in order to embark on Red Wing I and II. These exercised both 1 and 3 Parachute Battalion Groups in a parachuting role and Brigade H.Q. in a mobility role. Our main success during these exercises was to completely demolish a Signal Centre Landrover and Penthouse by fire. Second-Lieutenant Power, whom we had welcomed just previously to the Squadron, had an interesting experience at the Board of Inquiry, as he had, just before the exercise, assumed the duties of O.C. Signal Centre Troop and Fire Officer. May his stay be long and prosperous. The 1st Bn. Welsh Guards, who are under command for the duration of



"Here we Go." Two members of the Squadron emplaning at Tronheim, Norway, on Exercise "Bar Frost"

mobility trials (in place of 2 Para., who, with a detachment of five men from the Squadron, are in Cyprus) had an interesting Air Portability exercise in Northern Ireland in which the Squadron was again heavily committed.

Following rapidly on these exercises came Exercise "Bar Frost," which took the complete Brigade Group to Northern Norway to exercise against the Norwegian Army. This was probably the most interesting and valuable exercise we have had for many a year, as it involved the move of the whole Squadron to Trondheim and the parachuting of 60 members on to a particularly wet DZ at Bardufoss (200 miles north of the Arctic Circle) where even the most experienced parachutist in the Squadron failed to find a dry patch. Everyone enjoyed this fortnight's excursion and were most impressed by Norway, Norwegians and Norwegian hospitality.

Now we have been back three weeks and have completed Exercise "Red Banner" when we parachuted against the Guards Brigade on Salisbury Plain and endeavoured to prove to a vast gathering of Senior Observers the superiority of our light-weight mobility. We reckon we succeeded!

This was the culmination of our year's training, but unfortunately we are to be afforded no respite as we have within a month our CIV, CIEME and Administrative Inspections, which are going to be complicated by a move of barracks to Farnborough. Naturally, our parachute training is not abandoned, and then just to complicate matters we expect to provide 50 men or so for Exercise "Dry Martini" when 2 Para. parachute into North Africa in December.

We would like to welcome to the Unit Corporal Griffiths who, with Corporal Ruff and Corporal Lloyd, has recently been promoted to Sergeant. Congratulations to all three.

So, as can easily be seen, the Squadron has undergone much "service" both at home and in foreign lands during this last year, and with a programme which includes exercises in B.A.O.R. and Cyprus next year, we can see no possibility of any stagnation. We have yet to find any signs of boredom in *this* unit.

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202 SIGNAL SQUADRON (INFANTRY BRIGADE GROUP)

As this is our first contribution to THE WIRE, we should first of all explain who we are.

In the dim distant days of 1958, "K" Troop, 1 Divisional Signal Regiment, resided in Crownhill Fort, Plymouth, looking after communications for 2 Infantry Brigade. In July of that year the Troop became an Independent Brigade Signal Squadron and began a rather harassing period expecting to go to "Bongo Bongo" land at any moment. The Brigade did not, however, move, and the Squadron moved to Plasterdown Camp, out on the moors near Tavistock. There we remained in the winter, exercising in deplorable weather and living a most primitive existence, with sheep and ponies wandering at will throughout the camp.

It was here we gained our new S.S.M., W.O.II Crummey, and in April, when Dartmoor began to blossom, we moved to Seaton Barracks in Plymouth. This is our present home, and now, as a Brigade Group Signal Squadron, we are going from strength to strength. However, on to present-day news.

We should first of all like to extend a warm welcome to our new O.C., Major L. S. McCarthy. He joins us at an opportune time now that we are at the start of a new training season, and we hope we have met up to his expectations. It is with much regret that we bid farewell to Major and Mrs. J. G. Melsom. We wish them good luck in Germany, and let it be recorded that all ranks of 202 Signal Squadron reckon 16th Signal Regiment have gained a valuable asset—and we don't mean a new M.G. Magnette!

The Squadron have just finished six days on Salisbury Plain, providing umpire communications for 1 Guards Brigade Group (the enemy) on Exercise "Red Banner." It was a most interesting task, especially for those individual detachments out with the umpires. It is felt a great deal was learnt by all on the exercise. Sergeant Charnley and his cookhouse did us all proud, and on the long journey home there they were, parked on the Exeter by-pass ready to serve out a hot meal. We felt rather as Columbus must have done as he sighted land, but I suppose our "all-in-stew" would have been something of a delicacy in his days!

We were all sorry to see Second-Lieutenant Maclaren leave us. He has proved a stalwart of the Squadron, and as M.T.O. gained us an "Excellent" on the C.I.V. Inspection this year. We wish him well in civvy street and thank him most sincerely for his help.

Plymouth has had a wonderful summer this year, and members of the Squadron have made full use of it . . . which reminds us to congratulate Staff Sergeant and Mrs. McGuire on their marriage on October 10th. All ranks wish them the very best of luck in the future.

Captain Ingledow remains buried under a heap of files after shepherding us through "Red Banner," and Lieutenant Taylor can be heard in passing muttering something about "paying time-and-a-half" and "shop stewards in the Line Troop!" Two very harassed officers!

We acquitted ourselves well in the H.Q. 2 Infantry Brigade Group shooting team in the 3 Divisional Rifle Meeting. The Squadron provided all but five of the 15-man team, and upheld the honour of the Brigade most creditably.

We are holding our own sportswise, competing in the Plymouth Combination Football League at the moment, but more of that in our next bulletin.

241 SIGNAL SQUADRON (WESTERN COMMAND)

Changes within the Squadron and the successful completion of another season's work are responsible for one of our infrequent appearances in the Corps Magazine.

During recent months there have been several changes in the management, beginning in July when Major B. W. A. Collins relieved Major T. H. Hesketh as Squadron Commander on the latters move of but 300 yards to H.Q. A.E.R. Royal Signals. Captain K. R. Canning arrived from 25th Signal Regiment and assumed the duties of Second-in-Command, and Second Lieutenant J. C. Wilson left us on completion of National Service in August. In September, we said farewell to Warrant Officer II (R.Q.M.S.) M. W. E. Charlton, an old and loyal member of the Corps, after over 30 years' service. We are pleased to record that he is not entirely lost to us as he has found both a house and employment in the Chester area. We welcome in his place Warrant Officer II Cunningham, ex 26th Signal Regiment.

Although we cannot hope to emulate the style and performance of 25th Signal Regiment in our District and Command Motor Cycle Trials, we can proudly claim that Sergeant Davies and Signalman Mason performed most creditably in the Command Trial, being placed 15th and 17th respectively. Their performance in the District Trial was such that they could have carried a passenger and won the Team award!

In July a detachment of Mobile Troop travelled to Sussex to provide communications for the Western Command Intelligence Unit exercise "Little Brother." On arrival at Maresfield we were informed by many interested parties that: "it's impossible" and "you'll never get through," a challenge accepted by Sergeant Cave who, much to the satisfaction of the exercise D.S., did the impossible.

Mobile Troop also provided communications and P.A. equipment for demonstration "Soft Line" at Castlemartin on 22nd October, 1959. The demonstration was staged with a view to proving the ability of the R.A.S.C. to maintain a force, including the R.A.F., with bulk fuel supplies at the very early stages of a campaign. In addition to demonstrating the landing of fuel by flexible pipeline from a tanker (converted I.C.T.), an alternative method using a Dracone (flexible towed 10,000 gallon fuel container) was displayed. Communications were provided by 19 and 62 Sets and covered the tanker, shore tankage sites, a D.U.K.W. which towed the Dracone and the terminal tankage point. The controller's Rover was netted to a helicopter used to patrol the completed pipeline.

Finally, we would like to offer our congratulations to Sergeant Cave on his selection for the Command Hockey Team, and Army Hockey Trials to be held at Aldershot in December.

STEEPLE BUMPSTEAD SIGNAL SQUADRON

To conform to current practice, the Regimental Policeman has been withdrawn to a position behind the main gate.

The fact that the contractors arrived last week to commence making the long-awaited road through the camp has convinced the O.C. of the wisdom in transferring the Ministry of Transport to the Ministry of Defence.

The inauguration of the National Army Museum at Sandhurst has placed us in a quandary. If we supply the Museum with its needs there will be very little left in the A.F.G. 1198 stores. This will mean that the next C8 inspection will delete our second S.Q.M.S. and it is "Q" Parker who owns the Housey-Housey equipment used in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess.

The weekly O.C.'s conference is now devoted to designing schemes for assisting other units in the Corps to keep Royal Signals in the public eye. We are finding it difficult to compete with Air Races, Nijmegen Marches, Canoe Races, Recording Studios and Scottish Weeks; we couldn't even have a Redesignation Parade! Nevertheless, we have already provided the administrative arrangements for the North Essex Anglers' Club annual competition—which the S.S.M. won.

Trade training and upgrading courses constitute our main occupation during the winter months. With so many Trade Boards being held it was necessary for the Radio Technicians to be examined by Major Harris (R.O. III—late Grenadier Guards) and the S.Q.M.S. For one awful moment it was thought that the C.S.O. would supervise the trade testing, until he accepted that we were a War Office controlled unit.

The future of the Ministry of Supply is awaited with interest. Perhaps someone in the new organisation will design boot-laces that don't break and anklets that don't fray at the instep?

Stop Press

Now that the public announcement has been made, it can be revealed that the Squadron has been used as an experimental Unit for the new disciplinary code. However, it is not understood why the new code was officially adopted.

Although C.B. has disappeared, offenders can still be given fatigues. Our S.S.M. has always contrived to make his details last from 18.00 — 22.00 hours — to say nothing of Saturdays, when the entire cookhouse is redecorated, in turn with the Officers' and Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Messes.

Have you placed a standing order for a copy of The Wire?

Why not do so now?

22nd SPECIAL AIR SERVICE REGIMENT SIGNAL TROOP

Although we appear to have been missed in the rash of numbers which the Corps has broken out in, THE WIRE thoughtfully redesignated the Regiment for us last month. The name, however, remains the same although to follow on with the Editor's postscript in September, we found ourselves in the beginning of October a Signal Troop with no wireless sets for ten days. Twelve hours after this discovery the troop was at Brecon delving into the mysteries of the .300 Browning and hurrying across the Beacons with pack and rifle. The eighth day was nearly the end of the entire troop as after one map reading scheme we lost all but two members for 48 hours. The rest turned up back at Brecon full of explosive comment on all concerned with the exercise and blaming map, compass, country and everyone concerned for their absence. This gives a training pointer for this month when we are 'relaxing' between Germany and Tripoli.

Germany was the reason for us not having any wireless sets, as they took longer to return than we had anticipated. We had several very enjoyable exercises in Germany co-operating with both Germans and Americans, our links covering Europe from Munich to Malvern. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all those Signal units in B.A.O.R. who helped us out with equipment and advice, whether wireless sets or information on local procedure. We have had two arrivals recently, "Geordie" North back for yet another tour, being almost the oldest member of the Regiment, and Callan, fresh from 1 Training Regiment. On the sports side we are well represented at the moment with three regular members of the Rugger XV, one in the Soccer XI, and several keen hockey enthusiasts.

O'Connor has now left us, forsaking his beige beret for three stripes with 1 Training Regiment (the new nomenclature doesn't penetrate this far). Sergeant Smith, another founder member of the Regiment and for a long time a troop commander in an operational squadron, has returned, temporarily, to the fold and is Troop Sergeant until he goes on a course.

We can, as usual, look forward to an interesting future. In the 'clear' period before Tripoli, whence about half the troop are going, we have several exercises on the stocks, a recruiting trip to organise, training in Scotland, boxing and cross country running, the last to choose our ski team.

A footnote for would-be members: The ACI has changed and is now 234 of 1959. If you put in your application now you will be on the Brecon course in the Spring.

Turn-About with DAVE CARTER

The Christmas Spins

Each Christmas the record companies go overboard trying to bring out discs with a topical theme. Usually the first releases appear in mid-October; some are recorded even earlier. In fact, cute-as-a-button Connie Francis was cutting tracks for Yuletide distribution in the middle of sweltering August at the E.M.I. studios, London.

However, with all this effort and enterprise, few of the results are worth the endeavour; but, besides the established favourites "White Christmas" and "Mary's Boy Child," there are one or two which have appealed to me.

From the young *Top Rank* label comes Charles Dickens's immortal *A Christmas Carol* on an LP starring celebrated Siobhan McKenna and an impressive Irish cast dramatising his ghost story to good effect. It's worth every penny of 35/-.

Meantime, on Decca, Max Bygraves and a bunch of kids from West Hampstead sing *Jingle Jangle Rock* on a small spin. It has a happy-go-lucky ditty set to a jingle which is designed to please the whole family, but it was the flip-side ballad by American composer Wilson Stone—famous for the "Shane" music—that I went for. The title simply asks: *Who Made the Morning?*

That casual man, Perry Como, who returned to B.B.C.-T.V. screens in November, sings *Songs of Christmas* for RCA. Available both in "flat" or sterio sound, this 12-inch LP has everybody's choice of carol included. Throughout there is sincerity and charm from a well-loved performer.

U.S. Composers Come to Britain

Ace American tunesmiths Doc Pomus and Mort Shuman, famous for "Teen-ager in Love," have arrived in England at the invitation of big-beat T.V. producer Jack Good. They plan to pen material suitable for the vocal ability of Italian rockster Little Tony, and home-grown recording artiste Michael Cox.

In the past two years this composer team has produced seventy-five recorded numbers, and at one stage in early 1959, fourteen of their titles were in Stateside top-selling disc lists.

Steele's Bit of Bull

Little White Bull is the big song from Tommy Steele's latest film, and there's little doubt that youngsters everywhere will be latching on to the catchy theme, and it may prove to be the cockney's biggest hit.

Like "The Ugly Duckling" and "Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer," this *Decca* disc tells the story of a little fellow who is scorned by everyone until, in the end, he succeeds in making good.

A spokesman for the Decca organisation told me: "Steele has agreed that all personal royalties received from this recording will go to the Variety Club Fund for a Cancer Research Unit for Children." Well done, Tommy!

Richard Rated "The Most"

Cliff Richard, Britain's imitator of the original hip-swiveller Elvis, has been voted the "favourite British male singer" in the annual nation-wide poll conducted by *New Musical Express*. His *Columbia* turn-about *Livin' Doll* was considered the "best disc of the year."

This young man who originates from Lucknow, India, is having a phenomenal ride on the success band-wagon. His newest waxing *Travellin' Light* took just seven days to fly up to No. 1 position on all charts.

A New Recording of "La Boheme"

One of the first complete opera sets to be issued by *Decca* nine years ago when the first LP's were introduced was *La Boheme*. With the coming of stereophonic sound, they felt justified in producing a new version of the popular opera.

The exciting result has a cast which speaks for the quality of the performance. Renata Tebaldi's Mimi is justly renowned as the finest interpretation of this part today, and she is partnered by the thrilling tenor of Carlo Bergonzi as Rodolfo.

Supplied in a presentation box with notes and libretto, it's a long-player which is a must for all lovers of the opera.

Spinning Around . . .

A group who sweeps the charts is The Four Aces. On 17th December, most of the capital cities of the world will be showing the controversial atomic-end-of-the-world film "On the Beach," which has for its theme music *Waltzing Matilda*.

Led by solo-vocalist Al Alberts and with orchestral backing directed by Jack Pleis, the Four Aces swing into their rousing version. Out from *Brunswick* and tipped for the top!

Alyn Ainsworth and The Rock-a-Fellas on *Parlophone* make an interesting sound and call it *18th Century Rock*. Why? Perhaps it's because the disc features a harpsicord. And talking about things old, the new LeRoy Holmes's orchestral sound-off of "oldie" *Alice Blue Gown* is worth more than a spin or two. An MGM recording which allows the strings to take the melody straight while bounce is provided by twangy guitars.

Dynamic. That's the only word for Dinah Washington and her *Mercury* release, *Unforgettable*—an evergreen rich in the warmth of Miss Washington's full voice. This is one for the night hours when lights are dim, but, unfortunately, too good for the "Pop" Top Twenty.

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Major-General M. S. Wheatley, C.B., C.B.E.

Representative Colonel Commandant

Visits B.A.O R.

We have always been fortunate in B.A.O.R. in being honoured each year by a visit of the Representative Colonel Commandant. This year was no exception and although Major-General Wheatley was only able to come for a short time in October we were most pleased to see him. We are sure too that he found the Corps still in good heart and striving as ever to achieve the almost impossible! He arrived by air at Dusseldorf on Tuesday, 6th October, and was met by the C.S.O. B.A.O.R., Major-General K. C. O. Bastyan, C.B., C.B.E., with whom he stayed and who accompanied him throughout his tour.

Wednesday had not originally featured in the programme of his visit, but as he had been forced to arrive a day early because of passage difficulties, he was able to meet the Commander-in-Chief and the Deputy Commander during the morning. He also took the opportunity to visit the Communications Centre and combined Tape Relay Centre which serves both H.Q., B.A.O.R., and H.Q., NORTHAG. There he was able to meet and talk with men of 28th Signal Regiment, busily dealing with their yards and yards of tape. Their dexterity in handling the multiplicity of chadded, chadless, printed and unprinted tapes, all at the same time, has always been much admired by visitors.

Next morning he left Rheindahlen to visit 13th Signal Regiment. On the way, being held up and thinking perhaps that they were late, the General's driver decided to increase speed. Unfortunately, in his anxiety, he failed to see the two Regimental despatch riders who had been waiting to escort the General's car through the village of Birgelen. A fast and exciting race then developed between the General's Mercedes and the two Matchless. The despatch riders, taking a short cut by diving down a side turning, were eventually able to come out in front of the Mercedes and the party drove into camp with due pomp and ceremony.

Accompanied by the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Jordan, the General made a tour of the barracks which, if short and crowded, was not lacking in incident. The visit went as scheduled from the inspection of the Quarter Guard to the introduction of the Warrant Officers and a call at the Theatre. But it was at the Dining Hall that some unscheduled amusement and no little argument was caused by the plate washing machine, for no-one seemed to know which end of this apparently symmetrical and simple piece of machinery had to be fed with the plates. Later, an impromptu visit to the Regimental farm provided the General with the opportunity of inspecting the Regiment's prospective Christmas dinner. Indeed, he later sampled the products of this profitable activity when he went to the Officers' Mess for lunch.

The General's departure was not so hectic as his arrival, for the two escorting despatch riders had managed to impress on the driver that, despite the undoubtedly superior acceleration and speed of the Mercedes, it was his duty to stay behind the humble Matchless. A cocktail party later in the day in Rheindahlen allowed the General to meet Royal Signals Officers serving with the various Headquarters. Being election night, the parties continued in one form or another until the very early hours of the morning.

On Friday another half-hour's drive, this time without incident, took him to 16th Signal Regiment in Bradbury Barracks, Krefeld. After inspecting the Quarter Guard, commanded by Sergeant Crampton, the Officers of the Regiment were introduced by the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel W. C. Burke. Through the machinations of the contractors, the barracks at this time offered a formidable assault course of deep trenches, oversize boilers and general building impediments. Nevertheless, recently renovated barrack blocks, training accommodation and stores were visited, when the General was able to speak to many of the junior ranks at trade training. He showed particular interest in telegraph operators who were transcribing morse on the teleprinter keyboard, as also in the display of the recently issued Nuclear Defence Radiac Instruments which were being used in conjunction with unit ground survey and radiological team training. To reverse the traditional order of things lunch with the Officers was



General Wheatley in Tape Relay Centre NORTHAG. Left to Right: Major General K. C. O. Bastyan C.B., C.B.E., Major J. L. McKellar, Lieutenant Colonel J. R. West, M.B.E., Signalman Simmons, Major General M. S. Wheatley, C.B., C.B.E., Major D. W. Thomas

followed by a call at the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, where members were introduced to General Wheatley by R.S.M. Finch. When W.O.II Parks showed him the pennant of the local Krefeld Branch of the Africa Korps Old Comrades, who have an intimate and close local association with the ex-Eighth Army members of the Mess, this was the opener for a lively conversation recalling old desert days. Tea with the Officers and their ladies refreshed the Generals before their drive back to Rheindahlen.

The sun continued to shine on the Saturday when the Representative Colonel Commandant arrived at R.A.F. Station, Wildenrath, for his visit to 221 Signal Squadron (Air Formation). At the main gate, after inspecting the specially mounted Guard, the General met the S.S.M., W.O.II Langham, who had previously served with him while he was C.S.O., XIII Corps, in Italy during the War. S.S.M. Langham has achieved



General Wheatley being greeted on arrival at 13th Signal Regiment by Lieutenant Colonel H. R. Jordan, M.B.E., T.D.



General Wheatley talking to SSM T. W. Langham, M.B.E., at 221 Signal Squadron (Air Formation)

the unusual distinction of serving for eleven years with one Unit of the Corps, under eight of its nine different titles. He joined North Midland Corps Signals, T.A., before the War and served with the same Unit under various changes of title until 1947 when, as a member of XIII Corps Signals, he helped to form BETFOR Signal Regiment, although he did not himself join the new Unit. In 1956, however, he was posted back to 10 Air Formation Signal Regiment, which is now 221 Signal Squadron. For the historically inclined the descent of the newborn 221 Signal Squadron, from North Midland Signals, T.A., may be of interest, as it evidently was to General Wheatley.

North Midland Corps Signals, T.A., became in
1940 *III Corps Signals, in France*, which in turn formed *X Corps Signals in U.K.* Then in
1941 *3 Company X Corps Signals*, in the Middle East, helped to form *Mobile Corps Signals* and served throughout the campaign in North Africa and Italy. Then helped to form, in
1947 *BETFOR (British Element Trieste Force) Signal Regiment*, which became in
1954 *10 Air Formation Signal Regiment*, reorganised in
1958 *H.Q., 2 T.A.F. (Independent) Air Formation Signal Squadron*, renamed in
1959 *221 Signal Squadron (Air Formation)*.



General Wheatley with married families of 221 Signal Squadron (Air Formation). Left to right: Staff Sergeant and Mrs. R. M. Jones, Mrs. Rapson, Sergeants B. F. Robinson and E. Rapson, General Wheatley, Major B. C. Skelly.

In the Malcolm Club, where the General had coffee with the married families of the Squadron, he was pleased to meet once again Corporal "Bob" Chitty, who he knew in Egypt in 1952 and later, as Director of Signals at the War Office, when Corporal Chitty was working in the Signal Centre there. An enjoyable lunch in the "Log Cabin" at the Officers' Mess rounded off, in usual R.A.F. style, a most happy visit.

We were sorry that the weather could not maintain the high standard which it had shown throughout the tour, for at his departure on Saturday the first of the autumn rains began to fall. We are sure, though, this in no way dampened General Wheatley's enjoyment of his tour, for he was kind enough to express his pleasure at all he has seen of the Corps in B.A.O.R.

Signal Officer-in-Chief visits B.A.O.R.

15th to 24th October, 1959

The activity which preceded this visit of Major-General R. J. Moberly, C.B., O.B.E., was, as always, a measure of the regard in which he is held. More than that, there was some suggestion that several people had long memories and were determined that no sudden appearance from around the proverbial corner should take them unawares. When, therefore, a fog-delayed aeroplane eventually touched down in Germany and various deep laid plans showed signs of working, there were many sighs of relief.

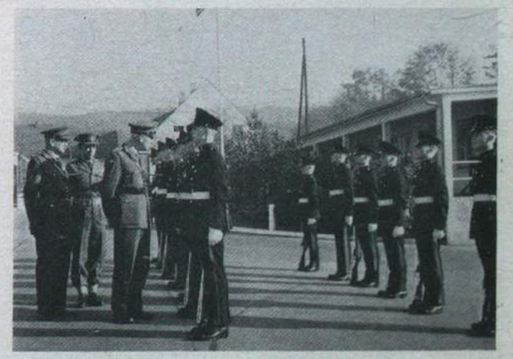
Thursday, 15th October, 1959

In the evening Major-General and Mrs. Moberly, with their A.D.C., Lieutenant J. Pertwee, and accompanied by Major-General Bastyan, C.S.O., B.A.O.R., arrived in Bielefeld to become for six days the guests of 1 (BR) Corps.

Friday, 16th October

Official engagements began with a visit to 7th Signal Regiment. This included a visit to the Substantive Sergeants' Course, where the General gave some very encouraging words on the future of the Corps. An inspection of items of new equipment followed, during which the S.O.-in-C. sought—and received—the "worm's eye view" from the operators and technicians concerned. He proceeded from the intricacies of the Signal Centre Complex and the Tape Relay Village to one of the most intriguing pieces of automation of all—the hot drinks machine (the first in a barracks in Germany), recently installed by NAAFI. Inserting the appropriate coins and pressing the button for coffee, the General received a hot drink, but history does not record what he thought of the taste.

After a social call at the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, where he met a number of old acquaintances, including R.S.M. Page, a short move took the party to a buffet lunch in the Officers' Mess of 4th Signal Regiment, where they were joined by Mrs. Moberly and Mrs. Whistler. During lunch the S.O.-in-C. and his wife met the Officers and their wives of the Regiment and of its Brigade Group Squadrons. After lunch, beginning a tour of the barracks, the General encountered a fellow ex-member of the 1st Airborne Corps in the person of R.S.M. M. Ham. The inspection then proceeded smoothly until he arrived at the Q.M. Stores. Here he discovered another old friend, Captain (Q.M.) G. Lynam, who, he found, was apparently still smarting from their last meeting some eleven years previously! The General purported *not* to notice the extra slow pace of his tour past a monumental coal yard.



The Signal Officer-in-Chief inspects the Guard of 7th Signal Regiment

During tea in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess the S.O.-in-C. met every member of the Mess and amazed them all by his knowledge of their home towns and the fishing potential of their local rivers. It was not surprising and a source of some pride to the Mess that he left half-an-hour behind schedule.

This first day ended with a Guest Night at 7th Signal Regiment, to which ladies had been invited, and this gave the General and Mrs. Moberly an opportunity of meeting many more old friends. The late hour of departure encouraged the Regiment to hope that their guests had enjoyed themselves.

Saturday, 17th October

This was devoted to conferences at Corps H.Q., a visit to Royal Signals flying activities at Gutersloh and a supper party at "Mike's," where the Royal Signals Planning Team, hot from Paris, joined in and met the Corps Commander, General Sir "Mike" West and Lady West.

Sunday, 18th October

A day of comparative quiet, except for Mattins, a lunch party and dinner with the Corps Commander.

Monday, 19th October

The day began with the S.O.-in-C. again visiting Corps Headquarters, but before noon he was with the 2nd Signal Regiment, where he was joined by Mrs. Moberly to meet the Officers and their wives during lunch. During the afternoon, while Mrs. Moberly visited the houses of Staff Sergeant and Mrs. Freeman and of Corporal and Mrs. Wheeler, the General embarked upon a comprehensive tour of the Regiment, which, having only just returned from a fortnight in the field, was still busily removing dust and foliage. Nevertheless, during the visit the General met practically everybody and the afternoon ended with tea in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, where he met R.Q.M.S. Fry, who had served under the General when he commanded 1 Training Regiment in 1949.

As if all this were not enough for one day, General and Mrs. Moberly attended more parties in Bielefeld that evening, when they met other Officers and their wives who had escaped them up to that moment.

Tuesday, 20th October

This was spent at H.Q., 1 (BR) Corps, throughout which the S.O.-in-C. presided over a presentation of future intentions given by the Signals Planning Team to the Commanders and Staffs of British formations in Germany. It was an informative and rewarding day for all those present, but for the "Signalmen" perhaps one of the most inspiring features was the S.O.-in-C.'s evergreen vigour and effectiveness when putting over Signals problems to the General Staff.



The Signal Officer-in-Chief with Regimental Sergeant Major Ham, 4th Signal Regiment



The General displaying a lively interest in the activities of Signalman Bell, M. Troop. Bell is a regimental cricketer, 2nd Signal Regiment.



[Photo: W.O.I. Potts

The Signal Officer-in-Chief and his Essen Police escort being photographed by Mrs. Moberly. Extreme left: Staff Sergeant Danks

Wednesday, 21st October

The S.O.-in-C. held an early morning conference and then bid his farewells to 1 (BR) Corps in order to see something of the Army Group Units and Headquarters.

His visit to the 10th Signal Regiment at Essen really started as he left the Autobahn after travelling from Bielefeld. The party was met by Lieutenant Weston with an escort of two Champs and a super-V.I.P. escort of cars and motor cycles provided by the German Police of Essen. The journey through the city to Meanee Barracks was made in royal style (and record time!).

While Mrs. Moberly was entertained at luncheon by Mrs. Llewellyn, General Moberly met the Officers of the Regiment at lunch in the Officers' Mess. After a series of demonstrations of equipment and men at work, designed to allow the General to meet as many members of the Regiment as possible, he was given a demonstration of a different kind. This was by four exponents of the Regimental Judo Club at their gentle art under the guidance of C.S.M.(I) Mitchell, of the A.P.T.C.

Of particular interest was the showing of the 20-minute colour film depicting the story of the Regiment's mascot, Bruno, the Berlin Cable Bear. That the Regiment now possesses a full-size replica of the original Bear is due in no small measure to the negotiations conducted by General Moberly himself

when he was Chief Signal Officer in Germany, and apart from the interest of the film itself, it pleased the General to see how Bruno had in fact made a not insignificant contribution to Anglo-German relationships. Members of the Sergeants' Mess were also present at the showing of the film and when it was over R.S.M. I. R. Halford conducted the visitors to the Mess, where they had tea.

During the afternoon Mrs. Moberly, accompanied by Mrs. Llewellyn, paid an informal call on Lance-Corporal and Mrs. Evans and were later entertained to tea by Mrs. Robinson, wife of R.Q.M.S. Robinson, who, in the absence of Mrs. Halford through illness, introduced the wives of the Warrant Officers.

Prior to their departure for Rheindahlen, General and Mrs. Moberly thanked the members of the Essen Police escort for their services and, as can be seen from an accompanying photograph, Mrs. Moberly recorded the "arrest."

Thursday, 22nd October

General Moberly's visit to 28th Signal Regiment started with a brief tour of the NORTHAG/B.A.O.R. Communication Centre. After a short visit to the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, where he met the seniors of 2 and 3 Squadrons, he continued to the Officers' Mess for lunch. Afterwards, in company with the Commanding Officer, he left for St. Tonis, to visit those parts of the Regiment in the recently renamed "Francisca" Barracks.

Again the ceremonial of a Quarter Guard inspection, then a quick walk through the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess and on to the Main Square, where a very energetic game of inter-troop hockey was in progress, the players' enthusiasm alone compensating for their lack of skill

A quick look at the Regiment's internal telephone exchange which, having been moved that morning, was a hive of feverish re-wiring activity by Captain Hickman and the linemen of 1 Squadron, and finally to the Dining Hall, where the Regimental boxing team was being put through their pugilistic paces by Major Ryan and W.O.II (A.Q.M.S.) Ray, R.E.M.E.



[Photo: W.O.1 Potts

The Signal Officer-in-Chief talking to the trumpeter (Signalman McGarry) after inspecting the Quarter Guard at 10th Signal Regiment. Left to right: Lieutenant Colonel Llewellyn, General Moberly, Drivers Hall and Gell, Signalmen Simpson and McGarry

That evening Major-General and Mrs. Moberly met Officers and their wives from NORTHAG/B.A.O.R. at a cocktail party and later at the United Services Club.

Friday, 23rd October

The last of the official visits was a call on the Inspector General of Signals of the German Army, Koln, returning the visit which the Inspector General had made to the S.O.-in-C. in London earlier in the year.

Saturday, 24th October

On his departure the S.O.-in-C. expressed his pleasure at all he had seen. We in B.A.O.R. thank Major-General and Mrs. Moberly for the pleasure their visit has given us.

A Word on Recruiting

By Sergeant R. Hammerton, Royal Signals

There is a popular belief that the typical Army Recruiter is a Bilko-like character who lurks in a darkened office waiting for unsuspecting victims to walk into his web. In this imaginative concept, those who are proved by superficial examination to be able to walk, talk and breathe are enlisted at once; those who are not so well endowed by nature are stowed away for less critical analysis in the lean days that may lie ahead.

After nearly three years as a Special Recruiter, however, I can testify that the business of recruiting is far removed from any such farcical methods. The Army Recruiter is a salesman, in competition with commerce and industry for the manpower of the country. In the course of my duties, I have acquired experience as a Driver, Display Erector, Carpenter, Window-Dresser, Bill Poster, and Technician —the Royal Signals Cap Badge encourages calls to repair TV sets and fuses for miles around! But this is all in the day's work, for the creating of good relations is an important feature of my job, and many a young man has decided to enlist after a quiet chat with a recruiter in the front room or at his Youth Club. Add to these experiences the need to have considerable military knowledge and it is clear that recruiting is not altogether a straightforward and simple task.

In giving a general picture of the work involved, I do not intend to go into the detailed procedure for enlisting a recruit. Briefly, all volunteers must pass a number of rigorous tests, both mental and physical, and must nominate responsible people who will vouch for their integrity. When dealing with Junior Leaders and Army Apprentices, we must obtain their school reports, as well as the consent of the parents and sometimes the permission of the local education authority for a boy to leave school. After this comes the Personnel Selection Officer's interview and, in the case of Apprentices, an entrance examination. Finally, we must obtain War Office permission for the enlistment. All this is far removed from the "body snatching" and press gang method of bygone days.

The Army of today offers a wide range of technical and operative trades to potential recruits. It is the duty of a Recruiter to keep these trades in the public eye and to bring them to the notice of likely candidates who are aware only of the more adventurous and glamorous aspects of military life. For example, a great majority want to enlist as Despatch Riders or Drivers, and have never even considered becoming Linemen, Operators or Technicians.

Display work is an important feature of recruiting as it is one of the main lines of contact with the general public. These displays have to present the Army in a bright, interesting and up-to-date way, using the latest equipment available. Many young men who have never considered an Army career can be attracted to the Corps by a visual indication of the skills involved. On the other hand, untidy and inadequate exhibits can do untold damage to Corps and Army prestige.

A Recruiter's wits and store of military knowledge are tested to the full on these Army displays. Apart from answering genuine questions he must be able to deal with the inevitable cynic who regards the Army as an easy target and the onlookers as a sympathetic audience. An exchange of banter with ex-servicemen is not unusual but the most difficult case to handle is the parent who has not been in the Army and who brings his son along with the express purpose of destroying any interest the latter has displayed in an Army career. "Don't you believe a word of it! Things aren't like that when you get in." This type of remark is a challenge not only to Recruiters but to every serving soldier. We have to overcome this resistance by giving the facts in the most striking and appealing manner and at the same time be honest and helpful. There is no better advertisement than the contented soldier; none worse than a discontented one. At the Information Offices we do our best to prepare volunteers for a happy career, but the keenest spirits can be dampened if, on arrival at the training unit, recruits find no one prepared to issue bedding, fix up a meal and settle them in. A recruit's first impression of the Army can be a lasting one and if he is made to feel at home during his initial training period, it pays a rich dividend. From the recruiting angle, it is the first few months of service that are important, for it is then that the volunteer is still in contact with his friends in civilian life. After a remarkably short time he becomes merely "that soldier down the road" and as a result much less effective as a recruiting agent.

To the Recruiter, the clearest indication of a job well done is the soldier on leave who drops into the Information Office with a friend who wants to enlist. In many cases, however, after we have enlisted a chap and despatched him to his training unit, we see him again but twice. The first occasion is when he has completed the initial engagement with the Colours and is on Termination of Service leave. "I've done my time, and am I enjoying myself! Re-enlist? Not —— likely!" The second occasion occurs a few months later. "I've tried civvy street and it's a dead loss. My wife's fed-up too. Can I get back to my old Regiment?"

This situation occurs frequently and I think it is due to the fact that although we *know* the good and bad aspects of service life we fail to measure them accurately and objectively against average conditions in civilian life. In dealing with re-enlistments I know that good jobs are not easily come by, and high pay is often coupled with insecurity. I always advise a soldier to have a long hard think before taking that one way ticket to terminal leave and so-called freedom.

I do not want to conclude this article with a string of platitudes, but there is one point that I must make. We can only achieve a top grade all regular Corps if all ranks in the Corps show an active interest in recruiting. Whilst the main responsibility rests with the official recruiters, every regular soldier, by talking with his civilian friends and explaining the advantages of a regular army career, can help enlist the many good men we need in Royal Signals.



R.S.M. R. HALFORD

W.O.I (R.S.M.) Halford joined 18 Army Group Signal Regiment in August, 1958. He is married and has a son of 13 at Windsor School, Hamm.

He started his service as a boy in "F" Company on the 30th April, 1934. Hockey and boxing were his main sporting interests, and he represented the Company against various schools and other units in the North of England. He joined the ranks in March, 1938, and was posted to 4th Divisional Signals at Canterbury as an Operator, Signals.

During the next six years he saw a lot of the Middle East. He volunteered for Palestine and remained there from November, 1938, until he moved, as a Corporal with a Brigade Section, to the Western Desert in September, 1940. Promoted Sergeant the following year, he served with various units, including Commandos, in Egypt, Libya, Syria and the Lebanon. He took part in the Syrian campaign and spent three months in Tobruk during the siege, in addition to normal desert service. In 1942 he returned to Syria and remained with 9th Army until he returned to the United Kingdom in April, 1944.

Later in 1944 he got married, and during a five-year spell at home held a number of instructional appointments, ending as P.S.I. to 14 A.A. (M) Signal Regiment (T.A.), with the acting rank of S.Q.M.S. After serving with this Regiment in Manchester and Liverpool, he was drafted to Malaya in November, 1949. There he served with Malaya District Signal Regiment, and also took up badminton. After holding the acting rank of W.O.II (S.S.M.) for a couple of years, he again returned home to duties as a P.S.I. and substantive promotion. This time he served with Bristol University Training Corps for about a year, and then moved to Austria to join 12 Wireless Squadron in April, 1954.

Little more than 12 months later, he was back with the Territorial Army again, the posting to 54 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment (T.A.), being on promotion to W.O.I (R.S.M.). Here he remained for a full three-year tour, until joining 10th Signal Regiment.

5th SIGNAL REGIMENT

A tour of Caithness Barracks any evening in October and November would have disclosed the fact that the Regiment worked late hours. As newcomers to the Regiment since last year have learned the administrative inspection meant hard work, late nights, gallons of paint and a considerable amount of elbow grease, dispensed here in the form of gunk. But you cannot win all the time and the Fire Inspector during his tour of garages was slightly upset when he found that excellent solvent smelling strongly of petrol. However he got his own back by starting a fire in the AKC Cinema which was unfair as it was not in our area and possessed a hydrant which obviously had not been turned on for years. The plant inspection went off all right; "A" Troop had a lot of petrol leaks but it is understood that these were caused by Captain King and his agents, surreptitously squirting lighter fluid over "A" Troop's 300 watts. However, "R" Troop had failed to paint any of their plant on the grounds that shining bare metal looked more attractive than khaki green, so that particular bit of one-upmanship in the troop administrative competition came to nought. In fact the only person put out by the plant inspection was our chief critic, A.Q.M.S. Collinson—"Look, you monkey, it's dirty" or "How can we repair it if you don't tell us it's broken"—who only learnt the day before the inspection that plant included a lot of his kit like lathes, plug testers, gantries, etc. The inspectors were kept at bay but at what cost we hardly dare to guess.

We have said farewell to R.S.M. and Mrs. Latimer who have left us after 3½ years in Verden. They have seen the Regiment through much change and many difficulties. We thank them for everything they have done for us and wish them every success in the future. We shall miss them.

Major General Musson has now left us. He has always had a clear understanding of the Regiment's problems, which was just as well as our aged equipment and shortage of soldiers have not made things easy for us. On 8th December the new G.O.C. will be inspecting us, and once more Major Judd and the Corps Band will be here to help us round the parade square. "Get your administration inspection right this year," said John Judd in a recent letter. We hope we did.

As we closed these notes, the vehicle inspection team arrived. In fact only part of the team arrived: We learnt with amusement that they were in the midst of their own C.I.V. and there were mutterings about two inspectors having vehicles on charge and being unable to get away. Even biters get bit occasionally.

7th SIGNAL REGIMENT

It seems only a few months ago that we were writing about the Army and Morrison Cup competitions in the Major Winter Sports and yet here we are back on the same old subject again. This year, however, we have a new Cup in our sporting vocabulary, the Bradley Cup. This cup was originally presented by Colonel P. E. M. Bradley who commanded the Regiment from 1952-1955 and is now Colonel G.S. at H.Q. 1 (B.R.) Corps. In those days the cup was presented to the Champion Squadron, but this dropped out when the Regiment went off on the Suez adventure. We have now decided to present the Bradley Cup in September of each year to the Squadron which proves itself the best all-round sporting Squadron during the preceding twelve months. The winning Squadron is to be decided on a points system based on an inter-troop league for soccer, cricket, basketball, athletics, shooting, cross country and tennis. All ex-members of the Regiment should watch these notes next Autumn to see who wins the Cup on this new system for the first time!

The first round of the Army Soccer Cup produced a very exciting match at home against the South Wales Borderers who came to us with an unbeaten record. Although the Borderers settled down more quickly, the first goal came to us as an indirect result of a free-kick from which Mead scored. The Borderers equalised to make the score 1—1 at half-time, but a second goal, this time from Grierson, gave us the game. Credit for this win must undoubtedly go to our defence, in which Annels and Harris were outstanding.

Our Rugby XV have also been making progress in the Army Cup competition, although not in a manner to their satisfaction: they drew a bye in the first round and were given a walk-over by the Q.D.G. in the second round. They have played other games however and have recently defeated 41 Field Regiment R.A. by 9 points to nil, the Middlesex Regiment by 12 points to 8, and our old rivals the Hampshires by 14 points to 3.

The Hockey XI is also showing encouraging form and we are looking forward to our first Morrison Cup game against 22nd Signal Regiment, whom we have defeated earlier this season by 12 goals to nil. Our first game in the Army Cup is much more of a question mark as we have been drawn against the Argyle and Sutherland Highlanders who have just arrived in Germany and have not yet been seen in action.

After a rather poor season last year, basketball is a very thriving sport in the Regiment and we are delighted to be able to record our first major cup win—against 2nd Signal Regiment in the first round of the Morrison Cup.

10th SIGNAL REGIMENT

On looking back through the file it is astonishing to discover that more than three months have passed since any notes of the Regiment's activities have been written. Since we normally like to see ourselves in print, the printing strike in the Summer can probably be held responsible for a considerable proportion of this time. The remaining portion, that taken up by the month of October and the first bit of November, has kept us all too busy with preparations for and work in connection with a Change in Command.

The Change duly occurred on 31st October and we have made our farewells to Lieutenant-Colonel A. H. D. Llewellyn and Mrs. Llewellyn. To them and their family we wish all good fortune in their new life in London with the Ministry of Defence. In their place we welcome Lieutenant-Colonel G. B. Donald and Mrs. Donald. All members of the Regiment will, the writer is sure, wish them both a happy and enjoyable stay in the Regiment.



Farewell Parade

Lieutenant Colonel A. H. D. Llewellyn says farewell to Staff Sergeant (F of S) Forbes with Major P. A. Wing, OC HQ Squadron

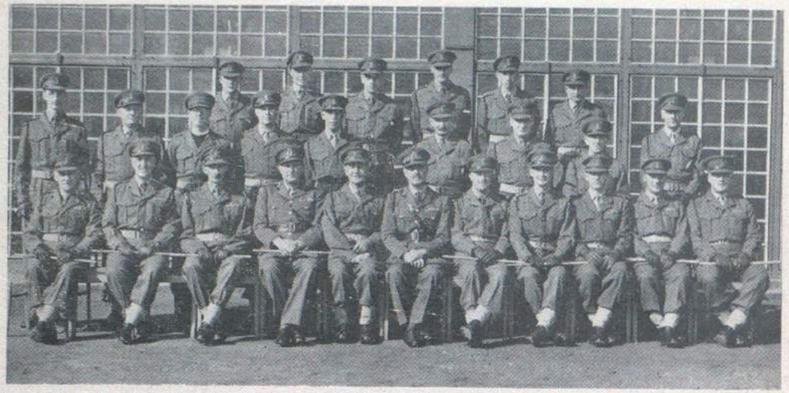
The ceremonies of farewell, besides the traditional dining out of the Officers' Mess, included a farewell parade. This was spoilt, as one of the accompanying photos may show, by a steady drizzle of rain. However, this did not prevent Lieutenant-Colonel Llewellyn from making a thoughtful and encouraging speech and a spectator Commanding Officer of a neighbour unit was gracious enough to comment that the drill and marching was as good as any he had seen performed by the two Guards Battalions in his Brigade.

Most of September was taken up by the N.A.T.O. autumn logistic and command post exercise called "Side Step." Coming as it did, towards the end of a long, hot, brilliant summer the exercise was extremely successful from our point of view. The Commander-in-Chief, during his visit to us, was good enough to express his view that communications on it were better than those of many previous exercises. We ourselves think we reached a new high standard of reliability in the circuits we provided which we were determined to maintain and, if possible, surpass in the future.

Readers of these notes in the past may have noticed that only infrequent reference has been made to our sporting activities. This has been deliberate because we think the mere recital of successes and failures tends to be very dull. We do, however, indulge in a fair amount of sport. In Soccer, which has the greatest following, we have a promising and keen XI, captained by Lance-Corporal K. Farmer, which lost by one goal a Morrison Cup match against our sister Regiment at Rheindahlen, but which so far has a good league record; there is an as yet undefeated Rugger XV (98 points for, 10 points against) led by Second-Lieutenant P. G. Coslett and a Hockey XI which, nobly propped by such commanding figures as Warrant Officer I (Foreman of Signals) Potts and Major L. Oddie our Paymaster, also has an unbeaten record. Besides these, we have a Basket Ball team who train with enthusiasm of an evening in the Gymnasium; here also one may hear the swish of Badminton rackets and the clash of fencing foils. The list would not be complete without mentioning our still flourishing Judo Club (now in its second year) and last but not least our recently-formed boxing team. In Signalmen Corfield, Butler and Carter and Craftsman Borthwick, to mention only a few, we think we have the foundations of a good team and we hope to be successful in all our coming contests.



16 Signal Regiment



Top (Left to Right) : Second Lieutenant W. A. C. Griffiths, Second Lieutenant H. N. Edwards, Lieutenant W. Simpson, Captain R. Ping, Second Lieutenant A. W. D. Petley, Second Lieutenant J. A. Eastgate.

Centre (Left to Right) : Lieutenant (TOT) L. E. Adcock, Captain L. Bainbridge, Rev. A. J. H. Francis, Captain D. Nunn (REME), Captain C. H. K. Houghton, Captain J. G. Baker, Captain (TOT) J. O. Tompkins.

Bottom (Left to Right) : Captain (Tfc) J. Hastings, Major A. G. Smith, Major K. S. Newell, Major General M. S. Wheatley, C.B, C.B.E., M.I.E.E., p.s.c., m, Lieutenant Colonel W. C. Burke, Major General K. C. O. Bastyan, C.B.E., p.s.c., m, Major J. L.Waller, Captain G. A. S. Exell, Major J. G. Melsom, Major R. C. Bryson. (Lieutenant (QM) J. Hopkins.

It must be rare for a Regiment to change its Commanding Officer and all but one of its Majors within the space of a couple of months.

Lieutenant-Colonel W. C. Burke, who retires from the Army this month after thirty-four years' service, has commanded the Regiment for the past three years. All ranks who have served with the Regiment will agree that, due to the nature of its duties, this has not been an easy task and that the Regiment holds itself as second to none is due in no small way to the firm but always encouraging hand of the Commanding Officer. It was unfortunate that the weather for his final parade was anything but kind, but we hope that this parade, and the farewells from the Messes and from the men when he finally left the barracks, will be lasting memories to him of a job well done.

"Paddy" Burke and Monica are now enjoying a spell of well-earned leave and we shall be seeing them again soon when he takes over a retired officer post in the garrison.

Another old hand who is leaving, this time for the charms of Northern Ireland, is Major J. L. Waller. During his five years with the Regiment he has been Squadron Commander, Staff Officer attached, and finally, a strenuous tour as Second-in-Command. To him and his family we wish every happiness in their new station.

Other departures have been Major H. Dewhurst on retirement, Major B. E. Tebbs to ALFCE, and Captain C. C. Cross, M.B.E., to Hong Kong.

Our new Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel K. D. Gribbin, M.B.E., is firmly in the chair, and we welcome him and Mrs. Gribbin to the Regiment. Of the other new arrivals Majors Newell, Melsom and Button are already well established with their respective families, and Captains Mogridge and Dore are keeping an eagle eye on the quarters waiting list.

We should like to offer our congratulations to R.Q.M.S. Smith on promotion to A/R.S.M. on posting, to his successor, W.O.II (now R.Q.M.S.) Marris and to Sergeant Felton recently promoted.

21st SIGNAL REGIMENT

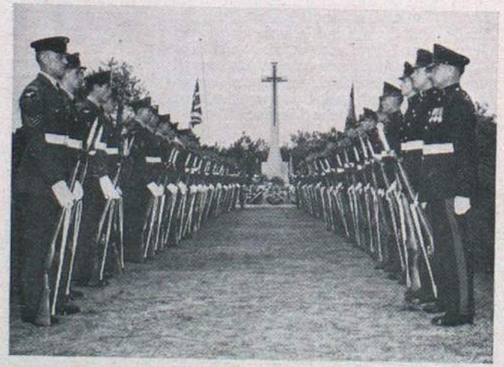
On the 19th October, 1959, the Regiment took part in the Liberation Day Ceremonies at Venray in Holland. It is just fifteen years ago (the 19th October, 1944) that the advancing British Forces entered Venray and finally liberated the town from the German occupation. Every year since then the townspeople of Venray have marked this anniversary with a memorial service in honour of their fellow citizens who died in the liberation of their town.

Many British Servicemen also died in the fighting in and around Venray and have been laid to rest in the British War Cemetery. Here there are 682 individual graves and each one has been adopted by a local Dutch family who help to care for it.

Each year after a civic memorial service, the townspeople led by the Burgomaster go to the Cemetery for a service of remembrance. This year for the first time detachments of the British Services were asked to take part and as a result a joint Army/R.A.F. Guard of Honour was mounted at the Cemetery.

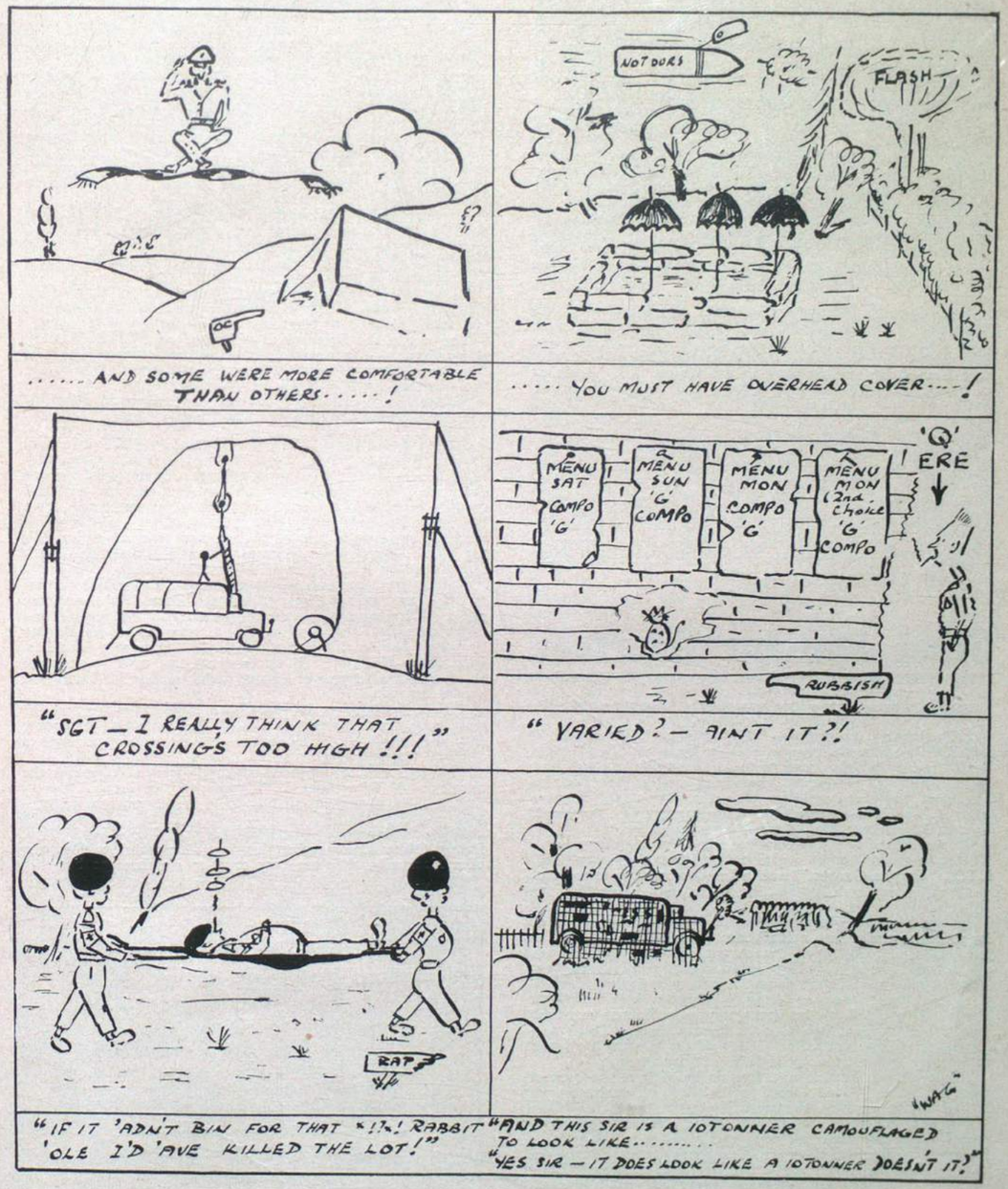
The Regiment provided a detachment of twenty-four men who were in No. 1 Dress. The detachment was commanded by Second Lieutenant Allan, and the senior N.C.O.s were Sergeants Sadler and Haydon.

After the ceremony, which was a very moving one, the Guard of Honour, headed by the Band of the Royal Air Force, Germany, marched with bayonets fixed to the town square. There they were entertained to supper by the townspeople and later in the evening were their guests at a dance.



Venray Liberation Day — The Army/RAF Guard of Honour

Exercise JOTTINGS



Now that the individual training season is getting into full swing, the tempo of comings and goings to the various courses has correspondingly increased. At the same time the usual round of day to day Signal Tasks, Stores Checks and preparations for major equipment and vehicle inspections has kept everyone busy.

At the beginning of the month; a very pleasant two-day Officers' study period was held for all Air Formation Signal Officers in Germany. The Study Period was directed by the Chief Air Formation Signal Officer, Colonel D. E. Harrison, O.B.E., and the Commanding Officer, and lectures were given by a number of Army and R.A.F. Officers. It is hoped to repeat this type of Officers' Training again in the new year.

In spite of all our varied commitments, time has still been found to take part in many of the sporting activities on the Stations.

At Brueggen, Lieutenant Vulliamy and Second-Lieutenant Jones collected third prize in the Station Motor Club Rally from a field of thirty-eight entries. They also won a prize for the dirtiest car! Needless to say the car has been banned from the vicinity of 2nd Squadron M.T., as Major Masser feels that the complaint may become infectious!

Although the Regiment is scattered over the four airfields, and as a result Royal Signals are very much in the minority, we are constantly providing the Stations with players for their teams.

At Learbruch, Signalmen Patterson, Davis and Corporal Robertson have been playing for the Station Football Team, while Second-Lieutenants Grom and Allan and Staff Sergeant Flann, Craftsman Southwell, Signalmen Griffiths and Satterly have been doing sterling work in the Rugger XV. Again at Brueggen, Second-Lieutenant Vulliamy and Second-Lieutenant Jones and Lance-Corporal Woodhall are in the Hockey XI and Warrant Officer II (S.S.M.) Usher continues to keep the flag flying in the Station .22 rifle team.

Although we have had plenty of individual successes, our Regimental teams have so far not had such good luck. In the first round of the Army Cup we lost 5—1 to the 2nd Bn. The Grenadier Guards. Although the score was 5—1, it was only during the last ten minutes or so that a decisive lead was established by the Guards. In the Morrison Cup Basketball competition we lost to 13th Signal Regiment by 56 points to 8 points. There again we deserved better luck in our efforts to get the ball each time in the basket.

Other Stations Overseas

COMMANDER ROYAL SIGNALS (SINGAPORE)

249 Signal Squadron (Reserve). "Borneo again!" said the Squadron Commander and the faces of H.F. Wireless Troop beamed. We were to go to Sandakan on the East Coast of British North Borneo to provide a wireless link back to Singapore for two companies of the 1st Bn. 10th Princess Mary's Own Gurkha Rifles. A training exercise with the North Borneo Police Force Mobile Squad was the excuse.

Three weeks of hectic preparations and we were ready to leave. On the 20th of August we put Signalman Naigamwalla on L.S.T. "Empire Gannett" with a Landrover laden to the roof with kit, said we hoped to see him at the other end, and hoped he would not be too sea sick.

On the 22nd of August we loaded a 53 set Landrover with its generator trailer into a Blackburn Beverley aircraft. Up at 0300 hours the following day, we set out for Changi and boarded the aircraft. The Beverley party consisted of Lieutenant Treseder, Corporal Gavin (from Operating Squadron), Lance-Corporals Verner, Large, Chang, Signalmen Bush and Wan Kadir. We took off at 0600 hours, stopped at Labuan to refuel, and arrived at Sandakan at 1330 hours where a large welcoming committee awaited us. They set the tone for the whole of our visit and it could not have been more pleasant.

The party was housed in a wooden building at the back of the Post Office. "Mod Cons" in the shape of a shower were laid on by the Gurkha Engineers.

Our next job was to set up the station. It was situated on top of a Japanese cemetery (now we all believe in ghosts!), on "Look Out Hill" next to the Governor's holiday bungalow. We installed the set in a 180 pounder tent, to avoid driving over the Governor's Orchids, and (fingers crossed) it worked. The next day it rained and we dug—and can it rain!—and did we dig! We also had to put aerials on the police launches which were to be used by patrols moving up and down the coast.

Naturally a thorough test was necessary and this provided a very good day's outing with some very excellent swimming at Bernan Island.

A challenge to football by the local police meant that everybody had to turn out in order to produce a team. We were beaten 3—1 which we thought was not too bad—half the team had not played since they were at school. The Marine police also challenged and beat us 2—0 (we were getting better). We also tried our hand at cricket, but the O.C. wrote off the best player, Signalman Bush, before the game started by driving a ball straight at him and breaking a finger in his right hand. It cost the O.C. several pints of beer, and an extra innings.

The police gave us a demonstration of how to catch animals and birds in the jungle. Some of the traps were very clever and were vicious. They also introduced us to "Tapai," or rice wine, which is quite definitely the answer to an alcoholic's dream.

The Muruts, who come from the depths of the interior, gave us a dancing demonstration and played their rarely heard bamboo gong music. Some Dusun girls also danced for us in their black dresses covered in gold and silver ornaments, making their music with brass gongs.

All too soon the exercise came to an end and we boarded the "Empire Gannet" with our vehicles and set off home for Singapore, arriving after a rough trip on the 5th of October.

The rest of the Squadron is still alive too. V.H.F. Wireless Troop turned itself into a platoon of infantry and Corporal Taffinder gave an excellent demonstration of how to burn down the adjoining scrub with the aid of a Verey Pistol.

S.S.M. Hammond has got together the makings of a formidable hockey team. We expect great things of them.

Line Squadron Royal Signals (Singapore). During the last month the Squadron, in conjunction with Operating Squadron, has had an enjoyable three weeks' training camp on Pulau Ubin Island. The weather was kind and this coupled with excellent food and accommodation made camp life rather luxurious. All enjoyed the excellent facilities which included swimming, fishing, boating and trekking throughout the island. The Squadron was grateful to the local Social Welfare authorities for the loan of this excellent camp.

During the second week of the camp the Squadron entertained forty underprivileged Singapore Boys who shared the camp. The boys were taught camp craft, cooking, first-aid and map reading and after local training disappeared for two days to live out. During this period, the G.O.C. Singapore Base District, Major-General C. L. Richardson, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., and the Singapore Minister of Labour and Law, Mr. K. M. Byrne, visited the camp.

The camp came to an end with a huge camp fire and the usual sing-song. Everybody agreed that the whole enterprise had been most successful and a repeat performance was a "must" for next year.

The last item of news from the Squadron concerns the marriages of Lieutenant R. Pickard and of Lance-Corporal Stokes. We wish them all happiness in the years to come.

Signal Training Centre (F.E.) Major Purdon, our former Officer Commanding, has just disappeared to Germany with his family. We are very sorry to see them go but they take our best wishes with them for a happy and successful posting.

Second-Lieutenant Nelson has also vanished from "Z" Troop, but he leaves behind a D.R. team with a distinguished championship record. The team of Corporal Kassim, Corporal Braithwaite and Signalman Musbaha finished second in the FARELF Motor Cycle Championship Trials. This performance will give us greater ambitions for next year.

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GAN ISLAND TROOP, 19th SIGNAL REGIMENT

Since our last appearance in THE WIRE it will be noticed that the title of this troop has altered. We have ceased to be an independent Troop and have been taken over by the 19th Signal Regiment. Despite this titular alteration little has changed, as yet, though there is a proposed reduction in the establishment of the troop, a reduction which it is hoped may effect the writer of these notes. All the members of the original troop have now left us for U.K. The last two to go being Lieutenant (T.O.T.) A. V. Render and Warrant Officer II (F. of S.) A. Holmes.

The foreman stayed on to see the completion of the automatic exchange installation and was the most surprised member of a very surprised troop when it worked first time. The exchange is now fully operational and strange noises can be heard issuing forth from the Exchange Room at all hours of the day and night; much to the delight of the foreman and his band of Tele Techs.

The remainder of the project is all but completed now and the troop is gradually settling down to a peaceful period as a maintenance troop, we hope.

The island is showing many changes and buildings are springing up everywhere, all ranks are now accommodated in permanent buildings which are cool, airy and comfortable.

Various large gleaming aeroplanes, the pride and joy of Transport Command, have been landing here lately, the most well known of which include Comets and Britannias. A large proportion of the Islands population, both service and civilian, turned out to watch the first landings of these planes.

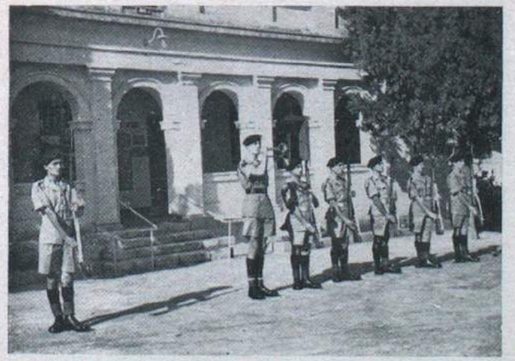
The unpredictable weather of these parts still gives us torrential rain one day and blazing sunshine the next, at the moment we seem to be getting more rain than sun, but there is one consolation, it brings the temperature down into the seventies.

Finally we would like to welcome our new troop commander, Captain E. Wells, and wish him an enjoyable stay with us.

Watch future issues of THE WIRE for Chapter III of the "Gan Island Story."

234 SIGNAL SQUADRON (MALTA, G.C.)

On 19th October we were visited by the Chief Signal Officer, Middle East Land Forces, Brigadier D. A. Pringle, O.B.E. On arriving at our Barracks the C.S.O. inspected the Squadron's quarter-guard, and "general salute" was sounded by the Squadron duty trumpeter. Brigadier Pringle then inspected a



234 Signal Squadron (Malta). Visit of Chief Signal Officer Middle East Land Forces



234 Signal Squadron (Malta). Mrs. Boyle presenting prizes at the Squadron Swimming Gala

parade of this Squadron and 601 Signal Troop (Ship) drawn up on Floriana Parade Ground under Major A. P. Boyle. After the parade the C.S.O. was briefed on our activities, and then taken on a tour of our various installations followed by a visit to the Sergeants' Mess. All in all it was a big day for us, and as someone was heard to remark "even the Foreman wore boots."

We have been giving a good deal of thought lately as to suitable items for purchasing with the Commanding Officers Fund and a general appeal for suggestions was made to the Squadron. It was decided that a new billiards table for the Sergeants' Mess and free trips to U.K. for all bachelors did not come under the heading "increasing the efficiency of the Unit." So far we have settled for a printing press and an adding machine for the pay office (there is no foundation to rumours that the T.O.T. was asked to adjust the machine so that it always reflected a debit balance).

To wind up the summer sporting season we held our inter-troop swimming gala at Balluta Bay, being lucky enough to borrow the premises of a local club for the occasion. Signals Works Service Troop were the winners, with Operating Troop in second place. The gala included a number of novelty events, including a Father and Child Race (the Commanding Officer and Christopher were very pleased with their prizes), and a ladies' race, won by our champion long distance lady swimmer, Mrs. Williams, wife of Foreman of Signal Williams.

The Squadron's monthly magazine "The Message" has now reached its fifth edition and its circulation is increasing every month. Our "Overseas" readers include Royal Signals Records and the Women's Voluntary Services, Wigan. The editors were not a little disturbed after last month's edition, in which, by an unfortunate (for them) typing error, a warrant officer was described as "our over vigilant S.S.M." We would be very pleased to send a copy of "The Message" to any past members of the Squadron.

Providing communications here keeps us very busy. So do people like the skipper of a certain (nameless) vessel who insisted on having his telephone installed in his bathroom, and then promptly had the mooring wires of his ship slackened, in order (we suppose) to test the tensile strength of D8 cable. We must also record here the person who made a formal complaint that he could not sleep at nights due to the wind whistling through the wires of our P.L. route near his quarter.

1 SIGNAL SQUADRON, KING'S AFRICAN RIFLES

During the month the Public Works Department has been engaged on a face-lifting operation in Buller Camp. All the wooden buildings have been repainted and the Unit is now looking very spruce. Inevitably the flower beds have suffered in the process. Canterbury Bells with black leaves and buff-coloured salvias vie with green geraniums to present an unusual and colourful display!

(*Continued over page*)

As these notes are being written, "J" Troop, stationed with H.Q. 70 Infantry Brigade, at Nanyuki, is setting out on what will be their last exercise in 1959. This is being held in the more congenial climate of the Nairobi area, which is a great change from the sun and sand of the Northern Frontier Province.

There is a steady process of Africanisation under way in the Unit, and our policy is to train Africans to take over from British N.C.O.s wherever possible. This is, however, a very long term process and it will be several years before there is any appreciable drop in the number of British N.C.O.s.

During the month we had an urgent appeal for funds from the local S.S.A.F.A. A quick whip round was held and all British ranks in the Unit were asked to contribute. The result was highly satisfactory and the sum of £8/5/- was raised in less than 24 hours.

The unit hockey team continues with its unbeaten record in the Nairobi Minor Unit League. We are still attempting to include African players in the team and we congratulate Signalman Gilbert Ongoro and Signalman Paul Kipsang on representing the Unit at this sport.

We welcome Staff Sergeant Nicholls on his arrival in the Unit from U.K. and congratulate him on his promotion. We also say farewell and the best of luck to W.O.II Jenkins and his wife and family, who leave us for B.A.O.R. after four years with the Unit.

236 SIGNAL SQUADRON (COMCAN)

October has been an eventful month, apart from changing our name, and the Annual Administrative Inspection, the emphasis has been on the sporting side.

The Safari Club has been active and W.O.II Haw has again taken a party out to our happy hunting grounds and returned with some good heads and skins.

We have also been active in the Car Rally field.

W.O.II Haw in a Consul with Lance-Corporal Smith as co-driver and Captain Pickering and Signalman Russell as navigators, won first in their class in the Caltax Economy Rally from Nairobi to Mombasa.

At the annual Command Rifle Meeting we had some measure of success, coming second in the Corps Shield and the Young Soldiers' Cup against stiff opposition from the Kenya Regiment.

In the athletic field the preparation and training for the R.A.F. Station Sports meeting held on 7th October, 1959 were well justified when the Unit came out winners by a margin of 24½ points; thus winning for the second year running.

This was a fine effort and a good example of team work since the Squadron only claimed two of the thirteen individual event first prizes, one by Signalman Basham for the mile, in a Station record of 4 min. 59.4 sec., and the other by Signalman Jarvis in the 100 yards in a time of 10.9 secs. In the relays we came first in the Mile Medley with Signalman Hiscox (220), W.O. Budden (220), Lieutenant Lockett (440) and Signalman Basham (880) all running well to return a time of 4 min. 5 sec., a good 20 yards in front of the nearest rival. Signalman Jarvis, W.O.II Budden, Lieutenant Lockett and the O.C., Major Lyske easily won the Chain of Command run as a 4 x 110 yards Relay in what must have been quite a fast time, and in the 4 x 110 yards Relay, Signalman Jarvis gave us quite a good lead in the first leg but after an unfortunate stumble by Lance-Huckle when taking over from W.O.II Budden we dropped back about ten yards but Lance-Corporal West, running very strongly, made up most of this to finish just in the second place.

Our other points were made up by good placings in all the rest of the events, some of whom deserve mention. Signalman Silvester made a great effort on the pole vault, clearing 8ft. 9in., beating the previous Station record, but only going into 2nd place to the R.A.F. Sergeant P.T.I. Corporal West also broke the existing Station record in the high jump at 5ft. 3in., but once again only managed a 2nd place. Corporal West and Signalman Hiscox managed 2nd and 3rd places in the 220 yards, both returning good times and Lieutenant Lockett was beaten into 2nd place by a narrow margin in the 440 yards. In the other field events, Lance-Corporal Huckle got 3rd place in the Hop-Step-Jump, only missing 2nd by ½in after leaping 39½ft. Corporal Terry threw the discus 90ft. 2in. for 3rd place, Signalman Hiscox long jumped 18ft. 7in. for another 3rd and Signalman Jarvis flung the javelin 131ft. 6in. for yet another 3rd place, and finally, in the three miles, Signalman Barker just could not



Winners of their Class in the East African Caltex Economy Run
W.O.II Haw, Lance-Corporal Smith, Signalman Russell, Captain J. Pickering

manage a finishing burst and had to be content with third place. These times and heights, etc., may not sound very good but when it is realised that we operate at 5,550ft. it brings them into perspective.

THE SOMALILAND SCOUTS

After reading contributions from the TOS and the APL we decided that it was about time this outpost of the Middle East had its say. There are only four members of the Royal Signals in this unit and so we have quite a lot to keep up with all these infantry people around here.

Captain Mawson, our O.C., is on U.K. leave at the time of writing, but we expect him back late in November. Then, on his return, we lose Sergeant (VQ6AB) Higgins who goes on inter-tour leave and he will return late in January to start a second tour. Sergeant (Whiskers) Wade arrived here about a month ago from Malaya, and we are always hearing about his experiences there. Last, but not least, we have the fourth and pale-faced member of the quartet, the one who only sees daylight after working hours, Sergeant (Ron) Botham, who completes the Royal Signals staff here.

We did say last and also quartet, but there is one more member who we normally like to forget exists, but he always turns up at the most awkward times. We refer to our ex-X tradesman, Fred, who first appeared with his Yak train in 24 Brigade Signal Troop, but, finding life not too healthy for him there decided to discard himself on the poor unfortunates of the Somaliland Scouts. He disarranged our Battalion communications last week by trying to teach his Yaks to surf-ride on the the sky waves. Still, to more serious news.

This Middle East paradise of ours is about 1½ hours flying time from Aden—we have to talk in flying time because that is the only way this place can be reached—and we are about 4,000 feet above sea level. The climate is the most ideal anyone can imagine. The temperature during the day is normally in the 90s and remains like that all the year round. With a climate like that one can imagine that we have quite a number of sports here. Well, we have! We have hockey, soccer, tennis, squash, golf, badminton, polo, riding, drinking, and the one no one ever tires of, Egyptian P.T. We have a 'ham' amongst us, namely, VQ6AB Higgins, who is constantly operating, and every time the mail arrives we always hear his cry of his just having received another QSL to his DXCC.

Last September a party of the Scouts set off overland to Nairobi to take part in the East Africa Rifle Meeting. None of our quartet went with them, but the Signals were well represented by two of the Scouts Signal Platoon. There were great revelations here when we kept up communications with them as far as Kismayu, which is about 700 miles away as the crow flies. This we think is quite good going with a LP19 set and a ½-wave dipole. At the time of writing they are on their way back and our first contact was once again at Kismayu.

Now, as the sun sets in the West and the bar opens in the East, we must say beerio from our Garden of Eden and BCNU with more of " Our Fred."

SPORT

ROYAL SIGNALS OFFICERS' GOLFING SOCIETY

Match v. R.A.O.C.

This match was played at Swinley Forest on the 22nd October, 1959, with the following results:

SINGLES

Royal Signals			*R.A.O.C.*		
Major Schofield		½	Major Nicholson		½
Major Peck		½	Major Bruhl		½
Capt. Prince	4/3	1	Lieut.-Colonel Else		0
Major Brown	6/5	1	Colonel Ranson		0
Major Walsh	4/2	1	Colonel Moss		0
Col. Linton		0	Brigadier Innes Hopkins	2/1	1
Major-Gen. Morrison	2/1	1	Major-General Jones		0
Col. Winckley	4/2	1	Lieut.-Colonel Sievewright		0
		6			2

FOURSOMES

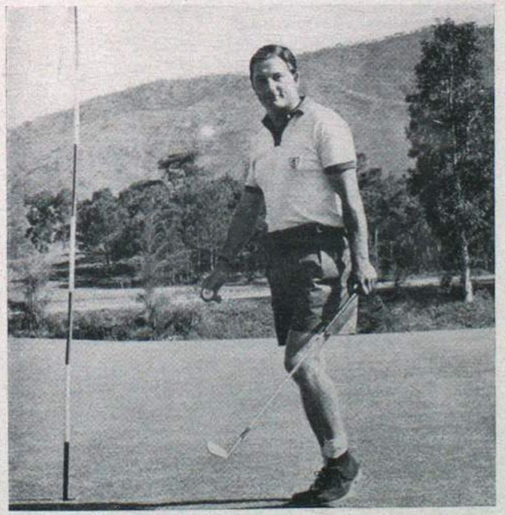
Major Schofield			Major Nicholson	2/1	
Major Brown		0	Captain Bruhl		1
Major Walsh	2/1		Colonel Ranson		
Major Peck		1	Colonel Moss		0
Captain Prince			Lieut.-Colonel Else		
Colonel Linton		½	Major-General Jones		½
Major - General Morrison			Brigadier Innes Hopkins		
Colonel Winckley		1	Lieut.-Colonel Sievewright		0
		2½			1½

Royal Signals won by 8½ matches to 3½.

ROYAL SIGNALS OFFICER WINS HONG KONG AMATEUR GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP

Captain R. B. Carroll, of 27th Signal Regiment won the Hong Kong Amateur Golf Championship, played over the 6,300-yard Old Course at Fanling, in the New Territories, on 17th-18th October, 1959.

He compiled a magnificent one under par 71 in the final round, giving him a 54 holes total of 224, three strokes ahead of his nearest rival. Captain Carroll was extremely lucky to be playing in the final 18 holes, as he was involved in a serious car accident the night before. He escaped with very slight bruises, which obviously did not affect his game. In fact, he started the last round three strokes behind the leaders, but quickly found his form and played superb golf to finish an easy winner.



The new Champion on the last green, Captain R. B. Carroll



Captain R. B. Carroll receiving the trophy from Club Captain, Mr. W. S. Vaughan (left)

Captain Carroll repeated his success on 19th/20th October, when he won both his singles and foursomes matches in the annual Hong Kong versus Singapore Interport Match. Each match was played over 36 holes, 18 on the Old Course followed by 18 on the New. In the foursomes Captain Carroll and his partner, Francis Ranken, won two up, whilst in the singles Captain Carroll, with a first round of 71, had a spectacular success against Colin Stokes, the Singapore champion, winning by the wide margin of 7 and 6.

ROYAL SIGNALS HOCKEY

The weather was not kind for our game against the Gunners at Woolwich on 21st October, 1959, for although the pitch played well there was a strong wind and a persistent drizzle throughout the game which made conditions rather unpleasant.

We scored first and deserved our lead of one goal during the first 20 minutes of play, but towards the end of the first half the Gunners increased their pressure, and the score at half-time of one goal all just about represented the run of play.

The Gunners exerted very strong pressure immediately after half-time and quickly scored two excellent goals to make the score 3—1, and although we raised our standard of play and came near to scoring on at least two occasions we did not do so, neither did our opponents, and the better side won.

The next day was beautifully fine, when we did well to beat R.E.M.E. by three goals to nil at Arborfield, and on the run of the play we possibly deserved to win by a bigger margin.

We played well together as a team, and although he did not have a great deal to do, the Corps player who caught the spectators' eye most was our goalkeeper, Captain Kirkby, who made several spectacular clearances and played an excellent game.

Three out of the four Army umpires appointed to the Combined Services Umpires Panel for this season come from the Corps. They are Colonel J. E. S. Sanders, O.B.E., Major R. O. Edwards and Major R. L. J. Shove.

Major Edwards is also a member of the Army Selection Committee.

CORPS COLOURS — WATER POLO

Corps Water Polo Colours are awarded to the undermentioned personnel for the 1958/59 season:

Staff Sergeant J. Ient	26th Signal Regiment
Sergeant J. Noble	26th Signal Regiment
Corporal B. Thomas	25th Signal Regiment
Corporal A. Millar	8th Signal Regiment
Corporal E. Motley	8th Signal Regiment
Lance-Corporal F. Durr	26th Signal Regiment
Lance-Corporal Montgomery	26th Signal Regiment
Signalman L. Beavers	26th Signal Regiment
Signalman J. Dixon	26th Signal Regiment

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TERRITORIAL ARMY

40 SIGNAL REGIMENT (MIDDLESEX YEOMANRY) T.A.

●

Duke of Cambridge's Hussars
1st County of London Yeomanry

●

Regiment and Old Comrades March through the City of London

On 1st November 90 representatives from each Squadron, Parachute, Engineer and Phantom, marched from Fleet Street to St. Paul's Cathedral.

The Regimental Band led the way and the first stop was made at the Yeomanry's Church, St. Martins in Ludgate for a memorial service. The column then reformed and followed by the Old Comrades marched to St. Paul's where they paid homage at the Regimental War Memorial in the Crypt. This war memorial was to the memory of the Yeomen who fell in three wars, the Boer, the Great and the Last War.

The Old Comrades were led by the Honorary Colonel, Colonel The Lord Malden, T.D., who, on the previous Friday had presided at the dinner of the Old Comrades' Association in the Central Mess of the Duke of York's Headquarters. The dinner which was held on the 42nd anniversary of the post-humous award of the Victoria Cross to Major La Fone of the Regiment, was very well attended. Five previous Colonels of the Regiment were present, were very amused by the Guest Speaker, S. F. Hutton, author of "The Yarn of a Yeoman," who tempered sentiment with humour and horses with poetry.

The Middlesex Tough Training Competition

Though they eventually came fourth No. 4 Squadron did very well in this competition. They entered two teams, one of which would have come first but for the retirement of a member. Both teams won their heat of the Assault Crossing of the River Thames. They also made a grandstand finish by doubling in the last mile to the last checkpoint on Hampstead Heath.

Eastern Command Royal Signals T.A. Shooting Competition

This year the Regiment made no mistakes in winning the Shoot. In fact they swept the board, winning the Unit Challenge Cup, the Permanent Staff Cup, the Young Soldiers' Competition and in being runners-up in the falling plate competition. We have now won the Unit Challenge Cup seven times in the past nine years.

London's T.A. Tattoo

On the 15th, 16th and 17th October the London T.A. Tattoo was held at the Duke of Yorks Headquarters, Chelsea. Once again the Regiment provided a mounted contingent, seven horsemen mounted on Household Cavalry horses took part in the Boer War Tableau. In this tableau they carried the actual flag of the Orange Free State which the Regiment captured at Senekal on the 25th May, 1900. To train for the Tattoo the Household Cavalry kindly let us practice in the Riding School at Knightsbridge. In some measure, our thanks were shown by a small dinner party which was given for the troopers of the Household Cavalry who brought the horses down to the Duke of York's Headquarters each night.

Line detachments were again supplied to wire the Duke of York's Headquarters for the Tattoo. The Officers' Mess also entertained the Inspecting Officer and his party each evening.

Remembrance Day

This year 4 Squadron, who are stationed at Uxbridge, marked Remembrance Day by marching through the town.

They had previously attended a parade at the War Memorial at Northwood. Led by the Regimental Band they marched through the town where the Regiment was raised in 1797.

Parachute Squadron

Members of Parachute Squadron have not been hibernating. In October they sent out two air contact teams on the same week-end. One flew to Edinburgh and the other went to Salisbury Plain. To enliven proceedings while they were not talking the parachutist carrying aircraft, they ran a long range wireless exercise back to the airport at Blackbushe in Surrey. They also held an Exercise with the staff of 44 Parachute Brigade in the Frensham area.

One of the pre-war Yeomen, who went to war with horses and was in fact, in charge of the last contingent of horses on active service with the Regiment in the Middle East has now returned as Regular Training Major. So, in saying good-bye to Major and Mrs. Cooper we are now glad to welcome home Major and Mrs. Bernard Butler.

45th (ESSEX) SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

Last year at this time THE WIRE published an account of the Golden Jubilee of this Regiment, under our old title of the 1st (Essex) Signal Regiment, T.A.

The commencement of second half century was marked by another momentous event.

The occasion was of local, national and world-wide interest; the unveiling on the 31st October, 1959, in the Borough of Wanstead and Woodford of a statue by David McFall of Sir Winston Churchill. Erected entirely by public subscription, the statue was unveiled by Field-Marshal Viscount Montgomery of Alamein, in the presence of Sir Winston and Lady Churchill and a distinguished company. The borough did us, their "Own adopted Regiment," the great honour of inviting us to provide a Guard of Honour for the Field-Marshal at the ceremony.

Before the ceremony the Band of the Corps, under the direction of Major John Judd, played a programme of music to a crowd of some 5,000 spectators, including numerous small boys who had climbed the many trees surrounding the site.

A few moments before the V.I.P.s arrived the Band struck up "Begone dull care" and the Guard of two divisions, under the command of Captain Geoffrey Warr, marched on and took up position. Wearing No. 1 Dress and with bayonets fixed, their marching and drill produced spontaneous applause from the crowd.

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After the Mayor and Aldermen had taken their places on the platform, Sir Winston and Lady Churchill arrived, to be greeted with a roar of applause from the crowd.

The Field-Marshal, accompanied by Sir John Ruggles-Brise, Lord Lieutenant of Essex, then arrived with a motor cycle escort and after introductions the Field-Marshal was conducted by the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel W. H. Lamb, to the saluting base, where he was received with the General Salute.

The Field-Marshal then inspected the Guard in a very thorough manner and stopped to speak to many of its members. After also inspecting the Corps Band and speaking to the Director of Music, the Field-Marshal was escorted by the Commanding Officer back to the platform. On the way he was observed to hesitate, turn back and speak to the Commanding Officer. On enquiring later we understand that the Field-Marshal, after congratulating the Commanding Officer, asked "Are all ranks in the Guard Territorials?"—a fact which the Commanding Officer was able to confirm.

In his welcoming speech the Mayor, Councillor G. Dixon, J.P., said "Their purpose was to commemorate the 35 years of faithful, unique and outstanding service given by Sir Winston as the borough's Member of Parliament."

Before unveiling the statue Lord Montgomery first congratulated the Guard of Honour and expressed his pleasure "at seeing several men who served with me in the Eighth Army." He went on to say that future generations would want to know what Sir Winston looked like and that Woodford had supplied the answer. Recalling Sir Winston had been a serving soldier, the Field-Marshal said "that nobody knew better than the soldier that monster called war," and "let us remember that, but for him, there might have been no Wanstead and Woodford, no Britain and no us." He went on "I can say quite simply that I love him and I would do anything to prove the honour in which I hold him. After then unveiling the statue Lord Montgomery saluted first it, and then Sir Winston himself,

In a short speech Sir Winston, who looked remarkably fit,



thanked the Field-Marshal and his constituents for the honour they had paid him and he also congratulated the sculptor on his work.

After prayers by the Rev. A. C. Gates, Honorary Chaplain of the Regiment, and a vote of thanks by Sir Stuart Mallinson, the Chairman of the sponsors, the ceremony ended with the Band playing the National Anthem.

Among the distinguished company who were present at the ceremony we were very pleased to see our Honorary Colonel —Colonel R. W. Dale, O.B.E., D.L., and our Chief Signal Officers, Brigadier W. R. Smijth-Windham, C.B.E., D.S.O., A.D.C., C.S.O. Eastern Command, and Lieutenant-Colonel P. G. Curry, O.B.E., C.S.O. London District, from all of whom congratulatory messages have been received.

Following the ceremony and after a very welcome stand easy the Guard and Band formed up to march some one-and-a-half miles through the centre of the borough and they moved off to the cheers of the still very large crowd.

The Guard, which was fully representative of the Regiment,

was composed entirely of volunteers, including many young recruits. It was trained by our R.S.M.—W.O.I G. M. Derwent, M.B.E., who was so obviously pleased with the result of his work that he requested and was granted permission to march through the borough with them.

One young recruit was heard to say "We couldn't have been too bad, the R.S.M.'s not ashamed to march with us."

So ended a day which will long be remembered in Wanstead and Woodford and by this Regiment and which made those of us who just spectated very proud to wear "Jimmy" as our cap badge.

53rd WELSH SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.



[Courtesy of Western Mail & Echo Ltd.

At the Annual Regimental Ball of 53rd (Welsh) Signal Regiment (T.A.) on 10th October, 1959. From Left to Right: The Chief Signal Officer, Western Command, Brigadier C. Nettleship, O.B.E., T.D.; The Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel R. S. P. Forbes, T.D.; and the Honorary Colonel, Colonel V. W. Hawkins, O.B.E., T.D.

51st (HIGHLAND) SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

The Regiment was honoured by an informal visit from H.R.H. The Princess Royal on 23rd January. Her Royal Highness was met by the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel G. D. G. Mackinnon, T.D., and then had tea with the Officers and their Ladies in the Officers' Mess. This was followed by a visit to the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess where H.R.H. met and talked to the Members and their Wives. It was a Royal occasion which will long be remembered by the Regiment.

Major Desmond Freeland left the Regiment in June after a long and successful tour as Training Major. He is now enjoying a well earned rest in the War Office.

Annual Camp took place at Garelochhead during July. The highlight was a three-day exercise with Divisional Headquarters during which time the rain poured down continuously. Despite this, communications worked one hundred per cent. This reflects great credit on all tradesmen who were working under the worst possible conditions, and earned high praise from the Staff. The visitors to the Regiment during Camp included Lieutenant-General Sir George Collingwood, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., Commander-in-Chief, Scottish Command, Major-General F. C. C. Graham, D.S.O., Brigadier J. N. Barker, O.B.E., C.S.O., Scottish Command, Colonel T. P. E. Murray, O.B.E., T.D., A.D.C., Lieutenant Colonel J. Cochran, O.B.E., T.D., and Captain J. M. Ingram.

During our stay in Garelochhead the Regiment enjoyed excellent hospitality provided by the Senior Service. The Third Submarine Squadron, commanded by Captain J. H. Adams, M.V.O., R.N., who had his Headquarters on the sub-depot ship H.M.S. *Adamant* berthed at that time at Faslane did us proud. We enjoyed all Royal Naval social and recreational facilities and in the best Army style reciprocated fully. Members of the Regiment saw over several submarines in the Squadron and the officers enjoyed the hospitality of the ward-room of the *Adamant* on various occasions. The Navy boys in turn enjoyed a performance by our Regimental pipes and drums who played to the ship's company before being invited aboard for the traditional tot. The inter-service liaison proved a great benefit in that we are now more informed on naval ranks, traditions and customs.

No. 1 Squadron took part in the local T.A. Rifle Meeting and managed to scare the Infantry. They reached the final of the Falling Plates and were only beaten on account of unexpended rounds. Lance-Corporal Wishart tied for first place in the Sten competition.

Squadrons have taken part in the Recruiting Drive held in Stirling, Dundee and Aberdeen. The displays produced compared favourably with those of the Regular Army.

Recruiting continues to make progress the total strength of the Regiment now being 421. Squadron Commanders are rightly proud of their numbers and aim to show a considerable increase before next camp.

52nd (LOWLAND) SIGNAL REGIMENT (T.A.)

This month's notes are mainly connected with shooting.

The Regimental Team under the team Captain, Major Carmichael, trained hard during August and competed in the Lowland Division and District Rifle Meeting on the weekend 5th/6th September. Two teams were entered for the China Cup and following plate competitions. Unfortunately no cups were won, but all members of the team are to be congratulated on their enthusiasm and it is hoped that next year the increased interest in shooting will produce even better results. Congratulations too, to Signalmen Riddick, Ogg and Kean, who are all recruits who have joined this year, and have competed for the Regiment and done well.

3 Squadron took part in the Edinburgh and District T.A. Association Rifle Meeting held under perfect shooting conditions at Dreghorn Range, Edinburgh, on Sunday, 13th September, 1959.

In the main event of the Competition, the Glenconner Cup, our team were placed 5th which was creditable, especially as the team Shooting Captain, Staff Sergeant Hayes was unable to shoot.

The Squadron, represented by Lieutenant Madill, Sergeant Weddell, Corporal Davidson, and Lance-Corporal Tulley, won the Logan Strang Trophy in the Falling Plates Competition. In the Final, watched by the Lord Provost, Sir Ian Johnson Gilbert, who later presented the prizes, they narrowly defeated the Queen's Own Lowland Yeomanry Team.

Our congratulations are due to our Falling Plates Team, to Lieutenant Madill for his gold medal in the Individual Championship and to Lance-Corporal Tulley who was 5th in the Macpherson Shield Competition.

The Squadron's achievements are all the more noteworthy as they were shooting as a Squadron against Regimental teams drawn from local Infantry Units.

The week-end, 19th/20th September, was the Scottish Command Royal Signals Rifle Meeting. After a tussle, the Regimental team managed to beat 61 (M) Signal Regiment in the Lord Lieutenants Shield Competition on 19th September. On the following day, the team competition was closely contested. There were teams from the Regiment entered, and excitement grew as we finally managed to beat 61 (M) Signal Regiment. Unfortunately 242 Signal Squadron with a very good total on the snap practice, crept up and beat us into second place.

Staff Sergeants Hayes and McCall and Signalman Kean all shot very well and narrowly missed winning the best individual prize.

In the end the only prize collected was by the Second-in-Command, Major Lang, for a Pool Bull.

Again, congratulations to the teams taking part and the shooting Captain, Major Carmichael. To raise three teams and have them finish 2nd 6th and 7th out of 10 teams entered was a creditable effort and augurs well for the future.

Also on the 20th September three teams were entered in the Lowland District Safe Driving Competition, Sergeant Wright's team finished 11th, Sergeant Martin's 20th and Sergeant McKay's 28th. There were 47 entries so the teams did quite well.

The individual training has commenced under Captain Shaw, P.S.Is and selected N.C.O. instructors and the attendance on our first Sunday after the summer recess, was most encouraging.

The R.S.M. made his farewell appearance in the Mess on Sunday, 3rd October, to receive a presentation from the Mess Members. He was then "chaired" and piped round the square for the last time. He had over 2½ years with the Regiment during which time he had seen the volunteer strength more than double itself. We were sorry to see him go, as he was an efficient and most popular R.S.M. We wish him and his family a happy time in Catterick with No. 12th Regiment.

We also welcome R.S.M. Miskelly on taking over and hope he will enjoy his first time with the T.A.

55th (M) SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

As we are now in the eleventh month of the year, it is interesting to look back and rejoice in the fine summer weather of 1959 that enabled the Regiment to carry out quite a satisfactory amount of outdoor training that rainy or unseasonable conditions would have marred. Now that the winter programme too is getting under way we hope that this will be equally successful.

During the week-end 17th/18th October, 1st/2nd Squadron (Military) enjoyed an eventful two days at No. 5 W.E.T.C., Crowborough; on Sunday, 25th October, there was a successful day on the range at Pirbright, when those who had not completed their annual classification were able to do so.

Of social activities, one of the most outstanding events was the Hallowe'en party held in the Drill Hall at Brompton Road by 3 Squadron W.R.A.C., and a vote of thanks should be offered to Captain N. Pearce, W.R.A.C., and all members of the Squadron for the very splendid effort they made of the party which entailed a considerable amount of hard work beforehand to make it the success it was; this was the first social event to be held in the renovated and redecorated Drill Hall.

In October also, we said "Au Revoir" to Sergeant T. Parkinson who has just retired after a long, active life, not only as a "Terrier" but as a regular soldier. "Old Tom," as he is familiarly known, was perhaps one of the oldest serving members of the Territorial Army, he started his Army career in 1913 in the East Lancashire Regiment. He served throughout the 1914/18 War, afterwards engaging to complete his pensionable service in the early 1930s, having carried out overseas tours in India and China, among other places abroad. On leaving the Service he joined the G.P.O. as a postman and the Royal Signals T.A. in 1936; serving with the Royal Signals throughout the 1939/45 War, part of the time with the 14th Army in Burma. When the Territorial Army was reconstituted in 1947, he still had not had enough and has been an active member until October of this year when, at the age of 62, he has really hung up his uniform for good. However, it seems you still cannot keep a good man down for on retiring from the G.P.O. earlier this year Sergeant Parkinson has carried on the job of civilian storeman with the Regiment and is also civilian caterer for the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. So we all say, "Good Luck, Tom, and we hope sincerely that it will be many years yet before we really do say goodbye to you!"

The London Branch of the Royal Signals Association has recommenced its monthly meetings, held in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess at the Drill Hall, Brompton Road, and the next meeting is on Friday, 11th December, to continue on the second Friday of each following month. As before, all serving and retired members of Royal Signals will be made very welcome.

65th SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

Inevitably on the redesignation of the Regiment on 1st September, the Linemen produced their own appellation—The Six-Five Special!—not altogether original, but easy on the tongue! This title, we need hardly add, has now been adopted throughout the Regiment.

It is now some time since we appeared in the pages of THE WIRE, so we must go back to mid-summer to recount our various activities. We should, however, mention first of all that 328 W.R.A.C. Signal Squadron, T.A. (Special Communications), is affiliated to the Regiment, shares in all its training and social events and is commanded by Major C. H. M. Milner, O.B.E., who is also our Colonel's wife! This report also covers the W.R.A.C. Squadron for the period concerned.

On 11th June the Regiment was honoured by a visit from the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor of London, the Lady Mayoress and the Sheriffs and their ladies. The party were entertained in the Officers' Mess and then the Lord Mayor visited the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess and the Other Ranks' Canteen. Other guests that evening included Brigadier and Mrs. W. G. Tucker, Brigadier and Mrs. W. R. Smijth-Windham, Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. P. G. Curry,



The Right Honourable, The Lord Mayor of London, The Lady Mayoress, Major C. H. M. Milner, O.B.E., and Lieutenant Colonel E. W. Milner, T.D.

Lieutenant-Colonel J. F. E. Goad (Master of the Skinners Company), the Headmaster of the Judd School and Mrs. Taylor, Rear-Admiral B. L. G. Sebastian. Our Honorary Colonel, the Earl of Malmesbury, and the Countess of Malmesbury gave their usual delightful support to this occasion.

Camp this year was from 5th to 18th July, but the whole Regiment and the W.R.A.C. Squadron volunteered to travel and take up their stations on Saturday, 4th July, so that our Communications Exercise could start on the first official day of camp at 08.00 hours. Forty All Ranks flew to Germany under special Regimental arrangements and were deployed in six Detachments, two of which were attached to Corps H.Q. and the remaining four to two of the Divisional Signal Regiments. The friendly help and guidance received from the Regular Regiments was most valuable and spontaneous and our grateful thanks go to Brigadier Whistler, his Staff and his Commanding Officers. Other Detachments were scattered along the South Coast of England with the Main W/T Base near Worthing. The weather was excellent, radio conditions fair, but overall the Exercise was very successful. The Driver Training School at Eastbourne, the W/T Training School at St. Leonards and the Technical School at Worthing all produced highly satisfactory results. All appreciated the social amenities—either the sunny South Coast or a week-end visit to Berlin or Hamburg. With us this year we had the merry band of A.E.R. operators, whom we now see each year, and some twenty members of the then designated No. 1 Special Communications Troop, all of whom put in some invaluable work. Lord and Lady Malmesbury were able to spend some days with the Detachments in Germany. Lord Malmesbury inspected our final parade and addressed the Regiment. Congratulations to the W.R.A.C. who were presented with the Gambier-Parry Shield. A last evening at Worthing, with everybody present, gave us a suitable social opportunity to celebrate after two weeks' hard work.

Our grateful thanks to Mr. George Tiffin for the presentation of a magnificent cup and an annual tankard for the Outstanding Volunteer of the Regiment. Lance-Corporal Donkin was the recipient this year.

It is with very deep regret that we report the sudden death of Second-Lieutenant Doris Fuller, W.R.A.C., T.A.—one of our most promising Officers. She is very much missed by us all.

Congratulations to more than 30 members of the Regiment who have successfully completed the two weeks' T.A. Parachute Course this year. We still have a few vacancies for Telegraph Operator Parachutists.

New Officers—Welcome to Captain S. R. Parsons (now Officer Commanding 1 Squadron), Captain Don Reid, Second-Lieutenants Tinsley, Kemp and Sowerby, and W.R.A.C. Second-Lieutenants Cowley and Rowe. Congratulations to Major Roy Hadfield, Captain John Norris and Captain Russell Wilson on their promotions.

Farewell to Captain Peter Buisseret on posting to T.A.R.O.

41st SIGNAL REGIMENT, T.A.

THE CENTENARY YEAR OF PRINCESS LOUISE'S KENSINGTON REGIMENT

It can be a dangerous pastime to reflect with satisfaction upon past happenings. In so doing it is easy to fall into the trap of complacency and "resting on laurels won," with the ensuing danger to the future. However, as this momentous year in The Kensington's history draws to a close, it is perhaps reasonable to cast one's mind back over the past months, whilst at the same time keeping one's "sights" trained on the future.

After certain informal occasions early in the year, the first milestone in this Great Year was the Centenary Dinner and Ball held at the Park Lane Hotel on Friday, 25th September. The official military guests, consisting of General Sir James H. Cassels, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., Commander-in-Chief, Eastern Command, and Lady Cassels, General Sir John Shea, G.C.B., K.C.M.G., D.S.O., and Miss Shea, Major-General W. A. G. Burns, D.S.O., O.B.E., M.C., General Officer, Commanding London District, Major-General R. J. Moberly, C.B., O.B.E., Signal Officer-in-Chief, and Mrs. Moberly, Brigadier W. R. Smijth-Windham, C.B.E., D.S.O., Chief Signal Officer, Eastern Command, and Mrs. Smijth-Windham, Lieutenant-Colonel P. G. Curry, O.B.E., Chief Signal Officer, London District, and Mrs. Curry, together with the official civilian guests consisting of Councillor A. N. E. McHaffie, J.P., Mayor of the Royal Borough of Kensington, and Mrs. McHaffie, and Councillor G. Rawle, M.M., and Mrs. Rawle, were entertained in a private reception room before dinner, by senior members of the Regiment and Old Comrades' Association.

It quickly became apparent that though the occasion was "somewhat" formal, everyone was intent upon enjoying themselves. After an excellent dinner and the loyal toasts to "The Queen" and "The Colonel-in-Chief," General Sir James H. Cassels, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., proposed the toast of "The Regiment," response was made by the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel B. R. Wood, M.B.E., T.D. This was followed by the toast of "The Guests," proposed by the Honorary Colonel, Major-General M. S. Wheatley, C.B., C.B.E., response being made by the Mayor of the Royal Borough of Kensington, Councillor A. N. E. McHaffie, J.P.

Then whilst all circulated and renewed old friendships and made new ones, the dining tables were cleared and the "strings," who had provided incidental music during dinner, were reinforced by members of the Dance Orchestra of the Royal Corps of Signals to provide music for dancing. At 11.30 p.m. Betty Lunn presented "Cavalcade." Quite apart from the cabaret it was an education to watch the faces of the onlookers. Certain members of the Regiment indicated a misspent youth by their prowess in one of the cabaret scenes. Finally, let it be said that Mr. K would definitely not have approved.

Carriages at 2 a.m. produced the cry, "What! So soon!" Which is perhaps the best note on which to end such an occasion. Our official guests were very generous in their obviously sincere thanks. Once again the high traditions of The Kensingtons had been maintained and all who attended will long remember the occasion.

October 6th saw the Regiment receive probably its greatest honour of all time. The Royal Borough was to bestow its highest possible honour upon the Regiment, affording it the right honour and distinction to march through the streets of Kensington on all ceremonial occasions, with Colours flying, bands playing and bayonets fixed.

In the history of the Royal Borough there had only been two previous Freemen; the first, Princess Louise, whose name the Regiment so proudly bears, and the second Winston Churchill as he then was. It will be appreciated by all therefore that this was an honour not lightly given.

At the Special Council Meeting at which sixty members of the Regiment and Old Comrades' Association were present, the motion that Civic Honours be bestowed upon the Regiment was moved, seconded and unanimously carried. Whereupon the Mayor presented to the Commanding Officer the Council's Resolution inscribed upon vellum and contained in the most magnificent silver casket. In thanking the Mayor on behalf of all past and present members of the Regiment for the great honour, the Commanding Officer assured all present that the Regiment would always live up to the trust that the Royal Borough had thus shown in the Regiment.

After the Special Council Meeting the Mayor held a reception for the members of the Regiment and Old Comrades' Association present, together with the Aldermen and Councillors of the Council. At this reception the beautifully



Centenary Dinner and Ball

Guests were received by the Honorary Colonel, Major General M. S. Wheatley, C.B., C.B.E., Mrs. M. S. Wheatley; The Commanding Officer Lieutenant Colonel B. R. Wood, M.B.E., T.D., and Mrs. B. R. Wood



The Signal Officer in Chief, Major General R. J. Moberly, C.B., O.B.E., and Mrs. R. J. Moberly arriving for The Centenary Dinner and Ball



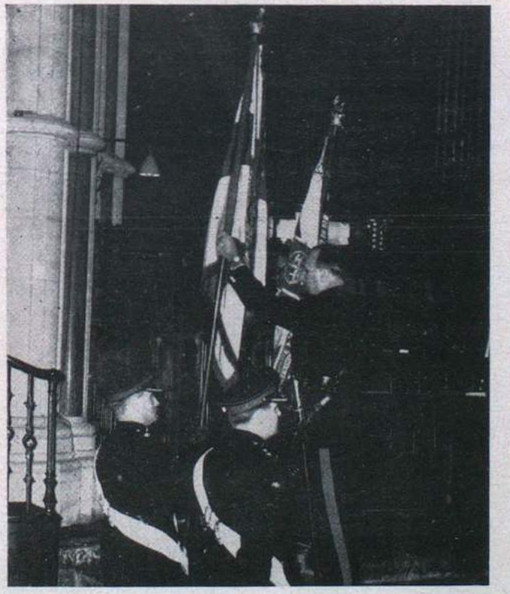
Civic Honours

The Mayor of the Royal Borough of Kensington, Councillor A. N. E. McHaffie, J.P., presents the Council's Resolution contained in a Silver Casket to the Commanding Officer Lieutenant Colonel B. R. Wood, M.B.E., T.D.

inscribed Resolution and silver casket were displayed for all to see.

The steady downpour of rain which occurred on the evening of Saturday, 24th October, struck dread into many hearts. Was this to be yet another Royal Territorial Army occasion marred by rain? Fortunately, Sunday, 25th October, dawned sunny and warm, and so it remained throughout the day.

Just before 3.15 p.m. Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, with the Honourable Mrs. Francis Balfour in attendance, were received by the Mayor of the Royal Borough of Kensington. Whilst the Honorary Colonel, the Commanding Officer and Town Clerk were presented to Her Royal Highness outside the church, the Corps Trumpeters in their full dress uniforms sounded the Corps Fanfare.



Centenary Thanksgiving and Remembrance Service. The Commanding Officer receiving the Colours from the Ensigns prior to the Colours being draped upon the Altar



Louise Giles daughter of Sergeant and Mrs. Giles being presented to Her Royal Highness in the Drill Hall after the Centenary Thanksgiving and Remembrance Service.

The reception party then escorted Her Royal Highness to the entrance of the church, where the Bishop of Kensington and the Vicar of St. Mary Abbots Church were waiting to receive her. Then came the Mayoral Procession, followed by the Bishop and Vicar, who escorted Her Royal Highness to the Royal Pew.

After the singing of the National Anthem there followed more pageantry in the form of the slow march of the "Colours" to the Altar, to the strains of the Regimental March, "The Wild Hunt." The Commanding Officers received the Colours from the Ensigns and in turn handed them to the Vicar so that they might be draped upon the Altar during the Service. No-one, from the youngest "new recruit" to the oldest "Old Comrade," could but feel a tingle of pride through their veins at the precision of the Colour Party, and the beauty of the Colours.

The service then proceeded. After the reading of the Lesson by the Commanding Officer the Bishop of Kensington delivered the address. In the course of his address the Bishop paid tribute to the Kensington Regiment, which in three wars had left its mark in many parts of the world. The Bishop then went on to explain the problems of conscience with which the soldier may be confronted, and to elaborate the qualities essential in the soldier. In closing, the Bishop said "The Kensington Regiment is our Regiment and we are proud of it."

Again the tingling of pride was felt as the Colour Party received the Colours back into its keeping via the Vicar and Commanding Officer, and slow marched from the church. So ended a very impressive ceremony in which all had paid due respect to fallen Comrades, thankfulness for the deliverance of the Regiment through one hundred years, and felt with pride that the traditions and honours of the Kensingtons were in safe keeping for the future.

Her Royal Highness, preceded by two Royal Military Police outriders, then proceeded to Headquarters, where she was received by the Mayor of Hammersmith.

Tea was then taken in the Officers' Mess, after the Commanding Officer had presented to Her Royal Highness a leather-bound presentation copy of the Centenary Brochure with which Her Royal Highness expressed delight.

Present at this tea were Major-General M. S. Wheatley, C.B., C.B.E., and Mrs. Wheatley, Lieutenant-Colonel B. R. Wood, M.B.E., T.D., and Mrs. Wood, Brigadier-General Lewis, C.B., C.M.G., T.D., D.L., and Mrs. Lewis, Colonel W. H. Godfrey, M.B.E., M.M., D.L., and Mrs. Godfrey, Major C. O. Bound and Mrs. Bound, Captain P. G. Bennett, T.D., the Bishop of Kensington, the Vicar of Saint Mary Abbotts Church and Mrs. Eley, the Mayor of Kensington and Mrs. McHaffie, the Mayor of Hammersmith and Mrs. Hayes, Colonel A. J. Page, T.D., D.L., Chairman of the County of London Territorial and Auxiliary Forces Association, and the Town Clerks of Kensington and Hammersmith.

After tea Her Royal Highness toured the Drill Hall, where many members of the Regiment and Old Comrades' Association were presented.

The Mayor of Hammersmith finally escorted Her Royal Highness to her car and so ended a very memorable day in the Regiment's history, which also brought to a close the "Year of Celebration of the Kensington's Centenary."

Loughborough Branch

☆



General Moberly with some of the Guests at Loughborough Branch Annual Dinner/Dance

These notes are being written by a Secretary still bathing in the satisfaction of an Annual Dinner and Dance voted by all present to be a resounding success. Everything seemed to go well, from the aperitifs to the Anthem. We mustered 103 for dinner and this was augmented by some 50-odd for the dancing later. Our guests were in great form and we had a most enjoyable after-dinner speech from the Signal Officer-in-Chief, Major-General Moberly. After dealing in turn with the spirit, the re-equipment, and recruiting of the new Army, he made some very kind remarks about the Branch and the fillip it gave him to see the interest shown by Old Comrades in the Corps today. We for our part were honoured and delighted by his presence, also that of our other guests, Brigadier Firth and Superintendent and Mrs. Freestone, of Loughborough Police. Our President, Brigadier Duvivier, made a reference in his speech to the very welcome appearance of Mr. and Mrs. Alec Dales, and throughout the evening there was a constant stream of well-wishers to their table. Alec Dales has been a victim of a crippling disease for ten years, is almost blind and walks only very short distances with the aid of sticks. To have got to the dinner at all was an achievement; we are all very proud of Alec, his wife, and their tremendous courage in adversity. In spite of the revelries of the previous evening, the Branch contingent, complete with Standard, made a smart contribution to the Remembrance Sunday Parade and Service in Woodhouse Eaves.

Looking back beyond the Annual Dinner, I should mention a social evening we held in late October, when around fifty people enjoyed a programme of tombola, dancing, a cabaret and sing-song, all suitably fortified by drinks and a buffet. Captain Watson brought a party along from the Leicester Branch and very pleased we were to see them.

Between now and our General Meeting in January we shall continue the good work with first a Tombola Night, then a pantomime outing for the kiddies—for this we have really broken out and booked a whole theatre for a matinee; I've got 350 seats to fill! We shall do it, too. Then, of course, our annual sell-out, the Hogmanay Dance at Beaumanor, when 150 happy souls will say goodbye to 1959 and greet the New Year with the spirit and resolution which is the reason for the existence of our Association.

CAREERS AND OPPORTUNITY

(Please note: It is ESSENTIAL that anyone obtaining employment through answering advertisements in THE WIRE *notifies the Employment Section, Royal Signals Association, 88, Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1.*
Members may apply to the Employment Section for details of other vacancies).

WATSHAM'S LTD., Reading, Berks: This Company specialises in the erection of overhead electrical transmission lines in various parts of U.K. and plays a large part in the construction of the National Electric Grid Scheme. Warrant Officers and Senior N.C.O.s due for release are invited to apply for training as Foremen. Applicants must be physically fit, willing to travel and preferably aged not over 40. Wages and allowances in accordance with the rates and scales of Civil Engineering. For further details write to Major E. C. Collett, "Jasmine," Pigeonhouse Lane, Rustington, Sussex.

CENTRAL ORDNANCE DEPOT, DONNINGTON: The following civilian technical industrial vacancies exist and would suit ex-Regular Royal Signals tradesmen (Class II standard):

Telegraph Technicians	2
Radio Technician	1
Maintenance Electricians (Telephone) ...	2

(U/G cable experience essential)

Basic starting wage £9/9/8 for 44-hour, five-day week, rising to £10/9/8 and in certain cases to £11/9/8. Employees become eligible for admittance to housing points list on W.D. Civilian Housing Estate after 12 months' service. Establishment as permanent Civil Servants is also possible. Apply to Major P. W. Malins, Royal Signals, C.O.D., Donnington, Wellington, Salop.

The following goods are available from Association Headquarters:

Corps Paint Transfers:
"Jimmy"—on background of Corps Colours (each)

20"×15"	10"×7½"	7½"×5⅝"	3 1/10"×2 2/5"
4/-	3/-	2/8	1/6

Mounted on black plastic (each)

8/6	4/9	4/-	—

Corps Ties—Reppe	5/6	
Heavy Weave	7/6	
Woollen	8/6	
Tervlene	11/-	
Corps Scarves—Reppe, Square	21/-	
Woollen	21/-	
Cravats—Reppe	21/-	
Corps Cuff Links	7/-	
Association Buttonhole Badges or Brooches	3/-	
Association Blazer Badges (Silver "Jimmy" on a shield of Corps Colours, as approved by the Corps Committee)	25/-	Members only
Blazer Buttons—Large (each)	2/3	
Small (each)	1/8	
Motor Car Badges (enamelled in Corps Colours)	35/-	
Motor Cycle Badges (enamelled in Corps Colours)	20/-	
Corps Plaques	26/6	Plus postage

Corps Diaries (available each year between November and February. Apply to Headquarters for Order Form).
PLEASE SEND CASH WITH ORDER for all the above articles *except* Corps Paint Transfers, for which an account will be forwarded.

WELFARE SECTION

Below an attempt is made to describe, with suitable anonymity, nine cases taken from the Welfare Section files concluded during the second week in November, 1959. Also on this page is a simple statement of income and expenditure.

Signalman, 1947-49. Married. Ceased work December, 1957. Incurable disease. Association and British Legion shared a grant to settle a small outstanding debt.

Signalman, 1947-48. Married, four children. Ceased work December, 1958. Association and Forces Help Society shared a grant to help him move his family from one room to a small house.

Lance-Sergeant, 1941-46. Ceased work May, 1959. Incurable disease. Association and British Legion helped to settle small debts.

Signalman, 1941-44. Previously R.A., later A.C.C.; married, two children. He is broken in health, earned a little as a caretaker and his wife also earns a little, for the rest they live on National Assistance. He now has more congenial work for self and wife and the Association helped with cost of removal.

Widow of Signalman, 1920-45, who died 1956. only one child remains with the widow and their combined earnings and widow's pension bring in little income. The Association and S.S.A.F.A. helped her with cost of removal and in other ways.

Signalman, 1939-42. Married, five children, one of which is permanently in hospital. Fares to visit this child as often as the doctors wish is beyond the family income and so the Association helped a little.

Sergeant, 1948-58. Married, one child. 100 per cent. disability pension. Despite accute polio he managed a shop and the Association shared with other societies the cost of alterations to house and shop to enable him to continue to do so.

Signalman, 1933-34. Five per cent disability pension. Married, one child. He has been in hospital since 1956. His wife cannot work through ill-health. The child to Grammar School. British Legion and Royal Signals helped with cost of school uniform.

Driver, 1957, still serving. Married, one child, whose birth caused the wife to cease work and therefore a crisis in their H.P. repayments. The fund gave the small sum needed to finish them.

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION WELFARE SECTION

The following donations were most gratefully received during October:

	£	s.	d.
47th (London) Signal Regiment (T.A.) (Sergeants' Mess) ...	2	0	0
York Branch (in memory of Major G. Weeks)	2	2	0
A. Davies Esq.		5	0
Total receipts ...	£4	7	0

EXPENDITURE DURING OCTOBER, 1959 ... ... £661 13 10
Includes: Rent and Rates; Beds and Bedding; Furniture; Cots and Prams; General Assistance.

Analysis of cases:

Families of soldiers serving in U.K.	2
Widows and Dependants	2
Released and Discharged Soldiers	46
Total cases assisted ...	50

26 cases of soldiers who served during the 1939-45 War ...	£486	6	0
24 cases of soldiers who did not serve during the War.	£175	7	10

Lighter Fuel Packs

The following amounts were most gratefully received during October:

Box No. 26 ... 26th Signal Regiment		12	10
Box No. 50 ... 54th (East Anglian) Signal Regiment (T.A.) ...		5	0
Total receipts ...	£	17	10

BOUND VOLUMES of "THE WIRE"

We have available material to bind in book form 20 copies of the 1959 "WIRE." Messes and individuals who require bound volumes should please let the Editor know as soon as possible.

PRICE IS £2/10/0

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION BENEVOLENT FUND

The following subscriptions were most gratefully received during October, 1959:

	£	s.	d.
School of Signals	20	0	0
Royal Signals Display	45	0	0
12th Signal Regiment	20	0	0
24th Signal Regiment (Officers' Mess)	5	6	0
25th Signal Regiment	40	0	0
26th Signal Regiment	43	2	5
218 Signal Squadron (AGRA (Field))	3	0	0
240 Signal Squadron	1	14	0
1 Squadron, 14th Signal Regiment	2	10	0
310 Signal Squadron (ASSU)		3	0
Junior Leaders Regiment	20	0	0
MESS/SRDE	1	10	0
D. & M. School, R.A.C. Centre		5	0
Signals Wing, School of Artillery		19	6
57th (M) Signal Regiment (T.A.)	3	0	0
C.S.O.'s Branch, London District		9	0
44th (Home Counties) Signal Regiment (T.A.)	3	16	0
47th (London) Signal Regiment (T.A.)	2	2	0
311 Signal Squadron (T.A.) (UKLF Reserve)	1	14	0
11th Signal Regiment	12	11	6
241 Signal Squadron	1	7	0
42nd (Lancashire) Signal Regiment (T.A.)	1	1	0
42nd (Lancashire) Signal Regiment (T.A.) ("Ex Ex" Society) ...	3	0	0
304 Signal Squadron (T.A.)		9	0
H.Q., A.E.R. Royal Signals	2	0	0
52nd (Lowland) Signal Regiment (T.A.)		7	0
61st (M) Signal Regiment (T.A.)		10	7
7th Signal Regiment	35	0	0
28th Signal Regiment	31	16	0
221 Signal Squadron (Air Formation)	14	0	0
27th Signal Regiment	7	0	7
235 Signal Squadron (COMCAN)	10	0	0
9th Signal Regiment	8	15	0
Total receipts ...	£342	8	7

WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY OPERATORS

required by FALKLAND ISLANDS GOVERNMENT Wireless Station, Port Stanley, on contract for one tour of 3 years in first instance. Salary according to experience in scale £540 rising to £600 a year. Full board accommodation obtainable at £12—£14 a month. Free passages. Liberal leave on full salary. Candidates must be single and capable of sending and receiving morse code at 25 w.p.m. They should have had experience of handling H.F. transmitters and receivers and morse keyboard perforators. Write to the Crown Agents, 4 Millbank, London, S.W.1. State age, name in block letters, full qualifications and experience and quote M2A/50777/WS.

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.

The Army Boot Still Slogs On

We're foot-slog-slog-slog-sloggin' over Africa,
Foot, foot, foot, foot-sloggin' over Africa;
(Boots, boots, boots, boots, movin' up an' down again)
There's no discharge in the war!

Rudyard Kipling's description of the P.B.I. in his poem Boots describes — in words a soldier might have used — the tremendous strain of a sustained route march, and how well the British soldier, and his boots, have always stood up to it.

Next to his rifle, a soldier's boots are his most precious possession. The Duke of Wellington's axiom still holds good : "The most important item of equipment for a soldier is, first, a good serviceable pair of boots; second, another pair of boots; and third, a pair of half soles."

Without his boots, a soldier loses mobility and becomes a sitting pigeon for the enemy. Even without an enemy, he wouldn't last long barefooted. Arctic cold would give him gangrene and frostbite; jungle depths would find his feet and ankles smothered with filthy clinging leeches; a mountain climb would leave him with feet bleeding and incapacitated.

Of course, no soldier has any illusions about his job. It is to go anywhere and do anything. War is full of the unexpected, and not even the most detailed planning can provide for the unpredictable. But in facing these hazards, every soldier is entitled to expect that any hazard which can be foreseen should be minimised by the provision of the best and most hard-wearing equipment possible.

Only leather, it is justifiably claimed can meet the variety of conditions and strains for which a soldier must be prepared. There are god scientific reasons for this. The fibre of leather, as the microscope shows, are three dimensional, and interlock in the most intricate way, combining pliancy and strength in a way which no other natural material can equal and which no synthetic material can even begin to imitate.

Woven fibres criss-cross in two directions. Try to imagine the weave not only horizontal, but vertical as well, and you will have some idea of how tough leather is. No known method of weaving can duplicate the qualities of leather.

In other respects, too, synthetic materials, ingenious though they are, cannot do what leather does. Leather combines opposite qualities. It can be made to resist moisture — and yet retain its porosity and absorbent qualities. If leather weren't absorbent, perspiration from the foot would not be able to escape; perspiration which cannot be absorbed by the shoe causes the foot to become inflamed, with resultant skin troubles such as athlete's foot.

Repelling moisture and absorbing perspiration, the leather army boot does two opposite jobs at once, but it does another — it ventilates the foot as well. Leather "breathes," for it is actually porous. Here again no synthetic material has this quality. The Leather Manufacturers' Research Association has proved that the feet of an active man on a warm day give off an average of six ounces of perspiration in 12 hours — two pints in a week. But the soldier is more active than any civilian, and it is easy to see that he would soon be in a state if he were ever compelled to wear boots with anything but leather soles.

The British Army Boot has a long and honourable history. It has stood up to every imaginable climate, to every possible condition. It has been abused, outraged, misused and overworked, and come through with flying colours.

Leather has been the soldier's friend for thousands of years. Sandals of leather from the tomb of Tutankh-Amen can still be seen in Cairo Museum. Sir Leonard Woolley, in his excavations at "Ur of the Chaldees" found proof of their extensive use of leather. There is in the Turin Museum a fragment of leather 7,000 years old, while flints used for scraping hides have been estimated by archaeologists and geologists to be at least 18,000 years old.

From classical statuary it would seem that sandals were the popular type of footwear in ancient times, but boots were known to the ancients too. Homer mentions them about 907 B.C., and so do Roman historians.

Haydn, in his Dictionary of Dates — a standard reference work — says that boots "are said to be the invention of the Carians, and were made of iron, brass or leather." I don't know who the Carians were, for even the Encyclopaedia Britannica is silent on the subject, but I'm willing to wager that the Carian soldiers had something to say if they were forced to go on long marches in iron boots!

The ancestor, one might say the Adam, of all Army boots is the Army Ankle Boot, which was introduced in 1913. Until then the hand-sewn Blucher was issued, but these, it was realised, could never be produced in sufficient quantities for a modern army. It was clear that Britain would need a million pairs, and that a revolution in manufacturing techniques was called for.

And so the First World War saw the triumph of the machine-rivetted seam against the old hand-sewn welt, and the widespread use of full or semi-chrome leather for uppers. Chrome tanned leather can be given any surface colour required, but can be recognised, by a cross section, by its bluish tinge.

The poor old quartermaster is usually accused of handing out any old pair of boots which comes to hand, with sadistic indifference as to whether they fit or not. In fact an immense range of sizes is made, ranging from size 3 to 22!

Even before 1914, immense research had gone into the designing of the Army Ankle Boot. Measurements of whole regiments were consulted and averaged, it was thought that the boot produced could never be improved, and under the most terrible conditions it proved equal to every ordeal. The scrape of gravel and rock, the impact of flying metal, the endless squelch of mud, left the boots wearable and sound.

The research, however, continued. By 1938 the orthopaedists (who understand the bone structure of the body, and the stresses which they can sustain) and scientists had combined to design a new type of ankle boot which saw service in every field in the Second World War.

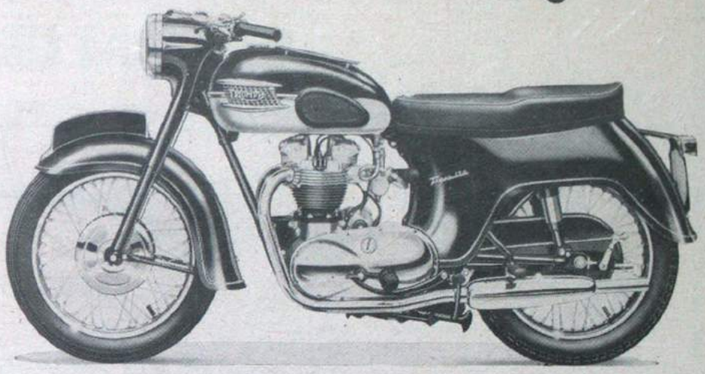
The complexities of modern war have, of course, increased the range and the specifications of the sort of Army Boots required. More than 150 different varieties of footwear had to be designed and manufactured in the last war. The Arctic Boot, which saw service in Norway and other cold climates, had to be specially treated so that the hide wouldn't set hard in extreme temperatures. The Climbing Boot had a reinforced toe and metal sole fitments to give grip in climbing rough surfaces and the Assault Boot was made to withstand anything — sand, gravel and rock.

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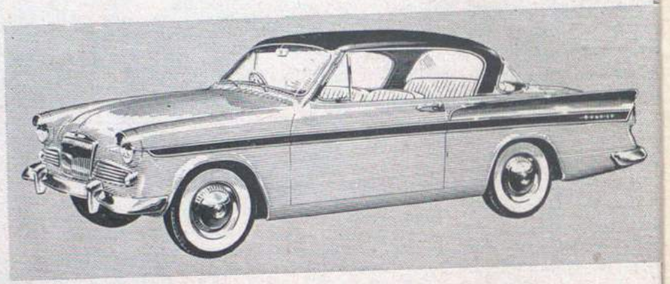


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