THE WIRE

JANUARY — DECEMBER

1964

January, 1964

The WIRE

The Royal Signals Magazine





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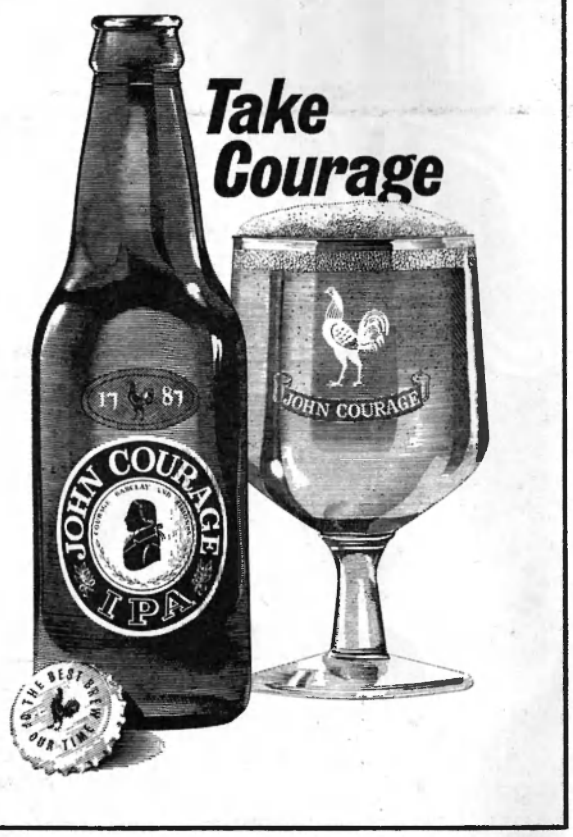
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THE WIRE

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

The Official Organ of the Signals Association

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JANUARY • 1964

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Editorial

The Wire — 1964

Except for a few routine announcements and formal notices, what is inside the covers of THE WIRE comes from outside sources—it is not written by the Editor. He can only act as a filter by cutting here and amending there and by making sure that the presentation is as good as possible. **The standard of "The Wire" is, therefore, to all intents and purposes, in the hands of its readers.** We hope that you may have thought the standard in 1963 was not too bad. What follows is a short guide to assist our contributors to achieve, perhaps, an even better standard in 1964.

Unit Notes. These can be deadly dull at times. Keep them short and to the point. Avoid 'woffle' in order to pad them out. It is not necessary to send in notes every month unless there is something worthwhile to say. Let us have humour, but avoid jokes that have no meaning outside Unit circles. Mention individuals by rank and name as often as possible—their friends like to hear about them. Avoid cartoons unless they are really good. If there is an interesting story to tell submit it as a separate article rather than as part of Unit notes. It will often pay to concentrate on a particular Troop or part of a Unit rather than write in general terms about the Unit as a whole.

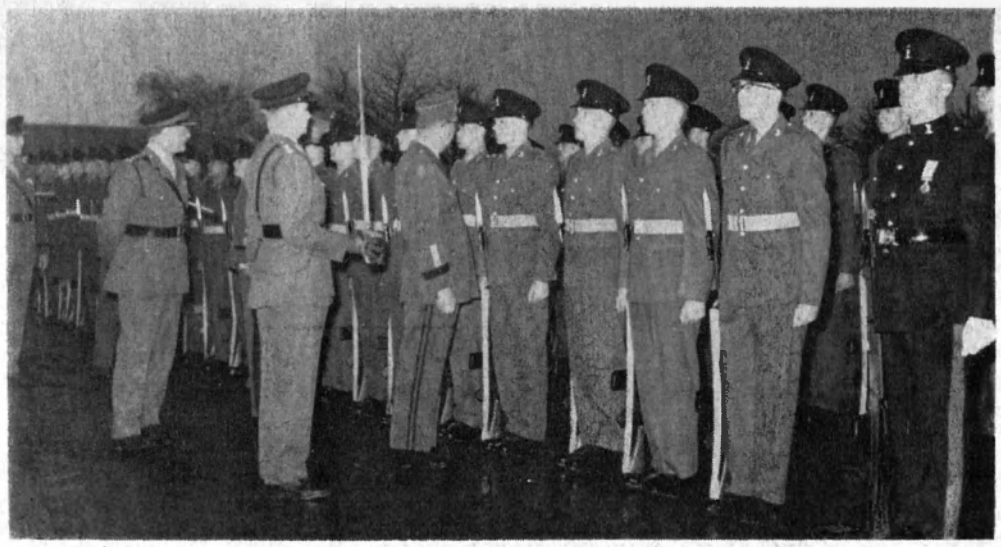
Articles of general interest. These are the 'lifeblood' of THE WIRE. We can't have too many provided they are good. They are flowing in much more freely and we had some excellent ones in 1963—often from junior N.C.O.s and Signalmen. Those with a spice of adventure are best. Personal experiences such as climbing, sailing, hitch-hiking or doing anything unusual can make very good reading. But don't let us stop here. We can do with many more articles about what goes on in out of the way places. We would like to hear about soldiering in places like the Hebrides, or Gan Island or Kowloon. We also want to hear more about individuals and their daily jobs (subject to security considerations) with particular reference to local difficulties and how they are being overcome. Of particular interest are accounts about small parties on detachment or Signalmen on isolated duties. We recall the one Signalman who was the senior and only Army representative on Car Nicobar Island a few years ago. Let us also hear about amusing experiences. A little controversy from time to time in the form of a letter to the Editor will not come amiss. In short we are all very curious to hear about what the other fellow is up to if it is interesting—so do let us know. If there are no facilities for typing, let us have a draft in your own handwriting. We will cope.

Photographs. These make THE WIRE 'live.' Do send them in to bring life to your article, but they must be good. If possible get the experts, P.R., to produce them for you. If not get an amateur photographer who really knows what he is about. They are expensive to reproduce in THE WIRE and it is a pity to waste money on poor results. Remember photographs must be glossy with sharp, clear definition and about twice the size you expect them to be in THE WIRE. Individuals in particular should be photographed as close to the camera as possible. Groups and other objects of interest photographed at some distance from the camera are often a waste of time. Leave out the scenery and let us have a close look at what is of interest. Finally, do write captions for each photograph—sometimes these can be witty and quite amusing given a little thought.

General. Having observed what has been said above do not spoil it all by sending in your WIRE article too late to go to Press. Watch the calendar and allow plenty of time for delay in the post. Articles from B.A.O.R. often take longer than from Hong Kong. We have known the post from B.A.O.R. to take up to nine days to reach us here.

To conclude then. We have had much of interest in 1963. If you can support THE WIRE in 1964 on the lines set out above then it should be an even better year.

Chief Signal Officer U.S. Army visits Catterick Camp



The Guard of Honour 0900 hrs. Weather normal for Catterick at this time of year!

At 13.00 hours on Monday, 18th November, 1963, a small "working" reception committee on Darlington Station went into action, and the visit of General David P. Gibbs, Chief Signal Officer, U.S. Army, to Catterick Camp had begun.

The General had arrived at London Airport two days previously and had been met by Lieutenant F. R. Maynard (11th Regiment) who acted as his A.D.C. throughout the visit. The U.S.L.O., School of Signals, Major Joe E. Ashley, was also at the airport to greet his chief. The General was accompanied by his Executive Officer, Colonel Thomas M. Rienzi, "five feet eighteen inches tall" and one of the liveliest personalities to hit North-East England since the "Beatles" visited Newcastle.

The General stayed with the Signal Officer-in-Chief and Mrs. Swainson over the week-end and left London by train on the Monday morning.

The North-East Region Public Relations Officer of British Railways, Brigadier G. S. Knox, C.B.E.*, had been extremely helpful, and the Stationmaster, Darlington, in his full regalia, was at hand to welcome the party on arrival; transhipment of the party from train to staff cars took just over two minutes, and a radio message from the station informed us in Catterick that they were on their way.

The aim of the visit was to show General Gibbs the home of Royal Signals, as described to you in last month's WIRE, and in this we were aided in no uncertain manner by the weather. On arrival it was blowing at gale force, and the wind, incidentally, carried away one of the flags on the staff cars; the wind abated in the evening to allow a thick ground frost to build up which, in turn, caused fog to roll in from the moors the following morning. The fog cleared by mid-morning, giving way to a gentle drizzle, easing off to a steady downpour by the time the party left at mid-day. It was, perhaps, a trifle too early for snow.

Despite the weather the staff cars were met by four DR escorts of the Display Team on the A.1 Highway and escorted to H.Q. Mess, there to be met by Brigadier A. C. Cox, O.B.E., Brigadier T. R. Warburg and other senior officers of the Training Brigade and the School of Signals. After a late lunch General Gibbs attended a presentation on the work of the School of Signals. Later the party went to see 54 "Q" Course at work, Second-Lieutenant P. J. Pritchard was briefing his fellow students on an exercise to take place the following day when he found his class of subalterns raised in status by the inclusion of two Generals and many senior officers. After only momentary hesitation the briefing continued.

In the evening General Gibbs and Colonel Rienzi met the senior officers and wives of the Corps in Catterick in Headquarters Mess. They were most interested in the main pieces of Corps silver which were on display in the ante-room. The party was kept circulating in no uncertain manner by Colonel Rienzi whose exuberant manner and obvious enjoyment of life matched his great size. It was with great reluctance that the guests were allowed to leave the Mess for their dinner engagement.

The following morning at 09.00 hours precisely the staff cars and their DR outriders swung onto Vimy Square, where a Guard of Honour was formed up, and the visit to the Training Brigade commenced. The Guard, commanded by Captain D. L. Copeland, comprised 48 young recruits of 11th Regiment backed by the Band of the Royal Signals. Markers for the parade carried lances with Troop pennants affixed and to the rear of the parade "Old Glory" and the "Union Jack" stood out in the morning breeze signifying the close friendship between our two countries. Even more significantly the day was also the anniversary of Lincoln's immortal address at Gettysburg.

The young recruits acquitted themselves well and the traditional honours having been paid the General was introduced to Lieutenant-Colonel S. W. Brackenbury, M.B.E., who conducted him around 11th Regiment. From square bashing, weapon training and assault courses, the party moved on to meet Lieutenant-Colonel C. E. Tonry, and visited the technical

(*Left*) Colonel Thomas M. Rienzi, General David P. Gibbs, Brigadier T. R. Warburg (Commandant School of Signals) and The Signal Officer-in-Chief. General Gibbs is holding a set of tools made by a Foreman of Signals and presented to him by the School. (*Right*) Colonel Thomas M. Rienzi and Lieutenant Colonel G. Peat. "We heard Colonel, that the US Signal Corps was bigger than Royal Signals but this is ridiculous."







General David P. Gibbs meets R.S.M. T. J. Licence, 24th Regiment. The General wanted to take an R.S.M. back to America with him.

training being carried out in 8th Regiment—tempered by a visit to "hairy" Linemen laying field cable at speed over rough ground. From there on to 24th Regiment and Lieutenant-Colonel G. Peat and a glimpse of the operator, driver and E.D. training—including, of course, our integrated girls of the W.R.A.C. Finally, disregarding the "bog" which Gaza sports field so closely resembled, the Royal Signals Motor Cycle Display Team gave the General a 15 minute indication of their prowess.

The time was now 12.35 hours and our American visitors and the Signal Officer-in-Chief were due to leave Darlington Station at 14.55 hours. This allowed just sufficient time for a lunch with Brigadier Cox and officers of the Training Brigade at the Officers' Mess, 24th Regiment. Toward the end of lunch the Corps Fanfare Trumpeters entered and played a special fanfare dedicated to our friends of the U.S. Signal Corps and entitled "The Blue and the Grey." Devised by our Director of Music, Captain Cliff Pike, it is based on "Marching Through Georgia" and "Dixie"; it was a tremendous success and after toasting "Our Guests and the U.S. Signal Corps," the Brigade Commander presented General Gibbs with a bound copy of the music and a small memento of the visit.

General Gibbs' replied to the toast and in the course of his short but eloquent speech enjoined the Corps never to allow the traditional and colourful aspects of soldiering to be taken from us—he envied us in retaining, within the Corps, responsibility for all aspects of our own training and wished he could take back with him to the "States" the Corps Trumpeters —and a Regimental Sergeant Major! (Royal Signals Records are *not* prepared to accept offers from Signalmen willing to send their R.S.M. off to America).

Farewells having been said, the staff cars, preceded by the outriders, moved off through the pouring rain to Darlington Station and the visit was over.

It was a memorable occasion and we trust General Gibbs and Colonel Rienzi enjoyed the visit as much as we did.

**Brigadier C. S. Knox*, C.B.E. (*late Royal Signals*).

(Happily absent at Darlington Station was the famous "Porter Shunter" (late Royal Signals) whose handshake left its mark for 48 hours and whose "grip" on the handle of a suitcase lasted during the life of the case.—Ed.).

Promotions

November, 1963

				New Sen. No.	*Old Sen. No.*
			REGIMENTAL DUTY ROSTER		
To S Sgt.	22515959	A/S Sgt.	Wymbs, P. B.	7620	4660 (Op.)
	22990001	Sgt.	Peake, R. A.	7630	4690 (Op.)
	22771393	Sgt.	Webster, E. T. A.	7640	4670 (Op.)
	22265729	Sgt.	Bailey, E.	7650	520 (Fd.)
	22307945	Sgt.	Taylor, H. E.	7660	4720 (Op.)
			CHIEF CLERKS ROSTER		
To W.O.I	14194833	W.O.II	Richardson, F.	290	530
			TECHNICAL ROSTER		
To Sgt.	22794203	Cpl.	Adams, E. I.	4150	1960
	2549475	Cpl.	Hills, W. J.	4170	30
	22983677	Cpl.	McNaughton, J.	4210	6510
	23531300	Cpl.	Hammonds, J. M.	4230	7190
	23302949	Cpl.	Feeley, W. H. M.	4250	9686
			OPERATING ROSTER		
To Sgt.	22776515	Cpl.	Johnson, P.	10640	7890
			BAND ROSTER		
To Sgt.	21126907	Cpl.	Hewson, K.	90	90

DELETIONS

REGIMENTAL DUTY ROSTER

W.O.I	960		
S Sgt.	284	920	4490

FOREMAN OF SIGNALS ROSTER

W.O.I	600
W.O.II	710

OPERATING ROSTER

Sgt.	5770

INSERTION

REGIMENTAL DUTY ROSTER

To S Sgt.	2212655	S Sgt.	Morrill, G. E.	7314	1210 (Tec.)

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in the

Composite Signals Organisation

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'A' Block, Priors Road, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire

Representative

Colonel Commandant

in Germany

Brigadier

W. G. Tucker, C.B.E.

tours

B.A.O.R.

☆



The Colonel Commandant inspecting the Quarter Guard at 21st Regiment

THE Representative Colonel Commandant commenced his tour of B.A.O.R. on the morning of 2nd October, 1963, by visiting the Joint Headquarters at Rheindahlen.

He was briefed by Brigadier J. E. Anderson, C.B.E., and then met all the personnel serving in SX Branch and Officers and Other Ranks serving in other appointments in the Joint Headquarters. Afterwards he was entertained by the Officers to lunch in the United Services Club.

In the afternoon, accompanied by Mrs. Tucker, he visited 13th Regiment at Ber Gelin. Brigadier Tucker first inspected the Quarter Guard and then toured the Unit lines where he found time to have a word with many of the men serving with the Regiment.

The following morning he visited 16th Regiment in Bradbury Barracks, Krefeld. After inspecting the Quarter Guard, the Representative Colonel Commandant, accompanied by Lieutenant-Colonel R. W. P. Brader, the Commanding Officer, went to see the Summer Training Camp at Leuth. He met many of the members of the Regiment who were undergoing various forms of training and showed great interest in all their activities. On returning to Bradbury Barracks he toured the tape relay centre before meeting the Warrant Officers and Senior N.C.O.s in their Mess. Meanwhile, Mrs. Tucker was being entertained by the Wives' Club.

After lunch, the Representative Colonel Commandant left Krefeld for St. Tonis where he was met by Lieutenant-Colonel W. D. S. Renton, commanding 28th Regiment. After a discussion in the C.O.'s office, Brigadier Tucker toured the Unit lines and found time to officially open "The Jolly Friar," the



Brigadier and Mrs. Tucker with Mrs. Horner, Staff Sergeant and Mrs. Davies after having visited the Senior N.C.O. Quarters at Laarbruch



Mrs. Tucker with Mrs. Horner, wife of the Commanding Officer, and wives 21st Regiment.



The Colonel Commandant at 7th Regiment talking with Corporal Bennett, Signalmen Martin and Crowden. With the Colonel Commandant are Lieutenant Colonel Clarkson and Major Thursby-Pelham

Corporals' Club. The Club had been renovated and redecorated, on a self-help basis by its members and its appearance reflected great credit on those who had worked so hard on this job in their spare time.

The Representative Colonel Commandant then joined Mrs. Tucker in the Sergeants' Mess, where she was being entertained to tea by the Wives' Club of the Regiment and was able to meet and have a few words with many of the Mess members and their wives. Mrs. Jean Morrison, wife of the youngest sergeant present, presented Mrs. Tucker with a bouquet as she and the Brigadier left for Rheindahlen.

On 4th October, 1963, Brigadier and Mrs. Tucker arrived at Laarbruch at about 11.00 hours, bringing with them the first really sunny day for several weeks.

The Quarter Guard of 21st Regiment was inspected and Regimental Colours presented to the various athletes and sportsmen of the Regiment. After a short tour of the Unit lines he was entertained in the R.A.F. Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess where he was able to renew old acquaintances among our senior N.C.O.s who had been assembled there from outlying R.A.F. stations.

Meanwhile Mrs. Tucker had met the officers' wives for coffee and then visited the station B.F.E.S. School. The Headmaster, Mr. Smith, arranged an interesting tour and told Mrs. Tucker, much to her amusement, that the last V.I.P. he had shown round was H.R.H. The Princess Royal and, after her own visit, the next was to be H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh in November.

After lunch, Brigadier and Mrs. Tucker visited the home of Staff Sergeant and Mrs. Davies and were able to see the excellent accommodation which the R.A.F. provide for our families. A visit to the Wives' Club then concluded a very pleasant but very brief visit to the Regiment.

Next day Brigadier and Mrs. Tucker made a leisurely journey to Bielefeld, where they spent a quiet week-end with Brigadier and Mrs. M. S. Hancock before commencing their tour of the Corps area.

1st Regiment had been in the field for ten days when the Representative Colonel Commandant visited them — a very muddy field! He was greeted by Lieutenant-Colonel C. E. Page, M.B.E., who had served as a Squadron Commander in Brigadier Tucker's Regiment during the last war. After visiting "Romeo" Troop, who were perched in splendid isolation on a windy eminence, he toured Divisional Headquarters and the domestic camp site, where gumboots were the order of the day.

Because of the short time available to spend with the Regiment, the tour could not be very complete, but the Brigadier still managed to talk to a great many officers and men. A visit to the Sergeants' Mess was followed by lunch in "C" Officers' Mess, run by the Regiment. Major D. A. Bond joined the lunch party and then escorted Brigadier Tucker to H.Q., 7th Armoured Brigade Group where, once again, he was able to meet and talk to many of the Squadron before leaving for Bielefeld.

The following day the Representative Colonel Commandant visited 4th Regiment, who were also on an exercise, but again he was able to find time to meet and talk to many of the personnel serving with the Regiment.

Next came 7th Regiment at Maresfield Barracks, Herford. The Regiment knew that Brigadier Tucker wanted to meet and talk to as many soldiers as possible, and the opportunity to do so was of course arranged, but remembering his appointment as C.S.O. 1 (BR) Corps from 1954-1956, the Regiment also showed him some of the equipment which was new since that time.

While the Colonel Commandant was touring the barracks, Mrs. Tucker was meeting some of the families and visiting their houses, which vary from comfortable quarters to, unhappily, rather unsatisfactory private accommodation.

From the time of the Colonel Commandant's arrival and inspection of the Quarter Guard, until his final and unscheduled visit to the caravan site in barracks, it was very apparent that he had lost none of his eye for detail, and as he left after lunch in the Officers' Mess, one felt that he was going away with a very clear idea of the life of the Regiment and a sympathetic understanding of its problems.

On the following day Brigadier Tucker continued his tour of the Corps area by visiting 2nd Regiment and 211 Squadron. He was taken on an extensive tour of the unit lines by the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel N. C. Porter, during which they visited every department in the barracks and met as many members of the Regiment as possible in the time available.

Meanwhile, after coffee with the Wives' Club, Mrs. Tucker went to visit two of the new flats in the multiple hirings and a family living in private accommodation. Brigadier Tucker then joined his wife and together they visited the local B.F.E.S. School, where, after meeting members of the staff, they went round the classroom and chatted with the children.

After lunch, a short visit was paid to 211 Squadron to meet members of the Squadron, under command of Major D. P. Garnons-Williams.

In the evening Brigadier Tucker returned to Birchwood Barracks, where he was guest of honour at a Regimental Dinner and contributed energetically to a most lively and enjoyable evening.

Finally, 211 Squadron and 22nd Regiment. For 211 Squadron, this would have been a busy day anyway. The annual R.E.M.E. inspection had only finished the day before and the Squadron had to re-assemble itself quickly to move out on an imminent exercise. However, this gave Brigadier Tucker the opportunity of seeing the majority of the Squadron and much



The Colonel Commandant at 7th Regiment talking to Lance Corporals Gardiner and Lawson

purposeful activity. The only bad moment for the Squadron Commander was when a frustrated electrician driver appeared to be about to enlist the Colonel Commandant's assistance with a reluctant generator. Not all the Squadron were in overalls, however; a smart Quarter Guard presented, very efficiently, the traditional compliments to the Colonel Commandant on his arrival.

While the Colonel Commandant was touring the unit, Mrs. Tucker had been meeting the wives of the Squadron and listening to their troubles with a sympathetic ear.

After lunching with the Squadron, the Colonel Commandant's party left by road for Lippstadt. Here the Quarter Guard was commanded by Sergeant Jukes. An informal discussion on the organisation and role of the Regiment followed in the C.O.'s office. This time we are happy to report that sugar was served with the appropriate refreshment.

The Brigadier then made a short tour of the unit lines and showed particular interest in the training activities that he saw. Tea was then served in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, where the Colonel Commandant met and chatted with everyone individually.

Meanwhile, Mrs. Tucker had once again been demonstrating her keen interest in the welfare of the families of Royal Signals' personnel in B.A.O.R. by visiting Mrs. Nicholls in a new block of composite hirings; accommodation occupied in a civilian hotel by Corporal Imrie's family, and finally visited the caravan occupied by the family of Corporal Parker. All the wives concerned were grateful for these visits and happy to know that their welfare is the very personal concern of all officers in the Corps.

The Colonel Commandant and Mrs. Tucker then returned to Bielefeld, where they were to enjoy a few days' rest before returning to the U.K.

All ranks of the Corps in B.A.O.R. are deeply appreciative of the fact that Brigadier and Mrs. Tucker carried out this tour during part of their annual leave, and we hope that they enjoyed themselves and felt, when they arrived back in U.K., that it had all been worthwhile. We were delighted to entertain them both.

Obituaries

COLONEL C. H. WALSH, D.S.O., M.C.

The many who knew him well will be saddened to hear of the death of a Corps personality of past years—Colonel C. H. Walsh, D.S.O., M.C. He was undoubtedly one of the founder members of the Corps, and he will be remembered as a soldier in the truest sense of the word. One who knew him well and served under him on three separate occasions, writes with affection:

Charles Herbert Walsh was commissioned in 1904 into the Connaught Rangers, seconded to R.E Signals and later transferred. He commanded Northern Divisional Signals in the Army of the Rhine and later the Depot Battalion Royal Signals at Catterick. After retiring in 1933 he commanded 43rd (Wessex) Divisional Signals (T.A.) and when war came, Royal Signals O.C.T.U. at Aldershot.

A tall, spare figure, somewhat daunting, until the twinkle, seldom absent for long, betrayed his rather stern and very direct gaze. He was an accomplished sportsman, a sound horseman, and a keen and good all-round cricketer. What ever he did, he did with all his might, and he saw to it that others did the same. His motto might well have been "Thorough."

Straight from an attachment to the Guards Depot at Caterham, he introduced passing-out parades for Y.O.s and recruits, and Battalion ceremonial parades which surely are still vivid memories to some.

Essentially of the Army which successfully retreated from Mons, and persisted in winning the First and Second Battles of Ypres, he was a strict, but just, disciplinarian, and all under his command knew exactly where they stood and that, provided they did their duty to the best of their ability, they had nothing to worry about.

A fearless and unselfish man, he had no thoughts for himself. During an outbreak of cerebro-spinal meningitis, all those found to react to the test were isolated in semi-derelict huts within a barbed wire enclosure. Food was passed over the wire, but otherwise they were left to their own thoughts and fears. No one, other than essential personnel, were allowed in or out in those days. BBC reception was not catered for. Early each morning "Peter" Walsh could have been seen making his way through the wire carrying a bundle of all the papers and magazines he had been able to buy, to give to the men inside.

He leaves behind his elder son and his daughter, to whom we offer our most sincere sympathy.

In this day and age it hardly seems that we shall see his like again.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL J. HAWKE, O.B.E.

It was our sad duty to notify the death of Lieutenant-Colonel "Jimmy" Hawke in the December WIRE, which we only heard about as we were going to press.

"Jimmy" Hawke had an interesting and varied career. He joined The Cheshire Regiment, in the ranks, in 1909, and was commissioned in Salonica in 1917. From 1917 to 1920 he was attached to the Royal Flying Corps, where he suffered a severe injury which returned him to ground duties. His determination and perseverance overcame this disability, and in 1923 he transferred to the Corps while serving in India. He served for a considerable period in Peshawar on the Indian Army special list of Quartermasters and then went on to Jubbulpore as Officer-in-Charge Records. The beginning of the war found him back in the U.K., but he was soon to return to India as D.A.A.G. and later A.A G., G.H.Q., 2nd Echelon.

He retired in 1944 with the fine total of 45 years' service, from Private to Lieutenant-Colonel. "Jimmy" Hawke will be remembered by many who served in India. He had a cheerful, friendly personality, and was always a great source of encouragement to the young officer finding his feet. He was a man of many abilities, amongst which were writing books and a useful performance at golf. His wife, Kathleen, shared his cheerful enthusiasm and kind nature, and she and "Jimmy" were much liked wherever they went. His passing is a sad loss. He was a fine soldier and a true gentleman.

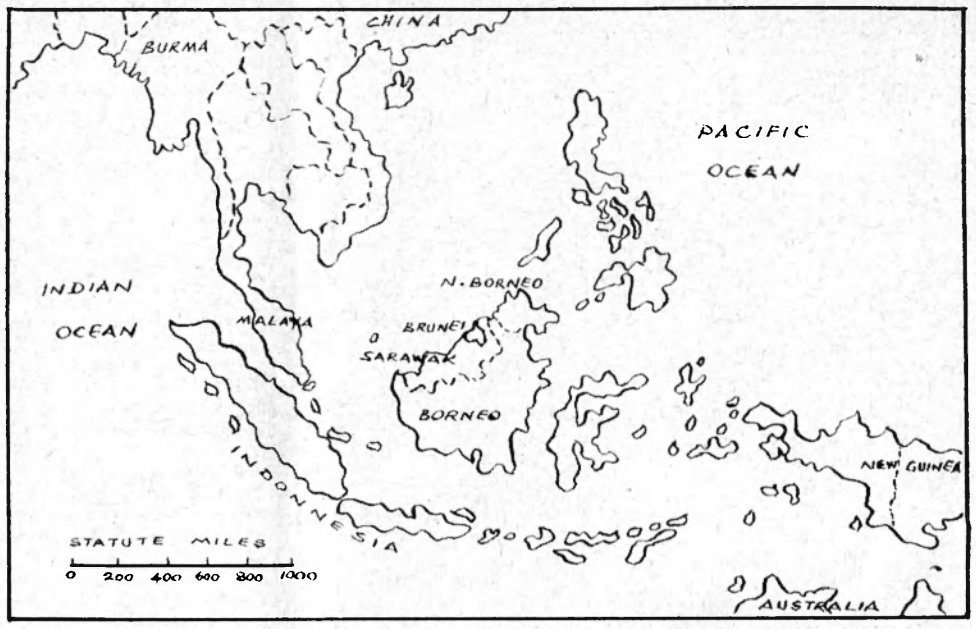
CAPTAIN (Q.M.) RUEBEN ALEXANDER DEVERLEY DIXON

He died suddenly on 31st August, 1963, at his home in Saltburn, Yorks. Alan Dixon (as he was known throughout the Corps) enlisted at the age of 19 in January, 1932, and served in India for some years. In March, 1941, he was promoted to Technical Sergeant Clerk and was posted to M.1 Directorate G.H.Q. India and was promoted successively to S.Q.M.S. and S.S M. In August, 1944, he was promoted W.O.I and subsequently served with the Ministry of Supply, Christchurch, Norwegian School of Signals (1949/50), B.A.O.R. Signal Regiment 1950/53 and in 1953 was posted to the then 15 A.A. (M) Signal Regiment T.A. He was promoted Lieutenant (Q.M.) in January, 1957, and posted to 41st Signal Regiment (Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment) T.A. with whom he served until he retired in November, 1961.

Alan Dixon's cheerful personality, good humour and pleasant manner, tempered with the rod of discipline when required, endeared himself to all with whom he came in contact. His sudden death at an early age will come as a shock to his many friends of all ranks throughout the Corps. He leaves a widow, two sons and two daughters. Both his sons are now serving in the Corps.

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The Wire visits FARELF



South East Asia

"The Wire" this month goes to the Far East, where members of the Corps in their daily lives merge with the colour, the strangeness and the variety of the Orient. In Singapore alone there are a thousand Malaysians serving with the Corps. Chinese influence is considerable. In this article "The Wire" Correspondent describes some of the interesting customs of the people and their environment.

Customs of Malays and Chinese

ALL nations have their customs. Developed over many years, the present customs of a nation are the outward manifestations of what may once have been real physical or religious needs.

The more one reads of the customs of the various nations of the world, the more one is impressed with the basic similarity of purpose that many customs serve to different peoples. In this article we are going to look at, and consider, the customs of two Asian people, one compartively new and the other old. They are the Malays and the Chinese.

Very little is known or appreciated by the European of the way in which these people live or the important part, compared with European peoples, that their customs and associated festivals play in their lives. It is therefore essential to consider, briefly, the people themselves, before trying to explain their customs.

The Peoples

I have used the term "two peoples," as opposed to countries or nations, as the particular Malays and Chinese we are going to consider are in fact in one country, Malaya, or as it is now, Malaysia.

The Malays, as we know them today, comprise only one of over one hundred genetically similar ethnic groups. These groups populate a vast area consisting mainly of some three thousand islands, between the Asian continent and the Australian sub-continent.

There would therefore appear to be every reason to suppose that these peoples could have been a large, industrious and powerful race, but a study of the climate and geography of the area show that there have been almost decisive influences to prevent this.

The climate makes it a delightfully easy area in which to live. Food grows easily and in abundance for normal needs, yet the dense vegetation and jungle have often made it difficult and undesirable to travel—even to the next village.

Geographically, too, the three thousand islands of the area would have demanded vigorous and energetic travellers and seafarers to knit the peoples together. Unfortunately, the more adventuresome all seemed to turn to piracy, and the comparatively easy village life, difficult and often dangerous communications, has resulted in a general apathy among the majority for any kind of travel at all.

The Malay peninsula was no exception to this. Divided into small states, each ruled by its local heirarchy, it made little progress towards federation or unity as a nation until the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Even this very loose federation was forced upon them by European traders who, in order to safeguard their interests, retained control of the administration and security of the area.

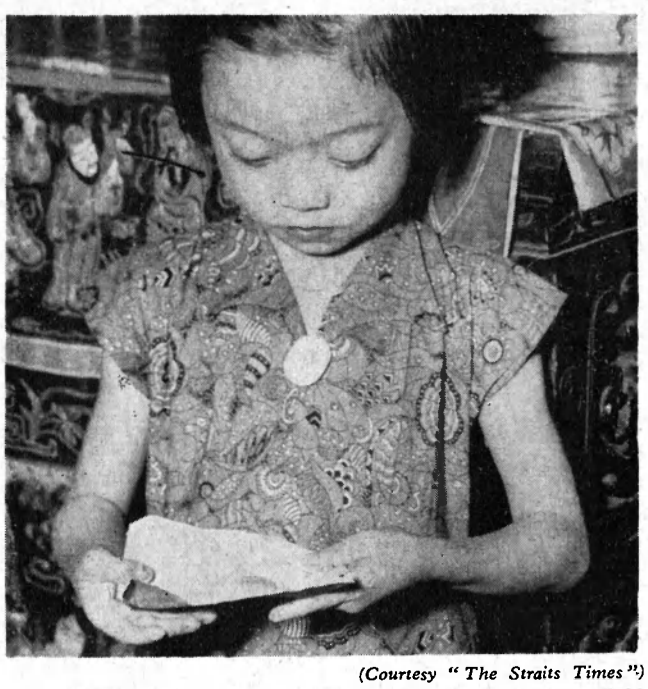
The Malays, too, until very recently, have been largely a kampong, or village people. Their sole form of education was usually only a little religious instruction and, as with all simple peoples, the associated religious festivals of the year. In the case of "true" Malay, this religion for the past four hundred or so years has been Muslim.

Generally, therefore, the average Malay may be summed up as a carefree, yet lethargic fellow, most content when living an unchanging rural kampong existence. His kampong "Adat," or laws, which were those of communal assistance to the kampong, mutual assistance to those in need, and hospitality to travellers, may be equated to a simple, non-subscribing, national health and assistance act, which, for all its benefits, only encouraged the individual towards indolence. This may seem to some an admirable philosophy, but in this case it has only produced an excellent medium for training and conditioning through the use of religious or imposed national customs.

The Chinese have a very different history and indeed outlook on life. They are a continental people, of vast numbers and energy. Their very numbers force them to continuous toil in order to feed themselves from what is one of the most inhospitable and infertile areas of the world.

The Chinese are, however, one of the world's oldest civilisations. They are the descendants of a civilisation which was renowned for its early development of paper and gunpowder, and yet which remained virtually unchanged to within the last two centuries. It was a nation advanced in the arts, and although education was by no means universal, Chinese literature and scholars were known even in the ancient world.

Among the Chinese there are three main religions, Toaist,



(Courtesy "The Straits Times")

Yeung Ho Eng, 9, opens her "Ang Pow" and like every other child holds her breath expectantly to find "how much am I getting?"

Buddist and Confucianist, all compatible with each other, and each concerned with the prime unit of Chinese life, the family. The tribe, village or religion on which other nations have been founded was supplanted by the Chinese with the basic unit of the family. Wherever a member of a Chinese family may be, his first loyalty and duty has always been to his parents and ancestors.

This family loyalty has been carried away from the homeland by their emigrants or as they are now termed, the "Overseas Chinese." These are the Chinese who, having left China, possibly several generations ago, have settled in almost all the countries of South East Asia, and indeed of the whole world, to form Chinese communities in the midst of alien races. It is of this type, with very few exceptions, that the Chinese in Malaysia stem.

We now know a little of the background to each race, but how do the customs of these two peoples in Malaysia compare?

The Customs

There are so many and diverse customs for each of these peoples that, in the short space of this article, it would be impossible to even mention them all. It is therefore proposed to deal with each people in turn, but even then, to describe only their main customs, their principal festivals and, where possible, to give the reasons for them. Customs are, of course, in many cases founded on superstition, and although they exist, it is not proposed to delve into the Malay and Chinese equivalents of the spilling of salt or walking under a ladder.

When considering an approach to these customs, a reader soon finds that the Malay customs are almost all concerned with life, and that once a body is buried, it and the soul become only of minor significance. With the Chinese, however, the primary customs are all concerned with the preparation for death, death itself, the life after death and the welfare of their spirit lives.

During their normal life spans, however, both Malays and Chinese have their own customs for events such as birth, marriage and death. Although these are all prime functions, it is of interest to note how much variation for each of these events there is between the races.

The kampong Malays, for example, commence their birth rites from the seventh month of pregnancy. At this time a midwife is engaged and the prospective mother goes through a complicated ritual of having her abdomen rocked, this being done in the presence of close relatives and friends. During this ceremony, and before the feast which follows, the mother is laid on seven sarongs on a mattress and a peeled coconut is rolled slowly over her stomach seven times. On the seventh time the coconut is allowed to roll down freely and if it stops with its eyes pointing upwards, it is believed she will give birth to a boy, if downwards, a girl. After this the body is rocked once or twice in each sarong before that sarong is removed.

The Chinese have no similar ritual before the child is born, but both people have the same "taboo" period for the mother for a month after childbirth. During this time the mother is expected to stay at home and rest and is not even permitted to receive visitors. Both Malay and Chinese are kept on a strict diet; in the case of the latter it being meat only. In view of the lack of protein in the normal diet and the absence of family planning, this appears to be a most practicable custom for the welfare of the mother. At the end of this "taboo" period, both people have a celebration. The Malays also having a ceremonial bath of herbs and limes, which it is believed prevents harm and bad luck.

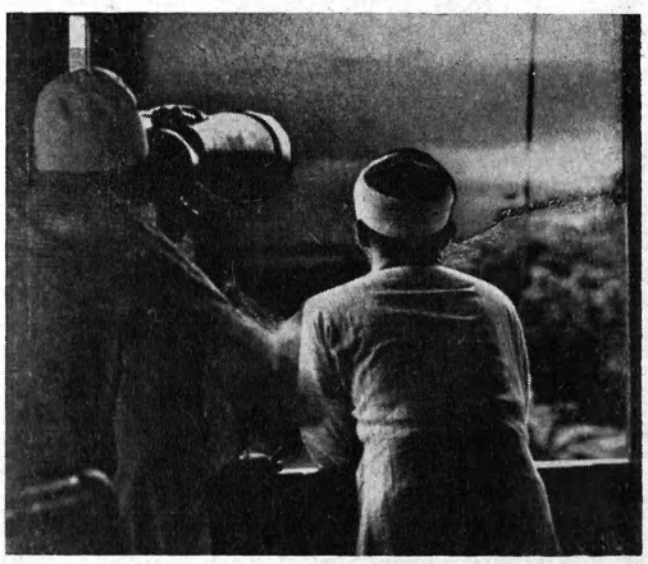
For Malay children between the ages of eight and twelve many parents still practice circumcision, but this is not so with the Chinese. This is mainly a Muslim religious requirement and consequently considerable ceremony is attached to it.

A prerequisite for the fixing of any marriage date for both Malays and Chinese are favourable omens. The Chinese do this through a geomancer with a special instrument similar to a compass, while the Malays use a fortune-teller, the stars or a priest. Although arranged marriages in both cases are now less frequent, an intermediary between the parents is still employed. The person also helps with the terms and conditions of the marriage, such as the dowry, arrangements and expenses. An interesting contradiction concerning dowries is that in the case of the Malay the dowry is received by the bridegroom, whereas the Chinese bridegroom has to pay the dowry.

At the Malay wedding several presents are given, apart from the ring. These presents, including sarongs, silk, cake and fruit, accompany the bridegroom in a procession to the bride's house, where the marriage is solemnised. Two of the relations are chosen to check the gifts and also to witness the marriage. At the end of the service the bridegroom shakes hands with all the guests and is escorted back to his own house. All the guests, however, remain with the bride, where they have a feast of curry and rice. The bridegroom is not entirely forgotten though, as a special dinner is sent to him and he celebrates with a few of his most intimate friends.

Malay weddings are in fact in two parts, the second stage being called the "bersanding," which takes place either on the evening of the same day or during the following day. During this "bersanding" the bride and 'groom sit together in traditional costume on a bridal couch, very much resembling a sultan and sultana on their thrones, receiving the homage of the people.

After a symbolic feeding of each other, the bride and groom are taken to their decorated bridal chamber, where they sit



(Courtesy "The Straits Times")

Two Muslim religious leaders on Mount Faber, Singapore, using a marine telescope to spot the moon to usher in Hari Raya

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on a ceremonial mat before the bridal bed. Although they are then left for an hour or two, they do not live as man and wife for three or four days after the "bersanding." After this short period together, the bride is led away to a separate room and the groom left in the bridal chamber to sleep on a special bed.

For the following three days the bride visits the groom for short periods during the day and each time she wears a different dress. At the end of these three days the ceremonial linen on the bridal bed is changed to new white linen and the bride is dressed in a special white costume.

After their first night together there is a bathing ceremony during which they are sprinkled with water, and after which the sarongs they were wearing are given away to ensure good luck. Finally, the bride is taken for the first time to the family home of the groom.

The above, due mainly to their one religion, is a standard ceremony for almost all Malays. There are almost an infinite variety of Chinese ceremonies, however, as they depend on both the religions of the bride and bridegroom and also on their area of origin in China. There are, nevertheless, a few points which are common to almost all Chinese betrothals and weddings. At the betrothal, or engagement, usually two pieces of jewellery and a quantity of sweets are given to the future bride by the intermediary. Just prior to the wedding the dowry given by the groom, will include not only money, but such items as live chickens, drink and pork. By custom, however, part of this dowry is always given back to the groom. The bride's mother usually gives her daughter a number of sanfoos (a pyjama-like costume) and presents for the house—but never anything for the kitchen. Prior and after the wedding a beautician attends the bride.

For both Malay and Chinese weddings, however, there is one common custom. This concerns the bridal bed and the throwing on to it at the same instant of both a tethered cock and hen. Whichever bird leaves the bed first then this is taken as indicating the sex of the firstborn child.

The last significant period concerning customs during a Malay's life is that of a death and burial. The Muslim religion requires that the dead be interred as soon as possible, normally between six and twenty-four hours after death.

The body is initially placed in the main hall or room of the house and an incense burner lit. Placed in the middle of the body is a areca—nut slicer—in the customary belief that it keeps evil spirits away. Unlike the Chinese at a funeral, the Malay mourners are expected to keep as quiet as possible. Even during the funeral procession they should not engage in conversation, but read the Koran.

After this laying-out, which lasts only a few hours, the body is prepared and dressed for burial. The clothes and



(Courtesy "The Straits Times")

The bersanding, or second stage of a Malay Muslim wedding ceremony. The sitting together of the bride and groom on the bridal-couch.



(Courtesy "The Straits Times")

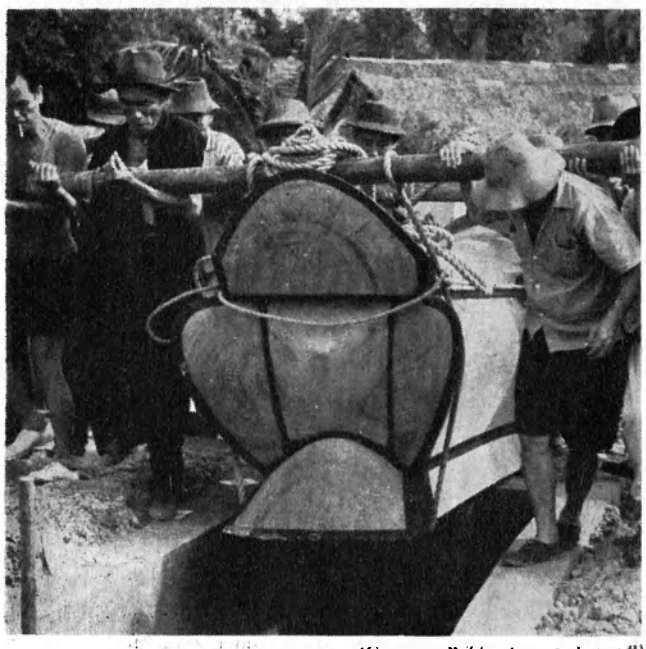
At certain funerals, insistence is made on placing the tombstone before the burial. This picture shows the geomancer adjusting the tombstone with the aid of a compass.

shrouds worn are not stitched or sewn, but the shrouded body is bound around with tapes before being placed in the coffin. To comply with the requirements of Islam, of the body laying directly on the earth, the coffin has no bottom. Once the body is in the coffin it is taken to the mosque and on to the graveyard. When inside the grave, the lid is temporarily taken off the coffin, the tapes untied and the body turned on to its right side to face Mecca. To complete the burial the normal call to prayers by the priest is given. Although Islam does not consider any help can be given to the dead by the living, the Malays do hold semi-religious feasts for the souls of the dead so that they may receive the blessings of Allah.

The Chinese start preparing for death from an early age. In order to "gain face" in the after world, they even go to the extent of taking out heavy insurances to make certain they have elaborate funerals; thus, they hope, impressing both the living and dead with their importance. Many even buy their coffins years before they die to ensure that they are made as comfortable as possible.

Due to overcrowding and superstitions concerning death in private houses, the Chinese many years ago instituted death houses. These houses accept old people about to die, and once dead act as their undertaker. Through these houses one can contact a geomancer, who is the expert in working out the propitious hour for the funeral, arrange the burial ground, the services of priests, professional wailers, paper money scatterers, bands, and almost anyone else connected with the funeral rites. Because there is a great demand for their services, the priests in these houses usually work on a shift system, hence the sound of the symbols, drums and flutes can be heard each night, frightening away evil spirits, as the funerals only take place during the day.

Once death has occurred, the body is washed in water "bought" by the giving of a few coins to the water in the stream, well or river. This is to pay its guardian spirit. The body is then laid in its funeral clothes in a newly-swept room in an open coffin. At its feet will be placed a lighted candle, which is symbolic of supplying "sun," "light" and "warmth" to the departed spirit and also to guide it on its way to the other world. During this period, which lasts three days, all close relatives will come and pay their last respects to the deceased. Finally, the funeral is accompanied by a procession, the larger, the more "face" gained, with musicians, mourners, professional wailers, the priest and his assistants. During the funeral, and during ancestral worship later, offerings of paper money, clothing, houses, cars and servants, all fashioned out of split bamboo and paper are burnt as sacrifices to make sure the dead have all they need in the spirit world.



(Courtesy "The Straits Times")

A typical Chinese coffin being lowered into the grave.

It is after the death and burial, however, that the Chinese customs have no parallel with the Malay. Death to the Chinese is believed to be only the end of one phase, and that one passes into another state of existence fairly similar to that of the present. Beliefs vary with individuals, but a common belief is that when a man dies the five spirits which preside over the five senses die, but that the soul continues to live in three places. One soul goes to heaven to live in paradise, one stays in the grave to receive sacrifices, and a third soul remains in the spirit tablet.

At the funeral this last soul of the person is persuaded to enter a wooden spirit tablet which is later set in a shrine in the house. Offerings are made regularly to it to ensure the co-operation of the spirit world and its Supreme Ruler.

The Chinese believe that a person is judged according to his merits at death by this Supreme Ruler. To go to paradise and become immortal, one must have a "clean sheet," and that anyone with adverse records will be punished or reincarnated as some lesser animal. The punishment usually fits the crime, for example, a person accused of slander will have his tongue pulled out. The punishments are grizzly in the extreme, and are ably depicted in cement models in the Haw Pah Gardens, Singapore. In some cases these punishments may act as a deterrent to wrong-doers, but the coffers of Toaist priests are usually kept well furnished by offenders who may buy "good conduct certificates" in an effort to appease the Supreme Ruler.

The Chinese are, nevertheless, of a generous nature. During August falls the feast of the hungry spirits, when offerings of food are made to any wandering spirit who died without heirs. This is a two-sided coin, however, as at the same time they believe that by making these offerings it prevents these wandering ghosts from entering private homes and causing a disturbance.

Both people have one major festival per year, which is unconnected with the normal life cycle. For the Malay it is the month of Ramadan, followed by the festival of Hari Raya Puasa, and for the Chinese their New Year.

Ramadan, or Puasa, as it is called by the Malay, lasts for one lunar month, during which period they fast from dawn to dusk every day. Other than for young children, who fast for only a few hours each day, the sick and the old, they are not permitted either food or drink during these fasting periods. In some stricter Muslim sects it is even forbidden to swallow ones own spittle or saliva. At the end of the period comes the festival of Hari Raya Puasa, or to use its proper name, "Aidil Fitri." On this day special prayers are said from dawn to noon and there is compulsory alms-giving for all Muslim families. Throughout the day all Muslims also leave the front door of their houses open and should anyone call, it becomes the householder's duty to feed and entertain their guests.

Chinese New Year is the most important festival during their lunar calendar year and, although the feast only lasts for two days, the celebrations continue for fifteen days. Prior to the start of the festival, great efforts are made to ensure that houses are clean, as during the New Year celebrations all the brooms are hidden away lest, as they believe, someone accidently sweeps out the New Year's good luck. During this festival they worship the kitchen God, who goes on an annual leave of seven days to Heaven, where he delivers a report to the Supreme Ruler on the conduct of the household where he resides. Needless to say, efforts are made to ensure he only reports on the good things, and before he leaves, a ceremony is held in front of his image to wish him bon voyage and to make sure he leaves in a good temper. At this time, too, all outstanding debts should be settled before the advent of the New Year. Presents and Ang Pows are also given on New Year Day to children, unmarried relatives and friends younger than the donor. These are wrapped in red paper which is considered lucky.

On New Year's Eve all Chinese have a grand family reunion dinner. It is a traditional feast dating back to time immemorial symbolising the solidarity of the Chinese patriachy. All family quarrels are forgotten and it is a time for reconciliation. Throughout this fortnight there is usually a continuous barrage of firecrackers to welcome the New Year and also to frighten away evil spirits.

Conclusion

From even the few customs mentioned it is apparent that, while both Malay and Chinese may be deeply superstitious and religious, they take every opportunity to hold a procession or festival.

Although they appear to have many customs in common these are mainly those which relate to birth, marriage and death. Beyond these narrow bounds the customs of both peoples become more and more peculiar to themselves, primarily due to the present incompatability of the Chinese religions and ancestor worship with the more dogmatic Islamic religion of the Malays.

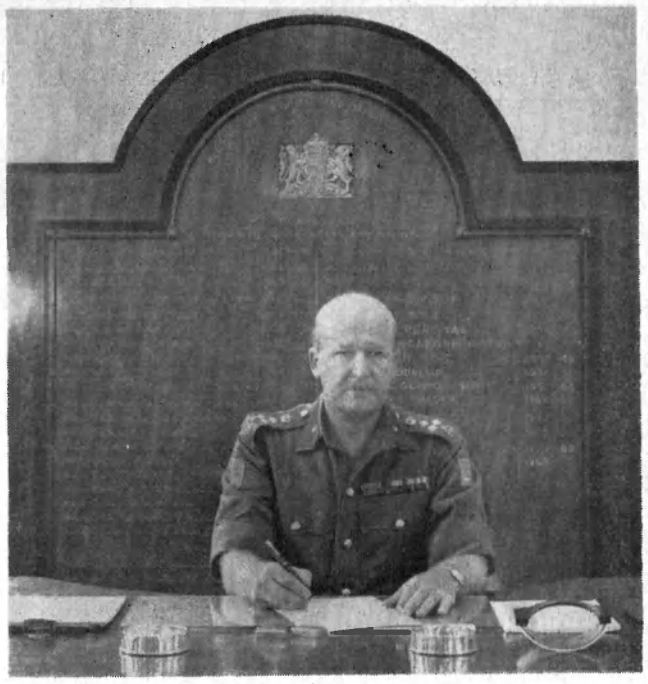
Today the State of Malaysia has almost an equal number of Malay and Chinese people, the majority of the latter as already said falling into the category of Overseas Chinese. These Chinese, due partly to their ancient heritage and customs and partly to their own energy and consequent success in trade and business, are an efficient, close knit and vigorous community within the State. The Malays however, because of their independent village and state existence and the basic simplicity of their past are now having to use and emphasize their customs, both religious and non-religious, to a maximum in an attempt to weld themselves together as one people and nation.

The customs of both these peoples, which have developed over many years, are consequently an integral and important part of their lives. A problem for Malaysia now is to combine these peoples, with their different customs, into a fully integrated nation with complete harmony and tolerance for each other's ways of life.



(Courtesy "The Straits Times")

The ceremony of "Ang Pow"—the old way. In rich traditional brocaded gowns the heads of the household offer gifts to the young, who receive them with respect.



Brigadier C. H. Stoneley, O.B.E., A.D.C., Commander, Singapore Base Area. Behind his desk is the "Record of General and Other Officers Commanding Straits Settlements and Malaya" from 1867 to 1963.



Brigadier C. H. Stoneley, O.B.E., A.D.C., Commander, Singapore Base Area, and Brigadier P. E. M. Bradley, D.S.O., O.B.E., Commander, 4 Federal Infantry Brigade, Malaysian Armed Forces. An interesting meeting between two Commanders (both late Royal Signals) in Fort Canning, Singapore.

Two Commanders (Late Royal Signals) in Singapore

ON 19th November, 1963, an event of considerable interest occurred when Brigadier C. H. Stoneley, O.B.E., A.D.C, Commander, Singapore Base Area, the British Commander in Singapore Island, paid an official call upon Brigadier P. E. M. Bradley, D.S.O., O.B.E., Commander, 4 Federal Infantry Brigade, the Malaysian Commander, in Fort Canning, Singapore.

Brigadier Stoneley had for two years been the Deputy Commander to the G.O.C., Singapore Base District, whose Headquarters was traditionally in Fort Canning. This latter fort is located on the hill overlooking the roadstead at the junction of the Malacca Straits and the South China Sea, where Sir Stamford Raffles sited his harbour defences when he occupied Singapura—the Lion City—in 1819, in order to secure for Britain the free passage of the Straits. On Fort Canning Hill, Raffles established a signal station from which signals were flown informing the Settlement of the approach of European rigged vessels, of which early intelligence was a matter of importance. Here Raffles also built his own bungalow, which was purchased in 1826 by the Government and became the residence of the Governor. In 1861 it was transformed into a strong military fortification, mounting 17 pieces of ordnance, including 68-pounders, 8-inch shell guns and 13-inch mortars. Fort Canning continued as the headquarters of the British Military Commander in Singapore for over a century.

On the formation of the new State of Malaysia, within which Singapore was included, it was right and proper that the Malaysian Armed Forces should take over Fort Canning as their headquarters; in preparation for this, it was arranged that Brigadier Bradley's headquarters (then designated H.Q. Singapore Military Forces and, although a Singapore Government Force, still under command of G.O.C., Singapore Base District for most matters) should start to establish itself within the Fort Canning enclave during the period immediately preceding the formal declaration of "M" Day. This interim period thus found both Brigadiers with their offices located in Fort Canning, meeting and discussing many problems of common interest.

"M" Day, when Malaysia came into being, was declared on 16th September, 1963, and the flags of Malaysia and Singapore State on this day flew over Fort Canning; Brigadier Bradley's command was now redesignated 4 Federal Infantry Brigade, and Singapore Base District resumed its functions in a new headquarters in another part of Singapore.

On 10th November, 1963, the appointment of G.O.C., Singapore Base District, ceased to exist, and the Deputy Commander, Brigadier Stoneley, became the first Commander of the newly designated Singapore Base Area, with the same boundaries as its forerunner. His name has since been added to the historic "Record of General and Other Officers Commanding Straits Settlements and Malaya" covering the period from 1867 (G.O.C., Ceylon and Straits Settlements) right through to the G.O.C.s, Singapore District, when this was established in 1946 until its change of designation in 1963. Brigadier Bradley's command dates from 1854, when the Singapore Volunteer Corps was raised, the oldest local force in the Far East and the direct predecessor of the 4 Federal Infantry Brigade of today. He is the twenty-eighth Commandant or Commander in 109 years.

In view of the close liaison which has been so necessary between the Commanders of these two Formations during the recent significant period in the history of Singapore, it has been a happy coincidence that both these officers should belong to the Corps and have known and worked with each other on numerous occasions during their previous service.

Forthcoming Events

Eighteenth Meeting of the Branch Representatives of the Royal Signals which will be combined with the 18th Special General Meeting will be held at the Duke of York's Barracks on Saturday, 11th April, 1964.

Forty-first Meeting of the Central Committee, Royal Signals Association, will be held on 28th May, 1964.

The Corps Weekend, Reunion and 19th Annual General Meeting of the Association will be held on 27th/28th June, 1964.

Upgrading Course Dates

Dates for courses due to start in Catterick during July, 1964:

Radio Operator, class II-I	7th July, 1964
Line Technician, class III-II	21st July, 1964
Radio Technician (Light), class III-II ...	28th July, 1964
Communication Centre Operator, class III-II	14th July, 1964
Radio Operator, class III-II	14th July, 1964

PERSONAL **COLUMN**

Movements—Officers

Major A. P. Boyle	To	Army Work Study
Lieutenant-Colonel S. W. Brackenbury	,,	11th Regiment (H.S.) (To be Dep. Pres. RCB)
Lieutenant J. J. Bally	,,	13th Regiment
Captain J. R. Burrows	,,	11th Regiment (for Uganda)
Lieutenant R. S. Clayton	,,	11th Regiment (Cadre)
Captain G. Corden	,,	7th Regiment
Lieutenant-Colonel T. Cunningham-Burley	,,	CR Signals, Borneo
Lieutenant A. S. Cheal	,,	CR Signals, Borneo
Second-Lieutenant S. Cowan ...	,,	224 Squadron
Captain D. A. Davies	,,	11th Regiment (HS) (for H.Q. 70 Inf Bde KAR)
Major B. D. Elsmore	,,	War Office (Sigs 2)
Captain F. W. Edwards	,,	11th Regiment (HS) (for FRA)
Major D. H. Freeland	,,	16th Regiment (to Command)
Captain P. Gilham	,,	Transferred to RAEC
Major G. W. Gittins	,,	11th Regiment (HS) (for H.Q. FARELF)
Captain C. J. Gilbert	,,	11th Regiment (HS) (for War Office)
Lieutenant (Q.M.) A. G. Harfield, B.E.M.	,,	243 Squadron (SOUTCO)
Lieutenant (T.O.T.) D. Hazel ...	,,	Blandford Project Staff
Captain (T.O.T.) J. Harwood ...	,,	30th Regiment
Major F. W. Leatherhead	,,	28th Regiment
Major P. C. F. R. Locke	,,	H.Q. 1 (BR) Corps
Lieutenant-Colonel (T.O.T.) A. H. D. Llewellyn	,,	11th Regiment (HS) (to retire)
Major A. R. McCreadie	,,	18th Regiment
Captain R. A. MacHeath	,,	254 Squadron (Aden)
Major A. G. MacTavish	,,	CR Signals, Singapore Staff
Captain J. W. Oliver	,,	609 Troop (Rhodesia & Nyasaland)
Major M. H. Priestley	,,	School of Signals
Captain (T.O.T.) A. G. Pritchard ...	,,	222 Squadron (Air Formation)
Major H. Rowlands	,,	H.Q. Northag (as S.O.I.)
Major J. W. Rayner	,,	H.Q. ME Command (as C.R. Signals)
Lieutenant (Tfc. Offr.) B. T. Seymour	,,	1st Regiment
Major A. T. Scott	,,	13th Regiment (to Command)
Lieutenant (T.O.T.) R. G. P. Spragg	,,	4th Regiment
Captain A. F. Stubbs	,,	43rd (W) Regiment (T.A.)
Captain (Q.M.) A. E. Smith ...	,,	222 Squadron (Air Formation)
Captain J. H. Williams	,,	66th (Ulster) Regiment (T.A.)
Lieutenant C. T. Williams	,,	11th Regiment (HS) (to RARO)
Captain A. Yeoman	,,	11th Regiment (HS) (for BAOR)

Marriages

of 2nd Regiment

THOMSON : MOAT.—Sergeant R. A. S. Thomson, of 2nd Regiment, to Miss Margaret Moat, of Wallsend-on-Tyne, Northumberland, on 12th October.

EADON : SUNDERMEIR.—Signalman C. M. S. Eadon, to Fraulein Gisela, Hutchzen, Kreis Lubbecke, on 31st October.

Births

GREENWOOD.—To Signalman and Mrs. D. F. G. Greenwood, 28th Regiment, at R.A.F. Hospital, Wegberg, on 11th June, 1963, a daughter, Sharon Angela.

GARLAND.—To Lance-Corporal and Mrs. G. Garland, 28th Regiment, at B.M.H. Berlin, on 12th October, 1963, a daughter, Anna Maria.

BEAUMONT.—Captain and Mrs. A. N. Beaumont, a son, Anthony Nicholas, born on 22nd November, 1963.

COOKE.—Craftsman and Mrs. B. J. Cooke, a daughter, Karen, born on 4th November, 1963.

DOE.—Staff Sergeant and Mrs. E. Doe, a son, Roger Gavin, born on 22nd November, 1963.

MADDEN.—Corporal and Mrs. M. A. S. Madden, a daughter, Teresa Ann Fiona, born on 7th September, 1963.

MARKWELL.—Corporal and Mrs. G. S. L. Markwell, a son, Cary Raymond, born on 4th November, 1963.

LOVATT.—Signalman and Mrs. J. V. R. Lovatt, a daughter, Elaine, born on 29th October, 1963.

Death

HOPE.—Ex-Sergeant Alan Hope, ex-boy, last served in the Signal Troop, Royal Sierra Leone Military Forces in January, 1961. He was aged 30 when he died on 8th November in Edinburgh.

Youth in Uniform

All Arms Junior Leaders Regiment

SET between the beautiful Welsh mountains and the sparkling sea lies Tonfanau Camp, home of the All Arms Junior Leaders Regiment. Here, together with 557 young men of other arms, 179 Royal Signals potential N.C.O.s enjoy possibly the most interesting and valuable training available to British teenagers.

Formed in March, 1959, the Regiment accepts boys, aged between 15 and 17, for the following Arms and Services:

Royal Artillery, Royal Signals, Infantry, Royal Army Service Corps, Royal Military Police, Royal Pioneer Corps, Intelligence Corps.

So far 610 Royal Signals potential N.C.O.s have been enlisted.

Junior Leaders are mixed, regardless of cap badge, in platoons and companies. During their stay in the Regiment their primary loyalty is to their unit and sub-unit, rather than to their cap badge.

The training year is divided into three "school terms." After a term with Recruit Company, spent on basic training and education, young soldiers join one of the four training companies. Here they spend a minimum of four more terms before joining their Corps at 17½ to 18.

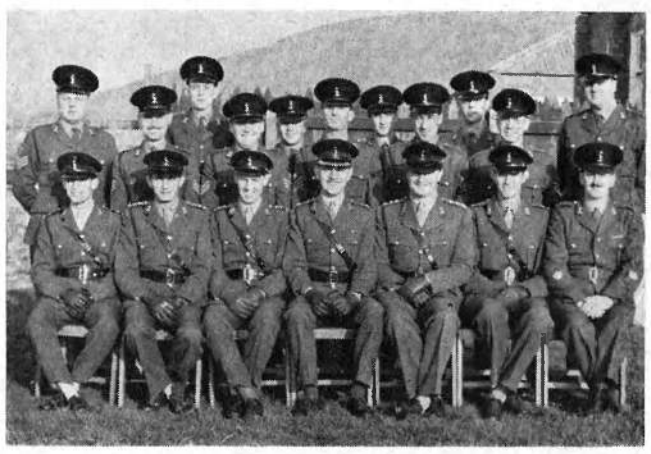
The boys know the education qualifications required in the modern Army to reach N.C.O. and Warrant rank. Thus, they are happy to spend almost 50 per cent of their working week getting these education hurdles behind them as soon as possible.

Apart from education, great emphasis is placed on leadership and character development. Every boy is encouraged to enter for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme. Adventure Training includes hill walking and rock climbing. Camping-out expeditions, of up to four days and nights, are planned and run by the Junior Leaders themselves. Games are played on at least two, sometimes four, afternoons each week.

Young men destined for Royal Signals spend most of the military training portion of their final term (two terms if age permits) at trade training. Here the emphasis is on radio operating, keyboard operating and morse.

Throughout their entire stay at Tonfanau, Junior Leaders devote three evenings each week to hobbies. There are thirty hobbies, including go-karting, sailing, canoeing and amateur radio. Available hobbies facilities are the envy of many visiting headmasters.

To run his efficient training organisation, the Commandant, Colonel T. Lash, O.B.E., is assisted by an enthusiastic staff drawn from the Arms and Services which provide the Junior Leaders. The Royal Signals element consists of six officers and 16 other ranks, including Major C. S. Galbraith (Company Commander), Captain G. C. M. Newton (Adjutant), Captain H. Taylor (O.C. Signals Wing) and S.S.M. J. C. Pedder (C.S.M.). All are delighted to welcome visitors who are interested in the Regiment and its work.

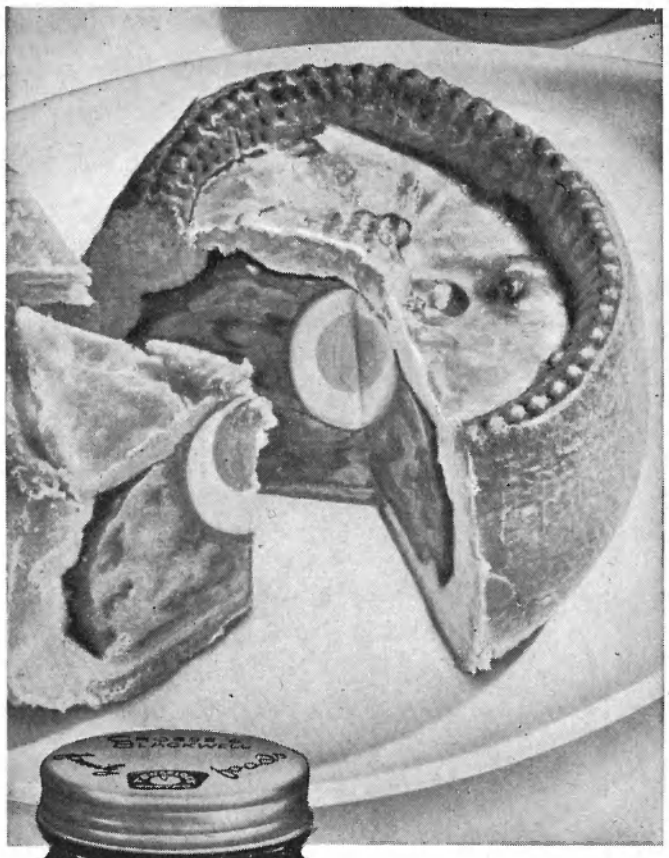


ALL ARMS JUNIOR LEADERS REGIMENT—ROYAL SIGNALS PERMANENT STAFF

Front Row : Lieutenant de Bretton Gordon, Captain Lockett, Captain Newton, Major Galbraith, Captain Taylor, Lieutenant Webb, S.S.M. Pedder.

Back Row : Sergeant Rawling, Sergeant McHugh, Signalman Williams, Sergeant Chambers, Corporal Coates, S.Q.M.S. Smith, Signalman Clark, Sergeant Knight, Corporal Wood, Sergeant Gracie, Sergeant Bishop.

Absent on Duty : Sergeant Hope, Sergeant Brooking, Sergeant Brabon, Staff Sergeant Grimnel.





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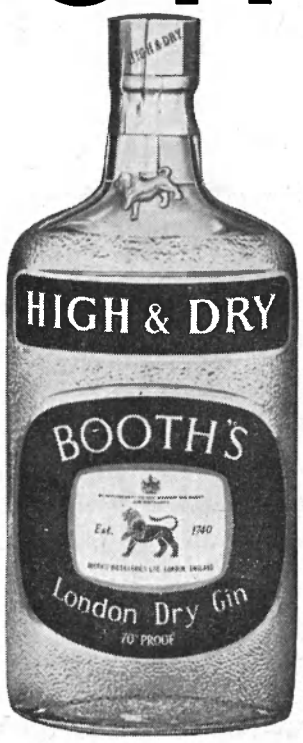


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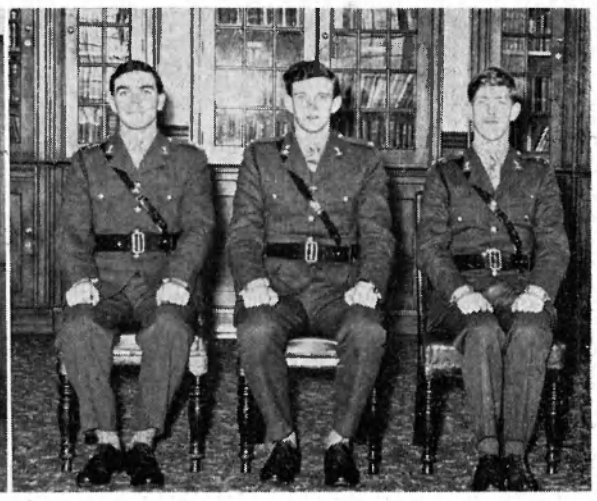
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WELCOME TO THE CORPS OF THEIR CHOICE!

Below are photographs of twenty young officers from the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst and three young officers from Universities recently commissioned into the Corps. We wish them all a very happy career in the Corps.





(Left). *Officers of No. 54 Qualifying Course Commissioned from the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst.*
Back Row (L to R) : Second Lieutenants M. J. M. Alden, G. A. Allen, R. Boden, R. F. Brooks, C. E. Byrom, M. K. Carson, B. M. Cooke.
Centre : Second Lieutenants J. W. Easson, L. G. Fraser, R. P. Gravestock, N. A. Horler, M. A. Payne, M. H. L. Pickford.
Front Row (L to R) : Second Lieutenants D. C. Podevin, P. J. Pritchard, T. J. Starkey, A. L. W. G. Steane, M. R. Stephenson, R. A. Wright, R. M. Yolland.

(Right) *No. 54 Qualifying Course—University Entrants.* Lieutenant D. R. Hodges, Second Lieutenant A. K. M. Bristow, Lieutenant P. H. Dale.

SCHOOL OF SIGNALS

Guy Fawkes

An excellent bonfire and firework display was given at the School of Signals on Guy Fawkes night under the able supervision of R.Q.M.S. Parfitt who was officiating for the third year—his last before joining 46th Regiment T.A. as Regimental Sergeant Major.

The display lasted 45 minutes and everyone agreed that it was a better show than in previous years. The "igniters" were a source of amusement—avoiding their own missiles!

In an attempt to show the full effect of the rather expensive rockets which were disappearing in the mist, R.Q.M.S. Parfitt lowered the trajectory and scored three direct hits on the Sandhurst Block—this was perhaps not such a success!

Soup, hot dogs, roast potatoes, fish and chips were provided for the "children"—as 400 portions were served, the turnout was excellent.

Royal Signals Institution

On 29th June last we inaugurated the Catterick Branch of the Institution with Colonel D. G. Jones as Chairman and Major W. F. D. Hawkins as Secretary. The Institution has, together with the I.E.E., British I.R.E. and British Computer Society, run a highly successful winter lecture programme with a visit to a computer installation in Newcastle and lectures on Joint Communications, Pulse Techniques, Sound Reproduction, Equipment Procurement and Digital Data Transmission. For the remainder of the season we have the following line-up:

14th January: Lecture and Demonstration of Lasers—Royal Signals Institution Meeting.
28th January: "The Design and Development of the Rover 2000" and other motoring films—Royal Signals Institution Meeting.
4th February: Lecture, "Fuel Cells" by Mr. K. R. Williams, of Shell Research Laboratories—I.E.E. Meeting.
3rd March: Lecture, "Off-Shore Sailing in the Corps," by Lieutenant-Colonel D. D. Line—Royal Signals Institution Meeting.
17th March: Lecture, "U.H.F. Propagation and Reception of Television Programmes," by Mr. A. C. Robb. Rh.D., A.M.I.E.E., Belling and Lee Ltd.—Brit I.R.E. Meeting.

The Institutions extend a warm welcome to non-members to attend meetings as visitors. Simple refreshments are provided before lectures for out-of-station visitors and there is an opportunity to discuss the lecture after question time over a pint of beer in the bar. Lectures are held at 6.30 p.m. in the North Hall, Messines Road.

ARMY APPRENTICES SCHOOL

This month has been rather hectic, with two series of winter games, with an annual Administrative Inspection sandwiched between.

The Administrative Inspection, made by Major-General G. F. Upjohn, C.B.E., G.O.C., Yorkshire District, was, we hope, a real success. The Bands, in full regalia, performed splendidly, in weather more suited to the monsoon season, thus setting the tone for the day. Since this was the Commandant's (Colonel J. P. North, C.B.E.) last administrative inspection before suffering the perils of civilian life, it would not be out of place to quote from a letter of thanks from the General after the inspection: "I enjoyed my inspection a great deal, as usual, and it goes without saying, I liked what I saw." No further comment is necessary.

The winter games against Arborfield ended in a draw. The rugby was drawn; we won the cross-country and shooting, but lost the basketball, football and hockey. With the boxing as the last event, we had to win to square the match. This we did, with ease. The football match brought something vaguely resembling a rugby score (4—7), whilst the rugby was 0—0. The outstanding achievement was that of the cross-country team, who took the first six places in the event and won by the convincing margin of 21 points to 61.

Against Chepstow, the match was not decided until the last event—again the boxing. We won the rugby and basketball; lost the shooting and cross-country, whilst the hockey was drawn. All again rested on the boxing team, whose valiant effort ended in a defeat by only one point. The outstanding achievement of the day must go to A/T Sergeant Dolby, who played basketball in the morning, football in the afternoon and boxed in the evening. He is also School cricketer of no mean repute.

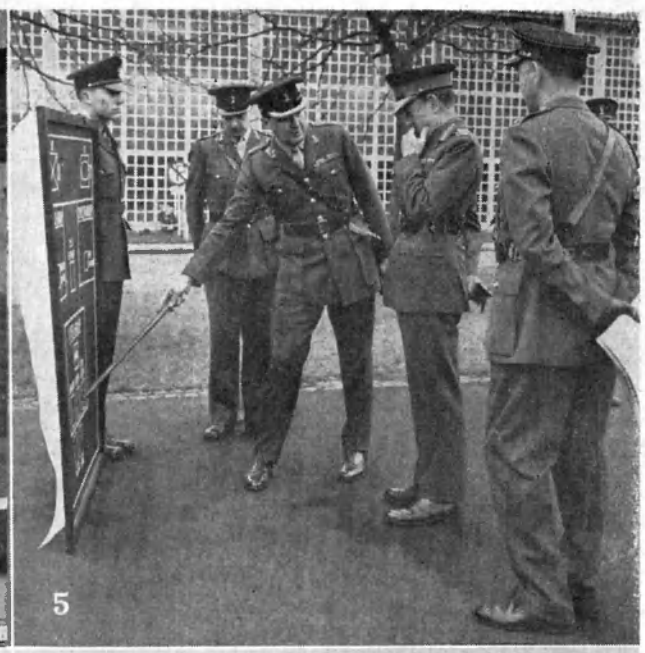
Our congratulations are due to A/T R.S.M. Smurthwaite on being selected for the F.A. Colts XI at football against Newcastle University.

This month we say goodbye to Major Leatherland on posting to Germany. Signals Wing "B" will not be the same without him; he did much to bring the standard of training at the School up to its present high level.

Stop Press! The Champion Company this term is again Penney House, recently taken over by Major Rawson.—Congratulations.

1st REGIMENT







1. Major-General the Hon. M. F. Fitzalan-Howard C.B.E., M.C., signs the visitors' book in 2 Squadron Club

2. The C.S.O. talks to Corporal Moughton and Lance-Corporal Brodie, 22nd November

3. The C.S.O. greets Captain B. A. Blackwell

4. Auld Acquaintance. The C.S.O. talks to Sergeant Barden who served with Brigadier Anderson when he commanded 1st Signal Regiment 1956-1959

5. Signalman Everett holds the diagram as Lieutenant-Colonel C. E. Page, M.B.E. describes the layout of Div. H.Q. to the new G.O.C., 1 Div., Major-General the Hon. M. F. Fitzalan-Howard, C.B.E., M.C.

6. Major-General the Hon. M. F. Fitzalan-Howard talks line-laying with Corporal Callender, 21st November

1st REGIMENT B.F.P.O. 32

This has been a month of visits and sporting activities with the administrative inspection thrown in for variety. The most important visitor was Major-General the Hon. Fitzalan-Howard, C.B.E., M.C. He came twice during the month, on the 7th November on a brief preliminary tour, and spent the whole of the 21st with us for the administrative inspection. Congratulations to all those who helped to earn us a good report. On the same evening, hard on the G.O.C.'s heels, came another most welcome visitor in the shape of Brigadier J. E. Anderson, C.B.E., C S.O., B.A.O.R. He is a former Commanding Officer of the Regiment in Verden, serving here from 1956 to 1959. We were able to muster a handful of seniors who had served with him in the Regiment including W.O.I Taylor, Staff Sergeant Baker and Sergeants Barnden, Crean and Cosser. Many of the civilian staff were here in his time and it was appropriate that the C.S.O. was able to present Meritorious Service Certificates to a number of them during his visit.

The third notable visitor was C.C. Royal Signals, Brigadier M. S. Hancock, M.B.E., who spent 26th November with us.

On the sporting field we lost to the Q.D.G. in the Rugby Cup, but beat them convincingly in a non-cup game a week later! In soccer we did rather better and the team earned a trip to Berlin to play 1 Kings in the second round of the Cup but, weakened by the pleasures of the big city, lost 4—3. Winter Page Trophy events have started with Troop teams competing madly in basketball, soccer and cross country running. Evening sports included the Sergeants' Mess match against the W.V.S. room on 25th November of which the main event was the darts match between R.S.M. C. W. Johnston and Sergeant W. Boyd and Signalman Ware and Mayo. It is generally thought that the members of Miss Davis' team were keeping something in reserve for their trip to Berlin during the last weekend of the month.

We have been pleased to welcome 652 Light Aircraft Squadron, Army Air Corps, to share the barracks with us and wish them a happy stay. On 22nd November the officers of the Regiment acted as hosts at dinner to the officers of the Royal Engineers, 1st Division, in the annual celebration to mark the evolution of Royal Signals from their parent Corps.

2nd REGIMENT B.F.P.O. 22

A welcome break from desk-bound employment was Exercise "Stem Turn I," the last full-scale exercise of the season. The Regiment took to the field on Saturday, 9th November, and, by the time the staff joined in the fun, on the following Tuesday, had already moved in and out of many different locations and returned to establish communications for the start of the exercise proper. During this "preamble" phase, some considerable time was spent by linemen looking for an elusive Deutsche Bundespost terminal box in the area of either a grid reference or a village, both of which were meant to define its location, but which were, in fact, several miles apart.

A display of hair-raising driving was provided by one of the Comcentres in moving out of a location. The move had been delayed by the fact that the other Comcentre, through some misunderstanding, had not moved. It was therefore started in pitch-darkness from the top of a hill which had become virtually a sea of mud after 24 hours' rain—for the last six hours no vehicles had been able to get up it. The sight of a fully-laden 3-tonner with a 15 KVA generator sliding gracefully sideways down a steep slope was really quite exciting.

Later in the month the 1 Squadron training programme announced: "Troop Commanders' disposal—practice drills in permanent training area."

Staff Sergeant G. E. C. Hitchcock reports on this:

"On Thursday, 28th November, certain elements of Main, Rear and Comcen ventured into the Regimental training areas to perform the first of a series of officer-less exercises. The Senior N.C.O.s were left to organise a day's exercise, which they aptly named Exercise "Dial 999."

Senior N.C.O.s were very keen to prove that this was merely a matter of imitating the actions of their "higher-ups."

Recce went out on Wednesday and two red-faced senior N.C.O.s spent the most part of Thursday's lunch in the field trying to explain to a very unnerved Staff Sergeant why his complex (MAIN) was moved from its first location, even though the first location was in fact correct. Heads shrunk when they had pointed out to them the folly of using the CST 1+4 over 5 miles of 10 pr. Sergeant J. Morris was heard to remark: "Well, its good training for my linesman's course." Last laugh was on the officers, because the "BLUE" was broken first time with no bother at all. The fact that 'Advance Signals' was half-an-hour late across the start point was just another lesson learnt!!! More Thursdays like this are to follow. The Seniors are now wondering if it would be wiser to have the services of Staff Sergeant (007) Bond Moran, A.C.C."

The Muse has finally made a successful assault on Birdwood Barracks. Thanks to a loan from P.R.I., further equipment was purchased by a small group to augment that which they owned already. The line-up of the group, which calls itself "The Intruders," is Lance-Corporal J. Davison (lead guitar), Lance-Corporal R. S. Watson (rhythm guitar), Lance-Corporal A. D. Brown (bass guitar) and Corporal M. E. Turner (drums). Their first public appearance was at a ladies' night in the Officers' Mess, when, after extremely limited practice, they made a very favourable impression. We commend their services to any nearby unit which needs lively music for any kind of social function.

"The Intruders" also appeared in the Corporals' Mess on the occasion of the grand opening night of the new bar, to which all members of both the Officers' and Sergeants' Messes were invited with their ladies. The evening was, of course, formal, with all present in mess kit or No. 1 dress, as far as possible, but it was nevertheless very lively and thoroughly enjoyed by all. If all mess functions can be of such a high standard, the social life of the Corporals of the Regiment seems assured.

Finally, we have with regret said farewell this month to Captain J. W. Oliver who is going to Northern Rhodesia to teach Africans to sail, and Lieutenant and Mrs. R. B. Smith, who will probably be teaching the inhabitants of North Wales how to ski. We wish them well in their new appointments.

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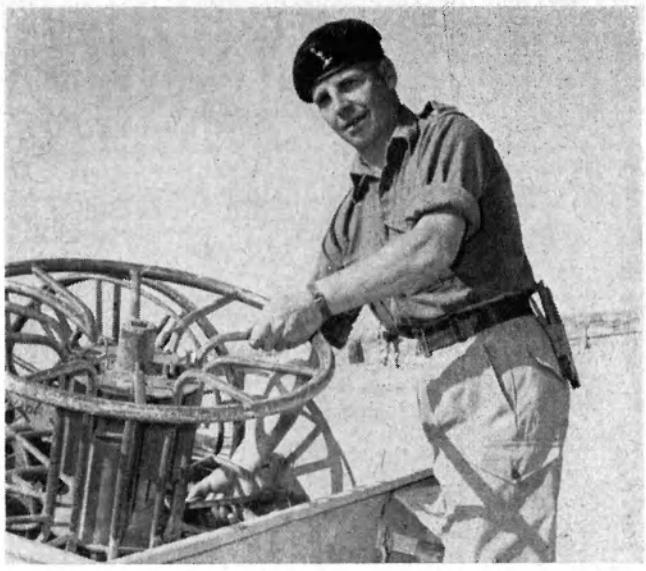
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TALKING AS USUAL
W.O.II Blake (Int. Corps), the R.S.M., Adjutant and Second-in-Command.



Signalman Symmonds, "C" Troop, "Collecting the Empties."

3rd REGIMENT

1 Squadron

A desert exercise poses many problems for the Regiment, which are tackled with enthusiasm and efficiency.

For many, Exercise "Triplex West" was the first (and for a few, such are the vagaries of Records postings, the last) time any of us had helped to provide, together with the R.A.F., the full communication system of a Force H.Q. The problems of engineering are more suitable to an air-conditioned comcen station than to a tent (if that is what one can call the Bertram Mills-like big top). Such problems as did arise on this exercise served to illustrate the immensity of those that would almost certainly arise if we were to do the whole thing as an operation of war.

A detachment of Advance H.Q. Troop established a good CW circuit to Cyprus within hours of arrival (well done, Lance-Corporal Stott, Signalmen Durrant and Magowan). A detachment of D11 Sub Troop (Corporal Hendron, Lance-Corporal Dyke and Signalman Howley) subsequently provided an equally good FSK circuit to replace it. We felt almost guilty at having to close it down, because equipment was required to open a circuit to Malta. We also engineered circuits for the Royal Naval operators, and the co-operation between the two services was one of the happiest aspects of the exercise. We were astounded how easily we were able to join the ship-to-shore common net to pass traffic in an emergency as H.M.S. *El Adem*. With 19 Brigade, we were fighting that dreaded distance, 70 to 90 miles, and could never relax our attention, even with such experienced operators as Signalmen Tinney and Roderick on duty. We cannot pass from radio communications at Force Headquarters without mention of our Transmitter Site, with Sergeant Lay in charge. It was situated on a barren piece of rock which, unknown to the planners, with within flying distance (as the fly flies) of the local sewage works. To begin with it was an unpleasant spot, but after a "fridge" had been installed and the local R.A.F. station amenities made available, it became relatively popular. We must take this opportunity of congratulating the A.D.M.S. on the way in which he sorted out the flies.

Away from Force H.Q., we had mobile detachments providing control and air support communications in the Brigade area.

Sergeant McDonald with that stawart trio, Signalmen Pope, Vallier and Meek comprised the Brigade tentacle. These were the envied few who, in a rough way, had a most enjoyable exercise. It would not be practical to single out many from 150 men who provided radio communications. Let us only select one in each rank:

Officers.—Captain George Ferrier, bearing the brunt of the responsibility for radio communications at Force H.Q. An immense task.

Warrant Officers.—W.O.II (Y. of S.) Gubler. Always imperturbable and a (almost *the*) linch-pin.

Sergeants.—Sergeant Toll, Troop Sergeant of Advance H.Q. Troop and also responsible for control communications. He must have swallowed in his travels more sand than anyone else.

Corporals.—Corporals Hendron and/ or Taylor who nursed, but never cursed, their D11s to give such satisfactory service.

Signalmen.—Each in his turn did his best, and without them the machine does not work. But the writer remembers most the one he could not see, hidden behind a sea of hands trying to tune (or mistune) his receiver for him. *C'est la guerre.*

2 Squadron

You will by now have read the tale of brave deeds and stirring action from the "glamour boys" of 1 Squadron. Behind this glitering facade of shining dials and coloured lights were the workers of the Regiment—2 Squadron. Gradually the Squadron assembled at El Adem, including Signalman Dashfield (a fact which surprised everyone; most of all himself) and after long and hectic days erecting, testing and practising, we were able to assume our "operational posture." This, we found to our horror, meant that we were qualified to lay stones to guide us around the camp, and construct ornamental gardens.

"Oscar" Troop report that the operation of the Joint Comcen was a great success, and relations with the other Services were very good, even in the early hours of the morning. The odd Naval expression was soon to be heard in use by the other Services, and in the end we were publishing "Watch Bills" instead of "Shift Rosters." We like to think, however, that we taught the others a thing or two, but they are not for publication.

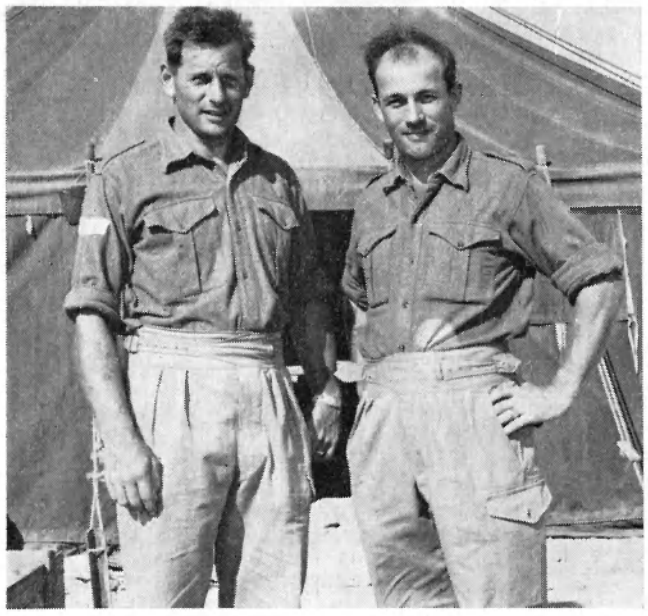
As the exercise progressed, the number of Flash and Emergency messages increased, and Signalman Hannagan at one stage came rushing along to tell the Superintendent that he had a routine message. This caused quite a furore and, needless to say, it was cleared quicker than any of the others.

The air-conditioned comfort of the Comcen, with its carpet and flashing lights was only spoiled by the immobility of the tables. These are to be fitted with castors to facilitate re-arrangement during future exercises.

The J.M.D.C. (Joint Message Distribution Centre for those readers who are not "with it") had its teething troubles. We are still looking for the runner who took a message for FOF (Med) to the R.A.M.C.

Our trip to Benghazi for the last part of the exercise was more eventful and we were much busier. The Regimental march became "The day that the rain came down," and Signalman Gallon, our telegraph technician, had a free ride into space when he touched a teleprinter whilst up to his ankles in water. We would like to record our thanks to 245 Squadron for their help and wonderful hospitality during our stay in Benghazi.

"Charlie" Troop claim to have exercised, above all else, their patience and self control. Constant attacks upon land-lines by tribesmen, goats, small boys and R.E. crane drivers kept the maintenance parties usefully occupied. Many ruses were invented to discourage these agents of destruction, and



Taking part in the exercise were these twin brothers of a Bedford military family. They are (left) Corporal Peter Roberts and (right) Corporal Tony Roberts. They are the sons of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Roberts of Bedford. Their father served in India with the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment. Three of their brothers, all in the Royal Engineers, fought with the 8th Army across the same desert country, where two of them were killed. Two other brothers are serving with the Royal Navy. Peter served during the Korean War and Tony, who has longer service than Peter, having enlisted as a boy, has seen service in Egypt, Italy, German and Cyprus.

linemen were seen writhing in feigned agony, with one hand on the cable surrounded by awe-inspired children. "Dummy" cables were laid at positions likely to attack, but were untouched.

Meanwhile, "Romeo" Troop, safe behind wire entanglements produced near-perfect communications, and therefore had plenty of time to carry out vital research on the living habits of the jerboa. They also collected vast quantities of black scorpions for medical analysis.

Now home again, 2 Squadron is preparing to play its part in the annual Administrative Inspection. Our sporting successes are limited at present, but it's impossible to be good at everything, unless you are Sergeant Boyle—just ask him.

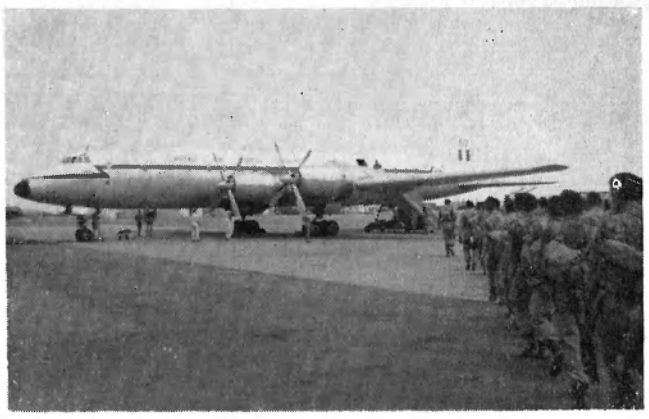
That was "Triplex West" that was, and like all good things had to come to an end. Our next contribution will be from Bulford—we hope.

3 Squadron

The most vivid memory of the exercise remaining with 3 Squadron, particularly M.T. Troop, will always be the clouds of choking dust that arose every time a vehicle moved, however careful the driver. The first arrivals at El Adem was the Q.M., Major Glover, with R.Q.M.S. Coward and staff to draw all camp equipment for J.F.H.Q. By the time the main body arrived, they were well established in their own compound, surrounded by barbed wire. They even had their own hot shower. A mirror reflecting the sun was directed at a normal jerrycan, and in about two hours the temperature of the water was near boiling point. The rest was easy— a stirrup pump and a tin with holes punctured in it. The other members of the Squadron used the shower of the Mobile Bath Unit, known as the "African Queen," because of the black smoke which belched forth and the shape of the funnel. This proved an essential part of our lives, and we sadly missed it when it eventually departed to wash supposedly dirtier bodies than ours. This we found hard to believe.

The M.T. Troop were worked hard and had to contend with sand and more sand. Captain Bill Spreadbury, R.A.S.C., our M.T.O., and his small band of drivers were hard put to meet all the demands put on them; however, they had a visit to Cyprus at the end of the exercise which perhaps made up for it. It must also be mentioned that there were a number of drivers taken out for the exercise who were employed as spare numbers. Their tasks were the more mundane jobs, for example, working in the cookhouse. They played an important part in the daily life of the camp and they did much to ensure the more technically employed members of the Headquarters were supported by a good administrative service. It is easy to forget this kind of work until it breaks down.

"Mike" Troop, like everyone else, had the dust and heat to contend with, but they kept abreast with the repairs and



"Oscar" Troop Emplaning.

maintenance of the Regiment's equipment. In the later stages of the exercise the Troop was split into two small parties and was spread throughout, from U.K., Malta, Benghazi to El Adem. Lance-Corporal Clarke was the only casualty, breaking an arm in a traffic accident.

Our integrated L.A.D. was removed from us for the exercise and sent to another camp close to J.F.H.Q. We sometimes saw them, but we now hear they are experts in flood survival.

7th REGIMENT B.F.P.O. 15

Outward bound - type exercises, prowess at rugby and news of new married quarters feature in this report from the 7th Regiment.

The Corps Commander's parade and annual Administrative Inspection over, the Regiment has concentrated its efforts on individual training. Upgrading and military proficiency courses are the order of the day; each Squadron taking its fair share of the organising. The results of the first military proficiency course show that radio relay operators, linemen and technicians are equally as good at military duties as they are at their trade.

In order to ensure that everybody does not become completely "camp bound," Troops are organising their own outward bound - type exercises. "U" and "S" Troops decided to run a competition, pushing a quarter-ton trailer from near Hamlin to camp. The object was that Troops should cook and live in the open, but the energy exerted by both Troops was such that they arrived back only fifteen hours after setting out, having run a large part of the way. "R" and "T" Troops organised a patrol - type exercise, the highlight of which was a twenty-mile canoe patrol. 5 Squadron ran a driving training exercise in the form of a night rally, which was open to entrants from all the Regiment. Twenty-six crews entered, using W.D. vehicles, in which a course of 150 miles with four check points was covered. Each crew had to average 20 m.p.h., and on this basis, penalty points were awarded on timings between check points. Torrential rain fell all night, and much credit

(*Continued on foot of page 18*)



Corporal Taylor, Staff Sergeant Knight (centre) and Corporal Walker prepare the 2in. Mortar for firing at Sennelager. All are members of the military proficiency course run by 7th Signal Regiment this autumn.

11th Regiment (Depot)



Lieutenant Colonel S. W. Brackenbury M.B.E., inspecting Champion Troop, troop Commander Lieutenant R. A. C. Siderfin, on his farewell Pass Off Parade 29 November 1963.



The Celtic Cross which was presented by Lieutenant-Colonel S. W. Brackenbury, M.B.E. on behalf of all ranks of 11th Signal Regiment (Depot) to St. Martin's Church

Dear old Catterick, dripping noisily in the grasp of winds born on Barden Moor. To those of you sitting in cane chairs, attired in KD and quenched with ice cold beer, spare a thought this coming season for the nursery of Signals. We suffered the pleasant summer rains, resigned ourselves to the autumn downpours and are now in the grip of the winter monsoon.

Keeping up an impeccable record, the weather rained off this month's major official occasion, Armistice Sunday and the Garrison Drumhead Service. The wet weather programme, however, clicked smoothly into action and Services were held for all denominations in the Garrison Churches.

This month we say goodbye to our Commanding Officer and his wife. Lieutenant-Colonel S. W. Brackenbury, M.B.E., has been with the Depot now since 5th October, 1962. During this time he has done much to put the Regiment on the map. Indeed, those who are posted here find it not quite the Salt Mines posting they envisaged.

Under the Colonel's firm hand we safely weathered the "Battle of the Bulge" when the intake figures rose to 90 per week. Overnight troops became squadrons, and eventually No. 3 Squadron was formed to take half the load off the overloaded 1 Squadron.

Over the past two years Mrs. Brackenbury has been a tower of strength to the Regimental Wives' Club and in particular the Garrison Thrift Shop which is now so well known that queues of civilians from many miles around form on opening days. Mrs. Brackenbury is assisted in this by wives from the Regiment and other Units in Catterick.

Best wishes to Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. Brackenbury from all ranks of the Regiment and every success to Lieutenant-Colonel Brackenbury in his new post as a member of the Regular Commissions Board.

On 29th November Lieutenant-Colonel S. W. Brackenbury, M.B.E., took his farewell Pass Off Parade as Commanding Officer of the Depot. Apart from the two recruit troops passing off there was also on the parade a composite detachment from Headquarters and 2 Squadron. A fitting tribute to the C.O. came during the parade when the parade commander, Major T. I. McL. Robinson, gave the command, "Three Cheers for the Commanding Officer."

Welcome to Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. T. G. H. Jackson. We hope they will enjoy their future in Catterick. In fact, the new Commanding Officer represented the Regiment at squash before he officially arrived.

7th Regiment — Continued from page 17

must go to the winning crew, Lance-Corporal Jones and Lance-Corporal Tai. "C1" Troop exercise involved crossing the River Werre between Minden and Herford, over one of four bridges which were guarded by "O1" Troop and making for a rendezvous near the barracks. "O1" Troop had to "extract" the location of the RV from prisoners by interrogation. Corporal Hadley's permanent smile, regardless of the horrors inflicted on him, will surely remain imprinted on the interrogator's mind for some time to come. Signalman Hardisty's dramatic escape, half naked, will be remembered for many months. Despite desperate efforts by "O1" they never discovered the location of the RV from prisoners.

During the course of the month, the 1st XV played two extremely good games against 1 (BR) Corps Troops Column, R.A.S.C. The team played at home on Wednesday, 20th November, which ended in a draw, 11—11. 7th Regiment were trailing at half-time, but just managed to draw level with three minutes to spare before time. The replay was at Bielefeld the following Saturday. The game again proved to be very close and resulted in a 3—0 win to 1 (BR) Corps Troops Column. Regrettably, this match knocked 7th Regiment out of the Army Cup. If it is any comfort, 1 (BR) Corps Troops Column were beaten by the Royal Welch Fusiliers in the Divisional final.

The Wives' Club held an excellent dance on Saturday, 9th November. There was a good buffet, and the "Twist" competition was won by the younger generation, despite the strenuous efforts of the older members. It was encouraging to see the number of the younger members of the club who attended the dance. For those families due to be posted to 7th Regiment, it is good news that the new quarters at Bergen, about seven miles from camp, are now ready. This has reduced the waiting list for quarters, but there is still a long list of those waiting for accommodation. All members of the Wives' Club are busy preparing for the annual bring-and-buy sale, due early next month.

Best Recruits



Passing Off on the 15th October the best recruit was Signalman Patrick McGovern, aged 27, of Paisley. No stranger to Army life, he first served as a National Serviceman with the 5th Royal Tank Regiment where he became a Wireless Instructor and attained the rank of Corporal. After National Service, Signalman McGovern worked as a gardener in a Franciscan Convent but then, to use his own words, "I decided it was time I had a career and a future to look forward to." A good all-round sportsman, he is strongest at soccer and cross country. His hobby is ornathology centred mainly round birds of the Scottish uplands. Signalman McGovern will now be trained as a Technician at 8th Regiment.

Best recruit on Pass Off Parade the 29th October was Signalman Rodney Edward Fox from Barham near Canterbury. Well versed in military life, Signalman Fox was educated at The Duke of York's Military School in Dover. His father retired from the Army in 1957 after serving 22 years in the Corps and attaining the rank of W.O.I. With his parents he has travelled and lived abroad in Malta, Cyprus and Egypt. Many of these places he now hopes to visit again. A keen sportsman, hockey and rugger are his strong points. He now goes to 8th Regiment where he will be trained as a Technician.



Undergoing recruit training in the Depot this month is Signalman Roy Patterson of 36B Speke Road Gardens, Liverpool. In October, 1962, together with a friend, David Stone, he was engaged on his Senior Scout venture in Wales. On the Llangollen to Glencairog Road they were present at a serious road accident between a motor cyclist and a van. The motor cyclist sustained multiple injuries and would have undoubtedly died had it not been for their first aid, courage and resourcefulness. On 4th November in Liverpool Y.M.C.A., the Earl of Sefton, Chairman of Lancashire County Commissioners Executive Committee, presented them with the Boy Scouts Certificate of Meritorious Conduct.

Finals Northern Command Boxing Championship

The 11th Regiment Just Pull It Off !

Marne Gymnasium was the scene of the most exciting boxing meeting Catterick has seen for many years when on Thursday, 28th November, the 11th Regiment team met and narrowly defeated the 3rd Royal Tank Regiment in the finals.

The Depot team were fit and confident but after losing the first two bouts Captain Robinson, our boxing officer, could be seen visibly wilting in his chair. At bantam, McBride was narrowly beaten and at feather Signalman Waters put in a gallant stand against Lance-Corporal Morely who will be known to many as an Army Class Boxer. Then the tide turned and the next three bouts were ours. Signalman Fenn boxed well for a convincing win at light welter; Signalman Dunbar showed how much he had learned this season and never looked in trouble; Corporal Hutchinson, a top class boxer for many years, was next on the bill and frightened us all by being too eager for a quick win and nearly being caught in the first round by a strong boxer. In the second and third rounds, however, Hutchinson was still supreme and won comfortably.

After the interval the tide turned again and Signalman Boulton at welter was perhaps unlucky to lose what must have been a very close decision. Lance-Corporal McNally opened with beautifully fast left leads but early on was caught by a very hard right cross and never recovered. At this stage the scene was 10 to the Regiment and 11 to 3 RTR.

Corporal Annis left no doubt about his bout. His left hooks were lightning and although he met a tough customer he scored a K.O. in the 1st round.

Lance-Corporal Steel has an intriguing style and a stance not unlike that of the fabled John L Sullivan. Steel used his powerful straight left to great effect and despite being down himself in the first round, he won by a convincing KO in the second.

In the heavyweight bout Lance-Corporal Allen started extremely well but when he started "mixing it" he came off second best and was KOd in the second round.

And so as in all the most exciting contests it all depended on the first string welterweight. Signalman Sandlan, a most experienced boxer, was at his best—he hooked with power to the head and body until in the second round he had his plucky opponent down and out.

What a cheer and what a thrill for the spectators and, of course, for the team who now go on to the next stage of the Army Championships.

Presenting the prizes, Brigadier T. H. Evill, D.S.O., congratulated both teams on their spirit and sportsmanship but expressed regret that out of all the units in Northern Command only two had entered for the championships.

Corps Band

The touring band returned from their summer holiday in Eastbourne (17 shows per week) on 7th October, having also played for a Civil Defence parade in Brighton, at which the salute was taken by the Home Secretary. Incidentally, the parade was commanded by Major-General C. M. F. White, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., who is the Chief Civil Defence Officer for Sussex. We found upon our return to Catterick that the non-touring band were touring in Scotland as part of a K.A.P.E. display. After having played in Wallasey, Morecambe, Whitby, etc., during the course of the year, they are now thinking of changing their title to the Semi-Touring Band. However, by the end of the month, the whole band were assembled in Catterick, and ready for the winter season.

Early November saw us engaged in various remembrance ceremonies. Unfortunately the Garrison Service, which was to have been an open air drumhead service, had to be cancelled, and we played instead in St. Oswald's Church.

On 17th November the band were again invited to take part in the North Yorkshire Festival of Remembrance in Middlesbrough Town Hall, attended by the Lord Lieutenant of the county and civic dignitaries from the North East. One of the highlights of the service was the combined playing by the fanfare trumpeters, military band and organ of the Gordon Jacob's arrangement of the National Anthem.

The new full dress tunics for the band arrived in time for us to wear them on the Guard of Honour which was provided for the visit of the Chief Signal Officer of the American Army on 19th November. Later that day in the Officers' Mess of 24th Regiment, the Corps fanfare trumpeters played a special fanfare composed by the Director of Music, after which the bound manuscript score was presented to General Gibbs and dedicated to the U.S. Signal Corps.

By far the biggest talking point from our point of view this month has been the start of military proficiency tests for the band, and on the morning of 25th November twenty N.C.O.s and musicians marched off in the direction of Baghdad Square to start the first course. Opinion of this course is divided, the only unanimous observation being that there are now twenty members of the Corps Band with most un-musicianly-type haircuts ! The dance orchestras under Sergeant Greer are now getting into top gear for the Christmas festivities with a heavy programme of Corps and civilian engagements.

Our congratulations to Lance-Corporal Cameron on his recent marriage and to Musician and Mrs. Sheldrake on the birth of their son.



Lieutenant Colonel W. E. Lyske on handing over command is dined out by the Sergeants' Mess, 6th November 1963

Left to Right: Lieutenant Colonel W. E. Lyske, R.S.M. D. G. Newton, Lieutenant Colonel D. B. Emiey, S.S.M. Cumming, W.R.A.C.



Presentation of Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award

From Left to Right: Lieutenant Colonel W. W. Cock, Mrs. Banham, Major General E. A. W. Williams, C.B.. C.B.E., M.C., Lance Corporal Banham, Major (Q.M.) D. Banham

14th REGIMENT

" Death of Bull "

" Get a rifle and ten rounds," said the Adjutant.
" Sir," replied the O.R.Q.M.S.
" Go and shoot a bull."
" Sir."

In a well-conducted Orderly Room such as ours, this instruction gave no cause for further comment. W.O.II D. G. Ellen duly drew a rifle and ten rounds and went off to the local abattoir. The rest of the story, being an extract of W.O.II Ellen's report, is, of course, highly-coloured.

Sir,

I have the honour to report that the bull is dead, despatched with one round. Enclosed is one ring, nose, bull, to prove it.

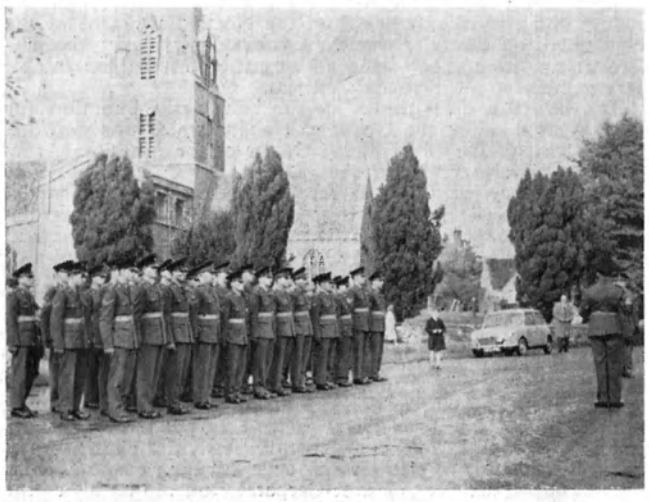
On arriving at the abattoir, I was confronted by a large crowd gathered round a cattle truck. Therein was an *enormous* bull, maddened by pain, and doing its best to overturn said cattle truck. I ordered the crowd to disperse and, loading my rifle, I advanced at the ready. Hearing my approach the bull redoubled his efforts.

Nothing dismayed, I thrust my rifle through the bars, took aim and fired. The bull fell dead at once. A gasp of admiration rose from the crowd, breaking into a ragged cheer. I was carried, shoulder high . . . . etc., etc. . . . .

I have the honour to be, sir,

Etc., Etc."

P.S.—The Sergeants' Mess now has yet another trophy—one ring, nose, bull.



3 Squadron 14th Regiment outside Bampton church on Remembrance Sunday

18th REGIMENT

The Inspector of Trade Training, Colonel D. J. Jones visited us on 18th and 19th October.

We hope we impressed him with our efforts to get our soldiers qualified by Trade, Education and M.P.T. and that his visit to Singapore and Malaya was an enjoyable one.

On Friday, 1st November, 1963, the Regiment was honoured by a visit of the G.O.C., Singapore Base District, Major-General E. A. W. Williams, C.B., C.B.E., M.C. During his short stay with us, he presented the Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award to Lance-Corporal Banham, of 249 Squadron (FARELF), who obtained the award whilst at Tonfanau, with the A.A.J.L. Regiment.

Lance-Corporal Banham is the son of Major (Q.M.) D. Banham, of 18th Regiment.

22nd REGIMENT B.F.P.O. 16

H.Q. Squadron. The usual regimental exercises of a sharp nature are serially called " Rapier Thrusts "; a very short one at the end of the month was called " Rapid Thrust," and beforehand everyone wondered what it was going to be like. The only clue we had in the op order was the fact that " movement, digging and camouflage " were going to play a large part. This in itself should have been enough—the exercise was obviously going to be a sharp albeit, a short one. And so it proved. The new boys got a taste of things to come next summer, and the old hands had their livers shaken out of their sloth! The only thing of note from our point of view was the unheard of fact of the Recovery vehicle itself bogging down when attempting to rescue a vehicle!

And so to December. Already the Post Room is filled with children's toys; PRI is trying to flog Christmas cards, and the T.O.T. is asking where on earth the lights went from last year's Christmas trees!

1 Squadron. Inter-Squadron sports have been predominant this month. The matches were played with enormous enthusiasm. 1 Squadron lost the final of the hockey to 244 Squadron 1—2, but won the other finals, beating " H.Q." Squadron at soccer 2—1 and at rugger 12—0.

244 Squadron. Surprisingly during the month we also found time for sport. In fact we played three matches of the Knowles Cup Competition. Unfortunately we lost a hard-fought rugger match against " H.Q." Squadron 9—6, and lost an equally tough soccer match with 1 Squadron 3—1. However, to compensate for those losses we won the hockey competition in an excellent game with 1 Squadron, winning 2—1.

And the compliments of the season to all who are, and have been, brethren of the Red Hand.

CLOTHING is still URGENTLY required by the WELFARE SECTION

30th Regiment



H.Q. Squadron. The ranks of Headquarter Squadron have swollen greatly in the last month, due to the influx from the now disbanded 260 Squadron. We are now able to "fall in" with a right marker *and* two ranks of three! New arrivals who are welcomed into the Squadron include Sergeant Stickley from Windsor and Sergeants Slater and Casey from other Squadrons within the Regiment.

This is the time of year when the Squadron takes part in running Regimental courses, our contribution being Military Proficiency Courses, organised by Captain L. Moran.

On the sporting side, the Squadron is strong favourite to win the Regimental Inter-Squadron Hockey League. The football team, however, are a little inconsistent, having lost to 640 Troop 10—0 and then beaten 3 Squadron 14—0.

1 Squadron. 1 (Transit) Squadron—that would appear to be the designation of this Squadron now—at least in respect of Squadron Commanders. We have had in command in the last few months Major Larry Ball. Major R. H. Osbourne, his successor, spent a very short time with us before moving to the rarified heights of Regimental Headquarters to take over the responsibilities and worries of Second-in-Command. The present Squadron Commander, Major D. H. Briggs, who has actually managed to spend a few days in the chair between his touring commitments, leaves us shortly to join the 2nd Regiment after a long, long time in this Regiment. He departs with the best wishes of the Squadron.

We welcome the arrival of Captain (T.O.T.) Harwood from 22nd Regiment. (We wonder if Blandford Camp racing circuit will now be re-opened). Staff Sergeant Pollard has returned to us from a long spell in Catterick on a T.I. upgrading, on which he achieved a very creditable pass. Sergeant Gray has said his farewells, and by the time these notes appear, he should just have reached his new posting in the Hebrides. The proprietor of the "Bung-ho" in Boscombe can now quite safely cut down his supplies of Watney's Red Barrel.

We are keeping our heads well above water on the sporting side, being top of the Regimental Inter-Squadron Football League, thanks to the goal-scoring feats of Sergeant Webster, Signalman Lamoury and Corporal Bell. On the hockey front, no less than six members of the Squadron are in the Regimental 1st XI. Lance-Corporal A. W. I. Coldwell, the Regimental star player, has to be congratulated on playing for the Corps in all their games, for Dorset, and in being selected for the Army Trials.

Pimpernel Beagles. The Pimpernel Beagles (Royal Signals) started the season on 19th October with their opening meet at the Officers' Mess, since when the pack has hunted regularly on Wednesday and Saturday each week. The photograph shows the pack on the Officers' Mess lawn. From left to right, in uniform, are: Mr. A. B. Cole (the Master), Staff Sergeant R. Hills (Huntsman) and Corporal Anderson (No. 1 Whip). Lance-Corporal White, who was killed so tragically in the motor accident reported in last month's WIRE is on the extreme left.

The Hunt Committee is headed by Captain (T.O.T.) G. B. Miles, with about half military and half civilian membership, and support for the pack generally comes about equally from military and non-military. Hunting, so far this season, has been good, although the weather has been unkind on several occasions. The following, though not always large, is faithful, and is increasing.

ROYAL SIGNALS, HONG KONG

Tourist Season. The autumnal drop in temperature and humidity that makes life in Hong Kong so enjoyable during the winter also marks the start of the main tourist season, and the Colony now teems with visitors, both civilian and military—the former for sightseeing and shopping, the latter for duty—sightseeing and shopping.

Corps visitors we were especially pleased to welcome were C.S.O., FARELF, Brigadier E. C. R. Blaker, O.B.E., and B.G.S. (Signals), Brigadier C. H. Howarth, O.B.E., T.D.

Brigadier Blaker who, we are delighted to say, was accompanied by his wife and daughter, paid his first visit to the Colony since assuming his present appointment, and was with us from 26th October to 5th November. During this time the C.S.O. made a detailed tour of Signals units in Hong Kong, casting a very professional eye on our communications activities and asking a lot of searching questions, to which, we hope, we gave the right answers. He also took part in many discussions on Army and Joint Service communication problems and took back with him a few of our problems to add to the many already on his plate in Singapore.

Brigadier Howarth made Hong Kong his first stop on a very full tour of the Far East, and was with us from 14th to 21st November. Much of his time here was necessarily devoted to briefings, presentations and discussions, but he also toured 252 and 253 Squadrons and 246 (Gurkha) Squadron and gave interesting and valuable talks on Corps matters to all officers.

We hope that both our distinguished visitors enjoyed their time in Hong Kong—we, in common with many of the local shopkeepers, were delighted to see them.

(*Continued at foot of next page*)

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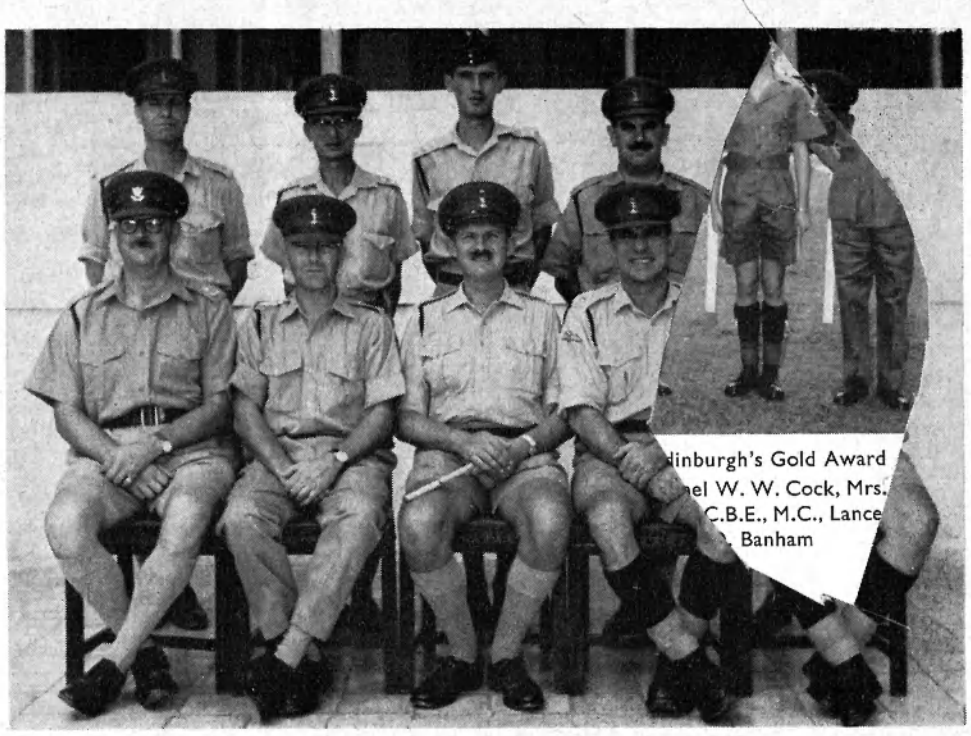
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A busy Week for Mid East

C.R. Signals Branch (Mid East)



ROYAL SIGNALS OFFICERS' CONFERENCE, 1963

Standing : **Major G. A. Thompson, Captain A. W. Batram, Captain G. H. Morgan, Major G. S. Symons, Major L. H. Dutton.**

Seated : **Major J. S. Agar, Major H. D. V. Chappell, Lt.-Col. T. I. G. Gray, Major P. A. McF. MacGillivray, Major G. W. A. Stephenson.**

Conference

THE week beginning 10th November was indeed full of the unusual. On the 12th, Out-Squadron and Independent Troop Commanders arrived in Aden for the second annual Officers Conference. We missed the attendance of representatives from the Trucial Oman Scouts Signal Squadron and the Force Signal Officer S.A F. This year's photograph is therefore sadly lacking the "shemag."

The first day of the Conference was lively and the tone was set by the C.S.O. (M.E.), Colonel G. D. T. Harris, O.B.E., who told us in clear and simple terms with the aid of a comprehensive diagram just what the reorganisation of the M.O.D. amounted to.

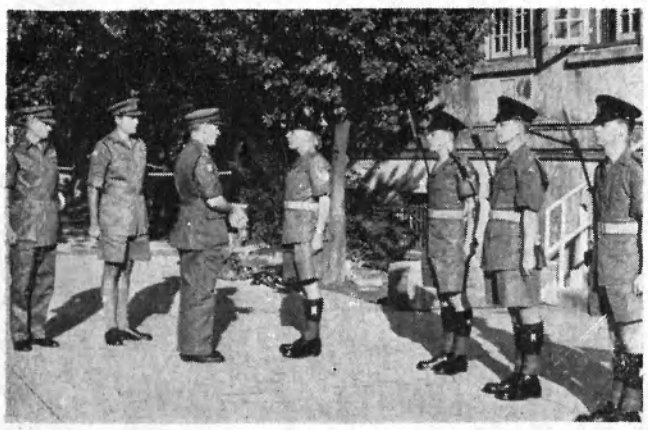
That evening, the Annual Sapper/Signals Dinner night was held in the excellent setting of the Headquarters Federal Regular Army Officers' Mess and we, as hosts with no Mess of our own, are most grateful to the F.R A. for their generosity in allowing us to do this. The one day advance on that laid down in Corps Memo was so that we could entertain the visiting Representative Colonel Commandent Royal Engineers, Major-General Sir Henry Sugden, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., as Guest of Honour. From the appreciative response of our 31 Sapper guests it can be said that the Dinner was an unqualified success. Perhaps this was due not only to the excellent food, service and atmosphere but also to the excitement of a heavily backed horse race and hour of roulette which rounded off the evening.

Next morning, the second day of our Conference, was not so lively! However, notwithstanding our rather delicate feelings, much useful business was done.

(*Continued on page 2.*)

Royal Signals Hong Kong

Continued from page 21



CSO FARELF inspecting Quarter Guard of 252 Squadron (*left to right*): Lieutenant Colonel E. J. Winn, Major A. A. G. Anderson, Brigadier E. C. R. Blaker, Sergeant Patch, Lance Corporal Brown, Signalman Summers, Signalman Cross. *Photo :* Sergeant Gardner, 252 Squadron.

Hong Kong "Bisley." The 15th annual Hong Kong "Bisley" has just ended and has been an outstanding success for 246 (Gurkha) Squadron, who won five competitions and the Minor Units Chamiponship.

This was a reversal of all known form, as 253 Squadron had earlier won the Royal Signals Rifle Meeting, and a combined Royal Signals team was confidently expected to win the "Bisley." In the event 246 (Gurkha) Squadron won the championship by a comfortable margin, and the Royal Signals team had to be content with second place. (A result that left the present C.R. Signals in something of a quandary!).

The Squadron was presented with its many trophies by H.E. The Governor of Hong Kong, and is to be congratulated on a very fine performance.

See 253 Squadron notes on page 29.

Domestic. There may be some remote units to which the news of the birth of twin boys to Mrs. Ann Petheram, has not yet percolated.

After an exciting race, the Petherams just beat the Anderson and Curley families in their latest productions. The official announcements were:

To Major and Mrs. M. A. Petheram, twin boys, on 22nd Oct.
To Major and Mrs. A. A. G. Anderson, a daughter, on 3rd Nov.
To W.O.II and Mrs. D. A. Curley, a daughter, on 31st Oct.
To Corporal and Mrs. W. Brown, a daughter, on 3rd Nov.

THAT WAS THE WEEK THAT WAS . . . MID-EAST STYLE!













1. The Junior Ranks had a film show

2. The team from K Troop 222 Signal Squadron (Air Formation) winners of the 7-a-side Soccer Tournament

3. Mideast atmosphere (?) at the Children's Party

4. The Officers entertaining the seniors at a barbecue held in the "Gentlemen's Rest" of 222 Squadron

5. Presentation of the L.S.G.C. Medal to R.Q.M.S. F. Eastwood by Colonel G. D. T. Harris, O.B.E.

6. Mrs. T. I. G. Gray presenting the "Gray Cup" to Staff-Sergeant Easter, the best individual shot

Farewell to Lieutenant-Colonel "Tig" Gray

With the generous approval of the C.R.E. (Mideast), the Royal Signals Officers of Mideast used the occasion of the Sapper/Signals Dinner night to officially dine out C.R. Signals. In a very short speech Major G. A. Thompson explained to the Sappers present why this unusual step had been taken, the main reason being that the Corps had no Mess of its own in which could be created the proper atmosphere for dining out the Senior Executive Officer of the Corps in Mideast—YET!

This remark was greeted with unreserved approval from the Signallers present and, dare we say, reserved approval from the Sappers present also. This is because one of C.R. Signals' major successes during his tour has been obtaining the approval for the establishment of a Signal Regiment in Mideast.

The speaker went on to say that, whereas in the difficult environment of the Middle East in general and of Aden in particular to achieve one major step forward was success indeed, Colonel Gray was leaving behind a whole series of achievements of which he could be justly proud. If the sincerity of the applause which followed this truly deserved statement was not tribute enough to cheer Colonel Tig on his way, the action which followed most certainly was—spontaneously the Sappers rose and asked permission to drink his health.

So we say goodbye and good luck to Joy and Colonel Tig as they depart bound for the Ministry of Defence. Every Royal Signals officer of this Command and indeed every Signaller who has passed through Aden has received full and generous hospitality from Joy, no mean feat when combined with duty entertaining and the busy (and frequently trying) task of being Mrs. C.R. Signals in this complex Command.

We welcome Lieutenant-Colonel J. W. Rayner as the new C.R. Signals and wish him every success.

The Corps Week-End

Aden is well known as a place which is hot, but in June, when the summer sun has reached its zenith, it is very hot indeed and not conducive to games and good fellowship. It was therefore decided to hold our annual celebrations to mark **Princess Royal Day** in cooler November.

This year, with the kind co-operation of Units and staffs here, the 15th, 16th and 17th November saw a full sporting and social programme which catered for all tastes.

8 o'clock on Friday morning saw the start of the Week-end and also the first shots in the .22 shooting competition organised by Line Troop 254 Squadron. Individuals were competing for the "Gray" Cup (presented by Lieutenant-Colonel T. I. G. Gray).

In addition, there were team and runner-up prizes. Staff Sergeant Easter (our local Military Proficiency Training cadre!) emerged as the best individual while the team and runner-up prizes went to the S.H.Q. and Line Troop teams of 254 Squadron.

After a short lunch break, the afternoon's 7-a-side soccer tournament (organised by Line Troop 254 Squadron) produced some keen rivalry. The final was won by "K" Troop of 222 Squadron (Air Formation) who beat Line Troop 254 Squadron by the only goal of the match, thus reversing last year's form and the early promise of what appeared to be another 254 "linemen's benefit" Weekend.

In the evening there was a rank and file and families film show arranged by 254 Squadron and an Officers' and Seniors' "Bar-B-Q" run by 222 Squadron (Air Formation) at the now famous "Gentlemen's Rest." This latter is the first time the Officers in Aden have entertained the Seniors en masse and so successful did it prove that we hope it is the forerunner of a regular ritual.

The following morning saw many "pink eyes" and an incredibly hilarious soft-ball competition, yet another event organised by 254 Squadron, in which each team competed against the rules, against the umpire and occasionally against each other. We were very fortunate in having as our umpire the American Vice-Consul, Mr. George E. Mercer. He gamely withstood the barracking and eventually pronounced the winners as 254 Squadron "Casuals." In return for his humour and help, C.R. Signals presented him with a plaque and the words "with him we were hopelessly lost, without him goodness knows what would have happened."

That afternoon, the Federal Regular Army Signal Squadron organised a Driving Gymkhana in which both private cars and military vehicles were entered. The fact that all prizes, except the winner in the military class (Signalman Hardy of 222 Squadron) were won by Federal Regular Army was accepted by all as purely "coincidental."



Lieutenant Colonel J. W. Rayner (left) takes over from Lieutenant Colonel T. I. G. Gray.

In the evening Treble-Two Squadron again provided the "Gentlemen's Rest" for a Junior Ranks barbecue. The food (and the first two drinks) were on the house and there was keen rivalry between all concerned to see who could consume the most.

On to Sunday, the last day and climax of the weekend. A Drumhead Service was held early in the morning. Then followed the presentation of the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal by the tri-Service C.S.O., Colonel G. D. T. Harris, O.B.E. (late Royal Signals), to R.Q.M.S. F. Eastwood of H.Q. Mideast Camp Commandant Staff (now on L.S. list—ex-Royal Signals) who has 24 years' service with the Colours and who already holds the Territorial Army Efficiency Medal. After this, Colonel Harris took the salute at the March Past of contingents from all Aden Units led by recently-promoted Major G. W. A. Hickman, with music kindly provided by the band of the 1st Battalion, The King's Own Scottish Borderers. Hot, but not defeated, families and Servicemen alike, adjourned to the NAAFI where refreshments were served and taken in a most cordial atmosphere. The arrangements for the whole morning were most efficiently organised by 254 Squadron.

That afternoon, 222 Squadron produced and fought their way through a truly magnificent children's party at which, in addition to the usual party arrangements, the Mideast flavour was maintained by giving rides to children on the camels of the Federal Regular Army Camel Troop.

Simultaneously, for those who like their entertainment a little less rough, there was the Sapper/Signals Rugby match. A determined battle was fought with neither side asking nor giving quarter. Thirty gallant stalwarts (and the R.A.F. referee) slogged their way across the burning sands midst the cheers and cries of anguish of their supporters. The outcome was in doubt until the final whistle when it had to be admitted that the Sappers had won by a try and a penalty goal (6 points) to a penalty goal (3 points).

During the course of the match many of the spectators could not keep their eyes (and a few could not keep their hands) off the succulent tea which had been beautifully prepared and laid out by the wives as well as the men of 254 Squadron. It turned out to be as good as it looked and was much appreciated.

Last, but by no means least, come the Junior Ranks and Families Indoor Games Party, organised by the Federal Regular Army Signal Squadron. Most competitive indoor games were played but the final honours went to a team of thirsty Welshmen who beat all-comers in the "boat-race" to establish themselves as the "Seedaseer Beer Champions 1963."

And so to Monday morning, when many a tired but happy smile was to be seen during a day luckily devoid of major crisis. The weekend had been a highly successful and enjoyable one, carried out in the best traditions of the Corps.

Footnote

On Tuesday, the local Forces Broadcasting Station announced the number of the lucky programme of the Corps Weekend, the holder of which was to collect a major prize. Imagine the surprise when it turned out to be the chap who organised the draw! However, as he had marked his programme with an "X," he must remain anonymous!



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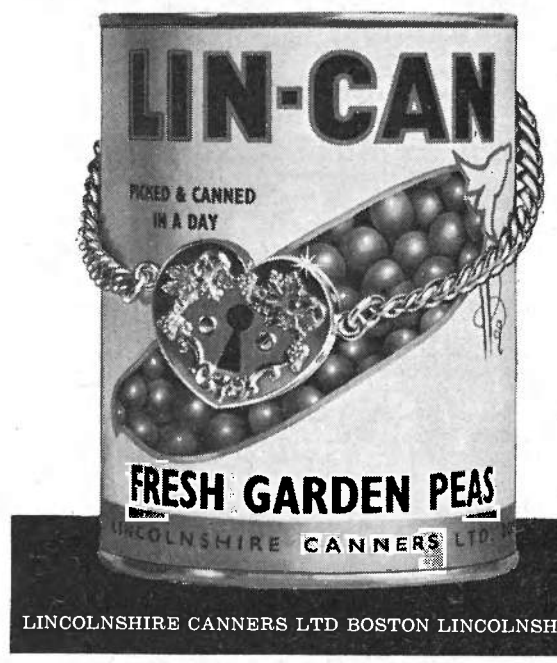
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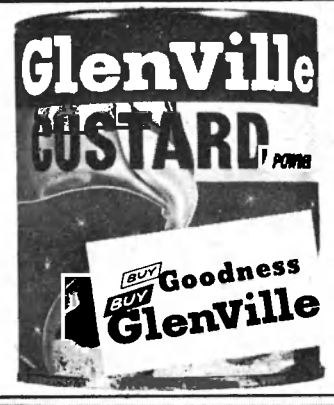
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Lyke Wake Walk

Catterick "rookies" with their officers and an N.C.O. show they are as tough as the best. Congratulations on a fine effort.

"My recruits would like to go for a walk over the moors this week-end, is anyone interested?" said a subaltern in the Mess. Nods of assent all round. "Where do they want to go," said one of the assembled. "On the Lyke Wake Walk," came the reply. Yours truly, being a native of a North Yorkshire sheep rearing fastness retired quietly behind a newspaper and pretended to be part of the furniture.

Nevertheless, this was how three officers, one N.C.O. and ten recruits spent the week-end 30th November - 1st December, walking 40 miles along the great raised spine of the North Yorkshire Moors from Osmotherly, seven miles east of Northallerton, to Ravenscar, six miles up the coast from Scarborough.

In 1955, Bill Cowley, a farmer from Glaisdale, issued a challenge to anyone who could walk the distance on his own two feet in 24 hours. A month later he did it himself with a party of men and women. Now an average of 600 people complete the walk every year.

Why "Lyke Wake?" A Lyke Wake is a watch kept at night over a dead body. The Lyke Wake Dirge was sung over a body in the Yorkshire Dales by women until about 1616-1624, when the belief that the dead person's soul went over Whinny-Moor died out. The ideas in the Dirge date back to Norse, and possibly Bronze age times, when their corpses were carried over the moors and buried on the highest points, where they remain as landmarks today.

It was 14.30 hours when we left the starting point on Scarth Wood Moor, above Osmotherly, into a gathering gloom with thin streamers of mist creeping up the valleys off the Cleveland plain. In front of us, the moor sloped away, and we fairly charged across it. The steep climb on the other side slowed everyone down and ironed a few kinks out too. Now the pace settled and we cut along the edge of Whorleton Moor, heading for Chop Gate or Chop Yat, as it is called locally. This is in the main Stokesley to Helmsley road. It was dark now, becoming cold and inevitably raining.

Above us loomed Urra Moor, the highest point on the North Yorkshire Moors, at 1,489 feet. Few still had dry feet, and some had the odd blister, but all were still quite determined. Just below the crest, however, we had our first casualties. Two of the recruits had badly blistered feet. As the next section was about eight miles of moor tops, it would have been impossible for them to go on. Back they went to the welcome shelter of a local inn to await our support party.

Coming over the top of Urra Moor into a thick mist, the first bottle of "medicine" made its appearance. This was the mysterious part of the venture, that whenever one bottle ran out another appeared. Very welcome, too. Fortunately, we hit the track once used by smugglers and their pack-horse trains. Parts of this are paved and can still be seen on the highest points of the moor. Somewhere above the mist was a moon, and the dim light filtering through enabled us to see the track clearly.

On any moor at night one always has doubts about direction and distance, but our doubts were soon cleared when we met a large party of R.A.M.C. T.A. going in the opposite direction, led by none other than Bill Cowley himself. We spent a very enjoyable few minutes exchanging news and information with the Maestro before shouting cheerful farewells and strolling on. Now we began to feel like veterans.

It is always interesting to note how morale boosts on an occasion like this, or when a landmark is found, still in its correct position. Now we even enjoyed listening to the fellow who had been whistling the Corps march for the last four hours.

Our next checkpoint was the old ironstone railway which ran from Middlesbrough to Rosedale. Opened in 1861, this line took out seven million tons of ore in its day, but closed in 1929 when the seams ran thin and there was a depression in Middlesbrough. The going on this was excellent, and we speeded up now, heading for Blakey Ridge, the Red Lion Inn, our support truck and some sleep.

An old disused cottage across the road was quietly taken over and house set up. Significantly no one chose bed in preference to the Lion. Not quite half way the Lion Inn is an old marketing place linking the coast and the dales. Almost 1,300 feet up it enjoys the reputation of being one of the highest and loneliest public houses in England.

Often in winter motorists calling for a drink come out later and find themselves marooned by quietly falling snow which makes the road impassable in minutes.

In the cheerful, friendly atmosphere with an accordion playing in the background we soon forgot our aching feet, wet trousers and the odd blister or as someone aptly put it, "I think my blisters have feet on them." A short while later, fed, watered and rolled up in sleeping bags only the occasional snore broke the silence.

Up again at 04.00 the roll call was somewhat diminished. Of the eleven who arrived at Blakey only seven were fit to go on. Blisters and stiff limbs had taken their toll. One had an injured back from a fall the previous day and another had flu. Away now up the road to Ralph Cross at the head of Rosedale. Another mile of metalled road then, the stiffest test so far. Three miles of deep heather and bog and hardly a track on it. There were many falls on this stretch, wet ones too and occasionally the air was full of Old English phrases. We hit the road on the other side safely and quickly walked a few hundred yards along it to Hamer House. Once a very flourishing inn in summer and a life saver in winter, all that remains now are a few stone walls and the outline of a field.

It was just breaking dawn now and grouse were beginning to call each other in the heather. The mist lifted and we could see the distant moors of Fylingdales.

Striking out across Wheeldale Moor we took the wrong track and floundered round in a bog for about half an hour before we regained direction. Now time was beginning to press and it looked as if we would have to average 3 m.p.h. for the remainder of the journey. This is fast on heather and broken moor ground. Then we found the staked track and moved very fast down the long snout off the moor and into Wheeldale Beck. Above the beck we crossed Wades Crossway, an old Roman road linking the coast with Cawthorn Camps. This road has been excavated and now lies exposed for all to see. It is straight, flat, and two cars could pass on it. Such was the quality of those ancient road builders.

Over the stepping stones up onto Goathland Moor and our first sight of Fylingdales Warning Station. Its three huge "Golf Balls" looking rather like something out of a science fiction book. Running occasionally over the peat mass down we went to the old Whitby/Pickering railway and up onto the main Whitby/Pickering road. Pausing only long enough to build a small cairn to show our support party that we had passed we moved up onto Fylingdales Moor and passed the Radar Station.

We were managing to keep just within the time schedule. From the top we could see the coast six miles away but not our destination which is shielded by a high ridge. This moor requires particular care because it used to be an Army range. Although declared clear one still gets an uneasy feeling when one sees a piece of rusty metal or a Mortar bomb fin.

Still taking no chances with the time we ran down the steep slope to Jugger Howe Beck, climbed the other side and crossed the Whitby/Scarborough road at Helwath Bridge. With $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles and $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours to go we would make it. It was here that Signalman Phips, who had been having considerable difficulty in keeping up, gritted his teeth and appeared among the leaders for the last few miles. Soon we could see the Raven Hotel, our finishing point, on top of the cliffs. This was undoubtedly the hardest part of the walk. Half a mile of hard metalled road which wrecked havoc with out ankles.

Within minutes we were sitting in the beautiful cocktail bar of the hotel looking out across Robin Hood's Bay. The hotel closes every winter but the manager kindly opened up for us and supplied the refreshment we required.

Out of those who started the following finished in $23\frac{1}{2}$ hours: Lieutenant Scarff, Second-Lieutenant Cowan, Corporal Ryan, Signalmen Phips, Gray and Hurst. Second-Lieutenant Budd missed out one of the middle sections when looking after the injured but rejoined us at Blakey and completed the remainder of the walk.

Forty miles of moor in under 15 hours' walking time. Above all, the recruits are to be congratulated on a splendid effort. Not bad at all after only four weeks in the Army. The last word; unanimously! "Just wait until next time."

Ever Thought of Chartering a Yacht? . . .

and taking the Children for a Cruise?

Well, this Royal Signals Officer, with the help of a Lance Corporal did so . . .

and gave the Wire this excellent story of PETASUS in the BALTIC

CRUISING on a yacht at will with one's family—this is certainly something a little bit out of the ordinary. But it is possible. In fact it was done by Lieutenant-Colonel F. J. Bardell, aided by Lance-Corporal Walker of the 1st Regiment as bosun, and helped by a crew made up of No. 1 son, Hugh, age nine, Richard age four, and Sheena Anderson—a daughter on loan—age 15. "If you have some sailing experience," says Colonel Bardell, "it is well within the capacity of a husband and wife and a young family so long as you take the bosun." But let Colonel Bardell tell the story.

The Corps yacht, *Petasus,* was available for charter at Kiel during the early part of September so we decided on a family holiday afloat. As there may be other families who enjoy sailing, here are some facts and figures about the cruise. The crew was made up of No. 1 son, Hugh, aged nine, Richard four years, Sheena Anderson, a daughter on loan, fifteen, and Lance-Corporal Walker of 1st Regiment, the ship's bosun. The cost of the charter was DM 40 per day, the family providing its own bedding and food. In addition there was a charge of DM 10 per person to become temporary members of the British Kiel Yacht Club. Apart from that, you spend as much or as little as you wish. The Danes are extremely friendly, very pro-British and their food is a joy and a delight. Imagine if you will, a large fat plaice overflowing the dish, the flesh lifted from the bone and the fish stuffed with shrimps, asparagus tips and mushrooms and served piping hot with a lobster sauce. But I digress, I was talking of sailing . . .

We arrived at the Yacht Club to find *Petasus* lying alongside. She was in good shape having been looked after by Lance-Corporal Walker. We loaded our stores and had lunch. The weather report sounded rather sick-making with the promise of worse to come so we decided to get away as soon as possible. Faaborg looked the best bet for a dark wet arrival by night. According to the chart it looked a well lit entrance through the islands. We reefed down, set the No. 2 jib and scudded north making a good six knots in the rain squalls. We found all the buoys and lights to be in the right places and made the harbour by ten that evening. All hands had earned their tot, and it was a very weary but cheerful crew which turned in after supper. Having been thrown in at the deep end and survived, the fact that most of the lunches finished up in Kiel Bay did not seem to matter.

We were stormbound there for a day, but fearing barnacles would grow on the hull should we stay longer, we set off in the lee of Aero Island for Aeroskobing. A Hans Anderson sort of village, cobbled streets, a band playing in the square, and a museum containing a collection of ships in the most fantastically shaped bottles. Here we met an American who had just bought one of the local Dan Boats, a fibre glass hull with mahogany trimmings, which he was preparing to take across the Atlantic single-handed.

The following day, after putting in one reef, we left for Assens but within the hour decided the going was too hard and turned for Soby. We tied up alongside, put in a second reef, had a cup of coffee, fixed the children's safety harness and started once again. Time being no object, we turned about and made for Svendborg. By this time the children had found their sea legs and were thoroughly enjoying the rain and spray. They came aboard as small creatures and were now unrecognisable with sweaters, life jackets, oilskins and sou'westers and their safety belts clipping them to the coachroof at the forward end of the cockpit. We arrived at Svendborg in a squall, it was becoming a habit. Baths were essential so we tried the Missions Hotel. Here, at no cost, we steamed and soaked for two hours until all were clean.

Next day we left by the winding eastern channel with its well-kept lawns and woods leading down to the water's edge. Sun shining, juniors in charge on deck and so up through the Great Belt to Kerteminde. On the way we passed the red hulled tops'l schooner *Lille Dan,* a training ship with cadets on the yards taking in sail. A beautiful sight. No. 1 son, normally bottom of his class at school, now found some point in learning arithmetic—taking bearings, plotting them on the chart, working out where and when we should see the next buoy and what it would look like—at last the lessons had some meaning.

Kerteminde was well worth the visit—the Viking ship in its barrow lies beneath the ground at Ladby; Hans Anderson's birthplace at Odense; fishing for codling in the deep clear waters of the harbour; the town church with its beautiful models hanging from the roof of the nave; a fully rigged frigate and a second-rater painted white and gold, in keeping with the baroque decoration of the church interior. And finally, dare we mention it, the Royal Navy's vicious assault on our rearquarters as we lay alongside the quay. The Dartmouth cadets aboard *Wyvern* misjudged the current and rammed us astern. Red faces, handsome apologies, a glass of gin and all was well once more with inter-Service relations. We continued north and visited Samso Island. Ballen, on the east coast, has a narrow entrance to the inner harbour best approached under jib alone. Once inside, however, the locals are most helpful and you may lay alongside one of the fishing boats.

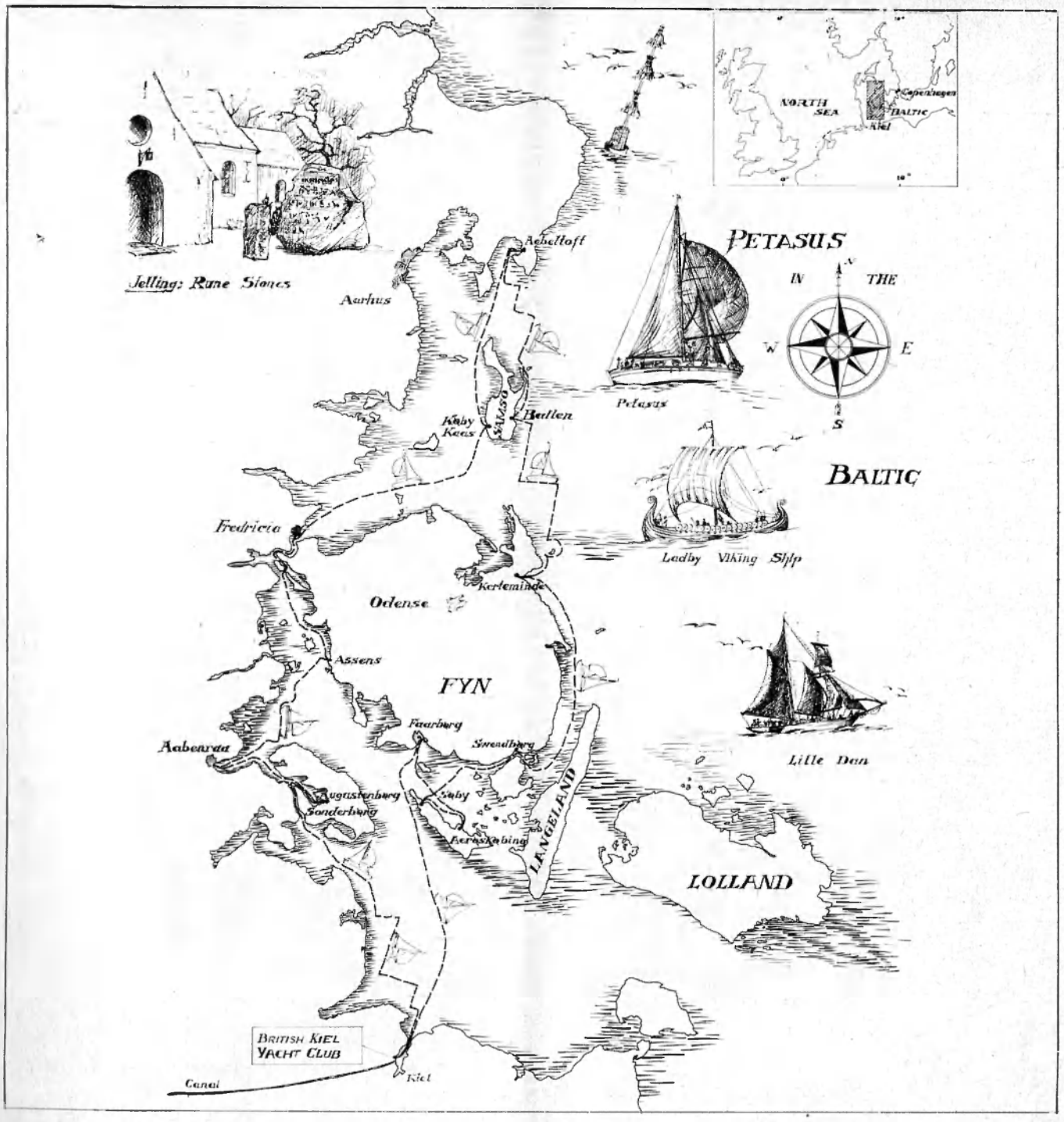
Aebeltoft in Jutland was the most northerly town we visited. It lies at the head of a long shallow fjiord. Here the hotel manager found the windswept crew carrying their towels and change of clothes a little disconcerting but he overcame it sufficiently to offer us the use of his staff's showers. More steam and hot water. Blissful! Worth every one of the ten krona he charged. The supper he served later was magnificent but that has been mentioned earlier. Turning south at last, we headed for home, this time by way of the Little Belt. Kolby Kass, Fredricia and Assens; we visited each in turn and stayed the night. Beating back through the Faeno Sund was well worth the effort—a narrow channel winding between the wooden slopes on either side. A little care is needed at the southern end. The bank off Fons Skov is covered by little more than a foot of water. As we crept close in to make the most of the tack the children cheerfully asked if the breaking water was the porpoises playing and please could we go closer and take a look. Once or twice the going was a little rough and the ship's babe then retired to his sleeping bag. Here he remained quite cheerfully. Only once was he at all put out; the glass lamp chimney shattered on his bunk and the pots off the stove started to play tag with the foam fire extinguisher which had come adrift. A frantic chase to capture the extinguisher leads me to believe that the wretched thing couldn't foam even if it wanted to.

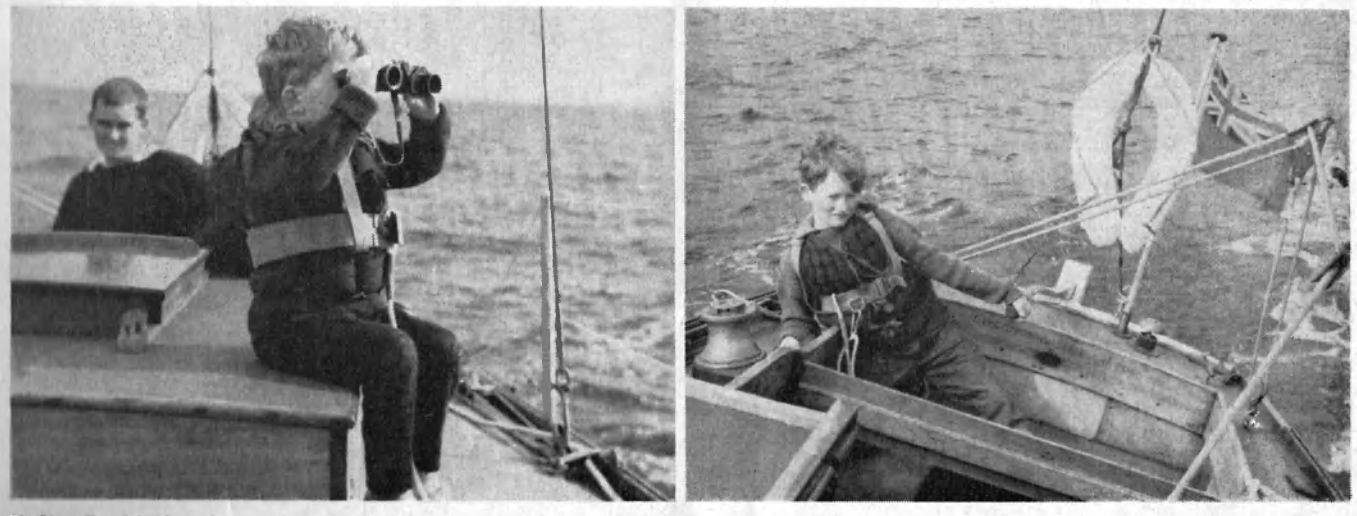
We enjoyed Aabenrae with its rich farmyard smells as they loaded cows and pigs aboard the cattle boats in the early hours of the morning. Augustenborg at the head of the Als Fjiord is one of the old Royal Summer Palaces now being used as a sanatorium. Here we lunched, the sun shining, birds singing and an atmosphere of complete peace and quiet. The channel is narrow and although well marked and easy by day it should not be approached by night as there are no leading lights and more than enough shoals for the unwary.

Our last day was a little disappointing after two weeks of strong winds and blustery weather. We started with catspaws and a brassy sun. This later turned to fog and for the first time we had to motor. A noisy, smelly business but the engine plugged away manfully and ten hours later we arrived at our moorings in Kiel.

It was voted a good holiday. If you have some sailing experience it is well within the capacity of a husband and wife and a young family so long as you take the bosun. It is one we shall certainly do again.

A final note. The Royal Signals Yacht Club is now the stronger by one more qualified hand—Sheena Anderson has earned her clasp knife and lanyard.





(*Left*) Could that be a pirate ship now? . . . Richard aged four. (*Right*) "Use your weight and hold the tiller hard" . . . Hugh aged nine

SQUADRONS

205 SQUAORON B.F.P.O. 21

The Squadron having just returned from a 12-day exercise, we can now get down to our numerous jobs. Being a new member of the Squadron, I have been "selected" to write THE WIRE notes.

At the beginning of the month there was a fever of activity checking equipment and the last-minute finding of stores that seemed to have "walked," prior to Exercise "Autumn Double."

After a week of this we were rearing to go, and set out early the next morning. We arrived at our first location, which was the highest and bleakest hill in the vicinity. This was to the delight of the wireless men, but everybody else could not produce the same enthusiasm!

For the next week or so we were continually on the move, and were thankful to find that for the final four days we were going to be static. We stayed in a large barn, kindly lent to us by a local farmer. At this location our rodent-catchers came into their own; the maximum caught being, I believe, 24. Signalman Buckley, who was a leading light in this pastime, even tried to train one, but I gather without much success.

During September, three members of the Squadron spent a fortnight at the British Kiel Yacht Club. Lance-Corporal Spencer, who was one of the three that went, had the following to report about his initiation into the art of sailing.

"On 14th September, Signalman Higgins, Crawford and myself left Iserlohn to spend a fortnight with the British Kiel Yacht Club.

Our first three days were spent aboard *Korsar*, a thirty square metre yacht, learning the basic rules of sailing. We sailed around Kiel Fjord until such things as 'Ready About,' 'Down Gyb' and 'Up Mainsail,' were common knowledge.

We set sail for Denmark on the fourth day, with a force five wind to back us up. The weather changed to a force eight gale later in the morning. We all 'parted company' with our breakfast soon after, but soon recovered and regained our high spirits again. We found the people very friendly on our travels, which took us around the Danish Islands. We were tacking most of the time as we were sailing through the many small islands. Everywhere there were shallows, and a sharp look-out was essential. The weather prevented us from returning on the appointed day; it was so bad that we had to tie rubber tyres alongside the boat to cushion us from the jetty. We were permitted to sail three days later, and the return trip was reasonably uneventful. We had learnt a great deal in a short time, collected a reasonable tan, and were very fit.

A most enjoyable fortnight!

210 SQUADRON B.F.P.O. 10

A Happy New Year to all members of the Corps from us all —the P.R.I. feels a wish of prosperity more appropriate.

Last events first. Corporal Thomas was married recently in the Garrison Church—his charming bride having been flown out from U.K. only three days previously. Captain Hartnett gave the bride away and, we gather, was rather reluctant to do so. Our irrepressible A.A.C., Corporal Miller, was best man. The reception, in the Jimmy Club, was a fitting send-off to the couple, who honeymooned on the romantic shores of the Indian Ocean.

Hockey has started, and our team has taken on rather a new look, but we still hope to maintain our reputation in this sphere. Playing the game for the game's sake has earned us compliments from umpires of which we are justly proud.

After an interruption, the soccer team have reappeared on the local pitches, and although a number of games in hand, are in half-way position in the civilian league. Unfortunately, the leaders have amassed so many points, we cannot hope to gain maximum honours.

The cricket programme seems less flexible, and our missed games, through exercises, had to be conceded, and so we have virtually abandoned our league programme. Those with Kenya experience will appreciate the sportsman's predicament, when hockey, soccer and cricket are all in full swing at the same time.

Recent exercises have gone well and, by and large, enjoyable. Two memorable trips were the Mideast exercise in Trucial Oman, and the visit to Kenya's Northern Frontier District and Lake Rudolph.

Kenya's Independence and Christmas are looming up far too fast, and one feels the occasions are too close together. So far, the Squadron are not taking part in the Uhuru celebrations, except for laying line, internal and trunk, for a temporary tented hospital.

219 SQUADRON B.F.P.O. 57

The Squadron has now a large number of new faces as we have received some very welcome tradesmen from the Junior Leaders Regiment and from the Apprentices School. We are delighted to have them. All are settling down well and seem to be enjoying the warm weather that extends well into November in this station.

Our exercises continue satisfactorily and with ever-increasing number and the live training that the "new hands" are receiving is all very worth while. At present we are actively providing communications to the Royal Military Academy senior cadets who are carrying out their winter training in the desert.

The Squadron rugby team, almost a new one this year, is rapidly gaining skill and confidence and is now holding its own against some much heavier opposition which is provided by the resident Infantry Battalion and the R A.F. The Squadron is keeping rather quiet about their soccer defeats. The rumour is that the goals against are now in the double figures. The soccer captain is secretly blaming the Squadron Commander who somehow apparently manages to persuade the most promising athletic characters as to which is the most suitable game! This motive is purely ill-disguised cunning as our Squadron Commander also organises and is responsible for the joint Service rugby team in Tripoli. It is thought perhaps that



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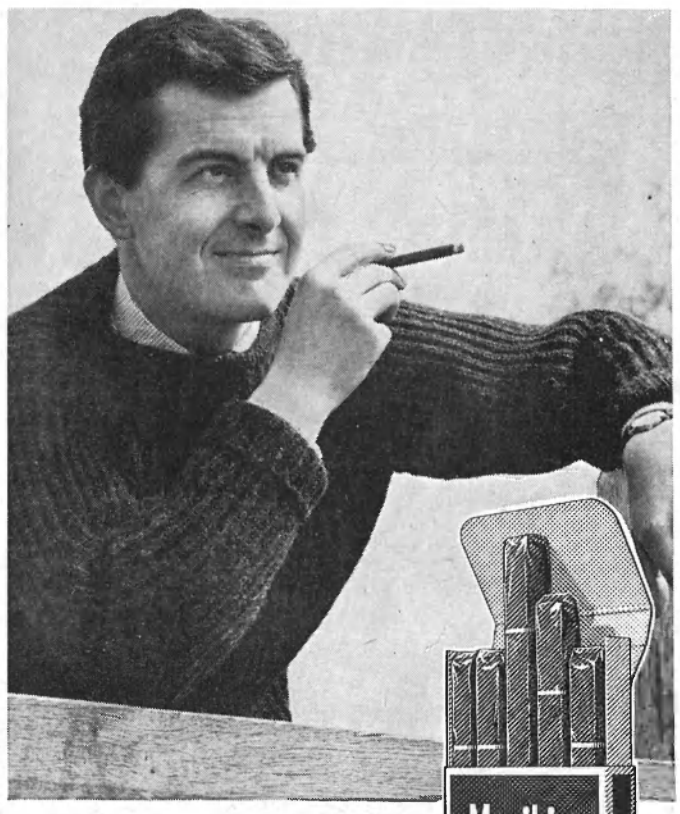
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the intention is maybe to have an all Royal Signals team!

The Squadron Second-in-Command, Major G. Lynam, is a very active member of the Tripoli Sailing Club and as such is the ideal skilled instructor for teaching the members of the Squadron. It is hoped that next year the Squadron will own their own boat. If this luck holds our summer sporting activities are guaranteed.

243 SQUADRON

243 Squadron (Southern Command) is at present sharing (?) a Sandhurst block and sundry other buildings with 3 H.Q. and Signal Regiment in Ward Barracks, Bulford Camp, Wiltshire. We queried the word "sharing" because at the moment we have seven rooms, and the usual offices, on the ground floor of the block—3rd Regiment hold the remainder.

The Recruiting Team, under the excellent direction of Staff Sergeant Page, and ably assisted by Sergeant Donnelly, has, since March, attended nineteen shows in Southern England and finally a tour of the Channel Islands. For this tour transport was provided by the L.C.T. *Agheila,* and visits were paid to Guernsey and Jersey. The disadvantage of the bad weather was more than offset by the duty-free cigarettes and drink. Well, that's the Recruiting Team's story, anyway.

We have recently said goodbye to two of our civilians, who between them, have put in 79 years with the War Department. Mr. Richard (Dick) Gilder, D.C.M., 43 years, and Mr. Reginald (Reg) Hanford with 36 years. Dick Gilder earned his D.C.M. when a Sergeant with the Coldstream Guards in France in 1916.

A lot of you who have served at one time or another with us, and those who knew him, will be surprised and shocked to hear of the very sudden death of Major L. C. M. Dutot, M.B.E. (Retd.), in August. He had been our very able Administrative Officer (R.O.) for some time, and is sadly missed by us all.

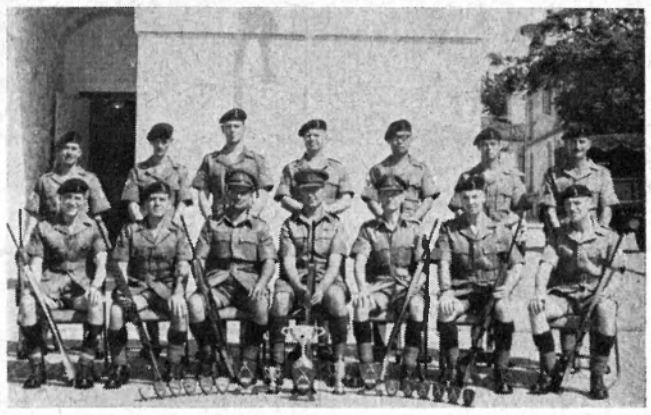
Now that Halloween has passed, all that is left for us before Christmas is that supreme Druid feast, the annual Administrative inspection. Is it the nearness of Stonehenge, or more chance that most of the issued paint is blue!

253 SQUADRON B.F.P.O. 1

You can see from the photograph a body of quietly-confident soldiery from 253 Squadron. They are secure in the fact that, for the first time since 1960, they have won the Royal Signals Rifle Meeting in Hong Kong. The winning team hitherto has come from 246 (Gurkha) Squadron, but even they were glad to lose the trophy to such a team as you see here. In fairness to all, it must be recorded that we won by two points only from the Gurkhas, who, in turn, won by two points from 252 Squadron. Star performers were Sergeant Walker, who was the S.L.R. Champion, and Signalman Fraser, who was Sterling Champion. 253 Squadron "B" team also won the falling plate contest. We won the Chain-of-Command match and the Squadron falling plate "A" team came second.

In Hong Kong our problems are never little ones. The problems can be administrative inspections, two visits and three rifle meetings, all happening concurrently, or two out of three Squadron Commanders deciding to have children (in one case twins) during this time, or the problem of no water. This business of water is No. 1 topic of conversation, though, with 4,700 million gallons in the Colony's reservoirs, one asks why. We can tell you. There are about 4 million people in the Colony wanting some, which brings up the next subject. We wanted some to swim in. An empty swimming pool is forbidding enough to the potential diver, but it is much worse when heated to oven temperature by the mid-summer sun in these parts. Someone somewhere relaxed the restriction and the baths were filled with water; we got on with our swimming. We did not excel ourselves in the Royal Signals Competition, when we lost to 252 Squadron, or in the Garrison Meeting, when we came about half-way up. What was good to see was the effort put in by the members of the team, particularly from Signalman Phillips, who did so well in the diving.

(*Picture at top of column 2*)



Standing, left to right: Sergeant Williams, Corporal Kadansky, Lance Corporal Davies, W.O.II Hawkes, Lance Corporal Ng Ping Keung, Lance Corporal Rooke, Sergeant King.

Sitting, left to right: Signalman Fraser, W.O.II Rankin, Captain Strange, Major Petheram, Lieutenant Felton, W.O.II Young, Sergeant Walker.

254 SQUADRON, B.F.P.O. 69

Radio Troop have had their ups and downs—more ups than downs, judging by the number of times they have been "up-country" (fourteen since 11th April). For those who follow exercise names and remember those used in B.A.O.R., how about these—"Webbed Foot," "Wide Berth," "Brown Trout," "Mixed Grill," "Jack Up," "Sweat," "Play-time IV," "Biltong."

Hearty congratulations to Staff Sergeant J. H. Nelson on being awarded the British Empire Medal for sterling work with 30th Regiment.

Comcen Troop. Very "shifty" personnel have recently moved one of the two locality message centres run by them at Balaclava Camp, Little Aden, to Falaise Camp, with good results. The W.R.A.C. have now taken over our duties in Comcen, Aden, leaving us to concentrate on running A.D.S. and the two message centres.

603 Troop (Aden Element). Two tentacles, plus, are now firmly "suckered" on to the Squadron. They have played a full and very efficient part in exercises "Brown Trout," "Cascomex 8, H.M.S. *Ark Royal,*" "Cascomex 2, H.M.S. *Victorious,*" "Mixed Grill," and many others.

Sports News

Cricket. Many Squadron players have represented Royal Signals (Mideast) and it is reported that Corporal Wolf is having trouble filling in a claim for shoes, canvas, destroyed by countless run-ups. The Squadron came fourth in the Minor Units League.

Swimming. Towards the end of the season, many Squadron players represented Royal Signals (Mideast) at water-polo, and Royal Signals were unlucky to be just runners-up in the Army Championships, 45 Commando, R.M, winning by 7—5. On that same day, however, we won the Minor Units 6 x 66 and 2/3m. freestyle relay race.

Basketball. Very few matches have been played so far this season. On three occasions during the last visit of *H.M.S. Victorious,* we won comfortably against the Communications Division of the carrier.

Football. One thing about Aden is that you can play football all the year round, until it kills you! The Unit is rich with players and have already won several friendly matches against local teams. We hope to keep the W.D. & H.O. Wills donated, H.Q., Aden, Garrison Football League Cup and perhaps win the Army Cup (Mideast), the Corps (Mideast) and the Cowasjee-Dinshaw Cups.

STORK NEWS. To conclude, may we offer our congratulations to Staff Sergeant and Mrs. Nugent, Corporal and Mrs. Lamb, Corporal and Mrs. Chapman, Corporal and Mrs. Dixon, Corporal and Mrs. Goodman, Lance-Corporal and Mrs. Crouch, Lance-Corporal and Mrs. Hughes, Lance-Corporal and Mrs. Edwardson, all of whom have had additions to the family.



A group at the opening social.

614 TROOP, B.F.P.O. 40

After some six months spare time work building the new clubroom, it was at last considered complete enough to be opened for use. So, at mid-day on 8th November, the official opening was carried out by Brigadier J. E. Anderson, C.B.E., Chief Signal Officer, B.A.O.R. After looking over the work that had been put into the building, the opening "jug" was poured and first drinks imbibed. The opening was also attended by Colonel R. Jones, R.A.O.C., Officer Commanding 3 Base Ammunition Depot, to whom we owe many thanks for the assistance given by his Depot Workshops in making items we ourselves could not undertake. The B.A.D. also presented us with the bar show cabinet.

For those who know the "Park," the clubroom occupies approximately half of shed SP 1. Materials were obtained from many sources, in some cases actually being bought.

Special thanks are due to ex-Corporal Green, who, up to the day of his departure on demob., was busy completing the plastering of the walls, of which he made a first-rate job. The bar, with its professional look, is mainly the work of Karl Rugevics, our handy crane operator. Thanks are also due, and hats raised, to the wives, who gave their husbands "pink slips" for so many evenings over an extended period.

The floor, of parquet finish, explains the disappearance of the racks from S.P. 7, now replaced.

Maximum support was given from all members of the Troop and their friends at the opening social, held on the evening of 8th November, some fifty people attending. Although the usual type of entertainments are carried on as elsewhere, all agree that the club has a more homely atmosphere than local establishments. This in itself makes it a boon to the members of the Troop.

The opening was fully covered photographically by the B.A.D. official photographer, Corporal Firminger, who preserved all aspects of the day's activities with some eighty pictures, of which two are shown. We are indebted to him for such a complete pictorial record.

We take this occasion to congratulate Sergeant and Mrs. Jack Quayle on the birth of their first child, a son, born on 14th November.



Brigadier Anderson signing the visitors' book.

SPORT

Beagling with the All Arms Junior Leaders

By J/Signalman P. J. Foster (Whipper-in)

BEAGLING cuts down and keeps down the number of hares in this country. It may well be asked why do we want to destroy such a fascinating, graceful, and seemingly inoffensive creature as the hare. This seemingly innocent animal is the cause of many a farmer's nightmare, through gnawing the tops off root crops, with preference for the sweeter carrots, mangolds, turnips and particularly sugar beet. For this reason hares must be hunted, but not exterminated.

On 1st October, 1963, a pack of beagles was formed at the All Arms Junior Leaders Regiment, to which I belong.

From the many hunting grounds of England came our pack of seven and-a-half couples. They came from different Regimental packs, which included the Pimpernel Beagles, belonging to Royal Signals.

For the first few weeks following the arrival of the pack, many interested Junior Leaders got stuck into the various necessary tasks, which needed doing around the kennels. After many hours of hard, devoted toil, a considerable improvement was observed. As part of the routine for the hunt staff, which mainly consists of Junior Leaders, Sunday afternoons are usually devoted to cleaning out the kennels and also to conducting visitors, who often visit our kennels.

We held our first open meet on 9th November in the Welsh hills, about thirty miles away from camp. Right from the start the hounds picked up a scent and, for the rest of the afternoon, we followed and chased the hare. Eventually the hounds were collected together and the hunt ended, with a hare a little pleased at not being caught, as the light began to fail fast.

Although the hunt had ended without a kill, the Junior Leaders who came with us learned the ways of nature, and also to respect the farmer and his property.

To sum up, beagling is a worthwhile sport to anyone who is interested. My opinion is that this is a sport which has endless purposes, and I have learned many interesting things since I started.

Rugby

Royal Signals v. Royal Engineers

On the afternoon of 14th November, the annual rugby football battle between Signals and Sappers took place at Catterick. Weather conditions were really appalling, the game being played in a piercing wind, only relieved by drenching rain at about two-minute intervals; the pitch was a quagmire, and it is a miracle that any ball handling took place at all.

This year Signals followed up on the original work-out at Harrogate in September by assembling potential Corps players two days in advance and playing a trial against Army Apprentices School on Wednesday, 13th. Following this trial and the reception of the latest sick and casualty list, the following team took the field:

Second-Lieutenant Easson
Sergeant Radford
Sergeant Dunn
Captain Hancock
Second-Lieutenant Alden
Second-Lieutenant Gravestock
Lance-Corporal Evans
Second-Lieutenant Byrom
Signalman Urquhart
Signalman Brown
Staff Sergeant Thornbury
Sergeant Rogers
Sergeant Block
Captain Taylor
Captain Van Dyck

Sergeant Fox Roberts, Signalman Jones, Signalman Sullivan, Corporal Pepper, Signalman Innes were all either sick or injured and therefore not available.

The game quickly degenerated into a forward battle with only occasional flashes of open play. All players played with grim determination and although the result was finally 9—0 to the Sappers, all players and spectators agreed that the match was very even and a touch of luck in the handling and bouncing of a very slippery ball could, perhaps, have sent the result the other way.

Hockey

Royal Signals 3,	R.E.M.E.	0
Royal Signals 1,	R.E.	1
Royal Signals 4,	R A.	1

Having started the season with victories over R.M.A. Sandhurst by 5—4 and R.A.M.C. 11—2 during October, the Corps played their next three matches at Blandford Camp from 13th-15th November.

The game against R.E.M.E. found both sides having equal difficulties in adjusting their game to a shale ground. Royal Signals failed to take advantage of several short corners until Allen from centre-half took the ball through with a fine individual effort to put us in the lead. Shortly before half-time Royal Signals increased their lead when Last scored following a free hit from just outside the circle. The second half opened with Royal Signals making repeated attacks on the R.E.M.E. goal which were spoilt by constantly being caught offside. Royal Signals increased their lead when Last scored from a short corner following an obstruction in the circle.

Our annual battle with Sappers produced the usual top class hockey with two very sound defences constantly breaking up promising attacks during a goalless first half. R.E. scored first when they took advantage of a defensive error by Royal Signals. Their lead, however, was short lived as Royal Signals equalised with a goal by Last scored from a very acute angle.

As last season's match against R.A. had to be cancelled owing to bad weather we looked forward to renewing our annual encounter and we were soon on the defensive from repeated Gunner attacks. Royal Signals weathered this storm after many near misses by R.A. and Last put us in the lead shortly before half-time.

The second half started with Royal Signals having most of the play in their opponents' half and they went further ahead with goals from Moss and Last. R.A. came back to reduce the deficit with a goal before Royal Signals made sure of victory with a further goal from Last.

These notes would not be complete without thanks for the excellent administrative arrangements made for us by Lieutenant-Colonel A. T. Burrows, M.B.E., E.R.D., and 30th Regiment.

The Corps was represented by:—

Sergeant Webber	Captain J. Cook
Lance-Corporal A. W. Coldwell	Lieutenant S. Gordon
Major S. C. Finch	Sergeant Forster
Major J. Ridge	Captain C. N. Last
Lieutenant A. G. Stutchbury	Lieutenant N. Moss
Second-Lieutenant A. G. Allen	Captain A. B. Byng

Durham University 2, Royal Signals 1

The visit of Royal Signals to the University produced some fast entertaining hockey. The Corps side, however, did not reproduce some of their form displayed in previous matches and did not adapt themselves in style and tactics to the conditions. Lieutenant Moss opened the scoring for the Corps against a hard-fighting Durham side and the University were not able to reply until the second half. They later scored again towards the end and ran out with a win thoroughly deserved.

T.A. and A.E.R.

64th REGIMENT (T.A.)

We had another successful and enjoyable season, despite it being shortened by the bad weather.

Again the Sheffield Area T.T. Football Competition's Colonel Batchelor Shield is ours, and we have been proud to display it every year since its beginning in 1959, apart from 1960-61 season, when there was no contest due to T.A. reorganisation. The Sports Officer, Lieutenant Stuart Cottage, started team building four seasons ago and, with Corporal Ogden, he is the only member of the original team.

In the shield games last season the attack scored 21 goals whilst the defence conceded only one goal. In the final, against H.Q., R.A.O.C., York District (T.A.), Corporal Colley, who finished refereeing this season so as to return as goalkeeper, saved a penalty. Signalman Christopher, left-back returned to the Regiment as a T A. Volunteer last Christmas, having previously been a National Serviceman who completed his T.A. time with the unit. Lance-Corporal Gambles, left-half, played for Combined Services while in Malaya as a National Serviceman. He is captain of the five-a-side team entered in Sheffield and District Summer Competition. Signalman Burton, outside-right, is the newest recruit to the team, but not to football, having played with Sheffield United, Sheffield Wednesday and York City, in the Yorkshire League. Lance-Corporal James, inside-right, was last season's leading goal scorer. Lance-Corporal Wilkinson, centre-forward, is again selected for the Sheffield Works Association representatives team as he plays on Saturdays with Telephone Sports. Signalman Green, another forward, is an ex-Sheffield schoolboy player and Signalman Bee, inside or outside-left, also played a big part in the attack.

47th REGIMENT (T.A.)
MIDDLESEX YEOMANRY
(The Duke of Cambridge's Hussars)

Lafone Day. The Middlesex Yeomanry's annual Remembrance Day parade and memorial service to the fallen of three wars, is commemorated each year on the nearest Sunday to 27th October. Major A. M. Lafone, V.C., with the majority of his men of "B" Squadron, Middlesex Yeomanry, gave their lives in the heroic defence of Point 720, a hill near Karm in Palestine, against repeated attacks from the Turkish Cavalry, on 27th October, 1917. Major Lafone was awarded a posthumous Victoria Cross.

A march through Chelsea, with arms, opened the day's events, when the Regiment exercised, for the first time, the privilege granted to units holding the Honorary Freedom of the Borough. On arrival at the Town Hall, the Regiment was inspected by the Mayor, Councillor Lady Heath, B.Sc., J.P., who subsequently took the salute at the march past.

Inspection by the Master of Signals, Major-General Sir William Scott, K.C.M.G., C.B., C.B.E., and presentation of medals (Territorial Decorations and Territorial Efficiency Medals) followed at the Duke of York's Headquarters.

In the afternoon, The Middlesex Yeomanry (unarmed) and "E" Squadron (the Regimental Old Comrades Association), en route from St. Clements Danes (via Fleet Street and Ludgate Hill) to our Regimental Church, St. Martin's-in-Ludgate, for the annual memorial service, marched past the Master of Signals, who took the salute from a central point in Fleet Street.

The Regiment and "E" Squadron then marched to St. Paul's Cathedral, where a representative party visited the Crypt, to lay wreaths at the Middlesex Yeomanry War Memorial.

Chalice Dedication. At St. Giles Church, Camberwell Green, on 10th November, in front of a large congregation of the Regimental Old Comrades, friends and civic dignatories, the Chaplain General to the Forces, The Venerable I. D. Neill, C.B., O.B.E., M.A., dedicated our Regimental Chalice and Communion Vessels, which had been subscribed for by all ranks of the Regiment, Old Comrades and friends, led by our previous Honorary Colonel, Major-General C. M. F. White, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O.

The service was conducted by our Padre, Captain the Rev. John G. Nichols, Vicar of St. Giles, Camberwell, the accompanying music being played by The Middlesex Yeomanry Band. The Chalice and Vessels were offered by the C.O., Lieutenant-Colonel S. J. Williams, M.B.E., T.D., and the Lessons were read by the Chaplain General and Major T. D. W. Woodgate, T.D.

The Annual Dinner of The Middlesex Yeomanry Officers' Dining Club was held at the Cavalry Club in mid-November, at which we were delighted to see so large a gathering of past and present officers.

The S.S.A.F.A. Christmas Market, held in our T.A. Centre at Chelsea on 13th November, whilst not a Regimental function, was nevertheless one which, through the tireless enthusiasm of Lady Denning and her Committee, we became happily involved with, preparing notices, furniture, etc., and placing our Officers' Mess at the disposal of the Committee for the reception of distinguished visitors, who included H.R.H. Princess Alice of Athlone and the Chief of the Imperial General Staff; we were therefore delighted to hear that by this one-day event, S.S.A.F.A. benefited by over £4,000.



Left to Right : W.O.II A. H. Evans, Field Marshal, The Earl Alexander of Tunis, W.O.II (S.S.M.) H. Wylie, 47 Sig Regt (Mx Yeo) T.A., W.O.II (S.S.M.) J. R. H. Judd, 305 Sig Sqn (Para Bde) (Mx Yeo), T.A.

"E" Squadron, our new designation for The Middlesex Yeomanry Old Comrades Association has been particularly active over the past month, with the holding of their 36th annual dinner.

Personal Column. *Honours.*—Congratulations to W.O.II H. Wylie ("C" Squadron) and W.O.II J. H. R. Judd (305 Squadron, our associated Parachute Unit) on their being awarded Meritorious Service Certificates, which are sponsored by London T.A. Headquarters for long and distinguished service in London Regiments. The presentation was made by Field Marshal Earl Alexander of Tunis, at London T.A. Headquarters in November.

T.A. Shots.—Congratulations to Major (T.O.T.) P. M. Pearson, T.D., and Captain C. E. Slater, on being selected for the Territorial Army Shooting Team in the 1963 Inter-Services Small Bore Match for the Sutton Cannon Trophy.

49th (YORKSHIRE) REGIMENT, T.A.

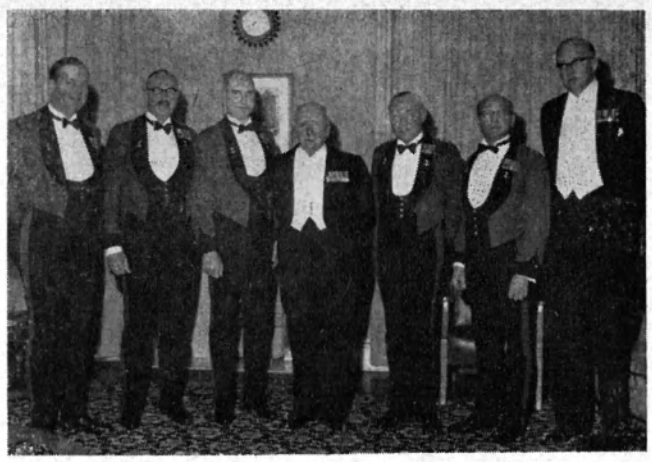
On 28th September, 1963, an event was celebrated at Gibraltar Barracks, Leeds, which must be unique in the history of the Corps and one which will not often be repeated. A dinner was held in honour of Colonel Walter Boyle, O.B.E., T.D., who was commissioned into the 2nd West Riding Volunteer Engineers on 26th September, 1903.

In 1904 a Telegraph Section was formed in the Unit and Lieutenant Boyle was one of the original officers forming this section—surely making him one of the oldest members of the Corps. During the 1914-18 War, as a Major, he raised 11th Corps Signals before being posted to M.E.F., where he founded and commanded the Base Signal Depot until demobilisation in 1919. Mentioned in Despatches in 1917 and 1918, he was awarded the Order of the British Empire in 1918, and in the same year the Territorial Decoration.

Rejoining the T.A. after the war, Major Boyle took over command of the Regiment in 1925, which had by that time become known as 49th (WR) Divisional Signals, and was promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel. Retiring from command in 1929, he was made a Brevet-Colonel and in 1933 became Honorary Colonel of the Regiment he had served so well and so long.

Although almost 56 years of age when the Second World War started, in 1939, Colonel Boyle was not too old to renew his service, and raised a Home Guard Battalion in Leeds. This, apparently, was not sufficient, however, and he later volunteered as O.C. Troops of a Troopship, travelling over 300,000 miles during the most dangerous years of the war, through the most dangerous seas in the world. A truly wonderful man who has brought nothing but honour and credit to the Corps.

Our photograph shows Colonel Boyle with the present Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel A. M. Booker, T.D., the Honorary Colonel, Lieutenant-Colonel W. Hey, T.D., Colonel N. R. Bigland, T.D., Lieutenant-Colonels A. D. McLaren, M.B.E., T.D., J. A. H. Bray, T.D., and L. J. D. Davies, T.D., all of whom have commanded the Regiment. Not in the picture—because of illness—but in attendance at the dinner for a short time, was Colonel W. F. Jackson, O.B.E., M.C., T.D., who was also a previous C.O. This is probably the first occasion that eight Commanding Officers of the Regiment have been together—which in itself made it a most unique occasion.



Colonel W. Boyle, O.B.E., T.D., Lieutenant Colonel A. M. Brooker, T.D., (Commanding Officer), Colonel W. Hey, T.D. (Honorary Colonel), Colonel N. R. Bigland, T.D., Lieutenant Colonel L. J. D. Davies, T.D., Lieutenant Colonel J. A. H. Bray, T.D., Colonel A. D. McLaren, M.B.E., T.D.

46th (N.M.) REGIMENT (T.A.)

Saint Luke's little summer did indeed live up to its good name when, on 19th/20th October, No. 2 Squadron carried out an exercise in the Kinder Scout area of the Peak District. The purpose of the exercise was threefold: to establish long-range B.70 communications; to provide adventure-training for the Squadron, including the W.R.A.C. element; and to improve the compass-work of the Squadron.

On the Saturday afternoon, the Squadron moved out to the beautiful village of Edale. Within a short time radio/relay and line communications had been established between two signal centres staffed by the W.R.A.C. At the conclusion of this preliminary exercise, preparations were made for the major exercise.

Kinder Scout is a desolate plateau of a watershed, ridden with peat bogs and gullies, and is more than 2,000ft. above sea level. It is a treacherous piece of country, full of hazards for the unwary. More often than not it is covered in mist, and anyone who climbs the Scout without a compass is asking for—and usually finds—trouble. From this high feature, it was intended to establish B.70 communication to a point 57 miles away in Lincolnshire.

The exercise commander, Captain P. Revill, organised a "mule-team" of the heftiest and strongest to transport the B.70 equipment up the mountains and rock-strewn gully of Grindsbrook to the top of Kinder Scout, early on the Sunday morning. Hard work it was, but good it was to prove it could be done.

A final selection of site was quickly made and the B.70 equipment assembled. With precise punctuality, at 11.30 hours, communication was established with Sergeant Tidd, 57 miles away, as the crow flies.

Whilst the Directing Staff, Major T. S. Wragg and Major L. W. Wright, carried out tests, the "mule-team" and W.R.A.C. element were divided into teams under Captain Revill, Captain Rothwell, Staff Sergeant Hetherington and Sergeant Langford, and despatched on compass bearings to make observations from various points on this desolate plateau. They were fortunate in having clear skies and sunshine, in contrast to the usual mist and rain. Their exertions were rewarded with views of the wonderful scenery in the valleys below.

The W.R.A.C. maintained an 88 Set link with the Squadron box in Edale, where Sergeant Cook, of the W.R.A.C., was preparing a hot meal for the various teams.

No. 1 Squadron, under Major C. Didcott, carried out a successful H.F. radio exercise the same week-end. Several members of the Squadron spent the Saturday night bivouacked some 2,000ft. up Kinder Scout. It is rumoured that Mussorgsky's "Night on the Bare Mountain" is now their favourite piece of music.



The "Mule Train" overcoming an obstacle meets two mountaineers

The Regiment is very sorry to lose the services of W.O.II D. Willmett, who finishes his military service at the end of the year. For the past four years W.O.II Willmett has been P.S.I. of No. 2 Squadron at Chesterfield. The Regiment is very grateful to W.O.II Willmett for his very good work. Early this year he and his family are emigrating to Australia, and we extend every best wish for the future.

R.S.M. D. F. H. Crosby



R.S.M. D. F. H. Crosby

On the evening of 16th November, the Officers, Warrant Officers and Sergeants of 46 (N.M.) Regiment (T.A.) dined together to honour R.S.M. D. F. H. Crosby, who is due to retire this month on completion of twenty-seven years' service.

R.S.M. Crosby started his military career when he enlisted as a Territorial soldier in 46 (N.M.) Regiment (T.A.) on 14th June, 1936. In January, 1937, he enlisted into the Regular Army and was trained as an Operator, Signals, in the Training Battalion at Catterick Camp.

In March, 1938, he was posted to 4th Divisional Signals, and later he sailed to join "A" Corps Signals, Rawalpindi. After service on the North-West Frontier, much of it spent with a pack section, he was posted to the Signal Training Centre (British) at Mhow, where he was appointed Lance-Corporal.

In July, 1941, he joined 31 Indian Armoured Divisional Signals at Sialkot and later near Karachi.

Sailing from India with "PAI" Force, in May, 1942, he began an extended tour of Persia, Iran, Trans-Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and Egypt, which ended in 1944, when he returned to U.K. He was now a sergeant.

Between the winter of 1944 and September, 1946, he served in England.

At this time, the Norwegian Army had decided that their Sappers and Signals should become separate Corps, and in October, 1946, W.O. II Crosby was posted to the Military Mission in Oslo, charged with the task of assisting the Norwegian authorities in the establishment of a Signal Training Centre.

On returning to U.K. as a W.O.II, in 1949, he served in various Signal Regiments (T.A.) until 1954, when he was posted as R.S.M. of 7th Regiment in B.A.O.R. There followed a tour as R.S.M. of Hong Kong Signal Regiment, and in October, 1959, he returned to U.K. to take up the appointment of R.S.M., 46th (N.M.) Regiment (T.A.).

We, in the Regiment, are proud to have served with the Senior W.O.I of the Corps. We are doubly proud of the fact that our R.S.M. began his military career in our Regiment twenty-seven years ago. We wish him to know how much we appreciate the work he has done for the Regiment. In the words of our Honorary Colonel, Colonel G. J. Underwood, C.B.E., T.D., D.L., R.S.M. Crosby is "a damned good soldier. What more can be said of any man!"

14th (H.C.) REGIMENT (CINQUE PORTS) T.A.

With first-class training facilities and the bright lights of Scarborough close at hand, the Regiment worked hard and played hard during their annual camp at Burniston Barracks, Scarborough, from 31st August to 14th September, 1963.

This was the first time since the Regiment's amalgamation from many different Units that the Troops had been able to train as such instead of the accent being on individual training.

One of the highlights of the first week was the visit of the secretary of the Kent Territorial Association, Brigadier H. King-Lewis, who was impressed by the standard.

A great success during the first week was the all ranks' dance.

A regimental parade was held at which the salute was taken by the Honorary Colonel, Sir Henry d'Avigdor Goldsmid. Present was Colonel A. V. Brandle, a former C.R. Signals, who was in command of the Regiment during the amalgamation period.

During the parade, medals and certifications were awarded to: W.O.II C. Hughes, B.E.M., a permanent staff instructor, who received the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal; Major N. Bamford, who received the Territorial Decoration; Staff Sergeant R. D. Bird, W.R.A.C./T.A.; Sergeant Petts, Royal Signals (T.A.); Corporal Bawden, R.A.P.C./T.A., who received the Efficiency Medal (T.A.); W.O.II Glover, W.R.A.C./T.A; Sergeant Cruttenden, Royal Signals (T.A.), who received the Efficiency Medal (T.A.) 1st Clasp; Staff Sergeant Y. Nicol, W.R.A.C./T.A., Corporal Stevens, W.R.A.C./T.A., Sergeant Ford, W.R.A C./T.A., Staff Sergeant Wares, who received the Meritorious Service Certificate.

The majority of the second week was spent on exercise with two Squadrons operating in the field providing communications for the Division, which was supposedly in action throughout Yorkshire.

For the first time W.R.A.C. members of the Regiment went into action alongside the men, operating and living for three days and nights in the field under active service conditions. Despite a downpour at the beginning of the exercise, their spirit was such that they operated successfully the whole time.

Many girls were heard to express doubts about living in bivouacs before the exercise started, but at the end they were tired, happy and very proud to have taken part in the training.



Corporal Dicker, W.R.A.C., Corporal Stevens, W.R.A.C., Signalman Port, Corporal Peskitt, Private Place, W.R.A.C.

(Another picture over page)

'BON' IMPRESSIONS

44 (HC) Signal Regt (Cinque Ports) TA

1963



Association Notes

OBITUARY

H. Rnshton, recently, in Kenya, ex-Corporal 2324235. Was Honorary Secretary, East Africa Branch, R.S.A. Life Member of the Association. No other details known at present. He did much for the very flourishing Branch in Nairobi.

BIRMINGHAM BRANCH

A Break with Tradition. This year, for the first time, the Birmingham Branch Old Comrades, at the invitation of the Commanding Officer, joined the Remembrance Sunday Church Parade of the 48th (S.M.) Regiment, T.A. We were honoured by being placed at the head of the parade, led by Major R. H. Ironmonger and our Standard, carried by Mr. W. F. Richards. The salute was taken by Colonel F. E. B. Jones, Honorary Colonel of the Regiment and a Past-President of our Branch. As you may recall, it was a very wet, cold day, and we were, therefore, more than grateful for the excellent refreshments awaiting us on our return to a welcoming Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess.

We in Birmingham have had a close association for many years with the 48th Regiment. A great number of our members served with this Unit before the war. We are privileged to hold our monthly meetings in the Sergeants' Mess, and so much do we appreciate our good fortune that we have just completed 18 months of "dry" meetings whilst licensing arrangements were negotiated and discussed.

In spite of its very sad and serious implications, this year Remembrance Sunday was also to us a happy one. Bonds of friendship were strengthened with serving officers and soldiers of the Regiment and old friendships renewed for us as a direct result of this "getting together," at least four old comrades re-discovered the existence of the Birmingham Branch and have rejoined its ranks.

So successful was this venture, that we can only hope to be invited again next Remembrance Sunday. J.H.

24th Divisional Signals (1914-1919)
Reunion, Saturday, 12th October, 1963

Nearly a hundred ex-members of the 24th Division and relatives assembled at the Divisional Memorial in Battersea Park, London, in fine sumy weather.

Signals personnel present were:—T. H. Croft, A. C. Gill (and wife), L. E. Hiles, F. Mackie, S. T. Peet, A. G. Raby, W. J. Smyth, D. W. Ward, A. E. Winton (and son), and W. J. Wood. Also present were Mrs. Lloyd Howard, Mrs. Singleton (widow of H. Singleton) and her niece, and Mrs. Previte.

Major-General R. F. B. Naylor presided at the ceremony and mentioned in his address that 1964 would be the 50th year since the Division was formed. A short service was conducted by Canon Dodd. After wreaths had been laid around the Memorial—which is still kept in excellent order—the usual silence was observed in memory of dead comrades, Last Post and Reveille were sounded by trumpeters of the Royal Tank Corps.

After dinner at the Chevrons Club, General Naylor (in the Chair) gave the toast of H.M. the Queen, which was followed by a toast to Absent Friends. The Chairman then read a telegram from H.M. the Queen in reply to a message of loyal greetings sent to her earlier in the day.

The next reunion has been fixed for Saturday, 10th October, 1964: 3 p.m., Battersea Park; 4 p.m., Chevrons Club.

A. W. Rathbone, Hon. Secretary, The Ridge, Penlee, Budleigh Salterton, Devon. (Telephone 620).

Major-General R. F. B. Naylor, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., served Royal Signals for 38 years and in retirement is a noted grower of roses.

Have you placed a standing order for a copy of "The Wire"?

Why not do so now?

Welfare Section

Below, an attempt is made to describe, with suitable anonymity, four cases taken from the Welfare Section files concluded during the first week in November, 1963. Also, on the same page, is a simple statement of income and expenditure.

CORPORAL, 1942-47. Military Medal. He was suddenly struck down by severe illness, and is now paralysed and helpless. His wife looks after him and six young children, and keeps the home going. The Association made a substantial grant to clear High Purchase commitments, and clothing parcels have also been sent.

SIGNALMAN, 1945-47. As the result of an accident, he is now confined to a wheel chair. The local Council has re-housed the family in a suitable bungalow, and The Associatoin helped with removal expenses and the wife's fares to visit him in hospital.

DRIVER, 1952-53. Since 1957, he has suffered from a progressive disease. The Association, in co-operation with the British Legion, made a grant to help him and his wife with clothing and bedding.

SIGNALMAN, 1941-46. Previously served in Royal Welch Fusiliers 1917-26. He is disabled and a widower, living with an invalid son. A grant has been made to pay off arrears on his Insurance Policies.

Royal Signals Association and Benevolent Fund

The following subscriptions were most gratefully received during November, 1963:—

	£	s.	d.
11th Regiment	30	4	11
2 Squadron, 41st Regiment T.A.	2	3	8
3 Squadron, 54th Regiment T.A.	6	0	0
59th Regiment T.A.	1	1	0
242 Squadron	4	0	0
52nd Regiment T.A.	5	3	0
4th Regiment (Herford Wives' Club)	35	0	0
16th Regiment	14	0	0
21st Regmient	15	0	0
22nd Regiment	100	0	0
200 Squadron	20	0	0
235 Squadron (COMCAN)	2	11	8
255 Squadron	10	10	0
9th Regiment	37	16	0
H.Q. Allied Forces Northern Europe	1	10	0
H. R. Strawn	1	0	0
Mrs. S. Trow	1	5	0
G. B. Hollings	1	11	4
Mrs. R. E. Barker	4	11	6
F. C. Wilson	4	2	0
Various donations	1	8	8
Receipts	£298	18	9
Expenditure during November, 1963	£326	13	8

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

Analysis of Cases:—

Families of Soldiers serving in B.A.O.R.	1
Released and Discharged Soldiers	27
Widows and Dependants	1
Total cases assisted	29

16 Cases of Soldiers who served during the 1939/45 War	£248	6	7
13 Cases of Soldiers who did not serve during the War	£78	7	1

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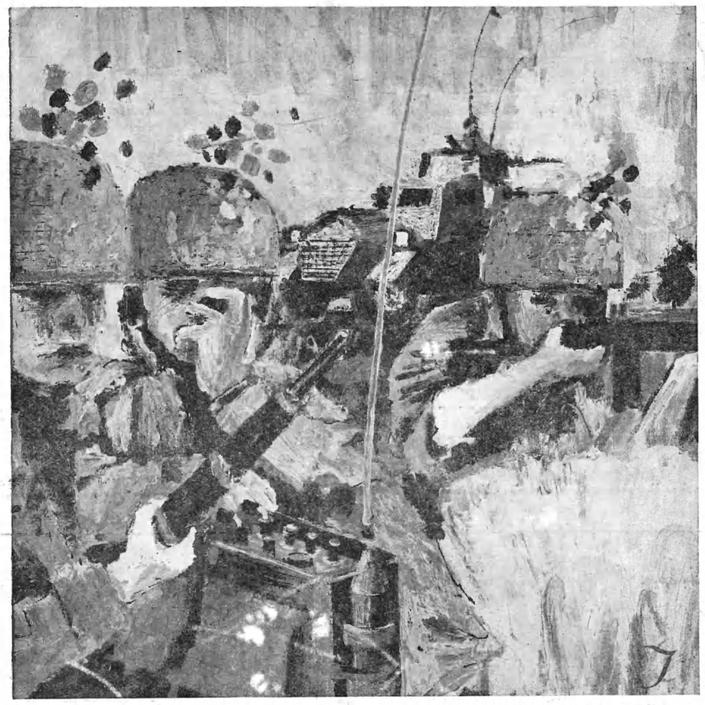


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February 1964

The WIRE

The Royal Signals Magazine



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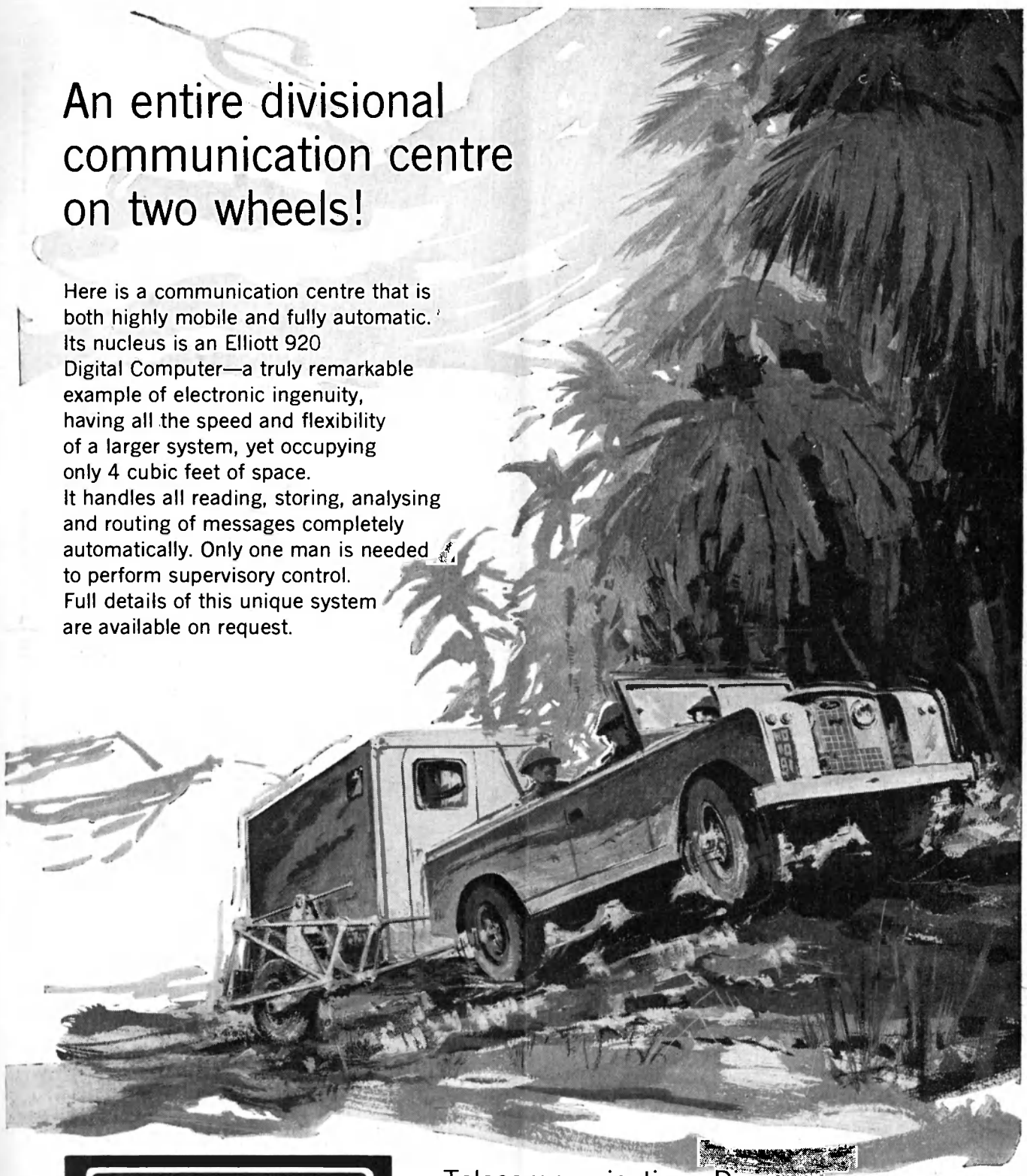
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FEBRUARY • 1964

Vol. 18 *(New Series)* **No. 2**

Editorial

By the time this is read, Christmas, 1963, will be very much in the past. It seems almost indelicate to refer back to it now but, with your indulgence, your Editor would like to make brief reference to it. Why?

Because Christmas, 1963, was a record year for the number of welfare gifts received from the Corps both serving and retired.

From these gifts very many parcels were made up and sent out, bringing a little extra Christmas cheer to some of the less fortunate members of our large Corps family.

Our grateful thanks then to all those who supported us so nobly this Christmas. A detailed list of donors is given at page 75. A number of parcels also arrived without visible means of identification—probably deliberately. We are equally grateful to these unknown but generous friends.

The gifts you sent were unpacked, sorted and made up into suitable parcels by those two very hard working ladies of our Welfare staff—Miss Hyde-Parker (fifteen years with the Association) and Miss Margaret Cook (eleven years). We hope in due course to present them with their L.S. and G.C. medals for, although not on O.I.C. Records strength returns, it would be hard to find two more loyal members of the Corps.



So that you may know better who they are, above is a photograph showing them in action. The photograph was taken without warning and what has been written above is without their knowledge. They would deprecate publicity.

Signals in the Cyprus Disturbances

Off the record, but reliable information, received by the Editor indicates that the Corps has been doing a fine job in the Cyprus disturbances. A feature has been the excellent work between communicators in the R.A.F. and the Corps. We hope to publish more of this in the March "Wire."

A challenge to Young Officers of the Corps!

AN imaginative presentation to the Corps by Major-General A. M. W. Whistler, C.B., C.B.E., (late Signal Officer-in-Chief), known as the "Subaltern's Tankard," will be competed for annually, and will call for the qualities that are the hall-mark of leadership—what a young officer can GIVE to his Corps and to the men under his command.

A very handsome silver tankard was presented this year to the Corps by Major-General A. M. W. Whistler, C.B., C.B.E. This tankard (as shown in the photograph) is to be awarded to the subaltern officer who has done the most for his Regiment, Squadron or Troop; in particular for what he has done for his men and his contribution to the Corps as a whole.

The following letter was received from General Whistler by the S.O.-in-C. when the tankard was presented.

My dear S.O.-in-C.,

When you took over from me as Signal Officer-in-Chief, I suggested that I might present a "Subaltern's Trophy," and you were kind enough to encourage me.

I would be grateful if you would now accept this Georgian silver tankard, and be good enough to arrange for it to be competed for annually throughout Royal Signals, and be presented to the most outstanding Subaltern of each year. By this I mean the Royal Signals Subaltern who has done the most for his Regiment, Squadron or Troop during the year or, of course, for any equivalent establishment to which he may belong.

Perhaps his name and the year could be put on the plinth, and it could sit in front of him on his own Mess table on Guest Nights. It could be charged with the wine of his fancy, but at no expense to himself, once a month at Guest Nights. When the time came for him to hand over, I hope his successor would be invited to a suitable Guest Night at which to claim possession, thence to return with his trophy to his own Mess. (This should not be beyond the wit of Royal Signals to arrange in these days of constant air travel). No doubt the winner's health would be suitably toasted by use of the tankard on such occasions.

If you approve this general idea, perhaps I could charge you, and your successors, with making a final adjudication of the annual winner from citations submitted from all your Chief Signal Officers and independent commanders. When making their citations, I hope they would pay particular attention to what the subaltern has done for his men, to his enterprise, and to his contribution to our Royal Corps.

Yours sincerely,
MICHAEL WHISTLER.

At the Signal Officer-in-Chief's annual conference, General Swainson, in accepting this generous gift on behalf of the Corps, thanked General Whistler and said that this was most welcome in stimulating a healthy competitive effort amongst the junior officers in the field of leadership and man-management. He undertook to draw up the necessary rules for the competition and the method by which the annual winner would be judged.

These rules, now agreed by General Whistler, are briefly as follows (they are being circulated in full throughout all commands at home and abroad):

All regular, short service and extended service subalterns, combatant or quartermaster, including temporary Captains on the active list, are eligible.

In judging the winner, most emphasis will be placed on his achievement and quality at his work, although adventure and sport will be taken into account.

The trophy will be awarded by the Signal Officer-in-Chief each year on the basis of reports from Chief Signal Officers. The winner will be given every opportunity, commensurate with the exigencies of the service, to go to the place where the trophy is, in order to claim it. The claimant will be suitably dined and wined by the previous holder.

A suitably bound book will be kept in the Royal Signals Headquarters Mess in which each winner's name and the citation on which he was awarded it will be inscribed in full.

The competition will start straight away and the date by which first citations will be required will be included in the full rules to be issued.



The Subaltern's Tankard presented by Major General A. M. W. Whistler, C.B., C.B.E.

Letters to the Editor

In your January Editorial you mention the Signalman who for some time was the sole representative of the Corps and the Army in Car Nicobar. Are you not confusing this 'heroic' figure with 'Our Man in Gan?'

For some years a Signalman of 19th Regiment commanded the Army of which he was the sole representative on Gan Island. Or am I wrong?

H.R.F.

[Letters from past incumbents of these two appointments are invited.—Ed.]

It Puts the Record Straight —

Corps *Did* Previously Beat the R.A. at Hockey

To the Editor, THE WIRE

With reference to page 474 of the December, 1963, issue of THE WIRE—Hockey—Royal Signals v. Royal Artillery. (*In the report of this game it was stated that from records this is our first victory over the R.A.—Ed.*)

For the record, Royal Signals beat the Gunners at Woolwich in the season 1946/47 by one goal to nil—and the following season the match ended in a 1—1 draw. In those seasons the Corps had a comprehensive fixture list which, in addition to most, if not all, of the Corps, played Durham, Manchester and Edinburgh Universities, and provided ten of the eleven players of the Catterick district side.

The team in 1946/47 season was comprised of the following, surely one of the finest teams ever to represent the Corps:—

Captain Reg ("Kipper") Kitson (3 T.R.); Lieutenant Ian Parkinson (4 T.R.), Sergeant Moody (5 T.R.); S.Q.M.S. Langley (1 T.R.), Lance-Corporal "Lofty" Gibbons (7 T.R.), Captain Norman Gordon (S.-of-S.); Captain Bob Edwards (3 T.R.), Captain "Jock" Cant (4 T.R.), Captain Gordon Smith (2 T.R.), Major Ken Evans (4 T.R.), Captain Laurie Line (War Office Signals).

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This is the first of two informative and authoritative articles, specially written for "The Wire," which deal with YOUR CAREER on the Supervisory Rosters.

Some Remarks about The Supervisory Rosters of the Corps

THIS is the first half of an article about the Supervisory Rosters of the Corps and follows logically on the articles about careers on the four trade rosters published during the autumn of 1963.

Certain qualifications are common for aspirants wishing to advance to any of the Supervisory Rosters, namely:

1. They must hold a current class I trade rating.
2. They must be educationally qualified (and in the period 1965-67 this means ACE 1—Corps Memo No. 11 (1963) Annex A refers as to dates on which this qualification becomes mandatory).
3. They must be medically qualified in accordance with Corps Memo No. 11 (1963) Annex B (though sometimes a medical waiver under the provisions of para 16 of that Memorandum may be granted).
4. They must be recommended for promotion, and the stronger the recommendations, the better, especially where selection depends on seniority tempered by merit or where there are more candidates than there are vacancies on a training course, but on this more anon.

For the other professional qualifications required for entry to each Supervisory Roster see either Corps Memoranda No. 11 (for Regimental Duty and Chief Clerks Rosters), No. 12 (for F. of S.) or No. 20 (for Y. of S.) and some details of which have appeared in previous articles.

As will be well known to many readers there are at this time six such Supervisory Rosters and their titles and purpose are summarised below:—

The Regimental Duty Roster

This roster provides the Corps with its R.S.M.s, R.Q.M.S.s, S.S.M.s, S.Q.M.S.s and Troop Staff Sergeants. All appointments filled by Warrant Officers and N.C.O.s on this roster should normally be of an exclusively non-trade nature, and any trade held should not be a factor to be taken into consideration when the posting of a soldier on this roster is ordered.

However, due to the shortage of Yeoman of Signals at this time and for some years to come, there are certain units, for instance Territorial Army units, keen to receive W.O.IIs, with an operating background, so that they can assist in trade training.

The Foreman of Signals Roster

Appointment as Foreman of Signals, the master technician of the Corps, and promotion to the rank of Staff Sergeant on this roster is governed by the provisions of Corps Memorandum No. 12 which also contains details of the qualifying examination, and method of selection of candidates.

The Yeoman of Signals Roster

Appointment as Yeoman of Signals, the master operator of the Corps, and promotion to the rank of Staff Sergeant on this roster is governed by Corps Memorandum No. 20, which contains details of the qualifying examination and method of selection of candidates.

The Chief Clerks Roster

Appointments on this roster provide the Corps with its top clerical Warrant Officers and Staff Sergeants and promotion to the rank of Staff Sergeant thereon is from amongst Sergeants on the Administrative Roster. Those whose primary trade is Staff Operator BI will automatically be considered by seniority if qualified. After 30th September, 1963, those Sergeants whose primary trade is Clerk Technical Royal Signals BI will be considered, by seniority, and if qualified with an additional trade as a Staff Operator and provided they have elected to advance to this Roster in accordance with Corps Memo No. 11 para 80.

The Senior Technical Roster
The Signal Centre Supervisors Roster

Entry to these rosters has now ceased and promotion on them will stop within the next three years. Corps Memo No. 11 (1963) paras 51-54 and 61-64 refer in detail to the position of N.C.O.s and Warrant Officers already on these two rosters and set out the actual dates on which further promotion stops and the alternatives open to such soldiers.

It should however be clearly stated that whilst the Foreman and Yeoman rosters are building up to the total strengths required, soldiers on the Senior Technical and Supervisors rosters are filling appointments specified for the former and thus serving the Corps in a very useful way: obviously there are likely to be advantages if the latter can convert to become either F. of S. or Y. of S., as appropriate; and indeed many have or are trying to do so.

The method of entry to the four Supervisory Rosters, which are open to aspirants, falls generally into two distinct categories and normally those N.C.O.s on three out of the four trade rosters (those on the Field Roster being automatically considered for the Regimental Duty Roster only) have a free choice which they can, and indeed must, make in order to gain promotion above the rank of Sergeant.

The first category covers those N.C.O.s, usually of the rank of Sergeant or senior Corporal and **irrespective of seniority** on the Technical and Operating Rosters who want to become respectively F. of S. or Y. of S. Such N.C.O.s must be recommended by their Commanding Officer as showing the necessary potential and must then qualify themselves to sit a qualifying examination, a pass at which allows their name to appear before a special Selection Board, which selects candidates for training as F. of S. or Y. of S. and which are each held at Records twice a year; once a soldier has passed the F. or S. or Y. of S. qualifying examination, the "pass" normally remains valid for two years from the date of qualification. Thus a candidate who is recommended but not selected first time can be considered on two or three further occasions without again sitting the qualifying examination: however if his original pass was a marginal one, he may consider it advisable to sit again in order to improve his results in competition with other candidates.

The second category covers all other Sergeants (but NOT senior Corporals) who have NOT elected to advance to either the F. of S. or Y. of S., but who are automatically considered for either the Regimental Duty or Chief Clerks Rosters (or in the case of Sergeants on the Administrative Roster elect to advance on one or other of these Rosters).

Before N.C.O.s in this category can appear before a Selection Board for consideration of promotion to the rank of Staff

(*Continued over page*)

Sergeant not only must they be qualified and recommended but also **they must have sufficient seniority** as **Sergeants and in relation to other Sergeants on other trade rosters** to warrant placing their names before the Selection Board. Furthermore they must thereafter be judged to have sufficient merit, in competition with other candidates in the field of selection, before they warrant selection for promotion.

To try to illustrate the different effect these two categories in the method of entry can have, let us consider two N.C.O.s, both promoted to the rank of Sergeant on, say, the operating roster, on 1st January, 1964. Let us call them Sergeants Able and Baker.

Sergeant Able made up his mind, whilst still a Corporal, that he wanted one day to be a Yeoman of Signals, and to this end, he obtained in addition to a class I rating in his primary operating trade (say R op. BI) an additional class III operating rating (say Comcen BIII). During January, 1964, Sergeant Able saw his Squadron Commander to enquire if the C.O. would recommend him to sit the next Y. of S. qualifying examination (held twice annually in about June and December). Having established that he is so recommended he applies in writing to his C.O. to sit the 6th/7th July, 1964, qualifying examination, and not later than six weeks before that date, he would then be registered by Records as a candidate for that examination. Having prepared himself carefully, we will assume he passes that examination and in August, 1964, his name appears before the Special Selection Board who will be in fact selecting candidates to fill a total of forty vacancies available on Y. of S. Courses Nos. 7A and 8, due to take place from 1st March, 1965—20th October, 1965, and 24th May, 1965—11th December, 1965, respectively. With good reports about his past performance and future potential from the Commanding Officers under whom he is serving and has served, the Selection Board could select him to attend No. 7A Y. of S. Course. Thus excluding attendance at the preliminary Cipher Courses and/or Staff Sergeant Course where these are required, eight months after sitting the qualifying examination he could find himself undergoing an intensive six months course in the School of Signals to fit him for the appointment of Yeoman of Signals in the rank of Staff Sergeant. Again with hard work if he succeeds in passing out on 21st October, 1965, he would leave the School as a Staff Sergeant (Y. of S. S.Q.M.S.).

Sergeant Baker's interest on the other hand, did not lie in becoming a Yeoman. He had set his sights on advancing on the Regimental Duty Roster for he felt that the general military side of the Army life, rather than the operating side, held for him the most interest and suited his particular attributes.

Seniority tempered by merit therefore will determine the date of his advancement to the R.D. Roster. He could therefore foresee that it would inevitably be some years, probably from 5-7 years, before he could expect to be considered by a Selection Board; unless of course he could, by the excellence of his performance, gain recommendations for accelerated promotion, covering a total period of 24 months, and thereby obtain the earlier consideration of such a Board.

During this period as a Sergeant not only must he gain the best possible reports in the performance of his duties, but he must also pass certain courses such as the Royal Signals Staff Sergeants' Courses, Parts I and II (and shortly to be amalgamated into one course) and either a Guards Drill or Platoon Weapons Course (or equivalent Jungle Warfare course in FARELF).

In due time then, we will assume that he fulfills these requirements and being medically fit and recommended, his name appears in late 1969 before the Selection Board for promotion to Staff Sergeant and appointment to the R.D. Roster, in competition with some fourteen other Sergeants from his own and other trades roster.

Providing he is judged to have acquired the necessary merit, the Board would place him sufficiently high in their order of merit to be selected and would advise O.I.C. Records that he should be promoted. As soon as a vacancy in the substantive rank quota of Staff Sergeants (R.D.) occurred, a promotion order would be sent to the unit in which he is then serving to be promulgated on the decision of the Commanding Officer, so that he, in turn, could become a Staff Sergeant (S.Q.M.S.) on, say, 1st January, 1970.

Thus, in this hypothetical comparison, Sergeant Able became a Staff Sergeant (Y. of S. S.Q.M.S.) on 21st October, 1965, and Sergeant Baker a Staff Sergeant (S.Q.M.S.) on 1st January, 1970. The former by seizing the initiative succeeded in gaining his promotion some four years ahead of Sergeant Baker. Both had to face the gaining of various qualifications, involving them in hard work and you may feel Sergeant Able preferred to jump his fences earlier and in a more concentrated pattern than Sergeant Baker who qualified himself over several years.

The same sort of comparison can of course be made for two N.C.O.s serving on the Technical Roster as between advancing to the F. of S. Roster or R.D. Roster though the F. of S. qualifying course lasts fifteen months. F. of S. qualifying examinations normally take place twice yearly (in March and September) followed by Selection Boards.

Once the strength of the F. of S. and Y. of S. rosters has, through the running of additional courses, been made to approximate the requirements of the Corps (and this cannot be expected for several years yet), then in all probability there may only be the opportunity for between 20-30 Sergeants a year to be trained as Foremen, and the same number to be trained as Yeoman, again in each year. Thus, in the long term, there may well be greater competition for such vacancies from Sergeants on the Technical and Operating Rosters respectively than in the next four or five years.

You may be thinking that there are NOT many Sergeant Able's about—and that you yourself are not of that calibre! To you I would say two things. First, until you have a "go" at it yourself, how can you know how you rate as a candidate? Of those in our experience who make a really genuine effort, many succeed and certainly a faint heart never won a fair lady! Second, even if you who are on the Technical or Operating Rosters do not act as quickly as Sergeant Able in forwarding your candidature, you will still stand to gain over the Sergeant Baker's if within a year or two of becoming a Sergeant you have developed your aim to become such a specialist.

You should note, however, the timelag inevitable between sitting the qualifying examination and attendance at the appropriate qualifying courses. For candidates for F. of S. this timelag will usually be of the order of twelve months and for Y. of S. of the order of nine months: thus if you delay, you may find that you have lost valuable time unnecessarily.

One other word to those who want to become Foreman of Signals. The acquisition of third year City and Guilds exempts you from having to sit the F. of S. Qualifying examination: but if you decided to qualify this way you must either do it speedily or before you become a senior Corporal. If as a senior Corporal you allow the acquisition to drag on over several years, you could put yourself at a disadvantage in relation to the N.C.O. who sits the F. of S. qualifying examination and passes first time. Indeed third year City and Guilds is a good qualification to have but my advice to those Sergeants and senior Corporals who are studying to obtain it, is to sit the qualifying examination as well, at the first opportunity.

One factor is inescapable, to advance your career above the rank of Sergeant, you have to make the effort yourself. Advancement is not a ripe plum which will fall into your mouth by relaxing under a plum tree and making no greater effort than opening your mouth. For those who are about to carry the added responsibilities inherent in supervision/direction and in leading soldiers, your employers have a right to demand increased evidence of proficiency and ability and there is the healthy and ever present element of competition for the available vacancies.

The Corps will continue to do its best to ensure that a reasonable opportunity for the advancement of tradesmen will exist: from time to time it is inevitable that the percentage of opportunities will vary for a host of different reasons: for example where the worldwide requirements of the Corps for a particular rank on a particular roster decrease, this must inevitably cause some loss of opportunity to those who are approaching that particular promotion hurdle, but experience shows this usually to be temporary. Recruiting is another factor. If in a particular period, the Corps under-recruits that particular "vintage" will eventually reach an age and service where they have a comparatively better chance of promotion to the available vacancies than for those in period where there has been full recruitment.

At this point of history in the Corps we are short of Foremen and very, very short of Yeomen and at the same time we are short of qualified substantive sergeants on the Technical and Operating Rosters so that not only are there better opportunities for sergeants, but also for really up and coming corporals, to accelerate their careers in the next few years to Yeoman of Signals and Foremen of Signals.

(To be Continued)

THE WELFARE SECTION ALWAYS REQUIRES MEN'S CLOTHING URGENTLY

The WIRE VISITS B.A.O.R.



International Relations in Berlin

Fine Scenery—but do learn some German!

Perhaps it is not surprising that, in a country so large as Germany there are many contrasts. In the north there is the Hannoverian Plain and the Luneberg Heath; to the west, in the country bordering Holland, it is again very flat; but to the south, in Bavaria, and in the country bordering the Rhine, there are the lovely hills in which some of the great rivers rise, the Weser, the Rhine, and the Danube, to name a few.

And if you have learnt your spoken German in the north, you will have a job to understand the Bavarian in the south (but have you, who were born in London, ever tried to understand someone in Caithness, or vice versa?). And again, the reception of the British soldier varies greatly from district to district: the Rhinelanders are traditionally hospitable, but the farmers of Northern Westphalia and Lower Saxony are much more reserved. But the greatest of the barriers between the soldiers and the Germans is the language. Yet it is very easy to pick it up, or enough of it to get by; each unit has a qualified instructor, and there are a number of classes run in the various education centres. Those soldiers who complain that they cannot get on with the local girls because of the language are generally, it will be found, the bone idle. Those who want to learn can do so very easily, for there is ample opportunity.

Signal work is varied and active

There is, of course, infinite variety of signalling in Germany, from the Brigade Signal Sections of Berlin and the Divisions on the one hand, to the more static units, such as 16th Regiment on the other. This is not the time or the place to discuss roles and establishments, but if you want wide experience in signalling, Germany is the place for you. The training year is divided into two broad periods, the summer, when the Divisions are out exercising on the plains, and the winter when everyone is in camp doing their individual training, writing off the stores they have lost, and preparing for next year's jousts. But perhaps it is the international flavour of the communications in Germany that make most appeal. It is always with us. 28th Regiment have signal companies of other nations actually under command (get them to tell you the story of the Belgian sentry on guard at a British camp who dropped the gate barrier on the private car of the German Command Secretary some time). In Berlin Signal Squadron, signalling with their American and French friends is routine. And 1 (British) Corps Signal Regiments have a lot of fun on exercises with the Dutch and Belgian Signal Regiments. Here again, language can be a problem, such as it was to the British G.S.O.3, who screamed down the line to the Belgian exchange for "British LO!, British LO!" to get the somwhat surprising reply: "Belgique allo! Belgique allo!" We must not forget our Danish N.A.T.O. allies, with whom 1st Regiment have such strong links. Many individuals have been on holiday to Denmark and many more Regiments, in whole or in part, will be visiting these officially.

Calling all sportsmen

Of sport, there is infinite variety, probably more than anywhere else in the world. In former times there were inter-unit competitions for all the conventional sports, such as soccer and cricket, but this had to be abandoned because of the amount of travelling involved and the prior claims of Army Championships. Nowadays, the only sport in which all Regiments meet is the annual athletics meeting which, for the past three years, has been held at Herford. Nevertheless, some Regiments have been outstanding in particular sports. The B.A.O.R. cricket championship for 1963 was fought out between two Signal Regiments (2nd and 13th). 1st Regiment are current B A.O.R. fencing champions and were runners-up to the R.M.A.S. in the Army Championships last year. And 7th Regiment have been the Army Champion Unit in the .22 shooting championships for three years in a row. There is a great variety of sailing, from the 100 square metres based on Kiel for Baltic racing on the one hand to the Bosuns, Pirates and Corsairs on inland waters such as the Drummer Sea and Möhne See (of Dambuster fame) on the other. Many soldiers take part in the canoe races and in canoe cruising that take place during most of the year on the larger rivers. There is a large ski instructional centre in the Harz Mountains, but many Regiments arrange ski-ing parties to Austrian and Bavarian ski centres where, for a pittance, a marvellous ski-ing holiday can be enjoyed. Or would you like to go for some outward bound style training in Norway, or to take part in that most colourful annual marching event at Nijmegen in Holland? Or would you like to sample the free fall parachuting? Or gliding? Or to join a sub-aqua club? It is all yours for the asking in Germany.



Wine-picking by the Rhone—with help from some local talent

Living is good

Motoring is particularly cheap and for this reason nearly 1 in 4 of all ranks own a car. The Germans are inveterate caravanners and campers and the kit required can be bought very cheaply. Thus B.A.O.R. is unrivalled as a centre for those who like caravan or camping holidays and literally hundreds of soldiers and their families make their way to Denmark, Italy, Austria, France and Spain every year. But there is no need to go as far afield. The countryside bordering the Rhine and Moselle rivers is some of the prettiest in the world: at least one Regiment has had an official camp in the autumn beside the Rhine from which men have helped pick the grapes during the daytime and helped to drink the products of previous years at night, and enjoyed themselves hugely in the process.

For the married man, married quarters are exceptionally comfortable. Unfortunately there are not yet enough to go round but the situation is getting very much better. By far the greater majority of quarters have central heating and they are fully equipped with all the necessary furniture, cutlery, crockery and linen. Food in German shops is more expensive than in U.K., but NAAFI stock a wide range of U.K. food products: these again are dearer than in U.K. as their transport has to be paid for, but there is a compensating local overseas allowance. Alcohol, tobacco and petrol, being duty free, are much cheaper than in U.K.

Look forward to your posting to B.A.O.R. as it is probably one of the best stations in the world, with endless varieties of off-duty sports and occupations and great opportunity for cheap, out-of-the-ordinary continental holidays for you and your family. But please be advised, before you come, to spend 3s. on a teach-yourself-German book in order to gain at least a smattering of the language; so much more will be open to you, and your stay in Germany will be that much more enjoyable; and you will soon understand why AG 11 and O.I.C. Records have so many applications for second and third consecutive tours in B.A.O.R.!



A Royal Signals skiing party in Austria

A Red Letter Day for Mrs. Want

S.O.-in-C. presents her with a silver "Jimmy"

ON Wednesday, 11th December, 1963, Mrs. Christina Want was presented with a silver "Jimmy" by the Signal Officer-in-Chief, Major-General F. J. Swainson, O.B.E., on behalf of the many past and present Royal Signals officers with whom she had served.

You may well ask how this good lady of 72 years became associated with the Corps in this way. When you hear that she was in the same branch of the Ministry of Supply and Ministry of Aviation from 1940 to 1963, you may still be puzzled at the connection with the Royal Corps of Signals.

The explanation is simple. Responsibility for research and development of electronics equipment for the Army was in the hands of the Ministry of Supply until 1959 when it passed to the Ministry of Aviation. This commitment includes all communications items which, when developed and accepted, become the province of Royal Signals and other arms of the Service.

D.L.R.D.T. has seen many Royal Signals officers since its inception. Continuity is maintained by the civilian staff, many of whom are qualified scientists, ably supported by the clerical grades. One of the latter was Mrs. Christina Want.

Presenting the "Jimmy" to Mrs. Want at an informal gathering at Regimental Headquarters, the Signal Officer-in-Chief recalled, among other things, Mrs. Want's good-humoured and warm-hearted approach to life. We all join him in wishing her a long and happy retirement.



The S.O.-in-C. with Mrs. Christina Want

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL LLEWELYN EVANS, C.M.G., D.S.O.

THE WIRE regrets to report the death of Lieutenant-Colonel Llewelyn Evans, C.M.G., D.S.O., on December 16, 1963.

Although not known by many of the present generation of the Corps his name stands out as the principle architect responsible for the firm foundations on which the present day Corps stands. It was he, as a Captain in the Royal Engineers, who developed, in the first decade of this century, the practical application of wireless telegraphy in the field from its earliest experimental form. Later, after the first world war, due to his advice and influence a Signals Branch was established in the War Office which has grown into the present day Signals Directorate.

He was a man of many parts, greatly admired by those who knew and served with him. The Corps owes him a great debt and his distinguished services to his country were marked by an obituary published in *The Times* on January 3, 1964.

A full tribute will be paid to him in the columns of the Spring number of the Royal Signals Journal.

Lieutenant-Colonel E. W. Anderson, D.C.M.

The Editor regrets to report the death of this well known retired officer. A full obituary will appear in the March WIRE.

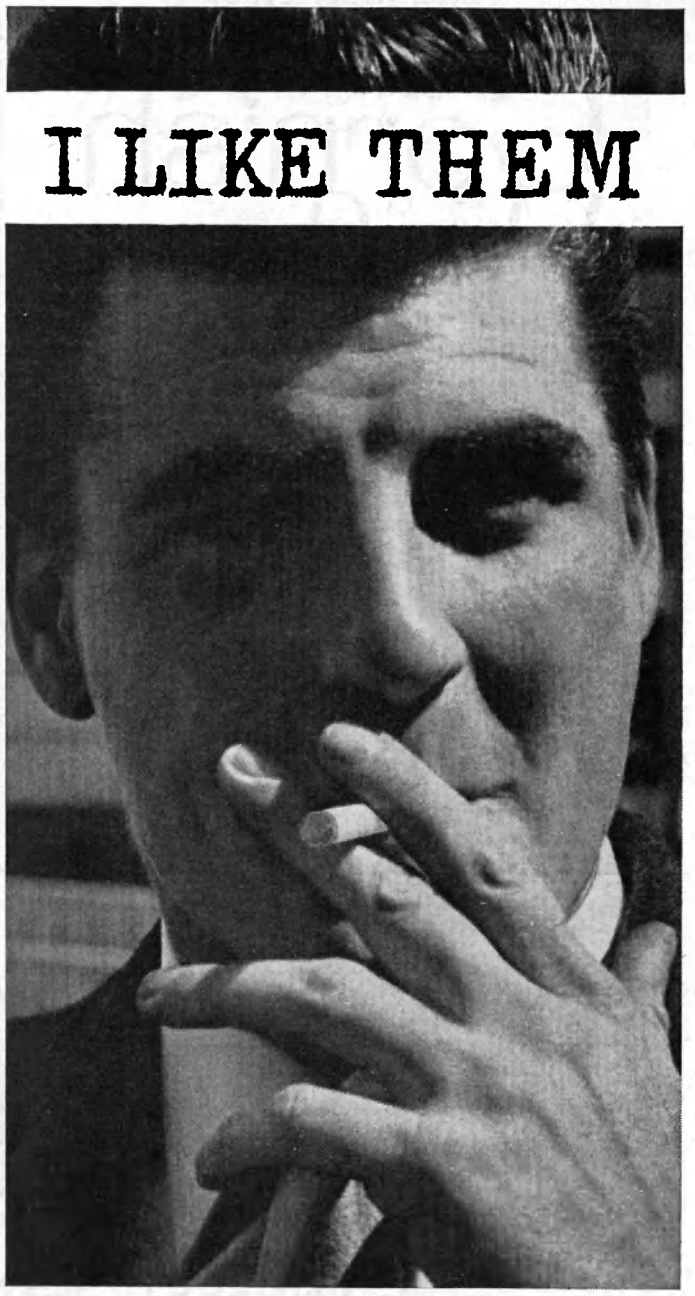
MORE MATCHES BETTER VALUE

BRITISH MADE BY BRYANT & MAY

If you're looking for a really good rum
this is the label on the bottle...

The Governor and Company of Adventurers of England trading into Hudsons Bay
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HUDSON'S BAY
JAMAICA RUM
Bottled in Great Britain by
Hudson's Bay Company of Scotland Ltd.
EDINBURGH
PRODUCE OF JAMAICA

...the bottle is in the NAAFI
and you know where the NAAFI is!



I LIKE THEM

PARK DRIVE

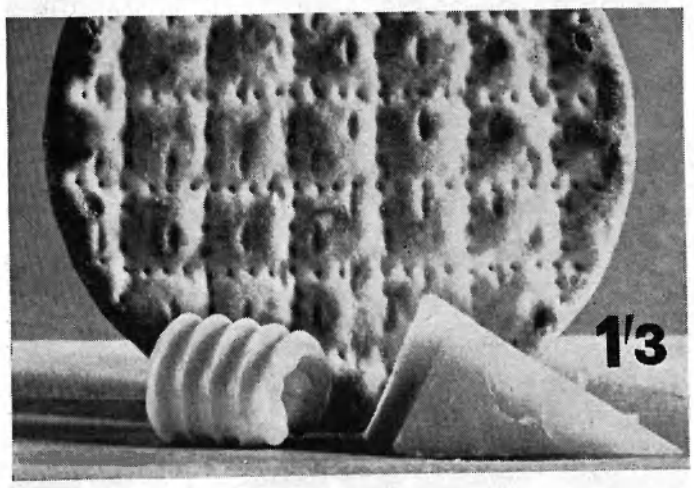


Really good value at 3/5 · Tipped-2/10

Huntley & Palmers

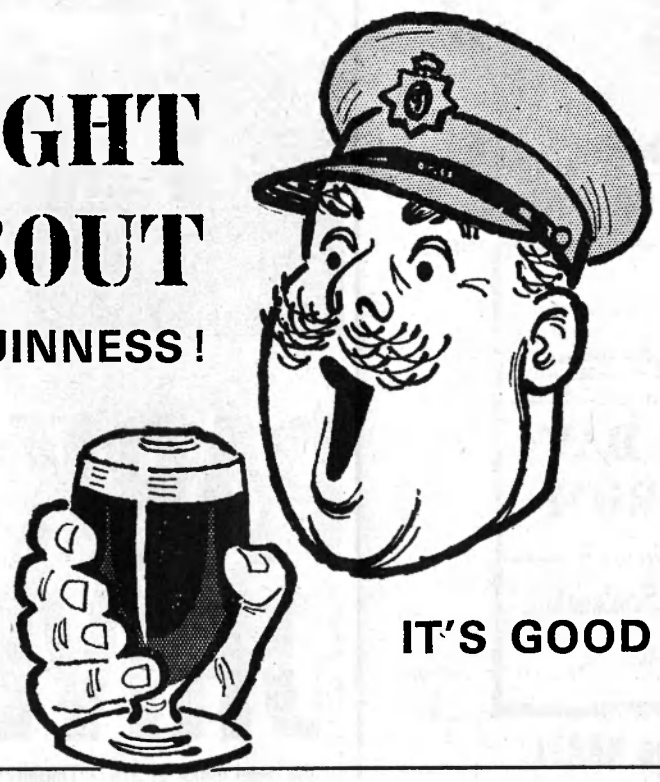
Cornish Wafers

SUCH SPREADY BISCUITS FOR BUTTER; SO READY FOR CHEESE!





RIGHT ABOUT GUINNESS!



IT'S GOOD FOR YOU

G.E.3879B.

Printed in Great Britain



Mr. F. Veness, M.B.E.—" An award which will give great satisfaction"

MR. F. VENESS, M.B.E., ROYAL SIGNALS RECORDS

TO all members of the Corps, both past and present, the award of the M.B.E. to Mr. Frank Veness, of Royal Signals Records, will give great satisfaction: there can be few who, during their visits to the Corps Records Office, have not met him.

It may not be generally known that he enlisted in Royal Signals in 1924, joining "A" Company at Crowborough, and moving subsequently to "G" Company at Maresfield.

After training, he was then posted to 4th Divisional Signals at Colchester and remustered as a Clerk.

In 1927 he was posted as a Lance-Corporal to the Shanghai Defence Force Signals, a unit which was specially formed at short notice for the emergency in China at that time.

In 1929 he returned to 4th Divisional Signals as a Corporal and was transferred to the Reserve in 1932.

In 1934 he joined the Civil Service as a temporary clerk and was posted to the Royal Signals Record Office at Chatham. He moved to Caversham with the Record Office in 1939 and was promoted in 1941 a Departmental Civilian Officer (later Executive Officer). In 1947 he moved to the War Office on promotion to the grade of Civilian Staff Officer (later Higher Executive Officer) and spent two years in the Establishment Branch.

Returning in 1949 to Royal Signals Records, he took over the responsibility for Division II, which appointment he has retained ever since. His zeal and efficiency are an inspiration to all who work with him, and we in Royal Signals Records are justifiably proud of the recognition which this award brings, both to him and to those working under him, with whom, with his usual modesty, he would wish to share the credit.

COURSES AT CATTERICK

Telegraph Technician, class II-I ...	...	25th Aug., 1964
Radio Technician (Light), class II-I	...	25th Aug., 1964
Lineman, class II-I	...	18th Aug., 1964
Telegraph Operator, class II-I ...	...	11th Aug., 1964
Electronic Technician, class III-II ...	...	31st Aug., 1964
Radio Relay Technician, class III-II	...	25th Aug., 1964
Telegraph Operator, class III-II ...	...	11th Aug., 1964

PERSONAL COLUMN

Congratulations

To Major-General A. M. W. Whistler, C.B., C.B.E., on his appointment as a Colonel Commandant of the Corps;

To Major P. H. F. Webb, M.B.E., for being mentioned in despatches in connection with the operations in the Borneo Territories;

To the following who received awards in the New Year's Honours List:

C.B.	Colonel T. M. Niven, T.D., D.L. (T.A.)
C.B.E.	Brigadier P. E. M. Bradley, D.S.O., O.B.E. Brigadier T. R. Warburg
O.B.E.	Colonel D. Dibsdall Lieutenant-Colonel J. H. Mansfield, T.D. (T.A.)
M.B.E.	Major J. S. Birch, T.D. (T.A.) W.O.II J. D. Francis Captain R. Prendergast, M.C. (T.A.) Major G. Proudman
B.E.M.	Staff Sergeant R. S. W. Briggs Corporal R. F. Gilding (A.E.R.) Staff Sergeant G. Gray (T.A.) W.O.II B. G. Green Corporal R. D. Holdsworth Sergeant A. F. Moon Sergeant J. K. Roberts

London Gazette

REGULAR ARMY

Maj.-Gen. A. M. W. Whistler, C.B., C.B.E., appointed Colonel Commandant, Royal Corps of Signals. 1st Jan., 1963.

The undermentioned Lieutenant-Colonels to be Colonels on the dates shown:

T. H. C. Grigg, 10th May, 1963.
D. T. W. Gibson, M.B.E., B.A., 17th June, 1963.
D. G. Jones, 22nd June, 1963.
K. D. Gribbin, M.B.E., B.A., 18th July, 1963.
A. V. Brandle, M.B.E., 21st July, 1963.
J. W. Eagle, M.B.E., 20th Aug., 1963.
T. S. Foster, 25th Sep., 1963.
D. Dibsdall, O.B.E., 7th Oct., 1963.
M. J. R. Fletcher, M.B.E., 10th Nov., 1963.

The undermentioned to be Lieutenant-Colonels on the dates shown:

Maj. N. C. Porter, 2nd Jan., 1963.
Maj. E. J. Winn, 16th Feb., 1963.
Maj. J. R. Rahilly, 9th Sep., 1963.
Maj. B. A. Beattie, 10th Sep., 1963.

Maj. (Q.M.) G. R. Thornton retired 14th Dec., 1963.
Maj. (Q.M.) C. F. Webb retired 20th Dec., 1963.
Capt. H. Taylor retired 20th Dec., 1963.
Lt. N. A. Vandyck to be Capt., 11th Dec., 1963.
Lt. N. Moss to be Capt., 11th Dec., 1963.
Lt. (Tfc Offr) J. E. Gill to be Lt. (Tfc Offr), 20th Nov., 1963.
Lt. J. Barratt from short service commission to be Lt., 15th Aug., 1963.
2/Lt. A. K. Bristow from Gen. List T.A. to be Lt., 12th Sep., 1963.
Capt. B. C. Complin to be Maj., 25th Dec., 1963.
2/Lt. D. J. Henning to be Lt., 25th Oct., 1963.
Capt. H. Taylor retired 20th Dec., 1963.
Lt. (Tfc Offr) G. H. Cowsill to be Capt. (Tfc Offr), 28th Dec., 1963.

The undermentioned Lieutenants to be Captains, 20th Dec., 1963:

A. J. Sammes
D. M. C. Miller
J. C. Milford
N. A. Walter
M. R. Adams
C. J. Crow
L. A. Woods
G. D. A. Mackay

SHORT SERVICE COMMISSIONS

W.O.I A. G. Harfield, B.E.M., to be Lt. (Q.M.), 20th Nov., 1963.
W.O.I (F. of S.) D. Hazel to be Lt. (T.O.T.), 25th Nov., 1963.
W.O.I B. T. Seymour to be Lt. (Tfc Offr), 28th Nov., 1963.

TERRITORIAL ARMY

Lt.-Col. (Hon. Col.) D. A. Duncan, T.D., D.L., appointed Hon. Col 53 (Welsh) Signal Regt. T.A. 6th Dec., 1963.
Capt. R. N. P. Johnston to be Maj., 1st Nov., 1963.
Capt. D. G. Farrar, T.D., to be Maj., 1st Nov., 1963.
Capt. D. A. C. Smyth is granted the actg rank of Maj., 1st Nov., 1963.
Lt. G. Ronan to be Capt., 22nd Oct., 1963.
Lt. M. T. Caddick to be Capt., 1st Nov., 1963.
2/Lt. D. Morriss from Gen. List to be 2/Lt., 26th Oct., 1963.
W.O.II C. A. P. Quick to be Lt. (T.O.T.), 1st Nov., 1963.
Capt E. R. D. Bale retired 1st Oct., 1963.
Lt. J. Y. Dyer from Res. of Offrs R.A.P.C. to be Lt., 5th Oct., 1963.
Lt. D. J. Hardy to be Capt., 1st Nov., 1963.
Capt. L. Thomas to be Maj., 1st Dec., 1963.
Lt. P. S. Oxford from A.E. Res. of Offrs. Nat. Serv. List to be Lt., 15th Nov., 1963.

Movements — Officers

15th December to 14th January, 1964

Lieutenant (T.O.T.) E. R. Addington	To	School of Signals	
Major M. Allen	„	261	Squadron (AF)
Lieutenant P. R. Brewis	„	11th	Regiment (Cadre)
Captain R. A. Burfitt	„	18th	Regiment
Second-Lieutenant J. F. Budd	„	9th	Regiment
Captain C. R. C. Bunce	„	War Office (Sigs 3)	
Major J. F. Blake	„	War Office (Sigs 3 (d))	
Lieutenant M. F. Collins	„	229	Squadron (Berlin)
Major D. S. Clarke	„	Oxford University Contingent O.T.C. (local Lieut.-Colonel)	
Lieutenant A. H. Carling	„	24th	Regiment
Captain E. F. Carrell	„	21st	Regiment
Lieutenant K. G. Doyle	„	28th	Regiment
Lieutenant P. R. Davies	„	3rd	Regiment
Major S. F. Dunkley	„	H.Q., B.A.O.R. (Sx. Br.)	
Captain A. C. Dexter	„	17th Gurkha	Regiment
Lieutenant C. M. Darby	„	1st Bn. Royal Irish	Fusiliers
Captain J. O. Fisher	„	A.A.S., Harrogate	
Lieutenant M. L. Forge	„	2nd	Regiment
Captain M. J. Flynn	„	4th	Regiment
Lieutenant W. H. C. Griffiths ...	„	School of Signals (for Course)	
Lieutenant J. Graham	„	216	Squadron (Para. Bde. Gp.)
Lieutenant R. B. Ingram	„	School of Signals (for course)	
Lieutenant T. T. Hallchurch	„	J.L.R., Royal Signals (RD)	
Major G. A. W. Hickman	„	War Office (Sigs 3)	
Major A. D. Inglis	„	Ministry of Defence (Secretary, Eur. Radio Freq. Agency) (Lieut.-Colonel).	
Captain N. V. Keeling	„	R.M.C.S., Shrivenham (for Course).	
Major N. B. Moss	„	3rd	Regiment
Captain (Q.M.) T. M. McKirgan ...	„	14th	Regiment
Lieutenant L. J. Pertwee	„	225	Squadron
Major F. M. Partington	„	16th	Regiment
Lieutenant A. Rassim	„	237	Squadron (COMCAN)
Lieutenant K. Ryding	„	7th	Regiment
Second-Lieutenant G. D. Rates ...	„	225	Squadron (Radio)
Captain C. J. Raynes	„	22	S.A.S.
Major R. H. Stewart	„	44 (H.C.)	Division/District
Lieutenant R. B. Smith	„	All Arms Jun.	Leaders Regt.
Major M. Stewart	„	227	Squadron (ALFCE)
Captain (T.O.T.) D. G. Turner ...	„	H.Q., A.E.R.,	Royal Signals
Captain M. G. H. Wise	„	17 Gurkha	Signals
Lieutenant-Colonel R. J. Tyrrell-Gray, M.B.E.	„	Def. Communications Centre, Ministry of Defence.	
Lieutenant (T.O.T.) A. Williams ...	„	259	Squadron (COMCAN)
Captain E. Wells	„	Ministry of Aviation (EID)	

Movements — Warrant Officers and Sergeants, January and February, 1964

W.O.II D. Chambers	To	229	Squadron
W.O.II A. Nicholson	„	308	Squadron, T.A.
W.O.II A. Thorpe	„	240	Squadron
W.O.II E. W. Firth	„	16th	Regiment
W.O.II D. O. Bushnell	„	58th	Regiment, T.A.
W.O.II C. Wood	„	16th	Regiment
W.O.II G. A. Stephenson	„	256	Squadron
W.O.II H. J. Crow	„	210	Squadron
W.O.II P. Kendrick	„	42nd	Regiment, T.A.
W.O.II N. Crossley	„	24th	Regiment
W.O.II W. J. Harrison	„	44th	Regiment, T.A.
W.O.II L. W. Leppington	„	1st	Regiment
W.O.II R. Stringer	„	19th	Regiment
Staff Sergeant R. White	„	606	Troop
Staff Sergeant D. R. Timson	„	Army of the Fed. of	Malaysia
Staff Sergeant T. A. Finch	„	Royal Signals	Records
Staff Sergeant R. E. G. Brown ...	„	254	Squadron
Staff Sergeant R. A. Robertson ...	„	246	Squadron
Staff Sergeant L. Robertson	„	249	Squadron
Staff Sergeant R. Steel	„	School of Signals	
Staff Sergeant C. R. Brotherton ...	„	School of Signals	
Staff Sergeant J. G. Stanley	„	606	Troop
Staff Sergeant J. Hawey	„	232	Squadron
Staff Sergeant B. S. Howie	„	237	Squadron
Staff Sergeant B. W. Webster	„	224	Squadron
Staff Sergeant D. J. M. Hughes ...	„	School of	Signals
Staff Sergeant M. R. Davies	„	1st	Regiment
Staff Sergeant M. N. Welch	„	8th	Regiment
Staff Sergeant J. R. Storer	„	14th	Regiment (2 Squadron)
Staff Sergeant J. T. Hollum	„	2 RTR	Signal Troop
Staff Sergeant A. R. Jarratt	„	14th	Regiment (2 Squadron)
Staff Sergeant K. S. Pemberton ...	„	2nd	Regiment
Staff Sergeant W. S. Rowland	„	222	Squadron
Staff Sergeant N. Walker	„	30th	Regiment
A/Staff Sergeant W. J. Leech ...	„	School of	Signals
A/Staff Sergeant A. G. M. Thomson	„	11th	Regiment
A/Staff Sergeant R. N. L. Cassling	„	School of	Signals
Sergeant J. B. Markle	„	261	Squadron
Sergeant A. F. Gunderson	„	Intelligence	Centre
Sergeant W. Sawyer	„	28th	Regiment
Sergeant L. A. Smith	„	227	Sqadron
Sergeant J. P. F. Nay	„	1st	Regiment
Sergeant M. A. C. Casey	„	14th	Regiment (1 Squadron)
Sergeant A. J. Cook	„	249	Squadron
Sergeant J. E. Edginton	„	1st	Regiment
Sergeant M. C. Foulds	„	28th	Regiment
Sergeant R. Goodman	„	2nd	Regiment
Sergeant J. Morris	„	237	Squadron
Sergeant B. T. O'Connor	„	4th	Regiment
Sergeant C. A. Thompson	„	18th	Regiment
Sergeant W. McKay	„	H.Q. Training	Brigade
Sergeant J. T. Worrall	„	204	Squadron
Sergeant E. L. L. Rowson	„	H.Q.	Northag
Sergeant R. Topliss	„	9th	Regiment
Sergeant F. L. Crossley	„	245	Squadron
Sergeant F. S. Small	„	3 G.Q. and	Signal Regiment
Sergeant R. Lahan	„	209	Squadron
Acting/Sergeant J. R. Palmer ...	„	4th	Regiment
Sergeant E. A. Pearson	„	8th	Regiment
Sergeant N. Ratcliffe	„	225	Squadron
Sergeant A. Davies	„	21st	Regiment
Sergeant E. E. Jones	„	16th	Regiment
Sergeant A. Markham	„	A.A. Corps	Centre
Sergeant T. G. Rayers	„	235	Squadron
Sergeant R. Cosser	„	School of	Signals
Sergeant E. L. Medway	„	41st	Regiment T.A.
Sergeant P. L. Barnett	„	24th	Regiment
Sergeant J. W. Payne	„	J.T. R.E.C.T.,	Rhyl
Sergeant A. Leary	„	School of	Signals
Sergeant D. T. Salt	„	8th	Regiment
Sergeant N. H. H. Leach	„	606	Troop
Sergeant A. A. Burgess	„	638	Troop
Sergeant L. C. Kybert	„	10th	Regiment
Sergeant P. D. Davis	„	234	Squadron
Sergeant W. J. Beddingfield	„	4th	Regiment
Sergeant D. C. Prescott	„	217	Squadron
Sergeant J W. Swann	„	14th	Regiment (3 Squadron)
Sergeant D. C. Parry	„	D.E.T. 239	Squadron
Sergeant H. A. Brown	„	9th	Regiment
Sergeant A. L. C. Coleman	„	16th	Regiment
Sergeant J. M. Hancock	„	204	Squadron
Sergeant J. M. Willoughby	„	1st	Regiment
Sergeant C. Markie	„	1st	Regiment
Sergeant J. M. Morgan	„	22nd	Regiment
Sergeant J. M. G. Ralph	„	18th	Regiment
Sergeant P. R. Heavey	„	606	Troop
Acting/Sergeant D. Moat	„	640	Troop
Sergeant D. V. Boddington	„	School of	Signals
Sergeant M. D. McMamon	„	Royal Dragoons	Signal Troop
Sergeant H. Bell	„	22nd	Regiment
Sergeant R. D. Price	„	Junior Leaders	Regiment
Sergeant F. Cockayne	„	School of	Signals
Sergeant F. P. Searle	„	13th	Regiment
Sergeant F. J. Wilson	„	225	Squadron
W.O.II A. R. Hill	To	210	Squadron
W.O.II J. G. Turner	„	4th	Regiment
W.O.II T. N. Bennett	„	H.Q., A.E.R.,	Royal Signals
W.O.II M. G. A. Edwards	„	16th	Regiment
W.O.II O. J. Gough	„	22nd	Regiment
W.O.II W. E. Lea	„	9th	Regiment
W.O.II R. G. Robinson	„	21st	Regiment
W.O.II H. W. Jones	„	45th	Regiment (T.A.)
W.O.II I. Blundell	„	42nd	Regiment (T.A.)
Staff Sergeant D. S. A. Cox	„	2nd	Regiment
Staff Sergeant T. Quinn	„	57th	Regiment (T.A.)
Staff Sergeant J. B. Appleby	„	207	Squadron
Staff Sergeant E. T. A. Webster ...	„	28th	Regiment
Staff Sergeant K. C. Howard	„	1st	Regiment
Staff Sergeant H. E. Taylor	„	1st	Regiment
Staff Sergeant J. H. Edwards ...	„	14th	Regiment 1 Squadron
Staff Sergeant M. Foy	„	19th	Regiment
Staff Sergeant A. P. G. Hatcher ...	„	24th	Regiment
Staff Sergeant J. M. M. Dunlevy ...	„	School of	Signals
Staff Sergeant J. G. Bradford ...	„	School of	Artillery, Larkhill
Staff Sergeant B. J. Godfrey	„	254	Squadron
Staff Sergeant R. A. Jeffery	„	30th	Regiment
Staff Sergeant E. E. Nugent	„	Army App.	School, Harrogate
Staff Sergeant D. H. Mawson	„	1st	Regiment
Staff Sergeant J. P. Downey	„	263	Squadron
Staff Sergeant G. Donovan	„	28th	Regiment
Sergeant N. E. Ladds	„	Army App.	School, Harrogate
Sergeant F. Nichols	„	School of	Signals
Sergeant R. H. Sutcliffe	„	219	Squadron
Sergeant D. J. Dryden	„	25 Corps Engineer	Regt. Sig. Tp.
Sergeant D. Brown	„	257	Squadron
Sergeant G. F. Brindle	„	16th	Regiment
Sergeant C. F. Cope	„	18th	Regiment
Sergeant G. Park	„	11th	Regiment
Sergeant B. H. Lee	„	254	Squadron
Sergeant H. A. L. Buxton	„	13th	Regiment
Sergeant F. Hunt	„	252	Squadron
Sergeant G. W. Walker	„	28th	Regiment
Sergeant R. Morris	„	24th	Regiment
Sergeant W. G. Best	„	262	Squadron
Sergeant W. G. Thomas	„	59th	Regiment (T.A.)
Sergeant D. M. Irvine	„	19th	Regiment
Sergeant E. O. H. Edwards	„	4th	Regiment
Sergeant C. D. McGee	„	16th	Regiment
Sergeant T. P. Haggan	„	22nd	Regiment
Sergeant C. Binks	„	3 H.A. Signal	Troop
Sergeant P. J. Freeston	„	606 Signal	Troop
Sergeant E. H. Rolls	„	H.Q., A.F.N.E.	
Sergeant J. F. Chiverton	„	14th Regiment, 1	Squadron
Sergeant M. J. L. Palmer	„	Jun. Leaders	Regt., Royal Signals
Sergeant W. S. Bowsher	„	59th Regiment	(T.A.)
Sergeant J. W. Swann	„	14th Regiment,	3 Squadron

Sergeant A. McDonald ... ... ,, Army App. School, Harrogate
Sergeant F. T. Fraser ... ... ,, 210 Squadron
Sergeant D. W. House ... ... ,, 263 Squadron
Sergeant P. D. Studd ... ... ,, 216 Squadron
Sergeant A. Smith ... ... ,, H.Q., Malaya Area
Sergeant J. E. Stroud ... ... ,, 9th Regiment
Sergeant G. E. Stringer ... ... ,, H.O., Far East Land Forces
Sergeant D. F. Goodyear ... ... ,, H.Q.. ALFCE
Sergeant A. J. Jones ... ... ,, 11th Regiment

A/Sergeant R. C. Brodie ... ... ,, 7th Regiment
A/Sergeant D. Oliver ... ... ,, H.Q., 17th Division
A/Sergeant C. F. E. Wickham ... ,, 254 Squadron
A/Sergeant R. J. Woods ... ... ,, 16th Regiment

Deaths

SPARK.—Lieutenant D. G. Spark, age 45 years, of 1 Squadron 43rd (Wx) Regiment (T.A.). Plymouth, died at Ham Green Hospital on 9th January, 1964, after short illness.

TOKAINAQELE.—Josee Gauna, Signalman of 4th Regiment. Died in B.A.O.R. on 1st January, 1964, as a result of injuries received in traffic accident at Sundern, Germany.

BEDFORD, N.—THE WIRE regrets to hear of the death of Mr. Bedford, Chairman of Leeds Branch of the Royal Signals Association, who passed away in December, after a short illness. Mr. Bedford served in Royal Signals from 1920 to 1925.

Births

Of 19th Regiment

GRAHAM-HILL.—To Captain Graham-Hill and Mrs. Graham-Hill, on 2nd November, 1963, a son, Piers, at R.A.F. Hospital, Changi.

HANDLEY.—To Captain Handley and Mrs. Handley, on 30th December, 1963, a daughter, Catherine Sarah, at R.A.F. Hospital, Changi.

BATEY.—To Corporal Batey and Mrs. Batey, on 8th October, 1963, a son, Martin.

BEATTIE.—To Corporal Beattie and Mrs. Beattie, on 31st December, 1963, a daughter, Alison, at R.A.F. Hospital, Changi.

GEORGE.—To Corporal and Mrs. George, on 7th October, 1963, a son, Alan, at R.A.F. Hospital, Changi.

McDONALD.—To Signalman McDonald and Mrs. McDonald, on 14th October, 1963, a son, Stephen, at R.A.F. Hospital, Changi.

Of 2nd Regiment

DOE.—To Staff Sergeant E. Doe and Mrs. Doe, on 22nd November, 1963—a son, Roger Gavin.

LOVATT.—To Signalman J. V. R. Lovatt and Mrs. Lovatt, on 29th October, 1963—a daughter, Elaine.

MARKWELL.—To Corporal G. S. L. Markwell and Mrs. Markwell, on 14th November, 1963—a son, Gary Raymond.

BAYNES.—To Corporal M. Baynes and Mrs. Baynes, on 17th December, 1963—a daughter, Heather.

INCE.—To Lance-Corporal B. C. Ince and Mrs. Ince, on 8th December, 1963—a daughter, Shelley.

LEWIS.—To Corporal M. J. Lewis and Mrs. Lewis, on 11th December, 1963—a daughter, Jennifer Ann.

SHOEBRIDGE.—To Signalman K. Shoebridge and Mrs. Shoebridge on 8th November, 1963—a son, Gerald.

Forthcoming Events

Eighteenth Meeting of the Branch Representatives of the Royal Signals Association, which will be combined with the 18th Special General Meeting, will be held at the Duke of York's Barracks on Saturday, 11th April, 1964.

Forty-first Meeting of the Central Committee, Royal Signals Association, will be held on 28th May, 1964.

The Corps Weekend, Reunion and 19th Annual General Meeting of the Association will be held on 27th/28th June, 1964.

Nearly a Record!

The number of new Association Life Members joining during 1963 reached the grand total of 2,172 which is only 51 short of the all-time record set up in 1946, and is ten short of the total number who became Life Members in the first twenty years of the Association.

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234 Squadron (Malta)



Sapper Percy Smith

IS there a family, besides the Wests, who can produce a record of 74 years service between them?

This was the question posed in the October, 1963 issue of "The Wire." 234 Squadron (Malta) is pleased to provide an answer—which is, incidentally, "Yes!"

We devote our notes to the telling of the story of P. C. Smith and his three sons, Harry, Arthur and George who between them have served Signals, in uniform, for 101 years. Their story is of particular interest to this Squadron because of the remarkable connection throughout their service with Signals on the island of Malta.

In 1899 Percy Charles Smith enlisted in the Royal Engineers. He trained in R.E. Signals and in 1903 he was posted to the Malta Fortress Squadron R.E. where he served until his discharge in 1920. All this was before our Corps was born. When Royal Signals was formed in 1921 Percy Smith was employed as a civilian exchange supervisor until he retired in 1939. However the war brought him back from retirement and he served with the Malta Headquarters until the end of the war.

Harry, Arthur and George followed in their father's footsteps. Harry enlisted as a Royal Signals boy trumpeter in 1923. He was trained in Maresfield and Catterick and on reaching the age of 18 years in 1927 was posted to Aldershot. In 1929 he was sent to Malta and served alongside his father for 10 years. When war came he went with the B.E.F. to France and was one of those evacuated at Dunkirk. He served for the remainder of the war in the Middle East, Italy and Germany but, as always with the Smiths, he could not be long away from Malta. He returned to the island in 1948 and served here as a Sergeant until 1951. He was discharged in 1952 as S.Q.M.S. having completed 29 years' service. Since then he has been involved in communications work for the Nigerian Navy.

In 1924 Arthur followed his brother into boys' service. He trod the same path via Maresfield to Catterick, where Harry made full use of his year's seniority to keep his brother in line. After service with the Rhine Army and 5th Division Signals, Arthur was posted to Egypt Signals as an instrument mechanic in 1930. In 1933 he was attached to the 12th Lancers who were engaged in reconnaissance tasks in the desert. He returned to England in 1935 but because of the emergency in Abbysinia was sent straight back to the Middle East. His Unit was, as he might have guessed, the Malta Signal Section. He did not leave Malta until 1943 (his relief being unavoidably delayed by Hitler) when he moved to the School of Signals. But in 1946 he was back again in Malta where he served, reaching the rank of S.Q.M.S., to his discharge in 1953. This did not end Arthur Smith's service with the Malta Signal Squadron. He left the O.M.'s stores in uniform one day as S.O.M.S. and turned up the next at the Technical Stores in civilian clothes as a store keeper. He was not fond of being out of uniform and joined the T.A. Regiment of the Roval Malta Artillery in which he now serves as a Battery Sergeant Major. Arthur Smith is still with us and, like 'Johnnie Walker,' going strong.

The youngest of the trio, George, enlisted in 1937 in Royal Signals. He was with his brother, Harry, on the beaches at Dunkirk and he, too, was evacuated. He went with Air Formation Signals to Iceland in 1941 and later served in France between 1944 and 1948. Then, as you mav have anticipated, he was posted to Malta to join his two brothers. He served in



Christmas 1950, Malta. Sergeants Three! George, Harry and Arthur with their father

Malta until 1953. He then returned to England and was discharged in 1959 as an S.Q.M.S.

Those are the facts. They disclose a story of a remarkable family tradition of service to the Corps. If civilian service is included, the Smiths can count 130 years of work for Signals of which some 90 were spent in Malta. Old Percy Smith is still remembered with respect by many of our long-serving civilians. He was a man of high principles and a great sense of duty who could not tolerate dishonesty even in the smallest matters. The whole Squadron turned out to wish him farewell when he retired in 1939 and a deep sense of personal loss was felt by many in the Unit when he died in 1956. His sons are remembered by many more. At one time all three were serving in the Squadron together. George was in charge of the cable yard, Harry ran the technical workshop and Arthur was the Line Troop Sergeant—in those days nothing was impossible if you had the Smiths on your side.

One of Arthur's most prized possessions is the photograph of his father with his three sons as sergeants. The picture really does tell a story. Percy Smith, a grand old man of 70, is still alert and upright and proudly wears his medals—but is obviously prouder still of the three fine sons who followed him in a career of service to their country.

This, however, is not the end of the story. Harry's son, Ronnie, served for five years in Royal Signals with AWCIT and Arthur's eldest son, Percy, worked in this Squadron for nine years as a civilian technician before emigrating to Australia. Except for a brief period between 1943-46 there has been a member of the Smith family working with Signals in Malta since 1902. Although figures in themselves mean very little—if you add together all the civilian and military service of all the Smiths, a total of 144 years' service to Signals is revealed—and Arthur is still adding to it!

Even this does not complete the story. Arthur's youngest son, Victor, is 14 years of age and if everything goes according to plan he will be joining for boys' service within the next year—in Royal Signals, of course!



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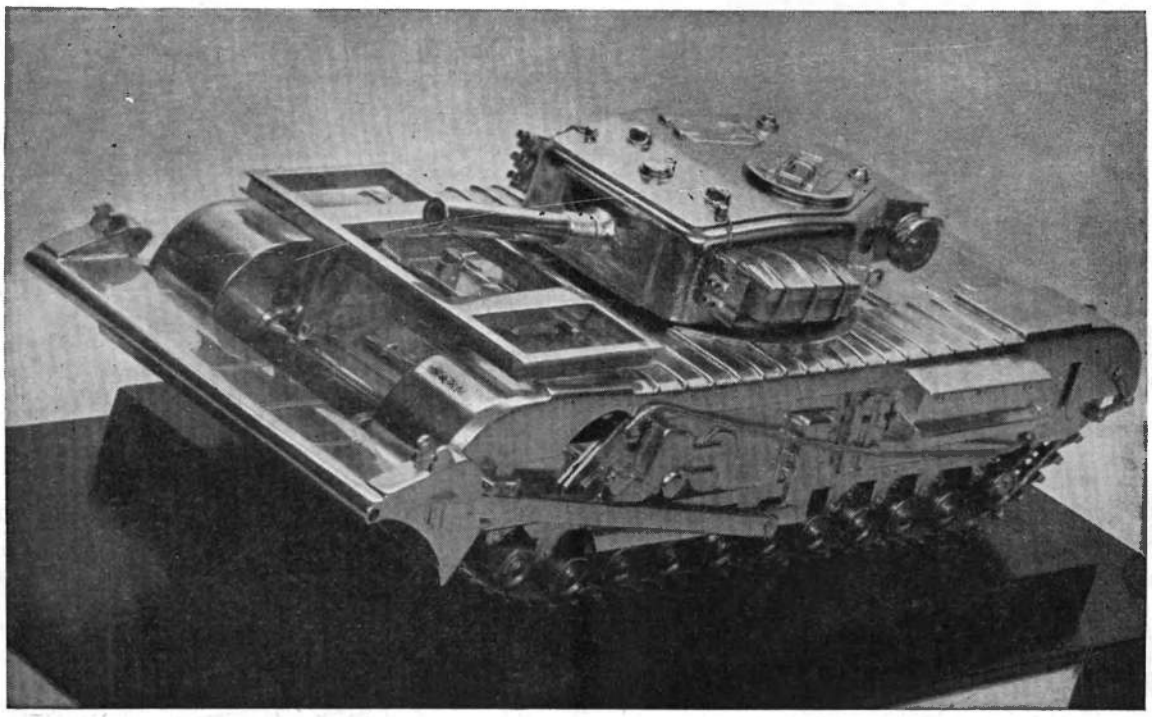
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Grappling with the Grapes

By Corporal Graham Sutton

It may have meant backache and discomfort at times, but it was a fresh angle on life—a new experience—something one could look back on and laugh about. Read how twelve members of 227 Squadron made an original use of ten days' leave. We congratulate them.

IT is the afternoon of 8th October, our annual Administrative Inspection is just over and a dozen of us are packing to go on leave. The usual things are being packed; but what's this? Army boots, combat kit, cap comforters and jack knives as well? Surely not. But yes, it's true.

Presently, a small procession of cars, followed by a mini-bus, is seen leaving the lines. Where are they going? What to do? They are going to a small village about 20 miles south-east of Rheims, by the name of Bouzy. Their object, to cut grapes in the vineyards of Champagne.

Around five o'clock four cars arrive at Bouzy within minutes of each other, having chosen various ways through the Route du Champagne. The village is deserted, save for a rather big chap standing in a gateway, who turns out to be our host, Monsieur Beaufort. Seven blokes descend from the cars and sidle up to him, and a couple of the more learned parleying with him in French. They must have got their wires crossed somewhere or perhaps they've studied languages at the expense of simple arithmetic, for presently, when we are shown our accommodation, we find only nine places. With seven of us here, and five still to come, this is rather short. But, being British, we have a strategic reserve. Out of one car comes a tent which we pitch in the courtyard. This accommodates three, so we're in, and while we await the arrival of the mini-bus, our host produces a couple of bottles of champagne, which we heartily enjoy.

Around 7 p.m., everyone's settled in and all twelve of us, with about an equal number of French and Spaniards, sat down to dinner and learned some new rituals, such as using one plate for all courses, from soup to cheese and dessert and swigging red wine and champagne instead of the good old English cuppa.



Le Casse-Croûte (Breakfast)

If by any chance you have read this far, you may be wondering who the warriors were so, just to put you in the picture, there was Sergeant Frank Gilbert, Lance-Corporals Alan Francis and Morris Hurley, Signalmen Seth Adams, Kit Carson, Cookey Cook, Eric Johns, John Taylor, Taff Watson, Fred Whitham, Craftsman Chippie Watson and, of course, myself. After the meal, which some of us had approached with suspicion, having heard tales of all French food being loaded with garlic (quite untrue) we unanimously agreed that if the rest of the meals were like this we at least would not starve or resent eating.

Next morning, at the break of dawn, we were awakened by loud yells in foreign gibberish so assumed it was time to rise, prepared to go to the dining hall, thinking we were first up for breakfast. We were soon in for a couple of shocks. We were not the first up; the rest of the workers had already gone to the fields. Not to worry, we'll show them when we get there. The next shock was the "breakfast" itself. Though not exactly anticipating bacon and eggs, we were alarmed to find only bare bread and jam and black coffee—and a thimble of cognac, if desired. However, hope was restored when told that real breakfast was served in the fields at 8.30.

This "reveille feast" downed, nine of us were bundled into an open hurdled truck, used for carrying baskets of grapes, and with Chippie taking two in his old Ford Popular, off we set at about 5 m.p.h. to the "battlefields." After half-a-mile of bumpy cart track in the early mist and cold, our hangovers had nearly gone by the time we de-bussed, and it was a jaunty band of British soldiers, clad variously in Combat kit, battledress, jeans, denims or more often, mixtures, but all armed as forewarned, with jack-knives, that now advanced to the attack. Immediately we were halted and issued with cutters more appropriate to the job in hand.

Arriving at the first field, we were asked to sort ourselves into pairs, and each pair to take a row of vines, except for Alan and Chippie, they being selected to carry baskets. These baskets, when full, weigh about 14lb., and it is the carrier's job to collect them from the pickers as they are filled and carry them to the vine-end for sorting.

We pickers started, some stooping, some bending, according to height and shape. The vines were some 3ft. 6in. to 4ft. in height, the rows separated by about 3ft., and the grape bunches at anything from near ground level to 2ft. It was a race, with everyone bumping each other in the effort to be first finished with the first basket. In this field the rows were only about 50 yards long, which turned out to be the shortest rows we met, but nevertheless, before getting half-way along them the strain began to tell, backs beginning to ache, legs stiffening and headaches returning. Shaky hands caused howls of anguish and Anglo-Saxon curses to be heard all over the fields as one or another novice nipped or pinched his fingers with his cutters. One, who shall be nameless, feeling last night more than most—or it may have been the reveille cognac—took a walk on his own for a few minutes.

Alan's and Chippie's job looked a pushover, and it was voted to work a rota on it after the first row, so giving the pickers a break. Later, during the week, it was decided to be not such an easy job after all. For our second rows we were mingled with our French and Spanish fellow-pickers. We found that a shout of "panier" brought an empty basket to be exchanged for a full one, the changeover providing a few seconds despite.

Eight-thirty arrived, time for breakfast. Oh, what we would do after refreshment! Again it was a disappointment—a glass of white wine, small portion of mostly fat pork, small portion of cheese, bread and red wine. Although red wine came to be viewed as a life-saver in the next few days, we were rather revolted at it just now.

It was back to work at nine, and to boost our rapidly-declining morale, songs were started—good old squaddy favourites. Fortunately our allies knew little English, especially as there were members of the fair sex among them. One of the enticements to this crazy job was the talk of working amidst hundreds of fair maidens in the fields. If there ever were any, they certainly weren't in the fields we were in.

To our outburst of song the French tried to raise a counter-effort, but I imagine they were rather restricted in scope because of the ladies, and they never really got going.

Around 10, just on what turned out to be an hourly tot of red wine, the rains came. It was understood that when it rained there was no work, also no pay, but who cares when a rest is needed. It was really only drizzle, but enough for a retreat. Many hesitated between work and just standing



Bubbly in the raw



Corporal Sutton on the job

around getting soaked. John, Cookie and myself took refuge in Chippie's car for half-an-hour, swearing that one day of this lot was more than enough. Shortly after recommencing we moved into a different sort of grapes. We had hitherto been tackling black grapes, but now it was to be white ones. These were generally much nearer the ground, but there was compensation in the bunches being bigger and easier to cut. It was during this spell that Eric and myself were on panier-carrying. Eric, with his knowledge of French disappeared for some time.

With white grapes, unlike the black, no sorting is necessary, and work was made easier for the carriers, due to large baskets holding about 1½ cwt. which were brought round to the actual cutters on wheelbarrows. It was to one of these barrows that I managed to get myself officially attached. I now held what I considered a better job for a couple of days until, turning up rather late one morning, I found someone had "pinched me barrow." It had its own setbacks in the way of stiff arms and legs, but didn't entail the agonizing backache which rendered people almost helpless in the position of a permanent bend. The songs had long since ceased with the rains. Only a steady sound of clipping could be heard, broken occasionally with the shout for "panier" or basket, and the cries as once more steel met flesh.

At 11 and 12 o'clock, short breaks were had for replenishment of a tot of red wine, which the more tougher stomachs were now beginning to accept. Lunch was announced by calling out "manger" by the foreman. We again clambered on to the cart or into the car and set off back for Bouzy. Lunch was something we had been waiting for, and at last we felt nourished. A rest on our beds afterwards and, surprisingly, everyone was able to rise. Once more we set off for the fields, and our stint was to last until 5.30, with breaks for the red wine which, by now, was being accepted with great enthusiasm.

Work completed for the day, a weary group, boots caked with mud and soaked, trudged back to the billets. Some made an effort immediately, while others were too tired, but by seven all had "toileted" and changed into more comfortable clothes. Seven was the time for dinner, and when the feast was over, spirits had risen to such a peak it didn't seem too bad after all. Again that evening the local high-spot was visited, and again the local inhabitants and grape-pickers were outlasted at the bar.

Monday morning saw the finish, a few days earlier than expected, due to the reasonably good weather. Chippie's car was decorated with local-grown flowers, as was the cart and lorry. Then the traditional after-harvest ride was taken through the streets, lined with the people who had grown accustomed to us strange foreign fellows. Following the ride, champagne flowed freely in toasts, snaps were taken to record the scenes, before getting ready for the feast, which had been prepared for the afternoon. After a very good meal there were a few jokes, which looked particularly rigged for us to get caught in, but misfired and one of the fair sex got her face covered in flour instead. Our picking job was done, but for the staff it was back to the field to clear up before dusk. The unexpected early finish left us with a few days' leave. Eric and I made a hurried tour arrangement and took in Luxembourg and Belgium; a couple more set out for Brussels; some went to Paris; the remainder just returned to their beds in camp for a rest.

Was it worth it? Although leave can no doubt be spent in much better ways, I don't think anyone regretted going. Some say they wouldn't do it again, but on the other hand others would like to go back next year. In all, an enjoyable time was had, looking back and laughing at incidents which didn't appear funny at the time. It is hoped, by the organiser, to make this an annual event for the unit, so watch it if you get posted here, don't say you like open air life if you don't mean it.



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Rock Climbing in Cyprus

Two Corporals Accept the Challenge of the Kyrenia Mountain Range.

CORPORALS Evans and Smithson, of 9th Regiment, have made the most of their time in Cyprus by getting out and enjoying their favourite pastime of rock-climbing. Corporal Evans describes these outings and Corporal Catford has illustrated them. Here is an excellent example of how to enjoy overseas service by making sensible use of local facilities.

* * *

The Kyrenia mountain range lies on the north coast of Cyrpus, stretching from east to west for 50 miles or so. The average height of the range is perhaps 2,500ft. rising to 3,357ft. (Kyparissovouno) and tapering away to the east along the Karpas peninsular.

At three points along the range, majestic castles dominate their surroundings. The peak names themselves read like a roll call of Olympus's minor deities—Kornos, Alonagra, Hilarion, Buffavento, Pentadactylos and so on.

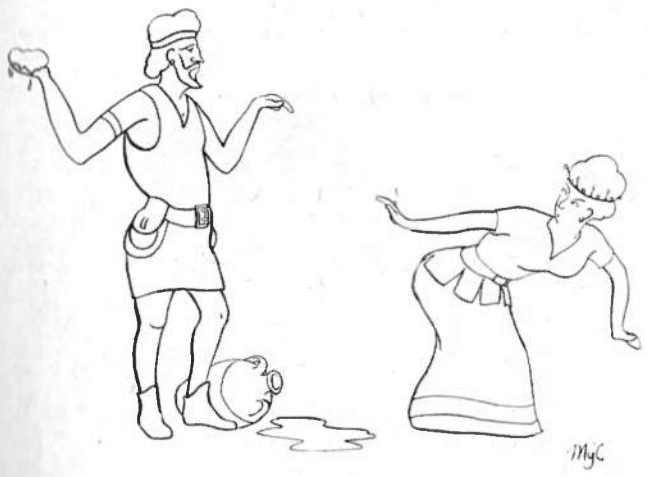
Along most of the mountain range run small roads that are negotiable most of the year round. From these roads the normal day tripper can witness the breath-taking contrast between the fertile north coast and the dry Mesaoria Plain. For these diehards who think that Cyrpus is a barren island in the Mediterranean, this is the place!

On to rock-climbing, though! Few people on the island realise the scope that this beautiful mountain range has to offer. The only other climbers we have met have been either the R.A.F. Mountain Rescue Team or the "Paras" on exercises—lucky people who seem to make a living out of our hobby!

A most exciting aspect of rock climbing here is the fact that the climb you have just "cracked" may well have been a first ascent. Occasionally, however, after struggling up a remote face that you had thought no one else would dare tackle, you come across an empty cigarette packet or a well-placed piton!

A climbing guide is being prepared at the present, giving the location and grades of the more well-known outcrops: this will be invaluable to the less experienced enthusiasts who are looking for introductory climbing.

The main attraction is definitely Pentadactylos (Five Fingers) peak. The name is indeed apt; five individual peaks stretch for three-quarters-of-a-mile in line. It takes a strenuous five hours to follow conscientiously the ridge from one end to the other. Perhaps someone has done it in less?



Luckily she ducked . . .

Typically, Pentadactylos has a legendary origin: In another part of the island the village "queen" was worried about the advances of the local "palikari" (conceited fellow). She agreed to marry him if he brought her some water from Apostolos Andreas, situated at the extreme end of the Karpas peninsular. Being a very dangerous journey in those days, she little expected to see him again. The young man was successful, however, and presented the queen with a jug of water. When she refused him he poured the water to the ground in rage and threw a handful of the resulting mud at the young lady. Luckily she ducked and the mud flew far across the central plain to land on the Kyrenia mountain range in the north, where it still shows the imprint of the palikari's fingers.

I must quickly assure the practical rock climber that the peak is certainly not made of dried mud and that weeks of enjoyable climbing may be found on good, firm rock! Only experience can tell you whether a distant outcrop is worth the long walk from the road. A few rules hold good though: if the rocks look pink or red, it is usually a bad sign. It means that they have been worn by sand blast down to the "bone." Fine grained light grey granite is much more reliable; even when not visibly differentiated, it will often abound in small, firm holds. Another hazard is shrubbery—what we in the "trade" call "vegetable-climbing." This is best avoided. We have found ourselves climbing vertical rock gardens that Percy Thrower would be proud of!

Other happy hunting grounds? Well, there is Kornos (above Vasilia) at the western extremity of the range, which has a lot to offer. Buffavento ("Stronghold against the winds") has a death-defying north wall. This particular climb (mentioned in his book "Commando Climber") had been done by Captain Mike Banks, who paid a short visit to the island. As he considered this a first ascent, we were naturally attracted to it. We followed his footsteps up the eastern arete and it proved to be a long, arduous climb in much better conditions than he had experienced. We climbed through a bank of mist and emerged in the west wing of the castle that is perched on the top of this breathtaking (in both senses of the word) peak! Below, the eagles were diving through the mist which was laced with the colours of the rainbow as the sun caught it.

For a quick afternoon on the rock, we normally make do with a useful outcrop that has been affectionately named "Hairy-Mary." This is only three-quarters-of-an-hours drive from Famagusta, north of Ardhana, towards Lefkoniko Pass.

The evenings are short now, and an early night in bed is the norm, after partaking of the local "bira," of course, and chatting about the day's climbs. The sleeping-bag is warm and drowsy tinklings lull the distant folds as we bed down underneath the brilliant stars.



First Ascent ?

Some Members of the Corps may be eligible as —

Yeoman Warders of the Tower of London

BY YEOMAN WARDER G. A. E. GAVEY
(LATE CAPTAIN ROYAL SIGNALS)



Yeoman Warder G. A. E. Gavey

THE following article, apart from general interest, may suggest a possible future form of employment to Warrant Officers and Staff Sergeants of the Corps. Only those two ranks are eligible. Pay starts at £11 18s. 0d. a week and increases by two annual increments to £12 8s. 0d. plus 6s. 3d. a day whilst on the active list. Quarters are provided for a reasonable rent in the Tower. Full particulars are available from Association H.Q. There is a waiting list but it may be well worth while registering *before* leaving the Service as selection for a vacancy may come up by the time applicant leaves the Service or soon afterwards.

Yeoman Warders and Yeomen of the Guard

A permanent body of Royal retainers was in existence within the Tower, and this body performed the duties of warders over prisoners, gate-keepers, and armed defenders of the fortress, very many years before the Yeoman of the Guard were formed.

The Yeoman Warders of today claim direct and unbroken descent from these keepers of the gates, and their 'fellowship' is considered to be the oldest of any known association of men carrying on the same duties from century to century, up to the present day. The earliest Warder who can be traced by name is "John of London" who lived in the 14th century in the reign of Edward III. For the formation of the Yeoman of the Guard we must go back in history to the battle of Bosworth in 1485. Henry Tudor (Henry VII) had been in exile in Brittany and faithful followers who had shared his exile and had marched with him from Milford Haven, through Wales, were formed into a personal bodyguard to be known as "Yeoman of the Guard." An extract from the "Tower Warder's Order Book" reads thus: "On the 22nd May, 1485, Henry, Earl of Richmond was, by public acclamation, saluted on the battlefield of Bosworth, King of England, and was crowned on the 30th October following. In the first year of his reign the Yeoman of the Guard were first ordered, of which the Yeoman Waiters, or Warders of the Tower, hath the seniority." It was not until 1551 that the Yeoman Warders were sworn extraordinary members of the Guard and permitted to wear the same livery as they did. This came about in the following manner: When the Tower was a Royal Palace, and the King frequently lived there, the Yeoman Warders were in constant evidence as his body-guard; but when these visits became less frequent, there was some danger of the Yeoman Warders losing their ancient privileges and rights. During the reign of Edward VI, the Duke of Somerset (Lord Protector) was a prisoner in the Tower. The Duke was on very friendly terms with the Warders and they made a petition to him asking that their ancient dress and privileges might be restored to them. The promise to see to the matter on his liberation was made and kept by the Duke.

Beefeaters

Quite erroneously the general public call the Warders "Beefeaters"; this is a name we do not acknowledge having no direct connection—except as regards uniform—with the Yeoman who in times past served the 'buffet' at St. James's Palace, from whence the word 'buffetier' was possibly derived and later corrupted to 'Beefeater' (St. James's Palace is still the Headquarters of the Yeoman of the Guard). Here it might be convenient to add that a Yeoman of the Guard wears a cross-belt, whereas a Yeoman Warder does not; but both carry a 'partisan' when in State dress.

When both formations are on parade together for a State occasion, Yeoman Warders always hold the entrances while their majesties are inside the building and the Yeoman of the Guard do duty inside the building.

It is the Yeoman of the Guard who carry out the traditional search of the vaults of the Houses of Parliament, before a new Parliament opens; they also do bodyguard duties at Buckingham Palace. On the other hand it is usually Yeoman Warders who attend the Royal Family when they make a ceremonial visit to the City of London, i.e. to the Guildhall or Mansion House.

Our establishment and strength is now 38 (Chief Warder, Yeoman Gaoler, Yeoman Clerk and 35 Yeoman Warders). It was not until 1826 when the Duke of Wellington was constable that an order was introduced closing the Wardership to all but old soldiers. The Duke's order reads: "No person shall be admitted to be a Warder of the Tower but deserving, gallant and meritorious Sergeants of the Army." Until recently a Wardenship was restricted to ex-Warrant Officers of the Army or R.A.F. but now ex-Staff Sergeants are accepted. The conditions for registration are contained in Queen's Regs. 1955 Appd. XIX(e). Warders are appointed from a waiting list kept by the Resident Governor and this list is compiled of applicants taken impartially from every branch of the Army and the R.A.F., the appointment being made by the Constable of the Tower. At the present time there are no ex-Signals on the waiting list and only the writer is on the Active List of Warders. Readers may remember that Chief Warder A. Griffen recently retired —see article reporting his retirement in the July, 1963, edition of THE WIRE.

The State Dress

The State dress as worn on State occasions and Royal Salute days comes down from the reign of Henry VII but the Thistle and Shamrock emblems worn on the State coat were later added to the Tudor Rose on the Union of Scotland and Ireland to form the United Kingdom. Our blue working uniform is only about 120 years old and was introduced to save the wear of the very expensive State dress costing over £100 to make.

CORPS MOTOR CYCLE DISPLAY TEAM ENTERTAINED BY TRIUMPHS

The "flying wheels" of the Corps take it a little more steadily at the Dinner on the 22nd November, 1963, so kindly given to them by Triumphs—yet another indication of the close liaison between the Corps and this famous firm



[Photo by courtesy R. G. Bailey, Coventry

Bavarian Expedition

BY LANCE-CORPORAL M. MOORCROFT

A PARTY from 257 Squadron show their prowess in dealing with the mountains and the beer, to say nothing of some five-a-side rugby in between.

As in 1962, 257 Squadron despatched a detachment to Southern Germany, to achieve the following aims:

The participation in physical exercise and exertion of all Squadron members foolish enough to have volunteered for the trip.

The sampling and constructive criticism of the local hop products.

The testing out of long range H.F. radio communications.

I can happily record here, that the expedition, headed by Lieutenant Cross, of Radio Troop, and consisting of 22 members of the Squadron, plus a R.E.M.E. and A.C.C. representative, successfully achieved all these objectives.

The outward journey, much to the disgust of the Saturday night revellers included in the expedition, started on Sunday morning, with the party distributed over three vehicles—a Champ, a one-tonner (H.F. radio) and a three-tonner, with each vehicle having to tow a trailer.

Unfortunately, we were assailed with bad luck from the outset, and when we were over 200 miles away along the autobahn, heading south, the Champ "went sick." Replacements not being available, the "injured" vehicle had to be towed the rest of the way. This involved the remaining two vehicles doubling up on their towed loads.



Technician up the pole:—Corporal Brooks

For the remainder of the trip on the autobahn all went well except that one towing hook on the Champ was inadvertently broken, and several safety-conscious passengers riding in the rear of the three-tonner stated quite categorically that unless Signalman Knight could drive without the rear trailor swing taking up *both* autobahn lanes, they were going to walk.

Once off the autobahn and on to the secondary roads, the second towing hook on the Champ broke, and after a short delay, we wended our now weary way with the Champ skillfully tied to the one-tonner by a combination of rope and rigid bars.

At 07.00 hours, Monday morning, after some 22 hours on the road, we arrived in Oberau—where we were to set up camp. Unlike the previous expedition, we had journeyed through the night and so we were several hours ahead of schedule, enabling us to set up camp on the outskirts of the village, completely at our leisure, then get a meal, quickly prepared by Corporal Wixie, A.C.C., and finally a couple of hours' sleep—much needed by one and all. All this was rapidly achieved in the minimum of time, including the construction of a large camp bonfire to help combat the cool Bavarian morning.

The following morning, the whole group, with one exception, Corporal Wixie, set out eager to conquer our first objective, the Krottenkopf (6,884ft.). In order to do this we left camp at approximately 10.30 hours, and by 11.00 hours had reached the base of the mountain, about one mile distant. And then it started, the long, slow, never-ending (seemingly) toil upwards into the clouds. Progress was slow, mainly on account of the fact that the majority of the party had had little or no experience at this type of footwork, and inevitably, the party became very widespread, causing inumerable halts to be called by Lieutenant Cross, to allow the backmarkers to catch up. Light relief was provided by "Ginge" Walsh, who was frequently heard to mutter "Korea was never like this." However, no matter what the cost, we all kept valiantly battling on upwards, spurred mainly by the thought of the cool beer awaiting the party when they reached the gasthaus near the summit. A



A welcome rest in a long day's trek

dinner halt was called in sight of this haven, and everybody spent 20 minutes gazing longingly at the goal, about half a mile away. We finally reached the object of our longing at about 14.30 hours. After a cool refreshing beer, five intrepid souls climbed the remaining 300 ft. to the summit. These five were Powell, Rennie, Newman, Malone, Moorcroft, and they reported that the view obtained from the actual summit was well worth the extra effort.

The descent made down the opposite side of the mountain brought us out on the level, but about three miles from the camp. These three miles were made across country in failing light and we arrived back about 19.00 hours, tired and weary, but very relieved to be back in the relative comfort of camp and to the relative luxury of Cuisine a la Wixie.

On Wednesday, 30th October, the journey was made by three-tonner to the Ettaler Mandl, slightly lower than the previous day's climb. This proved to be much easier than the Krottenkopf and the journey back took about an hour—all steep climbing. Again only a portion of the party attempted the actual summit which was a "pure" rock climb, facilitated by a steel cabled route called a "dratzeil." After this, and a brief lunch break, the majority of the party returned to the base. Meanwhile Corporal Malone, Corporal Brooks, Lance-Corporal Rennie and Lance-Corporal Moorcroft, instructed by Lieutenant Cross, attempted the rockface, on a more difficult and unindicated route. As all except Lieutenant Cross were completely inexperienced, a major part of the remainder of the way was spent explaining such intracies as 'bowlines,' 'belaying' and 'three point' climbing techniques. And so, to the echoes of 'below,' an enjoyable afternoon was spent in the main taking the sun at about 5,000 ft. The descent was rapidly made at the appointed time, and we headed wearily back to camp.

On the Thursday, after a very late rising, several people were heard to be whispering darkly something about road signs.

The afternoon was spent in the very strenuous activity of a five-a-side rugby competition, won, of course, by our own "all blacks," Lance-Corporals Rennie and Moorcroft and Signalmen O'Donnel, Knight and Newman.

In most of all the feverish activities detailed so far, basic research was conducted into objective two—namely the sampling of the local beer. This proved to be very satisfactory indeed, as numerous hangovers illustrated. Indeed it was a very pleasant change from the synthetic-chemical beer produced in the north. The local populace, too, proved to be very friendly and many were the pieces of chocolate cake consumed in the early morning hours.

It was with regret that preparations had to be made on the Friday morning in readiness to return home. Unfortunately, the Champ was still out of commission due to the fact that the spare parts were still 'en route' from Dortmund. (Subsequently we learned that instead of being despatched by Bundespost the package had been sent by Forces' mail to England and thence to Oberan.) And so Corporal Brooks, Signalman Jennings, Craftsman Smyth were abandoned, equipped with a plentiful supply of cooking utensils, spades and Army form blank but, unfortunately, due to an administrative oversight, no food.



ON THE ETTALER MANDLE

Left to Right from rear Corporal Brooks, Signalman Mair, Signalman Knight, Signalman Latham, Signalman Newman, Lieutenant Cross, Lance Corporal Moorcroft, Lance Corporal Rennie, Signalman Retallick, Corporal Malone

However, they didn't starve—quite—and managed to return to camp on the following Tuesday after Lieutenant Cross had driven down with the necessary spares. Naturally, the spares en route by post arrived the same time as the good Lieutenant Cross.

In the meantime the main party had arrived home, this time uneventfully after a very rapid drive—13 hours in all—in time to prepare for some "real soldiering" (in the words of C. H. Forrester's "General") on C.I.V. and administration inspection.

And so was concluded a very satisfactory, if somewhat strenuous, week, having achieved all our objectives, including even long range H.F. radio communication and leaving but one question unanswered, "When will we return."

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Young Coaster

BY STAFF SERGEANT R. S. BRESLOFF—ATTACHED TO THE NIGERIAN ARMY SIGNALS

WHAT makes a man volunteer for a secondment to an African country, especially one who has a cushy billet with the T.A.? For me it was a longing to get away from it all, so after reading the secondment manual once, in went all the forms. After many months of waiting and many official calls to SP (Co-ord) and a certain W.O.I in Records, I was told by my Training Major, "Give up, I'm sending you to the Channel Isles for a T.A. Exercise and I will recall you if I hear anything"—famous last words. As the boat left Southampton a DR arrived carrying my Movement Order with an air ticket, informing me I had been accepted and would proceed on the 30th June, 1963, to Lagos, Nigeria, which was then three weeks hence. An ex-boy to the core, I left for the Channel Isles and after many signals to the homeland I jumped a visiting ship and made my way to the U.K. The next three weeks went in a whirl and on the 30th June I found myself seated aboard a B.O.A.C. Britannia bound for Nigeria.

I stepped out into the 90 per cent humidity of Lagos to be met by old friends—Staff Sergeant Dossiter, B.E.M. (it must have been tennis), and Foreman of Signals Davis. A tour of the Federal capital and I was on my way to meet the C.S.O. After a chat about the T.A., R.M.A. and boats, I removed myself, rather dazed, from his office and then to meet my first West African soldier. More of that later. Now that this large country has become a Republic and owes no direct allegiance to the Crown, I will not discuss equipment, except to say that our soldier communicates day and, if we are lucky, night, over a country four times the size of the British Isles.

My official appointment was Chief Instructor Training School, Nigerian Army Signals, and I was amazed to find out what a C.I. did. Every signal trade is taught here but I arrived at a time when it had been decided to step up the training so the task of training men and instructors at the same time became a bit of a headache. However, we progressed and after a short time found that if one said yellow was blue it was accepted as blue.

I know the reader, if he is still reading, does not want to hear how a training school is run. Many have done it, so let us face facts. What is secondment like? It is not easy. On paper the pay looks good, but SP (Co-ord) forgets to tell one that the cost of living has gone up, that the leave centre closed four years ago and so on. But believe me, in spite of it all it is well worth it. The wealth of experience one gains, I am sure, will stand me in good stead for the rest of my days. The indigenous soldier is a happy one. Three instances stand out in my mind. One day I sent my runner, who is a G.D. man, to get me a packet of pins, he came back with five soldiers. I have never solved that, but what can you say when he stands there and says "Yes, sur"—even when you tell him he isn't a good soldier. Then there was The Regimental Signaller who wrote an eassay after seeing the film "Mercury" and asked me how you trained pigeons to read letters. He went away quite convinced that Royal Signals are very clever, for who else would cross a talking parrot with a homing pigeon (maybe I should have called him back). Finally, there was the telephone operator whose exchange is 100 yards from the C.S.O.'s office who tells you, when you ask for his extension, there has never been a C.S.O. in Nigeria. Still he had only worked on the board for five years.

It is with a sense of achievement you sign an NMF 197, equivalent to an AB 53, for a B III tradesman who you know until he joins you is what is termed a bush man, i.e. one who comes from the bush to be civilised. They are a happy crowd and I am proud to have helped them a little.

In eighteen short months I have seen a little of this vast country, served for a short period with the United Nations in the Congo and worn three badges—The Royal West African Frontier Force, the United Nations and now the Eagle and Star of a new Republic. Alas, all good things come to an end and one wakes up wondering if Nigerianisation will attack your appointment today. To the very few expatriates who are left, J.C. and "Bobo," "Big Jim," "Dad" Davis, "Ham" Taylor and "Mac" in the Shack, may your buckets always shine. To my Nigerian comrades of the past eighteen hectic months, may you always be loud and clear. To Charles of Kongola, good luck and to all you Senior N.C.O.s of the Corps, try a secondment, it is well worth it.

A Return to Norway

They Faced a Blizzard

and had 'Fruit Wodge' for dinner!

THIS is an account of two Royal Signals Officers who had an aim—this was to investigate the Jotunheimen, a range of mountains in central Norway, about 200 miles north of Oslo. The consummation of their efforts was achieved when they reached the top of the Glitterind—8,100 feet up—in the teeth of a blizzard!

But on the journey problems and difficulties had to be faced. The problem of food for instance. Previously, and to the horror of the Mess Cook, original combat rations had been designed to keep them alive for a few days. But these rations contained a mystery. The menu for dinner included 1 oz. of Fruit Wodge —a culinary item at first described as "the product of a tortured mind," but which later became quite a likeable item.

The two officers concerned were Lieutenant J. H. Almonds and Lieutenant W. J. P. Robins, both of whom were making a return to Norway. It is to Lieutenant Robins that we are indebted for this account of their experiences.

* * *

The Royal Signals' part of the 18th Degree Course at Shrivenham first met as a group at the War Office on 4th October, 1963, the Friday before the term began. They talked about the previous few weeks and the main fact which emerged was that only two of the five had escaped from B.A.O.R. in time to do anything useful, the others being retained (for vital Regimental reasons) up to the last possible moment.

The lucky two were Lieutenant J. H. Almonds and Lieutenant W. J. P. Robins who had left the rugged world of Rhine Army on 7th September, using a very disillusioned Volkswagen to take themselves and several hundred weight of kit northward. Their aim was to investigate the Jotunheimen, a range of mountains in central Norway, about 200 miles north of Oslo. Both these officers are confirmed Norgophiles mainly because of a Royal Signals "Whiteshod" course which they had the luck to get on in 1962.

They drove all day and night and arrived in Oslo early Sunday morning, 22 hours after leaving Osnabruck. The journey was without incident, but the Volkswagen was still not convinced that this was fun.

After a short stay in Oslo, they bumped north to Lillehammer where they stayed at the Youth Hostel and carried out minor repairs to equipment in preparation for the next few mountainous days. They also called on Lieutenants Oodegarde and Sandeen of the Norwegian Signals and received the warm genuine hospitality which characterises Norwegians everywhere. They received an invitation to stay at the "Haerens Sambands Skole" (the Norwegian Catterick) on their way back from the mountains, an offer which was accepted with more haste than politeness.

On the Tuesday evening (10th September) the hostel rocked to the clink of Vat 69 bottles and everybody unbent a little. In fact everybody was still unbending at 3 a.m. Wednesday in several European tongues and one American one.

However, on the Wednesday they continued north and made their base camp near Elverseter, a small village in Bouderdalen. The camp was pleasantly situated in a clearing through which flowed a very cold stream.

The first few days were spent wandering round the local hills and discovering how unfit they were. Almonds' S.A.S. training soon made itself felt and rucksacks were filled with bricks and humped up and down mountains for the hell of it.

Goldhoppigen, the second highest mountain in Norway, was climbed in a blizzard and a foot of snow, but by the easy route. Almonds' prophesy of summit conditions (snow horizontal 50 knots) proved correct, and afterwards they dried in front of a friendly hotel fire.

After a few more days spent idling around the local hills, a decision was made to mount a five-day trek round some of the more distant hills, starting with a 'straight bash' over Glitterrind (about 8,100 feet), the highest mountain in Norway. This also had a blizzard blowing on top and they were glad to get down.

Almonds had spent a pleasant Saturday afternoon some months previously designing combat rations (to the horror of the Mess cook) and the products of his labours were to keep both of them alive for the next few days.

The menu was:—

Breakfast: Coffee, oatmeal block or biscuits, bar of chocolate; Lunch: 1 bar of chocolate; Dinner: 1 pint of soup, 1 oz. cheese, 1 oz. of Fruit Wodge (Robins deemed this to be the product of a tortured mind, but by the fifth day he liked it).

This was supplemented by two large trout donated by friendly fishermen and a large part of a patch of wild rhubarb which they boiled for a few hours, on the third day. This made the fourth day's marching rather like an advance to contact, with both of them estimating how long it would take to the next bit of cover. The phase passed.

This affair lasted from Tuesday to Saturday. On the Saturday they returned to camp, hollow cheeked and wild eyed, to feed on curried beef and ginger pudding.

On Sunday morning they struck camp and drove down to the Norwegian Signal School at Jorstadunoen, near Lillehammer, where they received warmth, food, beds and pleasant talks with old friends.

Then on to Oslo, where they caught the *Braemar Castle* to Newcastle. The whole business lasted from 7th September to 27th September and all in all cost £25 each, including boat passages and petrol.

Book Review

The Safari Room — Cook Book No. 1

BY COLVIN AND MARY MEIK

FOR many years the writer has constantly reiterated that "to a Signalman nothing is impossible."

Colvin Meik enlisted in Royal Signals in the late 1930's, and as an Electrician, Signals, thoroughly enjoyed his life as a pre-war soldier—"rough, tough, but the cricket was good."

He served in France in 1939, was evacuated via Brest, and later found himself in the Signal Troop attached to an Armoured Regiment, in all the battles of the Western Desert. Wounded, and later commissioned, he served in East Africa, and from 1947 as Adjutant of 3 G.H.Q. Signals at Fayid. He retired in the early 1950's and became a restaurateur!

He and his wife have made the Safari Room at Chideock, near Bridport, Dorset, famous for its cuisine and comfort. Cook Book No. 1 (the first of three) is, at 5/-, sheer charity; it contains a wealth of culinary lore.

Electrician, Signals, to membership of the 'Association de Culinaire Francais'—which proves "to a Signalman nothing is impossible."

Appointments at Royal Hospital, Chelsea

VACANCIES will occur in 1964 for "Captains of Invalids," Royal Hospital, Chelsea. Appointments are made from officers on the retired list, preferably aged about 50, but in any case not more than 60. The appointment is for 10 years in the first instance and may be renewed at the discretion of the Commissioners.

Captains of Invalids are required to live in the Royal Hospital and are provided with unfurnished quarters, including a generous allowance of fuel and light. Salary, in addition to any non-effective pay, is £250 p.a. for the three senior Captains of Invalids and £150 p.a. for the others.

Any officer interested should contact the Regimental Secretary for further details.

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Exercise "Pedal Thrust"

BY SECOND-LIEUTENANT J. GRAHAM

Six hundred miles and five countries in eight days—the "thrusters" of the 22nd Regiment show what can be done!

The aim of the exercise was that a team of fourteen men, ten riding bicycles and four reliefs should touch the frontiers of four countries bordering Germany. Radio contact was to be established while in night location, and special timings for cycling and contact were laid down. The team had an administrative back-up of a one-ton vehicle which carried the kit, tents, food and cooking equipment for the ten days allowed.

The route was chosen, the cycles issued, the men briefed, and the sceptics just had to be proved wrong. **We were determined to succeed come rain, hail, or shine.**

At 08.30 hours on Wednesday, 18th September, the team set off on the first stage of its journey, Lippstadt to Düsseldorf, an ambitious distance, which was designed to work out the expected aches and pains before camp was reached for the first night. The hours went by, the hills got higher and the distance seemed to grow longer. After some had even fallen asleep on the roadside during halts for puncture repairs we arrived in Düsseldorf tired but triumphant. It was thought to be too early to celebrate as we still had a long way to go. After a hot shower and a meal we settled down for a well earned rest.

An early start was made as the next day's stage was almost as long as the first. We completed the first half in good time passing through Aachen, touching the borders of Holland and Belgium. Then we met the mountains. Special techniques for travelling down hill were developed during this stage. Some chose the quickest way and disappeared over the edge of the steeper corners at frequent intervals. Others, not trusting their brakes, were content to end up in ditches and buried in hedges. Yet everyone survived and arrived in camp at Ruhrburg after a hectic and exciting journey.

The third day was a short hop to Prüm and a very quick leg it proved to be. Everyone was in top form and a high average speed was obtained. It was a clear day and we had unbroken sunshine. Three of the more adventurous had a dip in the nearby swimming pool but it was far too cold for the majority.

The next leg was the last before Sunday, the day chosen to be the compulsory rest day. We arrived in Trier and those who did not cycle to Luxembourg visited some of the many Roman ruins in the area. The scenery had changed. From the flat ground north of Aachen we had travelled over the Eifel mountains and were now in the Moselle valley. At Trier we touched the Luxembourg and French borders and Monday saw us starting the long haul home.

With the weather still wonderful and warm sunshine we followed the Moselle to Cochem. This stop proved very entertaining, when a great deal of wine was drunk by the inexperienced. However, save for a few thick heads in the morning, no damage was done.

We were sorry to see the last of the Moselle. It had proved to be a beautiful companion and a very interesting stage in our journey. Leaving the picturesque towns, castles and ruins behind us we cycled through Koblenz and followed the Rhine to Bad Honningen.

The weather changed, and the party cycled through a series of rainstorms to arrive at Witzhelden thoroughly soaked. Somewhere along the route near Bonn two of the faster members lost the main party. They were not seen again until two hours after everyone else had reached camp! That evening a tremendous hailstorm swept over the camp. It was necessary to dive for shelter and batten down. Throughout the night and the whole of the next day it poured with rain and hail. Friday therefore became an enforced rest day but we were within striking distance of Lippstadt so there was no great difficulty.

The last day dawned overcast and dull. After a quick breakfast the team set off for the RV, the stop for lunch. Back over the hills around Iserlohn the journey proved tiring. At the RV it was decided that the faster members should press on back to Lippstadt and the team leader bring the rest home. About 17.30 hours, Saturday, 28th September, the last member cycled through the gates. As he dismounted he was heard to say, "That was good, when is the next one?"

The exercise was successful. The team had completed a journey of nearly 600 miles in eight cycling days. It proved very instructive and adventurous for all who took part. One of the important things was that sceptics had been proved wrong. We had completed our task despite the rain, hail, and difficulties.

The team: Lieutenant J. Graham, 244 Squadron (Leader), Sergeant D. A. F. Adams, 244 Squadron, Corporal D. J. Sands, 244 Squadron, Lance-Corporal J. A. G. Lawrence, 244 Squadron, Lance-Corporal A. J. Leigh, 1 Squadron, Signalman R. B. Brownlie, 244 Squadron, Signalman F. Burt, 244 Squadron, Signalman R. Bainbridge, 244 Squadron, Signalman D. E. Longley, 244 Squadron, Signalman A. A. Whelan, 244 Squadron, Signalman R. S. Taylor, 1 Squadron, Signalman D. Uttley, 244 Squadron.

"ROUND THE WORLD IN A THIRD OF A SECOND"

COMCAN'S Latest use of Modern Communication Techniques

BY MAJOR L. CHRISTENSEN,
ROYAL AUSTRALIAN SIGNALS

The new Commonwealth Pacific Telephone Cable, linking Australia, New Zealand, Fiji and Canada, was officially opened by H.M. The Queen on the 2nd December, 1963. The Queen congratulated all concerned with the enterprise and added: "It is more than a telephone link. It is a practical expression of the faith of the Commonwealth in its own future."

The cable, which cost about £26 million, links the cities of Sydney, Auckland, Suva, Honolulu, Vancouver. Physically, it is little more than one inch in diameter, yet it provides 80 two-way telephone channels, any one of which can be used for 20 or more teleprinter circuits. Operators in any one of the above cities, can dial directly into the telephone systems of any of the others.

In order to complete the link to the United Kingdom, the cable head at Vancouver is connected into the Trans-Canada Micro-wave system, which terminates on the east coast at Montreal. At Montreal it is again connected with a submarine cable, this time spanning the Atlantic. The Atlantic span was, in fact, the first stage of this comprehensive telephone network to be completed, and was commissioned in December, 1961.

In considering this vast enterprise, one cannot merely mention the Trans-Canada Micro-wave system without a word of description, for this system itself is indeed vast, and a great technical achievement. The distance, coast to coast, is approximately 2,700 miles, and covering this distance are 101 intermediate repeater stations, all unmanned, and two terminal stations. The system traverses bald prairie, bushland and high Rocky Mountains. All large cities are by-passed, but are served by drop channels from the main system. The system is owned, operated and maintained jointly by Pacific Telecommunications and Canadian National Telecommunications.

Royal Signals operate a teleprinter channel in the COMPAC system, but not content with a termination at Sydney, have, in co-operation with Australian G.P.O. and Royal Australian Signals, extended the link to the Tape Relay Centre at Singapore.

In this day and age, distance itself is of no great consequence. Man can send information to, and receive from, vehicles millions of miles in space, and whilst we marvel at this accomplishment, we at the same time appreciate it as a technical achievement of which there are many, almost weekly. What really captures the imagination is a combination of the physical and the technical and this is surely the COMPAC system.

Follow the signal from T.R.C. Boddington to Singapore. First it is fed into the Post Office system, which delivers it to London Communications Centre. From there into the Trans-Atlantic submarine cable to Montreal, thence across Canada via the Micro-wave Radio Bearer system, thousands of miles of it over mountains, rivers and valleys to Vancouver. At Vancouver it is again put to submarine cable and passes through Honolulu, Suva and Auckland to Sydney. At Sydney it is extended approximately 700 miles via a T.V. and telephone coaxial cable, which connects with Melbourne via Canberra. Finally, at Melbourne, Royal Australian Signals personnel pass the signal to T.R.C. Singapore via H.F. radio. The whole of this journey is completed in 0.3 second.

The Boddington-Singapore channel thus provided is a great success. Operating on a 24-hour basis, it is available for traffic 80 per cent of the time. Considering the number of points at which trouble may occur, particularly interruption due to H.F. propagation conditions, Melbourne-Singapore, and the normal engineering requirements, such as distortion measurements, etc., the present availability figure leaves little to be desired.



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GENEROUS EFFORT BY WRAC OF 14th REGIMENT



Second Lieutenant R. M. Denvir on behalf of the girls of G Troop WRAC presenting a cheque for £30 to the head boy of the Oakbank School for handicapped children Gloucester. The money was raised by their own efforts which included staging a Revue " Out of this World "

H.Q. ROYAL SIGNALS MALAYA

We think that this is the first time that H.Q. Royal Signals Malaya has appeared in THE WIRE.

A word about our job in life. We are in a unique position as a H.Q. Royal Signals as under command we have members of the Royal Signals, Royal Australian Signals and Gurkha Signals which are not part of the Corps but part of the Brigade of Gurkhas. We serve as operational headquarters, H.Q. 17 Gurkha Division, and a static headquarters, H.Q. Malaya Area. This commitment is to split shortly and another H.Q. Royal Signals is to form.

The staff here consists of the Commander Royal Signals, Lieutenant-Colonel J. C. Clinch, Gurkha Signals, who also wears two other hats, those of Commanding Officer of 17 Gurkha Signal Regiment and Commandant Gurkha Signals (which embraces the Regiment and three Brigade Signal Squadrons). The S.O.2 (Royal Signals) is Lieutenant (T.O.T.) C. J. Bayfield, Royal Signals, yes, we expect some raised eyebrows at the thought of a Lieutenant performing the duties of an S.O.2. We'll answer the obvious question, he is drawing the pay of the rank of Major! The only British Other Rank on the staff is Sergeant A. Smith, the Chief Clerk. The next member of the staff is Lance-Corporal Haribahadur Chhetri who is on loan from Gurkha Signals. We now come to the civilians on the staff. Mr. Vong Tham Yew, Clerk Class I, is the telecoms clerk and does the job we all hate, billing. Mr. Vong is to be congratulated on the well deserved award of a General Officer Commanding-in-Chief's Testimonial for Good Service. Last but not least, the office is graced by the presence of Miss Maria Aloysius, our typist. On top of the more orthodox skills she plays soccer as goalkeeper for the Negri Sembilan Ladies' team.

As mentioned before, the headquarters is due to split. H.Q. Malaya Area is remaining in Rasah Camp, Seremban, with most of the staff and Sergeant Smith is going to Neuralia Lines, Kluang, on the formation of H.Q. 17 Division, we drop the title of " Gurkha " on the split. Colonel Clinch is to remain C.R. Signals Malaya and, temporarily, he is to assume Hat No. 4 as C.R. Signals 17 Division.

BOXING

On 21st November, 1963, Sergeant A. Pfeiffer, of 14th Regiment, represented the Army, at heavyweight, against London A.B.A. The Army lost 3—10, but Pfeiffer won his bout against V. Moore of London. The referee stopped the fight because Moore had a cut eye.

At the moment of writing, Sergeant Pfeiffer is training at Aldershot for the Inter-Services match against the Royal Navy at Tidworth on 23rd January.

Royal Military College of Science

It's Hard Work here but...

It has its compensations!

THE *Wire* publishes this month—probably for the first time—news of the activities of Corps personnel at the Royal Military College of Science. So many officers of the Corps are here, either instructing or being instructed, says our correspondent, that we found ourselves wondering how those left in the outside world find time to write WIRE notes . . . and then came to the inescapable conclusion that we ought to write some ourselves!

The Courses at the College mean hard work—but 'after hours' activities provide the compensation and these are very rich and varied, as the following account shows.

As well as Brigadier J. B. Birkett, who is Deputy Commandant of the College, we have Lieutenant-Colonels J. N. Hallett, A. J. Jackson and J. L. Akass on the College staff and thirty-three Royal and Commonwealth Signal officers among the students. The closeness of relations between Corps and College are even better demonstrated by the fact that the Signal Officer-in-Chief has just paid us his fifth visit in a little over a year, and that Major-General Whistler before him was an equally frequent visitor.

Lieutenant-Colonel J. N. Hallett performs the duty of Corps Representative in the intervals of being an expert on nuclear warfare technology: nuclear warfare is a time-consuming subject and, having written this introduction, he farmed the rest of the work out to the senior officers of the various Courses.

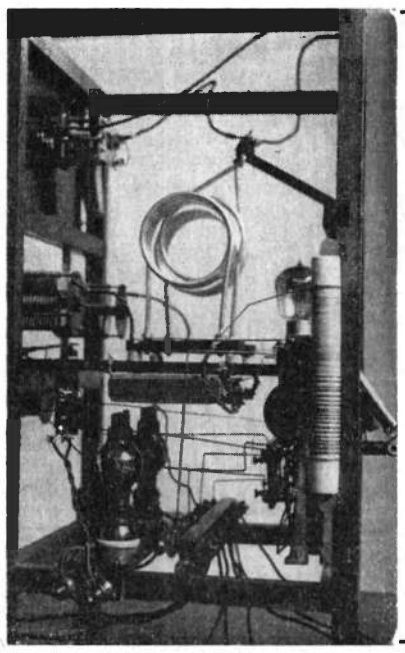
16th Technical Staff Officers' Course

It has been an interesting year. There is certainly much to do at the College and we have all had a hand in the many 'after hours' activities which compensate for the hard work.

On the sporting side Captain M. S. Jarrett has captained the College shooting team, and was in the team which won the Pistol Tile match at Bisley this year. Major R. A. King has fenced for the College and has also been awarded county colours for epee.

Our two Canadian Signal officers are showing an interest in the unusual. Captain J. D. B. Kent takes times off to fly at Swansea and Captain T. J. Hall claims to have seen every castle in England, Scotland and Wales. We generally lose count after the third loop, the fifteenth castle and the fourteenth beer!

Captain D. J. Roberts has found time between his golfing and refereeing activities to do a literature search in his father's (instead of the College) library. We thought the photograph, below, might be of interest at S.R.D.E.?



Do You Remember This?

Hong Kong, circa 1926-1927: a ham transmitter which handled Army Traffic to other bases in China

17th Technical Staff Officers' Course

The two Royal and one Pakistan Signal Officers who began the Course in January, 1963, have now been reinforced by three Canadian Signals students. Captain C. A. H. Sindhoo, our Pakistani, has been further reinforced, because he became the father of a son a few weeks ago.

Captain W. L. Wood is a leading light in the Gun Club and usualy has a pheasant or two hanging up to mature in his potting shed. Captain S. P. Morrison has taken up golf and recently, in company with another Scot, succeeded in trouncing their opponents in a Course Scotland v. Australia match.

35th General Staff Science Course

By the time these notes appear in print, the six British and one Australian student on this Course will be settling in at Camberley. They allege that they have enjoyed their three months at the College and that they now feel scientifically "aware"!

11th Higher Degree Course

The Course is now more than two-thirds run and it becomes more and more apparent that the more one learns, the more one finds there is to learn. The work has been well worthwhile, however, and the many visits to outside establishments and universities have been an important feature of it. Not all the time has been spent with electrons and many activities in and around the College have been tried. Success in these has varied: an attempt on the part of its free-fall parachute to wipe the Course out luckily failed when the reserve opened. (**By the Corps Representative:** It is essential to an understanding of this contribution that 16th Higher Degree Course consists solely and exclusively of Lieutenant R. F. L. Cook, who is researching in electron spin resonance).

16th Degree Course

There are now only two Royal Signals survivors in the Course. However, some compensation for small numbers comes in Lieutenant K. P. Burke being awarded the Davey Prize in second-year electrical engineering.

A very welcome break in the normal academic routine comes each summer vacation, when various attachments are arranged. This year we went to the B.B.C. in London. A very pleasant and instructive ten weeks was spent, during which time there was a chance to see a great deal of the work in both Sound and Television departments of the B.B.C., and also to see something of the research work carried out by B.B.C. engineers. It was very pleasant to meet so many old members of the Corps now working with the B.B.C.: we were particularly grateful to Brigadier Tucker for the interest he showed in us.

17th Degree Course

Having navigated the first year of our Course, we battle on towards our goal. Apart from the usual sporting fixtures, news during term-time is somewhat uninteresting owing to pressure of work. Summer vacation activities had more variety.

They ranged from Lieutenant M. A. Cornforth cycling to Venice and, even more surprisingly, cycling home again, to Captain R. Castle-Smith's voyage in a P. & O.-Orient cargo vessel. During the voyage he learnt much about maritime

signalling and at the same time took the opportunity to improve his navigational knowledge with deep water sailing in view! Readers will be relieved to hear that the ship is now safely on its way to the Far East.

Lieutenant P. D. Jones went to the Junior Leaders' Regiment and weathered the rigours of a camp in Cornwall surprisingly well after the somewhat more sheltered life of Shrivenham. Lieutenant A. J. Hervey transferred his attention to the American Army way of life in Germany: apart from the usual military routine, it seems that he enjoyed the social activities he experienced.

18th Degree Course

Five newly-joined officers have just about learnt to find their way around the College. Two of them somehow got to Norway on their way here: an account of their exploits has been entered as a separate contribution. (*Published in this issue.—Editor*).

NOTES from MID-EAST

Military Proficiency Training in Mideast



Signalman Madden from the Fiji Islands—Best Student on Course No. 11 holding his tankard. (This was the third course attended by Royal Signals students)

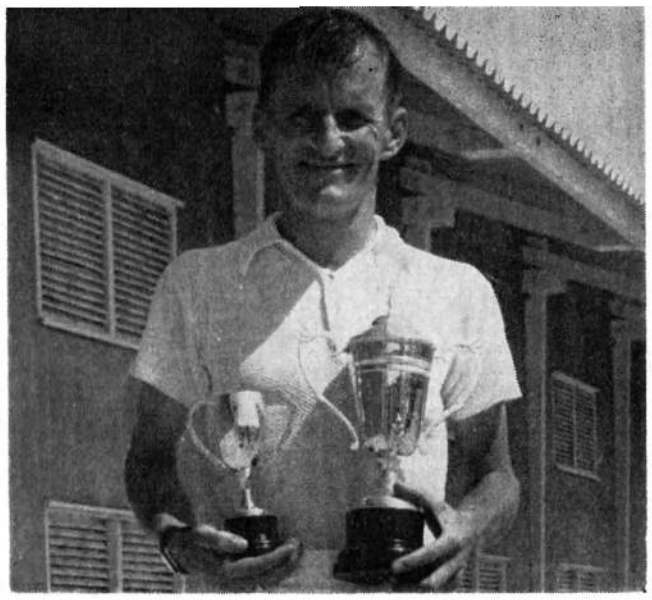
When we in Middle East Command first heard of military proficiency qualifications for promotion our hearts sank. We looked long and hard at the syllabus, who we had to train and who and what we had to train them with. We sought Infantry advice, which disheartened us even more. One Battalion Commander said that if he could train the N.C.O.s and men of his unit to this pitch, he would have the finest Infantry Battalion in the British Army.

From the depths of despair we cried, and in response to our anguished pleas two things happened. First came offers of help from R.E.M.E. They explained how in the past they had been similarly faced, but now they had established a training cadre in the major workshop in the Command. What is more, they very kindly volunteered the services of this organisation for Royal Signals personnel. The result has been a co-operative and harmonious succession of Royal Signals/R.E.M.E. Courses. Secondly, the Signals Directorate of the War Office arranged for the nucleus of our future training cadre to arrive post-haste. This "nucleus" took the form of one, Staff Sergeant Easter, in whom we are well pleased.

Now, to our intense satisfaction, the combined Royal Signals/R.E.M.E. training cadre perform, in three weeks, the masterly transformation of even our most unlikely militarists. Naturally, the bearing and smartness of individual graduates leaves nothing to be desired, but the most notable change is, in the words of Field Marshal Montgomery, "to see the light of battle in their eyes."

C.R. Signals and C.R.E.M.E. take turns officiating at pass-off parades and both have been favourably impressed with the standards achieved. As an added incentive (if one is needed), the best student on each course is presented with an engraved tankard. To our even greater delight, since these combined courses began, the best student has almost invariably been from Royal Signals.

Most students seem to find these courses a welcome change from their everyday duties of plumbing and soldering, and so on. They appear to revel in the occasional platoon attack and take great heed of the opportunity offered to broaden their knowledge of Military Law. All in all, the Royal Signals half of each course welcome the three weeks change of atmosphere and look to Staff Sergeant Easter to maintain the Royal Corps aspects of the training.



Staff Sergeant Easter in a different role. Here he holds the 'Gray' cup and another which he won as the best individual shot during our annual Corps Weekend celebrations

The greatest difficulty is, we find, to spare N.C.O.s and men for courses. This is because a large proportion of this Command is made up of small specialist units, each with their own role to perform and, very naturally, limited resources with which to carry it out. Nevertheless, the threat of a promotion embargo spurs us into making sacrifices in other fields.

Generally, these courses can do nothing but good for the Corps, the individuals, and the Command as a whole. They involve difficulties, sacrifices and considerable effort, but we continue in the firm knowledge that a good job is being well done.

601 TROOP (SHIP)



DOES IT REALLY?
Shop Steward (Corporal Caldwell) giving advice on how to bolt a brace into position

The O.C., Captain G. H. Morgan, being away on the C.R. Signals Conference and then on Kenya leave, these notes have been written with the combined efforts of the office staff.

During the past few years this Troop has been rather like a tribe of Nomads, resting for a while in Malta, Aden and Kuwait, before finding a fairly static home in Bahrain. Various Signal Units and the Transit Camp in Aden have given us shelter, when required, but we have wanted a home of our own when ashore. At last we have achieved this ambition. This story starts at the end of 1962, when the Trucial Oman Scouts decided to build a new Sergeants' Mess. Long negotiations commenced with the Royal Navy for the provision of a piece of land upon which to erect our buildings.

At the same time, through Army channels, efforts were being made to acquire two of the dismantled Twyneham huts from the Trucial Oman Scouts. Eventually we were granted a plot of land on the edge of the playing fields, much to the dismay of the American Navy, who could see their baseball pitch about to disappear.

While the Navy Works Department laid down the concrete bases, ships of the Amphibious Warfare Squadron ferried the huts across from Sharjah.

A joint operation was started with a team from this Troop, assisted by Sappers and R.E.M.E. personnel of the Army Beach Troop, R.E., sorting out the parts, with much head-scratching and many nightmares. Gradually the skeleton of the first Twyneham took shape, as the photograph indicates and, apart for being away on exercises each month, the building progressed steadily under the eagle eyes of the "Director of Operations," W.O.II Asher, R.E.., and his P.A., Sergeant Metcalf, also R.E., ably assisted by the "shop steward," Corporal Caldwell, Royal Signals. Bandaged thumbs were an approved item of dress for the first few weeks. Once the roof was in position, the interior was rapidly installed, not without much comment, when the panels appeared to belong to a totally different type of building or aircraft! Then, in swarmed the civilian electricians to fit the air conditioners, fans and lighting. All went well until the mains were connected!!! On switching on the fans the lights flashed on and off and the A.C. switches operated the fans. But, as is normal in this part of the world, after many rests, sleeping periods, meals and chatter, the workmen sorted out the wiring, and at last all was satisfactory. As soon as the painting had been completed, we moved in our accommodation stores, full of anticipation.

The great day arrived—13th June—when the Troop returned from exercise and moved in, only to vacate half of the hut immediately for the Navy to use for their overflow. Rather than split the Troop, we decided to "bash on" with the other Twyneham and allow the Army Beach Troop, whose numbers are smaller, to share with the Navy.

Many problems arose with this second hut, namely, we had pinched too many parts to complete the first one. Fortunately, a good friend, who must remain un-named, produced all that was necessary, and by the middle of September we were again ready to take up residence, this time with no fears of eviction. The Troop was left to lay out the interior as it wanted, resulting in a very tasteful sight, with a closed-off section at one end, complete with dart board and facilities for writing letters in peace (if such a thing is possible with a record player in the room). To obtain a couple of rugs for this section, it is officially called a "Conference Room." Oh, the things one has to do to beat officialdom! The only thing still to come is a 'fridge, for which 255 Squadron have very generously granted some money from the P.R.I., but so far the price asked is too high for our budget.

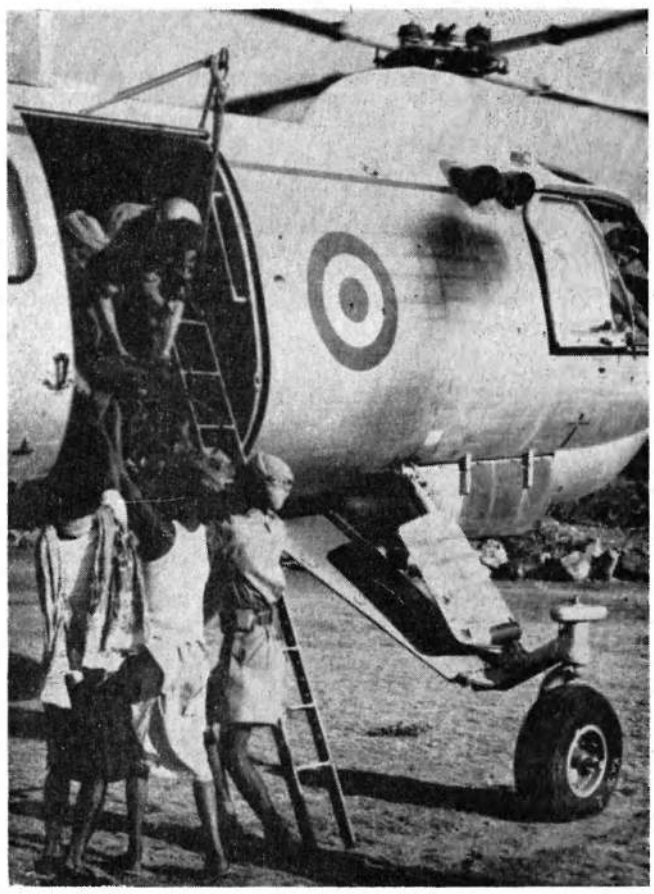
Now to turn to recent events. In the world of sport, we have claimed two firsts in life-saving competitions, against all-comers in the Royal Navy, thanks to Lance-Corporal Batram and Signalman Butler. We also took part in H.M.S. *Meon's* athletics, as part of the Communications Division, coming a close second in the overall result. Signalman Maris won the high jump, but he unfortunately had to retire during the 1-mile event when the elastic in his shorts broke. This perhaps will explain his sudden loss of speed to those of his supporters who are still wondering what happened.

The Troop has also played a team from the local population at football, and much to the surprise of everyone, players included, we won. The score being 3—1 in our favour. It was a hard game, resulting in Signalman Langley being taken to hospital with a broken foot and most of the remainder hobbling around for a few days, but nevertheless, we all enjoyed it. Many thanks to our guest players from 255 Signal Squadron and 63 Company R.A.S.C. (Para) who helped to make up the team. Good job we have friends. On the social side, things have been most quiet, but a spy reports that we may have the answer to the Liverpool sound in Signalman Hood and his guitar.

THE FEDERAL REGULAR ARMY SIGNAL SQUADRON, R.F.P.O. 69

Foreword. **In spite of the submission of three vastly different sets of notes over the last few months we have failed to gain space in "The Wire." Unfortunately the submission of copy does not lead automatically to a portrayal of the Squadron in print. Nevertheless the Arab ranks are great supporters of "The Wire" (when we do feature an Arabic 'Eriw is immediately produced and circulated), and with this encouragement your faithful copiest assumes almost Bedouin patience and once again puts pen to paper.**

Historical. To avoid an embarrassing silence when "Corporal Lawrence," a potential Arabist, says to his O.C., "FRA sounds a good posting, sir!" a short historical account of the Squadron is given.



Two ways of transporting radios: the new by Belvedere . . .

The Squadron was formed in June, 1957, by the amalgamation of the Aden Protectorate Levies Signals Section (R.A.F. Regiment) and the Gulf of Aden Brigade Signals Troop. At that stage its strength was three British Officers, four Arab Officers, seventy British ranks and one hundred and twelve Arab ranks.

The Squadron responsibilities were the provision of communications, both by voice and telegraph, between Levies Headquarters Aden, the three Battalions garrisoned at Ataq, Mukeiras, and Dhala and the two Company locations at Beihan and Lawdar, also within the Battalions down to Company H.Q. level. In November, 1958, the fourth Battalion of the Levies was raised.

On the 29th November, 1961, the Aden Protectorate Levies were handed over to the Coumcil of Ministers of the Federation of the Amirates of Southern Arabia by His Excellency the Governor of Aden on behalf of the British Government. The Force was then renamed "The Federal Regular Army."

This was followed by the formation of an operations Troop in 1962 to meet the communications requirements of a Force Tactical Headquarters and to take over the responsibility of providing radio detachments for all convoys or rescue parties moving within the Protectorate. By late 1962 the Squadron strength had risen to thirty-seven British and almost two hundred and fifty Arab ranks. This necessitated the division of the Squadron into two half Squadrons. The first half-Squadron being responsible for all Aden based communications, The Signal Training School, and the stores and maintenance back-up; the second half-Squadron being responsible for all up-country communications, Battalion Signal Troops, and Field Intelligence Officers' detachments.

Finally in October of 1963 the Colonial Office gave permission for the raising of a fifth Battalion and the formation of two Area Headquarters responsible for the western and eastern halves of the Federation. This increase brought the Squadron up to its present strength of some three hundred and eighty all ranks, including three British officers and thirty-four other ranks. The Squadron is responsible for over three hundred radio stations; it must be one of the few signal units which holds and operates mine detectors as part of its day-to-day task.



. . . and by the old dependables—the camel!

The life of "Corporal Lawrence." Before he has recovered from the initial shock of seeing the barren rocks and sand of Aden, our new arrival dons the Arab titles and badge, green belt and hosetops, which are the hall marks of the Force. He immediately becomes not only a signaller but a fighting soldier and, on occasions, a mountain goat. After a short period of acclimatization in Aden (if he is lucky), he will set forth on a trip towards the Yemen frontier, either on operations with one of the battalions or simply to find out for himself why he is here.

What lies in store for him? A fascinating combination of modern and biblical ways of life, set in an awesome background of barren mountains, fertile plains and wadis, and areas of arid desert. It is indeed this combination of differing tribes and contrasting country which provides the main interest of journeys up-country. In Beihan, for instance, an intrigued member of the Squadron stood watching the flashing neon sign outside the Arab cafe, and in contrast the blindfold camel going round in circles dragging the pestle for producing the cooking oil from silsil—a seed from a small bush.

He may set off on an operation, perhaps after last light, moving along a narrow, steep-sided wadi in complete darkness when the warning cry rings out, "Watch out—Seyl." This is a phenomenon similar to a bore in an English river. In a matter of minutes the water, if any, will have risen to a height of four or five feet, carrying all before it. After scrambling up the steep sides of the wadi and spending the rest of the night regrouping, he will take part in an ambush before returning, weary and sunburnt, to camp.

Our volunteer will play his full part in the Arab Iid or festival. The celebration starts with the Troop fadhle, which is the Arab festive meal, and consists of goat's meat, beautifully roasted with rice and curry sauce. He learns to eat this with only the right hand whilst sitting cross-legged on the ground. Try it for entertainment one day, and see how much rice ends up in your socks! After the meal he goes out on to the battalion square only to be met by crowds of soldiers dancing and firing their own rifles in the air. This may seem unusual, even frightening, but he will quickly realise that in this part of Arabia rifles have been given away as bribes for hundreds of years by the Sheikhs and Sultans of both the Yemen and the Aden Protectorate. The rifle and ammunition belt, together with the gambia (knife), have become the tribesman's status symbols, added to, in recent years, by the transistor radio!

On his return to Aden, by means of our private air transport organisation, Aden Airways, his seat mate in the Dakota is likely to be a Bedouin Blue Man (i.e., one that wears only a fottah-skirt and woad) with a rifle between his knees and a gambia tucked into his ammunition belt.

Corporal Lawrence may well be called out on a recovery party on his return. Some unit or patrol, either caught in a high tide on the beach or stuck in soft sand, has to be brought back to Aden. Off he goes again as the technician or operator, providing communications for the detachment, which may have to cover many hundreds of miles before it has completed its task.

The British element in Aden forms the supervisory staff of a Signal Training School which has the interesting and challenging task of training tribesmen who, for the most part, have never been to school, to become first-class operators, working links at "twenty-fives" and typing at the same speed. There are others who supervise and run the stores; no mean task when one is dealing with some five thousand items and one's records and ledgers are written in Arabic. Mention must be made of the clerical staff, who are capable of typing even English from right to left on occasions.

Technicians, under the Foreman of Signals, run the first and second line workshops, which undertake all manner of tasks, including the design of "FFR-camel" installations (single-hump-version).

One electrician driver sergeant is the adviser on M.T., and when the motorway is the rockstrewn bottom of a wadi, or just miles of soft sand and scrub country, plenty of "advice" and a lot of hard grind are needed.

Another electrician driver runs the small Squadron battery shop, looks after over one-hundred generators and instructs Arab soldiers in the mysteries of battery charging and generator maintenance—surely a responsible job.

Finally we have the two British operators attached to Operations Troop. They may be sent anywhere for any job; during the last eighteen months they have been to the Hadramout, on the edge of the Empty Quarter, with a psychological warfare team and acted as travelling salesmen to the four battalions, selling the new range radio equipment to the, at first suspicious, but finally highly-delighted, Arab operators. They should pick up a job with any good vacuum cleaner firm without difficulty when they retire.

This leaves the real Anglo/Bedouin members of the Squadron. The five radio technicians and five electrician drivers who live up country as the sole British members of their Arab battalion signal troops. All speak well of their troops, enjoy their work and, consequently, do a grand job.

Applications for Secondment. Any enterprising candidate should study well the Secondment Manual, available from your Unit Orderly Room. In this publication you will find details of all the advantages of secondment; the active life; the job with a purpose; the opportunities to travel; and, of course, the additional pay, but this alone should not be your reason for volunteering! You will inevitably choose the Middle East and be faced with deciding between the Trucial Oman Scouts and the Federal Regular Army Signal Squadron. If you think you are good enough to be accepted for the T.O.S., then get yourself upgraded and you could just reach the right calibre to apply for this exclusive signal squadron. We only take the best! Vacancies exist now for radio technicians light, and later we shall require an R.Q.M.S., a technical storeman, and possibly an electrician driver. Put your name down NOW "Corporal Lawrence."

1st REGIMENT B.F.P.O. 32

December has come and gone leaving memories of an enjoyable series of parties. For those of the Regiment who, by virtue of their appointments, went to all or most of the parties it was a very full time, and can be a tougher test of stamina than many an exercise!

On the 3rd we were paid a farewell visit by Brigadier P. C. Worthington, M.C., C.R.A. 1st Division and Commander Verden Garrison. He leaves us for Larkhill after looking after our administrative interests in Verden for the past two years.

Two nights later our Grand Christmas Tombola evening was held in the Dining Hall. Apart from the many satisfied winners the reasonable sum of £70 was raised for the Benevolent Funds of Royal Signals and the Corps of men attached to the Regiment.

Brigadier M. S. Hancock, M.B.E., C.C.R. Signals, paid us a brief but welcome visit on 17th December. In the evening the Wives' Club had their Christmas Dinner, supervised with customary skill by Sergeant Edwards.

For weeks before the 19th Major W. J. Howard wore a preoccupied look as he organised the annual Talent Contest and Christmas Show. This year's effort provided a full evening's entertainment. The applause for each act was measured on a meter and the order of merit declared. First prize went to Lance-Corporal D. A. Barrett of 2 Squadron for a first-rate mime of Max Miller. His reward was a free air trip to U.K. With the runners-up, Corporal Bramley and Signalman James sang beautifully, and humour was provided by Corporal Currie, Signalman Herity and the L.A.D., among many good items. An interesting and popular item was the mimed playlet put on by the Anglo-German Club of Verden by Signalman Maloney and his German friends. The finale came when Major Howard reverted to tribal dress, the kilt, and led the audience in "Keep right on to the end of the road."

On Saturday, 21st, the Corporals' Club collected 34 children and seven staff from the local orphanage and gave them a Christmas party. This was the most rewarding event in the whole of the seasonal festivities.



1ST REGIMENT AT PLAY CHRISTMAS 1963

1) Lance Corporal Barrett receives his air ticket to UK from Mrs. C. E. Page after winning the talent contest 19th December 1963. 2) Staff Sergeant A. Baker spins the drum, Mrs. C. E. Page draws the ticket and F. of S. R. Lund passes the prize to Mrs. G. C. Henry at the Sergeants Mess Draw. 3) Christmas Pudding being ceremonially mixed by Lieutenant Colonel C. E. Page, M.B.E., R.S.M. C. W. Johnston and Sergeant P. Newby. 4) R.S.M. C. W. Johnston receives a wall clock from F. of S. R. Lund at the Sergeants Mess draw, 21st December, 1963. 5) Major I. M. Rose, R.S.M. C. W. Johnston, S.S.M. A. J. Cowe at the 2 Sqn. party 23rd December 1963. 6) Lance Corporal White, Signalman Cyamfi and Signalman Whelan at the M.4. Sqn. party.

Master of Signals

There

Junior Leaders Graduation Parade

☆

Five hundred watch the Prize-giving



The Master of Signals (Major General Sir William A. Scott, K.C.M.G., C.B., C.B.E.) carrying out an inspection of those graduating to Colour Service

A very fine Graduation Parade was held on 7th December at which the salute was taken by the Master of Signals, Major-General Sir William A. Scott, K.C.M.G., C.B., C.B.E. About five hundred parents and guests watched the parade on a cold but dry morning.

After the parade and lunch there was the normal prize giving ceremony held in the cinema followed by a dancing and choir display. In the evening a really excellent pantomime was given for all parents and friends. The cast and producer (Captain Walters, R.A.E.C.) worked exceedingly hard to produce one of the best amateur pantomimes it has been our pleasure to watch. The evening finally ended with an all ranks' dance followed by the annual Sergeants' Mess draw.

Earlier in the term we had been delighted to receive from Colonel Brader and all ranks of 16th Regiment four lances which were presented to Junior Squadron who are now very honoured to be affiliated to 16th Regiment. In addition to the lances we would like to thank 16th Regiment for their very generous gift of £60 towards the cost of the successful B.A.O.R. tour last summer and for the purchase of kit for Junior Squadron.

A photo and account of the presentation of the lances by 16th Regiment is published elsewhere in this issue.

Graduation List — December 1963

Name	Training Regiment	Pre-selected Trade	Troop
A. J. Langsford	8th	Lineman	Iron
P. B. Walker	24th	Clerk Technician	,,
G. J. Moger	8th	Lineman	Javelin
J. S. Forder	8th	Sig Technician	,,
J. Perry	24th	Telegraph Op	,,
H. A. Brecken	24th	Comcen Op	,,
A. H. Walton	8th	Lineman	Lion
J. Nunns	8th	Sig Technician	,,
R. J. Sievewright	24th	Radio Op	,,
A. J. Cooke	24th	Staff Ops	,,
B. Hodgen	224 Sqn	Special Op	,,
J. E. P. Telford	8th	Lineman	Francisca
D. Blakeney	8th	Radio Relay Man	,,
G. Clark	24th	Staff Op	,,
R. Marks	8th	Lineman	Kukri
B. Robbie	8th	Lineman	,,
G. T. Wilkinson	8th	Lineman	,,
M. McKenzie	8th	Lineman	,,
G. N. Wood	8th	Sig Technician	,,
E. M. Lee	8th	Sig Technician	Romulus
S. M. Fearnley	24th	Comcen Op	,,
G. T. Nelson	24th	Comcen Op	,,
C. A. Priestman	8th	Sig Technician	White Spear
D. Bate	24th	Telegraph Op	,, ,,
M. J. Wood	24th	Telegraph Op	,, ,,
S. Freeman-Pannett	24th	Comcen Op	,, ,,
M. O'Flaherty	24th	Staff Op	,, ,,
B. Unwin	24th	Staff Op	,, ,,
G. A. Willis	224 Sqn	Special Op	,, ,,
D. B. Atkinson	24th	Radio Op	Beaufighter
M. D. Griffin	24th	Telegraph Op	,,
J. F. Hutchings	4th	Comcen Op	,,
M. W. Nelson	24th	Comcen Op	,,
C. J. Tofield	24th	Radio Op	Kohima
C. C. Adams	4th	Comcen Op	,,
D. A. Hand	4th	Comcen Op	,,
T. D. Reynolds	24th	Comcen Op	,,
N. M. Humphries	24th	Telegraph Op	White Swan
E. D. Hoare	24th	Comcen Op	,, ,,
K. E. Hall	24th	Staff Op	,, ,,
F. E. B. Pratt	24th	Clerk Technician	,, ,,
E. Fawcett	224 Sqn	Special Op	,, ,,
W. N. Sharpe	224 Sqn	Special Op	,, ,,
I. Smith	24th	Telegraph Op	Jerboa
R. J. Waight	24th	Telegraph Op	,,
A. E. Chapman	24th	Comcen Op	,,
P. Jarman	24th	Staff Op	,,
T. J. Crook	24th	Comcen Op	Quadrant
K. Doe	24th	Comcen Op	,,

The principal prize winners last term were as follows:—

Major Prize Awards

PRIZE	*AWARDED TO*
Cobb Memorial Trophy and Shield	Iron Troop, the champion Troop.
7th Regiment Shield	White Spear Troop, runners-up.
Signal Officer-Chief's Senior Trophy	Kohima Troop.
Signal Officer-Chief's Junior Trophy	Quadrant Troop.
The Bengal Tiger	Alexander Squadron, the champion Squadron.
Commonwealth Division Trophy	White Spear Troop, winners of the Adventure Training Competition.
Gregory Pennant	Mons Patrol of Iron Troop, the best Patrol on Adventure Training.
Commanding Officer's Trophy ...	J.S.S.M. Nelson.
Commandant Training Brigade Trophy	J.S.S.M. Nelson.
Junior Award	J.Signalman Doane, the Best Recruit.
Long Service and Good Conduct Medal	W.O.II (Y. of S.) J. D. Heard.

2nd REGIMENT, B.F.P.O. 22

Those who have served in Bünde in recent years will be sorry to hear that Major Tom Hall has left the Regiment for retirement in February. (See photo opposite.)

For the last two years he has been Station Staff Officer here in Birdwood Barracks, and has done a tremendous lot of work in fostering local Anglo-German relations. The two local newspapers have each given him a half-page "spread," full of their praise and their regret at his departure. We should like to add ours here, and to wish Tom and Trudy a happy new life. We do not say a happy retirement, because anyone with Tom's abounding energy will never retire.

It might be worth mentioning, a particular feature of our Christmas activities—the singing of Christmas carols to the Russian Military Mission. This has been a Reigmental tradition for some years now and is followed by an exchange of presents. The whole affair is full of interest. Unfortunately, we never quite know how much we ought to say about it, so we have kept it short.

Another regular feature of our Christmas here is the party for fifty local children, nominated by the Burgermeister of Bunde, from local orphanages or from large and poor families. The Corporals' Mess has always assumed completed responsibility for the party and they do it with heart-warming generosity.

3rd REGIMENT

In Like a Lion. That's certainly how December came in—with a bang. The 5th saw the arrival of that always "well looked forward to" and "eagerly awaited" Administrative Inspection. The Inspecting Officer was Major-General R. M. P. Carver, the G.O.C. of 3rd Division, and he certainly had a full day with the Regiment. After inspecting each Squadron dressed for "Air Movement," he was given a full tour of the Regiment and saw almost every part of it. No report on such an inspection would be complete if the result wasn't announced—and this can be summed up by the G.O.C.'s remark that he was impressed by all he saw.

Panic Parties. Old readers will recall the rules of this game we often play in our role. The only thing I didn't mention before, was that we don't 'play' this game at Public Holidays. Usually we try to do it properly at Christmas, Easter and so on, and this year has been no exception. **We managed to gather up a small handful of Drivers for instance, and they are now enjoying the sun in the Island of Love—Cyprus. We wish them all good luck and a safe return to Bulford, should they so desire.**

Comings and Goings. Amongst the comers, we welcome Major and Mrs. Moss to 2 Squadron, Staff Sergeants and Missussessess Burgess and Jacobs (both to the Q.M.—talk about an Empire). And very recently Second-Lieutenants M. Yolland and G. Allen from Sandhurst. Those a bit older in the tooth will remember well Mr. Yolland's father—a senior officer of the Corps, Brigadier Yolland, who recently retired.

The 'goer' who we shall all miss very much is W.O.II 'Yeoman' Gubler. Our loss being Brunei Signal Squadron's gain. Not to forget also Sergeants Thomas and Pritchard, Corporal and Mrs. Hemmings, a valiant helper to the Wives' Club.

Our sincere congratulations go to Major G. Proudman, our Second-in-Command, on the recent award of M.B.E. in the New Year's Honours.

And so . . . to Crystal Ball. 1964. Yes, a year with a difference. Amongst other unexpected things which any Divisional Signal Regiment faces, we are destined this year to exercise in no less than four countries throughout the world. **To take all our vehicles out of 'cocoons,' stop roughing it in our Joint Forces H.Q. role, and start living it up in the B.A.O.R. role. (No comments, please, from 1, 2, 4, 7 or 22 Regiments—we know the hard life you live); a likely move of barracks and so on. But it's still a 'Man's life in the Royal Signals,' or so it says in the posters, and I'm sure we will take it.**

And to all our readers, in, out, ex and 'through' the Regiment, to the Editor and Staff of the Association, THE WIRE, the Benevolent Fund, the printers of the magazine and any others who enjoy reading the notes of a worthwhile Regiment may we say, "A Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year" and (to the serving members only) may you have the good fortune of a posting to The Third during 1964.



Major T. A. Hall who retires in February 1964 after serving as Station Staff Officer at Bünde

SIGNALS WING, ROYAL MILITARY ACADEMY, SANDHURST

GREETINGS from Sandhurst! Here we are at the end of yet another term, just starting a fortnight's well-earned rest; yet it only seems a short while ago that we sat and wrote last term's "Wire" notes. After a huddle of Instructors, here is the finished article for this term.

During last summer recess, it appears that Wing members got out and about to represent the Corps as much as they do during term time.

Sergeant R. Breese accompanied an Academy Cadet Expedition to North Africa. Staff Sergeant R. Simmons, B.E.M., attended a parachute course; unfortunately, he injured his arm to the extent that he had to be R.T.U. (bad luck, Staff, you will pass out next time!). W.O.II E. Summers attended a Pilots' Course and qualified as a private pilot.

Term started in mid-September, with a week of Military Training for the Permanent Staff. The Sergeants' Mess shoot was a great success, with the Wing Senior N.C.O.s producing previously unsuspected talent, the Wing Sergeant-Major gaining second place in one competition and fourth place overall, S.Q.M.S. K. Mason 9th overall, Sergeant C. Speight 11th overall, and Sergeant L. Waumsley 14th overall.

During the normal hectic days of term, we sent four instructors to France on Exercise "Tipperary." Sergeant R. Breese parachuted with the "Edward Bear" Force, causing considerable damage to a car at the side of the dropping zone when his 60lb. container literally bounced off its roof. Sergeant Breese was, of course, attached to the other end of the nylon securing rope. Sergeant B. Styles, also on Exercise "Tipperary," claims, with all due respect, the hospitality shown by the French Army was sufficient to last until next year—"hiccup"!

We had a return visit from the Officers and N.C.O. Instructors from the Signal Training Wing, Royal Marines, Eastney, in October. An energetic and brisk tour of the Academy in the morning was followed by a not-so-brisk or energetic session after dinner. What a pleasure it was to entertain our soldier/sailor counterparts. Our own R.M. Instructor, Colour Sergeant (S) D. Hague, was really back with them; we talked about "fore" and "aft" as opposed to "sharp" and "blunt" ends for days after.

Winter Camp was in Tripoli, with a strong team out, backing the Chief Instructor, Major W. G. Neilson, in the form of Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) P. Brown, Staff Sergeant R. Simmons, B.E.M., Sergeant B. Styles and Sergeant R. Breese. Communications were, as expected, a great success, and note must be made of the efforts of Sergeant Wilding, R.E.M.E., of 30th Signal Regiment, and Lance-Corporal S. Taylor, Royal Signals, of the Wing, who performed sterling work in repairing radios and equipment. Our appreciation to Major W. J. Pritchard, Royal Signals and his Squadron for all their advice on local conditions and their help.

It was of great value to work with 1 Green Howards (enemy) and 14/20 Hussars (Support), and experience was gained by all.

Our congratulations to S.Q.M.S. and Mrs. K. Mason on the birth of a son on Christmas Day, and to Signalman Donachie on his marriage in early December.

Finally, our invitation to any member of the Corps who is passing through Camberley. Do come in to see us.

Enjoy **Smedley's**



the best canned



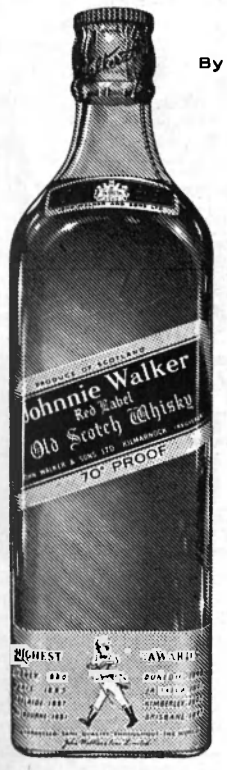
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4th REGIMENT B.F.P.O. 15

Despite the time consuming ritual of the Administration Inspection the Regiment has still found time for other things. In the sporting field our hockey team, having played sixteen matches, scoring sixty goals and conceding only seven, were beaten for the first time this season by R.A.F. Gutersloh 3—2. The team is a fully integrated one having two players from R.A.S.C., three from R.A.O.C., one from R.E.M.E. and one from R.A.P.C. as well as the Signals Players. Army Cup matches are eagerly looked forward to, the first of which is against 4 Divisional Engineers in December. Our 1st XV Rugby team, after scoring 331 points in their first ten games this season, were disappointingly beaten 12—0 by 77th Regiment in the Army Cup due perhaps to a centre being injured early in the game.

The Unit Military Proficiency Courses, which instruct men from our Brigade Signal Squadrons and the Berlin Signal Squadron as well as our own, are proceeding strongly and smoothly. One student was reported to have given as an answer to a first aid question on the treatment of shock, that the patient should not be given any liquids unless he was lying when hot, sweet tea may be administered.

Indignant noises were heard coming from the Regiment's Majors recently when a typist in the Orderly Room typed a draft as "competant Royal Signals Major writing an essay for exams . . . ." It was quickly pointed out that the word was "combatant."

Keen interest is still alive in the local education facilities. Students attend classes ranging from physics to piano playing in their spare time.

Regular .22 shoot meetings are now being held three times a week, and so far fair results are being obtained. We still have a long way to go towards forming a team for the Morrison Cup next year.

Basketball is now flourishing under the guidance of Lieutenant Brewis, and keen interest toward cross country running, personnel being coached by Sergeant Heavey.

Finally our Signal Centre staff are still debating whether it was a joke or not when B.M.H. Rinteln sent through their confirmation copies of phonograms addressed to the "Accident Centre," 4th Regiment.

(Note: With this contribution, written by Signalman Holmes, we come to the end of the series which started last January and in which, month by month, our "Notes" have been written by someone a rank junior to his predecessor. Very little editing has been necessary—by us anyway—and we shall continue the process through 1964.—C.O.)

THE C.O. TAKES OVER FROM HERE . . . . . .

WELL worth reading is the following commentary on the present-day Corps as seen from a Commanding Officer's point of view. Of particular interest and encouragement are his views on the enthusiasm, bearing and behaviour of the soldiers in our new Regular Corps.—Editor.

Those who buy and read their WIRE regularly, may remember that in January, 1963, I (the C.O.) inaugurated a system whereby I wrote January's notes, after which, authorship was passed down the line, month by month, until a Signalman wrote December's. If I had thought about it at all, I might have supposed that by January, 1964, I would either have handed it over to my successor or at least have managed to reverse 'the batting order." Neither has happened, so here I am again. Furthermore, since my eleven predecessors have recorded faithfully every event of the past year as it has occurred, I face an empty editorial larder.

Looking around for scraps on these bare shelves, in order to concoct some sort of literary Shepherd's Pie, I find one impressive fact. This is that in spite of a radical re-organisation—"Integration" of the Signal Regiment with the Divisional H.Q. and H.Q. Company—nothing much seems to have changed. We now have twice as many soldiers, vehicles, barrack blocks and stores as we had a year ago, yet it all feels the same. Like crossing the line, passing your 21st birthday, or getting promoted, it has been an event which seemed in advance would be earth shaking, but which, viewed a short while later, appears to have made no difference at all. We have become quickly accustomed to a mixture of Corporals and Bombardiers, and have ceased to be even mildly surprised at chaps with R.A.S.C. collar badges talking about "the Regiment." Admittedly, we have had our problems, and for certain, it will be a lot simpler for all concerned when Divisional Signal Regiments of the future become predominantly Royal Signals. But in the meantime it has been heartening to see how easily a hybrid collection of British soldiers can fuse into one Regimental whole. And for those concerned with administration, training and sport, the advantages of larger numbers have been an eye-opener.

Other unforeseen novelties have come to light. We believe, for example, that we have more vehicles than any other unit of the Field Army—and more children. Many of the former are attributable to mobile Staff Officers, while at least half of the latter are to be credited to an unusually high proportion of fit, active and well-paid Warrant Officers and Senior N.C.O.s. We also have a theory, as yet not fully documented, that the Regimental birthrate is related to the nature of the preceding training season. Short exercises have little effect, but absences from base of seven days or more are almost invariably echoed by a sharp increase in confinements at a later date. The Duchess of Wellington had something to say in her diary about this aspect of military life, which the replacement of jackboots by "Boots CWW" does not seem to have altered.

Little by little, too, the great bugbear of service in B.A.O.R. for the younger married soldier is being dispelled. In the past year we have seen one of our barrack blocks turned into excellent flats whilst, in the last couple of months, several new blocks of flats have been completed and occupied in the nearby town of Enger. This has caused more than one potential "determinator" to sign on. It has also given us fresh proof, if any were needed, of the powerful influence exerted over recruiting by the young wives of Britain. We are causing some of our Military Proficiency candidates to think and write upon this subject. In due course we will offer their views for publication.

Mention of training brings me to a subject where there has been a real change which, in this Regiment and in every other, can hardly have escaped anybody's notice. It is invigorating now, in the all-Regular Army, to see the enthusiasm with which the professional soldier tackles the question of his qualifications. Never has it been harder to qualify oneself for retention and advancement in the Corps, and never has there been more eagerness to do so. At long last, too, we are getting formation training programmes organised so as to give us a proper chance to run individual trade courses and to follow them with detachment and sub-unit training before being launched into major exercises. This winter and the coming spring, the Regiment is being given its first chance to learn how to work with real finesse. It is a challenge which we all gladly accept and which augurs well for the future.

Looking back over the past Christmas season, one notices a further characteristic of our new, professional Corps. In all the many parties which took place, whether at Troop level or in the form of the all ranks' Christmas dance, one could not fail to be impressed by the high standard of dress and behaviour. We all had a whale of a time, but not one drunk darkened the guardroom threshold; those who drank well, rather than wisely, were quietly shepherded away by their "muckers." In general, however, I think chaps are realising that a "do" is much more fun if you stay sober enough to know what is going on, and that a trained soldier's appearance, even off duty, is a matter of pride and importance. This sort of good sense is becoming particularly a hallmark of the Royal Corps of Signals, and is therefore a happy situation. It is moreover, one for which we must give full credit to the Junior Leaders' Regiment, Army Apprentices' School and Royal Signals Training Brigade, who are doing so much these days to send us responsible citizens.

On which high note I had better end—only adding, for the benefit of the "old boys" of 4th Regiment, that we continue to fly our particular brand of flag (whatever rumours you may have heard to the contrary) and that we wish you all, wherever you may now be, all happiness and good fortune in 1964. If the latter should happen to include a posting back to us, we we shall delighted.

Have you placed a standing order for a copy of The Wire?

Why not do so now?



(*Left to Right*): Sergeant Williams, Corporal Featherstone and Craftsman Hodgson admire the result of some of their handiwork

7th REGIMENT B.F.P.O. 15

From the point of view of THE WIRE, Christmas is very badly timed. Reports of tremendous rollicking fun on 25th/26th December can fall decidedly flat when read in mid-March. It may be an idea to keep one's Bumper Christmas Notes until the next year, then they would not only be topical, but could have developed vintage qualities in addition. However, at the risk of appearing dull and conventional, we must mention some of our exploits over the traditional holiday. A really traditional holiday it was, too, including the blanket of snow which was well established—to the delight of the children and to the fury of the R.S.M.

Christmas in Germany must, of necessity, be something of a compromise. To the local population Christmas is a sentimental and serious occasion throughout. They do not indulge in jolly larks in the way we do on Christmas Day. In fairness therefore we adjust our arrangements so as not to cause offence.

Preparations started in early November. The men in the L.A.D. collected some 100 damaged and discarded toys from the married quarters. Then they completely repaired, repainted and reassembled them. They were as good as, if not better than, new. The delight and appreciation of the children in the D.P. camp at Bucholtz, near Hannover, when they received 60 large toys, bicycles, tricycles, dolls prams and the like cannot be imagined. The hard work and incredible patience was well rewarded. The work still continues in fact and the local Orphanage is to receive a further batch of smaller toys on 6th January.

Celebrations started early in December with Officers', Warrant Officers' and Sergeants', Corporals' Mess and All Ranks Dances. These were all a great success. The two children's parties were also a credit to the organisers and, thanks to the tombola takings over the year, each child took home a magnificent toy miraculously suitable for his or her age. On each of the two days Sergeants Moore and Knox were very convincing as Father Christmas in his sledge drawn by a very obliging pony borrowed (not in the normal Army sense) from the zoo next door.

Now to work again. A final burst of intensive trade training and military training before we get down to our proper job which is—er, oh yes, communicating. In the winter one tends to forget. Adieu.

The Motor-cycling 'devils' of BAOR

The Cups come Fast and Thick

A SALUTE to the motor-cyclists of 7th Regiment. Their "scorching" tyres have won them the B.A.O.R. Motor-Cycling Championship Trophy—and they won it last year too! The cups come fast and thick as these motor-cycling "devils" notch up win after win. During the year the "A" Team won the Visitors' Team Prize in 1 Divisional Championships, the "B" Team getting second place. The "A" Team also swept to victory in the Rhine Area Championships, 11 Brigade Trials and the 4 Divisional Championships and then crowned it all by carrying off the B.A.O.R. Championship!



7th Regiment—Motor-cyclists 1963
Back row: Lance Corporal Hill, Sergeant Spooner, Corporal Blakey
Front Row: Staff Sergeant Sankey, Lieutenant Colonel F. L. Clarkson, M.B.E., Captain R. N. Filsell, R.E.M.E., Staff Sergeant Slaughter

The reason for this sort of success? Well, enthusiasm and hard work certainly have a lot to do with it, but predominantly **these chaps can ride,** and they are the undisputed Roadmasters of 1963.

The Chief of Staff 1 (BR) Corps, Brigadier T. N. S. Wheeler, O.B.E., presented the B.A.O.R. Motor-Cycle Championship Trophy to the successful riders.

A good deal of the credit for the success achieved does go, of course, to Staff Sergeant Slaughter and Staff Sergeant Sankey, both of whom are experienced Army riders, and the encouragement and instruction given to the teams by these two senior N.C.O.s has, of course, been invaluable.

Apart from any credit due to the team's ability as riders, considerable praise must be given to the standard of the machines presented at each trial. This was made possible by the hard work put in by individual riders on their machines between trials, and their efforts can be fully justified by the fact that not a single machine failed to finish a trial.

With the termination of National Service, many thought that motor-cycling in the Army was finished. This was not so, as although the numbers competing have been reduced, the standard is as good as it ever was, as the following shows:

1 DIVISION CHAMPIONSHIPS
- Visitors Team Prize.—1st, 7th Regiment "A" Team (Staff Sergeant Slaughter, Staff Sergeant Sankey, Corporal Corstorphine); 2nd, 7th Regiment "B" Team (Sergeant Spooner, Corporal Huntley-Smith, Lieutenant Burns.
- Visitors Individual.—1st, Staff Sergeant Slaughter; 2nd, Staff Sergeant Sankey; 3rd, Sergeant Spooner.
- 2nd Best Beginner.—Lieutenant Burns.

RHINE AREA CHAMPIONSHIPS
- Visitors Team Prize.—1st, 7th Regiment "A" Team (Staff Sergeant Slaughter, Staff Sergeant Sankey, Sergeant Spooner).
- Visitors Individual.—1st, Staff Sergeant Slaughter.

H.Q., 11 BRIGADE MOTOR-CYCLE TRIAL
- Visitors Team Prize.—1st, 7th Regiment "A" Team (Staff Sergeant Slaughter, Staff Sergeant Sankey, Lance-Corporal Hill).
- Visitors Individual.—1st, Staff Sergeant Slaughter.

4 DIVISIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS
- Visitors Team Prize.—1st, 7th Regiment "A" Team (Staff Sergeant Slaughter, Staff Sergeant Sankey, Lance-Corporal Hill).
- Visitors Individual.—1st, Staff Sergeant Sankey; 2nd, Staff Sergeant Slaughter; 3rd, Lance-Corporal Hill.
- Best Novice.—Lance-Corporal Hill.

B.A.O.R. CHAMPIONSHIPS
- Visitors Team Prize.—1st, 7th Regiment "A" Team (Staff Sergeant Slaughter, Staff Sergeant Sankey, Sergeant Spooner).
- Visitors Individual.—1st, Staff Sergeant Sankey; 2nd, Staff Sergeant Slaughter; 3rd, Sergeant Spooner.
- Best Novice.—Sergeant Spooner.

Staff Sergeant Slaughter also holds the Royal Signals Trophy.
Staff Sergeant Sankey is Individual Champion of B.A.O.R.

PLEASE ! PLEASE ! PLEASE !

A number of soldiers are now subscribing to THE WIRE individually. Do let us know in advance of your future movements or postings so that we can keep our mailing list up-to-date and thus ensure that you receive your WIRE on time each month.

9th Regiment B.F.P.O. 53

Driving Championship Success

THE Regiment entered a Bedford 3-ton R.L. in the Individual Class of the Army (Cyprus) Driving Championship 1963/64. The vehicle crew as nominated was Signalman B. Mann, driver, W.O.II D. R. Handley, co-driver, and W.O.II E. Gibson, navigator/timekeeper.

The championship opened on 14th November with an initial inspection of all competing vehicles for mechanical efficiency, roadworthiness and unauthorised modifications. The Bedford 3-ton R.L. entered by the Regiment passed the inspection without deduction of penalty points, due in no small measure to the meticulous preparation by the driver, Signlaman B. Mann.

Vehicles were despatched at five minute intervals, starting at 07.00 hours, to attempt six cross country sections. Our representative picked No. 27, which meant that our vehicle was last away. Consequently, the sections had been badly churned up by earlier vehicles and 112 penalty points were incurred.

The next stage of the championship consisted of map reading, navigation and time keeping, starting at 12.30 hours. The route, over all types of road surface, covered some 320 miles, finishing at 07.00 hours on the 16th. With W.O.II D. R. Handley at the wheel and W.O.II E. Gibson navigating, the course was covered with the loss of only one minute—penalty 10 points. The route included most of the coastal resorts and five hours of night driving around the top of the peaks of the Troodos Range of Mountains.

The morning of Saturday, 16th, was devoted to a skilled driving competition on the barrack square of 3rd Green Jackets, The Rifle Brigade, Dhekelia. There were six hazards to be negotiated and one particularly nasty one could entail the loss of 800 points. It was here that Signalman B. Mann displayed his confidence and ability at handling his vehicle. He completed the six hazards with a loss of only 175 points.

A further 100 points were lost during the final scrutiny due to the canopy being a little the worse for wear after coming into contact with a rock on one of the tighter hairpin bends on Mount Olympus.

At the end of the championship The Regiment was placed first in the 3-ton class by over 300 points and second in the overall classification.

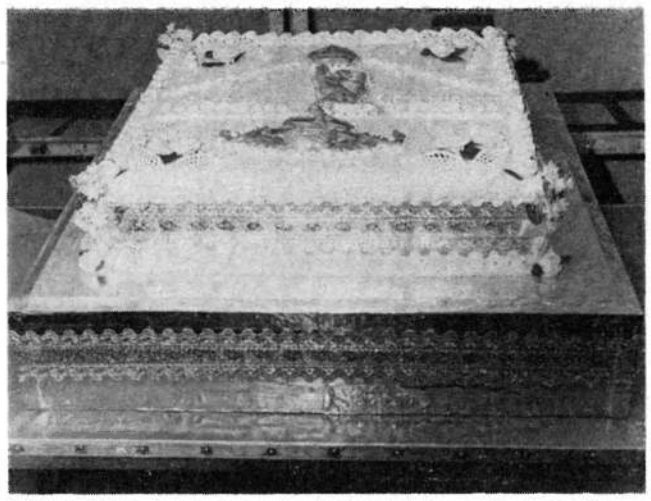
Prizes were presented by Major-General D. G. F. Young, C.B.E., G.O.C. Cyprus District.

11th REGIMENT (DEPOT)

From the Depot to all readers: The compliments of the season and best wishes for a happy and prosperous New Year.

That was certainly the year that was in the Depot. Before we race into the future let us look back a year and follow the life of a Subaltern in his first day in the Depot.

Subaltern: (Knocks on door of Squadron Commander's office, walks in and meets Squadron Commander for the first time).
I'm your new Troop Commander, sir."
Squadron Commander: (Overjoyed).
"Wonderful, splendid, you have no idea how much this means to me."
(Kisses Subaltern on both cheeks).
"Your office is upstairs, your Troop started forming this morning, go to it!"
Subaltern: Sitting in office surrounded by one table, one chair and a telephone. Knock on the door).
"Come in."
Lance-Corporal: "I'm your Troop Corporal, sir."
Subaltern: Splendid, sit down."
Lance-Corporal: "Sorry sir, too busy, can't stop, we have 30 recruits already."
Subaltern: "WHAT!"
Later that day another knock on the door.
Subaltern: (Working in shirt sleeves surrounded by paper, having missed lunch).
"Come in."
(Enter a Sergeant).
Sergeant: "I'm your new Troop Sergeant, sir."
Subaltern: "Wonderful, you have no idea how much this means to me."



Our Christmas cake, the largest, had pride of place in the display . . .

Sergeant: "Well (looking around and appraising the situation) we had better borrow some furniture for this place."
Subaltern: "Sorry! no time you know, we have 40 already."
Sergeant: "WHAT!"
Subaltern: (In a blase voice).
"Oh yes, it will be double that tomorrow."
(Much later that night in the Officers' Mess, our Subaltern, still in uniform has just had a warmed-up dinner from the hotplate).
Subaltern: (To mess waiter).
"I saw five dinners on the hotplate, where is everyone?"
Mess Waiter: "STILL WORKING SIR!"

Well, it was not quite that bad all the time, but last New Year did come in with a rush, approximately 80 a week in fact. And so, in a year when we have trained almost 3,000 recruits, we look forward into 1964 and the move of the Regiment to our new barracks in Helles Lines.

* * *

Farewell to 3 Squadron

On 20th December, 1963, the last two Troops of 3 Squadron passed off. Formed in October, 1962, to train the ever-increasing numbers being funnelled into the Corps, the Squadron has led a happy, hectic existence. Over 1,300 happy shining souls from 30 Troops passed off on 15 parades. Say what you like about Catterick weather, but only one parade had to be held inside because of rain!

Highlights of the Squadron's life were undoubtedly the winning of the Training Brigade Assault Course Competition, and being runners-up in the Yorkshire District Minor Units Cricket Competition.

The O.C., Major T. I. McL. Robinson, together with his S.S.M., W.O.II G. Mercer, now take over the less hectic H.Q. Squadron.

Farewell to the Royal Marines

Farewell also this month to the Royal Marines Instructors who have been attached to the Regiment over the past year. We have developed quite a nautical flavour, certainly no one will forget the cry "But we are not in the Army, we belong to the Navy." We thank them for their unceasing hard work and wish them every success in their postings.

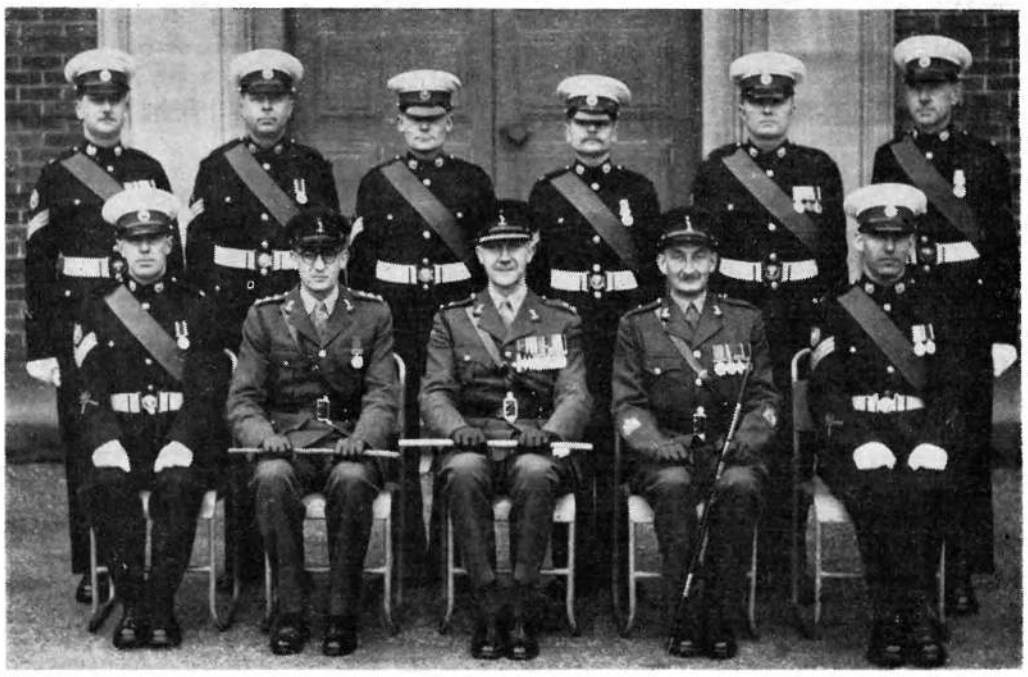
"Giant Cake is Army Gift"

So read the newspapers on 11th December, when a 68lb. Christmas cake, baked by cooks of the Regiment, reached the Army Information Office in Finchley, London. Some years ago, this office, then housed in Kentish Town, collected Christmas cakes from Regular and T.A. units. These, after being displayed in the office window, were presented to various old people's homes and hospitals. This custom has continued, and this year our cake, the largest, had pride of place in the display. After display it will go to Friern Hospital, New Southgate.

At a reception, a token presentation of the cakes was made by General Sir Roderick McLeod, K.C.B., C.B.E., A.D.C., G.O.C., Eastern Command.

Farewell to the Royal Marines

We are not in the Army, we belong to the Navy but . . .



. . . our year in Catterick has been a year to remember!

(*Left to Right*) Front row Colour Sergeant E. Crow, Captain M. E. Bradbury, Lieutenant-Colonel S. W. Brackenbury M.B.E., R.S.M. S. J. R. Dunlop, Colour Sergeant J. Howarth.
Back row Colour Sergeant B. Franks, Sergeant Tennant, Sergeant G. Chapman, Sergeant B. Young, Sergeant Brown, Colour Sergeant M. Norris

By a Royal Marine

IT was snowing when we arrived in Catterick and naturally it snowed when we left, almost twelve months to the day!

Just before Christmas 1962 eight of us, Royal Marine Senior N.C.O.s, were posted into the Royal Signals Depot Regiment to help to cope with the "Bulge" in recruiting. Quite a surprise but then there are many aspects of a soldier's life which do not change anywhere in the world.

And so here we were dressed in our best Blue, paraded before the Commander, Training Brigade, Brigadier A. C. Cox, O.B.E., on the last Regular Recruit Pass Off of 1963 and the end of our attachment. After being inspected by the Brigadier we marched proudly off to "A life on the Ocean Wave," our own march.

Another surprise followed later when after the Brigadier's address to the newly "Passed off" troops and their relatives we were each presented with a display case containing a Royal Signals Corps tie and cuff links, an 11th Regiment Instructors Certificate and a Honorary Life Membership of 11th Regiment Branch of the Royal Signals Association.

Looking back it has been a "work hard, play hard, year." Our dispersal in the Regiment was five to the Weapon Training Pool, two to troops as Troop Sergeants, and one to 3 Squadron as S.S.I. The classes were unusually large and for the first quarter we had deep snow. Many were the days when we spent the mornings digging the range butts out so that we could fire in the afternoons, only to find next day that the wind had blown all the snow back again. There had not only been recruits to train, however, for Military Proficiency Assistant Instructors and Staff Sergeants' Courses were all taking place regularly interspersed with rifle meetings, Army Emergency Reserve weekends and Adventure Training for recruits.

And so to the "play" side. The Regimental Church Sunday each month and curry lunch in the Mess came as a welcome break to our wives who were spared that ordeal of the week, the "Sunday dinner." I will say this, that there is absolutely no truth in the rumour that we starved our children for the week preceeding. Blame their feats of eating to your invigorating northern air.

During the December social evening R.S.M. S. J. R. Dunlop presented each of us with an 11th Regiment plaque. Thank you for another happy reminder of a pleasant attachment.

Finally, our sincere thanks to the Training Brigade, Royal Signals and 11th Regiment in particular for your kindness, hospitality and the many ways in which you made us part of "the family."

The following goods are available from Association Headquarters:

Corps Ties—Heavy Weave	7/6	Blazer Buttons—Large (each)	2/3
Woollen	8/6	Small (each)	1/8
Terylene	11/-	Motor Car Badges (enamelled in Corps Colours)	35/-
Corps Scarves—Woollen	21/-	Motor Cycle Badges (enamelled in Corps Colours)	20/-
Rayon Squares	21/-	Corps Plaques	29/6 Plus postage
Cravats—Terylene	21/-	Corps Diaries (available each year between November and February. Apply to Headquarters for Order Form).	
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All the details of the scheme are in the leaflets illustrated here. Write to me personally, and I will send you a copy of the one that applies to your Service:

Air Chief Marshal Sir Hugh W. L. Saunders,
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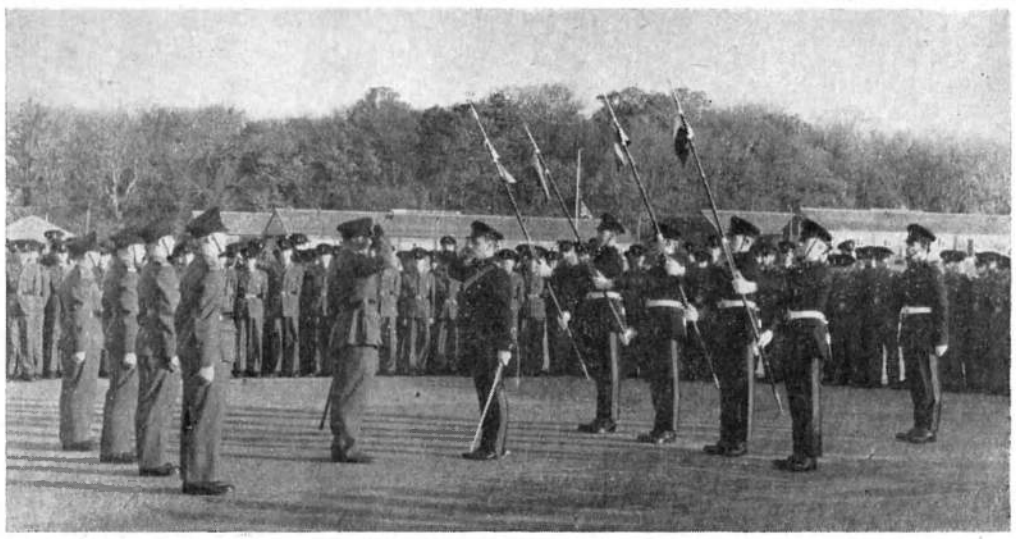
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16th Regiment Adopts the Junior Squadron of the Junior Leaders Regiment



YET another bond is established between a serving Regiment and our Junior Leaders Regiment at a colourful Lance Presentation Ceremony at Denbury.

Denbury Camp, on the fringe of Dartmoor, is the home of the Junior Leaders Regiment. The Corps has always shown great interest in the work and training of this Unit and these bonds were further strengthened during last summer when the Band of the Junior Leaders Regiment made an extensive tour of the Regiments of the Corps in B.A.O.R.

We, here in Krefeld, were very impressed with the smartness of turnout and enthusiasm shown by the boys during their stay with us and as a reciprocal gesture it was decided to present a stand of four lances to the Junior Squadron who were the Cinderellas of Denbury, having no connections with any of the Regular Regiments. Accordingly, a lance presentation party was assembled consisting of Captain D. G. Smith, Staff Sergeant B. Howie, Lance-Corporal Little and Signalmen Bilson, Lashley and Richardson.

Signalman Richardson and Lashley are ex-members of the Junior Leaders Regiment, a fact which further served to underline the existing ties between Denbury and the Regular Army. Lieutenant-Colonel R. W. P. Brader also accompanied the lance party and was the guest of Lieutenant-Colonel A. Holifield, M.C.

The party reached their destination on the night of Friday, 22nd November, Staff Sergeant Howie having had his usual tussle with tight-lipped Customs officials over the intrinsic value of four lances!

After a brief period of familiarisation drill for the four diminutive Junior Leader lance bearers the whole Regiment were played on to the parade ground by their Band which was, as usual, magnificent. The preliminaries over, the command 'Break ranks' was given and the 600 boys gathered around the dais to watch the actual ceremony of the handing over of the lances. Colonel R. W. P. Brader then addressed them and declared the existence of the association between Junior Squadron and 16th Regiment and also presented Colonel Holifield with a cheque for £65 on behalf of the Regiment to help to defray the heavy costs incurred by the Junior Leaders in sending their Band on the Summer Tour of B.A.O.R.

Colonel Brader then took the salute as the Regiment marched past and afterwards toured the camp seeking many other aspects of life at Denbury, which is full and rewarding for both students and staff.

If the Old Boys of the Junior Leaders Regiment maintain their high standard and keenness on joining Regular Regiments, the Corps has nothing to fear in the future from the manpower trough because it is surely quality we seek above quantity.

During December the Regiment said its final farewells to Lieutenant-Colonel R. W. P. Brader who has been with us now since 11th September, 1961. Colonel Brader came to us from Ghana Signal Squadron and in his continual efforts to improve standards and eliminate defects within the Unit, some of us have been under the impression that we also were destined for warmer climes!

Mrs. Brader also devoted much time and energy to the Wives' club and the Regiment's record of digging deep in its pockets in aid of worthy causes has reached formidable proportions (they do say, however, that the bankruptcy rate in Krefeld is a trifle high!).

After a dining out evening, which was stag and reasonably formal, it was decided that a less starchy and perhaps warmer goodbye could be arranged to include the wives.

A venue at Haus Schüten, on the outskirts of Krefeld, was accordingly fixed, and after an excellent meal, the party retired to the house of Captain J. S. Howe, the Adjutant, for the ultimate ceremony.

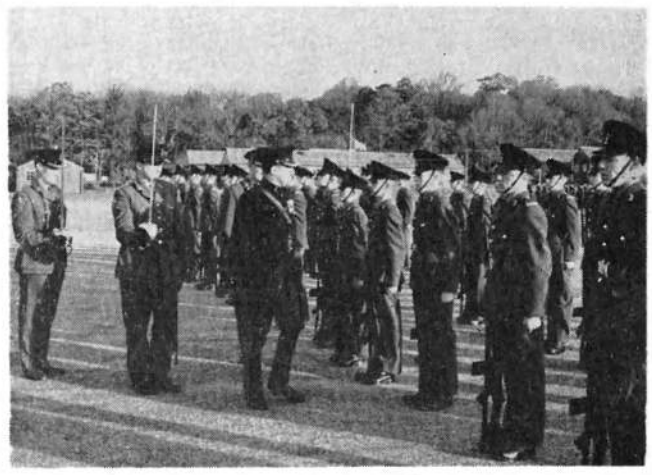
This consisted of a presentation to Colonel Brader of an illuminated scroll (3 feet by 6 feet) worked at with loving care and sore eyes by Major J. T. R. Sylvester-Bradley and an insignia of office (a 25 lb. iron ball and 6 ft. length of chain).

Both these items enrolled Colonel Brader as a permanent honorary member of 16th Regiment's Command Group and the insignia of office was padlocked around Colonel Brader's leg!

Then, complete with scroll but minus insignia, Colonel and Mrs. Brader were chaired from the house to their waiting transport at shoulder height and to the stirring accompaniment of the pipes played by Major Sylvester-Bradley.

In his new appointment at the School of Military Engineering at Chatham we wish Colonel Brader all success for the future and trust that he will always carry the ceremonial scroll and insignia with him!

In the Army, a departure automatically indicates a complementary arrival and it is with pleasure that we welcome Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. D. H. Freeland to our Regiment from a recent sojourn in the United States.



Colonel Brader, Royal Signals, inspects Junior Squadron



WO I (Y of S) Oakley feeds his Troop



Cameo of a Sportsman: Sgt. Ahmad Nizar Bin Haji Khalid

18th REGIMENT, c/o G.P.O. SINGAPORE

The big event in 1 Squadron (Operation) lately has been the annual camp. This year we were lucky enough to go to the Cameron Highlands which are in Pahang in North Malaya, and are up to 7,000-ft. high. The climate is quite temperate, the primary jungle is very thick, and our base camp was close to a delightful golf course which was a little less green after our month's stay.

The aim of the exercise was two fold. To give a "Change of Air" to the whole Squadron, and for the information of those who have not yet set foot on this wondrous island, this is most essential. Secondly to break up the daily routine that our shift personnel get into.

Each week one of our shifts plus eight men from H.Q. Squadron, making us up to a party of 40, left Singapore by train for the overnight trip to Tapah, approximately 400 miles up country. We arrived at Brinchang Camp about 15.00 hours the following day having done the last 25 miles and 250 bends by road. This as a move seems easy enough, but it had many unforeseen hitches, which were found in the first move. Our later expeditions were smooth and far more comfortable.

For two weeks we had a SRC11 detachment from 208 (Comwel) Squadron attached. We took the C11 into the jungle using the "K" box on a remote lead and worked back to Singapore. This meant untraining our operators to send at five words per minute because of the low speed relays.

19th REGIMENT, c/o G.P.O. SINGAPORE

The R.A.F. Station at Changi, where R.H.Q. and H.Q. Squadron and 1 Squadron are located, wears a 'Boom Town' look these days—both ends of the runway are being extended, the dispersal areas enlarged, and the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess building has been trebled in size. These and other schemes keep 1 Squadron busy putting in new cable, and making good the ravages of the contractor's excavators and bulldozers to existing stuff.

Sergeant Yusof bin Lengong recently spent what he said were three most enjoyable months in U.K. attending the Drill Course at the All Arms Drill Wing, Pirbright, and the Platoon Weapons Course at the Small Arms Wing, Hythe. We congratulate Sergeant Yusof on the results which he obtained—a "B" on the Drill Course and a "C" on the Platoon Weapons Course.

We welcome to the Regiment Major and Mrs. C. G. Sandys and Captain (T.O.T.) and Mrs. W. E. Oates and family.

Our quietly efficient N.C.O. I.C. Barrack Stores is well known in FARELF hockey circles (no pun intended!).

Sergeant Nizar was born at Kuala Kangsar, Perak, in 1927. His schooling finished abruptly with the Japanese occupation of Malaya, and for the war years he helped on the land. After the liberation he worked in Local Government until enlisting in 1948. Sergeant Nizar did his basic training at Blakang Mati, a military island half-a-mile off the southern tip of Singapore (this island featured in the news recently being one of the areas to be handed back to the State at some future date).

It was during his basic training that Sergeant Nizar started playing hockey, the game which was to become his chief interest, and which he was to richly endow in the years to come. He was first selected for the Corps (FARELF) team in 1950, and has been selected ever since, moving to inside-left and finally inside-right.

Other representative mile-stones have been: 1951, Army FARELF; 1953, Combined Services, Singapore; 1958, Singapore State. Sergeant Nizar is indeed known throughout the hockey fields of Malaya, and has also been on a Hong Kong tour. His big disappointment was just missing selection last season for the trip to Jakarta for the Asian Games.

Although he is chiefly known as a hockey player, Sergeant Nizar's quick eye and anticipation made him an excellent badminton player, and addition to playing for the Regiment he is a member of the R.A.F. Changi Station side.

New Air Formation Signals Tie—BAOR

21st Regiment have designed a new tie for Air Formation Signal Personnel in Germany. The pattern has been approved by the Corps Committee and the first two hundred ties have now arrived from the makers. The tie manufactured in Terylene has a dark blue background on which there is the small red air formation aeroplane motif and under each there is XXI.

The tie, which may be purchased from PR I, 21 Signal Regiment, R.A.F. Laarbruch, B.F.P.O. 43, for 17s., or 9.50 DM postage paid, and may be worn by any past or present member of the Regiment or by ex-Air Formation Signal Personnel who have been stationed in Germany.

21st REGIMENT, B.F.P.O. 43

C.-in-C.'s Commendation

This Regiment is delighted to congratulate Corporal E. Middleton and Corporal A. G. Ghant on their Commendations by the Commander-in-Chief, Royal Air Force, Germany, on 1st January. We hope to be able to publish a photograph of the presentation.

Visit to Philips Research Laboratories

For Officer Training recently, Major John Ellis organised a trip to the Philips Telecommunication Research Laboratories at Hilversum and Huixen.

The Chairman of the Group, Mr. Wolterson, when welcoming us all, recalled that he had been attached to 51st Divisional Signal Regiment in the war and also reminisced over his days at Catterick whilst in the Officer Training Wing and also the School of Signals.

In the morning we were shown their electro-magnetic storage system and automatic message switching system. Lunch was then generously provided at a nearby hotel in the most lavish style.

After lunch we proceeded to tour the radio and radar factories, and the latest, fully-transistorised equipments, designed for the Dutch and German Armies. Altogether a most interesting and rewarding day's training.

Upgrading Courses and Trade Boards

Just prior to Christmas the Regiment completed the first half of its winter training programme with three upgrading Class III to II trade boards for Cable Jointers, Linemen and Driver Royal Signals, which terminated ten-week courses at Bruggen, Wildenrath and Laarbruch, respectively.

The Driver, Royal Signals, B III to B II Course was the first that the Regiment had run, and we must congratulate the M.T.O., Captain "Douggie" Burt and his No. 1 Staff Sergeant Shand on the first class model room that they had produced as a result of a tremendous scrounging drive on all our R.A.F. and Ordnance contacts and local scrap dumps.

Sergeant Evans, having first gained full experience at the "skid-pan" belonging to the R.A.F. Driving School at Bruggen, arranged for the entire course to carry out the "skid" course—it was extremely popular, as well as being of great practical value.

The course concluded with a 24-hour drive, on which all aspects of the course were practised, including correcting of skids, as hard frost and snow were encountered during part of the route.

2 Squadron

We were very sorry to lose W.O.II (S.S.M.) Cockrill on posting to 19th Regiment and hope that by now he has learnt the truth of the old soldier's saying, "Never be separated from your kit."

Lieutenant David Insall joined us recently with the classic in subaltern's cars—in all fairness it used to roar into life at the first touch of the button and displayed a cross-country record second to none. However, when David dispensed with the air-conditioning by the simple device of fitting a back window in lieu of a hole, the "red bomb" out of spite shed both doors—these doors were recovered and bolted to the body-work with wide strips of mild steel plate. Next the battery decided that sulphation was its substitute for hibernation. As the majority of the coachwork has to be stripped to reach the battery due to the somewhat odd design of the car, David could be seen pushing the car furiously, and then as the beast got under way, diving in through the window and ramming the gear lever home. After some days of this David retired to sick quarters and the car enjoys a well earned rest. We now await the spring with interest.

The new title of O.C. 2 Squadron is shown in the invitation he received from the Technical and Administration Wing to a Rural Theme at Bruggen and that he enjoyed the party can be seen. (See photos, column 2).

3 Squadron

The Regiment joins 3 Squadron in wishing Major F. G. Bonnart every success in his new post of M.A. to the British General at ALFCE. Major T. P. Canham has taken over the Squadron.

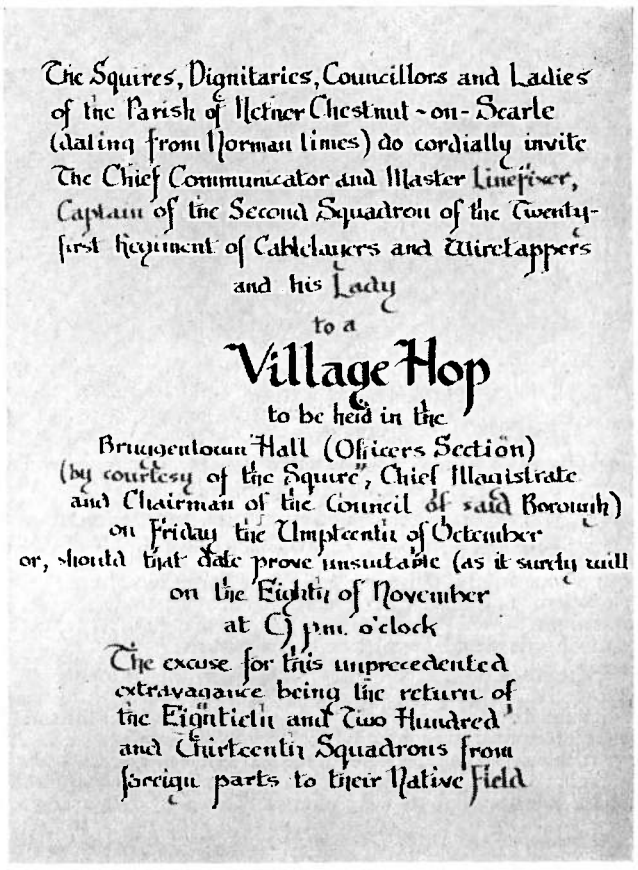
In the recent Station competition for the best decorated bar at Christmas, 3 Squadron were awarded a crate of beer as a prize for a most original conception of a golf club.

Births. The Regiment is delighted to congratulate Signalman and Mrs. B. Pilkington and Signalman and Mrs. J. Brock on the birth of a daughter each.

Marriages. Our congratulations to Lance-Corporal A. Colley and Lance-Corporal F. Francis on their recent marriages.

Death. The Regiment offers its deepest sympathy to Corporal and Mrs. J. S. Hehir on the death of their first child, James Simon, born prematurely on 18th December, 1963.

Invitation to the hop . . .



. . . and here's O.C. 2 Squadron enjoying himself there!





Emplaning—the easy way! Staff Sergeant Hammond-Haley, Signalmen Rogers, Broadbent, Lance Corporal Hailwood, Lance Corporal Pearson, Signal Batten

AIR FORMATION SIGNALS USES HELICOPTERS

To the members of 19th Regiment air travel means a bit more than comfortable reclining seats and tasty refreshments served by pretty airhostesses. A number of the Troop have recently taken part in a short exercise which involved climbing down a rope from a Belvedere helicopter hovering 20 feet above the ground. Fortunately they remembered the lessons they had learnt from W.O.II Maskell during their battle physical training and no hands were scorched or bones broken.

For those who haven't yet met this flying 3-tonner the Belvedere is a short range transport helicopter powered by two jet engines driving twin rotors. Its main function is to lift small parties of combat troops and freight within confined areas. It is particularly suited for use in under-developed areas where undulating ground, dense undergrowth or soft muddy land prohibit the use of fixed wing aircraft. It can fly just over 300



Signalman Roberts doing the rope trick

miles unladen, or 400 miles when fitted with overload tanks. It cruises at 100 knots and has a top forward speed of 120 knots. Fully laden its radius of action is about 25 miles. Full loads include 18 armed men, 6,000 lb. of freight carried internally or 5,000 lb. of freight underslung. Typical underslung cargoes include a Land Rover and trailer or a 105 mm. gun. The normal operating altitude is about 1,500 ft. but in the forward areas they stay as low as possible. The crew of three comprises a pilot, navigator and air quartermaster.

The Belvedere could be put to a wide range of uses within Royal Signals. It certainly provides an ideal vehicle for moving line detachments of Air Formation Signals between the forward airfields.

22nd REGIMENT, B.F.P.O. 16

H.Q. Squadron. In H.Q. Squadron the halfway stage has been reached in winter training; the courses have finished and all students have returned to their parent units in time for Christmas. We get a breather (with Christmas festivities!) until the second half of the training starts in early January.

In early December, some 30 officers and men of 65th Regiment (T.A.), came to Germany to practice their own particular brand of signalling. We were co-opted to act as enemy over a 48-hour period to chase them so that not only would their signalling and map-reading techniques be tried, but also their fieldcraft. Due to very severe frost, they decided not to parachute, but instead jumped off the back of a lurching 3-tonner at intervals in the dark. The "enemy" got off to a good start by nabbing two of their sticks within two hours of the start. This put both sides on their mettle, and chase and evasion was done at speed for the rest of the exercise. One enemy group, led by Lieutenant John Graham, caught a particular stick, three times during the two days.

The exercise was enjoyed by both sides, in a friendly, competitive spirit, and the enemy have nothing but praise for the fitness (in every respect) and hardihood of these "Terriers" in very cold winter conditions.

1 Squadron. This month the officer strength of the Squadron was depleted when it lost two Captains. Captain J. Reid said farewell to us and to the Army and is now coping with the rigours of civilian life. Captain T. E. D. Baxter, having just received the good news that his wife had presented him with a baby daughter, left us for a tour of duty with the Gurkha Signals. To them both we wish all good fortune for the future.

The latter half of the month, of course, brought with it the usual round of Christmas festivities. For the all ranks' dance, a number of girls, most of them Spanish, from a Spanish hostel in Lippstadt, were invited. Unfortunately, none of them spoke English, which made the going very difficult for most members of the Regiment. However, there were a number from the Squadron who refused to be defeated and who did find ways and means of communicating through the language barrier. One in particular seemed to be most pleased with himself at the end of the dance; his efforts seemingly wasted—he did not know Spanish for "Saturday night"!

The Squadron Christmas party, held two days later, was a great successs, and thoroughly enjoyed by all ranks. Father Christmas, in the most appropriate and portly form of Corporal Colecliffe, was, of course, present. By singing a few Christmas songs and telling jokes, he kept everybody in the festive spirit.

244 Squadron (Air Support). This month several of us once again took part in an exercise against members of the 65th Regiment (T.A.). Exercise "Ink Spot" was most successful, if somewhat cold. This time only one enemy patrol got through unscathed.

The Squadron Christmas party was a great success. Corporal Hawthorne did a very good job as M.C. Lance-Corporal Greenup, as usual, gave us an excellent buffet; unfortunately this was his "Swan Song." He has been the Squadron cook for four years and we are very sorry to see him go.

Our congratulations are due to Corporal Williams, back with the Squadron after passing his Tech. I at Catterick.

Congratulations also to Corporal Stevens, who "at last" decided to take the plunge and got married this month.

We have lost Lieutenant Graham, who has joined his brother in the Parachute Brigade. Sergeant Boddington has forsaken "Z" Troop, preferring the wilds of Yorkshire and the Yeomans' course. Corporal Hardy and Signalman Rainbridge have both gone back to England and "Civvy Street." We should like to wish them all the best in the future.

Whilst on the subject of departures, I'm sure all ex-members of the Squadron will be pleased to know that the "Grip Stick," instigated by our National Servicemen, is still going the rounds.

Finally, welcome to all new boys. Don't think that just because you have had a party nearly every other night since you have been here, that it is always like this!

(*Thank you for raising your monthly order for* THE WIRE *to* 200. *One other Regiment equals this and only three exceed it.—Editor.*)

210 SQUADRON, B.F.P.O. 10

As we write these notes, albeit for the February edition of THE WIRE, one reminisces over the year just behind us.

There are undoubtedly pros and cons to serving in Kenya, but 1963 was certainly an historic year in this country's existence. The attainment of self government and then of Independence both caused national excitement and apprehension.

However, both passed with the minimum of incidents and, undoubtedly, the maximum of goodwill. Kenya and her leaders must be congratulated on such a good start to her "career" as a nation of the world.

From the Squadron's point of view the year was also full of incidents. We were well represented in operations mounted in Zanzibar, Pemba and Swaziland, and were at reduced notice from time to time for other operations. Our extensive exercises took our crews from the Indian Ocean to Lake Victoria and from the borders of Ethiopia to those of Uganda and Tanganyika—not to mention the Arabian Peninsular.

Our leave plans have been equally varied ones—wallowing in the Indian Ocean at Mombasa or Malindi. The game parks are popular for some, and a five-day steamer trip round Lake Victoria has also attracted a few.

The year was wound up, we feel, with alcohol. The Squadron Club flourished, and our stewards, Lance-Corporal Elliott, then Lance-Corporal Gill and now Corporal Moffatt have done sterling work. The new hot plate and 'fridge enables them to qualify as BIII cooks!

We look forward to excitement and enjoyment in 1964. One thing is certain, however, that we will not have another Christmas in Kenya—we depart for Aden in October.

224 SQUADRON

Cross Country. The Squadron has entered a team in the Lincolnshire Services Cross-Country League and after six meetings we are top of the League with ten R.A.F. teams behind us. Out of 72 runners our placing were, with five to count: 5th, Lance-Corporal Harris; 6th, Lance-Corporal Gue; 11th, Signalman Crofts; 15th, Signalman Campbell; 30th, Signalman Muir.

Race Walking. On 22nd November, 1963, the cross-country team converted to race walking, after being invited by the R.A.F. to enter a team in the Bomber Command Group championships. For a first outing, we were pleased to be placed third out of six teams, plus Lance-Corporal Gue receiving a medal for being the first non-R.A.F. competitor to complete the course.

Soccer. For the first time for several years the Squadron entered the Open Competition for the Army Cup. Our first fixture was at home to the Army Apprentice School from Harrogate. After an excellent game the Squadron won 7—0. In the next round we met 6th Bn. R.A.O.C. from Chilwell, who had won the cup two seasons ago and with five R.A.O.C. Corps players in their team were hoping for success this year. Once again we had our goal-scoring boots on and came away 5—0 winners. Hopes were now running high as we reached the last twenty-four with a home fixture against 42nd Regiment R.A. from Pembroke Dock. This was an exciting battle with us being 1—0 up then 3—1 down followed by 4—3 up and finally losing 5—4. We were disappointed at being knocked out as it would have been interesting for a Squadron to have reached the Army Cup final! Two of the team, Signalman Oxley and Signalman Irvine, are members of the Corps Soccer XI and will be a valuable gain for 13th Regiment in the New Year.

We have recently met 6th Bn. R.A.O.C. in the final of the District Cup and after a tough struggle came away with a 2—2 draw. The replay was on our pitch and was again a tough battle and with twelve minutes to go we were 4—2 down, but as the final whistle went Signalman Sloane made the score 5—4.

Hockey. 6th Bn. R.A.O.C. were again our opponents in the semi-final of the District Cup. This also resulted in a draw when first played at Chilwell. However, on the replay on 2nd January, 1963, the team, skippered by Staff Sergeant Brice,



WINNERS 49 DIV/DIST SOCCER CUP 1963

Back Row: Signalman Torbet, Second Lieutenant S. Cowan, Corporal Aitken, Signalmen Irvine, Burr, Cartlidge and Greenhill
Front Row: Signalmen Sloane and Wyatt, Major F. A. Wainwright, Royal Signals, Lieutenant C. A. Brown, Signalman Oxley

won by 2—1 after a really tough and hard fight. Sergeant M. Hamilton and Corporal Richardson scored the goals and the Q.M., Captain Murray, played his normal "gentleman's" game at full-back.

Rugby. Spirits are high at the moment as the team travelled to Catterick and met 11th Regiment in the quarter-final of the Northern Command Major Units Cup. The game had been a tough forward struggle with Signalman Dugmore, Signalman Milton, Corporal Widdowson and Signalman Hill playing a prominent part.

246 (GURKHA) SQUADRON B.F.P.O. 1

Security Patrol. One of the more pleasant aspects of our work in Hong Kong are the Security Patrols which come up for us once every three months. These Patrols occur every week and are planned to cover all areas of the Colony four times a year. They are done by all units of 48 Brigade and certain units from Hong Kong and Kowloon Garrison.

The Patrols, depending on the area to be covered, last from two to five days and are normally done on foot with mule assistance for the radio set. The normal complement for a patrol is one officer, two police interpreters, one medical orderly and eight other ranks.

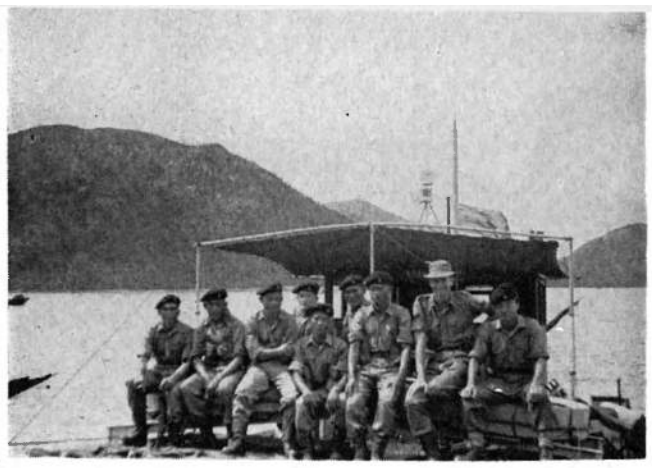
The purpose of these patrols is to find out the situation in outlying villages as to health, crops, water, schooling, medical coverage, etc., and whether the headmen have any queries for or require help from the District Officer.

On 20th August, 1963, a party of 10 men consisting of Captain G. C. Verdon, Sergeant K. Childs, Sergeant Jagatbahadur Sunwar, six members of the Squadron M.T. Section and a Chinese Medical Orderly, left Gordon Hard by L.C.M. to carry out a Security Patrol on Lan Tau island. Lan Tau is the largest island of the Hong Kong group and lies approximately eight miles south-west of Hong Kong island itself.

Unlike normal Security Patrols which are done mainly on foot, Captain Verdon decided to make a base camp at Fan Lau on the south-west tip of the island, and to travel to the nearest point to the villages to be visited, by sea.

With us in the L.C.M. therefore, was an assault boat, a powerful twin cylinder outboard motor, paddles (which we hoped we wouldn't have to use), an anchor and other nautical apparatus loaned to us by 67 Gurkha Field Engineer Squadron. The radio for communications back to the Squadron was a BCC 156, carried and operated by Lance-Corporal Dhandoj Limbu.

Success with the radio was only limited owing to the absence of tall trees to throw the wire aerial over. We could hear Sek Kong on the rod aerials but even after Lance-Corporal Dhandoj climbed to the top of a nearby hill, they could not hear us. In spite of various methods tried, ranging from wetting the aerial and laying it out in the paddy, to pleading and even



HOMEWARD BOUND

(*From Left*) Signalman Danbahadur Chhetri, Signalman Nainasing Tamang, Sergeant Jagatbahadur Sunwar, Signalman Motiraj Rana, Lance Corporal Dhandhoj Limbu, Signalman Matiraj Gurung (now Lance Corporal), Signalman Padambahadur Ale, Sergeant Childs and R.A.M.C. medical orderly

threats, we were unable to get through. This state of affairs lasted throughout the patrol.

After a calm and uneventful trip, we arrived at Fan Lau and set up base camp next to some disused paddy fields just off the deserted sandy beach. Only by serving with Gurkha troops can one realise how quickly a patch of scrub can be cleared, tents erected, and hot, strong sweet tea brewed.

The next morning after an earlv 'Bhat' we set off in the boat, leaving one of the Gurkha members of the party in camp, to go round the coast to Tai O. This is the largest town on the south-western end of Lan Tau and is almost completely occupied in fishing. Here Captain Verdon had to visit the Police Station and be briefed on local conditions and get any instructions necessary. Here we were also to pick up our police interpreter.

When the report on local villages was complete we returned to camp at Fan Lau. After a meal and a short swim everyone was glad to go to bed—this time under tents although we had no more rain at night.

The third day's patrol consisted of a visit to six villages well inland. It was decided to split the party into two parties, one under Captain Verdon and the other with Sergeant Childs.

After visiting all the villages on the agenda for that day we all met in Tai O, and, re-embarking in the boat, set off for Fan Lau. The wind had risen by this time and we were moving into a rather heavy sea. The assault boat proved that it was seaworthy and although Gurkhas are not by nature a seafaring people, they appeared to enjoy bouncing from wave top to wave top. The two Chinese members of the party were a bit green round the gills however when we arrived, soaked to the skin, back at camp.

The fourth and final day of the patrol consisted of a visit to Shek Pik village near the newly opened 100 million gallon reservoir, packing up and returning to Sek Kong.

The biggest impression gained by all members of the party, Gurkha and British, was the hospitality offered in all the villages visited. No matter how poor, or rich, the village was there was always a seat in the shade and tea to drink, although a cold beer would perhaps have gone down better. All questions were answered honestly and usually in much more detail than was required.

602 INDEPENDENT SIGNAL TROOP (SPECIAL COMMUNICATIONS)

WE'RE back! Yes, it was with great glee (and anticipation "la grande vie"—beer and girls) that 602 emplaned (in a suitable state of alcoholic preservation) in Nairobi on 5th September, 1963, homeward bound.

A fortnight later we all gathered in Gloucester, where we came under the guardian and well-prepared cares of 14th Regiment. It was from the same Barracks (Robinswood Barracks) that we had departed for Kenya three years earlier, and so, for many, there was much back-slapping and "Do you remember the time . . . " stories. It is at this stage that we would like to give our thanks to 14th Regiment for all the preparations and arrangements they had made for our "return to the fold."

Having returned, the unit settled down rapidly to pick up the threads of the respective trades concerned and, indeed, it wasn't long before we were involved in exercises of an adventurous nature. We were very glad indeed to be able to form closer liaison with our good friends and allied unit, 65th Regiment (T.A.), and it was in early December that we found ourselves in Germany on Exercise "Ink Spot," facing a redoubtable enemy efficiently produced by 22nd Regiment. This was a thoroughly valuable, enjoyable and cold exercise, in which we felt we more than protected our existing reputation.

Having been back in this country now for four months, the majority of our people are again away on various world-wide duties. The few personnel that remain in camp are those that, to their mortification, require upgrading. Apart from those there are six of our members just departed to undergo selection with 22nd S.A.S. Regiment, prior to becoming trained parachutists, we hope.

We are extremely sorry to lose at this stage the last of our "old hands," including W.O.II Green, Sergeant French and Corporal Kennard, and wish them all the very best in their new units. We welcome Staff Sergeant Smith and congratulate him upon his promotion to A/W.O.II. Also heartiest congratulations are due to Sergeant-Major "Dodger" Green on his well-deserved award of the British Empire Medal in the New Year's Honours List.

President for Ex-Boys' reunions

THE Chairman and Committee of Royal Signals Ex-Boys' Annual Dinners are very pleased to announce that Colonel J. R. Piddington, O.B.E., M.C. (a senior serving ex-Boy of the Corps) has accepted the office of President, Royal Signals Ex-Boys' Annual Dinners.

This is a further good step forward in the right direction and will, it is certain, draw many more serving and ex-Boys to future annual dinners.

Chairmanship. Major (Q.M.) Kenneth L. Uttley, at H.Q., A.E.R., Royal Signals, Blandford, volunteered and took over the duties of Chairman from 1st January, 1964, vice Major Freddy Strange. The ex-Chairman and his Committee are sure that all ex-Boys will give continued and good suppport to the new Chairman to ensure that the annual dinners go on from strength to strength each year. The 10th annual dinner will be held in September, 1964. Full details will be published by mid-April.

Honorary Secretaryship. All past attenders at the dinners will be very gratified to know that Mr. F. W. Jacob ("Jacques") has improved in health and will be continuing his voluntary tasks in the dual job of Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer. Well done, Jacques!



Navigator Corporal Thomas Smith of 262 Squadron and Signalman Hirst and Signalman Sanderson with the trophy which the team secured by winning the Individual Quarter-ton Class in the Army (Cyprus) Driving Championships



The Lord Mayor inspects the Skinners Guard. To the rear is R.S.M. Stockdale and the motor cycle escort



Second from right, the Mayor of Shoreditch and members of the Regiment entertain patients from the Star and Garter Home

65th REGIMENT T.A.

Your Editor has come to hear of two outstanding events which concerned this well known city Regiment which must be chronicled this month.

One was the visit of the late Lord Mayor of London, the Right Honourable Sir Ralph Perring, Bt., in September when he inspected the Skinners Guard and toured the Unit prior to dining with the officers of the Regiment and other distinguished guests. The photo on the left shows the Lord Mayor inspecting the Skinner's Guard.

The second event was when the Regiment with true seasonal generosity entertained a party of thirty-nine disabled from the Star and Garter Home and Queen Mary's Hospital to a concert and community singing. Present was the Mayor of Shoreditch (Honorary Chaplain to the Regiment), and the companionship and good cheer on this occasion are clearly manifested above.

47th REGIMENT (T.A.) MIDDLESEX YEOMANRY (The Duke of Cambridge's Hussars)

A Happy New Year to all our readers!

We should like to take this opportunity to say "thank you" to all those who have written to us over the past year in connection with our activities and methods—the interest shown was a great encouragement.

Our thanks also for all the help we have had to promote our Developments for 1963. The 1964 Development Programme is already under way and we shall be back next month with our usual news and views.

316 SQUADRON T.A.

The recent issue of AN/TRC equipment and more up-to-date radio sets has enabled the Squadron to plan training on a more realistic basis. The winter training programme is in full swing, and is largely devoted to the various tradesmen finding their way round this equipment and learning how to operate it, in addition to basic trade training. We look forward now to the Field Training which has been planned to enable us to cope in particular with the 1964 Brigade Annual Camp, using the new equipment.

We have at this time, a duty to assist the Royal Artillery Regiment in the recruitment of their Signal Troops. These Regiments are situated in Newcastle-on-Tyne, in Portsmouth, and in East Ham, London. There is an urgent need for ex-Royal Signals personnel in these Regimental Signal Troops, particularly Radio Operators and Radio Technicians and it is hoped that those interested in taking up these vacancies will get in touch with **O.C. 316 Signal Squadron T.A. at the T.A. Centre, Stamford Brook Avenue, London, W.6.** There are also several vacancies in the Squadron itself which would suit those who live more locally, i.e. west and north London areas. G.P.O. technicians are particularly welcome, but those who join us can be assured of a full and interesting T.A. life and good social amenities.

Corps Sports Fixtures

Association Football

1964			
February	26th	v.	R.E., at Aldershot.
„	29th	v.	Hull University, at Catterick.
March	14th	v.	R.E.M.E., at Bordon.

Soccer Results

Manchester University 0, Royal Signals 3.
Royal Signals 3, Newcastle University 0.

Royal Signals Association and Benevolent Fund

The following subscriptions were most gratefully received during December, 1963:

	£	s.	d.
11th Regiment (26 Unit Branch)	350	0	0
24th Regiment (Officers' Mess)	2	13	0
24th Regiment (Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess)	6	1	0
57th Regiment (T.A.)	1	5	0
45th (Essex) Regiment, T.A.	14	12	6
47th Regiment (Middlesex Yeomanry) T.A.	5	5	0
22nd Regiment (Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess)	30	0	0
C.A.F.S.O. Staff, H.Q., Far East Air Force	2	9	0
North London Branch	2	0	0
F. Veness	1	0	0
Calverley and District Round Table	5	5	0
W.O.I W. E. Howley, W.O.II J. Drummond, Sergeant H. A. Gilchrist, through C.S.O., Scottish Command	2	0	0
V. Brown	2	2	0
J. F. Benson	2	0	0
Lieutenant-Colonel C. J. Aston	5	12	6
Anonymous	5	0	0
Various small donations	1	6	4
Receipts	£438	11	4
Expenditure during December, 1963 ... ... (Includes: Rent and Rates; Beds and Bedding; Furniture; Cots and Prams; General Assistance).	£668	17	10

Gifts of clothing, toys and books, and Christmas donations, have been most gratefully received by the Welfare Section from the following:—

J. S. Pitt, Esq.; Colonel E. P. Blake; R.Q.M.S. and Mrs. P. McNaughton; Mrs. N. P. Robinson; Royal Signals Association, North London Branch; "B" Squadron, 47th Signal Regiment (Middlesex Yeomanry) T.A.; Major C. G. Sandys; W.O.I Donaldson; W.O.I Kinch; R.S.M. and Mrs. L. Irving; W.O.II R. W. Coe; Lieutenant (T.O.T.) C. J. Bayfield; W.O.I and Mrs. N. Ribchester; W.O.I Stockdale; Staff Sergeant J. R. Lidstone; N. Oliver, Esq.; J. C. Hogg, Esq.; Mrs. J. J. H. Swallow; Major (T.O.T.) A. G. Pritchard; Mrs. R. Flanagan; Major-General G. G. Rawson; Brigadier and Mrs. D. St. J. Hoysted; Colonel and Mrs. J. E. S. Sanders; Major P. J. Knott; Mrs. Foster; Mrs. E. Fladgate; Mrs. I. G. Swan; F. Veness, Esq.; Mrs. G. M. Weir; Colonel J. L. Lilley; Lieutenant-Colonel W. H. Lamb; Mrs. V. Fraser; Major R. Lawrence; Mrs. M. Boyland; Miss Angela Boyland; H. J. Lockwood, Esq.; Mrs. M. A. Charlton; Mrs. J. O. George; Major W. E. Fill; Sergeant and Mrs. Peake; G. W. S. Sherratt, Esq.; Lieutenant-Colonel J. A. Waite; Captain J. Potts; 226 Signal Squadron (Radio); Major F. B. Saul; Major and Mrs. F. T. C. Williams; V. Brown, Esq.; Miss R. B. McVittie; Major and Mrs. J. F. Stokes; Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Ward; J. F. Benson, Esq.; F. S. Adams, Esq.; Captain G. W. Young; Major N. G. Gallyer; Mrs. K. A. C. Wilson; A. Stokes, Esq.; Lieutenant-Colonel G. M. Welsford, T.D.; Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, 11th Signal Regiment; Mrs. T. B. Graveley; Mrs. J. D. T. Brett; Major F. M. Partington; Sergeant and Mrs. Law; W. Mycroft, Esq.; V. L. Butcher, Esq.; Captain H. S. de N. Rogers; Brigadier D. Price; E. C. Partridge, Esq.; 45th (Essex) Signal Regiment T.A.; Major (T.O.T.) T. F. Jenkinson; Staff Sergeant D. M. Kent.

Many parcels were received without identifying marks, and it proved impossible to trace the senders. The Welfare Section would like to express their grateful thanks to all unnamed donors.

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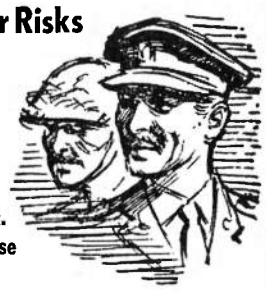
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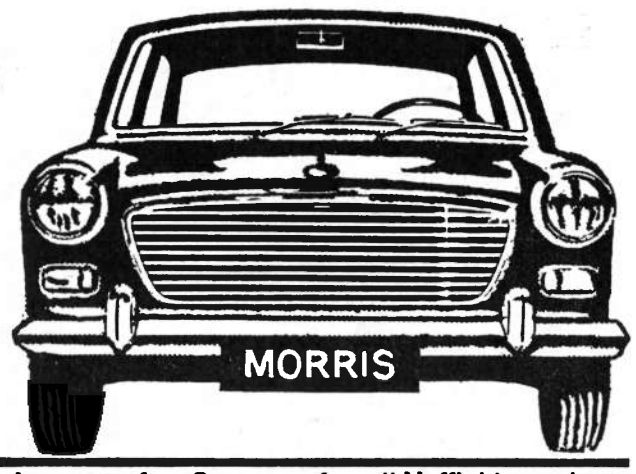
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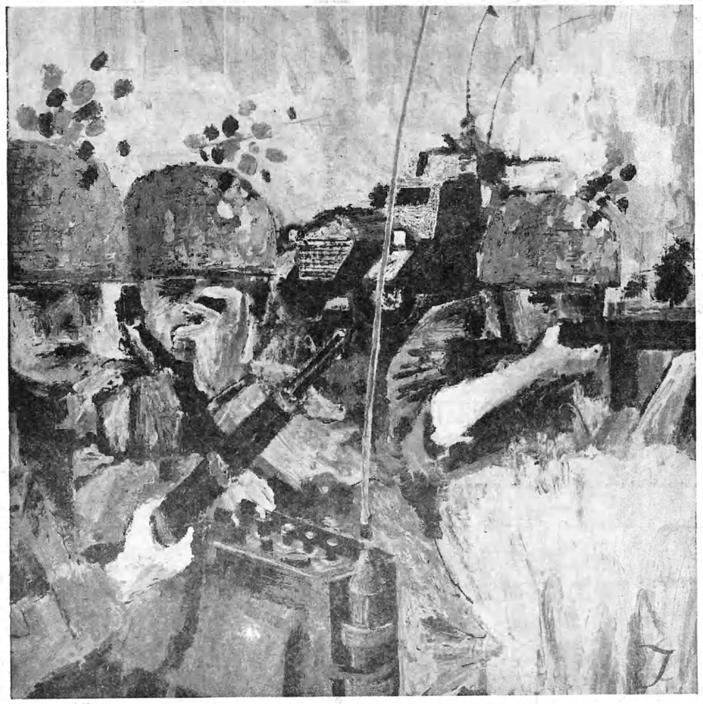


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March 1964

The WIRE

The Royal Signals Magazine



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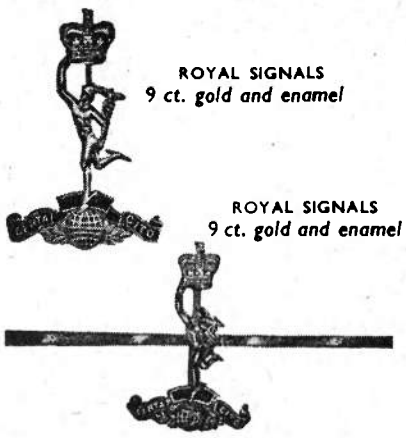
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THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

The Official Organ of the Signals Association

Editor:

BRIGADIER P. M. P. HOBSON, D.S.O.

Assistant Editor:

BRIGADIER H. R. FIRTH

All correspondence and matter for publication in THE WIRE, *should be addressed to* THE WIRE, **Royal Signals Association**, *Cheltenham Terrace, Chelsea, London, S.W.3. Tel. Nos. SLOane 4129 and SLOane 3477, Ext. 143.*

MATTER FOR PUBLICATION MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE 12th OF THE MONTH PRECEDING PUBLICATION.

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☆

MARCH • 1964

Vol. 18 *(New Series)* **No. 3**

Editorial

The Corps marches on into a new age. New equipments, new methods, which only a few years ago seemed hazy dreams, are now practical possibilities within our grasp.

Quietly, purposefully, and, indeed, not always realised by all, the whole basis of our system of communication is being steadily transformed and revitalised by the use of techniques appropriate to this day and age.

Consider the following:

—The Army is going in for helicopters and light aircraft in greatly increased numbers, and soon Signals will control and operate their own for communication purposes.

—Television has made its obvious impact in the field of military communications, and shortly we will see it operated by the Corps as a potent means of disemminating information vital to the staff.

—COMCAN, no longer tied to H.F. radio, girdles the earth; in one case by an integrated system which embraces two major ocean cables, a trans-continental micro-wave system, a co-axial continental trunk cable, as well as normal H.F. links.

—The military version of the electronic brain is just around the corner and will play a major role in our new 'Hobart' system of field communications.

These are some examples of the immense progress that is being made.

Exciting? Challenging? Yes, indeed, as new vistas open and new possibilities present themselves.

But in all this let us not lose sight of one very basic fact. All these machines with all their ingenuity are as nought weighed against the ordinary human being who still has to control them. For if he fails they become utterly dead and lifeless.

Entering the Corps these days are many first-class young men. From the Apprentices School (see this issue of THE WIRE), from Junior Leaders' and Junior Tradesmen's Regiments, from the Training Brigade, they come in large numbers. Here lies the real basis of our future success. Here is the real gold amongst the glittering potentialities of the future.

* * *

As if to underline the above, the following IMPORTANT information has just come in!

The Corps hopes to have its first light aircraft in 1965. Volunteer pilots are required NOW—they take a year to train.

A.C.I. 370/61 gives general details, but from the Corps point of view, it is desirable that you have class I of your trade. However, if you are very keen and PASS the course, this will be considered equivalent to class I and you can elect to transfer to the R.D. Roster and achieve promotion on that roster as a PILOT AT REGIMENTAL DUTY.

Basic requirements are: Be a Corporal recommended for Sergeant. Class II of trade. Medical/Physical standards as in A.C.I. 370/61.

You can volunteer BEFORE you become a Corporal with a view to being called forward when you reach the required age, rank and trade standard. ENQUIRE FROM YOUR UNIT FOR FULL DETAILS.

Corps Jottings

The following items of general Corps interest have been extracted from the S.O.-in-C.'s Liaison Notes, issued in November, 1963.

Recruiting.—It is apparent there is a general shortage. On current trends, it will take some little time to make good this deficit, i.e., by 1st October, 1964. To this must be added the time spent in the Training Organisation. Nevertheless, with the exception of Foremen of Signals, Yeomen of Signals and Special Operators, by mid-1964 the manning situation in units should be satisfactory, provided commitments do not continue to increase, and wastage is reduced.

Recruitment of Boys.—Recruitment of Boys for Royal Signals reached an average rate of 100 per month during the period of June-August, and a total of 317 reported for initial training on the intake date. The distribution of the intake, by categories, was as follows:

Apprentices 120; Junior Leaders 158; Junior Tradesmen 39.

242 (76%) of these recruits were graded SSG 1 or SSG 2 on selection tests and the intake of Apprentices contained 24 boys with G.C.E. at "O" Level in three or more subjects.

There are now approximately 1,800 boys under training for service in Royal Signals; with due allowance for wastage, this will provide an average annual output of 540 during the three-year period 1964-1966 inclusive.

Civilianisation.—In the past, a shortage of soldiers has been alleviated by the ability to civilianise suitable posts. This has now been stopped and a virtual ceiling on civilian manpower cover has been imposed. This does not preclude civilianising additional posts; civilian compensating reductions must be found.

New Signal Troops

606 Signal Troop (Borneo)

This Troop was formed at 11th Signal Regiment and flew to FARELF on 9th August, 1963. It has taken over from troops sent there from Singapore at the beginning of the emergency.

609 Signal Troop (Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland)

This Troop was formed in December, 1963, and will be based on Lusaka. It is to provide communications for H.Q. Commander Forces, Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland after the break-up of the Central African Federation.

540 Signal Troop (Infantry Battalion Airportable)

This Troop was formed in December, 1963, to support the U.K. Battalion based in Penang (FARELF).

541 and 542 Gurkha Signals Troops (Infantry Battalion)

These Troops are being formed *ad hoc* from FARELF resources to support non-brigaded Gurkha battalions in Borneo.

Integration of H.Q. and Signal Units.—The integration of divisional and brigade headquarters with signal units which support them has now been agreed in principle. To differentiate between signal units which are integrated and those which are not, it is proposed to adopt the following titles:

(a) Divisional Regiments
  1 *Full Title*
    Signal Regiment (Division and HQ)
  2 *Short Title*
    HQ and Sig Regt.

(b) Brigade Squadrons
  1 *Full Title*
    Signal Squadron (Brigade and HQ)
  2 *Short Title*
    HQ and Sig Sqn.

These titles are now being considered in the War Office and will, subject to final approval, be promulgated in the near future.

When all divisional and brigade signal units have been reorganised to integrated establishments, it is intended to drop "HQ" and revert to the present titles.

Yeoman of Signals.—There is still a grave shortage of Yeomen of Signals. Course No. 6A, scheduled to start on 9th May, has had to be cancelled due to lack of candidates, and only 20% of the Corps Roster is so far filled. Commanding Officers should encourage any prospective candidates to qualify in the skills required and to sit the entrance examination as soon as possible. Prospects on the Yeomen of Signals Roster are better than on any other Corps Roster at the present time.

Upgrading Courses.—Headquarters, Training Brigade, reports that large numbers of students (over 50%) continue to arrive for upgrading courses who are not up to their current trade rating, in spite of being in possession of certificates signed by their Commanding Officers that they are up to the required standard. In one case a candidate for a Class H to I course was found to be so far *below* that he was "confirmed" at Class III on return to his unit.

The Training Brigade has not the capacity to run all the upgrading courses required at the present time, nor is it possible to obtain sufficient "course passages" for students from overseas theatres. It is therefore a quite unacceptable waste of vacancies and passages if individuals are sent on courses for which they are totally unprepared.

In future, students who are far below the required entry standard, will be returned to their units and the facts will be reported to the War Office for appropriate action.

Catterick Officers' Club.—The Catterick Officers' Club was closed with effect from 30th November, 1963. This is because the margin of profit is too small to make the Club financially viable and because of the necessity to return the military personnel misemployed there in the past.

Future Equipment

HF Manpack Radio—SR A13.—The equipment has now been accepted as suitable for service, and an initial order placed.

C13 High Power.—An order has now been placed for this equipment and the amplifier should be coming into service in about 14 months' time.

SR A43.—This set is now in service in most parts of the world and valuable performance reports have been received from the Middle East and East Africa.

ALS 25.—This has completed user trials and been accepted for service. It will be the Pye transhailer.

Cable, 10 Pair Plastic.—Troop Trials have shown the cable to be acceptable for Service use, and production quantities should be available between March and June, 1964.

Closed Circuit Television.—H.Q., B.A.O.R., have stated a requirement for closed circuit television equipment for H.Q. 1 (BR) Corps. This is required in order to provide a modern and rapid system of information dissemination from a central agency to all interested branches within H.Q. 1 (BR) Corps. The procurement of suitable commercial equipment has now been put in hand.

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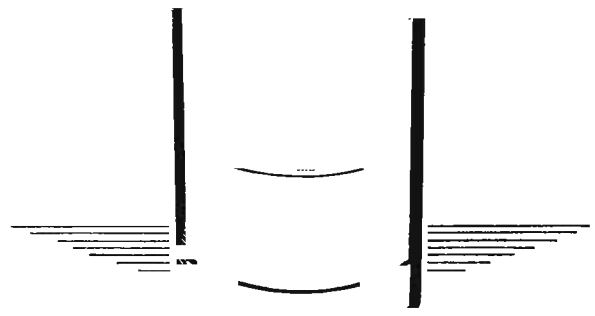
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This is the Second of two informative and authoritative articles, specially written for "The Wire," which deal with YOUR CAREER on the Supervisory Rosters.

The first part of this article, published last month, dealt with the purposes of the Supervisory Rosters and with certain points about entry thereto. So much, then, for entry to the Supervisory Rosters and promotion to Staff Sergeant. How then do these various avenues compare for further advancement to the rank of W.O.II ?

On the Foreman of Signals Roster, time promotion from Staff Sergeant to W.O.II was introduced on 5th December, 1963, after six years technical service above the rank of Sergeant. This has brought the Corps into line with the rest of the Army, and henceforth, a Sergeant who qualifies as Staff Sergeant (F. of S. S.Q.M.S.) can foresee that, subject to medical fitness, to the recommendation of a Selection Board and the agreement of the Commanding Officer under whom he is serving, six years later he will qualify for promotion to Warrant rank, irrespective of establishment vacancy.

Again, those of you who are Foremen of Signals may feel that this length of time is disagreeably long and quote examples of Staff Sergeants (F. of S.) in the past who have reached that rank very much earlier in their service. In answer, we would agreed that in the period since the war, promotion has indeed been quicker in certain years, especially in the 1950s, when there was such a chronic shortage of Foremen. However, in the period 1960-1962, promotion tended to slow down to an extent where only twelve promotions (i.e. an average of four a year) were permissible under the old quota system for the ranks of Foremen.

It has been appreciated that it is in the best interests of the Corps and in line with the rest of the Army to accept the new system, for this not only gave us on 5th December, 1963, twelve promotions, but will give greater opportunities in subsequent years (e.g., some ten in 1964). However, remembering the advantageous system of time promotion enjoyed by technicians, which allows them to reach the rank of Sergeant after five years' technician service, some slowing down in the rate of subsequent promotion is reasonable: thus a Technician Sergeant, who is on the ball, should be able to qualify as a Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) in his seventh or eighth year of service and be a W.O.II (F. of S. Q.M.S.) in his 13th or 14th year of service, which should compare favourably with the date of appointment of substantive W.O.s II on other Supervisory Rosters, although exceptionally in 1965 and 1966 speed of promotion to W.O.II (Y. of S.) may for a time prove to be quicker.

On the Yeoman of Signals Roster, promotion to W.O.II is based on vacancies established on responsibility grounds, and is shared until 31st March, 1965, with Staff Sergeants (Signal Centre Supervisors) who are qualified and recommended for promotion on their obsolescent roster. However, inevitably, cognizance is being increasingly taken by Selection Boards of the efforts made by Supervisors to convert to Yeomen of Signals. After 31st March, 1965, the field of selection is open to Yeomen of Signals alone, and Records are naturally anxious to have as many experienced Staff Sergeants (Y. of S.) as possible now for, with a probable increase of vacancies for W.O.s II (Y. of S.) in the substantive rank quota, there could be an appreciable increase in the flow of promotion to that rank in the next three years, if not sooner.

On the Regimental Duty Roster, we have at this time and foreseeable over the next few years almost equal numbers of vacancies, each established on responsibility grounds, for W.O.s II and Staff Sergeants; about 500 in all.

However, amongst the Staff Sergeants (R.D.) we have a situation where an appreciable number who are not qualified for promotion (and in the majority of cases the lack is in educational qualifications, though to these will be added some forty Staff Sergeants not qualified on 1st April, 1964, at Staff Sergeants' Courses Parts I and II) or who have not been recommended for promotion or whose recommendations are not good ones.

The effect of having such a sizeable section of unqualified Staff Sergeants (or who are lacking merit for promotion) is that Selection Boards who, incidentally, look at every valid candidate at least once a year (and often several times), have selected on merit some Staff Sergeants (R.D.) for substantive promotion who have had as little as 18 months in the rank. This has, I believe, given rise to a feeling amongst certain sections of the Corps, who have a choice in their avenue of advancement, that it is easier and quicker to advance along the Regimental Duty Roster than to qualify and progress as a Foreman or Yeoman.

However, we can only give as our opinion that this is likely to be fallacious in the long term. Indeed, many senior and unqualified Staff Sergeants (R.D.) were promoted prior to January, 1961, when the present system of selection of seniority tempered by merit came into force and against a large increase around 1955/56 in Staff Sergeants appointments in the Corps.

It must be accepted that everyone of us has a professional ceiling, and many worthy Staff Sergeants (R.D.) appear, regrettably for them, to have reached theirs in their present rank: we consider the present situation to be abnormal, and within the next five years or so, we except the promotability of senior Staff Sergeants (R.D.) to increase, thereby lengthening the period in that rank towards three years or more.

For Technician Sergeants (and possibly for A class operating Sergeants in the foreseeable future, if finance have their way), advancement via the R.D. Roster entails the former demustering and/or the acceptance of B rates of pay—which may well be a factor for many in making their choice.

On the Chief Clerks' Roster, which is the smallest of the Supervisory Rosters, there are roughly the same number of vacancies, again established on responsibility grounds, for W.O.s II and Saff Sergeants.

Because of its small size, the Roster is very susceptible to increases and decreases in vacancies which, of course, reflect the needs in the Corps for Chief Clerks.

Whereas over the last two years the flow of promotion has been rather better than the theoretical needs for sound career planning, 1964 and early 1965 are expected to see a temporary reduction in the rate of flow of promotion, but you may be assured, Records will do its best to prevent stagnation, and our calculations lead us to expect the skies should be bluer thereafter: therefore, I would counsel the virtue of a little patience to the many relatively junior Staff Sergeants (O.R.S.Q.M.S.)!

For Staff Sergeants Technician, limited promotion continues on their part of the Technical Roster until 30th November, 1966, but the best advice, already taken by a number of such N.C.O.s (and W.O.s II as well), is to convert to Foremen of Signals with, as second best, to apply to transfer to the R.D. Roster if you are prepared to be demustered and feel you can stand up against the competition to reach W.O.II (R.D.).

For Staff Sergeants (Signal Centre Supervisor), further promotion ceases on their roster on 31st March, 1965. We are somewhat disappointed at the numbers of Supervisors achieving conversion to Yeoman of Signals, though we realise the real difficulties often present in learning, for instance, morse, and

generally in preparing onself after a full day's work in a Communcation Centre in an area where the temperature and/or humidity are hell!

Supervisors may perhaps take a grain of comfort that their efforts are much appreciated, anyway by us in Records, in holding the line, so to speak, whilst the Corps grapples with the problems inherent in the build-up of the Yeoman's Roster. For those Supervisors who have elected to "stick" and provided they go on turning in a worthwhile performance, employment as supervisors looks at this time assured throughout the 1960s—our crystal ball is not yet giving a clear picture of the 1970s, and for that time scale it is suspected it needs to be scanning at 625 lines, but we haven't been able to modify it yet for such programmes!

To sum up on the prospects of promotion for Staff Sergeants. Foremen of Signals should know exactly where they stand—the promise can clearly be seen in the glass, subject to fitness and recommendation. Yeomen of Signals Staff Sergeants have good prospects, especially after 31st March, 1965, with increased vacancies probable and competition not as severe as on the R.D. Roster. On the R.D. Roster promotion to W.O.II has, as we have said earlier, come to a number of comparatively junior Staff Sergeants in 1963: in fact more junior than Officer-in-Charge Records would like to see, and this may occur again in late 1964, but, long term, the time spent in the rank of Staff Sergeant is expected to increase again, and with the exception of an N.C.O. who has had accelerated promotion at some stage of his career, we do not expect a Staff Sergeant to gain warrant rank with much less than 15 to 17 years' service.

On the Chief Clerks' Roster, 1964 is not expected to bring as many vacancies (for entry to) or for promotion as in 1962 or 1963: however, many Staff Sergeants have served less than three years in that rank and hence should not expect early advancement, but rather should aim at the acquisition of merit which should stand them in good stead when they come into the field of selection for their next promotion to W.O.II (O.R.Q.M S.).

What, then, are the opportunities for W.O.s II to achieve the rank and dignity of W.O.I, a most honourable estate for a soldier?

On the Foreman of Signals Roster, 5th December, 1963, brought, through the praiseworthy efforts of "our men" in Whitehall, an appreciable increase in W O.I (F. of S. S.M.) vacancies established on responsibility grounds. This resulted in ten W.O.s II being advanced to substantive W.O.I, with the necessity for moving a total of some fifteen W.O.I (F. of S. S.M.) into the authorised vacancies—a process which will take place in 1964. Henceforth, a W.O.II (F. of S.) will, on promotion, have to be moved to the unit vacancy against which he has been promoted, in much the some manner as for a W.O.II (R D.) promoted to become a W.O.I (R.S.M.).

Indeed, whereas within living memory all Foremen of Signals vacancies were annotated "rank at the discretion of Officer-in-Charge Records"—this now only applies to vacancies to be held by W O s II or Staff Sergeant (F. of S). The more W.O II (F. of S.) vacancies C.O.s can establish on responsibilty grounds the better—though, obviously, we must not become too South American in our concept of senior rank!

For Yeomen of Signals, the ranks of all vacancies have to be justified on responsibility grounds and specified in unit establishments; there appears to be a little reluctance on C.O.s writing in W.O.I vacancies into their establishments, a point of which we hope they will hereby take note. Notwithstanding this temporary delay in providing all such W.O.I (Y. of S. S.M.) appointments, good prospects are foreseeable for W.O.s II who, in the immediate future, can be expected to be those who have converted from the Supervisors' Roster.

Indeed, it will be apparent that of the three W.O.s I (Y. of S. S.M.) eligible so far, under Corps Memo No. 13 (para 4), we have had in the Corps since 1962, two have already been commissioned, a good indication, perhaps, of the esteem in which they have been held, both as soldiers and as Yeomen.

The number of vacancies for W.O.s I on the Chief Clerks' Roster has been constant for some years and is expected (touch wood) to remain so. Again the flow of promotion to Superintending Clerk over the years is satisfactory, although in any one given year there may not be any vacancies, for there is only a small requirement as compared with W.O.I appointments on other Supervisory Rosters.

Finally, it may not be generally known to younger readers of this article that Queen's Regulations contain the basic rules about, for instance, the age by which a W.O.II must be selected for W.O.I rank and for continuance beyond 22 years. Briefly, a W.O.II is ineligible by age for consideration for the rank of W.O.I when he reaches 42 years; similarly, a W.O.I cannot normally be considered for the grant of a Quartermaster type commission once he has reached the age of 45 (Q.R., para 399).

The rules for continuance are set down in Q.R , paras 373-379: in this connection, Q.R., para 376 lays down that an Officer-in-Charge Records will not, without War Office authority, refuse a Warrant Officer Class I permission to continue in the Service for a period necessary to complete two years in that rank (but including any time where acting or war substantive rank as a W.O.I has been held): but this rule does not apply to W.O.s II and N.C.O.s

It may not be appreciated that when continuance is granted, that in most cases this means the rank vacancy against which it has been granted will not thereby be available for anyone else during the period of that continuance, unless, of course, in the meantime the soldier to whom it has been granted, is promoted or commissioned; thus, continuance, to a limited extent, can affect the flow of promotion.

In granting continuance, Officer-in-Charge Records, within his directive from the War Office, thus has to weigh amongst other factors the needs of the Corps, the ability and performance of the applicant, and any effects a grant will have on others, particularly those in the next lower rank. For the last two years it has not been the normal practice to grant the maximum permissible period of five years continuance requested at any one time: in fact periods of from one to three years are more normal, though an applicant may apply subsequently for a further period, and this may be granted.

In granting continuance, Officer-in-Charge Records is assisted by a Board consisting of members of the Record Office, each expert in his particular field of work and which meets usually not less than once a month.

One factor of particular interest to W.O.s I, from whom, under the rules laid down in Corps Memorandum No. 13, candidates from Q.M s, T.O.T.s and Traffic Officers are selected, is that sympathetic consideration is often given to the applicant, well recommended for a Q.M. type commission, who is finishing his 22 years' engagement, but is still eligible by age for consideration for such a commission.

This brings to the end this article in which we have tried to be as informative as possible on a number of points about entry to and promotion prospects on the Supervisory Rosters of the Corps. We don't doubt we have not covered all points about which each individual may have an interest. If you have some point, we advise you to ask to see Corps, Memorandum, a copy of which should exist in every Royal Signals unit and/or to consult with your Regimental Officers. If such action does not provide an answer to your query, then it may be best to get your Commanding Officer to check with your Record Office who, in turn, will do their best to answer it.

Upgrading Courses

The Training Brigade upgrading course programme has recently been amended in order to accommodate some extra technician courses. Starting dates for September, 1964, are as follows:

Cable Jointer	Class II-I	29th Sept.
Communication Centre Operator	Class II-I	15th Sept.
Communication Centre Operator	Class II-I	22nd Sept.
Electrician Driver	Class II-I	8th Sept.
Driver, Royal Signals	Class II-I	1st Sept.
Driver, Royal Signals	Class II-I	15th Sept.
Electronic Technician	Class III-II	1st Sept.
Telegraph Technician	Class III-II	15th Sept.
Telegraph Technician	Class III-II	22nd Sept.
Radio Technician (heavy) ...	Class III-II	29th Sept.
Cipher Operator	Class III-II	22nd Sept.
Clerk Technical	Class III-II	8th Sept.
Radio Operator	Class III-II	Sept. 29th
Electrician Driver	Class III-II	15th Sept.
W.R.A.C. Conversion Signal Centre Operator III to Communication Centre Operator III		29th Sept.

National Association for Employment of Regular Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen. In 1963 this Association registered 7,140 soldiers and found jobs for 5,303 (74%); of the number placed, 380 belonged to the Corps.

A REAL Fairy Story with a happy ending as well!

The following is an account of a fairy story—and like most fairy stories of tradition, it has a happy ending. But fairy stories are well . . . just fairy stories, but this one happens to be true. It was sent to the Editor under the non-de-plume "Abu Nawas," which covers the identity of a Secretary of a branch of the Royal Signals Association.

He writes:

This seems to us to be a fairy story which should interest your readers.

Once upon a time there was a widow of a soldier of the Corps. This soldier had been a very good soldier, but he died, and his widow was left behind to get along as best she could. Well, the poor lady worked very hard and she certainly did the best she could. Then she came to live in the area of our Branch and she found that she wanted some money very badly but she didn't know how to get it . . . So she came to the Branch Secretary and said to him "Please do you think the Association could lend me some money, as I want to do something with it so that I may earn my living?" And the Branch Secretary said "Well, I don't know, but we will ask them." **And this is where the fairy story comes in, because there are several at Headquarters you know!** And they had a meeting but decided that it would not be nice to lend all the money that she had asked for, but that it would be much nicer to give her half so that it would not be so hard for her to pay back. And so the widow lady received her money from the Benevolent Fund and she worked hard and soon paid back what she was asked to do.

Now one might think that should be the end of the story, but there is better to come. Last Christmas the widow lady baked a lovely cake with beautiful icing on it and gave it to the Branch to show that she was grateful and remembered what they had done for her. And the Branch said that it was a lovely cake and that they would raffle it for their Branch funds which were so low that it made the Treasurer feel very miserable. And the Branch raffled the cake and made so much money that the Branch is now almost out of debt and the Treasurer is a little less miserable.

A happy ending, of course, to a nice little fairy story, but a different fairy story from the usual run of fairy stories, because these fairies are real ones.

ABU NAWAS

We are Taken to Task but . . . .*

The Editor has received the following letter from V. King, Esq., 35, Gilling Road, Richmond, Yorks.

"I have wanted to write for some time, and now your challenge in the January issue Editorial—I quote 'A little controversy from time to time, in the form of a letter to the Editor will not come amiss'—has clinched the matter. Unfortunately, my reason for writing is not to supply copy for THE WIRE, but to comment on one of its practices. Unit notes in THE WIRE are given under the titles of the units where ordinal numbers are used. I may be wrong, but when the new numbering of units was introduced by the War Office, I think it was specifically stated that cardinal numbers WOULD be used. The reason being, that it was intended that all units may retain their entity, even though some may 'fall by the wayside.' As has been the case with at least three I can mention, viz., 12, 23 and 25. Hence 24 Regiment is NOT the 24th Regiment, but just 24 Regiment.

If it has more recently been ruled that the vacant numbers will be filled by changing other Regiments' numbers, then I must apologise for wasting your time by sending this letter. Otherwise may we please have the unit title headings using cardinal numbers?"

* *The War Office letter which initiated the new system of numbering Signal Regiments laid down that in their full titles, Signal Regiments should be referred to by ordinal numbers, e.g., '24th Signal Regiment,' but in their abbreviated titles cardinal numbers should be used, e.g., 24 Sig. Regt. It also laid down that Squadrons and Troops should only be referred to by their cardinal numbers, e.g., '257 Signal Squadron.' Thank you for raising this point, which is not universally appreciated.*

Whether a Regiment is referred to as the '24th' or '24' cannot effect the preservation of its identity, whether it be active, in suspended animation or disbanded.—Editor.

The old ones can still show them!



[*Courtesy: Daily Mirror*

At a recent Royal Signals Display at the London Army Information office, Charing Cross, some of the older members of the Corps set out to show that they are still very much 'with it' and they proved it too. The photograph shows Yeoman Warder Gavey of the Tower of London (late Captain of the Corps) knocking off a smart 25 w.p.m. while Chelsea Pensioner Colour Sergeant H. King, D.C.M. and In-pensioner G. A. Pledger watches with a critical but approving eye

Musicians between 17½ and 56 years required to join the Territorial Army to form the Regimental Band of 44 (H.C.) Signal Regiment (Cinque Ports) T.A. Rehearsals will be held at Chatham on Mondays, Wednesdays and Sundays. For further particulars, including pay and allowances, write to: 2, (Medway) Squadron, T.A. Centre, Boundary Road, Chatham.

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Spotlight on the Gurkha

He comes in from the hills of Nepal . . .

and the foothills of the Himalayas . . .

and from Scratch faces Hard and Strenuous Training

THE LIFE OF A GURKHA SOLDIER

THE day-to-day life in Nepal has changed very little since Gurkhas were first recruited into service with the Indian Army after the Gurkha Wars in 1815. At this time Nepal was threatening the north eastern border of India and the government decided to put a stop to the continual raiding by sending an expeditionary force into Nepal. This was not a wholly successful campaign and the Gurkhas were found to be considerably stronger opposition than was expected. The local commanders of the British forces were quick to note the soldierly qualities of the Gurkhas and after the signing of the Treaty of Segauli the first Gurkhas were enlisted. Since this time the Gurkhas have had a great tradition in the Indian Army and since partition in 1947 with Brigade of Gurkhas in the British Army.

The impact of the Twentieth Century has not yet been felt in the hills of Nepal. Only in the Terai region (the flat strip of plain and jungle bordering on India) and in the valley of Kathmandu is any effect really noticeable. The country lies wholly along the foothills and southern slopes of the Himalayas and the elevation varies from 200 ft. to 29,000 ft. above sea level. The problem of transport and communications is hence very great. The government situated in Kathmandu has a very real problem in exercising its control over the country and this is one of the main reasons why the individual way of life has changed very little.

Life in a hill village is a very simple existence concerned only with the necessities of living. The majority of families have their own piece of land from which they obtain their own food. The diet is simple, and to westerners would appear to be a monotonous one. Rice is the staple food and this, with a few vegetables, meat and fish, forms the basis of the Gurkha "menu." Wheat is grown only in certain areas where water is available for the whole year. There is a dry season between October and April and during this period very little can be grown. The problem lies in pumping the water from the valley bottoms to the terraced padi fields around the sides of valleys. In the area due south of Kathmandu where there is a good supply of water, small pumping stations have been installed by the American Aid Mission for this purpose.

The seasonal scarcity of water and distance and height of villages from the rivers means that very little washing is done. Many people who have seen Gurkha soldiers immaculately turned out on parade are surprised at the lack of hygiene in homes in Nepal. They seldom pause to consider that water has to be carried up from the river bed often as much as 200 ft. below the village.

Fuel is limited to wood and kerosene. Wood is now strictly controlled by the Forestry Committee. Formerly large areas were cut down and no action was taken to replant. Kerosene at the government controlled price is rationed, and once the ration has been exceeded individuals have to pay the black market price to the Indian and Newar traders in the Terai.

The houses in Nepal vary from region to region. In the Terai the houses are mainly very poor mud and wattle ones with a few wooden dwellings constructed on stilts used by the landowners. In the foothills the majority of houses are a good quality mud, and painted orange and white. The government offices and houses of the "well-to-do" are often constructed from stone of the local area. In the higher regions, e.g. Sola Khumbu and Mustang, all buildings are made of stone. This is essential as the climate at 13,000 ft. brings extreme coldness, especially in the winter months.

It is from this frugal background that the recruit for the Brigade of Gurkhas first presents himself at the two recruiting depots in Nepal.

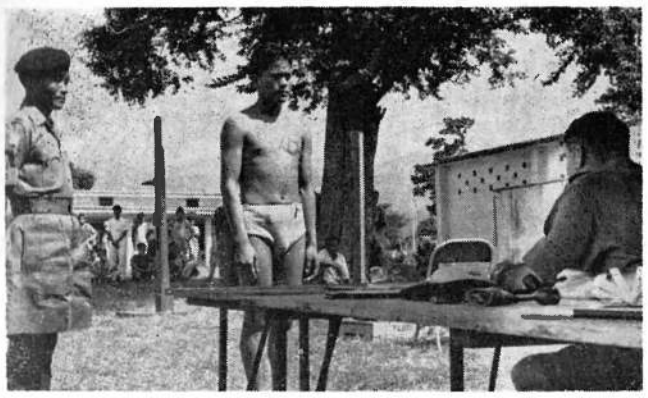
The process of recruiting starts several months before the recruit is required at the Depot. When the requirement is received the Recruiting Officers in Dharan and Paklihawa brief their E.A.R.O s (retired Queen's Gurkha Officers selected for recruiting duties) who then go up to the hills and visit all the "Gallawallahs" (recruiters) in their area. The Gallawallahs are once again retired soldiers, normally N.C.O.s. Each one is ordered to bring approximately 12 recruits from the villages in his area. It is in his interest to collect together 12 fit men in the required age bracket, and not to be influenced by his relatives and friends in his selection. For each selected recruit the Gallawallah receives from 8 to 10 rupees depending on the recruits "quality." He is also paid a road allowance for each day a candidate is on the road from his village to the depot. On arrival at the depot the recruits are put through a series of selection parades and medical tests carried out by the Recruiting and medical officers. It is interesting to note that the recruit requirement from East Nepal this year was 250 and to allow for medical failures the Gallas were asked to bring approximately 310 candidates down from the hills. Out of these 310 a total of 210 were selected; leaving a shortfall of 40. This happens as the Gallas cannot tell if a potential recruit is suffering from TB, colour blindness or perforated eardrums.



Adult and boy recruits awaiting examination



Boy recruits with their "Gallawallah"



Recruit being enlisted. Number on chest is recruit's batch (for identification) and also indicates Grade I or II recruit

However, there is no shortage of material. Approximately 400 hopefuls had arrived outside the camp without a Galla to sponsor them. Another 300 from the Dharan area also appeared. All these were duly fallen in, and the Recruiting officer had the extremely difficult task of selecting 40 recruits from 700 men. During this period everything is new and almost unbelievable to the potential recruit. **He has probably never seen a European before, and as for vehicles and electric l'ght switches, they must be magic.** However by the time the lucky ones have been selected and kitted out they are beginning to settle to their new way of life. The recruit conductors from the Regiments act as their mentors, and nowhere else in the Army are the first elementary steps in drill practised with such zeal.

After about three weeks in the depots the recruits begin their journey by rail and air to the Training Depot in Sungei Patani in Malaya.

At the Training Depot, the Brigade of Gurkhas at Sungei Patani, the recruits arrive to be trained as Infantrymen. They look a bit bedraggled after their long journey. They always look very young and very keen. When fitted with boots they walk around lifting their feet well clear of the ground as though climbing a hill. They all have rather hunched shoulders and to correct this, they are made to march with a 'back stick' clasped in both hands and placed behind the shoulder blades.

The training is strenuous and comprehensive, a good portion of which is given to education. The course used to last a year but has now been reduced to under six months.

17th Gurkha Regiment provides section commanders, platoon sergeants and wing commanders, who are all qualified drill and weapon training instructors. It also takes its share by providing a British officer in one of the recruit training companies.

At the conclusion of the course at Sungei Patani the recruit joins the Regiment in Seremban. The first step is to improve his general education, particularly his knowledge of English. Later the selection of men for particular trades takes place, and trade training (on Royal Signals "Q" Sheets) starts. At the conclusion of training the Signalman has the chance of many different postings. At present he can be posted to 247 Gurkha Squadron U.K., Gurkha Squadron—Hong Kong, 248 Gurkha Squadron—Borneo. If he is posted to 3 Squadron he may be employed in any of the detachments of the Squadron from Penang to Singapore.

The normal period of service spent in the Regiment is 15 years for those who do not reach the rank of sergeant by that time. Those that do reach sergeant or above stay for about 18 years unless they reach Queen's Gurkha Officer rank where they stay for a maximum of 28 years.

Some comparisons in pay and conditions of service between British and Gurkhas may be of interest. A Gurkha can expect to have his family with him in station once (for three years) in a period of 15 years. He receives six months leave in Nepal after each period of three years service. Unless a technician it takes an average of over seven years service before a Signalman comes into the promotion zone for lance-corporal. A single Gurkha corporal telegraph operator class II earns £3 2s. 6d. weekly in Malaya. A British corporal with the same qualifications earns £8 1s. od. weekly not including local overseas allowance or additional pay.

Obituaries

COLONEL E. de W. H. BRADLEY, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., D.L.

THE WIRE much regrets to report the death of the above distinguished retired officer—a well known and much liked personality in the pre-war Corps.

Edward de Winton Herbert Bradley, who died on 29th January, 1964, was born in 1889. Educated at Marlborough and Sandhurst, he was commissioned into K.O.Y.L.I. in 1909. After five years in Hong Kong and Singapore, he returned to England and joined the Signal Service, reaching France as a captain in 28th Division Signal Company in 1915. After serving in both 4th and 1st Division Signal Companies he was wounded at Loos. On recovery he returned to France becoming O.C. 25th Division Signal Company in 1916 in which appointment he won the M.C. As C.S.O. 2 Corps in 1918 he gained a D.S.O. and Croix de Guerre.

In 1920 he transferred to Royal Signals commanding 1st and 5th Divisional Signals and "A" Corps Signals (India). On return to U.K. he became a C.S.O. first at York and finally Salisbury whence he retired in 1938.

He was immediately appointed Secretary to the West Lancashire T.A. and A.F.A., a post he held until 1949 with such distinction that he became C.B.E. in 1948 and a Deputy Lieutenant for the County of Lancaster.

In 1914 he married Margery, daughter of the late A. W. Moore, C.V.O., who survives him and to whom we offer the deepest sympathy of the Corps. Their son, Peter, followed him into the Corps and until recently was Commander Singapore Military Forces.

LIEUT.-COLONEL E. W. ANDERSON, D.C.M., Indian Signal Corps (Retd.)

One who knew him well writes:

"Andy," who joined the Sappers at Brompton in 1903, alleging his age to be 18, died at his home in Dulwich in the middle of January.

During the Great War he won the D.C.M. for conspicuous bravery in the field, and was three times mentioned in Despatches.

He was one of the first Sappers to transfer to Royal Signals in 1920, and came to us with a high reputation as a soldier and sportsman. He was promoted to R.S.M. in 1925 and was serving at Catterick when in 1928 he was selected for promotion to Q.M.

In 1929 he joined that select band of first class men, the Indian Signal Corps Special List of Quartermaster, and his first posting was to 3rd Indian Divisional Signals at Meerut, where he was joined by his wife, Marie, and daughter. They immediately made an impact on life in the Regiment. Their kindness and hospitality to subalterns was a byeword, and Andy's wise counsel was available to anyone who wanted it.

In 1937 he went to 4th Indian Divisional Signals at Trimulgherry and overtaken by the age limit in 1940, when he had to retire.

He was selected to be Secretary of the Imperial Delhi Gymkhana Club, in which position his ability and integrity was recognised by a wide circle. It was typical of Andy that being friendly with Excellencies did not change him at all.

He was then invited to rejoin the Colours and became O.C. Indian Signal Corps Depot at Jubbulpore, with the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel. This was no sinecure. All sorts of people pass through the Depot of a large Corps and bring all sorts of problems with them. Andy ran a first class show and kept his large command contended and efficient. He was a man with vision, and typical of this was the model farm he established in the Depot, where farmers about to be demobilised were offered a rehabilitation course.

He finally retired in 1946, honoured and respected by every person of any rank or nationality who had ever served with him. He was kind, but firm, naturally just and generous. He will be greatly missed.

The sympathy of the Corps is offered to his widow, Marie, and his daughter Doux-Doux.

MAJOR G. GOURLAY

It is with regret that the death of Major (retd) G. Gourlay on the 3rd January is recorded.

"Jock" Gourlay served the Corps faithfully from 1924 to 1956 from Signalman to Major. He made a considerable name for himself in World War II when he was serving in the Burma Campaign. He was a well known member of the 5th Indian Divisional Signals and "Jock" and his line parties were a prominent feature of this Unit.

A kindly man but with a great determination his lines invariably got through. Later he was to endear himself to many as the P.R.I. of the 4th Training Regiment at Catterick, which Unit he served loyally. One of his great interests was Rugby football and he did much to help the game on.

His pleasant kindly nature and devotion to the Corps will be much missed. Our sincere sympathy goes to his widow whose address is: Marchmont, 253, Oxford Road, Kidlington, Oxon.

R.S.M. DOUGLAS CRAIG

The following tribute comes from the 51st (Highland) Regiment (T.A) of which ex-W.O.I Douglas Craig was a very stalwart member:

Douglas Craig died at Aberdeen on 22nd September, 1963, following a short illness. Born in Dundee, he enlisted in the Corps as a regular soldier in 1934. He qualified as a Lineman (PL) and served in various home stations until 1944. He was with the invasion forces at the Normandy Landings and served in N.W. Europe until the end of the war. There followed a year in India, and in November, 1946, he was demobilised. Within three months he was back in the Army, serving mostly at home, but also during 1950/53 in the Middle East. His last regular tour of duty was as R.S.M. of 51st (H) Regiment (T.A.), stationed at Aberdeen.

He was finally demobilised in 1956 after completing 22 years' service. He was the holder of the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.

After his discharge he returned to Dundee, but was soon back in Aberdeen. The Army was in his blood, and it was not long before he enlisted in 51st (H) Regiment (T.A.), with which he served as a Staff-Sergeant, until ill-health forced him to retire two years ago. A stern disciplinarian, he was held in high esteem by his colleagues and especially by those who served under him. His untimely death removes a loyal son of the Corps whom we can ill afford to lose. A bearer-party of Senior N.C.O.s, his former colleagues in Aberdeen, carried him on his last journey to Aberdeen Crematorium.

PERSONAL COLUMN

London Gazette

REGULAR ARMY

Capt. (Q.M.) W. E. Judd to be Maj. (Q.M.), 3rd Jan., 1964.
Maj. J. Richards retired, 8th Jan. 1964.
Maj. F. G. G. Rapsey to be Lt.-Col., 1st Jan., 1963.
Lt.-Col. (Q.M.) L. Teal retired, 17th Jan., 1964.
Lt. (Q.M.) Taylor, M.B.E., from Short Service Comm., to be Lt. (Q.M.), 20th Dec., 1963.
Maj. E. W. Lewis retired. 22nd Jan., 1964.
Lt. M. J. L. Bygrave to be Capt., 20th Dec., 1963.
Lt. (Tfc Offr) F. W. Natolie to be Capt. (Tfc Offr), 19th Jan. 1964.
Capt. C. J. Gilbert to be Maj., 2nd Feb., 1964.
The undermentioned Second-Lieutenants to be Lieutenants, 4th Feb., 1964:

J. F. Storr	R. A. Knox-Johnston
J. J. Ventham	R. W. Stark
G. W. Howard	J. H. Lowe
P. L. Bye	A. M. Elliott
D. W. Cook	A. B. Grant
B. Robinson	K. G. Turner
S. R. Carr-Smith	D. B. S. Yates
A. R. Bailey	G. C. Saunders
W. Roper	I. S. Durrell

Capt. (T.O.T.) R. G. Dorè to be Maj. (T.O.T.), 1st Feb., 1964.
Lt. (Tfc Offr) Grant from Short Serv. Comm. to be Lt. (Tfc Offr), 1st Jan., 1964.
The undermentioned O/Cadets from Mons Officer Cadet School to be 2/Lts., 9th Nov., 1963:
I. F. Budd
S. Cowan
G. D Rates

TERRITORIAL ARMY

W.O.II J. P. Rose to be Lt. (T.O.T.), 1st Dec., 1963.
Maj. F. Ball (Res. of Offrs) to be Maj., 30th Nov., 1963.
Lt. (Actg Capt.) J. Doull to be Capt., 17th Jan., 1964.
Lt. J. C. A. Dove (Res. of Offrs) to be Lt., 28th Nov., 1963.
2/Lt. J. P. E. Mason to be Lt., 17th Jan., 1964.
W.O.II J. B. Gopshill to be Lt. (T.O.T.), 1st Dec., 1963.
Lt. D. J. Thorpe from Res. of Offrs to be Lt., 15th Nov., 1963.
Lt. A. Maggs from Res. of Offrs to be Lt., 20th Nov., 1963.
Hon. Maj. D. S. A. Hutley (late Short Serv. Comm.) to be Capt., 20th Jan., 1964.
(Hon. Lt.) C. E. J. Cox (formerly R. Berks.) to be Lt., 1st Nov., 1963.
Lt. D. A. French to be Capt., 1st Dec., 1963.
Lt. J. M. Curtis (Res. of Offrs) to be Lt., 29th Nov., 1963.
2/Lt. R. G. Christian resigns his comm., 24th Oct., 1963.
2/Lt. J. D. Armstrong to be Lt., 30th Jan., 1964.
Capt. J. E. Mackay from T.A. Res. of Offrs to be Capt., 18th Nov., 1963.
Lt. J. H. Tasker to be Capt., 15th Nov., 1963.
Lt. (T.O.T.) P. G. Archer to be Capt. (T.O.T.), 27th Oct., 1963.

Movements — Officers

(15th January to 14th March, 1964)

Lieutenant (Tfc. Offr.) F. Brandreth	To	619 Troop
Major (T.O.T.) J. Bewley	,,	227 Squadron (ALFCE)
Major N. A. Butler	,,	210 Squadron (Inf. Bde. Gp.)
Lieutenant P. J. Brunton	,,	18th Regiment
Captain T. E. D. Baxter	,,	17th Gurkha Regiment
Major D. H. Briggs	,,	2nd Regiment
Major D. S. Clarke	,,	Oxford University Contingent, O.T.C. (to Comd. (Lt.-Col.))
Captain E. P. Clague-Quine	,,	224 Squadron (Radio Trg.)
Major B. W. A. Collins	,,	48th (S.M.) Regiment (T.A.)
Captain W. G. Cunningham	,,	Secondment, N. Rhodesia
Captain M. J. Flynn	,,	4th Regiment
Major J. R. Hamer	,,	66th (Ulster) Regiment (T.A.) (to Command)
Lieutenant M. Kelly	,,	11th Regiment (Cadre)
Major (Tfc. Offr.) W. A. Lavers	,,	H.Q., ALFCE
Captain J. A. Montague	,,	63rd Regiment (T.A.)
Lieutenant F. R. Maynard	,,	208 (Commd.) Squadron (Inf. Bde. Gp.)
Major C. E. H. Mawson	,,	53rd (W) Regiment (T.A.)
Major R. D. Farnter	,,	13th Regiment
Major R. G. Phippard	,,	2nd Regiment
Captain K. A. Reggler	,,	19th Regiment
Lieutenant J. J. H. Swallow	,,	H.Q., B.A.O.R. (Sx. Br.)
Major C. M. Sinclair	,,	16th Regiment
Lieutenant-Colonel (Tfc. Offr.) J. F. Scott	,,	239 Squadron (Eastco)
Major A. W. Stewart	,,	227 Squadron (ALFCE)
Major A. W. Swindale	,,	246 (Gurkha) Squadron
Captain C. S. Tyson	,,	School of Signals
Captain M. R. Topple	,,	22nd Regiment
Captain P. Wetherall	,,	Army App. School, Harrogate
Captain B. A. Watson	,,	16th Regiment
Major E. G. Watkeys	,,	217 Squadron (Artillery Bde.), (B.A.O.R.)
Major C. B. Ward	,,	256 Squadron
Captain P. D. Alexander	To	1st Regiment
Captain R. E. Barber	,,	H.Q., Radio Group, B.A.O.R.
Lieutenant P. R. Brewis	,,	No. 59 Army Youth Team, Wolverhampton
Captain F. G. Boast	,,	14th Regiment
Lieutenant R. S. Clayton	,,	School of Signals
Major J. F. Cheesewright	,,	H.Q., Southern Command
Major W. J. Clapp	,,	224 Squadron (Radio Training)
Lieutenant D. G. Dudley	,,	3rd Regiment
Lieutenant (Tfc. Offr.) D. Duncan	,,	245 Squadron
Captain B. A. R. Driskell	,,	606 Troop (Borneo)
Major A. A. Dacre, M.B.E.	,,	R.M.A., Sandhurst
Captain (Tfc. Offr.) P. H. Grant	,,	18th Regiment
Major N. G. Gallyer	,,	War Office (M.I.8)
Major T. A. Hall	,,	11th Regiment (To retire)
Major M. R. Hewitt	,,	18th Regiment
Major R. Holmes	,,	H.Q., M.E. Command
Lieutenant (T.O.T.) D. P. Herring	,,	Malaysia
Lieutenant R. C. Hood	,,	30th Regiment
Major (Tfc. Offr.) J. N. Higgins, M.B.E.	,,	To retire

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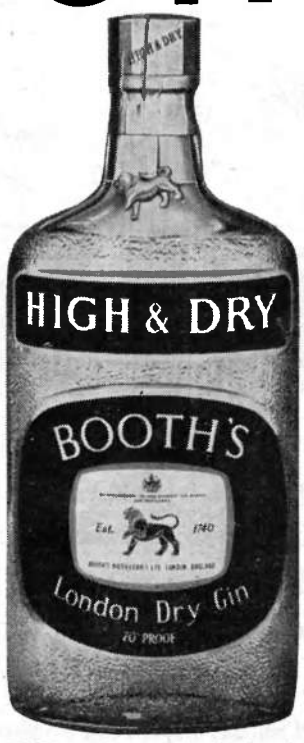
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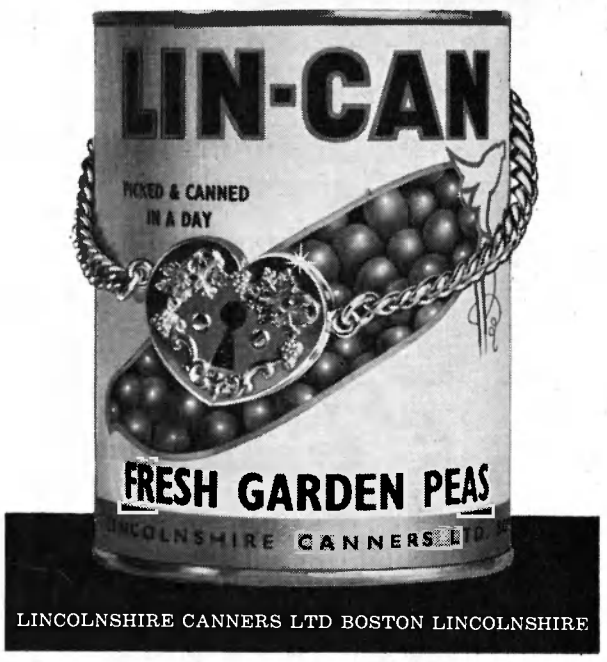
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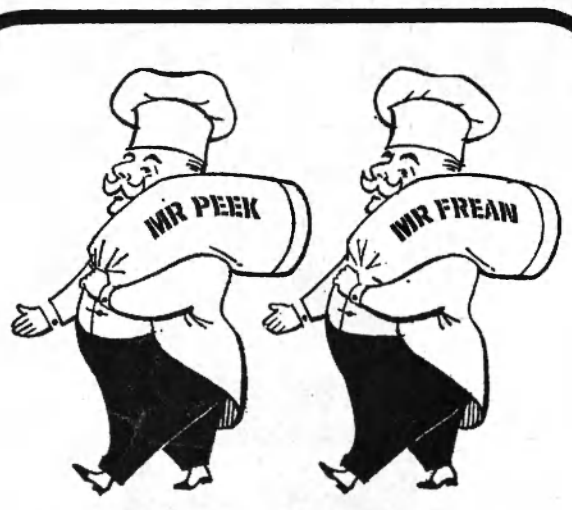
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Lieutenant M. L. W. Jennings	...	...	,, 17th Gurkha Regiment
Captain F. C. Lettin ...	...	...	,, 4th Regiment
Second-Lieutenant P. T. Lenthall	...	...	,, 261 Squadron (Air Formation)
Major J. McAnsh ...	...	...	,, 238 Squadron (W.O.)
Captain D. J. Milton ...	...	...	,, 2nd Regiment
Captain (Tfc. Offr.) R. G. Mitchell	...	...	,, H.Q., M.E. Command
Major (T.O.T.) P. R. Moore	...	...	,, School of Signals
Captain H. G. Mackinlay	...	...	,, F.R.A.
Major G. H. Peirson ...	...	...	,, 242 Squadron (Scotco)
Major L. W. Prescot ...	...	...	,, H.Q., Training Brigade
Captain W. H. D. Robotham ...	...	...	,, 41st Regiment (T.A.)
Major J. T. R. Sylvester-Bradley	...	...	,, S.R.D.E., Christchurch, Hants.
Major D. C. Woodbridge ...	...	...	,, 65th Regiment (T.A.)
Lieutenant (Q.M.) R. F. Wilford	...	...	,, 259 Squadron (COMCAN)
Major P. H. F. Webb, M.B.E.	...	...	,, J.S.S.C. (Course)

Movements — Warrant Officers and Sergeants During March

W.O.II K. J. West	...	...	To 642 Troop
W.O.II H. Mawson	...	...	,, 263 Squadron
W.O.II R. E. Oliver	...	...	,, 61st Regiment (T.A.)
W.O.II V. De Clancy	...	...	,, 259 Squadron
W.O.II J. H. Cotton	...	...	,, School of Signels
W.O.II R. Good ...	...	...	,, 28th Regiment
W.O.II A. L. Singer	...	...	,, 239 Squadron
W.O.II K. Beadle ...	...	...	,, H.Q., A.F.N.E.
W.O.II K. H. Randall	...	...	,, 18th Regiment
W.O.II F. A. May ...	...	...	,, 59th Regiment (T.A.)
W.O.II H. Miller ...	...	...	,, 19th Regiment
W.O.II R. G. E. Chilvers	...	...	,, 54th Regiment (T.A.)
W.O.II J. Drugan ...	...	...	,, 24th Regiment
W.O.II T. A. Pearce	...	...	,, 228 Squadron
W.O.II C. W. Palmer	...	...	,, 13th Regiment
W.O.II J. A. Rose ...	...	...	,, 225 Squadron
W.O.II I. E. Varley	...	...	,, 52nd Regiment (T.A.)
W.O.II W. Weir ...	...	...	,, 622 Troop
Staff Sergeant G. E. Morrill	...	...	,, 57th Regiment (T.A.)
Staff Sergeant N. D. Davies	...	...	,, 263 Squadron
Staff Sergeant M. E. Wilson	...	...	,, 59th Regiment (T.A.)
Staff Sergeant C. B. Bumphrey	...	...	,, 13/18 Hussars Signal Troop
Staff Sergeant F. A. Smith	...	...	,, 207 Squadron
Staff Sergeant R. Jones ...	...	...	,, School of Signals
Staff Sergeant M. D. Cherry	...	...	,, Federation Army of Malaysia
Staff Sergeant A. D. Burgess	...	...	,, 19th Regiment
Staff Sergeant R. Sugg ...	...	...	,, 58th Regiment (T.A.)
Staff Sergeant N. Murray	...	...	,, 19th Regiment
Staff Sergeant C. D. Jones	...	...	,, 7th Regiment
Staff Sergeant S. W. Prior	...	...	,, 22nd Regiment
Staff Sergeant L. G. Bailey	...	...	,, School of Signals
Staff Sergeant J. Y. Glendinning	...	...	,, 3rd Regiment
Staff Sergeant T. H. Jenkins	...	...	,, 11th Regiment
A/Staff Sergeant A. Agatsiotis	...	...	,, School of Signals
A/Staff Sergeant W. L. Marchant	...	...	,, 246 Squadron
Sergeant F. C. O'Brien ...	...	...	,, 205 Squadron
Sergeant B. Ellis	...	...	,, 207 Squadron
Sergeant P. Goldsmith ...	...	...	,, 207 Squadron
Sergeant A. H. Dicker ...	...	...	,, 212 Squadron
Sergeant C. Hay ...	...	...	,, 501 Troop
Sergeant E. C. Hunt ...	...	...	,, 508 Troop
Sergeant A. Webster	...	...	,, H.Q., 11 Eng. Group Sig. Troop
Sergeant M. P. O'Sullivan	...	...	,, 4/7 Dragoon Guards Sig. Troop
Sergeant R. W. Cox ...	...	...	,, 210 Squadron
Sergeant J. Morrison	...	...	,, 18th Regiment
Sergeant K. R. Adams ...	...	...	,, 208 (Comwel.) Signal Squadron
Sergeant I. Wilson ...	...	...	,, 209 Squadron
Sergeant P. Taffinder ...	...	...	,, 213 Squadron
Sergeant D. C. Probert ...	...	...	,, 305 Squadron (T.A.)
Sergeant L. W. Sharp ...	...	...	,, 224 Squadron
Sergeant E. L. Hamilton ...	...	...	,, 652 Troop
Sergeant B. J. Hayward ...	...	...	,, H.Q., B.L.F.K.
Sergeant A. B. Turner ...	...	...	,, 50th Regiment, R.A., Sig. Tp.
Sergeant J. M. Thom ...	...	...	,, 19th Regiment
Sergeant R. Morris	...	...	,, 54th Regiment (T.A.)
Sergeant J. Donachy	...	...	,, 1st Regiment
Sergeant G. W. Orton ...	...	...	,, 8th Regiment
Sergeant J. W. Tempest ...	...	...	,, 234 Squadron
Sergeant G. C. Davis ...	...	...	,, 17th (Gurkha) Regiment
Sergeant A. Leary ...	...	...	,, School of Signals
Sergeant D. Bowman	...	...	,, 24th Regiment
Sergeant T. Skinner	...	...	,, 254 Squadron
Sergeant T. Balch ...	...	...	,, 4th Regiment
Sergeant L. V. Lawbury	...	...	,, 11th Hussars Signal Troop
A/Sergeant J. D. Henderson	...	...	,, 249 Squadron
A/Sergeant A. J. Carroll	...	...	,, 207 Squadron

Marriages

WILSON : SCHLOEMANN.—Signalman J. F. Wilson of 2nd Regiment to Miss Renate Schloemann, at Standesamt Roedinghausen Kreis Herford, on 7th January, 1964.

WILLIAMS : WILLIAMS.—Lance-Corporal T. G. Williams, 28th Regiment, to Miss Esme Williams, on 14th December, 1963, at Registry Office, Glamorgan.

BOISSE : MALE.—Signalman M. F. G. Boisse, 28th Regiment, to Miss Velda Male, on 18th September, 1963, at Registry Office, Weymouth.

BLOWERS : MEEK.—Signalman A. Blowers, 28th Regiment, to Miss Winifred Meek, on 11th December, 1963, at Registry Office, Belfast.

ESPEY : FERGUSON.—Lance-Corporal J. M. Espey, 28th Regiment, to Miss Patricia Ferguson, on 25th October, 1963, at Christ Church, Lisburn.

Death

PETIT.—Ex-S.Q.M.S. S. I. Petit, on 20th January, at the age of 48. He was formerly with the Welch Regiment and joined Royal Signals in August, 1942, serving until October, 1945. He rejoined Royal Signals until 1959. He was a Life Member of the Association.

Promotions

(For December, 1963, and January, 1964)

				New Sen. No	Old Sen. No.	
			REGIMENTAL DUTY ROSTER			
To W.O.I	2326639		Giles, M. J.	1240	1990	
	21005261		Baalham, C. A.	1250	1910	
To W.O.II	14451716		Rees, J. D.	5080	6170	
To S Sgt.	21042547		Jackson, P.	7670	930	(Fd)
	22525328		Taylor, J. W.	7680	910	(Fd)
			YEOMAN OF SIGNALS			
To W.O.I	2547742		Oakley, G.	180	160	
			SIGNAL CENTRE SUPERVISORS			
To W.O.I	14043921		Gay, J. H.	430	520	
To W.O.II	22794391		Adcock, B.	1370	720	
			FOREMAN OF SIGNALS ROSTER			
To W.O.I	2549029	W.O.II	Hudson, G. L. P.	690	830	
	15002542	W.O.II	Harrington, E. A. R.	700	840	
	22304480	W.O.II	Daw, J.	710	930	
	22212052	W.O.II	Soward, P. F.	720	900	
	2549337	W.O.II	Day, J. C.	730	920	
	23749257	W.O.II	Sharp, G. A.	740	742	
	2549476	W.O.II	Holmes, A.	750	910	
	19034867	W.O.II	Tetlow, D. D.	760	820	
	22242523	W.O.II	Rutter, K. A.	770	980	
	2548923	W.O.II	Capon, D. W.	780	970	
	21128039	W.O.II	Burrows, T. A.	800	890	
	2549638	W.O.II	Rose, I. J.	810	790	
To W.O.II	2549520	S Sgt.	Flint, B. T.	1260	1180	
	21067128	S Sgt.	Mainwaring, R. M.	1290	1270	
	2379955	S Sgt.	Davies, M. R.	1410	800	
	2549295	S Sgt.	Aiken, F. G. D.	1420	870	
	2549504	S Sgt.	Walker, N.	1430	900	
	22262882	S Sgt.	Spear, D. G.	1440	970	
	2549603	S Sgt.	Noakes, L. J.	1450	990	
	14452076	S Sgt.	Chidley, R.	1460	1000	
	22772128	S Sgt.	Kimber, B. A.	1470	1040	
	22477959	S Sgt.	Weir, R.	1480	1070	
	22309273	S Sgt.	Johnson, K.	1490	1090	
	22242353	S Sgt.	Spurgin, A. H.	1250	1140	
	22542899	S Sgt.	Waite, M. J.	1270	1190	
	22250483	S Sgt.	Stather, R.	1500	1230	
	14478331	S Sgt.	Doe, E.	1510	1250	
	22548632	S Sgt.	Moore, G.	1300	1350	
	22289287	S Sgt.	Johnson, M. A.	1310	1400	
	22309274	S Sgt.	Lund, R.	1320	1140	
To S Sgt.	23471395	Sgt.	Jackson, D. L.	1905	2160	(Tec)
	2549519	Sgt.	Foulds, M. C.	1990	1150	(Tec)
	22242746	Sgt.	Goodman, R.	2000	1460	(Tec)
	22289285	Sgt.	Morris, J.	2010	1480	(Tec)
	21005088	Sgt.	Thompson, C. A.	2020	1720	(Tec)
	22526346	Sgt.	O'Connor B. T.	2030	1840	(Tec)
	22537132	Sgt.	Edgington, J. E.	2040	1940	(Tec)
	22537098	Sgt.	Cook, A. J.	2050	2490	(Tec)
	23211809	Sgt.	Morris, R.	2060	2260	(Tec)
	23514142	Sgt.	Geldard, G	2070	3950	(Tec)
			CHIEF CLERKS ROSTER			
To W.O.I	14475527	W.O.II	Skinner, J. P.	300	450	
			TECHNICAL ROSTER			
To Sgt.	23251409	Cpl.	Rhodes, C. T. A.	4105	7360	
	22537767	Cpl.	Rock, D. E. P.	4235	7408	
	23494376	Cpl.	Kavanagh, F. C.	4240	9685	
	22845376	Cpl.	Millichip, M. J.	4260	5760	
	23232089	Cpl.	Allison, H. M.	4280	8114	
	22983718	Cpl.	Frison, J. E.	4300	6630	
	23488359	Cpl.	Edwards, R. J. A.	4145	5800	
	22569087	Cpl.	Burns, J. B.	4275	5420	
	23532995	Cpl.	Thornton, D. J.	4290	7380	
	23234278	Cpl.	Sharp, N. S.	4295	6150	
	23251323	Cpl.	Clifton, P. C. A.	4310	7220	
	23234379	Cpl.	Porritt, A. J.	4315	9216	
	22573020	Cpl.	Muir, J. C.	4318	4420	
	23466235	Cpl.	Sugden, D.	4320	6360	
	23527409	Cpl.	Alyson, J. S.	4330	7268	
	23466233	Cpl.	Blagg, A.	4340	6380	
	23466276	Cpl.	Latham, H. J.	4350	7230	

INSERTIONS

		REGIMENTAL DUTY ROSTER			
To W.O.II	22229669	W.O.II	Thom, V. F. M.	3324	880 (Sig. Cen. Spvr.)
To S Sgt.	22515669	S Sgt.	Fairhurst, R. V.	7394	99 (Chief Clerk)
	2583406	S Sgt.	Hebdon, J. E.	520	2680 (W.O.II R.D.)

(Continued on Page 88)

Foreman of Signals Roster

To W.O.II	21005577	W.O.II	Parkin, J. A.	1340	480 (Tec)
	3235564	W.O.II	Weeks, J.	1350	500 (Tec)
	14189590	W.O.II	Edge, M. R.	1360	510 (Tec)
To S Sgt.	2549750	S Sgt.	Shakeshafe, G. E.	1940	930 (Tec)
	22023409	S Sgt.	Pemberton, K. S.	1950	1070 (Tec)
	22289331	S Sgt.	Stoddart, T. M.	1960	1140 (Tec)
	2549557	S Sgt.	Buckland, A. G. M.	1970	1180 (Tec)
	22178609	S Sgt.	Steeples, J. P.	1980	1190 (Tec)
	2549332	S Sgt.	Jarratt, A. R.	2080	690 (Tec)

Administrative Roster

To Sgt.	22222003	Sgt.	Broard, B. A.	1166	3760 (Op)
	22555507	Sgt.	Leech, R. A.	1214	4080 (Op)

Field Roster

To Sgt.	2586445	S Sgt.	Irvine, J. L.	184	6140 (Op)
	22264257	Sgt.	Turner, A. B.	234	1050 (Tec)

DELETIONS

Regimental Duty Roster

W.O.I	220			
W.O.II	1140	2810	3470	4370
S Sgt.	3390	7560		

Foreman of Signals Roster

W.O.I	540
S Sgt.	1580

Chief Clerks Roster

W.O.I	160

Yeoman of Signals Roster

W.O.I	80

Signal Centre Supervisor Roster

W.O.I	350

Operating Roster

Sgts.	3760	4080	5910

Field Roster

Sgts.	710	2360	3080	3620

Administrative Roster

Sgts.	4	6	1500

Technical Roster

S Sgts.	2350	3280

I DO NOT CONSIDER MYSELF OLD IN YEARS . . .

Ex-S.S.M. J. H. Beswick Ponders on the Past

The article below is written by ex-S.S.M. J. H. Beswick who served the Corps from 1924 to 1961. He is a life member of the Association. His address is: St. Margarets, Salisbury Road, Abbotts Ann, Andover. Mr. Beswick writes:—

Ten years ago when I thought of myself as a comparatively young man, I was continually being asked that very old corny one, "Were you ever on charge for a dirty bow and arrow?" and with true gentlemanly instinct I would point out to my young questioner that in 1924 we of the modern Royal Signals had traded our hill top signal fires for the new means of communication called "wireless," so that after a fashion I was really as up to date as they.

With retirement and consequently more time to read my WIRE, I have begun to reach out and stroke an imaginary long white beard and to cast my mind back to see if bows and arrows really did form a part of my recruit training. All Signals nowadays, from high to low, appear to be doing things in their daily work, that forty years ago would have made a series of good science fiction stories, and as I read and fail to understand, my memory takes over, the pages blur and I am eighteen again. Clad in breeches, puttes and spurs, and in full marching order—(haversack, bandolier, with mess tin attached, water bottle and gas mask), I am trudging behind a double limber, pulled by two horses ridden by our H.T. driver. With me are my two wireless operator companions and the arbiter of our fate over the next three days—a lance-corporal. We have just about reached our map reference, which strangely enough is near the village pub. The horses jangle to a halt and within seconds our marching order is off, the tail boards of the limbers are down, and out comes our secret weapon—the "C" set. The receiver and transmitter are gently lowered to the ground, two men lift out and stagger for some yards with the Douglas engine (our sole means of power). Next, the intricate but well practised aerial drill is commenced. Sections of the masts are rapidly put together. I run out with the aerial wire—the stays round the masts are pegged in and within a few minutes the engine is being started up and transmission begins.

It is now nearly dinner time. One man begins to cut up the meat and vegetable and peels potatoes. Another is rooting round for wood and starts the fire. We have a large billy can into which everything goes and soon an appetising smell is rising in the clear air. (I might add that sometimes it rains and we have cheese sandwiches).

I am on watch with my mess tin at the ready. Having marched about eight miles that morning I am ravenous and eagerly awaiting my share of the stew—but wait—an important message is coming through. As a B.111 wireless operator I can take up to 15 w.p.m. under field conditions and reception is particularly good considering the six miles that separate our two stations. I take the 'TO' and 'FROM,' ref. no. and date, and then, "Proceed to Map Reference —— and open up communication again at 15.00 hours."

Everything is hurriedly dismantled and all equipment loaded into the limbers. At the last moment the fire is damped out and our stew tenderly and carefully placed in a secure position, ready for its jolting six mile journey. If our stew had been nearly ready and our Lance-Corporal of the nicer sort (there weren't many), we would fail to get the message until after eating, but then, one had to be very quick and cunning. God, in the shape of our fitter sergeant would come roaring up on his motor cycle and it was always better to have received the message and gone before he arrived.

It may be of interest for readers to note, that when we were modernised to the extent of having our "C" set carried in a 15 cwt. truck, two standard pieces of equipment were—a sheet of asbestos and a sheet of tin. With these we carried our fire round with us and the stew boiled as we rode.

We are in luck at our next site and settle down. Messages from Divisional H.Q. are received and passed on. The day grows to a close, groundsheets and blankets are dragged out (there are no tents) and those not on watch settle down besides the glowing fire. Replete with cheese or bully sandwiches (I cannot remember any other), and because of the coincidence of being near another village pub, a couple of pints of beer, we are asleep within minutes and unless given an order to move during the night, we are safe until dawn, or our next watch, whichever comes first. Does this all smack a little too much of the Wild West? I will wager that no wireless operator of that generation will quarrel with one word I have written, unless he be a Brigade Signals operator, in which case he will tell me how much easier my life was than to be in his shoes (boots), continually prodding the unwilling pack pony which carried his "A" set—a poor instrument that never seemed to receive messages from more than two miles away, and that only on high ground.

The picture has faded and I ponder on whether I would have liked to have been born thirty years later. Better pay, food, facilities. An easier life. No C.B. W.O.s and N.C.O.s nearly human. Being a soldier and only remembering the good times, it's a very hard choice.

Forthcoming Events

Eighteenth Meeting of the Branch Representatives of the Royal Signals Association, which will be combined with the 18th Special General Meeting, will be held at the Duke of York's Barracks on Saturday, 11th April, 1964.

Forty-first Meeting of the Central Committee, Royal Signals Association, will be held on 28th May, 1964.

The Corps Weekend, Reunion and 19th Annual General Meeting of the Association will be held on 27th/28th June, 1964.

Corps Dinner at Hyde Park Hotel will take place on Wednesday, 27th May, 1964.

The Garden Party at the Hurlingham Club will be held on Thursday, 28th May, 1964.

A Tribute to All Members of the Corps There

Communications in the Cyprus Disturbances

BY LIEUTENANT-COLONEL R. J. HARVEY

Underlying the following account lies, we feel sure, a story of long hours and much sweat and ingenuity to produce the communications essential, at all levels, and without which this type of 'ad hoc' operation could not even start to function. We have read and will read in the Press about the fine job our Troops are performing in Cyprus—and rightly so—but there will probably be no mention of communications. They are taken for granted.

"The Wire" is, therefore, very happy to be able to place on record something of what has been going on behind the scenes in the Cyprus disturbances—one of the 'hotspots' in which the Corps is so busily engaged these days.

True to the tradition of the Corps, we have kept them "through." The fact that normal communications have been maintained, and the many additional commitments met during the weeks since the trouble started is due to four main reasons. The close relationship that goes without saying, between Signals Staff and between all Royal Signals Units based on the island, the ready way in which our reinforcement bids were met from the Strategic Reserve and Units in U.K. and Germany, the close co-operation of the responsible members of the Cyprus Telephone Authority, and finally and most important, the fruit of our integration planning with the Royal Air Force Command Signals over the past few months. This combination has proved too strong for any acts of disruption, the ambitious but justifiable Staff requirements, contingency occurrences, the establishment of new H.Q.s and the thousand and one unexpected calls that have been made on our resources.

This month our notes from the Island-in-the-Sun are intended as a tribute to all members of the Corps, and those who have worked with them since the troubles started. I will try and mention each Unit and Detachment and a few of the star turns. Next month Units will, I hope, be able to find time to write individual notes, and give greater detail of their activities.

H.Q. Royal Signals, C.A.F.S.O. Branch and R.A.F. Command Signals

From the word 'go' on the 21st December, it was obvious that the requirements would only be met if we reviewed the problem as a whole and used both Army and R.A.F. resources to the full. It is true to say that one has seldom met such genuine constructive integration, and it is a pity we were not all in the same building and on the same floor then I, as about the highest paid inter-office courier in the business, wouldn't have lost so much avoirdupois. (C.S.O. says he hasn't noticed any difference.)

We need say no more of the Staff except that when this sorry state of affairs is over and the Cyprus people see the way to peace, our close co-operation will certainly continue and the new look now being introduced at home will have already been anticipated here to the benefit of all concerned.

Joint Force H.Q. Signal Detachment

Major Lockwood was nominated at an early stage to accompany the G.O.C., Major-General P. G. F. Young, and set up the Joint Force H.Q. in Nicosia. The function of this H.Q. will be known to all from newspaper accounts. The true story of its ups and downs, moves and the associated communication problems, will only really ever be known to Major Lockwood and all those who came to his aid.

The Signal Detachment was originally established at R.A.F. Nicosia, and contained about 25 all ranks drawn from the three Signal Squadrons, who had readily answered the call for personnel of the right trades to do the job. Telephone requirements were quickly provided by Sergeant Sparrow and the Nicosia Air Formation Signal Troop, Radio detachments from 262 Squadron, Dhekelia, and technical and other assistance from 259 and 261 Squadrons at Episkopi. On the 30th December the H.Q. moved to the Cornaro Hotel as the G.O.C. required for obvious reasons to be near the High Commissioner and in close touch with the national elements he was controlling. Gradually by scraping the equipment barrel and co-operation from the Cyprus Telephone Authorities a sophisticated communication system was set up, which met the local political and international requirements. Personalities who helped to achieve this will appear in the following paragraphs. A final and memorable feature of JFHQ is the COMCEN in the well known Hotel Bar, never as busy when it was "dishing out" drinks as it is now "churning out messages."

259 Squadron (COMCAN)

All the usual facilities provided by Major Gram-Hansen and his multifarious members of the ubiquitous COMCAN organisation have continued to work in their efficient manner, only more so. They have co-operated, as would be expected of them, in communication activities outside their normal terms of reference, and without their help it is certain that some phases of our necessary 'adhocery' would have fallen by the wayside.

Some of the girls had to spend Christmas away from "home" on switchboard and Signal Centre duties, but did so without a qualm. A number of operators and technicians are giving invaluable service at J.F.H.Q. Nicosia, and the Foreman, W.O.II Kimber, has spent more time there than at Episkopi, dealing with the problems of the new and vital teleprinter facilities and providing, with Captain Brodley of 261 Squadron, the technical backup needed.

With, new to the island, infantry units such as 1 Parachute Battalion coming in to operate internal security nets working on sets like B44s, assistance was required to set them up and provide maintenance facilities. All this and much more has been done, without having to call for reinforcements for the Squadron from the already strained Corps resources.

Couple this with the repeated use of U.K. conference links and a protracted period of bad radio propagation conditions in the early part of the month, which were not allowed to effect communications or morale, and we have some proof that our little bit of COMCAN certainly can "CANCAN."

261 Squadron (Air Formation)

Being deployed around all the Near East Air Force Stations, the Squadron is always a little thin on the ground, but thanks to hard work over the past year and good planning against the faults that winter rain always brings, there was enough effort, and a great deal of enthusiasm, to deal with the new demands. Suddenly everyone wanted telephones, tails, links, patching, repairs, and of course new Joint Ops Rooms before lunch the same day. Add to this the difficulty in getting the Local Telephone Authority labour into troubled areas, the opening of new camps for reinforcements, and a limited amount of actual sabotage to the civilian system, then you have the picture confronting Major Mike Allen and his merry men.

To enumerate the work they did, not only for the Air Force remember, but for the whole Command, would be dull reading out of context, but certain individual efforts are more than worthy of comment. The T.O.T., Captain C. Brodley, and his efforts in keeping the systems working at the H.Q. Nicosia, W.O.II (S.S.M.) C. E. Timson, B.E.M., and his assistants who pieced in an 800 pair cable in the Turkish Quarter, to re-establish essential civilian communication, after the joints had been expertly opened and filled with HOT water. This earned the gratitude of the authorities, and incidentally gave them 200 extra pairs for future planning. (We shall see that they knock it off the bill.) We believe the Sergeant Major actually prefers to be down a manhole.

Many messages and words of praise have been received about the service given by Sergeant D. S. T. Sparrow in Nicosia. Like his feathered namesake in London, he is now indigenous to the place. To quote one letter from a senior R.A.F. Signal Officer, "The speed at which facilities have been provided has been staggering, he has been a tower of strength coping with much work normally done by the Civilian Telephone Authority and without the benefit of their records."

Finally, mention much be made of the happy band from 638 Troop of 38 Group, who spent a few weeks with us before Christmas, and again arrived on the 15th to boost the ranks and continue the major task of Akrotiri development, and Mr.

"We have kept them through"—The Corps at work in Cyprus



Top left: Signalman Dawson of 259 Squadron, Corporal Haughie of 216 Squadron (Para), in the Bar Comcen, J.F.H.Q. Top right: Corporal Waters with the 600 pair cable they had to replace in Nicosia. Bottom left: Sergeant P. Daniel, a radio operator with 216 Signal Squadron (Para) Brigade Group. Bottom right: Mr. J. P. Lowe, G.P.O. Engineer and Sergeant D. M. Moynam solve a problem.

J. P. Lowe our one and only seconded G.P.O. Technician who is doing four men's work in keeping the Episkopi Auto from boiling over.

262 Squadron (Cyprus)

As is well known, this busy Squadron is normally responsible for all Army communication requirements on the eastern end of the island, a great deal of the Internal Security wireless networks, and for holding the very small reserve available to the C.S.O. It followed, therefore, that from the commencement of the inter-communal strife they were hectically involved. It is true to say that without the very successful facility of the Main Command IS net, which has never failed since it opened up at Christmas, plus the deployment of additional sets in the Nicosia area, swift control of the situation at the outset might not have been achieved. Major McKellar and all ranks can be justly proud of this.

Sergeant Nuttall and Corporal Flynn have been extremely busy at JFHQ, and the High Commission, co-operating in the installation of vital teleprinter links, as was Sergeant Gwynne at Episkopi. These inter-Service installations have been in constant use, including provision of conference facilities for Mr. Duncan Sandys in his consultations with the Prime Minister and Ministry of Defence in the early stages of negotiation.

Captain Wilkie-Snow has been Second-in-Command the J.K.H.Q. Signal Detachment in Nicosia since the 26th December. Incidentally, congratulations to him and his wife for a baby boy born on 26th January and come to think of it the reinforcement situation was further met by Mrs. Rutherford and Mrs. Smith who also presented sons to proud fathers. As with everyone there, the Nicosia personnel have been extremely busy, and have gained interesting experience in their relationships with Greek and Turkish national components and High Commissioner and Embassy Staffs. Mention must be made of Mr. Skitt, the High Commissioner's Communications Officer, who has worked with us day and night to keep the vital diplomatic facilities open with equipment installed in the main bathroom.

One could continue to enumerate the incidents that have occurred, and the sterling work performed at Dhekelia where the labour situation has not been easy, and families have been living in troubled areas. The W.R.A.C. girls loaned from COMCAN before Christmas to help on the exchange were invaluable at a time when some civilian operators could or would not report for duty. The Detachments at Mount Olympus and Episkopi have had their hands full, but everyone, helped by welcome reinforcements from U.K., have worked with a will and maintained the highest of spirits.

In Appreciation

It only remains for me to pass on our grateful thanks to all the U.K. and B.A.O.R. Units who have provided our life saving reinforcements, and thank also the not to be envied organisation at Reading whom we are sure had to actually climb into the barrel. We are indeed fortunate in the Corps to have a brew that is palatable to the last drop. It is not possible to mention all names, but I include a few; 21st Regiment (Signalman May jointing well); 3rd Regiment (Signalman Jameson with 261 Squadron and Corporal Hallam accompanying the C.S.O. up and down to Nicosia like a Yo Yo); 30th Regiment (Lance-Corporal Marshal in Nicosia and also Corporal Brown). Also the members of 237 and 538 Signal Troops who were very welcome both to us and to the Battalions they joined, as well as 638 Signal Troop who arrived with the Foresters and many members from 640 Signal Troop and 2 R.A. Signal Troop. Last, but certainly not least, 216 Squadron (Parachute) who have played a big part with the peace force in Nicosia.

HARROGA TE

THE WIRE visits The Army Apprentices School, Harrogate



Read with pride about this great School—the source of so many of the Corps' Fine Young Soldiers . . .

The Army Apprentices' School, Harrogate, was founded, as such, in 1947. At present it occupies two barracks (Uniacke and Hildebrand) one on either side of Penny Pot Lane, two miles west of Harrogate, the well-known spa and conference centre of the north. Needless to say, these barracks have had many other uses in the past, and are therefore not ideally suited to the requirements of the present occupants. However, the whole School is being completely rebuilt on the lines of a modern technical college, beginning later this year, at a cost approaching £3 million.

The Organisation. It is an Army establishment coming directly under the control of the War Office. Apprentices are members of the General Service Corps. Until a few years ago, a large proportion of the apprentice output went to Royal Engineers, but now only Technicians and Telegraph Operators for Royal Signals are trained.

The establishment now caters for 1,000 Apprentices under training at any one time, all destined to enter the ranks of the Corps.

Suitably-qualified recruits between the ages of 15 and 17 years are accepted in January, May and September.

The School is commanded by a Colonel—the present Commandant being Colonel J. R. Piddington, O.B.E., M.C. The instructional and administrative staff is drawn from a number of different Regiments and Corps, and augmented by civilian staff.

For the purposes of command, general military training and administration, the Apprentices are grouped into five Squadrons. They are: Recruit Squadron, which administers all Apprentices in their first term at the School, and is responsible for their introduction to Army life, and four Apprentices' Squadrons, each about 200 strong, in which the Apprentices are administered for the remaining eight terms. Each of the Apprentices' Squadrons is named after a General Officer who, in the past, served with distinction in Royal Signals—Rawson Squadron, Phillips Squadron, Scott Squadron and Penney Squadron. For their technical education the Apprentices attend "school" in three wings organised for this purpose. Education Wing deals with the more academic aspects; "A" Wing deals with the technical training of Technicians in their first year of training only, and all the Telegraph Operators; "B" Wing is responsible for the technical training of Technicians in their second and third year.

The military training and Squadron staffs are drawn from a variety of Regiments and Corps, including Guards Regiments, Cavalry, Gunners, Infantry Regiments and Royal Signals. This fact in itself helps the Apprentice to build up a more comprehensive and realistic picture of the Army, where all Arms and Services play their part. It also means that specialists in a variety of military skills appropriate to different Arms are available to instruct the Apprentices.

The technical education of the Apprentices is a combination of normal academic education and technical training. The more academic aspect of this training is carried out by R.A.E.C. officers and civilian Lecturer Grade Instructors. The technical instruction is the responsibility of Royal Signals Officers, Warrant Officers and Senior N.C.O.s, assisted by suitably qualified civilian technical instructors.

The Aim. **The aim of the School is to produce Technicians and Telegraph Operators of a quality which will ensure that a large proportion of them will fill future vacancies as Warrant Officers and Senior N.C.O.s for Royal Signals. It is expected that ten per cent will eventually reach commisisoned rank as Technical Officers (T.O.T.s) or Traffic Officers.**

Approximately 75 per cent of the Apprentices are being trained as Technicians and the remainder as Telegraph Operators. They serve a full three years' Apprenticeship at this School, followed by a nine-year engagement in Royal Signals. In view of the aim and the fact that only the top grade trades are taught at this School, only recruits of well above average intelligence are selected. During the last year only those of SG1 and SG2 standard have gained entry. However, there is no entrance examination. Passes at "O" Level G.C.E. help, but are not by any means a necessity. Personnel Selection Officers give due weight to innate intelligence and "potential."

The aim of the School is not merely to produce qualified tradesmen, but to produce a first class soldier who is tough and self-reliant, with plenty of initiative and character. He must, of course, also be a highly-skilled tradesman, and he cannot be this unless he is well educated. To achieve this, in addition to normal military training, the School concentrates on four main aspects of training:

Self-reliance and character building
Leadership Training
A liberal general education
Technical education.

Self-Reliance and Character Building. There are many facets in the training of Apprentices which contribute directly and indirectly to developing self-reliance. Perhaps the best known is adventure training, or "External Leadership," as it is now becoming more commonly known. This type of training is carried out locally, mainly on the Yorkshire Moors, and often in very challenging circumstances in all kinds of weather, summer and winter. Last winter, at times the circumstances were very challenging indeed, and a number of luckless wayfarers had cause to be thankful for parties of Apprentices, on adventure training, who came to their rescue.

Vacancies are also allotted to Apprentices on each course of the Army's Outward Bound School in Towyn, in North Wales.

Adventure training is closely allied to the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme. Six boys of this School have obtained gold awards and there have been countless silver and bronze awards. It is of interest to know that the first gold award made to a boy in the Army was made to an Apprentice of this School. Last summer Lance-Corporal David Gardiner, of 7th Signal Regiment (ex-Apprentice R.S.M. of this School) was presented with his gold award by H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh at Buckingham Palace.

Pictures that examplify the spirit of Harrogate


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1. Apprentice technicians construct radio receivers. 2. Sailing at Bishop Monkton. 3. Model railway building and operation is a popular hobby among Apprentices. 4. Indoor athletic training, indoor arena. 5. Apprentice technicians set up medium power radio relay equipment



Courtesy: Yorkshire Evening Post

Sir John Hunt talks to Duke of Edinburgh Award candidates

In addition to adventure training, boys are encouraged to take part in the more adventurous types of hobbies. There are, at present, twenty-four active hobbies clubs in the School. These include sailing, canoeing, mountaineering and rock-climbing, pot-holing and go-kart racing.

The School canoe team won the Devizes to Westminster canoe race last Easter and hope to do well again this Easter. This race is perhaps one of the greatest tests of skill and stamina in the country. The sailing club goes to the Lake District to sail whenever they have the opportunity, and the mountaineering club go to the Snowdonia area, in addition to taking part in rock climbing locally.

The School has excellent facilities for all the normal team games. Two afternoons during the week, plus Saturday and Sunday afternoons, are devoted to matches. This training has produced its fair share of stars. Notably among them are Lance-Corporal A. W. T. Caldwell, of 30th Signal Regiment, who was selected to play hockey for the Army whilst still an Apprentice, and who is now in the Combined Services' team. Another Apprentice, Martin Frimpong, now of the Ghana Army, won the Services Junior Boxing Championship at his weight. In athletics, the School has an excellent record and a number of champions. Last season A/T Fenge set up a new Army record in the Youth Pole Vault of 10ft. 10in., and he went on to win this event in the Inter-Services Meeting with a new record of 11ft. For this performance he has been awarded the Army Junior Field Event Cup for the most outstanding performance of the year. It is noteworthy that A/T Fenge established these records as a "youth" (under 17 years) and that the Army Junior Pole Vault (for boys between 17 and 19) was won at 10ft. 6in. (i.e., 6in. lower than Fenge's best pole vault) also by an Apprentice from this School, namely, A/T White. Last year's Army 120 yards Hurdles champion, A/T Sergeant Randall, the 880 yards champion, A/T Baynes, and Steeplechase champion, A/T Escott, have now graduated. The School's 4 x 110 yards Relay Team are also Army Champions in this event. Ten of the School's athletes were selected for the Army's Team in the Inter-Services' Match last year, and acquitted themselves very well indeed. The Athletics Team rounded off their success last year by winning the Quadrangular Games, defeating the three other major Apprentice Schools.

Perhaps the latter successes are not surprising—though they are nonetheless praiseworthy—for the School's athletic training facilities are excellent. It is fortunate in having a large indoor arena and a number of very well qualified A.A.A. coaches to instruct in all the important events.

Possibly the most notable feature in the games at A.A.S., Harrogate, however, is the reputation for sportsmanship which the teams have acquired amongst the neighbouring schools and clubs. This, of course, is part of the aim of the School, to foster a real spirit of sportsmanship.

Another important aspect in the development of character is the emphasis placed upon religious training. There is a resident Chaplain of the Church of England, the present incumbent being the Rev. J. R. Lamb, M.A., C.F., who supervises the religious instruction of the majority of the Apprentices. To cater for the needs of Roman Catholics, Presbyterian and other denominations, chaplains of these religions, resident in Harrogate, visit the School to give religious instruction and officiate at religious services. All boys attend morning prayers each working day and attend church service on Sundays. There are arrangements for Holy Communion on Sundays and other appropriate occasions. **Over fifty boys have been confirmed in the past year, as Communicant Members of the Church of England, by the Lord Bishop of Knaresborough, in whose Diocese the School is.**

Nor is the feminine touch missing—an important factor when boys are away from home—for there is a resident matron, Major M. Morris, A.R.R.C., Q.A., R.A.N.C., and W.V.S. representative, Miss V. Hughes—who concern themselves with many aspects of the Apprentices' welfare and give invaluable assistance in the task of keeping the boys happy and contented.

All the boys are encouraged to adopt, or continue a hobby of their own choice in order to make constructive use of their leisure time. A number of these have already been mentioned. The variety of hobbies offered, both physical and intellectual is tremendous, ranging from mountaineering to chess, from sailing to model-making, from canoeing to painting and from go-karting to pottery. The School is the present proud possessor of the Army Arts and Crafts Senior Shield, awarded to the unit entering exhibits of the widest variety as well as quality. In this respect, great credit must be given to the Education Department staff for their skill and enthusiasm.

Leadership Training. Recognising that leadership is the most important pre-requisite of the future N.C.O. and Warrant Officer, the School works firmly on the principle that the basis of leadership is the ability to accept responsibility and exercise it wisely. In order that they may gain experience in this respect, Apprentices are given responsibilities in varying degrees according to their ability and performance. To accustom them to exercise authority, they are given ranks from Lance-Corporal to R.S.M. The rank of Lance-Corporal is considered the most important step, as it carries with it the boy's first experience in a position of responsibility. Selection for this appointment is therefore made with the utmost care. The A/T R.S.M. is, of course, the senior boy of the School, and is a position which most boys of ambition strive to attain.

To a great extent, boys are controlled by boys, though under close supervision by permanent staff officers and N.C.O.s. Each Apprentice N.C.O. or W.O. has a degree of responsibility appropriate to his rank. This system does much to assist in the smooth running of the School, but most important, it affords training in the importance of the exercising of authority and responsibility. To be a good leader in the Army it is essential that the Apprentice becomes a competent soldier. All Apprentices receive a comprehensive military training course to bring them up to Military Proficiency Class III standard before graduating.

Academic Training. The Technical Education as a whole is directed by a Chief Instructor (Lieutenant-Colonel, Royal Signals) but the more academic aspect of the educational training is the responsibility of a Senior Education Officer



Courtesy: Yorkshire Evening Post

The Master of Signals, Major General Sir William A. Scott, K.C.M.G., C.B., C.B.E., with the Drums and Bugle Band

(Lieutenant - Colonel, R.A.E.C.). The present S.E.O. is Lieutenant-Colonel G. H. White, T.D., B.SC., R.A.E.C. A general aim of the Education Wing is to ensure that the boys are academically fit to absorb the highly technical instruction associated with their trade training, although there is no clear cut division between academic education and technical training. They are complimentary and closely integrated. Generally speaking, the Technician passes the Senior Test (which carries exemption from the Army Certificate of Education First Class), at the end of his first year as an Apprentice, and the Telegraph Operator reaches this standard at the end of his fifth term (the School year is divided into three terms, as is the normal practice in other schools). **Each Apprentice should, therefore, be qualified educationally up to commissioned rank well before his apprenticeship ends.**

Boys who have above-average educational qualification on entry, take courses for the Ordinary National Certificate, and those who come to the School without certificates at G.C.E. "O" Level in certain subjects, have the opportunity of taking G.C.E. examinations during their Apprenticeship. Apprentices spend a good proportion of their time on liberal studies, including English Language, English Literature, Art, etc. Because of the importance of Mathematics in the technical training of tradesmen, a very large proportion of the Apprentices reach G.C.E. "O" level in Maths, and many advance above this standard.

Technical Training. The aim is to turn out tradesman qualified at Class II as a Technician or Telegraph Operator. Technician training covers all Technical trades other than Radio Technician (Heavy). The syllabus for Technicians is based largely on the City and Guilds Telecommunication Technicians Course, and most Technicians are expected to reach the Intermediate Certificate standard, City and Guilds, as well as qualifying as Class II Technicians. A few, in fact, pass the third year subjects in the City and Guilds Course, and are therefore exempt from the entrance examination for the Foreman of Signals Course before going to the ranks.

The Telegraph Operator training is of a high standard and very comprehensive. Apprentices who do well have an excellent chance of becoming a Yeoman of Signals.

In the sphere of telecommunications, there is continuing development. The School endeavours to keep abreast of these developments, introducing instruction on new techniques and equipment as soon as sufficient details are available. Priority is given to the production and use of modern and imaginative training aids. In this respect, considerable and valuable assistance is obtained through the close association which the School enjoys with the Inspectorate of Trade Training, the School of Signals and Training Brigade, Royal Signals.

Technical Instructors, in the main, are suitably-qualified Officers, Foremen of Signals, and Class I tradesmen of Warrant Officer and Senior N.C.O. rank, and technically qualified civilians.

Many of the military Warrant Officers and Senior N.C.O. Instructors are enthusiastic ex-apprentices; in themselves a credit to Apprentice School training.

Citizenship Training. **The School has a close association with Harrogate, the Borough Council of which has adopted the School and is "in loco parentis" to the Apprentices.** During the Apprentices' final term, the Officers of the Borough Council, each lecture the boys on the aspect of Local Government for which they are responsible. Towards the end of the term the Apprentices write an essay on Local Government and a prize of £5 is presented to the winner by his Worship the Mayor of Harrogate at the Graduation Ceremony.

The End Product. The culmination of the Apprentices' training arrives with Graduation Day, at the end of their ninth term, and here is perhaps the best "outward and visible sign" of the measure of success which the School achieves. All the Apprentices, under the command of the Apprentice R.S.M., carry out a complex and impressive ceremonial parade with precision and elan, which never fails to impress the large gathering of parents, relatives and other visitors. The only members of the Permanent Staff on parade on this occasion are the Band Sergeant, Pipe Major and the Drum Major. Added panache is lent to the proceedings by the three excellent bands—the Brass Band, Pipes and Drums and the Corps of Drums, in all, about 90 strong. (By the way, being a bandsman is a hobby, and training for it is a spare time activity).

The Inspecting Officer is normally a V.I.P. of General rank or Cabinet rank or M.P. of Cabinet status. The Inspecting Officer for the last Graduation was the War Minister, the Rt. Hon. James Ramsden, M.P.

To sum up, the end-product of the School is not only a first-class soldier, a well-educated and efficient tradesman, but he has also had the training to make him a mature and self-reliant individual, with a sense of responsibility. After such training he should have little difficult in fitting into Army life. His future, both as a soldier and a citizen should be assured, as he has qualifications which will last him for life. Of course, not all achieve success. Standards are high and there are failures, but the high proportion of ex-Apprentices who are now filling the higher ranks and appointments in Royal Signals is a tribute to the standard of training they receive at this School.

Army Apprentices School Says Goodbye to Colonel North

Corps Loses 'One of its best known and best liked Characters'

(*More pictures on page* 95)

Colonel J. P. North, C.B.E., came to the end of his tour of duty as Commandant of this School on the 23rd January. It was also the end of about 33 years service in the Army, during which he served in almost every part of the world. Younger officers look with envy at the record of his service, which reflects so many interesting experiences in many overseas stations.



Colonel J. P. North, C.B.E.

Always a great sportsman he has boxed, played hockey, rugby and other team games, he has shot and fished in every station where such facilities have been available; he has shot big game in India and Africa, and has also managed to find time to become an authority on butterfles and birds. He has, in fact, obviously followed the advice which he has so often given to younger officers, to work hard and play hard. He has gained a reputation for being thorough and enthusiastic in every appointment he has held, and he has certainly lived up to this reputation during his very successful command of the Army Apprentices' School, Harrogate. The School is losing an excellent Commandant, and Royal Signals one of its best-known and best-liked characters.

We welcome his successor, Colonel J. R. Piddington, O.B.E., M.C., who arrived with our last intake, 64A. As a new "Apprentice" he is still feeling his way, and is being thoroughly inquisitive about everything and everyone. There is little doubt that he will have a very firm grip before the end of term, and we look forward to reading his first term report.

The handing and taking-over ceremony took the form of a ceremonial parade, attended by the Mayor and Mayoress of Harrogate, the Commanding Officers of the local R.N. and United States Army units, and many local friends of the School. After the parade, Colonel North was put in a quarter-ton Champ and, led by the School Bands, was towed through the main gates by a towing party, in which all ranks of the Permanent Staff and Apprentices were represented. The route was lined by cheering ranks of Permanent Staff and Apprentices.

A very sad day for Colonel North and for many of us. We take this opportunity of wishing him and his family the best of good fortune and happiness for the future.

Presentation of L.S. & G.C. Medals at the School of Signals



W.O.II (O.R.Q.M.S.) J. J. Brough, W.O.II (Y. of S.) W. Weir, W.O.I (Y. of S.) D. A. Burge, after the presentation to them of the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal, by Brigadier T. R. Warburg, C.B.E.



Staff-Sergeant Butler receiving his LS and GC medal from Brigadier T. R. Warburg, C.B.E., with W.O.II Hunt who also received the award of the LS and GC

On the 18th and 20th December, 1963, a parade of cadre Officers, Warrant Officers and Sergeants was held, at which the Commandant, Brigadier T. R. Warburg, C.B.E., presented Long Service and Good Conduct Medals to the following:

W.O.I (Y. of S.) D. A. Burge, who joined boys' service in February, 1945, and was successful in the Yeoman's Course in 1963, and is now an instructor with Traffic Group.

W.O.II (O.R.Q.M.S.) J. J. Brough, who enlisted in August, 1944, and is now with H.Q., School of Signals.

Staff Sergeant (L/W.O.II) A. A. E. Hunt, who joined boys' service in May, 1949, and is now a Radio Relay Technician, Class I, working as an instructor with Systems Group.

W.O.II (Y. of S.) W. Weir, who joined boys' service in September, 1945, and is an instructor with Traffic Group.

Staff Sergeant M. Butler who joined boys' service in February, 1945, and is at present a student on 17 Foreman of Signals Course.

Cross-Country.—The annual cross-country run took place on 18th January. The winner was Lance-Corporal Holden and the runner-up Signalman Carr.

Lance-Corporal Holden went on to win the Northern Command Championship with a very good performance, and the good wishes of all at the School go with him to Aldershot, where he will be competing in the Army Championships.

Do you run a pub? Do you know anyone, late of the Corps, who runs a hotel or public house? It has been suggested that THE WIRE might, from time to time, publish the names and addresses of ex-members of the Corps who are "Mine Host" at hotels and public houses so that serving or retired members of the Corps when travelling might, if convenient, patronise such establishments and help to keep up the Corps connections. Provided enough replies are received, THE WIRE will gladly publish this information from time to time.

Army Bird Watching Society. An Army Bird Watching Society has recently been formed. Its primary aim is to encourage and promote bird-watching in the Army. In addition, it will, where possible, co-operate with the British Trust for Ornithology and other similar bodies in their special investigations and work, including conservation. Anyone interested in joining should write to the Secretary, Lieutenant-Colonel F. G. Caldwell, c/o National Provincial Bank, 96/97, Strand, London, W.C.2, who will send further details.

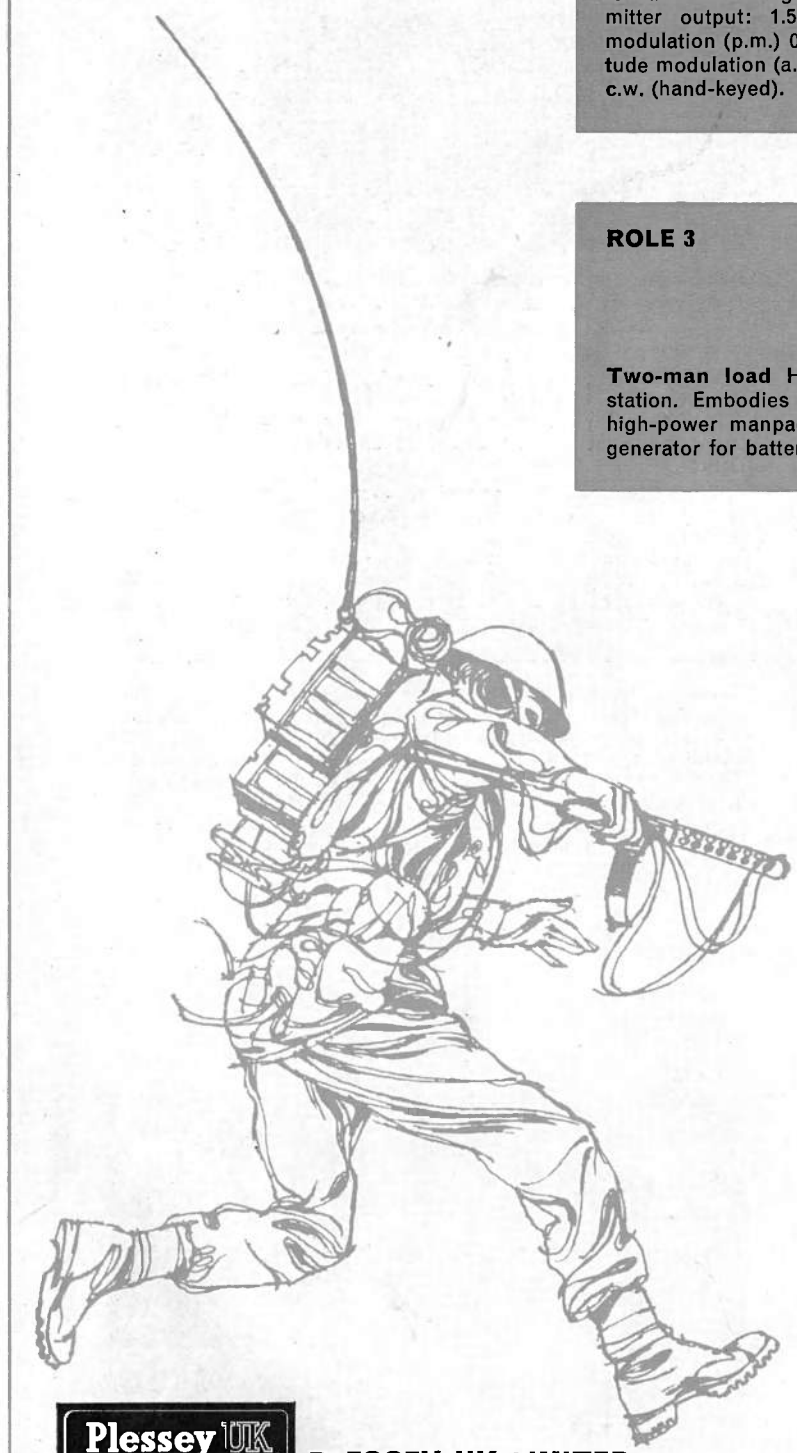
Goodbye to Colonel North (*Continued from page 94*)



Colonel J. R. Piddington, O.B.E., M.C. (new Commandant A.A.S. Harrogate) *Centre*, The Mayor of Harrogate (Alderman Stanley C. Tomkinson), *Right*, Colonel J. P. North, C.B.E.



Colonel J. P. North, C.B.E., being towed out of main gates of the School at the end of the Handing Over Parade



ROLE 1

One-man load Low-power manpack set, or ground-station. Completely self-contained. Carried without impediment to man's normal fighting duties. Transmitter output: 1.5 W using phase modulation (p.m.) 0.75 W using amplitude modulation (a.m.) or 1.5 W using c.w. (hand-keyed).

ROLE 2

One-man load High-power manpack set, or ground-station. Conversion to high-power effected by additional RF amplifier, housed in separate, smaller case, thus increasing output power and communication range. Does not interfere with man's normal fighting role.

ROLE 3

Two-man load High-power ground station. Embodies all items used in high-power manpack set, plus hand-generator for battery charging.

ROLE 4

Three-man load High-power ground station. Normally used at the halt. Provides greatly increased communication ranges for deep penetration patrols and airborne forces. Similar to 2-man load, but with addition of aerial mast and remote control kit.

ROLE 5

Vehicle Installation High-power. Complete protection given by rugged construction of equipment, and by provision of anti-vibration shock isolators. Powered from vehicle supply by special adaptor unit.

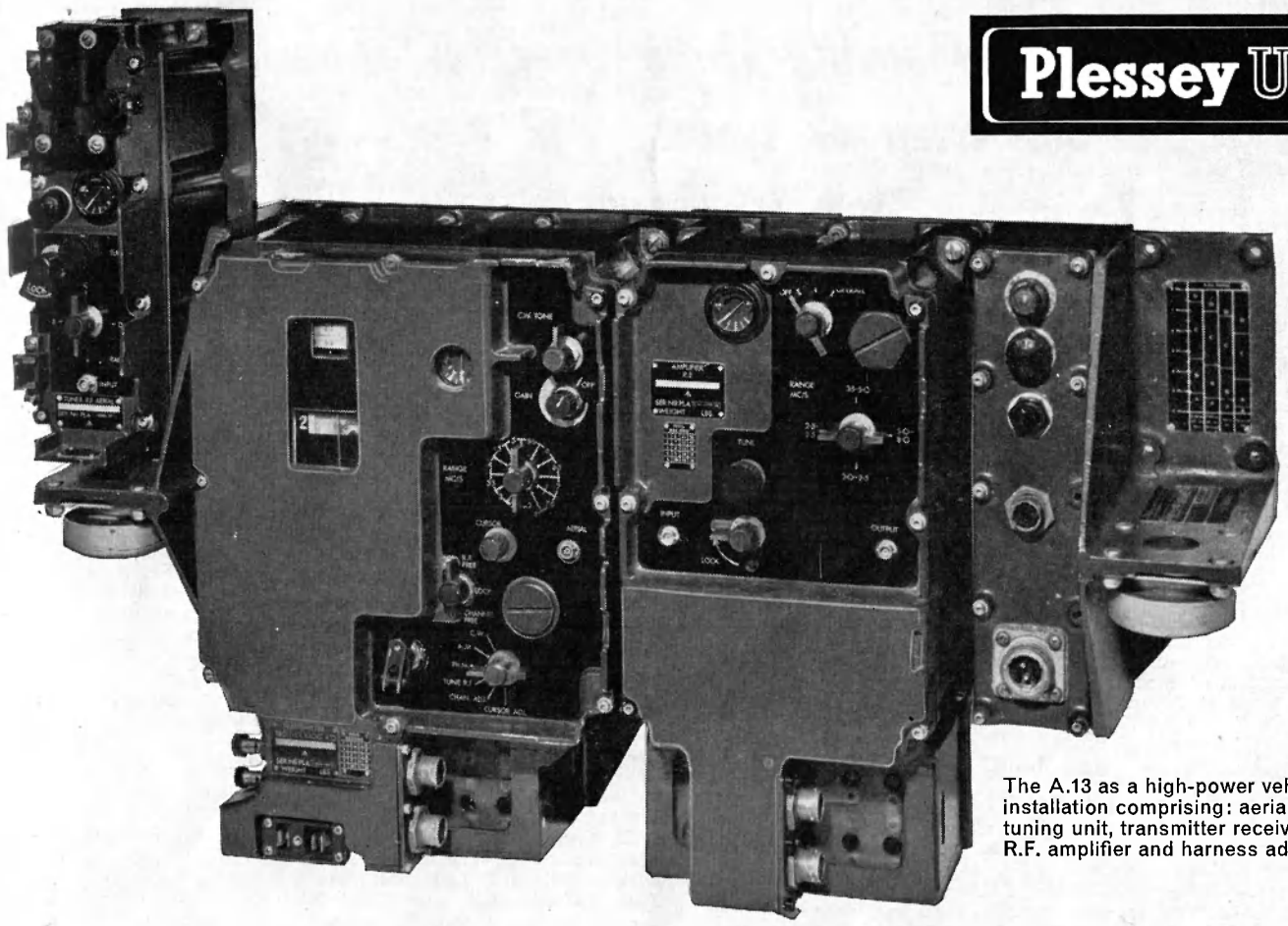
NEW MULTI-ROLE

Adopted by the British Army, the A.13 has been developed by Plessey-UK Limited in conjunction with the Ministry of Aviation and the Signals Research and Development Establishment. The A.13 now joins the Plessey-UK C.42, B.47 and B.48 which are in service with Armed Forces throughout the world.

Multi-role flexibility A single rugged transistorised unit

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The A.13 as a high-power vehicle installation comprising: aerial tuning unit, transmitter receiver, R.F. amplifier and harness adaptor.

MILITARY HF TRANSMITTER RECEIVER — THE A.13

forms the basis of five stations. At its simplest the A.13 is a lightweight manpack set. By adding ancillary equipment it becomes a high-powered long-range ground or vehicle station.

Modular construction for easy maintenance Semi-skilled personnel can simply and quickly carry out maintenance without test equipment.

Phase Modulation, AM and CW Use of phase modulation in the A.13 provides improved ground wave ranges for longer battery life. AM and CW on/off carrier facilities are also provided to give full compatibility with existing systems.

For further details please write for Publication No. 233.

Some Military Moments

An Ex-Corps Personality looks over his shoulder at the Soldiering of twenty odd years ago

BY COLVIN MEIK

Mr. Colvin Meik, the writer of this article, is an ex-Corps officer. He enlisted in 1938 and after training as an Electrician Signals served with the 1st Mobile Divisional Signals and 10th Corps Signals. He was commissioned in 1943, served in East Africa, B.A.O.R. and Middle East (4 Air Formation Signals and 3 G.H.Q.) until resigning his commission in 1950.

Since that time he has lived in Utah, U.S.A. and Accra. He is an artist and some time ago exhibited at the Bute Galleries, London. Now with his wife Mary he owns Chideock House in Dorset where they run the Safari Room—one of the most exclusive restaurants in the country. Mr. Meik is a member of the Culinaire Francaise and is at present engaged in writing three cookery books—the first now published was reviewed in the February "Wire."

* * *

I joined the Royal Corps of Signals in May, 1938, and the day after my arrival in Catterick I was sitting on my bed wondering what on earth had possessed me to join when a pleasant looking man of middle age, dressed in civilian clothes, came into the Reception Hut and walked up to me.

"Hello," he said.

"Hello," I answered.

"Wondering what it's all about?"

"Yes, I am."

"The life here isn't too bad. Tell me, do you play cricket?"

I told him that I lived and breathed cricket and we spent the next fifteen minutes discussing the then Australian tour of England and the prospects of youngsters like Hutton and Compton. Just then the Senior Soldier, whose duty it was to look after us raw recruits, came through the door, saw the visitor and snapped to attention. His good conduct stripes and Great War medals quivering with indignation when he saw me sitting on the bed and I had my first, but by no means last, earful of military invective. I was covered with confusion and thinking that I had been entertaining a general unawares I rose shamefaced to my feet. As the Senior Soldier was describing my parentage the visitor interrupted him gently.

"All right, that's enough," then, turning to me he added, "Report to the nets this afternoon, Meik."

As soon as he left the hut the Senior Soldier started again. I never knew that my lineage was so varied and though I doubted it at the time, his opinion of my descent was confirmed by others of every rank up to Brigadier during the next twelve years (General Officers I have found to be, on the whole, polite). Our visitor, it transpired, was a "Saarmajor" and what "Saarmajors" did to dozy, idle recruits defied description.

Such was my introduction to W.O.H Carpenter, fine cricketer and fine man. It was mainly through him that I found that Army life could be varied and interesting to any one with a little intelligence and initiative. Though recruits in those days were not given uniforms or allowed out of the barracks till they could comport themselves in a satisfactory military manner, my enthusiasm for cricket enabled me to see some of the country and to meet members of the Depot Battalion that I would never otherwise have met. Our wicketkeeper was a Second-Lieutenant called B. R. M. Hayles, now Colonel, but he was frequently away playing for the Army or Combined Services. Many years later I played a lot of cricket in Egypt with his brother, Guy.

Rough and Tough

Recruits' training in those days was rough and tough but I have never regretted it. Our Sergeant, who lived in our hut, was a "Tancy" Lee of the West Yorks. He gave us hell from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. but in the evenings would sit and talk with us, showing us ways of polishing boots and equipment, telling us about life in the Army and generally inspiring enthusiasm in those of us who were making a career of soldiering. By the time autumn came and we passed into the Training Battalion for our technical training I was tough, fit and, what is more important, thoroughly alive. How I mumble in my beard when I read in the paper about soldiers going on strike in spite of the curtains, bedside lights, luxury furnishings, elegant food and other signs of soft living. The Army nowadays is a comfortable career. In my day it was a LIFE.

My stay in the Training Battalion was uneventful. In due course I became an E.S.III (surely the most untechnical and inefficient electrician ever trained in the Corps) and in the Spring of 1939 was posted to 1st Mobile Divisional Signals. We were in tents on the slope of Bulford Fields and apart from a good deal of cricket the only interruption of fairly placid soldiering was a terrific storm one night that fairly swamped us. It was bad enough to cause the District Commander to order a rum ration and we were duly issued with a tot of the powerful stuff in a mug of steaming tea.

This period also marked by first application for a commission. I was marched in front of my Squadron Commander (who was then "Spotty" Knox) and asked a number of questions, but somehow the interview misfired and as I saluted and left the office I knew that I had heard the last of that.

. . . War Was Coming

By this time it was obvious that war was coming and training was stepped up. We moved out of Bulford and my Squadron was posted to Dorset. We were billeted in Spettisbury and Charlton Marshall, two delightful villages where the local women started canteens for us and that did a lot to relieve the tedium of the early war days. Later we moved to Herts and I joined the Signal Troop attached to the 5th R.T.R. This was at Harpenden where we sat out the winter and froze!

One of their Squadron Commanders was a certain Major M., a most delightful man though not too bright. The major was an inveterate pipe smoker. At that time The Fifth had a light tank with a Rolls engine, very fast and a pleasure to drive, though the armour plate was so thin that a .22 slug would have pierced it. On the outside of the turret was a flange holding two .303 mechanisms attached to two smoke cannisters. They were actuated by two wires inside the turret. The idea was that if a smoke screen was required the canisters could be fired from inside the tank. One day we were on an exercise and were detailed to proceed to point so-and-so and lay smoke. Major M. was in command and when we arrived at the map reference he called out "All right, chaps, dismount. Smoke if you want." Needless to say his pipe was going full blast. A little while later the Brigadier arrived. Major M. took his pipe out of his mouth and saluted.

"Hello, Mike," the Brigadier greeted him, "Everything all right?"

"Yes Sir."

"Where's the smoke, Mike?"

"Oh, we're all smoking, Sir."

At the end of the war in Europe I came home from the Middle East. At a certain country railway station I saw smoke coming out of the RTO's office. Acting on a hunch I went in and found that the RTO was none other than Captain M.

France 1940

In April 1940 we rejoined our Squadron and soon afterwards found ourselves in France. Our Squadron Commander was by this time 'Tat' Moore, whose Adjutant I became eight years later. Our arrival at Cherbourg coincided with the German advance through the Low Countries and instead of taking up

our position in Belgium we began a seemingly never-ending series of drives through the forests of Normandy. The Signal Troop rejoined The Fifth; nobody knew what was happening, the weather was fine, it was fun camping out, but, although our morale was high, it was frustrating not to be doing anything. Social life in the forests was restricted and amenities non-existent. The calls of nature were answered by taking a walk in the woods. Occasionally we would be straffed by German aircraft but their aim was haphazard as they did not know exactly where we were. One day we were on the receiving end of a raid of this sort when Sergeant X appeared, howling. His pants were down and he was clasping his rear with both hands. My spirits rose.

"Been hit, Sarge?" I asked hopefully.

"No, you dizzy soldier, it was them blankety blank nettles."

My opinion of Rommel went sky high!

"A Hell of a Good Fight . . . "

A week later things became serious. We were going into battle. Like most British youth I had been brought up on the tradition of the thin red line, brave troops immaculately dressed, pausing only for a final flick at their gleaming boots with a duster before marching purposefully in the direction of a similarly clad enemy. My father had commanded a Sikh regiment in the Mespot campaign and I remembered his stories of their smartness on parade and the pounds of equipment they carried on their backs into battle. The Fifth was no less purposeful than their illustrious forbears but there was precious little pomp about its preparations. I was impressed by the quiet efficient way all the tank crews, from the C.O. downwards, calmly took off their uniforms and donned their denims before taking their tanks into battle. And what a battle! We were no match for the German Army in full cry with their all-powerful 88's but we gave them a hell of a good fight.

As a member of the Signals troop it was my job to see that the tanks to which I was assigned had efficient communication at all times. This meant that I was called to any of my tanks whose wireless or internal communication system had failed and had to rectify the fault. The sets we had then were the old No. 9's, cumbersome brutes, divided like Gaul, into three parts, transmitter, receiver and power pack. If any of these parts went wrong I had to do what I could on the spot, but if the repair would take more than a few minutes then I had to replace it, and take the faulty piece back to the IM at Squadron H.Q. I can't remember how many parts I replaced that day but I'll never forget the first tank I was called to. A shell had gone through the armour plate of the turret, hit the receiver and ricochet round and round, scattering pieces of itself all over the tank. The tank commander and gunner/operator were both badly wounded and I had to help get them out before I could get in. Replacement crews had come with me and they had to climb into a bloodstained mess and carry on the fight. When my part of the job was done I heaved a sigh of relief and drove away but had scarcely travelled a hundred yards before I heard a terrific explosion. I stopped the 15 cwt. and looked back. The tank I had just left had received a direct hit in the petrol tank and was a raging inferno.

Chaos . . . .

After this battle there was chaos. Part of our "B" Echelon managed to get away and I was lucky enough to be with them. We headed west. All roads by this time were crowded with refugees in all kinds of transport, trucks, cars, handcarts, bicycles and on foot, and progress was painfully slow. For many of these unfortunates this was their second exodus but I knew that for a pitiful minority, the grandparents, the memories of 1870 were being re-lived. Most of the cars had a mattress tied on top of the roof as a protection against aerial straffing. God knows they needed it but the support was purely moral We were straffed a couple of times but fortunately for us the Luftwaffe had too much to do and not enough planes to do it with so that we were able to make our slow way without too much interference from the enemy.

Looking back on the evacuation of our little party I suppose that we were really very lucky to get away at all. Had we arrived in Brest a day later we would have been victims of the French armistice with Germany and would not have been allowed to leave the country. At the time we regarded our discomforts and privations not as adventures of war but as manifold evidence of the British Army's ability to make the soldier suffer. This is not a chronicle of heroics, indeed I am nothing of a hero and have never won a medal, so I will gloss over our unheroic exit from the shores of France and merely say that a week or so later the party of soldiers of which I was one landed in Plymouth and I then found myself back with my old Unit. The thing that stands out in my mind about those weeks is that never at any time was there any slackening of morale among us. In fact, up to the time of our arrival in England we were firmly of the opinion that we were about to set sail for the Mediterranean to invade Italy.

My Signal Regiment went to Betchworth, near Reigate, and there was nothing to do apart from training so I again applied for a commission. My Squadron Commander was A. B. de Lisle. He didn't like me and I don't blame him. But I didn't like him and that, I think, was his fault! Once again I knew that my application was doomed, a fact that was emphasised by my posting to the Signal Troop attached to the 12th Lancers, at that time stationed at Charlwood.

[TO BE CONTINUED]

1st REGIMENT, B.F.P.O. 32

Exercise "Snow Train" saw the Regiment out on an overnight exercise on 9th/10th January in the Hildesheim area. It was very cold and snowy, but in spite of the treacherous roads and a near-blizzard, we returned safely with no vehicle casualties, although there were one or two frozen extremities.

On the sporting side, the weather has interfered with some events, but we have managed to play a few games. We got into the final of the 7th Armoured Brigade Major Units Basketball, and were unlucky to lose to 94th Regiment, R.A. At rugger we defeated 22nd Regiment in a friendly match and are preparing for the seven-a-side competitions. The second event of the Page Trophy Cross-Country series was well won by Lance-Corporal Maynard, who finished a minute ahead of his nearest rival. Our soccer effort has not been so successful of late, and it is not quite clear whether we lost 18—0 to 16th Regiment, R.A., or 16—0 to 18th Regiment, R.A. Either way it was a closely-contested struggle, with the better team pulling off a narrow victory!

Apart from Exercise "Snow Train" we have sent a series of parties to the Winter Welfare Centre at Silberhutte for two-week courses to learn how to live, move and fight in winter conditions. We were lucky to be able to send another party to Norway on a similar sort of expedition. They returned looking very fit but had never quite got used to Norwegian delicacies such as whale steak and raspberry jam.

In a more serious vein we record our farewell to 200 Squadron who had worked with us for the past few years and wish them every success in their next incarnation. At the same time we welcome 211 Squadron as a part of the Division and look forward to unbroken communications.

Our last item is to report that we are now sending small parties of men to visit various industrial undertakings in the area. Our first application was to visit a brewery but, most unfortunately, they could not accept us because the works were being enlarged this winter. A very different kind of visit was paid on 30th January to the Volkswagen works at Wolfsburg. A full description of the visit will appear in a later issue in the form of an essay, by Corporal S. A. Wayling, which won the first prize of DM 20.00 for the best essay written by one of the visitors.



A line-out in the game against 22nd Regiment won by 1st Regiment
25th January, 1964

2nd REGIMENT R.F.P.O. 22

On 4th March our G.O.C., Major-General M. A. H. Butler, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., leaves to take up his new appointment. On 30th January he honoured us with a farewell visit during which, in characteristic fashion, he had an individual chat with nearly every soldier in the Regiment.

After tea in the Sergeants' Mess he was whisked onto his Champ and drawn round the barracks by the Mess members in a procession headed by the Band of 1st Battalion of The Cameronians. As he went through the gates to the strains of Auld Lang Syne those who had come to know and admire his many qualities could but feel sad.

On 31st January two of our boxers won their bouts in the finals of the 2nd Division boxing and will now go forward to the B.A.O.R. Individual Championships which are to be held on 18th February.

Lance-Corporal L. Hibbert, the Divisional light middleweight champion, has been with the Regiment for over a year. He has been one of the main props of our newly formed boxing team and his conscientious training has set a fine example to his fellow boxers. He is a first-class team man with a big following in the Regiment and despite his quiet and unassuming nature is a great morale booster in the boxing team. He started boxing at Hermill Club in 1956 and took up his Army boxing in 10th Regiment in 1960. From there he went on to become a member of the 16th Regiment team which won the Rhine Area Championships in 1962.



Lance Corporal L. Hibbert, winner of the 2nd Division Light Middleweight Championship

Lance-Corporal R. K. Jacobs, the Divisional welterweight champion, has only been with the Regiment since October last year but he has already made his mark as an all-rounder in sport. His boxing career began at the age of nine in the Exmouth A.B.C. Club and after about a hundred bouts reached its first landmark at the finals of the schoolboys championships in 1957. Since then he has boxed for the Junior Leaders Regiment and in 1959 he won the I.S.B.A. Junior Featherweight Championship. In 1962 he won the 4th Division Welterweight Championship and now we look forward to him becoming the B.A.O.R. Champion. He is an intelligent boxer with an air of professional competence about him and he has been a tremendous influence for good in the formation of our boxing team.



The winner of the 2nd. Divisional Welterweight Championship, Lance-Corporal R. K. Jacobs being congratulated by the G.O.C.

Is Writing "Wire" Notes a Chore?
OR HOW IT IS DONE (IN THREE ACTS) AT 3rd REGIMENT

The action takes place (nearly always) in Bulford in the county of Wiltshire. Now and then the scene changes—but invariably the actors and location remain constant.

The time—present-day Regular Army.

Act I

(Location—Adjutant's Office, 10th February, 7.30 p.m.)

Adjutant: Well that's it for today I think?

Correspondent: Good Lord. WIRE Notes. Due in London on Wednesday and I haven't done a thing about them. Where's my diary, let's skip through and see what's happened during January.

Adjutant: Well that's it for today (again—that's how much help one usually gets). Goodnight.

(Location changes to Correspondent's home an hour or so later)

Correspondent: Turn the television down, Dear, got to write the . . . . WIRE Notes. Whatever happened during the last month?

Wife: Oh, I don't know—but don't be long "The Lucy Show" is on at 8.30 and I want to watch it. There was the Sergeant's Mess Dinner—that's about all I can think of.

(Having got no enthusiasm from either, the correspondent puts pen to paper.)

Out With The Old . . . .

1963 went out like a lamb with the better part of the Regiment on block leave. But on reflection it had been a good year, with integration really well established and all the problems beginning to be ironed out. Yet more cap badges and traditions have come to be known and accepted. Training went well, and after a variety of exercises our major success being Exercise "Triplex West" in Libya, during which many lessons were learned. Our assistance to a variety of Units throughout the world, has taken N.C.O.s and men to British Guiana, Cyprus, Malta, Brunei and even Northern Ireland. There has been little time for sport, but we have managed to take part in most events, even if we haven't gone into the semi-finals. One particular sport we did manage to reach the finals in was the Divisional Basket Ball. Alas—only to be beaten by a very worthy Gunner Regiment. But nonetheless—well done, basket ball team. And so with the strains of Auld Lang Syne—1963 went out, and . . . .

In With The New

The Regiment returned to Bulford from block leave and on 6th January, to embark at once on an extensive period of individual training.

We were pleased to entertain No. 5 Yeoman of Signals course on a visit to the Regiment from 10th to 13th January, and hope they enjoyed their stay with us.

The Sergeants' Mess held a rather belated Christmas Dinner on the 23rd January which was enjoyed by all.

And what does 1964 hold in store? Amongst other things—plenty of training with exercises forecast to take place in three different countries. A summer camp in July, and a move of barracks. Our present home is due to come under the hammer of modernisation later in the year—and plans are almost finalised for the Regiment to move to Carter Barracks—there to remain until our final home is built in about 1968.

Words of welcome are extended to Major Adams, Captain Treseder and Lieutenant Dudley, Staff Sergeant Jacobs, Sergeant Small and all other newly joined N.C.O.s and men. Departures have been curtailed for the present, except for Sergeant MacDonald who left early in the New Year for the Army Apprentice School at Harrogate.

Wife: Not as much as usual there love?

Correspondent: No—blessed if I can think of anything else to write about. In fact there's a lot but I don't suppose we can mention that, eh? Still, that's enough for me tonight.



No. 5 Yeoman of Signals Course Visit to 3 H.Q. and Signal Regiment

Act II

(Location returns to R.H.Q.—the following morning)

Correspondent: WIRE Notes are due at London tomorrow morning, Sir. Would you care to approve the draft before typing please?

Second-in-Command: Thank you—leave them on the table—I'll look at them later.

Second-in-Command (several minutes later): Good—let the C.O. see them before they go and don't forget the photograph of the Yeomen's course.

Correspondent: Have these WIRE Notes typed, Staff—usual double spacing, etc., don't lose the photograph, make sure the C.O. sees them before going —and they must catch the evening post.

(Location changes to C.O.'s office—the same afternoon—after the Notes have been typed, signed, and put in an envelope ready for posting to the Editor. The correspondent and Second-in-Command are discussing something entirely divorced from "Wire" Notes with the C.O.)

C.O.: WIRE notes a bit scrimpy this month?

Correspondent: Yes, Sir—sorry to say they are.

C.O.: Sort of gives one the impression it was very much a last minute effort—almost forgotten about until last night.

Second-in-Command: As a matter of fact it was on my pad to check the situation this morning and then they suddenly appeared.

Correspondent: You are correct in the impression about it being a last minute effort. To be truthful I forgot all about it till last night.

C.O.: Surely there was more happened than that? What about the 'Stand-to.'

Second-in-Command: Well we must be careful there for security surely?

C.O.: Oh, I don't know. We could simply say that a week last Thursday, and emphasize Thursday since these things usually happen on Fridays, we were all stood by at 72 hours notice to go overseas. You don't have to say where, although the daily press has already said so. Say what a great advantage all our previous training and exercises have been in preparing the Regiment to move at short notice. Even then the work entailed is quite immense, and lots of long tedious hours were put in by all ranks. You could also add that for the past few days since all is packed ready to go, we have been leading the luxurious life of a Infantry Battalion—playing lots of sports, inter-Troop games, etc., and catching up on lots of long outstanding jobs.

Correspondent: Well—all right, Sir, if you think it will be accepted.

Second-in-Command: Something else I remember. I think we should include the R.S.M.'s sword.

C.O.: My goodness, yes. On the 9th January wasn't it—in the Officers' Ante-Room, the Commanding Officer presented the R.S.M. with a Regimental Sword. The presentation was on behalf of the Officers of the Regiment, who had joined together to make the gift possible. You can say how very pleased the R.S.M. was to receive such a splendid sword, so suitably engraved. Send a copy of the photograph too.

Correspondent: I'm afraid there isn't much time left—but we'll add some more.

Act III

(Location changes to correspondent's home later that evening —after a telephone call to the Editor asking for an extra 24 hours for the Notes to arrive.)

Correspondent: Turn the television down, Dear. Got to re-write the WIRE Notes.

Wife: Carry on, Love—I'm off out to the Wives' Club. Goodnight.

And so another month passes. One more less; and one more to come to give all would-be journalists for THE WIRE chance to think up more new ideas for their notes.

We record with deep regret the death of Helen Gould, 22-month-old daughter of Driver and Mrs. J. Gould, who died in Odstock Hospital on 31st January, 1964, from leukemia. Our deepest sympathy goes out to Driver and Mrs. Gould in their tragic loss.



The C.O., Lieutenant-Colonel T. W. Baynes, Presenting his Sword to the R.S.M., W.O.I G. Schofield

7th REGIMENT B.F.P.O. 15

Anybody visiting 7th Regiment during January must have had cause to query our claim to be the largest (and best) Regiment in existence. Walking through the lines one could see the occasional soldier and the hurrying drill squad but other signs of activity were few. This is explained by the fact that some 33 per cent. of the men are gaining either trade, educational or military proficiency qualifications and are fully occupied in various classrooms wondering why their parents so grossly neglected their basic education!

January always seems a slightly constipated month in B.A.O.R.: the Christmas puddings and haggis are scarcely digested and the exercise season is still several weeks off. This can be the season of discontent. However, for the few who are not fully occupied as instructors or students, driving rallies, Troop exercises, football and shinty leagues have been organised. Captain (Q.M.) "Monty" Truscott (aged 48), who has inspired

Continued at foot of column 1, page 102

What next in Cyprus? asks 9th Regiment

B.F.P.O. 53

☆



GENERAL SIR JAMES CASSELS, G.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O., WITH OFFICERS OF THE REGIMENT

Left to right. Back row: Captain G. M. Bowder, Second Lieutenant N. P. C. Fowgies, Second Lieutenant J. F. Budd, Captain P. J. Brenchley, Captain R. B. Evanson. *Centre row:* Captain J. H. Forster, Lieutenant P. J. Hodges, Captain G. A. Vincent, Captain C. James, Captain L. J. Apps, Captain E. W. P. Foley, Major G. G. Campbell, Captain J. U. Wolfenden, Captain I. M. G. O'Hare. *Front row:* Major J. Maclean, Major R. Pearson, Major C. Mitchell, Lieutenant-Colonel D. D. Fairman, O.B.E., General Sir James Cassels, G.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O., Colonel T. H. C. Grigg, Major N. L. Eaker, Captain K. R. Canning, Major C. A. Lunn

As we write this in Cyprus, we cannot help feeling that the boot is at present on the other foot. Normally around Christmas and New Year we think of our less fortunate comrades in arms shivering over the coal fires in England, struggling through the snow and fog, or in Germany working up a good head cold in the dry, centrally-heated air, while we continue to enjoy mild sunny weather.

Right now we almost envy you, since what we shall call "Recent Events in Cyprus" have taken much of the pleasure out of life on Aphrodite's island. Aphrodite herself vanished some time ago and has not been seen since.

As you will have read in your newspapers, the crisis broke just before Christmas and, so far as we were concerned, put a serious damper on our Christmas activities, cancelling most, in particular, the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess draw. The vision of the Mess Caterer contemplating the enormous feast which no one would now eat will remain with us for some time!

Our Christmas variety show and other seasonal activities had to be postponed or cancelled also. So it was a very quiet Christmas altogether, appreciated, we must add, by most of our wives who enjoyed seeing their husbands around for once.

Since local places of entertainment are out of bounds, we are thrown very much upon our own devices in our leisure hours, so that things like the "Curfew Football League" and "Indoor Games League" loom large in our thoughts. Even the chess boards are being given a good dusting.

In such circumstances, visitors to the Regiment are more than usually welcome, and our most distinguished visitor recently was the Adjutant General who "dropped in" to see how we were getting on. We have had visits also from friends who have arrived to join the Truce Force, so there has been some compensation.

We would all like to know, of course, what next? This is the jackpot question. We shall just have to wait and see.

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the officers' football team, tore down the wing on a concrete pitch and a large section of calf muscle. He does not appreciate the unseemly mirth that his hobbling gait (for another month or four?) engenders.

R.S.M. Gerrard is not to be kept off the square by snow, ice or hail. Mounds of salt and sweat ensure regular Regimental parades on Saturday mornings. Since the square is also used for football, hockey and basketball, we do not have to rely on the drill enthusiasts to supply the labour.

Lieutenant "Pedro" Brunton, whose nesting activities have been under close observation for some time, married Miss Anne Barry, who has been teaching our little darlings at the local Herford B.F.E.S. School, on 18th January. The wedding reception was held in the Officers' Mess. The Bruntons are off to Singapore in the near future. There was quite a possibility that this marriage could not take place, because "Pedro's" bachelor night, on the 17th, coincided with a Regimental dinner night to say farewell to Major David Woodbridge, Captain Dick Dominy and himself. One of the features of the evening was a daring bicycle ride down the corridor, up a 6ft. table mounted on a sofa, through a flaming newspaper and then "sauve qui peut." The bridegroom was not so badly burned as to render his presence impossible the following day.

On 31st January, some 75 Officers, Warrant Officers and Sergeants sat down to dinner in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. The dining room was a magnificent sight with red and white mess kits alternating down the table, which was laden with silver and glass-ware. An excellent dinner in such stately surroundings was following by the equally traditional post-prandial sports. Heard the next morning: "*Someone* must have been bleeding. When I took my shirt off it was covered with blood but I had not got a scratch on me."

We regret that we lost our third contest in the Army Hockey Cup by 2—0 to 4th Regiment. Hockey has been a flourishing sport this season, with a keen following in the Regiment. However, if we had to lose, we did at least keep it within the family!

THE CARY THEATRE

151st Production

"The Sound of Murder," by William Fairchild.

This highly successful thriller produced by Mrs. Jean Jordan, wife of Major K. Jordan, of 11th Regiment, had all the elements of a good plot with a lot of unusual twists. W.O.II (S.S.M.) B. T. Lord gave his final performance in this production. He took the part of Peter Marriot the murderer in the play. Any steam he had worked up during working hours in his job of S.S.M. of a Recruit Training Squadron, had ample outlet in the figure he portrayed. Both producer and cast worked very hard at a difficult time, the Christmas season being in full swing. Beset by parties, people on leave and a complete week's illness by two of the cast, the rehearsals were difficult to arrange and the producer was rarely sure that members of the cast notified would in fact turn up. The intense enthusiasm of the whole cast was infectious and combined with a good plot the resulting entertainment was extremely good. Our thanks to the producer, the cast and the back room boys for providing an evening's entertainment of such good quality. After the opening night's performance the cast was entertained to buffet supper and drinks in the Officers' Mess.

"Salad Days." On Saturday evening, the 25th January, we were delightfully entertained by the Doncaster Thespian Amateur Operatic Society who brought the show "Salad Days" to the Cary Theatre. Although the Thespians are primarily a singing society they proved conclusively to us that they can also present comedy and dancing with a light and sparkling touch. With no dress rehearsal they arrived at 7.30 p.m. by coach from Doncaster and three-quarters of an hour later the curtain went up. The scene behind the scenes must have been more than hectic.

After the show the cast was taken to the Officers' Mess for drinks and supper where as was to be expected of a gay society, like the Thespians, it was not long before dancing started. We were relieved to hear later that they all arrived home, safe and sound, with the Doncaster milk run.

11th REGIMENT (DEPOT)

Army Inter-Unit Team Boxing Championships —Third Round

The Depot wins again—but only just!

On 24th January in Marne Gymnasium, Northern Command Champions, alias 11th Regiment, met 23 Group Royal Pioneer Corps in an exciting 3rd round match of the Army Team Championship. As in the previous round against 3 RTR we only just won. The contest was again decided by the last round. Undoubtedly skill and fitness won the day against a rugged and fiercely aggressive Pioneer team.

The results were six fights won to five lost.

After the boxing the G.O.C. Yorkshire District, Major-General G. F. Upjohn, C.B.E., congratulated both teams and wished well to our team when they box in the next round which will be in the U.K. final.



11th SIGNAL REGIMENT (DEPOT), CATTERICK CAMP, YORKSHIRE

Back row: W.O.II Jitman Gurung, Sergeants Paul Harvey, Daniel, Phillips, McNaughton, Jackson. *Centre row:* Sergeant Carr, Staff-Sergeant Walker, Sergeants Mannion, Thornber, Pearson, Doyle, Meachin, Waudby. *Front row:* Staff-Sergeant Sharp, Sergeants Potter, Tricker, S.S.M. Fisher, Major Jordan, Staff-Sergeant Nock, Sergeants Truran, Boulton, David

Presentation of the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal to W.O.II (R.Q.M.S.) W. A. Barnes

During Pass Off Parade on 17th January, Brigadier A. C. Cox, O.B.E., presented W.O.II W. A. Barnes with his Long Service and Good Conduct Medal. R.Q.M.S. Barnes joined the Corps in Lanark in 1945 at the age of 17½. Since then he has served in Italy, Egypt, Singapore, Germany, Kenya, Lybia, Cyprus and Ireland.

To those who remember the Moascar Tattoos in '48, '49 and '50, it was R.Q.M.S. Barnes, then sergeant, who ran the Royal Signals Display Team there and rode on the ladder. It was here also that he met and married Mrs. Barnes who was serving in the W.A.A.F. Of their three children Hazel, aged 13, was born in Egypt, Linda, aged 9, in England and David, aged 8, in Singapore.

In Singapore as S.Q.M.S. working on Signals Works Services he received the C.-in-C.'s certificate of good service for work done when repairing submarine cables to surrounding islands. Whilst in Singapore also he played Rugby for the Corps side.

Returning to Catterick as R.Q.M.S. in April, 1962, he settled for a less hectic pursuit, gardening. This to good effect, however, for in 1963 he won the Garrison Cup for the best other ranks' garden.

As is traditional, before lunch on the 17th the new "Gong" received its wetting in the Mess.



Brigadier A. C. Cox, O.B.E., presents the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal to W.O.II (R.Q.M.S.) W. A. Barnes

Instructional Wing

(*Alias Chief Instructors Wing*) (*Alias Courses Wing*)

Almost 12 months and many a relieved student has passed by the Wing since we last appeared in THE WIRE.

Personalities. S.S.M. Emery left us recently to go to Malaysia, his empty chair has been filled by S.S.M. Fisher. (Recent exercises at Guisborough showed that the hand over was complete.)

Staff Sergeant Nock, clutching his Guards Drill Report—he asked to be sent a second time!—has taken over from Staff Sergeant Cushen. Staff Sergeant Cushen has not left the Regiment and strange sounds came from 1 Squadron Stores, where it is rumoured the boots and blankets are dressed by the right and will open order on command.

Captain Pickup and Sergeant Danells from the Adventure Training department. It is no longer considered unusual to see soldiers scaling the walls of Vimy "C" to meet Captain Pickup on the roof, then reverse the Indian Rope Trick and appear in a heap at the feet of Sergeant Danells.

Lieutenant Scarff and Sergeant Sampson are still running the Methods side of things. Strange how every two months or so they shoot off in the direction of Chelsea 'to teach the T.A.' we are told. An observer, in the form of a Sergeant Major, accompanied them on one such venture. He has never been quite the same man since. "Soho—Soho" he cries, then lapses into silence. The Methods people just look smug at this and in Lieutenant Scarff's words, "Say nowt."

Sergeant Jones hot foot from Germany has just arrived to take over from S.S.M. Hill, posted on promotion to Kenya. Both appear to have landed with difficult jobs.

W.O.I Keay is soon to leave the O.R. 1 Troop where he has been grooming potential officers for R.C.B. He is going off to start a new life in Australia, for that reason we wish him "good luck." Quite what he is to do is not certain. Apparently his pre-release course is to take the form of an attachment to a Scottish Regiment with a strong affiliation to the wool producing fauna.

So many changes but some things never appear to change. Major Jordan is still at the wheel. Maggie, the phantom pie stealer, still does 'Her Masters Voice' impression. Students who have passed through the Wing will be interested to hear that Maggie recently produced a family.

Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess

Two old stalwarts of the Mess are leaving us fairly shortly to proceed into the more sobering atmosphere of 'civvy street.' After many years of valuable service, S.S.M.s Graveling and George leave 2 and H.Q. Squadrons respectively. We wish them both the very best of good fortune. We welcome W.O.II "Paddy" Hogan who has joined us for a short spell prior to posting out. Let us hope his stay in the Depot is an enjoyable one.

The 'Vic Eddie' Club continues to flourish. As readers may remember from last November's issue the Club provides an excuse for the Warrant Officers of the Regiment to get together and solve all the problems in the Regiment over the odd beer or two.

Best Recruits



Signalman J. W. Wheatley

For the first time a recruit has pulled off the "hat-trick." Best Recruit, Best Shot and Best at P.T. Signalman John Wilfred Wheatley, aged 19, of 20, Nelson Road, Rossington, near Doncaster, did just this. Before joining the Army he worked as a fitter's helper for the National Coal Board, but disliking work underground he joined up. When asked what he enjoyed most about recruit training, he replied, "Most of it really, but in particular the physical side." Signalman Wheatley is now being trained as an Electrician Driver. Congratulations on a fine effort.



Signalman D. A. Codling

Passing off as the Best Recruit and Best Shot on 20th December, 1963, was Signalman David Arthur Codling, aged 19, of 48, Willow Way, Redditch. Signalman Codling, who used to work as a welder for Enfield Cycles, joined the Army for an interesting life with a chance to travel. Swimming and cricket are his sports; during his leisure time he reads. Asked what he enjoyed most about recruit training, Codling replied, "All the outdoor training, even drill." He is now being trained as a Comcentre Operator.



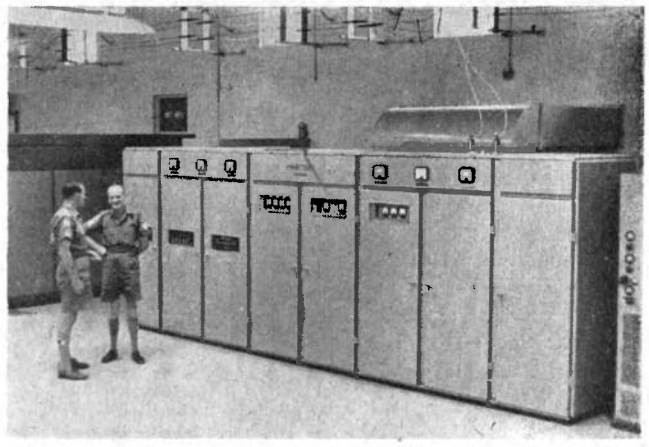
Signalman J. R. Young

Best recruit to pass off on 17th January, 1964, was Signalman James Ronald Young, aged 23, of 6, Church Road, Peasdown, near Bath. After being educated at Midsomer Norton Grammar School, Young joined the police force as a cadet and served with Wiltshire Constabulary for six years. Leaving the force, he worked for a while as a sales supervisor before joining the Army on 11th November, 1963. A keen sportsman, Young has already represented the Regiment at rugby and played football in his Troop team. Out of working hours he develops and prints his own photographs. Signalman Young is now being trained as a Telegraph Operator.



Signalman B. J. Holland

Signalman Brian Joseph Holland, aged 17, who passed off on 31st January, 1964, won the Best Recruit award for his intake. He also produced the best shooting results with the S.L.R. and S.M.G. and shows a keen interest in .22 shooting. A product of Hymers College, Hull, where he served for three years in the College Combined Cadet Force, he found that the job of bank clerk, on leaving school, did not provide sufficient interest for him so he joined the Army. Holland, of 99, Tween Dykes Road, Sutton-on-Hull, is interested in most sports, particularly rugger and athletics. He has performed in his Troop soccer and basketball sides. In leisure moments he enjoys playing the electric guitar. He goes to 8th Regiment for training as a Technician.



Captain (T.O.T.) F. Iveson (left) discussing the 30 KW. I.S.B. Transmitter Type HS51 (E12), one of three recently installed by the Troop at Singapore

14th REGIMENT
INSTALLATION TROOP (COMCAN)

MUCH water has flowed under the bridge since we last appeared in "The Wire" under our old title "Army Wireless Chain Installation Troop" (A.W.C.I.T.) and inevitably many changes have taken place, both in organisation and personnel. The one thing that never changes, however, is the wide variety of interesting work which the job provides in various parts of the world. No two installation projects are exactly alike, and each brings forth a crop of engineering problems for solution. In consequence no one in the Troop is bored and no one ever finds cause for complaint.

The Troop forms part of the 14th Regiment, and since August, 1962, has had its headquarters permanently based at Gloucester. Before August, 1962, the H.Q. moved whenever the location of the work changed, which was not wholly satisfactory from an administrative point of view.

The Troop is responsible for the design, installation and testing of COMCAN stations as directed by the Director of Telecommunications through H.Q. COMCAN. All personnel hold themselves ready to move at a moments notice to any part of the world and for the benefit of those married readers who may be concerned about the welfare of our families, we can either take them overseas with us, providing of course that we anticipate being away in excess of the stipulated six months, or leave them behind in quarters here at Gloucester where they are looked after by the Regiment.

A few words about our organisation. The Troop, commanded by Major P. D. Mootham, is established to work in the following combinations:—

(a) The Troop as a whole.
(b) The Troop divided into two teams in which a Captain (either Royal Signals or R.E.M.E.) commands each team.
(c) In small detachments for minor projects.
Any combination of the above.

(*Continued on page 105*)

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Normally we work in teams. However, by the time these notes appear in print we shall have half of one team in Singapore with the other half in Cyprus and the second team working on U.K. projects except for W.O.II (F. of S.) O'Brien who will be undertaking work in Malta, Cyprus and Singapore and the O.C. and W.O.I Howard who will be working in Kenya.

In spite of our heavy technical commitments we manage somehow to squeeze in our share of military, educational and trade training and those of our junior members who have taken these courses have returned with most gratifying results. Our senior members do not escape either for they are often away attending manufacturers courses learning advanced engineering techniques essential to our job which includes the subsequent training of maintenance personnel prior to the handover of an installation.

Our sporting activities include rugby, football, cricket, hockey, gliding and small bore shooting. The nature of our work prevents us from being all in one place at any one time therefore we cannot form teams of our own, nevertheless our members are always in great demand by local Units wherever we are employed and we never go short of a game.

Who's Who and Where. Major P. D. Mootham (O.C. Troop), Kenya; Major (T.O.T.) D. Barry (Temporarily Attached), Boddington; Captain (T.O.T.) F. Iveson (O.C. No. 1 Team), Singapore; Captain R. Fields, R.E.M.E. (O.C. No. 2 Team), Droitwich; W.O.I R. Howard, B.E.M., Kenya; W.O.II (F. of S.) P. O'Brien, Malta; W.O.II (F. of S.) P. Swaby, Cyprus; W.O.II A. Morrison, B.E.M., Boddington; W.O.II B. White, Gloucester; W.O.II J. Woodvine, Singapore; Corporal J. Brokenshire, Cyprus; Corporal A. Topping, Cyprus; Corporal C. Langston, R.E.M.E., Droitwich; Corporal R. Lister, R.E.M.E., Cyprus; Lance-Corporal J. Woollven, Malta; Lance-Corporal J. Davis, Gloucester; Lance-Corporal R. Eyre, Cyprus; Signalman M. Jolly, Cyprus; Signalman G. Anslow, Gloucester.



Captain (T.O.T.) F. Iveson examines a motor head, withdrawn from its housing in the E12 transmitter. Fifteen motor heads, of comparable size, are used to achieve automatic selection of any of six pre-set frequencies. The frequency changing process may take as little as 2 minutes

18th REGIMENT, c/o G.P.O. SINGAPORE

Practically all Army Units in Singapore liaise with, and do what they can to help, at least one civilian Youth Club or Organisation, and we in Signals here "look after" three of them. They are the Tsuking and Chinking Chinese Youth Clubs and the Radin Mas Community Centre.

In the early evening of 23rd December, Brigadier E. C. R. Blaker, O.B.E., C.S.O. FARELF, made his first official visit to these organisations. He arrived first at the Tsuking and Chinking Youth Clubs to meet their leaders and to present the Clubs with presents from us in the form of some playground equipment. After signing the Visitors' Book and being introduced to the Club leaders, the C.S.O. made a tour of the premises and was shown activities as diverse as embroidery being made by sewing machine and weight lifting.

Afterwards the playground equipment, swings, seesaws and a monkey climb were presented to Mr. Ong, the Club Leader.

The C.S.O. and his party moved on to the Community Centre at Radin Mas. Again the Brigadier met the leaders and toured the Centre. Here he saw, and was greatly intrigued by, a group of small boys who were playing a game which appeared to be a cross between billiards and "shove halfpenny," on a board. In the Club Headquarters he was shown their prize embroidery, and then relaxed to watch a game of Sepak Raga. After the game, he was shown a dressmaking class in action. There followed the presentation of another set of swings, seesaw and a monkey climb to Mr. Tan, the Community Centre leader. This concluded a tour of almost two hours.

During the afternoon of the same day, "The Signal Inn" (the official designation of our Corporal's Club) was filled to capacity when the Corporals entertained orphan children from the Pasir Panjang Salvation Army Children's Home to a Christmas Party. Sixty-nine small guests turned up to the treat, which the members of the Signal Inn have come to look upon as one of the highlights of their social calendar.

2 p.m. witnessed the arrival of six minibuses (provided by 18th Regiment) full of children, at Calcutta Camp, the home of 263 Squadron (Training). At the latter's cinema they were entertained to an hour's film show and carol singing.

Tea on the Club premises was followed by games and musical entertainment. Rides on the Land Rover "space rocket" proved very popular with their guests.

The party was an unqualified success, thanks to Corporal Evans the P.M.C., Corporal Kynnersley the P.E.C. and his committee and many helpers.

Brunei Award

W.O.II (Y. of S.) J. D. Francis of the 18th Regiment was awarded the M.B.E. in the New Year's Honours List for his outstanding work in Brunei. Yeoman Francis joined the Corps in 1948 at the age of 17½. He was trained as a Special Operator at the then 10 W.T.S. at Loughborough.

Yeoman Francis married in 1954, and his wife has strong Corps connections, having worked at the War Office Receiving Station, Beaumanor.

In January, 1963, he went to Brunei as C.D.S.O. in the Joint Communication Centre, H.Q. Britbor, and it was for his leadership and devotion to duty, coupled with a further spell in Brunei again, last July, that the award of the M.B.E. was made.

Yeoman Francis is a keen Amateur Radio Operator. He holds Morse Certificates for 30 w.p.m. and really enjoys his hobby—in between shift work as a D.S.O. of course! He has now taken up golf but is convinced the balls out here are the wrong shape or the clubs he uses have too much bias to the left. At any rate he has a go!

All ranks of the Royal Signals Group send their congratulations to Yeoman of Signals Francis, **the first Yeoman to be so honoured we believe.** His own words are, "This award is not just for me, but for all those chaps who did their jobs so well under difficult conditions."

Stop Press

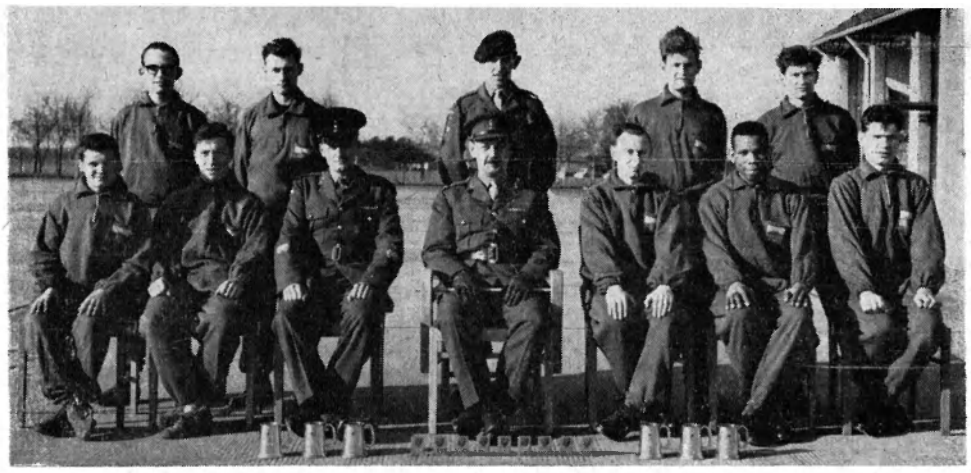
Just as we go to press we have received news of the future commissioning of the following:

W.O.I (R.S.M.) T. Walker of 18th Regiment as Q.M. in June, 1964, and W.O.I (F. of S.) W. G. Davis of C.R. Signals Singapore staff, as T.O.T. in late 1964.

We offer our congratulations to these Warrant Officers for having been approved for appointment to their Commissions.

The Cross-Country Team of 21st Regiment

☆



Private Gray, Craftsman Smith (R.E.M.E.), Signalman Ashby, Signalman Coggin, Lance-Corporal Howard (R.E.M.E.), Signalman Stevenson, Corporal Harrison, W.O.II (R.Q.M.S.) Palmer, Lieutenant-Colonel G. A. Horner, Staff-Sergeant Martin, Signalman Richardson, Signalman Napier

21st REGIMENT B.F.P.O. 43

On 28th January, the officers of the Regiment dined out at the R.A.F. Officers' Mess, Wildenrath, our old C.A.F.S.O., Lieutenant-Colonel J. T. H. Swallow. Also, as guests, we had Group-Captain J. B. Thirlwell, O.B.E., D.F.C., and five R.A.F. Station Signal Officers. It was a most successful and pleasant evening, ably organised by Major Ronnie Bryson. Our new C.A.F.S.O., Colonel B. R. M. Hayles, is in the process of getting firmly in the saddle, and we hope to dine him in shortly.

Sport.—This last month has been most successful on three accounts. Firstly, we won the Rhine Area Minor Units Championship, and so have a place in the B.A.O.R. Semi-Finals on 6th March. This achievement was entirely due to the team from Bruggen, comprising Sergeant Richardson, Corporals Goss, Ghaut and Roberts, Lance-Corporals Butler and Signalman Fish. Secondly, with our Laarbruch team, we won the Rhine Area Minor Units Cross-Country Championship on 15th January at Birgeln, and followed by being B.A.O.R. runners-up for the third year running. This was held at Hubbelrath on 1st February, and although the weather was ideal for cross-country running, conditions underfoot were bad due to heavy rain of a few days previous. The race commenced on a ploughed field and the runners here found a mile of mud, varying in depth from four to ten inches. After the mud, conditions were slightly better, but the runners had to overcome another five miles of hills and valleys. A gruelling race and our team ran well to be runners-up in the Minor Units Division of the race. We congratulate H.Q., 4 Guards Brigade, the winners.

Prominent members of the team are Staff Sergeant Marten, Corporals Harrison, Mathie, Lance-Corporal Howard (L.A.D.), Craftsman Smith (L.A.D.), Private Grey (A.C.C.), Signalman Stevenson, Richardson, Mapur, Goggin and Ashby.

The team is trained by W.O.II (R.Q.M.S.) Palmer, who is largely responsible for the success.

Thirdly, our soccer team, drawn from Laarbruch, won the Rhine Area Minor Units Soccer, and now go forward to the B.A.O.R. Semi-Finals.

Commander-in-Chief's Commendation

On 17th January, 1964, Corporal G. A. Ghaut, in company with three R.A.F. N.C.O.s took his place in front of a full Station Parade at R.A.F., Bruggen, to receive from Group-Captain I. G. Broom, D.S.O., D.F.C., A.F.C., Station Commander, a Commander-in-Chief's Commendation for his outstanding services, both on and off duty. Corporal Ghaut (ex-Army Apprentice School, Harrogate), a Line Technician, has carried out his military and technical duties in an excellent manner, in addition, he has joined in with all R.A.F. Station sporting and social activities. The measure of his rugger ability for the Station can be judged in that a training flight collected him from the U.K. and returned him the following day for one important station fixture. He is also extremely fortunate on the support he has from his wife who, whatever the weather, the time, or place, is there to encourage and cheer him on.

On 2nd February, Corporal E. Middleton was presented with his Commander-in-Chief's Commendation by the Station Commander, Group-Captain J. N. Stacey, O.B.E., D.F.C. The private presentation was due to Corporal Middleton being away on a course when the other presentations were made.

Corporal Middleton has fully earned his commendation of outstanding service to the R.A.F., for there is hardly a social committee on the Station that he is not on or to which he has not given his assistance freely. One time Driver for G.O.C.s, Western Command, he has just won the Regimental Prize for Road Safety, having driven the P.R.I. bus 19,539 miles in 1963 without a single accident and completely trouble free.

The Corps, we are sure, will join the Regiment in congratulating these two up-and-coming N.C.O.s.

Presentation to Corporal Ghaut by Group Captain I. G. Broom, D.S.O., D.F.C., A.F.C.

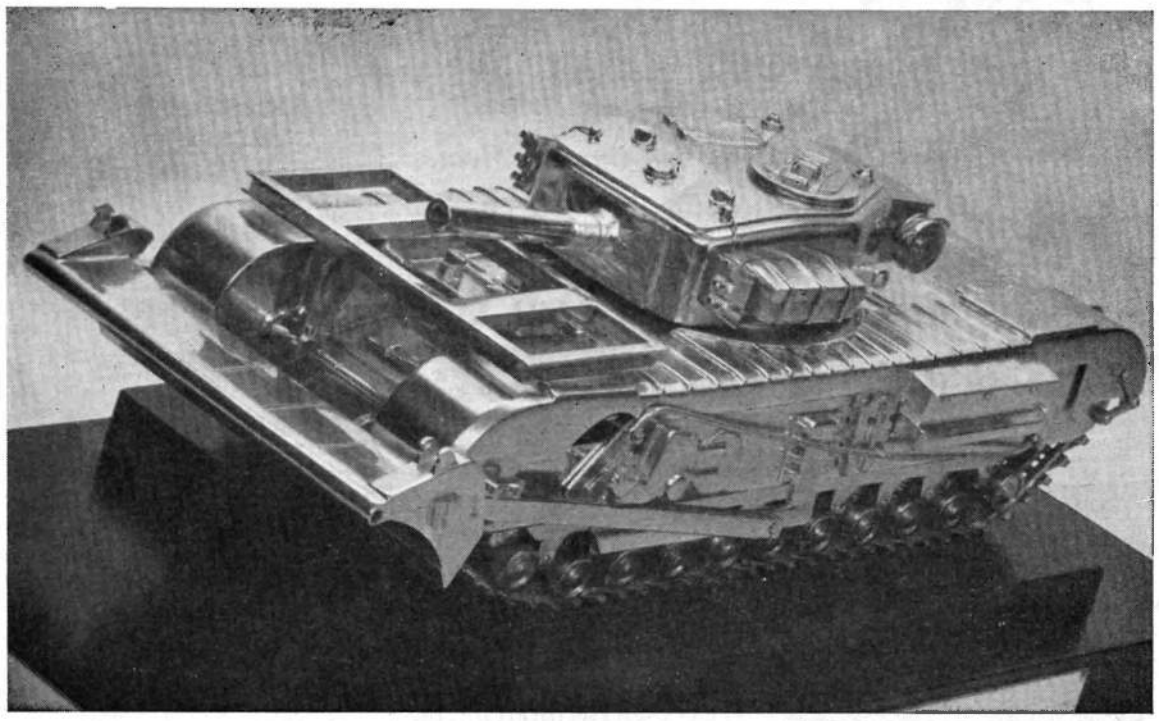


Group Captain J. N. Stacey, O.B.E., D.F.C. and Corporal E. Middleton



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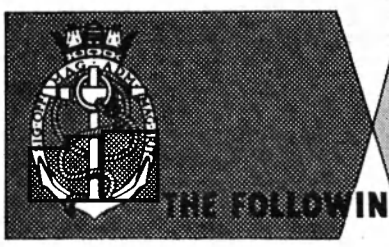


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22nd REGIMENT B.F.P.O. 16

H.Q. Squadron. After the hectic Christmas rush, H.Q. Squadron settled down to normal routine in January. The month was comparatively quiet, except for the "monthly jaunt" out of barracks for 24 hours to shake up the Regimental liver; unfortunately the ground is a bit hard at this time of year for digging.

At the end of the month there was a two-day exercise out of camp, involving all officers and seniors only, in radio communications. This went well until the evening of the second day; everyone knew they were on the last leg (little did they know how right they were), when at a rendezvous at 23.00 hours, the guides in the location were seen to be all drivers. Why were they there? This looked ominous, and we were quite right. At the briefing we were told that all transport was out of action, and those on the exercise, from the C.O. downwards, were going to walk home. So we set off at midnight and arrived back in camp at four in the morning!

I Squadron. This month we welcome to the Squadron Second-Lieutenants R. Boden, R. F. Brooks and N. A. Horler. We had been anticipating their arrival for many months, and the Squadron Commander could hardly believe his eyes when all three reported for duty together. We were most disappointed that the L.A.D. could not produce any branding irons.

The fact that we gained these officers meant we had to lose someone. Lieutenant R. Shiner, Sergeant Lynch and "R" Troop went to 2 Squadron, where we wish them every success.

As the Squadron has been reorganised this year, we have had many Signalmen posted in from the Training Brigade, who are quickly settling down in their first Regiment. Staff Sergeant Cage, however, thinks that the Training Brigade is slipping, as most of them have not heard of the 19 set!

This month "A" Troop had an interesting and valuable exercise, ending at Winterberg. The weather was exceptionally cold, but at least the new operators found out just how cold a rebroadcast site can be in B.A.O.R. in winter.

The Squadron Yeoman, Staff Sergeant Bunston, is having quite a busy time this month with running the AIII - All Telegraph Operators' upgrading course and also organising a visit to Paris for the France v. New Zealand game—or so he says, with a knowing look on his face! (For further details see next month's WIRE notes.

244 Squadron. Did you know that every year the Reconnaissance Squadrons of the N.A.T.O. Air Forces compete with each other in a contest called Exercise "Royal Flush"? Roughly, the idea is that various reconnaissance targets are arranged, and the winners are those who find the most, and who most quickly produce valid information about those targets to the judges. It is in this latter aspect that we, as an A.S.S.U., come into the picture.

Naturally, the best and most accurate information comes in the form of an air photograph, with precise details of where it was taken. But to take the photograph, return to base, have the photograph developed, printed and interpreted takes time, and time in war may mean lost opportunities.

Hence, the pilot is encouraged, in this competition, to make a visual as well as a photographic reconnaissance and, so as to save valuable time, to transmit by radio the results of his visual reconnaissance whilst he is still in the air returning to base. This is called an "In-Flight-Report."

We of the A.S.S.U. are trained to intercept these in-flight-reports and to re-direct them to the appropriate quarters. It is not so easy as it sounds. Modern aircraft travel fast and, on the return journey at least, usually travel low. Thus the UHF or VHF communication link between an aircraft and a fixed ground station is both tenuous and temporary. The pilot's transmission must be taken correctly first time, because there probably will not be a second chance. Add to this the snag that N.A.T.O. pilots speak specialised ariman's English with British, Belgian, Dutch or German accents, and it is apparent that much training is needed before one has a competent and successful ground station for the highly specialised art of in-flight reporting.

In fact, "Royal Flush" this year takes place in early May, but already, in January, our Report Post Detachments are out training with their flying colleagues. We will give you the "Royal Flush" results later. So far, R.A.F. Squadrons which we served have had remarkable success, and we hope to help them keep it up.

Incidentally, the Detachment Commander of the first crew sent out on this form of training this year was Corporal P. O. McGloin, and it is very nice to be able to congratulate him on becoming our junior sergeant. Well done.

28th REGIMENT B.F.P.O. 34

Mini Bus. We have recently received a very generous gift from the Nuffield Trust Fund in the form of a Morris Mini Bus. This bus is intended for use by our Detached Squadron in Belgium.

Backetball. The Regimental Basketball Team had mixed fortunes last season—however they make rather an impressive group photograph which we have pleasure in publishing at the request of the girls of 3 Squadron (W.R.A.C.).

Football. Another good looking bunch of lads is our Regimental Second Team, who are pictured here after recently beating 36 Regiment R.A. 4—1 in the Division IIIB Football League.

That Lot at R.H.Q. We seem to be getting rid of that lot at R.H.Q.! Lieutenant E. J. Neal, W.R.A.C., the Regimental Security Officer, left us a few days ago on posting to Southern Command; Captain P. A. Treseder, the Adjutant (and his little red Fiat!) is at this very moment roaring down the Autobahn



BASKETBALL TEAM

Back row (l. to r.): Corporal Chillery, Corporal King, Lance-Corporal Williams, Corporal Gourlay, Signalman Stratton. *Front row:* Signalman Keegan, Sergeant Thurlow, C.S.M.I. Issit, R. (A.P.T.C.)



FOOTBALL 2nd XI

Back row (l. to r.): Signalmen Shea, Tempest, Mapletoft, Davies and Williams. *Front row:* Signalmen Kerr, Anderson, Diable, Ivatt, Jones and Baines

(*Continued on page* 108)



Corporal Amess pulls a cracker with a young guest of "The Signal Inn".

en route for 3 H.Q. and Signal Regiment, and W.O.II (O.R.Q.M.S.) K. Beadle leaves us shortly for H.Q., A.F.N.E., in Norway (there is no truth in the rumour that he has an uncle at Royal Signals Records!). We next lose Captain W. R. Mayne, the Training Officer—Malta-bound in March, and finally the Colonel, Lieutenant-Colonel W. D. S. Renton, who hands over command in May. We appear to be keeping the Second-in-Command (Major P. D. Parker) and the Technical Adjutant (Major S. A. Bristow) for a little longer.

Congratulations to Lieutenant E. J. Neal, W.R.A.C., W.O.II (S.C.S.) H. F. Birrell and Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) M. C. Foulds on recently being awarded the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.

30th REGIMENT

Winter in Blandford this year has been such a change from last year and all the emergency snow clearing parties are now sunbathing. It is feared however that there is worse weather to come and the sailing fraternity of the Regiment are hoping the Force 8 gales will soon abate.

On 9th January the Regiment was visited by the Signal Officer-in-Chief who spent the day inspecting the Regiment at work. He visited, amongst others, the Blandford Pro ect Staff who were able to show that one day the School of Signals will be moving to Blandford!

The following week on 15th January the inaugural meeting of the Blandford Branch of the Royal Signals Institution was held in the Regiment. There was a large, encouraging and enthusiastic attendance to listen to a lecture on "Some aspects of design of H.F. and V.H.F. equipment given by two S.R.D E. designers from Christchurch. After the lecture all present were invited to the Officers' Mess for a buffet. This was a very enjoyable and educational evening and we look forward to many more like this.

The Regiment, less 3 Squadron who were demonstrating in Catterick, moved to Camberley to give a demonstration of Signals equipment to the Staff College during the third week in January. The photograph shows members of 640 Troop demonstrating some equipment.



Sergeant Drugan, Signalman Lyon, Lance-corporal Pentland, all of 640 Troop demonstrating equipment to the Staff College, Camberley

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RETIRED OFFICER APPOINTMENTS

A vacancy will shortly occur on the staff of Brigadier J. E. Anderson, C.B.E., Chief Signal Officer, H.Q., B.A.O.R., for a retired officer to fill the appointment of an R.O.III to deal with Training, Visits and Royal Signals domestic matters.

This appointment carried a salary of £1,157, plus LOA £515 p.a., rent free quarters, free fuel and light up to a generous ceiling and many other "perks"—cheap petrol, cigarettes and spirits, no motor tax.

For further details write to C.S.O., H.Q., B.A.O.R., B.F.P.O. 40.

210 SQUADRON, B.F.P.O. 10

Our last notes contained a sentence—quote we look forward to excitement and enjoyment in 1964 unquote. Already before January is out Zanzibar, Tanganyika, Uganda and, to a lesser degree, Kenya have all "blown" to quote a recently popular all embracing expression.

To the enjoyment of the living-in soldiers we have spent some time at immediate notice for operations during which all the "pads" lived in. The continued state of readiness has caused our Squadron reorganisation programme to be somewhat disrupted. Having become an air-portable Signal Squadron late last year we have now persuaded our Brigade H.Q. Company to relieve us of some of our administrative burdens.

As a result of the recent internal security "flaps" we have had radio detachments deployed rapidly in and around Nairobi. Corporal Barber and his crew are the only ones to go far afield. They flew to Uganda to operate a rear link for 1 Staffords —the Staffords Signal Troop, in toto, being afloat off Zanzibar with a detached Company of the Battalion.

All our C.11 detachments are "bombed up" (to quote O.C. "A" Troop) to meet any eventuality. Some are vehicle mounted and some are boxed to fly. Our new specially designed C.11 boxes make the change from vehicle mounted sets to "flyout" ground stations a relatively easy procedure.

The Signal Centre is coping under the pressure and the sight of a routine message is something quite rare. As can be imagined the cipher office is not short of work either.

As a result of this state of readiness and deployment our sport has suffered somewhat. However, we, at the time of writing, are the only unbeaten team in the hockey league. Captain Hartnett (as skipper), Lieutenant McLuckie and Corporal Fowler have again been representing combined Services East Africa. The soccer team continues to do itself justice against giants and recently, our star, Signalman O'Donnell was presented with his East Africa Combined Services Colours. Training is the keynote in the rugger team's activities. Their season starts in March.

245 SQUADRON, B.F.P.O. 55

With summer on the wane and Autumn just round the corner we find that in this part of the world the pattern is just the same, whether you live east or west of Suez. The work schedule goes up with a bang.

Not unexpectedly, Lieutenant (T.O.T.) Les Churchill descended upon us at the end of September with a team of technicians from Malta with the express task of increasing the

capabilities of the Sigcen, technically. We knew then that Exercise "Westex" was upon us with a vengeance.

Our staff during this period was supplemented by reinforcements from 30th Regiment and 3rd Regiment; all seemed to dovetail in very well on work potential, although we were rather bursting at the seams in respect of accommodation.

Sport was not allowed to lapse during this period. Gradually we have built up our prestige in the sports world, "last season's soccer players please note." We are now second from the top of the District League and with a bit of luck may well finish at the top, now that our S.S.M. W.O.II Thornton has got his second wind. It is difficult to select individuals but mention must be made of Lance-Corporal Longstaff who plays in the Unit soccer team and has also represented the District team at Rugby, together with Corporal Stacey and Signalman Hall.

252 SQUADRON, B.F.P.O. 1

HAVING almost recovered from the traditional British Christmas and New Year festivities, Chinese New Year is upon us. The New Chinese Year (the Year of the Dragon) is a lucky one for our Chinese soldiers, as they have recently had a much-deserved rise in pay and will all be drawing several hundred dollars back pay before the celebrations start in earnest.

A very successful dance was held for the H.K.O.R.s on Saturday, 1st February, and this will be followed by the traditional Chow Party on 8th February, and children's party on 5th February, which will include a performance of a Lion Dance and Chinese boxing.

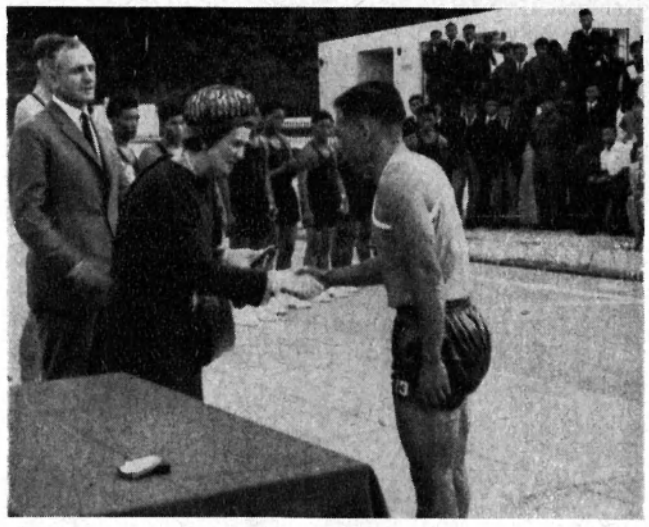
The Year of the Dragon has only 12, and not 13 months, and according to Chinese custom it is unlucky to marry this year. The number of marriages amongst H.K.O.R.s has been well above average during the last few months because of this, but we feel that this superstition will do nothing to deter our W.R.A.C. from continuing to marry off, as in the past. Our best wishes go to Corporal McGinn, Royal Signals, now serving in U.K. and his wife (formerly Private Guest, W.R.A.C.) who were married in November, and Private Crown and his wife (formerly Private Smith, W.R.A.C.) who were married in January and are still serving in Hong Kong.

Although the Squadron has not succeeded in making much headway with football or hockey this season, we have produced the majority of the Royal Signals cricket XI, and our basketball team have emerged as champions of the Headquarters Land Forces Minor Units Competition for the third year running. They also narrowly missed winning the Land Forces Knockout Competition, only being beaten by 2/2 G.R. by 86 points to 72 in the final in an extremely exciting game. The victors fielded their Adjutant who, at a height of 6ft. 8in., had a distinct advantage and was responsible for the majority of their baskets. S.S.M. Chin Ten Loy added further laurels to his name by gaining second place in the Land Forces



BASKET BALL TEAM

Left to right. Rear: Signalmen Fu Wing Fong, Ng Yui Cheung, Wong Pak Keung Chen Kwok Bun, Lee Ah Wah. *Front row:* W.O.II Chin Ten Loy, W.O.II (S.S.M.) Curley, Major A. A. G. Anderson, Staff-Sergeant (F. of S.) Wood, P. C., Lance-Corporal Pang Fu Wah. *Sitting:* Signalmen Au Chung Yui, Chan Wing Kwong



S.S.M. Chin Ten Loy receiving a statuette from Lady Craddock after the match against 2/2 GR

Tetrathlon Competition, being the only competitor to gain over 3,000 points besides the winner. Our two teams were outmatched by the very strong competition of the Queen's Surreys and D.L.I., but nevertheless, put up a very creditable performance, particularly in shooting and fencing.

The amalgamation of the 252 and 253 Squadrons' Sailing Clubs has now been completed and was preceded by an extremely successful week's course at Sai Kun, where 20 aspirants were taught how to handle all our craft, from the speedboat with a 75 h.p. engine and 30ft. junk to Heron dinghies. We hope that seven or eight of those who attended will gain their local master's certificates shortly. Several of our H.K.O.R.s are now members, including S.S.M. Chin Ten Loy and Signalman Lee Kwok Hung, who has already obtained his local master's certificate.

The Squadron Wives' Club has risen phoenix-like from the ashes and has held two meetings already. They have an ambitious programme, taking them right up to the hot weather, and we are lucky in having an extremely keen committee to keep things on the boil. The husbands of the ladies concerned sometimes look a trifle worried nowadays, as talks by experts on such items as jade, pearls and fur coats are popular items.

W.O.I (F. of S.) De Witt has nearly completed preparations for the opening of the Squadron Amateur Radio Club—so Hams please listen out for station VS 6 AJ. Radio operators and technicians who may be posted here in the future will also be glad to hear that the Colony's 19 sets (which until now have spent most of their lives on Maintenance Troop benches) are at last being returned to Ordnance.

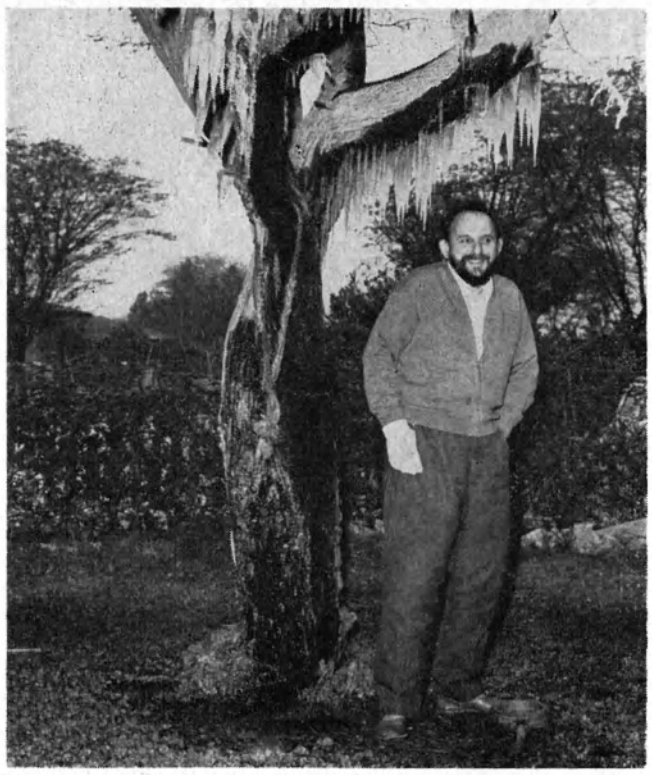
In closing we would like to wish all past members of the Squadron *"Kun Hai Fat Choi."*

255 SQUADRON, B.F.P.O. 63

It All Depends as the late Professor Joad would have said, on what you mean by "the first such peacetime organisation." When we so described THAT COMCEN last July we meant an organisation planned and built in peacetime for the day-to-day business of communicating. We had no wish to detract from the excellent work done in Brunei or on H.M.S. "Meon"—or for that matter by our own organisation which, with R.A.F. assistance, had been operating for more than two years previous to the opening of the Bahrain Joint Comcen.

Jobs for the Boys in this Squadron can be as humdrum as any, but some at least have their moments. Corporal W. J. Moorhead, for instance, who last summer was attached to a Beach Survey Team on the Batina Coast and proved a claim for plain clothes allowance for wearing nothing but bathing trunks for six weeks. Or Corporal W. S. Hamilton, ostensibly on loan to the Sultans Armed Forces Signal Troop, but who returned an experienced air despatcher; Corporal P. Jeffery, the only man we know to have accepted a genuine phonogram, the text of which started "your Majesty comma" (no, it was not to the Queen), or Signalman S. I. MacDonald who sailed

Problem picture or . . .



The day it froze in Bahrain *(See below)*

the Pirate Coast with his C11 as the Radio Operator on the Ramped Powered Lighter *Hamble,* a Sapper-operated craft whose own radio had not yet arrived (and we seem to have heard that sort of tale before). (*Oh! If only we could have had some of these stories for* THE WIRE.—*Ed.*)

Dates loom large in the minds of some soldiers, but not quite as they did in the minds of some of Field Troop and Squadron Headquarters recently when having been landed on a beach near Muscat to take part in an exercise they found on their return that the surf was too rough for re-embarkation, the next day's rations were abroad and there was a possibility that dates (edible) might form their staple diet for a day or so. In the end all was well, and they had a most interesting task in an impressive exercise involving both an airborne and seaborne landing—a rare incident these days.

Bloody January Again offered no improvement on December. Contrary to popular belief, it is not always stinking hot in the Gulf all the time. After the coldest Christmas for years, we had most of our annual ration of three inches of rain in the first week of the new year. This was smartly followed by a Force 11 storm (which kept some of the aforementioned exercisers at sea for longer than they care to remember), and then THE DAY IT FROZE. On this occasion, the first time ever recorded on the island, an Awali resident who accidently left his lawn sprinkler on overnight, found a tree in his garden covered by icicles the following morning. Our local met. officer, who used to do forecasts on B.B.C. TV, cautiously warned us that "we can expect relatively cold weather for the remainder of the winter." Meanwhile, we soldier on in KD—and pullovers, of course.

DOWN 257 SQUADRON WAY

Some Matters Pertinent . . .
. . . And Some Impertinent!

BY CORPORAL R. WYDELL

So after O.C.'s Orders he got me into his office and says, "And now you can write up some notes for "The Wire." Summoning up all my courage I says with all the dignity I can muster, "You can't be punished twice for the same offence." So he fixes me with his beady eye and says, "Of course you can't but get on with the notes; write them, type them up and send them off." So I said, "Why do we want 'Wire' notes, and anyway I don't know how to write." "Look," he says, "We haven't had anything in the 'Wire' for years. Last April we were buying six copies a month, now we get forty-eight. That's a big increase and we want to make sure we get our money's worth. So get on with it now unless you want to be permanent correspondent—their man in Dortmund."

. . . . So I quickly scarpers, digs out some back numbers of THE WIRE, and even quicker finds out what a desperate task he's landed me with. Here we are in Dortmund with a gunner regiment, the 27th, just an ordinary lot of blokes, with no experts or gladiators, no champion football team, no one who represents the Army or even the Garrison. Every Unit writing to THE WIRE is champion of something, he's just won the Alderham Patrol Race or Cricket Cup or twiddlewinks or something. We have nothing except an odd Rugby Cup and Tug-of-War Shield. Nobody has done nothing except McGerty and Spencer who were second in the Brigade S.M.C. Shoot; Ellis and Crook were runners up in the Brigade L.M.G. and then F.O.S. Walmsley, Barraclough, Crabtree and Saunders were fourth in the overall shoot. Of course we never fail to supply our C41 and 53 set communications and that's what we're here for. So to fill up the space I thought a bit of Squadron history would fit the bill, so here goes:—

It all began at the War Office I suppose, in 1958, when some poor misguided fool decided that the newly formed Guided Weapons Regiment needed a troop of Royal Signals to deal with their communications. The Regiment was scattered all over the country; due to the lack of accommodation, the Signals Troop being with regimental headquarters at Oswestry. So the wheels started turning and in due course myself and a friend by the name of Wood (nicknamed "Woody" funnily enough!) found ourselves in that fair town.

Oswestry, population sixty thousand, situated nine miles from the Welsh border in the county of Shropshire. Even British Railways couldn't find it! But the Army trains a man for such an emergency and without really trying we arrived only two days late. The name 'Oswestry' had fed our imaginations with visions of embarkation leave, then, palm trees, hula girls and 'knocking off' for the day at lunch time. The anti-climax of discovering the place was not only in England but quite near Wales, was compensated for by the obvious lack of 'bull.' No whitewashed guardroom, just a shack with a hole in the window. Not a sign of any R.S.M.'s 'monkey,' the Regimental Police—we found out later they were playing poker with the prisoners. Things were looking up!

Army Paradise . . . .

The Signals Troop consisted of forty-two men, equipped with three sets. We completed the establishment and what an establishment! Never have so many "crooks, wolves, louts and layabouts" been concentrated into one building before! The roll was called at the Y.M.C.A. every morning; it was the only sure way of getting a decent percentage on parade, and then they made 'Castro's Army' look like the 'Coldstream Guards.' However, now that the Troop was at full strength we expected training to begin in earnest, but apart from one terrible Sunday morning when we were dragged from our beds to find to our utter amazement that there really was life before 8 a.m. and to learn the art of driving cross-country in four feet of snow, we carried on the darts tournament.

As was the Regiment's custom at that time—we hit panic stations with the news: "Germany next month," every six months and each time some mother's son forgot the tickets. But in March, 1960, we did move, by road, but, unable to find the sea, we found the next best thing. As luck would have it this 'public house' was situated by empty barracks in Crookham—so we moved in, settled down and promptly forgot the mess of broken hearts and perambulators the Troop had left in grief-stricken Oswestry.

By this time the Troop had changed through that beloved medium 'demob.' Training continued with our wireless boys offering a choice between headquarters and Luxembourg. The vehicles stayed very often on the right side of the road and the men resigned themselves to boots and gaiters. The sun shone like a week's leave until the fatal day the Radio Relay Troop arrived, and 257 Squadron was on the map. They never wanted to come and we didn't exactly fall over ourselves to welcome them. More men meant more senior ranks and that spelt trouble in any language, but we soon found we had a mutual friend, a glorious, intoxicating fluid made from 'wops' or something and all ill-will was washed—and I mean, washed away.

' Heavy Responsibilities '

In March, 1961, after much packing, cleaning, cursing and waving goodbye we managed to catch a boat going our way—to Germany, where thousands of the fools drive on the wrong side of the road, and next to Elvis Presley, some fella named 'Morgan' seems to be top dog, everyone talks about him, anyway! As part of the NATO force in Germany we have heavy responsibilities. Our first to ensure the happiness of the local yokels by going the other way—this makes them very happy! The second to maintain the prosperity of NAAFI and hope some day their research department can discover sugar before it comes old-fashioned! We also have an obligation to supply our own R.E.M.E. workshops with a steady stream of vehicles and generators, for repair They get quite bashful about pay they haven't earned and sometimes refuse it altogether! Through all this, the Squadron has somehow managed to retain the talent required to teach the rest of the Regiment the basic arts of sport and leisure, from cricket to crib, from football to fishing, and back again while still holding the immortal title of "First in the NAAFI queue."

This is 257.

638 TROOP

Once again we put pen to paper. Nearly a year has passed since our last report, and since then the Troop has travelled quite a few miles and had the usual, and sometimes unusual, run of exercises.

Being a Line Troop, and therefore crafty rather than intelligent, we prefer to let you see what we do rather than write too much.

Our principal exercises have involved working both with 3rd Division and 16 Parachute Brigade Group. Highlights of various exercises, very briefly:

Exercise "Lifeline," Salisbury Plain—Muddy!
Exercise "Reef Knot," Otterburn—Windy!
Exercise "July Handicap," Salisbury Plain—Interesting!
Exercise "Triplex West," Libya—Dusty!

The Troop's versatility was exercised to the full in these exercises. We have provided our normal air formation communications, control communications and, on one exercise we became civil post and telephones for 19 Brigade in Exercise "July Handicap."

This proved to be a useful exercise for all concerned, since the local insurgents were real! 43 Commando, Royal Marines, to be exact Poles and lines were not just cut, they were genuinely slashed to bits. Jusef El Ibrahim (alias Corporal Fuller) was arrested twice before the R.M.P. got to know his face. Many internal security lessons must have been learnt on that exercise!

By far our biggest exercise was the joint exercise in Libya, "Triplex West"; in this we worked alongside our "big brothers," 3 H.Q. Signal Regiment at the Joint H.Q., and also had very close contact with 14 Signal Troop (A.F.), the local residents of El Adem.

Their perimeter cable must be elastic! They always managed to find an extra pair from somewhere. Our forward airfield detachment have their own report.

We were pleased to have with us, for his fornight's training, Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Williams, 81st Regiment (A.E.R.), being unable to train with his unit last year, he was attached to the Troop for his annual training If his parting comment was anything to go by, he must have enjoyed himself—we hope so. "By! We supped some ale last night!"

When 38 Group takes part in the various Staff College displays, etc., we usually end up with an air portable line detachment slung beneath a Belvedere; in fact on one visit we ended up as assaulting infanteers; somehow, also, we were involved in building a prototype bridge (the O.C. just can't say NO! except, of course, to leave passes).



"Fighting patrol!" Staff Colleges Demonstration



"Early one morning—just as the sun was rising!" On Exercise July Handicap, Chief Chef, Corporal Thorne; taster, Lance-Corporal Thoburn; Supervisor Signalman Evans

When not committed on training or exercises, the Troop has a secondary role of assistance to other Air Formation units when required. One detachment spent four weeks in February last year with 222 Squadron (A.F.) at Khormaksar, helping with the new subscriber distribution system and, more recently, Sergeant King and ten linemen spent five weeks in Cyprus with 261 Squadron (A.F.).

We have also given birth to a specialist coaxial cable jointing team—Corporal Fuller and Corporal Tetley—who have received training with Messrs. Standard Telephones and Cable Ltd., and they now form part of an installation team from R.A.F. Signals Command. They have just finished their first task in Gibraltar.

47th REGIMENT (T.A.)
MIDDLESEX YEOMANRY
(The Duke of Cambridge's Hussars)

Wealdstone—We're In! A Community Relations project in concept, "Recruiter I," carried out on 9th February, was part of a Public Relations programme designed to launch the Middlesex Yeomanry in the Wealdstone area of Middlesex, where we have just taken over a T.A. Centre (Captain D. Reade, commanding).

"Put 'em in the picture if you want their co-operation!" a P.R. tenet that was uppermost in every mind when a Special Op's Squadron of some 125 men (comprising elements from the entire Regiment and led by Captain F. Ruthven, swept through the Wealdstone area, distributing 10,000 Regimental Information Leaflets in a house-to-house campaign.

In addition to the mutual understanding that was created between the Middlesex Yeomanry and the local community (the only objective at this phase of the programme) we also signed on six new recruits, with several "prospects" in the offing.

At no time do we ever forget what we are in business for and so throughout the Operation, radio communication was maintained between the Fighting Patrols, Sector Control and Operations Control at the T.A. Centre.

It's That Band Again! Yes!—they were in it! and what's more, they were there to see it! — for the Band playing in the new Norman Wisdom film "A Stitch in Time," was that of the Middlesex Yeomanry. Yet another success that the Bandmaster (W O.I Tamplin) and Drum Major (Staff Sergeant Miller) can chalk up.

Following its general release, the film was due to appear at the Granada Cinema, Harrow, which lies in the Recruiting area of our new T.A. Centre at Wealdstone—a fact that was not lost on our Public Relations Team. A P.R. project was quickly organised in conjunction with the "Granada's" management and so prior to the film being shown on Monday, 30th December, the Middlesex Yeomanry Band gave a short performance in the cinema, during the course of which Captain Reade's men from Wealdstone distributed Regimental Information Leaflets to a packed house, which applauded the Band's performance with real gusto.



The C.O. (Lieutenant-Colonel S. J. Williams, M.B.E., T.D.) with one of "The Babes in Toyland"!

Babes in Toyland. For just a few hours on 4th January, our Chelsea Drill Hall was transformed! — the grim starkness and sound of marching feet was almost magically replaced by bright lights, decorations, swings, see-saws and side-shows, plus the laughter and yells of a hundred children, it had become a child's world—Toyland!

Once again the theme of our annual Regimental Children's Party, "Toyland," was epitomised by the decor and programme that had been laid on under the direction of the R.S.M. W.O.I M. J. Giles.

We could have danced all night! We didn't, because the Dance had to finish by midnight! but that expressed the general feeling of all present at our annual Regimental Dance and Prizegiving held at R H.Q. Chelsea, on the 14th December.

Under the direction of Major T. D. W. Woodgate, T.D., the Dance went with a swing from the start, only stopped by the intermission for the prizegiving.

With some thirty prizes and trophies annually open to competition, no one can say there is any lack of incentive to effort in the Regiment and it was with just pride that the winners received their awards from Mrs. S. J. Williams, wife of our Commanding Officer.

Personal Column. Congratulations to Staff Sergeant G. Gray on being awarded the British Empire Medal (B.E.M.) in the Queen's New Year Honours List.

Congratulations to Captain and Mrs. J. A. Capewell, on the birth of a daughter, Anne Louise, on the 15th January.

51 (H) REGIMENT (T.A.)

When the Regiment last featured in these pages, the much-heralded 51st Highland Divisional Reunion was still to come. Now it seems a long time since that gathering, but no so long as to dim the recollection of those who attended. The North Inch of Perth was the scene, on 5th October, of a historic occasion, and in perfect weather, a crowd which during the afternoon reached 20,000, saw military activities and competitions of many kinds. Our Regimental Team won the Signalling Competition by a very convincing margin. As it was supervised by our own officers, we were afraid of accusations of favouritism: still more were we afraid of the utter disgrace and humiliation if the Infantry or one of the other arms defeated us. We need not have worried, for (dare we say it?) none of the other competing teams came within twenty minutes of our time for the competition. The Regiment was eighth out of 24 units competing for the Divisional Cup.

Shortly before the reunion took place, we had a visit in certain of our Regimental areas from the K.A.P.E. Team. In Aberdeen, members of 1 Squadron helped to man a Signals Display, and whether, due to the efforts of the K.A.P.E. Team (in very disagreeable weather), or to an advertising campaign we were running at the same time, the Squadron's recruiting figures leaped upwards immediately after. Things have quietened down quite a bit since then, but new faces still appear, and the autumn influx has greatly strengthened the Squadron. This is particularly so of W.R.A.C., an impressive recruit squad having recently passed-out, following basic training.

The Regiment was saddened to learn of the death of ex-R.S.M. Craig, who gave stalwart service as R.S.M. and later as a T.A. Staff Sergeant. Fuller tribute to him is paid elsewhere in this issue, but we would here record our keen sense of loss. He was big in every way, and not least in his kindly, genial nature, which won him many friends in the Regiment, and, indeed, in Aberdeen, which became his second home.

Our congratulations go to Lieutenant-Colonel J. H. Moonie, M.M., T.D., formerly our Second-in-Command, who has emerged from retirement to take up the appointment of Deputy Commandant of the Scottish North Eastern Area Army Cadet Force. His many friends in the Corps will join us in congratulating him on this appointment and his consequent promotion. He has been soldiering now, one way and another, since 1935, and looks like going on for ever—and the Cadets will have much to thank him for, as he draws, for their benefit, on the vast experience accumulated over the years.

65th REGIMENT T.A.

Exercise "Rose Bloom." The Regiment recently held an airborne exercise in B.A.O.R.

A detachment composed of both paratroops and base personnel flew from R.A.F. Benson to R.A.F. Gutersloh on a Friday afternoon. On arrival all were given a hot meal by the Air Movements Centre, and the base party departed for 22nd Regiment by road.

The parachutists climbed back into the aircraft and made a night descent over the Sennelager Training Area. The drop passed without incident and everyone moved off the DZ in small sticks, each stick having been allocated its tasks and R.V.s for couriers.

The only snag to smooth running was the presence in the area of a keen and ruthless enemy provided by 22nd Regiment.

At dawn on Saturday each stick and the base party successfully established communications to the U.K.

The exercise finished on Sunday and our enemy had not only found our final R.V. but very kindly laid on a hot meal for us at the R.V.

After the meal we all returned to Lippstadt for an excellent evening's entertainment, arranged by our hosts, who proved to be the most hospitable enemy we have ever met. Our thanks to every member of 22nd Regiment for the numerous ways in which they put themselves out on our behalf.

Recruiting. Last year we were fortunate in being able to spend less time in recruiting than in previous years. Mainly because there was no Radio Show. Our Stand at Earls Court as can be imagined resulted in a great drain on manpower. However, as any T.A. Regiment knows it cannot exist without recruiting, and great efforts have been made by R.S.M. F. Stockdale, B.E.M., and other P.S.I.s. We manned a Stand outside the Royal Exchange for one week. **One visitor, who introduced himself, Field Marshal Sir Gerald Templer, spent a very interested twenty minutes 'grilling' the R.S.M., and commented very favourably on our efforts.** We exhibited at the Amateur Radio Show of Great Britain held in the Seymour Hall. Displays were also arranged in the Church of St. Michael, Shoreditch, for the Industrial Harvest Thanksgiving, in shop windows in Moorgate and for the Lord Mayor's Procession.

A recruiting fortnight was held in Edenbridge, Kent, by 3 Squadron and the Regiment manned the display at the Royal Tournament on behalf of the Corps. For all this we still require more people and are convinced that the real recruiters in the Regiment are the members themselves. With this in mind we are arranging several open nights when friends may be welcomed and shown the 65th Regiment at work.

W.R.A.C. Changes have recently taken place in the W.R.A.C. orbit of the Regiment.

We recently lost Captain M. L. Minkin, W.R.A.C., to the W.R.A.C. School of Instruction at Hindhead and Major C. H. M. Milner, O.B.E., W.R.A.C. (T.A.), has retired after many years of service to the Regiment, both are missed by all. We welcome Major S. W. Foley, W.R.A.C., from Cyprus.

Regular Recruiting. We cannot close without mentioning our contribution to regular recruiting in the last quarter.

Lieutenant Nigel Kenny, our Paymaster, has departed for regular service with R.A.P.C. and Lieutenant Peter Crane leaves us on Thursday for regular service with the Corps. Private Barbara Mahon has been granted an officer cadetship in the Women's Royal Air Force. Sergeant Whitbread, Signalmen Atherton, Atkinson, Macey and McCabe have also departed for regular service in Royal Signals.

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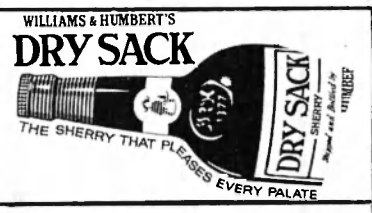
Trust Bill to do something about it. I like a glass of beer with a sandwich to be going on with. Next year I'm giving up birthdays. But I'm enjoying this one.

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The Lord Mayor's Procession 1963. This year in keeping with our other efforts to help the T.A. and in particular our Regiment remain in the public eye, we manned a float in the Lord Mayor's procession. The annual event was blessed with reasonable weather which not only helped us but encouraged large numbers of the general public to be present. Our float, constructed on a three-ton truck, displayed many types of signalling equipment. The float was manned by three young ladies of the Regiment—Corporal Barbara Stockdale, Private Pat Barnes and Private Christine Tennet (whose charming smiles should give our recruiting figures a boost) and by several male members of the Regiment.

The salute was taken on the outward journey at the Mansion House by the Lord Mayor The Right Honourable Alderman C. James Harman, who afterwards joined the procession and led it via Saint Paul's and Fleet Street to the Royal Courts of Justice. The return journey to the Mansion House was made via the Embankment.

"WE WILL GO ON TO BETTER THINGS YET" SAY 66th (ULSTER) REGIMENT (T.A.)

January, 1964, will not easily be forgotten in the Regiment. After the festivities of the Christmas season celebrated by an Officers' Mess Ball, a Ball organised by the Sergeants' Mess and a party for the children of the members of the Unit, January brought more ceremonial occasions but this time tinged with regret.

At a Dining Out early in January the Officers' Mess said farewell to its two senior officers—Lieutenant-Colonel J. F. H. Pearcey, M.B.E., T.D., and Major J. Richards. Lieutenant-Colonel Pearcey retired at the end of January, having reached the age limit. So ends the first chapter in the history of the Regiment for Lieutenant-Colonel Pearcey commanded the Regiment since its formation in 1961 and had been associated with the Signal Squadron which formed the nucleus of the Regiment since before the last war. We are grateful to him for all he has done for the Regiment and wish him many happy years of retirement. We were glad to welcome his successor, Lieutenant-Colonel J. R. Hamer, a regular officer, who comes to us on promotion from Singapore via the War Office.

Major J. Richards had been Training Major with us for only two years but had so quickly made a niche for himself that his retirement from the Army after nearly 30 years service left a considerable gap in the life of the Regiment—a gap which Captain J. Williams is filling admirably.

The changes have not yet ended. While we were glad that others shared our high opinion of R.S.M. Jones and delighted that he is to be commissioned, a third change in personnel will soon overtake us. We hope that the changes will end when R.Q.M.S. Walker leaves shortly for posting to the Middle East.

We believe that the Regiment will go on to better things yet—a hope obviously shared by others, for recruits are streaming in.

Association Notes

Aldershot Branch. The annual dinner of the Branch will be held at the Masonic Hall, Farnborough, Hants, on Saturday, May 2nd, 1964. All applications for tickets to A. V. Isnt, 111, Gloucester Road, Aldershot, Hants. Tel.: Aldershot 23658.

Chester Branch Touch New Records

The 18th annual dinner and dance of the above Association was held at the Crosville Restaurant, Sealand Road, on Friday, 31st January.

Members and their wives and friends to a total of 135 sat down to a splendid dinner. The toasts, to Her Majesty The Queen and the H.R.H. The Princess Royal, Colonel-in-Chief, Royal Signals, were proposed by E. C. Lavis-Jones, Esq. (President) and P. Haigh, Esq. (Vice-Chairman) respectively.

The Hon. Secretary, Captain R. D. Hardy, in proposing the toast of the Royal Signals Association, gave a resume of the Branch social and other activities during 1963, which showed that the Branch was a very lively and active Branch. As a point of interest, he introduced the V.I.P.s of the top table, among whom were the present Chief Signal Officer, Western Command, Colonel J. D. T. Brett, O.B.E., and Mrs. Brett, his three staff officers and the Chief Clerk, each accompanied by their wives. Also on the top table was Colonel G. H. Starr and Mrs. Starr, Vice-President of the Branch and lately Chief Signal Officer. Captain Hardy thanked Colonel Starr for his support of the Branch during the past two years, and in wishing him the best of luck in his new appointment, hoped that whenever he passed through Chester he would always be welcomed. The hopes for a long and happy stay to the new C.S.O. and his wife were also expressed.

In replying to the toast, Colonel Starr gave details of the work of the Association generally, emphasising that during 1963 over 2,000 Life Members had been enrolled and that the donations to the Corps Benevolent Fund for the year was a record.

He thanked the members for their good wishes and said how much he and his wife had enjoyed their company at social gatherings and he looked forward to a return to Chester and renewing old friendships.

The Chairman, Mr. R. Hinge, proposed the toast to the guests; this was replied to by Mr. S. M. Pointon, who had travelled from London to be at the dinner. During his remarks Syd Pointon asked the assembled company if they would sing an old favourite of his "Cwm Rhondda," in order that he could carry away the happy memories of this evening. This was done with great gusto.

Dinner being over, the hall was cleared at approximately 9.30, the tables being conveniently placed round the side so that members and their parties could be together for the dancing and games that followed until 1 a.m.

The climax to the evening came when everyone formed up and the Grand March followed to the tune of "Begone Dull Care," the Regimental March, then, after a cup of hot soup, the evening came to an end. It was voted as being one of the best annual dinners ever held, and the thanks were due mainly to Mr. R. Thurling and his committee who arranged the dinner, Mr. Faircloth who was M.C., and Mr. A. Jones and his wife, who looked after the bar.

Royal Signals Association and Benevolent Fund

The following subscriptions were most gratefully received during January, 1964:—

	£	s.	d.
8th Regiment	30	0	0
24th Regiment (Officers' Mess)	1	5	0
Army Apprentices School	4	14	6
3rd Regiment	3	2	3
14th Regiment (1 Squadron	10	0	0
14th Regiment (2 Squadron)	3	18	0
14th Regiment (3 Squadron)	4	5	6
30th Regiment	15	0	0
209 Squadron	5	5	0
216 Squadron	3	0	6
243 Squadron	1	11	6
638 Troop	3	0	0
Junior Leaders Regiment	6	6	0
M.E.S./S.R.D.E.		6	0
Signals Wing, R.M.A. Sandhurst	1	4	6
43rd Regiment T.A.		15	0
57th Regiment T.A.	1	5	0
63rd Regiment T.A.		9	0
325 Squadron T.A.		10	6
327 Squadron T.A.		3	0
605 Troop	6	0	0
41st Regiment T.A. (2 Squadron)	2	3	6
47th Regiment (Middlesex Yeomanry) T.A. ("B" Squadron)	4	4	7
1st Regiment	50	16	10
4th Regiment	9	0	0
16th Regiment	14	16	6
21st Regiment	80	0	0
28th Regiment	100	0	0
28th Regiment (Warrant Officers and Sergeants)	10	0	0
28th Regiment (Wives' Club)	20	0	0
H.Q. MIDEAST Staff	2	0	0
222 Squadron	2	10	0
262 Squadron	10	0	0
Individual subscriptions	5	15	0
Receipts	£413	7	8
Expenditure during January, 1964 (Includes:—Rent and Rates; Beds and Bedding; Furniture; Cots and Prams; General Assistance).	£534	11	6

Analysis of Cases:—

Families of Soldiers serving in U.K.	1
Released and Discharged Soldiers	43
Widows and Dependants	5
Total cases assisted	49

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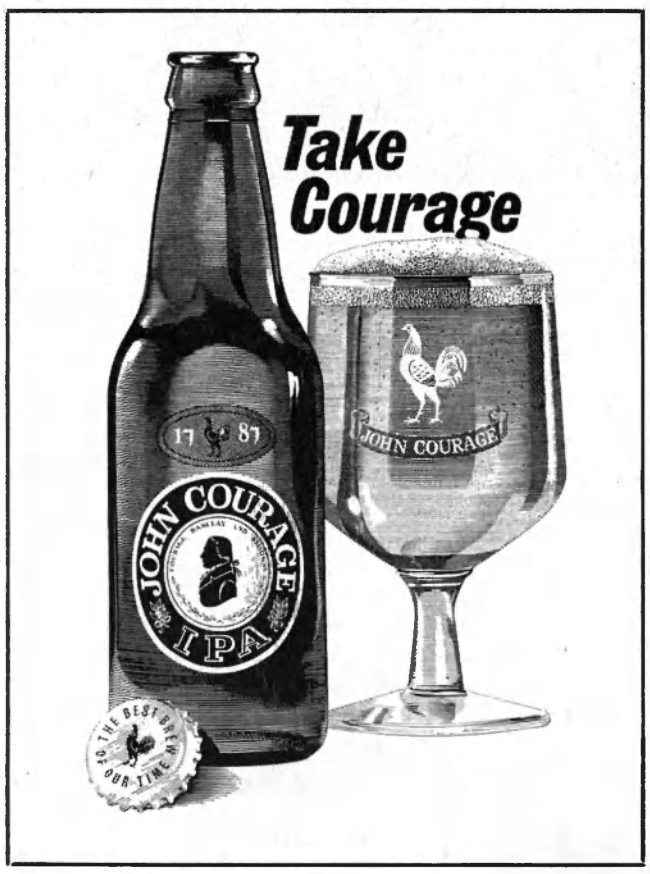
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April 1964

The WIRE

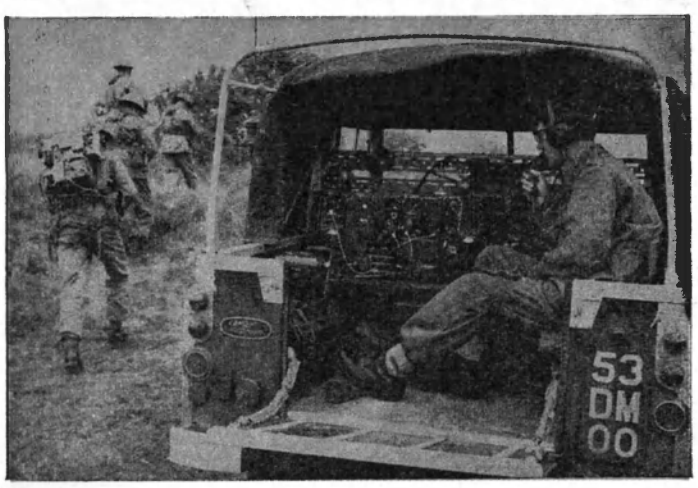
The Royal Signals Magazine

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The illustrations show five typical roles of the A.13

Low power man-pack
High power man-pack
High power two-man load
High power ground station—three-man load
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Plessey UK

Adopted by the British Army, the A.13 has been developed by Plessey-UK Limited in conjunction with the Ministry of Aviation and the Signals Research and Development Establishment. The A.13 now joins the Plessey-UK C.42, B.47 and B.48, which are in service with Armed Forces throughout the world.

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THE WIRE

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

The Official Organ of the Signals Association

Editor:
BRIGADIER P. M. P. HORSON, D.S.O.

Assistant Editor:
BRIGADIER H. R. FIRTH

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☆

APRIL • 1964

Vol. 18 (*New Series*) **No. 4**

Editorial

FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF THE ASSOCIATION

Our grateful thanks go to all those who have supported us so generously during 1963, as set out below:

	£
Regular Units	4,077
A.E.R./T.A. Units	226
Association Branches	105
Individual Donations	158
Serving Officers through Corps Funds	700
Life Membership Subscriptions	2,841
Annual Membership Subscriptions	219
Miscellaneous Collections, etc.	118
Total	£8,444

The total for 1962 was £6,609. 1963 has, therefore, seen a considerable increase. Apart from many deserving cases who, because of this, we have been able to help, there is the encouragement, shared by all at Association Headquarters, in knowing that the Corps stands so solidly behind our activities.

DISTRIBUTION OF "THE WIRE"

THE WIRE leaves the printers on or about the middle of each month. Bulk orders from units have to be despatched by Forces Parcel Post, i.e., surface mail. To despatch by any faster method is costly and not an economical proposition—otherwise we would do so. For more distant units, this results in unfortunate delay, and the April WIRE (the one that left the printers in mid-April) might not reach some readers until well on in mid-May. Delay should not really detract from articles of general interest or happenings *elsewhere* in the Corps, unless these have some special relationship to time, i.e., Christmas festivities. Unfortunately, there is an element of psychological dissatisfaction engendered straight away by the reception in May of something marked April, irrespective of its content. Perhaps we should number THE WIRE serially throughout the year, rather than tie a particular issue to any month. We shall see.

SKI-ING

It is good to read in this WIRE of our Regiments taking part in competitive ski-ing (see notes from 1st and 28th Regiments). Although many members of the Corps, as indivduals, actively participate in this wonderful sport, yet our record over recent years in Army and Formation ski meetings has generally been disappointing. The reasons for this are not clear, but it is encouraging to see that units are showing such enthusiasm, and we hope to hear of some Corps successes in due course.

RECRUITING

It is interesting to read in the 11th Regiment's notes that the number of recruits under basic training has greatly increased, and that there is some apprehension as to whether the Regiment will fit into its new Catterick home when it moves there later this year. There is no doubt that with the present unrest and disturbances that are going on, the soldiers of the Corps are engaged in exciting and important duties in many different parts of the world (for examples, see 640 Troop's notes). Any young man who joins the Corps these days has a good prospect of seeing the world with a bit of adventure thrown in. Let us hope that this will continue to attract into our ranks young men of spirit, as it is undoubtedly doing now.

Vale

BRIGADIER E. I. E. MOZLEY, M.A., A.M.I.E.E.



Everest Mozley was educated at Lancing and the "Shop," and was commissioned into Royal Signals in 1931. He was top of his batch (24Q). His first regimental posting was to 4 Divisional Signals in Colchester where the stayed until he went to Pembroke College, Cambridge, in 1934. He did very well at Cambridge, taking 1st Class Honours.

In 1936 he went to Malaya Signal Section where he remained until returning to the School as an Instructor in 1940. Then began a long period of Signal staff work, G.S.O. 2 Home Forces and War Office, G.S.O. 1 at War Office, culminating in G.S.O. 1 H.Q. 21 Army Group 1944-45.

He then went East again as a Colonel holding the appointments of C.S.O. SACSEA and C.S.O. Hong Kong.

On return to U.K. in 1948 he commanded the Royal Signals Wing until he was appointed Secretary of the U.K. Joint Communications and Electronic Committee in Washington in 1950.

He returned to regimental duty as C.R. Signals 6 Armoured Division in 1953 but ill health intervened and after a spell in hospital he commanded 1 Training Regiment. His next staff appointment was as G.S.O. 1 Signals at the War Office from 1955-58 when he became Colonel Plans School of Signals. In 1961 he was appointed Director Telecommunications with the rank of Brigadier and retired from this position in 1964.

Everest was not cast in the ordinary military mould, and his bent was that of a technical staff officer, his ability to compete with such work being proved by the frequency with which he was called upon to do it. He undoubtedly contributed much to the Corps from the intellectual and planning point of view.

He did not enjoy good health for much of his service but that did not prevent him from being an amusing and interesting companion, having a good brain and having travelled extensively in the Orient and the Americas. He is a lover of music and a connoisseur of wine. His intention on retirement is to teach, and we wish him the best of success in the profession he has selected.

PASSING THROUGH THE DEPOT?

Sergeant R. W. Webster, Chief Clerk, Movements, 11th Regiment Regiment (Depot), offers a few tips on such things as passports and immunisation and vaccination to those personnel coming into the Depot for posting abroad. These tips—the fruits of his experience—may well do much to reduce the frustration, and the frustration is mutual, which sometimes arises, and which a little preparation, could avoid.

Sergeant Webster writes: Gentlemen, are you going world-wide in the near future? Are you like so many of our brethren, "dreading the Depot"? Wondering how long your stay at Catterick will be? How much messing around you'll receive when you get here? You have my sympathy. But your stay in the Depot can, in many cases, be shortened if the following points were attended to *before* you leave your present unit, and do not, as in so many cases, wait until you get to the Depot, a phrase which I personally have heard close on 600 times since October, 1963 (I started to keep a little record after the first six or seven dozen). To the point gentlemen—or did I say points?

PASSPORTS, the bugbear of our Movements Staff:

Required for draft to Singapore, Bahrein, Christmas Island, Malaya, Borneo, British Guiana, Hong Kong, Ghan Island, East Africa, Aden.

Must be valid, date wise, and, of course, the little points on pages 2/3 of the passport, which many of us are not quite in the picture with (and, at the time, I thought this was good anyway). Page 2 must show profession as Government Official and, here comes the pun, pictures must be in civilian clothes.

The cost of a passport, when required for draft, is borne at public expense, costs you nothing, except the time taken to enquire at your Orderly Room for applications to be made for one.

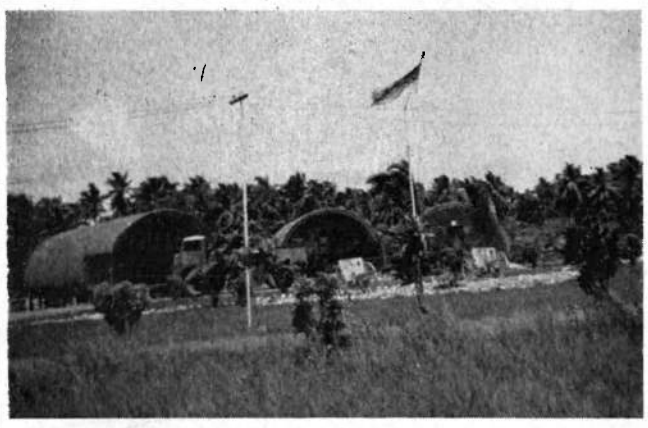
IMMUNISATION/VACCINATION (ACI 345/63). Your Orderly Room will have all this information. Why not ask your Chief Clerk if you may have a read through this, it's all good stuff.

May I say finally a word to our good and exasperated Chief Clerks, my one and only reason for requesting the publication of these few notes was simply to slow down my own rapid rate of frustration.

Gentlemen—*bon voyage*.

World-wide Signal Corps/Regiment badges required. Mr. A. J. Murphy, 65, Whitworth Road, Plumstead, S.E.18, writes to the Editor as follows: Since leaving the Corps I have stimulated my service interest by collecting world-wide Signal Corps/Regiment badges. I would like to hear from any reader who has such items, including U.K. and I will answer all letters.

'Our Man in Car Nicobar'



'A' Camp with my telephone in the foreground. The other telephone belongs to the ATC

In a letter to the Editor in our last issue reference was made to a Signalman who was the sole representative of the Army and the Corps in Car Nicobar.

From Sergeant J. Horne, School of Signals, Catterick Camp, comes the following letter:—

Dear Sir,

In your February issue of THE WIRE you asked for letters from past members of Car Nicobar Detachment.

I served on this island from June, 1952, to September, 1952. I was the only soldier there and 19 R.A.F. personnel. Besides our normal duties (mine being the care and maintenance of six telephones, all in parallel) we each had a job as soon as a 'plane landed. My job was refuelling with a hand-pump.

About once a month a village would hold a "moon festival," the men of that particular village challenging the other villages to a boat race, 20 men in each. In the evening all the maidens danced and pigs were killed on the spot and roasted on a spit. At these festivals all members of our camp were guests of honour and sat in the centre with the chief, and we were always invited to stay the night.

I could fill THE WIRE with different episodes which occurred on the island. I must say I really enjoyed my tour there, which then was four months.

Eleventh of a Series

Direct to You!

from

THE OFFICER i/c RECORDS
THE INSPECTOR OF TRADE TRAINING

Is there a Slide Rule on your Kit Bag?

IN 1963, about 400 Technicians attended upgrading courses in the Training Brigade, approximately half were seeking upgrading to Class I and the remainder to Class II. Of these some 33 per cent of Class I, and 40 per cent of Class II failed to qualify. It is the purpose of this article to try to point out the reasons for failure and what individuals can do to increase their chances of success in the future.

Statistics endorse the opinion of the Instructional Staff that there are two main reasons for failure. They are: lack of preparation for the course, and insufficient private study during the course. Class I suffer mainly from the former, and Class II from the latter.

Personal effort can reduce the likelihood of failure, and this is the main ingredient for success. The following suggestions may help to show how this effort can be applied to the best advantage.

It should be the aim of every Technician to achieve his Class I rating, and until this is done no Technician can really be called fully skilled. Fully skilled means having the ability to apply a knowledge of known techniques to the particular job in hand. This ability is achieved through a combination of learning acquired from formal instruction, plus private study and conscientious application of lessons learned in practical work. There are no short cuts. Some individuals may have more ability than others, but it is only through study and hard work that this ability can be made to pay real dividends. In the same way that a good sportsman requires coaching to become an expert, so a naturally competent Technician needs to study in order to become a good Class I tradesman. Any man who is satisfied to do no more than repetitive, routine work does not deserve to reach his Class I, and probably won't.

What practical help can we offer?

Do your buy your own text books? Are you trying to keep up-to-date with all the developments that are taking place in telecommunications? Do you read a monthly or weekly technical journal? Have you got a slide rule? Are you undertaking some private study, either through correspondence course or local evening classes? Have you built your own transistor radio yet? If the answer to all or most of these questions is no, then your sights are set too low, and even if you achieve a pass on your upgrading course, you are in danger of getting into a rut.

When attending an upgrading course why waste time fiddling about with log tables? Most calculations require logarithms, and there is considerable satisfaction to be gained from reaching proficiency in the use of a slide rule. They can be bought for 25/- from any good stationers.

The gap between the six Technician trades is narrowing all the time; just because you happen to be a Telegraph Technician, do not imagine that there is nothing for you in the *Wireless World* or similar publications. A lot of work overlaps between technical trades at all levels, so therefore don't specialise too much within your own trade. Quite apart from the technical articles in these magazines, there are advertisements for components and kits which can be bought quite cheaply and which allow you to build that transistor radio which will give you valuable experience not easily obtained in routine maintenance of equipment.

Now, what about particular preparation for a course itself? Because of the low standard of many students (which amounts to lack of preparation) valuable time has to be spent on revision of basic material instead of getting straight on to learning about new equipments and new techniques. A circular has recently been sent to Commanding Officers suggesting suitable reading material for potential upgraders; the subject matter may be summarised as complete familiarity with:

- Changing the subject of simple formulae.
- Solution of simple equations.
- Evaluation of expressions using logarithms and slide rule.
- Plotting simple graphs and graphical solutions of equations.
- Basic trigonometry, including ratios of angles greater than 90°.
- Solution of DC problems involving Ohms Law, Power, Capacitors and Inductors.
- Elementary alternating current principles.
- Basic valve circuits.

If you arrive at the Training Brigade equipped with this knowledge, and capable of expressing it on paper, you have the ground work for success on your upgrading course.

Finally, the course itself; in order to extract full value from the nine periods of formal instruction each day, it is essential for students to do private work in the evenings. It is hard work, but anyone who attends a course and thinks that learning stops at 5 o'clock, is almost doomed to failure at the outset. This is the main single cause of the high failure rate at Class II level. So our best advice is, maximum preparation for the course, followed by application and hard work during the course.

October Courses

Starting dates for October, 1964, Courses being run by the Training Brigade are as follows:

Line Technician	Class	II - I	13th October
Radio Relay Technician ...	Class	II - I	6th October
Cipher Operator	Class	II - I	27th October
Radio Operator	Class	II - I	6th October
Telegraph Operator ...	Class	II - I	20th October
Radio Relay Technician ...	Class	III-II	6th October
Electronic Technician ...	Class	III-II	20th October
Lineman	Class	III-II	13th October
Telegraph Operator ...	Class	III-II	20th October
Line Technician	Class	III-II	29th September

The New Staff Sergeants' Course

The Staff Sergeants' Courses Parts I and II have been combined into one course known as the Staff Sergeants' Course.

The combined course is of six weeks duration compared to the previous Part I Course of five weeks and Part II Course of three weeks.

From 1st April, 1964, the new Staff Sergeants' Course is obligatory for promotion to Staff Sergeant and to Warrant Officer Class II.

N.C.O.s or Warrant Officers Class II who passed the Part I Course by 3rd April, 1964, or who have equivalent qualifications as prescribed in paragraph 15 of Corps Memorandum No. 11 (1963), are exempt from attending the new course. N.C.O.s who have passed only the Part II Course will be required to attend the new course in order to qualify for promotion.

The Corps Association with H.M.S. HERMES is Cemented



Nine Officers and twenty nine Other Ranks under the Command of Lieutenant Colonel T. G. H. Jackson, M.B.E., are the guests of the ship during a voyage to Copenhagen

THE name *Hermes* has been associated with the Royal Navy for more than two-and-a-half centuries. During this period ten ships have borne the name. It was first used in 1796 to rename a captured Dutchman, and for the next hundred years after that six sloops of about 500 tons carried on the tradition. The eighth ship was a 5,600-ton cruiser with eleven guns and a top speed of twenty knots. The link with the Fleet Air Arm was forged in 1913, when this cruiser was fitted out as a seaplane carrier. She became the sea-going parent ship of the Naval Wing of the Royal Flying Corps and carried three aircraft. The first aircraft in the world to have folding wings was launched from *Hermes* in August, 1913. Soon after the beginning of the First World War, she was ordered to launch her aircraft to attack the German right flank. She was torpedoed and sank before this could be done. The ninth *Hermes* was completed in 1924 and was the first ship actually designed as an aircraft carrier. She had a displacement of 12,900 tons, a flight deck 598ft. long and carried nine aircraft. In 1939 her Swordfish aircraft joined in the search for the *Admiral Graf Spee*, the *Bismark* and other German surface raiders. After the fall of France, in 1940, the French battleship *Richelieu* was lying at Dakar. Aircraft from *Hermes* dropped torpedoes which put the battleship out of action for twelve months, thus preventing her being used by the Germans. After convoy duty in the South Atlantic, *Hermes* helped the land forces to drive the Italians from East Africa. In 1941, in company with three cruisers, she sank eight Italian destroyers. Off Trincomalee, Ceylon, in April, 1942, *Hermes* was attacked by a large force of Japanese fighters. She was hit by forty bombs and sank twenty minutes after the attack started.

The present Hermes was built at Barrow-in-Furness and launched by Lady Churchill on 16th February, 1953. Her design has been modified to make her now the most modern carrier in the Royal Navy. Equipment includes three British post-war inventions—the angled flight deck, the deck landing mirror sight and the steam catapult. In addition she has the most advanced radar and display system in the world. *Hermes* displaces 30,000 tons and has a normal complement of 200 officers and 1,800 ratings.

However, on 14th February, 1964, while lying at Spithead, the ship's company was temporarily increased by the arrival of 38 brown jobs or pongos. (Such expressions are important to know and a glossary of useful terms is given on page 123). Perhaps it should be explained that a happy association between Her Majesty's Ship *Hermes* and Royal Signals has existed for a number of years. This relationship between the ship's company and members of the Corps has been demonstrated and enjoyed in different parts of the world, but never more successfully than on her recent voyage to the Far East. The friendship was further demonstrated early in 1964, when the Commanding Officer, Captain W. D. O'Brien, D.S.C., invited nine officers and twenty-nine other ranks of Royal Signals in the United Kingdom to join the ship for a voyage to Copenhagen. An account of his personal experiences, by one chosen to represent the Corps, is on page 123.

It is about the voyage to Copenhagen that this report is concerned.

Many readers will have had seafaring experience. Some may have served afloat with the Royal Navy, but few can have explored a ship as thoroughly as did Royal Signals personnel aboard *Hermes*. No one was lost for any length of time, possibly because of the Damage Control Markings painted on bulkheads and hatches in every part of the ship, and also the helpful attitude of the ship's company. Every deck is given a number. These start at the Flight Deck—No. 1, and work downwards to No. 9 at the bottom of the ship. Every section (vertical division or compartment) of the ship is given a letter starting at "A," in the bows, and ending with "V," at the stern. We seem to have visited them all.

It must remembered that the role of a carrier is to launch her aircraft in order that they may carry out their allotted task. Invariably those aircraft must "land on" after completing their mission. Everything is planned, constantly practised, and skilfully improved with this role in mind, thus enabling successful flying operations to be carried out in the face of danger to the ship from underwater, surface or airborne attack.

There are two steam catapults in use in the bows, and aircraft are lined up, and later signalled forward for launching from each, working alternatively. There are approximately 100 officers and men engaged in this work on the flight deck during launching. Each wears protective clothing to prevent damage to ear drums. This could be caused by the noise from jet engines at "full chat" (maximum power). They have to work as a fast-moving team because aircraft are launched usually at one-minute intervals. Landing-on is obviously a different process, and various means are employed to stop aircraft when landing at speed. This includes five separate arrester wires to catch the hook under the aircraft, and a nylon rope net as a final precaution. A helicopter hovers about 20ft. above the sea near the carrier during all launching and landing operations. Visitors interested in watching activities on the flight deck are invited to brave the wind and the noise by standing on the Gun Direction Platform. This is appropriately called the "Goofing Deck," and caps are not allowed. Control of the

(*Continued on page 122*)

H.M.S. Hermes



1



2



3



4

Royal Signals Detachment aboard H.M.S. Hermes

1. All ranks of Royal Signals aboard H.M.S. Hermes 14th to 24th February, 1964. This picture was taken at Copenhagen.

2. Typical flight deck scene during flying operations.

3. Royal Signals other ranks on deck.

4. Commander Bent, D.S.C. hands the Silver Statue to Lieutenant-Colonel T. G. H. Jackson, M.B.E. in the Wardroom.

flight deck is maintained by radio from windows on the "Island." This is the name given to the structure on the starboard side which houses the bridge, navigation, radar and communications centres. A 26-ton revolving radar device can be seen in the photographs at the top of the Island. This equipment relays relevant information to computers about aircraft flying many miles away. Other radar equipment tracks surface vessels in the area. The Air Direction Room, where the information is channelled from the computers, presents a most fascinating display of electronic efficiency.

Obviously, communications are vital for the safety of the ship and her aircraft. Radio is used extensively, and the effectiveness of the Naval world-wide network was clearly demonstrated on one occasion in the North Sea, when a message for London was cleared by CW in two minutes. It was picked up at Darwin, North Australia, and relayed from there. Greetings were sent to the Master of Signals, using this radio system. Incidentally, semaphore is not now used in the Royal Navy. Radio transmitters and, in fact, all electronic equipment on board is left permanently switched on, although it may not be in use. Power is not a problem. Spare equipment is ready for instant use, and technicians quietly work to keep all the lights glowing. Lieutenant-Commander B. Buckley was Ship's Communication Officer at the time of this voyage, and will be remembered as a very capable, helpful officer by members of the Corps involved in exercises with *Hermes* during 1962/63. There are normally about 70 communications personnel, including two officers and twelve petty officers. All departments of the ship work on a three-shift system, which ensures adequate rest and relaxation at sea. As often happens in the Army, this system frequently breaks down where actual personnel are concerned. There were three Chaplains, but only two Communications Officers in *Hermes*.

Conducted tours were made to all parts of the ship. At the lowest deck, in the magazine, we saw all types of ordnance supplies, from .38 rounds of ammunition to 1,000lb. bombs. The latter can be hoisted with great ease, if necessary, by a single rating. At the opposite end of the scale, a tour was made to examine the Type 984 radar device, already mentioned, on top of the Island. This was a fearsome experience, owing to the exposed position in the fierce wind, high above the sea.

Unfortunately, the ship's propellers struck a submerged object soon after leaving Spithead. When full speed (27½ knots) was ordered in the early hours of 16th February, an unpleasant vibration roused even the most hardened sailors. Speed was required to reach a small German merchant vessel in distress about 100 miles distant. Helicopters were prepared for flight, but the freighter's crew was saved by other vessels before *Hermes* reached the area.

After 3½ days at sea, arrival off Copenhagen was heralded by gun salutes from *Hermes,* which were acknowledged from a shore battery. The sixteen musicians of the Royal Marines Band, on the flight deck, played the Danish national anthem and the Naval guard of honour gave the general salute. In traditional style, the ship's company lined both sides of the flight deck while entering harbour and remained in this position until the ship was secured to the quay near the famous Little Mermaid.

Activities in Copenhagen included visits with *Hermes* personnel, for those interested, to a civic reception at the City Hall, the Naval Museum, the National Arsenal, a porcelain factory, the Carlsberg Brewery and the Tuborg Brewery. The trips to the breweries were very popular! The hospitable character of the Danish people was fully demonstrated during the three days in port. Their admiration for the Royal Navy was evident when many hundreds arrived to watch the departure of the ship.

Shortly after leaving Danish waters a Russian trawler was seen, apparently involved in fishing operations. However, her vast array of antennae and electronic equipment made her presence, close to the course being taken by *Hermes,* very suspicious.

Briefing of Royal Signals personnel continued on the homeward voyage, culminating with an interesting communications exercise. This was based on communications frequently required when a carrier is co-operating with forces ashore. Each carrier has on board an Army officer with a small staff, who is appropriately called the Carrier Borne Ground Liaison Officer. The exercise was arranged by the G.B.G.L.O. in *Hermes* to practise Royal Signals officers in planning air strikes, calling for air support and talking pilots down on to targets. At the same time our operators worked morse over live circuits to their opposite numbers in the Royal Navy, and had no difficulty with procedures or speed.

The friendly atmosphere existing between all ranks of the two Services continued to thrive. It was very well developed in the Chief Petty Officers' Mess, where our senior other ranks spent much of their off-duty time. The daily tot of rum was much appreciated . . . In the Wardroom (known as "The Pigs"), officers of the Royal Navy one evening spoke of their supremacy at boat racing. This could not go unchallenged. Undeterred by the odds and without spurs, nine officers of the Corps pulled against at least 100 naval officers—or so it seemed. Honour was satisfied when Royal Signals won one pull. Afterwards, Major E. R. Hardy's waistcoat was permanently altered by the removal of a vital Corps button to mark the occasion. The button now holds a Naval officer's waistcoat in position, which must be a unique achievement. A more official presentation took place before the end of the voyage. Commander D. J. Bent, D.S.C., the Executive Officer, on behalf of *Hermes,* presented a truly splendid piece, in silver, of an ordinary seaman wearing the rig of Nelson's day. The inscription on the base reads:

> "Presented by H.M.S. *Hermes* to the Royal Signals as a continuing memento of their association."

Lieutenant-Colonel T. G. H. Jackson, M.B.E., in an amusing speech, accepted the piece on behalf of the Corps.



The Silver Statue presented by H.M.S. Hermes to the Corps

On reaching home waters, all aircraft were launched with impressive precision. They landed at Naval air stations about 200 miles away from the ship. With equal lack of fuss, surplus fuel was pumped into a tanker, while both ships were making 14 knots, side by side, and sixty feet apart. The destination of *Hermes,* on the occasion of ending her commission was "Oggi" — derived from "Tiddy Oggi" (Cornish Pasty) — i.e., Devonport.

In brilliant sunshine, on 24th February, she steamed into Plymouth harbour proudly flying a paying-off pennant, 720ft. long from her mast head. The length of the pennant is arrived at by adding 5ft. for each month of the commission to the overall length of the ship. Compliments were paid to many ships in harbour, and also to the Commander-in-Chief, Home Fleet, who personally took the salute standing in the grounds of his official residence as the ship passed through the narrow channel. *Hermes* is due for refitting, and so she was secured in the dockyard at Devonport where the carriers *Eagle, Ark Royal* and *Bulwark* were also lying.

All members of the Corps who were fortunate to be aboard H.M.S. *Hermes* on this memorable occasion, join in expressing their sincere appreciation to the Captain and the Ship's Company. The kindness and hospitality received by all ranks will long be remembered. Much knowledge has been gained of the work involved on a modern aircraft carrier. This knowledge is particularly useful in these days of increased inter-Service co-operation. All Royal Signals personnel who joined the ship for the voyage to Copenhagen were very proud to represent the Corps and to help maintain the association with H.M.S. *Hermes.*

Readers will recollect that on the occasion of the commissioning service held aboard H.M.S. Hermes, on the 24th April, 1962, the Master of Signals presented Captain W. D. O'Brien, D.S.O., R.N., with a silver "Jimmy" on behalf of the Corps. On the following page is an unsolicited article from Lance-Corporal J. Davis giving his impressions of the voyage from "Junior Pongo's" point of view.—Editor.

A Long Weekend in Copenhagen

By Lance Corporal J. Davis

DURING January a buzz went round the lines that the Royal Navy were planning a cruise to Denmark and were to invite Royal Signals personnel to go along with them. This turned out to be true, so I hastily put in my name, and very much to my surprise, it came out of the Adjutant's hat. A few days later I was off to join the lucky people from other Royal Signals units at Blandford Camp, where we were the guests of 30th Regiment.

Before I go any further, perhaps I had better explain why this trip was arranged.

H.M.S. *Hermes*, the third largest aircraft carrier in the Royal Navy, has been associated with Royal Signals for some time. She has the most up-to-date signalling equipment and her crest is, of course, our "Jimmy." The trip to Copenhagen was to be the last before the ship went into dry dock for a refit lasting 18 months.

After two days at Blandford, the whole Royal Signals party of 30 were driven down to Portsmouth to join *Hermes*, which was anchored at Spithead. There we boarded a small launch and reached *Hermes* at about 12 o'clock on the afternoon of Saturday, 15th February. The Royal Signals personnel were taken, in pairs, to their respective Mess Decks, where we were to spend the next 10 days. There were, on the average, 14 to 20 men to each mess, a space of about 30ft. x 10ft., where the crew slept and lived.

The first thing was to claim our "tot," but being too late to draw one of our own, we settled for a generous "wet" from every matelot in our mess. By this time we had weighed anchor and were on our way.

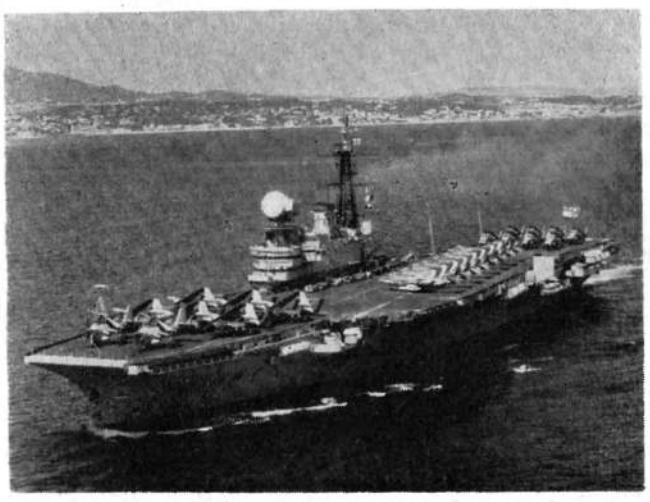
On the first day we did nothing except find our way around the ship and get to know the people we lived with. Next day we were shown the communication equipment, but, being a Draughtsman, although it was very interesting, I was completely at sea.

The weather, by this time, had got quite bad, some of the sailors judged the waves to be between 30 to 40ft. high, with inevitable results to us landlubbers. A German tanker was apparently in a bad state and was sending out S.O.S. signals, so *Hermes* went at full speed to the rescue. After 12 hours the Captain had word that other ships had already arrived at the scene, so once more we steered for Copenhagen.

By now it was snowing, and so cold that there was three inches of ice on deck, and all the rails about three times their usual thickness.

Nevertheless, we arrived at Copenhagen on time, and were allowed to go straight ashore. We had docked at one of the jettys.

My first impression was how clean and fresh Denmark was, and how friendly the Danes seemed towards the British. They were very helpful and very hospitable. Things in Denmark are very expensive, for instance, a pint of beer costs 6 Kroner, and one Kroner equals 1/0½d.



The mess deck, beforehand, had arranged a trip to the Tuborg Breweries, so we headed in that direction. We found the place very well equipped and very clean. After sampling a few pints, we thanked them and left. The next few days we spent taking photographs and buying presents.

On the fourth day, much to our dismay, we had to say goodbye to Copenhagen. The soldiers joined the sailors in lining the rails as we sailed out of the harbour. I am sure quite a few of us wish we could have stayed for another few days.

On the way back all the aircraft had to take off and go to shore bases all over Britain. It was most spectacular to see a huge aircraft like a Vixen take off from such a small space—with the aid of the steam catapults, of course. They apparently accelerate the aircraft to 110 m.p.h. The amount of steam needed is 400lb. per square inch, enough to throw a person 2½ miles into the air—so we were told. Also on the way back, we toured the engine room.

When we reached Plymouth once again, we all lined the decks, with the Royal Marines Band playing, flags flying and the guns firing a salute (I should know—I was standing right underneath one).

After docking we said goodbye to all the friends we had made on board, exchanged addresses and finally went our different ways. I am sure it will long remain in the memory of all us soldiers on board, the wonderful hospitality shown us by the Captain and Crew of H.M.S. *Hermes*.

Glossary

Current Terms in use in the Royal Navy

Brown job or pongo	Soldier
Crab fat	R.A.F. personnel
Turkey	Royal Marines officer
Bullock, bootneck	Royal Marines other ranks
Crusher	Military Police
Sin Bosun	Padre
Fang farrier	Dentist
Jaunty	Master at Arms
Father	The Captain
Purser's tickle	Tobacco
On the blink	Equipment almost unserviceable
Fall over	Unserviceable equipment and aircraft
Fall down	Bad organisation
Harry Taters	Chaos
Let the end go	Relax
Graunch	To crash
Honk it up	Open it
Dank	Rotten, lousy
2-6 *Heave*	All together
Fanny	A bucket
Harry Grippo	Making friends ashore (feet under the table?)
Rabbiting	Buying or scrounging things
Sarni	A sandwich
Gash	Trash, waste
Chatti	Dirty
Belay	Stop
Close up	Fall in
Smoke	London
Barracks	Portsmouth
Guzz	Devonport (alternative)

R.E./Royal Signals Ex-Boys Annual Reunion

Ex-Boys' 10th Annual Reunion and Dinner—Saturday, 5th September, 1964, 6.30 p.m. for 7.30 p.m. at Victory ex-Services Club, 63/79, Seymour Street, London, W.2. (one minute from Marble Arch and Station and first left up Edgware Road). Lounge suit or uniform. Dinner tickets £1 per person, obtainable from F. W. Jacobs, Esq., 54th (E.A.) Regiment T.A., T.A. Centre, Coldhams Lane, Cambridge. (Crossed cheques/postal orders made payable to Royal Signals Ex-Boys' Dinner).

Please book as early as possible, tickets will be despatched in July.

Be sure to attend the re-union on 5th September bringing your wife or other guests.

PERSONAL COLUMN

London Gazette

(Up to 28th February, 1964)

REGULAR ARMY

Capt. G. Ferrier to be Maj., 6th February, 1964.
Lt. A. Rassim from short serv. commn. to be L.t., 10th January, 1964.
Capt. (Q.M.) V. W. G. King to be Maj. (Q.M.)), 7th February, 1964.
Lt. (Q.M.) J. V. Needham to be Capt. (Q.M.), 7th February, 1964.

The undermentioned Captains to be Majors, 9th February, 1964:
G. A. Thompson
M. S. Jarrett
B. A. Canham
T. E. Grice
R. J. Savage
M. H. W. Cooper

Capt. J. Reid retires 11th February, 1964.
Lt. M. L. Jennings to be Capt., 11th February, 1964.
Lt. (Tfc. Offr.) J. C. Pendock to be Capt. (Tfc. Offr.), 8th February, 1964.
Lt. (T.O.T.) J. D. Baker from Short Service Commn. to be Lt. (T.O.T.), 1st January, 1964.
Capt. (T.O.T.) G. P. Bolton, B.E.M., to be Maj. (T.O.T.), 16th February, 1964.
Col. J. P. North, C.B.E., retired 21st February, 1964.
Lt. M. J. L. Bygrave to be Capt., 20th December, 1963.
Lt.-Col. D. C. Harris to be Colonel, 2nd December, 1963, with seniority 30th May, 1963.
Maj. (Tfc. Offr.) J. N. Higgins, M.B.E., retired 1st March, 1964.
Capt. (Q.M.) M. E. E. Truscott to be Maj. (Q.M.), 29th February, 1964.

SHORT SERVICE COMMISSIONS

W.O.I (R.S.M.) R. F. Wilford to be Lt. (Q.M.)), 27th January, 1964.
2/Lt. L. S. Hood to be Lt., 24th February, 1964.
Maj. T. A. Hall retired 29th February, 1964.
Lt. (T.O.T.) R. Taylor to be Capt. (T.O.T.), 27th February, 1964.

TERRITORIAL ARMY

Maj. R. O. Iliffe (Res. of Offrs) to be Capt., 31st December, 1963.
Lt. W. A. Mooles, T.D., to be Capt., 24th November, 1963.
Lt. J. M. Thew to be Capt., 1st December, 1963.
Lt. G. C. Mitchell granted actg rank of Capt., 1st December, 1963.
Lt. K. S. Rowley (Res. of Offrs) to be Lt., 2nd December, 1963.
Cadet P. J. Walsh to be 2/Lt., 13th December, 1963.
J. R. Pugh to be Lt., 10th July, 1963.
Capt. D. A. D. Smith granted actg rank of Maj., 23rd December, 1963.
Lt. P. H. Forshaw (Res. of Offrs) to be Lt., 20th November, 1963.
Capt. A. D. Roberts, T.D., to be Maj., 1st October, 1963.
Lt. D. A. A. Lamb from A.E.R.O. to be Lt., 8th January, 1964.
Capt. (Actg Maj.) J. H. Smith to be Maj., 21st February, 1964.
Lt. B. Cook to be Capt., 7th January, 1964.
I. R. C. Williams to be Lt., 30th November, 1963.
Lt. (Actg Capt.) C. E. Slater to be Capt., 23rd February, 1964.
Lt. M. J. Poole to be Capt., 1st January, 1964.
Capt. P. Revill granted actg rank of Maj., 1st March, 1964.
2/Lt. W. J. Paterson to be Lt., 1st March, 1964.
Sigmn R. J. O. Lovis to be 2/Lt., 17th January, 1964.

Births

COLEMAN.—To Sergeant and Mrs. A. L. Coleman, a son, Ian Timothy, on 9th March, at Woking, Surrey.

HEMSTOCK.—To Corporal and Mrs. Hemstock of the 2nd Regiment, a daughter, Michele Karola, born on 19th February, 1964, at B.M.H. Rinteln.

Deaths

ADDISON.—Captain L. E. B. Addison, suddenly.. A Life Member of the Association since 1926.

EDMONDS.—Ex-C.Q.M.S. H. G. Edmonds. Embodied with the Territorial Army and served during the War.

GRUGAN.—22348604 Corporal Grugan, Charles Brian. Died as a result of a traffic accident in Northern France, on 15th February, 1964, whilst serving with 227 Signal Squadron, ALFCE.

HORSEFALL.—Ex-Sergeant 2558556. Served Royal Signals 1939-46 France and Germany. Life Member of the Association and member of Glossop and District O.C.A. Died in hospital 1st February, 1964.

TAYLOR.—Ex-Signalman (2315896) L. E. Taylor. Died 25th February, 1964. Served 1923/45. Life Member of the Association.

CLARKE.—Ex-W.O.II (2322103) L. L. Clarke, of 300 Whitchurch Lane, Hartlands. Bristol 3. Died 15th March, 1964. Served from 1932. A Life Member of the Association.

Movements—Warrant Officers and Sergeants, April, 1964

W.O.I A. A. Kemp ... . To 50th Regiment T.A.
W.O.I J. A. Kelly ... ... ,, School of Signals
W.O.I N. A. V. Ribchester ... ... ,, 253 Squadron
W.O.II G. L. P. Hudson ... ... ,, 19th Regiment
W.O.II C. A. King ... ... ,, 253 Squadron
W.O.II R. W. F. Thornborough ... ,, 212 Squadron
W.O.II L. Dathan ... ... ,, 14th Regiment, 3 Squadron
W.O.II A. Stringer ... ... ,, 235 Squadron
W.O.II G. E. Appleyard ... ... ,, 49th Regiment T.A.
W.O.II H. K. Boyle ... ... ,, 28th Regiment
W.O.II M. J. Caplan ... ... ,, 237 Squadron
W.O.II P. F. Metcalfe ... ... ,, School of Signals
W.O.II R. Scrafton ... ... ,, School of Signals
W.O.II J. F. Chater ... ... ,, School of Signals
W.O.II A. A. J. Reed ... ... ,, 239 Squadron
W.O.II A. A. Leach ... ... ,, 3 H.Q. and Signal Regiment
W.O.II P. B. R. Kent ... ... ,, School of Signals
W.O.II C. A. Dossor ... ... ,, 8th Regiment
W.O.II E. G. Longstaffe ... ... ,, School of Signals
Staff Sergeant P. E. Greenwood ... ,, 2nd Regiment
Staff Sergeant A. E. Maskell ... ... ,, 16th Regiment
Staff Sergeant R. M. Jones ... ... ,, 66th Regiment T.A.
Staff Sergeant E. W. Osborne ... ... ,, 213 Squadron
Staff Sergeant C. Heaps ... ... ,, 601 Troop
Staff Sergeant A. Leitch ... ... ,, 9th Regiment
Staff Sergeant G. E. Tompkins ... ,, 200 Squadron
Staff Sergeant E. P. D. Howe ... ,, 61st Regiment T.A.
Staff Sergeant A. M. Lea ... ... ,, 1st Regiment
Staff Sergeant W. K. L. Bell ... ... ,, 30th Regiment
Staff Sergeant J. Franklin ... ... ,, 261 Squadron
Staff Sergeant A. J. Young ... ... ,, 11th Regiment
Staff Sergeant N. H. Cowan ... ... ,, 14th Regiment, 3 Squadron
Staff Sergeant R. Banham ... ... ,, 7th Regiment
Staff Sergeant J. A. Coxon ... ... ,, 242 Squadron
Staff Sergeant B. T. Godfrey ... ... ,, 254 Squadron
Staff Sergeant B. B. Bumphrey ... ,, 510 Troop
Sergeant M. Kennington ... ... ,, 254 Squadron
Sergeant M. J. Millicip ... ... ,, 18th Regiment
Sergeant M. E. Rowland ... ... ,, 608 Troop
Sergeant E. W. Wise ... ... ,, 49th Regiment R.A. Troop
Sergeant N. Parvin ... ... ,, A.A.S., Harrogate
Sergeant D. M. Hingley ... ... ,, 228 Squadron
Sergeant D. A. C. Jack ... ... ,, 249 Squadron
Sergeant K. E. Bradbury ... ... ,, 10th Hussars Troop
Sergeant W. C. Mitchell ... ... ,, H.Q. B.A.O.R.
Sergeant G. H. Jeannette ... ... ,, 1st Regiment
Sergeant P. E. Jepson ... ... ,, 255 Squadron
Sergeant D. G. Rabbitts ... ... ,, CAFSO (FEAF)
Sergeant I. C. Guinan ... ... ,, School of Artillery
Sergeant F. W. Edwards ... ... ,, 8th Regiment
Sergeant H. Cole ... ... ,, 28th Regiment
Sergeant R. Lahan ... ... ,, 209 Squadron
Sergeant J. D. Otley ... ... ,, 21st Regiment
Sergeant P. J. Tambling ... ... ,, 11th Regiment
Sergeant H. Ryall ... ... ,, 9th Regiment
Acting/Sergeant J. C. Jackson ... ,, Ordnance Depot, Cyprus
Sergeant K. W. Bastow ... ... ,, 261 Squadron
Sergeant R. Paterson ... ... ,, 255 Squadron
Acting/Sergeant M. Elliott ... ... ,, 18th Regiment
Sergeant D. Jones ... ... ,, 210 Squadron
Sergeant B. R. Lawrence ... ... ,, 18th Regiment
Sergeant W. J. Duncan ... ... ,, 2nd Regiment
Sergeant P. D. Stowe ... ... ,, 7th Regiment
Sergeant D. Wright ... ... ,, 212 Squadron
Sergeant J. C. T. Richards ... ... ,, 254 Squadron
Sergeant A. G. Marchant ... ... ,, 227 Squadron
Sergeant R. L. Gardner ... ... ,, 14th Regiment, 1 Squadron
Sergeant R. G. Lee ... ... ,, 640 Troop
Sergeant M. J. L. Palmer ... ... ,, Junior Leaders Regiment
Acting/Sergeant D. I. Wilcox ... ,, Junior Leaders Regiment
Sergeant T. McGreavy ... ... ,, 53rd Regiment
Sergeant W. Clemson ... ... ,, 54th Regiment T.A.
Sergeant C. Pitchard ... ... ,, School of Mil. Engineering
Sergeant J. W. Whelpton ... ... ,, 9th Regiment

Promotions—February, 1964

February, 1964

REGIMENTAL DUTY ROSTER

			New Sen. No.	*Old Sen. No.*	
To W.O.I	2548695	McNaughton, P.	1260	2440	
	14460020	Parfitt, G. E.	1270	1590	
	14866299	Firth, E. W.	1280	2120	
	2547763	Rees, D. F.	1290	2180	
	2547721	Harrison, W. J.	1300	2200	
To W.O.II	22231340	Brooks, R. E.	5090	6110	
	22212634	Anderson, H. H.	5100	1200	
	22242577	Wright, H. E.	5110	4850	
	22515870	Thornton, J. F.	5120	5004	
	22265448	Pedder, J. C.	5130	5100	
	14072957	Upfield, J. E. P.	5140	2470	
	2549749	Fisher, B.	5150	4248	
	22230911	Mears, A. D.	5160	4310	
	22541828	Nichols, K.	5170	4790	
	22289727	Sugg, R.	5180	5330	
	22285360	Blease, R. M.	5190	4550	
	22796176	Hunter, R.	5200	5660	
	22278594	Roberts, L. L.	5210	5430	
To S Sgt.	22308700	Smith, P.	7690	900	(Fd)
	2549732	Leach, N. H. R.	7700	880	(Fd)
	22309670	Davies, H. G.	7710	460	(Fd)
	22264257	Turner, A. B.	7720	234	(Fd)
	2549655	Heyworth, L.	7730	270	(Fd)
	19138530	Gray, J. W.	7740	220	(Fd)
	22396480	Withall, E. H. T.	7750	2230	(Op)
	22808927	Ryall, H.	7760	210	(Fd)
	22265778	Slaughter, K. M.	7770	440	(Fd)

YEOMAN OF SIGNALS ROSTER

To W.O.II	14191893	Gwynne, W. G.	890	40	



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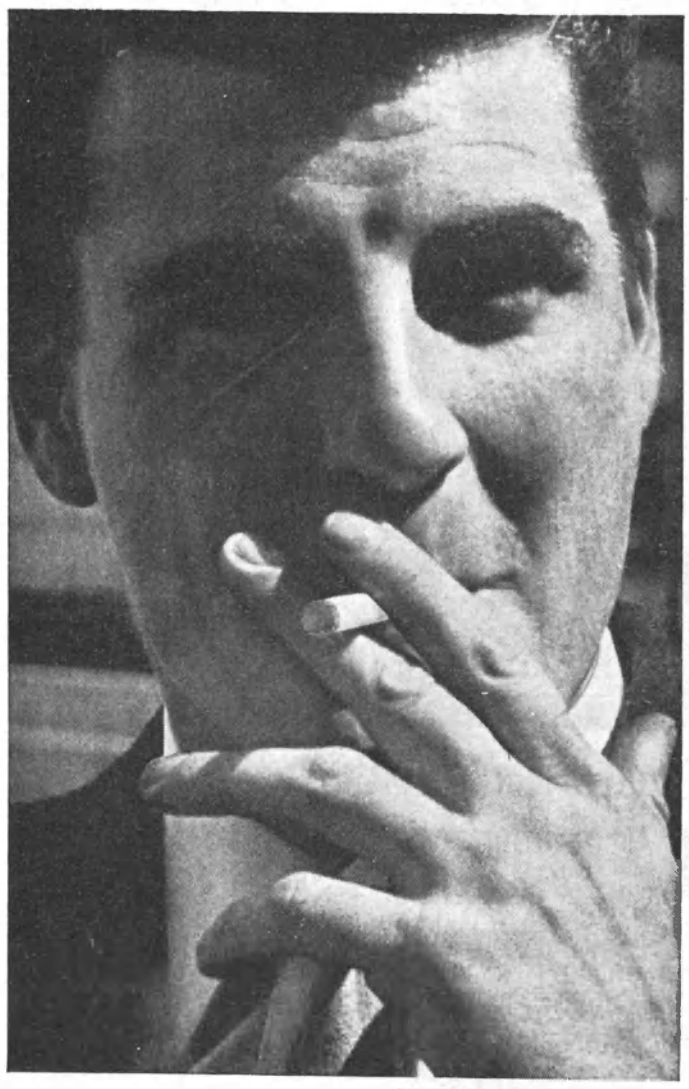
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SIGNAL CENTRE SUPERVISOR ROSTER

To W.O.II	22959318		Durrant, P.	1380	740
	22816812		Garratt, R.	1390	920
	22272748		Hunt, A. J.	1400	840
	22776873		Boughton, D. G.	1410	800
	14957327		Arnold, E.	1420	316

FOREMAN OF SIGNALS ROSTER

To W.O.I	2548640	W.O.II	Brown, V. C.	820	950
To W.O.II	2549596	S Sgt.	Clarke, D. D.	1280	1240

TECHNICAL ROSTER

	23251298	Cpl.	Piper, J. W.	4115	6070
	23251343	Cpl.	Calvert, M. W.	4270	7240
	23251280	Cpl.	Phippard, R. H.	4360	6560

OPERATING ROSTER

To Sgt.	14052653	Cpl.	Howse, G. T.	10850	24
	22290470	A/Sgt.	Metters, W. E.	10860	910
	222966424	A/Sgt.	Morgan, K. I.	10880	1124
	22546575	Cpl.	Cross, J. T.	10890	2430
	22431009	A/Sgt.	Lynch, R.	10900	2940
	23200414	Cpl.	Thompson, J.	10920	4810
	22212636	Cpl.	Dykes, J. R.	10930	6420
	22515482	Cpl.	Edington, I. L. V.	10940	6620
	22569649	A/Sgt.	Davis, W. H. T.	10950	7230
	23164826	Cpl.	Hurn, J K.	10960	7310
	22967602	Cpl.	Howells, C. S. A.	10970	7460
	23469941	A/Sgt.	Danells, R. L.	10990	8570
	22816040	Cpl.	Wood, T.	11010	9400
	22549996	Cpl.	Jackson, L.	11030	570
	22537556	Cpl.	Bannier, P. J.	11040	1630
	22776188	Cpl.	Cooper, T. B.	11050	10340
	23342965	Cpl.	Silk, D. C. E.	11060	11000
	22966762	Cpl.	Wright, D.	11080	11960
	22983093	A/Sgt.	Stanley-Jones. R. G.	11090	12080
	23427762	A/Sgt.	Meehan, J. R.	11130	1580

INSERTIONS

OPERATING ROSTER

To Sgt.	14468936	S/Sgt.	Casey, T. A.	2700	5970 (RD)

ADMINISTRATIVE ROSTER

To Sgt.	2979614	S/Sgt.	Youngman, H.	70	4070 (RD)

DELETIONS

REGIMENTAL DUTY ROSTER

W.O.I	920	
W.O.II	1390	1560
S Sgt.	7480	

SIGNAL CENTRE SUPERVISOR ROSTER

W.O.II	1080	

CHIEF CLERK'S ROSTER

W.O.II	640	

OPERATING ROSTER

Sgts.	3270	5380	7790

FIELD ROSTER

Sgts.	810	2090	3140

Forthcoming Events

Royal Signals Dinner Club

Corps Dinner. In the Hyde Park Hotel on 27th May, 1964.
Garden Party. At the Hurlingham Club on 28th May, 1964.

Ex-Boys 10th Annual Reunion and Dinner

Saturday, 5th September, at the Victory Ex-Services Club, 63/79, Seymour Street, London, W.2.

Royal Signals Yacht Club Fixtures

10th June, Royal Signals Trials at Seaview.
25th June v. R.E.M.E., at Hayling Island.
4th-5th July. Royal Signals Dinghy Regatta at Whale Island, Portsmouth.
9th-10th July. Triangular Match at Seaview.

Shooting Dates 1964

9th June—11th June. Royal Signals Southern Command Rifle Meeting.
15th June—18th June. Royal Signals Corps Rifle Meeting.
21st June—4th July. A.R.A. Meeting, Bisley.
8th July—10th July. N.R.A. (S.R.(a)) Meeting, Bisley.
10th July—18th July. N.R.A. (S.R. (b)) Meeting, Bisley.

Royal Signals Officers' Golfing Society (Provisional Fixture Dates)

22nd April	York G.C.	Strensall
23rd/24th April	Spring Meeting	Pannall
2nd-7th May	Army Meeting	Sandwich
13th May p.m.	R.M.A.S.	Camberley Heath
27th May	R.M.C.S.	East Berkshire
4th June	R.E.	Hankley Common
17th June	R.A.S.C.	Fleet
9th July	R.A.	Sunningdale
14th July	R.A.P.C.	Hankley Common
13th August	R.E.M.E.	East Berks
9th September	R.A.O.C.	Swinley Forest
1st/2nd September	Army Meeting	Sunningdale
21st September	Ironsides	Hankley Common
3rd October	Staff College	Camberley Heath
13th October	R.A.M.C.	New Zealand

Catterick Reunion

27th and 28th June

46 Squadron (LCT) R.A.S.C.

The Corps Plays its Part Here

The R.A.S.C. vessels *Antwerp* and *Arakan* (*see Editor's footnote*) sailed from Portsmouth at 12.15 on 18th February, 1964, for Singapore. Their departure from H.M.S. Vernon was witnessed by the Quartermaster-General to the Forces, General Sir Gerald Lathbury, G.C.B., D.S.O., M.B.E., A.D.C., who took the salute as the vessels sailed past H.M.S. Vernon, with the Commander-in-Chief Portsmouth, Admiral Sir Wilfred Woods, K.C.B., D.S.O., who made the following signal:—

"From C.-in-C. Portsmouth
To: *Antwerp, Arakan*
Info: 46 Squadron R.A.S.C.
I wish you a pleasant passage to the Far East and a successful and interesting time when you get there. We are sorry to see you leave Portsmouth but I know you can count on the support of the Navy wherever you may find the White Ensign."

The Quartermaster-General and the Admiral inspected the Royal Army Service Corps Band, which was present for the departure ceremony, and spoke to many of the families on Marlborough Pier to say "goodbye."

The vessels are due to arrive in Singapore in early May, and have already reached Gibraltar after a fairly fast passage across the Bay of Biscay. As on previous occasions the vessels are under Royal Naval Operational Command for the voyage, and their arrival in Singapore will be eagerly awaited by their sister ships of 3 Division, already in Singapore, who have been working flat out since the Brunei crisis blew up.

The departure from Portsmouth was the culmination of ten months of feverish activity in getting these two vessels prepared for such a voyage. The hazards of convincing Contracts and other branches of the War Office that ships are a little different from normal military equipment took its toll in time, but when one considers the fantastic amount of work undertaken in shipyards, by Group Workshops and the crews of the vessels once they were able to get aboard, a vast amount was accomplished. For the first time in the history of the Squadron these two vessels have been equipped with almost every possible radio equipment which enabled them to work as far afield as Halifax, Nova Scotia and Singapore from the comparative quiet of H.M. Gunwharf during the acceptance trials of the equipment.

The main transmitter is a Marconi NT 201, a Marine version of the D11, covering 1.8 to 23 mc/s continuous coverage all services: On/off telegraphy; FSK telegraphy; DSB telephony; SSB telephony; ISB telephony.

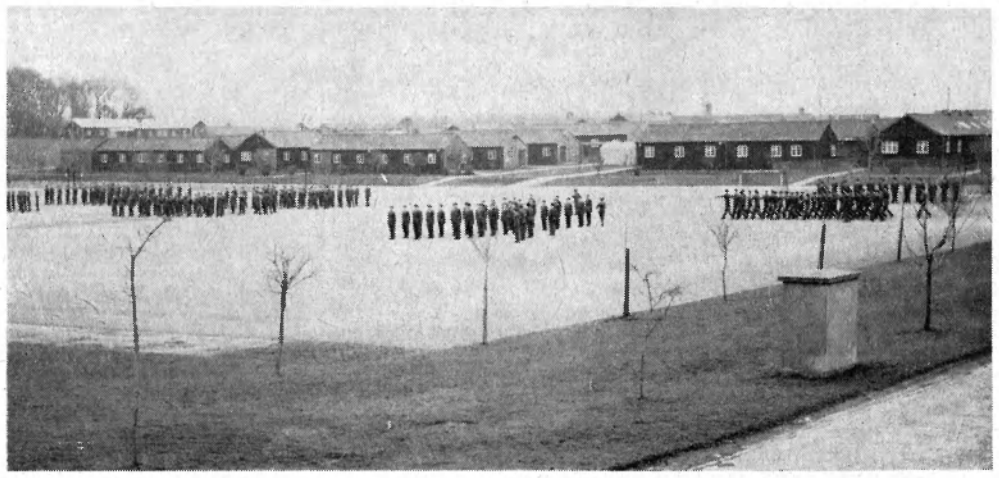
Nominal output is 1 kw. Associated Receiver is Marconi NS 702 continuous coverage 15 kc/s to 28 mc/s.

An Emergency Transmitter Marconi Marine Salvor covers the Martime Marine MF Band on 5 spot crystal controlled frequencies, System MCW, output not less than 25 watts. Associated Receiver is a CR 300, continuous coverage 15 kc/s to 25 mc/s. For intership and ship-shore short distance communications the Naval Type 691 UHF set is fitted.

The vessels are following the normal route of Gibraltar—Malta—Suez Canal—Aden—Colombo—Singapore, but it will not be until the second part of the voyage that they will need to sample the delights of the monster air conditioning and ice water plants with which both vessels have been fitted.

Sailing in each of these vessels are two representatives of the Corps—a Corporal and a Signalman. Both are Telegraph Operators and on their shoulders falls the responsibility for all voice and telegraph transmissions essential to the safety and accurate navigation of the ships. Yet another example of the important and unusual jobs that come the way of the soldiers of the Royal Corps.—Editor.

The Wire visits the Junior Leaders Regiment



Panorama of Denbury Camp

Since its earliest days the Corps has always trained its own Boys, and the ex-Boy has made an outstanding contribution to the efficiency and morale of the Corps through the years. This spirit and outlook goes from strength to strength as is evident from the following description of our fine Junior Leaders Regiment.

* * *

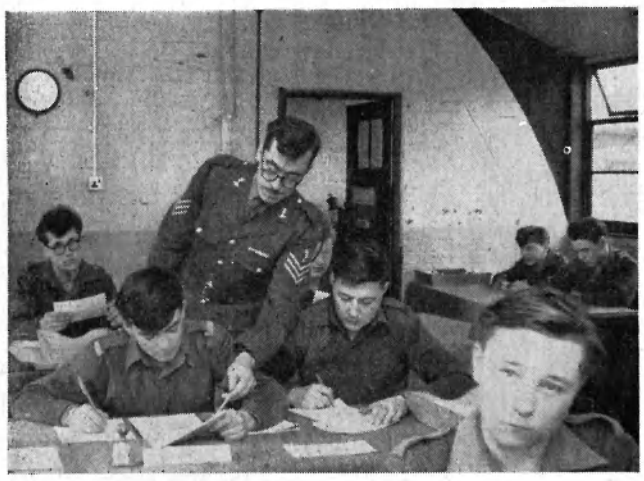
Introduction

The Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Signals, is stationed at Denbury Camp, in the heart of South Devon, three miles from Newton Abbot and seven miles from Torquay. The camp is within a few miles of the estuaries of the Dart and the Teign, and the Tors of Dartmoor can be seen from the parade ground on a clear day. There are two large playing fields and a full-scale assault course within the camp perimeter and a small heated indoor swimming pool is to be built in the next few months.

Over the past few years the size and quality of the boys joining the Regiment have steadily improved and as a consequence the establishment holding of boys has been raised from 480 to 630. At the time of writing there are 570 Junior Leaders at Denbury and it appears that the new ceiling will be reached later this year.

Aim

The aim of the Regiment is to take boys at 15 to 16 years of age and to give them a full-time course of educational, trade and military training which will equip them, in later years, to fill senior N.C.O. and Warrant Officer appointments in Royal Signals. Junior Leaders normally graduate to Colour Service at the end of the term in which they reach the age of 17½, but the Commanding Officer has the discretion to authorise an extra term at Denbury for those who need more time to complete their Army Certificate of Education examinations, or who wish to sit for G.C.E. 'O' level subjects. Authority has also recently been given to the Commanding Officer for those boys who have reached the rank of Junior Warrant Officer while at Denbury and have passed a BIII trade test, to be promoted to Lance-Corporal on graduating to Colour Service.



Sergeant Smith giving instruction in Comcen working

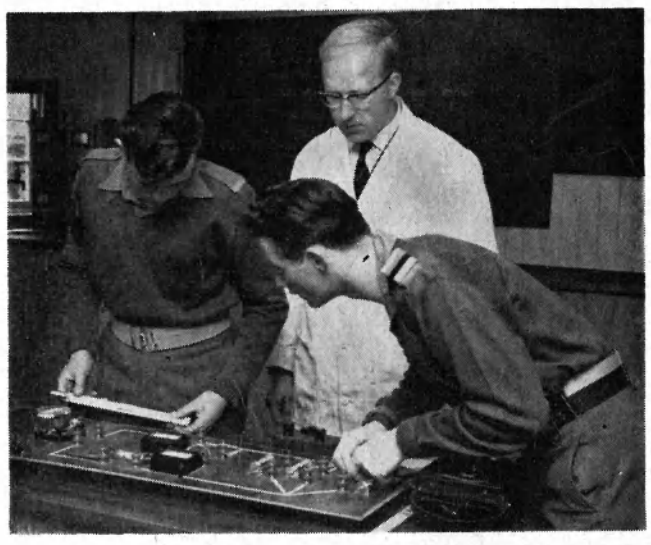
Life at Denbury

The training programme at Denbury is split into three approximately equal parts as follows:—

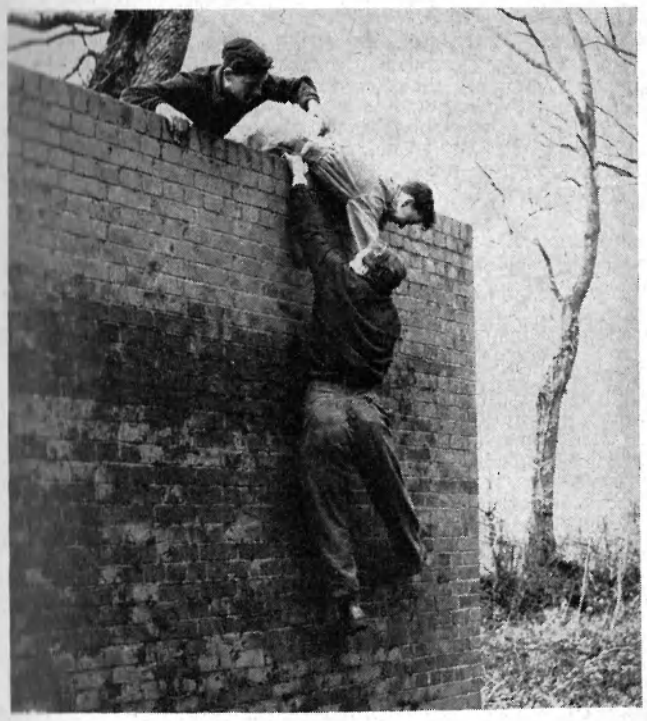
Academic Studies
Trade Training
Leadership, General Military Training and Sport.

The proportion of time devoted to these in the programme varies throughout the boy's stay in the Regiment. In the first term the boy is held in Junior Squadron—the Recruit Squadron—and here he is taught basic drill and given part-time education. In his second term the programme provides full-time education, leadership training and sport. Thereafter, trade training is gradually introduced and in his last term the emphasis is exclusively on trade training.

A great deal of responsibility is placed on the Junior Leader N.C.O.s and Warrant Officers. Each Troop of 40 boys has its own Junior Sergeant and each Squadron has a Junior Squadron



Junior-Corporal Woodford and Junior Staff Sergeant Major Nunns conduct a Physics experiment under the watchful eye of Mr. H. R. A. Price, A.I.Mech.E. Both students are G.C.E. candidates



The Assault Course always presents a challenge and particularly the High Wall where team work is essential

Sergeant Major. Discipline out of normal working hours is maintained by the Junior N.C.O.s and Junior Warrant Officers and much of the Troop and Squadron administration and supervision is undertaken by these senior boys, under the guidance of the Troop Officers and Sergeants. This ensures that a large proportion of Junior Leaders are given experience and training in N.C.O.s duties during their service with the Regiment.

Denbury is proud of its designation as a Regiment of Royal Signals and from the beginning boys are encouraged to feel themselves as soldiers, and as members of the Corps. The boys are designated "Junior Signalmen" and our sub-units are Squadrons and Troops. Each troop of 40 boys is affiliated to a regular regiment of the Corps and a very active liaison takes place between the Junior Leader Troops and the affiliated Regiments. Each Troop takes its name from its affiliated Regiment as follows:—

Alexander Squadron

Troop	Affiliated Regiment
Quadrant	4th Regiment
Kukri	17th (Gurkha) Regiment
Romulus	13th Regiment
Beaufighter	19th Regiment

Slim Squadron

Kohima	2nd Regiment
White Spear	7th Regiment
White Swan	30th Regiment
Lion	9th Regiment

Montgomery Squadron

Francisca	28th Regiment
Iron	3rd Regiment
Jerboa	1st Regiment
Javelin	22nd Regiment

Junior Squadron 16th Regiment

Over the past year many Junior Leaders have had an opportunity to visit their affiliated Regiments. Two boys from Iron Troop flew out to the Middle East for a month last summer with 3rd Regiment, and White Swan Troop spent a very enjoyable 48 hours at Blandford with 30th Regiment. The affiliations have also been fostered by the generous gifts of pipe banners, trumpet banners, sports trophies, sports equipment and regimental ties from the Regiment, and there can be no doubt that this friendly and enthusiastic support has helped to build up, in the Junior Leaders, an awareness of the Corps and a deep loyalty to it. This is furthered by our good fortune in having Royal Signals Officers, Warrant Officers and Senior N.C.O.s to carry out all regimental and administrative duties in the Camp and to instruct the boys in drill and weapon training.

A Graduation Parade is held at Denbury at the end of each term. Distinguished visitors who have honoured the Regiment over the past 18 months by acting as Reviewing Officers include Mr. James Ramsden, Secretary of State for War, Field Marshal Slim, General Sir Richard Hull, General Sir William Scott, General Whistler and General Swainson. The Graduation Parades are made the occasion of an Open Day for parents, and accommodation and meals are provided for parents in the Camp. Last year a total of nearly one thousand parents and relations were accommodated and fed during the three Open Days.

Trade Training

The aim of trade training at Denbury is to bring every Junior Leader up to Class III standard in one of two basic Royal Signals operating trades, either as a Comcen Operator or a Radio Operator. Training has had to be limited to these two trades in order to keep down the quantity of equipment required and the number of instructors.

All boys are interviewed by the Senior Personnel Selection Officer towards the end of their training and are allocated to a permanent trade for their Colour Service. Those who have reached BIII standard as Comcen or Radio Operator may be posted direct to regular units to exercise their trade, or they may be sent on to the Training Brigade Royal Signals for continuation training in an "A" Trade.

A considerable proportion of boys who have qualified well on either of the basic operating trades will be allocated for continuation training as Telegraph Operators. Those boys who fail to obtain an operator's rating at Denbury and who are considered unlikely to achieve this after further training at Catterick, are allocated to a trade which does not require manipulative skill and carry out training for this with the Training Brigade.

Junior Leaders who have made above-average progress in their academic studies and have obtained a pass in mathematics in their Army Certificate of Education Class I are considered for Technician training, and basic technical instruction is given to such boys during their last term. In 1963 about 20 boys benefited from this arrangement and were allocated for technician training in Catterick.

Owing to differences in the ages of boys joining the Regiment it is not possible to train every boy up to Class III trade standard while he is at Denbury. The training of boys who join the



Captain Tony Watson training the forwards for the Senior Final of the Army Hockey Cup to be played against the Infantry Junior Leaders on 9th March



Sergeant Akehurst gives instruction in the Amateur Radio Hobby

Regiment when over the age of 16 years of age corresponds to that for the younger boys but it ends a term or so earlier. However, the trade training syllabi at Denbury are co-ordinated with those of the Training Brigade Royal Signals and this enables boys to complete their training at Catterick with the minimum of upset.

In the past few months, the Regiment has received 12 Land Rovers and six driver-instructors. It is now possible to include a considerable proportion of outdoor exercises in the Radio Operator training and arrangements are now in hand for all Junior Leaders to be taught to drive while at Denbury.

The trade training programme at Denbury is still relatively new and we are only just reaching the stage where boys leaving have completed the new trade training syllabus. However, it appears that any boy who serves the full seven terms in the Regiment and works conscientiously at his trade will have little difficulty in obtaining a BIII rating. It also appears that as the Trade Training Wing gets into its stride, many boys will leave not only with a BIII rating, but with skills which will put them very well on the way to their BII.

Military Training

Every Junior Leader is taken through the syllabus for the Military Proficiency Test Class III during his time with the Regiment and most boys pass the test before graduating to Colour Service.

Adventure Training

The Regiment is ideally situated for adventure training and as might be expected, has set the lead in Army Junior Units in this type of training. For many years Dartmoor has been the setting for strenuous "Outward Bound" type exercises. Every Junior Leader spends at least one day per fortnight on such training and whenever possible exercises are extended to include one or two nights under canvas. Full use is made of the local river estuaries for canoeing and sailing, and every boy is taught elementary rock-climbing. The Regiment has a close liaison with the Outward Bound School at Holne Chase, near Ashburton, and thanks to the kindness of the Warden we are able to send parties of Junior Leaders from Denbury to negotiate their high ropes "Confidence Course." The emphasis in all outdoor training is on individual initiative and leadership and all activities are carried out in small parties with senior boys in charge.

The highlight of the term's Adventure Training is the Commonwealth Trophy Competition, when the entire Regiment, less Junior Squadron, takes part in a map-reading and endurance test on Dartmoor. The competition is organised on a Troop basis, with each Troop split into six or seven patrols. Each patrol is required to cover a set course of up to 20 miles and penalties are awarded for bad map-reading and loss of time. The Troop with the best aggregate patrol results is awarded the Commonwealth Trophy for the term.

Ten Tors Expedition

For the past five years the Regiment has organised a Youth Expedition on Dartmoor over the Whitsun weekend. From small beginnings, the Expedition has grown into a major occasion and it is now one of the biggest youth events in the national calendar. This year 2,000 young people will be taking part and teams will be coming from all over the United Kingdom and, for the first time, a number of Commonwealth teams will be participating.

Regimental Activities

The Regiment provides a wide spread of hobbies and activities which the boys are encouraged to take part in during their off-duty hours. These include the usual indoor hobbies, such as canoe-building, Camera Club, Radio Club, plus a number of activities which are traditional at Denbury. The Corps of Drums appears on parade in scarlet tunics, nearly 100 strong, and is ably backed by a pipe band of 20. The Regimental Choir, which performed a few years ago at the British Legion Festival in London, gives regular performances throughout the winter at local hospitals and Old Folks' Clubs. The Highland Dancing Team strives to maintain and improve the high standard of its public performances and last year Junior Leaders, competing as individuals, won more than 70 medals and awards in the West of England Championships and the Scottish and Highland Dancing Board's examinations.

Junior Mercury

The Regimental Magazine *Junior Mercury* has a circulation of nearly 5,000 and is published monthly. It is the only regular monthly magazine published by a Junior Unit of the Army and it performs a valuable function in placing before its readers our life at Denbury. It is distributed to all Army Information Offices and plays a valuable part in publicising the Regiment and ensuring a steady flow of high-grade recruits. Although printing costs amount to £60 per edition, these are met by magazine sales and advertisement revenue, and very little expense falls on Regimental funds.

The Future

Over the past three or four years the Regiment has doubled in size and it is now one of the biggest Junior Leader Regiments in the Army. This increase has been achieved as a consequence of good recruiting and a very low wastage rate. In 1963 our wastage rate was less than half of the average figure for all Junior Leader Regiments and a quarter of that for some Junior Regiments. Over the same period, the quality of boys joining the Regiment has steadily improved. The annual number of successes achieved in the Army First and Second Class Examinations has trebled.

In the next few years a new camp is to be built for the Regiment and no doubt this will cater for a further increase in the Junior Leader strength. It is hoped that the new camp will be built at Denbury, and that we shall be able to continue to make full use of Dartmoor and the rivers and sea-coast of South Devon in our training. However, whatever our future and wherever we settle, the traditions which started back in "F" Company in 1924, and have remained with us through the years in Catterick, Beverley and Denbury, will go on, and we will continue to feed into Royal Signals a steady stream of self-reliant, smart and robust young men who will, as in the past, provide a large proportion of the long service N.C.O.s and Warrant Officers of the Corps.

Calling all Members of the Association

Don't forget the Catterick Reunion takes place on the 27th/28th June this year. All particulars from your Branch or Association H.Q. . Apply early.

Some Military Moments

(Concluded)

More Highlights with a Soliloquy at the end!

By Colvin Meik

BELOW, Mr. Colvin Meik, concludes his articles on "Some Military Moments." In the same amusing style, as his previous article, Mr. Meik describes what happened to him at the battle of El Alamein, how he lost a commission by 110 volts, his contact with a Russian Colonel, and some amusing references to saws, musical.

* * *

"Let's have a bit more of the Royal Corps"

The Battle of Britain went on without my help but with my moral support and as we were stationed just off the Brighton road we all had a ringside seat. And a very thrilling affair it was too, to see the Hurricanes and Spitfires attack the massed German bomber squadrons. 1940 was a wonderful summer but there was no cricket now and for most of us it was a period of frustration.

In the Spring of 1941 the 12th Lancers got their new wireless sets, the No. 11's, and I helped to fit them into the armoured cars. The 12th are a fine regiment with a tremendous family feeling and I was happy all my year with them. For a time we were regarded as being not quite real but after the incident I am about to describe they took us into their bosom. I don't know how pay parades are conducted in the Army now, I daresay the cheque is paid direct into the soldier's bank account, but in those days it was a parade just like any other. The pay table was approached at the quick march, the paying officer saluted, the pay picked up without grabbing, signed for, the step back, the salute, the smart about turn and the quick march back. The Signal Troop had to wait until everyone had been paid, then the Pay Sergeant would call "Signals" and we knew that we were on stage. One pay parade we'd just had a new Troop Sergeant and when the call "Signals" came he replied, loud and clear, "Let's have a bit more of that Royal Corps." There was a deadly hush, the R.S.M. blanched, the noble subaltern who was paying us that week (an Earl who is now an important public figure) nearly fell off his chair, but the point was made. We were never again referred to as "Signals." It was always "Royal Corps of Signals." This is as it should be but full marks to the 12th Royal Lancers too.

Robbed of a Commission . . . by 110 Volts!

The 12th, complete with Signal Troop, went out to Durban in the s.s. *Highland Brigade*, a Royal Mail passenger/cargo ship, whose peacetime function it was to bring meat from the Argentine to Europe under refrigeration. We were cooped up in the holds and thought nothing of the ship but were glad of the ice plant once we got into the tropics. At Durban we disembarked and a couple of weeks later went on board the *Nieuw Amsterdam* for our next hop. She was the pride of the Holland America Line but there were so many troops on board that we were forbidden to carry lifebelts. Nobody enjoyed that trip very much and it was not till 1953 that I travelled on her from New York to Southampton and was able to appreciate what a wonderful ship she is. We tied up at Aden in company with the *Repulse* and the *Prince of Wales*, two fine battleships on their way to the Far East. Little did we know what was in store for them there.

The *Nieuw Amsterdam* made short work of the hop from Aden to Suez and no sooner had we docked than the regiment was hustled off the ship.

To the older soldiers of the 12th, it was a homecoming, as Egypt was their peacetime station, but my hopes of seeing the pyramids were dashed as we were hustled off with almost indecent haste to the war in the Western desert.

For the next month or so we saw the desert in all its forms. It was the season of the Stakes. For the benefit of younger readers I should explain that these particular Stakes had nothing to do with horses. But they were races, races both from and after the enemy. The desert war was extremely fluid and not till the battle of El Alamein was there anything remotely resembling a front line. Therefore as the fortunes fluctuated so the troops moved, usually without notice and always at full speed. There were the Mersa Matruh Stakes, the Tobruk Stakes, the Bengasi Stakes the Msus Stakes and many more. It was south-west of Msus, at Fort Saunnu, that I got mine. Stukas that time.

The first four months of 1942 saw me in the head ward of the 15th Scottish General Hospital in Cairo. (There are those among my friends who say that I have never been the same since but don't you believe them.) In May I was returned to the Signals Base Depot at Ma'adi and posted to 3 G.H.Q. Signals next door. I found myself on shift work in the teleprinter room of G.H.Q. (Greypillars?) and playing quite a lot of cricket. After I had been there a month I applied again for a commission.

This time I was received a little more enthusiastically. The C.O., a well known officer in the Corps, was Lieutenant-Colonel XY who said that the Corps needed officers badly and that he thought I would make a good one. Perhaps he'd seen me batting at Gezira the week before? He marked my application which was then endorsed by the Brigadier and all I had to do was to keep my nose clean till the next intake for the OCTU was ready. Alas for me. A few days later I was told to change the plug on a new set the C.O. had in his office. It was an American wireless and the plug would not fit the Egyptian socket. I changed the plug and reported this to Colonel XY. Did he want to hear the set in action? Yes, the Colonel did want to hear the set in action. Full of pride with my highly technical achievement and anxious to impress on the C.O. that I was excellent officer material and that his confidence in my ability was justified, I plugged his new American set, designed to work on 110v, into the Egyptian plug, designed to give out 220v. There was a deadly hush . . . !

The next day I was packing my kitbag and in a very short time found myself digging an underground telephone exchange in the minefields of a remote and desert spot called Alamein. **I stayed there all through the battle, too, and I'm willing to bet there are not many telephone operators who have had the pleasure of talking to their girl friend while in the middle of one of the bitterest battles in British history! (What's that noise, Colvin, I can't hear a word? Sorry, darling, Rommel's shelling us, I'll call you back).**

The following year, I was with 10 Corps H.Q. then, we had finished off the Germans and Italians and had returned to Tripoli from Tunis and I decided to apply for a commission. Somewhat to my surprise I found myself, a fortnight later, in the company of some N.C.O.s outside the office of a Lieutenant-Colonel, Royal Signals, who was interviewing prospective candidates. They seemed to spend a long time with him and we soon discovered that he was asking all sorts of technical questions and demanding that the answers be supported with diagrams. When my name was called I went in with a quaking heart. This time, I thought, I really have had it. The officer was shuffling my papers, and didn't look up for 30 seconds. To my surprise he gave me a kindly smile and said:

"Well, Meik, I see you have been recommended by my old friend Colonel XY. I'm quite sure there's no need to ask you any questions." He signed my papers with a flourish and asked me to send in the next man.

A Commission at Last!

In April, 1944, I was finally commissioned and posted to East Africa. This suited me very well as I had spent most of my boyhood in Nyasaland and Rhodesia.

A little later I was once more on my travels, heading far from the fleshpots, and in time reached the wilds of the Ogaden

Province, on the borders of Ethiopia and the Somalia. Perhaps the angels were looking after me for I found myself in the best job that an ambitious young subaltern could possibly wish for, commanding a signal section and providing communication for the Somaliland Scouts. There were camel patrols to go on, big game to hunt, and one of the best climates in Africa to enjoy. I devised a camel pack set, balancing the wireless set on one side by the weight of the battery on the other. The whole area was a sort of North West Frontier with us as the buffer between the warlike Ethiopians on the one side and the bloodthirsty Somali nomads on the other. They had been raiding and looting each others camels and women for generations and no doubt are still doing so. There was little doubt that they resented our efforts to preserve any sort of peace as their constant sniping proved and it was to try and reduce friction on all sides that we evolved the following disarmament plan.

All the inhabitants depended entirely on their camels for their existance. They drank the milk, ate the flesh and used the hide to make their tents. Thus, we reasoned, take away their camels and they will be forced to surrender their arms. To encourage them to hand in their rifles we impounded all the camels in the area and held them in a central zareba, releasing them in exchange for their armaments. I regret to say that the plan was a dismal failure from the start. All good tribesmen have two rifles and we representatives of the British Raj in the horn of Africa were lumbered with the choicest collection of early and mid-Victorian muzzle loaders ever seen outside the Royal Arsenal. Having disposed of their superfluous hardware, the tribesmen collected their camels and resumed normal operations.

Musical Saws

For the next eight or nine months I saw a good deal of Germany and the Germans, and, after a while, I was appointed to the staff of "Tubby" Lethbridge, the M.G.I. I also had a spell in Berlin and met quite a few Russians. I was amazed at their callous and indifferent attitude to human life. Once, at a cocktail party in the Russian sector, I mentioned to a Russian Colonel that a tipsy Russian soldier had jostled me on my way into the house; the Colonel astonished me by assuring me that it was all right, everything would be taken care of, there was no need to worry.

"Take care of what, Colonel? The man's gone," I replied.

"What!" he exclaimed angrily, "you didn't SHOOT him?"

At the end of 1946 I was back in my old stamping ground, the Middle East, posted to 4 A.F.S., then at Quassassin. Quite what we did I never discovered but I never saw a plane.

Fayid was a pleasant spot. Excellent swimming in the Great Bitter Lake, sailing too, plenty of cricket, squash, tennis, football, hockey, all the sports that a man could desire except golf. Night life there was on the doorstep in the shape of the Grand, a hostelry that boasted indifferent food and wine, dancing to an indifferent band and the spectacle of a man playing an indifferent musical saw.

There was someone else in Fayid at the time who played a musical saw but there was nothing indifferent about him. This other saw player was our C.S.O., Major-General C. M. F. White, a great gentleman and a fine officer. One night when "Slap" White was dining in our Mess I asked him if he had brought his saw, then mentioned that he had a rival at the Grand.

"Humph," he grunted, "Does he use a bow or a hammer?"

"Only a bow, Sir."

"HUH, I use both."

I felt this conversation put the Grand in its right perspective.

When I was first writing these few reminiscences I planned a last paragraph full of philosophy and middle aged sentimentality. You know the sort of thing, I've given my best years to the Army, what have I got in return, etc. But I decided that this sort of moralising, if the editor printed it at all, would prove only that I am middle aged and mushy and while I am certainly the one I am most certainly not the other.

But one thing in life now alternately comforts and appalls me. Whenever I see the thousands of youthful manifestations, the twisters and shakers, the Beatle fanciers and the stiletto heels grinding a tattoo on our parquet floors, I think to myself, Colvin, my boy, you, and thousands like you have made this possible. As the song says: "Where have all the soldiers gone?"

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Adventure on the cliff face

By Lance-Corporal I. D. Tarring, Royal Signals,
All Arms Junior Leaders Regiment

A Junior Leader gives his impressions of his first attempt at rock climbing

THIS is North Wales, the Camp Tonfanau. There are eight hundred stories in this camp. This is only one of them.

On 23rd October, 1963, two trucks passed the guardroom and proceeded to their destination—Snowdon. Leaving at 16.00 hours, we started on our long, cold journey, with the icy wind and fine drizzle finding their way through the canvas of the three-tonner. After a time almost everyone came to the same conclusion, that it was bitterly cold, and managed to crawl into his sleeping bag, roll on the floor and go to sleep. The remainder sat on the seats smoking, eating and occasionally singing the odd song.

At 21.30 hours we arrived at the base camp. The tailboard came down with a crash and we all crawled out into the darkness of night. Going to the tents was a hard and hazardous journey, although it was only 50 yards. Obstacles included a fence, on the other side of which there was ankle-deep mud and a small stream. After getting into our sleeping bags we endeavoured to get to sleep. After moving around the tent to get into a more comfortable position (we slept on a hillside) I soon dozed off.

Next morning an awful noise awakened us as some keen Permanent Staff Sergeant drove us out of the tents. A wash in the stream, followed by a "Compo" breakfast, fully awakened us. Then we were given our initial orders, to march to a nearby mountain rescue club. After half-an-hour's painful, uphill marching, we arrived, and were met by that "Flying Scotsman," Sergeant Thomson. Here we were divided into sections—the Junior Leaders who had climbed before and the beginners. The beginners, of whom I myself was one, went along the bottom of the cliff, where we were shown how to tie a bowline and other useful knots.

Then we were told the route to climb. I felt sick with terror at the thought of climbing that sheer face. Sergeant Ainsworth had already climbed the first part and belayed himself to a jutting rock. Then, the people before having gone up with some difficulty, it was my turn. A shout rang out: "Get ready six." My knees started knocking as I fumbled with the knot. "Take in slack," I hollered. "Taking in now," came the answer. "Climbing now," I replied quickly. "Aye Aye," came back, and I started the ascent. Some crude steps for 30 feet helped, although they were slippery and very smooth. Then I came to a rock chimney. Up it went soaring majestically, a whole 20 feet and more. But it was raining and blowing; the rocks were clearly smooth. I looked for the first finger hold and found a small horizontal crack about one foot long. I dug my nails in and up I climbed, slowly, but surely.

When I was three feet from the top I started to breath easier and relax. Then it happened. I slipped and fell. But the rope held. I only dropped two feet. I was in a cold sweat and went up again in double quick time. Finally I stood panting on a ledge six inches wide.

After a short breather I was off again up a 70° face about 20 feet high. But it seemed like the Empire State Building. It was much the same as the chimney, only harder, because there wasn't any shelter from the driving rain. My progress was slow—too slow for my liking. Then, after what seemed an eternity, I reached a crack about 5 feet from the top and adjusted my boots into it and stayed there. I was stuck. "Oh no," I moaned in desperation. Then to shouts of encouragement from the top, I wrenched out my foot and scrambled up to the pair of hands reaching down to help me on to the top.

I stood there trembling with exertion. "I hope I don't have to do that again for a while," I said to Sergeant Thomson. He just laughed (he's a keep-fit addict). "Put it down to experience." Looking back now, though, it wasn't so bad, and I certainly feel that I achieved something that day.

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He was there and he asks . . .

Were Royal Signals the last to leave Norway in 1940?

BY EX-W.O.II B. HOWELL

MR. B. HOWELL, who served in the Corps from 1939 to 1961 and was in Norway during the evacuation of 1940, makes the claim that four Royal Signals operators, including himself, were the very last British troops to leave, and he feels that if his claim helps to write in a little Royal Signals history, it will have achieved his aim.

"I don't suppose it matters a tinker's cuss, after all these years, who were the last troops to leave Norway," writes Mr. Howell, "but from a purely historical point of view, it may not be a bad thing to try and narrow this down in order that history, as faithfully recorded in the various archives, is as near to the truth as 'damn' is to swearing."

On what evidence now does Mr. Howell base his claim. Well, he was there and remembers the circumstances very well, but what supports him in his contention that the Corps personnel were the very last to leave, is contained in entries in a notebook. In fact, Mr. Howell's own notebook, with entries made at the time. And officially? Well, the Historical Section of the Admiralty admit that he may be right, but it would be impossible to confirm this now . . .

But let Mr. Howell tell his story:

* * *

According to Captain Macintyre in his book "Narvik," the last troops to leave Norway were the airfield staff on the Bardufoss aerodrome, situated in Northern Norway. Captain Macintyre relates that after all the aircraft had been evacuated to the aircraft carrier *Glorious*, the airfield staff commenced destruction of all installations shortly before midnight on 7th June, 1940. The writer also says that the evacuation of all troops from Norway was completed in the early hours of 8th June. By "early hours, 8th June," it can be assumed the author means between 01.00 and 06.00 hours, and certainly not later than 08.00 hours.

Now Captain Macintyre is quite accurate about this as official sources agree, and these statements serve as a basis for what I believe to be true about the Corps personnel. I have in my possession my notebook (now a bit tattered and grubby) which was in fact a record of daily personal experiences written at the time. On reading the entry for the 8th June I was quite excited that I could just make out the pencil entry under that date which reads as follows: "Sat 8 June closed set at 3.0 and destroyed our equipment. Boarded destroyer and transferred to *Arandora Star*. Set sail the same day."

Actually the 3 is more like a 9 but there is no doubt that as late as 03.00 hours the four-man party of Royal Signals, comprising Sergeant "Jock" Connelly, Bill Marsden, Eric Holden(?) and myself, all of 49 (W.R.) Regiment (T.A.) were operating a W.S. No. 11 purely as a deception device in the village of Saresa, Northern Norway, as instructed two days before by a staff officer who landed in the bay in a flying boat.

I well remember that after we closed down we all had our gear to pack. We were completely independent without any officer or even a local unit of any description to refer back to.

One of our chores was to empty about ten huge fire extinguishers which were on wheels. We trundled these down to the shore and pouring their contents into the fjord probably unwittingly poisoned all the fish for many a day.

Later we helped ourselves to as much food as we could carry from a large store of supplies that had apparently been built for a campaign and stood deserted nearby. Much of this we gave to a Norwegian family with whom we had been billeted. Their alarm about this action was quite understandable when it was realised that Jerry would probably soon be knocking on their door!

However, in brilliant sunshine we carted all our gear down to the fish quay and loaded it at the stern of a 'puff-puff'—a small fishing boat with a concrete bottom operated by an engine which made the characteristic sound from which the nickname was derived.

We pulled out from shore probably about 08.00 hours, certainly not much before and quite probably later, chugging our way through narrow fjord after fjord until a destroyer rushed up like a busy hen after a lost chick and ordered us to "heave to."

The embarkation at sea from our small boat to the destroyer was not achieved without some trepidation, especially as we were carrying the W.S. No. 11 which Sergeant Connelly had insisted (despite my violent protests!) in saving.

It was a very startled and confused Norwegian crew we left behind, no doubt wondering what had happened to all the acid bottles, wireless gear, etc., which had been stowed away at the stern of the boat. I often wondered what they thought when they returned to port passing those acid bottles in their strange wraps floating in single line astern in a fjord?

Some time later and well out at sea we came upon the convoy and there began what I consider to have been the most perilous transfer from destroyer to liner ever accomplished by two Royal Signals (carrying a W.S. No. 11) from the bobbing and heaving deck of a little destroyer to the safety, many feet above our heads, of the deck of the *Arandora Star* well out at sea.

This feat was accomplished by waiting for the destroyer to come to the pitch of a giant wave about three feet from the side of the liner, a quick grab of the rope ladder dangling, and guided by what can only be described as a human gangplank of sturdy naval ratings locked wrist to wrist to prevent our falling in between ships. That was the first and only time I ever got away with calling a Sergeant a 'Silly b . . . idiot' for bringing the set back.

With our safe embarkation the liner and destroyer just 'got to hell out of it' and I can still taste that first real cigarette which was given me after many weeks smoking "cork tipped" (red 'in' message pad wrapped around tealeaves).

However, and to get back to the point, "were Signals the last troops to leave Norway"—it would seem almost certain (and supported by the evidence of my notes and which I hope will be substantiated if any of those lads are around still) that four Royal Signallers, average age 20 years, were the last troops to leave Norway to join Group 2 Convoy—the last one!—to return home safely thanks to a hell of a lot of luck and much heroism shown by Commander Galsford and the crew of the naval vessel *Agasta* which fought to the death with two heavy German warships which had already despatched a number of vessels before getting set to smash Group 2 Convoy. There is no question that this heroic action saved Group 2 including the writer and, I hope, many readers. The Historical Section of the Admiralty neither confirms nor denies my claim on behalf of Royal Signals stating in their reply which I hope they will not mind if I quote as follows:

> "You will no doubt realise that when the final assessment of campaigns and actions comes to be written, there are always some loose ends of minor detail that are difficult to dispose of to everyone's satisfaction. But a point is inevitably reached where the issue has to be decided on the best evidence available, otherwise nothing would ever be written at all.
>
> "This is a case in point where the official account could be wrong to the extent of four men and a couple of hours: We will note our copy accordingly."

Well, there we have it—first in, last out—does it really matter? Except to one ex-Royal Signaller—myself. Of course it might be nice at some future date to be able to read in some Signal account—perhaps of the 49th (W.R.) Regiment (T.A.) that men of this Regiment were certainly amongst the last to leave Norway—if indeed not the very last!

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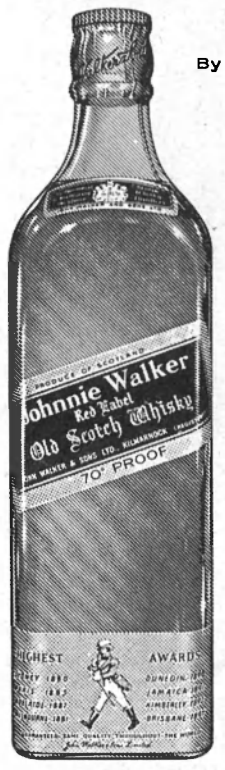
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Signals Month

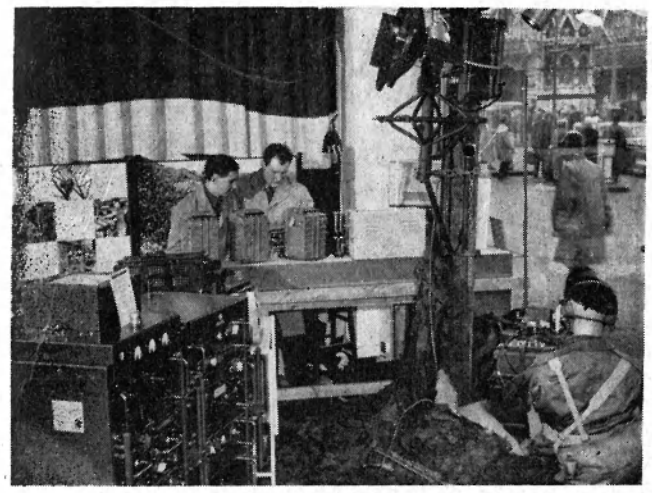
Display in the Strand gains 21 Recruits for the Corps

ONE of the main features of 'Signals Month' held in the new looking Army Information Office in The Strand opposite Charing Cross Station, which was co-ordinated by C.S.O. London District, was a demonstration by technicians repairing radio and telegraph equipment at a bench in full view of passers-by on the pavement outside the office. Also on view was a comprehensive range of modern radio, line and telegraph equipments and in contrast a 1922 vintage 'A' set from the Corps Museum.

The display was mainly equipped and manned by 30th Regiment, their technicians being Sergeant H. Stickley, Corporal I. Lupton and Corporal C. A. Williams. Additional technicians were provided from 239 Squadron, Corporal A. W. Galland; 605 Troop, Corporal I. Holmes; and the cinema projectionist, Corporal B. E. Pengilly, again from 239 Squadron. The overall technical supervision was in the capable hands of Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Hill of 239 Squadron.

The display was an undoubted success as a recruiting effort and produced some 21 applicants to join the Corps during the month, five of whom have already been given reporting dates.

One unusual occurence is worth reporting. One of the technicians, who shall be nameless, was having difficulty in getting a good picture on a Mufax receive terminal and having made some adjustments went outside the office to get the passers-by view of his efforts. All was still not well and he made some most un-technician-like comments under his breath; he was surprised to hear from a civilian standing behind him, "That picture's way out of syncronisation." The technician was about to tell him to mind his own business, when the civilian produced a business card which stated that he was a member of Muirheads the manufacturers of the equipment. He was duly invited inside and soon repaired and adjusted the receiver using tools and spares from his briefcase. So much for the long arm of coincidence.



[Picture by courtesy of Marconi Instruments Ltd.

A GENERAL VIEW OF PART OF THE DISPLAY

Corporal Galland and Corporal Homes discuss a technical problem

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Signalman J. H. Vollenhoven at work on a dipole pulley

"Man on the Steel"

A 14th REGIMENT CONTRIBUTION

Throughout the Corps one of the most versatile soldiers has always been the Lineman; he is usually a hardy, reliable and resourceful type. Cables and wires are in his blood. Additionally, we in COMCAN deal with a rather special kind of wire—aerial wire—carried high above the ground on 150 feet metal towers. To erect and maintain these aerials we have to train a special type of Lineman—namely the Aerial Rigger.

Few Lineman would ever dream that one day they might be climbing 150 feet up a thin, vertical metal girder with only small metal bolts for support.

Without a shadow of doubt, aerial rigging calls for a cool head. A man on the steel must be able to move around freely as if on the ground. He must have the utmost confidence in himself and his equipment, and be able to concentrate on his job. Like a climber he learns to keep fit, how to reserve his strength, and above all, not to flap.

It is surprising how many Linemen, after a period of training, measure up to the requiments of an Aerial Rigger. Volunteers attend a six-week course at the Aerial Riggers School, R.A.F. Digby, Lincolnshire.

At the Receiver Station, Bampton, there are 71 towers covering over 300 acres of land. Each tower has to be inspected regularly. All girder bolts are tested and tightened. Stays and halyards must be serviced. The feeder routes are inspected—new aerials are cut and constructed to accurate specification standards. Damage from a snapping hawser or wire under strain can be costly and dangerous.

It is interesting to note that no man is ever ordered to ascend a tower. He does so of his own free will, and no pressure is brought to bear on him if he refuses. If a man should lose his nerve on a tower it can present a serious rescue problem. Similarly, no work is ever carried out overhead in wet, icy or windy conditions.

The accompanying photograph was taken on the towers at Bampton by Lieutenant R. A. Hoghton.

If this sort of job appeals to you ask your C.O. to send your name to the Office I.C. Records who has opened a register for volunteers.

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The Wem Motor Co. Ltd., Radio and T.V. and Electrical Engineers, Church Road, Shawbury, Shropshire.

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'55 Royal Signals Qualifying Course

The Corps welcomes our latest joined young Officers

"SO you are going to Catterick? Well you have my sympathies."

This was probably the type of cheering remark passed during the Christmas leave, by relatives or friends of those newly commissioned into the Corps. Memories of dim and distant soldiering in the past, in some fearsome fortress in Northern Yorkshire, were offered, as if attempting to blunt the enthusiasms of youth.

On the 5th of January, 1964, a cavalcade of new, not so new, and downright old cars, careered into the car park of the Headquarters' Mess in Messines Lines, bringing 55 Qualifying Course to Catterick. They were greeted by blue skies and sunshine, and not by rain and gale-force winds as they had been led to expect. The weather was to remain remarkably kind until the middle of February.

Of twenty-three young officers, thirteen were old Welbexians, who had already known each other for four years. Among the remainder were two from Malaya, one from Thailand and four Lieutenants, who had already done some regimental service.

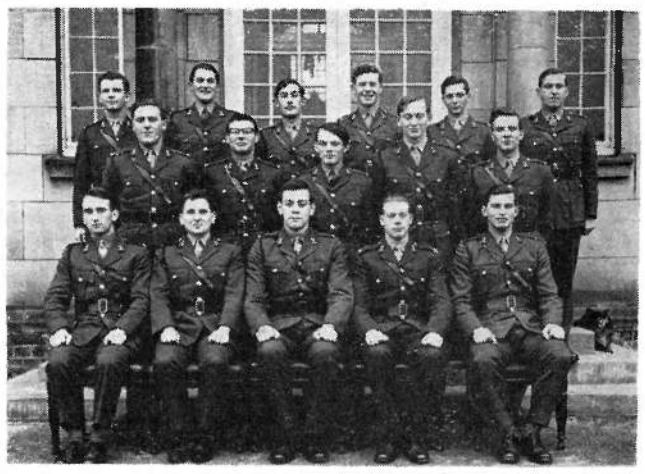
The course began rather slowly, which resulted in a certain amount of afternoon drowsiness, and in a few cases, morning drowsiness as well. However, momentum soon built up, and the cobwebs of inactivity were shaken off, to be replaced by a multitude of exercises, involving such things as the erection of a variety of antennae, at high speed—high speed to the course that is. Most of the course had never seen a large number of the antennae, before having to erect them in a snowstorm, accompanied by high winds.

A pleasant weekend was spent with 8th Regiment. We went Civil Defence training at Morpeth, twelve miles north of Newcastle. Saturday was a day of learning, and Sunday a day of applying, with varying degrees of success, what we had learnt.

One of the many administrative problems facing the course, was that of garaging, in and around the Mess, the large number of cars which had accompanied the members of the course to Catterick. One young officer, a late starter in the garage hunting field, found one garage suspiciously empty, but decided to use it. On returning sometime later, he found that the neighbouring coke-pile had increased in size to the tune of five or six lorry loads, which completely blocked the entrance to his garage. He is now hoping that we might still have a hard winter, otherwise his car will be in the same garage next winter.

The course has represented the School at rugger, hockey, squash, badminton and cross-country running, not to mention beagling and Scottish country dancing.

MEMBERS OF THE COURSE



Back row: Second-Lieutenants D. J. Buckley, R. M. Carr-Smith, W. R. Clare, C. H. Cruickshank, P. J. K. Dickinson, A. F. Eastburn. *Centre row:* Second-Lieutenants S. C. L. Gadd, R. M. Goymour, A. G. Ingham, M. J. Lance, P. A. Neale. *Front row:* Second-Lieutenants P. Stanley, M. G. Taylor, T. I. M. Waugh, R. T. Westerman, N. F. Wood

No. 1 Communications Course

THIS new course arrived at the School of Signals on 20th October, 1963, and leaves in August, 1964. It has been specially designed for those officers not going to be B.Sc. or T.E. Officers but requiring a good knowledge of establishing and working a communications system.

The course consists of 10 subalterns and five overseas officers, all from different Units and backgrounds. The syllabus is basically of a practical nature and standards of skills not previously achieved by officers are being obtained. (Morse 19 w.p.m., teleprinter 30 w.p.m.).

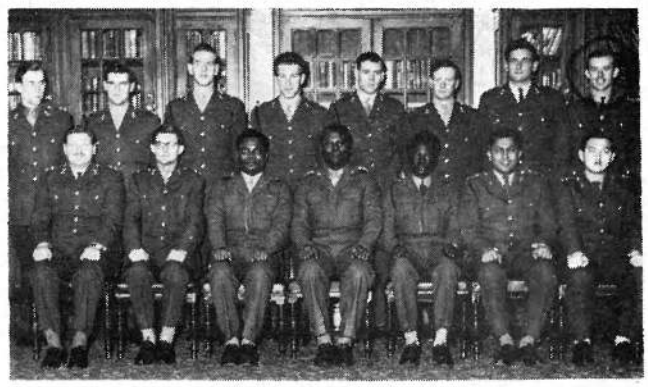
The first two months were spent in Tactics Wing brushing up on standard practices and learning latest developments. The next two months in Basics Group brought everyone down to a common level where 14 subjects were taught in quick succession. Previous technical knowledge was extremely varied and instructors used to the brains of the T.E. and Foremen's courses soon found that they had to work hard to get subject matter over, otherwise the whole time was spent answering questions about the previous, not understood, lesson. Confirmation by progress tests meant a few late nights with strong coffee and kept noses to the grindstone.

The Basics Group phase examination was held on 21st February and we have now moved into Radio Group to see and work some of the hardwear.

To complete notes about the Communications Course the social side must not be forgotten.

When we first arrived we found that due to lack of support the Officers' Club in Catterick was closing. This seems the result of insufficient unmarried regimental officers in the Garrison. Unfortunately we found no substitute for the club and two members of the course decided at Christmas that if you could not beat them to join them, and so got engaged.

After Christmas the old billiard room in the Mess was opened as a combined ladies' room and bar, and is now called the Rainbow Room. This seemed an ideal place to start the ball rolling, and so every Wednesday evening parties have been organised inviting in as many ladies and members of other regiments as



Back row (left to right): Lieutenant M. M. Ayrton, Second-lieutenant A. R. Bailey, Lieutenant J. J. Cullen, Lieutenant G. R. Funnell, Lieutenant R. W. Garlick, Lieutenant J. M. Gray, Lieutenant P. T. Jones, Lieutenant A. P. H. Marley. *Front row (left to right):* Lieutenant W. A. Price, Lieutenant W. P. B. Thomas, Captain J. S. K. Agbemenu (Ghana), Captain E. A. Erskine (Ghana), Captain M. R. Mohammed (Nigeria), Captain Krishnan (Malaysia), Lieutenant Lai (Malaysia)

(*Continued on next page*)

possible. This has proved a great success and helps to liven up the Mess if only once a week.

On the sporting side activities by the course consist mainly of rugby, squash, beagling, badminton (the course team is unbeaten in Catterick so far) and darts. The darts team is beaten regularly but the evenings are enjoyed so much by the locals and ourselves that the fixture list is extending.

Saturdays are spent drinking coffee or something stronger in the Black Lion, where plans are made for the latest sport the course has discovered. This consists of two or three cars filled with the right combination of suitable companions, which drive off in convoy over the Yorkshire Dales on Sundays. When the leading driver finds he is getting no directions from the map reader in the back, he discovers that the map reader has been paying all his attention to his companion and is completely lost, geographically that is!

After a discussion between drivers it is found that the only way is over a road marked in white on the map. This soon becomes a road "Unfit for Motor Vehicles." Not daunted, we carry on. Soon only the lightest female is driving while everybody else pushes hard. One in three hills, bogs and fords pass by and eventually we emerge onto a solid road having again proved the sign was wrong. Appetites are now urging us towards food and drink, and drivers sort out what is left of the cars. Soon we are in one of Yorkshire's fine pubs where hospitality is at its best. Party games finish off the evening and yet another Monday morning has to be faced.

In conclusion we now feel we are filling a much needed place in the School of Signals in the part of Junior Regimental Officers as the atmosphere is often heavy with scientific and technical talk.

We look forward to No. 2 Communications Course who arrive in May to give us more support to make the School of Signals and Catterick the social centre it once was.

CSO Comcan visits FARELF

Chief Signal Officer, COMCAN, Colonel J. R. West, has recently visited the theatre, and in particular, has been inspecting the installations and sites operated by 237 Squadron.

The C.S.O., accompanied by Major S. D. Allaway, M.M., arrived in Paya Lebar on 23rd January, after a 16-hour delay in U.K. due to fog.

On Friday, 24th, after meeting C.S.O., FARELF, Colonel West made a very quick tour around the COMCAN installations in Singapore and also the Joint H.Q. at Phoenix Park, in which pie 237 Squadron still has several fingers. On Friday evening Colonel West met a number of officers (of the Royal Signals Group) and their ladies at a cocktail party given by Major and Mrs. J. B. Prince.

Saturday, 25th, and Sunday, 26th, were occupied with a business-cum-pleasure trip to Malaya, where the C.S.O. was entertained in Kuala Lumpur by Lieutenant-Colonel E. McK. Erskine, C.S.O., Federation Army, and in Seremban and Port Dickson by Lieutenant-Colonel J. C. Clinch, C.O., 17th Gurkha Signal Regiment. The party returned to Singapore on Monday, 27th January, and spent the remainder of the day discussing local problems with O.C. 237 Squadron.

On Tuesday, 28th, the C.S.O., accompanied by Majors Allaway and Prince flew to Bangkok to visit the Golden Arrow Detachment, and after lunch at the Grand Hotel, visited the Transmitter and Receiver Sites, making a detailed inspection of stores, vehicles and equipment. In the evening the party were entertained to dinner by Major and Mrs. R. T. Hone and Captain and Mrs. R. I. F. Amos. Major Hone is attached to the Exercise Planning Staff at H.Q., SEATO, and Captain Amos commands the Golden Arrow Detachment. The dinner was a new experience for the visitors, conducted in traditional Thai fashion, reclining on cushions and served on a magnificent teak table only six inches high.

The following morning was taken up with visits to H.Q. SEATO, to meet the U.K. staff there, U.S. Signal Corps Installations in Bangkok, and finally to JUSMAG (Joint United States Military Advisory Group) where useful discussions took place with the U.S. Signal Corps Staff.

The afternoon was set aside for discussion of detachment problems, the party being scheduled to leave at 21.30 hours for Singapore. However, at 19.00 hours the flight was cancelled, and in view of the already restricted schedule, work continued throughout the evening.

Thursday proved an interesting, but also frustrating, day. Two further flights were cancelled, and it was estimated that at midday some 250 people were stranded in Bangkok trying to get to Kuala Lumpur and Singapore. Some excellent staff work by Captain Amos got British Embassy clearance for an R.A.F. Hastings to be diverted from Ubon to Bangkok, and at 15.55 hours this landed at Don Muang Airport. After some delay for refuelling and documentation, the 'plane took off for Singapore at 17.25 hours and landed at Changi in time for Colonel West to get to Princess Mary Officers' Mess, where he was guest of honour at a Corps Dinner. It is understood that after-dinner conviviality extended to the early hours of Friday morning.

Meanwhile, Majors Allaway and Prince, who were left in Bangkok, due to lack of seats in the Hastings, were bemused by the series of possibilities being examined by Captain Amos for getting them away from Bangkok. These included flights to Rangoon, Manila and Penang, but on each occasion the connecting flight to Singapore was fully booked. Eventually, by means best left unrecorded, they were booked on a Malasian Airways Comet departing at 21.30 hours. They arrived in Singapore just after midnight and, after the usual formalities, got home by 01.00 hours.

On Friday, 31st January, the C.S.O. was able to tour the Tanglin Complex and met most of the N.C.O.s and men on duty, including the U.K.-based civilians.

The remainder of the day was spent in final discussions with C.S.O., FARELF, H.Q., Royal Signals, and O.C. 237 Squadron. There was just time for some shopping on Saturday morning and a final swim before setting out for Paya Lebar and the charter flight to U.K. Our last glimpse afforded us the sight of Major Allaway hugging his British warm, no doubt already preparing himself for the worst.

CLOTHING is still **URGENTLY** required

by the WELFARE SECTION

ROYAL SIGNALS INSTITUTION
SPECIAL SPRING LECTURE

TUESDAY, 21st APRIL, 1964
at 6 p.m.

SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS NOW AND IN THE FUTURE

by

Captain C. F. Booth, C.B.E.

one time Royal Signals, late Deputy Engineer-in-Chief to the Post Office, more recently Leader of the U.K. Delegation to the International Conference on Frequencies for Space Radiocommunication.

in

THE ASSEMBLY HALL
of
THE ROYAL COMMONWEALTH SOCIETY
(entrance in Craven Street)
LONDON, W.C.2

The lecture will be introduced by Major-General A. M. W. Whistler, C.B., C.B.E., Assistant Chief of Defence Staff (Signals).

There is ample seating accommodation—up to 400—which we would like to see filled. On this occasion there will be no reasonable limit to the number of guests which a member may bring and non-members will be welcome.

NOTES from MID-EAST

222 SQUADRON, B.F.P.O. 69

With a rapid turnover augmented by considerable reinforcements—at last!—there are new faces everywhere. Lieutenant Eric Castle and family have left us, and must still be emptying the sand from their shoes. The football and cricket teams will greatly miss Mr. Castle—a remarkable all-rounder, considering he trained on Chinese chow and never smoked less than three cigarettes at once!

Captain Jimmy Walmsley is now the big nayib in Khormaksar. Our hockey star should be in the ascendant accordingly. And with Captain Read about to go home from Bahrain, Lieutenant Kerr, another new arrival, has gone north to take his place—after a suitable indoctrination of sun, sand, and hand-outs at Squadron H.Q.

We are lucky to have with us now all-England under 20 and U.K. Army side basketball star Lance-Corporal Sid Evans. As quick to rally support off the court as on, he has produced a team from the Aden elements of the Squadron which has given a very good account of itself against all comers. Sid himself plays regularly for the Combined Services team out here, against visiting matelots from French, Italian, American and even Japanese ships.

Other recent arrivals include Lance-Corporal Cornish, Signalmen Houghton and Armstrong, who find that trying to lay 104 pair into a trench before the wind re-fills it with salt and sand is a bit different from twisting B70 tails in Blandford. Never mind, lads. You shouldn't join if you can't take a joke.

The Squadron H.Q. menagerie is in good shape. Faradav, the Yemeni baboon, still keeps watch for flag cars in his big cage built round a tree near the entrance to our lines. His manners don't improve. The aviary gives a touch of colour, though our efforts to introduce some lovebirds of the parakeet family failed when the birds promptly bit a hole through the wire which was supposed to encompass them and went absent. We know where they are, but we can't catch 'em. What a joy it will be if they survive the heat and found a colony in Aden Trouble is, as seed-eaters, they'll find very little to eat. Finally, Antar, the donkey. He's getting quite proficient at taking works parade. When he and Sergeant-Major Snell give voice together . . . Man—dig those decibels!

"K" Troop places on record the opening of its own games room in Khormaksar. Taking an oblique crack at Squadron H.Q.'s celebrated boozer. the Gentlemen's Rest, the Khormaksar lads have called theirs, The Rest of the Gentlemen! Built by self-help, this new rest room is real proof of what a few lads. a few bob and a few pots of paint can do where there's a will to get something done.

The complete antithesis of our desert route station detachments is our latest task. We've got our hands on Eastleigh, and applications to serve there are filling all the in-trays! Corporal Lincoln, a welcome transfer from 236 Squadron, is holding the fort at present. He is said to be almost mesmerised bv the stream of visitors from Squadron H.Q. and "K" Troop. When he can't sleep, he counts—visitors! **Corporal Lincoln is a regular student at the Nairobi Flying Club, and is about to take his civil pilot's licence: a good effort, and one more proof that there's plenty to do for the bloke who gets off his bunk and goes out to look for it.**

One last bit of news: we were thoroughly visited by D.D. Tels, Air Ministry, Colonel Pat Williams, in January. He did the lot—Squadron H Q., the two main airfield troops, four desert airfield detachments and, of course, Nairobi. He left here with a full notebook, a little loot and, we hope, some amusing memories of what was for us a most welcome visit. (Note for other A.F. Signals Units to be visited next: if there are any mucky conduits in the area—no matter whose—screw the covers down!)

254 SQUADRON, B.F.P.O. 69

As a change from providing rear link and other communications for other Units on 'Up Country' exercises, the Squadron has recently returned from an exercise of its own. This was the climax to a period of training intended to accustom our new arrivals to desert operations. Exercise "Tryout II" was designed to cover convoy work, air alert procedure, crash camouflage drills, air re-supply procedures, into and out of action drills, standard detachment layouts, movement and living in the rugged country of the interior and the seven days culminated in a 3-day communications exercise when the radio detachments of the Squadron simulated a Brigade deployed in the field.

It is normal for an infantry or commando escort to be provided on such occasions as there is always the possibility of involvement with dissident tribesmen, but on this occasion Lieutenant N. C. Muir and 19 stalwarts of Line Troop acted as the infantry escort: their assistance and ability to dig trenches and erect stone sangars made detachment areas reminiscent of scenes from the North West Frontier!

The first day saw the convoy of 21 vehicles and 70 all ranks moving through terrain of the Western part of the Federation which varied from gravel tracks to the soft going in the sea of sand. It was this latter part of the journey which convinced Line Troop that all is not beer and skittles for the Radio Detachments who provide rear links up country; **at one point it took twenty of us two hours to move an under-powered 3-ton vehicle through 1½ miles of soft sand.** By 23.00 hours all detachments and vehicles were close leaguered in a pleasant wadi on the east side of the Jebel Kharaz and all bar the sentries bedded down for a well-earned rest.

The second day was taken up by a demonstration of a standard detachment layout and the subsequent inter-detachment competition. The judges spent three hours examining the layouts before awarding the first place to the 1-ton Multifuel Austin detachment of Lance-Corporal Piggins of Line Troop. One of the features of this detachment was their de luxe cooking arrangement, using a portable Calor Gas stove! Radio Troop took second and third places, being only just pipped by Line Troop.

During the evening of the 26th a party under Captain E. T. Bolt (O.C. Radio Troop) was sent off to secure the Drop Zone which lay some eight miles to the north. At first light on the 27th the Squadron, less a small rear party, moved out to the D.Z.—piquets, "package counters" and D.Z. clearance parties were briefed and settled down to await the appearance of the Twin Pioneer aircraft of 78 Squadron R.A.F. Khormaksar . . .

The Twin Pioneer aircrew were particularly keen to do the re-supply drop as it would give them an opportunity to practise a part of their transport support role which is not normally required in the Federation. From our point of view it meant that a whole morning would be devoted to the collection of 6 tons of petrol, water and the other necessities (Carlsberg for instance), as opposed to a single drop by a Beverly. However, the 24 projected runs by 3 A.C. would give the D.Z. clearance parties plenty of practise. At 08.00 hours the first aircraft came over the Jebel and was given the usual information regarding ground windspeed and direction by the medium of the BE 201 and "bags of smoke."

Our smoke grenades gained notoriety from the fact that over a third failed to explode; however, cooking in flaming petrol set them off in fine style! The drops went well except for one pilot who gaily dispensed with his "dummy" run in on to the D.Z. marker and tracked down wind to release his first load of petrol. The two parachutes sailed off the D.Z. limits, bevond the piquets and it was a close run thing as to who would get there first, the piquet or the nomad Arabs—Line Troop piquet won by a short head.

At base camp that evening the Squadron assumed its ficticious role of the 99th Infantry Brigade Group Signal Squadron deployed in the West of the Federation and all ex-personnel were briefed at the various 'O' groups held by the "Brigade Command" and the Brigade Signal Officer. The R.L. detachments were loaded prior to moving off through to the mountain range at 04.00 hours next morning.

The normal FFR Mk 8/2 C11/R210 rear link operating up country must be supplemented by a 1-ton FFR so that the detachment can carry out its role completely independent of the resources of its affiliated infantry or other Army Units. For this exercise each detachment was reinforced by two or three stalwarts from "L" Troop who were to prove invaluable during the subsequent moves. At 04.00 hours on the 28th the rear link detachments were deployed to their first locations which varied

from sites in the Sea of Sand to sites under the loom of the Northern mountains which run along the border between the Federation and the Yemen. Brigade H.Q. moved to a wadi running down the West side of the Jebel Kharaz and it was there at 10.00 hours that our C.R. Signals, Lieutenant-Colonel J. W. Rayner, "dropped in" from a helicopter on a short visit. As his arrival had been delayed by about an hour, he found the Squadron Commander (Acting Brigadier) enjoying a belated breakfast of compo sausage, salmon, cheese, pickles, hard tack biscuits and Carlsberg! After this all too short visit the C.R. Signals managed to persuade the pilot to fly home via one of the outlying detachments who were most surprised to see their unexpected visitor.

As always, the exercise had its lighter moments, not the least of which was the "mountain lion episode . . ."

One of the rear link detachments had moved into a location on the border of the Sea of Sand and the Wadi Har. After about an hour a little old Arab appeared with a blackened tea kettle in hand which was filled with "pure Aden water" from the detachment jerricans—off he went into the blue only to return an hour later with a live chicken which he graciously presented to the Detachment Commander. The chicken was then tied to the bumper of the Land Rover against his impending demise on the next morning. There was a full moon that night and the sentry was viewing the moonlit landscape in which scrub and camel thorn appeared to assume live and threatening pastures—suddenly he *knew* that something was moving and that something was quite enormous: It was creeping in stealthily towards him when he realised it was a lion! Having done a rapid appreciation as to the possible effect of a 7.62 mm. rifle bullet on such a beast, he decided that discretion was the better part of valour and retired behind the Land Rover in a "watch and wait" role. Suddenly there was an ear-splitting squawk which roused the detachment and penetrated even the note of the morse being received by the duty operator, there was their precious chicken being borne away by a desert fox who disappeared at a rate of knots into sand dunes leaving a pathetic piece of broken string hanging from the Land Rover bumper! The Detachment Commander having castigated the unfortunate sentry, retired to his couch leaving a sadder and wiser man to stare into the moonlit desert where scrub and camel thorn appeared to assume live and threatening pastures. Suddenly . . . Ah well!

The signal aspects of the exercise were most successful and a vast amount of formal message and crypto traffic was passed over the Brigade Command Net and the Administrative/Training link to base at Singapore Barracks. The new operators' weaknesses in Voice Procedure were highlighted and are being eradicated at the time of writing. From the technical point of view we used a C11/R210, using a V Laporte aerial base with two sections of rod on each leg of the V, on the base link. Because of the troubled situation in the Federation at this time this link was manned 24 hours a day and the C11/R210, working to a D11 anchor set some 60 miles away, provided a "solid" CW circuit over which training traffic and *No Duff* requests for the fly-out of spares were passed.

Everyone learnt a lot on the exercise and all agreed that up country work made a pleasant break from the delights(?) of Aden. Certainly, all who took part returned to barracks looking even more bronzed than usual.

Victory in the Wills Cup

For the second year running 254 Squadron have won the Wills Cup Competition. This cup is awarded to the winners of the Aden Minor Units Football Cup Competition.

254 Squadron reached the final by beating Ordnance Depot (Aden) 1—0, 2 Company R.A.S.C. 3—1 and 90 Company R.A.S.C. 1—0.

In the final the Squadron were up against 518 Company R.P.C. The first half ended in 0—0 with 518 Company having the edge but always falling down near goal due to the play of the Squadron defence made up of Signalman Tiffany (in goal), Corporal Belmont and Signalman Aitken (full backs).

The turning point of the game came when the Squadron were given a penalty for hands, just after the start of the second half. Signalman Savy took the penalty and shot straight at the 'keeper but with great calm he placed the rebound in the net.

The Squadron team now began to get on top and to make the openings. A cross intended for Lance-Corporal Henderson was deflected into the net by a defender and the Squadron were two up.

518 Company reduced the lead but by now the Squadron were well on top with Signalman Dunkley, Corporal Ferguson and Signalman Le Noury dictating the play.



WILLS CUP WINNING TEAM

Left to right (back row): Corporal Belmont, Signalman Aitken, Signalman Tiffany, Signalman Dunkley, Sergeant Ferguson, Corporal Feirn. *Front row:* Captain Grist, Signalman Savy, Corporal Humphryes, Corporal Henderson, Signalman Le Noury

With time running out Captain Grist got a foot to a loose ball and made it 3—1. So the cup rests for another year in the Orderly Room.

Before closing we wish to bid farewell to our Second-in-Command, Major G. A. W. Hickman, who has been posted to the War Office and our Chief Clerk, Sergeant G. H. Jeannette, who is posted to B.A.O.R. In their place we welcome Captain R. A. MacHeath, who joins us from B.A.O.R. and Staff Sergeant R. E. G. Brown, who joins us from the School of Signals. Sergeant Holmenroyd and his band of warriors from 21st Regiment have now completed their mammoth cable laying task and have left us to rejoin their own Unit in B.A.O.R. We thank them for their hard work and hope that they enjoyed their well earned leave. After the temperatures here in the 70s and 80s that they have been used to, they will no doubt find Germany a little chilly.

We welcome W.O.II B. Folkard who comes to us from the T.A. to fill our R.Q.M.S. vacancy. To all the others, too numerous to name, who have left us, we send our best wishes. To the rather smaller number, who have joined us, we say welcome and hope that they will enjoy their tour in Aden.

1st REGIMENT, R.F.P.O. 32

The Regiment makes a serious start at competitive ski-ing. Better luck next year!

For the first time the Regiment made a determined effort in the langlauf field of the Divisional ski-ing championships. After an arduous five weeks of P.T. in Verden under our local muscle-man Staff Sergeant Barnes, A.P.T.C., the party of 12 officers and men travelled north to the Norwegian School of Signals in Jorstadmoen. We arrived at this pleasant camp, near the famous ski resort of Lillehammer at night on the 3rd January.

At daylight the following day we had our first outing; to the delight of hordes of Norwegian children we descended, in our various ways, our first gentle incline. Within a week we could go almost anywhere with a reasonable chance of returning, in some cases on foot. Lance-Corporal Wilson and Signalman Rowland, the latter of 200 Squadron, soon proved themselves to be the best skiers whilst of the novices Signalman Melling and Second-Lieutenant Lowe were making promising progress. It was unfortunate that Signalman Melling later strained his wrist, our only accident, but by the end of our stay some three and a half weeks later we had the makings of two reasonable teams. Our next port of call was Silberhutte and we left Norway with mixed feelings after a hospitable stay.

On February 1st we arrived in a melting and dripping Silberhutte but despite the lack of snow it was decided to run the Individual and 10 km Relay. Because of these conditions the cross country runners came into the fore and were therefore chosen for the relay. Our first man, Second-Lieutenant Lowe, was only 10 seconds in front of Lance-Corporal Wilson and the other two chosen for the team were Second-Lieutenant Brock and Lance-Corporal Butlin. Captain Robertson led the "B" team with Signalman Rowland, Sergeant Lee and Signal-



Lance-Corporal David Lyon enjoys his skiing at Silberhutte

man Graham from 207 Squadron. Signalman Rowland then put up the fastest time of both teams and was promoted to the "A" team for the Patrol Race.

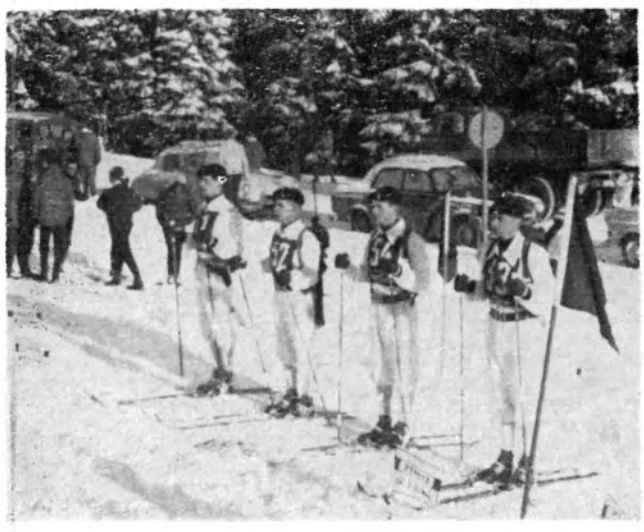
The Patrol Race was the one we had trained for and we set off with high hopes. The "B" team raced excellently to come eighth: led by Second-Lieutenant Brock, Signalman Graham had a good race and Sergeant Lee and Lance-Corporal Rumbold were hard put to keep up with him. The "A" team were struck by disaster only three Kms. from the start when a binding broke; they struggled on to the 10 Km. point but were forced to retire. This was especially unfortunate as experts reckon they may have come between third and fifth.

Many lessons have been learned and it will be interesting to see how much better we do next year. It would be churlish not to mention in these lines how well we were treated by the Norwegians and to extend our thanks to Colonel Langlaas and to Lieutenant Harold Brygfield, our able instructor.

We have continued our series of visits to local places of interest and paid one to to Hackethal Cable works in Hannover on 4th February, 1964. The party was led by Major E. J. Larner but consisted mainly of linemen who were intrigued to see the process of making cable of all sizes from jumper wire to heavy undergound power cable. On 5th March, 1964, a further party paid a call to the Norddeutscher Rundfunk radio station in Hannover.

THE SKI-TEAM WAITS FOR "GO"

Left to right: Second-Lieutenant Brock, Sergeant Lee. Lance-Corporal Rumbold, Signalman Graham





THE FIRST MILITARY PROFICIENCY CLASS ONE COURSE SECOND REGIMENT

Back row (left to right): Corporals M. Turner, R. Yarnell, P. Carter, D. Steinhoff, I. Collett. *Front row (left to right):* Corporals G. Markwell, T. Porter, Sergeant A Burt, Corporal T. Guest. *Not shown:* Sergeant F. Moulton, Corporals K. Harlik, P. Boase, N. Gavin and H. Stevens

2nd REGIMENT. B.F.P.O. 22

During the winter a number of our young officers were required to write that dreadful thing, the Winter Essay. Those who spared themselves in the task found themselves caught up in other tasks, one of which follows. Its style is hardly suitable as a military essay and it has been pruned to half its length. What is left has, however, been spared major sub-editing because its style clearly indicates, among other things, its author to those of us who know him.

The passing of February is very largely unregretted, and not only because of the seasonal inclemency of the weather. Its close marks the end of the Individual Training period, a time which is very valuable, but appears unsatisfying because of its fragmentary nature. It is the time when Troop Officers and Troop Sergeants scan their vast nominal rolls with horror as they realise that it is true that they have indeed only three men at their disposal; and when those in charge of sports scratch around desperately to make up the teams which they normally have no trouble in filling.

An aspect of unit life which does frequently impinge upon one's conscious mind, until it fails to fulfil its function adequately, is the daily routine of the cookhouse. We had always suspected that there was something which set Staff Sergeant D. Moran, A.C.C. and his cooks apart from the rest; and confirmation of this fact was provided this month by the results of the 2nd Division Unit Messing Competition, in which we took the first prize, and, as though to add emphasis to an already indisputable fact, we were awarded second place in the Dining Hall Competition. It must be stressed that the Messing Competition is not won by providing for one day a glorious panorama of culinary excellence for the benefit of a high-ranking officer who may or may not be qualified to judge relative merit. The major portion of the decision is based on the reports of the supervising Technical Instructor, a W.O.II, who is a very frequent visitor to all the units in his area; and the award goes to the cookhouse which has maintained a high standard and shown the greatest improvement in messing during the year. In this case the D.C.A. said that we were equal with another unit until almost the end, and that the decision went to us as a result of the answers he received from Staff Sergeant Moran's satisfied customers in the dining hall. Our congratulations and thanks to all our cooks! Staff Sergeant Moran's comment? "Next year we'll win the Dining Hall Competition as well, sir."

The first Class I Military Proficiency Course to be organised within the Regiment was run between 13th January and 1st February. Twelve of the thirteen candidates passed all subjects, and top marks were gained by Corporal T. Porter—a notable achievement, this, as in the normal course of his work, Corporal Porter is unable to get outside 1 Squadron office even for long enough for his eyes to get used to the light.

Our soccer team did not really find their form during the first half of the season, but since the New Year things have



BOXING TEAM—SECOND REGIMENT

Back row (left to right): Corporal R. Freeman, Signalman F. Parris, Signalman M. Murphy, Signalman S. Adlem, Lance-Corporal L. Hibbert. *Centre row (left to right):* Lance-Corporal R. Jacobs, Signalman R. Reid, Lieutenant-Colonel N. C. Porter, Second-Lieutenant B. M. Cooke, Staff-Sergeant Instructor N. Springall, Signalman W. Sheeran. *Front row (left to right):* Signalman T. Gore, Lance-Corporal P. Lavelie



FOOTBALL TEAM—SECOND REGIMENT

Back row (left to right): Corporal T. Power, Corporal J. Ellis, Signalman R. Pickersgill, Signalman D. Preston, Signalman D. Hughes. *Front row:* (*left to right*) Corpora G. Markwell, Corporal W. Hyndman, Sergeant J. Kelly, Captain (Q.M.) H. R. H. Dunlop, Signalman A. McNeill, Signalman S. Adlem

brightened up considerably; three games have been won convincingly, and in the only other match played to date, ten heroic souls did well to go down only 3—1 to the Cameronians. These results have moved us up the Westphalian League table from fourth from bottom to fourth from top. In the 2nd Division Major Units Cup, we are awaiting the result of another game to know who our opponents are to be in the semi-final of the 11 Brigade section. The fixture list has included three games with the local German side from Bünde and it is hoped to arrange a trip to play a Hamburg police team at Easter. The captaincy of the team has fluctuated somewhat because of courses and leave but has been in the hands of Signalman A. M. C. McNeill for most of the season; among others who have played regularly for the team Lance-Corporal J. G. Terras, Signalman R. Pickersgill and Signalman S. W. Adlem are particularly worthy of note. The absence from the team of the regular goalkeeper, Signalman D. M. Preston, due to a leg injury, has been a sad loss for most of the season.



W.O.I (Tech) D. T. Neale

On 31st March, W.O.I D. Neale is to leave us on becoming a Lieutenant (Q.M.) and we should like to give a short review of his career up to this important point. After leaving Nunthorpe Secondary School (now York Grammar School) he enlisted in January, 1939, in "F" Company of the Training Battalion, became an Apprentice Tradesman at the tender age of 14, and was trained as an Instrument Mechanic. January, 1942, saw him entering man's service and joining War Office Signals where he worked on the installation and maintenance of high-power transmitters. In March, 1944, he was posted as a Lance-Corporal to 51st (Highland) Divisional Signals and went through the N.W. Europe campaign as radio mechanic with 126 (Highland) Field Regiment R.A. Between November, 1945, and June, 1948, while with 7th Armoured Division, he rose to the rank of Acting Sergeant. Also during this period he took advantage of a stay in England on No. 1 N.C.O.s Telecommunications Course at the School of Signals and married in March, 1947. His next posting took him to the School where he worked, among other things, on the maintenance of the first E10 set. He did similar work in Singapore with the Army Wireless Chain as a Staff Sergeant from April, 1952, until April, 1955. Then, after a short time in 6th Armoured Division, he went back to Catterick as a W.O.II and became S.S.M. of the Radio Technician Squadron in 1 Training Regiment. He had been an active sportsman for the whole of his career up to that time, having swum and run the mile and cross-country for every Unit he served with, but a serious illness, which kept him in hospital during Christmas, 1956, forced him to retire from active participation in such activities. He was promoted to W.O.I on posting to the Army Apprentices School, Harrogate, in December, 1959, and was an assistant to the Chief Instructor until he came to this Regiment in December, 1962. **W.O.I Neale had never before worked with line systems and equipment and made a great impression in the Unit by the rapidity with which he gained complete mastery of the working system of 1 Squadron. This knowledge, combined with his energy and his quiet, unruffled manner, earned him the respect of all those who came in contact with him.** To large numbers of those, of all ranks, who have had the good fortune to have worked with him, he is known affectionately as "Dad." We congratulate him on his forthcoming commission, although we cannot but regret his departure. At the end of March W.O.I and Mrs. Neale and their four-year-old son will embark on a new phase of their life; they take with them the best wishes of all in 2nd Regiment. We hope they may look back with pleasure on their time with **us.**

3rd H.Q. and SIGNAL REGIMENT

Farewell to Lieutenant-Colonel Baynes, welcome to Lieutenant-Colonel Proudman and much work entailed in connection with the Cyprus emergency.

Last year's training had been completed, and all the lessons learned had been recorded and Thursday, 30th January, saw each Squadron presenting its studies in what was to be the 'last word' in Standing Operating Procedures. When—in the middle of 3 Squadron's presentation—the C.O. had cause to interrupt. The training had not been in vain because all the efforts of packing, painting, banding and making secure of all our equipment for air-portability, were soon to be put to the test. The reason of the C.O.'s interruption was to announce the possibility of us moving almost at once to Cyprus—scene of recent domestic troubles. There followed a couple of quick recces to and from Cyprus by the Second-in-Command, and within the fortnight that followed more than half the Regiment were actually flying from airfields of R.A.F. Transport Command in the South of England. To sav "that was the week that was" would be an understatement. And for those people who have

no real concept of life in the Strategic Reserve Signal Regiment —simply imagine having to pack into boxes, crates, or bundles every bit of your G 1098—mark it, weigh it and band it, then add to that task the administration of soldiers' vaccination, blood grouping, documentation, personal kit with weight restrictions and small arms: allocation of personnel and vehicles to particular aircraft—then you will appreciate the enormous task at hand.

None the less, St. Valentine's Day saw the departure of sufficient personnel, vehicles and equipment to provide initial communications for the 'Peace Keeping' Force in the island.

Since then more individual reinforcements have left us, and more than two-thirds of the Regiment are overseas. The 'Wavers Club' is well established at the Unit check point and the departure of a group of people in the middle of the night is now quite common place. If only the R.A.F. would buy some aircraft that could take-off during daylight instead of always in the night we would find life a little easier.

Reports coming back from Cyprus indicate a happy, but tending to boredom detachment, out there with a lot of uncertainty as to what is actually happening. However, no doubt it will all soon be 'sorted out' and they will either be back on the 'Plain' or the rest of us will be with them in the 'Trudos.'

Despite all our upheaval we have still found time for one or two of the more 'day-to-day' occurrences. The day before the main party left we had an Air Portability Competition at which, shame to say it, our Divisional Headquarter Squadron came out very much on top. Well done. They were, however, worthy winners of the new 'Air Portability Cup' and the cash gratuity that goes with it.

Early in February the Commanding Officer was pleased to present the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal to W.O.I Holloway. The ceremony took place in the Sergeants' Mess and after the usual words about "undetected crime . . ." the medal was truly christened in traditional form.

Our first Junior Ranks' Dance was rather dampened by the move to Cyprus—however, 2 Squadron held a pleasant social and dance on the 13th February, the night before departure. In fact, how some members of the Squadron managed to catch the aircraft will never be known. Since then two successful dances have been held in the Junior Ranks Club, and it is the intention to continue the good work.

The Wives' Club continues in good heart, although the absence of many husbands prevents lots of Mums attending the evening meetings. However, whilst they are away, they manage to meet for coffee on Thursdays, and lots of problems get solved, and faces leave a lot happier.

And so to our saddest 'note' for this month. Lieutenant-Colonel T. W. Baynes has arrived back from Cyprus to hand over the Command of the Regiment to Lieutenant-Colonel G. Proudman. We know that the new Commanding Officer will be content with just a few words of good wishes at this time, because so much more must be said of the old. Colonel Baynes has commanded our Regiment for almost three years. Those have been three very hard years and years of uncertainty, great differences in training policies, and amongst them all—integration with the Headquarters of the 3rd Division—hence our peculiar title. They have been very good years though, and the success of them can be through none other than the Commanding Officer. And now, after a short period of leave, to be spent in the main learning Burmese, he leaves us for Rangoon. We shall all miss him and Mrs. Baynes for all the grand things they have done, and can do no more than wish them both sincere good fortune in the Far East, and thank them for everything.

And as others go—new arrive. Amongst our arrivals we welcome Major B. H. Adams, Captain P. Treseder and Lieutenant D. G. Dudley, and a very important new arrival—a daughter to Corporal and Mrs. Rocket—born just a few hours after Dad left for Cyprus. Congratulations also to Corporal and Mrs. Glynn on the birth of a son.

2 Squadron's football team continues to do battle with M.T. Troop on the assumption that by statistics alone they should eventually win.

Finally, we would wish all our chaps in Cyprus—Good luck and Good Fortune until we meet again.

THE WELFARE SECTION URGENTLY
REQUIRES CLOTHING—
MEN'S WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S

8th REGIMENT

Following the success of Exercise "Jumping Jimmy" the Regiment took part in yet another Civil Defence exercise over the weekend 1st/2nd February. Code named Exercise "Geordie Jimmy," it needs little imagination to realise that this time we were exercising in the Newcastle area. Approximately one-third went to Framwellgate Moor, Durham Civil Defence Centre, and the remainder to Morpeth, the Northumbrian County Civil Defence H.Q.

At both centres excellent instruction was given during the Saturday in casualty evacuation, handling and the use of C.D. equipment and useful improvisation for removing casualties from a "devastated" built up area. Late Saturday afternoon, both columns converged on Fenham Barracks, Newcastle, for the overnight stop. An advance party had been in Fenham Barracks since Wednesday, 29th January, cleaning, heating and allotting accommodation. Having once been the home of Royal Northumberland Fusilier Battalions, the locals had been able to set their watches by the bugle calls. They were not disappointed on seeing the Barracks once more fully inhabited as the Regimental Trumpeters gave a good account of themselves during the weekend. The Sunday morning saw the two columns move out to their respective centres for a casualty evacuation exercise based on the Saturday's instruction. This was found to be of excellent value. The casualties, boys from a Nautical Reform School, were old hands at the game and at times it seemed as if the troops were there to keep the peace and not for C.D. work. Whilst all the exercise preparation had been going ahead on the afternoon of Friday, 31st January, the Regimental cross country team had managed to carry off the Northern Command Cross Country Championship and the District Team Trophy.

11th REGIMENT (DEPOT)

A Dry, Sunny Month. This really was Catterick in February, although few of you will believe me when I quote the following facts. Less than an inch of rain fell—and most of this in one day. Snow laid for only six days; there were 74 hours of sunshine, and only seven days were without any sunshine. Perhaps there is hope for the summer.

The Signal Officer-in-Chief takes Pass-Off, 14th February. Pass-off parade, on the 14th February, was taken by Major-General F. J. Swainson, O.B.E. This parade was unique in that it was the smallest one for a year, because the two troops formed over the Christmas period. There was no slacking in the standard, however, and both troops were judged to be above average. In his address to the recruits and their parents, the S.O.-in-C. congratulated them on their bearing, turnout and steadiness on parade. He emphasised the close links between the family and the modern army, stressing that the stronger these bonds, then the happier and more efficient a soldier is.

Best Recruits



Signalman J. R. Almond, Joint Best Recruit on Pass Off, 14th February, 1964

For the first time ever, in this intake it was so difficult to decide who was the best recruit that we eventually finished up with two of them. Signalman John Almond and Signalman Bernard Marshall.

John Almond, aged 17, of 17, Levenside, Stokesly, near Middlesbrough, joined the Corps to learn a technical trade. A farmer's son, he was educated at Constantine Technical College. He then worked for a short while on his father's farm. His best sport is football, and he has been playing regularly for teams both at school and in his own village. Not unnaturally, his chief hobby is game shooting. Hoping to soon be on sunny shores in the Far East, Signalman Almond is now undergoing technicians training in 8th Regiment.

For Bernard Marshall, of 48, Mapleton Grove, Preston Road, Hull, it was a happy pass-off parade in more ways than one. Apart from being best recruit, it was also his 20th birthday. Many happy returns. Educated at Southcoates High School, he joined the Corps after working as an apprentice electrician for a number of years. Whilst in the Regiment he played basketball, football and rugby for his Troop in the Inter-Troop Competition. Drawing portraits and cycling are his hobbies. Some time in the future he is hoping for a posting to France so that he can tour the country. We wish them both every success in their careers.



Signalman B. Marshall. Joint Best Recruit on Pass Off, 14th February, 1964

The G.O.C., Yorkshire District takes pass-off, 28th February. During his address to the soldiers and their parents, Major-General G. F. Upjohn, C.B.E., congratulated both Troops on an excellent parade. He had a special word of praise for the instructors who were responsible for training the men up to this standard.



Signalman Ivor Demain. Best Recruit and Best Shot, Pass Off 28th February, 1964

The best recruit of this intake was Signalman Ivor Demain, aged 21, of 5, Coronation Road, Harrogate. Demain is a man of many interests. For ten years he has been a member of the Young Farmers' Association. His three years' membership of a rifle club helped him to win the award of the best recruit rifle shot of the intake. A car owner, he also enters motor rallies. A keen all-the-year-round camper, Demain has camped all over England and also in France, Italy and Switzerland. With sports, his favourite is cricket, and before joining up he played for two local Harrogate teams. Signalman Demain is now being trained as a Lineman. Congratulations on a fine effort and good luck in your future career.

Intake Figures Up. Always the greatest talking point in any recruit troop is "how many?" Normally, a recruit troop consists of the men who arrive here in one week—Monday to Monday. This can go haywire, as it did recently, when 35 recruits arrived on the Monday and by Wednesday No. 1 Troop was bulging with 70 men. No. 4 Troop followed with 62, and at the time of writing, the figures look as if they will again be in the 70s. This is enough to gladden anyone's heart (except, possibly, those dealing with documentation). *Not only are we getting the quantity but the quality is good, too.* Could this be the aftermath of the pay rise? A disconcerting factor lurking in the background, at this rate of increase we will be too large for the new Helles Barracks when we march in in May.

The Best-Fed Regiment in Yorkshire District. A sweeping statement, and one which is bound to be disputed, but nevertheless quite true. During February the results of the Yorkshire District Inter-Unit Messing Competition were announced with the Depot clear winners by 30 points. Ten units took part in the competition.

The aim of this competition is to improve the standard of messing in the District by fostering a spirit of friendly rivalry between regular units. The competition is spread over one year and is in three stages. At each stage a unit is visited and awarded points for various aspects of unit messing. Everything is covered from cleanliness to food preparation and service facilities. In all three stages the Depot came first and had an overall 90 per cent.

After pass-off parade on 28th February, the G.O.C., Major-General G. F. Upjohn, C.B.E., presented the unit Messing Officer, Lieutenant J. Bannister, A.C.C., with the winner's trophy and congratulated all the staff on a very fine effort.

A cheque for £10 is also presented to the unit to be used in any way which will benefit the unit's messing.

Outward Bound Courses. Towards the end of January a new type of course began in Instructional Wing. A two-week Outward Bound course, which is being run for selected soldiers of the Training Brigade. The course, covering rock climbing, fell walking, camping, and other allied activities, is being run by Captain E. Pickup, who has instructed at a civilian Outward Bound School, and Sergeant Danells, who is better known to members of the Depot as the "Caving King."

Catterick is tailor-made as a base for these activities, and it was not long before the first course became fit, with early-morning P.T., weighted rucksacks and cross-country runs. This, coupled with climbing instruction and camping, toughened everyone up for the final exercise.

A march of 35 miles, bivouacing for two nights. The location was the Warcop Training Area, and we had a taste of the bad weather which was later to hit Catterick. On the second day of the march we climbed Warcop Fell to rendezvous at a tarn on the top. During a five-hour period, each party went through several snowstorms and dense cloud. The snow was settling on the high ground and so we made a descent into the valley to pitch camp for the evening. Conditions were severe, but with two weeks' fitness training and camping instruction, it was not long before everyone had dried out and settled in a sleeping bag for the night. An interesting experience at this time of the year.

Finally, a word of praise for one member of the first course, Signalman Dean, formerly of Javelin Troop, Junior Leaders Regiment. His performance on the course as a whole was excellent. In fact he did so well that he is now a temporary instructor in Outward Bound Training as Lance-Corporal Dean.

"Understaffed and Overworked" or "Q.M. Blarney." "Understaffed and overworked!" This cry must have been heard throughout Corps history from many theatres and units, numbered amongst them being the "Q.M. Empire" of the Depot Regiment. The understaffing can, I suppose, be largely attributed to the excellent work of our SPECIAL RECRUITERS, off-set against the Time and Motion Study Team of C8, when they visited the Regiment. "Who could foresee?" is a well and truly outworn phrase nowadays.

Many of our readers will be sorry to hear that Major (Q.M.) J. A. G. Stokoe has been in hospital for a number of weeks. He is now almost recovered and is hoping to rejoin the fold shortly.

A conversation overheard recently went something like this. "Is R.Q.M.S. Barnes on leave?" "No!" We lost him three days ago behind that pile of incoming MFO that everyone sends here when they can't think of a better place."

It is the firm opinion of R.Q.M.S. King that the National Coal Board will shortly be moving their H.Q. into his office. Unit stocks must easily exceed the national ones. Hurrah for the 727 and a mild winter!

Finally, two of our suggestions for inclusion in "Staff Duties in the Field" or publication in A.C.I.s.

(1) Before any Headquarters or Sponsor Branches make any final decisions on any matter at all, they must refer same to the nearest R.Q.M.S., who will shoot the whole thing down and re-write in full.

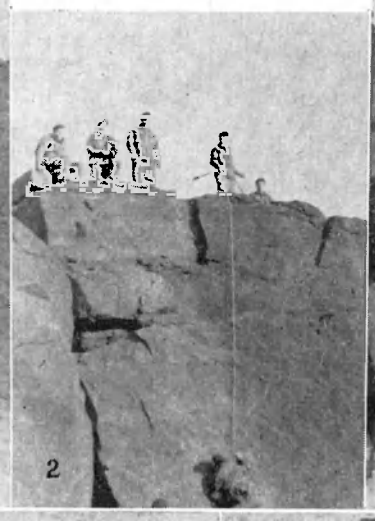
(2) To be included as a recognised word in the Army vocabulary: "SCROUNGE," meaning report to the R.Q.M.S. to see if he can help (joking of course) or steal what you require when he is not looking.

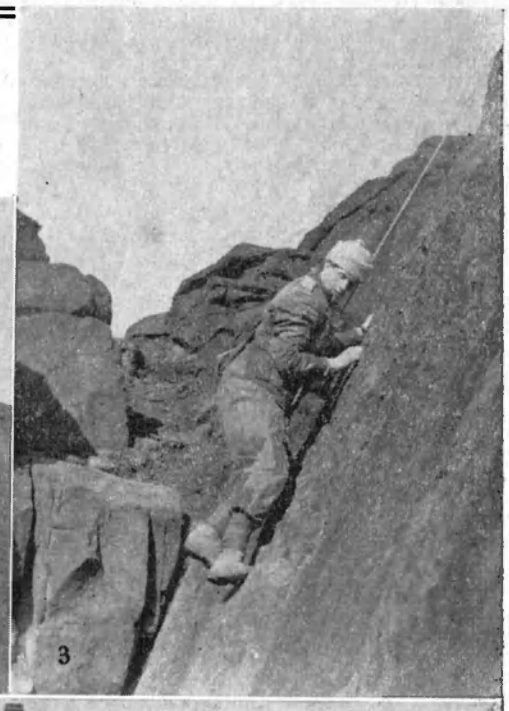
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1 and 2. Outward Bound Course. On the way up. 3. Lieutenant Bruce searches for a foothold. 4. The S.O.-in-C., Major-General F. J. Swainson, O.B.E., speaking to recruits on Pass-off. 5. Major-General G. F. Upjohn, C.B.E., speaking to a recruit of the Champion Troop, Troop Commander Lieutenant P. E. Bruce. 6. Yorkshire District Inter Unit Messing Competition. The Messing Officer with some of the members of his staff. Back row: Mr. S. Bowers (Ex. Staff-Sergeant A.C.C.), Mr. C. Marsh (Ex. Sergeant Cook R.A.S.C.), Mr. A. Lawrie (Ex. Sergeant A.C.C.). Front row: Staff-Sergeant B. Jolly, Lieutenant J. Bannister, A.C.C., Sergeant K. Ashley.

Visit to the Volkswagen Factory

By Corporal S. A. Wayling

In this day and age the "Beatles" may be all the rage on Merseyside and with teenagers the world over but there is another type to those of the "Liverpool Male Voice Choir." Ask any driver and he will no doubt reply that a "Beetle" is the common name for a family car produced by Volkswagen in Germany.

So it was on 30th January that eleven members of the Regiment set out on an educational visit to the Volkswagenwerk Headquarters at Wolfsburg near the East German border.

The town of Wolfsburg, roughly 70,000 inhabitants, is a fine example of tasteful modern architecture and spacious planning, built on the southern bank of the Mittelland Canal.

It is on the northern bank that the Volkswagenwerk is situated covering an area of 1,000,000 square metres (approximately 250 acres). The dominating feature of this is the chain of buildings stretching over a distance of over 1½ kilometres (1 mile) along the Mittelland Canal. At the western end of the factory projects the 13 storey office building while at the eastern extremity is its counterpart in the power plant.

Fuel for the factory is brought up the canal in barges, unloaded onto conveyors that take it right up to the power boilers with no further spade work required. The power plant not only produces sufficient power for the factory but also the needs for the entire town of Wolfsburg itself.

On arrival at Wolfsburg and after a short walk from the car park along a footbridge over the railway station and the canal, the party reported its arrival at the main gate. Here we donned visitors' badges of green and white plastic in the same fashion as identification tags in a nuclear plant or S.A.C. (Strategic Air Command) air bases. From here we went to the main building where we were greeted by a guide who immediately informed us that we were thirty minutes too early. A party of the Bundeswehr were also on a tour of the factory ahead of us.

As a prelude to the tour we were shown a colour film about Volkswagen in the cinema hall and this lasted almost half an hour. From the cinema hall our guide ushered us up a flight of stairs, through a small door and into a corridor. But, this was no ordinary corridor because it ran the full length of the factory from the power plant to the office building—all one and a half kilometres of it. Here the guide informed us that we were in one of two buildings of equal length running parellel to one another. The first of these is the production shop of 300 metres in width and the second the assembly shop of another 400 metres in width. The two buildings are separated by a roadway or rather a dual-carriageway down the centre. Beyond the two buildings are situated the production car park and the railway sidings. The production lines are the automatically guided production lines of a modern, large-scale factory. First came the mammoth presses stamping out mudguards and doors from special sheet steel that is supplied to the Volkswagenwerk as it does not make its own.

The sections pass automatically onto the next operation by means of a chain conveyor system. This system follows a tortuous route throughout both buildings of the factory. The conveyor comprises of a continuous chain belt measuring roughly 81 miles in length. Even so each part is punctual to the second in reaching its prescribed destination. There further operations take place, each one precisely scheduled.

A further sequence of mammoth presses form the roof and punch out the openings for the rear window and the windscreen.

Next we came to the modern welding presses which join the various body parts. A battery of spot-welders of all shapes and sizes, the most prominent of which was a spot-welding "roundabout." It is at this point that body parts are collected from the various press lines and are all welded together in a circular sequence of operations. This to a layman is an example of automation to a point of sheer perfection.

From the "roundabout" the completed body units are passed automatically onto the conveyor system again to be transported to the paintshop. Here the body units are dipped into large tanks to receive a "primer" before going on to receive the finishing coats—an average of three—that will give the cars their final, shining colour and make them impervious to all weather conditions. The paintwork is applied to the bodies by a process of "electric fusion," the explanation of which lies far beyond the capabilities of the members of the tour.

The painted bodies are then carried away on the overhead conveyors, moving to a split second schedule to finish up on the assembly lines where they receive their interior fittings. There are five such assembly lines in all, each of which accommodate fifty-five body units at one time. Each of the fittings is clearly and accessibly arranged along and within arms reach of the assembly line that is continually moving.

At the other end of the assembly line the bodies, complete with their interior trim, journey yet again on the overhead conveyor then descend on the assembly line on which axles, frame and engine have previously been assembled into a chassis.

It is here that the electric wrenches rattle and turn, joining the body and chassis—for good. Just thirty-two bolts, five wire connections and the wheels—including the spare—and a "Beetle" (Volkswagen 1200) is completed. With half a litre of petrol, a lamp alignment and a few minor adjustments to the engine the "Beetle" is ready to take the road. Volkswagenwerk employs a total of 41,000 people of which 12 per cent. are women and 4,000 are Italian. Working in two shifts over a five-day week the average production is 5,100 vehicles daily (4,000 Model 1200 and the remainder of the new Model 1500). Overseas markets swallow up 60 per cent. of the production of which the U.S.A. and Italy are the principle markets. Every day more than 20 goods trains with the special double-decker flat-cars, fully laden with Volkeswagens leave the factory sidings in Wolksburg and every day some 200 rail box-cars bring in material. As much traffic is handled on the tracks of the sidings as on the tracks of an average size city. For a factory of such proportions it is wondrous to learn that there is about only one serious accident a year. This is attributed to the fact that the entire factory is kept scrupulously clean at all times. Just before the tour ended members of the party asked the guide if there were any "free samples." Sad to say the answer was in the negative. Otherwise the Army bus that conveyed us to Wolfsburg might still be on that car park and eleven new "Beetles" on the regimental car park.

A thoroughly enjoyable and enlightening visit was had by all and we were all sorry to leave the comfort of the centrally heated factory to face a freezing drizzle outside.

The Military Heraldry Society

The Military Heraldry Society was formed in 1951 as a focal point for collectors of cloth formation signs, shoulder titles and patches, sleeve insignia and any other such badges of military formations throughout the world. The Society publishes a free quarterly illustrated bulletin with world coverage of this subject for the dissemination of information and to assist members to contact each other. A membership list is issued each year in order to facilitate correspondence. All members are encouraged to use the bulletin by sending information or queries and advertising their requirements.

The President of the Society, Lieutenant-Colonel H. N. Cole, O.B.E., T.D., F.R.Hist.S., is a leading authority and the author of several books on military heraldry.

The Military Heraldry Society maintains a permanent display at the Imperial War Museum in London.

Membership of the Society is world-wide and includes some museums. There are also European and American representatives on the Committee. New members are welcome whether they actually collect or only wish to keep themselves informed about this wide field. At present there is no entrance fee and the annual subscription of 7s. entitles the member to receive the bulletin, attend any meetings which are usually held in London, and allows free use of the Society's Library.

Anyone interested in the Society is invited to write to the Publicity Officer, The Military Heraldry Society, c/o 36, Myddleton Road, Ware, Hertfordshire, for further details.

16th REGIMENT, B.F.P.O. 34

This month's Regimental personality is Lance-Corporal Bickerdike, of 1 Squadron. Corporal Bickerdike's hobby is magic—not black or white, but stage—and he came into focus over the Christmas period, when his talents were in great demand.

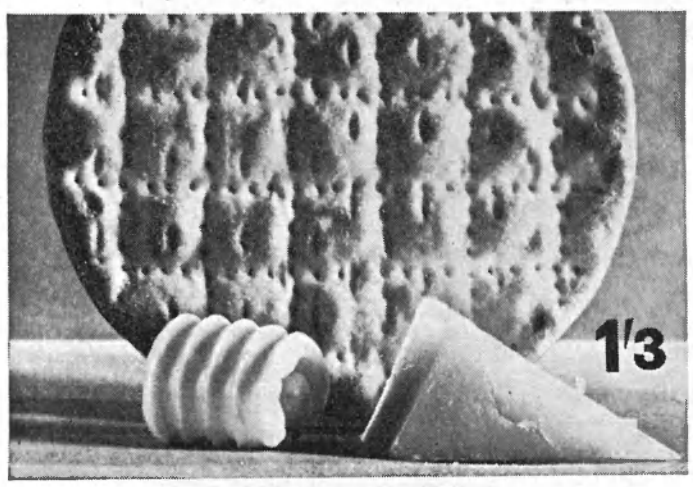
After a suitable application of the thumbscrews, we prevailed upon Corporal Bickerdike to contribute the following article to THE WIRE.

(*Continued on page* 145)

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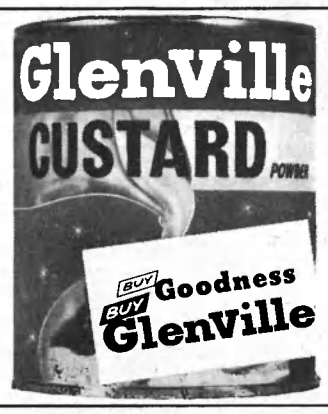
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"I was introduced to magic (the entertaining kind) by the foreman at the factory in Leeds, where I was at the age of 16. He also happened to be the Secretary of the Leeds Magic Circle, and every day at work brought more practical jokes, tricks and mysteries into my life.

Really, it was a lot of fun, and, working on the principle of 'know your enemy,' I began to learn a little more about how it was done, and eventually became so interested in the business that I persuaded the foreman to introduce me to local magical dealers, so that I could start up on my own.

After a short period of intensive practice, I was called in front of the Leeds Magic Circle to give an audition in order to prove that I was worthy of membership.

This was a terrifying experience, and I was a bundle of nerves, but every new applicant is in the same state, and the examining body takes this into account. In spite of the inevitable slips, I managed to reach the required standard and was then enrolled as a member of the Magic Circle.

The most difficult part of this hobby, as with many others, is deciding which branch to specialise in, and the choice which faced me was adult shows, children's shows, sleight of hand or illusion. Mistakenly thinking that children would be easier to deceive, I chose this field, and have since found, to my regret, that just the opposite is true!

For example, if one makes a mistake in front of adults, a few knowing sneers are usually all that happen, but if the same thing occurs before a child audience, they take great pains to inform absolutely everyone within a five-mile radius of the error!

Of course, the type of trick which can be shown to child audiences must also be carefully considered; a fact which was brought well home to me at my first appearance as a practising magician.

This was at a children's Christmas party for a T.A. unit, and I had enquired the average age of the audience and was told that it was about ten years. However, on mounting the stage, I found that they were much younger, but there was nothing to do but go on.

All went well until I came to the guillotine trick; this involved my friend putting his head through a stock-like apparatus (between two potatoes), I thumped the shining blade down, the potatoes were duly sliced, to the accompaniment of realistic drips of tomato ketchup, but my friend remained whole.

At least *I* thought so, the child audience had other ideas, however; they dissolved into horrified shrieks and rushed out of the hall leaving me in solitary possession, with my dripping guillotine and startled friend!

On joining the Army I gave up practising my hobby, but as with model railways, it was a disease, and this Christmas saw me performing again at parties for the children of 16th Regiment, Royal Artillery, 16th and 28th Signal Regiments, and German orphan's party, given by a branch of the R.A.O.B. at Wickrath."

Lance-Corporal Bickerdike then stepped into a paper bag, drew it over his head and disappeared in a puff of green smoke.

17th GURKHA REGIMENT, SEREMBAN, MALAYA

Sitting at his typewriter, the writer of this report began wondering about the sort of reader he will have. Obviously the British officers and N.C.O.s of the Regiment will read it—there is almost a psychological compulsion to read about one's own activities. Well, the report is not written for them; if they are unaware of their Regiment's activities they need to be put on a gassing charge.

Those who have left us, one hopes they are still interested in us and won't be bored to hear that Major Lettin handed the "hot seat" over to Major Dexter to whom it was a well-known if not well-loved parking place. Nor, we hope, will they yawn on learning that a group of B O.s abetted by a file of clerks, all masquerading as fully paid-up members of 1 Squadron, snatched victory from 11 Independent Field Squadron, Royal Engineers, thereby winning the Divisional Minor Units Hockey Championship. And will those same Old Boys show a complete lack of interest on being told that Birkabahadur Sahib, last seen on Seremban station accompanied by his children sweltering under immense piles of winter clothing as they started on their journey to Belayat and 247, will soon be returning with 247, this time Eastern Malaysia bound, and how's this for ice-cold logic; a candidate in the



The Driver-Sergeant i.c. the Central Servicing Station

recent Colloquial English Examination, when asked to tell the examiners the two functions of helicopters in a military role (the answer to be based on an English passage he had previously been given to read) answered, "To fly and not to fly?"

All this stuff is fine possibly for old Sikamat hands, but hardly the sort of news to drag a Signalman in Catterick away from his D.i.ly M.r.or. It might interest quite a number, however, to know that we possess rather a fine speedboat and a pair of water skis and that most week-ends soldiers from the Regiment can be seen doing a graceful 30 knots over the waters of the Malacca Straits. It certainly interested the young soldiers of 540 Signal Troop (1st Green Jackets) who were attached to us just before Christmas for a work-up before joining their Battalion. The Troop is still with us, and as the tempo of training has increased (" they never taught us at Catterick how to build a basha in the jungle or how to flog through the ulu trying to get control on an A510 "), so the pleasures of relaxing for week-ends at Port Dickson have become more attractive.

Have any N.C.O.s reading this report had a look at ACI 27 this year? It tells you how to join us. Interested? Here are a two photographs showing some of the activities of our B.O.R.s.

The pictures are genuine—even to the bright shine on the boots. Still interested? Ask one of the officers to let you have a look at an article in the May, 1957, issue of *The Journal* of the Royal Signals Institution. Start on page 197 and Colonel Gregory's excellent story of Gurkha Signals will help you to understand the meaning of that bit in the A.C.I that refers to, "Temperament, integrity, physical and military efficiency."

Those who always do seem to read THE WIRE, probably because they know more people in the Corps than the rest of us, are Quartermasters. This might amuse them therefore; Vic King, on hearing that someone in the Regiment had been complaining about being overworked, made the caustic comment, "If he's overworked, I've been sold into slavery."



A Radio Technician Sergeant instructing a Gurkha Corporal Technician in the air-conditioned test room



The Headmaster of Pasir Panjang Secondary English School presents plaque to Lieutenant-Colonel W. W. Cock, R. Signals. On the left—Second-Lieutenants Liew and Yugarajah. On the right—Captain W. Cloughley

18th REGIMENT, c/o G.P.O., SINGAPORE

It is a custom among Englishmen at home to make quite a talking point of the weather, but here, in Singapore, not so much, due to its varying so little the year round. But comment has been excited recently, for after a "summer" of drought and strict water rationing, the heavens have opened up and given us torrential rain day after day. During this last week of February, serious flooding has occurred in several areas of the State after nearly six inches of rain fell in two days. Water rationing came to an abrupt end!

From fresh to salt water . . . and to our latest recreational and sporting medium—*Rodziah*. A bid was submitted to the Nuffield Trust for a motor boat and water-ski equipment, and to our delight, it was duly approved. The Regimental Sailing Officer, Major J. E. Denton was commissioned to produce the boat, which was built in one of the best small boat builder's yards in these parts. There was quite a ceremony at the "handover/takeover" of the craft, and chief among those present was the Commander, Singapore Base Area, Brigadier C. H. Stoneley, O.B.E., A.D.C., (late Royal Signals), who honoured the occasion, by expertly taking the boat from the yard to her moorings further along the coast.

Rodziah is a broad-beamed 18ft. 6in. hull with a very powerful motor. Speedy and safe, she can carry up to ten people and is enjoyed by all ranks. We have a drill of booking the boat in advance, with the Boat Booking Officer, for whole or half-days, and parties usually go out to one of the off-shore islands for a picnic, swim and a laze on the sand, while the more intrepid members take their turn in being hauled along on the water-skis. This has proved a most popular form of sport and relaxation, and what is more, it is so absurdly cheap!



"Rodziah"

In the sporting field, Royal Signals were matched against R.A.O.C. in the Singapore Base Area open team boxing championship finals. A capacity crowd enjoyed an exciting evening, which had its share of knockouts, good scrapping and excellent boxing. There were ten fights and the result was in doubt until the final punch of the final round of the last fight, so close was the scoring. The decision on the last fight took some time in coming and this naturally increased the excitement. The result was R.A.O.C. 17 points and Royal Signals 16 points.

The rugby team fought its way, for the fourth successive year, to the final of the Singapore Base Area Championship, to play again H.Q., FARELF. This was a fine exhibition of rugby, played between two very fit and well-matched sides. H.Q. won 3—0, and it is worthy of note here that they beat the New Zealanders at Malacca 15—6, and so qualify for the FARELF final in Hong Kong. We wish them good luck and success.

Another of the Regiment's affiliations with local civilian establishments is that with the Pasir Panjang Secondary English School. Our job in this is to supervise the School's Cadets' training, and the officer responsible for this is our M.T.O., Captain (Q.M.) W. Cloughley. During February, the Headmaster of the School, Mr. Tok Hing Tock and two of the Cadets' officers, Second-Lieutenants Liew and Yugarajah, visited the Regiment and presented us with an engraved plaque.

We finally, and briefly, mention that the Regiment had its annual Administrative Inspection on 21st February, and the Inspecting Officer was Colonel "A," H.Q., FARELF. A day of intensive and exhausting inspections passed off quietly and efficiently.



"WHAT ON EARTH'S GOING ON DOWN THERE?"

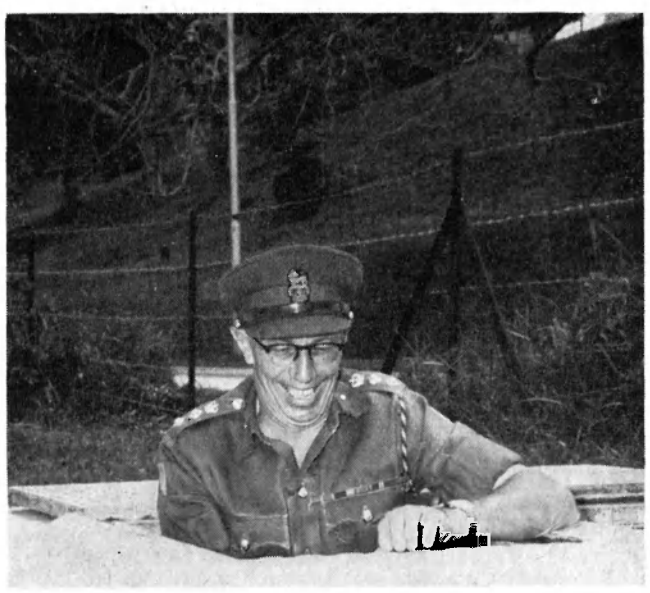
Major R. Trelawney, Major D. H. Yates, Colonel P. H. Henson (the inspecting officer) and the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel W. R. G. Hencher, view the main cable chamber during the annual inspection

(See 19th Regiment Notes on opposite page)

19th REGIMENT c/o G.P.O. SINGAPORE

The past few weeks have been occupied in feverish activity within the Regiment. Starting with the commencement of Ramadan, the Muslim fasting month, on 16th January, we had our annual C.I.V. during the period 27th January to 11th February and are proud to have been assessed "100 per cent task worthy"—well done, M.T. Troop, and the hard-working staff who made this splendid result possible. On 21st January we had our annual Administrative Inspection, carried out by Colonel P. H. Henson, O.B.E., the A.A. & Q.M.G. from Singapore Base Area. The Regiment paraded at Changi and were complimented by the inspecting officer for their very high standard of turnout and drill.

Chinese New Year was celebrated on 13th February, closely followed by Hari Raya Puasa, on 15th February, marking the end of Ramadan. A busy and exciting month.



WELL I'LL BE BLOWED!

The inspecting officer surfaces having inspected down below



AT THE PARTY AND OBVIOUSLY ENJOYING THEMSELVES

Left to right: Lieutenant Eastgate, Signalman Jalaludin, Major Trelawny, Corporal Ahmad Karman and Lance-Corporal Jabar

(*See next column*)

Hari Raya Puasa Celebrations

Comprising seventy per cent Malay soldiers, who, with very few exceptions, are all Muslims, it is not a little surprising that one of the main events featuring in the Regimental calendar is the Muslim fasting month known as Ramadan. Throughout this month no food or drink may be taken between sunrise and sunset. To help our Malay soldiers during this period, the Regiment works mornings only, from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. The month ends on the sighting of the new moon; this may not necessarily be possible on the first evening if cloud obscures vision. It is therefore impossible to forecast accurately the ending of the fasting month.

After the new moon has been sighted, the Imam (Malay priest) announces the ending of the fast. The next day, Hari Raya Puasa, is a holiday for all Muslims. It is celebrated in the first instance by attending the mosque for prayers. After this, often dressed in brightly-coloured national costume, the Muslim families visit one another's homes.

For those Malay Muslims serving in the Army away from their homes, the occasion is marked by a dinner served to all living-in members in the cookhouse, which has been colourfully decorated.

Although nothing to do with the Muslim religious customs, it is also the practice to hold a Regimental party for all the Malay soldiers and their families. This year the party was held at the camp askar askar bujang (Malay soldiers' camp) in Changi.

The following day the Malay soldiers' camp took on the appearance of a festival village. Two outdoor dance floors were set up, coloured lights and bunting were festooned from trees and tent poles, a brightly decorated staging was built for the band, and tents erected. As the sun went down, 'bus loads of Malay soldiers with their wives and children arrived. Many were wearing their national costume, which added colour and splendour to the occasion. All were entertained to a meal excellently cooked by Sergeant Mohd. Zain and his team of hardworking cooks, under the watchful eye of W.O.II Salleh, A.C.C., who very kindly visited us from H.Q., Singapore Base Area to help supervise the preparation and serving of



The Commanding Officer cuts the Hari Raya cake

nearly six hundred meals. A lively band soon induced a steady flow on to the dance floors to partner the specially imported Malay ronggeng girls. Ronggeng is a Malay form of dancing, similar in some respects to the twist, in that the partners never touch, but a good deal less strenuous.

During the course of the evening, W.O.I Wan Jalil, M.B.E., our Malayan Welfare Officer, gave an opening speech welcoming the guests. The Commanding Officer replied, on behalf of the guests, and delivered his speech in Malay. Although the Malay soldiers understand English, very few of their wives do, so his speech was very much appreciated. Staff Sergeant Bramhall, S.S.M., 1 Squadron, spent the evening busy with his camera and produced a very excellent set of photographs, some of which have been submitted with these notes.

Tengah Troop Runners-up in R.A.F. Quiz Competition

Over the rainy season, a series of quiz programmes, conducted in the form of a competition between teams of four, were transmitted over the station closed circuit broadcasting system. A total of 32 teams took part, one of which was from Tengah Troop. Our team comprised Sergeant Punnett (team leader), F. of S. Stock, Corporal Cookson and Captain Williams. In the first round we were drawn to compete against a team from Technical Control. Somewhat diffidently we took our seats and, much to our surprise, won by a good margin. This raised our morale considerably, and we went on to win the next two rounds, which put us in the semi-finals. By this time the remainder of the Troop, to say nothing of R.H.Q., were following our progress with keen interest. The semi-final proved to be a tough battle, but we won by gaining a one-point lead on the last question of the session. This left us to face a team from Electronics Squadron in the final round, which was broadcast on Wednesday, 19th February, before a packed audience in the studio room of the Tengah Broadcasting Station. Unfortunately we lost the day, scoring 18 points to 23 in a hard-fought contest. Before presenting the prizes, the Station Commander complimented the teams on the very high standards achieved. On reflection, we felt that, in the interests of joint Service co-operation, we had done best to be runners-up. After all, there are about 1,800 R.A.F. U.K. personnel at Tengah and only 10 Royal Signals!

Labuan Detachment (Borneo)

The incident below was reported recently in the local press. To the members of Operations Troop, most of whom have now done at least one spell at Labuan, this was praise indeed. The first detachment set up a 40-line F. & F. switchboard at R.A.F. Station, Labuan, in December, 1962, since which time it has served as the station telephone exchange. It is about to be replaced by a more permanent ten plus fifty, and the station will ultimately have its own 100-line PABX.

Corporal Bush, of the R.A.F., has on his desk a 'tele J' for his daily work. Recently it rang and a voice said "Corporal Bush? A call from London." The astonished Corporal, wondering whether it was a "leg-pull," then heard another voice and found himself talking to his wife 9,000 miles away. Mrs. Bush had decided to ring her husband up, and the call was routed by cable to India and thence by radio via Singapore to Labuan, Borneo, and finally through a 40-line F. and F. Board and a 'tele J.'

Is this a record for the humble 'Tele J'?

Departures.—Major Lane, to 240 Squadron; Staff Sergeant Cowan, 3 Squadron, 14th Regiment; Staff Sergeant Greenwood, 2nd Regiment; Sergeant Guinan, School of Artillery; W.O.II Stephenson, B.E.M., 243 Squadron.

21st REGIMENT, B.F.P.O. 43

R.H.Q. The R.S.M., W.O.I Chilvers, continues to march each M.P.C. Course 6½ miles round the airfield and can still be beastly at the end of it. A considerable number of N.C O.s and budding N.C.O.s have gained their M.P.C. Class II or III at his hands and all are sure they earned whatever they got—he says they deserved everything they got!

The Paymaster, Major E. H. Ferriday, R.A.P.C., when not lurking in the bushes waiting for innocent wild-fowl, leads a team whose members are either recuperating from the last football match or hibernating until the next cricket season. It is a wonder that so good a Scot as Corporal Newton, late of the Black Watch, can bear to be empployed in such munificent work but he seeks solace in Highland Dancing.

1 Squadron. Ten degrees under!—at least so it seemed when, as a break from the classroom for your lineman's upgrading course we took ourselves to the Leuth Training Area for a few days last month. With unerring good judgement we picked up the coldest spell since Christmas.

If there was the odd grumble it was certainly not at the efforts of the cooks, Corporals Johnson, O'Kane and Signalman Winter, who not only kept warm but worked wonders with the compo and made sure that life was pleasant to the extent of three hot meals a day and unlimited hot tea.

Linemen and drivers worked hard, they had to to keep warm. Armoured Stekke being an excellent medium on which to expend surplus energy.



A Troop detachment complete with Boswell's dog

2 Squadron. Our life has been directed to the never-ending problem of giving the R.A.F. more telephones and inter-communications but this is now being enlivened by having S.S.M. Waterworth, a draughtsman and cartoonist of merit, who illustrates the notice boards and orders in a most descriptive and compelling way—as a result orders and notices are read. The S.S.M. is also trying to compile a pictorial history of the Squadron and would welcome any photos which previous members of the Squadron can spare.

Births. The Regiment is delighted to congratulate Sergeant and Mrs. N. J. Crowder and Lance-Corporal and Mrs. K. Vincent on the birth of a son each; Corporal and Mrs. W. E. Martin, Signalman and Mrs. T. McCarthy and Signalman and Mrs. P. A. Taundry on the birth of a daughter each.

"Southern Ranger to Nairobi"

Lieutenant David Insall having just returned one weekend from taking some of his Airfield Troop ski-ing was asked by one of his R.A.F. friends whether he would like to take a trip to Nairobi the following Thursday. His Squadron Commander, Major Eric Collins, fully approved knowing that David could well do with a practical geography lesson.

David, having been medically checked out and passed through the decompression chamber, completed the following itinerary by Canberra:—

Thursday p.m.	...	Bruggen—El Adem
Friday	...	El Adem—Nairobi
Saturday ...	...	In Nairobi
Sunday ...	...	Nairobi—Khartoum
		Khartoum—Luqa
Monday ...	...	Luqa—Marham (Norfolk)
		Marham—Bruggen

On debriefing David we established that between 08.00 hours Sunday and 14.00 hours Monday he had 'seen' the following countries: Germany, Holland, Belgium, France, Switzerland, England, Corsica, Sardinia, Italy, Sicily, Malta, Libya, Egypt, Sudan, Ethiopia, Uganda, Kenya and Luxembourg. Total 18.

David had been able to visit Peter Lenthall (late 21st Regiment) at El Adem. Disturbing his slumbers at the very reasonable hour of 11 p.m. to bring him up to date on Regimental gossip. On the first night in Nairobi his map-reading let him down and he ended up in some out-of-bounds area. The following day he just missed meeting "Field Marshal" Obete of Zanzibar but managed to find a nighterie called the Sombrero for beer and a somewhat enlightened floor-show—the impression gained was of a fairly relaxed state of general "Uhuru."

David and the aircrew visited the Bazaar and purchased sufficient wooden tables, carved animals, drums, pineapples and mangoes to fill every available space on the aircraft in order to put themselves into a profitable business on their return to Bruggen.

A safari to the Nairobi Game Park (a must) followed in company with American speaking Mexicans and Italian speaking Americans all dressed in wide hats, khaki shorts, shirts and braces and weighed down with live-cameras and tape recorders. The range of game from lions, hippos downwards was so wide that David felt it was as good as 'Blackpool Zoo' apart from the long flog between stands.

DON'T FORGET THE CATTERICK REUNION
27-28th JUNE

22nd REGIMENT, B.F.P.O. 16

H.Q. Squadron. For the time of year, the weather has been very mild—in parts. In barracks the sun has shone, early flowers have bloomed and camouflage nets have sprouted scrim on the square in preparation for an active summer. Spring had arrived, we thought. Then we went out for a one-day exercise. Of course, the sun disappeared, the temperature dropped well below freezing point, and an icy mist enveloped the area. It was so cold that picks and shovels were at a premium—for once everyone wanted to dig trenches to keep warm. Old hands with 10 years or more in Germany swore they had never had it so cold before—even the brass terminals froze!

For the first time in memory, H.Q. Squadron held a dance. Determined to go one better than the other Squadrons, with their canned music, we hired a live band. It was a great success and took us one step forward into the "Beatle era." There will be more to prove that H.Q. Squadron is "with it."

Unfortunately, that was the last occasions on which we saw several stalwarts of the Squadron in action. It was good-bye to R.Q.M.S. Oliver and S.S.M. Reed, both going away on well-deserved promotion; W.O.II Dickson, Corporal Smith and Lance-Corporal Gilham on posting, and Signalman Kerr on discharge. Sergeant Downes, R.A.P.C., also left us during the month; this has left the Scouts and Adventure Training boys without an enthusiastic leader.

However, we were pleased to welcome R.Q.M.S. Gough, S.S.M. Hogan and Staff Sergeant Taylor. The latter, renowned for his drill experience, was immediately co-opted for the Military Proficiency Courses, with great success.

1 Squadron. Corporal Boorman's and Signalman Cole's detachments spent a very successful week's exercise in Frankfurt, attached to the 32nd U.S. Signal Battalion. Each day the detachments went out to engineer nets with the American HF sets and in the evenings the generous hospitality of "A" Company was accepted. The soldiers were given American uniforms, badges and caps, but in return Signalmen Paull and McKitterick mislaid their berets! One of the radio vehicles developed brake trouble and so a helicopter was sent back to Lippstadt for a new master cylinder, which caused quite a stir in the Regiment. The soldiers were astounded by the size of American meals, but did object to being turned out of bed at 5 o'clock every morning.

2 Squadron. The Phoenix was a fabulous bird, said to have existed for 500 years in the wilderness and, having burnt itself to death on a funeral pyre, rose from its own ashes.

2 Squadron cannot be said to have existed for anything like 500 years in a wilderness, not even in the wilderness of men's minds. But it did exist as an operational squadron until 1962, when it was suspended, operationally, to take some of the load off the Training Brigade by training Radio Operator recruits. The "funeral pyre" was lit in August, 1963, when this task was completed, and has burned throughout the winter until now, like the Phoenix, the new 2 Squadron is rising from the ashes of the old squadron.

The first key men to arrive at the close of the year were the S.S.M., W.O.II Brooks, from 238 Squadron, and the S.Q.M.S., Staff Sergeant Andrews, from 1 Squadron, via a Guards' drill course. Between them, and with the help of Lance-Corporal Lawrence, the only remaining member of the old Squadron, they kept things ticking over until mid-January.

Then things started to happen with a rush. "R" Troop came over as a complete (sic) Troop from 1 Squadron, under its O.C., Lieutenant R. Shiner (a competent tenor in the church choir and a formidable fly-half). Their deficiencies in N.C.O.s have now been made up, albeit by robbing Peter, and they are hard at work training for their very important task of providing communications for the R.A.C.

"N" Troop started off as one officer, Lieutenant D. Hodges, straight from his "Q" Course, via London University. His scientific mind was immediately put to work in getting his 53 set installations on the road again after a long period of preserved activity in the Signal Park.

At the beginning of February it was decided that the Squadron was big enough to warrant an O.C. He came from the Regimental Training Office to find himself, to his dismay, at the receiving end of all the impossible training directives which he had himself issued in his previous capacity.

In February also, 604 Troop joined us from Dortmund, under Lieutenant Peter Brown, with a guitar in one hand and a climbing rope in the other. He also brought some radio detachments. Already they have been completely indoctrinated in our way of life and are settling down well with great spirit. But occasionally, at dead of night, one can hear from the direction of their garages, the mournful strains of a guitar and muted voices singing "604 Troop Blues," whilst their owners transform their camouflage nets into artistic samples of the folk-weavers' craft.

We have been out on three exercises and are about to embark on a fourth. We hope it won't be as cold as the last one, when one detachment group, looking for warmth, sited itself in a brickworks for the night, only to find the fires were out!

244 Squadron. It was suggested to your correspondent that this month it would be a good idea to write about the wives of 244 Squadron (Air Support) and so be it. Firstly, let me thank Mrs. Carroll, the wife of the Squadron Commander, for so kindly supplying the details about the families.

At first sight it appeared that the Squadron was doing its utmost to maintain the increased birthrate. The stork has visited Mesdames Cornell and Uttley, and is hovering low over Mesdames Brownlie, Ferguson, Lawrance and Owen. We are considering changing our Red Hand to a White Stork.

The Squadron wives are busy. Mrs. Downes continues to run the nursery school for the barracks, and other wives have taken charge of all arrangements for the Wives' Club this month. I understand that many kitchens will be in chaos, as there is a competition for the most ingenious hat from kitchen utensils.

In closing, we send our best wishes and farewells to Mrs. Brownlie, who leaves for Northern Ireland, and to Mrs. Easton. Good luck in "Civvy Street."

28th REGIMENT, B.F.P.O. 34

"Ski-Heil"

This year we were really faced with a problem to produce a team for the 2nd Division Ski Meeting, under whom we come for this sport. We found ourselves short of men, snow and money; all pretty well essential for success.

We managed, however, to get £10 from Corps funds, £33 from 2nd Division, and our own P.R.I. gave us £50. The men, all volunteers, paid the rest themselves. We found a little German Gasthaus in Oberjoch on the German-Austrian border, where we packed four men in a room and cooked our own meals. We could not afford an instructor, and those with some knowledge passed it on to the rest. This is not likely to produce the best results against units who have Swedish Langlauf Instructors and tune up their Downhill team in St. Moritz for a few months before participating.



"APRES SKI"

Left to right: Sergeant Carr, Lieutenant Doyle, Major Irwin, Captain Wheeler



28th REGIMENT SKIERS

Left to right: Captain Wheeler, Sergeant Aimable, Lieutenant Doyle, Sergeant Richards, Staff-Sergeant McDonough



Corporal Waugh in the Langlauf

The general shortage of snow left some ugly rocks protruding and produced a crop of accidents, luckily none of them fatal, but enough to sadly deplete a team. Signalman Stannistreet ran in the Langlauf and Patrol races after dislocating his thumb, which made poling uphill an agonising business. Captain Wheeler twisted a knee and an ankle in the Downhill, and S.S.I. Issitt injured his spine.

Twenty-six units competed in the various events, and we were very pleased to finish eighth in the 4 x 10 km. Langlauf, and in the same position in the Downhill. Staff Sergeant McDonough was second in the Veterans' Downhill and Slalom, and Corporal Waugh was third in the Novices' Downhill. His training consisted largely of pushing himself continuously off the steepest mountains available until he stopped falling. This may not be good for the neck, but it is excellent for the nerves. In the actual race, over $2\frac{1}{4}$ km., he never fell once. Sergeant Richards did extremely well to finish 18th in the open Alpine Combination ski-ing, against such formidable competitors as Lieutenants Montgomerie and Norman, both Army champions.

Prospects for next year are not too good, Major Irwin, Captain Wheeler, Sergeant Richards and Signalman Stannistreet are all posted, but Lieutenant Doyle, the new Ski Officer, is bound to find enough men to fill the ranks whose motto might well be "Nothing ventured, nothing sprained."

30th REGIMENT

The early part of 1964 was full of the coming and going of various members of the Regiment as they rapidly departed for warmer climes. However, the routine of Blandford continues and the Project Staff seem confident that the dreams depicted by the delightful model of the new School of Signals will shortly begin to materialise on the ground at Blandford.

The Regiment has recently conducted six of the Military Proficiency Courses which are now necessary for promotion, and some 100 N.C.O.s and Signalmen of many units have qualified under the instruction of W.O.II Fisher and Corporal Booth.

The sailing season has got off to a flying start with the acquisition of a four-berth sloop—the *Stella Lyra,* which has been bought with monies provided by the Nuffield Trust and Corps Funds. The boat has an overall length of 25ft. and a draught of a little under 4ft., a crew of six is normally carried. Chartering arrangements are in the hands of Captain L. W. Moran, who will be pleased to supply further information about the *Stella Lyra* to anyone who is interested.

On the strength of the success we had last year in running the Olympic Sailing Trials at Poole, we have been asked to take on the administration of the National Championships and the Olympic Trials, which are to be held in June, 1964.

Sergeant Phippard, a leading light in the dinghy world, is now training hard with the aim of taking part in the National Albacore Championships at Llandudno. He has also been elected Sailing Secretary of the Lilliput Sailing Club, to which Royal Signals is affiliated. Dinghies available at the Club this year will include three Albacores and five Fireflies.

The demand for training continues, and for the first time we are taking advantage of the help offered by the Central Council of Physical Recreation, who have courses for both novices and those wishing to learn racing techniques. We hope to have eight N.C.O.s qualify in the early part of the season. For beginners, the Army Sailing Association are also running their usual courses.

The 1964 Sailing Diary is full of interesting events in which the Regiment is participating, and a big Regimental entry is expected for the annual Corps Regatta, to be held at Portsmouth on 4th July. Royal Navy Fireflies will be used in all events.

No. 3 Squadron recently visited the School of Signals to give the annual demonstration of equipment and organisation. Exercises have been held with the Special Air Service and the Royal Armoured Corps at Bovington Camp.

The Squadron loses, with regret, Captain J. L. E. Gryspeerdt and Lieutenant P. H. Grant on posting, and welcomes Major Malone, Captain Wilson-Brown and Lieutenant (T.O.T.) Hutley.

The Corps Demonstration Team is busily engaged on preparing the Mobile Display (Quicksilver) for the 1964 Tour which is to commence at Aberdeen on 21st May.

The setting of the display is telecommunications equipment and other exhibits, mounted in four prefabricated portable shelters, with a film show at centre and large photographic displays between shelters and at either end. The display, which covers an area of some 80 feet x 20 feet is in the charge of Lieutenant R. C. Hood assisted by Staff Sergeant Keeler and a team of 16 Military and 4 Women's Royal Army Corps, Royal Signals.

Team Headquarters is also working on another large-scale show of general interest—a Corps Stand at the Radio Show which is to be held at Earls Court on 26th August—5th September.

205 SQUADRON B.F.P.O. 24

The winter months have been spent on upgrading training and Military Proficiency courses (thanks to the help of 4th Regiment) and have been full of rumours and counter rumours about our future. At first we were told that we were to disband this year, but presumably "they" found disbanding the largest independent Squadron in the Corps too difficult (can any independent Squadron beat our administered total of 286 all ranks?). Now it appears that our future is certain, but in a new and more interesting role.

Our soccer teain has had a mixed season; the continual absence on courses of some of our star players has been the despair of W.O.I (R.S.M.) S. Richings, the team manager. The basketball team, under Sergeant K. J. Eatock, A.C.C., lost by one point to 5 Infantry Workshop R.E.M.E. in the second round of the Minor Units championships. Our Small Bore Shooting team, under Lieutenant M. F. Andrews, won the Brigade Minor Units competition (being the only team to enter). We hope to meet some opposition in the 4 Division competition!

Our more recent visitor was our new Corps Commander, Lieutenant-General Sir R. Goodwin, K.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O. He was surprised to see that some 28 cap badges are represented in our Squadron, and even more surprised when the Officer Commanding, Major D. D. Ranft, asked him to speak to a member of his staff some 80 miles away by VHF radio using automatic rebroadcast.

Our other winter activities include daily ski-ing instruction under Corporal G. L. Cox, a party of learner ski-ers to Winterburg for a week's instruction, and an increased amount of shooting, officers' training, and physical exercise for all ranks. We have, by self-help, completely redecorated and re-equipped our dining hall, which now looks very gay.

Mention must be made of our independent troops who rarely hit the limelight, but have important and difficult tasks. 10th Royal Hussars Signal Troop have for some months been commanded by Corporal C. C. Laws, with Lance-Corporal T. Houston as a regular soccer player for the Regiment. 14th Regiment Royal Artillery Signal Troop is looked after by Staff Sergeant A. B. Harding and this Troop is now fully up to strength. 504 Troop lives only a mile away so we see much of Corporal C. J. Cartwright, their Radio Technician, and Corporal R. M. Hosey, their electrician driver; we notice that they are both getting a Scottish accent! 505 Troop with Corporal S. M. Hosein (electrician driver) and Lance-Corporal M. G. Riddle and Lance-Corporal D. J. Stembridge as radio technicians are further away from us but doing equally good work flying the Corps flag in an Infantry environment. 506 Troop being with an A.P.C. Battalion has Lieutenant M. C. Spence in command with Sergeant D. Abercrombie as his number two. They share the same barracks as us and the Battalion they serve has so many Saracens it puts our two to shame.

F.-of-S. N. F. Webb has had a busy winter deploying his radio technicians throughout the Brigade, visiting all Units for specification checks and overhaul of equipment, and receiving an ever-growing supply of test equipment and spares. The problem now is where to put it all.

208 COMMONWEALTH SQUADRON, MALACCA

During the non-exercise period, about 80 per cent of the Squadron took part in Exercise "Kangaroo Hop," near Kuantan, on the east coast of Malaya. Briefly, the exercise consisted of an airlift of the Australian Battalion, complete with its Signal Troop from Singapore to Kuantan, in order to carry out anti-terrorist campaigns in that area. This is the first time we have had the opportunity to see the new Argosy in action, and those of us who were fortunate enough to get a ride, were most impressed.

Both Corporal Wolfenden and Lance-Corporal Row are to be congratulated on their efforts at footslogging through the jungle with the Battalion, carrying close on 100lb. of equipment on their backs. The raised eyebrows of the Infanteers were soon lowered in recognition of their fitness and endurance.

In the middle of December, Captain Costello and his driver, Lance-Corporal Gordon, did a 1,000-mile reconnaissance of the east coast of Malaya, from Kota Bahru to Singapore, in preparation for a jungle orientation-cum-communications exercise, to take place in January.

Oddly enough, when the exercise did take place, in January, it was found that Captain Costello had selected his camp area on top of a very large "holiday camp" for scorpions. Several men got bitten, Corporal Judd quite badly; he spent half the exercise in Mersing Hospital with an extremely painful memory.



THE UNIT CROSS-COUNTRY TEAM

Back row (left to right): Signalman Mason, Lance-Corporal Ledger, Lieutenant Elder, Corporal Kimberley, Signalman Hickman, Signalman Remmer, Signalman Mills, Signalman Smith, Signalman Gardner, Corporal Walker

Being the proud holders of the Brigade Minor Units Cross-country Cup, we set out on 17th January to defend our title for a further year. Lieutenant Elder, the team coach, had trained the team over the past few months to the peak of fitness and the team captain, Signalman Mills, held high hopes of victory. Sure enough the hard work payed off and we were completely unchallenged in the final result. Signalman Smith deserves a special word of praise for coming in 5th out of 70 in the individual placings.

During 1963 we were unchallenged for supremacy at water polo by any minor unit. Unfortunately during the latter end of the year we lost several key players and the team that met the highly trained Brigade H.Q. team in the final of the Brigade competition was a little below its best. Nevertheless the boys played their hearts out and we were narrowly defeated by a superior team.

We do not usually list all arrivals and departures but certain are worthy of note in these notes. Captain Sprackling, our correspondent, leaves us in February as an administrative officer who has spent more time on exercises than he has administering! R.Q.M.S. Talbot left us in January for a change of employment in U.K.—he was S.Q.M.S., S.S.M. and R.Q.M.S. in the Squadron and so knows it backwards. Good luck to both of them and their families in the future. Welcome too to their reliefs, Lieutenant F. R. Maynard and R.Q.M.S. Emery.

210 SQUADRON, B.F.P.O. 10

Changes galore! The month of February has brought a new look to the Squadron. Major Butler arrived to replace Major Sherrard Smith as Squadron Commander and both have our wishes for successful and enjoyable appointments. Welcome and farewells also to Squadron Sergeant Majors. S.S.M. Hill arrived and S.S.M. Bailey has departed—again good wishes, and also to "Q" Paternoster who left us for 603 Troop in Aden.

As readers can guess recent events in East Africa involved the Squadron in many and varied tasks. After a lengthy period of being at immediate notice we were relaxed to eight hours and leave has been reintroduced. This saw a rapid exodus of our ten per cent. personnel allowable leave quota.

We are taking the maximum advantage of Mideast upgrading courses and Bellerby and Leadsom were despatched to Bahrain for four weeks. Other candidates are going to Aden and we hope to receive some of our Arabian peninsular friends here to be educated!

The recent emergency aftermath unfolded an interesting hush hush job for Signalman Rae who was despatched to Dar es Salaam with 41 Commando R.M. for a week. He tells us the swimming was good!

Corporal Barber returned from Uganda when he was relieved by 1 Staffords Signal Troop but Signalmen Andrews and Lear are in Uganda with 517 Troop so that full advantage can be taken of the closeness of the superb Ugandan game parks!

The tentacles of 603 Troop have been exercising with aircraft from H.M.S. *Victorious*. The Squadron and ratings from the ship seem to hit it off well. From our club takings the darts match against the sailors was a great success but we understand not a dart was thrown.

Judging from the number of "pink slips" issued, the driving course, which is now almost continuous, is producing the desired results. Only one learner's accident, so far—a minor collision during town driving. Of all the vehicles in Nairobi the good Malpass had to choose a fellow learner—"me foot slipped off the brake on to the accelerator, sir!"

Corporal Rowe and his detachment have spent a few weeks in the heat of the North Eastern Region. They are communicating for the Brigade Sappers who are road building near the shifta infested Somali border. We understand a round or two has been loosed-off in anger.

To our large number of recent arrivals we offer a big welcome and hope that your stay with the Squadron will be most enjoyable. For those who are coming we would advise you to hurry as we leave the delightful tourist attractions of Kenya in October. The snag with our move to Aden is the limited families accommodation there. It is most likely that married soldiers will have to join us unaccompanied and their families be called forward as a quarter becomes available. However, don't let that deter you.

They Have to be Friends with us!
232 SQUADRON

By W.O.II (R.Q.M.S.) J. L. Holman

It is a long, long time since this Detachment appeared in "The Wire" and so we emerge from our lair in the Ordnance Depot Hong Kong to let everyone know we are alive.

No doubt this will have repercussions in the form of a rash of postings and happy visitors who have at last found somewhere new to visit, making life one long round of visits, inspections and jollification. By by the end of this year we will all have left Hong Kong, with the exception of Sergeant Donnelly, so who cares.

The Detachment is normally referred to as the "Signal Park" by our many friends and, no doubt, by all sorts of names by our not very numerous enemies. After all, we are at the source of supply of nearly all types of stores and equipment so who can afford not to be friends.

We consist of a W.O.II (R.Q.M.S.), that's me, whose qualifications for the job are his experience and long service, a Sergeant Clerk Technical, two Junior Rank Clerks Technical, a Staff Operator and a Cable Jointer.

Everyone of the Detachment buys "The Wire," and it's all done by kindness. Absolutely no coercion or arm locks!

Our Squadron H.Q. is in Singapore and this lends itself very nicely to Christmas shopping trips, though the traffic is mainly Singapore to Hong Kong. Some of the Detachment have, on occasions, escaped to Singapore for Courses. Major Coslett, the Squadron O.C., has just been here on a visit, ably assisted by Staff Sergeant Kimber. It was noticed that Staff's holdall, though rather light on arrival, was well packed for his return flight, plus a mysterious parcel under his arm! Nuff said!

The Detachment upholds the reputation of the Corps quite well on the sports field. Signalman Woodhall and the R.Q. play hockey for the Company, and Woodhall is being co-opted into the athletics team as a javelin thrower. Lance-Corporal Gaffney runs in the Company's athletics team and assisted them to win the Minor Units Championship last year. No doubt he will be there again this year. He is also helping with the running of badminton. Sergeant Davis, who left us recently, organised and skippered the Company basketball team and they are doing very well. But, sad to say, they haven't done so well since you left, Dave!

Signalman Loney came to us from Singapore and promptly made a name for himself as a backstroke swimmer. Although he had not backstroked before coming here. He assisted the R.A.O.C. Company team to win the Minor Units Championship. His fame spread too quickly and he was recalled to S.H.Q. in Singapore ostensibly on the grounds of shortage of Staff (they really were too!). Our other three members, Sergeant Donnelly, Corporal Parsley and Signalman Spencer manage to find their recreation in other ways and generally keep our "Detachment" a shining example to the R.A.O.C. One puzzled 6 Company R.A.O.C. O.C. was heard to ask, "Why are the Royal Signals personnel always smarter than my own people?" I could tell him!

All sport is played in the winter months so we have a busy time keeping up our sporting commitments and doing our work but we haven't slipped up yet!

In the summer the main recreation is swimming. The Detachment requisitions a R.A.S.C. 'bus once a month and take off for the day to a remote beach, this is on Sundays, of course, not working days! Spare seats are usually filled with our R.A.O.C. friends who cannot have a 'bus because they have Unit transport (3 tonners! Ugh!).

All in all our morale and standing with the Ordnance is very high and we try to keep it so all the time. We get on very well with the R.A.O.C., although we haven't been able to persuade any of them to change their Corps!

For anyone coming our way I would advise they brush up on all aspects of Royal Signals because we are called upon for work and advice in nearly every aspect of Royal Signals and even some jobs outside, such as outside electric lighting. On every sporting and social occasion we get the job of setting up and running the P.A. equipment. If anything goes wrong with telephones and Intercom sets, it's "Send for the Signal Park." So, if your posting is to this Detachment you will be doubly welcome if you have a good all round knowledge of Royal Signals and are a sportsman of some kind.

In case anyone is thinking that we do nothing but sport, don't believe it! But it's better than writing about S.W.S. Procedure, Visits and Inspections, don't you think, and I hope you will enjoy it more! (*We certainly do.—Ed.*)

235 SQUADRON, B.F.P.O. 51

Ever since the W.R.A.C. teleprinter operators joined 235 Squadron (COMCAN) in January, 1963, it has been known that sooner or later the Unit would get a "visit."

On 10th February, the Director, Women's Royal Army Corps, Brigadier Dame Jean Rivett-Drake, D.B.E., A.D.C., landed in Malta to start her tour of units in Malta and Libya.

After meeting the women posted to us for duty with Headquarters, Malta, and with the Command Pay Office, she toured St. David's Barracks and the T.R.C. at Fort Bingemma. She spoke with all the members of the W.R.A.C. and with some of the men. When she left us her comments were favourable. The standard and femininity of the W.R.A.C. accommodation pleased her.

And so, successfully, ended the first year of W.R.A.C. influence on the Squadron and on Malta.

Forgotten now is the temporary accommodation which was lived in for so long that we thought it was permanent. Forgotten is the sunburn and peeling noses, due to not believing the old hands. "There is nothing to do in Malta" seems to be a cry of the past, if the number of invitations from outside units is anything to go by. The Infantry, the R.A.F. and the Navy are all aware of the girls of 235.

The swimming lessons—soon to start again—are still remembered, particularly Corporal J. McKenzie's triumphant first three strokes. Perhaps this year Private L. Humphries' swimsuit will get wet! This summer it is hoped that more will qualify in life-saving, having an example to follow in the number of certificates won by the W.R.A.C. last year.

The hockey team may lack in goal-scoring ability, but it makes up in enthusiasm, admirably organised by Sergeant E. Johnson and Lance-Corporal D. Ryder. Basketball is played in ignorance, accompanied by shrieks. The men seem to play so much better against another men's team! The tennis team turned out smartly enough for Wimbledon; not up to that standard yet, but one can but hope.

Netball, table tennis, darts—perhaps there is something to do in Malta after all. Staff Sergeant D. McKay, Royal Signals, found something to do; he married Lance-Corporal J. Ayre, W.R.A.C., and they are now giving welcome hospitality to other members of the unit. Congratulations and best wishes.

After the visit of the D.W.R.A.C., we had two weeks' breathing space and then the day of the annual Administrative Inspection arrived.

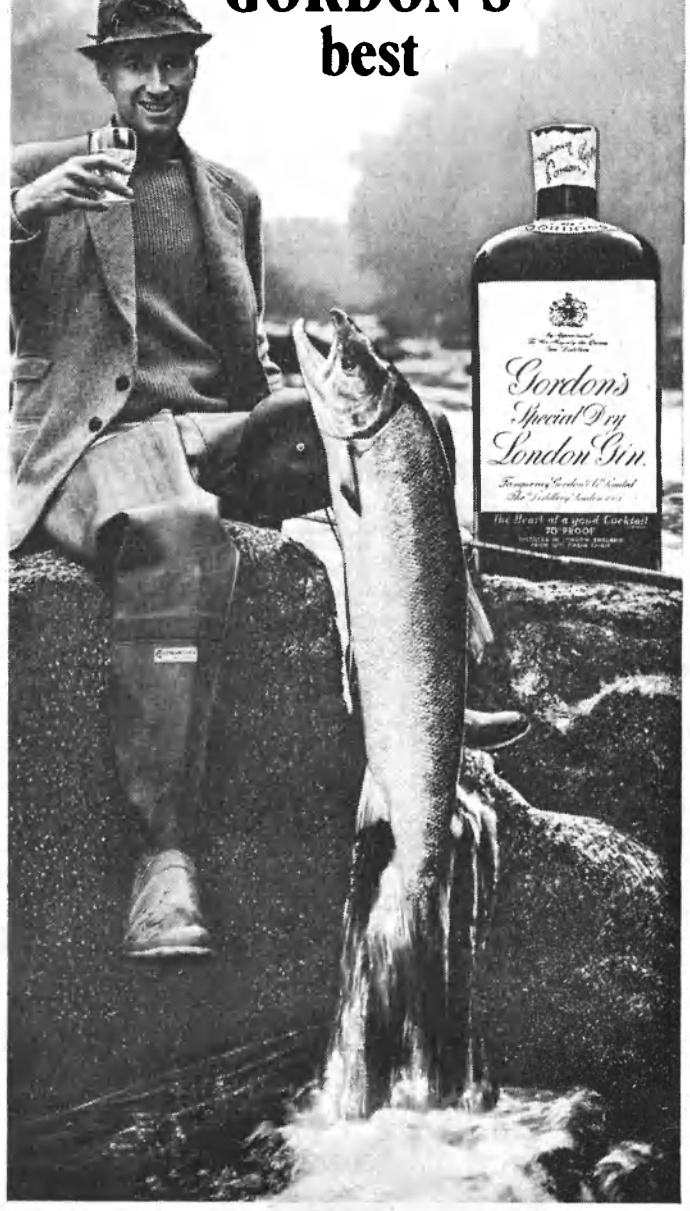
The inspection, by Brigadier B. Kingzett, C.B.E., M.C., went as planned, from the inspection of the quarter guard until lunch in the Officers' Mess . . . . Thank goodness!

Result.—A good report.

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263 SQUADRON, c/o G.P.O., SINGAPORE

This is our first effort in 1964 to reach THE WIRE. Sorry to have missed you all!

We thought we would present vou with our report in the form of Troop reports, but there is, believe it or not, an organisation that binds us all together and tells us what to do. That little organisation is led by Major J. E. Denton, as O.C., led on by the Chief Instructor, Captain J. E. P. Philp. So—to business!

H.Q. Troop. 1964 has taxed Squadron H.Q. as heavily as 1963, for, in addition to the Staff Sergeant Course (eight weeks), there has been a great deal of activity with the equipment introducing team with D11s on both crew instruction and airconditioning, coupled with active participation in "fire brigade" action to Borneo. Every time W.O.II (F. of S.) Alblas was wanted at H.Q., his immediate reaction was "What kit shall I want."

R.Q.M.S. Evis has been kept most active by the complete turnover of the C.S.O.'s pool and, needless to say, the returned items arrive unserviceable. Corporal Alwi, also in the stores, is most cheered by the introduction of the piecemeal ACE III after his four previous unsuccessful attempts.

We have bade farwell to our ertswhile Chief Clerk, Sergeant F. Edwards, and cordially welcome Staff Sergeant Downey, who is quietly getting down to F.E.S.O., R.S.O.s and S.A.I.s, he suggests that all newcomers be given 14 days' supervised solitary, in order that they may absorb the aforementioned "bumph."

The O.C., Major Denton, and his S.S.M., have upheld the "Line" traditions in the sailing sphere, ably supported by Mr. Flann (Chief Clerk for C.R. Signals, and Sergeant Charles).

Another of our major concerns has been the running-up of the new Regimental activity—water ski-ing, very ably supervised by the Second-in-Command, Captain Sparshott. This has proved so popular that the boat, an 18ft. planing hull, driven by an 80 h.p. outboard motor, presented by the Nuffield Trust, is perpetually book up for three monhs ahead.

The School also controls adventure training for the group, and under the energetic control of Staff Sergenat Shahibullah (late of the S.G.R.) have done two fascinating trips, including rafting 120 miles down the Kelantan River to Kota Bahru.

Operating Troop. This is a small Troop commanded by Staff Sergeant Clark, assisted by Sergeant Newson, Sergeant Beadle and Corporal Watson. Three M.O.R. Corporals, totalling 12 years in the Squadron, are Ismail, Baharuddin and Khalid. We teach the normal operating trades. We recently lost two staunch members of the Squadron, Sergeants "Taffy" Edwards and "Taffy" Price. Thank you both so much for all you have done.

Line Troop. This is the only Troop in the Squadron which is entirely Malayan and Indian. Sergeant Kadir leads the "hairys" through tough and enjoyable training. We have two civilian instructors who probably know a majority of the present seniors of the Corps. Mr. Mansor is in his sixteenth year as an instructor here, while Mr. Yusoff has just started his sixth!

Technician Troop. Besides upgrading and training Technicians and Electrician Drivers, the personnel of this Troop endeavour to maintain the miscellany of training equipment, test instruments and office equipment used by ourselves and our sister Troops. Sergeant Hogg and Corporal Johnston arrived late last year to be hurtled into the annual R.E.M.E. test equipment inspection and acquitted themselves gallantly by gaining a 92.5 per cent taskworthy result. Sgt. Baxter, who is leaving shortly for a "luxury tour" to SHAPE, guided Signalmen Sim and Zainudin on the road to a 98 per cent report on office machinery, before he was smitten by some mysterious tropical complaint.

The Inspector of Trade Training paid us a visit last October and in his quiet way shattered our training programme for 1964 by showing us a new syllabus for technician trades which extended our Class III courses to a whole year, and our Class IIs by a further four weeks. The first of these extended courses, a combined Line/Telegraph Technician course, has commenced on fairly conventional lines, with Sergeant C. S. W. Wood and his pet pooch "Patch" at the helm. Later they will explore the intricacies of Frequency and Pulse Modulation, Transistors and Logic Circuitry, hitherto unexplored territory for Class III Technicians.

Foreman Alblas has spent the last nine months or so mastering the idiosyncrasies of the D11 station and has been running introductory courses for technicians and operators from units about to receive the equipment. It is our loss that he will shortly be leaving for SHAPE, and we wish him and his family a happy and more settled tour there.

As a by-product of teaching the dreaded Eee and Emm to Radio and Telegraph Operators, Sergeant J. T. Wood has been doing some propagation trials using the A41, but after finding our island too small, sent some of his "Y" Troop colleagues on a fishing trip in an R.A.S.C. launch to find out just how far these little sets will operate under ideal conditions. They came back with the magic figure of 24 miles—is this a record?

Some of the Troop have sufficient spare time to engage in sporting activities. Sergeant Angus being much in demand to referee football matches, Sergeant Hogg and Corporal Kynnersley both being big wheels in the basketball world and Sergeant Charles has just sailed around with the S.S.M. in the annual Round the Island Race. Corporals Hassell and Lai play rugger for the Regiment occasionally, and Corporals Johnston and Hill have been peddling furiously(?) along the byways on their (P.R.I.) bicycles.

605 TROOP

The motif of previous WIRE notes has been that of State and Ceremonial occasions in which we assist. This time we show another aspect of the role of this small static unit, namely, assistance in Brigade of Guards exercises. This will interest former members of the troops and others who know us only as a blunt end Troop.

These exercises have presented problems of provision successfully overcome by borrowing Radio Operators from 30th Regiment and 239 Squadron (Eastern Command), stores and camp kit from anyone who will lend (frequently T.A. Signal Regiments) and vehicles either on exercise or again from other Units. Staff Sergeant Teyen, our "Q," now knows personally every "Q" within 50 miles!

Exercises in which the Troop has taken part were Exercise "Cock Grouse," 21st/25th September, when control and umpire nets were provided by the Troop. The contestants in the battle were 1 Grenadier Guards and 1 Coldstream Guards, with umpires provided by 1 Scots Guards. The location was Dartmoor and the weather in the traditional manner deteriorated throughout the exercise, which closed in fog, wind and rain.

A similar exercise, "Hen Pheasant," was held in the Cheviot Hills on 22nd/24th October. This time we had 1 Scots Guards and 2 Coldstream Guards with umpires provided by 1 Coldstream Guards.

On 19th/21st February, as a culmination of the Guards Brigade Signal Concentrations, the C.S.O. London District's own exercise, Exercise "Cold Comfort II," was held in Stanford P.T.A. This was an exercise with a tactical setting to exercise Regimental Signallers. Regimental Signallers involved were from 1 Welsh Guards, 1 Coldstream Guards and 2 Coldstream Guards. This time the weather was fine and dry but we always manage to catch the coldest spell of the winter. Nevertheless, we regarded ourselves as very fortunate compared with last winter. On these exercises it is difficult to single out individuals for mention as all performed remarkably well. Maybe they rise to the challenge and the change from the more humdrum static duties of Hounslow.

Sergeant E. C. Hunt, Radio Operator, shortly to leave us, and Sergeant A. Todd, Radio Technician, were as always the mainsprings of the organisation, assisting with a will at all hours. We look forward to the day when we have the personnel and equipment to perform our role without borrowing—our present sources may tire of our importuning!

In the period we have said goodbye and good luck to: Corporal H. P. Allen, termination of service; Corporal R. J. Savage, to 7th Regiment, Germany; Lance-Corporal G. A. Savage, to 21st Regiment, Germany; Lance-Corporal D. J. Le Carpentier, to 254 Squadron, Aden; Corporal G. Eggleton, termination of service.

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THAT WAS THE YEAR THAT WAS FOR 640 SIGNAL TROOP

Well worth reading is the following account of a most versatile troop from which detachments have been to an amazing variety of places all round the world and on the strangest mixture of duties. Surely this must constitute a record for any small unit in the Army.

You can imagine the scene. We were on the ferry between Belfast and Heysham having a quiet drink in the bar. We were returning to the fold in Blandford Camp after a month in Northern Ireland, and our minds were dwelling on the Administration work which awaited our arrival.

"About THE WIRE notes," said the Officer Commanding. I waited, not daring to break the spell.

"What we want is something on the lines of a 'Review of 1963,' to make up for all the times we almost wrote them but didn't." He went on, "Who have we left in camp to tackle the job?" I suggested the Troop Staff Sergeant, the S.Q.M.S., the M.T. Sergeant and the Second-in-Command in quick succession.

"No, they are all far too busy at the moment, it looks as though you are elected." "Yes, Sir."

But where to start? Should I write about the time Sergeant Drugan and some of his merry men were almost deported from New York as undesirable aliens? Or should I start with a beginners guide to the night life of Bangkok? (As related to me by Corporal Gardiner, I only visited the temples and the floating market).

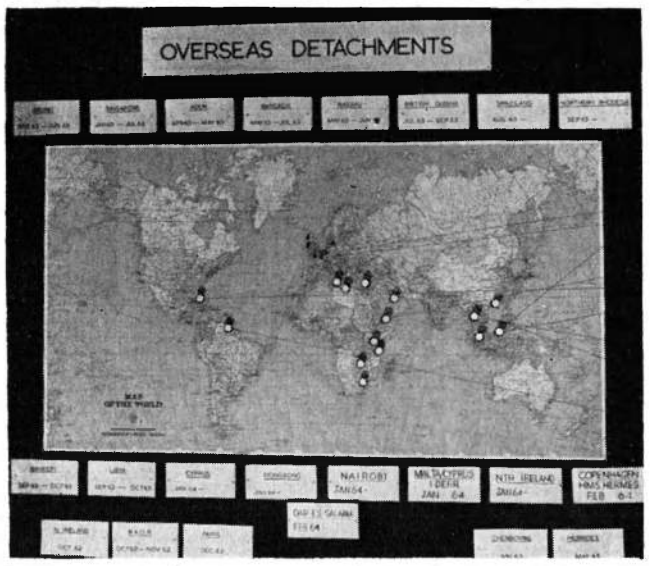
Oh well, let's start at the beginning. 1963 really started for the Troop when we all went on Christmas leave on 21st December, 1962, to cries of "See you on 6th January, have a good Christmas."

Little did we know. By 6th January, 1963, a Sergeant and six men were in Brunei after a hectic 'Christmas leave' drawing tropical kit, being inoculated and getting passports. After three months of sorting out a newly formed Troop, our first Operation was upon us. Reinforcements for Singapore followed in January, and the lessons learned were put into effect when the whole Troop was fully inoculated and issued with Tropical Kit for both Middle East and Far East. It wasn't of much immediate use. Whilst Sergeant Croad-Brangwyn, Corporal Allen, Signalman Finch and others were catching the sun in Singapore and Brunei, we base wallahs were digging out the camp in the worst winter in memory.

In January and February, we provided men and equipment to supplement our 'Parent' Regiment, 30th Signals, at their annual demonstration to the Staff College at Camberley, and a few weeks later at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst.

An exercise in Aden took Corporal Williams for a short summer holiday in April and May, whilst the operation in British Guiana gave Lance-Corporal Degei a chance to lie on the beach at Nassau for a few weeks. By July though, we were well committed in British Guiana, and a number of Radio Detachments under Sergeant Drugan departed with their equipment, there to remain until relieved in September. It was during this return journey that the New Year incident occurred. As Sergeant Drugan related it, it went something like this.

"We landed at Idlewild to refuel, and being anxious to sample the cultural beauties of New York, made a bee-line for the exit. Being good soldiers and taking an intelligent interest



Some of the places where members of the far-flung 640 Troop have been

in all things electronic, the men were fascinated by the automatic doors which opened as you broke a photo-electric circuit a few feet in front of them. Experimentation was cut short by the arrival of a policeman nervously fingering a rather ferocious looking pistol at his hip. He regarded the combat-suited members of 640 Troop with a jaundiced eye, mumbling something about 'Limeys,' and hustled us back to the aircraft. Having no passports, our landing permits were stamped 'Alien—to be detained and deported.'"

So much for our brief American tour. We hope our present 'man in British Guiana,' Corporal Griffiths, will have a smoother journey on his return.

At the same time, May to July, Captain Wilson-Browne and a party of seventeen flew to Thailand to take part in the SEATO Exercise "Dhana Rajata." In company with Corporal Gardiner (the night life expert) and Lance-Corporal Puttock, I stayed with the Golden Arrow detachment of 237 Squadron in Bangkok, 'roughing it' in the air conditioned splendour of the Grand Hotel. Staff Sergeant Montgomery, Sergeant Parry and Sergeant Stogdale went up country to such romantic sounding places as Lopburi, Ubon and Chiang-mai, wrestling with mosquitoes, rain and D11 stations. Signalman Finch, who was enjoying his second Far East trip in three months, treated it all with a blase familiarity and concentrated on the local beer.

Whilst there, we were members of 504 Squadron, a Commonwealth Unit of British and New Zealand signallers, and many friendships were made over the problems which arose, both with them and our SEATO allies, the Americans.

Meanwhile, back in United Kingdom, Sergeant Inglis, Lance-Corporal Taylor and Lance-Corporal Spierpoint made a trip to the Hebrides to install Radio Telephone equipment between the mainland and St. Kilda, and a Radio Detachment made a quick trip to Cherbourg in France to provide communications in support of the Ordnance Survey.

July was a relatively quiet month, with the odd demonstration in Blackpool to support a recruiting campaign, ably led by the S.Q.M.S., Staff Sergeant Hills. Communications in the shape of four detachments led by Sergeant Coatesworth were provided for the 'Round Britain Cycle Race,' an annual event promoted by the milk marketing board, and Sergeants Duncan and Parry with their D11 crews, produced a radio link between Poole and the Isle of Wight, again in support of the Ordnance Survey.

In August, Sergeant Coatesworth took his C11 station and nine men to Swaziland at very short notice, to provide rear link communications to Nairobi for the Loyals. With six of the nine men playing in the Regimental football team, we acquitted ourselves rather well there.

Those left behind provided control communications for Poole Regatta, when a number of the Troop became firm sailing enthusiasts. Sergeant Mundy particularly has been trying hard for a helmsman's certificate, and hopes to qualify in the coming season.

We said goodbye to our Officer Commanding, Captain Pratt, at the end of August when he departed for Staff College, and welcomed Captain Hodgson in his place. Captain Hodgson's arrival coincided with a visit by the General Officer Commanding Aldershot district, and it took him half a day to find us, we being heavily camouflaged in a local wood for the occasion.

Exercise "Triplex West" in Libya during September and October by 3rd Headquarter and Signal Regiment depleted our ranks once more as a large proportion of the Troop went out to reinforce them. Old hands broke the 50,000 mile barrier on that trip, whilst newcomers, like Lance-Corporal Cammish, had their first overseas experience.

Concurrently, an exercise in Bahrein and the Federation States of Sharja and Abu Dhubar called upon the services of nearly all the rest of us. Staff Sergeant Telford and most of the Comcen Operators descended on the joint Comcen in Bahrein, whilst Sergeants Duncan and Stogdale renewed their sun tans with their crews in the deserts of the South Arabian Peninsula. Endless arguments about where the flies came from are still going on today.

The Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland broke up about this time, and a small Headquarters was established in Lusaka, Northern Rhodesia, where our man is Sergeant Brooks. After a false start or two, he finally got away at the end of September, to be followed in early October by Corporal Edwards.

During October, a priority signal landed on the Officer Commanding's desk from a Brigade Signal Officer in the South of France. Apparently the local County Regiment were taking part in the exercise and a newspaper reporter from a Southampton newspaper was covering the story. He was finding difficulty in clearing his despatches from Brigade Headquarters in the Field., and the signal contained a request for a D11 teleprinter link to be established between Blandford and South of France the next day. Corporal Crumbie and his crew duly set up their equipment, and within ten minutes of establishing communications the Press despatches was phoned through to the Editor in Southampton.

In September also, we provided men and equipment for Exercise "Unison" at Dartmouth Naval College. A D11 in Airtech containers worked to COMCAN at Boddington and provided a link for the many Commonwealth officers visiting for the exercise. In fact one high ranking officer sent a signal to Ottawa, and after a few minutes looking round the D11 station, asked when he might expect a reply.

"It's here now, sir," said Corporal Crumbie, tearing it from the teleprinter with a flourish.

A changeover of Battalions in Swaziland gave us an opportunity to rotate the men of Sergeant Coatesworth's detachment, and our man there now is Sergeant Stogdale. Congratulations to Corporal Sharpe, who found himself a wife out there, and who is expected back soon. Sergeant Stogdale has recently obtained an amateur radio licence, and we are in the process of arranging a schedule. His call sign is ZS7D, and any amateurs who read this and want a Swaziland contact, might also like to try.

November was a month of demonstrations, with recruiting in mind. To this end, a D11 was installed on the third floor of Lewis's department store in Glasgow, where Sergeant Parry, Sergeant Mundy and Corporal Tebby kept the Corps in the public eye. A trip to Edinburgh with 30th Regiment to demonstrate a wide range of equipment to four University Cadet Forces, provided interest for the rest of us in United Kingdom. Corporal Gardiner was photographed and interviewed for a national Press campaign in recruiting, and by now has been scrutinized over millions of breakfast tables, smiling from the national Press as he bends his talents to the intricacies of the 1+4 No. 2.

The organisers of the R.A.C. rally asked for our assistance, and three C11 detachments provided communications for the special Hill Climb Section. Sergeants Inglefield, Duncan and Drugan were out for two days, and apart from getting rather wet, had a grandstand view of the competition.

In December the main event was Cyprus, with our first detachments leaving on Boxing Day. We subsequently formed two Battalion Signal Troops under Sergeants Nutter and Haydon, to join the Battalions already in Cyprus, whilst Sergeant Inglefield and his detachment were recalled from a demonstration at Welbeck College to join a Battalion in Malta, now in Cyprus. In late December also, Sergeant Walton formed a Battalion Signal Troop, and is now our man in Hong Kong.

For those who have read this far and find it all confusing, a glance at the photograph will help clarify the picture. It's the only way we've found of keeping track of where we are, where we've been, and where we are likely to go. Before this, Captain Hodgson kept a crystal ball in the lower right hand drawer of his desk, and spent endless hours moving a single pawn over an empty chessboard in an effort to make his resources fit all his commitments.

To all those who have left us in the past year, we would like to take this opportunity of saying farewell, "wish you were here," and to all those who have recently joined us, "Buy some suntan lotion."

And so to the end of 1963.

So far in the current year, we have elements of the Troop in Kenya, one technician, Corporal Gallagher, with 41 Marine Commando in Dar-es-Salaam, and a number with 213 Squadron in Northern Ireland. We have also managed to run an upgrading course for Radio Operators Class III to II and have just started a basic Class III Radio Operators course for Senior Non-Commissioned Officers who want an additional trade for their Yeomen of Signals course. We assisted also with a trial of the A14 carried out by 30th Regiment, and managed to send a few lucky people to Denmark on Her Majesty's ship *Hermes*.

Our full title, by the way, is 640 Signal Troop (U.K. Garrison). When you consider that we've visited twenty countries in the past year, and are spread out in eight of them at present, that bit in brackets has a hollow ring. If you want a posting, *please* don't write to us, go to your own Orderly Room first.

Newsflash: Mrs. Sharpe arrived at Lyneham on an R.A.F. Comet on 1st March after making her own way on indulgence flights from Swaziland. She beat her new hubby by ten clear days, but of course he came on an official ticket!

47th REGIMENT (T.A.)
MIDDLESEX YEOMANRY
(The Duke of Cambridge's Hussars)

Well done, "209"! — for an excellent Officers' Technical Training week-end.

Hosts at Colchester, to some forty officers from T.A. Signal units throughout the Command, 209 Squadron laid on (at the beginning of March) a most stimulating programme, comprising a technical presentation on the first day and a field exercise on the second; to say nothing of the informal get-together, organised for the first evening, in the Squadron's Mercury Club.—To Major Pope and his team, our thanks!

But for the Middlesex Yeomanry contingent, the largest present, the day didn't end with the close of the "Presentation." In the evening the Commanding Officer led an informal discussion on current military topics, which, judging from the vigour and variety of the speakers, was enjoyed by all.

Tough Training.—Our Courage Trophy Tough Training Team, led by Second-Lieutenant D. P. Wainman, is now under full training; that means weekdays as well as weekends, for the event is at the end of the month. A test of stamina and skill. Not surprisingly, the Commanding Officer has included in the team for this event, all our potential officer material, so we are hoping for great things! Win or lose, a full report in next month's issue.

Social Activity. During this past month this has included the Officers' Ladies' Night, organised by "B" Squadron Officers, under Major R. Iliffe, at their Putney T.A. Centre; and a most successful dance run by the Royal Signals Association (London Branch) in which the Regiment co-operated, also held at Putney, where the London Branch of the Association has just established its headquarters.

Welcome. A special welcome to the Corps, to our P.S.O., Captain Nigel Pilkington, on his transfer from R.A.R.O., Royal Army Service Corps, to Royal Signals.

Marriage. Our congratulations to Musician J. W. Wyness on his marriage in January.

Goodbye. Our best wishes and thanks for his past service to the Regiment, to Sergeant F. C. Kavanagh, on posting to the Gurkhas.

Do you know the names of any Officer Commanding a Signal Company in France on 11th November, 1918?

Brigadier E. A. James is compiling a Signal Order of Battle in France on 11th November, 1918. This will include the names of Officers Commanding the Signals Companies. We have some information, but would be glad of what you have to supplement and confirm ours.

If you can help with any of the following, please write to the Editor who will pass on the information to Brigadier James.

G.H.Q. SIGNAL COMPANY

Armies:—
First, Third, Fourth and Fifth.

Corps:—
I, III, IV, VI, VII, VIII, IX, XI, XIII, XVII, XIX, XXII Australian.

Divisions:—
3rd, 4th, 6th, 11th, 14th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 20th, 32nd, 36th, 37th, 39th, 40th, 41st, 42nd, 49th, 50th, 55th, 56th, 57th, 59th, 63rd, 66th and 74th.

8th REGIMENT ENJOYS ITS SQUASH

Formerly a game played mainly by officers, it is a pleasure to see its popularity spreading to all ranks. If there is a squash court near by why not take it up with a friend? Cheap, good exercise, as well as fun, it can be played at any time and in any weaher.

In anticipation of weather conditions this winter similar to those of last winter, when all sport outside was impossible for thirteen weeks, 8th Regiment has had a drive to popularise squash rackets within the Regiment and outside it. Every week, on Tuesday, an outside body of some sort is challenged to a match, with any number of players, at Headquarters Officers' Mess, and, as the season is broken by the Christmas break, it is interesting to look back on results so far. These are:

24th September	150 Provost Company, R.M.P.	Won	5—1
1st October	3rd Royal Tank Regiment	Lost	3—2
8th October	54 "Q" Course	Won	6—3
15th October	150 Provost Company, R.M.P.	Won	6—2
22nd October	11th Signal Regiment	Won	9—1
29th October	No. 1 Officers' Comms. Course	Won	7—3
7th November	Combined 10 and 11 T.E. Courses	Won	6—3
12th November	1st Duke of Wellington's Regiment	Lost	3—4
19th November	Norco Championships		
3rd December	11th Signal Regiment	Lost	2—7
10th December	3rd Royal Tank Regiment	Won	3—2
17th December	150 Provost Company, R.M.P.	Won	8—1
14th January	11th Signal Regiment	Won	6—4
4th February	Squadron Commander Course	Won	5—3
12th February	Army Apprentices' School, Carlisle	Won	3—2

The undermentioned players have regularly represented the Regiment: Lieutenant-Colonel Tonry, W.O.II Warrick, R.E., Sergeant Radford, Corporal Pepper, Staff Sergeant Mafham, R.A.P.C., Lieutenant Dawson, Signalman Taylor, Signalman Tron, Corporal Keating, Corporal Hartley, Lance-Corporal Gilbert, R.M., Sergeant Kirkham.

In the Northern Command Championships, the Regiment was locked in battle with its old rivals in all sports, the 1st. Bn. Duke of Wellington's Regiment. After four matches the result stood at 2—2, and the Commanding Officer, 8th Regiment, played the Adjutant, 1st Bn. Duke of Wellington's Regiment, in the decider. At two games all, and the score 8—8 in the fifth game, victory over the Duke's at long last seemed within our grasp, but Captain Greenway pulled it off 10—8 and 8th Regiment finished runners-up.

We look forward now to a good second half of the season, and recommend this game to any active sportsman anxious to keep fit during the winter. Playable day or night, in any weather, it provides a good day's exercise in half-an-hour.

SPORTS RESULTS

Association Football

Royal Signals 5, Hull University 3
Royal Signals 1, Royal Engineers 3
Royal Signals 3, Newcastle University 1

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11th Regiment Spearhead Revival in Corps Boxing

☆

Is the Corps returning to its Old Time Prowess in this Sport?



THE SIGNAL OFFICER-IN-CHIEF WITH 11th REGIMENT BOXING TEAM

(*Standing left to right*): Signalman J. McBride, Signalman K. Drysdale, Signalman F. Waters, Signalman P. Garrigan, Lance-Corporal R. Steel, Signalman D. Pellegrinetti, Signalman J. Waller, Signalman D. Rote, Signalman G. Stephen. (*Seated left to right*): Signalman D. Dunbar, Signalman A. Poulter, Corporal H. Hutchinson, (Team Captain), Captain W. G. Robinson, Brigadier A. C. Cox, O.B.E., Major-General F. J. Swainson, O.B.E., Lieutenant-Colonel T. G. H. Jackson, M.B.E., Corporal N. Annis, Signalman W. Atherton, Signalman A. Feirn Signalman J. Bonsall

11th Regiment win Northern Command Team Championships; 11th Regiment beaten by only one point in the U.K. Final; Signal Boxers win seven of the 10 Northern Command Individual titles . . .

If this isn't a fairly good revival of Corps Boxing in Catterick, then what is?

Most of the honours must go of course to 11th Regiment who have had a grand season. As previously reported they beat the 3rd Royal Tank Regiment in the Northern Command Finals and went on to beat 23 Group Royal Pioneer Corps before being finally beaten by a narrow margin in the U.K. Final by the 1st Battalion The Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers.

A detailed report of this final match, written on the spot by the Hon. Secretary of the Army Boxing Association, is reproduced below:—

"It was decided to allow the finalists to toss for choice of venue which was won by the Catterick team, and it says much for the enthusiasm of the Fusiliers that two large coaches made the long trip North to give their team the much-needed vocal encouragement.

Signalman J. McBride v. Corporal J. Cooney

With the difficult task of opening the proceedings both worked like beavers and if skill was not over opparent both put every ounce into their task. McBride, the taller and better boxer, failed to use this advantage and the stronger Cooney had clearly established his points superiority by the close. Scores 60-57, 60-55, 60-53.

Signalman D. Rote v. Fusilier J. Doolin

From the opening bell, Doolin proved to be the better of two good boxers. Superior all round defence plus accuracy at close quarters earned him a clear points advantage. Scores 60-56, 60-56, 60-56.

Sginalman A. Feirn v. Lance-Corporal T. Twoneg

This was a very close affair with the Judges and spectators divided on the outcome. Both put all they had into this scrap and had almost reached a standstill by the final bell. Feirn 60-59, 60-59, 56-60.

Signalman D. Dunbar v. Fusilier S. Smyth

The taller Smythe found difficult in dealing with his southpaw opponent, and the stronger Dunbar forged slowly ahead thanks to a right hook which the Irishman never seemed to be able to counter. Scores 60-59, 60-59, 60-58.

Signalman W. Atherton v. Bandsman J. Kavanagh

A lively bout found Kavanagh doing all the attacking in the first two sessions, and he was rewarded with a knock down near the close of the second round. A rejuvenated Signalman came out full of fight for the last three minutes which took Kavanagh out of his stride, but not sufficiently to rob him of a points win by 60-58, 60-56, 60-56.

Signalman P. Garrigan v. Fusilier A. Canning

With one brother an Army boxing colour and another the T.A. champion, the baby of the fighting Garrigans showed promise of equalling their records, but he had his hands full in dealing with this fighting Irishman. Their clash of styles did not produce a memourable bout, and the outcome was the closest possible. 60-59, 60-59 (with Judges extra point), 59-60.

Signalman A. Boulter v. Lance-Corporal S. O'Connell

Another very close bout full of action.

Boulter was superior at close quarters but lost ground when boxing at distance. After a level first round, the Signals boxer had the edge by using an effective straight left, only for O'Connell to come back strongly in the latter half of the third round and divide the Judges 60-57, 59-58, 59-60.

Corporal M. Annis v. Fusilier L. Jeoffreg

After a very hard hitting opening round ended, the Signalman sustained a badly cut eye early in the second.

Signalman J. Waller v. Fusilier J. Coleman

A rather wild clash with no quarter asked for or given had Coleman down for a compulsory eight, only for the Fusilier to climb to his feet and put Waller down twice for similar counts.

This success was repeated in the second session, and after two further trips to the canvas the referee stopped the bout.

Signalman B. Pellegrinetti v. Corporal R. Buchanan

With the result resting on this bout Buchanan did most of the attacking and in the second session had the Signalman floundering on the canvas three times, but was unable to land that final telling punch.

There was never a doubt of who was master, and the final score of 60-57, 60-57, 60-55 produced a record sound output from the Fusilier spectators to acknowledge their victory.

Corporal H. Hutchinson v. Fusilier J. Byrne

This was undoubtedly the best bout of the evening. A very experienced Signals boxer with a variety of attack faced a gallant and strong Fusilier who just would not give in. Fought at top speed two all-action rounds pleased the crowd who were disappointed when the referee stopped the contest during the interval, when Byrnes' lips were found to be badly cut. The scores at this stage were Hutchinson 40-38, 40-38, 40-38.

Results of the Finals

The results of the finals of the Northern Command Individual Championships are as follows:—

Flyweight, Northern Command Champion: Signalman Jones, 24th Regiment.
Bantam, Northern Command Champion: Signalman D. Fagan, 24th Regiment; Runner-up: Signalman K. Drysdale, 11th Regiment.
Feather, Northern Command Champion: Lance Corporal D. Moreby, 3 RTR; Runner-up: Signalman P. Williams, 11th Regiment.
Light, Northern Command Champion: Signalman A. Feirn, 11th Regiment; Runner up: Signalman J. Bonsall, 11th Regiment.
Light Welter, Northern Command Champion: Corporal H. Hutchinson, 11th Regiment; Runner-up: Signalman A. Williams, 24th Regiment.
Welter, Northern Command Champion: Sergeant R. Davies, 8th Regiment; Runner-up: Signalman P. Garrigan, 11th Regiment.
Light Middle, Northern Command Champion: Signalman A. Boulter, 11th Regiment; Runner-up: Bombadier F. Henry, A.A.S. Harrogate.
Middle, Northern Command Champion: Corporal K. Crouch, 11th Regiment; Runner-up: Driver I. Perfitt, 19 Company R.A.S.C.
Light Heavy, Northern Command Champion: Sapper T. Smith, 38 Corps Engineers Regiment; Runner-up: Corporal A. Simpson, P.W.O.
Heavy, Northern Command Champion: Lance-Corporal S. Edwards, R.E.M.E.; Runner-up: Lance-Corporal K. Chapman, 32 Field Squadron R.E.

AND SOME MORE BOXING!

Royal Signals in British Army of the Rhine Individual Boxing Championships

In the B.A.O.R. Stage of the Army Individual Boxing Championships, held in Bradbury Barracks, Krefeld, from 18th to 21st February, Royal Signals were strongly represented by the following personnel:

Signalman R. G. Young (4th Regiment), Bantamweight Champion, 4th Division Area; Lance-Corporal Jacobs (2nd Regiment), Welterweight Champion, 2nd Division Area; Lance-Corporal L. Hibbert (2nd Regiment), Light Middleweight Champion, 2nd Division Area; Signalman M. Keenan (16th Regiment), Featherweight Champion, Rhine Area; Signalman A. J. McCauley (16th Regiment), Lightweight Champion, Rhine Area; Signalman R. Ambrose (16th Regiment), runner-up Light-Welter, Rhine Area; Signalman H. Hutchinson (16th Regiment), runner-up, Light Middleweight, Rhine Area; Lance-Corporal A. Paxton (16th Regiment), Middleweight Champion, Rhine Area, 1962/63.

Signalman Young was unlucky, in that he was drawn against Fusilier Gibbon (1 R.I.R.F.) in the quarter-finals. Gibbon went on to win the Bantamweight Championship.

Lance-Corporal Jacobs lost to Gunner Coppin in the semi-finals of the Welterweight Division.

In the Light Middleweight Division, Lance-Corporal Paxton was drawn against Lance-Corporal Hibbert in the semi-final. This was an excellent bout; the decision, on points, going to Lance-Corporal Hibbert.

Lance-Corporal Hibbert had a very hard bout in the final, losing, on points, to Private Edie, 4th Canadian Infantry Brigade Group. Hibbert will be competing in the Army Finals at Tidworth.

In the Featherweight Division, Signalman Keenan came through with flying colours.

In the Lightweight Division, Signalman McCauley lost on points to Private McClean (Queen's Surreys), McClean went on to win the Lightweight Championship. McCauley was awarded the Best Loser's Cup.

Signalman Hutchinson was narrowly beaten in the Welter-weight Division by Craftsman Mawdsley, 11 Hussars, the new B.A.O.R. Champion.

Congratulations to all those who took part in this competition, for their fine display inside and outside the ring.

Sergeant G. A. Pfeiffer of 14th Regiment, representing the Army, fought J. Cassidy of Wales on 14th February, 1964, and the bout was described as follows:—

"Yet another strong, all action bout with Cassidy just that shade quicker and more accurate with his punches, but being made to work hard to achieve a close points advantage."

Before this Sergeant Pfeiffer had fought and won when the Army boxed Hants, Surrey and the Isle of Wight on 8th February, 1964.

Corps Hockey Tour

Royal Signals 1, R.M.C.S. 2; Royal Signals 5, R.A.S.C. 3; Royal Signals 3, R.A.S.C. 0.

Our final tour this season in the South of England took place at Aldershot from 12th-14th February. From the original selection, Captains Last and Cook were compelled to withdraw, the former with a wrist bone injury and the latter with an unfortunate illness that necessitated his removal to Millbank Hospital. Jeremy Cook's many friends will be pleased to learn that he is now well on his way to recovery although it is unlikely he will be in action again this season.

The match against R.M.C.S. was played at the Officers' Club where the playing conditions were up to the usual high standard. R.M.C.S. had the better of the early play and their fast, direct game had the Corps defence at full stretch. R.M.C.S. opened the scoring after five minutes of the second half and increased their lead a few minutes later. The rearranged Corps forward line had now begun to find some cohesion amongst themselves and reduced the deficit with a good goal by Oehlers. Both defences were generally on top and despite good approach work by both sets of forwards no further goals materialised.

Aldershot Services were unfortunately not able to field a side for our next fixture, but R.A.S.C. came to the rescue as their fixture with another Corps had also had to be postponed. This hastily arranged game gave us the opportunity to rearrange the forward line which produced the desired result. A very even first half resulted in each team scoring in turn, the Corps goals being scored by Gordon (2) and Byng. The second half continued to provide some excellent movements by both teams and R.A.S.C. were unfortunate in being constantly caught offside. The Corps went further ahead with goals by Forster and Oehlers before R.A.S.C. reduced the margin shortly before the close.

The return game, played at Buller Barracks, produced an even better game than the previous day in spite of the ground conditions having deteriorated owing to overnight rain. The Corps side revealed improved co-ordination, the defence in particular were covering with far greater precision than previously, and only an outstanding display by the R A.S.C. goalkeeper restricted the Corps to one goal by Gordon at half-time. The second half followed very much the same pattern and despite some excellent work by the R.A.S.C. defence, the Corps went further ahead with two goals from Moss.

Royal Signals were represented by:—

Sergeant F. Webber, School of Signals; Lance-Corporal A. W. T. Coldwell, 30th Regiment; Major S. C. Finch, Ministry of Aviation; Captain I. N. Lee, School of Signals; Second-Lieutenant G. A. Allen, School of Signals Attached 3rd Regiment; Captain P. Wetherill, A.A S. Harrogate; Sergeant R. Forster, 8th Regiment; Captain G. R. Oehlers, School of Signals; Captain A. B. Byng, School of Signals; Captain N. Moss, School of Signals; Lieutenant S. G. Gordon, 8th Regiment.

Royal Signals Association and Benevolent Fund

The following subscriptions were most gratefully received during February 1964:

	£	s.	d.
11th Regiment	26	1	3
24th Regiment	46	11	3
24th Regiment (Officers' Mess)	1	5	0
49th Regiment (T.A.)	1	1	0
3rd Regiment	25	0	0
R.A.C. Signal School	1	10	0
Royal Signals attached 46 Squadron, R.A.S.C. (L.C.T.)		10	0
Signals Branch, School of Artillery	1	16	0
H.Q., A.E.R., Roval Signals	2	5	6
47th Regiment (T.A.) (Warrant Officers' & Sergeants' Mess)	2	0	0
59th Regiment (T.A.)	1	0	0
22nd Regiment	100	0	0
12th Regiment, R.A., Signal Section	2	10	0
H.Q., Allied Forces, Northern Europe		15	0
Army Benevolent Fund (Proceeds of Car Competition)	21	0	0
Cheltenham and District Branch	30	0	0
Preston Branch	2	10	0
Harrogate Branch	15	0	0
C. J. Aston — Deed of Covenant	1	0	0
C. L. Day — " " "	2	7	6
C. P. Prescot — Bankers Order	1	10	0
M. E. Holdsworth — " "	1	0	0
C. K. Maclennan — " "	1	1	0
H. G. Smythe — " "		10	0
Various Individual Donations	4	3	0
Receipts	£292	6	6
Expenditure during February, 1964 (Includes: Rent and Rates; Beds and Bedding; Furniture; Cots and Prams; General Assistance)	£604	7	11

LONDON BBANCH

Presentation to Colonel T. W. Vigers, O.B.E., M.C., T.D., D.L.

A Grand Dance was held on Saturday, 22nd February, 1964, by "B" Squadron, 47th Regiment (T.A.), at the Drill Hall, Lytton Grove, S.W.15, at which a large gathering attended including the C.O. and his wife, Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. S. J. Williams, Brigadier P. M. Hobson, General Secretary Royal Signals Association, Colonel T. W. Vigers, President of the London Branch Royal Signals Association, Colonel G. Shrimpton, Major and Mrs. R. Iliffe, Mr. A. W. Smith (Chairman), Mr. L. J. Burrows (Vice-Chairman) and Miss M. Archer (Hon. Secretary), all of the London Branch, as well as many members of both the Regiment and the London Branch.

After dancing to a very good band, a fanfare was sounded and Major Iliffe announced that he wished to welcome the London Branch of Royal Signals Association, who had recently been invited to make their "home" with the Regiment, and said how pleased they were to have the Branch with them, and hoped the association would be a long one. He then called upon Mr. A. W. Smith to make an address.

Mr. Smith announced that a presentation was being made to Colonel Vigers who was retiring as President of the Branch after 18 years. It was being made at this dance as Colonel Vigers had in the past, had a long association also with the Regiment as Hon. Colonel and therefore had many friends in the Regiment who would wish to be associated with the presentation. He said the Branch had received a great deal of help and advice from Colonel Vigers, who had always shown a keen interest in its welfare, both through good and bad times, and it was through him that the Branch now had a safe home again. Mr. Smith then called upon Miss Archer to present Colonel Vigers an inscribed silver salver and a "Signals" car badge. A bouquet of flowers was also given to him for Mrs. Vigers, who, unfortunately, was unable to be present.

Colonel Vigers then replied and said that this was the second farewell he had had to make, firstly as Honorary Colonel of the Regiment, to which he had been associated for a very long time, and now as President of the London Branch, but he felt the time had come for him to make way for a younger man who had more up-to-date knowledge of the activities of Royal Signals, and who could be more fitted for this task than Colonel G. Shrimpton? He felt he owed his success as President to the stirling work carried out by the Chairman and Secretary, and felt sure they would also give the same co-operation to Colonel Shrimpton. He then went on to thank everyone for the magnificent gifts he had received and for the beautiful flowers for Mrs. Vigers, and gave special thanks to Lieutenant-Colonel Williams for allowing the Branch to make their home there. He then introduced Colonel Shrimpton as the new President and said he felt sure the Branch would continue to prosper under him.

After singing "For he's a jolly good fellow" the festivities continued and everyone voted the evening a great success.

NORTH LONDON BRANCH

Approximately twenty newcomers to the Branch, attendance of members doubled, a wonderful response to the Clothing Appeal for H.Q., sixteen representatives at the Catterick Reunion and an increase in Branch funds. These were some of the highlights of the past year which were mentioned by the Chairman, Mr. W. P. Hall, when he put a most encouraging resumé of the year's activities before the Branch at the Annual General Meeting in February.

Social functions throughout the year had gathered momentum, culminating in a marvellous Christmas Party which was attended by approximately a hundred and forty members and friends. On this occasion we were happy to have Brigadier Pat Hobson with us and we believe he was well pleased with the way things were going.

Our dinner, which was held in April of last year, was the most successful since the formation of the Branch, with a higher attendance than ever before. This was another occasion when we were pleased to welcome Brigadier Hobson in his new appointment of Secretary to the Association.

A "bitter-sweet" moment at the A.G.M. was brought about by the presentation of a pewter tankard to one of our old stalwarts, Bill Solly. There must be many readers who remember Bill, especially among the ex-Boys. Certainly he remembers many of you and the names that crop up in his conversation are legion. Well, time marches on and Bill is about to retire to Bognor Regis. Ex-Signals in this area please note that he intends to found a Branch there and already has a few prospective members. Immediate enquiries can be made through Harry Gillibrand, Hon. Secretary, North London Branch, at 21, Falkland Avenue, New Southgate, N.11.

Among members of this Branch who would like to send greetings to old friends are Ken Baldwin, Bill Hall, Gerry Freemantle, Bill Mycroft, Reg Miller and George ("Sandy") Powell, ex-F. of S., School of Signals. Reminds one of those far off days when a regular feature of THE WIRE was a column headed "Jews Mail." Remember?

All the above, together with about fifteen other members, hope to be at Catterick in June, so will sign off now and meet you there. Beginning to smell that mouth-watering curry already!

WEST HARTLEPOOL BRANCH

A correspondent writes:—

As "very old, old" soldiers of the Royal Corps, perhaps it is fitting that we should announce our presence and existence by relating that through the courtesy of the Head Brewer of Nimmos Brewery, Castle Eden, Co. Durham, Mr. T. K. Jackson, some thirty members of the Branch were entertained by the Company on 5th March.

The intricacies of brewing beer in all stages were explained most thoroughly by a Mr. W. Tarren whilst members at the rear of the party were busy endeavouring to fill up spare bottles brought along with them.

Mine Host Mr. Tommy Fisher, Free Trade representative, was kept quite busy behind the bar serving up the very fine brew.

Mr. E. Waites, M.B.E, the Chairman of the Branch, passed a vote of thanks to the Company, the Head Brewer, and Messrs. Tarren and Fisher for a most enjoyable, instructive and refreshing evening.

The Chairman remarked that despite the insight into the mysteries of life in the beer as seen under a microscope he could see little evidence of any member being dissuaded from drinking, nor had he seen so many members so busy bending their elbows at one time.

Perhaps the most reassuring observation on the visit was the absolute spotlessness of the brewery even to the smallest detail and not even a bevy of ex-Warrant Officers could detect a flaw, which reflects some very extraordinary credit to the high state of cleanliness and attention to the brewing of Nimmos beer.

The Branch will be holding its Annual Dance in the Staincliffe Hotel, Seaton Carew, on 24th March, when it is hoped a photograph will be available for the next month's WIRE notes.

SCARBOROUGH BBANCH

At the annual meeting of the Branch held at the Working Men's Club and Institute on Tuesday, 3rd March, it was decided to give a flowering Cherry tree to be planted at the new Helles Lines, Catterick. This will bear a plaque inscribed with the Scarborough Branch's name and date of planting.

It is hoped that in the near future a Clubroom will be available for members, and games facilities, refreshments, and social activities provided.

Several new members were enrolled. The financial aspects were reported to be in a satisfactory state and Lieutenant-Colonel Teale and Major F. Mansfield suggested that to further strengthen the Branch all Life Members should give an annual sum equivalent to an ordinary member's subscription.

Mr. R. Tiltman, Secretary, is to attend the annual Representatives' Meeting in London.

SOUTHAMPTON BRANCH

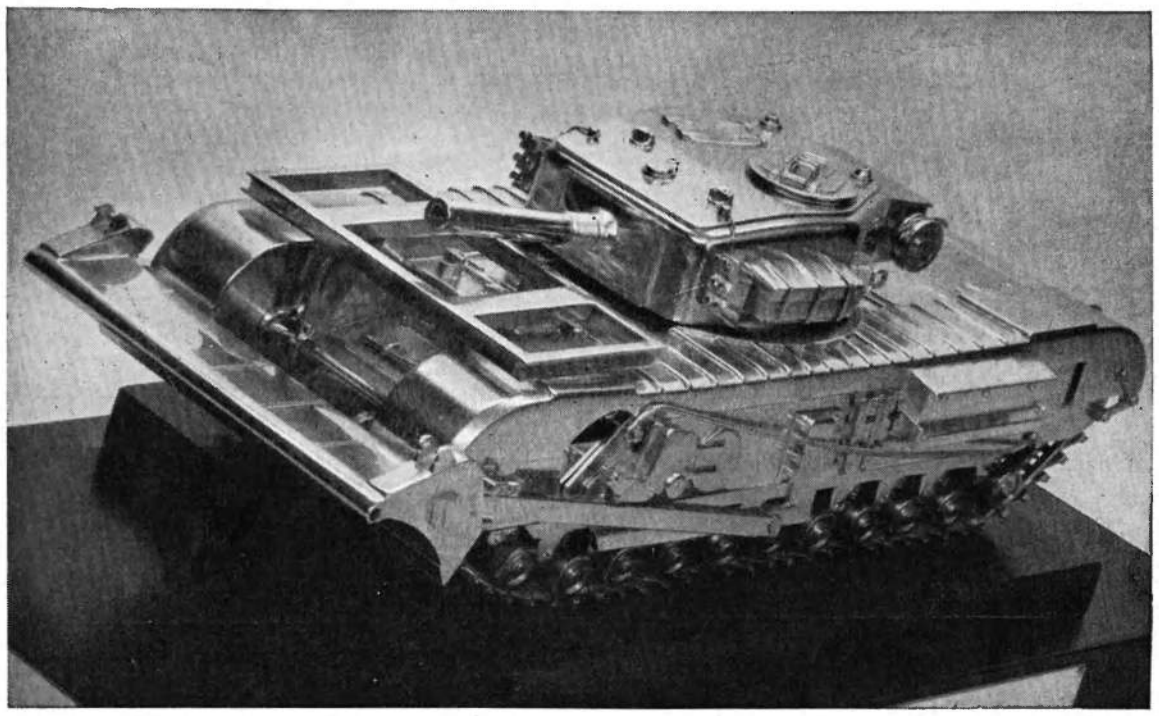
The 18th Annual Dinner of the Southampton Branch of the Royal Signals Association will be held at Blighmont (West) T.A. Centre, Millbrook Road, Southampton, on Saturday, the 9th May, 1964, at 7.30 p.m.

Tickets at 9s. are available from Mr. F. Griffiths, 60, Winchester Road, Shirley, Southampton.

Members from neighbouring Associations are welcome and also any 1939-45 members of 43 Divisional Signals who will feel very much "At Home" at this gathering.

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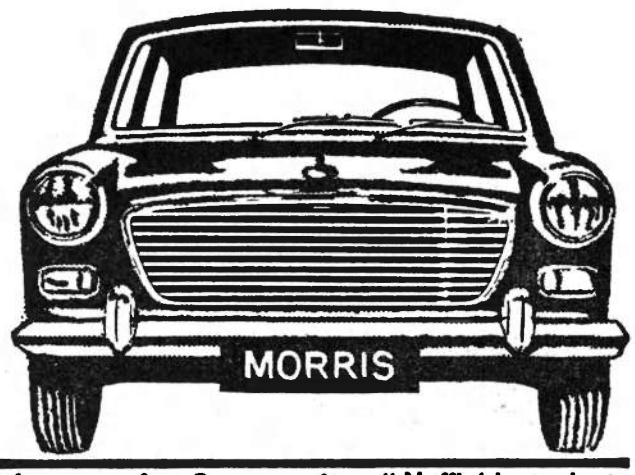
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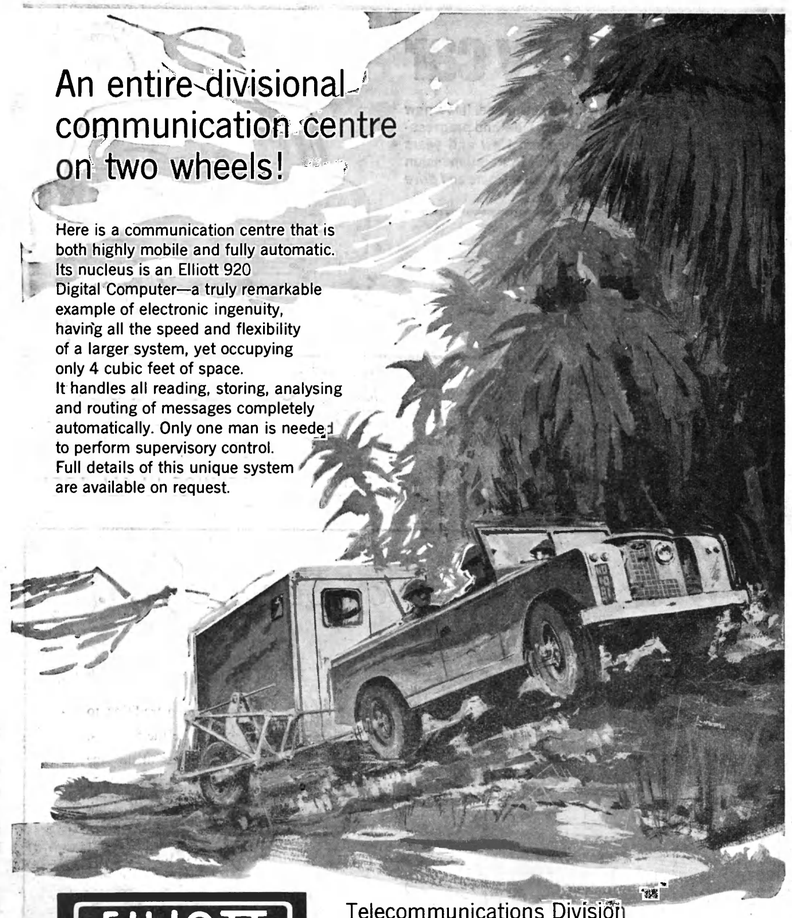
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May 1964

The WIRE

The Royal Signals Magazine





THE WIRE

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

The Official Organ of the Signals Association

Editor:
BRIGADIER P. M. P. HOBSON, D.S.O.

Assistant Editor:
BRIGADIER H. R. FIRTH

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Editorial

Full Circle!

JUST as this edition of THE WIRE is about to be despatched to its readers, a ceremony of some Corps significance will be taking place. The 11th Signal Regiment—the Depot of the Corps—will be "marching in" with due pomp and ceremony on the 13th May, into its new and, we hope, permanent home for the years to come—Helles Barracks, Catterick Camp. Helles Barracks consists of the old Helles Sandhurst block, which has been completely rebuilt internally, and adjacent to it a brand new barracks—new offices, new stores, new Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, new Junior Ranks' Club, new parade ground—the lot.

There can be but few in the Corps who have not had some connection with the Depot over the years and all, whether their memories are pleasant ones or otherwise, will probably be glad to hear this news. A full account will be appearing in a later edition of THE WIRE.

From just prior to the war until 1961, the Depot has roamed the length and breadth of the country like some gypsy community, seemingly unwanted and unloved by the powers-that-be.

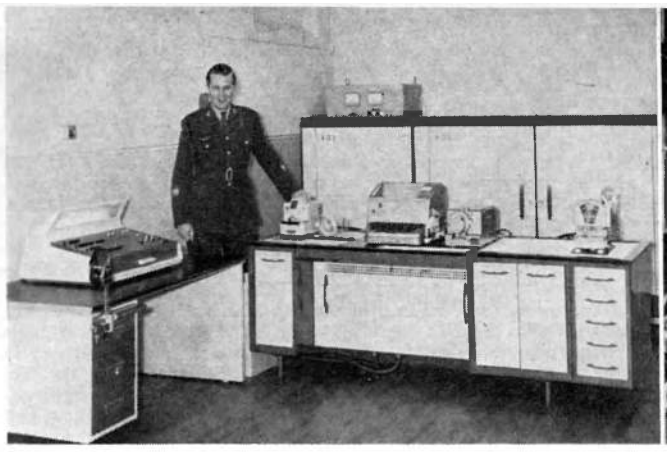
In August, 1939, after having dug enough slit trenches and nursed them through the previous winter at Catterick, the Depot Battalion began its long trek by erecting tents, in filthy weather, in Marne Lines and shifting into them. Continuous bad weather prevented the huts, for which the Depot was destined, being completed, but when they were, the Depot Battalion turned its back on them and departed for Whitby, having already expanded and having sired a second Depot Battalion in North Wales.

By 1945 the Depot was grouped around Thirsk, with portions of the unit at Guisborough, Knayton and Great Ayton. These desirable properties included Thirsk Race Course, a Dickensian workhouse (no longer habited by down-and-outs) and the Three Tuns Hotel. Whereas it was difficult to reach Whitby area by train, Thirsk was on the main line. Unfortunately, no respectable train stopped there, and the tradition that the Depot should be inconvenient for transitees was maintained.

In 1946 the Regiment shifted temporarily to Pocklington Airfield. Here there was a railway station, and the trains which used it were of the sort which were not too proud to stop. When rumour reached the unit that a move to the West Country was probable, the permanent staff bought maps of the Highlands and looked up likely spots. However, in 1952, after five years of temporary residence on the airfield, the Depot Regiment moved to Denbury, near Newton Abbot—now the home of our Junior Leaders Regiment. It was evidently too easy for transitees to reach Denbury, which was, after all, only three miles from a main line station, and so the unit moved again, this time to the Chester area, in 1955, where it was designated 11th Signal Regiment.

In 1961 the Squadrons of 11th Signal Regiment moved to join 26th Signal Regiment at Catterick, and on amalgamation, the present 11th Signal Regiment (Depot) was formed.

Altogether the long trek lasted 22 years.



COMPUTER

W.O.II W. A. Littlejohn with the recently installed Elliott 803 Computer



STIRRUP CUP

The Bedale Hunt meet at the Headquarters Mess

Sound education is of more value than purely straight technical training . . . Computers and Stirrup Cups suggest a broad approach

The Wire visits the School of Signals

THE Army has for long been amongst the leaders in the field of further education, that is, in continuing education throughout adult life. In Royal Signals we can claim that as a result of intelligent direction over the years, our standards are of the highest within the Army.

The School of Signals can, perhaps, be looked upon as the Advanced College of the Corps. It is here that the main courses are run to train Royal Signals officers and those two groups of master tradesmen, the Foremen of Signals and the Yeomen of Signals. These, together with courses as important, but of lesser duration cover some 33 different syllabuses.

The Organisation

The School is commanded by Brigadier T. R. Warburg, C.B.E., late Royal Signals. To cater for command, training and administration, the establishment consists of a Headquarters Staff, Tactics Wing, Engineering Wing and the Administrative Wing. Each of the two training wings is divided into Groups which cover in detail the Signals aspects of tactics and engineering respectively.

Although the School owes its existence to the need for instruction, it also has the important function of looking into the future. This task is carried out by Planning Wing, which determines the long term communication requirements of the Army, and recommends how these should be met. It is invaluable to have the planners and the instructional staff working alongside one another, continuously exchanging information, and testing ideas against each other.

The Instructional Environment

In planning instruction, it is quite clear that sound education is of more value than purely straight technical training on current equipments. The distinction is that a sound education equips the student mentally to tackle the problems of the future; whereas, technical training solely on current equipments, except as an extension of the education given, can only be of short term value. Young officers being trained this year will be directing the work of the Corps in the 1990s. The rate of technical development is expected to go on increasing. So, the task is a formidable one for the instructional staff.

If this gives a picture of concentrated academic study in cloistered seclusion, then the picture is incorrect. Teaching must reflect the ideas and developments going on throughout the armed forces. For us in Royal Signals, more than in any other arm, it is vital to watch and understand the development of the overall picture, so that the communications we provide match new needs as they arise. Conversely, it is of real importance that we should keep other arms, together with the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force, informed of our ideas on current and future communications systems and how we propose to meet the requirements of the user. This two-way exchange of ideas gives us our version of the "brain drain" problem.

With generous assistance from B.A.O.R., other Army Schools, H.M.S. *Mercury*, the Joint Warfare Establishment, the Signals Research and Development Establishment, and many other organisations, the School staff is to be found often far away from Catterick, acquiring new background knowledge to bring instruction up to date and make it interesting. Others may be away lecturing at the Staff College, School of Artillery, Intelligence Centre, or elsewhere; at times leaving the instructional machine stretched to the limit.

The Instructor

To some in the Corps, an instructor at the School of Signals presents an unflattering image. He tends to be considered either a boffin-type who knows all about Bessel functions, but is hopelessly impractical when it comes to routine soldiering, or an equally unenthusiastic expert in some narrow and over-specialised field. Such an image is, of course, quite wrong. As already explained, he covers a vast field of experience; not only by visits to field units, military schools and development centres, but also in discussions at civilian firms, schools and universities. The key to future progress is to continue to build up the status and breadth of knowledge of the instructional staff.

How does an instructor measure up to his dual role of teacher and creator of current and future doctrine? Why should he be better qualified for this latter role than he would be in any other post? What incentives has he to learn his subject properly?



Colonel D. R. Horsfield, O.B.E., Deputy Commandant, School of Signals in his office

There is no better stimulus to learning a particular subject, than having to stand up before twenty or so senior officers and lecture about it. In order to have the confidence of the class, he needs to be at least as knowledgeable as each student in the class. This requires a great depth of knowledge, since each student may have recent experience in one of a large number of specialised fields connected with the subject being taught. Group discussions of tactical and

technical problems, with students from field units, help to keep him up-to-date.

Apart from being an authority in his particular field, the instructor has a number of other advantages over the staff officer or field commander when it comes to producing doctrines and procedures for the Corps. He is trained and has time to think objectively. He has the men and equipment to try out new ideas under simulated field conditions. He has access, not only to specialists in his own and other schools, but also to an ever-increasing flow of reports and literature.

In short, he is, by selection, training and environment, most ably fitted to co-ordinate opinion and to give a balanced judgment on subjects within his particular field. His influence, added to the long term stability of purpose provided by the Planning Wing, considerably help the Corps not only to maintain, but also to improve, its efficiency.

A Look Round

The School of Signals is a complex organisation, and a whole issue of THE WIRE would be required to do justice to the vast variety of work, sports and social activities which take place. In the brief notes which follow, a call is made on a few people who are here at the moment

The Technical Staff Officer

The T.S.O. works in the headquarters. One of his duties is to act as the medium through which information is passed out to the Corps and other Arms. On this subject, Major Duncan Hawkins says:

"One of our important publications is 'School of Signals Liaison Notes,' published twice yearly, in June and December. These are distributed to Royal Signals units world-wide, and deal with practically every aspect of communications activity. They are not simply our means of communicating with units; we prefer to regard them as a forum to which all units can contribute, and unresolved queries are as welcome as articles.

The School has co-ordinated the activities in the Catterick area of the Royal Signals Institution, the Institution of Electrical Engineers, the British Institution of Radio Engineers and the British Computer Society. The result has been a highly-popular series of fortnightly lectures starting in September and extending into April. Subjects covered have included Fuel Cells, Colour Television, Lasers and Digital Transmission Systems, and matters of less specialised interest such as off-shore sailing and motor racing. Refreshments are provided for out-of-station visitors, and a bar is opened in the hall after each meeting. On a couple of occasions, seating for over 200 has proved inadequate and late-comers have had to stand. The support of members of professional engineering bodies from as far away as Leeds and Newcastle, and of many T.A. friends and ex-members of the Corps, has been very gratifying."

Tactics Wing

This is made up of five groups: Employments, Electronic Warfare, Traffic, Officers, and Automatic Data Processing Systems (ADPS). All are housed compactly in the Sandhurst Block type of accommodation.

It is in Tactics Wing that the Corps' first computer has recently been installed. Who better than O.C. ADPS Group, Major Jimmy Paterson, to speak about this relatively new subject in the School curriculum:

"Automatic Data Processing is concerned, of course, with computers, and the use which can be made of them in automating the processing and flow of information of all kinds in a large organisation. **The questions are often asked 'what have computers to do with Signals?' and 'What part is Royal Signals playing now in ADPS?' The answer to the first question, in brief, is that computers which form part of an automatic data system, as opposed to an isolated installation, need communications; and these communications, called data links, are supplied by Royal Signals. Computers and their data links, carrying the input flow of information must be regarded as a whole, forming the complete automatic data processing system. The second question is answered by the role of the School of Signals in ADPS, because the School is given the responsibility by the War Office of educating the Army in ADPS and their applications.** Thus, the primary role of ADPS Group is an educaional one, and, to date, four courses, each lasting four weeks, have been run for commanding officers and staff officers of all arms. These courses will continue at the rate of three a year, and we are thus building up within the Army, a body of officers equipped with the knowledge, to seek out and develop possible applications of ADPS to their own arm of the Service or specialist field. In addition, all courses run at the School of Signals for officers or senior ranks, receive varying amounts of instruction in the Group, depending on the length and nature of the course.

The second role of the Group is to assist other Arms Schools and agencies in developing field applications, and this work is now greatly assisted, as is the instructional task, by the recent installation at the School of an Elliott 803 computer. This is, for those interested in computer specifications, a scientific type machine, with a 4,000 word ferrite core store, and paper tape input and output. Although described as a scientific type machine, it is capable of handling any general data processing problem within its memory capability. The major effort by the Group in the past, of Signals interest, has been concerned with the assignment by computer of VHF net radio frequencies. This problem has been successfully solved for a complex layout of nets using the family of current VHF net radios, and it is hoped to develop this still further in the future to cover HF frequencies and other frequency problems. Other subjects being worked on by the Group range from the distribution of field codes to the analysis of dental decay in boy soldiers! That there is no lack of work for the School computer may be judged from the fact that in the first 10 days of use after acceptance trials were completed, it clocked up some 70 hours of operating time. In charge of the installation is W.O.II (Yeoman of Signals) W. A. Littlejohn, who is the first member of the Corps to assume the post of Computer Operator.

Other members of ADPS Group are Dr. K. L. Hunt, B.Sc., Ph.D., and Second-Lieutenants C. M. Whistler and A. T. E.



Brigadier-General Doctor H. Maultzch, C.S.O. Northag in the Traffic Group with Brigadier A. F. McGill, Major H. R. Woodger and Captain B. J. Weston, also Second-Lieutenant A. E. Pickering, W.R.A.C. and Second-Lieutenant M. J. Birkett, W.R.A.C. who were attending the W.R.A.C. 'Q' Course



Major General G. F. Upjohn, G.O.C. Yorkshire District at the computer with Doctor K. L. Hunt and Second-Lieutenant C. Whistler of the School

Sealey, both W.R.A.C. Dr. Hunt is well known to many ex-members of the cadre and students of the School of Signals for his lectures at the School under the University of Leeds Services Education Committee, before becoming a full time member of the civilian academic staff. Second-Lieutenant Whistler, whose father, Major-General A. M. W. Whistler, C.B., C.B.E., needs no introduction to Royal Signals, and Second-Lieutenant Sealey are employed on computer programming. They must be among the first members of their Corps to hold a specialist post which may well give increasing scope to the W.R.A.C. in the future.

The application of ADPS to the field army is still in its infancy, but as the use of computers develops, so will the need become more pressing for training Royal Signals and other arms in the skills involved. Courses planned for the future include computer programming and operation, and their maintenance.

Engineering Wing

The training in this Wing is based on three Groups—Basics, Systems and Radio. Not so comfortably accommodated as Tactics, these Groups are scattered from one end to the other of the School area, mainly in huts and spiders of early Catterick Camp vintage.

Basics Group employs the main proportion of the School civilian lecturers. This academic team is headed by Mr. J. Balmer, B Sc., A.M.(Brit)I.R.E., who works in close collaboration with the Group O.C., Major P. A. Wing.

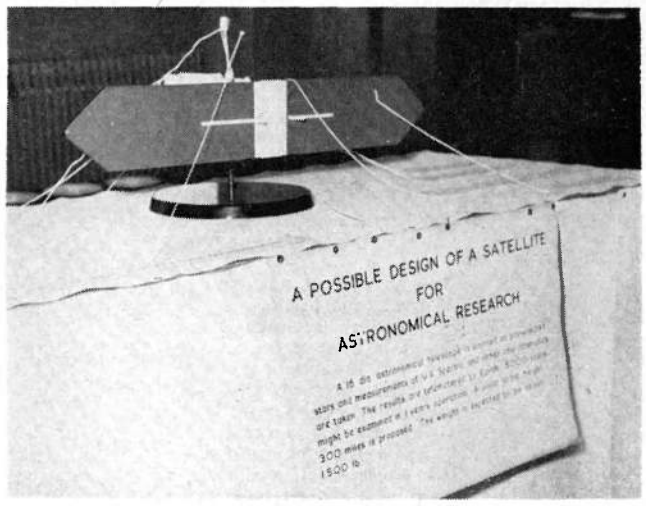
Way out on the School perimeter, virtually at the edge of the moors, is to be found Radio Group. The O.C., Major Jack Westwood, has a few words to say on the tasks of his Sections:

"Just over a year ago we received the first four of our stations radio D11/R230. Not without qualms! Captain David Morris, ably supported by S.S.M. Geoff Granger and Staff Sergeant Yates, willingly coped with the teething troubles to realise the tremendous potential of this very fine equipment. It is now 'sold' to courses, with confidence and pride, by Captain Mitchell. The problem of radio-teleprinter networking with the D11 was tackled as a challenge. Technicians spent many hours putting in 'anti-chatter' and 'single-current' modifications; a trial operating procedure was produced in record time by W.O.I (Yeoman of Signals) Dennis Burge and his fellow-men in Traffic Group, and a successful exercise was run by 5 Yeoman of Signals course, with stations in Otterburn, York, Doncaster and Warcop.

The problem of working from Field Forces into COMCAN gateway stations has given us much food for thought, and is discussed by the more advanced courses. **Every opportunity is taken of working D11/R230s directly into COMCAN, for practice. During these practice occasions splendid co-operation is received from COMCAN units such as 235 Squadron (Malta);**



Brigadier T. R. Warburg, C.B.E., Commandant and Lieutenant-Colonel W. T. A. Collyer, Senior Instructor Engineering Wing with Major-General A. P. W. Hope, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O. at a demonstration model



A model illustrating one of the many activities studied at the School

in particular, a variety of antennas erected by No. 10 T.E. Course worked most successfully to Malta. More recently, C.R. Signals, Malta, was 'through' while we demonstrated Signals working, to Major-General G. F. Upjohn, C.B.E., G.O.C. Yorkshire District.

In Field Radio, Major Richard Gilbertson continues to think up those machiavellian exercises, which bring out the best (and worst) in student and equipment alike. Recently, Captain Johnny Milford mobilized his new oscillator, to illustrate our antenna teaching methods on a demonstration visit to the Signal Wing of the School of Infantry at Hythe. A team has visited H.Q. Bomber Command to show the R.A.F. how Army field radio equipment could be used to meet an R.A.F. need.

The Radio Workshop, Captain (T.O.T.) Julian Jackson in charge, has steered the PACE system of preventive maintenance into a position where it is now ready for adoption throughout the Corps. The substantial increase in availability and reliability of our training radio equipments, is proof enough of the worth of this system. **The T.O.T.s and Foremen who had faith in PACE in the early days would be gratified to see how well it works in 1st and 2nd Signal Regiments, and no doubt in other units which we have not yet heard from or visited.** Let us remember that PACE is a comprehensive system which involves Detachment, Troop and Squadron maintenance as well as Unit Workshops. We still hope to find a simple, practical answer to the vexed problem of Troop maintenance records.

Whilst in the Radio Workshop, W.O.II (F.-of-S.) C. A. King tells of his work since arriving at the School:

"During my tour, I have been largely concerned with bringing PACE to life. Our shop looks after about 250 major items of equipment. This is done by specification testing each item twice a year. This work has given rise to two big problems. The first has been devising tests within the limitations of the test equipment available; as necessary tests are re-written when new test instruments are issued. The second problem has been teaching technicians to do the work. Only recently have they been so trained; previously we had to start from scratch. I have spent many hours on the bench either searching out 'bugs' in instructions, or helping new technicians .

We teach PACE and allied subjects to various courses, several of which carry out 'spec testing' in the workshop.

There is always a trickle (sometimes a flood!) of peripheral jobs. These include sound recording of large conferences such as Quicksilver, sponsoring course projects, and giving special demonstrations for visitors who are numerous in an establishment of this nature.

A static posting in the United Kingdom gives a technician good opportunities for study. I have always encouraged my technicians in this. At present every man in the workshop either attends night school or is taking a correspondence course, or is doing both. Few days pass without me having to answer a query from someone in connection with his study."

A Student

The 'budding Bard' of No. 1 Royal Signals Communications Officers' Course, who prefers to remain anonymous, gives a short impression in verse:

"Its always been traditional
with this Royal Corps,
That some of us are technical
and understand the law
That Mr. Ohm expostulated
(Many years ago).
While others, mathematically
speaking, rather slow,
Are sent to do the dirty work
of leading, supervising,
Providing comms facilities,
and training, and advising.

Now this may seem an awful lot
for anyone to do,
When all he had to learn it in
was four months on his 'Q.'
But now the situation has
been radically altered,
For anyone who (like myself)
has technically faltered.
For I am on the Comms course,
The course that does for me
What two years down in Basics Group
can do for a TE.

I started off in Tactics Wing,
(All very right and proper)
And then went on to Basics Group,
(nearly came a cropper);
For puffs and henries, volts and amps
and fruits of Boolean learning,
Are not the things I wish to know,
(for which my heart is yearning).
And now a spell with Radio,
and learning not to get
The Input and the Output
intermingled in the set.

And morse and teleprinter speeds;
I'm trying hard to reach
The standards of the operators
I will have to teach.

The Regimental Officer,
the counsellor, the friend;
I'll tell you more about it when
the course is at an end . . . ."

Administrative Wing

Quietly in the background of planners, instructors and students is this hard core of administration. Lieutenant-Colonel T. G. Chambers, M.C., assisted by an adjutant, H.Q. Squadron, an MTO and two quartermasters ensures that Messes—Officers, Warrant Officers/Sergeants and other ranks—run smoothly, that transport is always available for the innumerable day to day exercises and visitors, that stores are always in the right place at the right time, that everyone on strength, both cadre and students, carry out their basic military training, and in addition administers some 300 civilian employees.

Sports and pastimes

Naturally enough the School plays its full part in all the sporting activities of the Garrison, which include the main ones such as basketball, boxing, cricket, golf, hockey, rugby, soccer, swimming and tennis; together with almost any other kind of sport imaginable, even to circuit training which is a form of PT designed to bring one to the peak of physical fitness. Details of achievements and misfortunes in these realms are given in the month to month WIRE notes and such jottings are therefore omitted from this article.

The surrounding countryside offers facilities for riding, shooting, fishing, beagling, sailing (not too far away) and other similar, healthy and enjoyable pastimes.

It is interesting to hear a brief word from Captain David Morris of Basics Group (until recently an instructor in Field Radio) on one of the more strenuous ways in which to enjoy the nearby open country:

"Many of the Yorkshire dales lie within easy reach of Catterick, which makes the camp a popular posting with those who are interested in fell-walking and pot-holing.

The three peaks of Whernside, Pen-y-Ghent and Ingleborough offer a challenging day's walk as the complete circuit is about 18 miles and involves climbing 4,500 feet. To compensate for the exhausting nature of the trip the scenery in Chapel-le-Dale and Upper Ribblesdale is particularly fine.

However, when Captains Brian and Morris of the School Cadre and Second-Lieutenants Easson and Podevin of 54 "Q" Course first attempted to climb all three peaks on a Sunday, they did not get the opportunity of admiring the views as low forbidding clouds masked each peak. Pen-y-Ghent was climbed without difficulty from Horton-in-Ribblesdale and the party then turned west towards Ingleborough. This fell was climbed in steadily worsening weather conditions and eventually the threatened rain came. The wind rose to gale force and the rain became almost horizontal—driving into the climbers' faces. Visibility was reduced to about five yards and the party roamed around on the flat top of Ingleborough for several minutes before finding the summit cairn. By the time the descent into Chapel-le-Dale had been accomplished everyone was well soaked and the wind helped to reduce the confident climbers of six hours before to shivering wet bodies. The trip was abandoned at Ribblehead and spirits restored with pint mugs of tea from the pub there.

A fortnight later Captains Brian and Morris, and Second-Lieutenant Easson, tried again. This time the weather was a little kinder and the party was fitter and much more determined to succeed. Whernside was climbed before mid-day, lunch was taken on top of Ingleborough at 2 o'clock (visibility was better this time, nearly twenty yards) and Pen-y-Ghent's summit was reached just before 5 p.m. Dusk fell as the party came down the steep flanks of Pen-y-Ghent."

The International Wives' Club

This short survey of the School in Catterick would be incomplete without mention of those ladies who always have the final word—the wives.

Mrs. Horsfield, wife of Colonel Horsfield (Deputy Commandant of the School, and shortly ending his tour here), has been helping to run the International Wives' Club and has this to say about it:

"International wives' meetings were started about two years ago by Mrs. A. F. McGill, to welcome and help the Commonwealth and other overseas wives of the cadre at the School of Signals. A number of wives of non-Signals officers on the establishment assist with the meetings and this, helps them to make friends quickly in their signals environment. Overseas wives who often have language or customs problems get immense value from the meetings which bring them out and enable them to get the best of their time in England.

Informal meetings are held once a month in the drawing room of the hostess of the day. This limits the number of British members which in some ways is a pity, but the small audience is a benefit when we make the 'foreigners' sing for their tea.

The range of members is large and includes people from Australia, America, Bulgaria, Canada, Finland, Germany, India, Jordan, New Zealand, Pakistan and Singapore. So we have had talks, usually with slides, about many countries. Cookery demonstrations from the same part of the world produce a typical tea.

During the warmer weather we arrange visits to show our visitors something of the countryside and local events. One popular item last year was an exchange of visits between our members and the American Base at Mentwith Hill.

The work, such as it is, is very enjoyable and most rewarding. Our overseas visitors are very appreciative and it is plain that they enjoy taking part in the meetings and contributing to them.

The fame of the organisation is spreading and recently a number of other wives in Catterick who are not British born have joined the group."

Future location

Over the past few years any conversation regarding a posting to the School of Signals has inevitably invited conjecture as to when the move from Catterick will take place.

A project planning staff has been in situ at Blandford in Dorset for quite a long time and a considerable amount of planning detail has been finalized. **In fact the firm contract is at last being prepared and all being well the School should start moving in June 1966.**

Conclusion

How best to summarize in a few sentences?

A posting to the School, as cadre or student, can be a pleasant

Continued at foot of column one page 167

Tribute to a Special Recruiter

The enthusiasm of Staff Sergeant Pickard cements Corps link with Slough Pathfinders Club



[Courtesy : Slough Express

The photograph, taken at the Annual Dinner and Dance of the Pathfinders Club shows Staff-Sergeant Pickard and Sergeant R. Barton, Royal Signals, with Mr. G. Palmer, Deputy Leader of the Pathfinders, and two Slough Police Detectives, Detective Chief Inspector H. Bowker and Chief Inspector A. Hailstone. Staff-Sergeant Pickard is presenting the Club with two Cups and official Corps transfers for use on their vehicles

STAFF Sergeant Gordon Pickard, our Special Recruiter in Slough, seems to be making quite an impact in the area. He has already exchanged the caravan which he previously used as an Army Information Office for a more palatial office in Slough Town Hall, and few events of any importance take place in the Slough district at which the cheerful and industrious Staff Sergeant Pickard is not playing a prominent part in publicising the Corps.

It is entirely due to his enthusiasm and initiative that an affiliation has now been arranged between one of the outstanding Youth Clubs of Slough, the Pathfinders Boys' Club and 216 Signal Squadron (Parachute Brigade Group). Several members of the Pathfinders (a club noted in the Berkshire and Buckinghamshire area for its sporting record) are now serving in the Corps, and on the 16th to 19th April, a party of 27 boys were entertained at Catterick as guests of the Training Brigade. There they attended a pass-off parade (in which some of their old pals were appearing). They toured the Training Regiments, saw the Corps Museum, took part in shooting and football matches and spent two days on Adventure Training. This included sailing, canoeing and climbing. Staff Sergeant Pickard, who accompanied the party is confident that many of the boys will be even more enthusiastic about joining Royal Signals after the visit.

Corps List for the Historical Library

We are anxious to complete a set of Corps Lists for the Historical Library. Any prior to 1954, and the January, 1957, to January, 1958, copies would be greatly appreciated. If you can help, please send any copies to the Secretary, Royal Signals Institution, Cheltenham Terrace, Cheltenham Terrace, Chelsea, London, S.W.3.

(Continued from Page 165)

and rewarding one. It will only be so if the most is made of the opportunities available.

The School of Signals, which trains Royal Signals officers and master tradesmen, and which welcomes them back from time to time for further education, is also a co-ordinating centre of thought and doctrine. It could perhaps be referred to as the heart of the Corps. It is of the greatest importance that it sets the highest standards in everything it does and that it should help signal units, staffs and individuals wherever they are.

Our aim is to achieve this end.

Royal Signals Amateur Radio Society

Princess Royal Day 1964

THE Society's Headquarters Station will operate under the call sign GB3RCS during Princess Royal Day and Corps Reunion Weekend.

Special permission has been obtained from the G.P.O. for the station to be operated simultaneously on the various amateur bands and for this reason no advance schedules will be published this year.

GB3RCS will be on the air as follows:

Friday	**June 26th**	**0700-2300 GMT**
Saturday	**June 27th**	**0700-2300 GMT**
Sunday	**June 28th**	**0700-2000 GMT**

During these periods the station will operate continuously on the 14 or 21 Mc/s bands. Whenever additional operators are available there will be activity on the 1.8, 3.8, 7 and 144 Mc/s bands.

The operators of GB3RCS look forward to contacting many past and present members of the Corps over the air and visitors to the station will be most welcome.

Several members of the Society were active in the 21/28 Mc/s Telephony Contest organised by the Radio Society of Great Britain in November, 1963.

The contest was won by Lieutenant-Colonel N. I. Bower G5HZ, a member of R.S.A.R.S. and the H.Q. Station G3C1O was the leading multi-operator entrant. RSARS member Mike Dransfield 5N2JKO of Zaria, Nigeria, was third in the overseas results.



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The Signal Officer-in-Chief Reviews Corps Affairs

The Signal Officer-in-Chief talked to Branch Representatives of the Association at their annual meeting on 11th April on matters of general Corps interest.

"The Wire" is happy to reproduce the main points he made in his talk. These will be of considerable interest to all members of the Corps—both serving and retired. As he himself said: "It is most important that everyone should know what is going on." Below, then, are some of the things that are going on.

Defence Reorganisation

The bringing together of the three Services under the Ministry of Defence is a big step forward. There was waste of effort in the past. Now co-ordination and integration will eliminate much of this. Signals are more affected by this re-organisation than anyone else. The Signals Directorate will sit side by side with the equivalent organisations of the other two Services under the Assistant Chief of Defence Staff (Signals), Major-General Whistler. Some branches of the Directorate will be fully integrated, i.e., members of the three Services will work together in the same office. There is much in the way of rationalisation and adjustments to be done, but in the long term, the benefits of the new structure are bound to be great.

Nye Committee

This committee has been studying War Office organisation. Their recommendations include the move of all Directors of Arms and Services to their respective schools, or at least out of the War Office. The only Arms Directorate to remain at Whitehall will be the Signals Directorate. This is an indication of how we fit into the defence set-up. There will be problems in keeping in touch with other directorates when they move out, as we have a great deal to consult with them about. The real aim of this move is to reduce the Army Department to manageable proportions.

McLeod Committee

This committee has been studying the logistic services with a view to their rationalisation. The report of the Committee, which has not been agreed yet, but it could have far-reaching and, in the main, beneficial results for the Corps, if its recommendations are adopted.

Hobart

This is going well, and the snags which have so far come to light are being eliminated. A considerable amount of money has been made available to industry for research and development of such items as auto-switching, radio trunk extension, new net radio forward of Brigade, and a whole host of ancillary items.

Industry has taken a great interest in it, and firms are keen and enthusiastic. Introduction is aimed at the early 1970s, and up till then we are faced with a fairly complex phasing problem. We are starting Phase I in 1966. Remote comcentres have already been tried out and have worked very well. We will move into Phase II by 1968. HOBART involves the retraining of many of our men, and a re-assessment of technician training is now in hand, and it is hoped to start the new training schedule at the end of the year.

It is also hoped to be able to reduce the overall number of trades in the Corps as a result of the HOBART concept. We have a great plethora of trades in the Corps at the moment, and their variety can, and must, be reduced.

"Iron Bar"

We have been running a trial in B.A.O.R. called "Iron Bar" which is the integration of Division and Brigade staffs into Signals. The idea behind this is economy of manpower and ease of control and command. In future it looks as if Signals will be responsible for all that goes on at Division and Brigade Headquarters except, of course, for the provision of Staff Officers. Initially, different cap badges will be worn, but eventually it is hoped all will be wearing the Corps badge.

The command of a Divisional Signal Regiment will tend to become much more of a military command than heretofore. Defence of headquarters will become the sole responsibility of C.R. Signals, and in the future concept of war, this will be a major task.

COMCAN

This is also being rationalised and co-ordinated with the other Services. The Nairobi COMCAN Squadron, for instance, has closed down and we have handed over our commitments to the R.A.F. A joint working party is now examining the integration of strategic communications in Singapore.

Satellite Communications

Related to the above is the move of the Corps into the communication satellite field. It is likely that this year or next, officers and men of COMCAN will be involved in an experimental defence communication satellite system and manning ground stations in U.K. and overseas, in conjunction with the other two Services. The experiement might well take the form of a random polar orbit satellite, and will be run in conjunction with U.S. Defence Satellite Project. Men from COMCAN will, it is hoped, be going to U.S.A. for training fairly soon.

Strad

This is a telegraph auto-routing equipment, which has now been installed at Boddington at the cost of about £250,000. It has across office speed of 83,000 words a minute, and saves, in Boddington alone, about 130 men. It provides much more accurate routing and, of course, much faster traffic handling. It is intended to instal another one in Singapore in due course. It brings with it a penalty of requiring very much more accurate teleprinter operating than other systems require.

Operations

Borneo, Uganda, Kenya, Tanganyika, Swaziland, British Guiana, and Cyprus, are some of the places where Signals have been involved in military operations. We have not much manpower to play with, and all this has involved "scraping the bottom of the barrel."

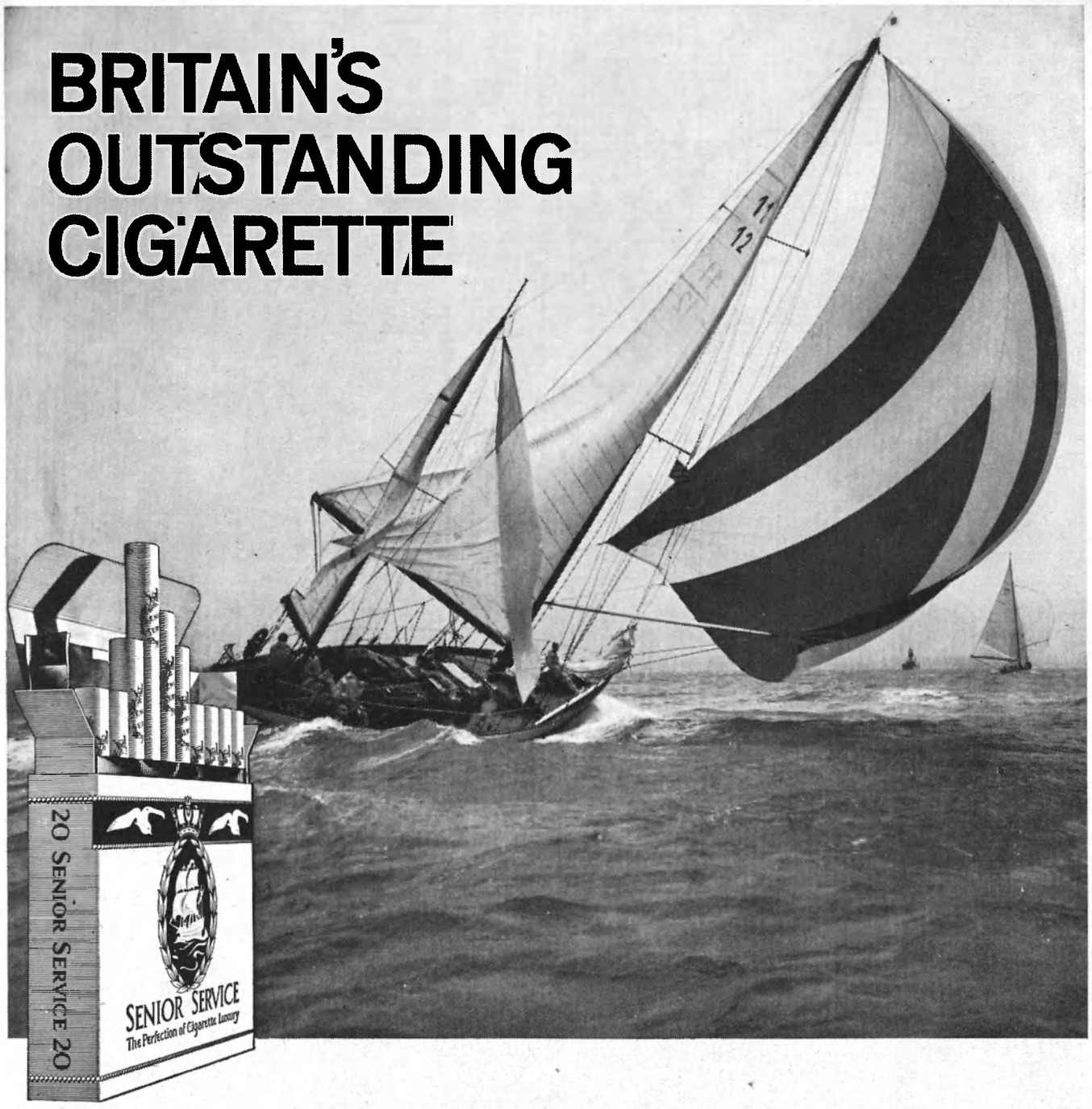
We are confronted with a serious situation in Borneo. It is a war in a tough country.

Our soldiers who are deployed there are doing very well indeed and enjoy playing an active and important role in the operations. As far as the Corps is concerned, all is going well. Communications are far from easy. There is a front of 1,000 miles, and the base at Singapore is 1,000 miles away. Climatic conditions are very trying, both for men and equipment, but despite this, communications remain at a high effectiveness. The bulk of 3rd Regiment is now deployed, in Cyprus, where they have set up a complete I.S. network. All is working extremely well. Much credit is due to all concerned and the senior Signal Officers on the spot. Planning for this operation was quite first class, and as a result, the communications have always, from the start, been *ahead* of the operational requirement, instead of tagging along behind.

Light Aircraft

The Army Council quite recently approved the introduction into teeth arm units in the field of flights of light aircraft, integrated in the units and directly under the control of the C.O. As far as Signal requirements are concerned, this means three aircraft (Bell helicopters) per regiment, and we hope to start getting them next year. This is a great move forward and will provide a capability for reconnaissance, rapid movement, setting-up of radio relay in remote areas never before known. We will provide our own pilots, mainly N.C.O.s, and these are being selected now.

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SUPPLEMENT No. 1—PAGE ONE

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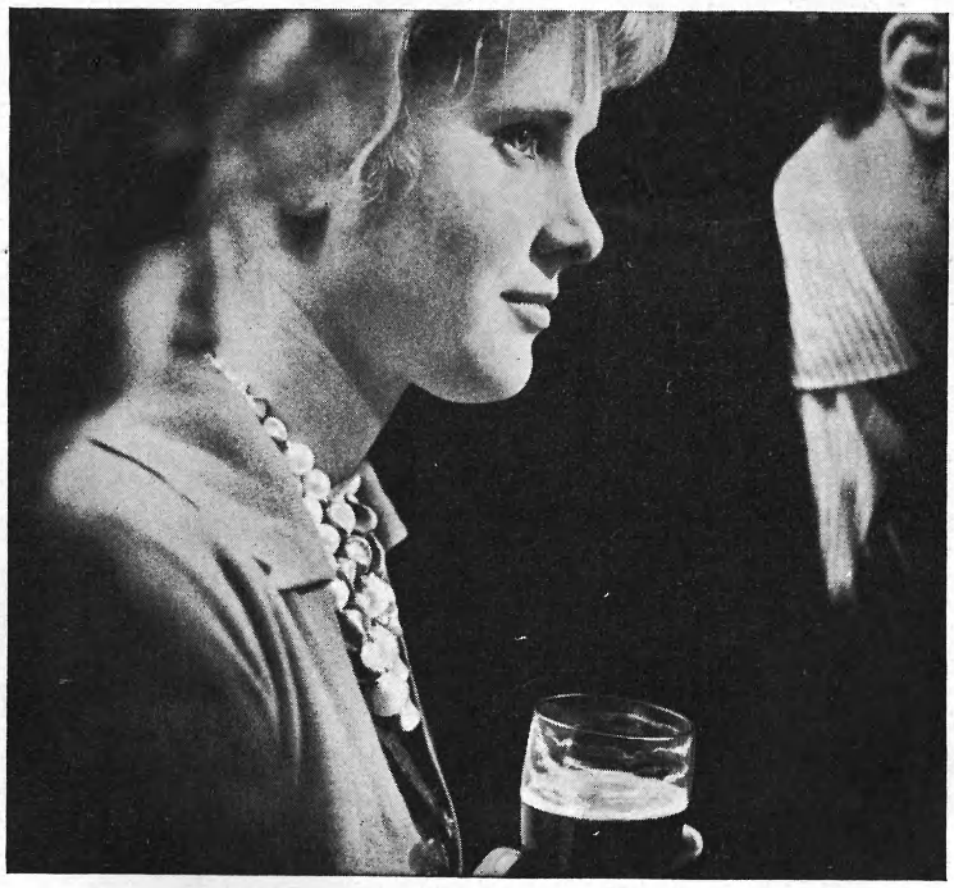
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Manpower

Recruiting last year was going very well indeed and then tailed off for the whole Army, including the Corps.

However, in September it began to look up again, and now the Training Brigade is bursting at the seams. We are about 800 men short now, and our net gain in manpower is working out at about 100 per month. Compared with the rest of the Army, we have done very well. There are some 1,200 or so in the training machine, so our overall shortage in the field is about 2,000. We are having some success in officer recruiting, but are still about 140 short. In fact we are 193 combatant officers short, but this is partially offset by a surplus of some 56 Q.M.-type commissions. Many of our officers are on staff jobs and outside the Corps, which accentuates the shortage, but this must be accepted, as it enhances our prestige and influence in the Army. Recruiting of boys is going very well, and we now have some 1,800 under training, so providing an annual intake into men's service of some 540. The material is of a very high standard.

Affiliation with H.M.S. Hermes

As you know, the Corps is affiliated to H.M.S. *Hermes*. We have been able to entertain the ship's company in a number of ports all round the world. They, in turn, quite recently took a large party of officers and soldiers of the Corps on a ten-day cruise to Copenhagen and back. This occasion was marked by the presentation from *Hermes* of a very fine silver statuette to the Corps. It need hardly be said that the members of the party had a thoroughly enjoyable "duty" trip.

Corps Title

There has been some discussion over the Corps title in its shortened and abbreviated form. It is hoped that the short title will be "Royal Signals" and the abbreviated title "R.Signals." We want to get away from the word "Sigs" once and for all.

Mess Kit for W.O.s and Sergeants

Approval has been given for Warrant Officers and Sergeants to wear scarlet mess kit in temperate climates, provided at their own expense. Mess jackets, of approved pattern, and of the same material as that of officers, are obtainable from Hobsons for £10 approximatelly.

Sport

The Corps is gradually regaining its rightful position in sport, and whilst we haven't managed to acquire any Army Championships, our units have made a first-rate showing in various competitions.

The 24th Regiment were beaten in the final of the U.K. Army Association Football by a Sapper Unit.

The School of Signals has reached the final of the U.K. Army hockey, and we await the outcome with interest.

Our Junior Leaders also got as far as the final of the Junior Army Hockey, but were then beaten.

The 11th Regiment were narrowly defeated, by one point, in the U.K. Army Boxing finals.

The B.A.O.R. Cricket finals in 1963 were fought out by two Corps teams—the 13th and the 2nd Regiments. The former won. This was quite unique.

In Singapore a Corps Cricket team defeated all-comers, including a combined Services' side. While on the subject of cricket, all will be glad to hear that Colonel Pat Williams has been selected for appointment as Sussex County Cricket Secretary when he retires in August.

School of Signals Move to Blandford

The money for this project has been approved and the work starts next month. The School, it is hoped, will be able to move in about 1966/67.

Territorial Army

At last the T.A. are beginning to see some more modern equipment. More will be issued this year than in 1963. Altogether some £1.5½ million is being spent on this.

General

The Corps is in very good heart; it is involved operationally in all theatres overseas, and is acquitting itself extremely well and in the best traditions of the Service. We are continually looking forward and adapting ourselves to new concepts, new ideas and new situations. The advance in electronics and communication is spectacular and is gathering momentum all the time. The importance of the role of the Corps grows daily, and is attracting more and more attention in all fields. The Corps can offer a career which, for variety, interest, adventure and service, is second to none.

Footnote: As a follow up to the paragraph on the McLeod Committee it has recently been announced that the Corps will take over all general duty clerks from the R.A.S.C.

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ATTENTION—OPERATING AND ADMINISTRATIVE TRADES

Last month we offered some tips to technicians coming on upgrading courses, and our closing advice was "maximum preparation for the course, followed by application and hard work during the course." The same applies to all other trades, too, so let us see what operators and administrative tradesmen can do to better their chances of success on their upgrading courses.

Failure is almost entirely due to inadequate skills.

In order to get the situation into perspective, here are some of the failure statistics for operator courses.

Telegraph Operators 59% fail the intake test. This consists of keyboard operating, morse receiving, morse transcription and a written procedure paper.

40% fail trade test at the end of the course.

Comcen Operators 55% fail the intake test. This consists of keyboard operating, and written papers on tape relay and comcen working.

40% fail trade test at the end of the course.

Radio Operators 41% fail the intake test, which consists of morse receiving, and voice and telegraph procedure written papers.

24% fail trade test at the end of the course.

Keyboard Operating

Every candidate for an upgrading course is expected to be able to operate at the speeds laid down for his current trade rating. These are:—

Staff Operator BIII	18 w.p.m.
Staff Operator BII and I Comcen Operator BIII ... Telegraph Operator AIII	25 w.p.m.
Telegraph Operator AII Comcen Operator BII	30 w.p.m.
Comcen Operator BI ... Telegraph Operator AI	40 w.p.m.

But note that in every case, a maximum of 10 corrected and three uncorrected errors only is permitted, with *no errors at* all in the format lines of messages. With the arrival of STRAD in COMCAN, and tape automatic routing devices throughout the communication network, the necessity for 100 per cent correct format lines has become essential Any error in this part of the message results in the message being rejected by the automatic router. This fact is reflected in the keyboard test.

The trade test summary lays down two tests—one for speed and accuracy, and one for standard messages; however, in the Interpretation and Reference Sheet (which is a very useful document to get hold of in order to find out precisely what is required for each class of each trade) we have adjusted this into one test, as follows:—

"In 20 minutes, send four plain-language and four letter-cipher messages, total eight messages. Each message to contain: at Class III, 375 strikes; at Class II, 450 strikes; at Class I, 600 strikes.

(a) Plain language messages to include 5% figures and punctuation.

(b) No errors permitted in format lines.

(c) An aggregate of ten corrected and three uncorrected errors permitted in the texts.

(d) The number of strikes to include all machine functions."

To quote an example of the standard required by a candidate for an upgrading course, a Comcen operator joining for a Class I course must be able to operate at Class II standard, which involves accuracy, as well as speed. He must be able to pass a test at 30 w.p.m. with no errors in the format lines, and a maximum of only three uncorrected and 10 corrected errors in the texts. Greater speed does not compensate for excessive errors; 40 w.p.m. with 15 errors would fail.

T 100s are used for the test, and a tape is taken in addition to the page copy, to allow easy identification of superfluous machine functions.

This, then, is the standard, and it must be reached in order to achieve a pass on an upgrading test. Can you expect to reach it during your upgrading course? The answer is yes, provided you are up to the correct starting standard at the beginning of the course.

The number of periods allotted to keyboard work in any particular course is geared to the increase in operating speed from the next lower class. This works out as approximately 10 periods for an increase of 1 w.p.m. It is obvious, therefore, that if you are behind at the beginning of the course, you never have a real chance of catching up.

For the administrative trades the story is no different. It is nearly always the keyboard skills which accounts for the failures, and it is worth nothing that 70% of Clerks Technical and 62% of Staff Operators are below standard at typing on the passing-in test.

Now for Morse

Again, the number of periods allotted per course is geared to the increase in speed demanded in the Trade Test Summary. This is in the region of 30 periods for each word per minute increase, which sounds very liberal, but the failure rate indicates otherwise. The trade tests take the form of three messages to be received as follows:—

Trade	*Class*	*Speed*	*Characters per message*	
			PL (2 messages)	*Cipher*
R. Op.	III	12	180	144
R. Op.	II	15	375	300
R. Op.	I	18	450	360
Tg. Op.	III	20	500	400
Tg. Op.	II & I	25	625	500

Time allowed: 15 minutes (except R. Op. Cl. III 9 min.)
Accuracy: 98% (except Tg. Op. Cl. I, 99%)
Sending: Test is identical.

What are you doing about it?

It is up to you to ensure that you do not lose your basic skill standard. Even if you have not been employed at your trade recently, you can, if you have the will, find the opportunity to practise your keyboard or morse skills before coming on an upgrading course. There are facilities available in every unit; all you need to do is ask.

You will appreciate from what we have said above that men who are not up to standard at the start of a course would not only find it difficult to reach the higher pass out standard required at the end of the course but would also be liable to delay the progress of others on the course.

This is why we have intake tests at the start of courses—and men who are patently nowhere near the required intake standard are not retained for training, because they are not going to make the grade and would be a hinderance to the rest of the course.

This therefore is our advice to all operating and administrative trades—

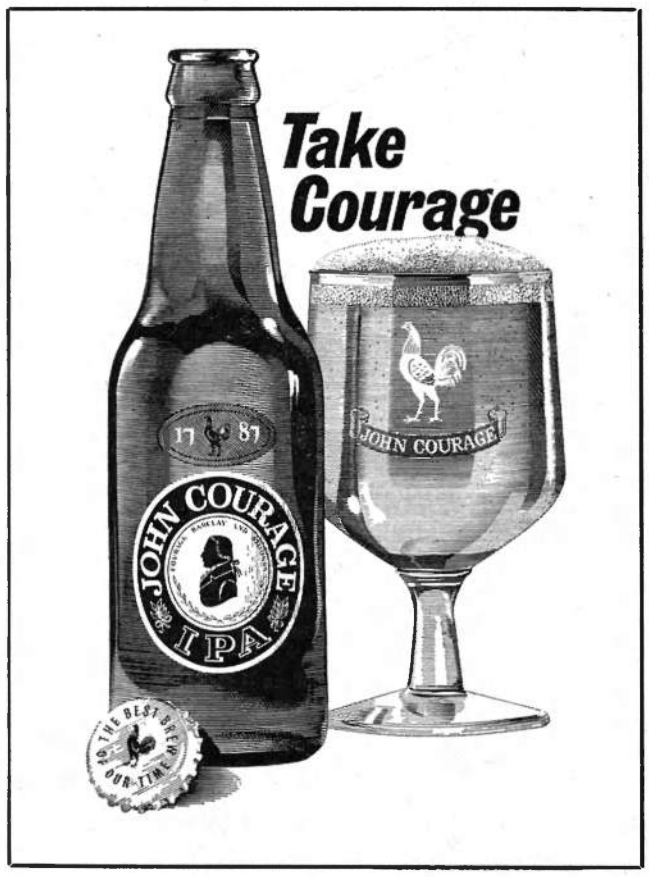
Practice your Skills

Upgrading Courses in Catterick

Starting dates for upgrading courses due to be held in the Training Brigade during November are as follows:—

Radio Technician (Light)	Class II-I	3 Nov., '64
Radio Relayman	Class II-I	24 Nov., '64
Lineman	Class II-I	10 Nov., '64
Line Technician	Class III-II	24 Nov., '64
Radio Technician (Light)	Class III-II	3 Nov., '64

There are no Operator, Administrative or Driver trade courses starting in November.



Letters to the Editor

Was Mr. Beswick right about the "C" Set?

IN the March issue of THE WIRE *we published an article by ex-S.S.M. J. H. Beswick in which he took a look over his shoulder and 'pondered on the past.' Mention was made in the article of the 'C' set. Mr. Beswick wrote: The horses jangle to a halt and within seconds our marching order is off, the tail boards of the limbers are down, and out comes our secret weapon, the 'C' set."*

Later in the article Mr. Beswick writes: It may be of interest to readers to note that when we were modernised to the extent of having our 'C' set carried in a 15 cwt. truck . . . ."

Now a correspondent writing over the initials "H.V.W." has written to the Editor the following:

"I find myself very interested in Mr. Beswick's ponderings on the past as narrated in the March issue, but I find myself a little bemused by his description of the early 'C' set. Surely the 'C' set was a battery driven affair and obtained its power thence via a rotary converter to the H.T. of the anode of the transmitting valve?

I have a sneaking feeling that the description is that of the old Marconi 500 watt rotary spark transmitter and receiver dating from circa 1914 and therefore much older because this set did depend for its power on the Douglas 2¾ h.p. directly driven engine and alternator.

This set performed great service during Townsend's Seige of Kut 1915-1916 and was probably more 'at home' with the mobile columns of the Middle East than with units engaged in the trench warfare of Europe in World War I.

If indeed Mr. Beswick operated this wonderful pioneer in 1924, he must have been about the last operator in the Corps to do so—a nostalgic thought indeed, since about this time the portable sets were mainly the French set, the Newton, and the 'Thirty Watt,' more generally known as the 'Dirty Watt.'

These sets were, of course, shortly to be replaced by the 'C' set and a little later by the No. 1 set.

H.V.W.

* * *

From Major-General A. E. Morrison, C.B., C.B.E.

Sir,

I was indeed sorry to read of the death of Colonel E. de W. H. Bradley in your columns. I, and I am sure many others, will recollect his great contribution to Corps rugger—a game for which he had a great enthusiasm.

He was one of the Corps Rugby Selection Committee in the early thirties, and did much to advise and encourage Corps sides.

Indeed, in the early days of the Corps, when we were struggling to make our way in the world of sport, he was mainly responsible for building up the Corps rugger team. I recollect the difficulty we had in competing with the Gunners and the Sappers. However, the determination and spirit which he managed to inject into our team resulted in the Corps beating the Gunners for the first time in 1932, since when we have been able to hold our own.

The Corps owes much to him and similar personalities for our successes, past and present, in the field of sport.

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PERSONAL COLUMN

Congratulations

THE WIRE is happy to learn as it goes to Press that Major W. W. Ruff has been appointed a Deputy Lieutenant of the County of Surrey. Major Ruff is a member of the Board of the Royal Signals Association Trustee Ltd. and Clerk to the Surrey County Council.

London Gazette

REGULAR ARMY

The undermentioned Majors to be Lt.-Cols. on the dates shown:

I. G. Swan, 12th Sept., 1963.
F. M. S. Winter, M.B.E., 14th Sept., 1963.
J. C. Clinch, 15th Sept., 1963.
G. A. Horner, 16th Sept., 1963.
D. M. Emley, M.A., A.M.I.E.E., 11th Nov., 1963.
T. G. H. Jackson, M.B.E., 11th Dec., 1963.
D. H. Freeland, 11th Dec., 1963.
J. W. Rayner, 12th Dec., 1963.
J. Y. Ferguson, 12th Dec., 1963.
E. N. L. Brown, B.A., A.M.I.E.E., 1st Jan., 1963.
I. H. A. Illingworth, 1st Feb., 1963.
T. W. Armour, M.A., 13th Dec., 1963.

Lt. (Q.M.) W. G. Finch to be Capt. (Q.M.) 6th Mar., 1964.
Capt. A. D. Lewis to be Major, 10th Mar., 1964.
2/Lt. T. C. C. MaCoy from Rhodesia and Nyasaland Army to be 2/Lt., 1st Jan., 1964.
Lt. (T.O.T.) P. Newton, from Short Serv. Comm. to be Lt. (T.O.T.). 1st Sept., 1963.
Lt. (T.O.T.) E. R. Addington to be Capt. (T.O.T.) 16th Mar., 1964.
Lt. (Q.M.) S. Ormond to be Capt. (Q.M.), 17th Mar., 1964.
Capt. P. C. Tripp to be Major, 20th March, 1964.
Capt. D. J. Roberts, B.A., to be Major, 25th Mar., 1964.
Lt. W. D. Lawrence resigns his comm., 16th Mar., 1964.

SHORT SERVICE COMMISSION

W.O.I (Y. of S.) Desmond Duncan to be Lt. (Tfc. Offr.) 7th Feb., 1964
Major (Q.M.) W. E. Roscoe relinquishes his comm. on completion of service, 15th Mar., 1964, and is granted hon. rank of Major (Q.M.).

TERRITORIAL ARMY

Major L. S. McCarthy (Res. of Offrs.) to be Major, 24th Jan., 1964, with seniority 12th Oct., 1956.
L/Cpl. A. K. M. Abell to be 2/Lt., 2nd Feb., 1964.
Major J. B. Franks to be Major (Tfc. Offr.) 27th Jan., 1964, with seniority 1st Oct., 1954.
2/Lt. J. L. Rogers to be Lt., 10th March, 1964.
2/Lt. L. King-Smith to be Lt., 24th June, with seniority 24th Dec., 1962.
Lt. P. A. Langmaid from Res. of Offrs. Cl. III to be Lt., 21st Dec., 1963, with senority 5th Oct., 1960.
Capt. (Q.M.) J. A. Clarkson from A.E. Res. of Offrs. to be Capt. (Tfc. Offr.), 7th Nov. 1963, with seniority 10th Mar., 1962.
2/Lt. D. W. Goodman to be Lt., 8th Dec., 1963, with seniority 8th Dec. 1962.
2/Lt. R. T. Ashford to be Lt., 8th Dec., 1963, with seniority 8th Dec., 1962.
2/Lt. R. A. Davey to be Lt., 8th Dec., 1963.
2/Lt. A. T. Brooker to be Lt., 21st Mar., 1964.
Capt. (Tfc. Offr.) G. Dibley, Res. of Offrs., to be Capt. (Tfc. Offr.) 11th Feb., 1964, with seniority 28th Nov., 1962.
Lt. (Tfc. Offr.) W. F. South to be Lt., 26th Feb., with seniority 21st Oct., 1962.
2/Lt. G. L. Cooke to be Lt., 19th Nov., 1962, with seniority 19th Nov., 1961.

Movements—Officers

For period 15th March to 14th April, 1964

Major P. Ashlin	...	To 28th Regiment
Lieutenant-Colonel T. W. Baynes	...	„ 11th Regiment (H.S.)
Major P. A. C. Baldwin	...	„ JSSC (Course)
Captain E. F. J. Bartlett	...	„ 30th Regiment
Major J. M. W. Badcock, M.B.E.	...	„ 4th Regiment (To Command)
Lieutenant P. C. Burns	...	„ 11th Regiment (Cadre)
Major A. P. Boyle	...	„ School of Signals (Work Study Team)
Lieutenant E. R. Castle	...	„ 8th Regiment
Lieutenant R. S. F. Cathmoir	...	„ 13th Regiment
Captain H. A. Cuerden	...	„ 17th Gurkha Regiment
Lieutenant M. E. G. Chandler	...	„ 1 Squadron (Command) (Kenya Army)
Captain J. Cook	...	„ 602 Troop
Major (T.O.T.) F. A. Davidson	...	„ 240 Squadron (NORCO)
Major L. J. Donne	...	„ 249 Squadron (FARELF)
Lieutenant J. G. Greatrix	...	„ 208 (COMWEL) Squadron
Lieutenant J. L. E. Gryspeerdt	...	„ 632 Troop (G.W. Range) (Hebrides)
Lieutenant (Q.M.) T. Jones, M.B.E.	...	„ 17th Gurkha Regiment
Major K. Kirkby	...	„ War Office (Signals 2(b))
Lieutenant J. R. S. Ovenden	...	„ A.A.C. Centre
Major L. J. Parker	...	„ H.Q. FARELF (Signals Br.)
Major F. Parker	...	„ 63rd Regiment (T.A.) (To Command)
Major (Tfc Offr) J. J. Pearson	...	„ H.Q. COMCAN
Major (Tfc Offr) A. B. Roderick	...	„ Royal Signals Records
Lieutenant A. C. Stutchbury	...	„ 1 RNF
Captain R. A. Trotman	...	„ Malaysia
Captain W. H. Turney	...	„ 28th Regiment
Major K. Watts	...	„ Malaysia
Major W. G. B. Wright, M.B.E.	...	„ 13th Regiment
Captain A. J. Welch	...	„ H.Q. Royal Signals, Singapore

Movements — Warrant Officers and Sergeants, May, 1964

W.O.I R. V. Marris	...	To 30th Regiment
W.O.I W. T. Leeson	...	„ Junior Leaders Regiment
W.O.I L. Irving	...	„ 18th Regiment
W.O.I (F. of S.) W. G. Davis	...	„ 30th Regiment
W.O.II F. Wainer	...	„ 11th Regiment
W.O.II J. E. Cox	...	„ 57th Regiment (T.A.)
W.O.II K. S. West	...	„ 43rd Regiment (T.A.)
W.O.II T. Stephenson	...	„ 243 Squadron
W.O.II J. Oxberry	...	„ 8th Regiment
W.O.II B. V. Link	...	„ 252 Squadron
W.O.II N. Crossley	...	„ 45th Regiment (T.A.)
W.O.II J. J. Bingham	...	„ St. Andrew's University, O.T.C.
W.O.II E. W. Redman	...	„ 52nd Regiment (T.A.)
A/W.O.II I. W. Davies	...	„ 239 Squadron
W.O.II (F. of S.) K. Johnson	...	„ 30th Regiment
W.O.II (F. of S.) N. F. Webb	...	„ Inspector, Trade Trg. R. Signals
W.O.I (F. of S.) S. R. Mingaud	...	„ A.W.R.E., Aldermaston
W.O.II (F. of S.) Davis, P. A.	...	„ 8th Regiment
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) A. G. Norton	...	„ 10 Hussars Signal Troop
Staff Sergeant J. E. Rigby	...	„ R. Signals Reserve Trg. Centre
Staff Sergeant B. M. Baigent	...	„ 52nd Regiment (T.A.)
Staff Sergeant J. M. Shand	...	„ 44th Regiment (T.A.)
Staff Sergeant C. Howes	...	„ 239 Squadron
Staff Sergeant P. L. Harrison	...	„ C.V.D., Ashchurch
Staff Sergeant M. E. J. Palman	...	„ 239 Squadron
Staff Sergeant T. G. Armstrong	...	„ 65th Regiment (T.A.)
Staff Sergeant K. Evans	...	„ 41st Regiment (T.A.)
Staff Sergeant E. S. Cone	...	„ 51st Regiment (T.A.)
Staff Sergeant E. T. Ball	...	„ Camp Commandant (Army)
Staff Sergeant C. H. Young	...	„ 7th Regiment
Staff Sergeant R. Conway	...	„ 14th Regiment (2 Squadron)
Staff Sergeant M. Butler	...	„ 259 Squadron
Staff Sergeant G. F. Hughes	...	„ 259 Squadron
Staff Sergeant I. D. C. Macmillan	...	„ 42nd Regiment, R.A., Sig. Tp.
Sergeant E. R. S. Potter	...	„ 2nd Regiment
Sergeant G. A. Blackman	...	„ 16th Regiment
Sergeant V. N. Lavery	...	„ 28th Regiment
Sergeant R. S. Bresloff	...	„ 200 Squadron
Sergeant A. J. Sharp	...	„ H.Q., 3 Division & Signal Regiment
Sergeant A. B. Vowles	...	„ 11th Regiment
Sergeant J. F. Chiverton	...	„ 30th Regiment
Sergeant M. D. Adams	...	„ Junior Leaders Regt., R. Signals
Sergeant P. O. Moody	...	„ 51st Regiment, (T.A.)
Sergeant T. S. Jephcote	...	„ 13th Regiment
Sergeant R. H. Phippard	...	„ A.W.R.E., Aldermaston
Sergeant G. W. Bulman	...	„ A.W.R.E., Aldermaston
Sergeant R. W. W. Milne	...	„ 66th Regiment (T.A.)
Sergeant K. F. Duffey	...	„ 254 Squadron
Sergeant D. J. Freeston	...	„ 249 Squadron
Sergeant E. J. Adams	...	„ 18th Regiment
Sergeant R. C. Scriven	...	„ A.A.S., Harrogate
Sergeant D. G. Layton	...	„ Q.O.H. Signal Troop
Sergeant J. A. Callow	...	„ N. Rhodesian Army
Sergeant D. J. Thornton	...	„ 14th Regiment (1 Squadron)
Sergeant R. H. Sutcliffe	...	„ 219 Troop
A/Sergeant D. Connery	...	„ C.R. Signals, Borneo.

Deaths

PATHYJOHNS.—Captain Charles Pathyjohns, on 23rd March, at his home, 94, Wentworth Road, Wolverhampton. He served in the Corps from 1920 until 1949 and was a Life Member of the Association.

DAVIES.—Corporal M. R. Davies of H.Q., Federal Regular Army, Aden, on 3rd April. Corporal Davies was killed by a mine while on anti-mine patrol.

PATON.—Signalman D. W. Paton, of 28th Regiment, B.A.O.R., on 30th March, at Pinneburg, Germany, as a result of a traffic accident. (See unit notes).

VIGURS.—Ex-R.Q.M.S. A. Vigurs, aged 56, who died on 13th April. Since leaving the Corps he had been a Prison Officer at the Borstal Institution at Feltham, Middlesex. He was a Life Member of the Association. Sympathy is expressed to his widow and his five children.

REES-WILLIAM.—Ex-Signalman Anthony Rees-William, while on a States (Jersey) Telephone Course, at the age of 45 years.

TINNEY.—Signalman L. B. Tinney, of 22nd Regiment, in B.A.O.R.

Marriages

BRADFORD—LEE.—At St. John's Church, Broadbridge Heath, Sussex, on 11th January, between Corporal J. E. Bradford, 261 Squadron, and Miss Sheila Kathleen Lee.

FERNIE—STEEL.—At St. Andrew's Church, S.B.A., R.A.F., Akrotiri, Cyprus, on 21st March, 1964, between Lance-Corporal G. A. Fernie, 261 Squadron, and L.A.C.W. Valerie Ann Steel.

Births

All of 261 Squadron

BROWN.—At Dunfermline Maternity Hospital, Fife, Scotland, on 6th March, to Sergeant and Mrs. J. D. G. Brown (attached from 28th Regiment), a son, Gordon.

CLARKIN.—At British Military Hospital, Dhekelia, Cyprus, on 1st February, to Lance-Corporal and Mrs. H. V. Clarkin, a son, Stephen Patrick.

HAZEL.—At Princess Mary's Hospital, R.A.F., Akrotiri, Cyprus, on 20th January, to Corporal and Mrs. T. A. Hazel, a son, Kenneth Colin.

STEVENSON.—At British Military Hospital, Dhekelia, Cyprus, on 20th February, to Corporal and Mrs. J. Stevenson, a daughter, Leslie Elizabeth.

Promotions

TECHNICAL ROSTER

				New Sen. No.	Old Sen. No.
To Sgt.	23544462	Cpl.	Fell, R.	4390	8110
	22967543	Cpl.	Smith-Taylor, A. C.	4400	8367
	23235404	Cpl.	Jack, D. A. C.	4410	5770
	23544517	Cpl.	Keating, J. D.	4370	7200
	23466246	Cpl.	Field, C. J.	4392	7430
	23460195	Cpl.	Hassall, B.	4430	6940
	23661287	Cpl.	Sugden, W.	4460	7542

OPERATING ROSTER

To Sgt.	22212357	Cpl.	Brook, F. A. W.	11140	310
	22296899	Cpl.	Bartlett, J. B.	11150	500
	22791542	Cpl.	Mullord, T. T. G.	11160	3810
	22999402	A/Sgt.	Lightfoot, C. N.	11180	12290
	23513896	Cpl.	Tunmore, D. J.	11190	14860
	22967633	A/Sgt.	Holmes, I. R.	11200	15150
	23485221	A/Sgt.	Moat, D.	11210	15300
	22782585	A/Sgt.	Dowdle, G. W. T.	11230	15720
	23448066	Cpl.	Wade, R.	11250	16100
	23253085	A/Sgt.	Dean, P.	11280	16710
	22776814	Cpl.	Brighton, A.	11290	16730
	23683535	A/Sgt.	Escott, W.	11320	17030
	22776314	Cpl.	Noon, J. T.	11330	17050

FIELD ROSTER

To Sgt.	22242917	Cpl.	Cosser, R.	3790	864
	22537147	Cpl.	Bree, J. C.	3800	1030
	14428146	Cpl.	Shanahan, V. P.	3810	1120
	22537381	Cpl.	White, P. A.	3830	1400
	22296989	Cpl.	Phillips, J.	3840	1450
	23251479	Cpl.	Fisher, B.	3870	1550
	22814370	Cpl.	Crowhurst, A. G.	3880	1570
	22212567	Cpl.	Dobson, T. H.	3890	1690
	22537627	Cpl.	Needs, H. D.	3900	1720
	22773296	Cpl.	Cheesman, P. E.	3910	1830

ADMINISTRATIVE ROSTER

To Sgt.	22539115	Cpl.	Jones, T. G.	2660	121
	22524057	Cpl.	Suett, R. L.	2670	584
	22212661	Cpl.	Howie, J. G.	2690	710
	23294296	Cpl.	Rose, A. G.	2710	2400

INSERTIONS

REGIMENTAL DUTY ROSTER

To W.O.II	2380573	W.O.II	Findlay, J. M.	2244	240 (Tec)
To S Sgt.	21128237	S Sgt.	Laing, J. D.	3330	244 (Tec)

FOREMAN OF SIGNALS ROSTER

To W.O.H	22212742	W.O.II	Shelly, R. L.	1370	530 (Tec)

MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENT

FIELD ROSTER

To S Sgt.	2586445	S Sgt.	Irvine, J. L.	184	6140 (RD)

DELETIONS

YEOMAN OF SIGNALS ROSTER

W.O.I 30

TECHNICAL ROSTER

W.O.II 530
Sgt. 3849 1410 450

OPERATING ROSTER

Sgt. 9100

FIELD ROSTER

Sgt. 1890

Were YOU in Constantinople in 1920-1923 ?

I am an old member of the Corps—a Founder Member, in fact. I wonder how many there are about? Would it be possible to ask in THE WIRE if there are any of the chaps who were in Constantinople, as it was then, in 1920-1923. If so, I should be delighted to hear from them . . . *Extracts from a letter to the Association received from Mr. F. G. Key, "Bluehayes," Broad Clyst, near Exeter, Devon.*

Forthcoming Events

Visits of H.R.H.

H.R.H. The Princess Royal, Colonel-in-Chief, will visit 53 (Welsh) Signal Regiment, T.A., in camp at Crowborough on 21st May. On the 11th June H.R.H. will visit 61st (City of Edinburgh) Signal Regiment in camp at Scarborough and present a Pipe Banner

Royal Signals Dinner Club

Corps Dinner. In the Hyde Park Hotel on 27th May, 1964.
Garden Party. At the Hurlingham Club on 28th May, 1964.

Catterick Reunion

27th and 28th June

Ex-Boys 10th Annual Reunion and Dinner

Saturday, 5th September, at the Victory Ex-Services Club, 63/79, Seymour Street, London, W.2.

Royal Signals Yacht Club Fixtures

10th June, Royal Signals Trials at Seaview.
25th June v. R.E.M.E., at Hayling Island.
4th-5th July. Royal Signals Dinghy Regatta at Whale Island, Portsmouth.
9th-10th July. Triangular Match at Seaview.

Shooting Dates 1964

9th June—11th June. Royal Signals Southern Command Rifle Meeting.
15th June—18th June. Royal Signals Corps Rifle Meeting.
21st June—4th July. A.R.A. Meeting, Bisley.
8th July—10th July. N.R.A. (S.R.(a)) Meeting, Bisley.
10th July—18th July. N.R.A. (S.R. (b)) Meeting, Bisley.

Royal Signals Officers' Golfing Society (Provisional Fixture Dates)

27th May	R.M.C.S.	East Berkshire
4th June	R.E.	Hankley Common
17th June	R.A.S.C.	Fleet
9th July	R.A.	Sunningdale
14th July	R.A.P.C.	Hankley Common
13th August	R.E.M.E.	East Berks
9th September	R.A.O.C.	Hankley Common
1st/2nd September	Army Meeting	Sunningdale
22nd/23rd September	Autumn Meeting	East Berkshire
21st September	Ironsides	Fleet
3rd October	Staff College	Camberley Heath
13th October	R.A.M.C.	New Zealand

Band Engagements

Touring Band

10th-23 May	Eastbourne	Bandstand concerts
23rd May/6th June	Bournemouth	Bandstand concerts
7th-20th June	Eastbourne	Bandstand concerts
5th-11th July	London	Royal Tournament
12th July	London Parks	Bandstand concerts
13th-18th July	London	Royal Tournament
19th July	London Parks	Bandstand concerts
20th-25th July	London	Royal Tournament
27th July/1st Aug.	Dunfermline	Bandstand concerts
2nd August	Kirkcaldy	Bandstand concerts
3rd-8th August	Dunfermline	Bandstand concerts
9th August	Kirkcaldy	Bandstand concerts
10th-16th August	Edinburgh	Bandstand concerts
30th Aug./13th Sept.	Folkestone	Bandstand concerts
20th Sept./4th Oct.	Eastbourne	Bandstand concerts

Non-Touring Band

7th June	Darlington Parks	Bandstand concerts
14th June	Morecambe	Bandstand concerts
21st June	York	Bandstand concerts
4th-11th July	London	Royal Tournament
13th-18th July	London	Royal Tournament
20th-25th July	London	Royal Tournament

Display Team

18th May	Guildford	Surrey County Show
28th-31st May	Dundee	Recruiting Display
3rd-6th June	Swindon	Bath and West Show
10th June	Andover	Carnival
13th June	Derby	British Celanese Children's Fete
20th June	Harden Moss	Sheepdog Trials
27th June	Skipton	Skipton Gala
28th June	Catterick	Royal Signals 'At Home'
4th July	Cirencester	Carnival
5th-25th July	Earls Court	Royal Tournament
1st August	Canford Magna, Poole	Bournemouth Auto Festival
3rd August	Cheltenham	British Legion Show
4th August	Walsall, Notts	Moorgreen Show
11th August	Keith, Banf	Agricultural Show
28-29th Aug.	Dulston	British Timken Show
5th Sept.	Orsett, nr. Grays	Agricultural Show
13th Sept.-1st Oct.	Sydney, Australia	Trade Fair

Junior Leaders Regiment
Graduation List — April 1964

Name	*Training Regt/Uni:*	*Pre-selected Trade*	*Troop*
D. F. Anthony	24th	Radio Operator	Javelin
R. Barratt	8th	Radio Relay Operator	,,
C. A. Child	24th	Radio Operator	,,
D. A. Lavery	224 Sqn	Special Operator	,,
R. D. Manning	224 Sqn	Special Operator	,,
J. L. Pickard	24th	Telegraph Operator	,,
W. A. Braines	24th	Telegraph Operator	Francisca
R. J. Buller	16th	Comcen Operator	,,
J. R. Burgess	8th	Lineman	,,
M. J. Emmott	224 Sqn	Special Operator	,,
E. E. Gough	22nd	Radio Operator	,,
D. Hudson	16th	Comcen Operator	,,
G. W. Morris	8th	Lineman	,,
S. Peters	8th	Lineman	,,
A. M. Wells	24th	Telegraph Operator	,,
G. Clark	24th	Staff Operator	,,
D. J. Morgan	24th	Telegraph Operator	,,
J. E. Barkworth	8th	Lineman	Iron
I. Goodwin	224 Sqn	Special Operator	,,
J. V. Le Page	1st	Radio Operator	,,
A. G. Noble	24th	Comcen Operator	,,
J. P. Simpson	2nd	Radio Operator	,,
D. L. Hopkins	224 Sqn	Special Operator	Jerboa
T. K. Jackson	24th	Radio Operator	,,
T. H. McKnight	16th	Comcen Operator	,,
J. H. Tovey	24th	Telegraph Operator	,,
J. M. Walker	8th	Radio Relay Operator	,,
J. D. Williamson	16th	Comcen Operator	,,
M. A. Woodcock	16th	Comcen Operator	,,
B. Yarranton	24th	Telegraph Operator	,,
J. E. Brown	24th	Comcen Operator	,,
R. J. Piel	24th	Electrician Driver	,,
J. A. Farndon	224 Sqn	Special Operator	,,
G. P. Barker	24th	Staff Operator	White Swan
M. Burch	24th	Staff Operator	,, ,,
P. J. Clarke	24th	Staff Operator	,, ,,
B. Fawcett	16th	Comcen Operator	,, ,,
R. Ferguson	24th	Radio Operator	,, ,,
A. Glossop	24th	Comcen Operator	,, ,,
R. Knaggs	16th	Comcen Operator	,, ,,
B. Holmes	16th	Comcen Operator	,, ,,
T. Clarke	24th	Telegraph Operator	White Spear
T. J. Ellison	16th	Comcen Operator	,, ,,
R. Goffet	24th	Staff Operator	,, ,,
R. B. Le Couillard	2nd	Radio Operator	,, ,,
R. A. Naftel	2nd	Radio Operator	,, ,,
M. J. Puttock	24th	Radio Operator	,, ,,
R. C. Regan	24th	Telegraph Operator	,, ,,
C. M. Sansum	24th	Radio Operator	,, ,,
S. K. Swallow	24th	Telegraph Operator	,, ,,
I. W. Tyler	24th	Clerk Technician	,, ,,
A. H. Connolly	24th	Staff Operator	Lion
B. J. Dawson	24th	Comcen Operator	,,
M. L. Jolliffe	30th	Radio Operator	,,
M. A. Mullin	8th	Sigs. Technician	,,
R. Bailey	8th	Radio Relay Operator	,,
K. W. Hall	24th	Telegraph Operator	Kukri
M. G. Radford	8th	Lineman	,,
J. F. Simpson	224 Sqn	Special Operator	,,
J. T. Witherington	8th	Lineman	,,
J. A. C. Knell	24th	Staff Operator	Kohima
B. A. Moseley	24th	Telegraph Operator	,,
K. Teasdale	24th	Telegraph Operator	,,
J. A. Thomson	24th	Electrician Driver	,,
J. A. Topping	24th	Telegraph Operator	,,
P. A. Weightman	24th	Telegraph Operator	,,
P. M. Watson	24th	Telegraph Operator	,,
L. Willcox	1st	Radio Operator	,,
R. G. Woodford	8th	Sigs. Technician	,,
W. N. Woodhead	24th	Telegraph Operator	,,
E. J. Campbell	24th	Telegraph Operator	Quadrant
B. Campbell	16th	Comcen Operator	,,
G. H. Dibble	24th	Comcen Operator	,,
I. McDonald	24th	Telegraph Operator	,,
A. J. Sixsmith	22nd	Radio Operator	,,
M. Cooper	24th	Telegraph	,,
R. Joyce	24th	Telegraph Operator	,,
D. G. Bartlett	24th	Telegraph Operator	Romulus
B. R. H. Beck	24th	Telegraph Operator	,,
M. Crawley	8th	Sigs. Technician	,,
R. Fairhurst	8th	Sigs. Technician	,,
D. J. Godwin	224 Sqn	Special Operator	,,
D. J. Smith	2nd	Radio Operator	,,
B. E. Williams	24th	Telegraph Operator	,,
E. J. Babb	24th	Telegraph Operator	Beaufighter
M. A. Swain	24th	Telegraph Operator	,,
T. J. Tynan	24th	Telegraph Operator	,,

Obituaries

Lieutenant-Colonel James R. Ross, O.B.E., Legion of Merit, Royal Signals (T.A.)

The sudden death of Jimmy Ross at his home in Guernsey on 21st March, 1964, has made his many friends who served with him in the Royal Corps of Signals, and in the American Signals Corps, very sad. Aged 55, he graduated M.A. at Aberdeen in 1931 with first class honours in English and was teaching in Aberdeen when he was mobilised with 51st Highland Divisional Signals T.A. in 1939. He saw service at home and in the Middle East before being appointed to General Eisenhower's staff as Chief Radio Officer at S.H.A.E.F. His outstanding work in that capacity was the planning of the wireless communications for the Normandy invasion and the Supreme Headquarters' Wireless Network on the Continent and it was for this work that he was awarded the Legion of Merit.

We also remember his happy personality, his capacity for making and keeping friends, his twinkling fingers at the piano, the songs he composed and sang and by no means least for the training and confidence he gave to so many in the rebuilding of his old Regiment after St. Valery which stood those he came into contact with at that time so well in the service they were to see afterwards in the Middle East and in Europe.

Brigadier Fitzalan George Drayson, C.B.E., M.C.

Just as THE WIRE was going to Press news was received of the sudden death of Brigadier Drayson on the 16th April, 1964. Well-known throughout the Corps in pre-war days he was not only a distinguished soldier but also an all-round sportsman of high repute. A fuller obituary will appear in the June WIRE.

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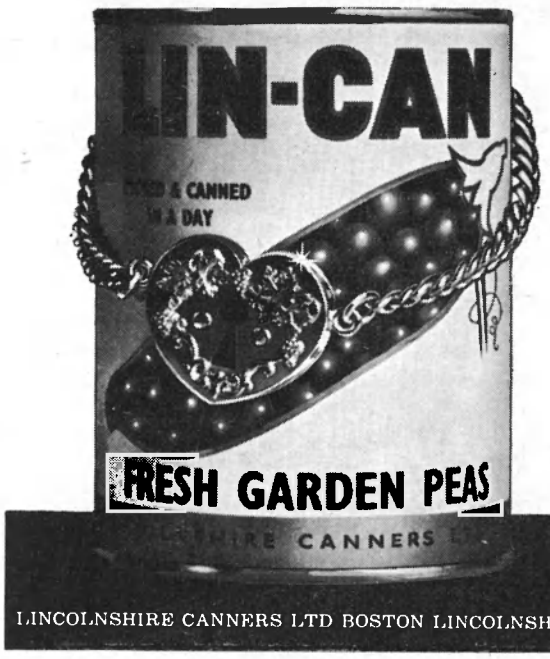
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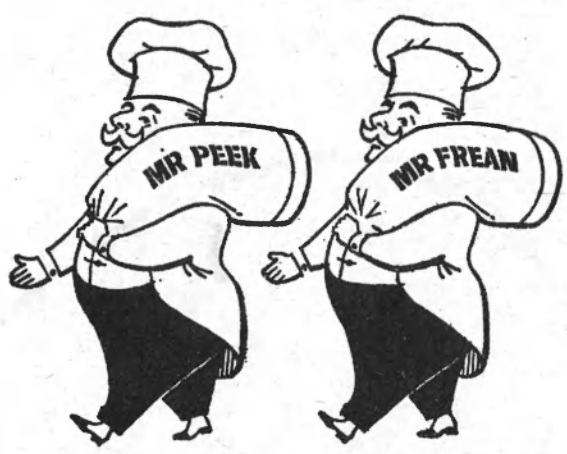
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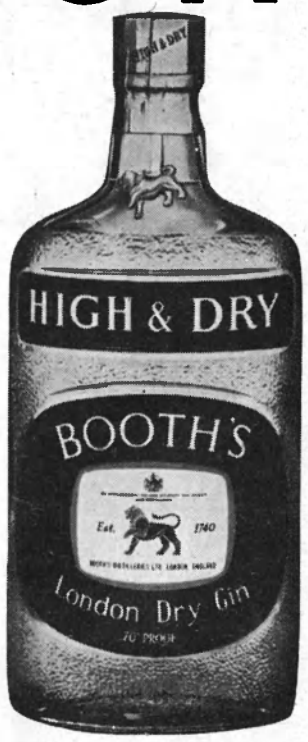
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The Corps Reports from Cyprus

News from the 3rd Regiment

Skyblue berets with enamelled white and gold cap badges, skyblue cravats and armbands with U.N. Crest . . . .

Do we detect a slightly bashful air in the photographs below of members of the Corps wearing their new insignia outside H.Q. United Nations Forces in Cyprus?



(*Left to right*): **Lieutenant (T.O.T.) K. Risby, Major D. M. F. Barker (Commanding 3 H.Q. and Signal Regiment), Captain E. Mulley, Colonel J. W. Eagie, M.B.E., E.R.D. (C.S.O. U.N.F.I.C.Y.P.), Major J. P. Durrant, Major D. G. Cattermull, G.S.O.2 (Signals)**



(*Left to right*): **Sergeant R. Copland, Staff-Sergeant M. Langford, W.O.II A. W. Peat, Sergeant J. Cordey, Sergeant E. Phillips, Sergeant F. C. Brudenali, Sergeant A. Simpson**

" This is their island in the sun,
Say the Greeks, since time begun;
Turks say 'No, it belongs to us,'
And that is the reason for all this fuss."

At 05.00 hours on the 27th March, those of us who were on duty changed our dark blue berets and Royal Signals cap badge for the United Nations sky blue beret with the enamel white and gold cap badge. In addition we donned our sky blue cravats and arm bands with a U.N. crest. However much has happened before that event.

A full description of the early days of J.F.H.Q. has already been given by the C.S.O. Cyprus in the March issue of THE WIRE and this narrative will continue from the time the communications were handed over to C.S.O. 3rd Division in February. However, much work had to be done before then, preparing the new location for J.F.H.Q. at No. 2 Site R.A.F. Nicosia which used to be an old R.A.F. Maintenance unit site and was in an delapidated condition.

A reconnaissance of this site was done in early February by Major G. Proudman, M.B.E., our then Second-in-Command. The Divisional H.Q. Squadron Commander, Major J. Evans, S.W.B., was left behind at the site and it was largely through his efforts and the splendid co-operation with R.A.F. Nicosia that our camp is now so comfortable and well organised. In the meantime the Regiment was busily getting itself ready for an air move. On 14th February the Squadron Commanders were roused from their beds, not without difficulty, in the middle of the night and the move began. Although the move went smoothly due to the tireless efforts of the U.E.O., Captain John Dunkeld, Royal Sussex, the first snag was encountered very soon. The Regiment was organised in a number of groups for the move and after the first two groups had arrived, the " powers that be " said no more movement. This meant the Regiment was in an unbalanced state because stores became temporarily separated from the men. However, after a few days this was partly solved and a working number of men and stores arrived at the right place. At this time the Regiment was reinforced by tradesmen from 30th Regiment and 640 Troop. We would like to extend a welcome to Second-Lieutenant P. Sugden, Black Watch, and his Defence and Employment Platoon. They have done so much to help us with the humping, dumping and all those mundane tasks that are so often forgotten and for this we are more than grateful.

The first two groups from the Regiment under the Command of the C.O. arrived at Nicosia in the early hours of 15th February.

The Regiment had 72 hours in which to set up communications before G.O.C. 3 Division was to take over command.

Whilst this was adequate time, it required a big effort on everyone's part with work going on far into the night. The Regiment has an unusually small radio commitment being concerned only in controlling the island wide VHF net and establishing a Liaison Officers Net. **Our telegraph commitment was far greater with duplex secure circuits to the Comcen TRC at Episkopi, and simplex secure circuits to Zones and to the High Commissioner's Office. All these circuits have worked splendidly and have resulted in very swift handling of traffic.** Additionally the Headquarters is served by the Switchboard Operators in the 'Hell-Hole'; by Sergeant Brudenel and his linemen who endeavour to move telephones with the same rapidity as the subscribers move their offices; by the despatch riders who claim to have been shot at (no blood, no proof) and by the Comcen staff, the hub of the machine. This makes no mention of the technicians under our T.O.T. and and Foreman Langford. They have worked wonders and in between Sergeant Cordy has found time to produce sketches to keep us amused.

It was decided to increase the flexibility of Command by dividing the island into three zones. To give the necessary signal support the Regiment formed one zone signal troop under the command of Captain M. Y. Miller who, with Second-Lieutenant Chaddock and Staff Sergeant Burgess, went to Episkopi with H.Q. R.A. 3 Division to look after Western Zone. Eastern Zone was found from troops already on the island reinforced by the Regiment; while 216 Parachute Squadron looked after their own Brigade Headquarters in Nicosia. Liaison Officers were also appointed to the Greek and Turkish Army contingents and Tripartite patrols were formed to help solve

local problems on the spot. **The Regiment has provided the vehicles and wireless, plus the operators for the Liaison Officers and Tripartite Patrols and although the latter have had little rest in the last five weeks they find the job extremely interesting and would not wish to change it for the static shift work at Headquarters.**

The history of recent events has been more than adequately covered in the newspapers and no doubt on television. Once the U.N. Force was declared the concept of command also changed. The Zones with the exception of Nicosia Zone have been closed and H.Q. R.A. 3 Division with members of the Regiment, who have been made surplus, are shortly to return home. In the meantime H.Q. 3 Division has lost its name and with additional Staff Officers from Canada, Ireland, Sweden and Finland, H.Q. UNFICYP has been born under the command of Lieutenant-General Gyani, V.S.M., O.B.E., whilst our G.O.C., Major-General R. M. P. Carver, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., becomes Deputy Commander and Commander of the British contingent. Colonel J. W. Eagle, M.B.E., E.R.D., is C.S.O. at H.Q. UNFICYP—first British C.S.O. of a United Nations Force.

In the last few days the advance parties of the contributing nations have arrived and the Comcen has had its first messages in Finnish and Swedish. We are now becoming more international everyday and the telephone exchange answers with "H.Q. United Nations" because H.Q. UNFICYP is rather difficult to understand!

Our domestic life has been quiet up to now, but since communications are set up and working well, there is more time for other activities. The Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess is firmly established. They are throwing an opening night party soon and invitations have been made very welcome by all the Royal Signals units on the island and we would like to thank them for their help and generous hospitality. We are playing some sport and had a most exciting game of Rugby against 9th Regiment in which we just managed to scrape home. (In justice to 9th Regiment we must add that they found three star players for us). A leave camp has been established at Dhekelia and the Regiment has been allocated 10 places for each 3-day period. A change over of Comcen shift operators with 259 Squadron has been arranged so that some at least have a change of scene.

We would like to say farewell to Lieutenant-Colonel T. W. Baines, M.B.E., and to wish him well in his new appointment, and to congratulate Lieutenant-Colonel G. Proudman, M.B.E., on taking over command, with the wish and hope he has the whole Regiment under command in one place one day.

"United Nations now in force,
Stand up and shout "hurray"
If things do take their proper course
We may be home one day."

Graduation Day

At the All Arms Junior Leaders Regiment

By Major C. S. Galbraith, Royal Signals, O.C. "C" Company

BEFORE: From the barrack room comes a shriek of girlish laughter; a pretty face, framed in soft, blonde curls, peers through the window. Yet the step of the passing Warrant Officer does not falter. For this is Graduation Day and entire barrack blocks have been handed over to mothers, fathers, brothers and sisters of graduating Junior Leaders.

Since yesterday afternoon car after car has passed through the gates of Tonfanau Camp to halt under the massive sign "Reception." Here, in a gymnasium converted for the purpose, the weary traveller finds a canteen, rest room and information booth, plus helpful guides ready to lead the way to dining hall or sleeping accommodation. There, too, an immaculately turned-out Junior Leader is waiting to meet mum and dad and to show them round the training and hobbies displays in the same Reception building.

THE DAY: But now the visitors have had their high tea, a drink and a chat in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, a good night's sleep and a hearty breakfast. All eyes are fixed on the parade ground, where the main event of the day, the Graduation Parade, is about to start.

On parade is the Regiment, less Recruit Company, with



Major C. S. Galbraith with Junior R.S.M. Robson and other Royal Signals Graduates All Arms Junior Leaders Regiment, April 1964

graduates in front and training companies behind. Splendid in his isolations stands the parade commander, J/R.S.M. J. Robson, Royal Signals. For this is a Junior Leaders' parade and no adults take part. The different Regiments represented add a touch of colour not found in any other unit. Here, the red cap of a military policeman and the plain blue of a signalman may flank the yellow hackle of a Lancashire Fusilier. Here too, breaking the khaki ranks, may be seen the coloured trews of an infanteer from beyond "the tartan curtain."

The Parade Commander clears his throat and a shiny black staff car can be seen in the distance. With the arrival of Major-General D. L. Darling, D.S.O., M.C., G.O.C. Wales District, to take the salute, the parade can be said to have really started.

Inspection follows the general salute; then a moving moment as, with bared heads, the graduates repeat their oath of allegiance and receive the Chaplain's blessing. To the strains of "Auld Lang Syne," the graduates march past in slow time and then leave the square. The gap is quickly filled, for on comes Recruit Company, rough battledresses looking curiously old fashioned against the smooth barathea of the training companies. Finally, the march past, and the parade ground quickly empties.

Now, after a comforting cup of steaming coffee, parents join the Regiment in the spacious cinema. The Commandant, Colonel T. Lash, O.B.E., gives a resume of the term's activities and, to appreciative applause, the prizewinners collect their well-earned rewards. As usual, Royal Signals Junior Leaders carry off a fair proportion of the education prizes.

Lunch, provided by Lieutenant "Tim" Best, A.C.C., and his willing helpers, follows. All agree that it is up to luxury hotel standards. Then the exodus begins, for graduates are now permitted to drive home with their parents on the Saturday afternoon.

AND AFTER: A relaxed air is noticed about the Permanent Staff; the Junior Leaders work with a will, despite the departure of all the Junior Warrant Officers and most of the Sergeants. "Reception" becomes a gymnasium once again, and the parents' "spiders" revert to Junior Leaders accommodation. Graduation Day is over, but there is THREE WEEKS' LEAVE TO COME.

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Army Apprentices School Harrogate

COLOURFUL CIVIC CEREMONY — ARMY APPRENTICES SCHOOL IS "RE-ADOPTED"



The School Pipers leading the Massed Bands



Penney Squadron marching to the Royal Hall

HARROGATE

Perhaps the highlight of a very busy month was the renewal of adoption, on Wednesday, 11th March, of the School by the town of Harrogate, which, for some years, has stood in *loco parentis*.

After the School had marched to the Royal Hall, the colourful ceremony started with an Extraordinary Meeting of the Town Council. The Mayor and the Corporation, in full civic regalia, were seated on the stage, and approximately 900 apprentices, permanent staff and guests were in the body of the hall.

The Town Clerk opened the meeting by reading the Resolution of Adoption, which was first presented to Colonel J. P. Carne, V.C., in May, 1956. Further speeches were made by members of the Council, the Commandant, Colonel J. R. Piddington, O.B.E., M.C., the G.O.C., Yorkshire District, Major-General G. F. Upjohn, C.B.E. The Inspector of Boys' Training, Brigadier J. B. Ashworth, C.B.E., D.S.O., A.D.C., was also present.

After the ceremony, the School, preceded by the Massed Bands, the Drummers wearing the leopard skins presented to them by the Council, marched through the town; the Mayor of Harrogate, Councillor S. C. Tompkinson, took the salute. As prophesied by the Commandant, the weather was warm and sunny and contributed in no small way to the success of the occasion.

From 4th to 7th March we acted as hosts to Apprentices and Junior Leaders from almost every Boys' unit in the U.K. for the occasion of the finals of the Army Junior Boxing Championships. The Corps was represented by boxers from this School and from the Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Signals, but of the six that reached the finals, only one from the Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Signals, was successful.

Since the beginning of term School rugby has been badly affected by the weather, which has caused many matches to be cancelled. Consequently, last term's progress has not been maintained, which is a pity, for a wealth of new talent has come to light amongst apprentice tradesmen and permanent staff.

At one time we felt strong enough to take on the might of 8th Signal Regiment, who were kind enough to send their XV to Harrogate at short notice. We fielded a side of Apprentices and "Elders," which held 8th to 3—0 until the interval, by which time they had found our weaknesses. These they exploited to the tune of four tries, and we were entertained to some glorious open football, so obviously the result of hard training and intensive practice.

On Sunday morning, 8th March, we fielded an injury-struck team against a strong XV from the Harrogate Club. It was a splendid spirited game, which was lost 9—0. We also lost A/T Higgins with a broken ankle, and our dentist, Captain Eltringham with a damaged knee. The visitors were afterwards entertained to lunch (and in some cases tea) in the Officers' Mess.

Penney Squadron managed to reach the semi-final of the Army Youth Championships against "A" Company, A.A.S., Carlisle. The first match at Carlisle was a draw, but they lost the replay at Harrogate by the only score of the match, a dropped goal, which hit the bar and trickled over.

In that the barracks square is largely immune to Penney Pot weather, hockey has been little affected, and most fixtures have been fulfilled.

The Staff XI has achieved mixed results, largely due to the difficulty of fielding a regular side, but the apprentices have improved considerably, and have not been defeated to date this term. This achievement is the more noteworthy for the fact that several games have been played against good adult sides.

A new venture this term has been entry into six-a-side tournaments. At Welbeck College the School was defeated only by the eventual winners; in the North-Eastern School Tournament at Middlesbrough, on 14th March, we entered two teams. Team "A" played eight matches, lost only the final, but won their league; Team "B" played six matches, won five and drew one, but lost their league title on goal average.

H.Q. ROYAL SIGNALS, HONG KONG

As Major Connett remarked, "Nothing happens in Hong Kong but work!" This is not strictly true as he didn't break his wrist wielding his pen. Certainly there has been plenty to be getting on with. We have had several good exercises which has got everybody out and about. The amount of building and road works has, if anything, increased and our linemen have been very busy keeping our system going. There have been many changes in SWS procedures which has required constant attention.

Our main activity has again been on the Joint Service side. A high power Communications Rationalization Working Party has just supported our views on the further integration of facilities here and the establishment of one Joint Tape Relay Centre in the Colony. A two Service Army/Navy TRC is already due to commence this year. The Air Formation Troop has now disappeared as a separate entity and all R.A.F. commitments are now handled by the 'straight' Army side. As this is written H.M.S. *Centaur* is lying alongside at the Naval Base and several Joint exercises and other activities are scheduled.

Although the U.K. daily papers no longer mention it readers may be interested to know that water rationing is still very strictly in force. Since last June water has been supplied for three hours only, once every four days. A voluntary ration of 6½ gallons per head per day is imposed for all purposes which is not very much especially in the hot weather now coming. The water supply is still dependent on tankers bringing water from the Pearl River.

We are all still awaiting the results of the Review of Local Overseas Allowance. The cost of living has risen considerably over the last three years and we compare very badly with Singapore. Such is the penalty for being at the end of the line. However, in a place where every Signalman talks about single lens reflex cameras with directly coupled exposure meters and other technicalities, there are some compensations. This rainless winter has given many clear days for photography.

Readers may like to know that the radio illustrated in the February WIRE is now on 'standby' to a 53 set.

The Mohnesee 20 Years after The Dambusters

By Major J. L. Heard, Royal Signals

ALTHOUGH I have been in Lippstadt for over a year it was only the other Sunday afternoon that I actually walked across the top of the Mohne Dam.

Of course I had tried on previous occasions, but during the spring and summer it is very crowded and parking is impossible. I then had to content myself with driving over the narrow bridge below the dam to the 2150 h.p. hydro-electric power station on the south bank. From here one can see the whole face of the dam, 585 yards long and 110 feet high.

It was not hard to imagine the scene on the morning of the 17th May, 1943; the dam had a huge bite out of the centre section 100 yards long and 100 feet deep. Through it flowed a torrent of foaming water, the last of the 134 million tons of water released when the famous Dambusters made their attack. The flooded power station was also in ruins where Hopgood's bomb, dropped even though his Lancaster was blazing and about to crash, had skipped over the dam and fallen on the power house below.

A few miles downstream was the little Ruhr town of Neheim Houston, wrecked and flooded by the tidal wave of water 30 ft. high that had engulfed it in the early hours of the morning.

1,294 people were killed in the flood, more than 850 in Neheim Houston alone, but ironically 712 of these were slave workers and prisoners of war. It is said that many of these would have saved themselves had they run uphill instead of streaming down the riverside road in the path of the water.

The dam took nine months to rebuild and all this time the Ruhr industries were deprived of power from the dam, to say nothing of the many war factories flooded and paralysed for several monthhs. In the Battle of the Ruhr which followed there was not enough water to put out the fires.

Of course we also paid a price. Guy Gibson's 617 Squadron lost fifty-three men, all experienced aircrew. But then you must have read *The Dambusters* too.

When I first looked from the top of the dam over the lake I was unimpressed. I had somehow imagined that the Lancasters had a more difficult approach and that the hills were higher. But then I worked out the time and space problems and realised the skill, teamwork, and courage required to set a loaded Lancaster, flying at 285 m.p.h. on its bombing run, to the correct height of 60 ft., and release the bomb with the precision required, all this flying into the teeth of the flak from the twin towers. This was the supreme combination of scientific ability in Barnes-Wallis, who invented the bomb, and determination and bravery on the part of Gibson and his Squadron.

However, that was 20 years ago. The lake presents a far different picture today. All signs of the break in the dam have disappeared and the power house has been rebuilt. The dam and the lake are a popular place for weekend sightseers, both German and British, and in summer the lake is dotted with numerous sailing craft some of which come from the Officers' Sailing Club on the southern shore. Officer sailing enthusiasts come from all over B.A.O.R. to sail here and 22nd Regiment is very fortunate that it is so near.

More fortunate is the Commander of the Canadian Brigade whose Hill Top House overlooks the lake.

Sailing is not the only attraction. The lakeside is an ideal place for camping with sites within a few yards of the water.

Some Regiments hold their summer camps here and the steep wooden slopes are ideal for adventure training and hiking.

For the less adventurous there are numerous hotels bordering the lake and the usual tourist attractions. Even the towers on the dam, which once housed A.A. guns, now have gift shops selling shoddy articles emblazoned:—

"DER SHOENE MOHNESEE"

To every Britisher, however, the Mohnesee Dam will be remembered as one of the great disputed barricades which had to be taken—and was.

"This is your life" T.V. Programme revives Far East Wartime Memories

THE well known "This Is Your Life" TV programme on the 26th March featured a number of Corps personalities who were in the Far East during the Japanese invasion of Malaya.

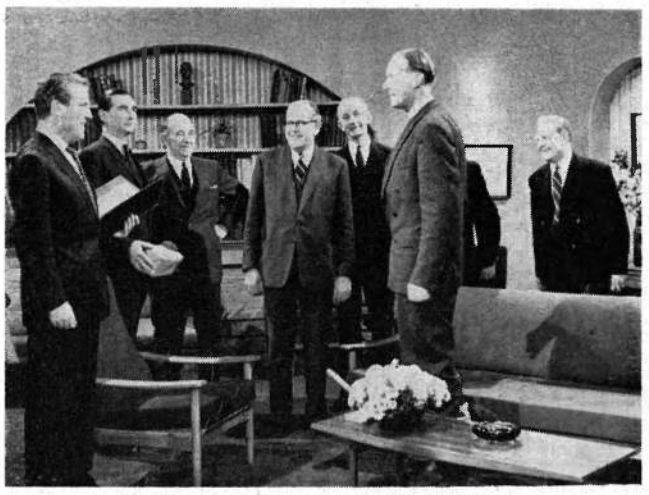
The actual programme centred round the Reverend Paul Burrough, M.B.E., late Captain and Adjutant of the 11th Indian Divisional Signals. Also in the programme were Captain H. Bristow, Captain Jock Moss, Major Eric Beaver, Captain S. A. Bygrave, R.S.M. Feltham and Signalman Drummond all of the same unit and all destined to fall into Japanese hands and become prisoners of war during the ill-fated Malayan campaign of 1942.

While most of the programme covered other aspects of Captain Burrough's life there was a portion allocated to his brave conduct as a P.O.W. in the wartime Corps and in one scene we find no less than seven ex-members of the Corps facing the cameras along with Eamon Andrews (see photograph).

Captain Bygrave, who took part, writes:—

> I was just one of the crowd in the background scenes, even so, we rehearsed from 5 o'clock for an hour and a half and again from 7 o'clock until a quarter to eight. This was long enough for one to realise the hard work involved in the putting on of a television show. In fact most of the staff and technicians had commenced working on this programme at half-past eight that morning.
>
> It was a great pleasure to meet and chat with such well-known radio and television personalities as John Snagge, Eamon Andrews, and the B.B.C. staff responsible for production and research. What a triumph of organisation they perform both in arranging the show and also in being very nice to their cast, or should I say guests, for that is how we were treated.
>
> Returning to the question of secrecy which is the highlight of this particular kind of programme, I asked the wife of our "Subject" how she had managed to keep the secret from her husband and for how long. She replied, "I have known for a week and it has been a week of stories, excuses and fabrications for which I can never hope to be forgiven, but it has been worth every moment of it."

Ex-Far East P.O.W.s may be interested to know that in the audience was that wizard manufacturer of secret radio sets—Tommy Douglas, ex-Malayan Command Signals and now B.B.C. engineer at Sutton Coldfield.



[*Courtesy: B.B.C.*

CORPS PERSONALITIES IN "THIS IS YOUR LIFE"

"A year's supply of coffee"—a reminder of the friendships gained during the terrible ordeal of Japanese prison.

With Eamon Andrews in the picture are, the subject Captain Paul Burrough and Captain Jock Moss, Captain Stanley Bygrave, Major Eric Beaver, Captain Harry Bristow, R.S.M. Feltham, Signalman Drummond, all of the 11th Indian Divisional Signals.

NOTES FROM MID-EAST

601 Signal Troop (Ship)



H.M.S. GURKHA

THE battle cry of the Brigade of Gurkhas is not only heard on land, but once again at sea, by 601 Troop (Ship).

During the 1950's the Admiralty decided there was a need for a general-purpose frigate for convoy escort, and for use as a maid-of-all-work in a localised war. The result was a vessel revolutionary in appearance, design, propulsion and living quarters. The third of these, Type 81 (Tribal Class) frigates has been named H.M.S. *Gurkha*. Just before Christmas last year, H.M.S. *Gurkha* arrived here in the Middle East to serve with the 9th Frigate Squadron.

In February of this year, 601 Signal Troop (Ship) embarked to carry out communications trials involving the use of Army portable sets on board. Should it be necessary for a Tribal Class Frigate to take the role of a Headquarters Ship in an operation, more radio sets would be required on board than those normally fitted. With this in mind, 601 Troop set about establishing themselves on the flag deck and enjoying the privilege of rigging their aerials from the ship's mainmast. Finding a suitable aerial and siting it so as to give the least interference with ship's aerials already rigged, was a very difficult problem. This problem, having been solved however, the Troop were able to establish communications and then take a proper look over the ship.

The ship's company consists of 16 officers and approximately 240 ratings. She has a standard displacement of 2,500 tons, is 350ft. in length, with a beam of 42ft. 6in. Of all-welded, prefabricated construction, her unusually clean streamlined appearance has been achieved by siting all possible deck equipment below decks. This uncluttered design greatly reduces contamination hazard should it prove necessary to steam through nuclear fall-out.

The armament of *Gurkha* includes two 4.5in. guns in single mountings (controlled by radar-operated fire control system), two 40 mm. guns, and anti-submarine mortars. She is fitted with the latest sonar (submarine detection) equipment, and a small Wasp helicopter, carried aft in a hangar, extends her anti-submarine capabilities even further. The radar and operations rooms are designed for the direction of helicopters, fighters and maritime aircraft.

The main propulsion of H.M.S. *Gurkha* is by steam turbine. For high speeds a gas turbine can be connected to the same shaft to supplement the steam, this is known as "boosting." The gas turbine can be brought into action at the touch of a button, and on its own, will enable the ship to manoeuvre and get under way without delay. All machinery is remotely controlled from an air-conditioned room.

As the title suggests, there is a liaison between the Brigade of Gurkhas and this, the fifth ship of the Royal Navy to be named after them. Field Marshal Viscount Slim and other serving and retired officers of the Brigade of Gurkhas were present at both the launching and commissioning ceremonies. The enduring history of the relationship between the ship and the Gurkhas is attested by the various presentation trophies which may be seen on board. The most striking of these presentations being a bronze replica of the Gurkha War Memorial. This statue was presented to the third Royal Navy ship to be named *Gurkha*, commissioning in 1938. It was put ashore at Malta in 1939, and has recently been refurbished before resuming its rightful place at sea in H.M.S. *Gurkha*.

You, too, can serve in the most modern ships in the Royal Navy, but remain in the Army. Just volunteer for a one-year tour with 601 Troop (Ship).

Royal Signals Sweep the Middle-East Corps Hockey

THIS picture of the Royal Signals Middle East hockey team is a tribute to the eleven who swept all before them in a Middle East Inter-Corps Hockey Tournament and came through victorious after having defeated, in turn, each of the opposing forces which were put against them. The team work and elan of these gallant members, and their sweated efforts under a fierce Middle Eastern sun beating down on the hard, sun-baked, salt-sandy hockey pitches will be long remembered.

Rear rank (left to right): Captain Peter Gregory of the Federal Regular Army Signal Squadron—team captain—Royal Signals hockey representative in the Middle East—member of the Middle East Combined Services hockey team. A bulwark of a sound defence and with a notable flick action which sets the ball flying viciously at ear level.

Staff Sergeant Reg Brown—has played for the Middle East Army team, and when not abroad with his stick, makes a full contribution to the local desert "bumf war" as O.R.S.Q.M.S. 254 Squadron (record so far, 540lb. of "bumf" in one week).

Lance-Corporal George Cook, whose "cack-handed" style confounds umpires and opposing teams alike—some remarkable performances.

Captain Jimmy Walmesley, of 222 Squadron—played also for the Middle East Combined Services Team—a polished stroke player and invincible centre-half—also an Army cricketer.

Major Arthur Pritchard of 222 Squadron—the wily bird of the team with a keen sense of position—always there to block the break-through or snap the ball away from anyone unwise enough to over-stretch so much as a few inches.

Captain Peter Goldney, who pilots light aircraft through the cruel mountains near the Yemen border and dodges the flying bullets of sporting tribesmen. A hawkeye on the hockey field, too, and at left-half contributes much to the strength of the team in defence and attack.

Front rank: Signalman Dick McNally—a terrific turn of speed on the right wing and author of many a wicked and cracking centre.

Corporal Geoff Dewhurst—also of the Combined Services



hockey team—cuts a fine figure in goal in his vivid orange fluorescent sweat shirt. It takes a lot to put one past Geoff. He should pioneer a new game—soccer played with a hockey ball.

S.S.M. Des Eldridge, of 254 Squadron. Team manager and a product of the hard Indian school of hockey. Wrongly accused of using a magnetic hockey stick. Regrettably crocked and unable to play.

Sergeant Charlie Wickham—newly arrived in 254 Squadron —great reserves of energy and vigour, which belie the thin-on-top cut. Arrived with very large whiskers, which wilted in the heat and had to be removed.

Signalman Brian Andrews, bravely took on what is surely the most difficult position in any sport—left-wing at hockey.

Well done the team! You upheld the honour and glory of the Corps in fine style. Keep at it, for there are more honours to be won.

CORPORAL MALCALM RICHARD DAVIES

Corporal Davies, a Telegraph Operator, serving with the Federal Regular Army Signal Squadron, was attached to 4th Battalion F.R.A. during the recent operations against dissident tribesmen astride the Lahej-Dhala road in the Federation of Southern Arabia.

On Friday, 3rd April, 1964, following a report that four hand grenades had been found hidden under rocks which were placed to block the road, he volunteered to go out with a Land Rover to assist in road clearing operations. His vehicle hit a land mine and he was killed instantly.

Corporal Davies was in the Junior Leaders Regiment from 1957 to 1959, and after a short spell in Malaya, he joined the Aden Protectorate Levies in 1960. On arrival in the Levies, he was posted up-country as one of the Battalion Commander's operators. During this time he travelled the length and breadth of the Western Aden Protectorate, learning the customs and language of the Arabs. Having handed these duties over to an Arab N.C.O., he spent some time instructing in the Signals Training School. He was, however, much happier when serving up-country on operations, and living under the most difficult and arduous conditions.

During his tour with the Force he earned the respect of both British and Arab ranks with whom he worked.

With his death, in action, at the age of twenty-three, the Corps has lost a fine soldier, whose courage and resolution will serve as an inspiration to all. Our deepest sympathy is extended to his family and relations.

Reference the unnusual photograph in the March WIRE depicting "the day it froze in Bahrain" (255 Squadron notes), THE WIRE points out that this was by kind courtesy of BAPCO PR who were responsible for the original.

3rd H.Q. and REGIMENT

Winter Holidays. On hearing that the snow was only on the shady side of the Hochgerbirge this year, we decided on Cyprus. Unfortunately this coincided with a domestic tiff between the Turks and the Greeks, which was all rather tiresome but fortuitous perhaps, in that we could help keep the peace. Or are we kidding? They really don't care for one another out there.

Our Second-in-Command, Major Proudman, flitted backward and forward between Cyprus and home, heavily disguised as part of a recce party, and in the process contrived to do without a bed to sleep in for four nights running, and did no good to his eardrums. (They were touchingly described as like "ripe plums"—charming!)

However, when we went out we reaped the benefit of his work and that of our Camp Commandant, Major Evans, South Wales Borderers, who remained behind from the recce party. Our quarters and communications were soon set up with the ready help of the C.S.O. Cyprus and C.A.F.S.O. H.Q. N.E.A.F. and their menly men.

The C.O. was very pleased to go out on a 'proper job' before handing over command. Having waved goodbye to so many of the Regiment, despatched to all parts of the world, the Regiment was now doing something as a whole, or a fair part of it, something operational and not just an exercise.

I must say we did rather care for "Walls, solid, lean-against-able." Properly, of course, we should have thrust out our chests and demanded flapping tents, clouds of dust and distant desert vistas. Shame on us. We revelled in the solid walls, the glass windows, doors and all that jazz, and greater shame still, our grim and stalwart soldiering, unprovoked, brought out paint and brushes 'to do the place up.' Paint—I ask you?

Working Holiday. We inherited a wonderful main radio net from our overworked predecessors, and added the C43 to our repetoire. By coupling the C42/C43 sets together at the re-broadcast station, 262 Squadron did a neat job and left us a splendid net of some twenty-odd outstations.

Normally we depend almost entirely on radio, but this time we have been thinking more an radio-relay, and finding it most interesting to be part of the excellent Army and R.A.F. island system.

Real Holiday. There wasn't much spare time to begin with in the early days, but as things became established we were able to get out and about a little, and see just a little of the "Island of Love." (It may have had something in its day for Richard the Lionheart and Berengara whom he married near Limassol, but the message has got lost somewhere along the line.)

A Good Club, Royal Signals. We managed to send parties to 9th Regiment and 262 Squadron. Both were most kind and hospitable, and we would pay tribute to them and thank them most sincerely. We like the story of our Black Watch Defence Platoon cornering Colonel Don Fairman, to tell him how much they appreciated their visit. The Black Jocks were well lubricated, and as the Colonel only speaks English—Well?

No Holiday. The situation on the island is of course extremely serious. The whole island, outside the Sovereign Base Areas, is often enough outwardly calm and peaceful, but there is tension in the air, and the scene is that of sandbagged strongpoints, kidnappings, searches, sudden fire and killings. A sombre picture. Our troops on patrol have an immense task in trying to keep the peace—often finding themselves literally between two groups of highly emotional people—only too well armed.

Meanwhile, work goes on for the small rear party in Bulford, and such is no enviable task. Guards and duties coming round far too frequently, and domestic problems with many families now left stranded. However, our worries would only sound trivial to those overseas, and it is to them that the bulk of our notes must be devoted.

All that remains is to wish them good luck, and to hope for a speedy return to their native land, to be reunited with their families—and re-form again the 3rd Regiment.



Major-General R. M. P. Carver, C.B., D.S.O., M.C., G.O.C. 3rd Division with Lieutenant-General Prem Singh Gyani, the U.N. Force Commander



4th Regiment

Meritorious Service Certificate being presented to Herr Kendziorski, 29 February, 1964

4th REGIMENT, B.F.P.O. 15

The Regiment is busy, as no doubt are all other units in B.A.O.R., preparing for the rapidly approaching training season. Rarely does a day pass when Cookers Portable No. 1 Burners, Barrows Drum WD Mk II, Flags distinguishing convoy yellow, or some other highly technical piece of equipment is not due for inspection. We trust that the end product will be good communications!

Running parallel to this has been the feverish activity in the evenings of the vast number of men on upgrading courses, doing last minute swotting before their tests. In addition there has been a general sprucing up in preparation for a farewell parade to our Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel P. E. Hutchins.

In the realms of sport we have fared well, though have failed to gain the grand accolades. The hockey team reached the fourth round of the Army Cup having beaten our old rivals down the road, 7th Regiment, by 2—0 in a fast and exciting game. They then met 14th Regiment, R.A., and unfortunately lost 3—2. The basketball team have won several good matches only to be beaten in the semi-final of the Divisional Championship by the eventual winners, The Lancashire Regiment.

The birth-rate amongst wives in the Regiment seems to be as high as ever though potential recruits for the Corps seem lacking. The R.S.M. has just been presented with a third daughter by his wife and Captain Gamble with a second.

We cannot close without mention of two German civilians who work in the Barracks, and who were presented with Meritorious Service Certificates by the Commanding Officer on his farewell parade. Herr Kendziorski has been in the Unit Pay Office since 1951 and prior to that was with NAAFI. Herr Eichhorn has had a somewhat more chequered career. In 1945 he was was an Ordnance Vehicle Park in Herford. He then went to a Naval Unit but returned to Herford to work with the CCG. In 1951 he moved into our own Barracks and has since been a valuable member of the LAD. The photograph shows Herr Kendziorski receiving his certificate with Herr Eichhorn on his right.

7th REGIMENT, B.F.P.O. 15

The Regiment Says Farewell to a Popular C.O.

In like a lamb out like a lion.—Please excuse the poetic licence, but that, for this Regiment, sums up our March activities. Early in the month we were quietly bringing to a close the individual training season. Military proficiency courses were finishing, if not triumphantly, then at least on a loud note. B2 candidates of all trades were discovering that there was one tool common to them all—the pen. To most of them it appeared unfamiliar. Long-lost members of the Regiment were quietly returning from courses in other units and other lands.

Suddenly the tempo changed. Signalmen Pearson and McGarva were placed on five days' notice for foreign parts. True to normal staff practice, they left the Regiment with four days of their original five days' notice still to run. Others stood by. Almost immediately Corporal Knowles and his medical orderlies were everywhere. No one escaped, the over-35 rule was over-ruled. In a matter of hours the Adjutant could honestly say that the Regiment's inoculation state was up-to-date.

Take Your Likeness, Sir. We were just taking our second breath when the J. Arthur Rank empire descended upon us. They apparently were making a film about Royal Signals and, not unreasonably, wanted to film various signal units, of whom we were one. It sounds very simple, but it does not work out quite as simply as that. Ask the various subalterns who dealt with the weather, the local Forstmeisters, hairs on lenses and two directors, not to mention the Military Supervising Officer. We hope they enjoyed their stay. The film promises to star newly-appointed W.O.I (Yeoman) Bees, to whom we offer our congratulations.

90 and over, to win a prize. **On Saturday, 21st March, we won the Rhine Army Small Bore Championship for the first time. We have had several near misses in this competition, and it was fitting that we should win it on Lieutenant-Colonel Clarkson's final appearance.**



Lieutenant-Colonel F. L. Clarkson, M.B.E., with Sergeant A. McCabe on his dining-out by the W.O.s and Sergeants' Mess

A few hints on how these things are done might be helpful to others. First, you must have a Commanding Officer who shoots and who is just about to leave the Regiment. Second, you must arrange for him, and half the team, to attend his dining-out from the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess the night before the competition. This guarantees that the C.O. and the other half of the team will return from the first day's shoot feeling pretty low and not at all in the mood for another dining-out night, this time in the Officers' Mess.

However, on arrival at the Mess, the P.M.C. is then able to tell the C.O. that his team is lying second, only six points in arrears. You are now set for a first-class dining-out night, during which it will be noted that the C.O. remained at the helm (see photo). Your shooting team arrives next day, takes a quick hair of the dog to remove the unwanted targets which have been permanently in view since the dinner night ended. The team then lifts the trophy. Everybody then returns home, attends a Wives' Club dance and wallows in champagne.



The Commanding Officer leaving the Officers Mess

Wet Cam Net Blues.—Straight from these celebrations, the C.O. led the Regiment out on its first sizeable exercise of the year. All ranks revelled in it. A number of lessons were learned, particularly by those tradesmen newly arrived from the Training Brigade, who very soon realised how elementary their knowledge was. The last day was magnificent, it rained and rained and rained. The newcomers said what a pity it was that a good exercise was being spoiled by rain. The old hands yelled "whacko," or some similar hairy expression, and said thank goodness at last it was an exercise. But nobody really likes wet cam nets. Our many thanks to our sister regiments who exercised with us, particularly the one keen to get home. Without you we cannot work.

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A Soldier's Farewell. The day after the scheme a cocktail party in the Officers' Mess concluded the farewell festivities to the C.O. and Mrs. Clarkson. We like to feel this was the only occasion during his tour in command that the officers were one jump ahead. To you both we send thanks from all ranks, their wives and their children for a happy two years, for your many kindnesses and your understanding guidance.

Our best wishes, too, to Captain and Mrs. Pendock, off to sunny Singapore; to Corporal and Mrs. Cork, he to Borneo; to Corporal and Mrs. Kerr, to Catterick; Sergeant and Mrs. Connery, he to Borneo; Sergeant and Mrs. Bastow, to Cyprus; Sergeant Cunningham, to 4th Regiment, and Sergeant Clemson to T.A.

Welcome.—To Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. Davies, the Regiment bids you welcome and wishes you every happiness and success. We also welcome Major and Mrs. Ward, from the War Office; Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) and Mrs. Armitage, he to become our 'tele' man; Staff Sergeant and Mrs. Jones from the Far East; and Sergeant and Mrs. Brodie, from Cyprus.

Finally, to all our friends on the staff, in the War, er, Ministry of, er, in Whitehall: "Bruin" to you, too.

8th REGIMENT

Once again the 8th of Foot has been to war, this time as part of the hunter force in Exercise "March Hare II." Two hundred and eighty men were dropped on a Friday night in an area thirty miles west of Scarborough, with a view to reaching rendezvous on the East Coast by eight o'clock on the Sunday morning. Unfortunately for us, our area of responsibility included some of the most exposed parts of the North Yorkshire Moors, and the first night turned out to be one of the coldest of the winter, with two snowstorms and sub-zero temperatures thrown in for good measure. Early on the Saturday morning the Regiment retired to a second operating line where conditions were a little better. As darkness fell on the Saturday night, the evader force began to bump our line with increasingly regularity and many incidents took place as prisoners were brought in. One such incident nearly wrote off our R.S.M. and an unknown paratrooper who, on attempting to make a break for it in the darkness received a full-blooded Welsh rugby tackle, whereby the pair of them disappeared down the slope of what can best be described as a small ravine. Fortunately a tree broke their fall, and we still have an R.S.M. Contrary to reports in the national Press, the exercise was far from being a victory for the evader force, as only twenty-three out of nearly three hundred actually got to their rendezvous on time, while one hundred and two were captured. Our photograph shows how conditions varied from sector to sector, with one Platoon H.Q. fairly comfortably established in the shelter of a public house and outbuildings and another huddled in a gulley, World War I style.

Since "March Hare" the Regiment have co-operated with the 3rd Royal Tank Regiment by acting as a hunter force with a view to rounding up tank crews moving across country on foot, carrying an assorted variety of heavy chains and spanners as part of their training programme. Readers will now realise why in our spart time we are called the 8th of Foot.

Just in case our readers should think the Regiment does nothing but go on exercises, the case of Lance-Corporal Bamforth is well worth mentioning. Bamforth left the Regiment as a Class I Radio Technician only nineteen weeks after commencing training as a Class III tradesman—a record. Bamforth's civilian qualifications (a Higher National Diploma in Electrical Engineering) and experience enabled him to be the first man in the Corps to achieve this. May he not be the last.



◀ Tonry's Own Regiment of Foot in Camp

Sandes Soldiers' Home



18th REGIMENT, c/o G.P.O. SINGAPORE

Are you likely to be posted to the Far East, to Malaya or Singapore, or the Borneo Territories? If so, we feel that we who are already here should bring to your attention the fact that in Singapore a voluntary organisation runs what is probably the best and most comfortable Leave Home for the Army anywhere in the world. When you are sent on a fortnight's leave from the jungles in Sarawak, try booking in at the Singapore Sandes Soldiers' Home.

In 1870 Elise Sandes was nineteen years old, she lived in Ireland and had a burning desire to do something worthwhile with her life. But what could she do? A friend had written to her asking her to look after a young soldier from the 89th Regiment, stationed nearby. She persuaded her mother to let him come around one evening. The following week he brought a friend with him; before very long Elise had so many soldiers coming to her home that she had to borrow a hall to entertain them all.

This was the start of the Sandes Homes. They are completely independent from the Army, except that you will find them set up wherever the Army goes, simply because their aim is to provide a "home from home." The idea is to provide a place where a soldier can rest and relax and live the life that he wants to lead.

Here in Singapore the home is a beautiful modern set of buildings sitting in the heart of the Army area in Portsdown Road. Whether you go for a quick swim, or for a day, or even a week's leave, you will find that you are just as welcome. The home stands in seven acres of grounds, possessing the best swimming pool for the use of the Army in Singapore; a putting green, games room, library and billiards room. They also have a lounge, quiet room, restaurant and tennis court.

Beginning to feel like staying there already? Fancy a lie in; breakfast is served anytime between 8.15 a.m. and 11.45 a.m. Maybe you want to get up early—morning tea will be brought to you at 6.15 a.m., giving you time for a swim before breakfast; the pool is only 20 yards from your room. Lunch is between 12 and 2 p.m. Afternoon tea (English style) at 4 p.m. and dinner from 4.45 p.m. until 9.30 p.m. All these facilities, plus a room which you can share with one or two of your friends, will cost you just $5 a day, hardly more than the ration allowance you get when you go on leave.

Mr. Perrott, the man you will come to regard as your "Dad" in this, your second home, knows just what you want. He has been helping to run Sandes Homes all over the world since 1924; he has spent five years in the West Indies, 13 years in India, and for the last 15 years he has been in Singapore. He and Miss Symes have looked after the Singapore Sandes Home since it was first built in 1949.

This is a voluntary organisation. You may well ask where the money comes from; not from the Army; the home even pays for the water in the swimming pool, and the electricity that it uses. The buildings were built from the money which was obtained when the eight homes in India were sold to the Indian Government. The maintenance is done by Mr. Perrott himself with what money he can get, when he can get it. As for the future, he and all the other members of Sandes Homes put their trust in God.

Highlights from 11th Regiment (Depot)









(Top): Mess Dinner Night, 13th March, 1963. Warrant Officers and Sergeants Mess

(Bottom left): W.O.II Mercer and Signalman Edwards run out of snow and in difficulties

(Bottom centre): Some of the party about to depart for a day on the slopes. *Left to right:* W.O.II Mercer, Signalman Blakemore, Signalman Edwards, Private Whalley, Lieutenant Scarff, W.O.II Cushen, Signalman Farmery, Signalman McGuirk. *Not shown:* Lance-Corporal Utting, Corporal Bayne. (Bottom right): "Snow was scarce" this was the largest patch

Sergeants' Mess

The beginning of March found the Mess invaded by a vast number of Regimental Sergeant Majors of the Corps who were guests of the Regiment whilst attending the 1964 R.S.M.s' Convention. The majority arrived on Sunday, 8th March, and by the time they left us on the Wednesday morning, the bar stocks were considerably depleted.

Having taken a deep breath, a Mess dinner was then held on 13th March. Among the guests was the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel T. G. H. Jackson, M.B.E., Second-in Command and Chief Instructor, Major M. L. Willway, Adjutant, Captain M. E. Bradbury, plus a number of the Regimental Sergeant Majors from units other than Royal Signals in the Garrison. After the dinner, Colour Sergeant Howarth, Royal Marines, presented a Royal Marine Plaque to the Mess on behalf of himself and the other Royal Marine Instructors who have already left the Regiment. Colour Sergeant Howarth was then himself presented with a farewell gift, as he leaves us this month.

As a sequel to the R.S.M.s' Convention, during the social evening held on 21st March, R.S.M. A. E. T. Bosten, 50th Regiment (T.A.), on behalf of himself and the other Regimental Sergeants Majors who attended the Convention, presented the Mess with a silver bowl in appreciation of the hospitality shown to them.

Ski-ing

In February, despite the mild winter we were then having, a party of would-be enthusiasts left for a week's ski-ing at Rothiemurchus in the Cairngorms.

Arriving at the Services' Hut, all we could see were a few grey patches high up on Cairngorm itself. This may have daunted the veterans of the party, but not the learners, who were all for "having a go" there and then.

Next day we saw just how scarce the snow was, being only about half-a-dozen large patches remaining in the gullies; each one having its own resident ski-school. Fortunately for us another military party had just vacated their patch to have coffee in a nearby hut. A take-over bid was made and we had some snow; lessons began immediately.

After three days of thaw, frost, and the odd shower of rain, the patches had shrunk by half, and the snow was like cold rice pudding. Every grey cloud which passed was pleaded with. Lieutenant Scarff said he knew a fellow called Odin and would have to have a few words with him.

They must have been good friends, because that night we had a blizzard.

Motor Sports Club

Up the Rebels.—A sudden increase in the trading profits of several of the leading brewery companies at the end of February has left officials of the Board of Trade and leading stockbrokers puzzled. I am now in a position to reveal the reason for this.

It was due to the treasure hunt organised by the Motor Sports Club of 11th Regiment, otherwise known as the Simms-Reeve Irregulars.

Competitors were despatched to discover, from fiendishly-worded clues, various places in the nothern half of Yorkshire, and then to visit them. Whilst they were doing this they had to acquire several everday objects, such as an earthworm, a candle, a crust of bread, a 1961 penny, some river water with weed in it.

After a scrutiny from the organiser that made positive vetting seem childishly easy, car number 4823WU set off.

The first stop was, naturally, an inn, where we worked out the clues, sank a jar of ale, and managed to find a friend of one of the crew who was prepared to supply us with most of the objects on our list. (It was only later that we discovered what this cost him. His family found him in the garden digging for worms by the light of a candle, and when they asked why he was doing it, he replied: "For a friend." They nearly sent for a doctor).

Meanwhile, The Rebels (for so we had been dubbed by the organiser—legal action is pending) were visiting the various points on the course, stopping from time to time at hostelries to check our bearings and slake our thirsts.

Time, words and the Editor, fail me to tell you of all our adventures, suffice it to say that we were eventually placed second, a feat which was celebrated in traditional style. (Ever tried drinking beer from a credit voucher?) The conclusion of a splendid evening was a wonderful curry supper. Truly a good time was had by all.

P.S.—We think we really won, as the winning car had a T.T. crew.

11th REGIMENT *(continued)*

Best Recruits

Passing off as best recruit on 13th March was Signalman George Douglas, aged 17½, of 11, Sinclair Drive, Wick, Caithness. A product of Wick High School and the A.T.C., where he served for a year, he was employed as a porter on long distance furniture removals before coming into the Army. His father served in the Royal Navy during the war and his brother is now following in his father's footsteps. Athletics and swimming are his main sports, and he collects stamps and birds eggs during his spare time. After his grounding in the A.T.C. his ambition is to become a pilot in the A.A.C. He is now being trained as a Special Operator with 224 Squadron.



Signalman G. Douglas

Best recruit passing off on 25th March was Signalman James Hackett, aged 17½, of 39, Revesby Avenue, Boston, Lincs., out of an intake of over 90 recruits. When he left Kitwood Boys' School, Boston, he worked as a fireman on British Railways, but this was only a fill-in job before joining the Army. His original intention was to join the Junior Leaders Regiment, but his parents were not keen on the idea, so he served with the Light Movement Squadron, R.E. (T.A.) for two years in Lincoln, where he was No. 3 on a searchlight. His brother, Sidney, has served in the Royal Marines for 15 years and is now a Corporal in Portsmouth. His main sports are football and cricket, in which he represented British Railways. He also plays hockey and is keen on cycling. He is particularly keen on a posting to Singapore, where his brother has served and who recommends it. He goes forward for training as a Comcentre Operator with 24th Regiment.



Signalman J. Hackett

Overseas Recruits

In the recent past there has been a pleasing influx of recruits from abroad, mainly from the West Indies. A typical example is Signalman Keith Cooper, aged 25, who hails from St. Lucia, and who passed out on 13th March. He was educated in St. Mary's College, Castries, St. Lucia, and served as an Infantry Private in Jamaica with the West Indies Regiment from 1959-1961, before coming to this country. He worked as a postman in London and Peterborough before joining the Corps. His brother served in the R.A.F. for five years and left in 1963. He is a very keen athlete, particularly in the pole vault, where he has cleared 12ft. 6in. His other interests in the sporting field are cricket and tennis. He enjoys travelling around the world and his ambition is to get to the top of his trade. He is now training as a Staff Operator with 24th Regiment.



Signalman K. Cooper

Canoeing

After many mysterious comings and goings, in all kinds of weather, Lieutenant T. B. Scarff (11th Regiment) and Lieutenant J. J. Cullen (School of Signals) finally departed for the annual Devizes to Westminster Canoe Race. According to what they say, this is the original canoeists nightmare. On going to press, all we know is that they finished the course in an unofficial time of 29½ hours. This works out at an average speed of over 4 m.p.h. It is believed that a Royal Marine crew won the race in about 22 hours. If all their hair-raising tales are true, then we look forward to the article on the race in next month's issue.

17th REGIMENT

Gurkha Soldier Becomes "Radio Ham"

Captain Livingstone Finds 'Bus Travel In Nepal Exciting

This month we draw your attention to two rather unusual activities, unusual, that is, for the people concerned.

Many soldiers of Royal Signals are amateur radio operators. Lance-Corporal Tikaram Gurung is probably the first Gurkha soldier to be calling CQ on the 15 metre and 20 metre bands. In company with two or three British members, Lance-Corporal Tikaram operates the Regiment's modified ET 4336 transmitter. For those who want a collector's piece, give a call to 9M2SR some time.

You know that feeling of relaxation that steals over you when, after a hard day's tramp in the countryside, you catch the 'bus for home? Read this account by Captain T. C. Livingstone, who has recently returned to the Regiment after a month in Nepal.

After spending the night on the verandah of the house of a self-styled communist in Chatra, we rose in time to book seats on the first 'bus to the Depot in Dharan. This was after twenty days of trekking in the hills of Nepal. Although I found little difficulty during the walk, the thought of sitting in a 'bus and speeding luxuriously along on the final lap was rather appealing.

W.O II Tilokbahadur was my guide and protector. He fulfilled his duties very effectively except when an angry Bhojpur bull attacked us. The Sergeant-Major, under cover of my person, fled. I turned round and started my retreat. What I did was to fling myself over a 10ft. drop, which surprised the bull only a little less than it surprised me. Anyway, on this morning Tilokbahadur did not fail in his duties. He booked two of the best seats on the 'bus. I suspect he was just as pleased as I was that the walking was over. As the 'buses do not move until crammed with humanity, we returned to the tea stall, where we could watch the proceedings. In due course the driver decided that he could not squeeze another body into the unreserved portion and so called the wealthier passengers to their allotted places.

There were two rows of reserved seats; we were in the second, right behind the driver. Three passengers sat on the driver's right and one, a young boy, on his left. The space for my big feet (size seven and-a-half) was so limited that I had to splay them out at forty-five degrees to put them on the floor. A beam of wood across the back of the driver's seat securely clamped my knees, once I was seated. With all possibility of movement gone, you can imagine the agony that began to be felt as time went by.

The 'bus was a converted Dodge one-ton truck. The windscreen consisted of three jagged splinters of glass and a hole. The body was held together by great strips of iron bent to various shapes and angles and secured by enormous bolts. The dashboard displayed several switches and holes cut, presumably, to accommodate the latest modifications. The windows were without glass and so low that I could only see out by bending forward. In this position I rather greedily inhaled more than my share of the exhaust fumes, which appeared to ignore the more usual exit from the engine.

Everyone was now in his place, including the driver, in whom we unreservedly put our faith. We all know how complicated and delicate is the mechanism of a 'bus, especially one of wartime vintage. But the company thoughtfully provided a mechanic to accompany the driver. This obviously experienced lad inserted the starting handle and, on receiving the appropriate command, wound us up. To my amazement the engine roared to life and then settled down to sound like a one-cylinder tractor.

The driver, with a nonchalant sweep of his hand, tried to engage first gear. He failed. A second try also failed. All nonchalance now gone, he grimaced, grabbed hold of the knobless lever with both hands and lunged it forward, this time successfully. We then shot forward and very quickly were travelling at five miles per hour. At this speed we were treated to a further display of gear changing, this time with one hand. We were now racing along the dusty track at eight miles per hour. At this point the driver gave a great rasping blast on his hand horn. As there was nothing in sight, I think this must have been in celebration of our mobility. We were now having a fairly good run at a downhill slope, so the driver slid smoothly into third gear (by now things were well heated up and working well). The engine, however, faltered, unable it seemed, to cope with the load. However, the day was saved by a slick change back to second.

I was now impressed by the driver's road safety sense. To our left, fifty yards away, I noticed two bullock carts moving parallel to us in the opposite direction. Several loud blasts on the horn were delivered to ensure these carts did not dash carelessly in front of us.

We now stopped at a group of six houses. The driver then collected the fares. This took some time as he could not be quite sure that some people were not trying to avoid paying by hiding underneath the other passengers. Finally, however, he appeared satisfied and climbed back into his seat, clutching in one hand a bundle of paper money, part Nepalese and part Indian, and in the other a similar mixture of coins. A quick glance at these was enough to tell him that he was four annas short. Someone obviously agreed with him, for the missing annas floated up from the middle of the 'bus.

The driver was ready, the mechanic poised to swing the engine when a voice cried out "Tea." The driver leaped down to receive this. Having our welfare truly at heart, however, he quickened his consumption of this hot drink by swilling it from one glass to another, thereby cooling it more rapidly. All the time he was smiling beneficently at us. Once the glasses were empty we started off again.

Another attempt at using third gear failed. I had the impression by now that he regulated our speed by dipping his clutch rather than by use of the accelerator.

Now we were treated to a very tricky piece of driving skill. Another 'bus appeared, coming towards us. The road, which was unmetalled, was about one and-a-half 'bus widths broad and the plain on either side of the road was several miles wide. Our driver, being, as I said, road safety conscious, grabbed the boy on the left by the collar and pulled his face right up to his own. Together they watched the other 'bus's progress until it finally stopped ten yards away. I suppose he worked on the principle that four eyes are better than two. Our driver then edged carefully to the left but, not quite reaching the desired target, reversed, and this time succeeded in negotiating the two-inch high edge of the road. The other 'bus departed and we swallowed the dust. Instead of driving forward on to the road we reversed on to it. This was probably in order to demonstrate the extreme versatility of both men and machine. We then continued uninterrupted for a time.

Suddenly all was switched off. The driver hurriedlly inspected the four wheels then threw the offside engine cover open. The well-drilled mechanic was there with an assortment of spanners and screwdrivers. With reassuring nods and learned smiles at the passengers, the driver probed about. He then switched his attention to the other side of the engine. At last satisfied, but in my opinion, having done nothing, he returned to his place, leaving the mechanic to tidy up. Although he did nothing to the engine, he probably put on this demonstration to emphasise to all that should some emergency arise, we were in capable, technical hands. The engine was once more cranked and we set off.

The driver suddenly bent right forward, almost double, and appeared to be looking straight up into the sky. Although I tied myself in various knots, I was unable to share his view of what ever it was that had caught his eye. It was several minutes before I realised that he was looking into a shaving mirror hanging amongst various photographs above his head. I then realised he was observing the passengers' looks of satisfaction at his competence. I felt, however, that he had neglected his road safety rules a little; it would have been better to use one hand to adjust the mirror to suit his eye rather than lose all sight of the road by bending double and raising his eyes heaven-wards.

He then engaged the boy on his left in an animated conversation. However, being sociable, and feeling the need to mix with his passengers, he turned round to share the conversation with others. He then saw me, and I read in his face: "Oh God, a foreigner." He then returned his attention to the road.

Having by now entered Dharan, he really put on speed and we reached at least 15 miles per hour. I could tell the townsfolk were very impressed by this, judging by the way they leaped nimbly out of our path. Suddenly we served violently to the right, straight at the only concrete building in view. I thought this was probably the normal method of bringing the 'bus to rest. I was wrong. Inches away, he stamped on the brake and we stopped dead. The result was just as if we had hit the house. Our journey was finished.

21st REGIMENT, B.F.P.O. 43

March has seen the end of our winter training programme with the completion of the second Lineman BIII-BII and Driver, Royal Signals, BIII-BII courses. The second phase of our inter-Troop sporting knockout competitions has also ended with "D" Troop winning both the basketball and hockey competitions and being runners-up to "L" Troop in the seven-a-side rugger. Sergeant Richardson's Troop are to be congratulated on their success and tremendous enthusiasm which more than made up for a lack of skill.

The seven-a-side competition caused great excitement, and during extra time in the final game, the spectators were encroaching on the pitch in their feverish enthusiasm as they cheered their Troop/Squadron on to greater efforts.

March has seen the end of any possible financial gain there may have been in a posting to Germany for married personnel, for with the much-vaunted 7½% increase in pay all liable to tax, a 25% cut in L.O.A., which was tax free, has taken place; as yet we have not been able to find out the way in which the financiers worked out their figures.

Association Football. The Regimental side has had its best season ever, winning the Rhine Area Minor Units Knockout Cup, for the second year running, and reaching the final of the B.A.O.R. Minor Units Challenge Cup, the semi-final of the Rhine Area Units Knockout Cup and taking third place in Division II of the Rhine Area League.

Stalwarts of the side throughout the season have been Corporal Cosshall (capt.), Sergeant Ferguson, Corporals Woods, Pratt and Sanders, Signalmen Downie, Wood, Walker, Rowlands and Glendinning; the trials and tribulations of goalkeeping have been shared by Sergeants Snow and Singleton and Signalman Weatherilt.

The high-spot of the season was the visit to Berlin on 3rd March to play 247 (Berlin) Provost Company in the semi-final of the B.A.O.R. Minor Units Knockout. The teams were so evenly match that no result could be obtained at the end of extra time, and it was necessary to stay another day before we finally squeezed home. The hospitality provided by Major Runacres and his Company was of the best Berlin tradition.

The Regiment looks to even better results next year, for all being well, seven of the team will still be here.

Births. The Regiment is delighted to congratulate Corporal and Mrs. H. Wrigglesworth on the birth of son, and W.O.II (R.Q.M.S.) and Mrs. C. G. Johnson on the birth of a daughter.

Death. The Regiment offers its deepest sympathy to Sergeant R. G. Haskell on the death of his wife, Doreen.

Standards and Calibration Engineers Wanted.
International Computers and Tabulators Limited require Standards and Calibration Engineers for their Computer Equipment Division at West Gorton, Manchester. They are required for electronic measurement work involving responsibility for an extremely wide range of commercial and I.C.T. built equipment. Candidates should possess O.N.C. or City and Guilds (Intermediate) with appropriate experience.

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If you are interested please write to the Personnel Officer, International Computers and Tabulators Limited, Thomas Street, West Gorton, Manchester 12.

22nd REGIMENT, B.F.P.O. 16

"H.Q." Squadron. "H.Q." Squadron has been busy this month, what with two exercises, two course tradeboards, the last of the winter M.P.C. courses, the Easter Break, and preparations for a very big Signals exercise in early April.

The first of the two exercises was the last "shaking down" effort of the Squadron to initiate new boys into the drills of the Regiment before the summer season. No one can say "What do I do—I haven't done an exercise since last summer." Everyone has been kept on their toes throughout the winter. Everyone knows all the little wrinkles which will help keep him protected, dry and warm and reasonably comfortable. In fact, they are trained soldiers.

The two upgrading courses have finished, the drivers having done well in their results, and thoroughly earning their BII's. The Radio Technicians (Lieutenants) Course has only just ended, having been a hard stint since the beginning of the year for both the students and our T.O.T., Lieutenant Baker, Foreman of Signals W.O.II Boulter and our very welcome "guest," Sergeant Jennings, of 217 Squadron.

The Military Proficiency course, under the able tutelage of Staff Sergeant Taylor, produced a 100 per cent. pass, and included men from 11th Engineer Group Signal Troop, 226 Squadron and 639 Troop, as well as men from our own Regiment.

And so to the Easter Holiday; it came far too early this year, and consequently everyone was hard pushed to wind up their winter tasks before the end of the month, especially as there will be a little exercise known as "Silver Spear" starting on 4th April. Mark the title; we predict you will hear a lot about this exercise in the coming months. From us too, of course.

244 Squadron (AS). This month has seen the Squadron working in many different parts of Germany. The Troops have, in fact, equal numbers of vehicles spread as far apart as Belgium and Rheine, Gutersloh and Wildenrath.

"Z" Troop continue their ever-relentless vigil of providing a link from Belgium to Rheine, which though simple as it may seem, means that the men are away from home for periods of up to four weeks at a time. This is certainly not the most popular job with the wives.

"Y" Troop still have detachments at Gutersloh practising for Exercise "Royal Flush." This month saw a rehearsal of the actual exercise which proved very successful and everyone at the airfield seems equally confident. In fact according to all reports received from that quarter, the competition is only to see whether 2 or 4 Squadron have the supremacy in the air and in flight reporting.

Not to be outdone, Wildenrath also have one of our ACT's with them and although this is a new venture again all seems to be going very well.

The rest of the Squadron were also well exercised during the month and a "Rapid Thrust" and a "Rapier Thrust" closely following one on top of the other, reminded us that summer and all that goes with it is rapidly coming upon us.

2 Squadron. During the last month the Squadron has been spreading its wings and very rapidly we are becoming an operational entity. Already many of us have the feeling that we are becoming old hands.

Reinforcements are coming along nicely and "W" Troop is now very nearly completely operational. They came from everywhere—Borneo, British Guinia and the more conventional places—and each one who comes brings with him that little gem of experience which is so valuable.

We have not had much time to play sport but we did manage to accept a challenge from 1 Squadron to a game of soccer. As one player put it, "They just had the edge on us." The "edge" was a very convincing victory for "them" of 11—1.

Adventure training is occupying many minds at the moment. Several enthusiasts have recently returned from Exercise "Pedal Thrust" which took place over the Easter weekend. The preamble of the exercise instructions informed us that this was "an exercise on bicycles designed to test fitness and stamina." The fact that the typist left out the comma may not have been entirely fortuitous.

During August the entire Regiment will be carrying out some form of adventure training. Members of 604 Troop and "R" Troop are going mountaineering in Norway and Bavaria and maintaining contact with each other by radio. Others are going ocean sailing. All the junior officers in the Regiment have produced their own schemes and hardly anyone will be left behind in barracks.

28th REGIMENT, B.F.P.O. 34

By the time these notes are printed, we will have lost the Commander of the Netherlands Squadron, Major C. Salomons.



Major C. Salomons

Major Cornelious Salomons, known to many as "Cor," is a remarkable man. He fought in Holland in 1940, and when the Germans overran his country, he retired through Belgium and France and eventually reached England. He spent the next four years in the U.K., training with the Dutch Legion, later Princess Irene Brigade. In 1944 he returned to Holland via Normandy and Belgium. In 1945 he was back in England as Liaison Officer with 3 Operator Training Battalion, in Whitby, and later at Catterick. It was at this stage that he met his wife, Vi, an English girl from Yorkshire. We don't know how well Vi Salomons speaks Dutch, but her quite excellent English has puzzled a number of people.

In 1962 he was selected to command the Dutch Squadron who were coming to join this Regiment. No better choice could have been made; not only does he speak English, almost as well as his wife, but he knows us so well that he can, if necessary, "think" like an Englishman.

Major Salomons now goes to 890 Radio Company in Holland. Not only is this close to his home in Utrecht, but even more important, it is, we understand, a job with good propects of promotion.

All that therefore remains is to wish him and his wife the very best of good fortune.

We would also like to welcome his successor, Major E. R. Haighton. In point of fact, we will not see so much of our Dutch friends now, as they have recently moved to Rheindahlen, due to lack of accommodation in Francisca Barracks. This move, plus the break-away of the Canadian Troop, has rather reduced the international flavour of the unit. We still, however, share our camp with the Belgium Squadron.

So much for the international aspect of the Unit. Now to more domestic affairs.

We say goodbye to Major and Mrs. S. P. Irwin, who go



28TH REGIMENT ON THE OCCASION OF WINNING THE RHINE AREA ZONE FINAL OF THE ARMY AND BAOR TOURNAMENT

Back row (Left to right): W.O.II Manester, R.A., W.O.I (Y. of S.) Clark, Corporal Friend, Sergeant Warren, Corporal Winstanly C.M.S.I., Issitt, A.P.C.T. W.O.I Hadland, R.A.S.C. *Front row (Left to right):* Signalman Stevenson, Signalman Blowers, Sergeant Wood, Staff-Sergeant (F. of S.) Howie, Sergeant Patterson, Corporal Donnithorne

to A.A.T.D.C., and wish them all happiness in their new posting.

We also wish all the best to S.S.M. and Mrs. C. Howes, who leave us on the re-forming of 10th Regiment; Staff Sergeant and Mrs. W. Marchant, who go to Gurkha Signals; and Staff Sergeant and Mrs. K. Stokoe, A.C.C., who go to B.M.H., Kluang.

To our new arrivals, Major P. Ashlin (who replaces Major Irwin), Captain W. H. Turney (Second-in-Command, H.Q. Squadron), and Staff Sergeant W. R. Baume, A.C.C., we extend a hearty welcome.

The Regiment has been carrying on its normal sporting activities during the past month.

Gliding. Out of our dozen or so enthusiasts who disappear to R.A.F., Bruggen, where the Corps glider is based, we can now boast of six solo pilots. The latest graduate is Lance-Corporal Palmer. Due to plenty of hard work during the winter, we can now face the forthcoming "soaring" season with fair confidence in our machines.

Lastly, but by no means least, we would like to point out to our neighbouring Regiments, 13th, 16th, and 21st, that they are within striking distance of Bruggen, and we extend a warm welcome to them to join us in this exciting (and exacting) sport.



C.S.M.I Issett receiving his tankard from the C.S.O., B.A.O.R., Brigadier J. E. Anderson, C.B.E.

Hockey. On 26th February, in a hard-fought game, we won the Rhine Area Cup, beating 13th Regiment 1—0. The cup and individual tankards were presented by the C.S.O., B.A.O.R., Brigadier J. E. Anderson, C.B.E.

On 14th March, the team travelled to Munster to meet 35 Corps Engineer Regiment in the B.A.O.R. semi-final. This game produced some very fast hockey, and although we opened the scoring early in the game, our opponents ran out worthy winners with a score of 4—2.

Staff Sergeant Howie and W.O.II R. Issitt, S.P.T.C., have been chosen to represent B.A.O.R. versus R.A.F., Germany.

Rugby. Towards the end of the season, the rugby team has been having its good and not-so-good moments. Owing to the loss of a large number of players to Catterick and overseas, and to 16th Regiment, games have not been as frequent as we would obviously have liked. In the Rheindahlen Garrison seven-a-side competitions, we reached the second round before going down to R.A.F., Bruggen, the eventual winners.

Shooting. Under the keen guidance of Captain F. V. B. Philp and Staff Sergeant D. Sugg, the range has been open to the sons and daughters out here on Easter holiday, resulting in good attendance and better shooting. The writer attended these meetings, but in view of the high standard, has not, so far, dared to shoot.

Soccer. The soccer team has shone in reaching the final of the Rhine Area Cup. In the final we meet our age-old rivals, H.Q., B.A.O.R., so sparks should fly.

Canoeing. Corporal J. Lindsey went to the U.K. to take part in the Westminster-Devizes canoe race. Unfortunately, he had to retire after eight hours, due to damage to his canoe.

* * *

Finally, we have some sad news. During the Easter break Signalman Douglas William Paton was killed in a car accident when on local leave in Hamburg. He was a promising soldier and well liked by his comrades. We offer our sincere condolences to his parents, who live in Dundee.

30th Regiment

With the completion of our Annual Administrative Inspection the Regiment is now recuperating on block leave whilst our planners organise our summer programme. This will, as in previous years, be hectic with Squadrons, Troops, Detachments and individuals distributed over much of the world. 3 Squadron has already departed for B.A.O.R. and, with much of 640 Troop still deployed overseas, only the Trials Squadron remains. Blandford Camp will therefore be fairly empty from now on as even the Trials Squadron will spend much of the summer deployed away from Camp. To whet the appetites of our more static comrades notes from "our man in X" are appended.

640 Troop U.K. Garrison

Detachment 640, attached 1st Bn. The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment (Berkshire and Wilshire)

The following notes are contributed by Sergeant Inglefield, Detachment Commander:—

The move of this detachment to Malta to join the Battalion came as a great surprise to all concerned. We were placed on 12 hours' standby at 08.30 hours on 28th January, 1964. At this time Lance-Corporal Dryden and myself were in Nottinghamshire about 230 miles from camp having taken part in the Welbeck College Demonstration on 27th January, 1964.

We travelled back to Blandford by road, arriving at approximately 15.30 hours, to be greeted with the news that we were to leave for Lyneham at 21.30 hours that evening. Fortunately for us our vehicle was loaded and ready to move, thanks to other members of the Troop. By the time we had been paid, innoculated, kitted out and documented it was about 17.30 hours and we then had to start packing our own kit.

We departed from Blandford at 21.30 hours and on arrival at Lyneham the vehicle was prepared for loading. A R.E.M.E. team checked the batteries and an R.A.F. team stripped it down for transit in a Hastings. It was finally loaded and at 03.30 hours we retired to bed in the Route Hotel with the prospect of an early call at 05.00 hours.

We boarded the plane at 08.20 hours and took off at 08.30 hours arriving at Luqa Airport, Malta, at 15.45A to be met by the Battalion Signal Sergeant who turned out to be an old school friend of mine. Once our Vehicle and equipment was unloaded (this task takes quite a time in Malta. Too many bosses and no workers) we proceeded to the Battalion Barracks and settled in as best as we could without unpacking any of our kit.

The next seven days were fairly easy and we were beginning to think our journey had been in vain; but on 6th February we suddenly realised it had not been. The Battalion was placed on 1-hour standby to move to a secret destination which we would not be told until we were airborne. This was all very well until someone heard the afternoon news from the B.B.C. It was announced to the whole world that the Battalion would leave that night for Cyprus. We had all presumed that would be our destination so we weren't really surprised.

I was on the first Chalk to leave Luqa at 02.30A on 7th February, arriving at Nicosia Airport at 08.00B.

Within two hours of our arrival we were providing the Battalion with rear link communications to Brigade Headquarters.

We soon settled into our new accommodation and were quite happy until the arrival of 3 H.Q. and Signal Regiment, when we were moved out of our *luxury* accommodation into an R.A.F. hangar which, to say the least, was draughty. During this period we spent a week on detachment acting as a Relay Station on the Battalion Command Net.

On 3rd March the Battalion was deployed in Nicosia and Tactical Headquarters moved into the luxury of the Ledra Palace Hotel which is the best hotel in Cyprus.

Our Radio Technician and Electrician Driver remained with "B" Echelon where they are kept busy on battery charging and equipment repairs. Corporal Gallagher, our Radio Technician, was rather baffled when he was given 19 sets to repair, but I am glad to say he has now mastered these and copes with any situation.

At Tactical Headquarters we provide 24 hour communications to Brigade on a C12, our C11 being used as control on

the Battalion net. We are ably assisted in our task by two regimental signallers who are getting so good they are asking about a transfer to the Corps.

We are now wondering what effect the formation of the United Nation Force will have upon our future. Who knows, we may end up doing rear link for the Swedish Battalion.

Our relations with the Battalion are very good and so far we have received no complaints. I sincerely hope things stay that way.

British Guiana. Contribution by Corporal Griffiths, our man in South America:—

Since I arrived here in British Guiana on 30th October, 1963, I have been working steadily on 24 hour shifts, one day on and one day off. Since the office here handles Governor as well as Army traffic it gets hectic at times. There only seems to be one precedence, and that is "Op Immediate." I have not had the chance to go round the country yet, but on 8th April I am hoping to go for a week in the interior at a place called "Matthews Ridge" and go Jungle Bashing with the Amerindians.

The Troop here are accommodated in a civilian house, which puts us amongst the elite for living out here. In January an ex-640 Troop member, Sergeant Parry, arrived to take over as Troop Sergeant.

Rhodesia. Contributed by Sergeant Brooks, who flies our flag in Central Africa:—

My particular task is to cover the Crypto work for Headquarters Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland, and this at times is pretty considerable. Corporal Edwards is my counterpart at Zomba, whilst I look after the Lusaka end.

Living conditions for us are extremely good. The Northern Rhodesia Government have bought a hotel which is combined living accommodation and offices. I have an extremely pleasant room combined with private bath. The hotel gardens are both attractive and productive: we grow our own vegetables and many tropical fruits, e.g. bananas, lemons, mangoes. Needless to say the lemons lead to rather a lot of gin drinking! Until recently I had the job of gardening member, a job I thoroughly enjoyed, having three gardeners to do all the heavy work.

My own cipher office is a converted bathroom, and this being small and cramped it gets very hot, but at least I have no difficulty in finding a seat.

Transport is rather novel for the British Army, being three Rover 110 saloon cars for passenger carrying, and a long wheelbase Land Rover for cargo.

The weather here is very pleasant, being the one redeeming feature of the place (together, perhaps, with the practice of "Sundowners") which reminds me, I must keep an appointment.

538 Troop. Contributed by Sergeant Nutter, one of our stalwarts in Cyprus:—

This Troop is at present manned by personnel of 640 Troop (U.K. Garrison) while waiting for permanent reliefs to be posted in by Royal Signals Records. It was established on the 3rd January, 1964, and is under the command of 1st Bn. The Gloucestershire Regiment 28/61st, and was immediately involved in Truce Force Duties with the Battalion.



538 Troop, less Signalman Brown, leaving Xeros to man the Green Line in Nicosia

Photograph shows the Troop, less Signalman Brown, leaving Xeros to man the Green Line in Nicosia. It was taken by Troop Sergeant F. Nutter. Signalman Brown has the good fortune (?) to be based with the rear echelon.

Two members of the Troop have had direct contact with the other side, Lance-Corporal Cammish had a brush with the Greek police, who refused to allow him through a road block and he spent three and a half hours covering approximately twenty-five miles. He had to circumnavigate Mount Olympus to get back to base in Episkopi. Signalman Swift, at present manning a C11 link-up between Mallia and Episkopi, was baptised under fire on the 10th March. How they missed his 6ft. 1in. frame I shall never know but his nearest escape came from a broken power cable which only just missed him as he sheltered underneath a trailer.

At the time of writing the Troop is at 1 hour's standby to establish Tactical Headquarters somewhere on the island.

Stop Press. Signalman Swift was told that he was the first Royal Signals person to come under fire in the present emergency. He was told this by no less a person than CRA 3 H.Q. and Regiment, when he visited Mallia last week.

Coming to the End of Your Service?

Several vacancies in Regimental H.Q. and Association H.Q. may be coming up for which ex-W.O.s and N.C.O.s of the Corps will be given preference.

Requirements: Moderate typing ability. Loyalty to the Corps and a desire to keep in touch with Corps affairs.

H.Q. 207 SQUADRON, B.F.P.O. 30

Faces at the local orphanage brightened on the morning of Thursday, 27th March, when a group of soldiers arrived unexpectedly from Headquarters 7th Armoured Brigade, Soltan, to distribute Easter eggs to the children. These eggs were bought for the orphanage from the proceeds of a raffle patronised by all ranks the week before. Second-Lieutenant Lachlan Fraser with a very limited knowledge of German spent a few moments trying to explain to the nurses where the eggs had come from. Meanwhile Trooper Jeff Wild, 13/18 H, from Barnsley, and Signalman Donald Henley, from Tring, soon had the children running from all parts of the orphanage as they distributed the eggs. Trooper Peter Appleby, 5th RTR, from Luton, was kept very busy as he tried to photograph the happy faces. After the children had sung some rousing songs in appreciation, the party returned to Soltau.



THE WELFARE SECTION ALWAYS REQUIRES MEN'S CLOTHING URGENTLY



Colonel R. P. Woollard, D Signals from Australia sharing a joke with some of the Australian members of the Squadron during his visit in February



208 COMMONWEALTH SQUADRON

Things are happening now at a very fast pace out here in Malaya as Lieutenant F. R. Maynard our newly joined O.C. "J" Troop has found out. All Lieutenant Maynard wants to do now is to get hold of the people in Catterick who told him that we only work mornings!

We have now said goodbye to Captain I. O. J. Sprackling who has gone to the School of Signals and we will greatly miss his humour.

We will have a last paragraph on officers by saying that we had a most enjoyable visit from the Australian Director of Signals, Colonel R. P. Woollard, from the 18th-20th February; he was able to visit us on exercise. Finally the C.S.O. FARELF, Brigadier E. C. R. Blaker, honoured us with a visit on the 24th March when he saw us starting working up exercises on our newly arrived radio relay equipment which includes the new 1+4 No. 3.

On the exercise side we are now very much in full swing. During the past six weeks we have been twice over to the East Coast to practice air lifting an infantry battalion into a jungle area. We managed to get in a little bit of swimming to make the exercises quite enjoyable.

During one of our exercises we were called upon to carry out trials to see if we could carry radio sets on ponies. This provided quite an interesting interlude, especially as one of the ponies bolted with a C11 on its back! Captain Costello was a very worried man until that pony was caught. Some of "J" Troop linemen were also converted temporarily to pony handlers to see if inexperienced men could handle the ponies.

Another point of interest is that our new D11 radio sets have arrived—now no one argues as to who is on the wrong frequency!

Finally you may have heard that the Australian soldier is much bigger and better than the British soldier (they never tire of telling us this). To disprove this myth we show you a photograph of our Radio Troop Sergeant, Sergeant M. Hardy of Royal Australian Signals. A cunning ploy this as the photograph may also assist Scotland Yard to solve some of the unsolved crimes over Christmas when Sergeant Hardy was over in England on holiday.

219 SQUADRON, B.F.P.O. 51

Our desert exercises continue and most of our operating potential in the Squadron have now had the experience of field activities. Some have now learnt the hard way as to the best method of pulling Land Rovers out of deep sand. No. 43 Commando, Royal Marines, have been the latest participants on Exercise "Sandfly II" and the Squadron was able to help them by providing links to the training area and to H.M.S. *Bulwark*.

Our sporting activities are considerable as the rugby team are at present leaders of the area competition and stand a good chance of being outright winners. Corporals Lucas and Hughes being the stalwart members of the team are, however, shortly due to leave us on posting and their skill will be hard to replace. Basketball is shortly about to commence under the leadership of Sergeant Jamieson. This activity is very much encouraged by the Squadron Commander as it is a most suitable method of ensuring that next season's rugby team are kept fit during the summer months.

Offshore fishing has become an additional activity and our Traffic Officer, Lieutenant Hesketh, finds it difficult to explain the loss of his new rod and reel last seen disappearing towards Malta towed by a very small fish.

The sailing potential, under the guiding hand of Major (Q.M.) George Lynam, are daily becoming more enthusiastic, especially as some of the pupils are from the W.R.A.C. staff of the signal centre.

We are shortly about to say goodbye to our signal centre supervisor, W.O.II Johnson, who is away to become qualified as a Yeoman, and to Sergeant Selwyn who is away to Northern Ireland to a T.A. posting. New arrivals are Staff Sergeant Hayler who comes as our Yeoman and Sergeant Firth who has taken over the appointment of Orderly Room Sergeant.

210 SQUADRON, B.F.P.O. 10

A relatively quiet month, operationally, March, has just past. Week-end driver training courses have taken vehicles and men in various directions and produced the usual "bushy" stories. As yet, we have no rhino dents and no one has knocked over a zebra crossing. The discovery of "a tusker" being something more than a beer has surprised some of our new arrivals.

The Easter week-end was, as usual, full of variety and motoring atmosphere, with the 12th East African Safari Rally in full swing. In spite of the extensive American challenge, our money was on the English team, who eventually proved our confidence in them. The Squadron Commander's "Easter Safari" was in no way a challenge to the rally drivers, although they found themselves on the same route at one stage.

The "Alpha" Troop exercise used up a fair amount of petrol and heated up the "ether." Their base camp was in a very good game area. The elephants are getting bigger and closer as stories are retold. However, no one was brave enough to transmit when a trunk was round an antenna.

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224 SQUADRON

224 Squadron is at present going through one of those periods of change which are familiar to all Service units. We are saying goodbye to the Commanding Officer, Major F. A. Wainwright, and to the Chief Instructor, Major W. G. B. Wright, M.B.E., both of whom are leaving us to take up postings in B.A.O.R. To them and their wives the Squadron extends their thanks and appreciation for the work which they have done in the time spent with us, and they carry with them our best wishes for the future. They were both dined out in traditional manner at a very successful dinner night held in the Mess on Wednesday, 11th March, 1964.

We welcome their successors. The new Commanding Officer, Major W. J. Clapp, from the Junior Leaders Regiment, at Newton Abbot, and the new Chief Instructor, Captain Peter Claque-Quine, from 9th Regiment in Cyprus.

We have also started to occupy some of the new buildings which have just been completed. We have already left behind the old training area and moved into our new Training Block and by every standard it is quite something of which to be proud.

When stage two of our building programme is completed by the end of May, we will have a camp which is as modern and up to date as anything in the country.

Unfortunately the Officers' Mess has now to be vacated to allow for its renovation. In the meantime the Mess is being transferred into a vacant married quarter. As they say, it is all good training!

On the Sunday morning of the 8th March, 1964, in the Church of St. Mary-in-the-Elms, which stands outside our own front door, an engraved silver wafer box, a gift from the Squadron to the church, was dedicated. The Commanding Officer, the Adjutant, Captain V. S. Smith, and W.O.II McLoughlin, the Squadron Sergeant Major, were in attendance at the services.

Cross Country. Our cross country team are still going great guns in the Lincolnshire Services Cross Country League. With one race left to complete the League fixtures we are still in the lead and large R.A.F. stations like Coningsby, Waddington, Norton, etc., twelve in all, who measure their strength in thousands, are being left behind. Lance-Corporal Gue is the stalwart of the team. He finished as runner-up in the Northern Command Championships and twenty-first in the Army Championships. Not bad for an 18-year-old.

Rugby. The Rugby team were beaten 14—0 in the semi-final of the Northern Command Rugby Cup by 8th Regiment at Catterick.

However, there was no doubt about it—we gave "the mighty Eighth" a real fright and it was only after a tough struggle that we went down fighting.

Indeed at half time, when there was no score, there were signs of definite panic in the ranks of the Regiment.

However, by keeping it tight up front in the second half, they eventually wore us down and ran out worthy winners in the end.

The Squadron team on the day in which we nearly made a little piece of history was: Corporal Doyle, Signalman Hynes, Corporal Scott, Corporal Richardson, Signalman Pinkney, Lance-Corporal Allen, Corporal Hague, Lance-Corporal Heffernam, Private Cunningham, Signalman Hill, Signalman Dugmore, Sergeant Cooper, Corporal Parr, Second-Lieutenant S. Cowan.

Hockey. The Squadron team, under the captaincy of Staff Sergeant Brice, have once again had a successful season. We won the District Cup by defeating H.Q. North Midland District in the final by two to nil. The match was a hard struggle and rumour has it, that if it had not been for a few kicks and back-sticks by the Quartermaster, Captain Murray, at full-back, in the last quarter, extra time would probably have been necessary.

In the final of the Northern Command Minor Units Cup we were defeated by a strong team from H.Q. Northern Command.

The score was 2—0 but the margin would have been greater if it had not been for the superb goalkeeping of Sergeant "Dusty" Millar.



224 SQUADRON HOCKEY XI

Winners of 49 Divisional District Cup—Runners up Northern Command Minor Units Cup. *Back row:* Sergeant P. Smith, Sergeant Millar, W.O.II McLoughlin, Sergeant F. Smith, Signalman Arkley. *Front row:* Sergeant Cooper, Second-Lieutenant S. Cowan, Staff-Sergeant Brice, Major F. A. Wainwright, Captain D. A. L. Murray, Captain V. S. Smith, Corporal Doyle

237 SQUADRON

Pond Fishing in Singapore

Among the more respectable pursuits available to Servicemen serving in Singapore is that of angling. Being an island, of course, sea fishing is readily available, but there is a form of angling that is almost unique to Singapore, this is pond fishing.

These ponds, which are scattered throughout Singapore, are particularly handy to COMCAN Receivers stationed at Amoy Quee, in north-east Singapore, there being some eight different ponds in a radius of three miles from the camp.

The ponds are artificially constructed and privately owned, usually being a (Chinese) family concern. They vary in size from around half-an-acre to sometimes two or three acres (the ponds that is, not the families). Charges are standard at two dollars for the day's fishing; bait may be purchased at the pond at 20 cents a throw, but more about this later. As the weather in Singapore alternates between being very warm or very wet, simple shelters are provided at intervals around the pond. Most of the ponds are fringed with coconut palms, and these, whilst providing welcome shade, constitute an additional angling hazard, as the unwary angling enthusiast pausing awhile in contemplation beneath their leafy bower, is liable to be driven into the ground like a tent peg by a falling coconut.

The methods of fishing usually fall into two main types, i.e., legering or float fishing, and while tackle can be hired from the pond owner, most chaps have their own. Singapore being a free port, good Japanese or German equipment can be obtained at a fraction of its cost back home.

By no means all the people patronising the ponds are Servicemen, a large number of local civilians use the ponds as well, although whereas most Servicemen fish for the sport, most civilians go with the sound economic principle that as they have paid two dollars to fish, they might as well go home with two bucks worth of fish; in regard to this, they consider that the end justifies the means. In fact, it is alleged, if it were not for spirited legislation by the local administration, they would more often than not resort to the British Army wartime favourite, the No. 36 (M) lure.

Most units in Singapore have a flourishing angling club, and 237 Squadron (COMCAN) is no exception, termed The COMCAN Angling Club (well, *you* think of a better name), we quite regularly take part in competitions against other unit clubs, although not with very much success to date. We did, however, win hands down against a team from a Squadron of 18th Regiment.

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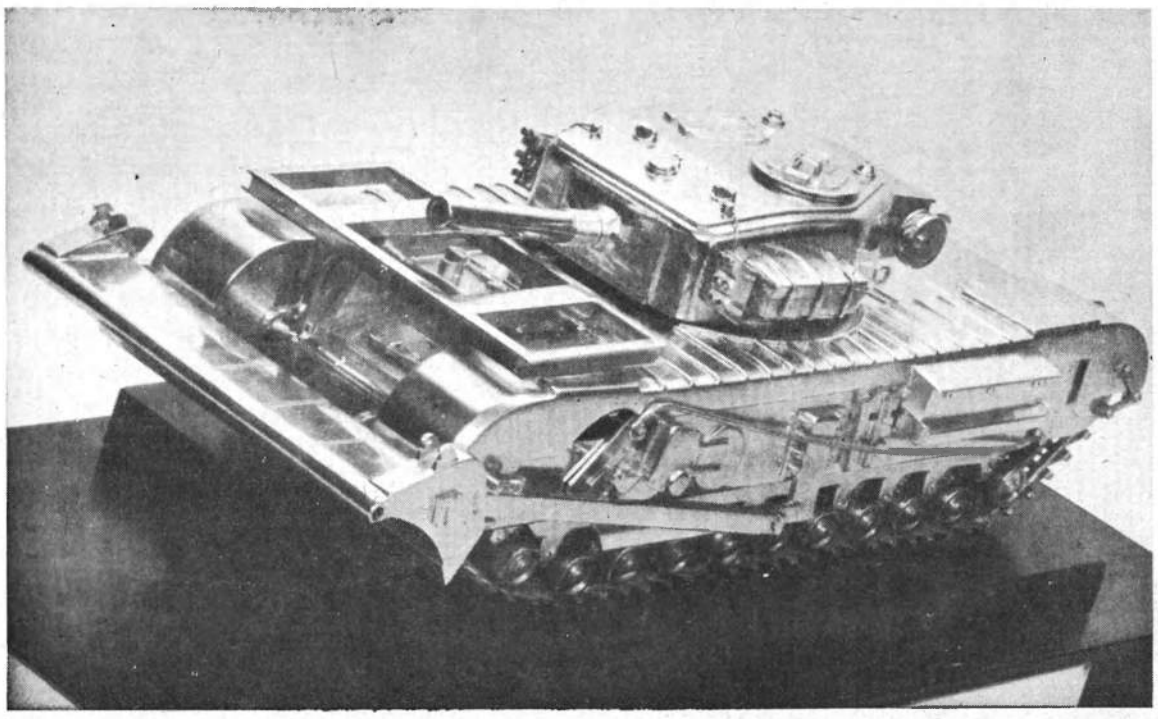
One Service Dress; one No. 1 Dress with collars, etc.; one Sam Browne Belt with sword frog; one Mess Kit, complete with shirts and collars; one pair Wellingtons with spurs; one No. 1 Hat.

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Farewell to 236 Squadron



THE REAR PARTY

FAREWELL. A well-known Squadron of the Corps is disbanded. 236 Squadron had a high reputation for work and sport. The Corps will be sorry to see them go.

On 1st April, 1950, a special establishment for the Army Wireless Chain Signal Squadron was approved; at 09.15 hours on 19th November, 1963, 13 years 231 days later, the Squadron, now known as 236 Signal Squadron (COMCAN) ceased to exist operationally, having handed over all short and long haul circuits to the Royal Air Force Communication Centre, Eastleigh.

The Squadron, with a grand record of over 13 years' continuous signalling, was silent.

Those readers who have served with COMCAN, Nairobi, either in the early years or more recently, will no doubt read this with nostalgic memories of the past, and agree that we who have served with COMCAN can say that *Certa Cito* was true of 236.

It is felt that 236 should have had an addition to its title, "S.A.S."—Sport and Safari—as the Squadron was well-known in East Africa for its achievements in the sporting world, its many game safaris to the game parks, and mountain climbing safaris to Mounts Kilimanjaro, Kenya and the Mountains of the Moon (many a good man was known to crawl).

The closedown of the Squadron has been a monumental task, but all ranks have put their heart and soul into the packing-up, possibly with the future in mind, their next posting.

On 10th April the main rear party left for U.K. under W.O.II Green, followed closely by the O.C., Major Brian Toy, S.Q.M.S., Staff Sergeant Armstrong, to U.K., and Captain (T.O.T.) George Pinder to Kenya Army.

The rear rear party, nine stalwart men under Major (Q.M.) Ray ("Titch") Richmond remain until the final disbandment, but the Q.M. has confirmed the Corps flag will remain flying at the Transmitter site until the last box of the E10s has left Nairobi for the United Kingdom.

BEGONE DULL CARE

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261 SQUADRON

Since just before Christmas the Cyprus problem has caused all of us to be "Busy Bees." Despite constant reinforcements to the Squadron and Cyprus, suppposedly to let us relax, they all want telephones and seem to have forgotten the wherewithal to provide them. Hence "261" being the only line Squadron available and CYTA, the local telecommunications authority being short of personnel and not wishing to go to certain areas, finds itself not only fulfilling its normal tasks for the Royal Air Force but also for the Army and Civil authorities. Oh! well, it makes life interesting!

To help matters along in the middle of March we had a freak storm which removed roofs from quarters and buildings and brought down sections of the main PL route from Limassol, Episkopi, Paphas. The pictures show members of the Squadron clambering about in the hills above Happy Valley, sticking things together again.

We are extremely grateful to all the Regiments which helped us out with reinforcements and assure them they are all still doing a useful and jolly good job of work.

The following are some jottings from some of the Troops in the Squadron:—

H.Q. Troop. Strength, 6 military, 14 locally engaged civilians. When the disturbances started and the local employees stopped coming to work the situation in S.H.Q. became amusing. The Administrative Officer, Lieutenant Goulding, worked. The R.Q.M.S., W.O.II Davies (with Corporal Nicol, his Second-in-Command, on a U.K. course and no civilians at work) worked. The Chief Clerk, Sergeant Reynolds, arranged to be on a U.K. course, to avoid work, so we borrowed Corporal Pearce from H.Q. Royal Signals Cyprus. Corporal Beare with the Squadron Transport, and eight civilian drivers, of whom only one was turning up for work, almost went grey—but he kept the Squadron transport on the road. The Pay Clerk, Corporal Bird, showed no signs of strain, but 18 stone of solid 'KEO,' constantly being re-enforced, could not be expected to.

Airfield Troop El Adem. Life in the desert continues on a 'routine' rein. The new O.C. Troop, Second-Lieutenant Peter Lenthal, was greeted on his arrival by a friendly Arab, a 'person unknown,' who stole a length of underground cable.

Little excitement is experienced. Everyday work is a steady employment, relieved only by the very unusual. The venerable Poled Line route between El Adem and Tobruk became a casualty (termites!) and the Troop worked hard to re-establish

Continued on Page 192



WILL IT HOLD HIM?
C.A.F.S.O. Lieutenant-Colonel Harvey and Signalman Jamieson



"UNTANGLING THE MESS"

Sergeant Soome, Signalman Simmonds and Corporal McManus

communications thereby assisting the Libyan Post Office.

Staff Sergeant Spooner leaves us next month to his next posting as a Special Army Recruiter. We all wish him the best of luck. The exercise season is with us again. Seeing how the other half of the Army lives has some of us yearning for Germany, but it is planned to have our own 'shows' later in the year.

Construction Troop, busy as always, has at last caught up with some of the more outstanding project work. This has been achieved in spite of our increased commitments due to the present strife on the island, largely by the sterling efforts of our reinforcements, in particular 638 Troop. During their recent attachment they carried out a considerable amount of cable laying and trenching and I must say, when it comes to digging, man—they are greatest!

Our Cable Jointers have been hard at it too, distribution cabinets and pillars are being installed left and right. They have also gained considerable experience at jointing larger cables; up to 800 pairs; most at the island Telephone Authorities' expense. A probable explanation for the enthusiastic way in which the jointers have set about this work, is the fact that a peculiar satisfaction is achieved when cutting other people's cables. The Greeks and Turks obviously feel this satisfaction too; they are having a ball!

Construction Troop has worked so many hours at night carrying out repairs for them that they are seriously considering the "Stars and Moon" as the motif for a pennant.

Anyway I leave you with the thought that if there are any Cable Jointers or Linemen who think they are good enough, and don't mind working a few hours over the odds; this is the Troop for you.

263 SQUADRON

The Squadron continues to manage the group's speed-boat, under the watchful eyes of Captain Sparshott and W.O.II "Paddy" Hall—despite the occasional breakdown! The R Q.M.S., with stores issued on loan to Signal units all over Borneo and Thailand, wants to get away for a while. He suggested a travelling board to check the long loans!

"X" Troop.—Recent arrivals in the Troop include W.O.I (F. of S.) Soward and W.O.II (F. of S.) Morrison, from 8th Regiment, while Staff Sergeant Davies has arrived from 21st Regiment for a second Far East tour (some people will never learn!).

Sergeant Baxter has "days to do" before departing for the "rough" life in Paris. We would like to congratulate Sergeant Hassall on his recent promotion.

Sergeant (Tom) Wood is impatient to be away now to 21st Regiment to start a new career on the Regimental duties side—he always preferred a stick to a soldering iron! This is probably why he has never been given the job of teaching the D11 to our budding technicians!

"Y" Troop. A notable inclusion in our course programme is Field Cooking in the syllabuses of all trades. This is carried out at Nee Soon, under the instruction of the A.C.C. A lesson learnt quickly was "don't trust anyone with your rations." As one individual discovered when he was left with a meatless, vegetable stew. We offer our congratulations to Lance-Corporal Cuthbert on his recent promotion, and welcome him to the Troop, where he is doing a first class job of instructing, filling our sorely-felt vacancy for a TG Instructor.

We are pleased to have with us members of the W.R.A.C., who, under the careful instruction and watchful eyes of W.O.I Oakley and Corporal Adam are attending conversion courses to Comcen Operators.

We had to change our standing instructions fairly sharply though. They said: "All students working in the Teleprinter Room will wear bare buff." We have now had to install extra fans to try to dissipate the heat!

517 TROOP

This newly-formed and new type of Signal Troop soon gets involved in the recent operations in East Africa.

Our full title, just for the record, is 517 Signal Troop (Infantry Battalion (Air Portable)) Royal Signals. When you have worked out the imposing title, it might convey to you the picture of a small group of men surrounded by cases, wooden packing, suitably marked "HAZ—THIS WAY UP, etc." sitting on a barrack square just waiting. That picture would be accurate, for being an air portable Signal Troop attached to an Infantry Battalion in Kenya, we are, we hope, prepared to fly, drive or sail in any direction at relatively short notice. But we spend most of our time waiting.

Since our formation on 1st November last year, when we joined the 1st Bn. The Staffordshire Regiment at Templer Barracks, life has been busy. The Troop is not over large. We have no Sergeant, and are only just getting our equipment up to establishment. Our first exercise was a Brigade exercise, and, for us, something of a novelty, as we were working with the Staffords for the first time and running two C11 detachments simultaneously. To our surprise we found that Infantrymen are not really much different from Signalmen, and somehow we came to be accepted as a part of the Battalion very quickly. Meeting the R.S.M. was something of an experience. Suffice to say, he knows us all by name. For an interpreter, we use Signalman Brindley, himself a Staffordshire man. Signalman Angel must understand the language, too, for he plays hockey for the Battalion.

Early in January this year, when the East African crisis occurred, two of our members, Signalmen May and Brill-Edwards flew with "A" Company of the Staffords to Mombasa. On 15th January they boarded H.M.S. *Rhyl* and stood by in East African waters ready to rescue British nationals if the need arose. This included a quick dash from Zanzibar to Dar-es-Salaam, where, much to everyone's disappointment, no landing was made. Anyway, it seems that even rear link detachments go to sea!

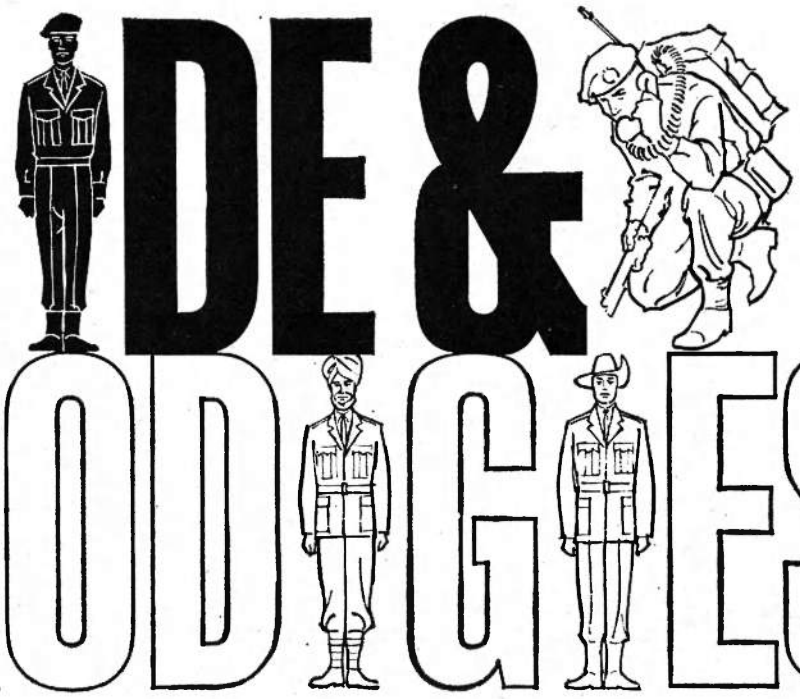
Meanwhile, on 23rd January, the remainder of the Troop were flown very rapidly, together with a detachment of 603 Troop, to Uganda, where the Staffords had been sent at the request of the Uganda Government. During two operations at Jinja, in the barracks of the Uganda Rifles mutineers, Royal Signals operators and technicians could be seen leaping out of borrowed trucks to seize the exchange and Signal Centre. These were rapid cordon operations which the Staffords affected in order to put down the mutiny. No one was more surprised to see us than Sergeant Mills, late of 210 Signal Squadron, now seconded to the Uganda Army.

By mid-February, the Troop was reunited in Uganda, and was even joined by Corporal Longmuir—complete with dark glasses! Our two technicians—Corporal Killick and Lance-Corporal King ("Laurel and Hardy") worked, so they tell us, round the clock keeping the Stafford's radios on the air. Meanwhile the radio operators maintained an almost full-time link with Nairobi for some seven weeks.

Now that we are back from Uganda and in the process of building up the Troop stores, we look forward to a more normal life of routine and training, at any rate, until the next crisis.

Lance-Corporal Lea and Signalman Angel are both R.H.E. in April, and we wish them the very best in their new postings.

PRIDE & PRODIGIES

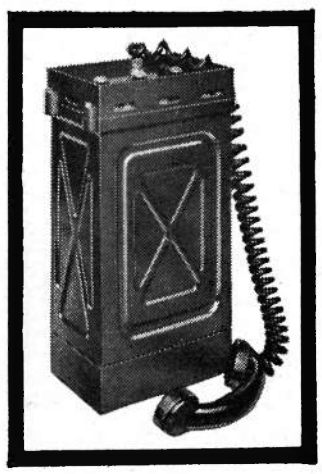


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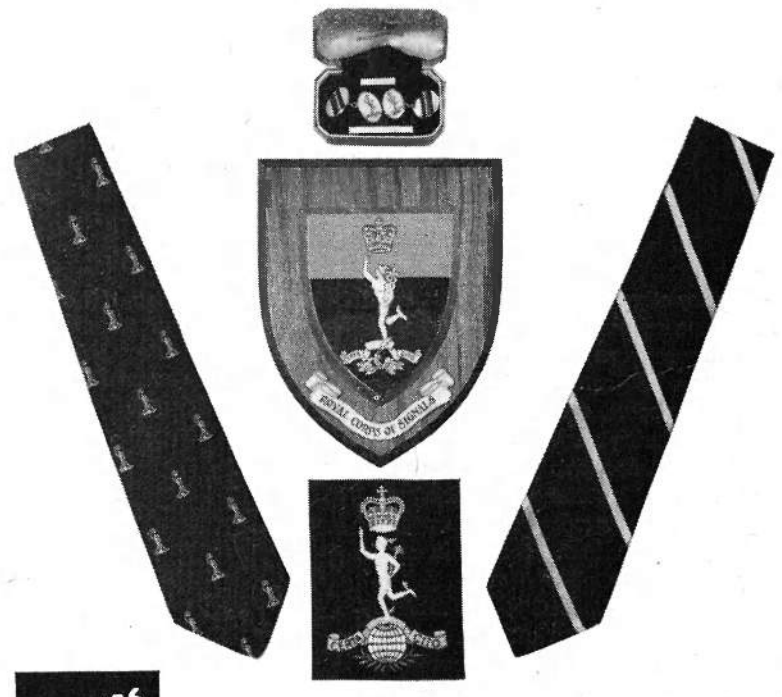
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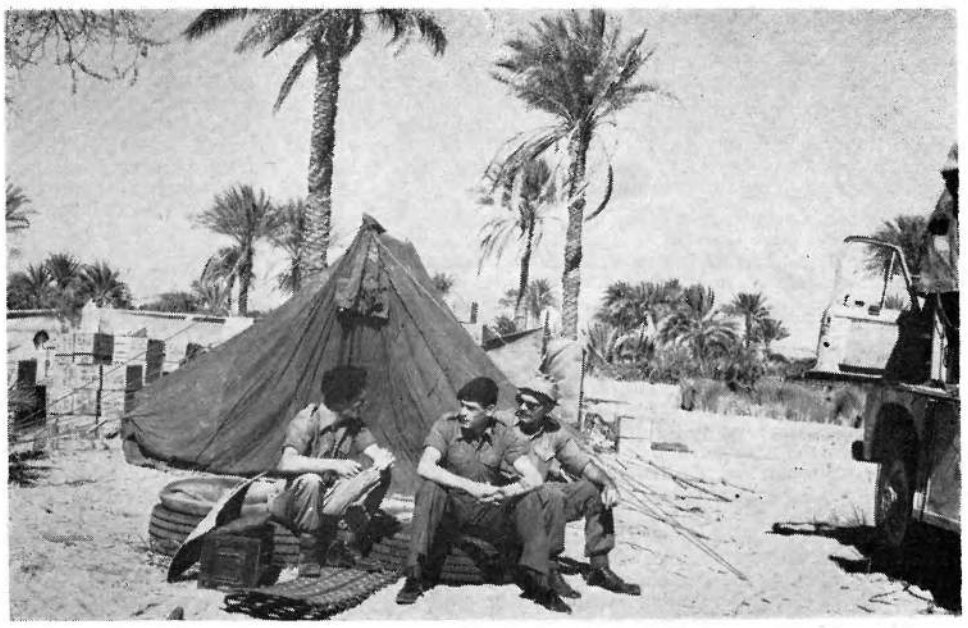
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Journey to TIBESTI

By
Signalman J. E. Hurel



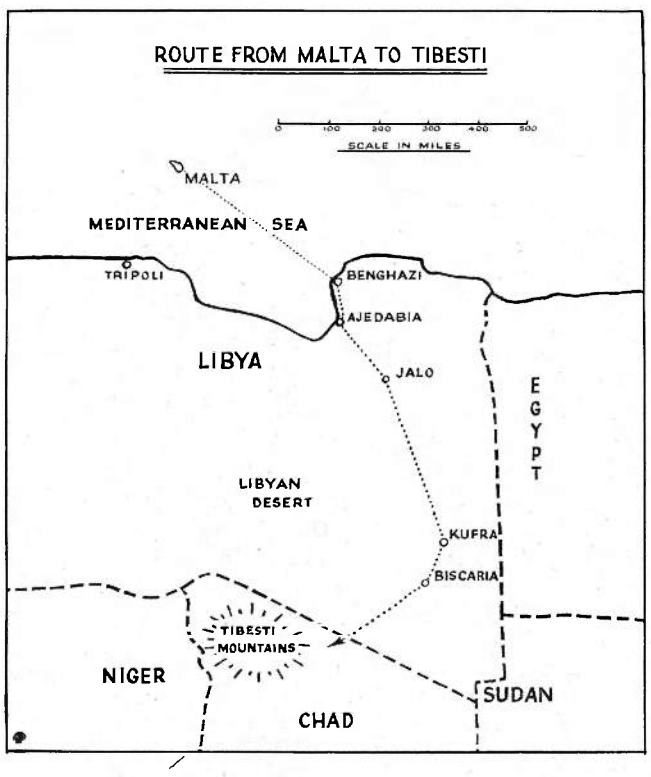
Three Nomads. The Author, Signalman Campbell and Corporal Wilmot at Kufra Oasis

Signalman J. E. Hurel tells his story well and modestly. His Corporal became an unexpected casualty and responsibility for communications fell suddenly on his shoulders.

THIS is the story of a trip that took us from Malta, across the wastes of the Libyan Desert, to the foothills of the Tibesti Mountains in Chad. We set off by vehicle from Benghazi and travelled south for about 700 miles as the crow flies—although we covered more than twice that distance on the ground.

There were three signallers involved in the trip: Corporal Wilmot, Signalman Campbell and myself. I'm writing the story because I was the only one who saw the whole of the journey. It wasn't planned that way but that's how it turned out. I was also promoted Acting Lance-Corporal, by radio, at an oasis in the middle of the desert—that wasn't planned either, but I'll explain how it happened later.

It all started when the Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment, here in Malta, decided to do some adventure training. They hit on the idea of sending an expedition of 40 men and 10 vehicles to North Africa with the object of travelling across the Libyan Desert and reaching the Tibesti Mountains. The goal they set themselves was the sighting of Picco Bette, an outstanding peak in the Tibesti Range. Of course we were not involved at this stage when they were planning the routes, rations, vehicles, maps and so on, but when they came to consider the question of communications with the outside world we began to take our part in the story. Corporal Wilmot and myself, with three C 11s, were provided by 234 Squadron to manage the expedition's external communications.



The expedition's plan was to move by ship to Benghazi and carry out some training in navigation and movement in the desert. Then the whole group was to move about 600 miles to Kufra Oasis. Here a forward base would be set up and a small party would move off on the 300 mile leg to the Chad border and, we hoped, the sighting of Picco Bette. We aimed at providing communications with both Benghazi and Malta during the trip. At Kufra I was to man one C 11 while Corporal Wilmot took another with the forward party.

We set off from Malta on 14th November, 1963, in the *Empire Tern*. It was beautiful sailing weather with calm seas and bright sunshine—or so they tell me. I must be the world's worst sailor and spent the sea trip looking and feeling like death. Several briefings were given by the expedition's leader, Major Knight of 1 D.E.R.R., and Corporal Wilmot, who luckily enjoys the life on the ocean wave, was able to get himself "clued-up." We landed at Benghazi on 16th November and Corporal Wilmot, who knows his way round the place, led the expedition's convoy through the town to our temporary home in D'Aosta Barracks.

The next day we started on an intense period of 'working-up.' We practised convoy driving, use of the sun-compass, camping-up and the communications drill. Major Knight picked some choice pieces of rugged desert for us to train on. We bumped and crashed over broken rocky ground and spent hours with sand channels dealing with vehicles bogged in soft sand. It was generally agreed that, although we met worse pieces of ground on the expedition, for sheer concentrated beastliness, nothing compared with our three days of training. It was during this period we had our first casualty. One of the 1 D.E.R.R. soldiers went down with dysentry and had to be evacuated. I did not know at this stage that there would be another casualty during the trip which would result, indirectly, in me writing this story.

On 20th November the expedition proper started. We left Benghazi at 08.30 hours and the convoy breezed down the coast road to Ajedabia in fine style. Just out of the town we turned south-west and headed out into the desert. The going was mostly good with firm, hard sand and gravel—though on one occasion we hit a soft patch and the vehicle crews had to get to

work with the sand channels. We halted for the night at 16.30 hours having covered about 150 miles since leaving Benghazi. At night we formed the vehicles into a square with a tent pitched in the centre. We slept in our sleeping bags on or under the vehicles. Although the daytime weather was glorious with bright sunshine and a temperature of about 80°F. it was often bitterly cold at night. The sky at night was, with the exception of a couple of occasions, completely clear and the stars shone with a brightness that seemed almost unreal.

Our communications on the first day with Malta and Benghazi were first class by telegraph using twin V aerials. During the expedition we tried several different aerials—quarter and three-quarter wave endfeds, sloping wires and dipoles—but without a doubt the best results came from the twin V, even at the longest ranges. Our normal radio routine consisted of three calls each day. One before moving in the morning, another at the midday halt, and the last immediately after halting for the night. In addition to our C 11s the 1 D.E.R.R. had two UHF sets with them for communicating with the pilots of the aircraft who were to fly in mail and supplies to us during the expedition. There were also two C 11s for communication within the column. We did our own battery charging with two 300 watt "chore-horses," both of which were rather temperamental and had to be dealt with in a firm but sympathetic way. On one occasion one of them decided it liked work so much that it refused to stop. Neither we nor the R.E.M.E. craftsmen with the expedition could get it to take a rest. In the end we had to disconnect the batteries and let it run until the petrol tank was dry.

On the 21st November we reached the area of Jalo. We did not actually see the town and our impression of Jalo was a big petrol station with a huge 'Esso' sign standing for all the world like a mirage in the middle of the desert. It was real enough, however, and we refuelled the vehicles. The next day, heading for Kufra, we hit the sand sea. This was the first time we had met the romantic 'desert legion' sands of the cinema. The shifting sand stretched before us in soft waves and crests as far as the eye could see. It was anything but romantic for us and the sand channels were in busy use all day. One of the three-tonners discovered what was probably the only rock in the whole of the sand sea and promptly used it to crack its differential cover and strip 13 teeth off the crown wheel. The R.E.M.E. fitters made a temporary repair to get us to Kufra. It was in the sand sea that we had our second casualty. Corporal Wilmot, perhaps inspired by the Charles Atlas adverts, tried to lift a bogged Land Rover all by himself and badly strained his back. That night we signalled to Malta for vehicles spares to be flown to Kufra where we would collect them. We also asked for a relief for Corporal Wilmot who was not fit enough to carry on with the expedition.

After the sand sea we came on to a sand and gravel plain. This was an almost featureless plateaux with a reddish sand covering a peculiar maroon and black volcanic rock. Occasionally there would be startling outcrops of this rock rising perhaps 20 or 30 feet sheer from the plain. We lowered our tyre pressures while crossing this ground to try and lessen the delays caused by stopping to repair punctures.

Our first air drop came on 24th November. First came spare parts for vehicles and mail and then what appeared to be tins of beer. Faces lit up all round and we all gave mental thanks to the person who organised this pleasant surprise. On close examination the tins of 'beer' turned out to be a novel line in canned water. Our early disappointment soon ended when we tasted the water which, after the heavily chlorinated mixture we had been drinking since Benghazi, tasted wonderful. This was the first example of the fine service which was provided for us by the R.A.F. during the whole expedition.

We entered Kufra on 25th November. We heard that evening, by radio, that a relief for Corporal Wilmot would be flying out the next day. It was not to be another Corporal but a Signalman, "Jock" Campbell, a friend of mine from our Squadron in Malta. I also learnt of my rapid rise to the rank of lance-corporal (acting and unpaid) which meant that as soon as Corporal Wilmot left I would be in charge. This, in turn, meant that I would not be operating the station at the base at Kufra but would be moving with the forward party on the last leg to Tibesti. It also meant that I would be the only one able to write a full account of the expedition.

Kufra itself consists of several salt lakes surrounded by palm trees. The local Arabs make good use of the palms—houses are made of palm leaves and mud, and we saw chicken runs, fences and wind barriers all made of the same material. The Arabs were very friendly. At first they were content to crowd round us in silence and watch what we were doing, but it did not take long for the Arab trading instinct to take its hold. The area is quite extensively cultivated and there was a great deal of furious bargaining over fresh food and vegetables. Colour Sergeant Cross of 1 D.E.R.R. who looked after the administrative arrangements for the party undertook the large scale deals on behalf of the expedition. He was so adept at the process of haggling over prices that we began to think he had some Arab blood himself. It was impossible to do any business without bargaining—in fact the Arabs seemed to enjoy it so much I think they would have been annoyed if we had not entered into the spirit of the thing. As a starting point for haggling a local 'official' rate of exchange was generally accepted—one egg for one 'hard-tack' biscuit. The Arabs were very persistent businessmen and they pursued everywhere with calls of "Hey, Johnnie!" and made the motions of smoking a cigarette while they waved their arms at us. In addition to food they offered ceremonial spears and daggers, brightly coloured weather fans and mats made of camel skin.

While we were at Kufra a football match was organised against the local team. Our opponents were a peculiar mixture. Some were dressed in flowing robes and played in bare feet; others were turned out in immaculate continental soccer rig, for all the world like Italian stars from Juventus. The Arabs had the advantage of a large crowd of enthusiastic supporters who encouraged their team with great cries of "Eevah!" One spectator let out a screech of delight each time any one of the Kufra team touched the ball—regardless of the circumstances. I am sure there would have been an exaltant "Eevah!" from him even if Kufra had put the ball into their own goal. The spectators were very pleased with the result of the game: Kufra 2, Malta Tourists 1.

On the 26th November the relief aircraft, an R.A.F. Valletta, flew into Kufra airfield. "Airfield" is a rather grand name for black lines drawn on the sand outside the oasis. The plane brought mail and supplies and this time some real beer. It also brought in "Jock" Campbell. There was also another special piece of freight. Three members of the expedition celebrated their birthdays during the journey and the cooks of 1 Derr in Malta had baked them a magnificent birthday cake complete with pink icing and had it flown out on the Valletta. The aircraft flew back to Malta later that day taking with it Corporal Wilmot whose back was still causing him great pain. He was as sorry to leave us as we were to see him go.

Our time at Kufra was not all fun and games. We were busy making the preparations for the move off of the four Land Rovers and two three-tonners which were to attempt the final run to Tibesti. We set out on the last leg on the morning of 27th November. It was difficult country with many patches of soft sand and one three-tonner broke down completely and had to be recovered by the party at Kufra who also sent us out a spare vehicle. On the 28th we reached the well at Biscaria where we saw a depressing sight. The well was surrounded by thousands of bones of animals that had been attracted by the smell of water. They had not been able to get at the water, which was 150 feet down, and had wandered round the well until they had finally collapsed and died of thirst. At Biscaria, I passed messages asking for petrol and oil to be flown into Kufra to be picked up by the expedition on the return journey, and had good communication on voice with Kufra, Benghazi and Malta, using the 16ft. twin 'V' aerial.

The next day we moved up an escarpment and went on to very good going on a flat plain, but by evening we came into very difficult country again, with the ground broken by steep wadis and patches of very soft sand. It was on this morning, 30th November, at 09.45 hours, that we caught our first sight of Picco Bette in the distance. Everyone was very pleased when we realised that we had achieved our objective and the tiredness caused by the exertions of the last few days seemed to disappear. Our spirits had always been high, though, due in great part to the efforts of Private Cox, of 1 D.E.R.R., who took on the job of the expedition's chief clown. His irrepressible good humour and quick wit kept everyone grinning. On one occasion a battle-hardened sergeant of the 1 D.E.R.R. decided to do a little tactical training with one of the young subalterns. Turning to him and pointing to a ruined Arab fort on a small hill, he said: "How would you take that?" Before the officer could reply, Cox had said: "At about 250th, F16." We all owed a lot to Cox.

We decided to move a little closer to Picco Bette, and the next two days were spent in moving across very rugged country. We spent a great deal of time trying to find suitable tracks through the broken, hilly ground. By nightfall on 1st December,

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we decided we had done enough. Time and petrol were running short, and we were approaching the border with Chad, which we were not allowed to cross. We camped for the night with Picco Bette rising high above us, and on the morning of the 2nd December, started on the trek back to Kufra. We needed more vehicle spares, and I sent off a signal asking for an air drop on 3rd December.

Meanwhile, back at Kufra, the forward base party were not idle. They had organised a proper camp and had built a very effective shower. Jock Campbell was engaged in passing signals giving information of the progress of the expedition and requesting supplies and spares of various sorts. The Kufra party had to be very careful where they trod as there was a great deal of unexploded ammunition and mines lying about the oasis, left from the desert campaign of the last world war. The Arabs had made a veritable arsenal of a ruined fort on a hill just outside the oasis, where they dumped tons of unexploded ammunition for safe-keeping. As a change from digging out bogged vehicles, the rear party had, on one occasion, to come to the rescue of a Beverley, which got well and truly stuck while taxi-ing on the Kufra "airfield."

The air-drop of spares to the forward party, on 3rd December, went very smoothly, and we drew a large "thank you again" in the sand for the pilot of the aircraft. The R.E.M.E. carried out some brief repairs and we were on our way again. On 4th December, we received a signal from the Commanding Officer of 1 D.E.R.R., in Malta, congratulating Major Knight and the party on the success of the expedition. The next day we were back in Kufra. After a shower and a brief rest, we started the preparations for the long haul back to Benghazi. We did manage a return football match with Kufra which, this time, was drawn.

On 8th December the whole column set off on the return trip to Jalo. We were going to be pushed to get back in time to catch the boat for Malta, and we did a fair amount of night driving. On the 12th the R.A.F. dropped more vehicle spares to us, and by the 15th we were back in Jalo to refuel. By 18th December we were back in Benghazi and went straight aboard the ship. On the 20th we set foot again in Malta. We had been away only 33 days, although it seemed much longer.

Everyone did their bit to make the expedition a success, but if anyone deserves a special mention it is the R.E.M.E. fitters, who often worked through the night to get the vehicles fit to move the next morning. They were never daunted by the size of tasks, and used a great deal of ingenuity to overcome them; one of the 300 watt charging engines worked quite happily after a temporary repair by the R.E.M.E. using a piece of cardboard. The R.A.F. also deserve praise; they never let us down and we could not have managed without them. The expedition was an unusual experience for me and meant a great deal of hard work and not much comfort—but if they ask for volunteers for a similar trip, I shall be first in the queue.

607 TROOP (BRITISH GUIANA)

As these are our first notes, the best way to open is by giving a little bit of history. The Troop was formed in November, 1963, having been previously a detachment of 239 Squadron and for a short while 243 Squadron. Our role is providing external radio communications for H.Q., British Guiana Garrison. To do this we are stationed in Georgetown, which is the capital of British Guiana, and is situated on the coast. Although the Headquarters is ideally sited on the coast, the beach and sea are unusable because of mud. However, we do benefit from the sea breezes which keep Georgetown reasonably cool.

Although a posting to a country on the fringe of the Caribbean may seem ideal, there are, like all good things, certain disadvantages. The main one here is that it is an unaccompanied posting. To compensate for this, the tour is limited to nine months, which means it is a pleasant way of spending a winter abroad.

Georgetown has all the amenities of a large town, and these are put to good use. Unfortunately the road system in British Guiana is not very good and consequently travel outside Georgetown is limited. Despite this, members of the Troop have been getting around the country, and an article about the experiences of members of the Troop are included with these notes. Unfortunately, because of broken cameras or colour enthusiasts, it has not been possible to include any photographs.

On Detachment in the North-West District of British Guiana

BY SIGNALMAN A. BROOKER

A change from routine is always welcome, and therefore I was very pleased when I was chosen to go to Matthews Ridge as the operator for the outstation the Troop maintains at the manganese mines. I knew that I would be the only member of the Army there and this made the news doubly exciting.

As there are no roads to Matthews Ridge, my journey was by seaplane, river and company-owned railway. I left Georgetown on 20th December. The first part of my journey was a flight of about an hour in a Grumman Goose seaplane, which took off from the Demerara River, which, incidentally, gives its name to the brown sugar that one is able to buy all over the world. At the end of the flight the 'plane landed at a small settlement called Sebai, which is on a river of the same name. At this point it transferred to a diesel launch for the next part of my journey. This was along the Kaitauma river. After an hour-and-a-half, the first part of the mine was reached. This is called Port Kaituma, and it is where the manganese is loaded.

The next and last stage of my journey was by the company railway. The railway works its way through 32 miles of snake and swamp infested jungle. The railway between Port Kaituma and the manganese mines at Matthews Ridge has been operating since November, 1959. The mine has been operating for much longer, as it was as late as 1952 when a government surveyor named Matthews prospected the area and found manganese.

After six hours of travelling, I arrived at Matthews Ridge. The mine is about 700 feet above sea level, which means it is considerably cooler than Georgetown, 160 miles to the south and below sea level. The Venezuelan border is only 26 miles from the mine and this is the part of British Guiana which is subject to a claim by Venezuela.

The open-cast method of mining is used to obtain the manganese, the ore being dug out by machinery. It is then transported by the railway to Port Kaituma for despatch by river. The size of the mine and its workings can be obtained from the fact that there are over 500 people working there.

During my stay at Matthews Ridge I worked a daily schedule back to the Troop at Georgetown. As this was not an onerous task, I was able to have a good look at the mine. Unfortunately I was not able to go into the jungle, as only organised parties are allowed to do this.

A few days after my arrival Christmas was celebrated in a typically English manner. The manager very kindly invited me to spend Christmas Day at his house.

Many of my evenings were spent in the mine's club, where the senior staff were very kind to me. A surprise event was a party organised for my 21st birthday, when I was presented with a beer tankard inscribed with my name.

I had a wonderful stay of two months, and was very sorry to return to Georgetown; however, I hope to get back to Matthews Ridge for a short stay, to go on an expedition into the jungle.

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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.

- SPORT -

Colonel P. C. Williams, O.B.E.

Corps cricket fans will be interested to hear that Colonel Pat Williams will take over as Secretary of the Sussex County Cricket Club on 1st August, 1964. Colonel Williams, at present D.D. Telecommunications at the Air Ministry, is a member of the M.C.C. and Free Foresters and played cricket for the Corps for many years.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Lieutenant G. A. Allen and Lance-Corporal A. W. T. Coldwell, both of Royal Signals, who were chosen for the Army side against the Civil Service at hockey recently.

Hockey

The School of Signals were beaten 2—1 in the United Kingdom Final of the Army Hockey Championship by the 1st Training Battalion Royal Engineers.

Corps Sports Photographs

AN APPEAL

Before the war a fairly complete series of team photographs for each major Corps game was maintained in specially produced albums. Each album was a very interesting record, which also included names of players and a list of the season's match results.

Since 1947 the system has crumbled into fragmentary records of a few years here and there, and it is the object of this appeal to pick up the pieces, as it were, so that we may bring our Corps sporting records up to date in proper albums, and eventually add them to the others in the Corps Museum for all to see in future years. We need group photographs of Corps teams in all major games for the years listed here:

Corps Game	*Years wanted*
Association Football	All post-war
Cricket	All post-war
Hockey	1947-55 inclusive, and 1963
Rugby Football	1959-63 inclusive
Shooting	All post-war
Tennis	All post-war

If you possess any Corps team photographs to fill these gaps, or can give details of the whereabouts of any, please let us have them. Your photographs will be copied, carefully packed, and returned to you with our appreciative thanks.

Do not forget the names of the team, and the date, etc., which are very important, and indeed without them a photograph can be pretty vexatious, as the name attached to a face is so easily forgotten. Nothing can be more frustrating than a team of gentlemen named "A. N. Other," or "? Jones."

Your photographs should be securely wrapped, preferably between stiff boards, and addressed to Major F. T. C. Williams, Secretary Royal Signals Games Club, H.Q. Training Brigade Royal Signals, Catterick Camp, Yorkshire.

STOP PRESS

London District (T.A.) Rifle Association Results. Pirbright, 26th April

Champion Shot: W.O.II G. H. Waters, 47th Regiment	215
Inter-Unit Pistol Match: 1st, 47th Regiment	164
2nd, 21 S.A.S.	159
Inter-Unit Rifle Match: 1st, 45th Regiment	337
2nd, 105 Transport Column	326

Summary of Corps Sports Results, Winter, 1963'64

Association Football

Sept. 25th	v.	R.A.O.C., at Donnington, cancelled.
Oct. 16th	v.	Manchester University, at Catterick, won 4—0.
Nov. 2nd	v.	Hull University, at Hull, won 4—0.
Nov. 6th	v.	R.A.S.C., at Catterick, won 9—2.
Nov. 23rd	v.	Sheffield University, at Catterick, lost 3—7.
Dec. 7th	v.	King's College, at Newcastle, cancelled.
Jan. 15th	v.	Manchester University, won 3—0.
Jan. 25th	v.	King's College, Newcastle, at Catterick, drew 3—3.
Feb. 8th	v.	King's College, at Newcastle, won 3—1.
Feb. 26th	v.	R.E., at Catterick, lost 1—4.
Feb. 29th	v.	Hull University, at Catterick, won 5—3.
Mar. 14th	v.	R.E.M.E., at Bordon, 3—3.

Rugby Football

Oct. 9th	v.	Welbeck College, at Welbeck, won 16—3.
Nov. 14th	v.	R.E., at Catterick, lost 0—9.
Dec. 4th	v.	R.A., at Woolwich, lost 0—30.
Dec. 12th	v.	Cambridge Univ. LX Club, at Catterick, lost 6—33.
Mar. 21	v.	R.M.A., Sandhurst, at Camberley, cancelled.

Hockey

Sept. 28th	v.	Thistles, at Catterick, lost 2—5.
Oct. 23rd	v.	R.M.A., Sandhurst, at Camberley, won 5—4.
Oct. 24th	v.	R.A.M.C., at Aldershot, won 11—2.
Nov. 13th	v.	R.E.M.E., at Blandford, won 3—0.
Nov. 14th	v.	R.E., at Blandford, drew 1—1.
Nov. 15th	v.	R.A., at Blandford, won 4—1.
Nov. 27th	v.	Durham University, at Durham, lost 1—2.
Feb. 12th	v.	R.M.C.S., at Aldershot, lost 1—2.
Feb. 13th	v.	R.A.S.C., at Aldershot, won 5—3.
Feb. 14th	v.	R.A.S.C., at Aldershot, won 3—0.
Mar. 4th	v.	Welbeck College, won 5—1.

47th REGIMENT MIDDLESEX YEOMANRY (The Duke of Cambridge's Hussars)

"**A Dynamic Easter!**—that's what I want (said the C.O., Lieutenant-Colonel S. J. Williams, M.B.E., T.D.) with every available man on the move—remember, what the T.A. soldier wants is activity and leadership."

A dynamic Easter it was too, with "A" and "C" Squadrons engaged on Operation "Easter Bonnet," designed to provide field training for Radio Operators in medium distance radio communication, under varying conditions.

"A" Squadron, under its Squadron Leader, Major R. M. Lustig, was sited in the Snowdon area of North Wales, simulating a recce group operating behind the enemy lines—working back to "C" Squadron at Uxbridge, Middlesex, under Major E. A. Scarlett, B.E.M., T.D.

Two-way voice communication was maintained for 36 hours, with occasional breaks on CW just to keep the "old hands" happy—whilst the Regimental Tough Training team (principally composed of "A" Squadron personnel) got in some really tough training up and down the mountain and slogging it out along the roads, to say nothing of the 12 mile march back from Caernarvon (2 hours 20 minutes) in battle order.

But in spite of the cold (it was no joke erecting Antenna masts on Snowdon) there was one great compensation—the cooking! First that of the advance party, Sergeants Hill and Ashdown, and then the excellence of "A" Squadron's newly acquired A.C.C. cook, Lance-Corporal Goddard.

"B" Squadron were equally active, aided by detachments from "A," "C" and "D" Squadrons, engaged on Operation "Battersea '64" under their Squadron Leader, Major R. Iliffe, which was designed to provide field training for Radio and Line tradesmen and for all ranks, training in the aid of the Civil Power, by provision of communications for the elements of the Civil Power responsible for Crowd Control and Medical Cover for London's "Easter Parade," held in Battersea Park. We understand that the police and medical authorities were very satisfied with out efforts.

Needless to say, our Public Relations team didn't miss such a good opportunity to "plug the message," and having borrowed a Recruiting Trailer, which was well sited, Staff Sergeant Anderson and his men were busily engaged in distributing Regimental Information Leaflets.

But pride of place went to the Middlesex Yeomanry Band, who led the actual Easter Parade, their second public engagement over Easter, having performed at Uxbridge earlier in the holiday.

"Tough and Technical!" — our Regimental slogan, was epitomised by our efforts in the "T.A. Marathon," sponsored by London T.A. Headquarters over the 4th/5th April, for not only was our own Regimental Tough Training team subjected to the rigours of the event, but technically we were fully committed with the communications responsibility for The Marathon, as well as the provision of R.E.M.E. recovery facilities by our L.A.D. and musical support for the final stage of the event, by the Middlesex Yeomanry Band.

Our team was led by Second-Lieutenant D. Wainman and comprised Sergeant D. Curry, Corporal G. Kenne and Signalmen C. Gavan-Duffy, A. de la Poer, C. Stenning, R. Osborne, J. McDonald, A. Henderson, D. Regan—they didn't win the Marathon, but they put up a wonderful show in an event which, in all, covered 150 miles over four counties and included a 25-mile march, driving test, overnight bivouac, field cooking test, range practice and an assault course—truly a test of military skills, physical fitness and stamina.

Communications for the two-day Marathon were directed by Major E. A. Scarlett, B.E.M., T.D., whilst at the same time leading the four detachments from his own Squadron, "C," with "A" Squadron detachment under Major R. M. Lustig, and "B," under Second-Lieutenant D. A. Wallace. Memorable was the cooking of Signalman Ross and the keenness of Signalman McCabe, who in spite of having to be on duty at London Airport in the evening turned out for the initial stages of the event, but we hear that the man who "realy enjoyed himself" was "C" Squadron's popular P.S.I., W.O.II Alexander, knee deep in snow, supervising Antenna erection on an unidentified hill somewhere in Surrey!

Special praise must go to Sergeant Ulph and his L.A.D. team, who were unexpectedly landed with the R.E.M.E. Recovery responsibility for the Marathon and finished up with a total of 19 recoveries to their credit.

Looking resplendent in their new Dress Cord Lanyards, the gift of Captain V. Williams, Middlesex Regiment, brother of our C.O., the Middlesex Yeomanry Band gave a public performance at the Duke of York's Headquarters prior to the trophy presentation by Field Marshal The Earl Alexander of Tunis, at the end of the Marathon—so good were they that the Bandmaster, W.O.I Tamplin, was sent for and congratulated by the Field Marshal. On parade for the first time with the Band was their mascot, six-year-old Robin Lock (son of Musician Lock), smartly turned out in a miniature No. 1 Dress uniform, and with a salute that would warm any R.S.M.'s heart.

Social Activity—during the past month, this has included a Dinner given by the Officers' Mess, a great success, largely due to the efforts of the Mess Secretary, Captain L. C. Udell, M.B.E., the occasion also being marked by the presentation to the Mess of Candlebra, by our previous C.O., Lieutenant-Colonel Simon R. Beazley.

To mark its continued connection with the Regiment, H.R.V. Laming, Esq., invited the C.O. to be his, the President's, guest at a recent Dinner of The Middlesex Imperial Yeomanry Masonic Lodge. Also present from the Regiment was Major P. M. Pearson, T.D.

Awards. Congratulations to Staff Sergeant R. L. Miller on his recent award of the Territorial Efficiency Medal.

45th (ESSEX) REGIMENT (T.A.)

Much press comment of late has been devoted to the reorganisation of the Boroughs of Greater London. Some well-loved names like Chelsea, West Ham, Dagenham—and even Woolwich—are soon to disappear and will, in future, be known as Kensington, New Ham, Barking and Greenwich.

In this area of North East London, we must become accustomed to the name of the new enlarged Borough of Redbridge. Happily, the honour and privilege, awarded in 1963, of the Freedom of Entry into the Borough of Wanstead and Woodford is retained. It merely means that the Regiment has a larger area in which to "march with bayonets fixed, drums beating and Colours flying."

Since that momentous day in April last year, the unit has continued to thrive and (we think) improve. This report includes comments of events since then which may be of interest to readers.

Annual camp took place in June, under canvas, at Dibgate, near Folkestone. The old hands were quite undaunted by the rugged conditions caused by wind, rain, mud and "visiting firemen," but a few newcomers, like the writer, will not soon forget it.



Lieutenant-Colonel J. H. Mansfield, O.B.E., T.D., presents W.O.I (R.S.M.) J. Donaldson with a gavel for use in the W.O.'s and Sergeants Mess at the dinner to mark the Colonel's Departure

Other activities in the Regiment towards the end of the year included a special T.A. recruiting drive. This took the form of an entire week-end during which potential recruits camped in three separate areas, and took part in various activities designed to interest them in the Army, and Royal Signals in particular. It was a challenge to that youthful zest for something new which one hears so much about these days. No effort was spared—light aircraft and armoured cars were employed, and the cooks worked overtime. A lot of potential recruits came, but, unfortunately, so did the rain.

In December, the G.O.C., London District, Major-General E. J. B. Nelson, D.S.O., M.V.O., O.B.E., M.C., visited the T.A. Centre, Wanstead, and expressed satisfaction with the training in progress and his appreciation for the warmth of the welcome he received.

One evening early in January, 1964, Major (T.O.T.) C. H. Ferrans, T.D., quietly announced he had completed 25 years' service with this Regiment. Such a long period of continuous service with the same unit, in peace and war, must surely impress even the most seasoned regular soldier. When the



Major (T.O.T.) C. H. Ferrans, T.D.



Major (Q.M.) T. W. Grigg, M.S.M.

Quartermaster, Major (Q.M.) T. W. Grigg, heard this news he laconically added some interesting facts about his own 36 years' regular service in the Corps. After three years' Boys' Service, he joined a mysterious unit called "F" Company



W.O.II Conlan, President W.O.'s and Sergeant's Mess, presents Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield, O.B.E., T.D., with a Silver tray at the dinner in his honour

on 3rd January, 1931, and subsequently served all over the world. He was awarded the M.S.M. in June, 1962. Readers will no doubt wish to join in congratulating these two officers, the one dedicated to the T.A. and the other to the Regular Army.

In February, Lieutenant-Colonel J. H. Mansfield, O.B.E., T.D., whose recent award was announced in the New Year's Honours List received the Order of an Officer of the British Empire from the hand of The Duke of Edinburgh. The photograph shows the Colonel with his family outside Buckingham Palace. A change of command has since taken place, and Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield's energy and enthusiasm diverted elsewhere, after commanding the Regiment, which he first joined in 1939, for four years. Ceremonies connected with this change included parades at each of the four T.A. centres in Essex, a social evening, dinner in the Officers' Mess, and a dinner party in the Sergeants' Mess in honour of the Colonel and also Mrs.



Lieutenant-Colonel J. H. Mansfield O.B.E., T.D., and family outside Buckingham Palace

Mansfield. While wishing the departing Commanding Officer all happiness on his retirement, Lieutenant-Colonel R. A. Chell, T.D., is congratulated on his assuming command from 1st April.

The firm, happy alliance with our sister unit, 16th Regiment, continues to flourish. Regular working of radio links is in hand, and it was a happy occasion when Major F. M. Partington arrived for a short visit to R.H.Q. during March.

A number of changes of permanent military staff have taken place. At present we have with us:

Major E. R. Hardy	...	Training Major
Major (Rtd.) H. Jamieson	...	Adjutant
W.O.I (R.S.M.) J. Donaldson	...	Sergeant T. Moran
W.O.II H. W. Jones ...	...	Sergeant A. W. Kyles
W.O.II D. Greenbrook ...	...	Corporal B. R. Hobbs
Staff Sergeant M. A. Cull	...	Corporal R. S. Campbell

Senior T.A. members of the Sergeants' Mess who may be remembered by readers include such names as:

W.O.II (R.Q.M.S.) W. Wilkins	W.O.II J. P. Conlan
W.O.II F. A. Bromfield	W.O.II W. J. A. Gostling
W.O.II (R.Q.M.S.) J. C. Pugh	W.O.II A. A. Cooper
W.O.II G. Derwent, M.B.E. ...	W.O.II M. J. Lamb
W.O.II H. W. Bowers	

It is hoped to include news and names of T.A. Officers and N.C.O.s in the next report to THE WIRE.

64th REGIMENT (T.A.)

R.H.Q. and 1 Squadron (Sheffield). After such a mild winter in this part of the world, we are looking forward to a red hot summer for camp. The Radio and Radio Relay Troops are already getting into practice at sleeping out over the week-ends, whilst the Line Troop have been trying their communications over the hills around Glossop. The end of the month saw all activities centring around preparations for the West Riding recruiting fortnight, due to start on 29th February.

The Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess held a most efficiently run and very successful Christmas ball. All credit must be given to R.S.M. Crabtree and his Mess Committee for putting on a wonderful evening's entertainment. It was also very pleasant to see so many Warrant Officers and Sergeants wearing mess kit.

We give our heartiest congratulations to Lance-Corporal Gambles for being selected to play for the T.A. at soccer against Cambridge University. At the same time we must not forget the untiring efforts of Lieutenant (T.O.T.) Cottage in pushing our soccer team from success to success. We have succeeded in winning the Colonel Batchelor Shield contest every year it has been played. This is having such an effect on other units that the local Saturday sporting paper reported a local T.A. unit as being very anxious to recruit footballers.

51 (H) SIGNAL REGIMENT (T.A.)

The wind of change has veered once again in a northerly direction, with the retirement of our Commanding Officer of the past four years, Lieutenant-Colonel T. B. S. McMain, M.B.E., T.D. As his successor, we welcome Lieutenant-Colonel J. M. Wotherspoon, T.D., who assumed command on 1st April. His connection with Signals goes back to 1943, and with our Regiment, in particular, it dates from the re-formation of the Territorial Army in 1947. In 1955, after a tour of duty as O.C. 1 Squadron, he took up a staff appointment with 153 (H) Brigade, based on his home town, Inverness. In 1962 he returned to the Regiment as Second-in-Command, and we congratulate him now on his promotion, and are confident that under his command we shall go from strength to strength.

Lieutenant-Colonel McMain, was dined-out in the Officers' Mess at Aberdeen on 4th April, and we were glad to have in our company that evening several former officers of the Regiment, as well as our younger officers who have joined during his command. The Honorary Colonel, Colonel James Cochran, O.B.E., T.D., presented Colonel McMain with a silver salver and a statuette of "Jimmy." One of the outstanding achievements of the retiring C.O. must surely be his long and determined struggle, against overwhelming odds, to obtain a supply of buzzer units for the assistance of trainee radio operators. His persistence eventually wore down the opposition and the supposedly unobtainable buzzers were duly issued: the bulky files were closed and the matter relegated to the pages of our Regimental History. Not everyone had forgotten, however, for after dinner on 4th April, there was presented to Colonel McMain a magnificent buzzer, measuring 4ft. x 2ft. 6in. —and it worked too! Very appropriately, this intriguing piece of equipment was handed over by the C.S.O., Colonel Linton.



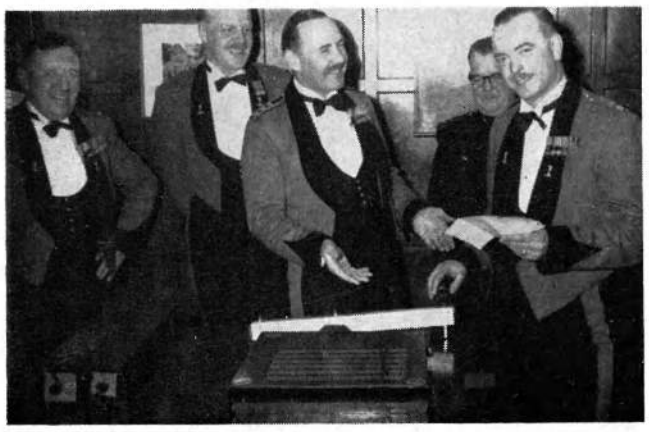
Lieutenant-Colonel T. B. S. McMain, M.B.E., T.D. (Branch Vice-Chairman and Commanding Officer 51st (H) Regiment, T.A.), Colonel G. D. G. Mackinnon, T.D. (retiring Chairman and D.C.S.O. 51st (H) Division and District), Major J. B. Duff, E.R.D. (Branch Chairman), Colonel T. P. E. Murray, O.B.E., T D. (Branch President) and Lieutenant-Colonel J. H. Moonie, M.M., T.D. (Branch Hon. Secretary and Deputy County Commandant S.N.E.A., A.C.F.) seated from *left to right* and backed by some of the Branch members who were "limbering-up" before Dinner at Fonthill Barracks, Aberdeen

On Sunday, 5th April, Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. McMain entertained the officers of the Regiment at a cocktail party, after which they left the T.A. centre seated on a ¼-ton trailer, to the strains of the Regimental Pipes and Drums playing the march composed in honour of the Colonel by Pipe-Major Macdougall. So ended a quarter-of-a-century of loyal service to the Regiment, for which we pay sincere tribute. We congratulate the Colonel on his new appointment as C.S.O. of East Lowland District, for it would be a great pity if his knowledge and experience of Signals were now to be lost.

One of the greatest changes in the structure of the Regiment in recent years was in January, 1961, when we were joined by the members of the former 316 and 317 Battalions, W.R.A.C. The successful integration of the two units of W.R.A.C. with the Regiment was due in large measure to Lieutenant-Colonel McMain and the then commander of 316 Battalion, Major M. O. Mackenzie, M.B.E., T.D., who came to us as Major W.R.A.C. May we place on record our appreciation of Major Mackenzie's enthusiasm and untiring efforts on behalf of the Regiment during the period of almost three years, until she retired at the end of last December. We salute her and wish her well in her retirement.

Major George Louden, M.B.E., T.D., who formerly commanded 2 Squadron at Stirling, now becomes Second-in-Command. An expert in Shorthorn cattle, Major Louden is going to find himself drawn in two directions at once during camp at Scarborough, for we have just learned that the Great Yorkshire Agricultural Show is on in Harrogate at the same time. Perhaps exercise locations will need to be revised.

With all these changes smoothly accomplished, the Regiment now embarks on the summer training season in preparation for camp (our second year at Scarborough) with renewed enthusiasm. In the words of a former Training Major, our first task is to signal, so let's get on with it.



Colonal R. Linton, C.S.O., Scottish Command, presents an outsize Buzzer to Lieutenant-Colonel T.B.S. McMain, M.B.E., T.D. Looking on (*Left to right*): Major G. Louden, M.B.E., T.D., Major C. N. Le Gassick and Captain W. Tyers

ASSOCIATION NOTES

ABERDEEN BRANCH

Colonel G. D. G. Mackinnon, T.D., told members present at the Aberdeen Branch annual general meeting in Fonthill Barracks on 29th February last that after three years as Branch Chairman he felt "the honours must go round" and his proposal that Major J. B. Duff, E.R.D., should succeed him was unanimously approved by the fairly good percentage of the Branch strength—now standing at 62 Life and 60 Annual Members—who, before adjourning to dinner, thanked the retiring Chairman for his efforts to maintain a virile and active membership in the north-east of Scotland.

Appreciative attention was given to short accounts of Branch activity over the past year which included an increased attendance by some 250 Territorial Army personnel and ex-Servicemen of the Corps with their families and friends at the Annual Service of Remembrance and, also, the Social Evening held during autumn; for both of which full use of the Training Centre facilities was offered by the Commanding Officer of 51st (Highland) Regiment, T.A., Lieutenant-Colonel T. B. S. McMain, M.B.E., T.D., whose permanent staff made the functions possible. Hon. Treasurer Major A. M. Mitchell, T.D., was warmly commended on the comforting improvement, by his judicious handling, in the still too empty coffers of the Branch Fund but his assurance that the "Stop Watch Competition" run throughout the winter would add about twenty-five pounds was enthusiastically received. Lieutenant-Colonel J. H. Moonie, M.M., T.D., the Hon. Secretary, was complimented on the biannual delivery to some 300 present and former "Signalmen"—including one tracked down in West Pakistan—of Branch Newsletters, which Branch President Colonel T. P. E. Murray, O.B.E., T.D., thought must be a model for Branches.

The company regretted the absence through illness of the General Secretary, Brigadier P. M. P. Hobson, D.S.O., and wished him a speedy and complete recovery. They were also pleased to hear snippets from the letters of 21 well-wishers, who could only be present in spirit this year, and were delighted to welcome back to Fonthill a former Adjutant, Captain D. O. Fairlie, from Auchtermuchty.

Following a film titled "Rival Worlds" which was publicised by R.S.M. T. W. Jackson to feature "The Beatles," ex-S.S.M. "Dod" Lovie marshalled an impromptu party of entertainers which comprised, among others, Corporal D. Pittendreigh and Captain R. D. Smith—part of whose war-time experience included an Army Pigeon Training Loft—while old friends relived some of their more nostalgic memories of former days in the Corps.

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The following subscriptions were most gratefully received during March, 1964:

	£	s.	d.
H.Q. Officers' Mess (Grand National Draw)	3	15	0
24th Regiment (Officers' Mess)	1	4	0
24th Regiment (Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess) ...	4	15	0
339 Squadron T.A.	2	6	0
319 Squadron T.A.	3	0	0
2nd Regiment (Officers' Mess)	2	8	6
7th Regiment	80	0	0
22nd Regiment (Proceeds of Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' raffle)	14	3	9
229 Squadron (Berlin)	12	0	0
Royal Signals Troop attached 4th Regiment R.A.	5	0	0
234 Squadron	5	15	0
235 Squadron (COMCAN)	3	10	10
245 Squadron (Cyrenaica)	20	0	0
9th Regiment	37	17	6
259 Squadron	5	0	0
Southampton Branch, Royal Signals Association	5	5	0
Various Individual donations	11	2	8
Receipts	£217	3	3

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June 1964

The WIRE

The Royal Signals Magazine



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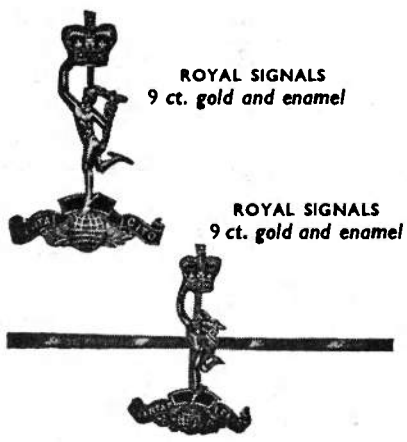
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THE WIRE

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

The Official Organ of the Signals Association

Editor:
BRIGADIER P. M. P. HOBSON, D.S.O.

Assistant Editor:
BRIGADIER D. R. FIRTH

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JUNE • **1964**

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Editorial

S.S.A.F.A.

THE WIRE, this month, would like to pay a small tribute to S.S.A.F.A.

This organisation goes about its good work for the armed services quietly and efficiently, though what it does is often not fully understood or appreciated by those whom it serves. Many of our welfare cases are investigated for use by S.S.A.F.A. It is clear that much patient work and time is expended in this service. Reports are very full, and the keynote is sympathetic understanding of the problem being investigated. Most of this work is done voluntarily. This means that some good-hearted person is giving up much personal time to go and visit those in distressed circumstances. Often this can be arduous, involving considerable journeying under bad weather conditions. The exercise of tact and patience is called for at the end of the journey. Sometimes there are rebuffs and setbacks, and the visit may be in vain. Yet invariably we receive a calm and considered report with just the information we want.

Yes, indeed, we salute S.S.A.F.A. They do a wonderful job, and we would be lost without them.

Soldiers' Widows' Fund
(See A.C.I. 86 of 1964)

Here, at last, is an Army sponsored scheme by which serving soldiers can, for a comparatively small sum, and with the minimum of paper work, ensure that, in the unfortunate event of their death, their widows or the guardians of their dependant children, received a considerable sum of money *immediately*.

Participation in this scheme involves an annual subscription (deductable at the source by the Regimental Paymaster) of only 24/-, i.e., 2/- a month. It is not an insurance scheme, but is a charitable trust. Hence, it is not possible to specify the exact sum that will be received, but an expert actuarial examination indicates that the sum will be somewhere between £300 and £400. A big point is that the money will be paid over with the *minimum of delay and paperwork* direct to the recipient.

We, in the Association, well know the dire problems that arise when a husband is suddenly lost to a family, and his widow and children are left in strained financial circumstances that need immediate alleviation. Now all this can be taken care of for a mere 2/- a month. If you are married, then you MUST do something about this straight away. Get hold of ACI 86 of 1964, read it and take the necessary action through your unit office.

Incidentally, the grateful thanks of all must go to the Army Kinema Corporation, who have very kindly donated £15,000 to help set up this fund.

The Convention of the Regimental Sergeant Majors of the Royal Corps of Signals at Catterick Camp, 1964

By R.S.M. S. J. R. Dunlop, Royal Signals



Back row: R.S.M. K. H. Atwell, R.S.M. A. F. N. Crabtree, R.S.M. L. G. Humble, R.S.M. W. J. Gahan, R.S.M. M. J. Giles, R.S.M. C. A. Baalham, R.S.M. D. F. Rees, R.S.M. P. McNaughton, R.S.M. W. Harrison, R.S.M. F. A. May, R.S.M. G. E. Parfitt, R.S.M. C. W. Palmer, R.S.M. R. E. Oliver, B.E.M., R.S.M. E. W. Firth, R.S.M. W. E. Lee, R.S.M. B. T. Lord

Centre row: R.S.M. D. Spence, R.S.M. A. A. Kemp, R.S.M. L. Irving, R.S.M. C. Johnson, R.S.M. P. W. H. Lafferty, R.S.M. J. J. Gerrard, B.E.M., R.S.M. T. J. Licence, R.S.M. P. Chilvers, R.S.M. D. G. Newton, R.S.M. J. Crich, R.S.M. V. H. Stephens, R.S.M. G. Schofield, R.S.M. S. Richings, R.S.M. C. Hall (AER), R.S.M. B. Lampard (AER), R.S.M. W. Murphy (AER), R.S.M. F. Crampton (AER)

Front row: R.S.M. D. C. Currie, R.S.M. W. J. Warren, W.O.I W. E. Howley, R.S.M. J. Donaldson, R.S.M. A. V. K. Ward, R.S.M. S. J. R. Dunlop, Major-General F. J. Swainson, O.B.E., Brigadier A. C. Cox, O.B.E., R.S.M. T. Jones, B.E.M., R.S.M. F. Stockdale, B.E.M., R.S.M. D. Haughney, R.S.M. E. J. Ford, R.S.M. A. E. T. Bosten, R.S.M. E. N. Jackson, R.S.M. C. Nutton

WHEN, as host R.S.M. to the Convention on 9th/10th March, 1964, I started about a month before to consider the thousand and one things which needed to be done, I wondered how it would all turn out. There is a considerable amount of organisation needed for such an event, particularly as members this year exceeded even last year's record total. However, by the time they started to arrive we were well ready and I soon got that feeling that all would go well.

Forty-seven Sergeant-Majors of the Corps attended, coming from T.A., A.E.R. and Regular Regiments throughout the U.K., from every Regiment in Germany and from as far afield as Cyprus. Due to air, sea, and rail schedules many arrived early, so that the Convention was well under way by the evening of the 7th.

Those who have not met friends for over 20 years will realise the degree to which reminiscence develops on such occasions. In fact, the question "Do you remember old so-and-so?" was nearer the truth when one realised how much "old so-and-so" was really advancing in years. Quite a number met new friends, as they had not attended a Convention previously, but the "old and the bold" and "new boys" soon made one solid unit of thought and purpose.

The aim of the Convention this year was twofold:—

(1) To enable the R.S.M.s of the Corps to meet and to be brought up to date on current and future Corps policies.
(2) To consider and discuss the effects of future planned changes in organisations and equipments on the requirements of military training in the Corps.

Assembling on the first morning in North Hall, the Convention was addressed by the Signal Officer-in-Chief who gave a forthright and lucid account of the "State of the Union" and also a glimpse of future hopes and problems.

There followed an extremely interesting talk by Major W. G. Sherratt, M.B.E., of The Planning Wing, School of Signals, on the subject of future equipments and the attendant tactical and manpower problems involved. This really made us all sit up and take notice, especially as in his introductory address, Brigadier A. C. Cox, O.B.E., Commander Training Brigade, had warned us that we should be required to discuss the problems arising.

One R.S.M. was heard to murmur that "flag, lamp and helio were certainly less complicated"! and this he said with some feeling!

The photo shown with these notes duly taken, all made their way to Headquarters Officers' Mess. Here, once again, as the guests of the Officers of the Corps, we were entertained to formal luncheon. To those of us who attended last year it was a renewed pleasure—to the others, a great and new experience and all the more so by reason of the setting—the table silver, Corps trumpeters and Orchestra. As a result of these two hours, alert attention at the afternoon session could have proved somewhat difficult. However, Lieutenant-Colonel T. G. H. Jackson, M.B.E., kept all concerned wide awake with a talk on the Integration of a Headquarters at Division and Brigade levels and the associated problems, with special reference to those of the Regimental Sergeant Major. To those of us with no experience of integration, the difficulties seemed legion. R.S.M. S. Richings of 205 Squadron is one man who has had to deal with this problem. He proceeded to explain that, in fact, there was nothing really very new or difficult in the business and that there was little that could not be overcome with tact and determination by the R.S.M. As this fact was one which we really all knew from past and present experience we felt quite reassured.

This concluded the first day's programme save that by now we had been syndicated and allotted our problems to discuss and solve by the morrow. The sight of 47 R.S.M.s dashing off to their classrooms like schoolboys, there to elect their respective syndicate spokesman, and to argue and discuss problems and their solutions into the evening, must have caused many of the recruits who witnessed this performance to wonder if all they had already heard about R.S.M.s was really true!

Later that evening we descended on the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, School of Signals, for a Games Night, though at 2 a.m. none knew the result save the barman.

On Tuesday morning, Colonel P. E. S. Mansergh, O.B.E., as ever in great form, put us in the picture on postings and promotions on the various rosters. He explained very clearly the care and attention which is paid to the career of every soldier in the Corps and it is good to know that such an interest is taken in our problems and personalities by our Records Office. Major F. S. Petrie, M.B.E., Senior Personnel Selection Officer, followed with a talk on recruiting progress. He emphasised the high quality and potential of our present day recruits, a fact which the Regimental Sergeant-Majors of the Training Brigade are only too willing to endorse.

Afternoon brought the syndicates into action giving their solutions to the problems set. There was no lack of discussion here and it soon became clear that syndicates were in agreement on practically every question raised. This was a really stimulating period and we all felt that we gained much. It is gratifying to know that future decisions and policies are being helped by the experience and opinions of R.S.M.s of the Corps. Surely such a revolutionary idea can only auger well for the future?

The Convention was brought to a close with an address by Brigadier Cox giving us a clear idea of progress in the Training Brigade, and of the various proposals for the future, to improve the basic and upgrading course standards even further than at present.

That evening in 11th Regiment (Depot) we held our formal dinner to which, as guests, came the following:—

Brigadier A. C. Cox, O.B.E.; Colonel D. G. Jones (Inspector of Trade Training); Lieutenant-Colonel T. G. H. Jackson, M.B.E. (O.C., 11th Regiment); Major C. Mitchell (Brigade Major).

With the Mess kit, Corps Orchestra and Trumpeters, and with table silver and candelabra loaned by Headquarters Officers' Mess, this was a most enjoyable evening, which will live in many minds for a long time. After dinner, in the ante-room more discussions and memories until in the wee hours, the party broke up and once more the Convention was over for another year.

I am sure that, in speaking for all who attended, I am right in saying that the Convention was another great success. A pleasure socially, it was first and foremost a most valuable study. It enabled us to return to our Units with up to date ideas and feeling that we are really able to help plan for the future of our Corps.

Closed Circuit Television at H.Q. 1 (BR) Corps in the Field

ONE of the problems in a large headquarters in the field is the rapid dissemination of important tactical and other information to the various staff branches which make up the headquarters. Much of this information is best presented in pictorial form.

The normal method of ensuring that everyone is kept fully informed is by means of briefings and conferences held several times each day and by the distribution of situation reports on a wide distribution at frequent intervals. The disadvantages are that the gathering together of staff officers in a central location is time-wasting and the mechanics of producing and distributing printed situation reports are often far too slow.

In 1962 some experience was gained with closed circuit television for this purpose in 1 (BR) Corps at Divisional and Brigade Group Headquarter level, on a small scale. In 1963 it was decided to try it out at H.Q., 1 (BR) Corps in the field using normal civil equipment provided on hire from a well known electronics firm under the sponsorship of the Army Operational Research Establishment. The firm concerned provided several civilian technicians to help with the layout and Roval Signals were responsible for laying the inter-connecting cable and also for some of the camera operation.

The requirement was to pass information in pictorial form from the operations and intelligence centres to other important staff branches. It was also necessary for the Commander or Chief of Staff to be able to telephone operations and intelligence and to ask for a pictorial briefing at any time. There were a large number of technical difficulties such as the provision of suitable maps, marking material, special lighting, etc. These were all overcome by the time the trial took place and will not be discussed in detail in this article.

The heart of the system was the Television Control Centre which was organised on an 'ad hoc' basis and set up in a barn. In it was a large map of the area of operations showing own and enemy troop dispositions, a television camera for transmitting pictures of this map, and a local monitor screen. This was used to give briefings on the clock hour, or when required, to other staff branches equipped with a television receiver connected to the camera in the Control Centre by coaxial cable. Also in the Control Centre were two television receivers each connected to a camera watching the battle maps in the operations and intelligence centres respectively. Information was received on the two receiver screens in the Control Centre from both operations and intelligence and transferred manually to the main information map ready for the hourly briefings.



A Royal Signal's technician adjusts a CCTV camera during troop trials in BAOR

There was also a switching arrangement in the Control Centre which enabled the Commander or Chief of Staff—working in the Commander's television receiver vehicle—to be connected either to operations or intelligence for direct briefings. Voice communication between the Control Centre, operations and intelligence, and all the other users of the system was achieved by means of a 'Centrum' inter-office communication system. This latter system necessitated the laying of cable in addition to that used for the television cameras and receivers.

After a settling down period when those responsible for briefings and camera operation had become accustomed to the work, the system worked well and was a considerable improvement on the previous method of distributing information around the headquarters. One particular useful facility was the ability of the Control Centre to write a message on a special form of screen which was then transmitted to all 'viewers' via the camera, and left switched on for several minutes.

There were, of course, a number of obvious snags. The television equipment was not designed for field use. The Control Centre, although it worked well, was far from mobile. There was a mass of cable to be laid and maintained in addition to the normal amount found at Corps H.Q.

This year it is hoped to introduce a more sophisticated system to the headquarters. Equipment will be 'ruggedised' as far as possible. The Control Centre will be properly engineered into a 2-ton trailer. Voice inter-communication within the system will still be provided by a type of 'Centrum' but the cable used for the vision will also be able to accommodate the speech. Better installation in the 'viewers' office vehicles will be possible.

Although only based on one trial, there is no doubt that closed circuit television is an improvement over present methods of displaying and disseminating information, particularly of the pictorial type. This is a new field for Royal Signals and an interesting one which will no doubt expand in scope as time goes on. Already a few technicians have attended a short course on the subject and more will follow. As it is now used television communication will never be practicable except by line because of the band-width required. Its use in the next few years will, however, allow all concerned to become familiar with display systems and so to formulate appropriate long term requirements compatible with Hobart.

CAPS, F.S. (COLOURED), OTHER RANKS

THE WIRE hears that, owing to increased manufacturing costs, Hobson's & Sons Ltd., who supply the above headgear, have been obliged to increase their prices from 15/6 to 18/- (17/- for quantity—one dozen or more lots) plus 10 per cent tax on home deliveries.

☆

Signal Wing, The School of Infantry

☆



OFFICERS, WARRANT OFFICERS AND SENIOR NCO's

Visiting Officers: Major General P. Gleadell, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., Director of Infantry; Brigadier I. A. Robertson, M.B.E., Commandant, The School of Infantry; Colonel G. J. A. Dewar, M.B.E., Commandant, Small Arms Wing

Royal Signals: (*Front Row*) Lieutenant-Colonel F. M. S. Winter, M.B.E., Commandant; Captain J. H. Hancock. (*Centre Row*) W.O.II (R.Q.M.S.) F. S. Shepherd, B.E.M. (*Back Row*) F of S C. G. Webb; Staff Sergeant G. S. Clarke

THE Signal Wing of the School of Infantry appears rarely in The "Wire" but it plays a most important part in the world of signalling, carrying out the training of Infantry Regimental Signal Officers and Signalling Instructors.

The occasion of this photograph was the visit of the Director of Infantry, accompanied by the Commandant of the School of Infantry.

The WIRE visits . . .

☆ A ROYAL SIGNALS YOUTH TEAM

BRINGING the Corps into direct contact with the youth of this country are two Royal Signals Youth Teams. "The Wire" is happy to give below some indication of the good work they are doing and to wish them success in their important mission.

In November, 1963, a new unit was formed—a unit with a difference, because it consisted of one officer, one sergeant and three soldiers. This unit was 59th Army Youth Team, Royal Signals.

But let us first of all explain what an Army Youth Team is.

Over the country there are just over 80 teams from all Regiments and Corps—Royal Signals providing two teams. One team is at Bradford, Yorkshire, and ours is in the heart of the "Black Country," Wolverhampton.

In general our aim is to bring the young soldier in contact with his civilian contemporaries, and this we do by visiting A.C.F. units, Boys' Clubs, Mixed Clubs, Boy Scouts and Boys' Brigades.

It will probably surprise you to know that in our area of approximately a five-mile radius around Wolverhampton and Tipton there are over 200 clubs.

Take an evening out with us, such as last night, when we visited Codsall Youth Centre. About a fortnight ago we sent our monthly News Letter to all the clubs in the area, and the Youth Leader wrote to us asking for us to pay them a visit.

Everything was laid on. It was a fine evening (very exceptional in this area) as we drove up in our Minibus. The Club Leaders were there to meet us and the necessary introductions were made.

Lance-Corporal Filer, from 640 Signal Troop, soon had a crowd of boys around him as he gave out the rocket launchers, bren guns, rifles, radio sets, telephones and exchanges. Sergeant Connell, an ex-Special Recruiter, who is better known to the team as the "Deputy," took in the 16mm. projector and screen. He usually has the girls around him.

We normally seem to have great difficulty in dragging the boys away from the equipment to see the film, but once it starts, their interests soon change towards the screen.

Basically, the job sounds easy, but in practice that is not so. One always has to be "on the ball" when the questions are fired.

Question: Are you allowed to smoke in the Army?
Answer: (This is an easy one).

Q: What's the severest punishment in the Army?
A: Thrown out!

Q: Why do you wear that brooch on your lapel?
A: (No answer to this question!)

Comments like this are also heard:

Boy with strong Wolverhampton accent to Lieutenant:
"Are you the boss of this team?"

Quick remark by another boy:
"Naah, he ain't got stripes."

In one club we set a short questionnaire with questions such as:

Q: What do you think the basic weekly pay of a soldier is?
Answers varied from 30/- to £3.—Makes you wonder what the point of advertising is.

Q: What is the size of the Army?
Answers varied from quarter-of-a-million to 12 million.

So you see that there is more to our job than meets the eye. We have to bring the young soldier to the youths in order to get the facts straight about the Army. So many false impressions have to be cleared up.

On the week-end 24th-26th April, Lieutenant Brewis and Lance-Corporal Filer took a party of youths to a Week-end Training Centre near Leek. It was certainly a great success, especially as after the long treks they had a comfortable room, with running hot water, to come back to.

Although it is hard to plan expeditions when dealing with civilians, we are hoping to take six teams on the Ten Tors Expedition in Devon. On Tuesday, 7th April, the team was invited to attend the official opening of Bentley Youth Centre, Darleston, by Sir John Hunt. It was a tremendous evening, with 150 people attending. Before the club had officially opened, we had taken a lively interest in the club with film

shows, judo classes, map-reading instruction, circuit training, and so on. After the club was opened a marvellous buffet was laid out and all the youths were able to "let rip" to the beat of a hot vocal group.

So now, after nearly five months, involving visits to 60 different clubs, and contacts with 2,500 youth, 59th (Royal Signals) Army Youth Team is firmly established in its job in Wolverhampton.

Although we are only a small unit, we have had to say our goodbyes to a few people already (this means a dig in our pockets!). Lieutenant David Lawrence has left us, and we wish him all the very best in his new job. We also had to say goodbye to Lance-Corporal Couch, our judo expert, and, incidentally—but don't tell his new bride—a very popular member with the opposite sex. The other member of the original team, Lance-Corporal Cooper, has also left us, for 30th Signal Regiment.

What have we now to look forward to? Well, with the encouraging sign that recruiting figures have gone up nine per cent in our area over the first four months, compared with last year, and the local success of our film shows and equipment displays in the Youth Clubs, we can only hope our team is sowing the seeds for young men to think seriously about making the Regular Army a career.

Present serving members with the team are:

Lieutenant P. R. Brewis, who is "the Boss."
Sergeant D. Connell, known as "the Deputy."
Lance-Corporal Filer } the Workers
Lance-Corporal Orr }
Signalman Hanlon, who is "the Cabby."

Oh! and any units who have anything of interest about local boys, in the way of photographs or articles, please let us have them.

Our address is 43a, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, Staffordshire.

Introducing the Transistor

By Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) C. A. King

THE transistor plays an essential and ever-increasing role in much of our modern Corps equipment. This "plain man's" guide to the transistor deals with it only in very general terms. It should be read by anyone who takes an interest in electronic equipment—even if it is only his portable radio!

"A little wireless in a plastic case?" "Some sort of valve?" "A sort of resistor with three wires?" Is your idea of the transistor one of these? The name "transistor" has been widely used for promoting the sale of portable receivers, but for many people, the nature and importance of the transistor remain a mystery. For us in Signals, a bit of technical background is essential, even if we are not technicians; let us look a little further into the transistor.

The transistor is a mighty midget which is rapidly overtaking the valve in most everyday uses. The valve amplifier began in 1909 when Lee De Forest put a third connection, the grid, into a diode valve. A small change of voltage on this grid made a large change in the flow of electrons through the valve, and thus a large change of voltage at the electrode to which the electrons flow. Thus a small change in input gave a big change in output. Hence, amplification. In 1948 the crystal diode (our old friend the cat's whisker type) was given a similar treatment. A third wire was added and an amplifier resulted. This was the birth of the transistor. This first type of transistor depended on placing two wires on the crystal surface about 0.001 inch apart. More recent types achieve this spacing within the crystal itself. The crystal is first purified to a very high degree. (One part in a thousand million). It is then "doped" by adding other chemicals to parts of it to produce modified areas separated by wafer-thin "junctions" or barriers. To obtain access to these areas, delicate, but strong, connections must be made to the crystal. As the crystal may be smaller than a match-head, the connections must be protected from mechanical shock. The final outer case is relatively large to ensure this: commonly it is about as thick as three matches held together and nearly half-an-inch long. The three leads may be plugged into a holder but are often soldered directly into circuit.

The transistor needs no heater (this is where a lot of the power in the valve receiver goes) and it lasts longer than a valve. It gives amplification comparable with that of a valve yet it is much smaller; (the one described above is of a common size, but as many as 6,400 transistors have been made on one square inch of silicon!) It will work on low voltages (even a 1½ volt pen torch cell) and 4 or 5 cells will run an 8-transistor portable radio for months. It is as cheap or cheaper than a comparable valve.

Size and power consumption are the basic advantages of the transistor. In domestic radios, the size factor is of little importance. Sets made just large enough to contain the circuitry and battery usually have poor quality "tinny" output. A larger set with a good-size loudspeaker can give first class results. Size becomes important where valves are used by the hundred. In a computer using two thousand valves, a change (or rather rebuild) to transistors will show startling savings in space and power consumption. For example, a computer circuit has been made which contains over 350 transistors, 800 diodes, 1,600 resistors and 500 capacitors. These are all contained in a box 3in. x 3in. x 2in., and the whole circuit uses less than 2 watts! Read the last sentence again, and try to estimate the size and power consumption if valves were used. Circuit compression of the sort just mentioned is very important in satellites or other space craft, where every ounce of every cubic inch counts.

Work still goes on to overcome snags. Types of transistor currently available suffer from several important defects. Firstly, they are sensitive to surrounding temperature. This is not so in a valve where the cathode is already red hot. A transistor has to have protective circuits round it or it can very easily burn itself out. Power types need "heat skins" to cool them. They are clamped to the chassis or to blackened metal panels to give a large surface in contact with cooling air.

A second snag is that transistors operate "slowly." This means that they cannot handle very high frequencies. Some early "audio" types only handled up to 20 or 30 kc/s. However, new types are announced almost weekly, and the frequency range now extends to 1,000 mc/s or more.

A lot of the newer devices are experimental; however, it is now possible to buy an audio amplifier, fully transistorised, giving 10 watts output for less than £6. A transistor which operates up to 200 mc/s can be bought for a pound or so.

Transistor-operated devices are now appearing in the Corps. The B70 system control box and the TR C14 are two examples. More and more are coming. It is high time we all knew more about transistors. Readers who want a gradual indoctrination could not do better than start reading the *Practical Wireless* magazine. This magazine produces a wide variety of circuits using transistors, and also basic articles on the subject. For a straightforward introduction, the Iliffe publication "Principles of Transistor Circuits," by Amos is recommended.

THIS picture shows Sergeant T. Stogdale of 640 Troop watching a Zulu blacksmith at work plying his primitive and now almost extinct trade. Recently Sergeant Stogdale was able to find a guide to take him to the smithy's kraal buried deep into the High Veldt of Swaziland a few miles from the territory's capital, Mbabane. Here he found the smithy at work using the same type of goatskin and cow-horn forge and tools that his father and father's father used before him.

Through an interpreter he was told that the smithy was the last of a long line of warriors who fashioned the traditional Zulu battleaxe for fighting, and the wicked looking hunting spears, one of which Sergeant Stogdale is holding in his hand.



A CRAFTSMAN AT WORK ▶

Army Air Pilots

By S.S.M. A. R. Standen, of F.R.A. Squadron

I SEE in The Wire that the Corps are still asking for volunteers for Pilot Training. I must confess that I am astounded that it should be necessary to constantly appeal for volunteers for a wonderful opportunity such as this. I did a three year tour with the Army Air Corps as a Light Aircraft Pilot and I have no hesitation in saying that this is the finest job available to an O.R. in the Army today.

Last August a letter arrived in my Unit saying that the Corps would be requiring pilots in 1965, within five minutes my application was in the C.O.'s tray. I feel that people are not volunteering because they are a little apprehensive about what to expect. Although the training has probably changed slightly since I did my course it is still basically the same and I thought that a short explanation might help to clear the air.

Applicants were first sent to the R.A.F. Aircrew Selection Centre for medical and aptitude tests. This was the stiffest medical I have ever had (the eye test alone takes half an hour) but if you pass you will never have any niggling doubts about whether you are 100 per cent. fit, you know you are. The candidates then took an intelligence test similar to the 11 plus exam. After this came the aptitude test. The first test was similar to the slot machine driving test at the fair ground, where a revolving drum has a road marked on it and the operator has to keep the motor car on the road. The next test took place in what looked like a dummy trainer which was fitted with a rudder bar and control column. In front of the candidate was a TV screen with a white spot of light on it. The object was to manoeuvre the spot into the centre of the screen by means of the controls—and keep it there. Candidates were told on the spot whether they were acceptable or not.

On arrival at Middle Wallop all O.R. trainees report to the Sergeants' Mess. This is a point that Corporals should note, since all Corporals recommended for the course are automatically promoted to local sergeant on arrival and are promoted to paid acting sergeant on completion of the course. No time is wasted, and on the second day trainees reported to Elementary Flight for their first flight in Chipmunk aircraft. This trip was known officially as a familiarisation trip, and unofficially as a 'Sick Trip.' This was one of the few chances that the instructors got to actually fly the aircraft themselves and they used it to let off steam. When you were upside down in your first loop you got the notion that you had made a mistake and that this was not the life for you. However this feeling wore off after filling a couple of 'sick bags.'

The first three months of the course was spent in Elementary Flight where half the day was spent in the Ground School learning navigation, meteorology, engine theory and a host of other subjects necessary so that the budding pilot can understand why and how his aeroplane flies.

The other half of the day was spent learning how to fly the aeroplane. This was very enjoyable because the Chipmunk is a beautiful aircraft to fly and is capable of doing aerobatics. I cannot tell you the thrill I got when, after about 8½ hours, the instructor climber out of the aircraft and said, "Do one circuit on your own." He strolled nonchalantly away and hid behind the runway marker board, then peered round the corner and watched with an eagle eye, at the same time biting his fingernails down to the bone. I was too busy watching the instruments, doing my checks and avoiding the other fifteen aircraft in the circuit to worry too much.

The Ground School side of the course was hard work and a lot of spare time in the evenings had to be spent swotting, however, if you were prepared to work you could pass this side of the course. I never heard of anyone ever failing the ground school side. All the failures were for being unable to grasp some aspect of flying. This was one course that you could fail without shame, because flying aptitude is like intelligence, you either have it or you do not, it is not something you can learn or acquire.

After three months we graduated to Intermediate flight which was equipped with the Auster Mk VI. This is not such a nice aeroplane to fly as the Chipmunk, however it is more useful to the Army since it is a high wing aircraft and observation is much improved. We first learned how to fly the Auster then concentrated on practical navigation, landing in meadows and low flying, etc. (There is a story about a Salisbury bus having to stop to let an Auster cross the road).

During the first six months we were continually checked by our Flight Commanders and if we were a bit dodgy we were

(*Continued at foot of next column*)

given about five hours to improve—or else. At the sixth month we were checked by the Chief Flying Instructor. If you passed this you were as good as through but if the C.F.I. took over the controls and called "Charlie Alpha returning to base" you knew you had "Had it." I must confess that this happened to me but fortunately I got a second chance.

The next stage was spent in Exercise Flight where the tactical aspects of Military flying were taught. The most enjoyable part of this to me was directing artillery fire on the ranges at Larkhill. It is quite a thrill when you eventually hit the target. Rapid advance exercises taught you the value of co-operation with the ground parties who carried out a recce on fields for you to land in. A mistake on their part could cost you an aeroplane.

Eventually the great day came and we were presented with our wings. We could now officially carry passengers for the first time.

It would probably bore you to read an account of the next three years spent in the Squadron. Suffice it to say that the variety of jobs was fantastic, from flying a casualty with a fractured skull to hospital, to landing on aircraft carriers.



His Excellency the Right Honourable Viscount Head G.C.M.G., C.B.E., M.C., the British High Commissioner in Malaysia presents the M.B.E. to W.O.II (Y of S) J. D. Francis, Royal Signals

Presentation of the M.B.E. to W.O.II (Y. of S. Q.M.S.) J. D. Francis, Royal Signals

The presentation of insignia of Orders and Medals by His Excellency, The Right Honourable Viscount Head, G.C.M.G., C.B.E., M.C., the British High Commissioner in Malaysia, took place in Eden Hall on Friday, 3rd April, 1964. Among a distinguished audience of high ranking officers of all Arms and Services, and representatives of Commonwealth countries were the C.-in-C., Far East, Admiral Sir Varyl Begg, K.C.B., D.S.O., D.S.C.; The Area Commander, Brigadier C. H. Stonely, O.B.E., A.D.C.; the Chief Signal Officer, Brigadier E. C. R. Blaker, O.B.E.; and the Commanding Officer, 18th Regiment, Lieutenant-Colonel W. W. Cock.

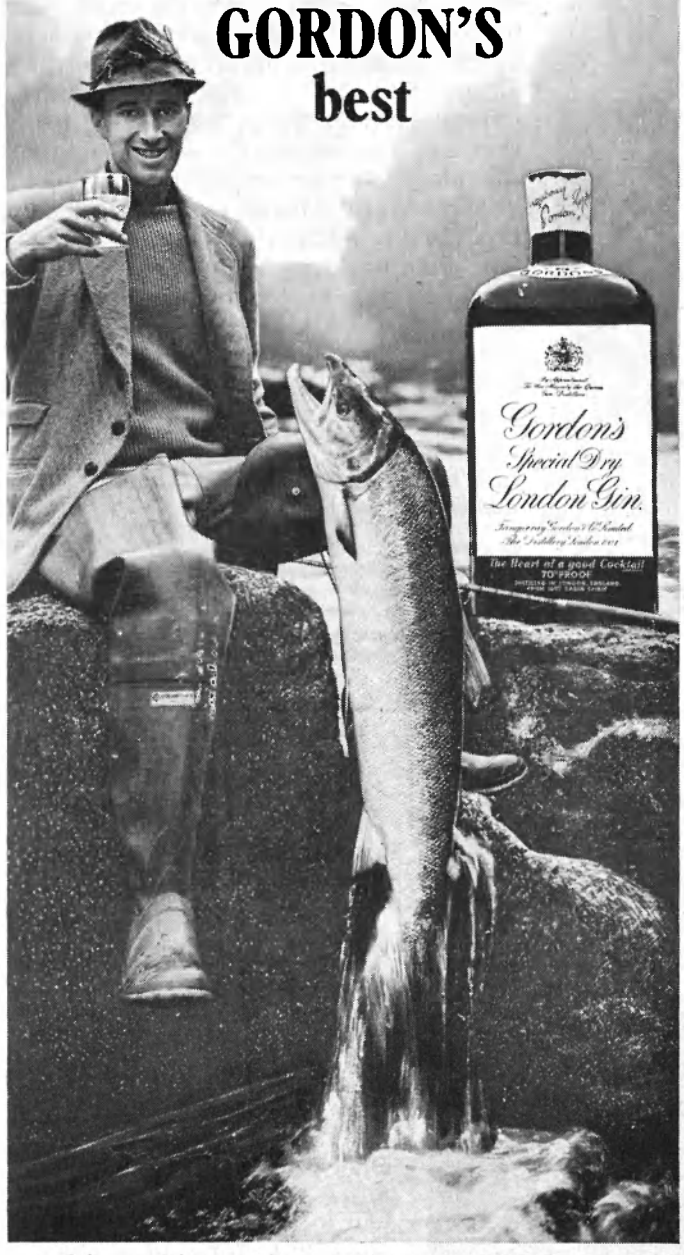
Among the seventeen recipients was W.O.II (Y. of S.) John Douglas Francis, 1 Squadron, 18th Regiment, Royal Signals. A very proud Yeoman marched smartly down the carpet, halted and saluted. The following citation was then read out:

> "Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, for outstanding qualities of leadership and organising ability whilst in charge of the Joint Communications Centre, Headquarters, British Forces, Borneo."

Lord Head then pinned the decoration on to Yeoman Francis's chest.

When all the insignia of orders and medals were presented, the guests and the recipients gathered for drinks. Among the guests who paid their personal tribute to Yeoman Francis were Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. W. W. Cock, Captain and Mrs. J. A. Tonnison, Mrs. Francis and their daughter, Alison, and Lieutenant P. J. Brunton, Royal Signals, who also acted as Assistant A.D.C. during the ceremony.

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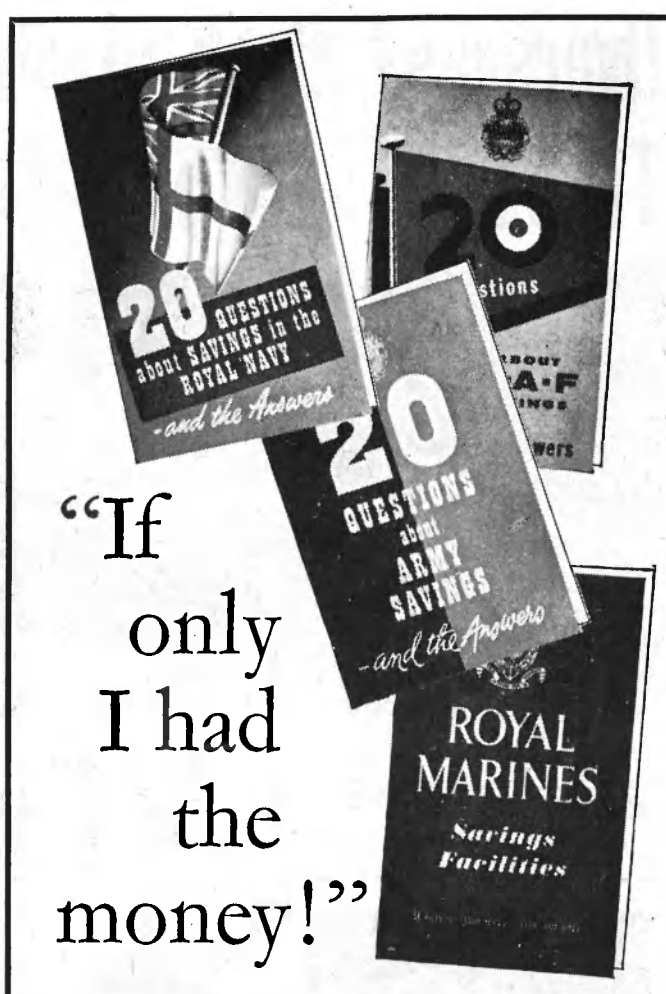


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Chairman, H.M. Forces Savings Committee,
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PERSONAL **COLUMN**

London Gazette

REGULAR ARMY

Col. R. H. E. Robinson, O.B.E., E.R.D., to be Brig., 5th Mar., 1964.
Col. C. H. Howarth, O.B.E., T.D., to be Brig., 1st Jan., 1964.
Lt. (T.O.T.) R. G. P. Spragg from Short Serv. Comm. to be Lt. (T.O.T.), 1st Mar., 1964.
Maj. F. G. Bolam retired 3rd Apr., 1964.
Lt. M. A. Orwin from Short Serv. Comm. to be 2/Lt., 20th Feb., 1964.
Lt. (T.O.T.) F. Iveson to be Capt. (T.O.T.) 1st Apr., 1964.
Lt. (Tfc. Offr.) W. B. Archer from Short Service Com. to be Lt. (Tfc. Offr.) 1st Mar., 1964.
Maj. H. M. Ashton retired 19th Apr., 1964.
Capt. C. B. Mercer to be Maj., 2nd Dec., 1963.
Capt. D. P. Watson to be Maj., 2nd Dec., 1963.
Lt.-Col. H. E. Lang, T.D., to be Col., on 1st Jan., 1964.
Capt. V. S. Smith to be Maj., 9th Feb., 1964.
Brig. E. I. E. Mozley, B.A., retired 7th Apr., 1964.
Maj. R. M. Mathews retired 21st Mar., 1964.
Capt. C. A. M. Robertson to be Maj., 9th Feb., 1964.
Capt. P. F. Musselbrook to be Maj., 9th Feb., 1964.
Lt.-Col. A. S. P. Salter. T.D., retired 24th Apr., 1964.
Lt.-Col. B. R. M. Hayles to be Col., 3rd Feb., 1964.
Maj. G. D. M. Pocock, retired 28th Apr., 1964.
Maj. (T.O.T.) W. P. J. Rumsey retired 28th Apr., 1964.
Lt. (T.O.T.) N. A. Cox to be Capt. (T.O.T.) 27th Apr., 1964.
Lt. R. S. Clayton from Short Serv. Comm. to be 2/Lt., 20th Feb., 1964.

SHORT SERVICE COMMISSION

W.O.I D. T. Neale to be Lt. (Q.M.) 31st Mar., 1964.
W.O.I T. A. Swales to be Lt. (Q.M.), 1st Apr., 1964.
Maj. N. A. C. Clubb. M.B.E., relinquished his commission 3rd May, 1964.
W.O.I (R.S.M.) T. Jones, B.E.M., to be Lt. (Q.M.) 21st Feb.

ARMY EMERGENCY RESERVE

Lt.-Col. R. R. C. Rankin, O.B.E., E.R.D., A.M.I.E.E., relinquished the appointment of Hon. Colonel, 85th Regiment, A.E.R., 27th Mar., 1964.
Col. W. H. Oliver, M.B.E., E.R.D., is appointed Hon. Colonel, 82nd Regt., 28th Mar., 1964.
Maj. L. R. Hill, E.R.D., to be Lt.-Col., 14th July, 1963.
W.O.I F. J. Medcalf to be Lt., 27th Feb., 1964.

TERRITORIAL ARMY

Maj. L. W. Wright, T.D., to be Lt.-Col., 1st Mar., 1964.
Lt.-Col. J. F. H. Pearcey, M.B.E., T.D., retired 31st Jan., 1964.
Lt. R. H. Hammerton from T.A. Res. of Offrs., to be Lt., 9th Jan., 1964.
Maj. (T.O.T.) R. C. Steel from A.E. Res. of Offrs., to be Maj. (T.O.T.), 1st Mar., 1964.
Maj. R. A. Chell, T.D., to be Lt.-Col., 1st Apr., 1964.
Maj. J. M. Wotherspoon, T.D., to be Lt.-Col., 1st Apr., 1964.
Lt. M. G. Palmer from Res. of Offrs. to be Lt., 14th Feb., 1964.
Lt. G. C. Willey, from Northampton, to be Lt., 1st Mar., 1964.
Lt. J. S. Elliott, from Para, to be Lt., 5th Mar., 1964.
Capt. (Act. Maj.) H. A. Tait, T.D., to be Maj., 17th Apr., 1964.
Lt. R. H. Spink from A.E. Res. of Offrs. Nat. Serv. List, to be Lt., 16th Apr., 1964.
Lt. N. A. Parker (Res. of Offrs., R.A.E.C.), to be Lt., 10th, Jan., 1964.
The undermentioned Capts. to be Majs. on the dates shown:
K. Sharman, T.D., 2nd Feb., 1964.
R. W. Seabrook, 25th Feb., 1964.
B. L. Hewitt, T.D., 1st Mar., 1964.
The undermentioned Capts. from A.E. Res. of Offrs. to be Capts., 1st Mar., with seniority on the dates shown:
A. N. Duell, E.R.D., 16th June, 1952.
R. A. M. Morris, E.R.D., 4th Jan., 1954.
A. Laing, 11th July, 1958.
Lt. H. D. Flannery (Res. of Offrs.), to be Lt., 3rd Mar., 1964.
2/Lt. L. Huggard to be Lt., 20th April, 1964.
K. R. J. Harvey to be 2/Lt., 3rd Apr., 1964.
Col. C. Vincent-Smith, T.D., from A.E. Res. of Offrs. to be Col., 15th Apr., 1964.
Lt.-Col. (Bt. Col.) N. R. Bigland, T.D., appointed Hon. Colonel, 49th (Yorkshire) Signal Regt. (T.A.), 1st May, 1964.

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Movements—Officers

(15th April, 1964, to 14th June, 1964)

Major J. L. Akass ... ... To 7th Regiment
T/Major J. A. Baker ... ... ,, 11th Regiment (Cadre)
Major C. F. Bushell ... ... ,, 'Live Oak'
Captain A. R. Bushell ... ... ,, Seconded to Malaysia
Captain M. E. Bradbury ... ... ,, 22nd Regiment
Lieutenant A. M. P. Barker ... ... ,, Sultan of Muscat's Armed Forces
Major L. Beaumont ... ... ,, 222 Squadron (A.F.)
Lieutenant P. E. Bruce ... ... ,, School of Signals (55A Q Course)
Second-Lieutenant D. J. Buckley ... ,, 3rd Regiment
Major S. W. E. G. Bowser ... ... ,, 30th Regiment
Captain P. D. E. Chase ... ... ,, Seconded to Malaysia
Captain R. J. Costello ... ... ,, All Arms Junior Leaders Regt.
Major (Q.M.) A. Dale ... ... ,, 11th Regiment (Cadre)
Second-Lieutenant I. C. Double ... ,, 11th Regiment (Cadre)
Lieutenant R. Dorrell ... ... ,, 601 Troop (Ship)
Lieutenant S. R. Davis ... ... ,, 254 Squadron (Aden)
Second-Lieutenant A. F. Eastburn ... ,, 216 Squadron (Para. Bde. Gp.)
Lieutenant C. J. Garton ... ... ,, School of Signals (55A Q Course)
Captain B. W. Giller ... ... ,, 11th Regiment (Cadre)
Captain C. R. F. Hinds ... ... ,, 256 Squadron
Captain E. P. Hughes ... ... ,, 8th Regiment
Second-Lieutenant A. G. Ingham ... ,, 3rd Regiment
Second-Lieutenant J. A. F. Juniper ... ,, 11th Regiment (Cadre)
Major A. J. Jackson (364081) ... ... ,, 22nd Regiment
Lieutenant (T.O.T.) A. J. Lees ... ,, H.Q., COMCAN
Major J. H. Lane ... ... ,, 240 Squadron
Major C. B. Masser ... ... ,, Secondment to Malaysia (to Command)
Second-Lieutenant J. M. Messer-Bennetts ... ,, School of Signals (55A Q Course)
Captain W. R. Mayne ... ... ,, 234 Squadron
Captain D. G. Mitchell ... ... ,, 22nd Regiment
Major C. B. Mercer ... ... ,, 262 Squadron (Cyprus)
Lieutenant M. A. Orwin ... ... ,, School of Signals (55A Q Course)
Major M. J. T. O'Connor ... ... ,, 1st Regiment
Major H. McI. Paterson ... ... ,, 247 (Gurkha) Squadron
Captain (Tfc. Offr.) J. C. Pendock ... ,, 612 Troop
Captain J. E. P. Philp ... ... ,, C.A.F.S.O. (F.E.A.F.)
Captain (T.O.T.) G. E. Pinder ... ,, 1 Squadron (Comd) Kenya Army
Major J. L. Purdon ... ... ,, Defence Signal Staff (MOD) (SO1)
Major A. Pagan ... ... ,, 28th Regiment (to Command)
Second-Lieutenant R. J. G. M. Rumford ,, School of Signals (55A Q Course)
Captain P. A. Spooner ... ... ,, 244 G.L. Sec. (Bahrein)
Lieutenant A. R. Seward ... ... ,, 19th Regiment (FARELF)
Captain I. O. J. Sprackling ... ... ,, School of Signals
Major R. L. Stonham ... ... ,, 4th Regiment
Lt. (Q.M.) T. A. Swales ... ... ,, 18th Regiment (FARELF)
Lt. (Tfc. Offr) F. W. Taylor ... ... ,, 255 Squadron (Bahrein)
Capt. M. R. Topple ... ... ,, 204 Squadron (Gds Bde Gp)
T/Major G. A. Thompson ... ... ,, 1st Regiment
Capt. P. A. Thompson ... ... ,, Seconded to Malaysia
Lt. P. Webb ... ... ,, Seconded to Malaysia
Lt.-Col. D. C. Ward ... ... ,, H.Q. ALFCE (S.O.1 Signals)
Major P. D. Warren ... ... ,, ACE 1 (c) (MOD)
Capt. E. G. Williams ... ... ,, 263 Squadron (Training)
2/Lt. T. L M. Waugh ... ... ,, 3rd Regiment
Major R. J. Armstrong ... ... ,, School of Signals
Major J. G. Baker ... ... ,, 11th Regiment (Cadre)
Captain E. T. Bolt ... ... ,, 224 Squadron (Radio Trg.)
Lieutenant D. A. Bell ... ... ,, 11th Regiment (Termination of Active List Service)
Captain M. E. Bradbury ... ... ,, 22nd Regiment
Lieutenant J. Barrett ... ... ,, 21st Regiment
Major D. A. Barry ... ... ,, Royal Canadian School of Signals (Exchange Tour)
Second-Lieutenant R. M. Carr-Smith ,, 2nd Regiment (ex 55A Q Course)
Second-Lieutenant W. R. Clare ... ,, 2nd Regiment (ex 55A Q Course)
Second-Lieutenant C. G. Cruickshank ,, 4th Regiment (ex 55A Q Course)
Major J. R. E. Cross ... ... ,, 21st Regiment
Lieutenant P. H. Dale ... ... ,, 213 Squadron (Inf. Bde. Gp.)
Lieutenant J. Daw ... ... ,, School of Signals
Second-Lieutenant P. J. K. Dickinson ,, 2nd Regiment (ex 55A Q Course)
Major V. Edwards ... ... ,, Ministry of Defence (Signals 1)
Major S. A. Frost ... ... ,, 4th Regiment
Captain E. W. P. Foley ... ... ,, H.Q., Royal Signals, Cyprus
Second-Lieutenant S. C. L. Gadd ... ,, 4th Regiment (ex 55 Q Course)
Second-Lieutenant R. M. Goymour ... ,, 1st Regiment (ex 55 Q Course)
Lieutenant G. A. Granger ... ... ,, 16th Regiment
Lieutenant W. A. C. Griffiths ... ... ,, 254 Squadron
Lieutenant J. A. Hood ... ... ,, Jun. Leaders' Regt., R. Signals
Captain E. W. Hunt ... ... ,, 209 Squadron (Inf. Bde. Gp.)
Major P. J. Knott ... ... ,, 7th Regiment
Lieutenant R. B. Ingram ... ... ,, 252 Squadron
Second-Lieutenant M. J. Lance ... ,, 17th (Gurkha) Regt. (ex 55 Q Course)
Major R. L. Murray ... ... ,, 1 Squadron (Comd.) K.A.R.
Major J. L. McKellar ... ... ,, 243 Squadron (Soutco.)
Major E. P. E. Montagnon ... ... ,, 4th Regiment
Second-Lieutenant P. A. Neale ... ,, 7th Regiment
Captain R. Pickard ... ... ,, 28th Regiment
Major J. Ridge ... ... ,, H.Q., 17 Gurkha Division
Lieutenant (Q.M.) G. H. Scott ... ,, 239 Squadron (Eastco.)
Major N. D. Shaw ... ... ,, H.Q., Eastern Command
Second-Lieutenant K. D. A. Slater ... ,, 11th Regiment (Termination of Active List Service)
Major V. S. Smith ... ... ,, 50th (N) Regiment (T.A.)
Second-Lieutenant P. Stanley ... ... ,, 7th Regiment
Lieutenant A. R. Seward ... ... ,, 19th Regiment
Second-Lieutenant M. G. Taylor ... ,, 229 Squadron
Major R. Trelawney ... ... ,, 28th Regiment
Lieutenant W. Watson ... ... ,, 14th Regiment

(Continued on page 214)

Second-Lieutenant R. T. Westerman	,,	22nd Regiment (ex 55 Q Course)
Captain M. S. Wilson-Brown	,,	H.Q., M.E. Comd. (S.O.3 Sigs).
Second-Lieutenant N. F. Wood ...	,,	4th Regiment
Captain B. Gallagher	,,	606 Troop
Lieutenant R. D. K. Thompson ...	,,	Borneo
Lieutenant P. H. Dale	,,	213 Squadron

Movements — Warrant Officers and Sergeants, June, 1964

W.O.I G. Harrison	To	263 Squadron
W.O.I (F. of S. P. F. Soward ...	,,	18th Regiment
W.O.II W. G. MacLeod	,,	61st Regiment (T.A.)
W.O.II L. Kennedy	,,	46th Regiment (T.A.)
W.O.II R. E. Smithard	,,	16th Regiment
W.O.II R. J. Fletcher	,,	21st Regiment
W.O.II R. A. Lawry	,,	252 Squadron
W.O.II D. R. Barlow	,,	H.Q. 1 (BR) Corps
W.O.II (F. of S.) P. Johnson	,,	7th Regiment
W.O.II (F. of S.) M. A. Johnson ...	,,	Nyasaland Army
W.O.II (F. of S.) E. Doe	,,	8th Regiment
W.O.II (F. of S.) D. P. Alblas ...	,,	228 Squadron
Staff Sergeant J. P. Martell	,,	64th Regiment (T.A.)
Staff Sergeant R. Blohm	,,	24th Regiment
Staff Sergeant L. L. Spooner	,,	11th Regiment (2 Squadron)
Staff Sergeant A. W. Newman ...	,,	4th Regiment
Staff Sergeant A. B. Fugill	,,	13th Regiment
Staff Sergeant R. A. Robertson ...	,,	16th Regiment
Staff Sergeant A. E. W. Cave ...	,,	22nd Regiment
Staff Sergeant M. McCallum ...	,,	63rd Regiment (T.A.)
Staff Sergeant R. Jones	,,	MOD Camp Comdt., Army
Staff Sergeant R. J. Pegg	,,	24th Regiment
Staff Sergeant W. E. Beadle	,,	School of Signals
Staff Sergeant G. Smith	,,	9th Regiment
Staff Sgt. (F. of S.) E. Holland ...	,,	1st Regiment
Staff Sgt. (F. of S.) M. D. Thornbury	,,	205 Squadron
Staff Sergeant J. E. Latham	,,	213 Squadron
Sergeant R. L. Suett	,,	212 Squadron
Sergeant H. McKay	,,	263 Squadron
Sergeant R. H. Manson	,,	H.Q., SHAPE
Sergeant J. P. Huey	,,	H.Q., B.A.O.R.
Sergeant J. G. Howie	,,	7th Regiment
A/Sergeant D. B. Smith	,,	Jun. Tradesmen's Regt., Rhyl
Sergeant F. Coulson	,,	21st Regiment
Sergeant J. E. Stockwell	,,	212 Squadron
Sergeant G. W. Walker	,,	28th Regiment
Sergeant J. Morrissey	,,	242 Squadron
Sergeant J. H. Shaw	,,	H.Q., A.E.R., Royal Signals
Sergeant W. H. Flowers	,,	21st Regiment
Sergeant P. J. Fernie	,,	2nd Regiment
Sergeant G. Greaves	,,	4th Regiment
Sergeant C. G. C. Nurse	,,	28th Regiment
Sergeant D. Whittingham	,,	200 Squadron
Sergeant F. Rogers	,,	200 Squadron
Sergeant W. T. Matthews	,,	206 Squadron
Sergeant W. E. Greenhill	,,	538 Troop
Sergeant J. M. Evans	,,	511 Troop
Sergeant R. Eastwood	,,	606 Troop
Sergeant G. T. Farmer	,,	606 Troop
Sergeant G. Watson	,,	219 Squadron
Sergeant A. S. Carr	,,	14th Regiment, 1 Squadron
Sergeant J. Taylor	,,	14th Regiment, 1 Squadron
Sergeant F. Ward	,,	14th Regiment, 1 Squadron
A/Sergeant A. C. Robertshaw	,,	243 Squadron
Sergeant R. G. Stanley-Jones	,,	513 Troop
Sergeant R. Lynch	,,	640 Troop
Sergeant J. Kelly	,,	Jun. Leaders Regt., R. Signals
Sergeant M. P. Enright	,,	58th Regiment (T.A.)
Sergeant G. Bullen	,,	30th Regiment
Sergeant R. Eouzan	,,	Jun. Leaders Regt., R. Signals
Sergeant D. G. M. Kirkham	,,	222 Squadron
Sergeant P. C. Inglis	,,	3 Carabiniers Signal Troop
Sergeant S. J. Esdale	,,	16th Regiment
Sergeant C. Baxter	,,	228 Squadron
Sergeant J. Radford	,,	259 Squadron
Sergeant P. Fox-Roberts	,,	8th Regiment
Sergeant M. Kennington	,,	16th Regiment
Sergeant J. F. Winter	,,	28th Regiment

Deaths

DAVIES.—Corporal M. R. Davies, on 3rd April, at Aden. He was killed while taking part in an anti-mine patrol.

TINNEY.—Signalman L. B. Tinney, on 9th April, in B.A.O.R., being accidentally electrocuted.

MARCHANT.—Major E. A. T. Marchant, Shepley, Blindley Heath, Lingfield, Surrey, on 4th April. He served in Royal Signals from 1921, being commissioned in 1940. He retired in 1956.

DAGLISH.—Signalman R. Daglish, of 606 Signal Troop, at Brunei, on 18th April, as a result of accidentally being electrocuted. He was a Life Member of Royal Signals Association.

CARNEGIE.—On 1st May, Major Douglas Lloyd Carnegie.

HEATH.—Signalman Michael Heath, of 4th Regiment, as a result of an accident at Linhof, near Soest, Germany, on 13th May.

Births

HARDING.—To Sergeant and Mrs. C. G. Harding, Army Information Office, Swansea, on 10th April, a son, Gareth.

HANCOCK.—To Sergeant and Mrs. U. A. Hancock, 204 Squadron, on 3rd April, a daughter, Claudia Christine.

PHOMOTIONS

It is anticipated that the 1964 edition of the Blue Books will reach units by mid-June, 1964.

No further details of promotions for promulgation in THE WIRE will therefore be submitted until early June, 1964. This list will cover promotions authorised in the period of April and May for publication in the July issue of THE WIRE.

MAJOR R. G. BLACKMAN

Many readers of THE WIRE will be interested to hear of the recent promotion of Major R. G. Blackman (ex-Royal Signals) to the post of Senior Press Officer for the Army at the new unified Ministry of Defence.

Bob Blackman, who served in the Corps for many years, held two important public relations appointments in the Army before he retired three years ago. The first was at the British Embassy in Bonn, and the second in Malaya.

The co-author of a book* (which got an excellent mention in these columns), and many articles of military interest, he joined the War Office Press Room as a civil servant in July, 1961.

His 21 years' service in Royal Signals has already proved of use to him: the first task he tackled in the new Ministry was the re-planning of the telephone communications for the entire Public Relations Directorate!

His comment on his new and (we imagine) somewhat exacting job: "I started my working life in Fleet Street; served in the Corps in many different parts of the world, and then joined the British Army Public Relations Service: so, one way or another, I'm pretty used to communicating."

We wish him every success in his new and interesting appointment.

* *The Eagle Book of Britain's Fighting Services,* published by The Longacre Press at 15/-. (Reviewed in THE WIRE in November, 1962).

OLD CONTEMPTIBLES

Golden Jubilee Celebrations, 26th and 27th June. Information from Mr. F. W. Butler, 59, Stanwick Mansions, Stanwick Road, London, W.14. FULham 8363.

Forthcoming Events

Catterick Reunion

27th and 28th June

Ex-Boys 10th Annual Reunion and Dinner

Saturday, 5th September, at the Victory Ex-Services Club, 63/79, Seymour Street, London, W.2.

Royal Signals Yacht Club Fixtures

25th June v. R.E.M.E., at Hayling Island.
4th-5th July. Royal Signals Dinghy Regatta at Whale Island, Portsmouth.
9th-10th July. Triangular Match at Seaview.

Shooting Dates 1964

21st June—4th July. A.R.A. Meeting, Bisley.
8th July—10th July. N.R.A. (S.R.(a)) Meeting, Bisley.
10th July—18th July. N.R.A. (S.R. (b)) Meeting, Bisley.

Royal Signals Officers' Golfing Society (Provisional Fixture Dates)

9th July	R.A.	Sunningdale
14th July	R.A.P.C.	Hankley Common
13th August	R.E.M.E.	East Berks
9th September	R.A.O.C.	Hankley Common
1st/2nd September	Army Meeting	Sunningdale
22nd/23rd September	Autumn Meeting	East Berkshire
21st September	Ironsides	Fleet
3rd October	Staff College	Camberley Heath
13th October	R.A.M.C.	New Zealand

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Band Engagements

Touring Band

7th-20th June	Eastbourne	Bandstand concerts
5th-11th July	London	Royal Tournament
12th July	London Parks	Bandstand concerts
13th-18th July	London	Royal Tournament
19th July	London Parks	Bandstand concerts
20th-25th July	London	Royal Tournament
27th July/1st Aug.	Dunfermline	Bandstand concerts
2nd August	Kirkcaldy	Bandstand concerts
3rd-8th August	Dunfermline	Bandstand concerts
9th August	Kirkcaldy	Bandstand concerts
10th-16th August	Edinburgh	Bandstand concerts
30th Aug./13th Sept.	Folkestone	Bandstand concerts
20th Sept./4th Oct.	Eastbourne	Bandstand concerts

Non-Tonring Band

21st June	York	Bandstand concerts
4th-11th July	London	Royal Tournament
13th-18th July	London	Royal Tournament
20th-25th July	London	Royal Tournament

Display Team

20th June	Harden Moss	Sheepdog Trials
27th June	Skipton	Skipton Gala
28th June	Catterick	Royal Signals 'At Home'
4th July	Cirencester	Carnival
5th-25th July	Earls Court	Royal Tournament
1st August	Canford Magna, Poole	Bournemouth Auto Festival
3rd August	Cheltenham	British Legion Show
4th August	Walsall, Notts	Moorgreen Show
11th August	Keith, Banf	Agricultural Show
28-29th Aug.	Dulston	British Timken Show
5th Sept.	Orsett, nr. Grays	Agricultural Show
13th Sept.-1st Oct.	Sydney, Australia	Trade Fair

Programme of Corps Mobile Display
Quicksilver — 1964

19th-23rd June	Southern	Plymouth Army Week
26th-29th June	Southern	Taunton Army Week
2nd-5th July	Scottish	Glasgow Army Week
8th-10th July	Northern	Northampton Army Week
12th-18th July	Northern	Harrogate Great Yorkshire Show
21st-25th July	Northern	Middlesbrough Show
2nd-8th August	Northern	Leeds—The Roundhay Park Gala
16th-22nd August	Northern	Newcastle Flower Show and Summer Festival
28th Aug.-5th Sept.	Western	Cardiff Army Week
7th-13th September	Western	Birmingham—The Handsworth Tattoo
15th-19th September	Western	Liverpool

Details of the Liverpool Show, in September, will be published later.

Cricket

July 15th - 16th v. R.E., at Chatham
„ 17th - 18th v. R.A.O.C., at Blackdown

Tennis

July	1st	Welbeck College, at Welbeck
„	6th	R.A.O.C., at Aldershot
„	7th	R.A.E.C., at Aldershot
„	9th	R.A.S.C., at Aldershot
„	10th	R.E.M.E., at Aldershot

Obituaries

BRIGADIER FITZ-ALAN GEORGE DRAYSON, C.B.E., M.C.

"Nippy" Drayson was born at Rochester in 1888 and after being educated at Christ's Hospital and Sandhurst was commissioned into the Border Regiment in 1906. He served with his regiment in Gibraltar, India and Burma up to 1914. In May, 1914, he joined 32 (Lahore) Divisional Signal Company and in August sailed with them for France taking part in the 1st and 2nd Battles of Ypres, Neuve Chapelle and Loos. He won the M.C. He accompanied 32 Indian Divisional Signal Company to Mesopotamia in 1916 and was Commanding when he was posted to Poona to the Depot in 1917. In 1919 he joined 39 Indian Divisional Signal Company and became DADS Waziristan Force and later ADS NWF Force with the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel. This period covered three campaigns namely Waziristan 1919-21 3rd Afghan War 1919 and NWF India 1921-24. During this time he transferred to the Royal Corps. Altogether in France, Mesopotamia and on the Frontier he was four times mentioned in despatches. From 1924 he served in Northern Ireland and at the School, and in 1930 he returned to India as C.S.O. Northern Command just in time for the operations against the Afridis and Red Shirt Rebels. He then commanded 1st Indian Divisional Signals. On promotion to Colonel he became C.S.O. Northern Command at York with the rank of Colonel, and then moved to C.S.O. Middle East where he took part in the Palestine 1936-37 operations. He was appointed C.S.O. III Corps in 1939 and was present at the campaign in France in 1940, where he was awarded the C.B.E. From 1940 until he retired in 1944, he was again C.S.O. at York.

"Nippy" was a noted sportsman. At cricket he captained the "Europeans" in North India and again in the Central Provinces. He was captain of his regimental sides at rugger, cricket and hockey. He played golf for Devon. He spent some of his leave big game shooting in India and Burma. He was a keen fly fisherman, salmon and trout.

During his retirement he served the community in various ways: U.D.C., British Legion, Hospital Committee, Captain of the Golf Club. Arthritis had stopped his active participation in games, but he could still fish all the summer, and he devoted time to his hobby of stamp collecting. "Nippy" was a grand example as a games player. He always put everything he had into the game on hand. He was a fair and considerate senior, and a loyal subordinate. He died on 16th April, 1964. The sympathy of the Corps goes out to his widow and daughter.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL F. A. CORTEZ-LEIGH, T.D.

Lieutenant-Colonel Frederick Augustus Cortez-Leigh, T.D., M.Inst.C.E., M.I.Mech.E., M.I.E.E., M.Inst.T., who died at the age of 91 on 11th April, 1964, was a very old Signal Service Officer. He was an R.E. Signals Volunteer prior to the formation of the Territorial Force and had commanded the Southern Command Signal Companies (Army Troops) R.E. T.F. before the outbreak of the Great War. In 1915 he took over command of the S.S.T.C. at Haynes Park.

Lieutenant-Colonel Cortez-Leigh was Chief Electrical Engineer of the Midland Railway.

CAPTAIN DONALD C. MARTIN

(*Submitted by* 402 *Squadron, A.E.R.*)

Whilst abroad on business, Donald Martin was drowned while bathing at Lagos (West Africa) on 18th April, 1964, he was 42. He joined Royal Signals in 1940 and he was granted an Emergency Commission in the 10/16th Rajputana Rifles, Indian Army, being seconded to Intelligence duties. He served in India, M.E.F., C.M.F. and S.E.A.C., finishing his Far East service as Captain with a Special Wireless Unit in S.E.A.C. He transferred to Royal Signals in 1945, serving in B.A.O.R. until his release in 1947. He held a Royal Signals T.A. commission 1948-1950 and served with 10 Air Support Signals Unit T.A. He was permanently attached to a Royal Signals A.E.R. Unit in 1961.

His service and business commitments took him to many parts of the world and he had that rare gift of making friends wherever he travelled. To us, in the Royal Signals A.E.R., he brought us the benefit of a wealth of technical experience combined with great enthusiasm and most loyal support to his Unit. Always conscious that his business travels prevented him from participating in all of the A.E.R. engagements, he would, nevertheless, write from many a distant city to keep in touch and offer suggestions for Unit training. Before leaving on his last tour of East and West Africa, he had already done much to ensure the success of his Unit's camp in the coming months. His brother officers and all ranks of his Unit remember with great pride that they were able to share his friendship and devoted service in the Reserve Army.

Donald Martin was buried in the English cemetery at Lagos on 24th April, and a memorial service was held at St. John's Church, Weymouth, on 27th April. To his father, in Sherborne, and to his sister, in Weymouth, we offer our deepest and most sincere sympathy in their tragic bereavement.

JUNIOR LEADERS REGIMENT

As in most terms, many and varied have been the activities of this first session in 1964, culminating in a very fine Graduation Parade, at which the salute was taken by Major-General A. M. W. Whistler. Marching with the Regimental Band for the first time in public was the new mascot, "Laddie," a big snowy-white Pyrennean mountain dog, proudly wearing his red Regimental coat. In his address, General Whistler stressed the part that Signals are playing in modern life; his final message to the boys was "to aim high, but please do so with all humility, and above all enjoy life." A list of those graduating was published in the May WIRE.

Amongst the highlights this term has been the splendid achievement in the boxing world—after three years, the Junior Leaders Regiment have once again achieved success in Army Junior Boxing. With the Army Apprentice School, Harrogate, as the venue, the Regiment entered four boys in the Army Junior Championships. They did very well, two becoming Army Champions, and one a runner-up. Two of these went on to the I.S.B.A. Championships and later boxed for the I.S.B.A. versus Wales.

Exercise "Waterwaves"

Just before departing on Christmas leave, Military Training Wing were informed that the Regiment had accepted the task of providing check point communications for the organisers of the Devizes to Westminster Canoe Race during the Easter week-end.

Having had the leave period in which to think about some of the problems, the organisation and planning was started in earnest in mid-January. After a study of maps of the route, plus information on various sites along the route, provided by the Race Committee, it was decided to establish check points at Devizes, Wooten Rivers, Great Bedwyn, Newbury, Reading, Hambledon, Marlow, Bray, Chertsey and Teddington. Communications on the stretch of the Kennett and Avon Canal between Newbury and Reading were to be provided by the Reading Civil Defence Signal Section.

On 27th February, Radio Operator Class 6R1 (13 boys), plus the Officer-in-Charge Military Training (Captain M. R. C. Weiner), Yeoman of Signals Heard and Sergeant Akehurst left Denbury in our newly-acquired FFR Land Rovers en route to Devizes for a two-day recce of the proposed sites and course.

From the results of the reconnaissance, the final preparations were made and the Race Committee were given our communications plan, which adequately covered their needs.

On arrival in location, each detachment set up camp and opened up on their respective net. Three nets were planned, one covering the Devizes-Newbury locations, one covering Reading, Hambledon, Marlow and Bray, and an overall control net, Newbury - Marlow - Chertsey - Teddington, with Denbury coming up on this net in case any emergency might arise.

The testing of the nets was carried out on the evening of 26th March, and it was found that the frequency allocated to the control net was jammed by heavy interference from an RTTY station, so alternative arrangements were made for all stations on this net to join the Reading-Bray net. This proved a satisfactory arrangement, and all nets closed down until 07.00 hours next morning.

On 27th March, within minutes of the actual race starting, both nets were working satisfactory, and information about start times was being fed up to the Race Committee representative at Teddington.

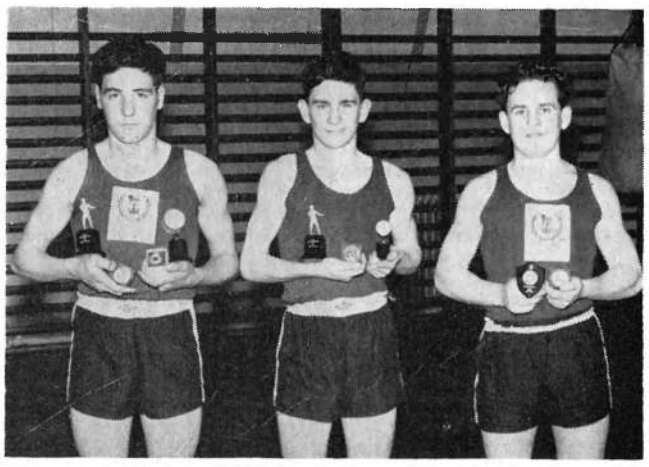
A word about the race itself. There are two sections to the race—Junior and Senior. Senior competitors may start anytime between 08.00 hours Good Friday and 08.00 hours on the Saturday morning, and paddle throughout the night direct to the finish, at County Hall, Westminster. The Junior competitors start at 08.00 hours on Good Friday and only paddle during daylight hours, and there are compulsory overnight stops at Newbury, Marlow and Teddington.

Communications were required from one hour before the start of the race until all junior competitors had reached Teddington on the Sunday evening. Throughout this period our detachments kept communication until their respective section had been cleared of canoeists and permission obtained from the Race Committee for them to close down and return to Denbury; Teddington and Chertsey being the last to close on Sunday at 18.00 hours.



The Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel A. Holifield, introducing the Regimental Band Mascot "Laddie" and his handler Junior Signalman Fuller to Major-General A. M. W. Whistler on the Graduation Parade

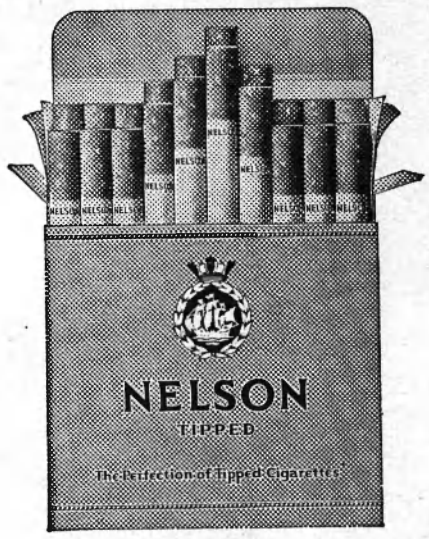
★



The photograph shows the three finalists and their trophies. Junior Signalman Mike Unwin (left). Runner Up Southern Command Championships. Army and I.S.B.A. Champion at 10st Class 'A' Junior Signalman Freddie Carr (centre) Southern Command Champion and Runner Up Army Championships at 8st 7lbs. I.S.B.A. Champion at 8st Class 'A.' Junior Sergeant John Le Page (right) Southern Command and Army Champion at 9st 7lbs Class 'C.'

The standard of operating throughout the exercise was very good, and all operators gained experience in working long hours and through heavy interference, and many of them gained experience in battery charging.

Despite the very cold weather over the week-end, everyone seemed to enjoy themselves and felt they were doing a worthwhile job, which earned them the thanks of the Race Organisers.



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Some of the lucky ones who have come home

3 H.Q. AND SIGNAL REGIMENT

Part I—Those Lucky (?) Ones Still in Bulford

Winter, at long last, seems to be behind us and, of course, in traditional Army style, the first day of sunshine saw us all changed into shirt sleeve order, only to perish in the days that followed; but still the wind always blows over Salisbury Plain.

Life is hard in a Regiment so widely scattered over the globe. Things just don't happen as a Regiment should, and hence our notes for this month are split into two parts—half from Bulford and half from Cyprus.

One of the most outstanding features of April was undoubtedly the 3rd Divisional Signals Reunion Club dinner in London. This annual event took place again this year in the Victory Ex-Services' Club on 25th April. Some sixty members enjoyed the company of old friends and the warm glow of a few at the bar, followed by a good dinner. The guest of honour was the Signal Officer-in-Chief, Major-General F. J. Swainson, and in his reply to a speech of welcome, he paid tribute to the way the Regiment is facing its present task in Cyprus. The Regiment was represented by its recently-retired Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel T. W. Baynes, the Adjutant and R.S.M., S.S.M. Bill Clark and Yeoman of Signals Ron Coaker.

Quite a lot of the Regiment has started to return from Cyprus, and it is nice to see the barracks filling up again. By the end of May we expect to leave a small composite Squadron on the Island.

But alas, as some come home, others are called away again to another trouble spot in the world. Will we ever be reunited as a Regiment?

Meanwhile, to all our detachments overseas, we wish you well as you read these notes. Soon the Regiment (or what is left of it) will move to Carter Barracks. But don't worry—you'll soon find us when you come home, eventually.

And now to our correspondent from Cyprus—

Part II—The Island of Love?

We have now been wearing our United Nations blue berets for a month. During this time a fairly large proportion of the Regiment who came out here in February returned home to Bulford, and during the next few weeks more will return as our signal commitment is reduced still further. CYTA, the local G.P.O., is now providing lines and teleprinter circuits to the different contingents from the contributing nations as they arrive. The Swedish contingent is now fully established, and the Irish are about to become operational.

At the moment we are manning the circuits at the UNIFCYP, as it is known, while the contingents man their new links. At first sight it would appear that this might be difficult, because apart from the British and Canadians, none of the other countries have any common procedures. In fact it is quite possible for a Welsh operator to be spelling out a message in Swedish for relay by a French-speaking Canadian! However, many of the operators have had experience of working with the United Nations before, in either the Congo or else the Gaza strip, and after a short period of instruction in elementary procedures, and insisting messages are passed in English, there have been remarkably few difficulties.

Now that life is becoming more settled, we have been busy catching up with the paper work and accounting for all the stores which were dispersed all over the island at the beginning of the operation. Our Quartermaster, Major Eric Glover, has been busy playing a game with other Quartermasters on the island known as "Pass the 1033." The one who wins is the one who persuades the other to take "it" on ledger charge. He has also employed a ferocious dog, which is trained to attack all those who try to creep round the back of the store to see what has arrived. It is no respecter of persons, and this includes the C.O.

Practically everyone has now had an opportunity to get away from No. 2 Site, R.A.F., Nicosia, and go on a day's expedition, or else spend a few days at the leave camp in Dehkelia. The weather is becoming warmer each day and before long the swimming pool will be much in demand. Other Signal Units have continued to extend their hospitality, and we are indeed grateful for their kindness. Major Neville Moss, O.C. 2 Squadron, had the misfortune to snap a tendon in his hand playing rugby, and has been languishing in hospital for the last three weeks. We hope he will be with us soon.

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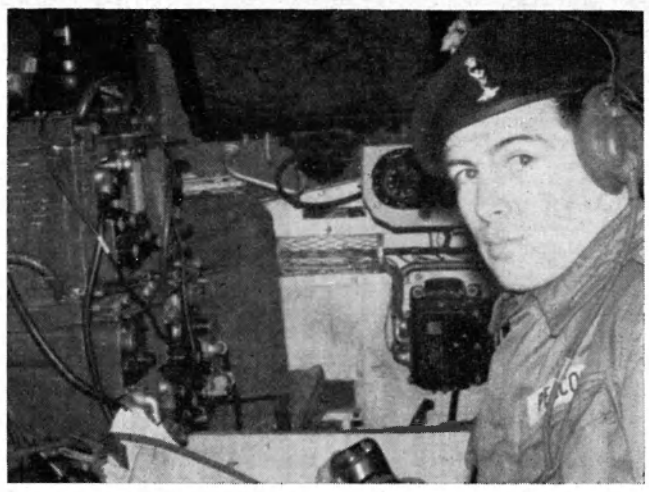
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Serious business on Silver Spear! Major B. C. Skelly assumes command of the 1st Division anxiously watched by Captain B. A. Blackwell



Signalman John R. Peacock of 'A' Troop listens out on the C. R. A. Comd Net on exercise National Hunt

1st REGIMENT B.F.P.O. 32

On the 3rd March we continued our liaison with the 33rd Panzer Battalion of the German Army by inviting them to a games evening in the W.V.S. Club. A very enjoyable evening was had by both sides, and there is no doubt that this kind of event is leading to a better relationship between the British and the Germans.

The weekend before Easter included a visit to Berlin by our Rugby XV, and a further party who were able to visit the Siemens Works and the control room of the Berlin Police Force. At Easter a visit to Amsterdam was arranged by the W.V.S. and 2 Squadron visited the Arnhem battlefields.

Back from the break, we departed into the field and spent ten days on exercise. The first few days proved how much had been forgotten during the long winter of individual training but by the end of the period movement, communications and living had developed into a well-ordered routine which was given a further three days test during the Divisional Exercise National Hunt 30 over the 15th-17th April. By the end of this exercise we had spent sixteen out of the last thirty days in the field.

On 21st March there were two social events. The Corporals' Club held a dance which was the usual well organised affair with everyone having a good time. On the same night the Officers' Mess held the last function before integration with the Divisional H.Q. Mess. This took the form of a magnificent cold buffet prepared by Sergeant Manuel of 652 Squadron of the Army Air Corps, followed by dancing in Jimmy's Club. Former members of the Regiment will be glad to learn that Jimmy's is to reopen as an annexe to the Divisional H.Q. Mess.

The Rugby team under Captain B. A. Blackwell has had a good season although it has not had great success in knock-out competitions, being beaten in the Divisional 7-a-side in the second round by the eventual winners. **Captain Blackwell gained the distinction of being chosen to captain the B.A.O.R. XV,** and also of becoming a proud father for the first time.

This month we are very sorry to have to say goodbye to Miss Barbara Davis who has been responsible for the successful W.V.S. room for the past year. We should like to record our thanks for the interest and enthusiasm with which she tackled her task, and for the contribution she undoubtedly made towards the Unit well-being.

The first winter season of the Page Trophy ended on 22nd April with the third cross-country run. The individual winner of this race was Lance-Corporal Butlin of "R" Troop but the trophy was claimed by "C" Troop who became the champions for the next six months.

Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess

Lastly we have the notes from the Sergeants' Mess. The first quarter of the year is always a quiet one and this quarter has been no exception in the Mess. A large number of the seniors have been away on upgrading courses and an even larger proportion have been involved in the Training School. A creditable number of students were churned through under the eagle eye of O.C. 1 Squadron assisted by the scribe, Sergeant Ben Wylde, our radio experts Sergeants Wheeler, Markie and Preece. Staff Sergeant (S.C.S.) Kreckeler did his yearly good work with the Comcen Operators. Staff Sergeant Ross spent hours with the Radio Relay men both in and out of classrooms. Sergeant Barnden acquired a healthy tan and vocabulary upgrading linemen. These courses all took place in the serenity of the Training School whereas on the other side of camp the Square was being hammered by the M.P. Courses I, II, III. Young voices were trained and older ones remodelled by the Drill Instructors, W.O.II (S.S.M.) Pearsall, Staff Sergeants Taylor, Ridley and Gittins, all of whom have been through the courses by the experts in Pirbright. W.O.II (S.S.M.) Cowe got away with it this time but his turn will come. W.O.II (S.S.M.) Laing is next to take the M.P.C. III.

All these day time activities have led to a fairly quiet time in the Mess but not so quiet that we didn't find time to let our hair down at a St. Patrick's Day dance and enjoy a good evening laid on by W.O.II Bracken and his committee. The Band was recently one of the top twenty 'Pop' bands in Germany and us old 'uns found out that we used every muscle to do the twist. Rubber legs Cowe has no difficulty!

In the Mess this is now a winding up period as we will be moving to the Officers' Mess soon. Records have not suddenly commissioned us all but due to integration with H.Q. 1 Division the officers are moving over to the Divisional Headquarter Barracks. We gain in "living in" accommodation space and with the bar on the ground floor it means we do not have to tackle the stairs down after a dance night.

The early April exercise sorted the Regiment out and from the Sergeants' Mess some brand new suits of combat clothing saw the light of day. Staff Sergeant Leverton did sterling work bringing the canteen vehicle out to us every day and clocked up 1,500 miles in ten days. Sergeant Edwards, the caterer, was kept busy sending the Mess members spirits to keep them warm. It's all this snow in April that does it.

We said farewell recently to one of the Mess's oldest members, namely W.O.I (Tech.) Alec Taylor, who leaves us for Catterick. We know the old 7th Armoured Division and 5th Division days will never return but we wish him and his family all the best. Catterick has also claimed Sergeant G. Orton. Singapore has claimed Staff Sergeant Alec Burgess. The 'Beatles' have asked for R.Q.M.S. F. A. May to go as R.S.M. to the T.A. in Liverpool and he has accepted.

New arrivals seem to just slip in here and W.O.II (O.R.Q.M.S.) Mawson is now sorting out the Orderly Room. Staff Sergeant Lea rejoins us from 7th Armoured Brigade who replaces Staff Sergeant Martell on his way to the T.A. Sergeant Willoughby is still shivering after Aden but we hope this will wear off with warm Carlsberg. R.Q.M.S. T. Cantle has started his two year stint with us and claims he has never seen anything like it—we all said that when we first arrived.

That's all for now—must dash to do my kit for the Spring Drills.

THE WIRE apologises for an error on page 199 of the May edition, in which the two photographs of Major (T.O.T.) C. H. Ferrans, T.D., and Major (Q.M.) T. W. Grigg, M.S.M., of the 45th (Essex) Regiment (T.A.), which appeared side by side, accidentally had their captions transposed.

4th REGIMENT B.F.P.O. 15

Farewell to Lieutenant-Colonel Peter Hutchins and a warm welcome to Lieutenant-Colonel John Badcock who has now taken over command of this well known Regiment.

Seven and a half hundredweight is obviously not a large enough baggage allowance for Lieutenant-Colonels judging by the recent baggage parties' efforts on Bunde Station. The excess, it is gathered, was purely items which have been 'loaned' to Colonel Hutchins on his departure; not only from the Officers' Mess, but the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, the Rugby Club, "A" Troop and a 'contraption' from the L.A.D. Someone also was kind enough to play a record for him over the British Forces Broadcasting Service—he is perhaps making a take-over bid from Major James as No. 1 Beatle Fan and Chief Wig Wearer? We all wish him bon voyage and good luck with the Navy.

It would have been nice to record that with the advent of the exercise season "spring came bursting out all over" but nothing could have been further from the truth. Exercise "Silver Spear" was played amongst snow, hail, rain, thunder and the very odd glimpse of sunshine. All this however, helped to blow away the cobwebs of winter and the fruits of upgrading and re-organisation were shown by the way in which the records in our new System Control showed 'all systems go' for hours on end.

"Out of the mouths of babes . . ." In one location on "Silver Spear" the special Mk I Thunder box was erected on the grass swath in front of the local Schloss. This process was closely watched by the young daughter of the Graff who reported to father, "Daddy, they have erected a sentry box in front of the house." After half an hour a further report was made, "Daddy, and they are changing the sentries ever so often!"

There are many ways of taking over a Unit but there is nothing like completing a 600-mile drive, being issued with one's equipment and then being driven straight out on an exercise. And yet this is how one Lieutenant-Colonel chose to arrive in B.A.O.R. very recently. It has its impact on others too. There was a contented radio relay crew sitting, out of action, on the top of a remote high spot, who will not readily forget the arrival of Colonel John Badcock late one night. Told that the C.O. was there the reaction was, "Blimey, not the new one!"

Perhaps the most unusual event in 'Fourth' for some time has been the sight of Regimental Headquarters in the field. Finally dug out of their comfortable offices and loaded into a venerable old office vehicle, dispensers of bumf have been seen bearing up under the rigours of exercise life. It is perhaps co-incidental that now the Second-in-Command has written himself into S.O.P.s as being with R.H.Q. at Rear Division that a slightly newer and more comfortable office lorry has appeared.

7th REGIMENT, B.F.P.O. 15

Read below of motor cycling successes, and also more about the use of television as a means of communication, by the Regiment that pioneered its use in the British Army.

April was one of those unusual months, in that we all spent most of our time doing our proper jobs. Immediately after Easter we took part, with all other Royal Signals units in 1 (BR) Corps, in Exercise "Silver Spear." This was described as a "continuation of unit training" and as such was extremely good value. The exercise itself had one unusual feature for us; we were allowed to use helicopters for recce and the re-supply of radio relay sites. We had done extensive trials in the past, of course, but we rarely manage to borrow one of these still rare beasts to do this invaluable job.

After "Silver Spear," our Motor Cycle Trial Team took the field for its first competition of 1964. The 11 Brigade Trial was held in the wooded country round Hameln, in very good conditions. Our team comprised Staff Sergeant Slaughter, Sergeant Spooner, Corporal Collier and Lance-Corporal Hill. We all congratulate them on a very good start to the season. They won the visiting team award and Staff Sergeant Slaughter was winning individual visitor.

Our first exercise with the staff this year was "Ground Zero 36," and although we were not exactly overworked, it was a useful trial run. It coincided with our first breath of summer, too, so morale took a pretty high leap, particularly after our somewhat Arctic experiences on the previous sortie.

RHINE ARMY SMALL BORE CHAMPIONS



Back row (left to right): Lance-Corporal Keighley (Res.), Corporal Timms, Staff Sergeant Broadbent, RAPC, Lance-Corporal Ambrose
Front row (left to right): Lieutenant Lombard, Captain Pavey (Capt.), Lieutenant-Colonel Clarkson, Major Davies (now our CO), Second-Lieutenant Drew. Absent, Signalman Mandy

Many of you will have read in the papers last year about our television trials in H.Q. 1 (BR) Corps. Further trials are to be undertaken this year by us. Recently, a team of six from the Regiment, headed by Major Jimmy Ward and Lieutenant David Henning spent two weeks with the Air Ministry (as it then was) with the aim of becoming the greatest living experts on television.

Despite W.O.II Bell's constant reminder that he was an expert on traffic and knew nothing about "valves and things," the whole team soon learnt to differentiate between "flutter on one's bottom" and "high peaking." The course included visits to E.M.I, Peto Scott and the B.B.C. The latter trip included a tour of the studio where "Z Cars" was being rehearsed. It came as something of a shock to find that the big, shiny, fast Z car has no windscreen, no bonnet and no wheels!

It is intended that TV should be used in Corps H.Q. for the dissemination of information and marked maps, and that TV Control should be housed in a trailer—with windows and wheels.

Arrivals and Departures. We welcome Lieutenant Kelly, R.E.M.E., who arrives to take care of our L.A.D.; W.O.II Strutt, to look after the Orderly Room; and Sergeants Houghton and Stowe.

We say farewell and good luck to Captain Ron Saville, Lieutenant John May and Sergeant Clemson. Among the many others who deserted us for warmer or colder climes were Corporals Pearson, J. H. Brown, Haigh, Cork and Shah, and Lance-Corporals Pollock and Saunders. We wish them well in their new jobs.

Births.—To Signalman and Mrs. Das, at B.M.H., Rinteln, on 1st April, 1964, a daughter, Tina.

LADY GROVER'S HOSPITAL FUND FOR OFFICERS' FAMILIES

The attention of all officers is drawn to the facilities provided by Lady Grover's Hospital Fund for Officers' Families.

The aim of the Fund is to help officers who may be confronted by unexpected and possibly heavy calls upon their pockets, arising from the illness of a dependent member of the family. The Fund itself is administered by a voluntary Committee including nominated representatives of the three Services and their Medical Services. It makes no profit.

Anyone interested may obtain details from the Regimental Secretary, R.H.Q. Royal Signals, Cheltenham Terrace, London, S.W.3.

8th REGIMENT

On 1st/2nd May 8th Regiment went into the field again as an Infantry Battalion. A dug in defensive position was prepared and the battle raged all night against enemy from 3 Royal Tank Regiment, 1 Loyals and 24th Regiment.

A small party of Y.O.s from the School of Signals under the command of Lieutenant M. Gray formed a special enemy group who, smarting from the Rugby football defeat in the Northern Command Cup, set out to capture R.S.M. Rees, the chief architect of that defeat.

They nearly succeeded by a remarkable piece of initiative from Second-Lieutenant Messer-Bennets who, effectively disguised as a nervous recruit, reported to Exercise Control Headquarters at about 11 o'clock at night claiming to be a Signalman Bennett who had lost his rifle and equipment "somewhere near Battalion H.Q." After appropriate admonition and interrogation by senior officers of the Regiment, who should have known better, 'Signalman Bennett' was escorted to the R.S.M. for suitable treatment. His visit, unfortunately for him, coincided with a crisis over passwords or the next stage of the little operation would have been the R.S.M. and 'Signalman Bennett' going out to look for his rifle, much to the delight of the rest of the Y.O.s lurking in the gloom outside. As it happened, he stood twitching and drooling, while passwords were loudly changed by the Battalion Commander, Captain Mackay, and the opportunity passed. The raiders outside, thinking something had gone wrong, launched an abortive attack and the episode concluded with explanations, red faces in 8th Regiment and rapid promotion of 'Signalman Bennett' to Second-Lieutenant. He had certainly earned it.

9th REGIMENT, B.F.P.O. 53

We have mentioned previously that new barrack blocks were built last year to replace the Twynhams, Nissens and other jolly "homes-from-home" we had lived in until then. These new blocks are, of course, a wonderful improvement, but have been known rather impersonally as the 1 Squadron, 2 Squadron and 3 Squadron Blocks.

To remedy this, we had the idea of naming them after three distinguished generals, formerly of the Corps, and devised a brief ceremony befitting the occasion. On 27th April, therefore, Major-General P. G. F. Young, C.B.E., General Officer Commanding Cyprus District, attended a parade of the Regiment in Mercury Barracks, accompanied by Colonel T. H. C. Grigg, Chief Signal Officer.

Before asking the General to hand over to representatives of the three Squadrons framed photographs of the three officers concerned—Major-General R. E. Barker, C.B.E., Major-General Sir W. Ronald C. Penney, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., M.C., and Major-General C. M. F. White, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O.—Colonel Grigg read a brief history of each to the 15 officers and 144 men on parade.

General Young said he was grateful to the Commanding Officer for inviting him to carry out the ceremony. "I think it is very appropriate that the blocks should be named after three most distinguished Generals of your Corps who were all in turn Chief Signal Officers of what was then the Middle East and now the Near East," he said.



Major General P. G. F. Young presenting the photograph of Major General Sir W. Ronald C. Penney to Corporal J. Bullingham, 2 Sqn.



9th Regiment football team being presented to Major-General P. G. F. Young, C.B.E., GOC Cyprus District

Left to right: Mr. E. Smith, Signalman E. Newham, Signalman J. Snaith, Signalman J. Hellewell, Signalman B. Burr, Lance-Corporal J. Goodburn, Major-General Young, W.O.II Handley (Trainer and Manager), Mr. P. Woolley, Lieutenant-Colonel Edridge, M.B.E. (Chairman AFA (Cyprus)).

"Your Regiment has had a varied and distinctive record of service in the Middle East. I know myself of the vital work you have done, and are continuing to do, and thank you personally for all you have done, particularly during the last three troubled months."

The G.O.C. then officially named the blocks Barker Block, Penney Block and White Block, handing the photographs to:

Corporal D. E. Mackin	(1 Squadron)
Corporal J. Bullingham	(2 Squadron)
Corporal M. J. Hagger	(3 Squadron)



Major-General P. G. F. Young presenting Long Service and Good Conduct Medal to W.O.II J. J. C. Finch, 2 Squadron

This parade was also a red-letter day in the career of W.O.II J. J. C. Finch, the energetic and popular Squadron Sergeant-Major of 2 Squadron. His Squadron Commander read out to the assembly his unblemished record of service of nearly nineteen years, after which General Young congratulated him and presented him with his Long Service and Good Conduct Medal. Well done, Sergeant-Major!

Afterwards the General was invited to see a rest room which has been fitted out within 2 Squadron Block. There he met Signalman K. W. Bandey, who had been responsible for the interior decoration, and commented on this attractive amenity which gives the soldiers comfortable off-duty facilities, with television, radiogram, library and writing desks.

In the realm of sport, the Regiment has not done too badly, we think. In spite of local conditions, the Army Major Units Soccer Cup Tournament was played during March and April, and having beaten the 3rd Green Jackets and R.A.O.C., Cyprus, in the qualifying round, we then beat R.E., Cyprus, 4—3, after extra time, in the semi-final, which raised our hopes for the final. There, also, we were beaten, but with distinction, when we played 1st Bn. Parachute Regiment. We wish them all the best on their return to the U.K.

SPORTS STOP PRESS: 1 Squadron has won the final of this year's squash tournament in the Chief Signal Officer's Champion Sports Squadron Competition.

A less formal, but no less enjoyable, recent event was a cricket match against 3 H.Q. and Signal Regiment, and a darts match against their officers, both of which we won (although the results were not all that important). It was a pleasure meeting so many old acquaintances, and a good day's entertainment was rounded off by the presentation of a 3rd Division plaque to the Officers' Mess by Lieutenant-Colonel Proudman on behalf of our guests from the United Nations Force in Cyprus.

11th REGIMENT

C.S.O., Northag, Visits Catterick

On Friday, 24th April, Brigadier-General Herr Dr. Maultzsch, Chief Signal Officer of the Northern Army Group began a two-day farewell visit of Royal Signals Units at Catterick Camp before his retirement.

General Maultzsch has met many officers and men of the Royal Signals during their service in Germany and on previous visits to Catterick.

The General was met by the Commander of the Training Brigade, Brigadier A. C. Cox, O.B.E., and began his visit at 11th Regiment (Depot) by inspecting a 48-man guard of honour provided by 6 and 2 Troops of the Regular Recruit Squadron with the Staff Band of the Royal Corps of Signals.

He was then taken on a tour of the Regiment in which he saw the Staff Sergeants' Course on drill and a Recruit Troop being trained on the obstacle course and in the gymnasium.

BEST RECRUITS

Pass Off Parade, 17th April

At the beginning of this parade it was doubtful whether the spectators would be able to see anything of it from the spectators stand in the Drill Shed, due to dense fog. Fortunately the Parade Commander, Major W. B. Foote, sensing rather than seeing the arrival of the Inspecting Officer, brought the parade to attention at the correct time judging by the vague noises which percolated through to the Drill Shed. The fog cleared, however, during the inspection.



Signalman W. H. Evans
Best Recruit on Pass-off Parade, 17th April, 1964

Passing off as Best Recruit on this parade was Signalman William Haydn Evans, aged 18 years, of 13, Emlyn Gardens, Mayhill, Swansea. A product of Swansea College of Further Education, he joined the Army with the intention of getting a commission. He has played Rugby in the Regimental XV and also enjoys swimming. He goes forward for training as an O.R. 1.

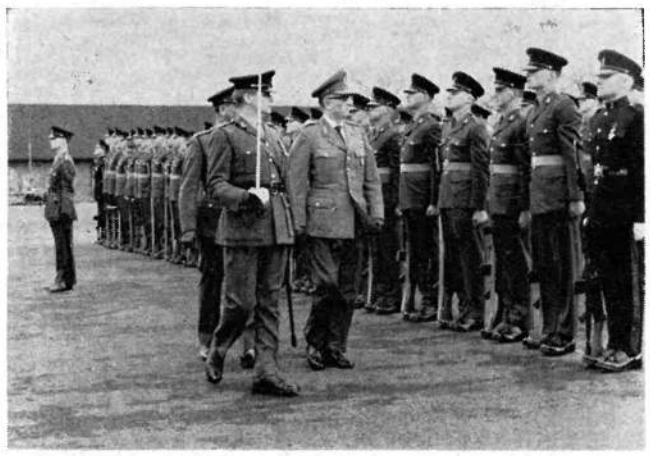
Pass Off Parade, 1st May



Signalman D. Isherwood
Best Recruit on Pass-off Parade, 1st May, 1964

Signalman David Isherwood, aged 17½ years, is no stranger to Army life. His father was a Warrant Officer, Class 1, in the R.A.O.C. and retired in September, 1963, after 22 years' service. Acompanying his father in his travels, David attended Army Schools in Germany and Cyprus and has also visited Egypt and the Middle East.

Isherwood enlisted on 28th February, 1964, and joined 6 Troop, 11th Regiment, in March. He has done extremely well in training and although interested in a technical trade, has been selected to undergo training as an Officer Recruit. We wish him luck in his career and hope he is able to continue in the way he started.



Inspecting the Guard of Honour—Brigadier General Herr Dr. Maultzsch, Chief Signal Officer Northern Army Group, at Catterick

Visit of Pathfinders to Catterick

ON Thursday, 16th April, 26 boys from the Pathfinder Sports and Boys' Club were entertained for a long week-end by 11th Signal Regiment.

They arrived in the afternoon and were taken on a tour of the Regiment. In the evening they competed in a .22 shooting match against a Recruit Troop and ran out winners, the score being 38 to 182 (rumour tells us though that the recruits gave away a small handicap).

Afterwards the boys entertained a fair-sized audience in the NAAFI with their own "beat group."

The next morning they were somewhat surprised to be awakened at 06.30 hours in the traditional manner! They watched the Pass-Off Parade, and, having raided the Quartermaster's stores for suitable clothing, joined two Troops on their Adventure Training site in the Lake District.

The evening was taken up with a night exercise, and, with blackened face, a club leader led his patrol nonchalantly over a 10ft. wall, only to find a large hole in the same wall 3ft. further along.

On Saturday the boys were taken sailing on Ullswater and were later dropped off by a vehicle and had to make their way back to camp. One arrived back triumphantly wearing only one boot!

On the last day they were given a talk by the Brigade Commander, who presented a plaque for the best gymnast; one to the boy who excelled himself most on the Adventure Training, and finally, a cup for the .22 shooting.

In return the Club Leader, Mr. Dornan, presented a certificate of service to the club to the conducting N.C.O., Corporal Ryan, and also Unit Officers and N.C.O.s.

Letters to the Editor

Anyone Interested?

The Editor has received the following letter from ex-C.Q.M.S. ("Busty") Reid, whose address is Reid's Marketing Service Ltd., 97, Underhill Road, South Benfleet, Essex. Perhaps anyone wishing to reply will do so direct to the address given.

Dear Sir,

We should like to hear from any ex-Royal Signals men who are in the selling field, in particular, free-lance salesmen.

I served with Royal Corps of Signals between 1937 and 1946, spending most of this time in India, Burma, Malaya and China. Naturally, I would like to hear from chaps that I knew, and who have entered the selling field, but I will be pleased to hear from any ex-R.C.S.

Trusting that you can help in this matter, and to hear from you in due course.

Ex-C.Q.M.S. "Busty" Reid.



The G.O.C.-in-C. meeting the C.D.S.O., Major R. S. Cathmoir. Others (*Left to right*): Lieutenant-Colonel D. B. Emley, Major J. H. Walmesley-Cotham, R.S.M. D. G. Newton

14th REGIMENT

Visit of G.O.C.-in-C., Southern Command

On 6th April, Lieutenant-General Sir Kenneth Darling, K.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., paid a very successful flying visit to Boddington.

Thanks to a rush job by the G.W.O., in the shape of an outside staircase, his helicopter was able to land on the roof of the Tape Relay Centre building. The pilot, a Naval Commander, observed that the L.Z. was not unlike the deck of a carrier, to which the C.D.S.O. apologised for the fact that he was not able to "rock it about a bit."

Droitwich Aerials and Feeders

The work of raising the present aerial towers (105ft.) to a height of 150ft. is well under way. The actual raising of the towers is being done by contractor, and up to date six have been completed. The much-depleted line party (due to courses) consisting of linemen Corporal Pitchford (late of East African experience and an old hand of the Corps), Signalman Vollenhoven (on loan from 3 Squadron), Signalman Balfe, and Field Signalmen Lance-Corporal Millership, Signalmen Bell and McAlpine, have been hard at work rigging and placing in position the 24ft. feeder poles. Their task of digging the holes has been much eased by the issue from Ordnance of a hole-boring Ferguson tractor for the project, which does the job to a depth of 3ft. Auger and brawn take over for a further foot. Lance-Corporal Millership has the enviable task of driving the tractor.

Shooting

3 Squadron got off to a good start in the open range shooting season on 2nd and 3rd April. On these dates the Sub-District



Corporal K. Pitchford and team erecting new 24 foot feeder poles



Signalman McAlpine working on one of the aerial towers

Shoot took place, and for the second year running, we entered a team. As usual, we went there with not much hope of achieving anything, mainly because we were competing against units of 200 men and over, as compared with our strength of 60.

However, to our great joy and surprise, we came away with two challenge cups, two tankards, four spoons and eight medals.

The S.M.G. Team Competition, in which we entered two teams comprising Sergeant Burrows, Corporal Izzo, Corporal Ferrier, Corporal Williams, Corporal Stacey, Lance-Corporal Walker, Lance-Corporal Fuoco and Signalman Reis, was won by our "A" Team; Corporal Izzo, Corporal Williams, Corporal Ferrier and Signalman Reis, with the "B" Team coming second. Corporal Williams also won the S.M.G. Individual Match, with Lance-Corporal Walker coming second.

In the Falling Plate Match, our teams were runners-up, losing by three plates.

All this was achieved without our No. 1 shot, S.S.M. A. A. Copestake, who was away at Bulford.

We have just heard, at the time of writing, that we are the winners of the Royal Signals, Southern Command, Small Bore Competition.

16th REGIMENT B.F.P.O. 34

Visit by the Commander, Training Brigade

On Tuesday, 7th April, the Regiment was visited by Brigadier A. C. Cox, O.B.E., accompanied by the C.S.O. B.A.O.R., Brigadier J. E. Anderson, C.B.E.

The emphasis was on the trade training problems of the Regiment but a short tour of the T.R.C. was included where the Commander Training Brigade spoke to Staff Sergeant B. Givern and Corporal P. Birrell of 51st (H) Regiment (T.A.) who were doing their two weeks annual training with us.

Canoeing

Recently Lance-Corporal M. A. Brett and Signalman A. Robinson of Radio Relay Troop went to the Royal Signals Junior Leaders' Regiment at Denbury to take part in the Devizes—Westminster Canoe Race.

Unfortunately, after only 30 miles they had an accident which ripped the bottom out of their vessel causing their premature withdrawal from the event.

The excellent hospitality extended to them by the Junior Leaders made up for their disappointment somewhat, however, and both are determined to enter again next year and do better.

Strength—Decreases

Retirement.—After 26 years of Army service the Regiment said its farewells to Captain and Mrs. A. L. Gilhooly, Royal Signals, on the occasion of his retirement to civilian life.

Captain Gilhooly was a Warrant Officer technician on 14th Regiment prior to commissioning in 1960 and was known throughout the Corps as a keen boxer, athlete and horseman.

In Krefeld he developed his latent golf talents and commanded Heavy Radio Troop in 16th Regiment after transferring from 10th Regiment.

Marriage.—The diminishing strength of our W.R.A.C. personnel received a further cut when Sergeant Amanda (Mandy) Clarke was married to Staff Sergeant A. M. P. Howie, B.E.M., at Plymouth on 30th March, 1964. They have now set up home in Krefeld.

Cable Troop

"Unfair to Hairys!" was the mournful cry from the snow. Cable Troop's younger linemen who had come to the Regiment during the winter had their first outing at the beginning of April.

The location of the exercise was in the Sauerland and the terrain offered some interesting line-laying problems. The weather wasn't very helpful; after three days of driving snow the sun came out of hiding and produced some excellent mud.

In spite of conditions the object of the exercise was achieved, and some of our younger linemen seem much happier now that they know that Germany does have hills after all.

Summer Fete

The Regiment is now preparing for its third fete in aid of Service Charities. Previous fetes have met with considerable success and this year we hope to clear £500. Providing we receive the some co-operation and assistance, as we did last year, we should do it.

There will be about thirty stalls this time as well as special attractions for children. We have also been fortunate in obtaining the services of a Clairvoyant, in the shape of Captain (Doc) Watson. His powers of crystal gazing are believed to be quite uncanny.

17th GURKHA REGIMENT, SEREMBAN

April in Seremban

This has been a month of movement. It has witnessed parties of our soldiers going on six months' leave to Nepal and other parties returning. To stand on Seremban Railway Station and see the soldiers, their wives and children, starting their long journeys to their homeland is to become aware of the great changes in living conditions to which our British Army Gurkhas are subject. Starting on a railway train that travels through the rain forests of Malaya to the vast, modern city of Singapore, continuing in the ultra-modernity and comfort of an Air India Boeing 707 jet, and finally ending with a march of many days through the valleys and across the foothills of the Himalayas must be an experience to make any man pause and wonder. Yet the Gurkha takes it in his stride.

"A movement" it has been that of Lieutenant (Q.M.) T. Jones, B.E.M., who comes to us our new M.T.O. A piece of information hardly unique, you may think. Will you still think so when you learn that Lieutenant Jones is returning, for the fourth time? This is more than a posting; this is a homecoming to the Regiment whose foundations he helped to build in 1949.

A major departure is that of Major (Q.M.) V. W. G. King, who not only handed over his duties of M.T.O., but also left in the safe keeping of the Regiment the splendid motor rally trophies he and his team had won. It was only fitting that the trophies should adorn the table in the British Officers' Mess the night Major King was dined-out.

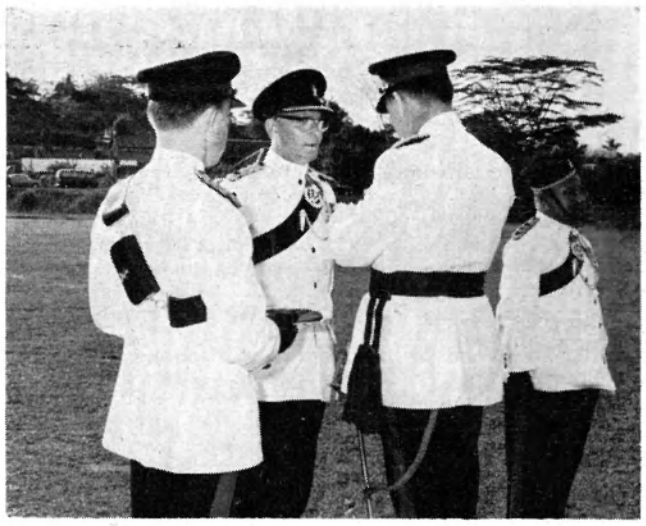
23rd April saw the small British military community in Seremban assembling at a quarter-to-eight in the morning to celebrate Her Majesty The Queen's Birthday, at a parade of the Depot Squadron, Gurkha Signals. A special feature of this year's parade was the presentation of the Meritorious Service Medal to Major (Q.M.) V. W. G. King, by the Commander, Malaya Area, Brigadier P. A. L. Vaux, O.B.E. A long-to-be-remembered highlight in a career is still continuing after thirty-three years.

We had an arrival of a different kind, too. It is the Malaya Area Minor Units Basketball Trophy. The same Squadron which paraded so elegantly on the Queen's Birthday Parade also produced a bunch of bounding basketballers to win a "convincing victory" (that, I believe, is a sports reporter's O.K. phrase) over 2 Infantry Workshops, R.E.M.E.

The score: 1 (Depot) Squadron, 17th Gurkha Signal Regiment 55, 2 Infantry Workshops, R.E.M.E., 25.

Now for the one that got away. We had hoped to tell you (with quiet modesty) that the Major Units Basketball Trophy had also arrived. Unfortunately, some b——y great Kiwis from the 1st Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment beat us to it. Full of dairy produce, hot spring water and strange cries, they collected 42 points against our 24.

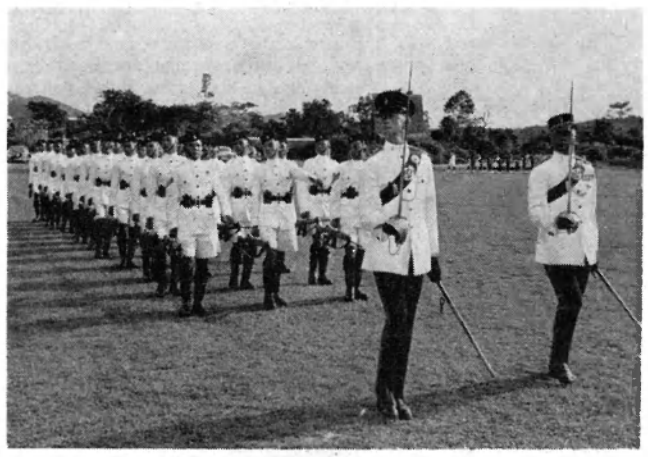
Finally, a thought for all those struggling trainee technicians at Catterick. The opening sentence, written by a Gurkha trainee technician taking his class three trade test, and who was writing notes on his fault-finding procedure, went like this: "I stop, I think, and I remember to check the connexion .,. ." He passed his trade test.



Brigadier P. A. L. Voux, O.B.E., presenting the Meritorious Service Medal to Major (Q.M.) V. W. G. King



Pipes and Drum of Gurkha Signals marched past on the Queen's Birthday Parade, 21st April, 1964



No. 2 Squadron marched past in the Queen's Birthday Parade, 21st April, 1964

Welfare needs Clothing!

19th Regiment (c/o G.P.O. Singapore)

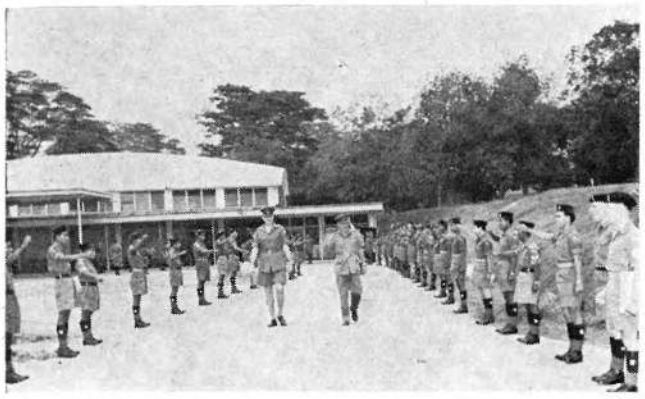
THIS cheerful and efficient Regiment takes all in its stride. Visits from V.I.P.s, burnt-out cables and many sporting successes are all part of the daily round, as we read below.

Three V.I.P.s in four weeks has kept everyone in top gear, especially Sergeant Yusoff bin Lengong and his smart and colourful quarter guard.

Our own Deputy Director of Telecommunications from M.O.D. (Air) Colonel P. C. Williams, O.B.E., was the first and foremost, and his comprehensive itinerary included Gan Island, R.A.A.F., Butterworth, Changi, Seletar, Tengah and Bukit Gombak, and finally, R.A.F. Labuan and Kuching.

As Commanding Officer of the 19th from 1955 to 1958, he was warmly welcomed and well remembered by many N.C.O.s and soldiers still serving in the Regiment, and Corporal Bell as N.C.O.-in-Charge Labuan Detachment, Borneo, will long remember being told exactly where to find a ducted cable he was looking for!

On Saturday, 2nd May, he took off from Changi for home, leaving us with the sad/happy news that he is retiring very soon to take up the reins of Secretary of the Sussex Cricket Club. We all wish Tuan Williams and his Mem a long and very, very happy retirement.



Selemat Berpisah Tuan Williams. (Farewell to Colonel P. C. Williams)

The second visit was a happy surprise, and one which has lifted our tails and given us a feeling of "belonging to the Royal Air Force." On 4th May, Air Vice-Marshal Leonard-Williams, C.B.E., A.O.A. Headquarters, F.E.A.F., gave the Regiment six hours of his very valuable time, and inspired the many officers, N.C.O.s and men he talked to during his visit, by his understanding and appreciation of the Regiment's task in providing landline communications for the Far East Air Force.

The third visitor was our Administrative Commander, Brigadier Crew Stoneley, O.B.E., A.D.C., who came to say good-bye at the end of his tour.

This was a sad occasion for the Regiment, not only because we have lost a very helpful, very understanding Base Area Commander, but because he, too, is retiring, and we have said farewell to a well-loved personality of our Corps.

We wish Brigadier and Mrs. Stoneley every good wish for the future.

Cable Fault Extraordinary

On 22nd March, a startling piece of news was released. A Comet IV airliner had crashed-landed on Paya Lebar Airfield and caught fire.

Fortunately there were no casualties and the fire was extinguished quickly.

This news was interesting to everyone in Singapore, and the standby U.G. fault party didn't realise just how interesting,



Air Vice-Marshal Leonard Williams visits Circuit Control
left to right : Staff Sergeant (F of S) Kenyon, the CO, CAFSO and Air Vice-Marshal Leonard-Williams

until early the next day when the infamous "80" cables went out and were tested full earth on all pairs. The fault was traced to somewhere on Paya Lebar Airfield, and by eight o'clock that evening the Chief of the Fire Brigade gave reluctant permission to Lieutenant Eastgate to explore the area of the Comet fire WITHOUT naked flame.

A torchlight search under the runway revealed a charred and melted armoured cable suspended inside the large culvert (7ft. diameter) and it was apparent that the burning jet fuel had scoured the whole area. Sometime after midnight, and after several tests for safe exposure of naked flame, the line party started work and pieced in a length of cable. By dawn the pairs were through and the party retired to clean up and prepare for the next call-out.

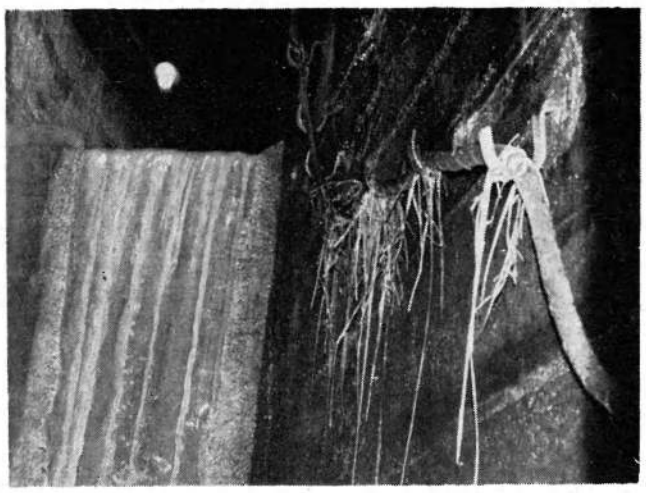
Sport

The hockey team, under our excellent manager, Lieutenant (Q.M.) E. R. C. Wall has opened the season with a good omen, in the form of a newspaper report, published on 29th April. An extract from the report reads:

"Signals Enter Semi-Finals.—The 19 Signals, who are playing their first season of competitive hockey in Singapore,



[*Courtesy of Straits Times Press (Malay) Ltd.*
The Malaysian Airways Comet



Inside the culvert where the cable was damaged. The "waterfall" is about 15 feet high

today entered the Singapore Hockey Association Knockout Tournament semi-finals by beating Jansenites 1—0 at Dover Road. The Signals' attack showed plenty of dash and determination, and often had the Jansenites' defence in trouble."

We are looking forward to victory in the semi-final against R.A.F., Seletar, the only other Service team entered.

Soccer, under the expert guidance and determined drive of Captain Joe McCarthy, has had a remarkable season so far. The fifteen matches played have resulted in thirteen wins for the 19th. A very exciting friendly match was played against H.M.S. *Leopard,* at Loyang, on Saturday, 2nd May, which the Regiment won 5—3. A return match has been booked for when *Leopard* returns to Singapore.

Three of the Maclean Trophy cups now rest in the Regiment's silver cabinet; one for hockey, one for basketball and one for badminton. The overall winners' trophy just slipped through our fingers, but the R.S.M. was seen making a space in the cabinet ready for next season.

In conclusion, we must mention the snake found in the C.O.'s office. This was discovered about 17.00 hours one evening as the duty clerk was tidying up the office. It was curled up under one of the chair cushions—the same chair that had been used by C.A.F.S.O. a couple of hours earlier. The snake was about 3ft. long, black, with a red streak along it's back.



Prize winners in the RAF Changi Station Commanders Cup Competition. 19 Regiment personnel, are second from left, Lance-Corporal Koh with the Basket ball Cup; seventh from left, Major R. Trelawny with a Special Sports Personality Trophy; fourth from right, Lieutenant J. A. Eastgate with the Hockey Cup; right-hand man, Inche Wan Jalil with the Badminton Trophy

The snake was doubly lucky—C.A.F.S.O. has a warm heart and Staff Beasley, who came to Corporal Elliott's rescue is one of the few people who rather cares for snakes.

We are assured that, in return for its life, the snake has promised to use only the Adjutant's chair in future.

Slow Boat to Bangkok

By Helga Eastgate and Maureen Williams
(*19th Regiment Wives' Club*)

FOLLOWING a successful trip on a cargo/passenger boat, when I travelled with a R.A.F. wife to Sibu (in Sarawak) and Labuan, Maureen and I decided to try a round trip to Bangkok. We made enquiries with the local agents, and after several visits, phone calls and discussions decided to travel on the Straits Steamship Company vessel *Petaling,* a 1,450-ton cargo boat with accommodation for eight passengers.

Two days prior to departure we paid our money to the travel agents—a total of $368 (about £43), which covered all meals and accommodation for 16 days including the days spent in harbour.

We went aboard at about 10 o'clock on a Wednesday morning and were shown to our cabin. Soon the anchor was raised and we were off. We spent a very pleasant and lazy four days travelling to Bangkok with little to do except sunbath, eat (excellent meals) and sleep. We berthed in Bangkok on Sunday morning and after Customs and Immigration clearance we went ashore. We bargained with the taxi driver and fixed a price for the journey into town. A quick look around and purchase of lengths of Thai silk were the items on our agenda, then back to the boat for lunch.

After a short rest and quick shower we went off again in the afternoon to visit some of the Temples—and there are hundreds of them! we managed to see some of the bigger and better known ones. Just outside the Royal Palace is the Temple of the Emerald Buddha, which is—I think—one of the most beautiful.

After all this sight-seeing we felt rather tired and terribly hot, but after dinner we went, accompanied by the ship officers, on a tour of the night clubs, which are really something in that part of the world.

Early the next morning we took one of the innumerable Vespa taxis into town. These taxis are an adaption of the Vespa Scooter that carry two passengers side by side behind the driver, and are extremely manouverable and twist in and out of the traffic.

Again we went shopping and Bangkok is a shoppers paradise. Beautiful oriental goods made of wool, cotton, silk, rice paper, bronze, etc., and we spent hours just window shopping. Having some time on our hands we went to the Louis Pasteur Institute to see the Snake Farm, where snake venom is extracted and used in the preparation of anti-snake bite serum. The Institute has most of the common poisonous snakes, such as cobras, king cobras and banded kraites and they supply Bangkok and the whole of Thailand with serum.

When we got back to the pier, we found that our ship had moved to the opposite bank to a rice-mill—as rice was to be our cargo for Penang, so we hired a little sampan and two Thai girls (probably mother and daughter) rowed us across the waters. It was a bit rough, but we managed to get aboard without sinking. In the afternoon we looked over the rice-mill, which is completely manually operated. Following a sort of thumping noise we eventually found one of the men sitting by a wooden shute knocking his little hammer on it to make the rice run down into sacks. The place was alive with cockroaches and when the men saw our reaction's they broke into delighted peals of laughter pointing at us and the horrible creatures.

That night after dinner we took a motor sampan and then a taxi to the Hotel Rama, a very posh place and one of Bangkok's latest hotels. We spent a delightful two hours watching Thai classical dancing. All the dancers are girls—very graceful indeed! Before each dance, a young Thai girl explained in English what the dance was called and what each single gesture meant. We were shown a fashion show where old costumes with a special colour for each day were worn. It was, I think, pink for Monday, yellow for Tuesday, green for Wednesday—and red for Sunday.

The next morning we were up bright and early for a trip to the Floating Market.

This is a "must" for visitors to Bangkok. We passed along

(*Continued on page* 226)

the winding canals, called Klongs, and then the tributaries of the river, receiving smiles and waves from both banks from young and old.

This is the home of river-side dwellers who happily swim across to visit their neighbours on the opposite bank. After about three-quarters of an hour we arrived at the floating market itself. This is a small backwater where the people bring their produce (mostly vegetables or fruit) to sell or barter. Our next stop was at a silk factory where we saw the various processes that occur in the production of Thai silk. We were surprised how small the factories are, most of them are only an annex to a fairly large house, and here the silk is handwoven on wooden looms in a fantastic variety of colours, patterns and shades. Back to our sampan again and along the small water roads to see the Temple of Dawn. This is a very impressive building decorated with pieces of broken crockery, on some of which we managed to read "Made in England"! At the entrance to the temple many stalls offer Thai silver, jewellery, Temple rubbings (charcoal rubbings of portions of Temple carving transferred to thick rice paper) and other tourist souvenirs.

A short trip down river brought us to the Royal Barges. These are very long, narrow boats that seat more than a hundred oarsmen, and they are lavishly carved and decorated with gold paint and small pieces of glass set into the woodwork to catch and reflect the sunlight. This was our last port of call on this particular outing so back to our boat for lunch. As we were to sail later on that same afternoon—we hailed a last sampan to do our final shopping and have a last look round. We didn't really feel like leaving—as you might guess!

The voyage from Bangkok to Penang took us 5½ days—doing about 9 knots all the way. It was very hot and the crew built us a sort of paddling-pool made of a tarpaulin with sticks and lots of rope. It was most refreshing and we sat in it for short spells in between sun-bathing.

We arrived at Penang early in the morning, where we anchored in midstream. Penang has a wonderful water-front and visitors coming by sea have this lasting impression of Penang. It is called "The Pearl of the Orient" which is a very apt description. Having gone ashore by sampan, we took a trishaw for a sight-seeing tour of the island. Penang is very clean and green, and has Buddhist as well as Muslem Temples mixed up with ultra-modern buildings.

Penang also has a railway! It is an electric train which runs every half hour up the 2,500 ft. high mountain. We went up in the afternoon and from the top we had a marvellous view of Penang. Our ship looked like a toy in a bathtub of deep, green water. Unfortunately we only had two days in Penang and then had to set course for Singapore and home.

It was a wonderful trip and I recommend it to all the wives of our Club.

21st REGIMENT, B.F.P.O. 43

B.A.O.R. Linemen read below.—You are challenged!

R.H.Q. Our wives at Laarbruch started their summer season with an evening get-together on 6th May, when Mrs. G. A. Horner arranged for a beauty consultant to give them a two-hour talk and practical demonstration on the correct way of caring for, and beautifying, the female face. Mrs. C. G. Johnson graciously volunteered to be the "demonstration model" for the evening. From all accounts it was a most successful evening, but unfortunately, no photos are available.

Successful recruiting to the Corps has finally burst the Training Brigade at its seams, and so we have agreed to help in the training of Drivers, Royal Signals. Under S.S.M. Shand, assisted by Corporal Simon (16th Regiment), Corporal Gooding and Corporal Davis (13th Regiment) and Lance-Corporal Bowman (28th Regiment) the Driving School has now been set up, and the first trainees have arrived.

1 Squadron. Marching competitions have become an almost commonplace occurrence in Squadron training programmes, commonplace in one respect only—the frequency with which we compete, namely, at least once a fortnight in Holland. **These marching competitions are an excellent way of keeping our linemen fit, and we would welcome a challenge from linemen anywhere in Germany over 40 kms. for the title of the fittest Line Troop.** We are able to travel in style to our competitions through the kindness of the R.A.F. Physical Fitness Staff, who kindly provide a civilian 'bus.

Our latest march was at Hertogenbosch, on Saturday, 25th April, sponsored by Heineken's brewing firm. The team consisted of 20 marchers and was led by Lieutenant Pocklington and Second-Lieutenant Spear. As usual, we were the only British Army Team, and in our honour, the brewery hoisted the Union Jack at the entrance and allotted us the place of honour behind their colourful brass band for the preliminary march through the town. Then off to the march itself; the day was cool and there was a slight breeze, and so we were able to achieve our best-ever time for 25 km., win a medal apiece and the team prize. After the presentation and photographs—showers and a reception, with gorgeous food and unlimited liquid refreshment, served by the brewery.

2 Squadron. We wish Lieutenant David Bell the best of good fortune on his return to civilian life at the end of a long and successful tour with us. If he can find a robust and suitable vehicle, he plans to motor to New Zealand, and there carve out what we know will be a successful future. We feel his chances have been enhanced by failure of his original plot to get the S.S.A.F.A. Sister to take him there in her car. We understand he proposes to keep up his subscription to THE WIRE, so all contact will not be lost. We are sure that THE WIRE will also welcome any articles on his travels and adventures.

By winning the Regimental Inter-Troop basketball, "D" Troop have added to their sporting laurels. With "H" Troop, they also share first place in the Squadron Inter-Troop Athletics. We are pleased to add that on 29th April, the Regimental Inter-Squadron Athletics Trophy joined the bulk of Regimental silver now held in our Squadron.

Early one morning one of our duty system controllers rang the cookhouse and inquired at what time breakfast was served. An irate Station Catering Officer who answered the call and ascertained the inquirer had been on the station for six months, replied: "In that event you ought to know laddie," and put the 'phone down. Mysteriously the 'phone immediately developed a permanent ring, and all efforts by the cooks to muffle it with aprons, bread dough, etc., failed to quieten it. The system controller denied all responsibility for this nuisance. We feel the cooks will refresh his memory when they serve his duty supper.

(*Continued on page 227*)

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at Government Communications Headquarters

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3 Squadron. Recreational facilities at Laarbruch have recently been improved by the opening of a most superb six-lane bowling alley. Several Squadron teams have been entered in the Station Bowling Leagues, and all the participants thoroughly enjoy themselves, even though they may not as yet be very skilful.

In an effort to strengthen our bowling arms, we are in the process of digging a number of trenches. One is some 2,900 yards long and will ultimately contain a 54ft. cable. At the risk of staying bottom of the Bowling League, we will welcome the arrival of a new trench-digging machine, on trial, at the end of this month.

Staff Changes.—We welcome Sergeant J. P. Oatley and Sergeant W. C. Mitchell from 11th Regiment and 239 Squadron respectively.

Marriages.—Our congratulations to Lance-Corporals J. Croot, G. E. Ephgrave, P. A. Dalton and Signalman E. Caisley on their recent marriages.

30th Regiment

The Regiment has completed another successful season on the soccer field having achieved runners-up in the South West Services League. In addition to a handsome trophy each player was presented with a shield. (Lance-Corporal Sandiford—your shield awaits your return from Nairobi).

Brigadier A. L. Atkinson held an Officers' Training Day in the Regiment on the 16th April which was attended by some forty officers from Southern Command. An enjoyable day—during which many old acquaintances were renewed—was brought to a close with an enlightened lecture by Colonel P. E. Pentreath.

On the 27th April, 1964, the Regiment was honoured by a visit from Brigadier Herr Dr. Maultzsch, the Chief Signal Officer Northern Army Group. The Chief Signal Officer showed great interest in the activities of the Regiment and after a visit to the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess where he donated a pound to the Christmas Draw, he was entertained to lunch in the Officers' Mess.

3 Squadron have now started the training season with a visit to B.A.O.R. on Exercise "Silver Spear." Currently a small party are back in Skye and the majority are now feverishly preparing for the return to B.A.O.R. on Exercise "New Harpoon." New tradesmen, new equipment and a new role have given the Squadron a chance to develop the 'blacker arts' of jamming. The Squadron welcomes Major Malone and Lieutenant (T.O.T.) Hutley and bids farewell to Captain J. L. Gryspeerdt and Lieutenant (Traffic) P. H. Grant who have now departed for the Outer Hebrides and Borneo respectively.

The highlight of April for the sailing fraternity was the launching of the *Stella Lyra* on the 9th April. Brigadier M. A. Charlton, Lieutenant-Colonel A. T. Burrows and Captain L. W. Moran took the boat on a commissioning cruise and were well satisfied with her handling both in Poole harbour and the open sea. We are sure the *Stella Lyra* will give many enjoyable hours of sailing to members of the Corps and the Sailing Officer, Captain L. W. Moran, will only be too pleased to make arrangements for cruises, and if necessary, give assistance with qualified crews.

April concluded yet another successful season for the Pimpernel Beagles. For the uninitiated a short history of Pack follows.

The Pimpernel Beagles (Royal Signals) are the Corps' own Pack. It was originally formed in 1952 by the R.A.S.C. who were at Blandford Camp and was taken over by 30th Regiment during 1960. At that time the Pack activities were at a low ebb, but due to the initial efforts of Major L. F. Ball and later by Major (now Lieutenant-Colonel) I. G. Swan military interest in the Pack was revived and the last three seasons have been most successful. Staff Sergeant Hills ably fills the position of Huntsman and his keenness—not to mention stamina—have been largely responsible for its continued success. There is also a strong civilian interest led by Mr. A. B. Cole, the Master, a local farmer.



The Master of the Pack—Mr. A. B. Cole and huntsman Staff Sergeant Hills with the Pimpernel Beagles

The Pack comprises 19 couples, i.e. 38 hounds each with his or her own name. The 'daddy' of the Pack being 'Merlin,' a veteran of nine seasons. Throughout the 1963/64 season the Pack has hunted twice weekly (Wednesdays and Saturdays) and accounted for eight brace of hare.

During the summer months apart from training for the next season the Pack will be on show in several classes at the Aldershot Show and later in the year at the Honiton Show. Furthermore, local appearances of the Pack in neighbouring village fêtes help to maintain friendly Regimental relations with the local farming community.

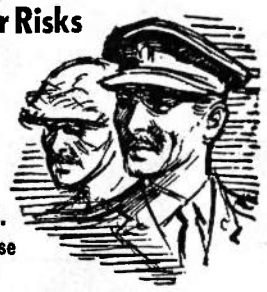
As with all sports, pleasure comes with understanding, and the regular beagler can expect to obtain benefits denied the occasional follower. If you are in Blandford now, or expect to be soon, why not join us?

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H.Q. FAR EAST COMMAND



Major-General A. M. W. Whistler with Lieutenant (Tfc) R. J. Robinson, Royal Signals—the OIC Comcentre and his deputy Chief Communications Yeoman L. C. Pollard, RN

On the 19th and 20th of March, 1964, the Assistant Chief of Defence Staff (Signals), Major-General A. M. W. Whistler, C.B., C.B.E., visited the Headquarters for discussions with the Signals Staff and to attend a meeting of the Joint Signal Board (Far East). Notwithstanding the fact that the Board meeting was a marathon of its kind, the General still found time to inspect the Communications Centre and the Teleconference Facility in the Headquarters.

Mixed manning has been fully implemented in our Comcentre which is run by Lieutenant (Traffic) R. J. Robinson, Royal Signals, ably assisted by Chief Communications Yeoman L. C. Pollard of the Royal Navy. Our teleprinters are operated by Airmen and Sailors whilst Royal Signals provides the despatch riders and one telegraph technician. Our two electronic technicians, Messrs. Hawkridge and Lane, are both ex-Servicemen now rejoicing in the status of U.K. based civilians.

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Comcan goes Home

By Alan J. Forshaw

(Army Information Officer in Kenya)

NEAT, flower-filled gardens with trim lawns and shady trees, a swimming pool, with its own poolside bar, views of Mt. Kenya and the Aberdare range, this is the setting, or was the setting, for the transmitter site of 236 Squadron, Royal Corps of Signals, at Ruiru, about 20 miles from the Kenya capital of Nairobi.

The Squadron, one of the links in the world-wide chain of stations in the Commonwealth Communications Army Network, has for the most part returned to Britain and its duties have been taken over by the Royal Air Force.

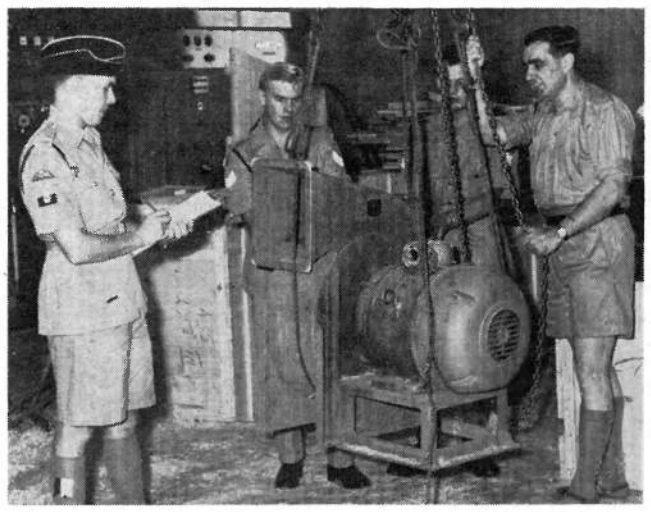
The transmitter hall, which in the past was disturbed only by the whine of a distant generator, now echoes to the noise of sawing wood and hammers as the three 30 kilo-watt Marconi transmitters, each weighing 11 tons, are crated ready for the 6,500 mile return journey to Britain. On their arrival they will be overhauled and then sent for service in yet another outpost in the Signals' empire.

The job of removing the transmitters is being organised by two members of thhe COMCAN Installation Team, based at Robinswood Barracks, Gloucester, Major Philip Mootham, the team's Officer Commanding, and Warrant Officer Howard, assisted by a rear party from 236 Squadron and a civilian contracting firm. For Warrant Officer Howard the move is rather a significant one. Ten years ago he helped to install the transmitters.

The 23 members of the COMCAN Installation Team are probably some of the most widely travelled men in the British Army. In the past 12 months Major Mootham estimates he has travelled something like 16,000 miles visiting sites all over the world. At present members of his team are in Singapore, Cyprus and Kenya and a small group is making a tour of the Middle and Far East.

Though most of their work is concerned with the installation or removal of radio or electronic equipment, they occasionally carry out major repairs or overhauls.

Major Mootham stated that he thought his team had one of the most interesting jobs in the Army. "We see a lot of the world and each task is different and presents its own problems," he commented.



"UPS A DAISY!"

W.O.I Howard, of the Comcan Installation Team, based at Gloucester, gives a heave on a pulley and hauls an extractor fan into the air prior to packing and shipping to Britain. This was only one of the many items of equipment the team removed from the former Comcan transmitter site near Nairobi, Kenya. On the left is the team's O.C. Major P. Mootham

Search for Amerindian Burial Mounds

By Lance-Corporal R. S. Crook, 607 Troop

Because of the lack of roads and the conventional means of transport, it is difficult to travel around British Guiana.

Therefore, when I heard there was an expedition going to the Abary River to search for Amerindian burial mounds, I decided it was a chance not to be missed.

At 06.30 on Saturday, 21st March, a party of twelve soldiers from the Garrison, and two civilians from the Georgetown Natural History Society set out by road for the Abary River, where we were to connect with a milk boat. At 08.30 we arrived at the river, but it was 50 minutes later before the boat arrived. Whilst waiting for the boat we had breakfast. At the end of the meal we were pleased to see the boat arrive. Our jubilation was short lived, for we had only gone 100 yards upstream when the main drive belt on the engine broke, and we floated back to our starting point.

After an hour, having repaired the drive belt, we started off again. This time we were successful and journeyed steadily up the river until 16.30, when we stopped for a short break at the end of the normal milk run. During the river trip we had a cold lunch and decided the risk of burning the boat was worth taking for the pleasure of having a cup of tea. We continued our journey up river for a further two hours after the end of the milk run. As there was no landing stage, we ran the boat into the shore, unloaded, and trekked for a short distance through the jungle to a suitable place for a base camp.

On the Sunday morning, after a very wet night, we started looking for the Amerindian burial mounds. However, our search was fruitless, and by lunchtime several of us had tired of this occupation so we obtained the services of a local guide who took us on a five-mile trek through the jungle. On this trek we passed through the farm of our guide, where we were fortunate enough to see a dead anaconda. The snake was 10ft. long and as thick as a man's leg. It had been killed by a farm worker who had caught it attacking the chickens. At the end of our trek we found some mounds and dug vigorously, but found no pottery or anything of interest. Disappointed, we made our way back to the base camp and the river to catch the milk boat on its downward trip.

We travelled for about four hours, finally stopping at 23.00 hours, when we pulled into the bank to spend the night. This time we slept on board; all went well until it started to rain. When this happened there was a mad dash to get below; we all managed to squeeze in, but the rest of the night was spent uncomfortably. Our discomfort did not long long, because we were on our way again at 04.00 hours, finally arriving back at Georgetown for lunch.

Even though our search was fruitless, it was an interesting and enjoyable week-end, and I am looking forward to future trips.

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From Hong Kong to Penang

The Leave of a Lifetime

By Angela Byron, 252 Squadron

HONG KONG, often called the "Pearl of the Orient," and recognised, after many years' experience, as the plum posting for Servicemen and women, has everything. But there is one draw-back . . . the hemmed-in feeling you get after being there for some time. It is almost essential to get out, even if only for a short time, to ease the monotony of repetitive entertainment. In Hong Kong, even "getting out" is easy. Within reach, for a fare of ten Hong Kong dollars (12s. 6d.) is the former "Pearl," Macau, with its history of intrigue, and its more recent innovations, the gambling casinos. Within "saving distance" is the more spectacular Japan. But easier still it is to get to Singapore and Malaya.

My Scots friend, Lance-Corporal Brenda Brown, and I were ready for that break, and we chose the latter for our holiday. The Royal Air Force agreed to take us to Singapore as "indulgence" passengers. Our ultimate destination? The lovely leave centre on the island of Penang, just off the north Malayan coast. One snag about travelling on an R.A.F. Hastings aircraft to Singapore, is the "No Smoking" rule on board; and by the time we touched down at Changi airfield, we were, as the saying goes—"dying for a smoke."

The day ahead was sure to be full of new and exciting things to do and see, and I'm afraid we slept very little that night, when we stayed over with the girls at H.Q., FARELF. Tired though we were, we slept very little again on the first few hours of our day-long train journey up through the heart of Malaya. We gazed at the endless beautiful scenery which, apart from crops of tropical vegetation, resembled the English countryside. Exhausted, we eventually retired to our sleeper and this, contrary to what you might expect of a slow-moving Oriental train, was quite luxurious. We reached Kuala Lumpur, refreshed and ready for a quick sightseeing expedition before moving on to Penang. And one of the finest sights of all was, believe it or not, K.L. railway station. It is reputed to be one of the most beautiful in the world—and we agree. With its minarets and pinnacles, towering into the blue sky, it looked more like a gleaming mosque than a railway station—and quite unlike the green painted counterparts of the Southern Region B.R. Forty minutes by ferry, a haggling session with a taxi driver, and we had arrived at the leave centre.

You sensed the "leave" feeling the minute you arrived. We had an excellent evening meal, changed into "something nice" and within a couple of hours we were making friends galore at the evening dance. Exhausted again, by the end of the night, we turned in to really comfortable accommodation, and, after the first real rest in 48 hours, we woke up to find our amah waiting by the bedside with a welcome "cuppa." Penang by day was every bit as beautiful as it was by night. The rolling beaches, fringed with palm trees, was an immediate attraction, but as the temperatures soared towards mid-day we retreated quickly out of the sun.

There is never a dull moment at Penang. By day there are numerous organised tours. We elected to take the one which offered us the famed Snake Temple, one of the wonders of the Orient, where snakes are reputed to converge at set times by instinct inherited from days gone by. A lot of our time at Penang was spent on the beach—determined to get a "panic tan" after a fairly chilly Hong Kong winter. When we were not sunbathing or splashing around in the sea, we took boat trips around the busy harbour. Clad in bathing suits, and zooming round the harbour in an open motor boat, I don't think we have ever attracted so many "wolf whistles." That day we had an experience which almost put us off swimming. At one small beach we threw, as was customary, ten cent pieces into the water and watched as small children dived to recover them. Whether my little lad was hurt because I threw in a ten cent Hong Kong piece, instead of a Malay one, I don't know, but he surfaced waving a huge crab—well, it was huge to me, about sixteen inches long.

Off beaches, temporarily, we spent quite a bit of time shopping and sightseeing after that. Shopping was wonderful. Like other towns of its ilk in the East, Penang had its "very cheap, very good" alley. And there, with the customary haggling, we bought some real bargains in the form of tricel skirts and blouses. The silks tempted us, too, but were just a little beyond our pockets.

The two weeks' leave sped by all too quickly, and towards the end we found ourselves really pushed trying to take in all the things we had been told we "must do." Our final day, in fact, was occupied by officiating "on the line" at a leave centre football match. But the celebration drinks with the winning team afterwards, more than made up for the aches and pains we had in places we didn't even know existed. And the Australian soldiers who serenaded us that night with guitars and love songs, might not have been in the Beatles' class, but were sweet just the same. Then it was time to go. The goodbyes were said, and off we went on the return journey, if not rested, extremely happy.

At Kuala Lumpur we had a five-hour wait for our connection south, and even though our final sightseeing trip was made in the middle of a tropical storm, it was no less enjoyable. By the time we hit Singapore, our connecting flight to Hong Kong had left, so we arranged a leave extension, collected much-needed pay, and set out to "do" Singapore. What I saw of it, I liked, but I'd have Hong Kong any time.

After a typically Malay tour, in a typical Malay taxi, driven by a typical Malay driver (and this when he was only supposed to be taking us to the airport) we drove through the gates of Changi in time for breakfast. With the taxi bill paid, we had barely a dollar between us, so we ignored the announcement that we would travel by 'bus to an hotel for breakfast. When the other passengers arrived back, we learned that the meal had been *free!* Seven more hours without a smoke and we touched down at Hong Kong's world-famous Kai Tak airport, just under two miles of runway stretching out like a finger into the Colony's harbour. First thing we saw as we touched down were the grey hulls of American warships in the harbour. What luck! The fleet was in . . . and off we went for yet another week of whooping it up.

252 SQUADRON, B.F.P.O. 1

Athletics. Despite many frustrations in training (can't spare him—radio exercise!—line fault!—printer "up the creek!—duty driver!—stacks of traffic here!), R.Q.M.S. Hutchison has had the satisfaction of seeing his team of athletes not only wrest the Royal Signals (Hong Kong) Inter-Squadron Athletic Cup from 253 Squadron (holders for two years), but also achieve the result of runners-up in the Garrison Minor Units Championships and go forward to the H.Q.L.F. Championships.

The outstanding performances in the Royal Signals Meeting were those of Lance-Corporals Norrie and Woodley and our 440 Relay Team. Norrie, who represents the Army in Hong Kong, won the high jump with ease, and Woodley ran a well-judged mile—his finish over the last 120 yards scorning all opposition. The last event, 4 x 440 yards relay, was run with 246 (Gurkha) Signal Squadron and ourselves with equal points, and was a thrilling climax to the Championships, with our team building up a 20-yard lead.

Sai Kun Camp. Despite our rivalry in sport, 253 and ourselves have got together to run M.P.T. Courses and Summer Camps. For this and other purposes, we acquire part of the now vacant Sai Kun Camp, on the comparatively sparsely populated, and undoubtedly picturesque, and mountainous eastern seaboard of the Colony. This site is ideal for such activities, and the first camp and an M.P.T. 2 course were held there in March.

Training at Camp includes a patrol race, involving a short sea voyage by junk and a 12-14 mile "bash" across the hills, a night compass march and plenty of sailing, swimming, hill climbing and water ski-ing for those who want it. April having been a very busy month for both Squadrons, we finish our series of four camps and a second M.P.T. 2 course this month (May).

Radio Troop. The whole Troop went out to Sai Kun at the end of February to work up towards the two Brigade exercises held in March and the H.Q.L.F. exercise this month. As one of their main tasks is the provision of communications for air support and to aircraft carriers, a great deal of training

(*Continued on page* 232)

The Hong Kong Scene

Athletics, the Tape Relay Centre, and of course, those charming "chow fans"—the wives, paint the Hong Kong scene





1. "The old and the new." A picture of what remains of our old Comcen with our new TRC being built on the right. 2. "He watches us all the time," S/Sgt. Brewin (our Sigcen Supvr.) carrying out a crossover check in the TRC with Sigcen operators. L/Cpl. Joan Ferguson and Pte. Esme Payne in attendance. 3. "Wives Club Chow" *(Left to right, facing camera)*: **Mrs. Bell, Mrs. Wood, Mrs. Salmon, Mrs. Travers, Mrs. Pringle, Mrs. Anderson.** *With back to camera:* **Mrs. Oldfield, Mrs. Strange, Mrs. Brewin, Mrs. Hutchinson, Mrs. De Witt, Mrs. Chin T. L. 4. The 252 Tug-of-War Team under strain! 5. "Victory Celebration"** *Left to right:* **Sig. Fry, L/Cpl. Lau Wai Chan, L/Cpl. Taylor, Sig. Cross, Cpl. Stanger, L/Cpl. Norrie, Sig. Hilliam, Sig. Hogbin. 6. Cpl. Woodley receiving the 1-Mile Trophy from Mrs. Winn. Sig. Fry, Sig. Hogbin on right. 7. "Our Stats Corporal (26-22-24)" Cpl. Maureen O'Shaughnessy filing traffic—we think. Or is it fan mail. A note for fan mail—she is single.**

was done towards this end, culminating in a very successful "Cascomex 8" in conjunction with H.M.S. *Duchess*, R.A.F., Kai Tak, Air H.Q. and 20 Commando Battery, R.A. The two Brigade exercises found us providing umpire communications over some very difficult country and gave the Troop an excellent shake-down and an opportunity to get to know idiosyncrasies of some newly-acquired equipment. Rumour hath it that we may even be the proud possessors of an S.R. D11 by the end of the year!

Wives' Club. The Wives' Club wound up a hectic season with a Chinese Chow Party attended by no less than thirty-six ladies. This was held in the hotel on the Wanchai waterfront in which Richard Mason stayed and "studied the form" whilst writing the story of "Suzy Wong"—namely the Luk Kwok Hotel. Ladies attending were directed to turn right into the restaurant and not left into the Night Club! A feast of no less than eleven courses (including such dishes as chicken liver with prawn balls and water melon and ham soup) was served and enjoyed—chopsticks being wielded with success by even the newest arrivals. The management was so fascinated by an entirely ladies' chow that the Club was permitted to bring in unlimited quantities of rice wine without paying corkage—a special concession. The ladies have now gone into retirement until the hot weather is over—or so they say!

H.Q. SQUADRON/207 SQUADRON, B.F.P.O. 30

This Squadron has not appeared in these pages for some time. However the pains of integration are similar to those of childbirth—long and weary: this is our excuse. 207 Squadron is now fully integrated with the H.Q. Squadron, R.A.C.—it only remains for someone to think of a name which is acceptable to all concerned.

During the past nine months there has been a complete change-over of officers in the Royal Signals element of the Squadron. We would like to take this opportunity of wishing our predecessors the best of luck in their new jobs. In particular, our best wishes to Major and Mrs. Bond—we hope that they will be very happy in their new appointment.

Last year the Squadron was heavily involved in major and minor exercises. The programme for this year is similar, and we have already taken part in three minor exercises. Our sporting and social activities have continued. The soccer team were runners-up in the 1st Division Minor Units Soccer Championship, being beaten 2—1 by 247 Provost Company, R.M.P. After a spirited match, we were delighted to receive from 247 Company a wall shield, suitably engraved, as a reminder of the sporting manner in which the game was conducted. The squash team reached the final of the B.A.O.R. Squash Rackets Championship, only to be beaten 4—1 by the 17th/21st Lancers. Our rugger team flourishes, but rarely wins; however, it is an excellent excuse for the late night social activity which inevitably follows each match.

Before Easter, the gymnasium was decorated with camouflage nets and balloons, together with the spot lights from our Saracens, thus provided a very effective background for the all ranks' dance on the 20th March. Music was played by the Band of the Royal Scots Grey. Unfortunately, the weather was bad and thus prevented the attendance of many young ladies (from distant places). Nevertheless, the evening was a great success and it is hoped that it will be repeated in due course.

Over the Easter period a party of 30, including Second-Lieutenants Fraser and Podevin spent four days' adventure training. The party moved to the S.T.C. Silberhutte, which was their base camp. From this hikes were organised to places of interest. It is rumoured that such places were nearly always in the vicinity of a pleasant gasthaus. However, the party were well briefed and no one will admit this to be true.

Our Sergeants' Mess flourishes; of the many social activities in the last six months, the fancy dress ball on New Year's Eve was outstanding. Sergeant Bill Scott was there as "Dr. No" and Sergeant Ernie Storie appeared as a ghost. This represents "A" Troop in all respects.

During April we took part in Exercises "Cygnet 12," "Silver Spear" and "National Hunt 30." These covered the period 1st to 17th April and included two days' "rest." The first few days were spoilt by the bad weather; thereafter the exercises were both interesting and enjoyable. The better weather eventually persuaded even the Senior N.C.O.s of the Squadron to "take fresh air"—as shown opposite.

After the exercises we were committed to the 7th Armoured Brigade Small Arms Meeting. The Squadron had some success—in particular, we managed to win the Team Revolver Competition. Our team was S.S.M. Cox, Sergeant Storie, Sergeant Smith and Corporal McGillivray. In addition, W.O.II Coultas, the Brigade Armourer, was second in the Individual Rifle Competition.



S.S.M. Jack Cox, Sergeant Ernie Storie, Sergeant Frank Crawford and Staff Sergeant Ken Winfield

255 SQUADRON

With Apologies to the 3rd Regiment

Scene early April

Current notes writer: "Seen THE WIRE for March yet?
Reply: "Yes, Sir."
Current notes writer: "I don't know! Why do these people make such a fuss about writing a few notes for THE WIRE? They're 'water on a duck's back' to me."
Reply: "Couldn't agree more, sir. Some people make a song and dance about nowt."

Scene early May

Current notes writer: "I had a nasty dream last night about THE WIRE (this to Lance-Corporal clerk). Why didn't you remind me the notes were due?" (no reply).
Sergeant Major!
Reply: "Yes, Sir."
Current notes writer: "I want THE WIRE notes on my desk by 10.00 hours tomorrow morning."
Reply: "Very good, Sir."

Exit Current Notes Writer

Since we last went to Press we have said a hearty hello and farewell to our annual administration inspection. The immediate outside interest was avid to say the least. A certain R.S.M. in the Grenadier Guards (no names no pack drill!) was heard to remark, "My lot's set an unbeatable standard." Watneys Red Barrells stood to make a fortune as bets were placed. After the remark "Excellent" from the Inspecting Officer, Brigadier M. W. Holme, O.B.E., M.C., we knew what the form was.

We still haven't been able to find out who it was who replaced the barbed wire strand, knee high, across the entrance to our parade ground borrowed from the Royal Navy. It wasn't discovered until the Squadron had done a smart right wheel and were only five paces from it. A new word of command, "On the march—Bend the knee," saved the day.

It was noted that the Corps policy, viz military training, is paying off. F. of S. Don McKeon proved beyond doubt that a Foreman does know his left foot from his right. Even the Squadron Commander carried his personal weapon!

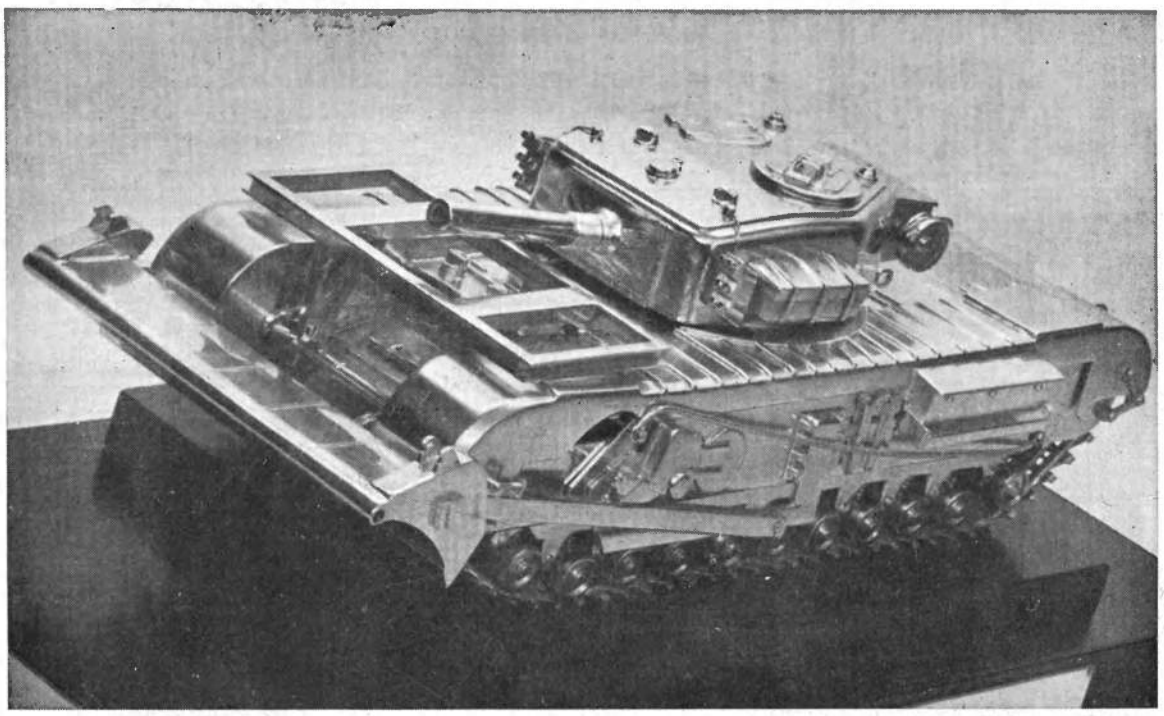
As the new building programme increases in tempo space becomes a premium. Temporary accommodation offered is never enough. The oft heard remark, "I'll never get that lot in there," has never held yet. We are becoming experts at putting the "Pint in a half pint glass." We are all waiting with interest to see where Signalman McCulloch finishes up with his radio-ham station.

For the last two months we have kept ourselves fit with an

(*Continued on Page 233*)

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Inter-Troop Sports Competition covering a fair range of Army small games. The results are now finished and the result, after good natured accusations from Joint Communication Centre Troop of "fiddling," gives S.H.Q. the trophy.

After our last article in THE WIRE showing a photograph of icicles at Awali it should be noted that the island is now thundering with the noise of air conditioners.

Due to the latest intake of Yeoman of Signals Wilf Little, Sergeant Paul Jepson and Sergeant Jock Paterson, the S.Q.M.S., Geordie Long, was heard to remark: "I don't know what the O.I.C. Records is up to but if he posts any more Geordies out here we won't know if we are in Jarrow or Bahrain."

A "Look At Us,"

BY LANCE-CORPORAL M. V. H. STEVENS, R.E.M.E.

"As an outsider, what do you think of the human race?"

As R.E.M.E. personnel attached to 255 Squadron, this question is all that is necessary to start another healthy argument on the merits of respective Corps, terminated in the NAAFI with the cry, "Well it's your round anyway!"

This rivalry between two Corps, both with a sense of pride in academic and sporting achievements, adds "the spice of life" in dull moments.

Joint efforts—in the Rugby we have beaten everyone on the island who has played us, the basketball, unbeaten so far this season—together with the Barain Tels Workshop (if it has got a red and black lead we will repair it) have welded us into a tight (no offence to the Geordies) community. Well, at least we have not come to blows yet.

The workshop has blossomed from its cramped, under-manned quarters into a spacious, redecorated, well equipped hive of activity, jointly managed by Staff Sergeant McKeon, Foreman of Signals, and our new arrival Staff Sergeant Taylor, R.E.M.E. With the stores backing well organised by Sergeant Powers, R.A.O.C., the work rate improves daily, and inter-Corps friction is kept at a minimum.

"There are no cap badges in this workshop," quoth Major Chappell. Didn't bother the R.E.M.E., we dislike cleaning them anyway!

A good bunch to work with, these Signals, both during and after working hours, even if they can't play darts!

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Corporal rocket being prepared on erector

257 SQUADRON, B.F.P.O. 20

It may not be appreciated by those who read these notes that within Dortmund there are (or were) two almost identical Signal Squadrons, living 200 yards away in the same barracks, known as 256 and 257 Squadrons. Until now 256 has not made the pages of "The Wire," and it is ironical that the first mention should coincide with the end of 256 as a separate entity.

As already explained in previous notes, the role of the Squadrons was to support the two British Corporal Regiments, 27 and 47 Regiments, Royal Artillery, and until now, both Squadrons have been under the command of the Gunner Colonels. Shortly before Christmas the Commander of 1 Artillery Brigade decided to concentrate his signals support into a single Brigade Signal Squadron. This re-organisation would allow him, for the first time, to communicate direct from his own headquarters to his regiments, insead of having to wait until the Regiments produced communications back to him.



Corporal Rocket three seconds after launching

This simple decision naturally entailed an enormous amount of work in order to effect the amalgamation, and shortly after Major Dick Armstrong of 256 left on posting to the U.K., the first steps were taken. The combined officers and tradesmen of both Squadrons, together with those of 622 Troop were formed into four new Troops, under the command of Major Bill Bell, and the Squadron renamed 257 Signal Squadron (Artillery Brigade). This had the unusual effect that while the officers were almost brought up to establishment, two Sergeant-Majors and two Foremen of Signals were produced. Neither of which appointments really like to share their position of respect and power!

As if this were not enough, the new equipment arrived to replace the old AN/TRC and 53 sets—a train load of the stuff.

Foremen Nixon and Walmsley and their team of technicians worked like trojans way into the night to get the equipments installed, and with the keen assistance of the operators, the job was completed in record time.

The arrival of the transistorised 1 + 4 No. 3 was greeted with jubilation by the operators, and to those used to the complicated "knitting" of the Mk. II and No. 2 equipments, the sight of the No. 3 being lined up from scratch, in 10 minutes, was almost magical.

Looking back over the yearly routine, the two Squadrons ran on virtually similar lines, with exercises, Administrative Inspections, C.I.V.s and Telecommunications Inspections giving plenty to do.

A welcome and interesting break was the annual trip to the Hebrides, when the Artillery Regiments went to fire the Corporal missile in practice camp. As no tactical communications were

(*Continued on page* 234)

required, the Royal Signals personnel went as spectators. Most people have seen a rocket being fired on television or films, but when one stands about 50 yards away from the real thing, the effect is startling!

Throughout the year, as much as possible has been crammed in to make life as interesting as possible, with expeditions to most parts of Germany and the neighbouring countries; Nijmegen Marches and the like finding no shortage of volunteers.

The coming year has much to offer, and it is intended to put the new Squadron on the Dormund map in no uncertain way.

NOTES from MID-EAST

TRUCIAL OMAN SCOUTS SIGNAL SQUADRON

A busy period during which a changeover of radio equipment was carried out, instruction to all operators given, and preparation of vehicles and equipment for the main annual Force Training Exercise.

The latter, of three weeks' duration, commenced in the very pleasant area to the N.E., where, after a 'wet' winter, vegetation is in abundance. (That is—in comparison to other years).

The changing scenery in a matter of a few miles prevented anyone getting bored, though the chances of that with the number of moves involved were negligible.

After working out way south the final phase of the first exercise was completed with a dawn attack on Jebels either side of a wadi. It is difficult to imagine a more striking scene, with the sun's rays brightening the sky and casting weird reflections over the whole area. The deathly quiet prior to zero hour which was welcomed with a terrific barrage from thunder flashes, smoke grenades, mortars, etc.

After two days harbouring in a 'rest' area, where repairs and maintenance were the order of the day, there then began the three days convoy move to the Far-west, a journey of some 250-300 miles, for the start of the second exercise.

Had the weather prior to the exercise been good, travel would have been easy. However, in the majority of places the main track was either under water or so bad that speeds were often limited to 10 m.p.h., and detours of three or four miles were common.

During the last phase of the move down, a sand and electrical storm reduced (a) visibility to five yards and (b) communications to nil.

The storm abated that evening and the exercise began well.

However, next morning, the wind blew, the sand whistled and the sets and vehicles became 'live'—not with CW or RT, but static. "Scott of the Antarctic" had nothing on this scene.

A day of huddled figures in blankets, shemagh covered faces and heads still failed to prevent sand penetrating clothes, whilst vehicles and sets were a completely different colour.

Nevertheless apart from the storms communications were good, but who is to blame, sets or operators? Life was far more interesting with ancient stuff!

As a final note we would like to welcome our new female recruit. A small monkev named Frances (with apologies to Francis, our Squadron clerk) who, despite many attempts, has as yet failed to master our 40 Line F. & F.

614 TROOP, R.F.P.O. 40

I could see what was in the O.C.'s mind as he picked up his April WIRE and scanned through it for news of his old units, and I was right.

"What have we to report that might interest other people in Signals; we don't climb mountains, have exercises, or do exciting things; who wants to know that we are always unpacking, checking, cleaning and repacking reserve stores. Nothing new in that. How about some "homey" news.

Scribe.—Well, perhaps the lads in Hong Kong may be interested to know that Corporal and Mrs. Le Gros had a son on 7th February; Roger William they call him.

O.C.—Yes, that is an idea, after all, that is what THE WIRE is, the Corps' news letter; does give it a family feeling. Old Troop members may be interested to know that Brigadier and Mrs. Anderson came to a social evening in the club on 29th February, too. A great evening that was.

Scribe.—And about the Tramps' Ball. What a night; have never seen such a shower of scruffs. I must say, I never thought that boxes, barrels and straw made such a homely surround, to say nothing of the candle-style lighting—quite effective.



'A shower of scruffs' (*Left to right*): Corporal Roberts, Mrs. Roberts, Mrs. Harding, Signalman Harding

On that note I was left to dig out odd bits of info that may interest ex-614-ites, wherever they may be. As you can see, the social side of Troop life is really swinging, social evenings, interspersed by game nights. This year, so far, we have entertained teams from 3 B.A.D., 13th Regiment, 16th Regiment and 28th Regiment.

The proceeds of these various occasions have enabled us to put down the deposit on a Volkswagen minibus. This will enable the lads and families to get about more freely. Previously we had to rely on the larger unit to which we are attached, and when anything special took place, we always had to take second place in the allocation of the unit bus. This is now, to some extent, alleviated.

608 Signal Troop (Equipment) has now joined us as co-habitees of the Signal Park. Their presence is very welcome, as work has, for some time, been outstripping the manpower available; here 608 will help plug the gap. We trust their stay with us will be a pleasant one.

The annual inspections, stocktakings, board and Com. Sec. visits are once again at an end. The Troop came through them all with flying colours, and can rest on their laurels for another all-to-brief spell.

It is believed that Sergeant Sammut is slowly unpacking his boxes after his second cancelled posting. Such is the uncertainty of Army life.

In sport, the Troop continues to hold its own with 3 B.A.D. Sergeant Calder came second in the high jump at the recent athletics meeting, but it is necessary for the tug-of-war team to put on a little more weight. A narrow result was had in the six-a-side hockey contest, when the Troop went down 2—1, after extra time, thus missing the finals.

SPORT

Three Colonels win Rifle Match

In the Army Rifle Association's non-central competition an unnusual success enhanced the growing reputation of the Corps in this essential 'sport.'

Individual Rifle Match

1st Lieutenant-Colonel M. J. R. Fletcher, M.B.E. (94).
2nd Lieutenant-Colonel D. C. Ward (93).
3rd Lieutenant-Colonel C. V. Walsh (92).

It is probable that this success is unique; in any event it merits considerable congratulations.

CORPS GOLF

The following played for the Corps against the R.M.A., Sandhurst, on 13th May: Major-General Morrison, Lieutenant-Colonel Schofield, Major Pelmore, Major Peck, Brigadier Hobson, Lieutenant-Colonel Clark, Colonel Mansergh and Major Price. The Corps won by $4\frac{1}{2}$ points to $3\frac{1}{2}$.

Major (Rtd.) C. Jackman. Far East readers will be interested to know that Major Jackman is now Secretary of the Singapore Swimming Club, where he hopes that members of the Corps will look him up.



Lance Corporal W. Milne, the Cyprus Open Champion. He played an "inspired round in the conditions . . ."



Lieutenant R. C. Etheridge, Signalman Boulby, Captain W. G. Robinson, Corporal Atkins

Signalman Leibe (Recruit OR 1), Signalman Kermode (Recruit), Signalman Lougher (Recruit)

Royal Signals Golf

CYPRUS, 1961

With the lifting of travel restrictions on the island, a Spring Golf Meeting was arranged at Happy Valley, Episkopi, on 10th April.

Sixteen players took part in the meeting, and had to contend with a wind gusting up to 75 m.p.h. in the morning. All the players except Major I. Gram-Hansen and Lance-Corporal W. Milne found the conditions well nigh impossible and tempers at times became rather frayed. The highlight of the meeting was, without doubt, a round of 70 gross by Lance-Corporal Milne, the Cyprus Open Champion. **This was an inspired round which Arnold Palmer at his best would have found difficult to beat under the conditions. This was a course record, and won him the Royal Signals (Cyprus) Championship for the second year running.** Major Gram-Hansen had a good round to be runner-up, and reversed the decision in the afternoon, when he won the Bogey Competition with Lance-Corporal Milne as runner-up (when will the committee do something about Gram's handicap). The scores of the senior officers (Colonels Grigg and Eagle and Lieutenant-Colonel Fairman) are best not mentioned.

On 18th April we challenged the R.A.F. medical services to a match, again at Episkopi. When we arrived on the course it was to find we were playing a team from the Joint Services Club, Episkopi, instead. The Club proved to be too strong for us in winning by eight games to four. Again Milne was in first class form, inflicting a seven and six defeat on the R.A.F. champion, Flight-Lieutenant R. Libby.

Golfers coming to Cyprus should remember to bring their clubs. Although the Nicosia Club is out of action, the Episkopi course is much improved and now provides good, cheap golf.

CORPS GOLF — SPRING MEETING

Held at the Pannal Course (near Harrogate) on the 23rd/24th April.

Results:

Individual Challenge Cup (Bogey).—Captain T. Blashill
Junior Officers' Cup—Captain T. Blashill
Foursomes Challenge Cup.—Brigadier P. M. P. Hobson and Captain S. Wyatt
Individual Challenge Cup, off handicap (36 holes medal).—Lieutenant-Colonel W. Nicholson
Open Championship Cup.—Captain R. B. Carroll
Regular Officers' Cup.—Captain R. B. Carroll

The previous day's Corps match v. Strensall Golf Club was lost by four matches to one.

The Corps spring and autumn meetings are open to all officers, whatever their category of commission, including A.E.R., T.A., and Retired Officers. Other Ranks are now also eligible to play. The provisional dates for next year's spring meeting are 29th/30th April. Reserve these dates now for your entry next year.

Rugby

11th REGIMENT "A" TEAM WIN IN GRAND FINAL

Last month we had more cancelled games, however, we entered four teams for the Northern Command 'Sevens' which were held on Wednesday, 8th April. All our teams were knocked out of the competition proper in the first round. Our "A" team unfortunately being beaten by one point by 3rd R.T.R. "B" team. The four teams then entered for the Plate and the "A" and "B" got through to the semi-finals. The "B" team were closely beaten by 3rd R.T.R. "A" who then went on to meet our "A" team in the final. 11th Regiment started well with a quick penalty in the first minute but were then pinned in their own 25 for five minutes. By excellent covering and tackling they kept the Tanks out and then suddenly through an excellent movement by Kermode, Lougher and Boulby, the latter scored in the corner, having run half the length of the field. Leibe converted to make it 8—0. From then on it was a foregone conclusion and after some excellent play by the Regiment, we won 13—0. The "A" team showed excellent promise; the forwards (Captain Robinson, Lieutenant Etheridge and Corporal Atkins) played with dash and intelligence and the backs, Signalmen Leibe, Kermode, Lougher and Boulby ran hard, straight and confidently. The handling of all the team was excellent as was the covering and tackling. **If our team had played as well during the rest of the season we would have an impressive record.**

Results of Plate :—

"A" team	v.	8th Regiment "D"	won 16—5
"A" team	v.	24th Regiment "B"	won 18—0
"A" team	v.	R.A.F. Catterick	won 23—3
Final	v.	3rd R.T.R.	won 13—0

Total points in four games—for, 70; against, 8. It shows what can be done when the backs get the ball, run straight and are not greedy.

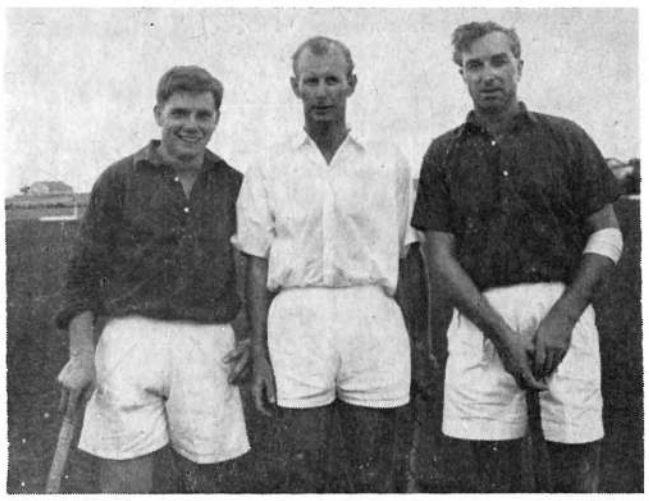
We finished the season with a game amongst ourselves and then had our final party in the Cross Keys at Bellerby where we finished the season in traditional manner.

Shooting

Surrey Cadets Emulate Royal Signals

At the Surrey Army Cadet Force Shooting Match at Bisley on 2nd and 3rd May, the 1st Cadet Bn. Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Shooting Team, commanded by Capt. D. T. Hunneyball (ex-Royal Signals) won eight out of the nine team trophies and all four of the individual trophies, including the Old Contemptibles Cup. Included in the team were two of Capt. Hunneyball's sons. One of the team will be representing Great Britain against Canada in Ottawa in July this year.

Know Them?
Combined Service Representatives



THE photograph above shows three ex Corps hockey players who met in Nairobi when combined Services East Africa played Combined Services Aden recently.

Left to right: Lieutenant J. G. McLuckie (210 Sig. Sqn.) Right wing—East Africa; Captain P. D. E. Gregory (FRA Sig. Sqn.) Right back—Aden; Captain M. A. T. Hartnett (210 Sig. Sqn.) Captain and left back—East Africa.

Score: East Africa 2 Aden Nil

Summary of Corps Soccer 1963'64

The opening of the Corps soccer season should have been a match with the R.A.O.C. at Donnington, but this game had to be cancelled through the tragic death of Sergeant Gibb of 24th Regiment, and the injury of Corporals McLoughlin, Bonnici and Cook, caused by a traffic accident on the journey to Dormington.

All-in-all the Corps had a successful soccer season, playing 10 games, winning 6, drawing 2 and losing 2.

Three Inter-Corps games were played—against R.A.S.C. (won 9—1), against R.E. (lost 1—4) and against R.E.M.E. (draw 3—3). The remaining games were played against Universities with results as follows:—

v. Sheffield — lost 3–6.
v. Manchester — won 4–0 and 3–0.
v. Newcastle — draw 3–3 and won 3–1.
v. Hull — won 4–0 and 4–1.

Personnel who played for the Corps were:—

24th Regiment: Sergeant Noon (captain), Corporal Cook, Corporal Bonnici, Corporal McLoughlin, Lance-Corporal Sutherland, Lance-Corporal Callaghan, Lance-Corporal Onslow, Lance-Corporal Forrester, Signalman Clark, Signalman Sweetin, Signalman Gordon, Signalman Tyler, Signalman Mowat, Signalman Nelson.

14th Regiment: Lance-Corporal Smurthwaite.

8th Regiment: Signalman Lowes.

224 Squadron: Signalman Oxley (now with 13th Regiment), Signalman Irvine (now with 13th Regiment).

School of Signals: Signalman Gould.

638 Signal Troop (A.F.): Lance-Corporal Clarke.

Lance-Corporal Forrester played regularly for the Army XI at inside or outside-right. Lance-Corporal Sutherland, Signalman Gordon and Sweetin were selected for Army Trials.

It is believed there are many more soccer players serving in the U.K. who could and should be considered for the Corps team. But unless their ability is made known to the Selection Committee via Captain W. H. Brooks, of 11th Regiment (Depot), and their Commanding Officers are prepared to release them for games, we shall never produce our strongest side. This year we lost two games. Next year we intend to win them all.

Cricket Win. A team of officers of the Corps easily beat Welbeck College on 20th May. Scores: Royal Signals 141 for 9 (dec.), Major J. E. Evans 53 not out; Welbeck College 68.

A.E.R. and T.A.

402 SQUADRON A.E.R.

Get some notes in "The Wire." A short, simple directive from the O.C. and another correspondent is awakened from the winter silence period which is the common lot of A.E.R. Units.

We start on a very sad note, owing to the death by drowning of Captain Donald Martin, at Lagos, on 18th April. A keen and efficient officer, popular throughout the Unit, who has left a gap which is going to be extremely difficult to fill. An obituary is elsewhere in THE WIRE.

The April issue of THE WIRE was read with interest by the O.C. and brought three reactions: (a) he read the article on H.M.S. *Hermes* with some apprehension. He is employed with the Admiralty section dealing with audio frequency gear and was much relieved to find that the article contained no criticism of flight deck loudspeakers, hanger broadcast systems, etc. not that criticism is invited! (b) some South African Corps of Signals badges are on their way to Mr. A. Murphy in response to his appeal; (c) get some notes in THE WIRE!

With our winter programme of weekend training periods behind us we can now look forward to our camp planning. Once again we are fortunate to be going to B.A.O.R. and this time our hosts will be 225 Squadron. We had a brief acquaintance with our hosts in 1962, but this time we shall really be working together, commencing our visit on 3rd July and leaving a fortnight later. We held our pre-camp conference at Blandford during April and I thought it would be a good idea to let our readers know who was responsible for all this planning. If the photograph is any good, it should not be far from these notes. Should there be any boobs or clangers (there will not be, of course) we shall know who to blame.

Since leaving us to go to R.A.R.O. last December, Captain Richard Stinton has settled down with his firm in Zanzibar. He sent us an interesting letter while he was passing through the Mediterranean—explaining how he had his social life all lined up with a spot of sailing and sport for good measure. But now I suppose he could say 'fings aint what they used to be'!

Our S.S.M., W.O.II R. W. Evans, must be very well known in the Corps, for it is not long since he left Regular service. He's not really quite so fierce as he appears in the picture, but certainly highly skilled in Sergeants' Mess boat races—mustn't say too much, he'll be chasing me in July!



THE PLANNERS—402 SIGNAL SQUADRON AER

Left to right: Captain B. J. Hordle, W.O.II (S.S.M.) R. W. Evans, Captain P. A. Lancaster, T.D., Sergeant D. J. Ottaway, Staff Sergeant R. J. Hazell, Sergeant J. B. Heath, Lieutenant J. Powell, Staff Sergeant (S.Q.M.S.) G. Pegler. The OC, Major I. B. C. Jones, is missing—he took the picture

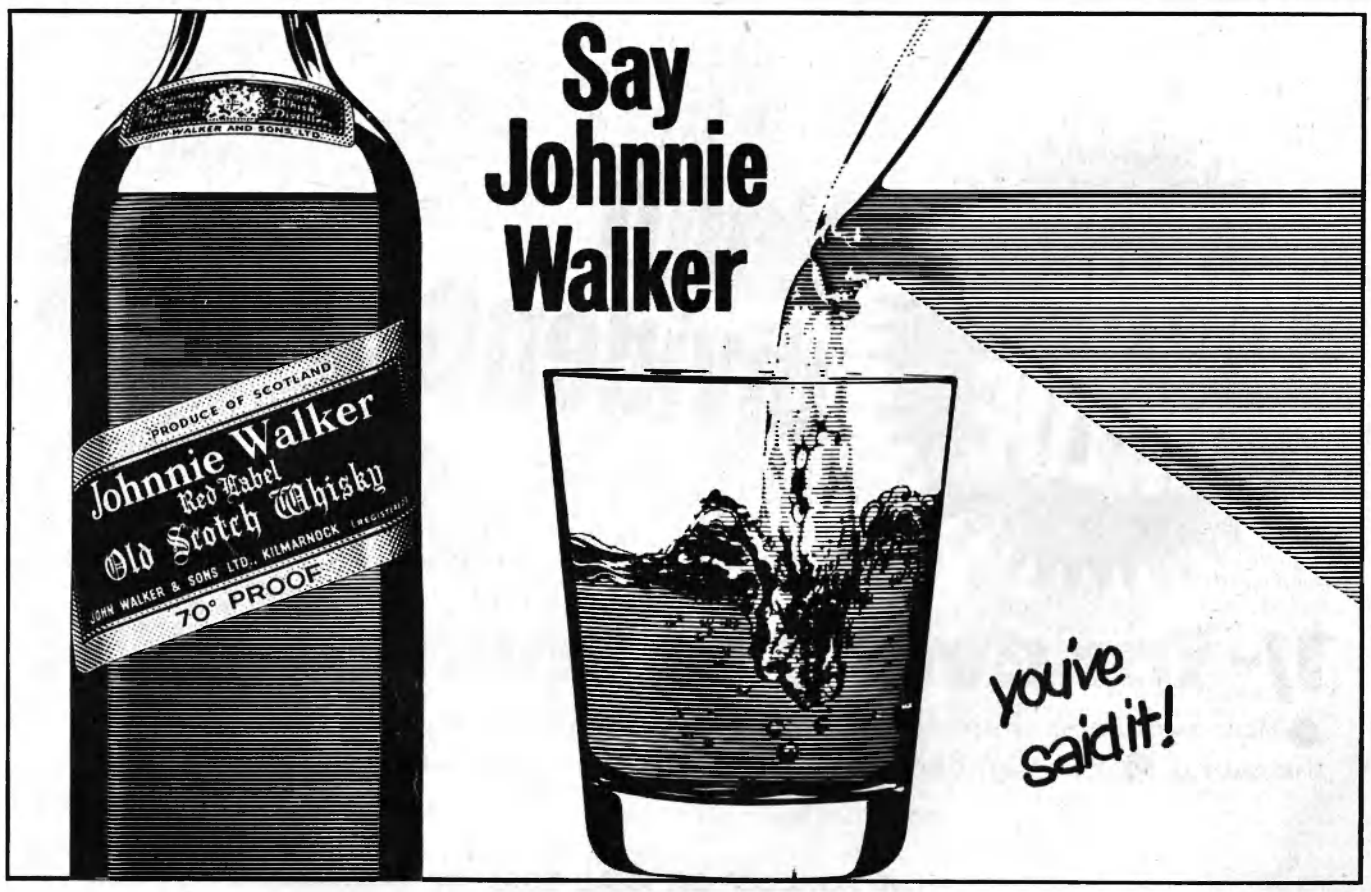
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On Retirement

W.O.I T. A. Vaughan, M.B.E., left the Service on 1st May, 1964, after 24 years' service with the Colours. Details of his service are:—

Joined Worcestershire Regiment in 1939. Went to France with B.E.F. on Intelligence Duties. Evacuated from Dunkirk. After a period of service in Intelligence Corps he was transferred to Royal Signals in 1942 on Cipher duties, continuing to serve until April, 1946, and obtaining the rank of W.O.II.



W.O.I T. A. Vaughan, M.B.E.

He rejoined Royal Signals in 1947 as a Sergeant and was promoted the same year to W.O.II, serving with 2 Divisional Signals in B.A.O.R. He then served with H.Q. Eastern Command as Chief Clerk and later in M.E.L.F. He took up Regimental Duties in 1953 and was promoted W.O.I (R.S.M.) in 1958. In 1960 he was R.S.M. of 21st Regiment and for duty above that which was required of him and in recognition of his services to that Regiment and the R.A.F. in Germany he was awarded the M.B.E. in 1963. He has served with the 41st Regiment (Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment) T.A. from January, 1963, until his retirement.

W.O. Vaughan was married in 1948 and has two sons. Mrs. Vaughan is also well known to members of the Corps for the way in which she always gave her husband the support that is such a help to an R.S.M. and the great interest she took in the welfare of the families wherever R.S.M. Vaughan was serving.

R.S.M. Vaughan is well known throughout the Corps for his shooting prowess and his great interest in training young soldiers to attain a high standard of marksmanship. He was a frequent competitor at Bisley during many years of his service and has generally figured in the prize lists of most competitions for which he entered.

He is joining NAAFI as an Establishment Manager and is expected to return to West Germany in the near future; we wish him every success and good fortune in his new job.

Contributed by 41st Regiment (Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment) T.A.



"IN TRAINING"
Squadron personnel on the Assault Course

47th REGIMENT
MIDDLESEX YEOMANRY
(The Duke of Cambridge's Hussars)

"D" Squadron. Going from strength to strength—our primary Training Unit, under its Squadron Leader, Captain F. Ruthven, has been responsible for inducting and training over a 100 recruits in the last twelve months.

The training course lasts seventeen weeks and consists principally of general military training, but includes basic signal knowledge, as an introduction to trade training, which at present is undertaken in the Operational Squadrons, which the recruit joins at the end of his course in "D" Squadron.

Within the training programme great stress is placed on activity and environment and in this connection the Squadron is fortunate in being able to undertake most of its weekend training at The Guards Depot, Pirbright.

"A" Squadron. "The Go! Go! Go! Squadron—if you want to be a Wow!—join Now!"

Joker stuff?—No, real enthusiasm, based on a combination of the "Engineering and Marketing attitudes," concepts which provide constant reminders that we are in business to supply a top grade communications service—only possible through the achievement of a good operational efficiency, embracing both high morale and technical and administrative efficiency.

"The Squadron has still some way to go yet, but I feel we are on the right lines, especially as I'm lucky enough to have a grand team behind me," said Major R. M. Lustig, T.D., Squadron Leader, "A."

Latest news from the Squadron includes: A strength increase with the posting of Signalmen from "D" Squadron, as well as the arrival of two new officers, Second-Lieutenants A. Coombes and K. Beaumont, on transfer from commissioned service in the R.F.V.R., together with, on their return to the Regiment, of Staff Sergeant E. Skitt (a former W.O.II P.S.I.) and Corporal O'Kennedy (who was in the Regiment at the beginning of the war).

Crack Shots. W.O.II G. Waters became champion shot of the London District T.A. Rifle Association 1964 Meeting held at the end of April.

Other Unit successes gained by the Middlesex Yeomanry were:—

1st: Inter-Uunit Team Pistol match.
2nd and 3rd: Inter-Unit Fire and Movement match.
3rd: Unit Championship.
4th: Inter-Unit Rifle match.

Individual successes were:—

S.M.G. match (Recruits):	1st	S'gnalman Bedford.
Pistol match (Open):	2nd	Major K. Farsons.
	3rd	Captain C. Slater.
Rifle Permanent Staff match:	3rd	W.O.II G. Waters.
S.M.G. match (Open):	3rd	W.O.II G. Waters.

Success also, in the Royal Signals (Eastern Command) Rifle Association Small Bore Postal Shoot, 1963/64, with Captain C. Slater winning a spoon in Stages I and II and again in Stages III and IV, as well as gaining a "possible" of 100, in Stages IV and for leading the field in the Individual Championship.

The annual dinner and dance of the Middlesex Yeomanry Warrant Officers and Sergeants' Mess was held at Regimental Headquarters on 18th April.

What an event that was! With 166 people sitting down to a four-course dinner, followed by dancing until 2 a.m.

Incidental music for the dinner and dance was played by the Middlesex Yeomanry Band and a Piper from the London Scottish.

The guests of honour were the Commanding Officer (Lieutenant-Colonel S. J. Williams, M.B.E, T.D.), the Adjutant (Captain J. L. Osborne), Staff Sergeant A. Le Clair, Royal Canadian Signals, Staff Sergeant H. Sorenson, Royal Danish Signals, and their ladies, together with two Pensioners from the Royal Hospital, Chelsea. Bouquets were presented to Mrs. Williams and the ladies of the other guests of honour.

Behind every successful banquet there is a Banqueting Manager responsible for the detailed organisation and service, and this function was no exception—the presiding genius being the Mess's P.M.C., W.O.II D. H. A. Alexander, B.E.M.

Comment from S.S.M. Alexander: "The real praise must go to my committee and the Signalmen who volunteered to give a hand with running the function."

49th YORKSHIRE REGIMENT T.A.



The retiring Honorary Colonel and C.O. being towed to the Officers' Mess in a Land Rover

On Sunday, 5th April, 1964, the 49th (Yorkshire) Regiment (T.A.) held a Regimental Parade to mark the occasion of a change in both its Honorary Colonel and Commanding Officer.

The parade took place on the main square at Imphal Barracks, York, with the support of many friends and old comrades, and was made up of the Regimental Band, two male and one W.R.A.C. Squadrons.

The retiring Honorary Colonel, Colonel W. Hey, T.D., has many years of association with the county Signal Regiment, and like his successor, Colonel N. R. Bigland, T.D., is a former C.O.

Taking over as C.O. is Lieutenant-Colonel A. D. Hewitt, T.D., in succession to Lieutenant-Colonel A. M. Booker, T.D., whom we expect to be confirmed as C.S.O. T.A., Yorkshire District, in the near future.

A fine day helped to make the ceremony such a great success, and to Colonel Hey fell the pleasant task of presenting decorations and awards to both male and W.R.A.C. members of the Regiment; special mention is due to Sergeant R. D. Holdsworth for a B.E.M. well earned in the Brunei operations.

On the evening prior to the parade the senior officers concerned were dined out and in respectively, presentations being made by the past and serving officers. They in their turn made greatly esteemed additions to the Regiment's magnificent collection of silver.

Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. — On Saturday, 28th March, we were visited by Mr. S. A. Searr, ex-W.O.II, Royal Canadian Signals, on holiday from Canada.

Mr. Searr presented to the Mess, on behalf of the R.S.M. (W.O.I D. P. Chappell) and Warrant Officers and Sergeants, 11th Regiment, of Canada, a silver tankard, inscribed, and mounted with the Royal Canadian Signals badge.

The cup was filled and passed round, after which Mr. Searr accepted an inscribed token of our appreciation for presentation to 11th Regiment, Royal Canadian Signals, with our best wishes.

It is hoped that this was the first of many future communications between ourselves and the Regiment in Montreal.

53 (W) REGIMENT (T.A.)

With perhaps a rush of blood to the head, the Welsh burst into print again! Why the rush? . . . well, on the evening of writing we won the Divisional Motor Cycle Trials and became runners-up in the Western Command Championships. The accompanying photograph and caption tell the story and name the heroes.

Having given our excuse for writing (you always have to have a sporting achievement or two to quote) we will admit that this outburst is merely our new Training Major trying to keep his sanity and make some contact (however feeble) with the outside regular world. Having identified myself, I would like to write about this T.A. Regiment and my first impressions.

The Regiment is unique, in that it is the only Welsh Signal Regiment in the British Army. It has an unbroken tradition, with a slight variation in name only, as the Welsh Divisional Signals, from 1921 to date.

Our Headquarters and the bulk of the Regiment is located in Cardiff, and we have Brigade Squadrons (not yet independent) at Newport and Swansea. Our role is to provide the Division with modern communications over mostly 1939 equipment and with (at present) about 40 per cent of our manpower establishment. In addition, we have a mobilization commitment of manning civil communications in time of nuclear attack on the U.K.

Few of my readers can help me out over the problem of 1939 equipment (apologies Reginald, if you are an avid reader of THE WIRE). What does amaze me, however, is that I seem to have been surrounded throughout my service by Welshmen in the Corps. Many of them must have completed regular service by now—where are they? If it weren't for the '39 to '45 warriors, we would be in a sorry plight now in the unit. All Welsh readers please note . . . we need you badly, NOW, if you've already completed regular service; AS SOON AS YOU'RE OUT if you are still serving. Although this plea is made on behalf of one T.A. unit, I am sure all regular permanent staff with Signals T.A. will echo these words. We don't mind working evenings and week-ends (swing the lamp, boys) if we are achieving something, but we must have experienced regulars to carry on T.A. service and help raise and train the young blood.

To those of you who gave me their kindly advice on what to do about my posting to T.A. (it ranged from "resign your commission" to "shoot yourself") I give my thanks. The one piece of advice I have kept close to mind is "never lose your sense of humour." However drastic the advice was, I noted that the advice-giver was still soldiering himself and was probably the better for his spell of part-time soldiering. Frustrating though it may be at times, I am enjoying this posting, and



Mr. S. A. Searr, ex Royal Canadian Signals making the presentation



53 (W) Division M/C Trials, 1964—Winners 53 (W) Signal Regt. 'A' Team Staff Sergeant Legg, Sergeant Borley, Team Captain, Staff Sergeant Brown

I wouldn't mind going to war with this happy bunch of "Terriers" anytime.

Incidentally, I am not a Welshman. Neither is it true that you must have served with foreign troops before being posted here. Mind you, it elps Bach, they are a bit backward, look you! (*Having written that last sentence, I hope they keep their sense of humour—we may even see the reaction in next month's* WIRE).

SUHPRISE GIFT FOR BERMONOSEY'S TERRITORIALS

The 3rd Bn. The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment has received an unexpected present from an unknown donor.

This consisted of enlargements and most carefully prepared close-ups of photographs of a recent parade in the borough, at which the Colours of the former Bermondsey Battalion were laid up in the Parish Church. The envelope also contained the negatives and a short letter which ended **"Have them with my compliments, Yours Faithfully, Ex-Serviceman, R.C.S." (Royal Corps of Siganls).**

This was very greatly appreciated. One officer said: "This was an extremely kind thought and gesture. Whoever the donor may be, he has our warm thanks for the care and trouble he took on our behalf."

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the 18th Meeting of the Branch Representatives of the Royal Signals Association, held at H.Q. 47th Signal Regiment Middlesex Yeomanry, T.A., Duke of York's Headquarters, London, S.W.3., on Saturday, 11th April, 1964.

THE Meeting was attended by 43 Representatives of the following 34 Branches:

Aberdeen, Aldershot, Bath, Blackpool, Bournemouth, Bristol, Catterick and District, Catterick Training Brigade, Cheltenham and District, Chester, Chesterfield, Chislehurst, Croydon, Darlington, Glossop and District, Hartlepools and District, Harrogate, Hull, Leeds, Leicester, London, London North, 1st London O.C.A., Newark, Newcastle and District, Portsmouth, Reading, Salisbury, Shrewsbury, Scarborough, Southampton, York, 24 Unit Branch (24th Regiment), 26 Unit Branch (11th Regiment).

Major-General E. S. Cole, C.B., O.B.E., Vice-Chairman of the Royal Signals Association, presided.

The Vice-Chairman addressed the Meeting as follows:

1. Welcome

It gives me much pleasure to welcome here today representatives from so many of our Branches. Some have come from considerable distances (Aberdeen). Altogether some 43 have made the journey which I think is a very reasonable attendance.

I must also welcome the Signal Officer-in-Chief, General Swainson, who will be talking to us on Corps affairs as soon as I have finished. He is a very busy man and it is asking much of him to give up one of his few free Saturdays for this purpose. We are much indebted to him.

Finally I am glad to welcome Major Williams from Catterick. He will tell us later on about the arrangements for the Annual Reunion on the 27th/28th June.

Apologies

I have been asked by your Chairman, General Thuillier, to apologise for his absence. He is attending to urgent domestic affairs and has, therefore, asked me to deputise for him. He sends you all his greetings and hopes that you will have an enjoyable and useful Meeting today.

Thanks

I must also thank Lieutenant-Colonel S. J. Williams and all those members of the 47th Regiment (Middlesex Yeomanry) T.A. who have so kindly made this hall available and helped in many ways for the arrangements for today's Meeting.

Confirmation of Minutes of the 17th Meeting

Turning now to business I will start by asking you to confirm the Minutes of the 17th Meeting. These Minutes have been circulated to all Branches and were published in THE WIRE. (After it had been proposed by Lieutenant-Colonel R. W. Atkinson, O.B.E., 26 Unit Branch (11th Regiment) seconded by Mr. A. V. Ient of Aldershot Branch and approved by the Meeting, the Vice-Chairman signed the Minutes of the 17th Meeting).

State of the Association

You will see from the figures that I am about to give you that there is a falling off in the number of Annual Members joining the Association, but that there is a very marked upsurge in new Life Members.

	1962	1963	
Annual Members ...	367	290	decrease 77
Life Members	1188	2172	increase 984

I should remark that we depend for some of our statistics concerning Annual Members on returns from local Branches and these figures are not always very accurate, or sometimes are not sent in.

The figures I have mentioned split up as follows:

	1962		1963	
	Annual	*Life*	*Annual*	*Life*
Training Brigade	181	971	118	1985
Other Unit Branches	12	73	NIL	5
Local Branches	134	92	125	147
Direct through Association Headquarters	73	52	47	35

You will note, once again, the large numbers of young regular soldiers joining as Life Members in the Training Brigade and in particular in the 11th Regiment where the great majority have been enrolled. We are indebted to the Commanding Officer and to Lieutenant-Colonel R. W. Atkinson who, we know, has been mainly responsible for bringing the Association to the notice of these regular soldiers who have joined in such numbers. We welcome all these new Life Members into the Association and hope that they will be proud to belong to an Association so closely bound up with the well-being of members past and present of the Corps in which they are serving.

The total number of local Branches of the Association in the U.K. is now 52. During 1963 three local Branches regrettably had to close due to lack of support. I would emphasize here that the existance or otherwise of Branches generally depends mainly on the drive and energy of three or four individuals. When these disappear so often Branches fold up. The continuance of our Branches, of course, also depends on support by the members and the bringing in of new members. This last aspect is the greatest problem that confronts us and unless we succeed here then Branches must inevitably disappear. We will touch on this subject later on but I would point out that some Branches are succeeding in getting new members—I know of one that has enrolled 20 new members during the year. This is an example which gives us all cause for hope.

Accounts

We have just received the draft accounts for 1963 from our auditors. These accounts have first to be approved by the Central Committee so I cannot lay them before you now, but will give you some of the salient points.

These are:

(a) We finished 1963 with a surplus of £879 of income over expenditure compared to one of £230 in 1962.

(b) Our expenditure in 1963 amounted to some £14,335 compared to £13,360 in 1962—about £800 more.

(c) Main items of expenditure in 1963 were:

(i) *Administrative Expenses* £5,448 compared to £4,842 in 1962. Extra expenditure mainly due to heavy outlay on stationery (£575) due to reprinting of

Rule Books, new notepaper because of change of address and increased requirement for Life Membership cards.

(ii) *Loss on "The Wire"* £1,222 compared to £1,398 in 1962. I will deal with this later on.

(iii) *Increased Benevolent Grants* £5,838 compared with £5,070 in 1962. The severe winter of 1962/63 made heavy calls on our resources and our Welfare Staff have been very busy.

(d) (i) *Subscriptions* £3,069 compared with £1,999 in 1962. Increase due to upsurge in Life Membership subscriptions already mentioned.

(ii) *Donations.* Receipts from Regiments and Squadrons of the Corps were £4,301 compared to £2,980 in 1962. A fine effort indeed and there are indications that the scale of support from the Corps will increase still further. On the other hand donations from Branches and individuals amounted to £357 compared to £640 in 1962. A cheque for £35—the result of a sweepstake—was given to Brigadier Hobson before the Meeting by the Shrewsbury Branch.

(iii) *The Officers of the Corps* also contributed £700 from their funds.

(iv) *Investment Income* increased from £4,136 to £4,463. We are indebted to the Directors of the Royal Signals Association Trustee Ltd., for their wise policy in investing our funds which are showing an increase in both market value and income.

I think you will agree from what I have said that our financial situation is at present sound. We must not forget though that this is due to a considerable degree to the very large number of Life Membership subscriptions and that we cannot count on this scale in future years. One last bit of good news is that the W.D. have unexpectedly refunded us some £300 we spent on fitted cupboards when we moved into our new H.Q. in 1962. This is not reflected in these accounts. There is also a possibility that the W.D. will pay the major part of the salaries of two more members of our staff whom we are paying entirely from our own resources at the moment. Negotiations for this are under way.

"The Wire"

The deficit on THE WIRE in 1963 was, as you have heard, some £1,222.

To produce an attractive magazine one must spend money on good lay-out, adequate content and plenty of photographs. Cheapness in a publication makes it unattractive and circulation goes down and so the rot sets in. The Central Committee decided at their last meeting to increase the cost of THE WIRE from 1s. 3d. to 1s. 6d. per copy, and this became effective from 1st January this year.

The increase in cost has been well accepted throughout the Corps. In addition the circulation is steadily rising. In January, 1963, it was 5,200, but a year later in January, 1964, it has reached the 6,000 mark. It is hoped that as a result the loss on THE WIRE will be substantially reduced in 1964. However, it is probable that it will always require a certain amount of subsidy but I submit it is money well spent when one considers the good it does for morale in binding the Corps together; present and past members.

Staff at Association H.Q.

Our staff remains unchanged over the year. Duties are as follows:

Welfare	Miss Hyde-Parker and Miss Cook
Accounts	Mrs. Urs and Mr. Evenden
Association Records ...	Mr. Stead and Mr. Walsh
P.A. to General Secretary	Mrs. Anderson
Assistant to the Editor of THE WIRE	Mr. L. Wood

They are all present today and I hope you will meet as many of them as possible while you are here.

Branches' Good Work

I would like to close by thanking branches and their committees for all the invaluable work they have done. Annual dinners, social evenings, and such like, are the outward and visible manifestation of active and lively branches, and let there be plenty of these. However, the finest work is that often done quietly and unknown to us here, when branches give a helping hand to the less fortunate members of our Corps family. This is the true spirit of our Association, and the Corps is indeed fortunate in the splendid work of this type that goes on.

2. Address by the Signal Officer-in-Chief, Major-General F. J. Swainson, O.B.E.

A summary of the address was published in the May WIRE.

3. General Secretary's Announcements

(a) Branches please to be punctual and as accurate as possible in submitting nominal rolls of members when called for.

(b) Catterick Reunion will be on 27th/28th June, 1964. Any resolutions that branches or members wish to put before the A.G.M. to be in the General Secretary's hands *by 20th May,* 1964, without fail.

(c) Rear window stickets "Royal Signals Reunion, Catterick, 1964," will be available. Numbers required to Association H.Q. by 15th May.

(d) Blandford will not be occupied by the School of Signals until about 1967. They will require some time to settle in. There will not be anything like the same barrack accommodation to put up overnight visitors as at the Training Brigade, Catterick. The question of holding reunions there will have to be considered in due course in the light of conditions then pertaining. It was too early yet to do this.

(e) A list of Corps Band and Display Team engagements is on view. A more detailed list of Band engagements will be circulated to Branch Secretaries.

(f) Three observers from branches are required to attend Central Committee Meetings.

4. Election of Branch Members to Serve on the Central Committee

After discussion, it was proposed by Captain J. Way and seconded by Major J. H. Dirs, that, when balloting, both the personality of the candidate and when his branch had last been represented on the committee should be taken into consideration. The procedure for balloting would, therefore, continue as heretofore, except that the General Secretary would show on the list of branches putting forward candidates how long it had been since the candidate's branch was last represented on the Central Committee.

The motion was carried.

5. Result of Ballot

As a result of the ballot, the meeting elected Lieutenant-Colonel R. W. Atkinson, O.B.E. (Catterick and District Branch) to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Mr. E. A. Leavesley (York Branch).

6. Notification of Names and Addresses of Regular Soldiers Leaving the Services to Nearest Branch Secretary

Although the results of this had been meagre, it was agreed that this scheme should continue. Three branches reported some slight success.

7. Alteration to Rules

(a) *Rule 7(b)—Reduced Subscriptions*

It was proposed by Mr. J. J. Goggin, Shrewsbury Branch, and seconded by Mr. A. V. Ient, Aldershot Branch, that the above rule, which permits Signalmen who join the Association while undergoing basic military training at the 11th Signal Regiment (Depot) to pay a reduced Life Membership subscription of £1/10/-, should have the following added:

'The above applies to Apprentice Tradesmen, Junior Leaders and Junior Tradesmen who may apply to join the Association at the reduced Life Membership rate before they pass out, on the understanding that their membership only becomes effective on the day on which they actually enter man's service.'

This motion was carried, and the addition to the rule is recommended to the Annual General Meeting.

(b) *Rule 7(c)*

After considerable discussion, it was proposed by Major J. H. Dirs, Hull Branch, and seconded by Mr. J. J. Goggin, Shrewsbury Branch, that the wording of this rule, which permits Life Membership subscriptions being paid in instalments, was unsatisfactory, and that the rule be re-written to read:

'Life Membership subscriptions may be collected by instalments over a period not exceeding twelve months within units or branches, under their own arrangements. Life Membership cards will only be issued by Association H.Q. when the appropriate sum (£2/10/- normal Life Membership or £1/10/- reduced Life Membership) is received from the unit or branch concerned.

The motion was carried and the revised wording of the rule is recommended to the Annual General Meeting.

8. **Arrangements for the Catterick Reunion, 27th and 28th June, 1964**

Major Williams outlined the arrangements for the reunion.

(a) He stressed that the proformas (sent out by Association H.Q. to Branches) should be completed as *accurately as possible* and sent to him, with a copy to Association H.Q. *by 1st June without fail.*

(b) He "sounded-out" the meeting on a proposal that the Saturday evening entertainment (visiting Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Messes) should be centralised on the Vimy "C" block in 11th Signal Regiment lines, rather that the usual arrangements, whereby each Regiment and the School of Signals should offer hospitality in their respective messes.

The views of the meeting were that it was entirely at the discretion of the authorities in Catterick as to how the Saturday evening arrangements were organised, but that, if no undue administrative difficulties were caused, they would appreciate it if the long-standing custom of hospitality in individual messes could be continued.

(c) The question of when to hold the A.G.M.—before or after the Church Parade—was once again raised. It was suggested that if the Church Parade could take place 30 minutes earlier, then the A.G.M. could well be held after the parade without causing undue difficulty. This was discussed at some length. A vote was eventually taken and the majority were in favour of the new proposal. The Chairman pointed out that this tended to be a matter of some contention, and he wanted an assurance that branch representatives, when voting, were prepared to stand by their opinion with their own branches. He was given this assurance.

Major Williams agreed to investigate this proposal from the Catterick point of view.

(It has now been agreed).

9. **Vote of Thanks**

On the motion of Lieutenant-Colonel R. W. Atkinson, O.B.E., a vote of thanks was passed by the meeting to the Chairman and Staff of Association H.Q. for the arrangements they had made for the meeting.

Association Notes

SHREWSBURY BRANCH

Once again we have run our annual Grand National draw and, thanks to all other branches of the Association, Regular units of the Corps, and all the people who went around selling tickets, this year has gone even better than last year. It was rather worying during the first few weeks, when the counter-foils were slow coming in, but as the day for the draw came nearer, they began to come in really fast.

The draw was held in the Croix-de-Guerre Club, The Drill Hall, Shrewsbury, on Friday, 13th March, 1964. The General Secretary, Brigadier P. M. P. Hobson, who had travelled up from London for the evening, started the draw by drawing the first ticket.

As a result of this effort, a cheque for £35 was presented to the Royal Signals Benevolent Fund by our Secretary at the Branch Representatives' Meeting on 11th April.



At the dinner (*Left to right*): Mr. W. P. Hall, Colonel K. B. Baldwin, Brigadier Hobson, the Mayor and Mayoress of Hornsey and Branch Secretary Harry Gillibrand

Salute to a Courageous Man

NORTH LONDON BRANCH RECEIVES LOVING CUP

The courage and fortitude in ill-health of the late Albert Arthur Waller were commemorated at the ninth annual dinner and dance of the North London Branch, Royal Signals Association, on 18th April, when, as a tangible reminder, a Loving Cup was donated to the Branch.

Bert was a pre-war member of 44 (H.C.) Divisional Signals from 1936-1939. At the outbreak of war, however, he was found unfit to serve and returned to work, an unhappy man.

Held at the Cambridge Hotel, Palmers Green, the dinner was attended by well over 100 members and friends. The principal guests were Councillor Peter P. Rigby, Mayor of Hornsey, himself ex-Signals, and Brigadier P. M. P. Hobson, D.S.O. Making the only speech of the evening, Colonel Baldwin, President, said the Branch had made a phenomenal growth over the last 18 months. There had been a 25 per cent increase in membership, and many more are attending meetings regularly. The attendance at the annual dinner, that evening, was the best ever.

Referring to the Loving Cup, he said that this had been presented to the Branch by Dr. Fitch-Holden, who had so admired Bert Waller's courage and fortitude that she had taken him into her own home when he had had first one leg and then the other removed, and there she had nursed and tended him through his last few years.

In handing over the cup to Mr. W. P. Hall, Chairman, Colonel Baldwin said that it should be produced at every A.G.M., when, having been filled by the President of the day, the newly-elected committee should drink to the honour of Bert and as a token of their dedication to the objects of the Branch and the Association.

Accepting the cup, Mr. Hall said: "It is with great pride and deep humility that we accept this cup, and we assure you that we will remember."

Following the dinner, the guests danced to Ron Dancy and his Embassy Band, and the party went with a real Royal Signals swing. As usual, it all ended much too soon.



[*Photos: Courtesy, S.T.C.*

'Take great care of it . . .' says Colonel K. B. Baldwin, M.B.E. as he hands the cup to Branch Chairman W. P. Hall

ALDERSHOT BRANCH

The Aldershot Branch, Royal Signals Association, held its 14th annual dinner at the Masonic Hall, Farnborough, on Saturday, 2nd May—and what a memorable occasion it was. The dinner was presided over by Major-General R. J. Moberly, C.B., O.B.E., and well over 100 guests attended.

The guest of honour was the Master of Signals, Major-General Sir William A. Scott, K.C.M.G., C.B., C.B.E., accompanied by Lady Scott. Brigadier P. M. P. Hobson, D.S.O., General Secretary of the Association was also a guest. It was unfortunate that Miss Mollie Hyde-Parker, who had been invited, could not attend, and apologies were received from her.

Music during the dinner was provided by an orchestra of ten from the Corps Band, by kind permission of Brigadier A. C. Cox, Commander Training Brigade, and Captain C. H. Pike, L.R.A.M., A.R.C.M., Director of Music. Many thanks go to them for this gesture, and congratulations to the orchestra on their turnout—it was splendid. O.C. 216 Squadron, Pinehurst, also came into the picture by looking after the band for us during their stay here. All members of the Aldershot Branch wish to pass on their thanks for the co-operation they received from everyone concerned.

Now to mention just a few of those who sat down to dinner. These included Brigadier and Mrs. A. J. Deane-Drummond, Major and Mrs. W. G. Neilson and the Officers, Warrant Officers and Sergeants of the Signal Wing at Sandhurst, Brigadier H. Firth, Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. G. R. Gould, Captain and Mrs. D. T. Hunneyball, with a large contingent from the Croydon Branch, Mr. E. A. Mayne (Telephone Manager, Guildford Area) and Mrs. Mayne, Brigadier and Mrs. F. Allen and Brigadier and Mrs. W. G. Tucker. The two Loyal Toasts were followed by the orchestra playing the National Anthem after which the leader of the orchestra was invited to take a drink with the Master of Signals. The President, General Moberly, then spoke of the Association. He referred to it as a large happy family. He went on to mention all the hard work done at H.Q. and thanked them all. He also thanked everyone present for making the evening a success. The Chairman, Mr. L. V. Goodman, then proposed the toast to "Our Guests." In welcoming the Master of Signals he said it was with great pleasure he did this on behalf of the Branch and also as a personal pleasure. It was forty-five years ago they first met and served in the same Company at Haynes Park Signal Depot, moving to Maresfield Park sometime later and only on one occasion had they met until this evening. The Master of Signals replied saying what a great pleasure it was for he and Lady Scott to be among the members here at Aldershot. He spoke of the Corps and the new look that our Corps was taking on in this day and age of advancement of telecommunications. He also spoke of the world of sport in the Corps and the revival that is going on to put the Corps back on the map. The General Secretary in replying to the Toast of The Association, gave details of the increases in membership of the Association. This was due to the hard work put in by branches and especially at the Depot at Catterick. After the dinner the gathering broke up into a number of groups and many old friendships were revived. Brigadier Tucker met Mr. E. Haywood, now a Post Office inspector, who he had not met since the 'thirties; Bob Nash of the Aldershot Branch had the same link up. All the Aldershot members who attended the Croydon Branch Dinner renewed their acquaintances. In conclusion, the Secretary would like to thank Sergeant (Tug) Wilson of H.Q. Aldershot District for his help in the layout of the dinner, W O.II R. W. Simmons, B.E.M., for his help in the lighting and Candelabra, the members of the Signals Wing, Sandhurst, for their escorts at the main entrance and last but not least the caterer, Mr. H. H. Clarke, of Frimley Green, for an excellent dinner.

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Clothing

Since the beginning of the year, gifts of clothing, toys, books, etc., have been most gratefully received from the following:

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Mrs. A. C. Cox
Mrs. J. Halliday
Captain M. D. Miller
Captain G. Penn
A. Stokes, Esq.
Lieut.-Colonel E. R. N. W. Nanney-Wynn
Miss Victoria Nanney-Wynn
Corporal S. McDermid
The Wives' Club, 30th Regiment
6th Signal Regiment (T.A.)
Mrs. S. E. Ellis
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16th Signal Regiment
Lieut.-Colonel and Mrs. J. J. H. Swallow
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Sergeant and Mrs. Law
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Major-General R. J. Moberly, C.B., O.B.E.
"B" Squadron, 47th Regiment (T.A.)
Mrs. P. Dibley
3rd Signal Regiment

Royal Signals Association and Benevolent Fund

The following subscriptions were most gratefully received during April, 1964:

	£	s.	d.
8th Regiment	30	0	0
24th Regiment	19	10	0
24th Regiment (Officers' Mess)	1	4	0
24th Regiment (24 Unit Branch)	150	0	0
224 Squadron	28	13	0
14th Regiment (1 Squadron)	10	0	0
30th Regiment	15	0	0
14th Regiment (2 Squadron)	4	1	0
14th Regiment (3 Squadron)	4	8	6
216 Squadron	5	13	6
243 Squadron	1	13	6
M.E.S./S.R.D.E.		6	0
Junior Leaders Regiment	25	7	0
Royal Signals attached 46 Squadron R.A.S.C. (L.C.T.)		15	0
Signals Communications Wing, R.M.A., Sandhurst	1	10	0
607 Troop		17	5
43rd Regiment T.A.	8	1	0
57th Regiment T.A.	1	5	0
63rd Regiment T.A.		9	0
325 Squadron T.A.		3	0
327 Squadron T.A.		3	0
H.Q. A.E.R. Royal Signals	5	5	0
41st Regiment T.A. (2 Squadron)		14	0
47th Regiment T.A. ("B" Squadron)	2	13	8
47th Regiment T.A. (Warrant Officers and Sergeants)	2	0	0
632 Troop (Hebrides)	1	6	0
13th Regiment	34	13	1
13th Regiment (Wives' Club)	51	15	1
22nd Regiment	13	10	0
204 Squadron	5	5	0
Trucial Oman Scouts	37	7	4
Royal Signals attached 4 R.T.R.		4	9
261 Squadron (Air Formation)	10	0	0
Glossop and District Royal Signals O.C.A.	21	0	0
Newark Branch	5	5	0
Shrewsbury Branch	35	0	0
Various Individual donations	25	9	6
Receipts	£560	8	4

Expenditure during April, 1964 (Includes:—Rent and Rates; Beds and Bedding; Furniture; Cots and Prams; General Assistance). £471 2 9

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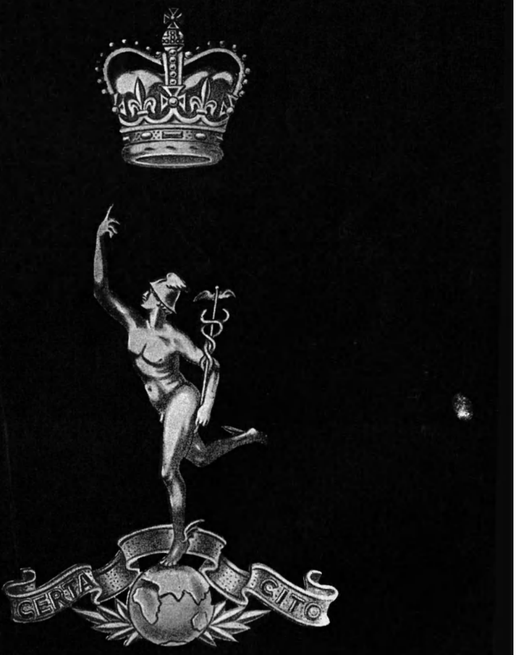
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The WIRE

The Royal Signals Magazine



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THE WIRE

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

The Official Organ of the Signals Association

Editor:
BRIGADIER P. M. P. HOBSON, D.S.O.

Assistant Editor:
BRIGADIER H. R. FIRTH

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☆

JULY • 1964

Vol. 18 (*New Series*) **No. 7**

Editorial

The sun is shining, the weather is warm, and the Editor's thoughts turn to lighter things. For a change, therefore, this column will indulge itself with one or two of the more light-hearted incidents that have come to our notice in recent weeks.

* * *

Computers, they say, cannot lie—but apparently they can become bad tempered enough to blow a component or two when their credulity is put to the test. The computer in question is at the School of Signals, and the reason for its temper—the figures for Corps recruiting—so rumour has it!

During the recruiting bulge the Depot Regiment opened a new Squadron to cater for the excess numbers involved. This Squadron was supposed to handle not more than 140 recruits at a time. This number steadily increased until the total number who had passed through the Squadron became a very debatable matter. An officer of the Depot Regiment estimated that the number was about 800, but this was regarded as an impossible figure by those in authority. The Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Jackson, who had been away on a computer course, thought it was a matter a computer could well solve. All relevant information was therefore fed into the computer at the School of Signals and the computer's verdict was awaited with eagerness. Result: Weird noises emanated from its depths and a flash as some of the components burnt out . . . and then silence. Now it is being repaired, and the verdict: Even a computer boggles at the number of recruits handled by the Depot Regiment!

* * *

Regimental Headquarters and particularly Association Headquarters is constantly inundated with requests for information and with problems of all sorts. This is fully recognised by the London General Post Office, who, a few days ago delivered a letter addressed "Universal Aunts, London," to this Headquarters with the Association mail.

We are happy to provide a service to members of the Corps, both serving and retired, and acknowledge the tribute paid us by the G.P.O. in deciding that if anyone is able to answer any query in London, it is the Regimental Headquarters of your Corps.

* * *

Our recently-joined historical officer has been busily engaged in writing up histories of Corps personalities.

Imagine his horror when he read in the final typed version of his research into the career of a distinguished retired Major-General the following:

> "It is obvious that a man who has been at the *pub* so often when important things were planned was not chosen without good reason."

Yet "P" and "H" are well spaced out on a typewriter.



Brigadier C. H. Stoneley, O.B.E., A.D.C.

VALE

BRIGADIER C. H. STONELEY, O.B.E., A.D.C.

CREW STONELEY, born in 1911, the son of T. C. Stoneley, Esq., of Braunton, Devon, was educated at Blundell's and the "Shop." He was commissioned into the Royal Corps in 1931 and attended 23 "Q" Course. On qualifying he served with 1st Divisional Signals at Aldershot until his secondment to the King's African Rifles in 1936.

He joined the Force Headquarters set up in East Africa in 1939 and took part in the invasion of Somaliland and Ethiopia, arriving in Addis Ababa in 1941. He was Mentioned in Despatches and was awarded the M.B.E. He then joined the staff of S.O.-in-C. Middle East until attending the Staff College at Haifa, where he later became one of the Directing Staff. In 1943 he returned to regimental duty as Second-in-Command 1st Divisional Signals in North Africa taking part in the landings at Anzio.

He joined the staff of The Allied Force Headquarters, becoming a Colonel in 1944 as D.C.S.O., but was fortunate to be selected to command 1st Divisional Signals from August of that year, throughout the remainder of the Italian Campaign and in 1945 took the Regiment to Palestine. He was awarded the O.B.E.

Then followed in succession a number of Staff appointments: G.S.O. 1 Training at the War Office 1945-48; G.S.O. 1 British Military Mission in Greece 1948-49; A.A. and Q.M.G. 1949-50, and G.S.O. 1 S.D. at H.Q. Middle East 1950-51. He also attended the Joint Services Staff College.

He returned to Signals in 1951 as C.S.O. London District, where he was responsible for the communications for the Coronation. In 1954 he returned to the Middle East as Colonel G.S. (Int.), becoming G.S.O. 1 Aldershot District in 1958. He was appointed Deputy Signal Officer-in-Chief in 1959, and A.D.C. to H.M. The Queen in 1960.

He became Deputy Commander of Singapore Base District from 1961 and in 1963 he began his last appointment, that of Commander Singapore Base Area.

Crew was a well known sportsman and had the distinction of representing Great Britain in both the short and medium distance hurdles events at the Olympic Games in 1934. His all-round ability was proved by his winning the 1st Australian Divisional Signals Cup in 1st Divisional Signals in the same year. This Cup was awarded to the best all-rounder of any rank at a competition which included swimming, driving, show jumping, rifle, revolver and cross country running. The first competition was held in 1934 and was fully reported in THE WIRE (1934/457).

Crew is thus a highly competent soldier in war and peace, and a sportsman of high repute. He has had a singularly successful career in the Corps and our good wishes go to him on his retirement.

Letters to the Editor

That 'C' Set again!

That 'C' Set is again making a headline. It has in fact become a Corps talking point. Readers of THE WIRE *will remember that in the March issue ex-S.S.M. J. H. Beswick, in an article in which he looked back to the past, made mention of our "secret weapon the 'C' set" and gave a description of the set in question.*

In the May issue a correspondent writing over the initials "H.V.W.," took Mr. Beswick to task a little. He wrote: "I have a sneaking feeling that the description is that of the old Marconi 500 watt rotary spark transmitter and receiver dating from circa 1914 and therefore much older . . ."

This correspondence has prompted Brigadier R. Chenevix Trench, C.B., O.B.E., M.C., *and Lieutenant-Colonel Horniman, Royal Signals, to write to the Editor as follows:*

Sir,

Mr. Beswick's letter in your March issue and H.V.W.s comment this month prompts me to draw on memories of distant and happy days. In 1925 and 1926 I had the honour to command the 3rd Divisional Signals at Bulford. We had 'C' sets in limbered wagons, and Mr. Beswick describes faultlessly, with admirable economy of words, the process of bringing them into action. Readers today may wonder how any wireless set could survive transport across country in the horse-drawn, springless, iron-tyred vehicles provided for them; but, as so often, the soldier found his own answer to the arrangements made for him by Authority. We mounted the sets on sorbo rubber balls.

Yours faithfully,
R. CHENEVIX TRENCH

Wood End, Studland,
Dorset.

Sir,

I have mislaid my March issue of THE WIRE but I am sure that Mr. Beswick is right about the 'C' Set. The U.K. pattern Mark I had a four-valve receiver using AR2 valves in spring holders on the front of the fibre panel. There was a separate heterodyne oscillator. It was powered by a 2 volt 16 AH accumulator and a 48 volt dry HT battery.

The sender used two AT 50 valves, filament and H.T. current for these being obtained, through a switchboard, from a Douglas engine driving a double voltage generator. This also provided charging current for the 2-volt accumulator. A Townsend wavemeter (300 to 4000 metres) was also provided.

I feel that 'H.V.W.' may be thinking of the Indian pattern 'C' Set. I think this was powered by a 6-volt accumulator driving a rotary converter. There was a separate engine-driven generator for charging.

The U.K. 'C' Set Station was carried in either a horse-drawn limber or a M.T. vehicle. In 'A' Section, 2nd Divisional Signals, in 1927 we received the new Morris six-wheeler. But the station had to be removed from the vehicle and set up on the ground using two 15 ft. masts and an earth net. It took about 15 minutes to erect and get through. That summer we did some tests keeping the set in the vehicle and using field cable poles as aerial supports. The lower half of one was lashed to the vehicle and remained there when moving. The time of getting through was reduced to five minutes.

The R.A.F. was ahead of us with vehicle-mounted sets in those days.

Yours faithfully,
W. D. HORNIMAN

58, Sturges Road,
Wokingham, Berks.

Obituary

BRIGADIER H. BARTLETT, C.B.E.

Harry Bartlett, educated at Bridgend and Cardiff University College, was a member of the Inns of Court O.T.C. in 1915. He was commissioned into R.F.A. in 1916 and was serving in France when he was seconded to the Army Signal Service in 1917. He was Mentioned in Despatches. He was with 2nd Signal Troop at Tidworth when he transferred to the Royal Corps in 1922. This Troop was serving with the 2nd Cavalry Brigade and one of the main problems was the carriage on pack or in wagons of wireless sets not designed for such movement.

From 1926-1931 he served with Egypt Signals and then joined 2nd Division Signals in Aldershot, becoming Adjutant in 1935. A period as Adjutant of 48th (South Midland) Divisional Signals (T.A.) followed, and in 1939 he joined 43rd (Wessex) Division Signals, becoming Commanding Officer in 1940.

After a short period as C.S.O., 1st Corps, in 1942, he was appointed C S.O., H.Q., 125 Force, and in 1943, as a Brigadier, he became Second-in-Command of No. 220 Military Mission. This Mission was concerned with co-operation in the Pacific, and during 1943-44 Harry Bartlett was moving between Great Britain, Canada, U.S.A., Australia, New Zealand, India and Burma.

He became C.S.O., XXX Corps in 1944, until becoming a prisoner-of-war in Holland. After the war he was C.S.O., Hamburg, and then D.C.S.O, B.A.O.R.; his last appointment being C.S.O., British Troops in Egypt. He retired in 1949 and died in 1964. He was awarded the C.B.E. in 1946.

Harry was a colourful personality. His work with the Lethbridge Commission was outstanding and as C.S.O. XXX Corps he was in inspiration in the last days of the war in Europe.

The tribute received by the Editor and printed below sums him up from the viewpoint of one who served under him.

An Appreciation

To The Editor THE WIRE

Sir,

It was with profound regret that I learned of the passing of Brigadier Harry Bartlett.

I came under his influence as a young soldier in No. 2 (Reserve) Signal Troop, R.W., which he commanded as a Gunner Captain in 1921. His guidance and conduct undoubtedly laid the foundation of my own moderately successful military career.

He was proud of his Troop, and we who served under him were proud to be members of his first command.

The Signal Troop was an integral part of the 2nd Cavalry Brigade, and during the emergence of wireless telegraphy in the Army, Harry Bartlett had the most difficult task of supplying signal communications between Cavalry Regiments in the field with wireless sets not designed to be humped about on the back of horses, or jolted across Salisbury Plain in horse-drawn G.S. limber wagons.

His never-failing good temper under often trying conditions epitomised for me the true officer and gentleman.

If this small tribute should appear in THE WIRE and be seen by any ex-member of "E" Troop, 1921-1925, I shall be pleased to hear from them. I left the Corps in France in 1940, when I transferred to R.A.O.C., but I have never forgotten or regretted my early association with the Royal Corps.

Yours faithfully,

H. COLGAN, (*Lieutenant-Colonel Rtd.*), *R.A.O.C.*

The Malt House,
Newent, Gloucester.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL G. U. FINNEY

Gerald Finney, born 1908, was educated at Campbell College and "The Shop." He joined the Royal Corps in 1929. He served in Kohat District Signals from 1934-1940, where he was a valuable forward in the unit hockey side.

During World War II he served in Egypt, Paiforce and the Sudan. He commanded Egypt Command Signals from 1949-1951. He died in May, 1964.

He was a well-known and popular officer in his day, and he will be missed by many of his contemporaries.

Fifty Years of Service

Major (Retd.) G. R. Price, M.B.E.

ON 23rd July of this year George Redvers (Ted) Price will complete fifty years' service with the Army as Boy, Soldier, Warrant Officer and Retired Officer.

Ted was born on 12th November, 1899, and enlisted in the Royal Engineers as a Boy Trumpeter on 23rd July, 1914. He gained sufficient height and weight to qualify for man's service in November, 1917. After a spell in Egypt in the early 1920s he returned to "A" Corps Signals in the United Kingdom and from there moved to 3 Divisional Signals, Bulford, where he was promoted Warrant Officer in May, 1930.

His next trip East was to India in 1933 where he was appointed R.Q.M.S. in "A" Corps Signals (India) in 1936, where he was known as "Kitna." He was promoted to R.S.M. with 2 Indian Divisional Signals later the same year. Having completed over five years in India he returned to Aldershot late in 1938 and was commissioned a Lieutenant (Q.M.) in June, 1939.

As Quartermaster to 3 Divisional Signals in the B.E.F. he found himself acting as Adjutant and then as Second-in-Command. Only two years after commissioning he was posted as Adjutant of 1 Holding Battalion S.T.C. and in 1942 he was again promoted and spent four years with the School of Signals.

1946 took him to H.Q. British Troops Palestine as G.S.O. 2 (Signals) and here again he was involved in an evacuation.

London saw him for the rest of his Regular Service during which he served with War Office Signals, as a Staff Officer in the War Office and finally in the Signal Reporting Regiment.

Awarded the M.B.E. and Mentioned in Despatches

During his Regular Service he was awarded the M.B.E. for services in Palestine and twice Mentioned in Despatches.

He retired on 12th November, 1954, but the same day started work as an R.O. with H.Q. 1 A A. Group. Six weeks later he moved to C.S.O.'s Branch H.Q. Eastern Command where he still serves. Now over 65, he looks and acts as a man fifteen years younger and works as long hours as any man half his age.

The above narrative, bald though it is, gives a good indication of the experience and calibre of Ted Price.

Despite the pressure under which he has always worked himself he has found time to play golf and, although his handicap is somewhat higher than he cares to admit, he is as in everything an enthusiast and frequently helps to make up Corps or Command teams.

His very wide knowledge of staff work, both Army and Civil Service, and his shrewd judgement of people and situations are combined with a helpful approach which is outstanding. There can be few Units of the Territorial Army in the U.K., or of the Regular Army in Eastern Command, who have not been helped by Ted at some time or other. His Q.M.'s craft, combined with a knowledge of how to circumnavigate regulations continuously produce things out of a hat which appears to be empty.

No one has served the Corps better or deservedly made more friends than Ted Price.

He may retire finally next year (though it is a brave man who would make a firm prophesy) and he is already refurbishing, and in part rebuilding, his house at Ealing. The Corps, which owes him such a debt, will wish him well.

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COMCAN provides all strategic communications for the Army on a 24-hour Network linking all Commonwealth bases from Ottawa through U.K., the Mediterranean, Middle East and Far East to Melbourne. Those who at one time or another have served in COMCAN will remember large transmitting stations humming with power, receiver stations surrounded by estates of Rhombic aerials, and tape relay centres, hives of shift work activity where incoming signals are retransmitted with the minimum of delay. Above all they will know that although in no sense a private army, COMCAN by its very nature is a cohesive whole bound together by a common communications effort. To others COMCAN may be unfamiliar territory, an organisation into which various people disappear from time to time, only to emerge with strange cries on their lips such as F.F.D., S.S.B., Routing Indicators, Z.D.K., and the like. But today these cries are not so strange. Field techniques are fast catching up with those pioneered on the "long haul" circuits. The main difference is that COMCAN deals in kilowatts because its links are seldom less than 1,000 miles.

The Wire's visit finds COMCAN facing a challenging new era. This new era will be one of increased technical development; it will also be one in which the equivalent Networks run by the Navy and the R.A.F. join COMCAN in providing a Joint Strategic Network for the new Ministry of Defence.

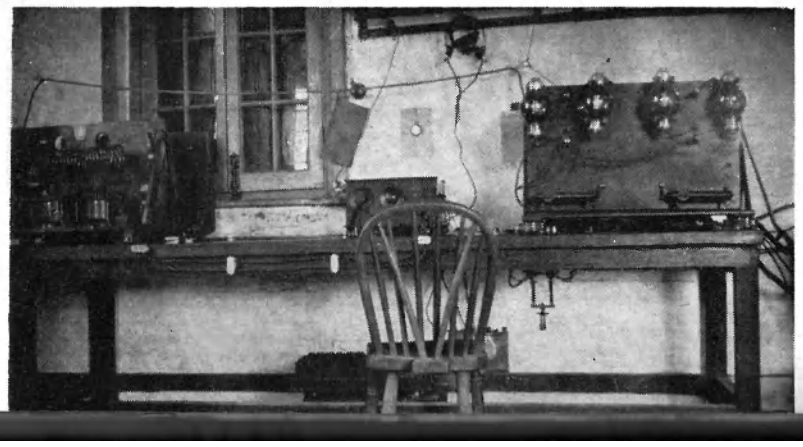
History

Before looking at COMCAN as it is today a brief look at its past will be of interest. Many years ago, longer than even some old soldiers can remember, there existed a small Army Network of wireless stations linking U.K. with Egypt, India and China. The equipment was simple, almost crude, and the number of messages passed over the Network was not very large. In some cases the equipment in use was designed and constructed by the Royal Signals officer on the spot; communications was by manual morse. In fact, those were the days when morse operating was indeed a craft and the old hands would recognise each other at 25 words a minute by the quality and rhythm of their styles. It was generally held to be a "good posting" when anyone found himself going to one of these wireless stations, and even if there were frustrating periods when atmospheric conditions defeated the skill and devotion of technicians and operators alike, the Army Wireless Chain was in being!

Like so many other things, the Army Strategic Communications Network developed greatly during the 1939-45 war and had obviously come to stay. Wherever large numbers of troops were stationed Royal Signals set up communications, while in most cases the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force set up their own strategic communications in the same stations. Integration

THE COMCAN SCENE, 1930

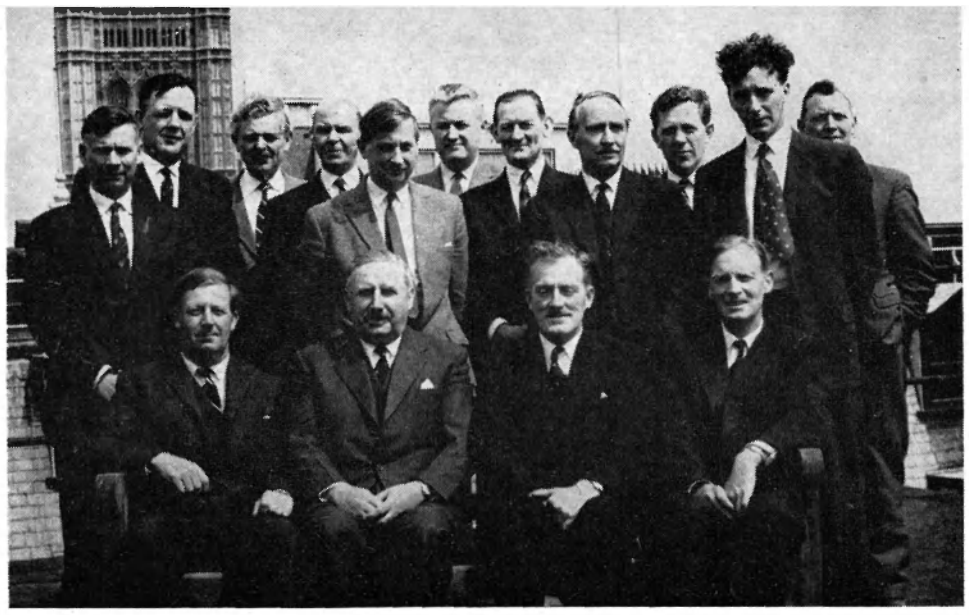
Wireless Station, Hong Kong



Transportable Set, Hong Kong



HEADQUARTERS STAFF COMCAN



This picture of H.Q. Comcan staff was taken on the roof of Headquarters situated in Westminster. The building in the background is the Victoria Tower of the Houses of Parliament.

From Left to Right:

W.O.II Perry, Lieutenant Lees, Major Pearson, Major Donaghy, Mr. Shore, Mr. Stubbs, Lieutenant-Colonel (Retd) Buckeridge, Major (Retd) Saunders, Major Lott, Mr. Dilworth, Mr. Furze. (Seated) Major Waller, Lieutenant-Colonel Lonnon, Colonel West (C.S.O.), Major Allaway.

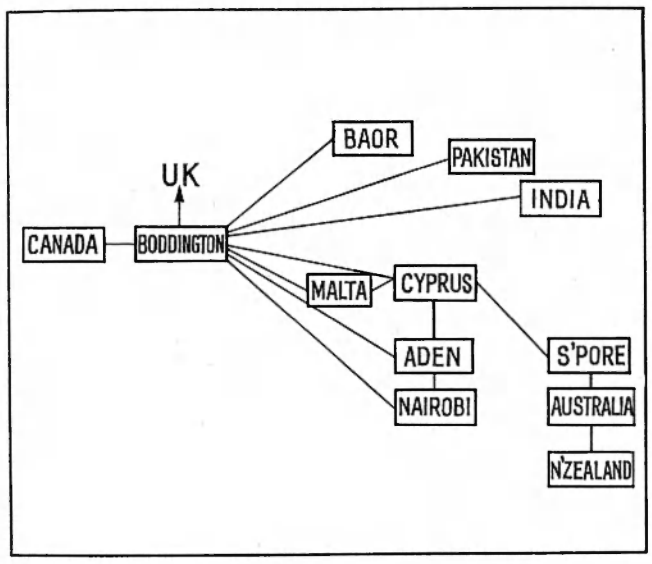
had not yet been heard of and, in fact, the decision that each Service should maintain its own strategic network had been made at the highest level.

The designation Commonwealth Communications Army Network (COMCAN) was introduced in 1952 to conform with Anglo/American terminology and the old title Army Wireless Chain was dropped. The Army Network developed until a stage was reached when the system had become too complex to be organised and controlled by the Signals Directorate working through a COMCAN Co-ord Group. It was decided that a C.S.O. and H.Q. staff should be established, and on 1st January, 1962, C.S.O. and H.Q. COMCAN came into being. The new organisation became fully effective on 1st June, 1962, the first C.S.O. being Colonel (now Brigadier) R. G. Miller, who left to become Chairman E.M.C.C.C. on 29th October, 1963. The present C.S.O. is Colonel J. R. West.

Headquarters

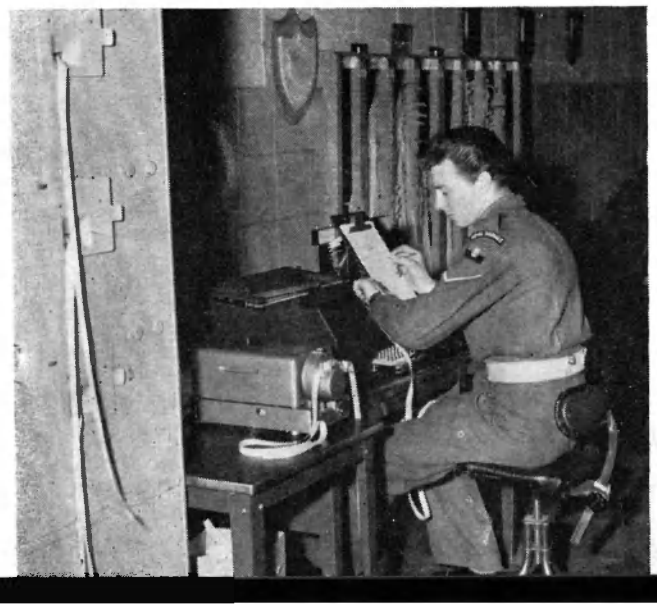
H.Q. COMCAN is situated in Kings Buildings, Dean Stanley Street, off Millbank. The staff shown in the photograph, which was taken on top of this building, cover all aspects of management from the study of new techniques and installations to the manning and supervision of the daily operation of the Network. Employed throughout the Network are an almost equal number of Royal Signals and civilians and a lesser number of W.R.A.C. The staff maintains constant liaison with the other two Services, the Civil Ministries, Industry, and those Commonwealth countries that participate in the Network.

The Network



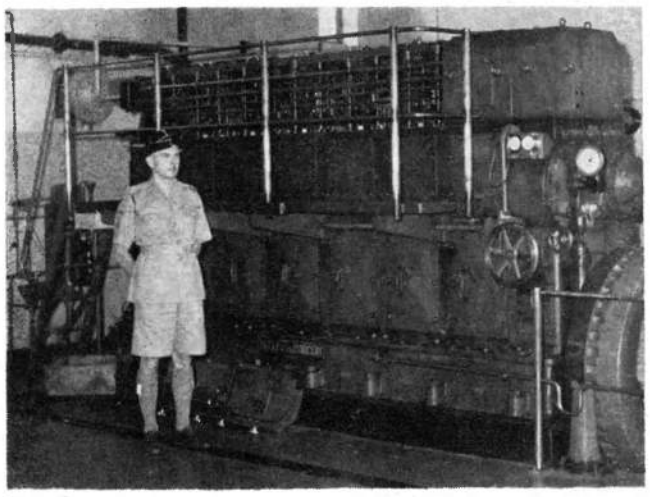
Space does not permit showing the complete Network of COMCAN stations but the important tape relay centres are shown in the above diagram.

Tape Factory Operator preparing duplicate copies of tape for simultaneous transmission to more than one addressee



A Radio Technician tuning the final stage of an E10 Transmitter. This set is big enough to walk about inside





Not Battersea Power Station, but the power supply for a COMCAN Station overseas. Major P. D. Mootham (Installation) Troop in the foreground

COMCAN Units

Each of these stations can be regarded from a theatre point of view as a gateway into the Strategic Network. The Commonwealth countries man their own stations; Aden and Nairobi are manned by the Royal Air Force. C.S.O. COMCAN exercises direct control over the four units listed below but in addition he sets the operating and technical standards for the whole Network.

14th Regiment (Lieutenant- Colonel D. B. Emley) with H.Q. at Gloucester, a Squadron at Droitwich responsible for transmitters and one at Bampton for receivers, and the largest Squadron for the tape relay centre at Boddington. This Regiment also administers the COMCAN Installation Troop who carry out all major installations in the United Kingdom and overseas and have a most interesting technical job with frequent changes of scenery.

235 Squadron (Major M. W. Pollard) is stationed in Malta, where it assists with the theatre links to Benghazi and Tripoli in addition to being responsible for the long haul circuits.

259 Squadron (Major I. Gram-Hansen) is in Cyprus where it has more than maintained its high reputation during the past few months and its expeditious handling of traffic has been acknowledged by the Canadian contingent of the United Nations Force in Cyprus. In addition to its local tasks this Squadron provides the main relay station for the U.K.-Singapore circuit.

237 Squadron (Major J. B. Prince) is at Singapore; this Squadron is the gatekeeper for the Far East Network, the biggest network outside U.K. and B.A.O.R. The Squadron is involved with the provision of the joint link to Labuan and has assisted with the installation of the Far East Joint Signal Centre.

COMCAN Stations

For nearly all COMCAN links H.F. wireless is the main means of transmission. The normal COMCAN station consists of three separate sites : a transmitter station, a receiver station, and a tape relay centre. The separation between sites is about ten miles; in some cases it is less, but in the United Kingdom it is much more. This separation, although unavoidable for technical reasons, presents a number of administrative problems not the least of which is the transportation of shift workers from the living accommodation which may be in yet another location.

For more than a decade the Network has been working to the same general pattern and with the same type of equipment. Transmitter stations are mostly equipped with the Marconi E10 30 kilowatt S.S.B. transmitter and receiver stations with dual diversity S.S.B. receivers (dual diversity means that the best incoming signal is selected from two receivers each fed by a separately positioned Rhombic aerial). Each S.S.B. link is equipped to provide six telegraph channels; as many of these channels as are required are terminated in the tape relay centre.

The tape relay centre itself is a form of message exchange. The incoming message is received on a perforated tape. The operator looks at the routing instructions and transfers the tape across the floor of the traffic hall to the appropriate send position where it is transmitted over the next stage of its journey. With an eye to the future when Telegraph Automatic Relay Equipment will dispense with the manual handling of tapes, this is now known as a " Torn Tape " Centre because of the action of the tearing off of the message tape from the reel when it is received.

The COMCAN system is working 24 hours a day without a break, the load normally being shared between four equal shifts of operators and technicians who are boosted from a reserve pool during particularly busy periods. The centres of activity are to be found in the tape relay room presided over by a Duty Signal Officer, the H.S.T. room where electronic technicians have their own problems, the system control where a Foreman of Signals or a senior technician takes charge of all engineering, and the transmitter and receiving stations where the frequency changing and other technical functions are carried out.

Amongst the trades there have been many changes since the days of the instrument mechanics and the operator signals. Nowadays the majority of Signal trades are to be found in COMCAN; in fact, all except radio technicians (light), radio operators, cipher operators and cable jointers.

The Daily Problems

Although the system is working continuously it would be unrealistic to say that no circuit was ever out of order or that every message is retransmitted the minute it is received. This is the problem COMCAN faces daily. With long distance H.F. wireless all links are affected to a greater or lesser extent daily by variations in the ionosphere which will at times necessitate a change of frequency. With present equipment this takes time and the correct moment to change frequency becomes a matter of fine judgement. The H.F. band itself is heavily congested by all sorts of other users and despite the best efforts of International co-operation, no frequency can be guaranteed free of interference—this is a world-wide problem. Then again messages do not arrive in an even flow; they are geared to the working hours of the H.Q.s concerned and these hours vary across the world. For instance, when the morning session in Singapore is well under way and messages are piling into their Comcentre most people in England are still in bed. Finally, in a sophisticated Network such as this, a signal between two relay centres has to pass through about twelve or more different items of equipment and countless jackfields. Equipment faults are bound to occur from time to time, and the efficiency of the system depends on the technical staff being able to isolate and rectify these faults with a minimum of delay.

The inherent weaknesses of H F. wireless, traffic peak loads and performance of equipment are the main problems that COMCAN battles with every day of the year. Moreover it is



W.O.II (Y. of S.) R. Reid seated at the Supervisors Control Console of the Telegraph Automatic Routing Equipment. (Strad). Major R. S. Cathmoir standing

a battle conducted on a large scale; last year the Network carried 4,386,000 messages. It is the effort to overcome these problems that binds station to station and binds the Network as a cohesive whole.

The New Technical Era

The present decade is passing; a new technical era is on the way. The focal point of the new era will be STRAD, the Telegraph Automatic Relay Equipment now installed in Boddington and referred to by the Signal Officer-in-Chief in his recent review of Corps affairs.

A full account of the equipment will shortly appear in the Royal Signals Institution Journal. STRAD is a revolutionary concept for COMCAN; it replaces the largest torn tape relay centre in the Network and conducts automatically all operations that were previously carried out manually. The equipment receives all incoming messages and stores them in a central "memory store." At the same time other parts of the equipment are at work noting the address, precedence and security classification, searching for the outgoing channel and when this is clear selecting a message from the "incoming store," and transmitting it to line. This is the story in the barest outline; there are many other functions carried out in a torn tape centre that have had to be written into STRAD—dealing with channel numbers to quote only one example. Apart from saving manpower STRAD provides much faster traffic handling and is the forerunner of similar equipments which eventually will replace other torn tape centres in the Network. STRAD can do practically everything except think for itself; it cannot cope with a wrongly prepared message and a mistake in the first four lines of format or in the ending will cause a message to be rejected to a rejection teleprinter position. Because of this a drive on message preparation has recently been instigated. The installation at Boddington is now complete and it is hoped to have STRAD fully operational on all circuits in a year's time.

With STRAD as the focal point, the other equipments now being produced are an ingenious Error Detection and Correction system, known as E.D.C., and an improved channelling equipment (HL13/14) which is compatible with E.D.C. In the not too distant future it is hoped to introduce automatically tuned transmitters and receivers capable of being remotely controlled, ionospheric sounders giving an up-to-the-minute assessment of the transmission path—as opposed to a previous prediction—and a range of quality control instruments to give technicians the power to anticipate circuit failure and take action before it happens.

This new technical era leads into satellites which eventually will most probably be the main means of conducting world-wide communications. As the Signal Officer-in-Chief has indicated, Royal Signals through COMCAN will have a stake in satellite communications from the beginning—and here indeed is a challenge.

Integration

The other aspect of the new era is the integration of the three Service Networks into a single Strategic Defence Network. This is a logical consequence of bringing the three Services together under the Ministry of Defence.

Integration will be achieved by evolution over the years, the problems are too great for it to happen overnight. Already over the past few years the Networks have been moving, almost without noticing, in this direction; they pass their messages over each other's links according to an agreed procedure and often work direct to each other as is now the case with the U.K.-Nairobi link which is manned by the Army in U.K. and the R.A.F. in Nairobi. It is not yet clear how the evolutionary progress towards integration will affect COMCAN. One thing is certain, the Army will be taking its fair share of the task. Moreover, this task is increasing; more messages are being written, more use will be made of data transmissions; also, the new Ministry of Defence is taking a more direct control over operations and this control depends entirely on good communications.

A good example of the integration of systems that has already taken place is COMCAN's use of the Commonwealth Pacific Telephone Cable which connects Australia, New Zealand, Fiji and Canada. COMCAN has an exclusive circuit in this system linking Boddington and Singapore, the last leg between Australia and Singapore being provided by Royal Australian Signals via H.F. radio. From Boddington a signal goes to the London Telecommunication Centre, thence by the Trans-Atlantic submarine cable to Montreal and across Canada by microwave. At Vancouver it again enters a submarine cable and passes through Honolulu, Suva and Auckland to Sydney. At Sydney it is extended to Melbourne where Royal Australian Signals take it up and pass it to Singapore. The Boddington-Singapore circuit thus provided is a great success. Operating on a 24-hour basis it gives some 80 per cent. service and considering the hazards that affect communications the availability is very satisfactory.

Back to the Present

And so back to the present. As you read this article there is a shift on duty in every COMCAN station throughout the world; the power is on, meters are registering, machines are clicking, messages are passing. COMCAN is at work doing a job in which its members take a justifiable pride—a job with quite a future.

The Foreman does his Rounds

By Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) M. Langford.
3rd Regiment

WE have all heard of the "flying doctor." Now we have the "flying foreman"—a new development in the Royal Corps' numerous responsibilities!

Wednesday, 27th May, saw the dawn of a new era in "M" Troop transport with the inauguration of a fortnightly helicopter service taking a Radio Technician around the five main outstations on the Command net to inspect and check the sets. **To do this, using convential road transport, would have entailed a journey of about 250 miles and would have taken about 2½ days. By using helicopter the whole servicing programme was completed in a single morning.**

The helicopter, a Scout, piloted by Captain A. C. Corner, R.A., with F. of S. Langford and Lance-Corporal White aboard, left H.Q., UNFICYP at 08.05 hours. After a very smooth flight across the central plain of Cyprus it arrived at Wolftone Camp, Famagusta, at 08.30 hours. This Camp is the H.Q. of 40th Irish Battalion and they were just marching off their parade ground after their morning works parade. It is just as well that they had finished the parade, since the helicopter landing pad is in the centre of the parade ground. We were welcomed with typical Irish hospitality, the pilot being taken straight to the Officers' Mess for a cup of tea, and the other two members of the party being treated to the same welcome refreshment on completion of their task.

Much refreshed, we next set course for Anzio Camp, Dhekelia. This was only a 10-minute flight and at 09.15 hours we were in the 1st Inniskilling Fusiliers' radio room. On landing at Anzio, an immaculately turned out Provost Sergeant came marching over to meet the "chopper," obviously under the impression that he had overlooked a scheduled visit by the Force Commander, or some other high ranking officer. The look of disgust on his face when a Staff Sergeant and a Lance-Corporal stepped out was really funny!

The next unit to receive our attention was the Life Guards at Limassol. We touched down at 10.20 hours, having had a very good view of the monastery of Stavrovouni on the way. This ancient monastery is located on the summit of an isolated peak approximately 2,500 feet above sea level. Although only accessible by road with great difficulty via a tortuous mountain road, the car park is clearly marked! Polemidhia Camp was found to be practically deserted when we arrived, but I think that the fact that it was the middle of the NAAFI break had a lot to do with this. However, we were able to locate a Guardsman in the radio room who took us to the spot on the other side of the Camp where the set was located and unlocked the door. What a life! Of the 25 minutes spent at this Camp,

18 were spent in going to the set and back, two minutes checking it and five minutes for a smoke before continuing.

From Polemidhia we flew to Ktima via Aphrodite's birthplace, two huge rocks just off the coast. Here the 3rd Swedish Company requested help to get their C43 working, although they were on the net with an alternative set. However, the set was found to be perfectly serviceable, the fault being in the aerial system. After giving some advice regarding this, we set off again for the last outstation, the 24th Swedish Battalion at Xeros. On this leg of the journey we had to climb to about 4,700 feet to get over the foothills of Mount Olympus. The trip back from Xeros to Nicosia was uneventful and a smooth flight down the plain at just over 100 miles per hour and we touched down at H.Q., UNFICYP at 12.55 hours, having completed the trip in a total time of 4 hours 50 minutes.

A Cameo from British Guiana

Easter in the Rupununi

By 'Tourist' *

GEORGETOWN is a pleasant town situated on the coast at the estuary of the Demerara River. Unfortunately, the sea and beaches are muddy and cannot be used either for swimming or sun bathing. The road system in British Guiana is not extensive and the roads that do exist soon become laterite tracks. Because of the limitations, a change from Georgetown is always welcome. Therefore I did not need much persuading when a friend suggested that we should go to the Rupununi at Easter to stay on a ranch. The advertisement for the week-end killed any doubts I had—it promised swimming, shooting, fishing, riding and, as a highlight to the week-end a "Wild West Rodeo."

The Rupununi district of British Guiana is situated in the south and south-west of the country and is an area of vast open plains. It is split into two by the Kanuku Mountains. The district is the great cattle producing area and is split into a number of large ranches. Although the ranches are large, the herds of cattle are small, compared with those of ranches of similar size in other parts of the world. This is because the grass is poor in quality and sparse.

A Storm and a Bumpy Flight

I left Georgetown on the Thursday afternoon to catch the plane at Atkinson Field, the airport for British Guiana. After a delay of an hour, I emplaned on the Dakota that was to take me to the Piarara Ranch, which is situated on a river of the same name 210 miles from Georgetown. The route followed the Demerara River to Mackenzie, which is a Bauxite mining town. It is in this area that one sees the beautiful sapphire blue lakes set in silver sand. After the mud of the coastline, these lakes look particularly inviting. After Mackenzie, our flight continued in a south-westerly direction until we crossed the Essequibo River, over 600 miles in length, and the Iwokrama Mountains. Whilst crossing the mountains we ran into a storm. This produced a bumpy flight, but after a short time the weather cleared and normal conditions were enjoyed again.

After an hour and twenty minutes, the plane touched down at the ranch. The advertisement had said that the plane would land near the ranch; this was almost an understatement, for when we finally deplaned, it was discovered that there was only a twenty-yard walk from the plane to the ranch house. The Hart family, who own the ranch, welcomed us to their home. After introductions, sorting out the luggage and arranging hammocks and camp beds on the verandah of the house, tea was produced. Between tea and dinner there was time to look at the ranch buildings, the Piarara River, about thirty yards from the house, and to meet some of the Amerindian ranch-hands.

International Party

After dinner the party adjourned to the bar, which the Harts had so thoughtfully arranged in one of the outhouses. This proved to be an asset, although by the Monday, the beer served was warm, as the ice brought on our plane had melted. Our discussion in the bar continued late into the night as we exchanged experiences gained on five continents. The experiences were most interesting, as the party included an American Vice-Consul who had served for a number of years in Ghana and the Congo, two civil engineers, who had served in Hong Kong and India, and a bank manager with experience of Malaysia.

Cowboys

Although the Rupununi is hotter than Georgetown during the day, at night it is cooler; therefore it was very pleasant to use a blanket again after several months of sleeping with the minimum of bed clothes to keep cool. I awoke early, and after a shave decided it would be pleasant to have a pre-breakfast swim. After breakfast I decided it was time to select a horse and explore some of the countryside around the ranch. This was an enjoyable, but at times uncomfortable experience, as the saddles used by the cowboys seemed to have numerous buckles that dug into one in the most awkward places. The local cowboys, although they wear leather leggings with small spurs attached to them, do not wear shoes or boots. They grip the side of the stirrup irons between the fourth and fifth toes. I did not try this feat, as I did not want to be crippled for the rest of my holiday. The only excitement on this ride was when a snake crossed the track; fortunately, he (perhaps she) did not wish to see who I was.

We Visit Brazil

On my return to the ranch I was just in time to join a group which was being taken to Brazil by Ben Hart, one of our hosts. At its nearest point, the border of Brazil is only five miles from the Piarara Ranch. We followed a laterite road for about two miles before turning off across the open savannah to the River Ireng. The last mile was on foot through a patch of jungle. At the river we were met by a very leaky boat paddled by two small boys. On the Brazilian side we made our way to a small homestead where we were greeted by the farmer, his wife and about fourteen or fifteen girls. We were assured by our host that they did not all belong to the farmer! As none of the Brazilians spoke English, conversation was a little strained; however, our host acted as interpreter. The farmer produced an excellent cup of coffee. Eventually, after suitable signs, bows and handshakes, we returned to the Piarara Ranch for lunch.

In the afternoon we made another trip to Brazil. This time we crossed the border at a point about thirty miles from Piarara. Our crossing was by boat again, this time there were less leaks. Once in Brazil we made our way to a trading post owned by an ex-diamond prospector. In addition, he owned a large ranch. Unfortunately, his shop did not have any suitable souvenirs, and although the owner had encouraged us to buy local shirts and sweets by plying us with vermouth and coffee, we left empty-handed. By the time we had crossed back into British Guiana it was dark, this enabled us to see the most impressive sight of a bush fire raging on the horizon. My visits to Brazil had nothing to do with the revolution which started later that week.

Rodeo

The highlight of the holiday was on the Saturday, when our hosts took us to a rodeo at Lethem, the local administrative centre. The programme included an archery contest between Amerindian bowmen, steer roping, bronco-busting, barrel racing, which is very similar to bending, and display riding. Some of the falls reminded me of the Y.O.'s riding tests at Catterick. The day's activity was completed by a straightforward race. Although there were bookmakers and a paddock, it seemed, however, to lack the sophistication of Catterick Bridge. The day was completed by a very amusing and enjoyable dance.

During the remaining two days of the holiday there were many other amusing and interesting experiences, such as discovering alligators in the river we used for swimming, and seeing and giving chase to an ant-bear, which seemed very annoyed at being disturbed whilst eating his breakfast. In the quiet periods, which were not very many, it was enjoyable to be reading in a hammock strung between giant mango trees which provided magnificent shade.

The holiday was interesting, the hosts most hospitable, but unfortunately it was far too short to see the whole ranch, which covered over 400 square miles and had 4,000 head of cattle. I left with an invitation to return, but unfortunately, as my tour is rapidly coming to an end, I doubt if I will be able to accept it. However, it is a holiday I will not forget for a long time.

* *Is the pseudonym of a member of Royal Signals stationed at Georgetown, British Guiana.—Editor.*



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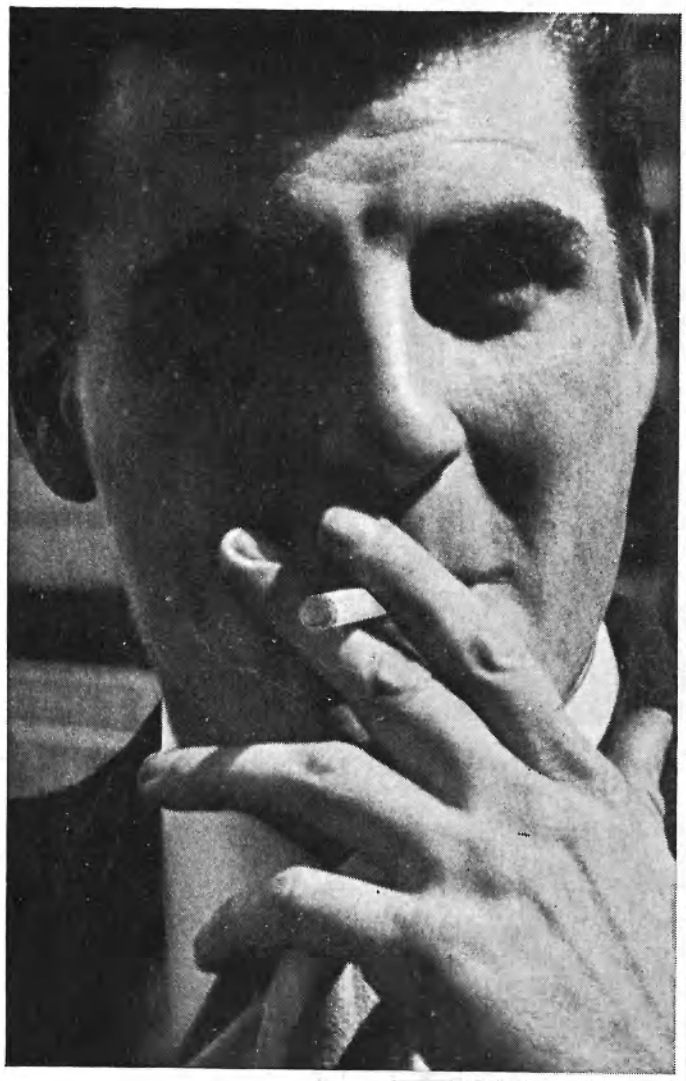
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Our Colonel in Chief's Birthday

The Representative Colonel Commandant received the following gracious message from her Royal Highness, the Princess Royal, on the 27th April:—

Very many thanks for sending me a Greetings Telegram for my birthday. I appreciate very much the good wishes of all Ranks of my Corps, and ask you to convey to them my grateful thanks for their thought of me.

Yours sincerely,

MARY

Granting of Freedom of entry to the Borough of Richmond to the Corps

THE Royal Corps of Signals is to be accorded the Freedom of the Borough of Richmond on 17th August. The Colonel-in-Chief has graciously consented to attend the ceremony, which is to be held on the Richmond Cricket Ground on the morning of the 17th August.

Spectators will be welcome, but those who would like to attend (Officers or Other Ranks, serving or retired) are asked to apply to the Regimental Secretary at R.H.Q. Royal Signals as early as possible, in any case not later than 1st August.

Lunch for all who attend will be available in one of the various Signal Messes of the Garrison and very limited accommodation can also be offered for the night if required.

Personal Column

COURAGE AND DEVOTION TO DUTY

A salute to Lance-Corporal Peter West recently awarded the Queen's Commendation for Brave Conduct in the Aden operations for "his courage and devotion, on 3rd March, 1964, near Danaba, in voluntarily going forward under heavy enemy fire to repair a ground to air radio. The success of his action permitted the extrication of a patrol from a dangerous situation."

London Gazette

REGULAR ARMY

Capt. L. G. D. Baker from A.E. Res. of Offrs. to be Capt., 28th March, 1963.
Capt. M. W. Simms-Reeve to be Maj., 9th February, 1964.
Lt. P. Valder to be Capt., 13th May.
Maj. P. J. C. Lloyd retired on 15th May, 1964.
Capt. J. G. Crowe to be Maj., 16th May, 1964.
Capt. (T.O.T.) W. R. Hefferon retired, 4th April, 1964.
Lt. (Q.M.) D. Maggillivray from Short Serv. Comm. to be Lt. (Q.M.), 17th January, 1964.
Maj. S. L. Kemp retired, 31st May, 1964.
Lt. (T.O.T.) P. W. Foakes to be Capt. (T.O.T.), 28th May, 1964.
2/Lt. A. W. Low resigned his comm., 20th May, 1964.

SHORT SERVICE COMMISSION

Hon. Capt. R. C. Roberts to be Capt., 1st April, 1964.
W.O.I F. W. Taylor to be Lt. (Tfc. Offr.), 13th April, 1964.
W.O.I J. Daw, B.E.M., to be 2/Lt., 27th April, 1964.
W.O.II G. A. Granger to be Lt., 27th April, 1964.

TERRITORIAL ARMY

Maj. F. R. Goulden resigned his comm., 1st April, and was re-granted the hon. rank of Major.
Capt. E. A. Richardson to be Major, 1st April, 1964.
Lt. C. G. Washington to be Capt., 1st April, 1964.
Lt. G. J. Malcolm to be Capt., 1st April, 1964.
Capt. (T.O.T.) J. O. Wood to be Major (T.O.T.), 7th April, 1964.
Maj. A. D. Hewitt, T.D., to be Lt.-Col., 1st April, 1964.

Movements — Officers

(*15th June to 14th July*, 1964)

Captain R. I. F. Amos	...	To 217 Squadron
Major J. A. Baker	...	,, H.Q., B.A.O.R.
Lieutenant G. D. Birch	...	,, Jun. Tradesmen's Regt., Rhyl
Captain B. A. Blackwell	...	,, R.M.A., Sandhurst
Captain H. M. Bonaker	...	,, 1st Regiment
Major C. O. Bound	...	,, 1st Regiment
Lieutenant R. F. L. Cook	...	,, 1st Regiment
Major (Q.M.) A. E. Cooper	...	,, 231 Squadron
Second-Lieutenant M. J. Cartwright	...	,, 21st Regiment
Major J. R. E. Cross	...	,, 21st Regiment
Major J. R. Ellis	...	,, 10th Regiment
Major S. A. Frost	...	,, 4th Regiment
Captain A. J. Field	...	,, H.Q., Northern Command
Major J. A. D. Francis	...	,, U.S. Command and Staff College Course,
Major M. E. Golding	...	,, Air Force Signal Staff, Malta.
Second-Lieutenant G. W. Howard	...	,, 8th Regiment
Lieutenant A. W. de V. Hunt	...	,, 30th Regiment
Captain J. B. Halford	...	,, 602 Troop
Major D. Hall	...	,, 51 (H) Regiment (T.A.)
Lieutenant R. A. H. Houghton	...	,, 11th Regiment
Lieutenant (Q.M.) R. E. Howard	...	,, 8th Regiment
Lieutenant W. A. C. Kennedy	...	,, 21st Regiment
Major (Q.M.) V. W. G. King	...	,, 4th Regiment
Major G. F. Lowe	...	,, SHAPE (BAE)
Captain G. H. Morgan	...	,, 24th Regiment
Lieutenant R. F. Maynard	...	,, 2nd Regiment
Lieutenant N. C. Muir	...	,, Jun. Tradesmen's Regt., Troon
Captain K. H. Olds	...	,, 18th Regiment
Captain M. J. Pickard	...	,, Ministry of Defence
Major (T.O.T.) J. Pollard	...	,, 628 Troop
Major J. R. T. Paterson	...	,, 7th Regiment
Major (Q.M.) R. N. Richmond	...	,, 245 Squadron
Captain S. W. Read	...	,, 8th Regiment
Lieutenant-Colonel W. D. S. Renton		,, R.A.C. Centre, Bovington
Lieutenant-Colonel J. E. P. Sampson		,, 11th Regiment (H.S.)
Major (T.O.T.) F. Speakes	...	,, 233 Squadron
Major G. W. A. Stephenson	...	,, 228 Squadron
Major M. W. Simms-Reeve	...	,, H.Q., M.E. Comd.
Major J. T. Treglown	...	,, 234 Squadron
Captain D. Turner	...	,, H.Q., A.A.F.C.E.
Captain P. A. Talbot	...	,, H.Q., 1 (BR) Corps
Captain G. W. Tacey	...	,, 21st Regiment
Lieutenant E. C. Vulliamy	...	,, 2nd Regiment
Lieutenant (Q.M.) T. Walker	...	,, 3rd Regiment
Captain J. H. Wheeler	...	,, R.A.C. Centre

Movements — Warrant Officers and Sergeants, July, 1964

W.O.I (F. of S.) E. M. Frost	...	To 252 Squadron
W.O.I (F. of S.) H. Davies	...	,, H.Q., A.E.R.
W.O.II C. Cooke	...	,, 14th Regiment (1 Squadron)
W.O.II R. E. Smithard	...	,, 16th Regiment
W.O.II H. E. Wright	...	,, 263 Squadron
W.O.II G. L. Jackson	...	,, 22nd Regiment
W.O.II T. D. Hammill	...	,, 255 Squadron
W.O.II C. D. Edgar	...	,, 651 Troop
W.O.II B. Adcock	...	,, 16th Regiment
W.O.II E. W. Johnson	...	,, H.Q., B.A.O.R.
W.O.II T. Ash	...	,, Trucial Oman Scouts
W.O.II J. E. P. Upfield	...	,, 42nd Regiment (T.A.)
A/W.O.II B. D. Horton	...	,, 21st Regiment
W.O.II (F. of S.) W. P. Scott	...	,, 632 Troop
W.O.II (F. of S.) A. R. Taylor	...	,, School of Signals
Staff Sergeant H. Price	...	,, 21st Regiment
Staff Sergeant S. A. Brice	...	,, School of Signals
Staff Sergeant A. D. Page	...	,, Manchester University O.T.C.
Staff Sergeant H. E. Taylor	...	,, 1st Regiment
Staff Sergeant L. Kendrick	...	,, St. Andrew's University O.T.C.
Staff Sergeant M. Mullin	...	,, R.M.A., Sandhurst
Staff Sergeant J. H. Thirkill	...	,, Sheffield University, O.T.C.
Staff Sergeant S. McDonough	...	,, 43rd Regiment (T.A.)
Staff Sergeant S. N. Avery	...	,, 22nd Regiment
Staff Sergeant H. Davies	...	,, H.Q., B.A.O.R.
Staff Sergeant J. P. Downey	...	,, H.Q., Far East Land Forces
A/Staff Sergeant J. D. Griffiths	...	,, C.A.F.S.O., N.E.A.F.
A/Staff Sergeant D. Henry	...	,, School of Signals
Sergeant D. J. Tunmore	...	,, 4th Regiment
A/Sergeant G. Hanson	...	,, 16th Regiment
Sergeant W. T. Matthews	...	,, 206 Squadron
Sergeant L. Jackson	...	,, 509 Troop
Sergeant C. Speight	...	,, 537 Troop
Sergeant H. J. F. Brooks	...	,, 18th Regiment
Sergeant G. M. Horne	...	,, 255 Squadron
Sergeant W. Shofield	...	,, H.Q., 3 Division
Sergeant G. H. Lomax	...	,, H.Q., 3 Division
Sergeant D. Spiers	...	,, 24th Regiment
A/Sergeant F. P. Moulton	...	,, 24th Regiment
A/Sergeant A. Patterson	...	,, 238 Squadron
Sergeant D. Haydon	...	,, 640 Troop
Sergeant F. Nutter	...	,, 640 Troop
Sergeant B. J. P. Travers	...	,, 640 Troop
Sergeant C. J. Walton	...	,, 640 Troop
Sergeant P. Ellis	...	,, School of Signals
A/Sergeant J. A. Higgins	...	,, School of Signals

Continued on page 254

Royal Signals Glass Ash Trays

A very attractive Corps ashtray has now been produced by Gale and Polden, The Wellington Press, Aldershot, Hants, as illustrated. It has been universally admired by those who have seen it.

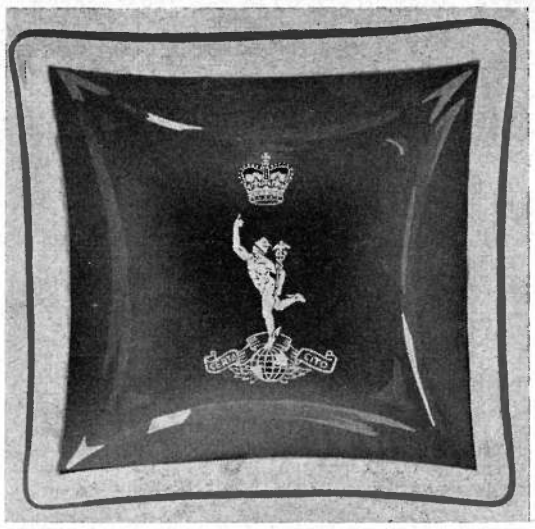
The Corps Badge is fully illuminated and reproduced on a dark blue background. The trays are made of toughened glass. They are very suitable for use in Unit Messes and make ideal gifts and prizes.

Trays cost 7s. 6d. each. Orders for 25 to 49 carry a discount of 5 per cent. and for 50 and over a discount of 10 per cent. Six or more sent post free.

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Sergeant C. Markie	... ...	,,	School of Signals
Sergeant D. A. Newell	... ...	,,	School of Signals
Sergeant J. J. Smith	... ...	,,	School of Signals
Sergeant D. J. Tanner	... ...	,,	School of Signals
Sergeant L. T. Waumsley	... ...	,,	School of Signals
Sergeant D. S. J. Wootten	... ...	,	School of Signals
Sergeant T. H. Robinson	... ...	,,	54th Regiment (T.A.)
Sergeant K. W. Webb	... ...	,,	R.M.A., Sandhurst
Sergeant D. E. P. Cox	... ...	,,	All Arms Junior Leaders Regt.
Sergeant A. Cooper	... ...	,,	13th Regiment
Sergeant A. Heyes	... ...	,,	210 Squadron
Sergeant S. F. Bloom	... ...	,,	614 Troop
Sergeant A. G. Ross	... ...	,,	205 Squadron
Sergeant D. A. Ewer	... ...	,,	229 Squadron
Sergeant J. H. Izzo	... ...	,,	2nd Regiment
Sergeant D. Hay	... ...	,,	8th Regiment
Sergeant J. P. F. Nay	... ...	,,	263 Squadron
Sergeant R. G. Rotherham	... ...	,,	4th Regiment
Sergeant V. P. Shanahan	... ...	,,	229 Squadron
Sergeant J. W. Payne	... ...	,,	Jun. Leaders Regt., Royal Signals
Sergeant J. Woodhouse	... ...	,,	207 Squadron
Sergeant F. Crutchley	... ...	,,	8th Regiment
Sergeant D. G. Dean	... ...	,,	11th Regiment
Sergeant E. Ainsworth	... ...	,,	24th Regiment
A/Sergeant F. K. Tolley	... ...	,,	11th Regiment
Sergeant F. Snowden	... ...	,,	School of Signals
Sergeant K. Owens	... ...	,,	1st Regiment
Sergeant F. Hunt	... ...	,,	249 Squadron
Sergeant R. G. Donovan	... ...	,,	4th Regiment

Deaths

BOWEN.—Signalman P. V. Bowen, of 18th Regiment, on 10th May, at the British Military Hospital, Singapore.

CONVERY.—Lance-Corporal J. G. Convery, at Bangkok, Siam, on 30th May, as a result of traffic accident. He was a Life Member of the Royal Signals Association.

DURNIEN.—Ex-Signalman P. W. Durnien, on 6th May, at the age of 40. From 1950 to 1957 he served with the R.A.F., when he joined Royal Signals T.A., becoming a regular in 1958 until 1961. He was a member of the Northern Ireland Branch of the Association. Home address: 11, Finbank Gardens, Belfast, 10.

LONGDEN.—Ex-Driver R. E. Longden, No. 582247, R.E. Signals, died in May at his home in Prittlewell, Essex. He was a Honorary Life Member of the Association.

Forthcoming Events

Ex-Hoys 10th Annual Reunion and Dinner

Saturday, 5th September, at the Victory Ex-Services Club, 63/79, Seymour Street, London, W.2.

Royal Signals Officers' Golfing Society (Provisional Fixture Rates)

13th August	R.E.M.E.	East Berks
9th September	R.A.O.C.	Hankley Common
1st/2nd September	Army Meeting	Sunningdale
22nd/23rd September	Autumn Meeting	Berkshire
21st September	Ironsides	Fleet
3rd October	Staff College	Camberley Heath
13th October	R.A.M.C.	New Zealand

Band Engagements

Touring Band

13th-18th July	London	Royal Tournament
19th July	London Parks	Bandstand concerts
20th-25th July	London	Royal Tournament
27th July/1st Aug.	Dunfermline	Bandstand concerts
2nd August	Kirkaldy	Bandstand concerts
3rd-8th August	Dunfermline	Bandstand concerts
9th August	Kirkcaldy	Bandstand concerts
10th-16th August	Edinburgh	Bandstand concerts
30th Aug./13th Sept.	Folkestone	Bandstand concerts
20th Sept./4th Oct.	Eastbourne	Bandstand concerts

Non-Touring Band

13th-18th July	London	Royal Tournament
20th-25th July	London	Royal Tournament

Display Team

5th-25th July	Earls Court	Royal Tournament
1st August	Canford Magna, Poole	Bournemouth Auto Festival
3rd August	Cheltenham	British Legion Show
4th August	Walsall, Notts.	Moorgreen Show
11th August	Keith, Banf	Agricultural Show
28th-29th August	Dulston	British Timken Show
5th September	Orsett, nr. Grays	Agricultural Show
13th Sept.-1st Oct.	Sydney, Australia	Trade Fair

Programme of Corps Mobile Display Quicksilver — 1964

12th-18th July	Northern	Harrogate Great Yorkshire Show
21st-25th July	Northern	Middlesbrough Show
2nd-8th August	Northern	Leeds—The Roundhay Park Gala
16th-22nd August	Northern	Newcastle Flower Show and Summer Festival
28th Aug.-5th Sept.	Western	Cardiff Army Week
7th-13th September	Western	Birmingham, The Handsworth Tattoo
15th-19th September	Western	Liverpool

Details of the Liverpool Show, in September, will be published later.

Cricket

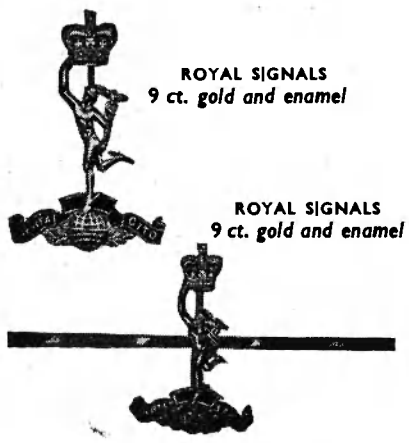
July 17th-18th v. R.A.O.C., at Blackdown

Upgrading Courses in Catterick

Dates for courses scheduled to be held in the Training Brigade, starting in December, 1964, and January, 1965, are as follows:

Electronic Technician	... ...	Class II - I	12th Jan., 1965
Telegraph Technician	... ...	Class II - I	26th Jan., 1965
Radio Technician (Light)	...	Class II - I	19th Jan., 1965
Lineman	... ...	Class II - I	12th Jan., 1965
Clerk Technical	... ...	Class II - I	12th Jan., 1965
Staff Operator	... ...	Class II - I	19th Jan., 1965
Com. Centre Operator	... ...	Class II - I	5th Jan., 1965 (two courses)
Radio Operator	... ...	Class II - I	5th Jan., 1965
Radio Operator	... ...	Class II - I	19th Jan., 1965
Electrician Driver	... ...	Class II - I	5th Jan., 1965
Telegraph Operator	... ...	Class II - I	5th Jan., 1965
Driver, Royal Signals	... ...	Class II - I	12th Jan., 1965
Driver, Royal Signals	... ...	Class II - I	26th Jan., 1965
Radio Technician (Light)	...	Class III-II	8th Dec., 1964
Radio Relayman	... ...	Class III-II	19th Jan., 1965
Lineman	... ...	Class III-II	5th Jan., 1965
Cipher Operator	... ...	Class III-II	12th Jan., 1965
Com. Centre Operator	... ...	Class III-II	26th Jan., 1965
Radio Operator	... ...	Class III-II	12th Jan., 1965
Electrician Driver	... ...	Class III-II	26th Jan., 1965
Telegraph Operator	... ...	Class III-II	5th Jan., 1965
W.R.A.C. Switchboard Op.	...	Class III-II	7th Dec., 1964

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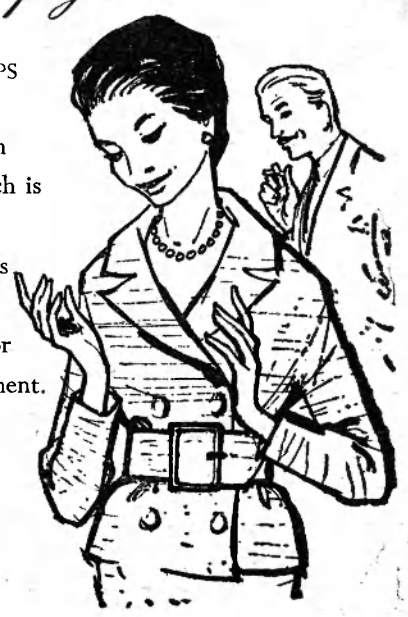
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CYRENAICA FASHION SHOW MODELS
(Left to right): Mrs. Cheston, Mrs. Fyfe, Mrs. Brown, of 245 Squadron, Mrs. Heaney, Miss Heaney. (For Unit notes see Page 277)

A Salute from Denbury to Norway

IN February and March this year, one officer and seven Junior Leaders from Denbury visited Norway. The following account was written by the Junior Leaders themselves and edited by the conducting officer.—*Editor.*

Friday, 21st February, was the start of half-term at Denbury. At mid-day the camp started to empty and the local buses, railway station, rapidly filled. At the station, however, in the London-bound queue, were one Officer and seven Junior Leaders looking rather more apprehensive than the rest—rather more heavily clothed and with heavier suitcases—this was the annual Norway party from Denbury on their way to the Norwegian Army Signal School at Jordstadmoen, near Lillehammer.

The party had been chosen more by luck than actual selection, and much to the annoyance of the Soccer Officer, included two Regimental first team players. Rigorous training had been indulged in by the course, mainly in the shape of gym workouts with weight equipment and hard practical sessions of exercise, four times a week for just over three weeks. This was tough work, but undoubtedly helped to achieve the high degree of team-spirit present before the party left, and also to the final fitness and hence success of the course as a whole.

The party travelled via London, mainly so that certain members could see an "aunt" or similar person that evening. **This was entirely out of the question, since the hospitality offered by 41st Signal Regiment (Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment) T.A., was beyond the bounds of credibility and certainly allowed no individual the chance to escape once he was in their grasp.** That night was an Old Comrades' night, and the sight of seven young junior soldiers certainly made an excuse for much repeating of old stories of quite remarkable interest by the "old ones" and a surfeit of traditional hospitality. It must also be said here, that it is the only time a junior soldier is ever likely to be woken up by an ex-Guardsman —a Sergeant-Major at that—with a cup of tea, quiet words of "time to get up; I am about to cook breakfast; ready in 20 minutes!" What a dream—one member still cannot believe it; and what a simply marvellous breakfast! After such a night, it was a very contented party that set off in the Newcastle train to board the M.S. *Braemar* later that afternoon.

Fascinating Entry to Norwegian Life

Once in Oslo, we were immediately taken around to see the newly-built telecommunication tower to the north of the capital. The weather, unfortunately, was overcast, so the scenic value was less than our hosts wished, but even so, it was marvellous. The tower, with its collection of aerials and many floors, as well as ground installations, was a fascinating entry to Norwegian life. The short sight-seeing trip reminded us that Norway was a modern country with modern ideas, right bang up-to-date. After the unfortunately too short time in Oslo, and our first meal composed entirely of fish—oh! how much more lay in store for us—we boarded a train for Lillehammer.

On arrival at Lillehammer we were met by Captain M. Spilde, of Norwegian Army Signals. It was he who was to guide us and look after us for our three-week stay. All five previous courses from Denbury have had the good fortune to have him as their instructor—how lucky we were to follow suit. Soon, however, he had us back in camp (having eaten our inevitable fish!), into the barrack rooms and soon to bed for our first good night's sleep since Denbury.

The course was to use Norwegian equipment at all times. Thus, we collected a complete set of personal issues from their Quartermaster; we still cannot translate "Long Johns" into Norwegian. During this period there were many hopeful faces as Captain Spilde kept speaking of "she" and when we would start to "she." However, that afternoon we all went for our first ski lesson. After three days, we felt sure that the motto "slow, but sure" was for us! We just could not stay on our skis in an upright position, however hard we tried. By the careful example and patience of our instructor, the lessons gradually began to have their effect—and thus we learned to ski.

King of Norway Present

During our stay at Jordstadmoen, we were fortunate to see the Norwegian Military Ski Championships. The "Military" covers all their equivalent to T.A., A.E.R., as well as regular units; since nearly all young Norwegians are members of the T.A., these championships were nearly national in character. The King of Norway came to watch one race, and we were fortunate to be present at the opening and prizegiving ceremonies. The programme included Olympic Gold, Silver and Bronze Medalists in profusion, as well as world record holders. It still seems incredible that the recent Olympic bronze medalist could only come seventh, and for it to be regarded as natural—"the others are just as good, but we could only send three to the Olympics." There is no doubt that seeing these champions in action had a great effect on us; for there we really saw ski-ing at its best.

The Norwegian Army is, by some standards, small, but well-trained, and very conscious of its delicate and important link in the NATO chain. Hence, it shows much more interest in NATO and the interests of NATO than we are apt to do. Even the Norwegian soldier is well versed in NATO matters and fully aware of his country's position in the defence link—this was an important lesson the Junior Leaders learned by living amongst these educated soldiers. One result of this is that the Norwegian Army takes a tremendous interest in the British Army, amongst others, and nowhere is this more noticeable than in their Signal Corps. THE WIRE IS READ REGULARLY; names are known, even in the mountains at Army Camps British names occur in visitors' books as frequently as Norwegian—so do some excellent cartoons! (N.B. for the Editor. Send for a copy of the book at Kittilbu—names and pictures that would make many present fairly senior officers blush at the antics of their early days!). But beyond this is the genuine interest shown, and there are excellent grounds for supposing that visits such as ours, as well as teaching us to ski and to understand the very important lessons of winter warfare, also serve as a focal point for this interest in each other. Nothing but good can come if, as a result, each side knows a little more about the other and we come back and pass round the knowledge gained.

The View of a Lifetime . . .

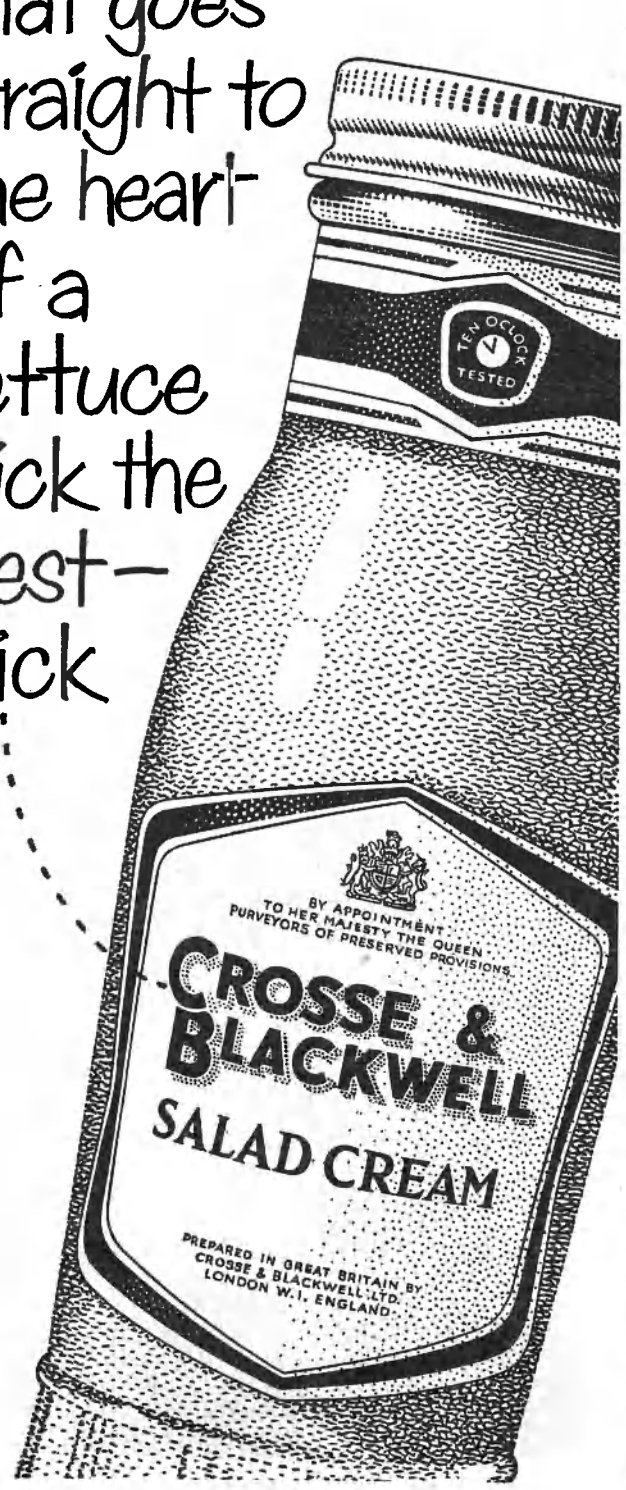
One of the ways in which we were able to learn about the Norwegian way of life and also to have a glimpse of the tourist trade, was to go on one-day visits to mountain resorts. One such visit was at Skeikampen, a well-known tourist spot. Here we had the view of a lifetime, and it is no wonder that such a place is now almost international in character. From here we could see the highest mountains in Scandinavia—outside the Alps, the highest in Europe—over 8,000 feet high. A wonderful canopy of cloud hung down on one valley leading far down into the distance, a terrifyingly steep face led to a deep valley on the other side—a large white basin with the serenity and peace of timelessess, but with the wind whipping up flashes of dust to remind one of the force of nature; and on the third side, on our west, a valley with the holiday and tourist huts, camps and an international hotel used by visiting royalty. Here, indeed, was Norway at its best. After such a sight we descended, again using a gentle, but hidden path, since the antics of the course in descending were enough to earn us at least equality with such clowns as Laurel and Hardy. One instructor standing, eight of us sitting, or even rolling, in deep snow, constituted a pathetic sight.

We were more fortunate than previous courses, as one of the students at the Apprentices' School, with whom we stayed, was in his off-duty time, a civilian ski instructor: Apprentice Fred Skudal soon became one of us—even to the extent of wearing his own balaclava in Troop colours. He stayed with us all the time, on and off duty, and was a great asset. When in the mountains he came and showed us how to live.

Life in a mountain camp is not as different as one might imagine from our ideas of camp. Tents are still there, camp discipline is more strict, and camp food is . . . well, not as

Continued on Page 257

Pick the creamy
Salad Cream
that goes
straight to
the heart
of a
lettuce
Pick the
best—
pick



Don't be
vague
Ask for
Haig



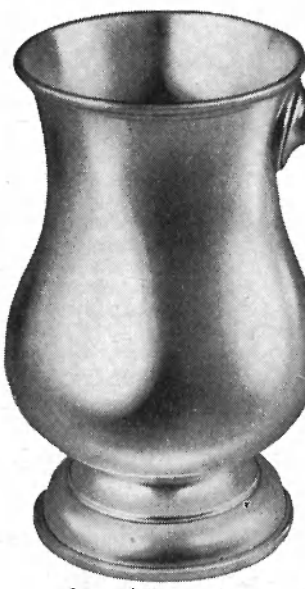
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What a range for children

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Printed in Great Britain

Continued from Page 256

good as is normal from the cookhouse. We lived in Swedish-designed M16 tents, which have a central stove, the chimney acting as a tent pole. Wooden flats are laid over the snow, which can be very deep, and palliasses and sleeping bags are used. Rifles are left outside—shades of a British court martial!—in a loose rack to prevent condensation and hard rusting, while boots are slept with! These are lessons soon learned when sleeping in temperatures of 40°F. of frost. We had four days in the mountain camp and here we indeed learned the lessons of winter. The weather, in fact, was exceedingly kind to us, but even so, we found it could be cold. Weasels (a military over-snow vehicle) towed us for long distances and weasel-towing was soon more of a sport than work. It was fortunate that we were all about the same standard, so great progress was made.

While in the mountains we were examined for our Norwegian cross-country ski badges. To do this one has to ski 10 kilometres in under 65 minutes for a bronze and under 55 minutes for a silver. All previous courses had managed to pick up some badges and two had gained a silver. We were very proud to finish up with four silver and four bronze which was found to be an excellent record after just 15 days' ski-ing. There is no doubt that our general all-out attempt at fitness before we went helped tremendously to gain these results. Of the four silver medalists only one had ever been on skis before, which proved the standard attained.

Unfortunately as always the good things have to come to an end and after just 18 days we repacked our cases and returned. Before we left, however, Colonel Langaas, the Commandant of the entire camp, very kindly presented our badges and medals as well as some excellent presents made for the course by the apprentices in the school. It was typical of our stay that we, a very small party, should be treated so kindly and with such attention. On our behalf, Lieutenant Prince thanked the Colonel for our stay and also especially Major Langdalen whose obvious enthusiasm and hospitality ensures that these trips are an annual success. Soon afterwards Captain Spidle was presented with a gift from us all.

Thus we left Norway, having gone well on the way to learning how to ski, met Norwegians both military and civilian, lived in modern up-to-date barracks and in tents in the mountains at about 2,500 ft., as well as getting to know and understand some aspects of the Norwegian way of life. This last was possibly as important as any for whether it was two or three boys visiting a Norwegian home with local "friends" or the conducting officer down in the local hotels, we all learned a great deal and for it feel better men.

Thank you to all the Norwegians who read this—we know you will—especially Major Langdalen, Captain Spilde and "Fred."

Those privileged to make the trip to Norway were:—
J/Signalman Wenn, "White Spear," Bronze Medal.
J/Signalman Boston, "White Swan," Bronze Medal.
J/Corporal Vaughan, "Beaufighter," Bronze Medal.
J/Signalman Douglas, "Beaufighter," Bronze Medal.
J/Signalman Kirby, "Kukri," Silver Medal.
J/Signalman Stevens, "Francisca," Silver Medal.
J/Signalman Watson, "Iron," Silver Medal.
Lieutenant A. C. M. Prince, "Staff" (O.C. Iron), Silver Medal.

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Three Men in a Boat

By Corporal Marr, 3rd Regiment

SOLDIERS of the Royal Corps find themselves called on to perform all sorts of unusual duties, such as that described below—manning a wireless link on a Greek trawler towing a dredger. Read Corporal Marr's account of this experience.

It was Thursday, 21st May, when Sergeant Phillips, myself (Corporal Marr) and Signalman Ainsworth set off from H.Q., UNFICYP Nicosia to Kyrenia.

Ainsworth and myself were due to board a Greek fishing trawler at 10.00 hours that morning as wireless operators, representing, of course, the United Nations.

The fishing trawler was to take in tow a public works dredger, taking it from Kyrenia to Paphos.

On arriving at Kyrenia we were informed by a Customs official that the trawler had not arrived and had no news as to when it would arrive.

Eventually the trawler arrived five hours late and with the skipper we all settled in the nearest bar to negotiate over a drink. We then loaded our wireless equipment, including our fishing tackle, into a launch which was to take us to the trawler. Sergeant Phillips, being a conscientious wireless Sergeant, said he would give us a hand setting our station up. On pulling out of the harbour and seeing the trawler for the first time, Ainsworth and I felt like doing a smart about turn and going back to the local police station and asking for protective custody.

On looking around the trawler, we found that the only place for our sets was the wheel house. We quickly installed our set and tested it. Communications were good.

We again looked round the trawler and all agreed that it must have been the original ship that St. Paul used to sail to Paphos in, many, many hundreds of years ago. Sergeant Phillips had a lot of sympathy for us, but was also eager to see us on our way.

At approximately 18.00 hours the trawler put to sea at a maximum speed of two knots and a roll of about 80 degrees, but being sound sailors we soon got used to it.

Having established communications and finding our sea legs we thought it time for a solid meal, but before we had time to get our rations the skipper presented us with a bowl of what looked like macaroni, cheese and chopped pork. On seeing this our hunger immediately left us, but the skipper was persistent and we had to eat it. This pleased the skipper considerably, who tried to force another bowl on us.

All the crew were very helpful and friendly, especially the cook. We managed to teach him how to make a proper cup of English tea! We know he was thrilled, because when he had mastered the art we never had an empty mug.

After 36 hours of eating, sunbathing and drinking tea, not to forget our communications, we finally reached Paphos.

What we had thought would be a rough voyage turned out to be interesting and thoroughly enjoyable.

SUPERINTENDENT S. TERZIC

(*Submitted by H.Q./207 Squadron, B.F.P.O.* 30)

It is with the deepest regret that the death is announced of Superintendent S. Terzic, M.S.O., H.Q., 7th Armoured Brigade, as a result of a traffic accident.

"Slavo," as he was known by all who knew him, had served with 7th Brigade for 13 years, commanding the 1812 M.S.O. Defence Platoon. The efficiency of his unit and the service he gave to the Headquarters earned for him the respect of all ranks. Charm, cheerfulness and friendliness were the hallmarks of his character, and in particular, this was used to great effect when the Headquarters was in the field.

His loyalty towards the British Army and the Brigade Commanders that he served was of the highest order.

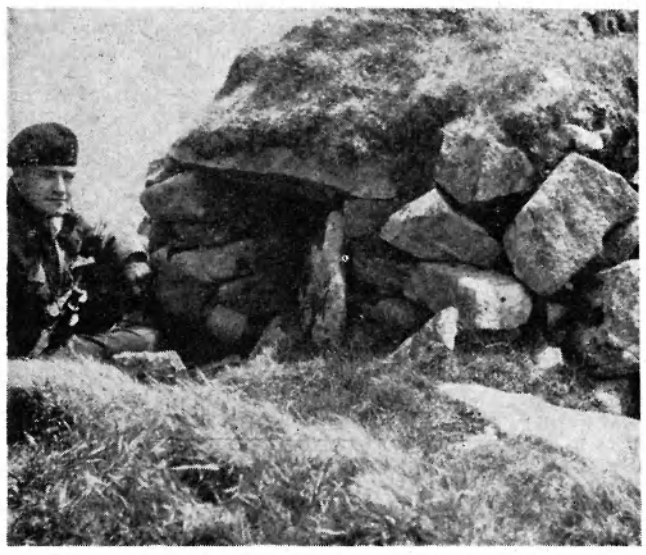
His loss will be deeply felt, both in Soltau and within the Brigade. He was buried with full military honours in Hamburg on 12th June, 1964.

"The Wire" is written by the Corps . . . .
. . . . for the Corps
Support "The Wire" and you Support the Corps.

Report from . . .

"The Furthest Station West"

By Lieutenant C. H. D. Cross, 257 Squadron



The author about to examine a "cleit"



One of the "Soay" sheep being taken off the island. In spite of its smallness it is fully grown

BY way of introduction for those who are unfamiliar with the distant lands of the frozen north, St. Kilda is the largest of a tiny group of islands some fifty miles to the west of the Outer Hebrides. The island features in a starring role in the well-known novel "Atlantic Fury," by Hammond Innes, which is well worth reading and suspiciously near the truth in many instances.

The Military Aspect

St. Kilda is manned by a detachment from the Royal Artillery Guided Weapons Range, Hebrides, and the Officer Commanding has a wide variety of cap badges under his command. The foremost of these, of course, is that of the Royal Corps who, in addition to providing magnificent communications (mostly with civilian equipment), generally show the Gunnery how to run things! Amazing though it may seem, a very harmonious atmosphere prevails, rivalries being kept mainly to the football field, which measures about 45 yards by 25 yards! The Signalmen are from 632 Troop, late of 30th Regiment, and are helped out during the busy summer months by extra bodies from that well-known expanding empire 257 Squadron in B.A.O.R. I come into this latter category and my opportunity to come here was to understudy the O.C. in case he should drop dead or catch gastro-appendicitis or any similarly untoward affliction. Needless to say he soldiered on in the rudest of rude health and yet another chance of glory passed me by.

I was not idle, however, and indeed here is an article for THE WIRE to prove how active I was! My job was to try and coerce recalcitrant R.A.S.C. L.C.T.s to bring our supplies occasionally and similarly to persuade the pilot of the local light aeroplane to drop our mail on the island rather than in the sea. To be fair to both, we did not starve and we got our mail pretty regularly.

Plenty of Sport

Life on the island is surprisingly varied; apart from work, there is a fiercely fought six-a-side soccer league played on the aforementioned miniature pitch and headed by the dreaded Prontos (led by Pronto Cables himself, Lance-Corporal Mitchell). The weather so far this season has not been too good and the pitch retains a fair amount of water after our crude attempts at levelling and de-stoning. We are hoping to have a bash at the wee cricket ball soon; there is a concrete wicket which we intend to surround by marquee sides (nets!) and anyone who hits the ball into the sea is not only six and out but destined for a swim to fetch it.

Also when the weather improves there will be water ski-ing, behind a fairly high-powered rubber boat. This is thanks to the C.O. of the range (who is keen on water skis) and to the generosity of the Nuffield Trust, as always. It seems likely that we might have a sailing dinghy too, but that is not certain yet. On the indoor side we run our own pub, which is very popular, of course. There are films on three nights a week (supply boats and A.K.C. permitting) and the indoor athletes perform energetically at ping-pong, snooker, darts and crib.

Beards Bring in the Wool

We shoot about twice a month, into our home-made butts (the mountain side) and try to avoid the scraggy but rare "Soay" sheep. They are the subject of a special study by the Nature Conservancy, who send a couple of vets out to count and tend them during and after the lambing season. Apparently the island vegetation is so poor that it can only support a limited number of these sheep, and if the winter and spring are mild, too, many lambs are born and dozens die of malnutrition. Last year, for the first time, a number of the sheep were taken off to the mainland to see how they fared among a normal well-fed flock. The picture shows how the round-up is done—we have grown quite used to these bearded beatnik looking types who remind one of the Ban-the-Bombers, but who are in fact quite human. They live in the Factors House, the best preserved of the village, which used to house a sort of laird or bailiff.

Most people spend comparatively short spells on the islands, but everyone soon gets used to being in another "Outpost of the Empire." There is always great interest when the air drop or a boat is due. Each one involves communications, of course, and both quite different in equipment and procedures. Everybody mucks in and does any job that needs doing. Unloading the supply boat being quite a day's work for everyone on the island.

Life—Human and Animal

For the keen outdoor man (I have not actually met any yet) the wild life on the island is very varied. There are seals and puffins, diving gannets and razorbills, and we do get an occasional basking shark (30-50 feet in length) visiting. Talk-

ing of visitors, the bay is often full of small trawlers when the weather is rough. They come from Spain, Norway and France mainly and we usually manage to swap bread (baked daily in the cookhouse) for fish. We eat well here, due to being able to draw extra rations for hard living (!) and being a small unit. Our fund also subsidises messing, so nobody starves.

The cliffs are said to be the highest in Britain and are too dangerous for climbing unfortunately; partly due to the crumbly nature of the rock and partly because they all finish very abruptly—in the sea ! We were forced to rope up on one occasion when the air drop put one bag over the edge. It was thought possible that some drugs and medicine were in the bag, but after a nerve wracking three or four hours all we found was a parcel of books and some laundry mutilated by their journey down a deep gully.

In the days when the island was inhabited by natives, the men used to scale the cliffs without aids of any sort in search of seabirds eggs—a delicacy apparently. In fact a man was not allowed to marry until he had proved himself on certain pitches! Living became too severe and so many of the younger men left for the mainland, that the remainder were evacuated in 1930. The remains of the village are intact, except for the roofs, and there are also signs of ancient groups of dwellings in about four places. Another strange feature of the island is the large number of " cleits " dotted about the hills. They are small stone built shelters put up by the islanders, probably for storing food for the sheep. The sheep use them for shelter and also for giving birth, and they have a more permanent look about them than many of the old houses. The island belongs officially to the National Trust for Scotland and they visit once a year on M.S. *Meteor* with about 150 members. This is quite a beanfeast and one of the rare occasions when there are women loose on the island—whoopee !

Despite the hazards of the weather and the whims of the supply boats, St. Kilda is an interesting place to serve. It is well looked after by the parent Range and the men of the detachment know they are performing an important function. I can thoroughly recommend a spell there for those who get the chance to serve in what the special postal stamp describes as " The Furthest Station West." After all, winning a Puffin Tie is almost more rare than getting the knees brown these days.

Exercise "Distant Peak"

Ever Thought of Trying to Climb Snowdon, Scafell Pike and Ben Nevis in one Week-end

The Members of " 55 " Officers' " Q " Course did and Very Nearly Succeeded

ON Friday, 10th April, following a hastily-eaten tea, two instructors and the officers of 55 " Q " Course (School of Signals) squeezed themselves on board two Land Rovers and three one-tonners, drawn up before Headquarters Mess. This was the result of a careless moment at the start of the course, when we had agreed to have a crack at climbing Snowdon, Scafell Pike and Ben Nevis over a week-end.

Our force was split into four groups, a climbing party and three administrative parties, one at the base of each mountain to feed and generally assist the climbers. At 17.30 hours the two Land Rovers and Admin Party " A's " one-tonner moved off towards Wales and our first objective, Snowdon. Dogged by bad luck, we innocently stopped on the hard shoulder of the M6, only to be confronted, seconds later, by a " Z-Car " type Lancastrian policeman . . . " No, sir, you can't stop here—not even for that!" Unrelieved, we clambered back on to the vehicles muttering dark things about " police-states " and continued our journey. Our first serious misfortune was Admin Party " A's " reluctantly abandoned one-tonner with a punctured radiator. Was sabotage in the air, or was it pure " good luck," as our administrators insisted, that they were to be comfortably accommodated in the cells at the local police station, all ready, and in time for an early start in York on Saturday evening? Anyway, we transferred rations and cookers to the Land Rovers and were soon on our way again, arriving in Llanberis just before two o'clock on Saturday morning.

After three hours' sleep in the local car park (though one can hardly call a C11 rack a comfortable bed!) we started on our first ascent. A heavy shroud of mist covered the mountain and the high wind whistled around the rock faces. Time was to be our enemy for the two days, and accordingly, the most direct route, following the mountain railway track, was chosen. Even this proved to be quite unpleasant on an empty stomach; several members falling foul of some strange mountain sickness. It was, nonetheless, a fairly fast ascent, and after pausing for a few photos, and some fleeting glances of our only other companion, a lonely immature herring-gull which, as one climber accurately pointed out, was completely lost, we began the descent. Without Admin Party " A," the climbers had to be satisfied with a vile brew of tea and some sandwiches, before pointing towards the Lake District and Scafell Pike.

With one stop for a meal, we arrived at Langdale and, as arranged, met Admin Party " B," who had our site for the evening carefuly laid out. Not wanting to waste any valuable daylight, we set off towards the base of our range of mountains at 16.15 hours in glorious sunshine. With the climb starting to stiffen up, the weather started to change for the worst and, as at Snowdon, a cloud of mist began to roll over the hills, borne by an ever-increasing wind. With less than half-a-mile to the summit the rain came down! Not that gentle, soft, spring rain, which merely serves to refresh, but rather a vicious, hard-cutting sleet, penetrating every form of protection and stinging those exposed parts of the body. The added danger now was the fact that the clouds would speed forward the dusk, and we could have been lost in the mist and darkness until the following morning. With this added incentive, the pace was increased and we were quickly over the summit and on the way down, jumping over the slippery rocks and boulders.

All interest had been killed, and the return was proving to be very much an endurance exercise rather than the pleasant hike we had all looked forward to. We were moving forward into the cold wet greyness which, on a fine day, is probably one of the most beautiful walks in England, only conscious of the few dangerous yards in front and the possibility of a twisted ankle to make things even more difficult and unpleasant. Fortunately, we found the right route and were met by the friendly silhouette of Admin Party " B's " truck, waiting to move us back to camp. The morale-boosting effect of good administration was never more obvious; hot stew and tea never tasted so good! After changing into dry clothes, the climbers quickly sorted out their beds and were quickly asleep to the rhythmic noise of rain striking the canvas of the tent.

Sunday did not dawn bright! Far from stopping, the rain was falling faster and harder; the overnight stream running alongside the tents was now a raging torrent of white froth.

Breakfasting, packing and refuelling the vehicles was consequently so much more difficult, and we were not able to make the early start we had planned. Although no one was sorry to leave the Lake District, thanks must be recorded for the splendid efforts of Admin " B."

Undoubtedly, the most boring features of the whole week-end were the long, hard drives on the " rack " (as the C11 mounting came to be known) to and from the actual mountains. In rain, one of the Land Rovers seemed to lose all its handling properties and, in the interests of safety, slowed right down to a speed which ruled out any attempt on Ben Nevis. The other Rover pressed on and arrived at Admin " C's " location, allowing the climbers a deadline of three hours before half-past five, when we had to leave to catch the train at Glasgow. Undaunted, the climbers quickly set off at a fast pace on the approach climb; reluctantly, several hundred feet from the actual summit, they were forced to turn in their tracks. Our efforts had been beaten by a combination of bad luck, the elements and, of course, time.

The journey back was completed without incident, and everyone was pleased to crawl into bed at half-past four on Monday morning. (Some lucky members having an appointment at the Saddle Club for a riding lesson 2½ hours later!). On reflection, it had been a satisfying week-end and a lot of lessons had been learned; we hope that no precedent has been established, but look forward to reading a successful report from a succeeding " Q " Course!

Finally, a word of thanks to the drivers of M.T. Group who, in addition to the long, tiring hours of driving, in very unpleasant conditions, so willingly and cheerfully helped at the base camps, and without whose co-operation the exercise could not have been the success that it was.

THE FRENCH ARMY CANOE CHAMPIONSHIPS

By Lieutenant T. B. Scarff, 11th Regiment

MANY of us have only a slight knowledge of canoeing and what it involves. In fact it will be seen from this graphic and interesting article that it is a tough pastime calling for nerve and skill as well as a high degree of physical fitness.

"The Wire" congratulates the three Corps subalterns as well as the Apprentices from Harrogate (see Army Apprentices School notes) for their initiative and their spirit of adventure in taking part in this challenging competition.

Following soon after the Devizes to Westminster Race came the French Army Canoe Championships at Chalons-sur-Marne, about 70 miles east of Paris. This year the French School of Artillery at Chalons extended a warm invitation to British units to compete in the championships.

Adventures en route

Thus, to the envy of many in the Depot and School of Signals, Lieutenants J. Cullen, P. C. Burns and myself departed on 19th April, bound for the wild water of the Marne, and as some people wrongly imagined "bags of wild life." Pockets stuffed with various travel forms, canoes labled "Excess Baggage," we presented ourselves at Darlington Station. Lieutenant Cullen and I were paddling a K2 and Lieutenant Burns his own canoe, a Sea Rapier. After much previous discussion with British Railways, we had selected a train with a guard's van long enough to accommodate the 22ft. of K2.

In London, after an overnight journey, we met a party from 19 Company, R.A.S.C., who were also going to Chalons. Now there were five canoes. On Victoria Station we commandered every trolley in sight to transport the canoes to the customs and the train. Here the whole venture nearly ended in disaster. It was the morning rush hour, and in their frantic hurry, many people walked or ran straight into our loaded trolleys. In desperation we pushed them all together in a corner and waited for the crowds to clear.

Once through the customs we did not see them again until Paris, and then only very briefly as they were being unloaded. Here we changed stations with the invaluable assistance of SHAPE Signal Squadron and an interpreter who arranged for the shipment of the canoes on their last lap to Chalons. We also had our first taste of the French cost of living, buying ham rolls on the station.

In Chalons we were met by Major Mathews, R.A. Liaison Officer attached to the French School of Artillery. Twenty-four hours' travelling had left its mark, and after a typically French meal we were soon in bed, but not before we had learnt that one British unit had already holed two canoes on the river, which was in spate.

At 06.15 hours next morning pandemonium broke out in the building we were living in. The French Army starts work



'Lieutenants Scarff and Cullen with their K2 canoe"



"Lieutenant Burns with his Sea Rapier"

at 07.00 hours promtly, and this was their "dawn chorus." Not ours though, so we turned over and tried to go back to sleep. The plumbing, having also been woken up, was now having its own bellyache at the world. No wonder either, for when we did surface later, cold water was the order of the day. Only senior officers have hot running water in their bedrooms. Junior officers have only one tap—cold. Hot showers came on most days, but it just happened that this week the boiler had broken. "San Fairy Ann," is what the French batwoman said.

That morning, with the help of Major Mathews, we collected the canoes, maps of the course, and listened to the usual alarming stories about the river from those already there.

Early Practice and Some Upsets

The championships consist of two competitions. A long distance race of about 56 miles, with rapids, weirs, sunken obstructions and portages, and a slalom in broken water. The combined result decides who is champion. We hoped that the K2, which is built exclusively for racing, would be suitable for the long distance event. In rough water it depends entirely on the skill of the occupants, and in slalom it is almost useless.

Burns' canoe, however, was a very seaworthy boat, and looked capable of a good overall position.

That afternoon we decided to paddle the last 19 miles of the course, beginning at Vitry le Francoise, above two railway bridges. The first having a rapid beneath it and the second having a chute (the water runs down a steep slope and forms pressure waves at the bottom).

Recklessly, we did not look at the chute before having a bash' or a swim as it turned out. **Without spray covers our K2 went down like a submarine!** Lesson learned, we decided to recce the next rough water first. In any case, we were doomed to spend the remainder of the afternoon paddling in wet clothing; a cold, depressing business it was, too. The crews from 19 Company had suffered the same fate, but another party from the Junior Tradesmen's Regiment, A.C.C., fared much better in their slalom boats.

On Wednesday, we went to the start at St. Dizier and paddled the first 15 miles. This was the roughest section of the course, but within the capabilities of our K2. We were faster than anything else on the river, all we had to do was to remain upright. A nasty dog leg rapid beneath a bridge almost turned us over, but we recovered after cannoning off the support.

The most difficult part of the river was the middle section which runs for most of the way through a forest. Here there were many sharp bends with tremendous cross currents. Trees by the hundreds had fallen in where the banks had collapsed after being undermined. In some places they completely blocked the river and had to be portaged. **To beat all this there is a 9-mile section where the Marne goes beserk, divides numerous times and flows in all directions. This really was a wilderness. It was in this on Thursday that Burns was swept broadside to a tree, capsized and marooned without his canoe which drifted away full of water. A couple of hours later he turned up at the rendezvous on foot, collected some willing helpers and set off back along the bank looking for his boat. Cullen followed by road in a truck and soon the canoe was found and retrieved undamaged.**

A party from A.A.S., Harrogate, led by Captain D. Braund, had by now taken us under their wing and were giving us considerable assistance with canoe repairs, transport, and even sharing their food. This was particularly welcome, because we were permanently hungry. A French breakfast is coffee and rolls. Not very substantial to paddle all day on. Lunch for us usually consisted of milk, cheese, bread and fruit, etc., purchased on our travels. On a few occasions we were back in time for dinner in the Officers' Club in Chalons. It was usually good and not expensive.

The Great Day Arrives

Great rejoicing on Friday—hot water in the showers—we needed it too!

Saturday dawned a cloudy, overcast day. It was cold on the river. At the briefing the previous night, the safety precautions had been explained to us. Powered assault boats, recovery vehicles, a radio net and helicopter were covering the race. There were 32 crews entered, with the most popular French boat being the Canadian-type canoe which is very good on this type of river.

With foresight characteristic of his profession, Captain R. Kenyon of the A.C.C. party had purchased (at great expense) for all the British crews, some large steaks. To the amazement of the French, we ate these between huge rolls just before the race began. It was to be a staggered start, with 1½ minutes between each boat.

Burns had drawn position No. 1, we were No. 6. This was a most important factor, because the race was expected to take about eight to nine hours. As the start was at 12.00 hours, crews would have only eight hours of daylight left. The odds were against those starting later. After dark many sections of the Marne were potentially dangerous.

"We're Off" and Near Disaster

Soon Burns was away and a short while later it was our turn. Under a bridge and into the first rapids which lasted for about three-quarters of a mile. Our old friend the bridge with a dog leg current was half way down the rapids. **Here I positioned the boat badly in the current and suddenly we were swept sideways and into the bridge support with a tremendous crash. Then we were over in water up to our waists.** Our comments to the river, canoe, each other and the world in general were unprintable. I hope none of the spectators on the bridge understood English.

The effects of this ducking are hard to estimate. It cost us about 15 minutes in time, we also lost our food. Worse still, we now faced eight hours' hard exercise in wet clothing. Eventually, remounted, we tore away down the river, paddling hard and fast in an effort to warm up. A few miles away at the first porterage we threw away our outer layer of clothing. From now on it was to be vests and shorts. Because of this ducking our fingers went numb almost immediately and remained that way for most of the race. We both had twinges of cramp on occasions, and at no time were we warm again.

A Freezing Finish in the Dark

After this we made quite good time and soon overhauled those that had passed us at the bridge. Because we had to porterage some rapids which other boats could shoot, we played a leapfrog game with other crews down the course. We passed on the straights, they on the rapids. Later, when the obstructions were further apart, we drew ahead of some of them.

One man in a single passed us and went ahead with ease. We found out later that he was from the French Sport Battalion and in the running for the French Olympic team. Another crew in a Canadian canoe suddenly appeared ahead. They had obviously found a short cut through the "Wilderness."

On we paddled, through the afternoon and into the evening. Captain Braund was waiting to greet us on most bridges, always shouting encouragement. It was a great morale booster. Another gesture, which took us completely by surprise, came from the French people. As a canoe passed underneath a bridge they would all clap enthusiastically. This, too, we began to look forward to.

Soon it was apparent that we would be finishing the last few miles in the dark. It was getting very cold, too. Thin streamers of mist crept off low meadows and on to the water. I began to shiver and my teeth chattered. Behind me I could hear another set of teeth doing the same. We sprinted for a while but were unable to hold the pace. It cured the shivering though.

I think the effect of the wind on our wet clothing was just the same as wind-chill. We certainly ran the risk of exposure, paddling in light, wet clothing.

It was dark now, and we had about three miles to go. Our pace speeded up a little, but soon dropped again. At last the floodlights on the bridge at the finish appeared round a bend. Then we were through the bridge and turning towards the bank. Willing hands helped us out.

Soon, with a little assistance, we were into dry clothing and drinking huge mugs of hot liquid. It was about three hours later before all the feeling came back into our hands and feet.

It was significant to note that other crews who capsized suffered as we did, but those who stayed dry were not unduly distressed, even though some had very few clothes on. About 10 crews did not finish the course and a few required medical attention.

Trouble in the Slalom

The Slalom, next day, was much more difficult than had been originally planned. This was because of the volume of water flowing through the bridge. Only Burns had entered for this; the water was too rough for the K2. Unfortunately, he suffered the fate of many entrants that day, turning over when he was trying to cross the current. The French soldier who passed us the previous day gave a faultless demonstration of skill, so did the crew of the Canadian which took the short cut. By far the most outstanding display, however, came from one of the Junior Tradesmen, A.C.C., who negotiated the course in easily the fastest time, but unfortunately touched one of the "gates."

Our positions had now been announced in the long distance event. We were sixth and Burns was seventh. Members of the French Sports Battalion came first and second, with Captain Kenyon third. He had lost 15 minutes when trying to find a short cut through the "Wilderness." In the overall competition, the Battalion cleared the board.

Entente "Very" Cordiale

That evening (Sunday) there was a celebration dinner in the barracks. Speeches were made in both languages, and to the amusement of all, Captain Braund presented the organiser, Commandant Tito, with a cap inscribed "Vice-Commodore of the Army Apprentice School, Harrogate."

The Commandant of the School of Artillery then presented each British team with two bottles of champagne. At this juncture the guests and their ladies wisely left. The champagne was shared round all the crews and then the singing began, British and French, alternately. When this lost its appeal we played rugger with a cardboard box. To "Auld Lang Syne" and the relief of the mess staff, the party finally broke up.

It had been an enjoyable, energetic week, and we were very grateful to the French Artillery for their hospitality and many kindnesses we received during our stay.

For anyone who plans to go next year, the most important factor is choosing a canoe which is capable of long distance racing and slalom. If anything with a bias towards the slalom. Independent transport, with plenty of compo, would also help.

Finally if anyone is wondering about the night life in Chalons-sur-Marne, the answer is—NIL!

Exercise "Danish Blue"

(Contribution by 7th Regiment)

SCHNAPPS, pickled fish, the Tivoli, giant cigars, palaces, castles, barons and breweries are all memories that flash across the minds of 215 officers and men who spent two glorious weeks in the most hospitable of countries—Denmark. The generosity of the Royal Danish Army towards such a large contingent of the 7th Regiment was so overwhe'ming that two weeks of exercises became two weeks of sheer delight. Before enlarging on the social lights of the Scandinavian venture we ought to outline our commitments.

Introduction

Exercise "Danish Blue" was arranged so that 7th Regiment might work on Danish soil with the Danish Signals. Our role was twofold. Firstly, we were to provide line and radio relay communications for the Danish Army. Secondly, we were to establish a radio relay link between our home camp at Herford and our Danish camp on the island of Zealand, a distance of some 400 miles as the crow flies. Of course, apart from our working commitments, we also had our social commitments to cement Anglo-Danish relations!

Working Commitment

The Danish Army arranged a NATO-type exercise while we were in Zealand. They called it Exercise "Stor." The word "Stor" means "Dust." After much questioning, we discovered why this name had been selected. "DUST" stands for Danish-United Kingdom Signal Training!

To get to the training area near Glumso, we had to cross the Great Belt by ferry. This was quite an operation, with 57 vehicles, including the R.E.M.E. recovery Leyland. However, the photograph (Fig. 1) shows that at Knudshovel we were in good order. The sea crossing was most enjoyable and gave relaxation after the 500-mile journey from Germany.

When Exercise "Stor" began, we had our radio relay detachments all over Southern Denmark, providing our usual good communications. Our best achievement however, was the link back to Germany. This was entirely for our own benefit.

Stretching over 400 miles, there were no less than six relays in the link.

This is quite unusual, as the Manual states that three relays are a maximum for a working chain.

After several days of engineering, the chain finally worked, and the teleprinters were strapped through. The first message to be passed ran something like this:

"LO LO Tech here. Going to lunch, back at 14.00 hours!" So much for all our efforts!

On 6th May the exercise ended and we moved to the Danish Signal Regiment's Camp near Copenhagen. Work was virtually over and the pleasure began.

Social Commitments

Throughout our stay in Denmark we were treated like kings. The hospitality was quite overwhelming. We were virtually allowed to do as we pleased. In leisure time, some took up fishing, some drinking, and some other activities. Elsewhere, a photograph shows Signalman Parker with his catch, all taken with a bait of compo cheese!

Because we received so much hospitality, it was decided that the officers should hold a cocktail party with buffet for the Danish officers. This was held in our mess tent and it was a great success. In addition to Danish officers, Baron Holk, the local land owner, was present.

In an attempt to disprove the misconception that the stubborn British fail to learn the languages of other nations, each officer said a few phrases in Danish, towards a general toast to our guests. This set off a succession of toasts, until most personalities in Denmark and Britain had been sent "spiritual" blessings.

Great festivities were also held in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. Nightly there was a pilgrimage of Danish senior N.C.O.s to our mess, to introduce us to the secrets of the "Grand Order of Carlsberg." There were many more formal invitations, which culminated in the presentation to our mess of a Regimental Shield by the seniors of the Danish Panzer Division.

The most significant day during our visit was 8th May. It was on this day in 1945 that Denmark was released from Nazi rule by Field Marshal Montgomery's forces. To the Danes this day is a national holiday, and most houses have candles lit in their front windows in the evening to signify its importance. The effect of our presence was twofold. In the village of Glumso, near where we were camped, approximately thirty Danish flags were flying from masts erected along the pavements. The Telegraf Regiment held a special dinner night to celebrate the day. This was an unusual dinner night, for it began at 1 o'clock in the afternoon in order to fit in as many speeches and toasts before bedtime! Captain Talbot, who was in charge of the Danish visit, took most people by surprise by making a speech of thanks in Danish, having first apologised for his limited knowledge of the English language.

The entertainments were by no means confined to the officers; everyone was wonderfully well catered for by our generous hosts. Visits to Copenhagen were arranged, and also to other places of interest. A round tour was arranged to visit Fredericksberg Palace, Frensbourg Palace (the summer home of King Frederick IX of Denmark), Elsinore Castle (Hamlet's Castle), and the Tuborg Brewery.

No visit is complete without a soccer match. On our last Saturday in Denmark a side from our Regiment played the Danish Signal Regiment's 1st XI. We were very pleasantly surprised when we ran out victors by 4 goals to 2. Lance-Corporal Coatesworth scored three goals and Corporal Fitzgerald the other. At the end of a most enjoyable match, all the players were presented with a souvenir ash tray to mark the occasion.

Conclusion

All good things come to an end and, before we really knew it, we were on our way back to Herford. Our fortnight in Denmark had been most enjoyable and most instructive. Several problems in inter-Army co-operation were sorted out, including our C41 frequencies interfering with those of Danish TV!

One signalman, on being asked what entertainment improvements should be made on our next visit, suggested that the Regiment should spend the complete 14 days camped in or near the Tivoli Gardens! Naturally, this suggestion was not put to our hosts as they might have taken it seriously.

Our thanks go to our friends in the Sjaellanske Telegraf Regiment for a most enjoyable time, and we look forward to seeing them in Germany in the very near future.

Volunteer Emergency Service

Sir,

I write as a Reserve member of the Corps; as a member of the Association; and as Press Officer of the Volunteer Emergency Service. My purpose is to crave the hospitality of your columns.

The V.E.S. is an independent, voluntary organisation; it is mainly composed of owners of motor cycles, scooters and mopeds, though some members own cars and vans. V.E.S. members undertake to perform, at their own expense, both emergency and goodwill missions. These have included the carriage of blood urgently needed for transfusions; of smallpox vaccine; and of urgent test samples sent from hospitals to laboratories. In March we had a mass turnout of members to take part in the missing boy search at Brighton. Emergency missions can be matters of real life and death, and the attitude of members can be summed up as "we love riding, but enjoy it better still if we can do it to some worthwhile social purpose."

The good work of the V.E.S. and the careful, courteous riding of its members have already earned high praise in the Press and on TV; and this can do much for the good name of motor cycling. In view of the important role the motor cycle has always played in the affairs of Royal Signals, I believe that the aims of the V.E.S. would commend themselves particularly to former members of the Corps. So may I please appeal to them, through you sir, to join us now. Full details from V.E.S. Headquarters, 1, Plough Lane, Wallington, Surrey.

Yours sincerely,

GEOFFREY PENN

Signalling or Schnapps . . .

The 7th Regiment take all in their stride in hospitable Demark

(*Article on page 262*)



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1. At Knudshover. The convoy preparing to embark. 2. 7th Regiment Officers entertain their Danish friends. (Left to right): Lieutenant-Colonel Thomsen, Lieutenant-Colonel Sonderry, Major Sweeny and Baron Hoik. 3. The sentry is guarding the summer home of King Frederick IX. 4. The visit to Fredericksborg Castle. 5. Signalman Parker proving that at least some form of animal life likes "Compo" cheese. 6. Lieutenant-Colonel Sonderry presenting ashtrays to the British and Danish teams.

The Wire Visits a Unique Troop — 601 Troop (Ship)



The Captain Amphibious Warfare Squadron, Captain M. W. B. Kerr, D.S.O., R.N., with his staff, 601 Signal Troop (Ship) and staff communications ratings

It is common knowledge that the Corps provides certain communications for the Royal Air Force. Not so well known is our close connection with the Royal Navy. So close, in fact, that 601 Troop is listed as a Royal Naval Unit!

ALTHOUGH this is a volunteer posting, very little has so far been written about the job of the Troop. So, for the benefit of hard pressed Orderly Room Sergeants and potential volunteers—here is a brief summary.

This is a small Unit, consisting of the O.C. Yeoman of Signals, 15 operators and one lonely Radio Technician. We are living in the hopes of an increase shortly, of drivers and vehicles, as at the present time we only have operators to drive our lone Land Rover.

A tour is of one year's duration, but it is possible to "sign on" for a further year if you are recommended, 28 days leave in U.K. separating the two years. It is a single man's posting preferably, as families are not permitted in our case.

The Troop is part of the Amphibious Warfare Squadron, at present based in Bahrain. Just to confuse everyone, although we are Royal Signals, the Troop is officially shown as a "Royal Navy" Unit. Our job is to provide communications between the Headquarters Ship, and headquarters ashore. In fact our shore-going detachments are given many diverse jobs such as, in the past, rear link communications for the parachute troops and tanks, and even foot slogging with the Royal Marine Commandos. Newcomers have to learn combined operating procedures, and a new language (Naval slang) and become used to operating alongside Naval operators and Royal Marines. Apart from the R.A.F., with whom we have little contact, this is a real opportunity to see inter-Service working at its best.

During the last two years, the Troop has visited quite a number of places in the Persian Gulf. To name but a few—Sharjah, Muscat (temperature 156 degrees), Daz Island (an oil company base), Um Said and Dohar in the Quattar Peninsula, Bandar Shapur in Persia and Kuwait, with occasional visits to Abadan being looked forward to with eager anticipation. On one occasion, we found ourselves in Aden for an exercise just before Christmas. Hence much acquiring of very cheap "rabbits" (presents). The monthly exercises usually find us on the deserted islands of Sir Bani Yas and Sir Abu Nu' Air with their rugged rocks and masses of dirty sand. Billy Butlin has yet to develop these parts!

Perhaps, fortunately, our services have not so far been required in earnest, although several "flaps" have kept us on our toes. The crew of our headquarters ship, H.M.S. *Meon* (affiliated to the Corps), look upon us as part of the ship's company, and when on board our operators work side by side with the Naval Communications ratings. Our detachments go to sea in all the various ships of the Amphibious Warfare Squadron, mostly L.S.T.s and L.C.T.s. Recently we have had the pleasure of serving on the Type 81 Class frigates, with all their mod con. To tempt volunteers, if you are 20 years of age and over, you are entitled to the daily tot of rum when at sea.

Even our annual administration inspection is different—as we are inspected both by the Army and the Navy. The Army covering all the usual points with the exception of the inspection of the troop, which is taken by the Captain Amphibious Warfare Squadron R.N. This year we have obtained a good write-up, even if the O.C. had deserted us by being in hospital with mumps.

Looking at the personalities in the Troop, Lieutenant R. Dorrell has relieved Captain G. H. Morgan (now 24th Regiment), Staff Sergeant (Yeoman) Heaps is now in the chair vice Staff Sergeant (Yeoman) Hawkes (now 209 Squadron). The job of Troop Sergeant being held down by Corporal Tracey with Corporal Woolley behaving as a typical S.Q.M.S. Until the hoped for arrival of a clerk Lance-Corporal Batram is battling in the office (feeling very pleased with himself having obtained an excellent on the doctor's team inspection) and complaining that the temperature at Daz on his visit there was 168 degrees in the shade. In the absence of any drivers, the Troop comedian, Signalman Birchall, is endangering all our lives with the Land Rover.

In the sporting world our main achievements to date are: Unbeaten champions at life saving against the Navy; third place in the Amphibious Warfare Squadron small arms meeting; and at most other sports we have managed to hold our own.

For those joining us in 1965 the crystal ball is rather clouded. With the advent of the Landing Ships Assault H.M.S. *Fearless* and *Intrepid,* our position is a subject of much correspondence, but we shall still be in existence. If you are posted to us, please make sure that your M.F.O. is addressed to B.F.P.O. 63 which will ensure that it reaches you before the end of your tour.

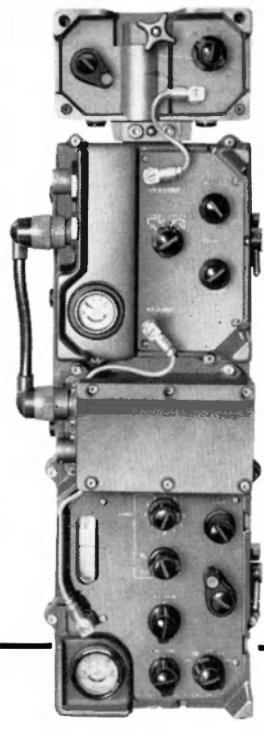
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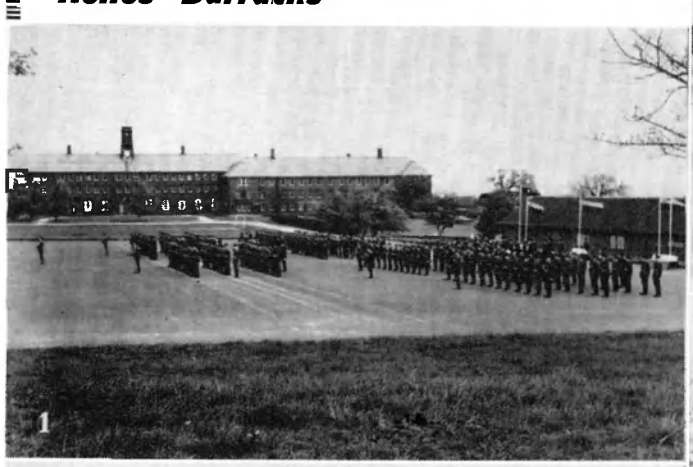
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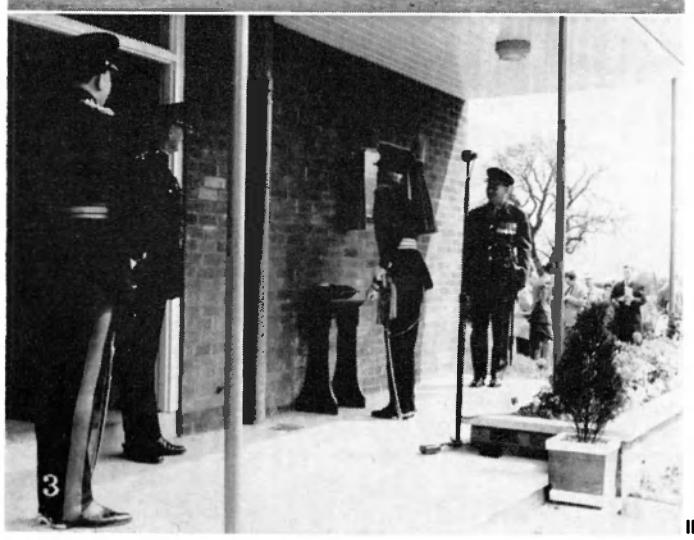
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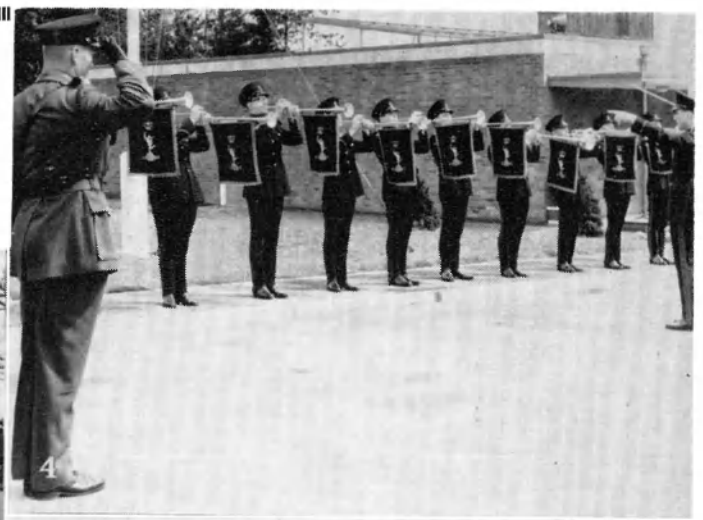
11th Regiment

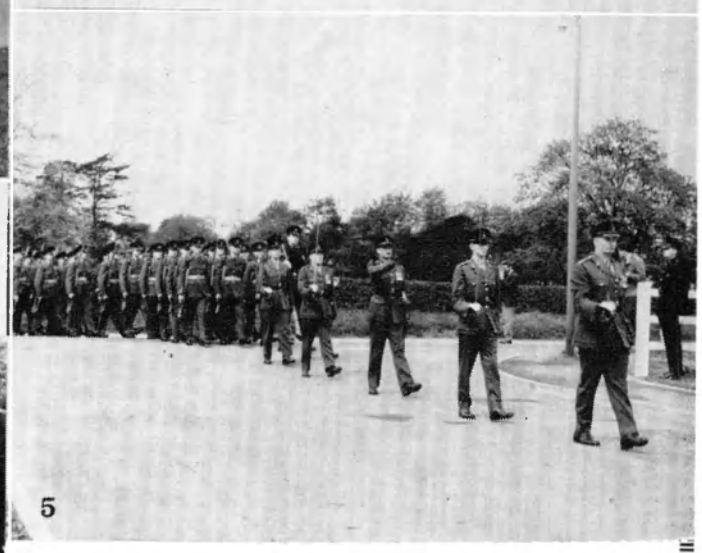
Scenes at the march-in to Helles Barracks


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1. The Regiment formed up on Vimy Square awaiting the arrival of the Master of Signals.

☆

2. The Master of Signals inspecting the Champion Troop accompanied by Major W. B. Foote and the C.O.

☆

3. The Master of Signals unveiling the commemorative plaque.

☆

4. A fanfare by the Corps Trumpeters.

☆

5. The Regiment led by the Commanding Officer, Adjutant and R.S.M. march into the new barracks.

Corps History in the making.

The Depot Regiment marches into its new permanent home.

11th REGIMENT (DEPOT)

The March out of Vimy

THE morning of Wednesday, 13th May, 1964, dawned much the same as any other day; a little cloudy, perhaps, but on sniffing the wind when entering the Regimental Lines nothing untoward was sensed up Nature's sleeve. Activities seemed to be progressing as usual, but if one cared to scratch underneath the surface, a veritable hive of activity would be revealed, for this was the day when the Regiment would, ceremonially speaking, march out of Vimy Lines and into the newly-constructed barracks in Helles Lines.

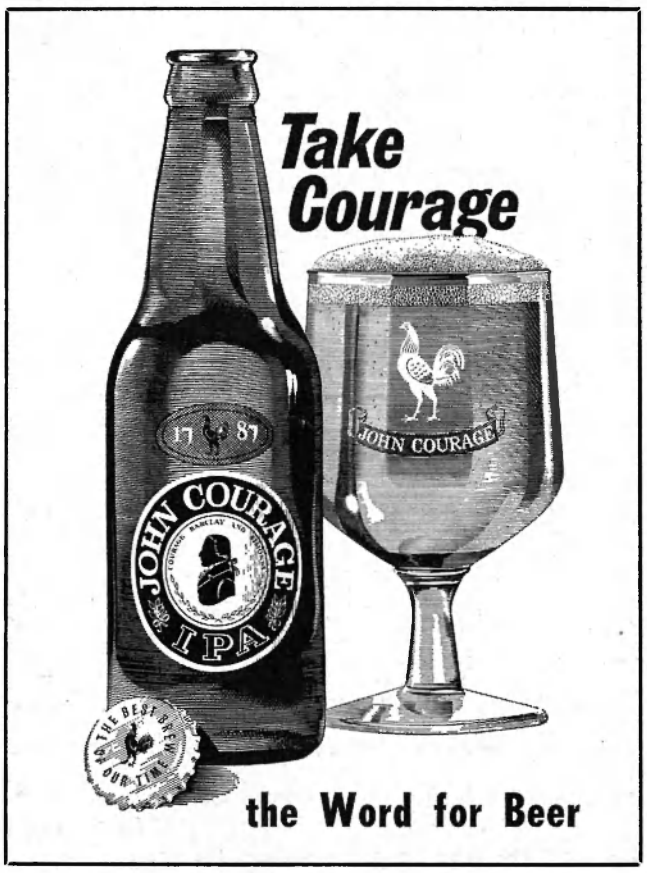
The parade itself was combined with the more familiar recruit intake pass-off parade, with the Commanding Officer as Parade Commander. The Master of Signals, accompanied by the G.O.C., Yorkshire District, and the Brigade Commander carried out the inspection of the parade and took the salute at the March Past. During the parade after the inspection, the Master of Signals presented the following medals: The Long Service and Good Conduct Medal to Staff Sergeant A. P. G. Hatcher, of 8th Regiment; The British Empire Medal to Sergeant A. E. Moon, 24th Regiment; and The Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Medal Award to Signalman A. J. Tobin, of 8th Regiment. It was particularly gratifying to note the number of friends and relatives of those recruits who were passing-off who had taken the trouble to attend. There was, no doubt, a feeling of nostalgia in many hearts as, to the strains of "Auld Lang Syne," the C.O. led his Squadrons off Vimy Square for the last time.

The March into Helles

The march-in ceremony was preceded by the arrival of many guests and friends of the Regiment, including our former Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel S. W. Brackenbury, M.B.E., and Mrs. Brackenbury. The spectators took up their stand opposite the new guardroom, which was somewhat miraculously surrounded by a profusion of flowering shrubs. The Master of Signals and his party arrived to perform the opening ceremony. After a speech of welcome and introduction by the G.O.C., the Master spoke of his pleasure at being present on such an occasion, and after a short speech unveiled the commemorative plaque on the guardroom wall. He then presented the ceremonial scissors to the Commanding Officer to cut the tape and ordered him to march the Regiment into their new home. This part of the ceremony, completed to the accompaniment of a fanfare by the Corps Trumpeters, the Regiment was marched in by Troops and the Master took the salute from the verandah of the guardroom.

There then followed a brief conducted tour of the new barracks, which was, no doubt, of great interest to our guests, judging by the many and detailed questions they asked. This was followed by a buffet luncheon in the Officers' Mess, for which our Messing Officer, Lieutenant J. J. Bannister, A.C.C., is to be very warmly congratulated.

It was evident that a tremendous amount of work had gone into making the occasion a success, and, judging by the comments since, the impression gained is that it was just that.





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Left to right: Falling Plates. Majors D. P. Watson and I. Macdonald, Lieutenant J. M. Lowe, Captain B. A. Blackwell, W.O.II A. J. Cowe and Lieutenant R. Thackeray

1st REGIMENT, B.F.P.O. 32

General. This has been a month with quite a few items on the calendar, and the Regiment has once again been kept busy. Early in the month was the 1st Division Motor-Cycle Trial, held on 7th and 8th May, which the Regiment was asked to organise. The arrangements fell to Captain B. F. Kavanagh, who produced a well-run competition. Individual winner was W.O.II Edwards, 16th Regiment, and the best team was 7th Regiment.

The following week saw the annual rifle meeting, in which teams competed from the Bundeswehr, H.Q. Company, 1st Division, and 652 Light Aircraft Squadron, in addition to our own Regimental and Brigade Squadrons. Mrs. C. E. Page, wife of the Commanding Officer, kindly presented the prizes. The best performance was by Corporal McGillivroy, 207 Squadron, on the S.L.R.

The winning teams were: S.L.R., H.Q., 1st Division; S.M.C., 211 Signal Squadron "B."

The Falling Plate was particularly exciting, with H.Q. Company, 1st Division, just beating 207 Signal Squadron.

Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. The Sergeants' Mess activities finish our notes this month, and record some of the news and happenings in Verden.

The outstanding event was a games evening versus the Corporals, which the Mess won by a good clear margin of 20 points, and therefore retain their unbeaten record. The O.R.Q.M.S. (W.O.II Denis Mawson) and Sergeant Paddy Long had a good win at table tennis, but it was noted that they played the two oldest members of the opposing team!

We are pleased to offer congratulations this month to Sergeant Arthur Plumbridge on his recent promotion, and wish him good luck on being posted to 17th/21st Lancers Signal Troop. Congratulations also to Sergeants ("Am-I-still-Guard-Commander-sir?") Fred Dennis and Bill Holmes. Welcome to the Mess.

Recent arrivals in the Mess are Sergeant Paddy Donaghy from 640 Signal Troop, and W.O.II Frank Kimble, who is Sergeant Major of 652 Light Aircraft Squadron A.A.C. ("Teeny Weeny Airways"). W.O. II George Hayes has recently returned from Catterick, and the Mess can now boast of having a Yeoman of Signals on strength.

Farewells have been said to Staff Sergeant ("Brandy") Martell and family on posting to 3 Squadron of 64th Regiment (T.A.) in Glasgow and to C.S.M. Chris Vaisden and Sergeant Brian Richardson (R.A.P.C.) both of 652 Light Aircraft Squadron, A.A.C.

The majority of mess members have now been measured up for the new pattern mess kit, and the first deliveries are hoped to be here towards the end of June.

It is considered worthy of report that R.Q.M.S. Terry Castle is once more gracing the mess with his smiling countenance, having been allotted a married quarter in Hannover.

For those interested in news of H.M.S. *Hermes*, we are one of the few messes in B.A.O.R. (or maybe the only one) with a *Hermes* pennant on display behind the bar.

3 H.Q. AND SIGNAL REGIMENT

Once again, another month rolls by, and although the situation looks a lot brighter, the Regiment is still split all across the world. Last month did, however, see the return of a lot of chaps from Cyprus, but just to offset their return, we sent a small detachment, under W.O.I. Holloway to those exciting mountains at the tip of the Red Sea! We have not heard from them yet, but I suppose "no news is good news" and in time a "sit rep" will arrive.

For those in Bulford, life continues its hectic, but pleasant, way. The communications business brightens up no end when one is asked to provide for two recent activities. One—the Army Horse Trials, which now, by tradition, takes place at Tidworth, was one such event at which our rugged linemen featured. A pleasant three days, culminating in glorious weather and the presence of the Chief of the General Staff. Something seemed adrift though, and then we realised that our old friend Colonel Tulloch wasn't to be seen in the arena or near the horses.

As a follow-on to the Inter-Services Gliding Championships, at which we featured over the Easter holiday, we then provided some ground-to-air communications for the National Gliding Championships over the Whitsun holiday. Unfortunately, the weather didn't prove ideal for gliding, but then, what can one expect for organising such events on public holidays in England! However, the communications went well and it was a pleasant change.

At present, on the communications side, the "crack" signal troop are over in Norway doing a spot of "procedure."

Plans are now being finalised for the move of the Regiment to Carter Barracks in late August. We believe this will be our last but one move, until our new barracks are built at the foot of the Beacon, but I suppose it's hard to be sure. Carter Barracks, although of wooden construction, will see us better off than we are at present. Already a lot is being done to make life more comfortable for all concerned.

It was a sad note on which most of us started Whitsuntide leave, Lance-Corporal Hearns being very seriously ill in the Military Hospital at Tidworth. It is nice to know now, that he is recovering from a serious operation, and all being well, we shall have him "back on the road" before he is due for discharge from the Service at the end of his military career.

At present we are enjoying the company of all the "trigger happy" in the Corps—for that other recognised event, the Corps Shoot, is taking place, out of tradition again, at Bulford. We can only hope the long range weather forecasters were wrong in their planning for the area, and that the sun shines for them.

Looking ahead—we await the visit of General Sir James Cassells, G.C.B., D.S.O., M.B.E., the Adjutant-General to the Forces, in July. Summer camp is just around the corner—this year at Chickerall—near Weymouth. We have it on good authority that the Camp Commandant, Captain Dunkeld, has a really pleasant, relaxing and entertaining week planned for us, with all the usual 'Butlin's' facilities. There's rumour of an odd route march, to make it more official, but such plans are always open to modification.

Our 'correspondent' in Cyprus has taken the easy way out this month, and sent us two very interesting accounts of the more unusual work of two members of the Regiment serving with the United Nations Force.

The first is an account by Corporal Marr of a trip he made on a Greek trawler towing a dredger. The second is an account by Foreman of Signals Langford about his helicopter trip round the island maintaining radio sets.

(*Read these interesting articles elsewhere in* THE WIRE)

"The Wire" is written by the Corps . . . .

. . . . for the Corps

Support "The Wire" and yon Support the Corps.



Sergeant Tasker congratulating the Cycling Team



The C.G.S. talking to Signalman Mclsaac and Signalman Smith

4th REGIMENT, B.F.P.O. 15

Cycling Success and Good News About Married Quarters

The Regimental Cycling Club started from a nucleus of six unsuitable bicycles and one enthusiast, Sergeant Tasker. Thanks to the arrival of the Army Air Corps in the barracks the six bicycles were finally disposed of and replaced by three more suitable machines. The Army Air Corps apparently feel safer on two wheels rather than four on the ground.

Within a matter of weeks the Regimental team was formed, trained and now has won its first major event, the B.A.O.R. 100 km. Mass Start Championship held at R.A.F. Bruggen. The team consisted of Sergeant Tasker (team manager), Signalman West, Craftsman Boorman, Signalman Etches.

There has been an increase in the sporting activities. At the beginning of the month there was a hockey 6-a-side tournament in which each player played for one and a quarter hours; despite this marathon the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess team won with creditable stamina. This was followed by a Regimental 6-a-side football competition on Whit Sunday. In bright sunshine sixteen teams took part and cheered on by their colleagues and families, the Postal Unit finally beat "Alpha" Troop.

Cricket, sailing, athletics are all drawing other enthusiasts but perhaps a little less widely known are the activities of the anglers in the Regiment. Half a dozen enthusiasts are now away about every weekend and over the Whitsun holiday claim to have landed a bag of over a hundred fish between them. The Second-in-Command is still trying to catch his first trout of the season.

For months now a small band of workers have been busy up in one of the many attics constructing the new Regimental Club Room. Complete now with cosy booths, soft lights, dance floor and a bar at a comfortable elbow height it should soon be in full operation and available for Troop parties.

Some of the best news in the station for a long time is the progress on the building of Married Quarters. A further 152 new other rank quarters are to become available between now and September. The garrison waiting list stands at 252 but 104 of the families are already united and are living in hotel and private accommodation. A further 75 quarters are now being built and will be ready in twelve months. Those posted to 4th Regiment in the future can therefore take heart now that the worst of the building problem has been overcome.

"Birds" is a fairly well known expression but the W.V.S. helper was disappointed to find that she had a different interpretation of the 'tulips' that the party she took to Amsterdam over the Whitsun holiday wanted to see. They didn't grow in fields but were apparently nonetheless hunted down.

Vacancies

Telephone cable tester (male), preferably aged 20-30, with some knowledge and experience of electrical work. Please apply stating age, details of previous employment, etc., to Employment Officer, Telephone Cables Limited, Chequers Lane, Dagenham.

7th REGIMENT, B.F.P.O. 15

The Regiment has had a busy month, the main events being a visit by the Chief of the General Staff, training in Denmark and regimental athletics. Training in Denmark is the subject of a separate article which we hope will be of special interest.

Visit of the Chief of the General Staff

On 7th May General Sir Richard Hull, G.C.B., D.S.O., A.D.C., accompanied by Lieutenant-General Sir Richard Goodwin, K.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., Commander 1 (B.R.) Corps, and Brigadier M. S. Hancock, M.B.E., C.C.R. Signals, visited the Regiment. The visitors first called at R.H.Q. where the role of the Regiment was outlined to them by the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel E. H. Davies. The C.G.S. was then given a demonstration on the square where he saw representative elements of the communications system provided by the Regiment in the field for H.Q. 1 (B.R.) Corps, although needless to say the vehicles were more highly polished than usual. The main items shown were C41 radio relay vehicles, a mobile carrier equipment terminal (consisting of basically six 1 + 4 No. 2s), and cable laying detachments. The C.G.S. was very interested in all he saw and, we hope, was duly impressed.

Regimental Athletics

The athletics took place in ideal dry and sunny weather on 21st/22nd May at the Herford Stadium. There were a number of useful performers and we hope to have sorted out a good team for the Morrison Cup later in the year. It would be invidious to mention too many names, suffice it to say that 3 Squadron just beat 1 Squadron to become Regimental champions and that Lieutenant Knox-Johnston scored a large number of points for 3 Squadron by winning the 800, 1,500 and 5,000 metre races and he also came third in the 400 metre race. Lance-Corporal Drika did very well for 1 Squadron by winning the 200 metres and the high jump. The Old Soldiers' race was won in excellent time by Major M. E. E. Truscott for the third consecutive year, hotly pursued by Major J. R. Sweeney and the R.S.M. This is believed to be the tenth successive Old Soldiers' Race that Major Truscott has won.

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[*Courtesy South China Morning Post*

Damage caused by Typhoon "Viola"

H.Q., ROYAL SIGNALS, HONG KONG

Typhoon "Viola." The big news from Hong Kong this month is that the long drought has been broken at last, and in a most decisive manner, through the activities of Typhoon "Viola," which brought some twelve inches of very welcome rain in under thirty-six hours, at the end of May. "Viola" could not have been more welcome from the Colony's point of view; she was the idea typhoon, full of rain and almost benevolent, as her wind strengths were never vicious enough to cause much serious damage or casualties. The photograph gives some idea of the type of damage caused.

From the communications aspect, the biggest hazard was flooding, and we were delighted at the way in which the underground cable system stood up to the test. The New Territories Signal Troop (Works) had a particularly busy, and even hazardous time, and came through it very well. In the harbour, the submarine cables also escaped the hazards of dragging anchors, although the merchant ship that was blown ashore on Stonecutter's Island was a little too close for comfort. The immediate result of "Viola's" visit is that our water ration has been doubled.

Training. The series of battle camps and military training courses organised jointly by 252 and 253 Squadrons on the Sai King Peninsula has now ended. This has been a most successful venture and has been enjoyed by all ranks taking part. The final course sweated out Typhoon "Viola" in their camp and seem none the worse for the experience. A recent officer training day, attended by both Royal Signals and Regimental Signal Officers, was very successful and enjoyable. The R.S.O.s were guests of the Corps at a dinner night held in the H.Q., 48 Gurkha Brigade Mess, which rounded off the day in splendid fashion.

Pass-Off Parade. The Corps was well represented at the pass-off parade of the Hong Kong Military Service Corps on 4th June, when the C.R. Signals took the salute. It was particularly appropriate that the champion recruit, Pte. Cheng Bing Keung, should be joining the Corps, and he is now a member of 253 Squadron.

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CALOR GAS AGENTS

Notes from Mid-East

C.R. SIGNALS BRANCH

Any of our readers who listen to the B.B.C. news, or read the newspapers, will have heard of our troubles here. Everyone is busy. So much so that it would be all too easy to sit back in our few spare moments and relax. That would be the beginning of the end. And so, in this place where there is little enough to do recreationally anyway, we organise our own forms of amusement.

One such form of self-imposed enjoyment is squash. Squash as a game is well known for its weight reducing properties in England, but here, with the temperature well into the nineties and the humidity reaching the eighties it must be, from my own non-playing point of view, sheer torture. Nevertheless the super-fit diehards among us organised an inter-corps tournament.

After more than the usual difficulties had been overcome the final was played between R.E.M.E. and ourselves. The result was a win for our gallant team of Captain Walmesley, Captain Cornwall and Captain Gregory, but you may be sure that R.E.M.E.'s poundage was reduced by no less than ours.

A very gallant effort by all concerned, particularly Captain Tim Cornwall the organiser.

222 SQUADRON, R.F.P.O. 69

Since our last notes this Squadron has been kept extremely busy with cable rehabilitation at Khormaksar. Once again we have to thank 638 Troop (Air Formation) for their valuable assistance. Their detachment arrived in two parties on the 11th and 14th of April and are due to leave us again on he 6th June. This time with (keeping the fingers crossed) no serious casualties.

Captain Jimmy Walmsley and Lance-Corporal Sid Evans have been touring East Africa ostensibly to play in the Middle East Royal Signals hockey tour and the Combined Services basketball tour. When Lance-Corporal Evans was asked how the tour went, he said, "It's cold there"—was it the weather I wonder?

Major Geoffrey Stephenson has now vacated the chair to Major Leslie Beaumont. May we wish them both success in their new appointments.

Captain Stewart Read has also left us for colder climates and Lieutenant Ian Kerr has taken over the Troop at Bahrain, now known as Muharraq.

Our farewell dance held on the 9th May to bid cheerio to Major Geoffrey was its usual success, and £10 was raised for the Signals Association. Sorry you weren't there to enjoy it, Sir, your plane was a day too early. Still we can't grumble can we!

Agony

Station G3RUS (now VS9AL B) is temporarily of no real fixed QTH, since the O.C. is oscillating between Route Station detachments around the Persian Gulf and does not take up permanent residence until approximately 1st July.

The next WIRE Notes we confidently expect to be sent via courtesy VS9ALB/G3C10 on a crisp clear signal on 20 (CW of course).

Ever heard of a Ham Club in an Air Formation Signals Squadron? There's always the first one.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS OPERATOR VACANCY

Last year you very kindly advertised in the Magazine for Tele-communications Operators to work for this Troop. The response to the advertisements was very good.

We now have two further vacancies at The Joint Services Continental Booking Centre, Rochester Row. Would you please, therefore, consider advertising these vacancies in the next and subsequent issue of THE WIRE.

The posts are salaried, according to Whitley Council Scales, and become permanent and pensionable after an initial probationary period. A Royal Signals Class II Comcen Operator should have little difficulty in classifying as a Class I Civil Service Operator. This gives him good prospects of ultimately becoming a Grade A Supervisor.

Applications should be made to O C. London District Signal Troop, Beavers Lane Camp, Hounslow, Middlesex.



The Mayor of Harrogate inspects the Senior Squadron
The Corporation of Harrogate takes a great interest in the Army Apprentices School and as recently as last March a ceremony confirming the adoption of the School was held.



Canoe team at Harlow after a days paddling down the Thames

ARMY APPRENTICES SCHOOL HARROGATE

On 15th April, Intake 61B graduated. The graduation parade was reveiewed by Councillor S. Tomkinson, Mayor of Harrogate, an enthusiastic friend of the School. The parade was watched, as usual, by many parents and friends; some of whom had travelled long distances to attend.

Councillor Tomkinson had previously attended several graduation parades as a guest, and was therefore well qualified to praise the standard of the drill and the bearing of the School on parade. Black clouds had hung ominously overhead during most of the parade, so the prize-giving was held in the camp cinema. After presenting the Army Commander's Prize to Apprentice R.S.M. R. Dransfield and the Commandant's Prize to Apprentice S.S.M. A. Osuagwu (The Nigerian Army), and other prizes, the Mayor presented the British Empire Medal to Sergeant J. K. Roberts. We offer him our hearty conratulations, and wish all those who graduated good luck and success in their future careers.



A/T S.S.M. Osuagwu (Penney Squadron) receives the Champion Squadron Cup.

A few days later the weeks' leave. Most Apprentices went home, but the Canoe Club, fresh from its successes in the Devizes-Westminster race, sent a team of three crews to the French Army Championships at Chalons-sur-Marne. We were pleased to meet there Lieutenants Scarff, Cullen and Burns from 11th Regiment (see article on page 260). The championship was decided by a 90 km. race on the Marne (a swiftly flowing river, full of snags and white water), and a slalom. In neither of these were our crews very experienced, and the canoes themselves were not really suitable for these events. **Full marks then to Apprentices Storer and Davis, who finished 12th overall, out of 32, and to Apprentice Wood who paddled the last 10 km. alone in nearly total darkness, after his partner had collapsed.** Wink and Pawlow were unlucky to be swept under a tree after 50 km. and had to retire. Considering that this was a senior event and the French competitors included potential Olympic canoeists, we think our crews put up a fine show. The trip was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone and we are most grateful to the French Army for their hospitality.

The School is now well into the summer term and everywhere can be heard the sound of bat on ball and the shouts of athletics coaches. So far we have done well and we hope to repeat our successes of last year in the Quadrangular Games against A.A.S., Carlisle, Chepstow and Arborfield. Congratulations to Apprentice Tradesman Fenge on already breaking his previous School pole vault record with a vault of 12ft. 6in.—an outstanding achievement.

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Quarter guard for the visit of the Chief of Staff, B.A.O.R., found from M.P.C. Class I Course No. 9



OPERATION GUEST

Teleprinter chat with brother, Signalman M. G. Guest, at T.R.C., Krefeld. *Left to right:* Susan Guest, Major R. S. Cathmoir, C.D.S.O., Lance-Corporal C. Gibbs (on teleprinter), Private R. Stapley, Mr. Guest and Mrs. Guest. In the background—the press!

13th REGIMENT

Where have we been? Silence is golden, they say. We wonder if WIRE readers have concluded that 13th Regiment has abandoned radio and gone in for the bullion business. Our last WIRE notes *were* a long time ago, but if we have struck it rich we are not telling!

We have been *saddened* by departures, amongst whom have been Major N. G. Gallyer to War Office and thence to Ministry of Defence, Major J. G. Baker to Catterick and W.O.I (R.S.M.) Swales to 18th Regiment on commissioning.

We have been *startled* by new arrivals, who include Major R. P. D. Painter, Major W. G. B. Wright, Lieutenant R. S. F. Cathmoir, not forgetting (how could we?) W.O.I (R.S.M.) Palmer, who came in like a bomb and is still exploding at regular intervals! Welcome to them all!

And we are *delighted* to find ourselves as before, still waiting for our next turn on the roundabout.

A Certain Smile. We possess a guard dog called Nero, who is the most ferocious beast—black hair (permanently on end), yellow fangs and a vicious killer instinct. The boys of a neighbouring Squadron, who used to share our barracks, were all set to cause mayhem in the JRC on the night before their departure to another location—and they were after the Orderly Sergeant's blood (and other suitable parts of his anatomy). The word got around, and at bar closing time tension mounted. The door opened and in came—Nero, with the Orderly Sergeant in tow. A giant vacuum cleaner couldn't have emptied the JRC quicker! Our friends and late neighbours will know what we mean when we say that they were not "so immaculate" that night!

Visitations. Major-General G. R. D. Fitzpatrick, C.B., D.S.O., M.B.E., M.C., Chief of Staff B.A.O.R., visited the Unit on 26th May, 1964, and was greeted on arrival by a Quarter Guard drawn from M.P.C. Class I Course No. 9, which included representatives from a number of Signal Regiments, and which acquitted itself in a manner suitable to the occasion.

Brigadier J. E. Anderson, C.B.E., C.S.O., B.A.O.R., visited 2 Squadron on 20th April, 1964, and seemed satisfied that our "boys in the wilds" were in good form. In spite of hopes that the camp rebuild would be completed, his tour of the camp was like a minor assault course. The Brigadier left 2 Squadron shattered yet invigorated, and as ever undismayed! (Do we mean the Brigadier or the Squadron?)

Sporting Life. Two Corps footballers have joined us, Signalman Irvine and Signalman Oxley. The latter recently played outside-left for the Combined Services (B.O.A.R.) XI against Birmingham City, and we have high hopes for next season.

Adventure Unlimited. Our R.S.M. might be described as Mr. Outward Bound, but he knows precisely where he is going. He and Major R. P. D. Painter, our Second-in-Command (did I hear you say Mr. Homeward Bound?), are both keen canoeists, and an active Canoe Club is being built up. Already several small expeditions have been undertaken, and a large

(*Continued at foot of next Column*)

14th Regiment launches Operation "Guest"

IT all started when Mrs. Guest, who lives at Cinderford, wrote to the Colonel to ask if we were holding another "open day" this year. He daughter, Susan, is very keen to join the W.R.A.C., and her son, Signalman M. G. Guest, is serving with 16th Regiment at Krefeld.

The C.O. replied that there was to be no "open day" this year, but asked whether the Guest family would be our guests for an afternoon. They accepted, with pleasure—and from that moment we never looked back.

"H-Hour" was set for 14 00 hours, 2nd June, when Major Brousson, with staff car, collected Mr. and Mrs. Guest and Susan from their house and brought them to Robinswood Barracks.

We anticipated that the occasion would draw a fair amount of Press, etc., reaction, but we never bargained for what we got. The place swarmed with reporters and photographers from national and local papers, television—the lot!

Anyway, after the C.O. had welcomed our guests, to the popping of flash bulbs, and presented Susan with a W.R.A.C. badge brooch, we took the family off to see the W.R.A.C. living quarters and to the gymnasium, where Susan joined the girls in a game of netball. After that they sampled some of the excellent fare in the cookhouse.

Then to Boddington, where we showed them round the Tape Relay Centre and arranged a teleprinter conference with Signalman Guest at Krefeld. The afternoon finished with a cup of tea, guests and hosts being equally exhausted.

The aftermath, as those who read the *Sunday Mirror* will have seen, continues. 4 Squadron, W.R.A.C. will not lack for lonely pen-pals for a long time to come.

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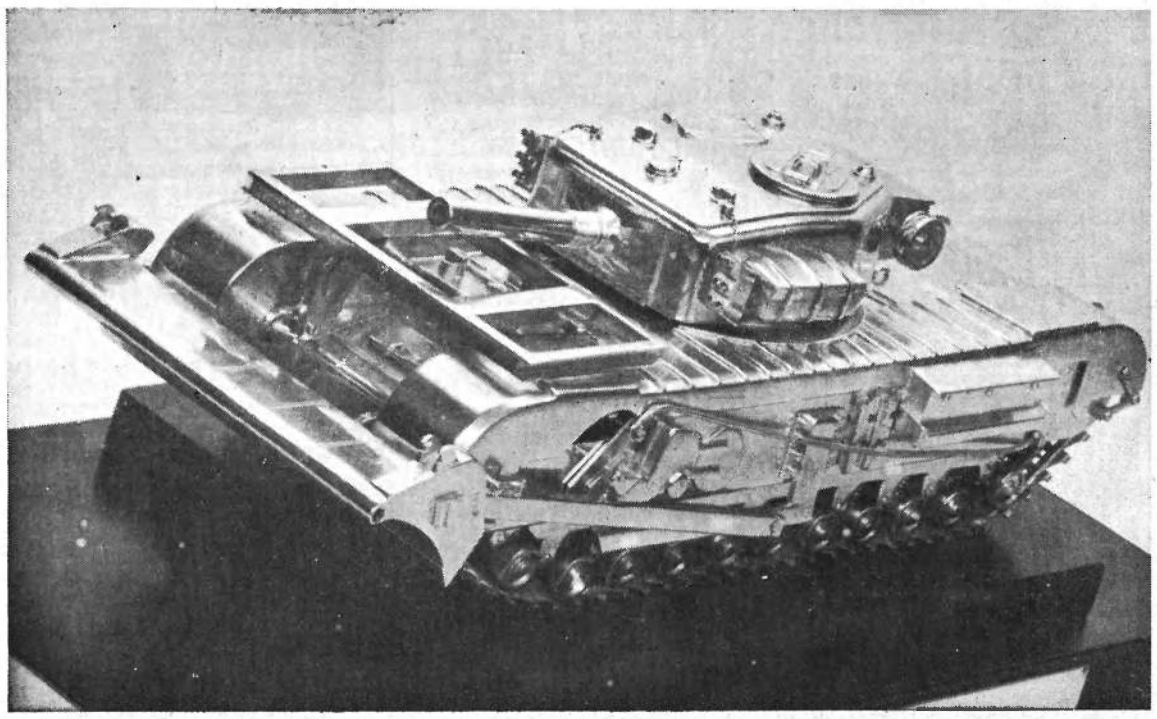
number of us have "had a go." Soon a party will be off down the length of the Rhine from Switzerland, and much plot-hatching is afoot for next year. Meanwhile, the R.S.M. sits on the bank conducting swimming tests in icy water, and the victims sing as they swim (the words are best left unrepeated). Occasionally the Second-in-Command comes along, too—he's past it, you know!

We have been sending a steady stream of hardy types to Norway on Outward Bound Courses. Second-Lieutenant Wright comes back as a canoe instructor (best officer on his course and with a bronze survival medal). We shudder to think what he has in store for us. And in August we send a party to Norway to find adventure in canoes for two weeks.

Deep sea sailing went Signalman Pearce, Coxon and Farmer, and our Quartermaster, Lieutenant Barnes Murphy—under the bleary, but watchful, eye of our master mariner, Lieutenant J. J. Bally. They earned their seaboots during 30th May to 5th June, between Kiel and Sonderberg and, apart from that jib that went up 180 degrees out of phase, they were "all tight and Bristol fashion"—a really weather-beaten bunch of sailors when they returned to barracks.

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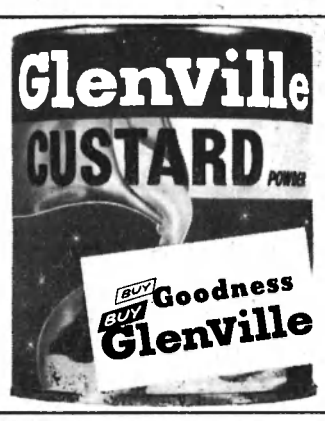
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The winning chariot at the R.A.F. station sports

Left to right: Lance-Corporal Butler, Signalman Prime, Cleopatra in marble bubble bath, Signalman Taylor, Signalman Smith, Sergeant Richardson

21st REGIMENT, B.F.P.O. 43

R.H.Q. We were happy to welcome during the month the Chief of Staff, B.A.O.R., Major-General G. B. D. Fitzpatrick, C.B., D.S.O., M.B.E., M.C., and Mr. Callender, of 8th Regiment. Both were shown in detail what the Regiment achieves, and we are sure were impressed with work they saw in progress.

Two Warrant Officers of the Regiment were presented with the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal during the month —W.O.II (F. of S.) D. D. Clarke, by the Chief of Staff, and W.O.II (S.S.M.) A. C. Lloyd by the Station Commander, R.A.F., Laarbruch. Congratulations to them both, and long may their misdemeanours remain undetected.

1 Squadron. In the Spring a young man's fancy turns to —in the case of 1 Squadron, the woods once again—to display their skills to an admiring audience of men and women of the R.A.F. Communications Centre. Our efforts are ably assisted by "D" Cable Troop, of 2 Squadron, whose work on some of the heavy cables is much appreciated.

After a few minor snags, which could have been foreseen, and which resulted in some derisive banter from the R.A.F. radio relay teams, all went very smoothly, and since we all learn a little every time out, it was both good value as an exercise and a welcome break from barrack life. There is not, unfortunately, a photograph for publication of Royal Signals/ W.R.A.F. co-operation either on or off duty, but we can show some of the linemen, who put in long hours, to make the technical site both efficient and workmanlike.

2 Squadron. On his visit to the Squadron, Mr. Callender was able to discuss training and skills with a good cross section of our linemen and cable jointers, and we were able to show him a variety of tasks in progress.

For the uninitiated, a "Gooseneck" enables a pilot to be briefed in the cockpit by line, and automatically uncouples when the aircraft moves off. Captain Fred Stork has been doing some serious study on these temperamental couplers and, at the time of writing, is near a solution—it may perhaps be "Stork-necks" in the future.

At the station sports we didn't quite manage to win, but certainly enjoyed ourselves. One event we won feet down was the annual chariot race. Our photograph shows Cleo Collins and his stalwarts poised for action.

3 Squadron. *The Big Dig.* Almost three thousand yards of trenching, 3ft. deep, for radio relay circuits. In lieu of a mechanical digger, we resorted to Napoleonic (or perhaps even Cromwellian) methods, and used picks and shovels. With a party never exceeding seven men, two-thirds of the dig was completed during May. The cables will eventually rest on a bed of plastic tea cartons delivered (full) daily by the NAAFI or R.A.F. Malcolm Club Mobile vans. The odd bottles of beer



The Chief of Staff watches 8 pair cable being laid

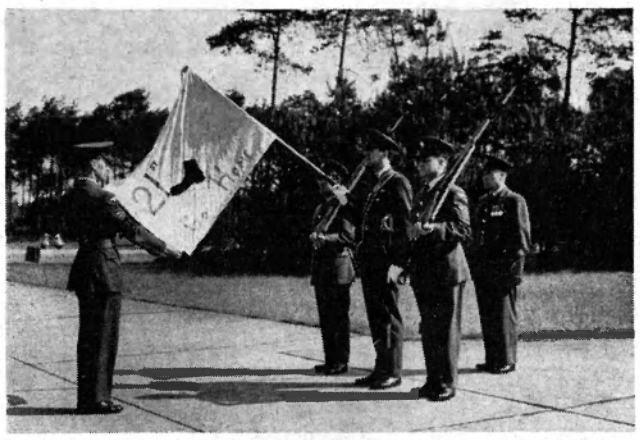
issued free of charge by Lieutenant Middleton to really deserving diggers, were returned for the odd 20 pfennigs to buy further teas. Champion diggers? Signalman Gumbs (when on form), and Signalman McPherson. Champion rock-finder, Corporal Stokes.

Our photograph shows General Fitzpatrick watching an eight-pair cable neatly deposited into the trench by a party led by Sergeant Ferguson and including Corporal Stokes, Signalman Coleman and Signalman McPherson, the latter two doing most of the work.

A.O.C.'s Parade. Until it "came to the push," Major Canham hadn't realised how difficult it was to get 39 men on parade. But that is what the Station Commander wanted, thirteen files. On the day, the O.C. was speechless (and this says a lot) to find 41 men awaiting his inspection. Two broken-hearted men had to be rejected (they later found themselves brushing rain off chairs for lady spectators).

The parade was held to be the best seen at Laarbruch for many years, and we like to think that our position, right of the line, has something to do with it. During rehearsals we found such difficulty in changing down to the R.A.F. pace, that 31 Squadron, R.A.F., produced a special colour for the occasion.

We have given their photograph pride of place in R.H.Q., and are now thinking hard for a suitable reply.



A.C.O.'s parade. An unusual "colour" was produced by the R.A.F. for their Signal Regiment

DEATH OF MR. JAMES WEBB

THE WIRE regrets to record the death at the age of 58 of Mr. James Webb, ex-Royal Corps of Signals, and for many years an untiring worker for the Southampton Branch of the Association. A full obituary will appear in our August edition.

22nd REGIMENT, B.F.P.O. 16

H.Q. Squadron. In the Knowles Cricket Cup Competition, we met 1 Squadron, who proved to be too strong for us, beating us by 10 wickets. However, all members of the team thoroughly enjoyed the game, which was played in brilliant sunshine.

We welcome to our midst Sergeant Richardson, R.A.P.C., who has come to swell the numbers of our pay staff. We wish him a pleasant stay.

We were sorry to lose W.O.II Fice, A.P.T.C., who has left us on regular release. We wish him well for the future in civilian life.

The M.T.O., Captain (Q.M.) Finch, and his trusty M.T. Sergeant, Sergeant Wilson, have been given the task of training nine drivers, on an eight-week course, to BIII standard. These chaps are all youngsters, fresh from the U.K., and have no previous knowledge of driving whatsoever!

1 Squadron. With the onset of some real summer weather, we had to look for better reasons than mere exercises for the sun-tans which are in evidence. These were quickly found.

Signalmen Anderson, Broderick, and Prior were engaged in skin-diving at Daun, near Luxembourg for three days, under the leadership of Broderick, who has some experience in these matters. He has just returned from a course in skin-diving in Berlin, and soon he is to go on another similar course at Kristiansand, in Norway. The aim of this course is to produce dive marshals from second and third class divers, and lasts for three weeks.

Also the Regiment is affiliated to Lippstadt Canoe Club, who use the river Lippe, which is neither deep nor wide enough to make the canoeing too dangerous. Thus, quite a few have tried their hand at this, and when our four new canoes arrive, we expect to see many more participants.

Lieutenant C. E. R. Story has been promoting sailing in the Regiment's Enterprise on the nearby Margareten See. We have not many qualified sailors as yet, but with the present enthusiasm and good weather, the numbers will increase smartly.

Resulting from the encouragement given to cycling at Easter, many little groups have been seen disappearing out of barracks on journeys to nearby beauty spots. These bicycles are certainly proving their worth. In August they are to be used on Adventure Training schemes in places further afield in Germany.

For the information of other Signalmen who take an interest in their local Wolf Cubs and Scouts, Signalman Oldfield is doing some sterling work with the Lippstadt Group, especially in the hiking and tracking fields.

2 Squadron. A Saracen is described by Chambers as "a name variously employed by medieval writers to describe the Mohammedans of Syria, etc." It is referred to by members of Recce Troop as something rather more colourful and possibly not suitable to appear in print.

The Troop has two of these "Beasties" (one of the more polite names given to them) which are at present being given a face-lift. After three days of toil, we penetrated to the last of the eight coats of paint of various colours which had been applied in the past, and now have reached bare metal. The monsters are somewhat lighter (in the avoirdupois sense) and we hope that, when finally re-sprayed, they will feel better for it and show their appreciation in their future performance.

The cycling habit has caught on quickly in 2 Squadron. This may be due to the fact that S.S.M. Brooks is the organiser of this activity and has let it be known throughout the Squadron that 48-hour passes are available for the asking to anyone who wants to go for a week-end cycling/camping expedition. From the number of passes which appear each Friday for "Mohnesee-cycling," one wonders what other attraction there might be in that particular area. The bicycles and camping kit are hired to individuals for a nominal sum.

Last month we lost Sergeant Lynch, who was Troop Sergeant of Recce Troop. He was a very popular Troop Sergeant, and we were all sorry to see him go.

244 Squadron. During the month of May, the "Red Hand" Squadron saw two of the year's most important exercises.

Firstly, the results of all our efforts and practice came into good use when the actual day arrived. The exercise itself, "Royal Flush," lasted, in fact, three strenuous days. In general, all went very well, and although at the time of writing these notes, we still have not heard the detailed results, we are waiting with great interest and confidence. It is hoped to publish a detailed account of the exercise and results, when available.

On the 23rd of the month, half the Squadron made the long trip down to Belgium, with the remainder at Bielefeld and the airfields of Germany, for Exercises "Long Tom" and "Front Centre IV." These two exercises, running concurrently, for a week, were designed to test the Squadron's communications and, in general, it can be said that we came out well on top. To add to the problems set us by the Staff, Nature also did her best to daunt us. In fact the Belgium party, at the C.O.C., had one of the worst thunderstorms experienced in years. However, communications were attempted, with some success, during this time, whilst our allies closed down all their links for the period of the storm. It was therefore somewhat ironical that the only set hit by lightning was a German one which, like all their others, was switched off. We are still not sure whether it was our "Red Hand" protecting us, or just Sergeant Williams' luck, following him down to Belgium, that brought this about.

During the latter half of the month, some of the Squadron have been detached to Cyprus and Borneo. To them we would like to say good luck, and we look forward to their return with all the stories of "active service."

24th REGIMENT

Some months ago we appeared in THE WIRE under the heading of "Setting the Pace."

Although having suffered "writer's cramp" since then, the Regiment is still very much with it. A few paragraphs on football and this year's Motor Cycle Display Team follow, and an entry from an unnamed member of the W.R.A.C.

As well as the various activities mentioned in those paragraphs, Sergeant Rees and Sergeant Moon, B.E.M., beat the rest of the Army entry and most of the civilian entry in the Scottish R.A.C. International Rally this year. Monte Carlo next year, with luck! Sergeant Deans and the rest of the motor cycle team roam the country bringing back various pieces of silver, and R.S.M. Licence is now to be found tearing round the tank tracks on a B.S.A. We headed both Garrison Table Tennis Leagues last season and took most of the individual events.

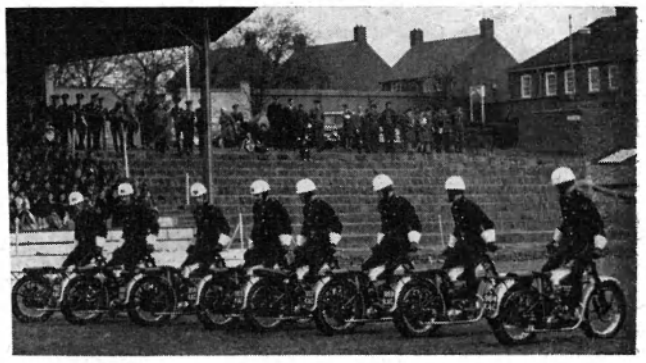
Major Bill Adam, having slaved throughout the winter with his rugby teams, culminating in the Command seven-a-side final, is now with Major Nan Dallas, O.R.Q M.S. Brown and Staff Sergeant Postlethwaite trying to knock up an athletics team, both male and W.R.A.C., whilst Captain Frank Bergelin is trying to get most of the Regiment into the Catterick open air swimming pool at half-past seven every morning!

The Royal Signals Motor Cycle Display Team, started over 30 years ago. The team consists of one officer, one sergeant and 30 O.R.s, who have been selected after a course of very arduous cross-country training during the winter months at Catterick.

The show season begins in April and usually finishes in late October. During the close season the riders do normal regimental trade training and duties, in addition to their motor cycle training.

This season the team, one of the best ever, has already performed at many showgrounds throughout the U.K. before their attendance at the Royal Tournament at Earls Court (5th-25th July). **During September/October they will visit Australia to perform at the Sydney Trade Fair which marks the Centenary of Australia.**

The motor cycles are provided by the Triumph Engineering Company, Coventry, as always.



24 Signal Regiment Football Team, 1963/64 with the Northern Command Challenge Cup, Yorkshire District Challenge Cup and Yorkshire District Senior League Cup



Signalman Nelson, Corporal Cook, Signalman Mowat, Signalman Clarke, Signalman Tyler, Lance Corporal Callachan, Signalman Nelson, Signalman Gordon, Lance Corporal Sutherland, Lance Corporal Forrester, Lieutenant-Colonel Peat, Captain Thompson, Sergeant Noon, Lance Corporal Onslow

Association Football—1963/64

This has been a most successful season, during which a high standard of football and sportsmanship has been set by the Regimental Team. **For the first time since 1947/48 season, a Signal Regiment now holds all of the following:**

Northern Command Challenge Cup
Yorkshire District Challenge Cup
Yorkshire District League Cup

It has been the policy to include in the team as many trainees as possible, and at no time throughout the season have we fielded a team without the inclusion of at least five. This fact surely bodes well for the future of soccer within the Corps. The aim also has been to maintain high standards of sportsmanship, in accordance with the best traditions of the Corps.

Yorkshire District Senior League Cup

Completion of the competition resulted in an outright win for us by six clear points over our closest rivals, R.A.F., Leeming, the final results being:

Played 13; won 13; goals for 89; goals against 15; points 26.

Yorkshire District Challenge Cup

In the final we met 8th Regiment, when we ran out winners by 5—1. Throughout this competition—goals for 16; against 2.

Northern Command Challenge Cup

Again, the Central Ground, Catterick Camp, saw us playing 8th Regiment in the final, the result this time being 3—0 in our favour. In this competition we scored goals for 14; against 3.

Army Challenge Cup

Here we reached the U.K. semi-final, having eliminated en route:

Preliminary round: A.A.S., Carlisle, by 6—1.
First round: 8th Signal Regiment by 6—0.
Second round: Bye.
Third round: 1st Bn. The Sherwood Foresters by 6—2.
Fourth round: 1st Training Regiment, R.E., by 6—3.
Semi-final: Home Postal Depot. Lost by 2—1.

It must be admitted that on the day our opponents fully deserved their win, and though the game was hard fought throughout, we completely failed to produce the form that had carried us so far. For the record, we have learned a lesson, and as a result look forward to meeting Home Postal Depot (Mill Hill) at some future date.

W.R.A.C. Element

Following in the footsteps of Courtaulds and Imperial Chemical Industries, 24th Regiment has almost completed a takeover bid. But this is a merger with a difference, the Regiment has acquired approximately 200 W.R.A.C. personnel of 20 Independent Company.

On 1st October, 1963, the first steps in integration took place. With the introduction of the trade of Communication Centre Operator, W.R.A.C., it was decided to introduce mixed training. Thus, the W.R.A.C. Signal Training Centre ceased to function as such and the trainees and instructors moved into 3 Squadron. The W.R.A.C. N.C.O. instructors now share the training of mixed classes. These mixed classes give rise to a great deal of competition of all kinds!

28th REGIMENT, B.F.P.O. 34



W.O.I (R.S.M.) D. Spence being presented with the L.S. and G.C. medal by the Commanding Officer Lieutenant-Colonel W. D. S. Renton.

Friday, 8th May, saw 28th Regiment (British element, less W.R.A.C.) on parade for the final handing-over of the Regiment by Lieutenant-Colonel W. D. S. Renton to Lieutenant-Colonel A. Pagan, M.B.E. After three rousing cheers for our departing C.O. had died away, we waited, with bated breath for the arrival of the C.O.'s car. One could almost feel the tension as we waited to see if the ancient machine would make it. It did, and as the vehicle left the square, the Regiment was in new hands.

To Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. Pagan we extend a hearty welcome and wish Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. Renton, who go to Bovington, all the best in their new post.

We offer our congratulations to R.S.M. D. Spence and Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) M. C. Foulds on their awards of the Long Service and Good Conduct Medals.

The end of May saw us on Exercise "Front Centre," a N.A.T.O. P.B.X., and we must say, proudly, that we are definitely NATO-ised. This came home to us very obviously on the exercise, when at system control, a German soldier was explaining how his rifle worked. It was discovered that he was one of those rare gems, a triple linguist. Before he knew what was happening, he was enticed into the vehicle and found himself engineering circuits to our French-speaking allies.

Sportsmen of the Regiment have been taking advantage of the excellent weather which we have been having.

What better place to spend a couple of days in brilliant sunshine than on a golf course?

The B.A.O.R. Royal Signals Spring Golf Meeting took place at R.A.F., Bruggen, on 16th/17th April, and we are glad to be able to relate that the sun was not the only thing which shone. The first four places in the bogey competition were won by W.O.II (C.S.M.I.) R. Issitt, Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) J. W. Howie, Major G. B. Andrews and Lance-Corporal R. A. Key.

The Regimental foursomes were won by W.O.II Issitt and Major Andrews. In addition to this, our Second-in-Command, Major P. D. Parker, also featured high in Stapleford competitions, in which we had players in the first three of each competition.

In the B.A.O.R. Championships, W.O.II Issitt again shone in finishing second in the Individual Championships, having been defeated 3 and 2. He also played in the Rhine Area Team which defeated H.Q., NORTHAG.

Lance-Corporal Key came second in the Stapleford match on the last day, and has now proved to his Troop Commander, Captain C. V. Impey, that the loss of one of his Line Techs. was worth while.

Congratulations to Captain J. H. Wheeler and Lieutenant L. S. Hood on their most impressive performance in the R.A.F., Germany, Gliding Championships. Representing the Corps in a Ka-6 (high performance single seater) glider, after eight strenuous days of competition and 1,000 km. (flown) they finished overall second. "Mention-in-despatches" must be

given to the back-room boys who made this success possible, i.e., the retrieve crews who are so useful, but so rarely in the limelight, and our thanks are extended to Corporals A. Winstanley, B. Kelly, E. Donnithorne and T. Palmer, who made participation possible.

Captain J. H. Wheeler and Lieutenant L. S. Hood also managed to get away the previous fortnight to Plexis Belleville (30 km. north-east of Paris). Judging by the location, one has doubts as to the seriousness of gliding, but apparently a jolly good time was had by all. (The pundits assure me that all available flying time was spent in the air).

Lastly, we mention that Corporals A. Winstanley and T. G. Palmer have both qualified for their "C" soaring certificates.

In our last notes we mentioned that we were to meet H.Q., B.A.O.R. in the final of the Rhine Area Soccer Cup. We are now pleased to report that the meeting took place in glorious sunshine on 15th April, in Rheindahlen, at 15.00 hours.

The result! 28th Regiment 3, H.Q., B.A.O.R. 1.

Finally, we offer our sincere sympathy to Lance-Corporal and Mrs. R. Parkin on the death of their daughter, Rita, aged 2½ years, at Liege, on 8th May, 1964.

30th Regiment

The arrival of the Corps band on Monday, 4th May, 1964, heralded the beginning of our Regimental Week. This proved to be an ideal opportunity to repay previous hospitality shown by all ranks of H.M.S. Hermes, and four officers and six petty officers spent the week living with the Regiment.

Socially it was a hectic week commencing with an Officers' Mess Dinner Night at which the Officers of H.M.S. *Hermes* were present. A further social highlight was the dance organised by the Sergeants' Mess during which the petty officers of H.M.S. *Hermes* presented the Mess with a plaque bearing their ship's crest. Later, the same evening, our Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel A. T. Burrows, M.B.E., presented each petty officer with the regimental "Swan" tie, thus ensuring that a warm welcome awaits them at any time they may wish to visit us in the future.

In spite of extremely unkind weather the Regimental Sports moved to a thrilling climax on the afternoon of 7th May. With the final result depending on the last event—the relay race—640 Troop were ultimate victors with 3 Squadron a close second, one point behind.

Brigadier A. L. Atkinson, O.B.E., Chief Signal Officer Southern Command, inspected the Regiment on parade on 8th May. Prior to the Regimental March Past, Swan Troop Junior Leaders Regiment were presented with the Swan Flag, and Warrant Officer Class II Walker received his Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.

With our Regimental Week drawing to a close the Corps Band led us through our final evening—the All Ranks Dance. It was virtually on the notes of the 'Last Waltz' that a tired but satisfied Regiment slipped away to a recuperative weekend.

3 Squadron. The more fortunate members returned to Skye for exercises and all too soon the familiar pattern of force 6 gales, rain and blown away tents was quickly apparent. On visiting his Troops in the field, Major Mackinnon saw his native country for the first time. He noted with approval the relaxed atmosphere—for example the nearest 'Letter Box' marked "time of collection—Friday." In spite of all, good work was done and all thoroughly enjoyed their month in the Hebrides.

640 Troop. With commitments in British Guiana, Cyprus, Aden, Rhodesia, Swaziland, Kenya, Singapore, Borneo and Hong Kong a much depleted Troop struggles on in Blandford. We wonder what the reaction of the authorities would be to an application by the Troop Commander, Captain B. C. Hodgson, to visit his men in the field. In spite of all, three C11 detachments under Sergeant Coatsworth are preparing to provide communications for the Round Britain Cycle Race in June.

535 Troop commanded by Sergeant Walton, who were formed from 640 Troop in December, 1963, are now well established in Hong Kong and have joined 1st R.U.R. In the sporting world Lance-Corporal James and Signalman Mycock are playing for the battalion rugby team.



Brigadier A. L. Atkinson, O.B.E. talking to Lance Corporal Coldwell, 1 Squadron

Left to right, foreground: Major R. I. Osbourne, Parade Commander; Major R. M. Armstrong, O.C. 1 Squadron; Captain R. Bell, Adjutant; Lieutenant-Colonel A. T. Burrows, M.B.E., E.R.D., commanding 30th Signal Regiment

262 SQUADRON

(Notes Written by Lance-Corporal V. W. Cowell)

With the easing of tension and the takeover of the peace-keeping activities by UNFICYP, I have at last found time to write something for The Wire.

With the outbreak of shooting between the Greek and Turkish Cypriot factions, the military forces on the island were placed on standby, and some married families brought into the Sovereign Base Area. This, of course, drastically curtailed the Christmas festivities. Much praise must go to the families living in quarters who opened their doors to those who were forced to leave their houses and possessions. In our Squadron, all families in the town of Larnaca were billeted with other families in two hours, which was a feat of administration.

Our Radio Troop was placed on the alert at 02.00 hours on Boxing Day morning, which caused many a headache, literally, after the Christmas festivities. Activity was fast, but not furious, and all was completed by 08.45 hours. Under the Command of our Second-in-Command, Captain G. Wilkie-Snow, the Troop moved out at 09.00 hours, leaving a number of bemused expressions as to who had borrowed what in the way of kit—Corporal Colin Bland, in particular, having to leave his home with no kit at all. He joined his crew and took up the role of Troop Second-in-Command, leaving Sergeant Jim Dunnett at H.Q. to carry out the exacting, and at times exasperating role of co-ordinating supply and demand.

On arrival at R.A.F., Nicosia, the Troop accommodated themselves in the now well-known hangar, which has been mentioned in many news reports, and completed final preparations and briefing. On setting up of Truce Force H.Q. in the Cornaro Hotel, the radio detachments were despatched to various locations.

With H.Q. in the hotel were Lance-Corporals Mike Freeman and Mike Stuart, Signalman Dennis Broom and Signalman Piggott. **The latter had a very disturbing experience when being driven in Nicosia by Lance-Corporal Southall, their vehicle was fired at. One shot passing between the two men and another passing under Lance-Corporal Southall's right arm, penetrating the door panel. When "Lester" Piggott was told he would have to return, he rolled his eyes, and in true West Indian manner, said: "Not me man, I don't want a big medal, a small one will do me fine."**

Corporal Bland and Signalman Burgess were billeted with the British Liaison Officer to the Greek Army Contingent in the Greek Camps. They were made welcome and became

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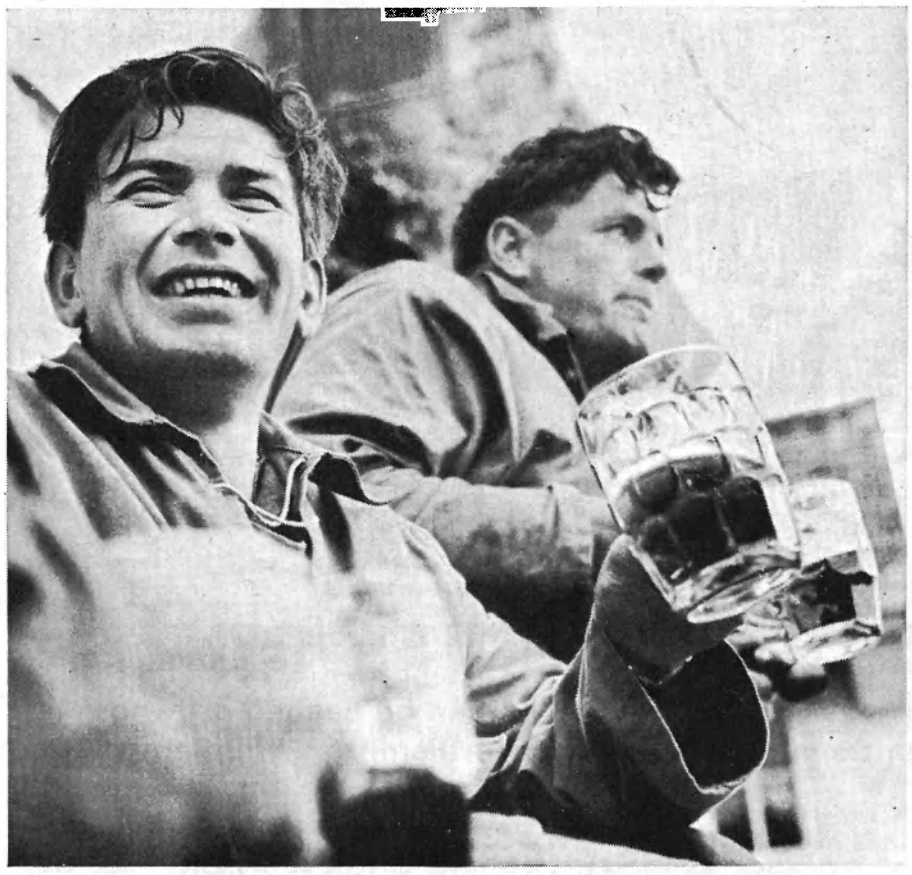




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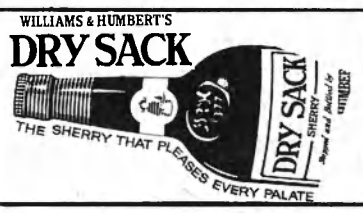
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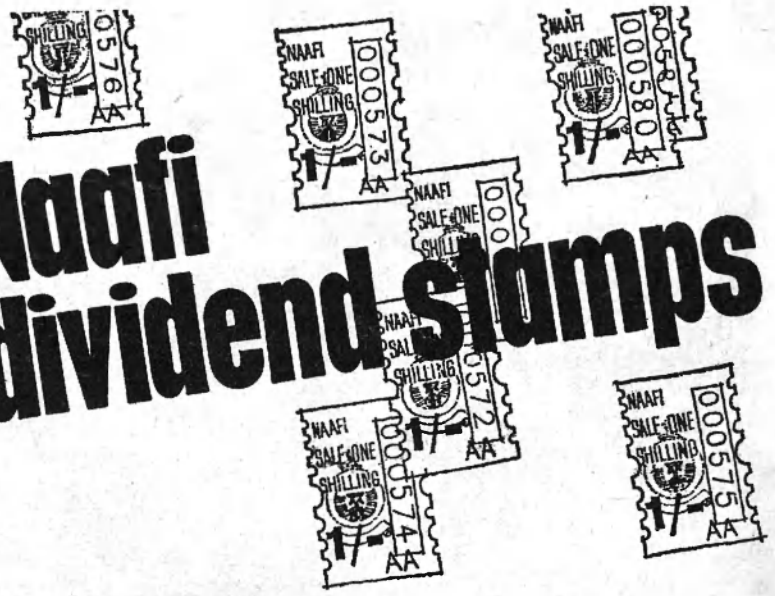


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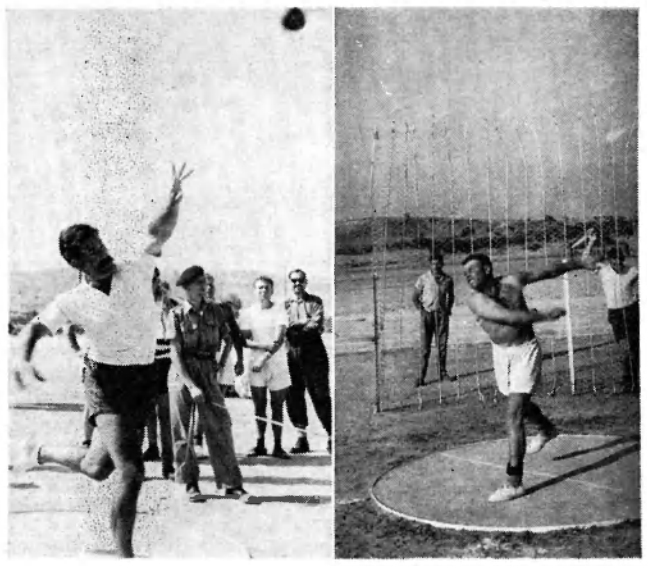
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TWO STUDIES IN POWER
(*Left*): Captain P. W. Roland in the shot. (*Right*): Corporal Bland winning the discus

great friends, especially when they figured largely in the extraction from Turkish hands of certain Greek bandsmen.

The Turkish Liaison Officer had the services of Lance-Corporal Tait and an Infantryman, Frank Lawyer, of 1st Gloucesters. They were made most welcome also, and a very strong feeling of comraderie was experienced by both men. The food, however, was rather unsettling, and after one sample, was politely refused; Lance-Corporal Tait finally settling in a Turkish home. Food was a problem to the out stations, as it could only be obtained when returning to H.Q. with reports.

As you can imagine, all the radio activity resulted in a constant demand for batteries. Signalmen "Tiny" Campbell and Wilf Deakin were constanly employed re-charging, coupled with the unenviable task of riding "shot-gun" on D.R. runs. Signalman "Abe" Grainger became the Driver for the S.O. II and S.O. III, Major F. C. Lockwood and Captain Wilkie-Snow, respectively.

We must not forget Signalman George Allen, who, since his arrival here, has had the position of operator for the G.O.C., Cyprus. George's voice could often be heard coming up from the most unlikely locations.

While our illustrious Radio Troop were giving their all in the rather dicey condition in Nicosia, we at Squadron H.Q., in Dhekelia were hard at it also. Since the outbreak of hostilities, all radio and telegraph circuits were opened twenty-four hours per day. This resulted in a drastic increase in work, and our technicians and W.R.A.C. operators were hard pressed, due to a shortage in personnel, brought about by the increased shift working.

Lance-Corporal Mark Davies being fully employed with Radio Troop, our remaining Radio Technician, Lance-Corporal Geoffrey Owen was hard put to it in maintaining the sets at the various out stations.

We were fortunate in snatching from 259 Squadron, after only four hours on the island, Lance-Corporal Dave Briggs and George Clark, two E Technicians, who supplemented our thin staff of two, as our head of department, Sergeant Dave Nuttall was still recovering from a serious motor cycle accident (friends of Sergeant Nuttall please note, he has now sold his machine). Lance-Corporal Briggs later went to Joint Force H.Q., Nicosia. The whole technical side was presided over by our F. of S., Staff Sergeant Mike Pankhurst.

At the setting up of the UNFICYP, the Radio Troop was recalled and a steady run-down was begun, although certain specialised tasks were, and still are, being carried out by this unit.

In conclusion, we must thank all those people, in all walks of life, at home and overseas, who have written to us, and to all our supporters who said such nice things about us during the last five months. It was a great lift to morale and we greatly appreciate it.—Thank you.



DECATHLON
Team Champions Cyrenaica Area, 1964
Signalman King, Signalman Smith, Lance Corporal Longstaff

245 SQUADRON (CYRENAICA) B.F.P.O. 55

The Spring season on the North African coast is normally the loveliest part of the year and at the time of writing the weather is at its best (with apologies to our residents in the United Kingdom). Since the closure of the Leave Centre in Cyprus, more people have been taking the opportunity of visiting Malta and sampling the local resorts, particularly Cyrene with its higher altitude and ancient ruins. Both centres have been spoken of highly and to add comfort to visits to Cyrene two Welfare caravans have now been provided and families and individuals can now rent them at a nominal fee.

On the 12th March, 1964, we were honoured by a visit from the new G.O.C. Malta and Libya, Major-General J. D. Frost, C.B., D.S.O., M.C., a distinguished soldier who is well remembered by ex-members of the 1st Airborne Division (Bruneval to Arnhem).

Amongst other activities in the Squadron one of the recent and perhaps most entertaining jobs was staging a Fashion Show for Cyrenaica Area on behalf of NAAFI. The Show was produced by Mrs. Fyfe, the wife of the O.C., and stage managing, lighting and front of house, were looked after by many members of the Squadron.

Of the ten volunteer models, two wives, namely Mrs. Cheston, wife of Corporal Cheston, and Mrs. Brown, wife of Sergeant Brown, with Miss Ann Marie Heaney, daughter of Sergeant Heaney (Fashion Houses please note) took part; Mrs. Heaney acted as a dresser.

Area Decathlon Championships. In this Competition we did better than had been expected. The final scoreboard was as follows:

Team Championship

1st	245 Squadron (Team 1)	points 7283
2nd	"C" Company, Green Howards	points 6927
3rd	British Military Hospital	points 6300
4th	245 Squadron (Team 2)	points 6051

Individual Championship

1st	Signalman Smith, 245 Squadron	points 2653
2nd	Corporal Green, 14th/20th King's Hussars	points 2533
3rd	Lance-Corporal Longstaff 245 Squadron	points 2517

Daily Individual Prizes

Signalman Smith	440 yards.
	880 yards.
	Cricket Ball.
Lance-Corporal Longstaff	Javelin.
	Assault Course.

All participants are to be congratulated on this very fine effort.

(*A Model Fashion picture from this unit appears on page* 255)

Members of 604 Signal Troop (22nd Regiment) go Climbing in Austria

A Subaltern, a Lance Corporal and a Signalman spend Whitsun climbing the formidable Karlspitze —

WHITSUN is a time of sun and leisure, although most Units take the opportunity of leaving their barracks and venturing off for a few days, whether it be for camping, cycling or sailing. For us this year it was to be a trip down to Austria, where we intended to do some mountaineering, in preparation for our visit to Norway, later this summer.

On May 15th our party, consisting of Lieutenant P. J. R. Brown, Lance-Corporal D. Power and Signalman R. Terrett, loaded my car with all our camping and mountaineering paraphernalia, and at 04.00 hours the next morning we left our barracks and started a very long and tedious drive down to Austria. Our destination was Ellmau which lies in the shadow of the formidable Kaisergebirge Range. Alternating at three hourly periods, Terrett and myself drove continually, and crossed into Austria at Kufstein, arriving at about 16.00 hours that same evening. From here we drove on to Ellmau and then to our camping site, a pleasant meadow next to a clear mountain stream.



Lance Corporal Power and Signalman Terrett on the summit of the Karlspitze

This was my second visit to the Kaisergebirge, since I had spent three weeks climbing here in the summer of 1963. For Lance-Corporals Power and Terrett this was their first experience in the mountains, although both had climbed frequently with me at the Honnetal in Germany. Both were soon to learn the vast difference between climbing a sheer rock wall on a Sunday afternoon and climbing a 7,000 foot peak with a 50 lb. pack on one's back!

We soon pitched our tents and established ourselves comfortably in our camp. Then came the very necessary task of checking our equipment in preparation for the next day's climbing. We had two large rucksacks, and we split the loads evenly so that in the event of separation there would be adequate provisions and equipment for each of the separated parties to sustain itself.

The next day dawned beautifully clear and sunny, though there were clouds and tatters of mist enveloping the mountains themselves. This would clear with the heat of the day, and with a promise of fine weather we shouldered our burdens and began the long appproach march to the Ellmauer Tor, from where most parties begin their climbing.

The cheerful conversation soon dwindled to nothing as each of us concentrated on conserving the maximum energy possible. The track, although even and well defined initially, soon petered out, making the journey even more arduous than before. Soon after passing the Gaudeamus Hutte, the track as such disappeared completely, and all that was left to tell us we were on the correct route were patches of red paint dabbed onto the occasional rock. At last we reached "The Boulder" at the foot of the snow and scree slope. Here we rested, smoked cigarettes, and boiled cupfuls of snow on a small bivouac cooker to make hot drinks.

From here we were able to scrutinise the mountain range at close quarters. The lime-stone walls rose vertically above us on all sides, seeming to reach the very sky. The problem was —what to have a go at? Everything looked incredibly difficult, and my experience from the previous year confirmed this. On our left was the Karlspitze, in the centre the Ellmauer Tor and to the right the Goinger Halt. I had tried the Karlspitze by its south and east face during my last visit here with Lieutenant Noonan. Our attempt had ended after an overhanging pitch ending in a vertical cliff, from where we were forced to beat a hasty retreat and had to descend in darkness. We certainly wouldn't have time to climb the Karlspitze by this route, although there were others we could try.

The mass of the Karlspitze itself swept round to form a natural basin. It had five minor summits all approximately the same height, looking like a hand with five stubby fingers. After a short discussion we decided on the summit on the south side of the basin as our target. This meant we would be climbing on the north side, which could prove difficult.

Our decision made, we once more shouldered our packs and continued climbing. At this stage I was leading, although we hadn't yet roped up. I left the track and with the others following, started kicking steps up the snow slope, which was angled at about 30°. We continued at a reasonable pace for about 400 feet, before the angle of ice increased. The ice—or rather frozen snow, was not easy to climb, for although we were able to kick adequate steps, they tended to collapse once we put the whole of our weight in them. Just before reaching the rock wall, the angle increased to about 45°, and it was quite difficult to climb up to the lip of the edge crevasse, where we all sat and deliberated on the continuation of our route.

I didn't like the look of the rock directly above us, so after a short rest we roped up and I started off diagonally upwards into the basin itself, keeping close into the rock. After the first pitch, I kicked out a large stance and brought Lance-Corporal Power up to me before setting off once more. Terrett joined Lance-Corporal Power who climbed on up to me. In this way we made four rope lengths, before Terrett spotted a route up a slab to a small ledge.

Kicking the snow from our boots, we climbed the slab with little difficulty, and on upwards over the rock, which was loose, brittle and very friable. After a few more hundred feet the rock became worse, and every foot and hand-hold had to be tested with the utmost care. Higher still we climbed, and always over bad ground. Nine times out of ten we could easily pull the holds away, and certainly couldn't trust our weight to them. It was a matter of deciding which way to put one's weight—sideways or downwards—in order to prevent each hold breaking off.

By now the route had deteriorated to a near vertical grass slope with lumps of rock projecting from it. It was very risky, since nothing offered a safe belay point. We stopped, brewed a hot drink on the edge of a large patch of snow and deliberated as to whether or not we should continue.

However, we could see the summit bathed in sunshine, about a thousand feet above us, so we decided to climb on. For all we knew the route may well improve higher up, above the next shoulder. I handed over my pack to Lance-Corporal Power, since I didn't like leading up such treacherous ground with the weight pulling me backwards and off balance.

About half-way up the next pitch I came upon a band of ice about twenty feet wide and very steep, which would have to be crossed if we were to continue our route. I shouted down to Lance-Corporal Power to find out how much rope I had left, before hitching a sling over a spike of rock projecting from the ice. I attached a Karibiner to it and slipped the rope to this, before trying to get onto the ice itself. Lance-Corporal Power was firmly belayed about 70 feet below me and would hold me if I came off at this point. Even with these precautions I wasn't too happy about this pitch, since every time I trusted my weight to the steps I kicked, they collapsed, sending me sliding back to my starting point. At last I managed the pitch and came upon a wide ledge, where I belayed to a firm rock and brought the others up to me.



Lance-Corporal Power and Lieutenant Brown "brewing up" at the Boulder



Resting on a rock platform on the way up. Signalman Terrett and Lance-Corporal Power enjoy the view

It was getting quite late by now and the sun had sunk behind the west ridge, so that we were quite cold. I took the pack from Lance-Corporal Power and handed over the lead to him. He immediately set off over some very loose ground, climbing at top speed, so that we could reach the summit before it got any later. The rope hummed over my pack as I let out the slack and he worked his way higher and higher above us.

We continued across a high coll, and looking down we suddenly realised just how high we were! A few more rope lengths and Lance-Corporal Power shouted down jokingly: "Hey! Get the Union Jack out—I'm almost there!"

Sure enough when I joined him at his stance, the sun was shining warmly, and the summit only 100 feet above. The last pitch was the best in the climb, since we were completely on good firm limestone again. Terrett joined us on the summit and we smoked and enjoyed the magnificent view.

We coiled up the ropes and started to descend the west flank. Just then we heard shouting and looking across the valley, spotted a minute figure clinging to a sheer wall. It was one of the many Austrian parties climbing in the area. **Another climber about a thousand feet below him began traversing across steep ice. He suddenly slipped, and in a flurry of arms and legs tumbled down the slope. By some miracle he came up on his feet, inches from the edge of a sheer wall, dropping thousands of feet below him. He teetered there for a few seconds, regained his balance and was safe.**

Quite unknowingly we had all held our breath, and it was a cautious party of three that continued their descent! At last, after slithering and sliding, we reached the snow slope and bounded down it. We came upon a track then which led down to the valley and our camp. We passed the Grutten Hutte and after a very tiring journey reached our camp and friendly little stream, where we cooked a meal and climbed gratefully into our sleeping bags, having climbed a total of 14,000 feet during the day. It had been a hard day's work, but now we knew what was expected of us when we visit the mountains again.

216 SQUADRON

Our regular Paratroop Squadron is now back from Cyprus with an interesting account of its activities there.

If we are to take up the narrative where we left off last time we must go back (dare I say it?) more than six months. So we must be brief. In November of last year the Brigade was responsible for running a Parachute Battalion Exercise in Cyprus, and the Squadron had its usual task of providing control and umpire communications. It gave us practice at the same time in providing a line layout in one of the tented camp sites in which Cyprus abounds, and in establishing or renewing relationships with "Royal Signals, Cyprus" (including Air Formation Signals) and with R.A.F. Nicosia — all of which were to be of enormous value to us sooner than we realised!

However, our thoughts on returning to England in early December were directed entirely to the forthcoming festivities and block leave, clouded only by the fact that at the end of the year we were to lose some old friends. Captain Tom McKirgan left us with a Regular (Q.M.) commission for 14th Signal Regiment (talk about contrast!), Captain Maurice Flynn joined 204 Squadron in B.A.O.R. (though not for long—we are delighted to hear he is to attend Staff College next year), and Lieutenant Mike Collins went to disturb the peace of 229 Squadron in Berlin. In January, S.S.M. J. G. Turner, who had represented the Squadron with distinction in *every* sport, and who had gained Corps shooting colours in 1962 and 1963, also left us for 4th Regiment.

This was not, in consequence, quite the most convenient moment to go overseas on an emergency tour, but that we did so is now well-known.

There have already been accounts of the Cyprus operation and we are grateful for the references to us in some of these. Our own impressions may perhaps still be of interest—particularly those of the early phases. Our first thought was, and still is, how splendidly the "locals" had prepared the ground for us. It was, of course, a tremendous stroke of luck that we should go back to the very same camp we had occupied for our Exercise less than a month previously. Colonel Bob Harvey, at H.Q., NEAF, and the Nicosia Airfield Signal Troop, knew our likely requirements there and had provided most of them before we arrived. The O.C. and Major Freddie Lockwood (who had been uprooted from his office in Episkopi to command a very *ad hoc* Force Signals) were also old friends, so that all the main links were soon agreed and put in hand. This let us get on with our own job without having to look over our shoulder—a state of affairs which continued throughout the operation.

Our training particularly suits us for rapid moves and for quick setting up on arrival, and we were therefore not particularly impressed, though quite satisfied, that we had provided the necessary facilities for our Brigade Headquarters to take over command in Nicosia within 24 hours of arriving there. Thereafter, our commitment gradually extended and built up, as it tends to do, until we had to cater for a zone covering two-thirds of the island, and a variety of units under command, none of them organic to the Brigade. In these days it all provided very good training and experience — our operators were working at maximum ground wave ranges, with considerable relaying, especially at night; our Comcen staff were handling sustained live traffic on a scale they do not normally meet; a regular SDS service is something never seen in the parachute phase of an operation, and so is rarely practised on our Exercises. Everyone had the opportunity to test over a period of months the skills and procedures of his trade.

As weeks went by the pressure eased. We were delighted to greet the arrival of 3rd Regiment, who brought more old friends, men and equipment, to relieve the improvised Force Signals, who had managed so well on such a shoestring for so long. This reduced our commitment too (because we had been helping out a bit), and it was further reduced as our Brigade sphere of responsibility contracted with the arrival of more troops. We had time to resume parachute training and had some very comfortable descents on Ladies' Mile, north of Akrotiri. We had an occasional day off, many as guests of the ever hospitable Signal units on the island.

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47th REGIMENT MIDDLESEX YEOMANRY (The Duke of Cambridge's Hussars)

Presentation of the British Empire Medal to Squadron Sergeant-Major G. Gray of the 47th Regiment (Middlesex Yeomanry) T.A.



THE photograph shows Squadron Sergeant-Major G. Gray receiving his award from General Sir Roderick McLeod, C.B.E., K.C.B., A.D.C., General Officer Commanding Eastern Command, at a Ceremonial Parade held at the Duke of York's H.Q. on the 27th May.

Sergeant-Major Gray has served with the T.A. since 1938. During the war he saw active service with the B.E.F. and later in Iraq, Persia and Burma. He has been a most enthusiastic member of the T.A. and his record of attendance is an example to all. He has been a member of the London Branch of the Association for some 14 years.

All will join in congratulating him on his well deserved award.

Cavalry Memorial Parade

The combined Cavalry Old Comrades held their annual parade and memorial service at the Cavalry Memorial in Hyde Park on 3rd May, when the salute was taken by the Chief of the General Staff, General Sir Richard Hull, G.C.B., D.S.O.

In addition to the usual detachment of serving members and Old Comrades representing the Middlesex Yeomanry on the actual parade, the Regiment provided the communications control system for the event, manned by a section from one of the Troops of "A" Squadron, under their Troop Leader, Second-Lieutenant A. Coombes.

The "highly-bulled" ¼-ton vehicles and immaculate personnel in Blues, made a fine show; and proud were we all, when, following the event, the Commanding Officer received a congratulatory letter, not only commending the Middlesex Yeomanry on the efficiency of the communications and smartness of personnel, but also advising him that the section's presence had been brought to the attention of the Chief of the General Staff, by Lieutenant-General The Lord Norrie, G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O., C.B., D.S.O., M.C.

Squadron News

"A" Squadron P.S.I., Sergeant J. Preece, reports "tremendous keenness" on the part of students on the Radio Operators' Course that he is currently running.



CRACK SHOTS

Major K. Parsons, leading some of The Middlesex Yeomanry prize winners at the recent London District T.A. Rifle Association's 1964 meeting

"B" Squadron, equally active, ran a successful operation in mid-May, by tying in radio and line training, with the civil authorities responsible for crowd control, etc., at the Chiswick Regatta, which gave "B" Squadron "live traffic" of novel interest.

Raynes Day — 11th May, 1797

This year, the 167th anniversary of the Middlesex Yeomanry's foundation, was celebrated by a reception given by the Officers' Mess and a telegraphic exchange of good wishes between the Regiment and the Baynes family, represented by Colonel D. R. Horsfield, O.B.E., Royal Signals, a direct descendant of our founder, Captain Commandant Sir Christopher Baynes. Subsequent to the occasion, much pleasure was given to the Regiment by the receipt of a special letter of good wishes from Sir William Baynes, Bt., the present head of the Baynes family.

The 11th May is celebrated by the Middlesex Yeomanry in connection with the Regiment's foundation, as it was that date in the year 1797, upon which King George III signed the document commissioning Sir Christopher Baynes, of Harefield Place, Uxbridge, as Captain Commandant of the Uxbridge Yeomanry Cavalry (the Regiment's title prior to 1871). Earlier this year, as the result of research by the Curator of Exhibits, of the Imperial War Museum, we have at last discovered exact details of the original uniform of 1797 and had a sight of prints depicting it.

52 (L) REGIMENT (T.A.)

Good Shooting By The 52nd Regiment

In May, 1963, the regimental shooting team surprised the prophets by winning both the "China Cup" and the "Major Units Cup" (non-Infantry) at the annual Lowland District shoot at Dechmont Ranges, near Glasgow. The critics, particularly the various Infantry and Rifle Units against whom the team competed in the "China Cup," were obviously of the opinion that it was something of a fluke that the victory should have come to the Regiment and that such success on the part of a Signal Unit could never be repeated.

This year's shoot on the same ranges took place on Sunday, the 31st May, and, although the day was grey and overcast and most certainly cold, conditions were good for shooting. The wind was perhaps a little strong and blowing across the range but, as was remarked by a certain Infantry team leader, the weather was just right for a "good score by a good team." The result proved that particular person correct as our regimental "A" team took the "China Cup" and the "Major Units Trophy" yet again. The winning of both these trophies two years running is an achievement of which the Regiment can be justly proud, particularly in view of the fact that teams from such Regiments as the Royal Scots, the K.O.S.B., and The Cameronians were among a formidable list of contestants. It is interesting to note here that the runners-up could only come within 30 points of our total score.

To prove further that the winning of shooting trophies by a Signal Unit is no fluke, the "B" team carried all before them in the "Falling Plates" event and collected a handsome shield. This team was made up from some of our younger members and their success augers well for the future efficiency of our "marksmen." One of these younger members was a runner-up in the Young Soldiers event and but for some bad luck during his "rapid" would have taken the cup also.

All in all, the day was most satisfactory and one can only hope that similar victories will be ours at the "Corps" shoot in Edinburgh in September and again a Dechmont next year.

409 SQUADRON (PARK), A.E.R.

Once again, "409," commanded by Major E. J. Kelly, has been to annual camp, from 25th April to 9th May. Again we visited Donnington, as indeed, we feel this is our home; where else could we work and train alongside our opposite numbers (Signals and Ordnance) in the Regular Army?

Based at Parsons Barracks, where we were extremely well looked after by the Regimental Wing, R.A.O.C., we were once again able to take part in all the amenities of the Depot, which included, for the energetic types, twist sessions at the NAAFI, and an all ranks' dance, held in the modern cookhouse, which I believe is now called "The O.R.s Restaurant." Nostalgically do I recall the days of eight men round the table.

Incidentally, Lieutenant (Q.M.) R. N. Stilwell, late R.S.M. of 85th Regiment, who has recently joined us, was amongst the prizewinners at the all ranks' dance, and to prove he is F.E. and still "with it," it was possible to see him twisting, as and when required.

So much took place during our 15 days, it is difficult to know where to start, but let us have the sweet first and the pill (training) after.

It was an honour for the officers to take part in the dinner night, and our heartfelt thanks go to the Commanding Officer, Brigadier Eaton, for allowing us this priviledge, especially as Major W. E. Fill (Bill to all his friends) Officer Commanding 231 Squadron (Park), was being dined-out, prior to retirement. Towards the end of camp, the Warrant Officers and Sergeants, under the command of W.O.II Owen towed Major Fill out of the Depot, the route being lined by the remainder of the Squadron. Later, at a small, private party, the officers presented him and Mrs. Fill with a complete Travel Gazeteer and Guide of the British Isles, "so that he may find his way to see us whenever he so desires."

Our training this year took the form of refresher courses and military training during the first week, followed by an exercise in the second. It was particularly noticeable how our technicians fitted into this scheme. In the weeks prior to camp, Major (T.O.T.) R. E. Playle had liaised with 58th Signal Regiment, T.A., who agreed to let us have their vehicles as "captured enemy equipment, our technicians then, during the period of camp, completely rewired and installed the equipment to schedule—the end-product being fully-serviceable vehicles returned to 58th Regiment; a fine example of A.E.R./T.A. co-operation, and something, I am sure, which could be cultivated into a natural asset for the Reserve Army.

Co-operation, in fact, was the keynote of this year's camp. Assistance was given to 42nd (Lancs.) Signal Regiment (T.A.) by providing some members of the Squadron, under Staff Sergeant Davidson to act as butt party at the Wrekin Range, whilst they were preparing for the Corps Rifle Meeting in June and later at Bisley. The excellence of 92 W.E.T.C. at Nesscliffe as a training area cannot be too highly recommended to other A.E.R./T.A. Units, although we should like to stake our claim first.

The liaison with the R.A.O.C. at Donnington was of the highest order, and is an outstanding example of co-operation between different arms of the Service.

Monday of the second week saw us visited by Major G. Fowler, acting C.O. of the Regiment, accompanied by Captain D. Lewis (the Adjutant) and W.O.I (R.S.M.) Lampard, who were very impressed by what they saw. Lieutenant-Colonel H. H. R. Mole, M.B.E., E.R.D., had, unfortunately, been taken ill prior to camp, and in reply to the acting C.O., Major Kelly asked that the good wishes of the Squadron be sent to the Colonel with the hope for a speedy recovery.

The end of camp came all too quickly, and on 9th May, the members of "409" dispersed to all corners of the British Isles. I hope, feeling they have done something worthwhile, and looking forward to next year, which we all hope will be Donnington once again, so that we may further the spirit of co-operation and good relations that exist between the two Corps.

No, I have not forgotten Lieutenant Hill, our Training Officer, a big "thank you," Dennis, for an extremely enjoyable 'annual,' trainingwise.

82nd REGIMENT (A.E.R.)

Under command of their new C.O., Lieutenant-Colonel W. A. Dalziel, T.D., the Regiment assembled at Blandford on 4th April to handle the 1964 A.E.R. camping season. The Advance Party arrived to cold, icy winds with flurries of snow! Fortunately, however, the weather improved on arrival of the main body and continued clement throughout the fortnight.

The Commander, Colonel G. W. Blackburne, addressed all ranks on the Sunday and recruitment was the theme. This was also stressed by the C.O. in his opening address.

Training commenced on the Monday and followed an ambitious programme which was nevertheless achieved with great success. The Regiment now has a posted strength of 28 W.R.A.C., the majority of whom have had no previous military experience. The training of these girls in Communications Centre work was no small task. The girls performed wonderfully well and results achieved were quite amazing. As a result, we now have the nucleus of a fully operational Communications Centre Troop of an extremely high standard.

The annual exercise in the second week made maximum use of the Communications Centre element. Although the Regiment is now capable of staffing a number of Communication Centres, the technical trades necessary to set up and maintain the links are very thin on the ground.

Objectives of the radio relay links were achieved due to the ability and enthusiasm of the technicians, but we sorely need more. The two communication centres were operated with success. During the second day of the exercise the W.R.A.C. operators were sent out to the detachment for a full day and "manned" the out-station Communication Centres in a highly efficient manner. The main snag encountered was in production of H.F. links.

A challenge by a W.R.A.C. football XI (!) to a combined team from all ranks male, produced an interesting contest. The girls were attired in varied garb and their interpretation of the rules (aided and abetted by the referee, our Second-in-Command Major W. N. Lang) was, to say the least, rather liberal! Next camp we believe a cabaret is on the 'cards.'

Two hockey matches were played against H.Q. A.E.R. and as a result the C.O. left camp for Oban, at the end of camp, with his ankle in plaster! This was one of several knocks he collected in his varied sporting activities, but we understand he has no complaints!

During camp the Regiment was inspected and Efficiency Medals presented by Colonel G. W. Blackburne, Commander H.Q. A.E.R., and at a further parade the newly appointed Honorary Colonel, Colonel W. H. Oliver, M.B.E., E.R.D., took the salute. We also had a visit from old friends, Colonel J. Linton, O.B.E., C.S.O, Scottish Command, and Lieutenant-Colonel Saunders-Davies, T.D., DWRAC, Scottish Command.

Spirit and enthusiasm in the Regiment remains at a high peak and augers well for the future. This is in no small measure due to the co-operation and assistance given by the H.Q., A.E.R., and from the real friendship existing.

SPORT

Rugby

FINE RECORD OF 8th REGIMENT

Played 22 *Won 21* *Lost 1*
Points for, 577 *Points against, 62*

This is the record of 8th Regiment Rugby team for season 1963-64. The result which hurts, was the lost game which was against long standing rivals the Duke of Wellington's Regiment. They won 14—6 in the first round of the Army Cup in a very exciting game.

In consolation of this loss the Regiment finished the season by winning the Northern Command Seven-a-Side tournament and the Northern Command Inter-Unit Challenge Cup.

The Regiment was represented in the final of the latter by the following:—

Lance-Corporal Mills, Sergeant Radford, W.O.I Rees, Signalman Cagilaba, Signalman Shreef, Sergeant Martin, Lance-Corporal Evans, Corporal Willis, Signalman Dempsey, Corporal Pepper, Sergeant Bennett, Signalman Thompson, Signalman Brown, Corporal Tomlinson, Signalman Stephens.

Shooting

Non-Central and Small Bore results for 1963 were as follows:

NON CENTRAL

A.R.A. Match 62—The Pistol and S.M.G. Match (Minor Units). Winners: 243 Signal Squadron (Southern Command).

A.R.A. Match 66: 1st Colonel M. J. R. Fletcher; 2nd, Lieutenant-Colonel D. C. Ward; 3rd, Lieutenant-Colonel C. V. Walsh; 5th, Lieutenant F. R. Maynard (11th Regiment); 6th, Major R. H. Gilbertson (School of Signals); 7th, Sergeant D. R. Daniels (11th Regiment); 8th, Corporal R. Wade (11th Regiment).

Winner of the Royal Signals Bulford Cup: Colonel M. J. R. Fletcher.

The T.A.R.A.—Lord Lieutenants' Challenge Shield: 11th, 61st Regiment (T.A.); 12th, 51st Regiment (T.A.).

Winners of the Royal Signals Mercury Cup: 61st Regiment (T.A.).

SMALL BORE

A.R.A. Match 76—The Individual Small Bore Championship: 3rd, Sergeant Smith (807), 14th Regiment; 4th, Lieutenant-Colonel C. V. Walsh; 7th, Lieutenant (Tfc. Offr.) W. C. Lombard, 7th Regiment; 11th, Captain J. F. Pavey, 7th Regiment; 12th, Lieutenant-Colonel F. L. Clarkson, 7th Regiment.

Winner of the Royal Signals Aldershot Cup: Sergeant Smith (807).

A.R.A. Match 77—The Individual Small Bore Match: 3rd, Lieutenant-Colonel C. V. Walsh
(Winner of the Royal Signals Blandford Cup)

A.R.A. Match 79—The Unit Small Bore Championship: 5th, 14th Regiment.
(Winners of the Royal Signals Small Bore Trophy).

A.R.A. Match 81—The Young Soldiers' Cup: 3rd, 7th Regiment.

A.R.A. Match 82—The Company Cup: 3rd, H.Q. Squadron, 7th Regiment; 4th, 1 Squadron, 14th Regiment.

A.R.A. Match 87—The Three Positions Match: 4th, Lieutenant-Colonel C. V. Walsh.

Cricket

Royal Signals 136 for 8 (dec.) v. Catterick Services 97-9.

Played on 3rd June, the Corps declared at 136 for 8, Lance-Corporal Mayes 46, for Services Captain J. D. Potts 27 not out. Corps tried to force a win, but the last pair managed to hold out and the game was drawn.

The C.S.O.'s Champion Sport Squadron. Athletics Meeting, Cyprus District, 1964

The meeting was held on Saturday, 23rd May, at Dhekelia Sports Ground, and teams were entered by 1, 2 and 3 Squadrons of 9th Regiment, and 259, 261 and 262 Squadrons.

The day was hot and the sports ground which tends to be a dust bowl and unbearably hot at this time of the year was kept pleasantly cool by a delightful sea breeze. Nevertheless, the glare from the white havara surface caused a little distress.

The meeting started off with a spectacularly successful free-fall parachute drop display given by the Cyprus Free-Fall Parachute Club. The jumpers drew prolonged applause from the crowd when they each landed within a few yards of their target. After this the normal events of the meeting got under way and the afternoon's entertainment proceeded smoothly to the accompaniment of the band of the 3rd Green Jackets.

Before the prizegiving, Colonel Grigg, the Chief Signal Officer, addressed the meeting, congratulating 259 Squadron on their win and thanking Lieutenant-Colonel Fairman, the Commanding Officer of 9th Regiment, for organising the meeting. Mrs. Grigg then gave out the prizes.

Results

The winner of the Challenge Cup was 259 Squadron followed by 2 Squadron, 3 Squadron and 1 Squadron in that order. 261 and 262 Squadrons tied for sixth place.

Corps Sailing — A.S.A. Regatta, 11th June

Fourteen officers and soldiers of the Corps took part in the preliminary practices and the A.S.A. Regatta held at Seaview, Isle of Wight. In the three practice races Lieutenant-Colonel Arthur Burrows showed consistent form by coming first on each occasion closely followed by Captain Spears who achieved two seconds and a third.

In the Inter-Group Competition, Poole Group A.S.A. entered five teams and Catterick Group two teams; final results being: 1st, Major Glover (Poole group); 5th, Lieutenant-Colonel Collyer (Catterick group); 6th, Lieutenant-Colonel Burrows (Poole group); 10th, Lieutenant Bruce (Catterick group). Corps successes can be judged from the fact that of 27 helms from all branches of the Army, the winner came from the Corps, and of the nine officers in the final four were Royal Signals.

Royal Signals Officers' Golfing Society

The following played for the Corps against the Royal Military College of Science on 27th May at the East Berkshire Golf Club: Major-General A. E. Morrison, Colonel J. S. Longfield, Colonel P. E. S. Mansergh, Lieutenant-Colonel C. V. Walsh, Lieutenant-Colonel W. Clarke, Lieutenant-Colonel E. Brown, Lieutenant-Colonel S. Schofield and Major G. R. Price.

The Corps won. Results:

Singles	Corps $4\frac{1}{2}$	R.M.C.S. $3\frac{1}{2}$
Foursomes	Corps 3	R.M.C.S. 1
	$7\frac{1}{2}$	$4\frac{1}{2}$

The following played for the Corps against the Royal Engineers on 4th June at Hankley Common G.C.

Colonel J. S. Longfield, Lieutenant-Colonel S. Schofield, Major A. B. Roderick, Brigadier P. M. P. Hobson, Major J. Peck, Captain S. Wyatt, Major G. R. Price and Second-Lieutenant T. Waugh.

The Corps lost. Results:

Singles	Corps 3	Royal Engineers 5
Foursomes	Corps 2	Royal Engineers 2
	5	7

The Training Brigade Annual Golf Meeting was held on the Garrison Course at Catterick on the 14th May, 1964. Strong winds in the morning made play very difficult but a very pleasing day was had by some 40 entries.

Results of the meeting:—

A.M.—18-HOLE MEDAL HANDICAP

Winner: Father T. E. Cotton (Attached 24th Regiment), 94−24=70 net.

Runner-up: Captain R. Carroll 74−1=73 net.

The Brigade Golf Trophy was again won by the Headquarters, the team being:—

Brigadier A. C. Cox, O.B.E.
Colonel D. G. Jones
Captain J. Telfer
W.O.I E. C. Byrne, B.E.M.

P.M.—18-HOLE STABLEFORD (FOURSOMES)

Winner: Father T. E. Cotton and Captain J. Telfer.

Runners-up: Brigadier A. C. Cox and Colonel D. G. Jones.

At the conclusion of the meeting the prizes were presented by Mrs. A. C. Cox, wife of the Brigade Commander. In addition to the normal prizes two special ones were awarded by Brigadier Cox, these were for the lowest *net* scores at the 5 long and the 4 short holes. These special prizes were won by Major A. Knight and Captain R. Carroll respectively.

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Amateur Golf Championship

Congratulations to Captain Dick Carroll who went through to the fourth round of the recent Amateur Golf Championship at Ganton, Yorkshire, before succumbing to a strong American player, J. B. Thornton, by two holes. In the second round where he went to the 19th with the French ace Henri de Lemaze, the meeting was headlined in one national newspaper as "Carroll repels French raid."

MAJOR C. RHYS FEW

CORPS golfers will be sorry to hear of the death of Major Rhys Few—a keen and popular player in Corps golf matches. Several Corps golf trophies bear his name and his absence on Corps golf occasions will be a loss that will be felt by his many friends.

Royal Signals Association and Benevolent Fund

The following subscriptions were most gratefully received during May, 1964:

	£	s.	d.
11th Regiment (Depot)	28	0	4
24th Regiment (Officers' Mess)	1	3	0
School of Signals (Wives' Club)	15	2	0
Army Apprentices' School	8	12	0
3rd Regiment	3	0	0
30th Regiment (Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess)	1	0	0
H.Q., A.E.R., Royal Signals	1	16	0
Central Vehicle Depot, R.A.S.C. (Sergeants' Mess)	1	0	0
21st Regiment	10	0	0
207 Squadron	8	10	4
222 Squadron (Air Formation)	10	0	0
H.Q., Allied Forces Northern Europe	1	3	0
Bath and District Branch	5	5	0
Birmingham Branch	9	4	0
Croydon Branch	3	3	0
H. R. W. Marsh (Deed of Covenant)	10	0	0
Various individual donations	7	10	0
RECEIPTS	£124	8	8
Expenditure during May, 1964 (Includes:—Rent and Rates; Beds and Bedding; Furniture; Cots and Prams; General Assistance).	£582	4	10

Some prominent members of the Association who attended the Aldershot Branch Dinner which was reported in the June Wire



Left to right: A. V. Ient (Hon. Sec. Aldershot Branch), W.O.I E. Summers, M.B.E. L. V. Goodman (Chairman Aldershot Branch)



Left to right: E. Hayward (Aldershot Branch), Captain J. Way (Hon. Sec. Croydon Branch) W. 'Joe' Cotterell (Famous Corps Runner), Brigadier W. G. Tucker, C.B.E. G. Adams (Aldershot Branch)

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August 1964

The WIRE

The Royal Signals Magazine





THE WIRE

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

The Official Organ of the Signals Association

Editor:
BRIGADIER P. M. P. HORSON, D.S.O.

Assistant Editor:
BRIGADIER H. R. FIRTH

All correspondence and matter for publication in THE WIRE, *should be addressed to* THE WIRE, **Royal Signals Association**, *Cheltenham Terrace, Chelsea, London, S.W.3. Tel. Nos. SLOane 4129 and SLOane 3477, Ext. 143.*

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AUGUST • 1964

Vol. 18 (*New Series*) **No. 8**

Editorial

Princess Royal Day and Reunion Week-end, Catterick Camp, 1964

Once again, appropriately coinciding with Princess Royal Day, this now well-established gathering of the Corps, both serving and retired, has taken place amid, we are delighted to report, scenes much enhanced by sunshine and pleasant, summery weather.

The Hosts

As usual, the Training Brigade, assisted by the School of Signals, were first-rate hosts, and nothing had been spared to welcome the many hundreds of guests from all over the U.K. Indeed, on the Sunday afternoon, those present must have numbered several thousands as, apart from hosts and guests, the local public tend to come in increasing numbers, attracted by the excellence of the displays and the cheerful comaraderie of the occasion. Preparations for this week-end involve much work and many problems for those at Catterick. Training schedules are upset and administrative headaches abound, yet the usual welcome and first-class arrangements are invariably a feature of this splendid occasion at the home of the Royal Corps.

Retreat

This provided the dramatic opening ceremony on an evening when the sun lit up scarlet tunics and gleaming instruments to their best advantage. The Corps Band, in conjunction with that of our Junior Leaders, put on an excellent spectacle of military precision allied with martial music. The combination of the two bands was most effective, and we must hope that this continues in future years, although it is appreciated that there are "certain difficulties" which have to be over-ridden in transporting the Junior Leaders' Band this distance.

Evening Entertainment

Again much effort had been put in by the various Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Messes to entertain their guests. All were full to capacity and, as usual, the evening passed swiftly in an atmosphere of much reminiscence, inspired and indeed fortified by many pints and drams.

Church Parade

This took its usual form. St. Martin's was beautifully decorated. The music and the choir uplifted and inspired. A large congregation was privileged to hear—and many will long remember—a "straight-from-the-shoulder" sermon by the Bishop of Maidstone. Then followed the march past, with the rippling standards and the gleam of medals of the "older" Signalmen, followed by the smart, soldierly demeanour of the young regulars of 1964, as they marched by—perhaps the most moving occasion of the whole week-end.

Annual General Meeting

Here it was a pleasure to be able to report that Association finances were on an "even keel" and that Life Membership figures were at an all-time high (see page 324 and 325).

Sunday Afternoon

Once again this provided an admirable opportunity for many old friends to meet, while on the ground, the usual first-class displays took place. Particularly good to see was a young officer who, along with his Troop Sergeant and junior N.C.O.s, working together as a team, won the assault course race with much combined determination and dash. The Bands again excelled, and there is no doubt that the Junior Leaders' Band has now matured into a highly-proficient body of young men. A physical training display by the instructors of the Training Brigade was much admired and, of course, the Motor Cycle Display Team provided a dramatic finale with one of their best shows ever — including a number of new turns. Their success at the Royal Tournament and later, when they visit Australia, is assured.

And so, finally, the curtain was rung down on another Princess Royal Day and Reunion Week-end. Much 'sweat' for many, but we believe well worth it, not only because of the great pleasure it brings, but because of the way it knits the Corps together, irrespective of rank, age or service.

An Amazing Story

PRINCESS ROYAL DAY was celebrated by the Corps on Sunday, 28th June, this year, and this particular week-end was marked in many units by entertainments, sports and social events.

In Belfast, the 66th Regiment (T.A.) decided to hold an "At Home" for the public at the Clonaver T.A. Centre on the Saturday. Meanwhile, at the same time, across the Irish Sea in Yorkshire, the Training Brigade, assisted by the School of Signals, was welcoming many hundreds of Old Comrades who had assembled for the annual Catterick Reunion week-end. The newly-built home of the Depot in Helles Barracks was on view **and perhaps the focal point of the whole reunion was the Depot Regiment, symbolised by its brand new guardroom at the entrance to Helles Barracks.**

Back now to Belfast where, during the afternoon, a novel competition was under way. Visitors were being invited to buy hydrogen-filled balloons at 1/- a time and to write their names on labels attached to the balloons and then release them. These labels stated that £5 would go to the sender and £1 to the receiver of the balloon that travelled the furthest distance. At about 3 p.m., W.O.II D. K. Earnshaw, a regular P.S.I. of the 66th Regiment, tied a label on a balloon, released it and soon forgot about it. In all about 200 balloons were released.

Back again to Catterick, and the time is now about 8.30 p.m. The evening entertainment for Old Comrades is getting well under way and the Depot is thronged with its many visitors. Corporal F. J. Meek, the Guard Commander, looks up into the fine evening sky and sees a strange object coming slowly down outside his guardroom. He doubles out and catches a balloon that has floated down to earth.

It is the balloon released by W.O.II D. K. Earnshaw in Belfast some 5½ hours earlier, for it has the label with this signature on it.

This remarkable story has been carefully checked with all parties. The Meteorological Office confirm that in the area concerned at this time there was a westerly air stream of 30-40 knots between 3,000 and 10,000 feet. The label has been identified by W.O.II Earnshaw as the one completed by him at 3 p.m. the same afternoon. It was also noted at the time of "launching" that this particular balloon was only half-filled with gas. Up to date, only a few other labels have been returned, mostly from balloons which were found nearby, but in one case from a balloon which was found in Middlesbrough.

A miracle indeed, and what a feat of communication. Only the Royal Corps could do it—and on this particular week-end!

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BRIGADIER A. L. ATKINSON, O.B.E., B.Sc.

"Flags" Atkinson, born in 1912, was educated at Chorlton High School and Manchester University. He joined the Royal Corps as a university entry in 1935. His first Field Unit was 3rd Divisional Signals at Bulford, and after two years there he was accepted for secondment to the King's African Rifles.

In 1940 for a few months he commanded 12th (African) Divisional Signals, later reverting to Second-in-Command. During 1941-42 he continued to serve in African formations including 21 (E.A.) Brigade Signals and 11 (E.A.) Division.

From 1942 to 1943 he was Second-in-Command in 14th Indian Divisional Signals. After attending the Staff College at Quetta he commanded 19th Indian Divisional Signals in Burma until returning to England to 47th Divisional Signals in 1945. A spell of staff work now began and he was in turn G.S.O. 2 Liaison in Prague, DAQMG North Malaya where operations were in progress, and lastly Brigade Major Signal Training Centre.

In 1951 he commanded the 1st Commonwealth Divisional Signal Regiment in Korea. It was his task to raise the headquarters elements and No. 1 Squadron in the United Kingdom and, on arrival in Korea, to absorb the Signal Troops which had previously been in action. After a year in Korea he was Commandant Signal Wing, School of Infantry, until he was selected to attend the Joint Services Staff College. This led to his appointment in 1953 as G.S.O. 1 Inter-Services Planning Team. He was for a short time a G.S.O. 1 in the Signals Directorate and then he returned in 1956 to the Far East as O.C. Hong Kong Signal Regiment.

In 1958 he became G.S.O. 1 Signal Division at ALFCE and this was followed by the Chairmanship of the European Radio Frequency Agency, with the rank of Colonel. In 1961-62 he was Chairman of the Communications Electronics Committee NATO in Washington U.S.A.

On promotion to Brigadier in 1962 he assumed his last appointment, that of C.S.O. Southern Command, from which he is about to retire.

Arthur Atkinson is a pleasant, interesting companion, a good staff officer and a leader who commands the respect and the co-operation of those under him. Modesty and consideration for others have always been keynotes of his personality. The Corps will wish him the best of good fortune in retirement.

The Royal Signals Amateur Radio Society Breaks all Records

. . . members of over a dozen Royal Signal units, four Royal Canadian Signal units, R.A.F. and U.S.A.F. stations in many parts of the world and ex-members of the Corps, too numerous to mention, appear in the log . . .

FOUR hundred and seventy-two contacts with stations in fifty different countries; up to five different amateur bands being worked simultaneously; those are the bare statistics of the biggest amateur radio operation ever carried out by Royal Signals Amateur Radio Society's Headquarters Station at Catterick.

To mark Princess Royal Day and the annual Old Comrades' Reunion Weekend the special call sign GB3RCS together with permission for simultaneous operation was obtained from the G.P.O. and a great deal of preparatory work put in hand. A new three-band Cubical Quad was built and mounted on the 60 ft. tower and the three element triband Yagi moved to a 45 ft. mast. A signal to all Home and Overseas Commands and notices in the amateur radio magazines and over the Radio Society of Great Britain news broadcasts invited past and present members of the Corps and of Commonwealth Signal Corps to participate.

At last everything was ready and with a fully-stocked bar set up in what is normally the coffee room, the morning of Friday, 26th June, saw the first pair of operators ready for the start at 08.00Z. From then until 20.00Z, on Sunday, 28th June, apart from brief periods during the night, GB3RCS was on the air and the list of greetings from Service radio amateurs throughout the world pinned on the notice board grew steadily.



Lance Corporal Paul Scottorn, G3RFI operates the LG300 and Racal RA17 at G3C10/GB3RCS, the H.Q. Station of The Royal Signals Amateur Radio Society at Catterick

The first contact was with KG1AA at the U.S. Air Force Base at Thule, in Northern Greenland, and early callers were 14th Signal Regiment, at Bampton, the R.E.M.E. School of Electronic Engineering at Arborfield and the R.A. Signal School at Larkhill. Radio conditions throughout the day were poor, and although the 3.5 Mc/s station was kept busy working U.K. stations, things were going rather slowly on the higher frequencies. Friday evening, however, saw an improvement, and a most interesting three-way contact took place with a Royal Canadian Signals amateur with the U.N. Forces in the Gaza Strip and the amateur radio club of the Royal Canadian School of Signals. At Kingston, Ontario, the operator was Major Desmond Barry, Royal Signals, attached to Royal Canadian Signals, whilst at Catterick, the operator was Captain Doug Yerxa, Royal Canadian Signals, on a T.E. course at our own School of Signals.

An item broadcast in the B.B.C. Home Service programme "Eye Witness" after the 7 o'clock news on Saturday morning had been recorded in the Clubroom the previous afternoon and stimulated even more hectic activity on 3.5 Mc/s, the operators of several stations saying that they had heard it. 66th (Ulster) Signal Regiment T.A. were running an Open Day in Belfast and a contact with their Club station was punctuated by noises-off from other attractions. The operators on the DX-bands had been steadily working their way through a large number of European callers and it was beginning to look as though our world-wide hook-up was going to flop. Then wham! VS9ASS, Major Stan Symons (our first treasurer) in Aden; VS1MB, Major Ted Philp (our first secretary) in Singapore; 5B4CZ, 9th Regiment in Cyprus; VS1RS, 19th Regiment in Singapore; VS9MB, R.A.F., Gan, in the Maldive Islands; all within an hour.

By the time the operators, in shifts of course, took a breather for a spot of tea things were looking distinctly healthier. During the evening 5B4TJ of 261 Squadron in Cyprus was contacted as were more of our friends of Royal Canadian Signals.

If Saturday had been hectic on 3.5 Mc/s Sunday was doubly so with 114 stations being contacted on this one band in the day. At one time the pace was so fast the operator had to have a log-clerk assisting him. Every hour and a half a sore-throated operator staggered into the bar for lubrication and was replaced on the hard-worked LG300 and Racal RA17. Two "Old Comrades," both radio amateurs, called at the Club and were immediately recalled for service. One operator, determined not to miss the display on the Sports Ground near the Clubroom made several QSOs leaning out of the window with the result that the Corps Band was heard all over the British Isles.

On the higher frequencies, the pace was building up. A long contact with 5B4CZ, in Famagusta, started on the 14 Mc/s band and finished on 28 Mc/s, surprising what frequencies will support propagation these days. In the midst of a crowd of U.S. Signal Corps stations in Germany, up popped MP4TBA in the Trucial Oman, and MP4BEQ in Bahrein. A few minutes later we had pleasure in contacting 4th Regiment and 257 Squadron in Germany. Aden again, Chagos Island in the Indian Ocean, a Swedish Army club station, so it went on, until at 9 p.m., British Summer Time, we said 73's to an ex-member of the Corps in Uganda and GB3RCS closed down.

Members of over a dozen Royal Signals units, four Royal Canadian Signals units, R.A.F. and U.S.A.F. stations in many parts of the world, and ex-members of the Corps too numerous to mention appear in the log. If you called us and didn't work us, we apologise and can only plead that someone else much stronger, must have been calling at the time.

Operating GB3RCS were Derek G3TBP, Doug G3SJB, Ian G3SYW, John G3OAZ, Paul G3RFI, Jean G3JZP and her OM Johnny G3EJF. Jack G5PX and Val G3SZQ came for the Reunion but found themselves press-ganged back into service. Other members of the H.Q. group fed the operators, kept the log up to date and generally made sure that we stayed on the air.

Was it worth it? We think so; a total of 82 column inches in the national and provincial press, a mention on TV news and a Home Service broadcast is wonderful publicity and if any ham in U.K. does not know of the existence of Royal Signals Amateur Radio Society he must have spent the weekend gardening. Many old friendships were renewed over the air and new friendships made.

Are you interested in Amateur Radio? If so you should be a member of the Corps' own Amateur Radio Society, nearly 300 strong. The subscription is only 2 guineas for life or 2s. 6d. per annum, and we would be delighted to have you join us. The address is Royal Signals Amateur Radio Society, 8th Signal Regiment, Catterick Camp.

Impressions of the Catterick Reunion, 1964

EX-W.O.II Bert Howell (2328525) of 81, Layburn Place, Peterlee, Co. Durham, sums up this year's great annual rally of the Royal Corps, as seen through the eyes of an Old Comrade.

I attended my first Catterick reunion in 1962.

Frankly, I was not terribly enthusiastic, sensing an anti-climax after a very bad spell of local employment trouble. Perhaps the fault was mine, knowing that the old pockets could no longer jingle heartily as they did when I was "in the money."

Definitely, I felt rather like an outsider, when I really should not have.

I did meet some friends from Aldershot and many friends who, if I had but not known it, were equally anxious to mix and discuss old times. Somehow, we just did not meet, and I was a bit of a "wallflower."

I skipped 1963, due to financial difficulties. Well, that was my excuse; actually, I was not terribly keen after the first experience.

This year I tried again. What a difference. Not in the reception, not in the food, not in the warmth of welcome, but in myself! I was even less financially well off. But no matter—I had a marvellous time.

I met "Bill and Joyce," "Eric and wife," "Hank," "Bill," "Jimmy" and scores of really old stagers. A passing glimpse of a face in a speeding car window, recognised after 12 years. Three people stood chatting and "kicking each other" for not quite remembering whether it was Hong Kong, Singapore, or where the heck; but they had definitely met before.

The back view of a very old friend walking with a game leg, and a swift "Hello, Hank, see you tomorrow"—but we did not meet.

A clutching hand shooting out of a crowd of dancers: "Howdy," quick recognition and past. That would be Ernie . . . or was it Eric?

Standing on a bank watching the display, not quite knowing if it was pride or pure bragging that urged me to point out the various personages as they wandered about the crowd. There's so-and-so, I remember he always wore a ". . . medal" when he was a Major and O.C. at the Olympic Village Camp in the year dot.

This year was a year to remember. My wife requested the autographs of three Chelsea Pensioners who, in turn, asked her for a date. A fourth wanted to know if my wife wanted his autograph as well, only to be told by his friend—"you are too young to write." Too young at 81!

A little girl of eight years running up to a lady, clasping her arms round her and crying "Mummy, mummy." Nothing unusual? Maybe; except of course the lady was not her mother, but just one of those soldiers' wives who so often come to the rescue in an emergency. She had looked after a two-year-old baby whilst its mother was in hospital for a year. That was over six years ago, without either seeing each other again. They had not forgotten. Neither had I . . . it was my daughter, and Eric and Kath were her ex-Mummy and Daddy.

I learnt that it took 22 years to graduate from colour service into the ranks of the "recruits" of the Old Comrades. Experience and terms of service in this new "service" are the number of times one has attended a reunion. I am just a recruit in this "reunion game"; albeit an understanding one now.

The sense of belonging, and the hundred human stories in each glimpse of recognition; old scores wiped clean in the friendly clasp of hands; authority mellowed by the acknowledgement of a "we served together" greeting. Young soldiers and their senior Warrant Officers and N.C.O.s working hard to make things a real success—perhaps for many they had no mutual interest in. The beautiful summer's day which crowned a glorious week-end and, perhaps most sentimental of all, the back of a retreating figure, so very well known to all Old Comrades, proudly stepping out, away from it all, promising to be back next year, if God was good.

These are but a few of the reasons why I shall be back next year; even if there isn't a signpost in a camp of signposts which simply says "Welcome to Old Comrades from Royal Signals." The welcome is one that each carries with him.

Is your name on this "Jimmy" Statuette?

If so you might win a bottle of Champagne!



THE Officers' Mess of the 22nd Regiment has a "Jimmy" statuette on loan from Headquarters Mess. The statuette, apart from the base, is about 19in. high. Of very fine workmanship, it was originally black, but the many repairs it had had over the years left unsightly marks. The officers of 22nd, therefore, decided to have it silvered, and Major Steve Hodgson, of Advanced Base Workships very kindly arranged the work with his usual capacity for doing anything at all without turning a hair. The base was repaired by "M" Troop and a new rod of caduceus made by the L.A.D. The result is seen on the left.

It is now a fine looking piece, of which any Mess might be proud, and adorns the entrance hall of the Mess.

Now here is the interesting part. At the bottom of the silver plate is the inscription: "December 31st, 1921."

Surely this must be one of the first "Jimmies" presented within the Corps, if not the first.

The following names appear on the plate, in signature form: James L. Low, D. R. Kelly, F. Grundy, (?) Lindsay, F. A. S. Atterton, (?) Seymour, H. W. Thorp, J. M. Kidd (?), Chas. Antoine (?), G. C. Cochran (?).

There are two indecipherable signatures, one of which might be R. Brown.

The officers of 22nd would be delighted to hear from anyone who could tell them of the circumstances of the presentation. If any of those whose names are on the base see this, we should be glad to hear from them. The first whose letter is opened by the P.M.C. (we are at B.F.P.O. 16) will receive a bottle of champagne from the officers.

Short Sports Results

(14th Regiment Shooting Triumphs, page 316)

CORPS CRICKET

Royal Signals 143 and 84; R.A.S.C. 228

Played on 8th June, and the result was a defeat for Royal Signals by an innings and one run.

Royal Signals 115; R.M.A., Sandhurst, 116 for 5

Played on 10th June, and the Corps lost again, by five wickets.

CORPS TENNIS

1st July	...	Royal Signals 5,	Welbeck College 4
6th July	...	Royal Signals 6½,	R.A.O.C. 2½
7th July	...	Royal Signals 5,	R.A.E.C. 4
9th July	...	Royal Signals 6,	R.A.S.C. 3
10th July	...	Royal Signals 8,	R.E.M.E. 1

(*See page 319*)

CORPS GOLF

4th June	v.	Royal Engineers	Lost	5 — 7
17th June	v.	Royal Army Service Corps	Won	7 — 5
9th July	v.	Royal Artillery	Lost	4½—7½

The Wire visits the Radfan Operations

ON page 294, Captain Frank Edwards writes of the Radfan operations from a Staff Officer's point of view, under the title of "May in Thnmair." Read now of the communication problems in this theatre and how they were tackled, in turn, by two Signal Squadrons—254 and then 213. Here is a down-to-earth account of practical signalling in live operations—excellent reading for all who want to know what it is really like "on the job."

254 SQUADRON (B.F.P.O. 69) "OPENS THE BATTING"

The Build-up

The 14th April, 1964, found 254 Squadron in the throes of a dress rehearsal for the annual Administrative Inspection, due on the 16th of the month. During the morning the O.C. disappeared to H.Q., Mideast, where he found a hive of industry in a small office in the G Ops. Complex. This was the headquarters of Radfan Force, staffed by officers collected together from H.Q., Middle East, and Aden Garrison, under the Command of Brigadier R. L. Hargroves, Commander, Aden Garrison. The Force was required to start operations in the mountainous area between Nova Thikim and Dhala, with the intention of keeping the road open to all traffic.

On Friday, 17th, the Force Signal Officer found himself, in company with seven other officers, on top of a small hill overlooking the Thumair Air Strip and the main wadi. This recce party then spent three hours laying out the Force H.Q. and allotting areas for those units which would eventually move into Thumair. Back to Aden in the Twin Pioneer of 78 Squadron, R.A.F., to a flurry of conferences whilst the Squadron prepared for an "exercise," destination unknown! Bazaar rumours were rife amongst the soldiers as to where and what, but it was Sunday, 19th April, that the Force Signal Officer and elements of Radio Troop, Line Troop, Maintenance Troop and Comcen Troop left with the advance party to establish themselves at Thumair, some 70 miles north of Aden. The remainder of Radio Troop was to man the Aden terminals of the various rear links between Force H.Q. and H.Q., Middle East.

On arrival in the Thumair dust bowl, Sergeant Shanks and seven Signallers of 1/1 East Anglian Signal Platoon joined our detachment with the task of helping in laying lines and manning the Force H.Q. exchange. They did much good work and also learnt something of value whilst working alongside the linemen of the Royal Corps.

The Radio Problem and how it was solved

Radio communications in the Radfan area are more of a problem than in other parts of the Federation, as the high mountain ridges and peaks make an effective block to both HF and VHF radio, unless headquarters are carefully sited. The Force Forward Command communications were originally covered by HF radio only, with the forward units producing a miscellany of rear link stations which were vehicle borne or manpacked. It was soon apparent that only manpack radio could be used by the Infantry and Commandos.

To ensure that command could be exercised during the first phase of operations, which started on 30th April, a WS C 13 vehicle station was dismounted and moved by camel train to a ridge about 1,500 yards from Force H.Q. As a camel payload is approximately 200lb., the station, plus petrol, water and rations required six camels to move the equipment up to the piquet post on the ridge. This installation, operated by two Signalmen, was planned to act as a voice relay between forward units and Force H.Q., as the distance made direct working at night only a possibility. During the first vital night of the operation, the station was officer-manned and succeeded in relaying all orders and situation reports between stations on the net and Force H.Q.

On the second day of the operation, VHF radio equipment was gathered from all corners of the Force, including the Federal Army, and a Command Net on VHF was installed as an overlay to the HF facility. This was improved on 11th May by moving two borrowed WSC 42 by Belvedere helicopter to "Coca Cola," a hill over 3,000 feet high. This load, plus administrative requirements, used the maximum payload of the aircraft to move the rebroadcast station on to this high feature. The siting of this station, some 10,000 yards from Force H.Q. ensured that units operating with manpack VHF sets in the deep wadis had their transmissions automatically rebroadcast. Corporal Lister and Signalman MacInally, of "R" Troop, manned the station and were protected by a Platoon of the Federal Regular Army, who were holding the feature. The two men remained on the high top until 213 Squadron established a similar rebroadcast on another feature on Saturday 16th May. Thus VHF was the primary method of exercising control, with HF as a back-up; frequently tested and used when sub-stations' VHF equipment broke down.

An Unusual Line Layout

The line layout for the Thumair area was pre-planned, and over 22 miles of cables were laid, including a trunk route of two seven-pair cables laid from Force H.Q. to the air strip. Distribution and local lines were laid using D10 field cable and BT 17, filched from our SWS stores. The line requirement included a party line laid to the piquet posts on the high ridges guarding the northern and eastern approaches to Thumair. (This task demanded, at times, some of the attributes of the mountain goat!) One other unusual aspect of the line layout was the requirement to lay lines from the force exchange to Infantry Platoons defending the perimeter. These, and lines to the mortar sections, provided a "first" for the Force Signal Officer who, in some years of experience in Brigade and Divisional Signals, had never before been called upon to provide direct communications from Brigade H.Q. to flank Infantry Platoons and mortar sections!

More Communications Established

On 24th April, a second link was activated, which had a voice capability. Both these links were C11/R210 at Thumair (one C11/R210 became a back-up to the D11 station which came by road on 6th May) working to:

(a) R.A.F. Comcen (R.A.F. equipment, Squadron operated).

(b) Singapore Barracks Message Centre (C11/R210 initially, then D11).

The D11 at Singapore Barracks was remoted over seven miles of UG cable to G Ops. at H.Q. Middle East, to provide the required circuit. The D11 at Thumair suffered from the very rough journey from Aden, and had over 10 faults requiring replacement parts before it settled down to continuous working and the provision of a first-class voice circuit over the 60-mile "hop."

We Hand Over to 213

A third rear link was tested to Comcen, Aden, on 15th May, and proved successful. This was to be activated later in the month as the second hand speed morse circuit, leaving the D11 link with a primary voice function. On 12th May, the original Force H.Q. Staff handed over to H.Q., 39 Brigade, but the Squadron remained at Thumair until 16th May, when communication responsibility was handed over to 213 Squadron. On 17th May, the detachments, less D11 and crew, left for Aden, feeling that theirs was a worthwhile achievement during the first phase of operations in Radfan.

• • • AND NOW 213 SQUADRON (B.F.P.O. 69) "FOLLOWS 'ON"

Ulster to Aden

In the comparative cool (85°) of a 1-ton Sigcen (Light) is seems an appropriate moment to look back with some hope of producing a logical account of the Squadron's fortunes over the past two months.

During the first week of May 213 Squadron, together with the Headquarters of 39 Infantry Brigade Group, were lifted bodily from the calm atmosphere and pastures of Ulster, and deposited, with an alarming air of finality, in the middle of the Radfan, a happy little dust bowl, some fifty miles north of Aden.

The move began with the Brigade H.Q. advance party, which included the Squadron Commander (Major D. R. Beadon) and eight members of the Squadron, leaving on 3rd May, by air, for Aden, via Lyneham. The remainder of the Squadron spent the next twenty-four hours packing feverishly and collecting a mass of stores and reinforcements from all points of the compass.

On 6th May the Squadron main body, gallantly led by O.C. Brigade Troop (Lieutenant C. R. M. Noonan), climbed into Argosy aircraft at Aldergrove, and after a night stop in Devizes, transhipped themselves and a mountain of equipment into Britannias for the flight to Aden.

They stepped out of the aircraft at Khormaksar into the soupy Aden atmosphere (85°F. and 80% humidity) with that gay abandon only seen when the British soldier is dragged screaming from his "pit" at twenty-four hours' notice to serve his Queen and country.

For a week the Squadron lived in that "haven of rest," known to some as the Aden Transit Camp, and to others by a more colourful and less printable title. It was a busy week unpacking kit, drawing and fitting vehicles and generally carrying out one of the lesser-known forms of military activity, namely acclimatisation. We sweated, we cursed, we conquered, and on 11th May moved up to Thumair, in the Radfan. The convoy wended its way up country, along a road which would make even Mr. Marples refuse to seek re-election, and arrived some five hours later, tired, but triumphant.

In Thumair we met 254 Squadron, who had the task of providing communications for an 'ad hoc' Force H.Q., which had been set up at very short notice some three weeks before. They were very short staffed and had done a magnificent job under very trying conditions and did not appear unduly upset at the idea of handing it over to us.

The task of setting up a Brigade H.Q. and its attendant communications is our bread and butter and on the face of it we haven't starved yet, although the heat, the dust and general nature of the country turned a normal manoeuvre into a week's hard grind before we could safely say that we were established in our new habitat.

Tough Country

The countryside is hard and unrelenting and beggars description. The most apt phrase produced so far is "moon country." From a signals point of view the problems are many and varied. The radio wizards of the Squadron had their hands full and could be heard muttering such phrases as 'Rebro,' 'line of sight' and 'air supply.' Their pre-occupation, however, has paid off and the Radio Rebroadcast detachments in particular, have been the key to success in the radio battle in the mountains. Travelling from peak to peak by helicopter, Corporals Pentland and Speers with their merry men have probably spent more time out of camp than in it. Luckily for us, high ground is the key to the tactical battle as well as the radio battle, and so defence of the 'Rebro' sight can always be provided by a piquet already established on the relevant bump. Resupply is always a problem, and out here it has to be done by helicopter. We heard that 254 Squadron had used camels on several occasions, but we decided that a helicopter was preferable in that it is less smelly, considerably faster and produces, if a lounder noise, certainly a far more pleasant one.

All Have Their Job To Do

The Comcen, a large marquee with the Telephone Exchange and Cipher Office vehicles parked outside, is under the command of Lieutenant Peter Dale, ably assisted by W.O.I Holloway. Things are easier now that the H.Q.'s attack of O-Pippitis has worn off, though they still suffer from recurring bouts of the disease, connected in some curious way with activity in the front line.

The Cipher operators, under Sergeant Harrison, have been doing sterling work under very difficult conditions, and to them must go a large portion of the credit for keeping the messages flowing during the 'hairier' stages of the operations.

Local defence is one of the big 'cries' and we have a heavily sandbagged emergency comcen in one corner of the main comcen. This has led to several cases of over-optimism—people leaning against the sandbags and expecting the wall to remain vertical. They all finish sadder and wiser, but fitter by the time they have picked up 50 sandbags and rebuilt the wall! In fact the whole H.Q. area is pock-marked by slit trenches and it is surprising that we have had no broken limbs yet!

The line parties under Corporals Moore and Holdsworth have been working like beavers ever since we arrived here and warrant an amendment to the old song "Mad dogs and Hairy Men go out in the Midday Sun." They have suffered many hardships, not the least of which was an attack of "Holdfasts Disease" (rampant bulldozers). The rocky ground is very hard on cables of all types and the maintenance problem is enormous. Signalman Flanagan has succeeded in proving to the world that he is perfectly capable of climbing mountains despite his rotund but Atlas type physique.

Sergeants Peplow and Mundy in the Technicians Workshop, and Corporal Aitken and his E.D.s have all been fighting a running battle against the dust. Imagine the dust you sweep up off the floor, spread it six inches deep across a flat expanse of ground, and then superimpose a 25 knot wind, and you see what they are up against! So far so good, though; they are winning.

The Administrative staff, with Captain Ovenden the Squadron Second-in-Command at the helm, S.S.M. Green, Staff Sergeant Osborne and Sergeant Grooms (R.A.O C.), somehow have managed to prevent all the paper from blowing away. They are still trying to decide whether it was worth it! In the M.T. Troop, Sergeant Rowe and Corporal Aziz have learnt ten new ways of saying "No" to requests for transport and have changed the tyres on nearly every vehicle in the Squadron, whilst Corporal Duff runs a most efficient S.D.S. service.

Administrative Headaches

We are now in the rain and sandstorm season. The first storm blew down the cookhouse, the stores tent and several living tents, and then proceeded to soak the contents! Next morning an army of men set to work with picks and shovels, and the camp is now criss-crossed by irrigation channels, monsoon drains and dykes. When it rains the camp rivals Venice.

Every four weeks or so, each soldier has about five days leave in Aden—a pleasant break for swimming, sleeping and generally relaxing. Who ever would have dreamt that Aden would seem a haven of rest and relaxation?

Cold drinks are at a premium here. Milk is particularly popular, though in short supply. The main snag being that it arrives frozen solid. You have to wait for quite a long time for the solid block to thaw out—a stern test of patience and self-control!

Nobody knows how long we will be here—though several pessimists have placed Christmas Card orders with the local NAAFI. Suffice to say, we are alive and kicking but look forward to our return once more to the rigours of peace and civilisation. In the meantime we observe the Squadron motto, "Keep Flexible."

2328696?

It is intended to publish the circumstances in which the late 2328696 Signalman Kenneth Smith won the George Cross while serving with the Long Range Desert Group in the Adriatic in 1945. The Historical Officer of the Royal Signals Institution would be glad to hear from those who knew Signalman Smith so that a memoir can be compiled. A photograph of any sort would be particularly appreciated. He enlisted on 23rd January, 1939.

WEARING OF UNIFORM BY RETIRED N.C.O.s

In response to certain requests ACI No. 49/64 has recently been published, allowing certain retired W.O./N.C.O.s to wear uniform on appropriate occasions. Particulars may be obtained on application to Regimental Headquarters, Cheltenham Terrace, Chelsea, S.W.3.

Personal Column

The following messages were recently exchanged between the Signal Officer-in-Chief and the Princess Royal, our Colonel-in-Chief:

"The Signal Officer-in-Chief and all ranks of your Corps send their warmest greetings and assurance of their affection and loyalty on this the third anniversary of Princess Royal Day and the 44th anniversary of your Corps."

In reply H.R.H. The Princess Royal sent the following message:

"The message of warmest greetings from the Signal Officer-in-Chief and all ranks of my Royal Corps of Signals, on the 44th anniversary of my Corps and the 3rd amiversary of Princess Royal Day, has given me great pleasure. I send you all my best wishes."

MARY,
Colonel-in-Chief.

St. James Palace.
26th June, 1964.

London Gazette

REGULAR ARMY

Capt P. A. Talbot to be Maj., 7th June, 1964.
Lieut. T. A. Panther to be Capt., 8th June, 1964.
Lieut. T. B. Scarff from Short Serv. Commission to be Lt., 8th April, 1964.
Lt.-Col. (T.O.T.) E. G. Bruce, O.B.E., retires 8th June, 1964.
Maj. F. L. Hill, T.D., retires 18th June, 1964.
Maj. J. M. Westwood retires, 20th June, 1964.
Lieut. J. D. Bromley to be Capt., 20th June, 1964.
Capt. F. C. Lettin to be Maj., 22nd June, 1964.

The undermentioned Second-Lieutenants to be Lieutenants, 21st June, 1964:

D. Strong
P. E. A. Chaddock
M. P. Walker
D. M. Aird
R. E. S. Drew
A. F. Browne
I. C. Double
M. L. P. Brock

Maj. C. L. N. Longworthy retires, 25th June, 1964.
Maj. (Q.M.) R. L. J. Shove to be Lt.-Col. (Q.M.), 1st Jan., 1964.
Maj. (Q.M.) G. Lynham to be Lt.-Col. (Q.M.), 17th Jan., 1964.

SHORT SERVICE COMMISSIONS

W.O.II W. Watson to be Lt., 27th April, 1964.
Maj. (Tfc. Offr.) H. W. Russell retires, 8th June, 1964.
W.O.I (F.-of-S.) V. de Witt to be Lt. (T.O.T.), 19th May, 1964.
Capt. J. W. Hennessy retires, 25th June, 1964.
Capt. L. A. Grace retires, 25th June, 1964.
Maj. S. W. B. Lee, T.D., retires, 30th June, 1964.
W.O.I (S.C.) H. J. Crocker, B.E.M., to be Lt. (Q.M.), 1st June, 1964.

TERRITORIAL ARMY

Lt.-Col. T. B. S. McMain, M.B.E., T.D., to be Col., 11th August, 1964.
Maj. F. G. Davies, E.R.D. from A.E.R.O., to be Maj. (Tfc. Offr.), 1st May, 1964.

Major J. J. Brown

Major (Staff Quartermaster) John Brown, a mainstay of AG. 11, retired on 1st July. He was a staff officer who existed only to serve the individuals in his care and at the same time to ensure fair play to all. Enlisting in the Royal Corps in 1931, he served in "A" Corps Signals, India, before the war. He was on leave in U.K. in 1939 and was caught and sent to France with 5th Divisional Signals, returning via Dunkirk. In 1944 he went East again to India and Singapore returning to be superintending clerk to AG. 11 in 1947. He was commissioned in 1951 and after a spell in Cyprus he returned to AG. 11 in 1956 becoming a Staff Quartermaster in 1961.

John is to continue his work fitting square pegs into square holes by joining CE. 2 (RO), the branch responsible for the administration of retired officers employed as RO's, and all wish him many years of happy constructive "retirement."

Movements—Warrant Officers and Sergeants

August, 1964

W.O.I (F.-of-S.) A. Holmes	...	To 9th Regiment
W.O.II R. Reid	...	,, 640 Troop
W.O.II R. G. Litchfield	...	,, Royal Signals Records
W.O.II J. R. Woodvine	...	,, 14th Regiment (2 Squadron)
W.O.II C. Young	...	,, 212 Squadron
W.O.II W. F. Hammond	...	,, 235 Squadron
W.O.II R. Porter	...	,, 14th Regiment (1 Squadron)
W.O.II S. B. C. Peberdy	...	,, School of Infantry Signals Wing
A/W.O.II D. G. Ellen	...	,, Royal Signals Records
W.O.II S. W. Halbert	...	,, 227 Squadron
W.O.II N. Rowbottom	...	,, Cambridge University OTC
W.O.II J. D. Hutchinson	...	,, 51st Regiment T.A.
W.O.II (F.-of-S.) B. R. Moxon	...	,, R.A.C. Centre
W.O.II (F.-of-S.) D. C. Ashton	...	,, 7th Regiment
W.O.II (F.-of-S.) P. G. D. Hutley	...	,, 235 Squadron
W.O.II (F.-of-S.) M. J. Waite	...	
Staff Sergeant (F.-of-S.) R. C. Saunders	...	,, 208 Squadron
	...	,, 241 Squadron
Staff Sergeant (F.-of-S.) J. C. Kirton		,, 204 Squadron
Staff Sergeant (F.-of-S.) R. A. Ellis		,, 8th Regiment
Staff Sergeant A. A. E. Hunt	...	,, 7th Regiment
Staff Sergeant M. P. Webster	...	,, 8th Regiment
Staff Sergeant P. F. Brackston	...	,, 205 Squadron
Staff Sergeant T. A. Finch	...	,, Ministry of Defence
Staff Sergeant B. Cleaver	...	,, 19th Regiment
Staff Sergeant D. J. M. Hughes	...	,, 18th Regiment
Staff Sergeant R. V. Fairhurst	...	,, 30th Regiment
Staff Sergeant P. Brown	...	,, 259 Squadron
Staff Sergeant H. G. Davies	...	,, 232 Squadron
Staff Sergeant R. G. Ross	...	,, 224 Squadron
Staff Sergeant R. M. Goldberg	...	,, 44th Regiment T.A.
Staff Sergeant J. Halliday	...	,, 235 Squadron
Sergeant A. B. Harding	...	,, 14th Regiment (3 Squadron)
Sergeant F. W. Wilson	...	,, 11th Regiment (Cadre)
Sergeant P. E. Stock	...	,, 19th Regiment R.A. Signal Tp.
Sergeant J. T. Wood	...	,, 21st Regiment
Sergeant J. H. Webster	...	,, 641 Troop
Sergeant D. B. Evans	...	,, 228 Squadron
Sergeant G. F. Smith	...	,, 235 Squadron
Sergeant R. J. Wortley	...	,, 24th Regiment
Sergeant G. E. Rawlins	...	,, 1st Regiment
Sergeant M. T. Kinrade	...	,, 7th Regiment
Sergeant F. D. Rogers	...	,, 200 Squadron
Sergeant R. Baxter	...	,, 210 Squadron
Acting Sergeant J. McGonagle	...	,, 30th Regiment
Sergeant F. J. Lace	...	,, 249 Squadron
Acting Sergeant G. T. O'Mara	...	,, 228 Squadron
Sergeant L. Walter	...	,, 3 H.Q. & Sig. Regt.
Sergeant H. A. Chitticks	...	,, 14th Regiment, 1 Squadron
Sergeant J. R. Toll	...	,, 602 Troop
Sergeant G. P. Selwyn	...	,, 66th Regiment T.A.
Sergeant L. H. G. Storey	...	,, 224 Squadron
Sergeant M. J. S. Berriman	...	,, H.Q. British Forces Cyprus
Sergeant G. Shepherd	...	,, 263 Squadron
Sergeant L. Arrowsmith	...	,, 24th Regiment
Sergeant A. Jones	...	,, 16th Regiment
Acting Sergeant H. Cole	...	,, 28th Regiment
Acting Sergeant D. G. Perry	...	,, 253 Squadron

Forthcoming Events

Ex-Boys 10th Annual Reunion nnd Dinner

Saturday, 5th September, at the Victory Ex-Services Club, 63/79, Seymour Street, London, W.2. Tickets from F. W. Jacobs, Esq., 54th Signal Regiment, T.A., Coldham Lane, Cambridge.

1st and 2nd Air Formation Signals O.C.A.

The 17th Annual Reunion Dinner will be held on Saturday, 24th October, 1964, at The Chevrons Club. 3/5. Dorset Square, London, N.W.1, at 7 p.m. Tickets, price 12/6, may be obtained from Captain D. T. Hunneyball, 181, Pampisford Road. South Croydon, Surrey, or Mr. W. Cousins, 11. Consfield Avenue, New Malden, Surrey. Tickets, for male guests, may be obtained, but early application is requested, with remittance.

Royal Signals Officers' Golfing Society (Provisional Fixture Dates)

9th September	R.A.O.C.	Hankley Common
1st/2nd September	Army Meeting	Sunningdale
21st September	Ironsides	Fleet
22nd/23rd September	Autumn Meeting	Berkshire
3rd October	Staff College	Camberley Heath
13th October	R.A.M.C.	New Zealand

Band Engagements

Touring Band

30th Aug./13th Sept.	Folkestone	Bandstand concerts
20th Sept./4th Oct.	Eastbourne	Bandstand concerts

Motor Cycle Display Team

28th-29th August	Dulston	British Timken Show
5th September	Orsett, nr. Grays	Agricultural Show
13th Sept.-1st Oct.	Sydney, Australia	Trade Fair

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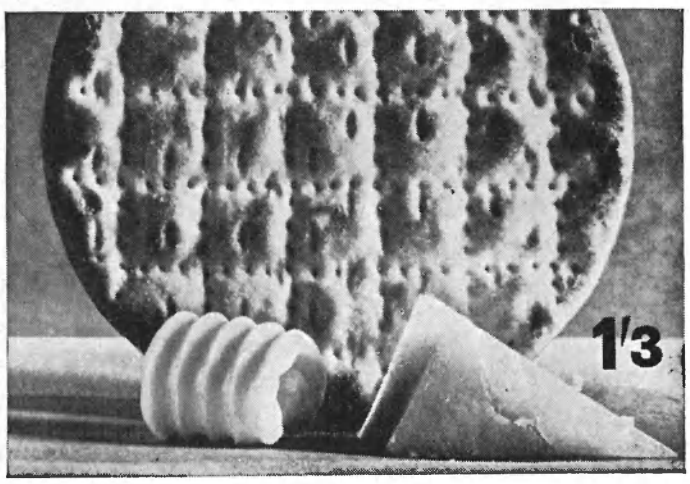


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PROGRAMME OF CORPS MORILE DISPLAY QUICKSILVER — 1964

16th-22nd August	Northern	Newcastle Flower Show and Summer Festival
28th Aug.-5th Sept.	Western	Cardiff Army Week
7th-13th September	Western	Birmingham, The Handsworth Tattoo
15th-19th September	Western	Liverpool

Cricket

7th-8th September v. R.A.C. at the Oval.

UPGRADING COURSES IN CATTERICK

Dates for courses scheduled to be held in the Training Brigade, starting in February, 1965, are as follows:

Line Technician	Class II - I	2nd February
Cipher Operator	Class II - I	23rd February
Cable Jointer	Class III-II	9th February

Obituaries

BRIGADIER C. N. STAFFORD, O.B.E., T.D.

Charles Norton Stafford who died recently, aged 65, served from 1928 in 42nd Divisional Signals (T.A.). During the war he served in Abyssinia, Western Desert, Persia, Burma and Malaya. He commanded 11th (E.A.) Divisional Signals, 10th Army Signals and 33 Corps Signals. He was C.S.O. 33 Corps and finally C.S.O. 12th Army. He was Mentioned in Despatches twice and was awarded the O.B.E. He retired in 1946.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL C. L. DAY

Charles Lawrence Day was born in 1886 and was commissioned from the "Shop" into the Royal Artillery in 1905. He was seconded to the Indian Signal Service in 1912 at Ahmednager, where 33 and 34 Companies were forming. He served in Mesopotamia (Mentioned in Despatches) and in the Third Afghan War. He transferred to the Royal Corps in 1920 and was C.S.O., Air Defence Formation at the War Office, 1924-1928, and C.S.O., Eastern Command, India, 1928-1931, when he retired.

He was recalled in 1939 and commanded a Training Battalion in North Wales until 1943, when he transferred to the Royal Pioneer Corps. He finished his service in Belgium in 1945.

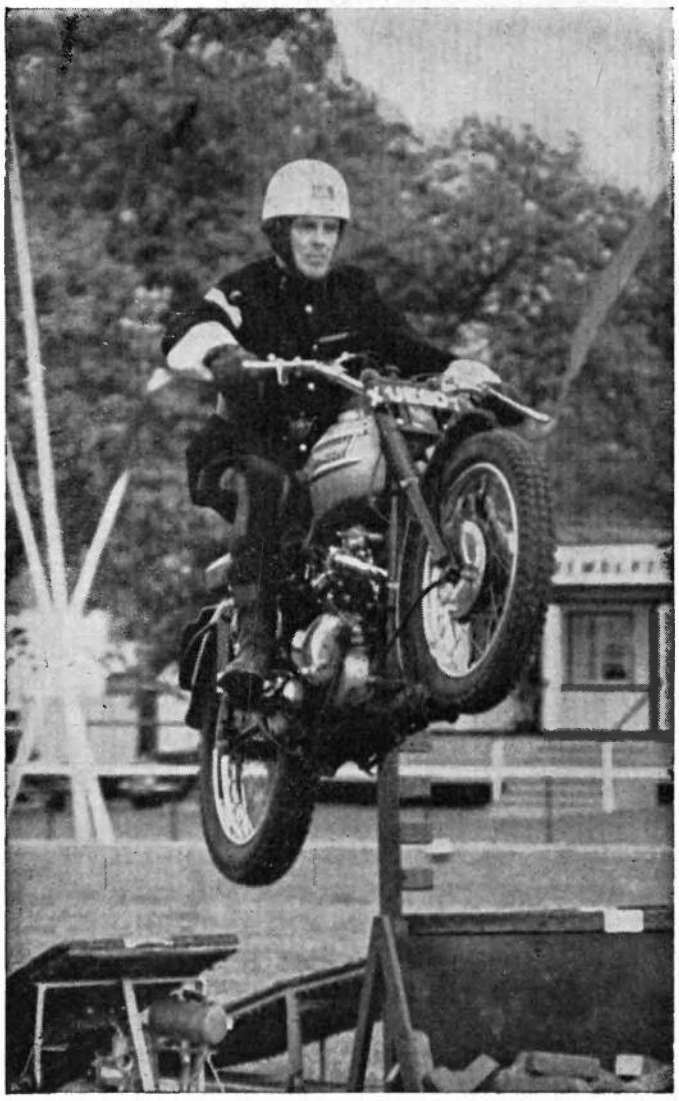
Charles Day was a keen shikari, and was much loved by the Indian Signal Corps. He died on 26th June, and was buried at Powerstock, Dorset, with full military honours. He was Life Member No. 7 of the Association. He was a brother of Colonel H. E. Day, D.S.O., M.V.O., Royal Signals, who died in 1963.

A memoire will appear in The Journal.

MAJOR D. RODINSON

Royal Signals, T.A., 1939-55. Died 12th July, 1964. The sympathy of all his friends to his widow, 24, Oak Avenue, Romiley, Stockport, Cheshire.

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Promotions

(For April, May and June, 1964)

				New Sen. No.	*Old Sen. No.*	
To W.O.I	14457496	A/W.O.I	May, F. A.	440	280	
	14323398	A/W.O.I	Lea, W. E.	450	130	
	14259947	A/W.O.I	Oliver, R. E.	460	360	
	21126462	A/W.O.I	Palmer, C. W.	470	350	
To W.O.II	22515011	S Sgt.	Maxwell, A. G.	2720	1170	
To S Sgt.	25499790	Sgt.	Ramsay, W. A.	2790	1350	(Tec)

FOREMAN OF SIGNALS ROSTER

To W.O.I	22306345	W.O.II	Davies, H.	830	990	
	2549582	W.O.II	Webb, N. F.	840	1030	
To W.O.II	22537743	S Sgt.	Murray, A. J.	1325	1450	
	14457829	S Sgt.	Clarkson, F.	1560	1330	
	22274150	S Sgt.	Nugent, E. E.	1570	1340	
	22346425	S Sgt.	Stock, F. M. C.	1580	1360	
	22902372	S Sgt.	Armitage, C. N.	1590	1380	
	22550319	S Sgt.	Cherry, M. D.	1600	1410	
	22794684	S Sgt.	Prime, D.	1610	1420	
	22365485	S Sgt.	Wood, R. J. R.	1620	1430	
	22845429	S Sgt.	Smith, F. A.	1630	1460	
To S Sgt.	22308737	Sgt.	Duffey, K. F.	2140	1430	(Tec)
	22212053	Sgt.	Callow, J. A.	2150	2240	(Tec)
	2549630	Sgt.	Wise, E. W.	2160	2470	(Tec)
	22761293	Sgt.	Freeston, D. J.	2170	2500	(Tec)
	22994626	Sgt.	Rowland, M. E.	2180	3440	(Tec)
	23231448	Sgt.	Thom, D.	2190	3460	(Tec)

YEOMAN OF SIGNALS ROSTER

To W.O.I	2548667	A/W.O.I	Drugan, J.	210	170	
	21005225	W.O.II	Byers, P. F.	220	180	
To S Sgt.	2548683	Sgt.	Garvey, F. P. R.	1080	6280	(Op)
	23217455	Sgt.	Little, W. A.	1090	6300	(Op)
	22886326	Sgt.	Banks, J. W.	1100	6470	(Op)
	22569816	Sgt.	Dixon, A.	1110	6630	(Op)
	22526437	Sgt.	Abbiss, B.	1120	6720	(Op)
	22547486	Sgt.	Brown, H.	1130	6960	(Op)
	22771348	Sgt.	Hayler, P. D.	1140	8490	(Op)

TECHNICAL ROSTER

To Sgt.	22776267	Cpl.	Goldsworthy, J.	4490	4940	
	23526443	Cpl.	Finney, J.	4510	8323	
	23251283	Cpl.	Waring, P. J.	4520	8638	
	22983814	Cpl.	Francis, J. E.	4530	7400	
	21037600	Cpl.	Hughes, J.	4535	7390	
	23658256	Cpl.	Rowberry, R.	4560	8030	
	23531399	Cpl.	Williams, C. A.	4440	9203	
	23514237	Cpl.	Houston, H. G.	4500	6320	
	23545759	Cpl.	Smith, M. R.	4550	7470	
	23251329	Cpl.	Mortenson, R. P.	4590	7370	

OPERATING ROSTER

To Sgt.	22967544	A/Sgt.	Skenfield, H. D. S.	10980	
	23514247	Cpl.	Morrison, D. L.	11070	
	23494375	Cpl.	Boon, B. A.	11110	
	23462044	Cpl.	Donnithorne, E. G.	11134	
	23219262	Cpl.	Falla, S. G.	11270	
	22296156	A/Sgt.	Anderson, J. D.	11340	
	22999523	Cpl.	Adams, T. S.	11350	
	23251365	Cpl.	Mawson, R.	11380	
	23231209	Cpl.	Leggott, D. H.	11390	
	22385625	A/Sgt.	Wells, I.	11430	
	22786371	A/Sgt.	Gilchrist, H. A. M.	11440	
	22041900	Cpl.	Tongue, K. J.	11450	
	22296531	A/Sgt.	Holcombe, N. J.	11470	
	23234299	Cpl.	Hendron, T. J.	11480	
	22983301	A/Sgt.	Pitt, R. F.	11490	
	22537113	A/Sgt.	Webber, F. A.	11500	

ADMINISTRATIVE ROSTER

To Sgt.	22548904	Cpl.	Ewer, D. A.	2720	2892

FIELD ROSTER

To Sgt.	22548565	Cpl.	Waters, A. R.	3760	140	
	22828013	Cpl.	Hutton, G. F.	3820	1280	
	23212507	Cpl.	McGrath, T.	3960	2410	

INSERTIONS

REGIMENTAL DUTY ROSTER

To S Sgt.	22515760	S Sgt.	Wilson, M. E.	1324	1160	(Tec)

FOREMAN OF SIGNALS ROSTER

To W.O.II	2549599	W.O.II	Tombs, D. I.	1530	610	(Tec)
	2549534	W.O.II	Stringer, R.	1540	640	(Tec)
	21187634	W.O.II	Thornborough, R. W. F.	1550	600	(Tec)
To S Sgt.	2549659	S Sgt.	Hughes, G. F.	2090	630	(Tec)
	2549468	S Sgt.	Butler, M.	2110	820	(Tec)
	22274148	S Sgt.	Banham, R.	2120	1010	(Tec)
	14194559	S Sgt.	Coxon, J. A.	2130	1090	(Tec)

YEOMAN OF SIGNALS ROSTER

To W.O.II	21005667	W.O.II	Caplan, M. J.	434	1320	(Reg. Duty)
	2549573	W.O.II	Stringer, A.	480	1070	(Sig. Cen. Spvr.)
	2548939	W.O.II	Hayes, G.	830	1360	(Sig. Cen. Spvr.)
	22242577	W.O.II	Wright, H. E.	866	2610	(Reg. Duty)
To S Sgt.	2548683	S Sgt.	Glendinning, J. Y.	280	830	(Sig. Cen. Spvr.)
	22265932	S Sgt.	Heaps, C.	384	1130	(Reg. Duty)
	22470179	S Sgt.	Leitch, A.	1044	2024	(Reg. Duty)

SIGNAL CENTRE SUPERVISOR ROSTER

	2573261	W.O.II	Thorpe, A.	360	1190 (Sig. Cen. Spvr.)

ADMINISTRATIVE ROSTER

To Sgt.	23232840	Sgt.	McKay, W.	2204	9010	(Op)

DELETIONS

REGIMENTAL DUTY ROSTER

W.O.I	40	70	80	120	
W.O.II	210	890	1100	1760	1930
S Sgt.	190				

SIGNAL CENTRE SUPERVISOR ROSTER

W.O.I	370				
W.O.II	730				

FOREMAN OF SIGNALS ROSTER

W.O.I	620	670	710	800	

TECHNICAL ROSTER

Sgt.	1540	3050	3560	2750		
W.O.II	350	380				

OPERATING ROSTER

Sgt.	5670	6700	7450	7540	9010	9660

FIELD ROSTER

Sgt.	140	2800	3430

MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENT

FIELD ROSTER

	22537764	Sgt.	Uttridge, P. R.	850	
	Amend name to read as shown				
To Sgt.	2586445	S Sgt.	Irvine, J. L.	184	6140 (Reg. Duty)

SIGNAL CENTRE SUPERVISOR ROSTER

†6408296	W.O.I	Lockie, W. H.	400
†14718031	W.O.I	Ross, J. M.	410
†2549484	W.O.I	O'Toole, T. C.	420
†14043921	W.O.I	Gay, J. H.	430

May in Thumair

A first-hand account from the Radfan Operational Area

By Captain F. W. Edwards

YOU can spell Thumair in more than one way when it is transliterated from Arabic. The way above makes for a better sounding title, but to the many British troops who passed through during May, 1964, it could always be written easily—in dust!

Thumair is a small Arab village in the area of Radfan, some fifty miles north of Aden. It is the sort of name that suddenly comes to the public's attention after thousands of years of unknown existence and, as is so often the case, only then comes to light because of war. The battles around Thumair in May are unlikely to emblazon its name in the annals of history, but they will remain a distinct personal memory for some time as throughout that month I acted as G.S.O. 2 (Operations) of Headquarters Federal Regular Army (F.R.A.) Group which commanded all Arab troops in operations in Radfan.

Radforce Takes the Field

The F.R.A. had been operating in Radfan since early January together with elements of 4th Royal Tank Regiment and "J" (Sidi Rezegh) Battery, Royal Horse Artillery. Its aim was to introduce the law and order of the Government of the Federation of South Arabia into the area and, in particular, to ensure safe travel on the important trade route "the Aden to Dhala" road road known in Arabic as the "Sacred Road." At the peak of its operations the F.R.A. had more than half its troops in the area. It achieved its aim and in so doing made possible the building of a motorable track up the Wadi Rabwa (see sketch) to where it opens on to the flat and fertile Wadi Taym. If peace and good communications can come to the Wadi Taym a sound agricultural economy can be built where only subsistence

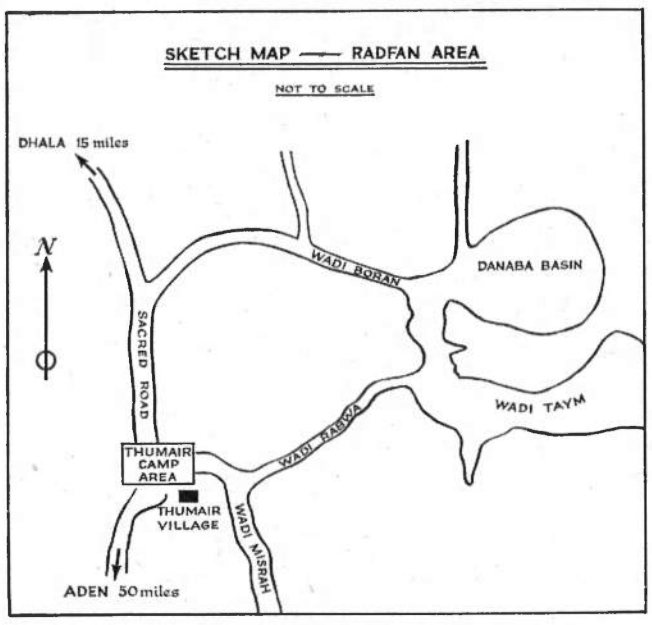


Second-Lieutenant Ali Mohd Yaffai, Intelligence Officer H.Q. Federal Regular Army Group, passes some vital message to future, member of the Royal Corps of Signals, Private Frank Greaney R.A.S.C.

farming is now found. The F.R A. could not afford to leave its frontier posts seriously undermanned for long, but as its troops returned to their garrisons dissident interruption to civilian traffic on the Sacred Road grew. The number of mines increased as did the number of highway robberies, until it became apparent that strong measures had to be taken. To this end a joint British/Arab Army called "Radforce" was formed, and began operations on the 30th of April.

The mission of Radforce was to stop operations of hostile forces in the Radfan area so as to secure the safety of the Sacred Road. Reconnaissances revealed formed bodies of uniformed tribesmen under officers who could only have been trained in the Yemen, if not Egypt.

The operations in May fell into four parts. First, the Wadi Boran was siezed and opened for three-ton traffic. Second, the Wadi Rabwa was cleared and the road reopened. Third, the Danaba Basin and the Wadi Taym were so controlled as to deny the dissidents food and water and to make daylight movement impossible and night movement difficult and dangerous. Fourth, the dissidents were to be driven off the high ground that lies to the south and the south-east of the Wadi Taym. By the end of May the first three tasks had been completed and the fourth was being vigorously carried out. Throughout the month there were no incidents of mining or banditery on the Sacred Road.





Not much camouflage—but after five months in Thumair this Federal Regular Army group seem to know the operational and the signalling form. *From left to right:* Corporal F. C. Murfitt, Lance-Corporal Mabrouk Mohammed Audhali, Signalman Mohammed Abdruba Audhali and Lieutenant Al Khadr Said Hassani

In the heat and over the barren and crumbling rock faces the special fitness of the Parachute, S.A.S. and Commando troops paid great dividends. The F.R.A. battalions, commanded in battle for the first time by their Arab Lieutenant-Colonels, played a significant part. Their determination and skill in mountain warfare made them particularly valuable. These points underline the old lessons of good preparation and good training. Ideally an Army wants to be specially trained for each role but, if this is impractical, then physical fitness and a thorough command of equipment and drills will make a force immediately effective in most situations. Beneath my F.R.A. disguise there still lies a signaller waiting to get out—even if secondment pay stops him struggling too fiercely! The above comments apply as much to signalmen as to parachutists. In Thumair in May I had a technically detached view of three signals organisations. The first of these was the F.R.A. Signal Squadron (whose work was described in detail in last February's WIRE), the second was the ad hoc Squadron raised to serve the initial Radforce Headquarters, and the third was the Signal Squadron that came from the United Kingdom with Headquarters 39 Infantry Brigade Group when they took over command of Radforce troops on 11th May.

The Signal Aspect

As a Staff Officer one is only really interested in the end product of signalling. Headquarters F.R.A. Group was served by a Section of the F.R.A. Squadron commanded by Lieutenant Al Khadra Said Hassani. It consisted of one Corporal, two Lance-Corporals and five Signalmen who operated two radio links twenty-four hours each day and manned the Commander's Rover when required. The bulk of the traffic was in morse, to which the operators were well used, and they had no acclimatisation problems! Messages in English and Arabic were handled with equal ease in operating conditions to which they were accustomed. Aerial siting and frequency changes were practised and proven. F.R.A. Battalions showed that they could move quickly and still have radio contact at all times. The Signal Section was given technical support by seconded members of the Corps, including Corporal Fred Murfitt (Telegraph Technician T I), Corporal "Caie" Graham (Comcen Operator B I), Corporal Jack Jenner (Telegraph Operator A II) and Lance-Corporal Dave Beedie (Electrician Driver B II). If there was a fault it was the operator's dislike of voice. A sudden need to switch to voice generally meant a delay either because one or both stations couldn't believe that their radios were going to be so misused, or because a slight frequency drift had occured through which morse was readable but voice was not.

The problems facing the ad hoc Squadron contrasted with the F.R.A.'s orderly existence. The signalmen who took on that task will probably tell their own story elsewhere but one realised only too clearly the difficulty of fitting bits and pieces of equipment into a reliable signal pattern, especially with the different types of Unit involved. British communications equipment is

(*Continued on page 296*)



Corporal Fred Murfitt gazes in equal joy at his charging engine and the Thumair countryside

still too diverse for easy working and maintenance. That the circuits were got through between the dust bowl and the jebels speaks highly of those whose task it was.

Part of the answer to such problems was seen when Headquarters 39 Infantry Brigade Group arrived. Whilst they too had been subjected to certain formation difficulties, they were organised to work with their own headquarters. Thus many of the minor difficulties of fitting radios to tasks and men to tasks did not arise. Drills had been established and, despite the difficulties of acclimatisation, were capable of immediate implementation.

A Few Spoil the Reputation of Many—A Lesson For All Here!

Both the Signal Squadrons deserve high praise for their work, but, as a staff officer, one was made aware again of how the Corps is so often judged by personal contacts. As always, it is the exceptions who are remembered—the D.R. who delivered the mail, unshaven (on the camp circuit), wearing no headgear and with a cigarette drooping from his mouth; the linemen who, putting in an undoubtedly important telephone, carried their line into a command post between the commander and two of his officers who he was briefing, without salute or apology; the technician who . . . but why go on. The point to repeat is that the work of the Corps is often judged by its end-product, and in many cases the end-product is a hard-pressed signalman who, for a ha'porth of tar . . .!

It is too early to draw operational lessons from Radfan, and it is unfair to draw signals' ones in a country where radio rivals the helicopter as the answer to a soldier's prayer. As a user of communications, I was not interested in the signals problems. I wanted an accurate service smartly presented. This theme I will carry back with me into the Corps—hoping that my ideals won't fade when the problems again become mine.

Vale Reme!

235 SQUADRON

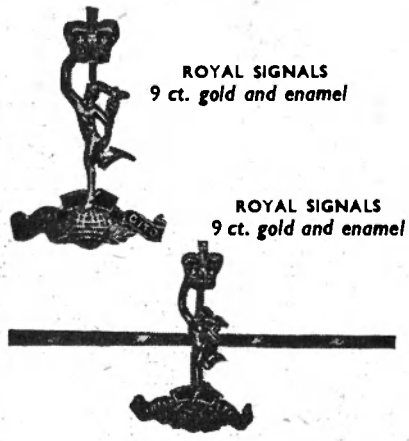
As a result of planned reorganisation the R.E.M.E. Workshops, part of the Squadron, ceases and their work is to be undertaken by Royal Signals Technicians.

Our friends of R.E.M.E. have been with us for many years and have much enhanced the reputation of the Squadron in work and play.

Regretting our parting, we wish all our R.E.M.E. friends happiness and success wherever they may go.

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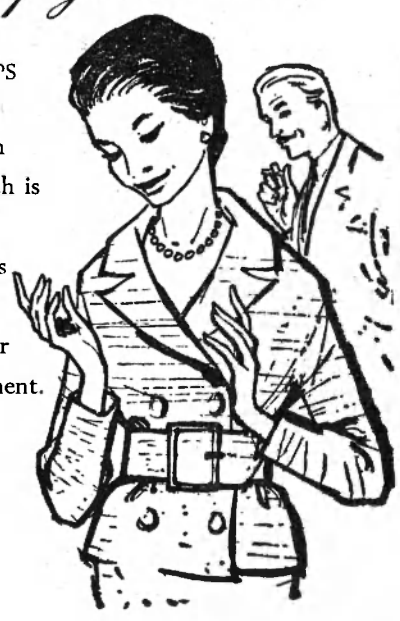
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Return to Normandy

A description of a pilgrimage carried out by the 3rd Signal Regiment Reunion Club

By Major Cyril Stagg

Assembly

"JUNE 5th, 09.30 hours, Victoria Station look out for Thos. Cook and Son's representative and ask for Major Smartt's party." These were the brief instructions followed by some 32 members with wives and friends of the 3rd Regiment's Reunion Club when they set out on a pilgrimage to Normandy for the 20th anniversary celebrations of the D-Day landings.

What a memorable occasion it proved to be. The honest sincerity of welcome given us by the local inhabitants in the area of the beachhead, their expression of gratitude, the impressive ceremonies, and particularly the hospitality shown by the people of Hermanville on Saturday evening are memories which will remain with those fortunate enough to be there for a very long time.

Hotel Malberbe, Caen, by 18.30 hours—a first class hotel, but on this particular evening resembling an American Army Command Post—our Allies do most things in a big way even to planning pilgrimages to past battle grounds. An excellent meal quite unspoilt by background music provided by the clicking typewriters of American press reporters who couldn't, it seemed, have been more anxious to get their reports back to America had it been D-Day all over again.

It looks so peaceful now

Aboard the coach again and away to Hermanville-sur-Mer through the suburbs of Caen and the quiet country lanes leading to the assault beaches which we remembered so well as Queen-White and Red. How different it all looked; now peaceful and beautiful in the full growth of late Spring, then, raked with shell and mortar fire with not a house undamaged or tree not stripped of its branches. An odd shaped tree here and there and the, as yet unweathered tiles of repaired roofs, seemed the only reminders left of that scene of devastation twenty years before.

Hermanville-sur-Mer and a scene which reminded one of Southend on August Bank Holiday. Cars and people everywhere with no one, or so it seemed, quite knowing where they were going or what they were hoping to see. Our coach, conveniently parked, we walked the length of Queen Beach over which the Division had passed during the landings. Still thousands of people everywhere but somehow most of us managed to obtain a vantage point from which to view the march past along the beach of representative detachments of the British and American Armed Forces which preceded a superb firework display launched from the foreshore. The eight or so Naval craft dressed overall and lit from stem to stern steaming by, a mile off-shore, looked very pretty and yet how puny they seemed to those who remembered the vast fleet which, in total darkness, was approaching those very beaches exactly twenty years before.

Divisional H.Q. Re-visited

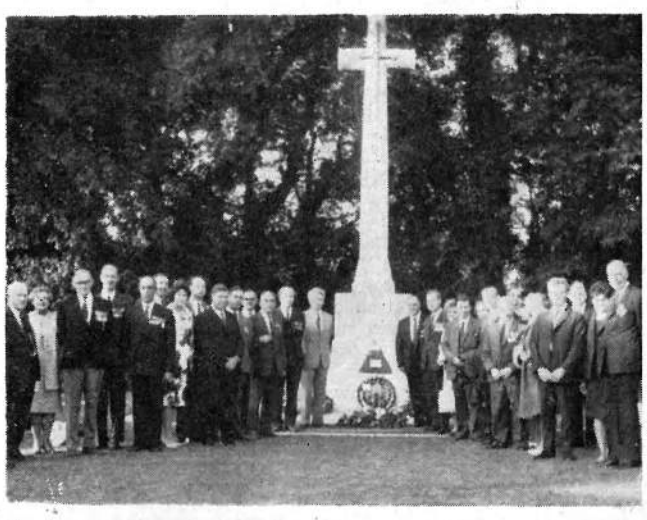
The early part of next day was our own and we were away to an early start for a coach tour of the beachhead area. First Pegasus Bridge over the Orne—captured by the 6th Airborne Division at dawn on D-Day and a vital link during the weeks before the break out. The old bridge now almost demolished to make room for a new swing bridge but the old German machine gun post, complete with gun, still there. On over the high ground, last remembered by most of us as strewn with the wrecked gliders of the airborne boys, to Coleville where Divisional H.Q. was established late in the afternoon of D-Day and remained through the period of six weeks' intense fighting during which the Division took the brunt of the enemy's counter attacks. Hardly a sign remained to remind one of the scene twenty years before; the narrow lane leading to the little field where the Command Vehicles of Divisional H.Q. were bull-dozed into the ground to superstructure level, showed only a little uneveness of the turf. The chateau, grounds and orchard opposite, the latter, then a labyrinth of slit trenches, now grazed smooth by goats. The apple tree from the branches of which the Adjutant, Peter Hoskins, delivered his brief sit. rep. each evening—still there but, like most of us, showing signs of the passing years.

The Bayeux Tapesty was on our itinerary but by now it was almost lunch time and some curtailment was necessary. A quick vote gave preference for lunch at Arromanches and a visit to the Museum. It was here that the American paratrooper got suspended by his harness on the church tower and we learnt that he had revisited the place only the day before. The Museum, well worth visiting, but to us rather disappointing. Did the British take part in the assault? Not much here to remind posterity of the two Divisions which took part; even the short film, beautifully produced and shown in the Museum cinema, showed our own 8th and 185th Brigades as being Canadian. Lunch in one of the many restaurants around the square and small sea front all busy today coping with the many visitors; from our table in the window we had a wonderful view of what remains of the Harbour called Mulberry—the concrete blocks, gaunt and seaweed covered as the tide receded, give little impression now of the tremendous human effort which brought them there nor of the incredible quantities of vehicles, stores, and equipment which were unloaded from ships drawn alongside during the build up in the weeks following D-Day.

Memorial Ceremonies

Next a return to Hermanville for the special programme of memorial ceremonies and celebrations arranged by the local community in honour of the 3rd Division. First, a Religous Service at the beach exit. How impressive this was—the local choir singing the National Anthem, a little out of tune but in English; the children, standing at the temporary altar, throwing flowers on to the beach where the first men of the Division had given their lives twenty years before. Looking round one saw familiar faces and exchanged smiles of recognition.

The Service over, a procession formed up and, led by the local band, moved away through the main street of the village to a spot behind the beach where men of the 8th Brigade had fought their way to the fields beyond. Here, following a simple but impressive little ceremony, Brigadier Cass cut the tape across a new road and named it "Avenue de la 3—Ième Division D'Infanterie Britannique." On the procession moved, the local band still leading, inland through the winding country lanes to the Hermanville British Military Cemetery where men of the Division, killed during the assault, lie buried. How beautiful it looked in the evening sunshine—the typically English heavy oak gate, the wooded path, the vivid green turf against which the 1,100 odd brilliant white crosses stood out in striking relief. Again, around the central memorial, an impressive simple ceremony. A wreath of poppies laid at the Memorial foot by General Urquhart and then the "Last Post" by a bugler of the K.S.L.I. Finally, as we turned aside to walk through the lines of graves we saw perhaps the most touching scene of all—children from the nearby villages, walking slowly through the lines of crosses, placing a little bunch of fresh cut flowers on each and every grave. D-Day to them could be no more than local history—even their parents were children at the time but how this simple scene symbolised the lasting sense of grateful



Members and friends of 3rd Signal Regiment's Reunion Club at the Memorial in the British Military Cemetary

remembrance the local French people have for those who gave their lives during those first hours of the assault on Hitler's Europe.

The main procession moved on and slowly the Cemetery emptied leaving members of our own small party alone for the private and almost personal ceremony of placing a wreath on the Memorial by the Club Chairman—Major Cyril Stagg. A beautiful wreath of red and white carnations and blue irises draped with the Corps colours and bearing a card, " In Remembrance " from the 3rd Signal Regiment and Reunion Club. Thus, in that corner of a foreign field, those men of the Regiment who gave their lives during the assault were remembered.

Local hospitality almost overwhelms

Back to the Mairie and Municipal Park at Hermanville where hectic last minute preparations were being made for the ' Souper aux Chandelles ' to which we were all invited. This was indeed a banquet to be remembered—some six hundred local people, young and old, mixed willy nilly at the dining tables, in a really outsized marquee, with their two hundred British guests. How hospitable they were—a wonderful menu which kept us at the tables for over two hours—wine glasses never empty, and, of course, between courses liberal tots of their own special Calvados. Dinner over and tables cleared with remarkable speed all joined in, what we in England would call a real village hop, which continued, or so it seemed, without a break to change partners until midnight.

Finally the next day saw us back at Victoria on time with farewells and the end of a, long to be remembered weekend. Shall we do it again? Yes, maybe, perhaps for the 25th anniversary; one thing is certain, the French will never forget, and any veteran of the 3rd Division who cares to revisit the beaches over which the Division passed on the 6th June, 1944, may be sure of a welcome.

3rd DIVISIONAL SIGNAL REGIMENT REUNION CLUB

The 13th annual reunion of the 3rd Divisional Signal Regiment was held at Victory Ex-Services' Club, Seymour Street, London, W.C.2, on the evening of 25th April. Attendance this year was slightly less than usual, but this was probably due to the present Regiment being in Cyprus, and also the nearness of the Normandy pilgrimage date. It was good to see several post-war members of the Regiment present, and also one or two others who have been unable to attend for a number of years; particularly Colonel George Starr, who many remembered as Second-in-Command at the time of the D-Day Landings. We were also delighted and honoured to have as our guest of honour, the Signal Officer-in-Chief, Major-General F. J. Swainson, O.B.E., who himself commanded the Regiment at the time of Suez crisis. Six past C.Os. of the Regiment were also present.

Following dinner, the Club President, Major-General R. F. G. Naylor, toasted " the Regiment Past and Present," and recalled with pleasure the years during the early 1930s when he had the honour to command it. That some sixteen members of the company present were serving with the Regiment during his period of command was, he thought, a striking example of the team spirit which prevailed then, and which he knew had continued to prevail throughout the years of war down to the present day.

In his reply, on behalf of the Regiment, Major-General Swainson briefly outlined the extremely difficult task the Regiment had been called upon to undertake during weeks in the troubled island of Cyprus. Military communications, he said, had never been better, and the Regiment were to be congratulated on doing such an excellent job under unusually difficult and frustrating conditions. He went on to give a brief insight into the great changes which had taken place since the war, both in techniques and equipment used, in providing communications for a modern Army in the field, and urged those present to make it widely known what a rewarding and exciting career the Corps now offered.

In the final toast to " Absent Friends," the Club Secretary, Mr. Ernest Bayley, read from the long list of telegrams and letters from members unable to attend, wishing all present a happy evening; the telegram from the present Regiment in Cyprus was particularly appreciated.

Formalities over, the usual get-together round the bar continued until, all too soon, eleven o'clock came and it was again goodbye until next year.

Exercise "Air Boon Choo"

By Captain F. R. Maynard

208 Squadron once again make the trip (some by slow boat) to Bangkok and have their usual quota of adventures—mostly lighthearted.

On 24th March, 1964, the 208 (COMWEL) Signal Squadron advance party left Terendak Camp, en route for Thailand and Exercise " Air Boon Choo."

" Air Boon Choo " was the title given to this year's joint tactical SEATO exercise, held annually in Thailand. Its aim is to practice the member countries of this alliance in working together against a common enemy. A truly joint affair, with representatives from Britain, Australia, New Zealand, Thailand and the U.S.A. The main British Army element was represented by the 28th Commonwealth Infantry Brigade Group, with the ASSU from 249 Squadron (FARELF) attached to 208 (COMWEL) Squadron for the exercise.

This is one of the few opportunities the Brigade has of exercising together outside Malaysia, and the most is made of it. This year's exercise was more of a communications exercise, with the emphasis on the request of close air support by the the battalions, who were represented by the Forward Air Control stations with their radio sets.

We pack up

A great deal of preparation went on within the Squadron and a great deal of attention was paid to our recently-acquired D11s and radio relay equipment. With the surprise end-of-the-exercise parade, held last year, in mind, all vehicles and trailers were given a fresh coat of paint. If chaos and confusion didn't exist, then it gave a pretty good imitation of it. Hardened campaigners, with pursed lips and shaking heads, were heard to mutter: " If the Squadron had wings it would fly!" which was the general idea—with R.A.F. help, of course.

It was with a slight feeling of relief that the advance party, mentioned earlier, extricated itself and departed. We reached Singapore (everyone reaches Singapore—it's getting out that's difficult) without too much trouble, and after a night's rest (?!!) began loading the L.S.T. that was to take us to Thailand. Again, like last year, it seemed a little strange at first that an Airportable Brigade should have to travel by sea. But, as we found out later, going by air and going by sea amounts to much the same thing in the end.

At sea

On the night of the 26th, we were all, more or less, on board, and at 06.00 hours next morning, we sailed for Bangkok.

The Army does this sort of thing a little differently from, say, the Cunard Line. A vision of soft moonlight nights; the waves gently lapping against the side of the ship; a quiet stroll around the promenade deck and cocktails in the ship's lounge before an exotic dinner at the Captain's table, could be given here, but an inherent sense of integrity in the writer forbids it. For the first couple of days it was all most of us could do to keep on board. Others weren't terribly interested whether they stayed on board or not—death was upon them anyway. The L.S.T. has a flat bottom, and so did we all after a short time. This doesn't make for a calm voyage (the ship's bottom, not ours) and it was only on the last day and-a-half that we could look a fried egg in the eye again.

During the voyage, a successful attempt was made to communicate with the unit back at Terendak Camp. This was done with a C11 and a rather tricky dipole strung between cranes, lifeboat and funnel.

A Glance at Bangkok and then on to Ubon

Bangkok was reached on the 30th, and as soon as the ship berthed, she was promptly invaded by a swarm of Thai girls intent on relieving the crew of certain goods and us of our vehicles. The piquet, reluctantly, threw them overboard. Bangkok was given a close inspection, which ended in a lot of sore heads and empty pockets, and, for one, Lance-Corporal Lucas, a midnight swim.

The party next went to Don Muang Airport to load everything on to a Beverly and to take it all off again, when it was found to be unserviceable. We became quite good at it after

(*Continued on page* 300)

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Waiting for the "Argosy" aircraft to be loaded for the return journey is from left to right: Lance-Corporal Newton (Royal Signals), Lieutenant Furhovden (U.S. Signal Corps), Major A. M. Hewson, Royal Signals, Captain F. R. Maynard, R. Signals, Sergeant Riley, (U.S. Signal Corps), Major Church, Royal Australian Infantry

a while. Eventually the work was completed and the aircraft, in defiance of the laws of Nature, took off for Ubon, which was to be our exercise location. We were not the first in, having been beaten to the post by a detachment of the American Signal Company, 999, who were to work very closely with us throughout the exercise. We decided to establish cordial relations from the beginning and offered them a cup of tea. A few brave ones accepted the challenge, and no mention was made of the last time the British gave the Americans tea, at a place called Boston!

The writer learned that the O.C. of the U.S. detachment was not with them, having been held up in Bangkok, and bitterly expressed the thought that there was a lot we could learn from the Americans.

The next few days were lost in a whirl of activity, setting up camp, establishing communications, conferences with other "Prontos" ("say, Bud, what are you guys doing here?"—"Well, actually, chaps, we're . . . "). At last all nets were open, the camp was finished and everything was ready for the main body to come in and take all the credit.

During this time we got to know the town of Ubon and learn a little about Thailand and the Thais. Also, occasional visits were made to the local "hot-spots," although we later gathered from our expert in these matters, the O.C., Major A. M. Hewson, that they weren't as "hot" at last year. From what we had heard about last year, we were quite happy to take his word for it. The Thais are a friendly people, always smiling and nodding, whether they understood or not. This got a little exasperating after a while, but their generosity and charm soon won us over.

Lieutenant R. G. Elder, Royal Australian Signals, brought the next party, and we were very pleased to see them—they had the mail. With their arrival we were soon in top gear, and it was merely a question of waiting for the exercise to start.

We make pals with the Yaahs

By this time the O.C. of the 999th Signal Company Detachment had arrived, Lieutenant T. Furhovden, and he was gently persuaded to tear his thoughts away from Bangkok and start thinking about "Air Boon Choo" instead. Not an easy task, this. Under his able guidance, the Detachment performed a very valuable service, and we were proud to have them working alongside us. A friendly rivalry grew up between us, and all ranks got on very well together. The only snag was that with all the souvenir hunting going on it became difficult to see who belonged to whom. To an impartial observer, it looked as though an explosion had taken place in the laundry. This view was confirmed when one's personal "dhobi" came back. Either that or the laundryman collected buttons!

The main body was expected to arrive on the 21st April, but there was still no sign of them on the 22nd. Later that afternoon we received a message telling us that they had been delayed in Bangkok. This didn't surprise us in the slightest. We had long since learned that few aircraft managed the tricky operations of flying past Bangkok. "Engine trouble" became a frequent cry. We had never heard it called that before.



"Our man in Thailand"—the O.C., Major A. M. Hewson, Royal Signals, with the S.S.M., W.O.II Hillman (Royal Australian Signals), Captain F. R. Maynard, Royal Signals, and Lieutenant R. G. Elder, Royal Australin Signals

A Successful Exercise and back we go

The exercise forged ahead successfully, bringing with it its own peculiar problems. The Signal Centre was a little dismayed to handle five flash messages in one day, and the D11 came up on the Ground Control Approach frequency. No doubt with the idea that since we did just about everything else, we may as well land the aircraft also.

The D11 link with Singapore performed very well after it had settled down, and one historic day we had 21 hours of FSK.

Our man in Task Force H.Q. at this time was Captain D. I. Godden, Royal Australian Signals. He had some pretty heart-rending tales to tell of the amount of work he had to do. Our sympathies went out to him as he flew around the countryside in light aircraft. We are not quite sure what it was he was doing, but we are assured it was terribly important.

The exercise ended on 29th April with the battle won and a number of valuable lessons learned. The rains were beginning to come more frequently, and no one was sorry to move out of the damp tents and return to Terendak Camp. As the Argosies flew in to take us out, and the farewells were made to our American and Thai friends, most of us were conscious of a job well done and feeling a little more experienced and wiser than before.

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HELLES BARRACKS — THE NEWLY COMPLETED HOME OF THE DEPOT REGIMENT AT CATTERICK

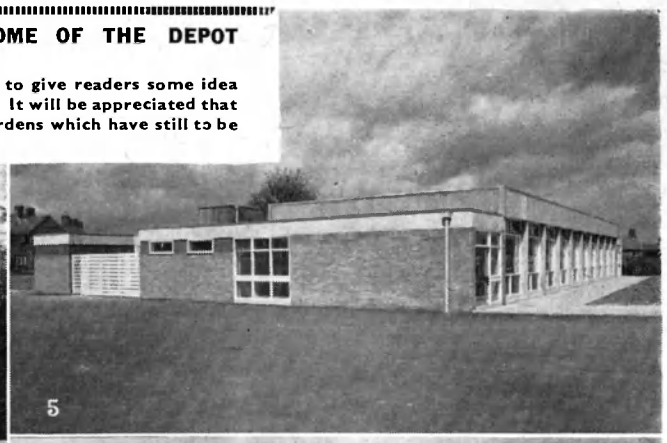
The Wire reproduces below vistas from the new Helles barracks to give readers some idea of the new home of the Corps that is emerging in Catterick Camp. It will be appreciated that the "bare" appearance is due to the lack of grassing, trees and gardens which have still to be developed















1. The main entrance to Helles Barracks from Scotton Road, showing the Guard Room. Note the bronze Mercury on its plinth at extreme left.
2. A panorama of Helles Barracks looking westwards from Suicide Wood. The new Parade Ground in foreground. The buildings from left to right are: Pavilion and Squash Court, instructional Block with the 3-storied Sergeants Mess behind it, Regimental H.Q. block, Guard Room, and new Barrack Block almost obscurred by (extreme right) the Drill Shed.
3. The new Sergeants Mess, with its own tennis court (left foreground) and private garages behind. A patio looks out over the tennis court. There are 30 bedrooms, each with its own "h and c", on the top floors. The surroundings look bare now, but will soon be well-planted with shrubs and trees.
4. Another view of he Sergeants Mess, showing the patio and behind this the large windows of the Dining Room.
5. The new Rank and File Mess, which includes lobbies for hanging up coats, etc.
6. The Junior Ranks Club. As well as the normal amenities such as billiard rooms, reading room and restaurants it contains a cycle store, a visitors room, barbers shop and a service shop for retail goods.
7. Looking north-westwards from the Helles Parade Ground to the Q.M. Block (centre foreground). To the right of this partiy hidden by a tree can be seen the black and white end of St. Martin's Church.



W.O.II R. W. Simmons, B.E.M., Royal Signals, briefing Officer Cadets for Exercise "Wiltshire Handicap"

ROYAL MILITARY ACADEMY

Another term has slipped by, here at the Academy; smooth sailing most of the way, with a few ripples caused by comings and goings in our team of instructors.

We have said farewell to W.O.II E. Summers, on promotion to W.O.I (R.S.M.) and add our best wishes, also congratulations on his award of the M.B.E. Farewell, also, to Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) P. Brown, Sergeants L. Waumsley, D. Newell and C. Speight, all of whom are leaving on posting. We feel sure that their new units will benefit from their tours at the R.M.A., Sandhurst.

Of our officers, we said a sad (hic!) goodbye to Major J. M. W. Badcock, M.B.E., on his promotion and posting as Commanding Officer, 4th Regiment, earlier this summer.

A welcome to the new—to Sergeants C. King, V. Prees, Brooke, Colour Sergeant (S.) A. Jones, Royal Marines, Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) H. Brown, all of whom, having completed their various courses, take up instructional appointments here. Major A. A. Dacre, M.B.E., arrived from Catterick to take command of Officer Cadet Company, The Somme. Finally, congratulations to W.O.II R. W. Simmons, B.E.M., on his promotion to that rank and his appointment as Signals Wing S.S.M.

Training. We started this term at the end of April and, apart from our normal classroom instruction, our instructors have been involved in some nineteen exercises with officer cadets, most interesting of which was Exercise "La Madelon" VI. This exercise took place on Stanford P.T.A. and took the form of a parachuting exercise for cadets from both Academies; those who were not qualified parachutists were, of course, employed in a conventional role. Of course, along went the Signals D.S. Parachutist in the form of Sergeant D. Newell. We live up to the saying here "Where there's a cadet there's Signals."

Sergeant Breese has discovered the exact time of a thunderflash fuse! When taking part in an assault on the beaches of Guernsey, he "forgot" to throw one. When it did explode, it took part of his finger with it. He assures us it was done as an example to show people that *thunderflashes are dangerous!*

Our A.P.C. and tank exercises, this term, took place on Salisbury Plain. Our task was to simulate movement of A.P.C.s, embus and debus, so that participants appreciated the communications required on the multi-control net, after which we handed over to the R.A.C. We are pleased to say that with the improvement in recruiting, Records have been able to replace most of the R.A.C. Drivers with Drivers, Royal Signals. The R.A.C. Drivers did us very well indeed while they were here, and we thank them for their excellent record. One thing we did notice was that the Signals Driver who, on arrival here, was presented with a brand new Mark 9 long wheelbase Land Rover, fitted with C42/B47 radio station, was slightly overcome. However, we have put them all through a fairly concentrtated course, both in the operation of the sets and basic voice procedure, and now all are moderately competent.

At the time of writing, almost the entire Signals Wing has moved off to Germany for summer training with the officer cadets. No doubt by the time you read this, some of you in Germany will have met them during the three weeks they are out there.

Sport. The Headquarters sports day, held on 24th June, was a great success, and was held on a really hot day, watched by hundreds of families. The Signals Wing competed in all events, in some cases against Army champions of the Physical Training Corps, and we did well to gain an overall position of fourth. In the tug-of-war, our team was knocked out in the semi-finals. Once again, in fact for the third year running, our cricket team have won the inter-departmental cup, which we hope to keep. Our only basketball defeat came at the hands of the Maple Leaf Boys' Club, a civilian club run by W.O.II R. W. Simmons, B.E.M.; but then, he has four of his team in the Surrey Boys' Team!

Social Events. The Wing got a good write-up in the local town paper on a "Big Beat Barbecue," which was given for the Sergeants' Mess on the lakeside in the Academy. Entertainments included "Gondoliers" on the lake, a local beat group, a "Take Your Pick" raffle (rumour has it that ITV are after the S.S.M.), and some 200lb. of assorted meats were consumed by the guests. In fact, so great was the success, that the Wing has been voted as barbecue-runners and has been invited to run a similar event in a month's time.

The social event of the year here is the June Ball. This year the ball was attended by 2,800 guests. All decorations, lighting and public address were, as usual, executed by the Wing. Highlights included three "night clubs," fun fair, and six dance bands. Mrs. Mason, wife of our S.Q.M.S., still remain unconvinced that her husband was detailed to escort the "Oriental Dancer"!

GENERAL. Could we once again give to any member of the Corps passing our way the invitation to call in at the Signals Wing. It is surprising that so few realise that there are thirty-nine men here wearing the Royal Signals cap badge, the largest number of any one Corps or Regiment in the Academy, although every Corps and Regiment in the British Army is represented here. So please call in and let us show you round—you are certain of a welcome.

JUNIOR LEADERS REGIMENT

It was with regret and sadness that we said farewell to our Commanding Officer of the last two and a half years when, on a very wet 1st June, after a short parade he was towed out of Denbury Camp in a Champ. Lieutenant-Colonel A. Hollfield, M.C., did much for the Regiment during his stay in Devon and he and his wife are responsible for much of the friendship which exists between the Unit and the local population. He will be missed in the area and we all wish him and his family good fortune in Germany.

At the same time we welcome Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. Higgins to the Unit. The new Commanding Officer is no stranger to the area or this particular Unit because some time ago he was the Adjutant here.

On Saturday, 20th June, we were visited by the Commanding Officer of 3 H.Q. and Signal Regiment, Lieutenant-Colonel G. Proudman, M.B.E., his Adjutant and R.S.M. A short parade was held and Iron Troop (the Troop affiliated to Colonel Proudman's Regiment) was presented with a magnificent cup which is to be awarded to the winner of the Obstacle Course Competition held each term. It was a very kind thought and greatly appreciated.

The occasion of the Corps' 'At Home' and Reunion saw another visit to Catterick by our Junior Leaders. After some doubts as to whether the main party would ever join the advance party of Lieutenant Graham and Drum Major Yates, a slightly reduced number arrived on the evening of Tuesday, 23rd June, in an assortment of Regimental and private transport; Lieutenant Hallchurch is to be congratulated on his driving ability.

Wednesday morning witnessed considerable activity rehearsing with the Corps Band under the Director of Music. The effects of the previous day's journey were eventually thrown off to produce, by the end of the morning, the beginnings of a colourful and worthwhile performance. The next three days were spent on Baghdad Square busy with rehearsals for the playing of "Retreat" and the Sunday afternoon combined performance. In addition, a group from the Pipes and Drums and Dancers were attempting to reduce the scope of their display both in size and volume to fit the respective Messes in the Garrison. How successful they were we are not altogether certain, but we would like to thank all concerned for the hospitality during the visits to their Messes.

(Continued at foot of next column)



A/T Wink and A/T Pawlow Army Apprentices School competing in the French Army Canoe Championships

ARMY APPRENTICES SCHOOL, HARROGATE

HARROGATE

June saw our summer term in full swing. Athletics training continued at a pace in preparation for the Quadrangular Games. These were held at Arborfield at the end of the month. Despite a good team, which had trained hard, the School could manage only second to A.A.S., Chepstow, who ran away with nearly all the track events. A/T Fenge broke the meeting individual record pole vault with a vault of 12ft. 2¾in., and with A/T Drew's vault, the combined height was 23ft. 2¾in., also a record. A/T Rogers and A/T Lance-Corporal McKeich broke the Quadrangular record with a combined shot put of 86ft. A/T Rogers' put of 45ft. 8½in. was an individual record.

The School cricket team made up for this disappointment by winning convincingly all their matches. Indeed we have, this season, our most successful cricket teams for some years. The Under 18 XI has reached the semi-finals of the Army Junior Cup, and the School side beat the School of Signals in the semi-finals of th Northern Command Cup. A/T Taylor has scored 302 runs at an average of 25 and A/T Franks' bowling has been outstanding, having taken 37 wickets for an average of 5.1 runs each.

Our canoeists have also had a good month. In the Quadrangular Games they won three of the four events and were second in the fourth. Not much argument about that! In the first Army Canoe Championships there were ten events in which they got four firsts and four seconds, winning the Senior Team Trophy. Notes on the activities of our canoeists in the French Army Championships were included last month. The photographs printed were received too late to accompany them.

Our cyclists don't often get a mention, but in this little publicised sport we have been doing very well. A/T Crittenden is a cyclist of real promise. He won the Army two miles and thirty miles (in which A/T Walker was second) and came second in the Army fifty miles championship. A/T McNeilly, of Recruit Squadron, also did extremely well in coming second in a Junior fifteen mile time trial.

The standards of the sportsmen in the School should prove of real value to the Corps' teams in the future. We hope that they will be maintained in the Units to which ex-Apprentices are posted.

Summer is the open season for exams. The majority of the School have been sitting City and Guilds Examinations or G.C.E., so a lot of hard work has been done. We wish the candidates every success.

(*Continued from page* 302)

The visit for the Reunion coincided with the Princess Royal's Day Celebrations and "Retreat" was played by the combined bands on the Friday evening making the efforts of the previous day's rehearsals worthwhile. This was the start of the full weekend's programme with "Retreat" and Pipers and Dancers performing on Saturday. Church Parade on Sunday morning and the combined performance for the Old Comrades on Sunday afternoon concluded the weekend.

It was a very busy week for everyone and the Junior Leaders, many of whom were visiting Catterick for the first time, enjoyed themselves. There were opportunities for them to see more aspects of the Corps than exist in Denbury and the perfect weather was a wonderful tonic.

1st REGIMENT, D.F.P.O. 32



Private (T.O.K.S.) Hansen joins Lance-Corporal Hooley on the Divisional Command Net

Princess Royal Day, 1964

This was celebrated by Royal Signals in Verden with an athletic meeting during the day and an all ranks' dance in the evening.

The teams competing in the sports were 207 and 211 Squadrons, and H.Q., 1 and 2 Squadrons of the Regiment. 207 were very good winners.

The highlight of the day was undoubtedly the tug-of-war, in which H.Q. Squadron were beaten by 1 Squadron, who were observed to be doing their prizes (a cup and a carton of beer) a grave mischief at the edge of the field shortly after their victorious pull.

The most diplomatic race of the day was the old soldiers' race, which was won by the C.O., Lieutenant-Colonel C. E. Page, closely followed by Major (Q.M.) Bill Howard and R.Q.M.S. Joe Adams. It is not true that whilst running, the R.Q. was shouting "Catch him, sir, he's got our ledgers!"

Some very good jumps were recorded by Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Ken Pemberton and Signalman Malcolm Inch whilst measuring the javelin throws, when Corporal Mate of 1 Squadron threw a distance of 175ft. 9in., well beyond the final measuring line. The jumps were unorthodox (up and across) but effective, nevertheless.

The all ranks' dance commenced at 8.45 p.m. An excellent buffet was laid on by Staff Sergeant Wolstenholme, who interrupted his leave to do so. The dance was well attended by friends from the Anglo-German Club and H.Q., 1st Division, and a "swinging" time was enjoyed by all.

Stop Press. Whilst the athletic meeting was in progress, the Regimental swimming team were busy winning the 7th (Armoured) Brigade Inter-Unit Team Swimming Championship at Hohne. Well done, swimmers!

Danish Contingent Visits the Regiment

On Monday, 15th June, at precisely 14.30 hours, the Danish flag was broken at the masthead on the parade ground. This marked the entry into the barracks, and past a smart quarter guard on the gate, of the first vehicle of a Danish convoy bringing 38 officers and men of the 2 Telegrafbataljon of the Jyske Telegraf Regiment. It also marked a personal triumph of timing by the Conducting Officer, Captain B. F. Kavanagh, who had chaperoned the column from the Danish border.

This is the third such liaison visit by members of the Jyske Regiment, and so successful and cordial have these been in the past that it was eagerly awaited.

After being welcomed by Lieutenant-Colonel Page, the Danes soon settled in and were full of praise for their accommodation and food, as sampled during their first tea meal. The same evening officers and sergeants were entertained to drinks in respective messes, and later the junior ranks really got together at the opening of the new 1 Squadron Club, which had been got ready in the nick of time. Much credit for this feat was due to S.Q.M.S. Taylor and Signalmen Fawcett and

Coumbe and a gallant band of helpers. There is no doubt that that night the "ROC" Club really "rocked"!

The whole of the next day was devoted to an exercise by the Regiment, in the local area, and our operational set-up was thus shown to the Danes in the most practical way, as they toured our locations. It was essential that they were really "in the picture," as they were committed to operate with us on the major exercise of the year during the following week.

After a morning of maintenance, on Wednesday afternoon the inevitable football match took place. That the Danes take this event seriously can be judged from the fact that, although they only brought a total of 38 all ranks, they managed to beat the Regiment by 4 goals to 3. So they take back the cup, but not, we hope, for long, as we visit them in August. That night some members of the Regiment got their own back in a friendly way at an indoor games evening.



THE DESPATCH RIDER BOND
Signalman Wagstaff shows a Danish counterpart what his run is

Thursday morning saw the Danes visiting the NATO shooting area at Hohne, where, unfortunately, the spectacle of live firing by a Squadron of 1 Royral Tank Regiment was just missed as a forest fire started literally seconds before the Danes arrived. They went on to visit and were awed (as is everybody) by the sight of the Jewish memorial at Belsen. Thursday afternoon (and Friday morning!) was taken up by a shopping trip to Bremen, a social in the Sergeants' Mess, and a dinner night in the Officers' Mess. It speaks much for the stamina of our guests that they were able to look so fresh and cheerful during their own practice layout of communications, which took up most of Friday. Final briefings and line-up took place on Saturday, after which there were private parties, followed by a much-needed rest on Sunday.

From Monday to Friday, all were committed to Exercise "New Harpoon VII," and that our friends really enjoyed ths exercise cannot be doubted. They provided first-class back-up radio relay communications between Main and Rear Division and some excellent Spiral 4 bonus lines, which they laid and built with commendable speed. The end of the exercise soon arrived (though perhaps not too soon for some of the British hosts) and so to another series of parties on Saturday night. These included the Sergeants' Mess, the ROC Club and, thanks to our Traffic Officer, Lieutenant Toby Seymour, a grand unofficial opening of the new "Jimmy's Club" (this time in the cellars of the amalgamated mess) by the Danes! Yes, the Danish officers gave, organised, and ran the party for their British hosts, with no detail spared. The rest of this particular event must remain blank, and indeed is blank, for many who attended—as everybody knows, Akavit has some unusual effects! Sunday was another rest day!

So to Monday, 29th June, and the farewell, by Lieutenant-Colonel Page. The Danish flag was struck at 10.15 hours as the last of the Danish column passed the quarter guard at the gate (still as smart as ever, thanks to S.S.M. Cowe and Sergeant Barnden). Each officer and man of the contingent was (dare we say "proudly") wearing the light-blue scarf of the 1st Squadron of the 1st Signal Regiment, which we had given them as a measure of our respect and friendship and as a mark of their ability to communicate.

Exercise "New Harpoon VII"

The Regiment went into the field on Monday, 22nd June, 1964, to take part in Exercise "Silver Spoon." To avoid getting mixed up in 207 Squadron, also on its way to the exercise location, we had to leave barracks at the crack of dawn. Consequently, we had plenty of time to get off to a good start.

The Regiment put up a very good show indeed during "New Harpoon." One Squadron perhaps created a new record for a Divisional Signal Regiment. One evening a remark from Corps was overheard: "We haven't got time to do that. We clear 1,600 messages a day."—On that particular day, Main I Division cleared 1,100 messages!

Sergeants' Mess

Since returning from Exercise "New Harpoon," we have managed to amalgamate H.Q. 1st Division Sergeants' Mess and 1st Signal Regiment Sergeants' Mess. We now have the old officers' mess building. Certain re-decoration must take place before we are really settled in—we are waiting for our bar to be installed, and in the meantime we are having to drink at a temporary bar. Thanks must go to Sergeant George Edwards for the many hours he has put in within the past month to make the mess habitable. Car parking has become a problem, and now that we have taken on additional members, the P.M.C. is having difficulty in parking his bike amidst the Mercs and Kapitans.

2nd REGIMENT, B.F.P.O. 22

At our recent inter-Squadron swimming competition, the Challenge Cup was won by 206 Brigade Squadron and our photograph shows the team captain, W.O.II (F.-of-S.) P. Devanney, receiving the prize from the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel N. C. Porter. The winner of the individual diving competition was Signalman B. Roden, who can be seen standing in the background of the photograph.

One-time members of the Regiment may be interested to know that our long awaited gym is almost complete and has been in use for some time. Our photograph shows its location between the Officers' Mess and the T.O.T.s workshops and was taken by the Divisional Army Air Corps Flight. This Flight has now moved into Birdwood Barracks, as another step towards integration, and its members are already well established in our Messes.

At the Royal Signals Regatta at the Mohne See, our Regimental "A" team gained third place and handed over the cannon which we had held as last year's winning team. Major D. H. Briggs was selected as a member of the Royal Signals team for the Triangular Regatta later in July. The photograph shows some of the members of the "A" and "B" teams; it was taken during an evening walk across the top of the Mohne Dam of 'Dambusters' fame.

Last week Sergeant R. T. Roberts was awarded the Kyu Black Belt after gaining 87½ points out of a possible 92. He is now on equal terms with his wife who already possessed the same distinction. Sergeant Roberts, who joined the Army in November 1955 as an electrician driver, is 27 years old and is the mainstay of our Regimental servicing team.

A short account of a Troop camp now follows. It was written by a member of the Troop which, in work-a-day life mans one of our comcentres in the field:

Exercise "Hodney" — "Charlie One" Troop Camp

This year's camp, which was attended by 28 members of the Troop, including two officers and two senior N.C.O.s, took place from 12th to 19th June in the Harz Mountains, close to the Zonal Border with East Germany. The hamlet of Schluft, the admirable proportions of which were approved by all—one gasthouse and one dwelling house was its complement—was the closest habitation to our camp site. We pitched our tents beneath the magnificent pines characteristic of the area, with a fresh running stream close by for regular bathing.

We were helped greatly in our activities by the staff of the Special Training Centre nearby, who arranged for us to visit the zonal border and a fascinating silver mine in St. Andreasburg. Also a severe rock climb was arranged and undertaken by all those of our heavyweight division, who feared for the safety of others on the rope. Lance-Corporal Walwyn's team scaled the steep face in record time, despite their inexperience.

The apparently more simple downhill progress of the ski run of St. Andreasburg was investigated by most; notably Signalman Ash, Astin and Bristow found that the simplicity was apparent only, much to the amusement of tourists and their comrades. However, face was restored by the considerable expertise of Signalman Hand (who had spent three weeks on a ski course in Bavaria early this year).

(*Continued on page* 307)

Activities in 2nd Regiment mirrored in Pictures













1. **Sergeant R. T. Roberts—K.Y.U. Black Belt.**
2. **Birdwood Barracks Gymnasium: The almost completed gymnasium sited between the Officers' Mess in the foreground and the TOT's workshops.**
3. **2nd Regiment Inter Squadron Swimming Competition: The captain of the winning team, W.O.II (F. of S.) Devanney of 206 Brigade Squadron, having been presented the Cup by the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel N. C. Porter.**
4. **Charlie—One Troop Camp:** *(Left to right)*: **Major D. H. Briggs, Second Lieutenant M. K. Carson, Staff Sergeant P. Greenwood, Second Lieutenant P. J. K. Dickinson.**
5. **Some of the team members during the Royal Signals Regatta at the Mohne See in Jine.** *(Left to right)*: **Corporal W. R. Hyde, Lance Corporal R. Homes, Sergeant J. H. Richardson, Lance Corporal A. R. Lyons, andW.O.II J. F. P. Head.**
6. **Charlie—One Troop Camp:** *Left to right (Standing)*: **Signalman Clark (now released), Signalman H. C. Ottaway, Signalman L. Logan, Lance Corporal L. Walwyn.** *Left to right (sitting)*: **Signalman R. E. W. Clark, Corporal M. E. Turner, Lance Corporal R. Graves.**

Help Safeguard Independence
in the
Northern Rhodesia Defence Force

Northern Rhodesia celebrates Independence on 24th October, 1964. In consequence, it's Defence Force will assume additional responsibilities and duties. To meet this increased need the following personnel are required to supplement it's existing establishment.

SERGEANTS
Radio Mechanics

SERGEANT
Operating Trades

SERGEANTS
Clerks

S/SERGEANT
Technical Stores

Applicants, married or single, should not be more than 50 years of age. Period of agreement 3-4-5 years renewable for periods of three years by mutual agreement. Agreement terminable by six months notice on either side. Service normally in Northern Rhodesia only—probably in Lusaka or Ndola.

RATES OF PAY

Example : Sergeant £751-£887 p.a. plus £300 " responsibility pay " irrespective of rank.

TRADE PAY comparable to British Army

CHILDREN'S ALLOWANCE

£50 minimum for first child, £24 for each additional child (payable up to a maximum salary of £1,290).

TERMINAL GRATUITY

£25-£37 10s. 0d. for each three months service.
Married Quarters and hard furniture supplied. Passage to Northern Rhodesia and back to U.K. on completion of tour for whole family.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Northern Rhodesia is a fast growing energetic Country with a cost of living on a par to the U.K. (Income tax lower). Some items, e.g. cigarettes and petrol cheaper. It has a warm, dry climate most of the year, allowing for a wide range of outdoor activities—swimming, boating, fishing and hunting. It's National Parks, Victoria Falls, lakes and wild life offer exciting sightseeing and photography opportunities.

Applications, quoting age, rank and brief history of previous military service, should be sent to :

The Defence Liaison Officer,
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER FOR NORTHERN RHODESIA,
Estate House, Haymarket, London, S.W.1.

The last initiative exercise of the camp was a "spy hunt." Each patrol independently set out to find the two spies. An unexpected additional hunter arrived from the skies in the shape of the Squadron Commander, Major D. H. Briggs, who had borrowed a helicopter for the day. He shared in the surprise of the patrols when eventually the spies were run to ground. Staff Sergeant Greenwood was in a road gang, mending hard, and Second-Lieutenant Carson, the Troop Commander, was found portering at the local bahnhof.

A near calamity occurred in the afternoon when the Squadron Commander's helicopter refused to become airborne for the return flight. We said it was the rarified atmosphere—but was it lunch?!

On the last afternoon Corporal Turner, complete with mountain stick and Yankee hat, led a successful baseball team to an eleven-all draw with a side from the local American base. A subsequent game of soccer we won 11—0. However, as evening came, "The Intruders," "Charlie One's" own guitar and drums group, "beatled" their way into an excellent Anglo-American party spirit.

4th REGIMENT, B.F.P.O. 15

After many abortive attempts to write these notes we were trying once more on Sunday afternoon. What to write about? People were sick of reading about Regimental Sports and Mess outings. Eventually our teenage son said: "Whatever it is you are supposed to be doing, you are not getting on very well." On being told that the WIRE Notes were a very difficult task, he replied, "Make them interesting this time."

Inspiration. I get him to tell me what he thought was interesting. After all one must cater for the young outlook and all that jazz. So the question was put. The answer . . . "Well there was the sports meeting and the trip to the Dümmer See and the cricket match and so on." A big help!

In fact a lot has been going on, as anyone who has ever served in a Division or Brigade will realise, especially at this time of the year, so we shall just put it down as it comes.

The Inter-Squadron Sports were held at the Jahn Stadium on a real summer's day—so good in fact that the NAAFI ran out of ice cream three times. At the end of the meeting 1 Squadron, by a comfortable margin, retained the Cup which they have held so long now that it is shown on G1098. An encouraging sign at the sports was the number of families that turned up to watch, and in the case of the kids, to take part in, the sports. We seem to be getting back to the old family type Regiment. Outstanding among the athletes during the afternoon was Second-Lieutenant Alden and Lance-Corporal Abdullah over short distances and Lance-Corporal Baynes over longer ones. The final of the tug-'o-war showed that when it came to pulling their weight our Divisional Redcaps were more than a match for the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess.

As a result of the Regimental Meeting we entered the Divisional Athletic Meeting and ended up fourth out of eleven entrants. The winners were the Irish Guards, present runners-up for the B.A.O.R. trophy. Lance-Corporal Baynes again showed his paces in the 1,500 metres by beating all runners and thereby went back to U.K. to represent B.A.O.R. in the Individual Championship.

The All Ranks' Dance was a great success and well justified the hard work which had gone into preparing a first class buffet and transforming our functional gymnasium into a gay dance hall. We could do with more of these functions. The senior N.C.O.s who are about to have to do early morning P.T. are quite prepared to give up the gym as dance hall on a permanent basis.

The Sergeants' Mess outing to the Dümmer See was a very popular event even though due to a small administrative oversight we took no liquid refreshment. The owner of the local Gasthaus had a big jump in his takings that day.

The Rugby Club, which observes no close season, challenged "M" Troop to a cricket match. This match, with frequent intervals for refreshment, lasted all of one Sunday. The umpires were offered lots of helpful advice and the result of it all was a win for "M" Troop.

Towards the end of the month the Unit went out on "New Harpoon VII." For us the exercise started in a novel way; the first location was all of 700 yards from Barracks and even less from the Married Quarters. It was not the best choice of locations as the area is used by the local swains as a "snogging ground" and as a fair number of the local swains were on the exercise, they had a decided advantage over the senior ranks, whose knowledge was not quite so all-embracing.

Congratulations to Staff Sergeant Les Wrixon, who received a well-deserved B.E.M. in the Birthday Honours. He says it was for conduct above and beyond the call of duty whilst running a 'bus in Southampton, but we all know better.

Lastly, farewell to Major John Francis, who left us at the beginning of the month for a short indoctrination course in the States, and also to Major Nick Carter, who leaves us to become M.T.O. at Donnington. The fact that only two vehicles broke down (and those temporarily) on "New Harpoon" is the final justification of his work for the Regiment.

We now welcome Major V. G. W. King, who has joined us from 17th Gurkha Signal Regiment. He speaks only of motors and motor cycle trials at this stage.

9th REGIMENT, B.F.P.O. 53

"This is the Forces Broadcasting Station, Cyprus. Here is the weather forecast as received a few minutes ago from the Met. Office, Royal Air Force, Nicosia. The seasonal trough of low pressure is now centred north of the island. Tomorrow will be bright and sunny, with light and variable winds in the morning; maximum temperatures on the central plain will be about 94°F., and in coastal areas 86°F. For those waiting for the next cricket commentary, we regret that rain is still preventing play in the second Test Match at Lords, so in place of our advertised programme, we will play you some light music."

Oh to be out of England, now that summer (?) is there!

Highlights of the last month, in order of occurrence, are our limited participation in the Island R.A.F./Army athletics match, the C.S.O.'s Inter-Squadron Rifle Meeting, a most successful production of "Twelfth Night" by the Mercury Players, and our celebrations in connection with Princess Royal Day, including the opening (launching ?) of the new Harewood Club. Our lastest gimmick is the sport of water ski-ing. We formed a water ski club two days ago, and in the words of an astonished onlooker, seldom have so many fallen so frequently in such undignified positions. The annual Unit Tennis Championships are under way; the water polo team goes from success to success, and, at the time of writing, an intrepid party of bold explorers are at sea in the *Natanis*, bound for the depths of darkest Beirut.

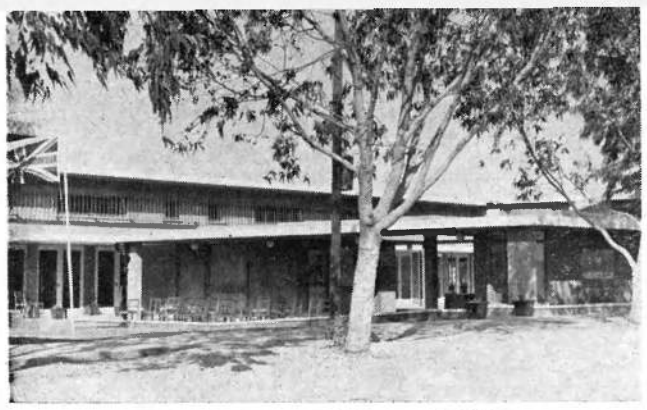
Athletics A.B. writes:

The annual R.A.F. v. Army (Cyprus) athletics meeting took place at Happy Valley, Episkopi, on the afternoon of 13th June. The meeting took an unusual form this year, being a combined R.A.F. inter-station and also inter-Service match; the Army team competing at station team level, due to their relatively low posted strength on the island. Our own Regiment had an extremely limited representaton this year, only two competitors being selected. These were sprinters Second-Lieutenant "Nick" Fowgies, of 3 Squadron, and Corporal Bob Cattermole, of 2 Squadron. They both ran extremely well in the sprint relay, to help the Army team to a second in this event and second overall in the meeting. The tug-of-war team from 2 Squadron, which represented the Army v. R.A.F., were sadly, but soundly, beaten in two straight pulls by a very good R.A.F. team.

Shooting R.N.H. writes:

The C.S.O.'s Inter-Squadron Rifle Championships took place at Dhekelia on 26th and 27th June. This Regiment was fortunate enough to obtain the use of a Dhekelia range (14 miles away) for a week beforehand, so that those taking part could obtain some practice. Training was carried out by O.R.Q.M.S. Howells, of 1 Squadron, assisted by the team captains of 2 Squadron, W.O.II ("Chirpy") Finch, and Second-Lieutenant N. Fowgies, 3 Squadron.

The Regiment was nominated by the Chief Signal Officer to organise and run the meeting, and it is pleasant to record that everything went like clockwork. From our own Regimental point of view it was gratifying to record that Signalman Harper, of 2 Squadron (the oldest looking young soldier anyone has ever seen) won the Individual Young Soldiers' Rifle Competition, and that O.R.Q.M.S. Howells, of 1 Squadron, last year's winner of the S.M.C. Individual Championship, gained a close second in the same event this year. Only one point



The newly opened Harewood Club

separated the first two places. In the Inter-Squadron Championship, 2 Squadron came third, behind 261 and 262 Squadrons.

The final event, the Falling Plate Competition, saw 1 and 3 Squadrons competing in the final, and in the end it was 1 Squadron, inspired, perhaps, by the Welsh battle cries emanating from W.O.II Tommy Handley, who ran out worthy winners.

Tennis I.McL. writes:

The annual Unit Tennis Championships are off to a fine start, under the usual blazing skies, and though there are fewer entries than last year, the tennis is of a much higher standard. Favourite to win the men's open singles, for the second year running, is Mr. A. Hicks, of Civilian Wing, but the men's handicap singles, a new event this year, is producing some strenuous and marathon matches, and should provide any two surprise (and surprised) finalists.

Princess Royal Day

The Regiment celebrated Princess Royal Day, on 27th June, with a programme including children's sports in the morning, the official opening of the new Harewood Club in the afternoon and an all ranks' dance in the new club in the evening.

Corporal J.S., a member of the club committee, writes:

On Saturday, 27th June, a new junior ranks' club, named the Harewood Club, was opened at 9th Regiment.

The club was first planned in 1960/61, and work was started on it in December, 1962. It was touch-and-go whether it would be completed in time for the planned opening. Workmen were still putting finishing touches to it on the day before it opened.

The opening of this club heralds a new era in the British Army, that of the junior ranks messing together and also sharing their social life.

The club was officially opened on Princess Royal Day by Mrs. Marchant, wife of Colonel Marchant, Deputy Commander, Troops, Cyprus.

The Harewood is a magnificent club. The facilities are really first class and the members are taking full advantage of them. There is a restaurant, a lounge bar with outside patios, a "men only" bar (this is very popular) with three dart boards, games rooms, reading room, W.V.S. lounge, barber shop, and forces gift shop. The building is of modern design and so is the decor.

The club is run by a committee of members, headed by W.O.II Kinch and Captain G. Vincent, who is the supervising officer. At the time of writing this article, several functions have been held at the club. Each has been well attended and well enjoyed, and we are all determined that the club will go from strength to strength.

Golf P.J.B. writes:

Welcome news to golfers already on the island, and golfers due to arrive, is that the Army Golf Association, under the Chairmanship of Lieutenant-Colonel D. D. Fairman, have commenced the construction of a golf course at Dhekelia.

The course will be nine holes and approximately 3,000 yards and, although perhaps not so green as an English course, we hope it will be just as difficult and provide as much enjoyment.

Water Polo G.W.E. writes:

9th Regiment are enjoying a very successful season, with only one league game to play. We are at the top of the Army League (Cyprus). We are lucky in having the experience of Corporal Fryer (a Corps player) playing centre-half, and Corporal Chard, who is an Army swimmer (B.A.O.R.), playing right wing. Sergeant Mawson, Signalman Webber and Signalman Docker complete our defence. Our top goal-scorers are Corporal Roberts (31) and Corporal Ewart (30).

Record to date is: Played 7, won 7, goals for 92, goals against 14, points 14.

"Twelfth Night" M.H.C.W. writes:

As their contribution to the quatercentenary celebrations of Shakespeare's birth, the Mercury Theatre Group of this Regiment have just finished a production of "Twelfth Night." Staged out of doors on four successive (and perfect) evenings, it was played by its mixed cast of officers, other ranks and attached civilians, with an irreverent, but affectionate zest which seemed to be taken up by audiences appreciating and enjoying the piece for what it is—probably the best romantic comedy of all time.

The present writer is a civilian who had the privilege and enormous pleasure of directing the show, and, so far as he is concerned, the Army (or at any rate, this bit of it!) has amateur drama made. Organised as a Regimental activity, so that the energies of the members are channelled entirely into drama and social activities, able to "acquire" or produce at the drop of a hat anything from a tapestry frame to the timber for a specially-erected stage, 33ft. by 15ft., in two levels, and successfully combining some 70 people of diverse tastes, the Mercury Theatre Group is unique in his experience. Long may it flourish—as indeed it probably will!

Water Ski-ing P.J.B. writes:

A new and very popular sport of water ski-ing has just been commenced by the Regiment. Very high running costs normally prohibit this sport in the Army, but thanks to the 3rd Green Jackets, who have agreed to hire their speed boat to the Regiment for a very modest fee, we are now able to provide ski-ing every morning and evening for a monthly subscription of only £2.

As the club has only just started the standard of ski-ing is still rather poor. However, efforts at "trying to get up" are providing a very high standard of amusement to the onlooker.

Welcome to the Re-formed 10th Regiment

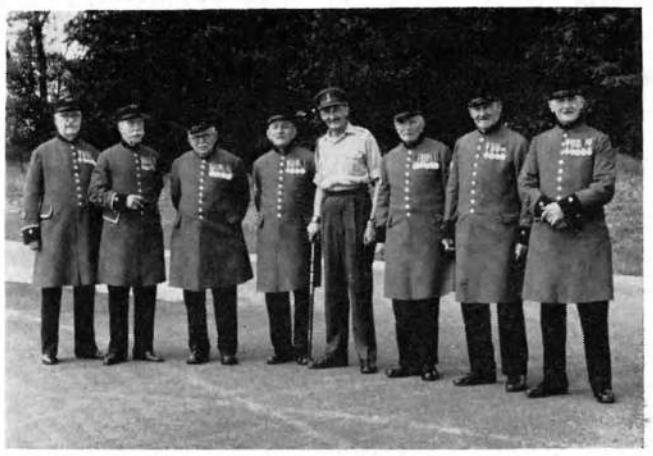
WITH the re-forming of 10th Signal Regiment in London (Hounslow) the unit is returning to the scene of one of the busiest periods in its history.

Beginning in 1924 as a group of Supplementary Reserve sub-units in Glasgow, it was converted to General Headquarters, Signals, in 1932, and in September, 1939, it took up its duties in the B.E.F. After Dunkirk, the unit with its Regimental Headquarters in the old Town Hall at Hammersmith, provided communications for G.H.Q., Home Forces, then located at St. Paul's School. The facilities were not good and were liable to nightly damage from the Luftwaffe. For instance, on 15th September, the 100-pair cable from G.H.Q. to Shepherds Bush was destroyed outside Cadby Hall. Seventy telephones and sixteen telegraph circuits went out. A burning gas main prevented their repair until 06.00 hours the next day. All was restored by 09.00 hours on the 17th.

When G.H.Q. moved to Storey's Gate, the Regiment duplicated the main cable system by seven-pair cable treed across St. James's Park and Hyde Park out to South Kensington and on to St. Paul's School.

The Regiment then served G.H.Q., 21st Army Group in London and took part in the Normandy operations and the subsequent campaign in N.W. Europe, reaching, at one time, a strength of 2,000 men. It then served H.Q., British Army of the Rhine and later Northern Army Group, being designated 18th Army Group Signal Regiment. At the time of it being re-designated 10th Signal Regiment, it had become a radio relay regiment, and in 1962 it was placed in suspended animation.

Now the Squadrons and Troops serving the various headquarters located within the boundary of Eastern Command are being amalgamated to form the re-born 10th Signal Regiment. Slinging cable across the Royal Parks is not expected to be permitted at the present time.



R.S.M. Dunlop with members of the Old Brigade at the Royal Signals Reunion in Catterick on 28/29 June 9164



Lieutenant R. C. Etheridge leading his assault course team from 1 Squadron having won the Brigade Assault Course Competition at the "AT HOME" Weekend

11th Regiment (Depot)

June has been a reasonably quiet month by normal standards; the recruiting figures continue to be very high and the Recruit Squadrons, 1 and 3, have been forced to organise on the three Troop intake of roughly sixty recruits per Troop. When there is a Pass-Off Parade a considerable burden is put on the training resources of the Training Brigade and indeed on the holding element of 3 Squadron not to mention the numbers passing through 2 Squadron on draft. The Regiment continues to work at full stretch almost literally the spread being between Baghdad, Vimy and Helles Lines. With the numbers now being so high it is no mean feat to be elected Best Recruit of the intake.

Best Recruits

Passing Off as Best Recruit on 5th June was Signalman M. J. Kermode, of 17, Hill Road, Barrow-in-Furness. He enlisted into the Corps on 23rd March, 1964. During his recruit training he has given sterling service to the Regimental Rugby team and was a member of the victorious 7-a-side team which won the Northern Command Plate Competition. He also plays a good game of cricket and enjoys canoeing and hiking in his off-duty hours. He joined the Army in order to travel and he has a particular yen to serve in Singapore. His grandfather served with the Royal Engineers.



Signalman M. J. Kermode



Signalman W. Davies

The Best Recruit in the Pass Off on 19th June was Signalman William Davies who enlisted on 14th April, 1964, at Middlesbrough. Davies, of 2, Pennyman Walk, Marske-by-Sea, joined the Army for a career in electronics and is interested in soccer and basketball in the sporting field. In his spare time he likes tinkering with radios. He goes forward for training as an O.R. 1 with a view to commissioning.

Sergeants' Mess Notes

Flaming June has come and gone and there are those who are perhaps not too sorry that it has gone for it has been a very busy month for the Regiment.

The high sport in a fairly crowded calendar of events was, of course, the Corps 'At Home' and Old Comrades' Weekend on Saturday, 27th, and Sunday, 28th June, which if not a record breaker as far as the attendance by ex-members of the Corps was concerned, was a good average.

There was much slapping of backs and pumping of hands observed. We even had one Old Comrade who flew in from Canada for this annual reunion. "Duff" deserves full marks for this spirit.

On the Saturday evening the Mess held 'Open House' for the Boys of the Old Brigade and there was a great quaffing of ale. Prominent amongst those who we were glad to entertain was the South Wales contingent. We hope to see you and your merry men again next year, Bill Edwards. Our resident muscle man, S.I. "Rocky" Holling was seen to be in his customary good form in the not so early hours.

We were delighted to welcome this year seven Chelsea Pensioners, of whom Mr. Taylor and Mr. Cochran were with us last year.

W.O.H George Mercer again performed in impeccable style the duties of resident shepherd to these grand old soldiers. No sooner had the dust of battle cleared from the Old Comrades' Weekend than we received a visit from the Adjutant General; that was, on Tuesday the 30th when he took coffee with us in our new Mess building in Helles Barracks.

We have not moved into the new Mess yet, but will be doing so very shortly. There is of course no question of comparison with the old building but the vast expanses of plate glass fronting on to a tennis court have caused a certain amount of head shaking.

Officers' Mess Notes

The month of June has been a very quiet one for the Regiment. Only two functions—a Curry Lunch and a Ladies' Night. The latter a memorable occasion for three officers and their wives for they were being dined out on retirement.

Major Jordan, Major Haxell, Captain Hennessy and their wives were our guests on what must have been for them an occasion where memories flooded the mind.

We hope that the mementoes we gave them will serve to remind them not only of this Regiment but of their service in the Corps.

Athletics

It's strange how talent comes in waves—at the beginning of this season we waited with considerable apprehension for the 'waves.' And it came! But only in the field events and as we all know that doesn't score too heavily in competition.

We have been holding an inter-Recruit Troop match once a fortnight in order to find the recruit talent. These meetings are most successful. We run all round events less hurdles and pole vault and competition runs fiercely and the recruits and cadre all thoroughly enjoy them. We try to keep the adminis-



THE OLD MEN
H.Q. Squadron 100 stone Tug of War Team

tration to an absolute minimum and the cry is that ' the meetings run themselves.' A dangerous cry we might add, for one or two officials have already thought that their services might be dispensed with entirely.

The Regimental Meeting on Sunday, 14th June, was most successful.

Top honours must go to Lance-Corporal Beere with 36 ft. in the weight but also worthy of mention are Signalman Jarrold, a recruit, with 15 minutes 32 seconds in the three miles and 4 minutes 31 seconds in the one mile. S.I. Holling, APTC, 102 ft. 1 in. in the discus and Lance-Corporal Kemp 136 ft. in the javelin. The ladies' race was won in fine style by Mrs. W. G. Robinson, and in the Old Soldiers' event the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel T. G. H. Jackson (severely handicapped) just failed to catch Major R. O. Wilson in a race which received great vocal suppoprt.

In the 100 stone tug-'o-war final a well-drilled 3 Squadron team beat rather easily the gallant 'old men's' team of H.Q. Squadron.

We were disappointed not to split 8th and 24th Regiments in the Training Brigade Meeting. In the event 8th Regiment won easily but we lagged one point only behind 24th Regiment. Next hurdle is the Northern Command Meeting and with one week to go the Athletics Officer, Captain W. G. Robinson, is flying at a fairly considerable height—perhaps we ought to try him in the pole vault!

16th REGIMENT, B.F.P.O. 35

May has come and gone, and during the month the Regiment has seen the inevitable comings and goings of "visiting firemen" who appeared suitably baffled and impressed on their departure. It is hoped that the ultimate results of their visits will be to the benefit of the Regiment.

The highlight of the month was the pass-off parade on Friday, 15th May, 1964, of the Warrant Officers and Sergeants. This was the culmination of many weeks of hard labour on the square in the early hours of the morning under the watchful eye of the R.S.M., W.O.I E. Firth and W.O.II (S.S.M.) R. Cockcroft. The weather was kind and the parade, which formed up for inspection by Lieutenant-Colonel D. H. Freeland, was creditably turned out and steady in the ranks.

After the inspection, the parade slow marched, quick marched, wheeled and formed, sufficient to gladden the heart of a Guardsman—and we pride ourselves that it was done better than the Guards could have done!

When the formal parade was completed, the members of the Sergeants' Mess entertained the officers to a buffet lunch, and, no doubt due to the heat of the day, and the dust of the square, the various breweries favoured by the Mess made a fair profit in consequence.

With the advent of summer, our gladiators are whitening their cricket pads and polishing running shoes in anticipation of the season's activities on the cricket and athletic fields. We do not expect to break any world records in the latter sphere, but we are keen, none the less, to do well in the forthcoming Area Championships. In anticipation of these, we held our Regimental Meeting on 30th May, and no doubt due to the fine, warm afternoon, many families and members of the Regiment came along to watch the afternoon's activities. For the first few events it was neck-and-neck between the three Squadrons, but eventually H.Q. Squadron drew away to emerge the clear winners. Mrs. Freeland kindly presented the prizes, and the only nonsense of the afternoon was when the Athletics Officer failed to produce the prizes for the Old Soldiers' Race—this cost him a few beers as apologies to the winner and runners-up.



Lieutenant-Colonel D. H. Freeland makes the presentation to the Burgemeister

The station recently received a grant of £25 for the purpose of fostering Anglo - German relationships. It was decided that this would best take the form of a presentation of books to Stadt Krefeld. The presentation was carried out on the occasion of the visit to Krefeld of the Lord Mayor of Leicester, and was made by the Commanding Officer in his capacity as Station Commander. The ceremony took place in the Rathaus, Krefeld, on Tuesday, 26th May, and a touch of colour was added to the proceedings by the presence of four lance bearers, Lance-Corporals Gordon, Wade, Burchell and Kenny in No. 1 Dress.

On 15th May we were joined by 15 trainees who had just completed their basic military training at 11th Regiment. They are attached to this Regiment to complete their trade training as Communication Centre Operators. Immediately on arrival they spent three days down in the Eifel on adventure training, and luckily for them, the weather was fine. To assist us in training these soldiers, W.O.II Bell, of 7th Regiment, Sergeant Greaves, of 4th Regiment, and Corporal Carter, of 2nd Regiment have been kindly lent to the Regiment by their respective Commanding Officers; we wish them a pleasant stay with us. The first course passes out on 10th August, and we shall be welcoming a further 15 on the 15th of this month—by the time these notes are in print, two courses will be running.

The highlight of June (apart from the Signal Officer-in-Chief's official visit, being reported separately) was our annual fete, held on Saturday, June 20th.

The day dawned dark and miserable from the point of view of the weather and, in fact, it poured with rain until lunchtime, when, miraculously, the sun appeared and the clouds began to disperse. Naturally, the indifferent weather did affect the support we received, but nevertheless, a good crowd materialised, and in the short space of three hours, the satisfactory sum of £457 was taken (a fete record).

This year we were honoured by Mrs. Swainson opening the fete. She arrived in B.A.O.R. with the S.O.-in-C. on the previous Thursday, but had been far from well. We would, therefore, like her to know how much we appreciated her giving up her Saturday afternoon to us. We were also delighted to see General Swainson and Mrs. Anderson, the wife of our C.S.O.

It is perhaps invidious to select any one person or persons for special mention, on the organisation and running of the fete. All the writer of these notes, who was also the Chairman of the Fete Committee, will say is that the co-operation from all members of the Regiment and the Wives' Club, was truly remarkable. Problems, there were many, but all were solved without fuss and acrimony.

All that now remains, at the time of writing these notes, is the pleasant task of writing out ten cheques to the charities we are supporting, and also to thank everyone who came along and supported us, including our friends from 13th, 21st and 28th Regiments.

Roll up! Roll up!

All the Fun of the Fair at the 16th Regiment















1. The S.O.-inC. accompanied by Lieutenant-Colonel D. H. Freeland tries his luck on one of the stalls watched critically by Private Yeats and Private Smith, W.R.A.C., serving with the Regiment.
2. Staff-Sergeant Berry hazards a guess to Mrs. Williams in the "Guess the name of the Doll."
3. Mrs. Gill wonders if Major "Barrow-Boy" Sinclair has given full weight in cherries from his "barrow"—he is assisted by Sergeant Howie.
4. A general view of some of the attractions inside the Gymnasium.
5. Katherine Firth (daughter of R.S.M E. W. Firth) having presented the bouquet to Mrs. Swainson who opened the Fete.
6. Always a favourite with the children, and we are sure no Beeching Axe will fall on our railway because it certainly paid its way during the afternoon.
7. Signalman Campbell (centre in white cardigan) watched by an interested trio stakes his claim to the "Buried Treasure."

17th REGIMENT, SEREMBAN, MALAYSIA

Retirement of Gurkha Major

The main item of news is the retirement of our Gurkha Major, Major (Queen's Gurkha Officer) Birendrasing Gurung. We are sure that all ex-members of the Regiment join us in giving him our final "salaams" and wishing him and his family "sukh santi ra dirgaayu hawas." A short resume of the career of this officer who has devoted his life time to the Army and in his latter years to the Gurkha Signals and Royal Signals in particular is set out below.



The Gurkha Major holding his silver hip flask presented by the British Officers

Born on 1st November, 1918, at Bakloh in the family lines of the 4th Gurkha Regimental Centre. His father, Chanke Gurung, later became Subedar Major of the Regimental Centre and retired as an Honorary Lieutenant in 1946. Chanke was a well known and respected figure in the Brigade of Gurkhas, he died in 1956, his widow still lives in Bakloh and it is to this home that Birendra has now returned on pension.

Birendra enlisted as a Boy in 2/4 GR in 1933 and became a recruit the following year. After recruit training he served with 2/4 GR until 1939. During this period he saw active service on the North-West Frontier and in 1938 joined the Battalion Signal Platoon. The Regimental Signal Officer at this time was one John Masters.

From 1940 to 1946 he served with 3/4 and 4/4 GR. Having earned a good reputation as a Regimental Signaller he was sent to the Signal Training Cadre at the Signal Training School, Poona.

In 1947 he returned to the Regiment of his enlistment, 2/4 GR. At the partition of India he opted for British Army Service and joined 2/6 GR. He was commissioned on 1st June, 1948, and joined Gurkha Signals on 20th June, 1949.

With Gurkha Signals he has served with most Squadrons and Troops. His service has taken him to Borneo, Hong Kong, Nepal, B.A.O.R. and the United Kingdom.

He has been Mentioned in Despatches on two occasions since serving with Gurkha Signals and was presented with the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal in 1955.

With 33 years of service behind him Birendra left H.Q. Gurkha Signals at Seremban on 12th May, 1964, after a full programme of traditional farewell ceremonies.



Farewell dinner for Major (Q.G.O.) Birendrasing Gurung in the W.O.'s and Sergeants Mess on the occasion of his retirement

21st REGIMENT

Highly Commendable Initiative—
Corps Shooting Captain please note



Signalman R. M. Adam

We give pride of place this month to Signalman Roy Adam, of 3 Squadron, who, "off his own bat," presented himself at the R.A.F. (Germany) Small Arms Meeting and returned the proud winner of the Sub-Machine Gun and Revolver Visitors' Prizes. We think that this initiative deserves the widest publicity and our photograph shows the happy winner with his trophies.

At the Corps Meeting, the Regimental Shooting Team thoroughly enjoyed themselves and all shot well. Lieutenant David Insall came home as Champion Rifle Shot, winner of the Revolver Cup, individual winner of Class "A" in the Methuen and Roberts Cups and second in the Bisley Cup. Which goes to prove that time spent in driving cars that require a quick reaction is seldom wasted.

Our athletes have also had a field day. The Squadron teams have either been winners or runners-up in their R.A.F. Station Sports and the Regimental Team in a dress rehearsal for the Morrison Cup, gained the Rhine Area Major Units Championship and the Major Units Tug-of-War Shield.

The annual event for those of us who are too old, or not much good at anything else, the Haslehust Trophy, was won by "G" Troop. Allegedly trained on Amstel, goosenecks and dry joints, they covered 32 miles on P.R.I. bicycles as if the prize was a 72-hour pass. The individual winner was Signalman "Paddy" Goggin, of 3 Squadron, and our photograph shows some of the competitors at a check point.

Just in case someone should think that we do no work at all, both "D" and "H" Troops of 2 Squadron have been trenching with a pneumatic drill, and apparently enjoying it, as part of a project on their airfield. Major Eric Collins, who was foreman for a day is getting his hand in for Aden, later in the year.



Some of the competitors in the Haslehust Trophy study maps at the checkpoint

H.Q./207 SQUADRON, B.F.P.O. 30

At the end of May we held a Squadron athletic meeting at Hohne. All ranks were encouraged to bring their families and fortunately it was a hot summer's day. The event was won by M.T. Troop who just managed to beat "A" Troop. The Squadron team was based on the performances at this meeting. In early June we took part in the Brigade Minor Units athletics, again at Hohne, where we were beaten into second place by just two points by 26 Armoured Engineer Squadron. Our success here put us forward into the Divisional Minor Units Meeting at Minden, on the 17th June, where we were again just beaten by 26 Armoured Engineers—this time by one point. Success, which had normally evaded us on these two occasions, came our way at last when on 4th July, 1964, we comfortably won the Princess Royal Day Sports at Verden. Our athletes are now taking part in the B.A.O.R. Royal Signals athletics which will be our last event of a highly successful season.



Brigadier I. G. Gill, O.B.E., M.C., presents the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal to Staff-Sergeant Howard, Royal Signals, on 11th June, 1964

On the 11th June we held the Queen's Birthday Parade. The salute was taken by our Brigade Commander, Brigadier I. G. Gill, O.B.E., M.C. During the parade he presented Long Service and Good Conduct Medals to mark a total of fifty-four years' good conduct to W.O.II W. Harbron, Royal Artillery, and Staff Sergeant K. Howard, Royal Signals.

Two days later the Officers' Mess gave the annual summer Cocktail Party. Guests were invited from all over the Brigade area, and during the evening it was possible to meet many old friends. The following Friday was the Sergeants' Mess Summer Ball. This was a most enjoyable evening, a particular feature of this and the Officers' Cocktail Party was the fine buffet supper laid on by Sergeant Weeks, A.C.C., and his cooks.

After all this social activity we went out on Exercise "New Harpoon." During this exercise we were honoured with a visit by the Signal Officer-in-Chief, Major-General F. G. Swainson, O.B.E., who was very interested to see us set-up in the field in a semi-static role. He spent some time talking to all ranks of our integrated Squadron.

Exercise "New Harpoon" was followed by Exercise "Waggon Wheels" which is the Brigade Administrative Exercise of the year. An encouraging feature of this exercise was the admirable performance displayed by our "second-eleven" crews who provided the communication whilst their normal crew commanders were involved in other military training.

210 SQUADRON, B.F.P.O. 10

Life don't get tedious here! If you want three years to slip by in the space of time come and join us. As the Mideast Strategic Reserve Brigade Signal Squadron there's never a dull moment. Flexibility of minds, bodies and equipment have been essential.

The most important event since our last report was the Administrative Inspection in May. We are delighted to be able to record that the programme went like clockwork and the Brigadier was unable to find fault. Result—a "Very Good" grading. The CIV/UEI also went well and R.Q.M.S. Crow even managed to satisfy the eagle-eyed Command Secretary. These excellent results were due to hard work by all ranks and we now feel 'Free' for another year.

Princess Mary Day (28th June) was a great success. Our Officers gave a Curry Lunch to some ninety people—including those who matter! This was voted a great success by all but their bank managers. The afternoon was disastrously active. In losing 1—2 to our Brigade Sapper Squadron the soccer team lost the services of Corporal Bailey (broken arm). The hockey team beat the Sappers 3—2 but lost Lance-Corporal O'Malley (broken wrist). A very jolly evening followed. Corporal (the Reverend) Miller produced his usual high standards at a barbecue which was very well attended by us and a large number of our friends.

The bush has called us quite a lot recently. Radio Troop has had two exercises, the last paying farewell to Captain Burridge. The Troop is now commanded by Captain Hartnett whose warm well-worn chair is now occupied by Lieutenant McLuckie.

The Squadron spent a week on the range which was generally voted 'good fun.' The culmination of this was an inter-Troop competition, won by S.H.Q. Troop. All our classification was carried through smoothly—the S.M.G. results being extremely high.

Lance-Corporal Bone and Signalman Goddard have recently been into the northernmost parts of Uganda with the Game Department capture team. Some of the girls were garnished only in a leaf—fig or clover, we're not sure. However, these exploits will be described in the next issue of THE WIRE.

"What have I taken on" are the current thoughts of Corporal Barber, Signalmen Lear and Love, all of whom relinquished their bachelorhood in the past month. They might care to advise Lance-Corporal Lindsay and Signalman McNulty who hear bells ringing most nights.

Lance-Corporal Griffiths and his crew spent a short holiday (!) on the coast recently ostensibly to provide a rear link for our H.Q. Company. Corporal Barber and his crew also went to the coast to provide an extra link between Nairobi and Mombasa.

In an effort to get off to a good start Radio Troop challenged the rest of the Squadron to a cricket duel. For The Rest, Corporal O'Donnell did well with bat and ball and Signalman Pretty with bat. For Radio Troop the only performances of note were Signalman Walker (batting) and Signalman Wadham (bowling). Basically the cricketing prospects are good but we could do with a quickish bowler to balance the side.

The hockey team was described in the local paper recently as being the "undoubted Service champions." We won the League and have lost only one game throughout the season. For the record the team was Lance-Corporal Griffiths, R.Q M.S. Crow, Captain Hartnett, Lance-Corporal Budd, Lieutenant Higton, Corporal Bailey, Major Butler, Signalman Lynch, Signalman Walker, Lieutenant McLuckie and Lance-Corporal O'Malley. Captain Hartnett and Lieutenant McLuckie continue to represent Combined Services.

A few friendly games of rugger have taken place but raising a side is problematical, with so few players. Major Butler keeps our flag flying as a regular Combined Services player.

The soccer team has been in action many times recently but have upset their chances in the League by suffering one or two very unexpected defeats. The mainstay, Corporal O'Donnell, is the Combined Services centre-half and captain.

We are not at the top of the local Darts League but many "good nights" seem to have been had by all. Club takings and steadiness on parade bear this out.

In the basketball world our demon basket getter, Signalman Noakes, has been playing in high class matches.

At the time of writing we are on our last Brigade exercise in Kenya. It is named "Last Roundup." Quite what the Brigadier hopes to round up we do not know, but no doubt will in a week or so.

Employment for Retired Regular Officers

Retired Regular Officers are needed to fill posts in Royal Signals Headquarters and Units at home and overseas. There are vacancies now in Singapore, Cyprus, Malta, London, most Home Commands and Germany.

Present basic salary range is £1,175 - £1,292. Overseas allowances are payable in addition. ACI 433/61 applies in regard to officers at present serving and about to retire. Retired Officers should apply to The Ministry of Defence, CE 2 RO (Army Department), Northumberland House, London, S.W.1.

Any officer who would like further advice regarding employment in Royal Signals Retired Officer posts is invited to get in touch with the Personnel Branch. The address is: The Ministry of Defence (AG 11), Stanmore, Middlesex.



224 SIGNAL SQUADRON: WINNERS OF THE LINCOLNSHIRE SERVICES CROSS COUNTRY LEAGUE

Signalmen Morgan, King, Neal, Madden, Lance-Corporals Harding, Gue, Major Clapp, Lance-Corporal Harris, Signalman Williams



The Signal Officer-in-Chief meets parents and friends

224 SQUADRON

The Squadron has now settled into its new accommodation. We are now waiting in expectation for our new NAAFI club to be completed in a month's time, and there is a mixture of expectation and fear as regards the other building which is awaiting final completion—the new gymnasium!

All sorts of rumours are going around about what W.O.II Harrison is going to do with those select few previously immune to the pleasures of physical training, when he gets them under his eye. It is probably coincidental that there is a spate of applications for postings from M.T. Drivers, Cooks and Storemen in the Quartermaster's Store. One man who is looking forward to the opening is Staff Sergeant Moss, who feels that this is his big chance to lose his surplus eight stone and make the standard for his favourite position at outside-right in the Squadron soccer team.

The annual Regimenal Week-end was held on Saturday, 30th and Sunday, 31st May. Parents and friends were invited to attend the various functions that took place during the week-end. Many responded and arrived for a week-end stay in this pleasant part of Leicestershire.

The week-end officially opened with Major-General F. J. Swainson, O.B.E., the Signal Officer-in-Chief, accompanied by Colonel B. H. P. Barnes, O.B.E., touring and inspecting the Squadron lines on the Saturday morning. A photograph is shown of Major-General F. J. Swainson talking to some of the parents and friends.

In the afternoon Mrs. Swainson opened the local Royal Signals Association garden fete at Beaumanor.

On Saturday evening, a successful Regimental dance was held in the Squadron dining hall, gaily decorated for the occasion. Over 350 attended the dance and the girls came from near and far in 'buses provided for them. Notice the modern Army approach—everything laid on. Music was provided by the Corps Band Orchestra and during the interval the "Mersey Sound" was beat out by the Squadron's recently-formed group, "The Classics," led by the "drummer boy" himself, Corporal "Bomber" Harris.

On Sunday morning the annual church parade took place, and the salute was taken by the Signal Officer-in-Chief.

On Sunday afternoon there was a band concert, and the annual week-end came to a quiet and melodious close.

We have now given our farewell to Major Vernon Smith, on his way to the T.A. at Darlington, and Lieutenant Colin Brown, who has gone on a communications course at the School of Signals. They were two very popular officers in the Squadron, and they take with them our best wishes for the future.

Captain Ben Bolt has arrived from Aden to take up the job as Adjutant, and we welcome him and his family to Woodhouse.

Sport

Cross-Country. The Squadron team eventually won the Lincolnshire Services Cross-Country League. This was indeed a worthy win; as the only Army team competing against thirteen large R.A.F. stations, it gave the lads particular pleasure to beat such strong and eager opponents.

Sports Day. The annual unit sports day was held on the sports field on Wednesday, 10th June, 1964. The standard was very high, and hopes are high for a successful year in the Army Minor Units Championship.

In the Inter-Troop Competition, "A" Troop proved too strong for the rest of the Squadron and eventually came out winners by over twenty points.

The two outstanding races of the day were in the one mile and three mile events, in which those two deadly rivals, Lance-Corporal Gue and Lance-Corporal Harris clashed. At the end of the day it was honours even. Lance-Corporal Harris won the three miles in 15.29 and Lance-Corporal Gue won the mile in 4.29. Two outstanding performances.

Corporal Richardson won both sprints and finished fourth in the pole vault to win the Victor Ludorum.

Other outstanding performances was a jump of 10ft. in the pole vault by Signalman Morgan and a throw of 140ft. by Signalman Emmott in the Javelin. Signalman Jury won the high jump with a jump of 5ft. 5in.

262 SQUADRON, B.F.P.O. 53



Major-General P. G. F. Young, C.B.E., G.O.C. Cyprus District, presents Long Service and Good Conduct Medal to Squadron Sergeant-Major S.A.G., Hulse, at Dhekelia on 18th June, 1964

On 18th July, 1964, the Squadron was visited by the G.O.C., Major-General P. G. F. Young, C.B.E., who came to express his thanks to all personnel for their work during the emergency and to present the Long Service and Good Conduct medal to our Squadron Sergeant-Major, W.O.II S. A. G. Hulse.

Shooting. On 25th-26th June we had our annual shoot, this being part of our C.S.O.'s Champion Squadron Competition. We were first in the S.L.R. shoot, beating 261 Squadron by two points. They got their revenge in the L.M.G. by beating us by three points. We eventually came out overall second to 261 Squadron in the competition.

Princess Royal Day. We celebrated the day on 3rd July, starting off with a car rally/treasure hunt. This was

won by Mr. Lockmuller, one of our U.K.-based civilians, with the loss of only two points.

Our C.S.O., Colonel Grigg, visited us for a picnic lunch on the beach just outside Dhekelia. He was introduced to all families by Mrs. Hulse. The buffet lunch was excellent, and we would like to express our gratitude to W.O.II Britten, A.C.C., for providing such a good spread. The Squadron Canoe Club tried to launch their canoes, but due to heavy seas, the idea was given up after several attempts and duckings.

A bar was provided, with Sergeant Till as "mine host, and Lance-Corporal Sylvester and Private Kirby, W.R.A.C., opening the beer cans.

The day was completed with an all ranks' dance to the beat of the "Emeralds," which was attended by 98 per cent of the Squadron.

At midnight we greeted Signalman Allen, who was 21, in the traditional manner. An excellent twist competition, judged by our O.C., Major C. B. Mercer, Lieutenant Paterson, W.R.A.C., and W.O.II Hulse was arranged. It was noticed that Corporal Smith was doing well, but being a member of the "Q" staff, this was considered quite natural. The eventual winners were Private Kirby, W.R.A.C., and her partner, a member of the U.N. Forces. Congratulations are due to Signalman "Tiny" Campbell on his recent marriage, and to Sergeant James and Corporal Miller on their recent promotion.

243 SQUADRON

In these, the first WIRE notes of the Squadron in 1964, it is thought necessary that, for the benefit of new readers, the functions of this Squadron should be explained. The Squadron is responsible for providing S.D.S. service for H.Q., Southern Command, H.Q., 43 (Wessex) Division/District and H.Q., Salisbury Plain Sub District. It also mans the Bulford and Taunton signal centres, and the civilian element of the Squadron provides operators for numerous exchanges throughout the Command. Among its other duties, it provides the Royal Signals Southern Command Recruiting Display, is responsible for 12 Signals Platoons of the Schools C.C.F., and provides P.A. for various events as directed by the C.S.O., Southern Command.

Within the last month we have said farewell to Major M. E. Golding, who has departed to Air Formation Signals Staff, Malta, and S.S.M. Debenham, who is now a civilian. An excellent farewell party was given by officers and senior ranks of the unit at the King's Arms, Salisbury, for the departing members of the Squadron. Major J. L. McKellar has now joined as Officer Commanding, on his return from 262 Squadron, in Cyprus. During the current year we have gained, as Administrative Officer, a well-known Corps personality, Major Jack Carr.

In the early part of the year, the recruiting team organised window displays in the Bournemouth, Weymouth, Dorchester and Cheltenham areas. These were followed by a week's indoor display of signal equipment at Messrs. Cunningham Ltd., Portsmouth. The outdoor display has already been seen, and has proved a popular attraction at the Highcliffe Festival, the Royal Cornwall Show, a week's stand at The Green, Paignton, and the Exeter Air Day, where a certain member of the recruiting team convinced a charming old lady in the refreshment lounge that he was about to carry out a wing-walking display on a Vulcan bomber! The team was also represented at the Cirencester Carnival, where Signalman Rogers, a member of the team, was attracted by a gorgeous blonde across the carnival site, but who later discovered that she was in fact the spotted lady in a sideshow! At the time of going to press, the recruiting team are preparing to depart for Southampton, where they are to appear at the Southampton Show. It has been noted that when the recruiting trailers are being towed to locations, no young men put up their thumbs to hitch a lift!

At the start of the outdoor recruiting season it was with regret that we said farewell to Staff Sergeant A. D. Page, who attended a Staff Sergeants' course at Catterick and has subsequently been posted, on promotion, to Manchester University O.T.C. The team has been taken over by Sergeant Paddy Donnelly, who has been appointed Staff Sergeant.

The public address team, under the leadership of Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Jim Lawrence, has been committed on numerous P.A. jobs, which have included the Army Horse Trials Three-Day Event at Tidworth, which involved laying over 1½ miles of loudspeaker cable; the presentation parade for H.R.H. Princess Marina at S.E.M.E., Bordon, and at the Parachute Brigade "At Home" at Aldershot. The team are currently committed with the annual shoot at Bisley.

The Squadron has formed a Motor Rally Club and took part in the March Hare Rally, the Hunt Trophy (for which S.S.M. Debenham's team was awarded the E.M.A. Trophy, best Rootes Group vehicle), the Bats Rally (in which S.S.M. Debenham's team was second in the overall rally, and first in Class "C," and Corporal Southgate's team was third in Class "C"). Other rallies entered were the Spring Fever Rally and the June Tulip Rally. It was on the Spring Fever Rally that S.S.M. Debenham's team, acting on instructions from the navigator, proceeded along a "Roman road," which the navigator assured us was navigable. Three-quarters-of-a-mile later it was "no go" and remained "no go" until eight hours later, when two farm tractors and 30ft. of rope were employed in dragging the vehicle from the mud patch, which was, according to the map and the navigator, a Roman road! Several "new words" were learned that night!

Finally, are you interested in archaeology? The Royal Signals Archaeological Club is a fully-constituted member of the Council for British Archaeology. The club membership is open to all serving members of the Corps and their families, all Territorial, A.E.R. and ex-members of the Corps and their families.

Anyone interested should contact the Hon. Secretary at 243 Signal Squadron (Southern Command), Ward Barracks, Bulford Camp, Wilts.

FAREWELL TO 605 TROOP (LONDON DISTRICT)!

These are the last WIRE notes from 605 Troop.

After a long period of gestation 10th Regiment has been re-born and its first act has been to swallow this Troop along with 238 Squadron (Army Depot) and 239 Squadron (Eastern Command). In the new set up we lose not only the Troop identity but our independence and our responsibilities to the Household Brigade for everything except the functioning of the static communications.

Since our last notes appeared we have had many duties representative of the old Troop's tasks. Among these were the following:—

The provision of the radio link Buckingham Palace/The Mall to start the Parade, and provision of the radio net on the Horse Guards Parade Ground for the Queen's Birthday Parade when the Colour of 1 Coldstream Guards was trooped.

The loan of Command vehicle and driver (Signalman R. W. Brown) and RS C42 to 54 Division (T.A.) for exercise on Dartmoor.

Classification of Regimental Signallers 1 Bn. Welsh Guards.

Radio communications for the State Visit of the President of Sudan.

Co-ordination and getting away of the Royal Signals Detachment attached to 1 Welsh Guards for Exercise "Pond Jump IV" in Canada. Corporal I. Holmes and Signalman G. Newsom were this Troop's contribution to the detachment. 30th Regiment and 239 Squadron provided the remainder.

Lines were provided on 1st, 2nd and 3rd June, 1964, for the Surrey Golf Championship at Worplesden; for the Household Brigade Point to Point Meeting at Tweseldown and line and P.A. for London District Rifle Meetings.

Uniformed ushers were provided for the Royal Signals Institution Spring Lecture and Sergeant A. Todd was one of two operators of P.A. at the dinner given by the Army Council to commemorate its disbandment.

Work has started on the line laying at Stoney Castle for the annual C.C.F. Camp, to be attended by 1,500 schoolboys in July.

These were the tasks we shall miss in future. They gave us plenty of work and stretched our resources but added spice to life.

It may be of interest to note that London District Signal Troop has existed as an independent Troop since 1955 at least. Research so far has been unable to trace our history further back.

We believe we have given good value and we shall continue to do so in the Squadrons of 10th Regiment to which we are dispersed.



Standing (Left to right): Corporal G. J. Williams, Lance-Corporal B. Walker, Signalman R. A. Hales, Corporal P. Walsh, Lance-Corporal P. Barratt, Corporal J. G. Dadswell, Signalman B. W. May, Lance-Corporal G. E. Cort, Lance-Corporal N. Creek, Corporal W. A. Hughes. *Sitting:* Sergeant G. F. Smith, Captain T. G. Boast, Major J. W. Ingledow, Lieutenant-Colonel D. B. Emiey, Captain (Q.M.) T. McKirgan, W.O.II (S.S.M.) H. Haw, Sergeant D. V. F. Hall. *Not in photograph:* W.O.II (S.S.M.) A. Copestake, Sergeant E. Smith and Corporal R. Ferrier

14th Regiment Shooting Team, 1964—A Vintage Year!

COMPETITIONS & TROPHIES WON

Small Bore

Royal Signals Southern Command: Winners, No. 3 Squadron.
A.R.A. Match 76: 3rd, Sergeant E. Smith.
A.R.A. Match 79: 5th, Unit Team.
A.R.A. Match 82: 4th, 1 Squadron.

Oxfordshire & Buckinghamshire Sub District

S.M.G. Team Competition: Winners, 3 Squadron "A"; 2nd, 3 Squadron "B."
S.M.G. Individual: Winner, Corporal G. J. Williams; 2nd, Lance-Corporal B. Walker.
Falling Plates: Runners-up, 3 Squadron.

Royal Signals Southern Command

Team Championship: Champion team, 1 Squadron; Runners-up, 3 Squadron. Champion Shot: Corporal G. J. Williams.

Roupell Cup: Winning team, 1 Squadron. Individual Winner, Class "A": Corporal G. J. Williams; Runner-up, W.O.II A Copestake.

Whitehead Cup: Winning team, 1 Squadron. Individual Winner, Class "A": Corporal G. J. Williams.

Roberts Cup: Winning team, 1 Squadron; Runners-up, 3 Squadron. Individual Winner, Class "A": Sergeant G. F. Smith. Individual Winner, Class "B": Signalman B. W. May.

Parachute Regiment Cup: Winning team, 1 Squadron; Runners-up, 3 Squadron. Individual Winner, Class "B": Signalman B. W. May, after tie shoot with Corporal R. Ferrier.

Falling Plates: Winners, 1 Squadron "A"; Runners-up, 1 Squadron "B."

For Corps Meeting and Bisley successes in which the 14th Regiment figured prominently, see next column and page 317. In the Corps Meeting Lance-Corporal B. Walker won the Class "B" Individual in the Parachute Regiment Cup. Sergeant E. Smith and Corporal R. Ferrier, respectively, won the Individual Class "A" and "B" in the Roupell Cup.

ROYAL SIGNALS RIFLE MEETING

Champion Team	14th Regiment	3443 points
Runners-up	Southern Command	3276
Remainder in order	21st Regiment, 30th Regiment, Eastern Command, 24th Regiment, 4th Regiment, Western Command, 1st Regiment, 3rd H.Q. and Regiment.	
Champion Shot	Lt. D. Insall, 21st Regiment	720
Second	Cpl. W. A. Hughes, 14th Regiment	638
Third	Lieut.-Col. C. V. Walsh, 243 Squadron	679
Henry Whitehead Cup		
Winners	14th Regiment	
Runners-up	Southern Command	
Revolver Cup		
Winner	Lieutenant D. Insall	
Second	Major D. Hall	
Third	Lieutenant-Colonel C. V. Walsh	
Bisley Cup		
Winner	Captain P. Carr	
Second	Lieutenant D. Insall	
Third	Lieutenant-Colonel C. V. Walsh	
Methuen Cup		
Winners	Southern Command	
Runners-up	21st Regiment	
Para Regiment Cup		
Winners	30th Regiment	
Runners-up	21st Regiment	
Roberts Cup		
Winners	14th Regiment	
Runners-up	21st Regiment	
Roupell Cup		
Winners	14th Regiment	
Runners-up	Southern Command	

A.R.A. MEETING, BISLEY

Sixty members of the Corps attended the Meeting and of these, thirty qualified to shoot in the second stage, and six reached the final stage and were awarded the Army Hundred Medal for 1964. The six were: Major G. A. S. Exell, R.R.E. Malvern; Lieutenant D. H. Insall and Second-Lieutenant R. C. F. Homewood, 21st Regiment; Sergeant E. R. R. Smith and Sergeant G. Smith, 14th Regiment; Sergeant T. Balch, 4th Regiment.

There were the usual hard-luck stories but in general our standard of shooting showed an improvement on last year's. Each year we learn more about the S.L.R. and those who attend Bisley pass on the message to others. It is noticeable that all those who shoot well at Bisley adopt the correct lying position for the S.L.R. with the right leg directly behind the rifle.

The highlight of the meeting was our winning of the "Woolwich Trophy" for the first time with the S.L.R. We had bad luck in not winning last year, but made sure this time with a margin of fifteen points above the Sappers. Our score was also fifteen points up on last year's, and the conditions, with continuous rain during the third and fourth practices, were less favourable.

All members of the team put up a good average shoot, the lowest total being 132 and the highest 156. Major D. Hall, Captain P. Carr and Sergeant J. Balch made a welcome return to the team after three years' absence from Bisley, and the newcomers, Sergeant E. R. R. Smith and Sergeant G. Smith of 14th Regiment, and Second-Lieutenant R. C. F. Homewood, of 21st Regiment, all show distinct promise.

Sergeant E. R. R. Smith won the Sniper Aggregate Match at his first attempt and was also placed fifth, with a score of 170, in the Henry Whitehead. Signalman V. Plumb, of the Junior Leaders' Regiment, also had a good Whitehead and was placed fourteenth with a score of 162. Other successes worthy of mention were:

Henry Whitehead, Class "B"—Signalman J. Ekkles, 216 Squadron (Parachute Brigade Group), placed 9th, score 147.

Roberts Cup—Corporal W. A. Hughes, 14th Regiment, placed 19th, score 124.

Bisley Cup—Captain P. Carr, placed 9th, score 138, and Lieutenant-Colonel C. V. Walsh, placed 10th, score 137.

S.R. ("B") Team—14th Regiment, placed 6th.

Revolver Team—21st Regiment, placed 10th.

Revolver XXX Cup—Lieutenant D. H. Insall, 21st Regiment, placed 16th. He had a bad first shoot, but has since shown his true form and should be chosen for the Army Pistol VHI once again.

Pistol Tile Match—21st Regiment, placed 3rd, being beaten in the semi-final by the eventual winners.

Second-Lieutenant R. C. F. Homewood announced the winner of the Young Officers' Cup, but it was later discovered that although he has less than two years' service he was not eligable due to being over 23 years of age. He was, however, the only Second-Lieutenant in the Army Hundred.

As usual we have retained at Bisley a team of four S.R. (a) and eight S.R. (b) to shoot in the N.R.A. Meeting. An account of their shooting will appear in next month's WIRE.



CORPS METHUEN TEAM 1964
(Winners of "THE WOOLWICH TROPHY")
(*Back row*): Corporal W. A. Hughes, Sergeant G. Smith, Sergeant E. R. R. Smith, Corporal G. J. Williams. (*Front row*): Sergeant T. Balch, Lieutenant D. H. Insall, Major G. A. S. Exell, Lieutenant-Colonel C. V. Walsh, (Team Captain) Captain P. Carr, Second-Lieutenant R. C. F. Homewood, Major D. Hall



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Ford

The Corps Tennis Championships 1964

The championships were held from 8th to 11th June, 1964, on the courts of the now unoccupied Officers' Club at Catterick Camp.

It was most encouraging to have a slightly larger entry than last year, in spite of duty keeping many of the stalwarts from entering, especially as most of the additional entries were made up by young soldiers who have only recently joined the Corps.

In spite of the weather, the first two days' play proceeded much as expected in all events, with the seeded players still being successful, although there were some really spirited encounters.

Wednesday brought one of the best matches of the week in the singles semi-final clash between Colonel E. L. L. Vulliamy (Retd.) and Captain G. R. Oehlers. Games could have gone either way throughout, but youth was just the deciding factor, and Captain Oehlers secured his place in the final with a score of 7—5, 6—4.

Because of the time factor, the finals of the Singles Plate and the Inter-Regimental Doubles were played in the early evening on the Wednesday, and at last the Inter-Regimental Trophy has been wrested from which ever unit Captain Oehlers has been serving with. Although it seemed they had full control in the first set, the final score was 5—7, 6—2, 6—1, to 11th Regiment (Depot), represented by Major M. L. Willway and Lieutenant R. A. C. Siderfin.

Finals Day (Thursday) was bright and fairly sunny, although the almost inevitable Catterick wind made things as difficult as possible for the competitors.

Capt. Oehlers had an easy win in the singles final, maintaining far better control of the conditions than his opponent, Lieutenant Siderfin. The score was 6—4, 6—1.

In spite of some brisk volley exchanges in the final of the open doubles, Capt. Oehlers and Colonel Vulliamy proved too strong for Major Willway and Lieutenant Siderfin, winning 6—4, 6—1.

Brigadier A. C. Cox, O.B.E., President of the Corps Games Club, kindly presented the prizes.

43rd (WESSEX) REGIMENT, T.A.

1964 will go down in our history as the year of the "break-out." For far too long we have been moving from one end of a well-padded rut to the other for our annual camp. Chickerell one year, Penhale the next—not that we have anything to say against these places (that has not already been said), but we were beginning to show signs of conditioned reflexes. Mention of Penhale had all the officers adopting the "dot-and-carry-one" stride, brought on by thoughts of the "39 Steps," and the word Chickerell produced in everyone a permanent list in a southerly direction to counter the prevailing wind.

So now let us get in with the first cliché and say that our visit to Burniston Barracks represented a challenge. Could we break new ground and get camp running as quickly and as smoothly there as we had done in our usual environments? We think we did. Of course, certain people played a greater part than others in this; the advance party, under our new Q.M., Captain A. F. Stubbs, laid a solid foundation; other early arrivals, particularly the W.R.A.C. officers, also did us proud. But basically, Burniston is a well-organised camp and every one of the permanent staff stretched themselves to make our stay into one of the most enjoyable camps we have had. Major Freddy Lunn, while not actually donning a red coat, was ever watchful for our welfare and comfort, and did everything possible to make sure that we got the maximum benefit from his well-appointed camp.

British Railways coped with our moves to and fro, and we willingly give full marks to that much-maligned organisation—not a curly sandwich in sight, and schedule running from start to finish. We were blessed with excellent weather—the drier side of Britain—we enjoyed the change in brews; we liked the fresh air; all in all, a very good start for our new Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel C. W. Evans, M.B.E., T.D., who took over from Lieutenant-Colonel G. A. L. Davies, T.D., on the day we went to camp.

As training is the reason for attending camp, is it necessary to mention that we did some? Fifteen days of it, if you need to know. Fifteen days? Certainly, even eight to ten hours in a train is not wasted when there are such problems as "Can he possibly have three Queens?" to be solved.

The Regimental sports did not produce any Olympic possibles, but we have a find in the person of Private Wrigley, W.R.A.C., who fairly twinkled away from her opposition in the sprints—this girl really takes off in a light breeze. An assault course competition produced some good efforts, and all competitors deserve a pat on the back.

These notes started with 1964, and in case anyone thinks we weren't about in 1963, rest assured that we were, but you know how crowded the South-West gets, and the pony-express just couldn't get through. Now we have lamps, signalling "B," to assist us with communications. Even our veterans have never actuallly used this interesting piece of equipment, but no doubt some of you have. We acquired this item from a non-Signal unit, via honeyed words from W.O.II Wilson, who kindly presented it to the Regiment. The intention is to make it into a centrepiece, and the P.M.C. is being trade tested in its use before the next Regimental dinner.

Changes in C.O.s and Q.M.s have been mentioned. The Training Major's post is now held by Major B. M. Ashcroft, vice Captain J. A. P. Russell, who is taking all kinds of steps to ensure his future and his succession. W.O.I R.S.M. E. J. Ford has been chaired and cheered on his way to a Q.M. commission, and W.O.I (R.S.M.) K. S. L. West has arrived to apply his mind to the problems of the T.A. We hope he stays, because we just cannot go on cricking our necks, peering up at the 6ft. plus of our recent R.S.M. By the way, may we hope that some day we may have in print the views of Regular personnel who work with the T.A. — it's just a thought.

During the year we have spread our sporting wings somewhat, having entered cross-country, football, boxing and shooting competitions. In the latter, the Taunton small bore team became the first holders of a very handsome shield awarded in the Royal Signals Southern Command Competition. Apart from this, no outstanding success is to be reported, but there was a great deal of enthusiasm, which augurs well for the future.

44 (H.C.) REGIMENT (CINQUE PORTS) T.A.

The New Regimental Band. In January, the Regiment received authority to form a band, and by the time we went to camp at the end of May, it had reached a strength of 16, and under the direction of Sergeant Pedler, had achieved a high standard of musical attainment. During camp it played for the Honorary Colonel's parade, the Officers' Mess Guest Night and in the cookhouse. It is understood that there was a queue of applications for the band waiting for the Regiment's return from camp. It is hoped that the band, which is based at Chatham, will soon be able to undertake outside engagements, and later enter competitions.

Annual Camp. Annual camp was held at the All Arms Training Area, Sennybridge, South Wales—an area of great beauty, but lacking in social amenities. The camp staff, though initially horrified at the thought of the influx of over 100 W.R.A.C. (T.A.) went to tremendous efforts to get their accommodation put into good order, and they well earned the praise which they received on the change in this accommodation from the date of the recce to camp.

After settling down on the Sunday, camp started with a bang at 07.00 hours on Monday morning, by our new R.S.M., W.O.I W. J. Harrison (whom with his wife and family we welcome from Singapore) drilling the officers on the large parade ground. This year, the Commander, Royal Signals, Lieutenant-Colonel M. H. Seys-Phillips, T.D., arrived on time for this parade, as his batman, Lance-Corporal Carter, dared not make the error he made at Scarborough of getting him and the Training Officer, Captain A. Coates, on the parade 45 minutes early.

After this training got going, and a 24-hour exercise on Tuesday and Wednesday enabled a lot of the usual snags to be eradicated.

This year the Regiment was joined at camp by 44 (Div.) H.Q. Increment, T.A., under the command of Major N. Davis, and whilst they exercised on their own in the first week, we worked together on Exercise "Mayfly," about which more later. We particularly welcomed, with the T.A. Increment, Captain M. Sibbald, W.R.A.C. (T.A.), the specialist catering adviser, to whom we owe very many thanks for the way which she looked after

(*Continued on page* 320)

our inner selves. Our cooks worked terribly hard to produce a very high standard, and it is a priority in the Regiment to recruit and train more cooks so that they will not be so overworked. We are also grateful for all the advice and help of W.O.II J. Edmonds, A.C.C., (H.Q.) Div./Dist. Advisory Staff.

On Thursday, an all ranks' dance was held in the dining hall, as there was nowhere else, and great credit must go to the Entertainments Committee, particularly Corporal Douglas, for all their hard work, which made it such a success. On the same evening, the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants entertained the officers and C.S.O., Eastern Command, Brigadier D. W. Price, O.B.E., who had visited the Training during the day. The buffet produced by the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess was quite staggering; even Staff Sergeant Waylett, of "M" Troop, who consistently proclaims that he is on a diet, was unable to resist most of the delicacies.

During his visit, C.S.O., Eastern Command, listened to the band practising and expressed his admiration for their playing. He did, however, find difficulty in recognising the unofficial Regimental March, "Thank Heaven for Little Girls."

The week-end started on Friday at lunchtime, when the officers entertained the Warrant Officers and Sergeants, an event always calculated to induce somnolence in the afternoon after a hard week. The officers, however, did not get much respite, as they had their guest night in the evening, which was attended by the Honorary Colonel, Colonel Sir Henry d'Avigdor Goldsmid Bt., D.S.O., M.C., T.D., D.L., J.P., M.P., a former Commander, Royal Signals, Colonel A. V. Brandle, M.B.E., and Major D. V. Petchey, T.D., who gave up command of 329 Squadron last winter. An announcement of the event was put in *The Times* and *Daily Telegraph,* but the latter newspaper, in referring to Colonel Brandle unfortunately made a typographical error in his rank by substituting a "p" for the "o" of Col.! Colonel Brandle handed to the Mess a most interesting framed picture of the layout of the signal fires set out in Kent in 1588 at the time of the Armada. Although there is a little difficulty in placing some sites on the map, it is hoped that the R.R. Troop of 2 (Medway) Squadron will test the layout with their radio relay equipment.

The following morning, the Regiment paraded for the Honorary Colonel, who, attended by Captain A. Coates, carried out an inspection and presented the T.D. to Captain V. Shannon, W.R.A.C. (T.A.), who is well-known to members of the Royal Signals Association, where she worked for many years. He also presented T.E.M.s to S.S.M. S. G. Versey, Sergeant E. P. F. Fuller, Corporal R. A. Holliday and Corporal L. F. Stevens.

The march-past was of a very high standard, and many compliments were paid by the numerous visitors who attended. The Honorary Colonel made a particular point of talking to the members of the band during his inspection.

Exchange of Plaques. On 9th May, 2 (Medway) Squadron, under the command of Major N. Bamford, T.D., held a dance at Chatham to which we invited members of the crew of H.M.S. *Leander,* with whom the Regiment has a close liaison. It was an excellent evening and well attended, and reciprocal entertainment was enjoyed by various members of the Regiment on board.

This friendship has been cemented by a exchange of plaques; that of H.M.S. *Leander* being placed in the office of the Commander, Royal Signals, Lieutenant-Colonel M. H. Seys-Phillips, T.D., and that of the Regiment in the wardroom of *Leander.* The Captain of the ship, Commander L. R. Bell Davies, R.N., and his wife entertained Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. H. M. Seys-Phillips on board during the week prior to camp.

53rd (WELSH) REGIMENT, T.A.

It rarely falls to the lot of a T.A. Signal Regiment to be honoured by the visit of H.R.H. The Princess Royal on two occasions in two years. At Crowborough, in May—a perfect English May in beautiful country—the Regiment was visited once again during its annual camp by Her Royal Highness. The Regiment showed its pride by pulling out all the stops, producing, amongst other things, a quarter guard of superlative smartness, comparable, it was claimed, with the Regulars.

Camp, however, was not all ceremony, and, having Divisional H.Q. with us, comfortable "stable companions" by this time, we were "put through the wringer," by the G.O.C., on two exercises. Creaking in the early stages, the flexing of unused "Signal muscles" created the usual problems, but the Regiment swung into its stride and ended on a reasonably high note, almost meeting with the approval of Major Peter Mallin, who came to the Regiment brief months ago as Training Major, and upon whom the bulk of organising responsibility fell. If several Regimental Officers still feel the sting of his disapproval, they will, nevertheless, agree that it was what they and the Regiment needed.

Expanding upon the exercise theme, the Regiment was forced into an almost schizophrenic state, for its first endeavours were as a "Germany-type" unit but, to us, a throwback some years to our old Divisional role. This exercise, for three days, roamed South-East England and stretched our radio operators to their limit (particularly those on the now reviled 19 set). In the second week, coincidental with Her Royal Highness's visit, the Regiment reverted to its newer and now more familiar Division/District role. Division set high standards in both exercises, perhaps higher than our sadly-depleted numbers could achieve, except with long shifts and considerable devotion. It is to their credit that Division acknowledged they had reached up mightily to those standards. But the lesson is obvious, and is to form the basis of a massive recruiting campaign commencing shortly, to be followed by an original form of training in signals "know-how" before camp, 1965.

Whatever unspoken reservations he may have had, C.R. Signals, Lieutenant-Colonel D. W. Cotterell, T.D., for whom this is unhappily the last camp with his Regiment, the high *esprit de Corps,* the gay, good manners and the well-being of his officers and other ranks were immensely compensating factors.

But not all was on the credit side; one of our favourite young officers, known affectionately to his Squadron as "Little Sir," but otherwise as Lieutenant John Escott-Price, from 344 Brigade Squadron, was quite badly injured on one of the exercises. Woolwich Military Hospital is not without its fair attractions, we understand, but we hope that he will read these WIRE notes completely recovered and well esconsed in his London career.

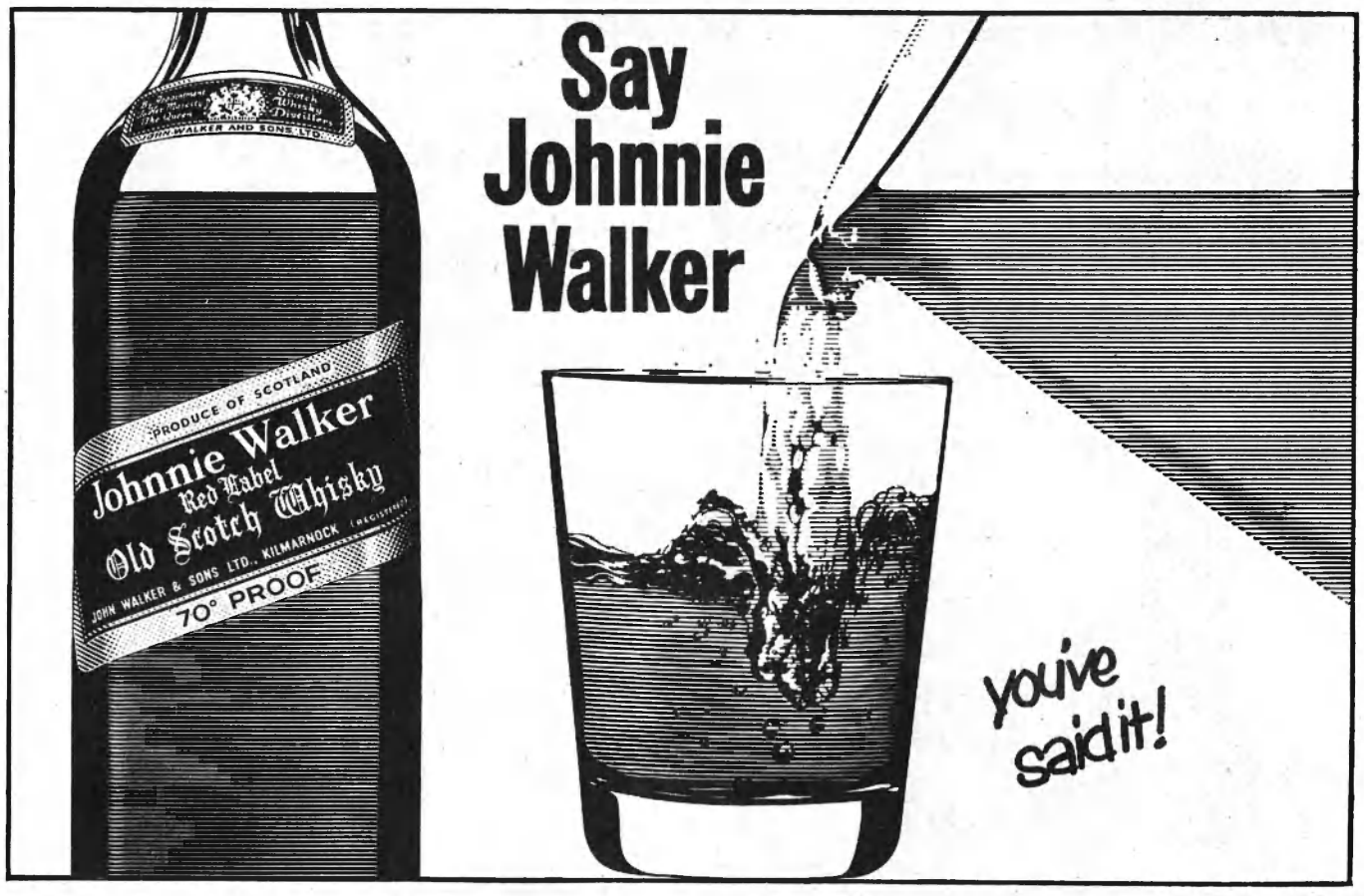
The origins of morale in a T.A. Regiment are sometimes difficult to define, but, surely at camp, weather and "grub" must be part. The weatherman on duty for our two weeks had all the Welsh "Hwyl" and more, while Staff Sergeant Lewis, that genius of the other ranks' cookhouse, that despair of the swillman, is readily identifiable for his major contribution towards morale.

Perhaps when these notes are read, the ulcer of "Mods" and "Rockers" will be less inflamed, but it was at its height in nearby Brighton during camp, and we took some pride in the Press report of a few T.A. soldiers who dispersed a crowd of the hooligans. Pride, especially, because we think they were from this Regiment, but discreetly staying mum. As I write these notes, yet another cause for pride is reported; a soldier, relatively new to the Regiment, Signalman Thomas Nugent, visiting London from camp, on Whit Monday, dived into the Serpentine to rescue a young child from drowning. With men like these, how can the Regiment and the T.A. fail?

Somebody's brainchild—"Somebody" must remain unnamed if his name is not to appear too often in these notes—was an after-camp essay competition. The prize of £10 is to go to the author who best describes his annual camp. Surprisingly, it is the girls of the W.R.A.C. who have responded, and what a mine of information their essays are! There are some red faces "at the top," perhaps, but there must also be great satisfaction—a sense of purpose, a pride of craft, tremendous patriotism (a word not fashionable, but as true as ever) they run clear and shining through the often ungrammatical, but plainly sincere efforts at authorship.

Up to this point, no mention has been made of the unhappy fact that two of our most stalwart officers are leaving us, perhaps before these notes appear in print. The reason for the omission is obvious, the author is one of them. Majors Colin Gifford and Ken Russell, after a total of 24 years' devoted service in this one Regiment, take a pace to the rear, as far as the "posted strength" is concerned. We all hope to see plenty of them in the future, at least at every social function.

So now back to work—the millstone grind of out-of-camp training with, in the next few weeks, the Divisional Rifle Meeting, Princess Royal Day, participation in the Shropshire Yeomanry Camp and then the Cambrian March—a whirlwind pace.





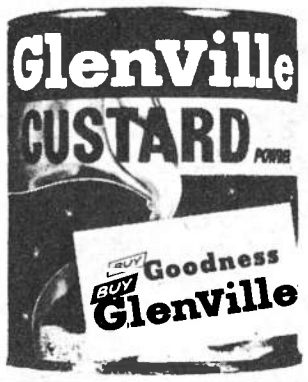
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58th REGIMENT (T.A.)

It is sometime, about three years, since a contribution appeared from the 58th and having completed an early camp we can tell WIRE readers something about it and about ourselves before the summer flood of T.A. news items.

What Are We? The Regiment is one of two Signal Regiments in the Reserve Army which form No. 1 Signal Group (NATO) T.A. Our sister Regiment is the 59th located with the Group H.Q. at Liverpool. We are a trunk Regiment equipped to provide rear area communications.

Where Are We? We cover a wide area of the West Midlands with R.H.Q., H.Q. Squadron and No. 1 Squadron at Wolverhampton, No. 2 Squadron at Newcastle-under-Lyme, all in Staffordshire, and No. 3 Squadron at Bromsgrove in Worcestershire.

Personalities. The majority of the regular element have joined the Regiment in the last 12 months. The Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel I. G. Swan, joined last August from 30th Regiment. It is said that it is mere coincidence that the Adjutant, Captain R. S. Rowland, and one of the PSI's, W.O.II Bushnell, should follow from 30th within weeks of the new C.O. W.O.I C. A. Baalham is the R.S.M. and incidentally a grandfather. His daughter, wife of Corporal Quinlan recently of 262 Squadron, Cyprus, having produced her first son recently. Completing the senior roll of regulars is Captain (Q.M.) G. H. Graham, B.E.M., W.O.II Sugg (ex-7th Regiment), Sergeant Drake who has been here for so long that his last Unit would not remember him and Sergeant Enright who still has the dust of S.R.D.E. on his boots. Members of 11th Regiment will be pleased to know that when Lieutenant Neil Parker, late R.A.E.C., left them and the Regular Army he did not abandon the Corps and he is now a Royal Signals (T.A.) Officer at Newcastle. The 61st (City of Edinburgh) Regiment T.A. lost their W.O.II Alec Peebles when the G.P.O. transferred him to the Midlands but their loss was our gain and he has recently been granted a T.A. commission as a T.O.T. We have had to put up with departures too and after 17 years' service with the Regiment in its various roles we have said a regretful farewell to Major Herrick Hughes who has handed over the responsibilities of Second-in-Command to Major Geof Davis. Major Davis was the Second-in-Command of 59th Regiment until recently but on being posted to command the Bull Ring Branch of the Westminster Bank in Birmingham he transferred to the 58th. Finally we want readers to know that our Group Commander was awarded the C.B.E. in the Birthday Honours. All who know him will want to join in our congratulations to Colonel J. E. Golothan, C.B.E., E.R.D., T.D., A.D.C.

Annual Camp, 1964. We had a long haul to Fremington in North Devon for Annual Camp, where we spent the last week of May and the first week of June. Fremington Camp is situated on the edge of the River Taw Estuary. It was originally an American Army Hospital and provided us with excellent hutted accommodation and good training room facilities. The Officers' Mess is located in what was Fremington Manor House, an old stately home which is maintained in excellent order by the staff, who are proud of the historical value of the buildings which date back to '1066 and all that.'

Activities were divided into military training, trade training, Unit administration and a four-day exercise called "Treble Chance." One highlight was the Inter-Squadron Initiative Competition. Teams set off from camp at 8 p.m. with sealed orders. Two DUKWs from 18 (Amphibious) Company R.A.S.C. stationed at Fremington took them out into the estuary and dropped them on the opposite shore. From then on they were on their own.

As they travelled across country seeking answers to set questions they had the extra task of dodging the 'enemy' who could claim a kill if they spotted anyone. About dawn and 15 minutes later on a cold, damp morning as they trudged up a one-in-seven hill they were ready for the beer which awaited them. The 2 Squadron team, led by Lieutenant N. Parker, won the competition, completing the course and the tasks en route in the good time of 4 hours 14 minutes. As always on these occasions there were stories of difficulties and amusing incidents during the night, the best of which concerned the R.S.M. who had a minor altercation with a bull in a field which obviously should have been out of bounds.



Plotting the route (*above*) are Corporal Haydn Bishop, Sergeant Trevor Greenwood and Corporal George Argyle three members of the Wolverhampton-based squadron who are in the motor transport section



The teams from Wolverhampton, Bromsgrove and Newcastle, Staffordshire, set out for the initiative test

Of course it rained—it rained and rained every day except the middle Saturday which was glorious and rightly so as this was the day off.

On the Sunday we had a Church Parade, a Ceremonial Parade during which W.O.II Peebles was presented with the T.A. Efficiency Medal by the C.O., and completed the Inter-Squadron Drill Competition which was won by 2 Squadron.

After lunch we all departed from Fremington to set up communications at simulated H.Q.'s in the Devon countryside. This was Exercise "Treble Chance," a signal exercise devised and controlled by 1 Signal Group (NATO) T.A. 59th Regiment were camping for the same period at Penhale, and also took part and were deployed in Devon and Cornwall.

Amateur Radio Club. To foster interest amongst the Radio Operators in the Regiment, we have formed an Amateur Radio Club, which will initially have its base at Wolverhampton. The R.S.M., now a registered 'ham,' call sign G3SQB, is busy setting up the 'shack' and now has a group of very interested volunteers. The Club has an AR88 and WS36 which is now fully converted to operate on the 20, 40 and 80 metre bands. Antenna is the famous G5RV Multiband. We were faced with quite a problem in finding suitable accommodation for the 'hams' until the C.O. heard of some 10-ton trailers lying in a local Depot. We eventually obtained the 'release' for three of these, one for each T.A. Centre. They will be used as training rooms, and in the case of Wolverhampton one has become the Radio Operator Training Room and 'Ham Shack.'

Visit of H.R.H. The Princess Royal

61st (CITY OF EDINBURGH) REGIMENT T.A.

A Royal occasion adds a full measure of spice to a T.A. camp and to this one in particular it added the colourful scene of our Colonel-in-Chief, Her Royal Highness, The Princess Royal, presenting her Pipe Banner to the Regiment's Pipes and Drums.

There is something intensely stirring in seeing a bright red helicopter of the Queen's Flight arrive on your doorstep. The landing was accomplished perfectly by Lieutenant R. McClean, R.N., on the sports ground at Burniston Barracks, Scarborough. The Princess Royal accompanied by her Lady-in-Waiting, Miss Gwynedd Lloyd, was met by the Representative Colonel Commandant, Major-General E. S. Cole, C.B., C.B.E., Lieutenant G. G. F. Tulley, ADC to the Princess, and Captain Ruth McNabb, W.R.A.C., who attended the Lady-in-Waiting.

Her Royal Highness officially entered the Barracks at 12.20, where General Cole presented: The Mayor and Mayoress of Scarborough, Councillor and Mrs. W. C. Wilkinson; Brigadier D. G. Jebb, D.S.O., O.B.E., Commander, Edinburgh Area; Colonel R. Linton, O.B.E., C.S.O. Scottish Command; Colonel Sir Harold Mitchell, Bt., Hon. Colonel and Lady Mitchell; Lieutenant-Colonel B. A. Beattie, Commanding Officer; Lieutenant-Colonel G. E. M. Saunders-Davies, T.D., ADWRAC Scottish Command.

A Quarter Guard followed the introductions with a Royal Salute and Her Royal Highness inspected the Guard. Subsequently, a series of carefully timed manoeuvres enabled our Colonel-in-Chief to meet R.S.M. R. E. Oliver, B.E.M., who introduced her to the Warrant Officers and Sergeants of the Regiment; she was photographed in quick succession with the Officers and then the Warrant Officers and Sergeants and paid an informal visit to the Junior Ranks Dining Room where the Princess met and chatted to several volunteers. This part of the programme was not easy as it meant having several people in practically two places at once, but it was accomplished by our planners who even persuaded certain senior officers of both sex to move discreetly at the double!

Lunch in the Officers' Mess was followed by a simple but colourful ceremony. On parade were the Regiment, the W.R.A.C. looking particularly attractive in their new Cumming tartan skirts, and in the front of the parade stood the band resplendent in their regalia. The Princess Royal presented the banner to the Band President, Major G. E. Gill, T.D., who tied it to the pipes of Pipe Major J. K. Frame.

After a short Band performance our Colonel-in-Chief paid tribute to the Royal Corps of Signals and to the proficiency of the Band. The departure of our Royal Guest was marked by three rousing cheers as the limousine slowly drove her back to the waiting helicopter.

Unfortunately, the epidemic in Aberdeen prevented the attendance of Colonel T. B. S. McMain, M.B.E., T.D., our newly promoted C.S.O. of East Lowland District, but we look forward to the opportunity of welcoming him officially in due course. Other old friends were represented by Colonel T. D. Childs, M.B.E., T.D., Lieutenant-Colonel J. D. Stewart, T.D., past Commanding Officers, Lieutenant-Colonel W. A. Dalziel, T.D., who, when Second-in-Command of the Regiment in 1960, was responsible for forming our Band, and Major "Fred" Lunn, who does so much to make Burniston Barracks comfortable and homely for dozens of T.A. Units every year.

Other occurrences during Camp tended to be overshadowed by the Royal Visit but needless to say, a lot of training was carried out very successfully under the meticulous eye of our Training Major, John Stewart. It was all "go, go, go" in both work and play, but a wonderful climax to an historic year for the Regiment. In his closing address, the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel B. A. Beattie, was able to recall the well-deserved award of the M.B.E. to Captain R. Prendergast, M.B.E., M.C., a record string of shooting trophies including the coveted Mercury Cup, the success of Corporal D. Ross in winning the Individual Open Piping Championship and finally, the honour bestowed upon us by our Colonel-in-Chief. Truly a great year and one which will be always remembered.



[Courtesy Scarborough Evening News

ARRIVAL BY HELICOPTER

(*Reading left to right*): Miss Gwynedd Lloyd (Lady-in-Waiting), Lieutenant G. G. F. Tulley (A.D.C.), H. R. H. The Princess Royal, Major-General E. S. Cole, C.B., C.B.E., (Rep. Colonel-Commandant), Captain R. McNabb (Attending Miss Gwynedd Lloyd)



PRESENTATION OF THE PIPE BANNER

Reading left to right (*Front row*): W.O.II A. Y. McKay, Lieutenant-Colonel B. A. Beattie, H.R.H. The Princess Royal, Major G. E. Gill, T.D. (*Back row*): Colonel Sir H. P. Mitchell Bart, (Honorary Colonel), Major-General E. S. Cole, C.B., C.B.E., (Rep. Colonel-Commandant), Lieutenant G. G. F. Tulley (A.D.C. to H.R.H.)



PRESENTATION OF PIPE BANNER

(*Reading left to right*): Drum Major A. B. Easton, Pipe Major J. K. Frame, Major G. E. Gill, T.D.

64th REGIMENT (T.A.)

On Sunday, 10th May, 1964, we were honoured by a visit by the Lord Lieutenant of the West Riding of Yorkshire, Major-General the Earl of Scarborough, who came to present honours and awards to officers and men of the Regiment.

The day was bright and sunny, and on parade, under command of O.C. 1 Squadron, were representatives of R.H.Q. and our 2 Squadron in Nottingham.

The Corps Band, whom we were extremely pleased to have with us, were in position and all men on parade when the guests started to arrive. Among our distinguished visitors were the Lord and Lady Mayoress, the Master and Mistress Cutler, the President of the Chamber of Commerce, our Chief Signal Officer, and representatives from the West Riding T. & A.F.A. and other T.A. units in Sheffield.

Lord Scarborough arrived promptly at 10.45 a.m. to a fanfare from the Corps Trumpeters. The parade was inspected, and then the following awards were made:

Lieutenant-Colonel J. R. Long, T.A.	T.D.
Captain J. Rippingale, T.D., T.A.	Clasp to T.D.
W.O.II J. A. Esson	L.S. & G.C.
W.O.II (R.Q.M.S.) H. Greaves	T.E. Medal
W.O.II C. W. Harris	T.E. Medal
Staff Sergant P. B. Battey	Lord Lieutenant's Certificate
Sergeant E. W. Cleaver	T.E. Medal
Sergeant W. A. Verity	Lord Lieutenant's Certificate
Sergeant J. R. Ripley	Lord Lieutenant's Certificate
Corporal S. Hallam	Lord Lieutenant's Certificate



[*Courtesy : Jack Holmes, Sheffield,* 13

After the presentations, the Parade and the Band marched past Lord Scarborough at the saluting base, and hosts and guests retired to their respective Messes and canteens for refreshments.

During the meals the Band played us a fine selection of familiar songs and marches, and by half past two our guests had left, leaving us all with pleasant memories of an impressive occasion in the history of the Regiment.

411 SQUADRON
(RAILWAY COMMUNICATIONS) A.E.R.

The date was the 23rd May, 1964, the occasion was the annual camp of 411 Squadron, and for the next 15 days, all the members were to become military personnel once again; we were camping with the 81st Regiment for the camp period, and before any more is written, your scribe, on behalf of his Squadron, would wish to thank the 81st for all the help and hospitality they offered us, which made our stay that much better; the rumour that we are to camp with them again was received with pleasure.

Our first week in camp was taken up with trade training, with trade boards at the end. Our O.C., Major Taylor, was pleased that the majority passed. For the first time, the Squadron had its own W.R.A.C. detachment; they also had a week's trade training and all passed out as Comcen Operators. We are hoping they will increase in numbers by the time our next camp is due.

On the middle Sunday we moved off to Longmoor Camp to provide communications for 154 Railway Squadron, Royal Engineers, A.E.R., who were on an exercise. We were welcomed by the R.E.s, but the weather man had other ideas; it rained, thundered, and had all the ingredients to make one feel thoroughly wet and horrible—our line troops would have other words to express themselves. The exercise was to last from the Monday until the Thursday, when we returned to Blandford, whereupon the sun came out.

The last two days were spent in handing-in stores, having a post mortem on our fifteen days, and on the Saturday, 6th June, we all went home to be civilians for another 45 weeks, when your scribe will not doubt write again on the annual camp, 1965.

In the meantime if any ex-W.R.A.C. personnel or ex-Signal types would like to join us, the O.C. would only be too pleased to give them details: Major Taylor, 81, Westbrook End, Newton Longville, Bletchley, Bucks., or Mr. S. Heath, by telephoning FULham 7826.

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Annual General Meeting

Minutes of the Nineteenth Annual General Meeting held at Catterick Camp on the 28th June, 1964

Present: The Master of Signals, Major-General Sir William A. Scott, K.C.M.G., C.B., C.B.E., Major-General L. de M. Thuillier, C.B., O.B.E., Chairman; Colonel G. H. T. Shrimpton, C.B.E., T.D., Vice-Chairman; and about 200 members of the Association.

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming all those who had come—often from considerable distances—to attend the reunion, which he was delighted was taking place in such fine weather. He made a special reference to the presence of the Master of Signals, and he warmly thanked Brigadier A. C. Cox, O.B.E., and the Training Brigade, and Brigadier T. R. Warburg, C.B.E., and the School of Signals for the very excellent arrangements they had made for their visitors.

1. The Minutes of the 18th Annual General Meeting were put to the meeting and, having been duly proposed and seconded, were approved and signed by the Chairman.

2. **Chairman's Report and Review of Accounts**

The Chairman continued with his annual report on the main points in connection with Association affairs. These were:

(a) Number of local branches was now 52—a decrease of three. Those that the General Secretary had visited had impressed him with their vigour.

(b) Life Members enrolled had increased from 1,188 in 1962 to 2,172 in 1963. These were mostly young soldiers undergoing preliminary training in the 11th Signal Regiment, Catterick. Here was a potential source of strength for the future of the Association.

(c) Annual Members enrolled in 1963 had declined slightly, but this was greatly offset by the large increase in Life Members.

(d) Copies of the balance sheet and accounts had been distributed to all concerned, and were available on the floor. They had been scrutinised and passed by the Central Committee. The main points arising were:

(i) Accumulated funds had decreased from £106,300 in 1962 to £104,233 in 1963, due to a loss on the sale of certain Kenya stock, which the Directors of the Royal Signals Association Trustees Ltd. thought it inexpedient to retain, in view of the future political situation. In fact the market value of investments had increased from £99,183 in 1962 to £109,635 in 1963.

(ii) There was an excess of income over expenditure of £879 in 1963 compared to £230 in 1962.

(iii) Administrative expenses had increased by £596, due mainly to incremental increases in staff salaries and considerable expenditure on stationery—new rule books and membership cards for Life Members and new letterheads for notepaper, owing to change of address.

(vi) The loss on THE WIRE had decreased slightly to £1,222 in 1963. It was hoped that this would be a good deal less in 1964, due to the price increase of THE WIRE from 1/3d. to 1/6d., which had been well received. If we were to have a worthy Corps magazine it would probably always need a certain degree of subsidy.

(v) Benevolent grants had increased to £5,839 in 1963, due mainly to the severe winter in early 1963.

(vi) Donations to other charitable organisations had decreased to £365 because the Army Benevolent Fund had taken over many of these on our behalf.

(vii) Income from subscriptions had increased by £1,071 in 1963, due mainly to the large influx of Life Members.

(viii) Donations from individuals and branches had fallen off slightly, but the Regiments and Squadrons of the Corps had contributed no less than £4,301 in 1963 compared to £2,980 in 1962—a fine effort.

(ix) Investment income had increased by some £300.

(x) We had not received any direct subsidy from the Army Benevolent Fund in 1963. Instead, they had taken over a number of our donations to other charitable organisations. They were always prepared to back us, should we have a case requiring major rehabilitation.

The accounts were put to the meeting, and after being duly proposed and seconded, were approved.

3. **Freedom of the Borough of Richmond**

The Chairman informed the meeting of the honour to be paid to the Corps on Monday, 17th August, 1964, when the Colonel-in-Chief, Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal, would, on behalf of the Corps, accept the Freedom of the Borough of Richmond. He hoped that a number of members of the Association might be able to attend the ceremony, which would be at 11.30 a.m. in Richmond.

4. **Donations to the Corps Chapel in St. Martin's Church**

The Chairman introduced Major G. H. R. Flynn, who told the meeting that a requirement existed for additional embellishment to the Altar in the Corps Chapel. This would cost in the order of £80, and it was thought that the Association might wish to contribute this sum.

This was put to the meeting, and after being duly proposed and seconded, was approved.

5. **Amendments to Rule 7**

Two amendments to this rule were set out in the Agenda. The object of these amendments was to rationalise this rule:

(a) so that Army Apprentices, Junior Leaders and Junior Tradesmen, destined for the Corps, could join as Life Members at the reduced rate of 30/- applicable to recruits in the Depot Regiment;

(b) so that Life Membership subscriptions could be paid in instalments under branch arrangements over a period of *twelve months only*, and not over the entire period of Colour Service, which might be 22 years.

The amendments, as set out in the Agenda, were put to the meeting and, having been duly proposed and seconded were approved.

6. **Election of Officers**

The meeting was asked to elect or re-elect the following to the Central Committee which, at its 19th meeting, agreed to their nomination:

Chairman, Major-General L. de M. Thuillier, C.B., O.B.E.; Vice-Chairman, Major-General E. S. Cole, C.B., C.B.E.; Additional Vice-Chairman, Colonel G. H. T. Shrimpton, C.B.E., T.D.; Army Emergency Reserve Representative, Colonel C. E. Calveley, O.B.E., E.R.D.; Territorial Army Representative, Colonel F. E. B. Jones, O.B.E., T.D., D.L., J.P.,; Representative of a Branch of the Association, Lieutenant-Colonel (Retd.) R. W. Atkinson, O.B.E. (Catterick and District Branch).

These names were put to the meeting and, after being duly proposed and seconded, were approved.

7. **Other Business**

Major-General R. J. Moberly, C.B., O.B.E., Colonel Commandant and President of the Aldershot Branch, proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman, the General Secretary, and the Headquarters Staff for their successful conduct of the affairs of the Association during the year.

This was approved with acclamation. The Chairman thanked General Moberly, and the meeting then ended.

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION
AND BENEVOLENT FUND

Balance Sheet as at 31st December, 1963

1962					1962				
£	£		£	£	£	£		£	£
		ACCUMULATED FUND (Including Minor Trusts)			1,083		CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND		131
104,893		Balance at 31st December, 1962 ..		104,340	1,873		SUNDRY DEBTORS AND PAYMENTS IN ADVANCE		1,142
		Add: Excess of income over expenditure for the year	879		920		INCOME TAX RECOVERABLE		2,479
	230				499		STOCKS ON HAND		555
		Excess of income of Minor Trust over			35		LOANS TO BRANCH ASSOCIATIONS ..		35
	21	expenditure for the year	29				INVESTMENTS—AT COST		
251				908		16,370	British Government Securities ..	16,370	
105,144				105,248			Dominion and Colonial Government		
						23,206	Securities	17,915	
	804	*Less:* Loss on sale of investments ..	2,749			7,408	British Municipal Securities	7,408	
		Adjustments relating to previous year				54,452	Other Securities	57,789	
		Officer's Benevolent Fund Contribution	250			101,436		99,482	
	—	Corps Band records	44				Market value of the above investments at 31st December, 1963 was £109,635 (1962—£99,183)		
804				3,043					
104,340				102,205			Shares in Royal Signals Trustee Asso-		
1,960		CURRENT LIABILITIES		2,028		4	ciation Ltd.	4	
					101,440				99,486
					450		OFFICE FURNITURE—AT COST LESS DEPRECIATION		405
		MAJOR GENERAL L. DE M. THUILLIER, *Chairman.*							
		BRIGADIER P. M. P. HOBSON *Secretary*							
£106,300				£104,233	£106,300				£104,233

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 give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Fund at 31st December, 1963, and of the excess of income over expenditure for the year ended on that date. Lloyds Bank Limited has certified that it held the securities representing the investments which were registered in the name of Royal Signals Association Trustee Limited.

1st May, 1964.
London and Birmingham.

HOWARD SMITH THOMPSON & CO.
Chartered Accountants.

Income and Expenditure Account for the Year ended 31st December, 1963

1962					1962			
£	£		£	£	£			£
		ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES			1,999		Subscriptions	3,070
		Salaries, National Insurance, Superannuation contributions of head-					Contribution to Administration Expenses	
	3,600	quarters' staff	3,959		250		Officer's Benevolent Fund	—
	1,242	Other administrative expenses ..	1,489				Donations from Individuals and Local	
4,842				5,448	640		Branches	358
1,398		Loss on "THE WIRE"		1,222			Receipts from Regiments, Squadrons,	
5,070		Benevolent Grants		5,839	2,980		Royal Signals	4,301
		DONATIONS			65		Receipts from Branches	47
	160	Star and Garter Homes	160		1,000		Receipts from Corps Funds	700
		Shaftesbury Homes and Arethusa					Sundry Receipts from sales of Corps	
	220	Training Ship	170		395		Clothing, Badges and Records of	
	623	Others	35		152		Corps Band etc.	313
1 003				365	942		Income from publications excl. Wire ..	90
		Amounts written off Furniture and			4,136		Grants Refunded	993
521		Fittings		105	1,000		Income from Investments—Gross ..	4,463
142		Amount written off Leasehold Property		—			Donation from Army Benevolent Fund	—
243		Cost of Association Reunions		363				
		Income Tax deducted on Investment						
110		Income not recoverable		114				
230		Excess of Income over Expenditure ..		879				
£13,559				£14,335	£13,559			£14,335

Royal Signals Association and Benevolent Fund

The following subscriptions were most gratefully received during June, 1964:

	£	s.	d.
24th Regiment (Officers' Mess)	1	3	0
24th Regiment (Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess)	4	13	6
H.Q. Officers' Mess (Derby Draw)	4	3	0
School of Signals, Admin. Wing (Warrant Officers and Sergeants)	12	0	0
308 Squadron (T.A.)	9	0	0
14th Regiment	10	0	0
Junior Leaders Regiment	29	11	0
43rd Regiment (T.A.)	8	8	0
239 Squadron	1	0	0
41st Regiment (T.A.) (2 Squadron)	2	14	1
44th Regiment (T.A.)	5	5	0
59th Regiment (T.A.) (P.S.I.s' and Sergeants' Mess)	5	12	6
302 Squadron (T.A.)	5	0	0
19th Regiment	50	0	0
Federal Regular Army Signal Squadron	3	0	0
255 Squadron (Bahrain)	10	0	0
259 Squadron (COMCAN)	4	0	0
Loughborough Branch	10	0	0
Various Individual Donations	7	16	6
RECEIPTS	£183	6	7
Expenditure During June, 1964: ... ... (Includes: Rent and Rates; Beds and Bedding; Furniture; Cots and Prams; General Assistance).	£233	15	1

Branch Notes

SOUTHAMPTON BRANCH

Death of Mr. J. Webb

As briefly announced in the July WIRE, the death has occurred, at the age of 58, of Mr. J. Webb, for many years a very active worker for the Southampton Branch of the Royal Signals Association. In fact, "Jimmy," as he was well known, was an active worker in a wide range of welfare activities. He was Poppy Day organiser for Southampton and a prominent British Legion worker. Mr. Webb served with Royal Signals from 1924 to 1945. He was called up as a reservist before the outbreak of he Second World War and saw service in France and Belgium as a corporal, and was awarded a Certificate of Merit for his outstanding service.

After the war he plunged into a wide scale of activities of a welfare and ex-Service nature. For 16 years he was Chairman of the Shirley Branch of the British Legion, and was Vice-President of the Hampshire County British Legion. He was parade master for Remembrance Day services in Southampton and served on the local War Pensions Committee.

Mr. L. W. Illingworth, Hon. Secretary of the Southampton Branch of Royal Signals Association, writes the following tribute:

"It is a sad loss to our branch, for Jimmy Webb was a loyal and hard-working member who never missed our monthly meetings throughout the years since the last war. He was a man who never spared himself in working for the welfare and benefit of his old comrades and ex-Servicemen of all Regiments."

The Royal Signals Association Branch Standard was among many from the British Legion at the Freemantle Church, Southampton, for the funeral service, and perhaps the words of the Padre was a just description of his work when he said: "He wore himself out in the vast amount of work he so unselfishly carried out for his old comrades."

WEST HARTLEPOOL AND DISTRICT BRANCH

A correspondent writes:

Having been "officed" by my Chairman (and works "chief"), I have to make sure that I do not make any more rash promises, and spell names of members correctly. Well, let's go! First, no photographs!

The Branch attended the "laying-up" of the West Hartlepool Old Contemptibles' flag at Christ Church, West Hartlepool. The ceremony was attended by the Mayor and was most moving.

As many "old boys" will know, the Branch attended the annual reunion at Catterick, supported by some thirty wives and friends. All agreed that it was a perfect week-end.

Our first party, consisting of Mr. Ted Waite, M.B.E. (spelt correctly), Stan Irvin, Bob Paxton, Bert Howell, who, after asking some wireless enthusiast at the radio station who he was in touch with, and on being told "Singapore," promptly asked him if he could ask them the way to the Catterick reception centre for Old Comrades. Exit Old Comrades, dutifully taking the easy way out—straight to the School Mess!

Alfie Rose, playing nursemaid-in-chief, arrived with the rest of the party on Sunday, amongst them one anxious wife who had been rightfully informed that her husband had slept in married quarters the night before. All was smoothed over when the occasion proved to be a reunion with a reunion—when 'foster mother and father' were introduced to said 'Old Comrade's' wife and the child they had 'fostered' in an emergency.

One cannot leave this reunion without a special word of praise for the cook staff and all those who worked so hard for this reunion. As a final note—the drum tattoo by the Junior Leaders was magnificent.

Signalmen at Sea

(Corporal A. Manson, of 46 Squadron, R.A.S.C. (L.C.T.), writes of his experiences on a trip from Portsmouth to Singapore)

AS previously reported, two of our L.C.T.s sailed from Portsmouth on 18th February, 1964, for Singapore, with two Telegraph Operators on board each L.C.T. I had the honour of being second "Sparks" on R.A.S.C. vessel *Antwerp*, in command was Corporal Purdy. On board R.A.S.C. vessel *Arakan* were Corporal Bennett and Signalman Bent. As on this journey we would be out of range of our normal communications, the Naval local command shore stations, we had to work through the Commonwealth Naval ship/shore organisation which is very different to the usual Army communications set up. The system works as follows: Incoming traffic comes by morse broadcasts at 18 to 20 w.p.m., there being a separate broadcast for each area. This proved to be the most difficult part of the whole journey as the procedure was new to me, but having dealt with my first few messages it became easier. It is quite unnerving when one first sits down to listen to a broadcast and hears one's own call sign. If a word is missed there can be no repetitions and a 'service' has to be sent asking for a rebroadcast, so it is rather like taking a trade test. Outgoing traffic is cleared by calling a suitable shore station on a frequency in prediction for the distance. The most suitable is by no means necessarily the nearest station. For instance I never personally made contact with Singapore from Aden but worked Darwin which was 3,000 miles further, which goes to illustrate quite clearly what those aerial propogation experts told me way back in basics.

Just after leaving Gibraltar Corporal Purdy, who was on duty, received a signal on the broadcast telling us to proceed to the island of Pantelleria, 70 miles south-west of Sicily, where an Italian motor vessel was transmitting a distress signal. On arrival we found almost as much shipping as there is in Portsmouth harbour, but no sign of the motor vessel which had proceeded on its way safely. At least it was a very comforting example of the efficiency of the distress organisation.

After Gibraltar we sailed on to Malta thence to Suez making a detour to Benzhazi to put ashore Sergeant Vaughan, R.A.S.C., who was suffering from rheumatic fever, then on through the Suez Canal, Red Sea to Aden, across the Indian Ocean to Colombo, Ceylon and our last leg to Singapore. It was on the morning of 27th April, 1964, we saw on the horizon the outline of one of our sister L.C.T.s, the R.A.S.C. vessel *Arromanches*, who had come to meet us. We all knew this was almost the end of our marathon. I personally greeted this sight with mixed feelings because the day before I had been told to go and read a signal ordering my return to H.Q. at Gosport on completion of the voyage. However, I had a wonderful time, made lots of good friends, and I would certainly like to do this trip again if the opportunity occurs, which I suppose is pretty unlikely!

I arrived home by Bristol Britannia on 27th May, 1964, to received my Corporal's stripes and to become N.C.O.-in-charge radio on R.A.S.C. vessel *Arezzo*, at present doing details to the Hebrides.

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September 1964

The WIRE

The Royal Signals Magazine





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THE WIRE

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

The Official Organ of the Signals Association

Editor:
BRIGADIER P. M. P. ROBSON, D.S.O.

Assistant Editor:
BRIGADIER H. R. FIRTH

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☆

SEPTEMBER • 1964

Vol. 18 *(New Series)* **No. 9**

Editorial

What follows is addressed to all correspondents of THE WIRE—actual or potential.

In January, 1964, we talked in this column about writing articles for THE WIRE in general terms. This was to help both ourselves and also our many kind, and often hard-pressed, contributors, who have the unfortunate problem of putting pens to what must seem very blank pieces of paper at times.

The response to this has been good, and so now we venture to go a stage further in offering a little more advice to these friends of ours. Some of it will be a repeat of what was in the January WIRE, but this will do no harm.

Cut out unessential "woffle."—We still get an awful lot of "padding" about the weather, administrative inspections, and such like.

Be careful of humour only understood within a particular unit.—A sentence such as "What will Spikey say about the jam roll episode" is anything but funny outside the small circle where it has some significance.

Avoid unneccesary use of capital letters and blocks.—There is a present-day tendency, when in doubt, to give most words capital letters, and we end up with sentences such as "The C.O. arrived in his Staff Car at the Saluting Base, where he took the Salute and Inspected the Parade . . ." Much editorial time is spent in eliminating these extravaganzas.

Do not make excessive use of paragraphs.—They take up a lot of WIRE space and make an article look disjointed. On the other hand, a long drawn out article with no paragraphs looks dull and uninviting. Use a few well-chosen paragraphs and give them sub-headings and the article will stand out well.

Give individuals of all ranks and stations their initials and decorations when naming them in photographs or for the first time in an article.—Not to do this is to be discourteous.

Keep sentences simple.—We get some "whoppers" at times. The following is an example:

> "Congratulations to F. of S. 'X'—take a bow Rusty—and his band of intrepid (dare we call them that?) helpers who, but perhaps they didn't, succeeded in rigging up such an excellent lighting display (except when it went out) for the Regimental Concert (conshert!!) party on Christmas Eve—to say nothing of preliminary nights, if you take into account numerous dress rehearsals, which I suppose is really fair after all, isn't it."

Finally, avoid military-style writing and abbreviations.—We are "off parade" in THE WIRE. Such sentences as "Having made a recce, we sent a sitrep to the comd. post who passed it on to TAC R." can be a little tedious. Let us have it in ordinary English, which even grandma can understand.—Thank you!

THE WIRE VISITS THE CHIEF AIR FORMATION SIGNAL OFFICER, FAR EAST AIR FORCE

C.A.F.S.O. Branch

Don't be discouraged if you find this introduction by C.A.F.S.O. too dull, skip a bit and read about 19th Regiment. You see C.A.F.S.O. Branch must preserve their dignity and **the area covered by the Far East Air Force is about 5,000 miles by 2,000 miles, excluding Christmas Island in the Pacific** (which has just closed as mentioned below), and, of course, Australia (after their last Test Match score), and this amount of space makes one feel small in comparison.

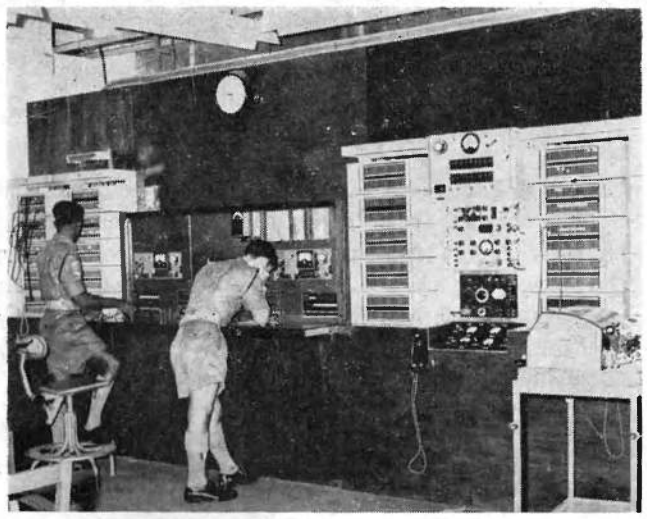
The heart of this huge command is in Singapore with its three large air bases. Active permanent airfields are at Gan (South West of India), in Malaya, North Borneo and Hong Kong. In addition airfields sometimes get opened up for exercises in that colourful country Thailand, although exercise locations are not always very close to the 'colour.'

For those who have not yet 'airformated,' C.A.F.S.O. is a part of the R.A.F. staff at H.Q. F.E.A.F. in Singapore island. 19th Regiment, a small troop in Hong Kong and up to recently a tiny detachment on Christmas Island, are the regimental 'workers.' Air Formation Signals work for the R.A.F. and are the original truly integrated people. In fact a senior R.A.F. officer actually consulted us the other day about how we managed to get on so well during the past twenty-five years. (Got that?—quarter of a century of integration, you boasters).

In Hong Kong a small detachment, under a Corporal, works on Kai Tak airfield. It is part of one of the Hong Kong Signal Squadrons, so that all its domestic news comes from there. Even C.A.F.S.O. only visits to have a polite look and to make the encouraging noises made by senior officers on short and pleasant visits.

Major Ted Philp is now the S.O.2 in C.A.F.S.O.s branch as most 'hams' will know. Major John Rogers is the S.O.3—incidentally he made a useful final trip to Christmas Island a few weeks ago and, with the closing of Christmas Island in the Pacific, another chapter in the history of Royal Signals comes to an end. The U.G. cable network and terminal equipments have now been "stood down"—perhaps forever. The last aircraft has left and, once again, solitude returns to this isolated Pacific Island.

Meanwhile, back at the Branch "Q" Stein, the chief clerk, quietly but efficiently answers the numerous problems and produces the goods and, in his spare time, has been Chairman of the Entertainments Committee of the Sergeants' Mess R.A.F. Changi. In the office he is ably assisted by Sergeant Roberts who recently joined the Staff (after a hectic tour at H.Q.



"At last there is a presentable photograph of that remarkable achievement "The" test desk in block 20" (See *col.* 2 *page* 333)



OUR GOOD FRIENDS—THE L.A.D.

Standing: Craftsman Casey, Lance-Corporal Roberts, Craftsman Hart, Craftsman Smith

Kneeling: Lance-Corporal Laverton, Sergeant Hanlon, A.Q.M.S. Marshall, Corporal Turberville

ALFCE!) and has settled in well. Lance-Corporal Ken Kilburn seems to enjoy the 'In' and 'Out' procedure. Our draughtsman, Signalman David Dobson draws the most amazing route plans somehow, his experiences of the Changi Theatre Club being most useful. Our last member is Mrs. Mary Sharp (with her black dog "Poochie") and how she takes the dictation and reads Colonel Gibson's "drafts" is amazing. Our two Malay drivers, Signalmen Abu Bakar and Jani, make up our total strength.

And so to the main Air Formation Signals Unit in F.E.A.F.

THE 19th REGIMENT

A long established much used early warning system between C.A.F.S O.'s office and R.H.Q. fiashed the news of a visit by THE WIRE during August or September. To the old battle cries of "don't e know there's a flippin war on" and "What about my leave," R.S.M. Lord had immediate maximum support from all senior N.C.O.s for the C.O.'s wish that they forward the necessary material.

The usual bi-monthly contribution was dropped in favour of a big splash for this auspicious occasion, so we hope that you, Mr. Editor, and our avaricious readers will forgive the lapse.

First word of warning to all serving members of the Corps. Before sending off your written request for a posting to the 19th—think on this . . . 'work and play in this Regiment is no picnic and the pace gets hotter every day. Clock watchers, long weekenders and M.I. room addicts aren't wanted here.'

Now to get down to what has been going on since June; or rather to select such items as may interest our distinguished visitor "MR. WIRE."

"Work is good for the mind . . ." "Work is a labour of love . . ." "Work is . . ." well, whatever it is I have my own very juicy platitudes for what I think about it, and there's a heck of a lot of it in this part of the world. Planning and preparation of major projects and work services for 1965/66 has been completed at long last and after a fair amount of headache, heartache and eye strain over the SWS magnetic ball. Major Eric Thompson now takes cover behind a large pair of horn-rimmed spectacles and Mr. Keoh has rubber pads fitted to the



THE EX-BOYS AND EX-APPRENTICES OF THE 19th

Back row, left to right: Signalman Smith, A.A.S. Harrogate, September 1959-December 1962; Lance-Corporal Lowry, A.A.S. Harrogate, August 1959-December 1962; Lance-Corporal Lovelock, All Arms Junior Leaders Regiment, May 1959-August 1960; Signalman Hall, Junior Leaders Regiment, April 1959-September 1961; Corporal Nevison, 6 (Boys) Training Regiment, November 1949-January 1951; Lance-Corporal Keep, A.A.S. Harrogate, August 1959-December 1962; Signalman Gray, Junior Leaders Regiment, January 195B-April 1959; Lance-Corporal Hargreaves, A.A.S. Harrogate, August 1959-August 1962. *Centre row:* Sergeant Punnett, Boys Squadron, September 1947-February 1950; Sergeant Curtis, Boys Squadron, February 1945- December 1948; Lance-Corporal Bourgoise, Junior Leaders Regiment, April 1959-September 1961; Sergeant Cobb, Boys Squadron, September 1946-December 1949; Corporal Mortenson, A.A.S. Harrogate, August 1955-July 1958; Sergeant Izzo, A.A.S. Harrogate, January 1949-February 1952; Sergeant Jones, Boys Squadron, September 1945-March 1949

Front row: Sergeant Hills, Boys Squadron, February 1945-April 1949; Sergeant Dunmall, A.A.S. Harrogate, September 1951-July 1954; W.O.II (F of S) Stringer Boys Squadron, September 1945-March 1949; Captain (QM) J. C. Gosling, 'F' Company, April 1935-November 1935; Staff Sergeant (F of S) Kenyon, A.A.S. Harrogate, September 1953-August 1956; Staff Sergeant Leonard, Boys Squadron, September 1945-March 1949; Sergeant Aldous, Boys Squadron, February 1945-December 1948

keys of his typewriter. Captain Frank Lindley is still wondering whether he holds the record for covering distance in 'scrounging' essential spares for an operational task in North Borneo. His journey took him from Changi to Cocos Island, Western and Eastern Australia, New Zealand, Fiji and thence to Christmas Island where he obtained the stores and so back to Changi. Any takers on a record bid? Needless to say the trip was 115 per cent. successful, plus a genuine boomerang which Master Lindley is likely to master before his dad.

Projects Troop never had it so good with help from Operations Troop at Seletar and Tengah. They were left only with projects at Changi, Paya Lebar, Kuching and Labuan . . . peanuts for Staff Sergeant Dolan and his 'menage magnifique.' There is a great deal of truth in the rumour that the troop has doubled its output since word got out that the C.O. was considering disbanding Projects Troop altogether. Is this a means of increasing output elsewhere?

A proud R.S.M. conducted the Second-in-Command to the refresher course pass off on Changi square. "A well balanced, very polished performance even if I do say so myself," said the junior N.C.O. on parade!

Second word of warning. Before sending off your request cancelling the first request for a posting to the 19th—think on this . . . 'There are other fine Regiments in the Royal Corps, but the 19th is best and its in Singapore.'

'Sports and Games in the Army' has just been reissued with perfect timing for a great sports revival in the 19th. The athletics team convincingly won the Royal Signals Triangular, including the tug of war, and were runners-up to our good friends and rivals the 18th Regiment in the Base Area Competition this year. Staff Sergeant Baker's surreptitious attempt to knock Foreman Hudson's thrown hammer back into the landing zone resulted in two broken fingers, a bruised thigh and an enforced rest in B.M.H. "Bad luck, Staff." A loudspeaker announcement just before the last two events at the Base Area meeting warning all 19th personnel to report to number one ground immediately, set the tone for another soccer match. Captain Joe McCarthy's eleven wizards of the turf were in the semi-finals of the Base Area cup competition and a shockingly nerve-wracking game it was too. In Staff-In-Confidence circles at R.H.Q. it is whispered that Mrs. Hencher had quite a few words with the C.O. after the match; something to do with what not to shout if there must be shouting at Regimental matches!

The latest league game was played and won by fourteen goals to one. The C.O. seemed to be reasonably pleased but after a few minutes cogitation ordered compulsory training for Corporal Lovelock on the grounds that a score like that was below standard with even one goal against the Regiment.

Third word of warning. 'Even with the cup in your hands you just can't win in the 19th.'

Lieutenant Eric Walls' hockey team pipped R.A.F. Seletar by one goal in the semi-final and thereby moved forward to the final of the Singapore Hockey Association knockout competition against the current Singapore champions, the Recreation Club. An extract from a local newspaper tells the story of the Regiment's fame and a near miss: "A last minute goal off a short corner by Peter Coulter gave Recreation Club the senior knockout championship on the Padang today. Recreation Club, the League champions, thus completed a notable double but they were lucky to beat 19th Regiment. For fully thirty minutes before Coulter scored, the S.R.C. goal was under heavy pressure from the Signals attack. **A victory for the 19th Regiment would have meant great rejoicing not only for this great sporting Unit but for the Royal Navy, the Army and the Royal Air Force for whom the 19th Signals is the only team which could be depended upon to save the prestige of the British Armed Forces in hockey supremacy.** Bad luck this year and very good luck to a very plucky team for 1965." Need one say more.

Other Regimental activities must include the effervescent Wives' Club which has busied itself with much preparation for Princess Mary Day and several interesting and educational outings in and around Singapore.

Princess Mary Day turned out a little damp at opening time, but by 3 o'clock the rain clouds had moved away and a grand time was had by all. Nineteen sideshows and stalls, speedboat trips, launch cruises, children's cinema, teas, cakes, satay and a grand raffle kept everyone very busy and very happy and by the end of the day very satisfied and very, very tired. A big thank you to all who helped and worked so hard to make this day a success.

Pot Pourri

At long last there is a presentable photograph of that remarkable achievement . . . *The* Desk in block 20. Engineering details on how to make a silk purse out of a sow's ear can be supplied on appplication to Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Kenyon, or to Major Peter Moores (now at the School) who were instrumental in laying the excellent foundation of a very practical, efficient and handsome piece of test desk engineering.

The Water Ski Club at Changi continues with its frequent and spectacular ups and downs and we are wondering when



HOCKEY TEAM—THEY UPHELD SERVICES PRESTIGE IN 1964

Standing (left to right): Lieutenant (Q.M.) Erc Wall (Manager and Coach); Lance-Corporal Wong Kam Hong, Sergeant Shamsuddin, Signalman Abdullah, Sergeant Hardy, Sergeant Mohd Harun, Staff Sergeant Lee Kim Ann, Signalman Adenan (Reserve)

Sitting (left to right): Corporal Mohd Jaffar, Lance-Corporal Ashaari, Sergeant Ahmad Nizar (Captain), Signalman Arshad, Signalman How Eng Choon

A.Q. Marshall will get feet on the 'water' or does the round board come first? We all hope that the future Mrs. Marshall is keen on water ski-ing, but be that as it may all water skiers and would be-er's look forward to a sound launching for the happy couple and wish both every happiness for the future.

News from the 19th over the water at Labuan, Kuching and Tawau is bright, cheerful and very optimistic. Projects continue apace and auto is on the doorstep—or more literally—dockyard—so there's plenty of work, plenty of grub, swimming, soccer, cinema and beer—and what more can a soldier want? What's that you said? Oh! Yes, there is that of course, but man there's a war on over here, didn't they tell you?

A lightning (natural kind) strike at R.A.F. Seletar and a shortage of trained test clerks are well under control. Operations Troop is back from Tengah having laid 'bloomin' miles of cable around and under a 'ruddy big runway' so all is quiet at 2 Squadron and apart from the C.O.'s inspection next week and the hand-over between Major John Garratt and Major Peter Tidey, a few problems with the new A.T.C. tower, etc., etc., etc., there doesn't seem to be very much going on!

PERSONAL COLUMN

London Gazette

REGULAR ARMY

Capt. S. G. De Clive-Lowe to be Maj., 25th July, 1964.
Lt. (T.O.T.) A. J. Lees to be Capt. (T.O.T.), 23rd July, 1964.
Capt. J. Tate retired 26th July, 1964.
Lt. (Q.M.) J. Wilderspoon, B.E.M., to be Capt. (Q.M.), 26th July, 1964.
Capt. D. G. Handley to be Maj., 21st July, 1964.
Maj. (Q.M.) E. R. Haxell retired 21st July, 1964.

SHORT SERVICE COMMISSIONS

Capt. A. L. Gilhooley relinquished his commission, 25th July, 1964.
Capt. D. C. Sidney relinquished his commission, 21st July, 1964.
Lt. M. A. J. Mulcahy to be Capt., 21st July, 1964.

ARMY EMERGENCY RESERVE OF OFFICERS

Lt.-Col. K. E. F. Gowen, M.B.E., E.R.D., is appointed Honorary Colonel, 85th Signal Regiment, A.E.R., 28th March, 1964.

TERRITORIAL ARMY

Lt.-Col. P. R. Hoskins, O.B.E., T.D., is granted the acting rank of Col., 9th March, 1964.

Movements—Officers

15th August to 14th September, 1964

Major R. C. Anderson ... ... ,, 14th Regiment
Captain K. S. H. Allwright ... ... ,, School of Signals
Major A. P. Baker ... ... ,, 206 Squadron
Lieutenant B. L. Belton ... ... ,, School of Signals
Lieutenant G. D. A. Blessington ... ,, 24th Regiment
Lieutenant J. S. B. Brinsford ... ... ,, School of Signals
Captain D. A. Brockhurst ... ... ,, H.Q., A.L.F.C.E.
Lieutenant-Colonel E. N. L. Brown ... ,, M.O.D. Signals 35
Lieutenant A. F. Carter ... ... ,, School of Signals
Captain (Q.M.) W. Cloughley ... ,, 1st Regiment
Major (Tfc. Offr.) N. J. Cowley ... ,, H.Q. 1 (BR) Corps.
Lieutenant A. N. Carling ... ... ,, 8th Regiment
Second-Lieutenant R. M. Carr-Smith ,, 212 Squadron
Lieutenant J. R. Dawson ... ... ,, School of Signals
Major S. G. de Clive Lowe ... ... ,, School of Signals
Captain P. C. V. Dolan ... ... ,, 9th Regiment
Lieutenant R. Dorrell ... ... ,, 254 Squadron
Lieutenant J. M. Drake ... ... ,, Armed Forces of Malaysia
Second-Lieutenant R. E. S. Drew ... ,, 11th Regiment
Major W. R. M. Dunkley ... ... ,, H.Q. Radio Group, B.A.O.R.
Lieutenant J. A. Eastgate ... ... ,, 8th Regiment
Lieutenant J. V. Fielding ... ... ,, School of Signals
Major S. C. Finch ... ... ,, 22nd Regiment
Lieutenant G. R. Funnell ... ... ,, 19th Regiment
Captain M. J. Flynn ... ... ,, 11th Regiment
Captain (Q.M.) R. G. Furtado, B.E.M. ,, 254 Squadron
Captain C. E. Grundy ... ... ,, School of Signals
Lieutenant C. T. Garton ... ... ,, 217 Squadron
Major P. F. W. Gahan ... ... ,, 8th Regiment
Lieutenant (T.O.T.) A. N. G. Gent ,, 254 Squadron
Lieutenant J. M. Gray ... ... ,, 601 Troop
Captain A. J. Harrison ... ... ,, 235 Squadron
Major (Q.M.) H. R. C. Holmes ... ,, School of Signals
Captain J. N. Hancock ... ... ,, 11th Regiment
Major F. M. Handsley ... ... ,, H.Q., Land Forces, Hong Kong
Major H. H. C. Henning ... ... ,, Royal Signals Records
Major J. W. Ingledow ... ... ,, 252 Squadron
Captain G. N. Jenkins ... ... ,, 239 Squadron
Lieutenant-Colonel (T.O.T.) I. M. A. Jones ... ... ,, H.Q., Southern Command
Captain I. N. Lee ... ... ,, 13th Regiment
Major C. N. Le Gassick ... ... ,, Armed Forces of Malaysia
Second-Lieutenant J. M. Messer-Bennetts ... ... ,, 257 Squadron
Lieutenant M. Y. Miller ... ... ,, School of Signals
Lieutenant A. P. H. Marley ... ... ,, 21st Regiment
Captain N. C. Moody ... ... ,, H.Q., A.E.R., Royal Signals
Major D. C. Newman ... ... ,, 7th Regiment
Captain R. Pickard ... ... ,, School of Signals
Major B. H. Parsonage ... ... ,, 259 Squadron
Captain F. H. Pedley ... ... ,, 11th Regiment
Captain S. W. Read ... ... ,, School of Signals
Captain (T.O.T.) T. Reece ... ... ,, Technical Wing, R.E.M.E.
Captain W. Simpson ... ... ,, School of Signals
Captain J. W. Swindells ... ... ,, School of Signals
Lieutenant P. Symonds ... ... ,, 11th Regiment
Major G. S. Symons ... ... ,, 30th Regiment
Major (Tfc. Offr.) A. Sawer ... ... ,, 10th Regiment
Lieutenant T. B. Scarff ... ... ,, School of Signals
Captain A. F. Seymour ... ... ,, 206 Squadron
Major (Tfc. Offr.) E. C. W. Stagg ... ,, 28th Regiment
Lieutenant C. E. R. Storey ... ... ,, 204 Squadron
Lieutenant W. P. B. Thomas ... ... ,, 16th Regiment
Captain G. C. Verdon ... ... ,, 247 (Gurkha) Signal Squadron
Captain D. P. Watson ... ... ,, A.A.T.D.C., Old Sarum
Major E. C. W. West-Watson ... ... ,, Birmingham University O.T.C.
Captain J. Westlake ... ... ,, 11th Regiment
Captain S. G. Walker ... ... ,, 254 Squadron
Captain P. J. F. White ... ... ,, School of Signals

Movements — Warrant Officers and Sergeants, September, 1964

W.O.I (F. of S.) J. C. Day ... ... To 3 Division H.Q. & Signal Regt.
W.O.I (F. of S.) K. A. Rutter ... ,, 21st Regiment
W.O.I (F. of S.) M. J. Carpenter ... ,, 237 Squadron
W.O.II C. D. Godden ... ... ,, 64th Regiment (T.A.)
W.O.II W. J. Hammerton ... ... ,, 2nd Regiment
W.O.II J. C. Pedder ... ... ,, 50th Regiment (T.A.)
W.O.II M. E. Wilson ... ... ,, Junior Leaders Regiment
W.O.II J. B. Rose ... ... ,, 47th Regiment (T.A.)
W.O.II E. Thomas ... ... ,, 253 Squadron
W.O.II G. S. Heasman ... ... ,, School of Signals
W.O.II M. J. L. Molony ... ... ,, 200 Squadron
W.O.II D. A. Curley ... ... ,, 7th Regiment
A/W.O.II J. M. Shand ... ... ,, 44th Regiment (T.A.)
Staff Sergeant P. Blunt ... ... ,, 22nd Regiment
Staff Sergeant S. W. M. Elliott ... ,, 7th Regiment
Staff Sergeant J. W. Ankers ... ... ,, 233 Squadron
Staff Sergeant J. Moss ... ... ,, 22nd Regiment
Staff Sergeant K. Palmer ... ... ,, School of Signals
Staff Sergeant A. Pearson ... ... ,, 9th Regiment
Staff Sergeant R. P. Loats ... ... ,, School of Signals
Staff Sergeant R. H. J. Brewin ... ,, 16th Regiment
Staff Sergeant E. Lane ... ... ,, 3 Division H.Q. & Signal Regt.
Sergeant F. Downing ... ... ,, 13th Regiment
Sergeant T. R. Hanman ... ... ,, 227 Squadron
Sergeant R. T. Howe ... ... ,, 1st Regiment
Sergeant A. R. Heath ... ... ,, 16th Regiment
Sergeant C. J. Wingate ... ... ,, 11th Regiment
Sergeant J. F. Chapman ... ... ,, 262 Squadron
Sergeant J. A. Gooding ... ... ,, 204 Squadron
Sergeant W. W. Scott ... ... ,, 19th Regiment
Sergeant T. W. Tyler ... ... ,, 9th Regiment
Sergeant J. Moffatt ... ... ,, 28th Regiment
Sergeant P. G. Farrell ... ... ,, 7th Regiment
Sergeant H. Jacobs ... ... ,, 229 Squadron
Sergeant I. Oyale ... ... ,, 30th Bn. R.A.O.C.
Sergeant J. Rhind ... ... ,, 7th Regiment
Sergeant B. Wylde ... ... ,, 8th Regiment
Sergeant F. Thomas ... ... ,, 249 Squadron
Sergeant N. F. A. Lock ... ... ,, 254 Squadron
Sergeant W. Escott ... ... ,, R.M.A., Sandhurst
Sergeant A. Brighton ... ... ,, Junior Leaders Regiment
Sergeant D. C. Parry ... ... ,, 204 Squadron
Sergeant A. E. Cooley ... ... ,, 7th Regiment
Sergeant E. Hall ... ... ,, 1st Regiment
Sergeant C. Hall ... ... ,, 14th Regiment
Sergeant J. Philemon ... ... ,, 4th Regiment
Sergeant D. Boulton-Lear ... ... ,, 244 Squadron
Sergeant F. A. W. Brock ... ... ,, 237 Squadron
Sergeant R. Gore ... ... ,, 2nd Regiment
Sergeant J. T. Noon ... ... ,, 18th Regiment
Sergeant D. L. Morrison ... ... ,, 207 Squadron
Sergeant E. J. Simpson ... ... ,, 9th Regiment
Sergeant C. S. A. Howells ... ... ,, 1st Regiment
Sergeant D. Jones ... ... ,, 11th Regiment
Sergeant J. A. Wesley ... ... ,, 224 Squadron
A/Sergeant A. Simpson ... ... ,, 13th Regiment
A/Sergeant P. J. Daniel ... ... ,, 9/12 Lancers Signal Troop
A/Eergeant C. A. Brandon ... ... ,, 224 Squadron

Corps Ties

A stock of a new pattern, hand-woven, pure wool worsted spun, Corps Ties is now held at Association Headquarters. These are very attractive ties, do not crease, and are considered to be of better appearance than Terylene ties. At 8s. 6d. (plus postage) they are very good value. Orders are invited.

A small number of the old type of woollen tie, previously stocked, are available at the reduced price of 7s.

Brigadier C. H. Stoneley, O.B.E.

We regret that in the July WIRE, Brigadier C. H. Stoneley was reported as having represented Great Britain in the hurdles events in the Olympic Games in 1934. This statement which was extracted from another publication, is, of course, incorrect as regard both detail and date. The highlights of Brigadier Stoneley's outstanding athletic career—unique in the Corps and seldom surpassed in the Services—were:

Represented Great Britain in the 400 metres and 1,600 metres relay in the 1932 Olympic Games. In 1934 he represented England in the Empire Games in the quarter mile and the 4 × 440 yards relay. Apart from this he took part with distinction in International, A.A.A., Inter-Services and Milocarian events on numerous occasions, often running in company with his well known contemporary, G. L. Rampling, then a subaltern in the Royal Artillery, and also an athlete of international repute.

Brigadier C. T. Honeybourne, O.B.E., A.D.C.

The congratulations of the Corps go to Brigadier C. T. Honeybourne on the honour recently conferred on him by being appointed an A.D.C. to Her Majesty The Queen.

It is of interest to note that he succeeds Brigadier C. N. Stoneley, O.B.E., in this appointment held by the latter since May, 1960.

Major Frederick Gordon Strange

The many friends of Major Frederick Strange, both serving and retired, will be united in sending their congratulations to Freddie on the completion by him of 50 years continuous service with 'Signals.' This notable anniversary actually occurred on 22nd June, 1964, when his service totalled 40½ years on the active list and 9½ years in a retired officer appointment in Royal Signals Records.

It is a far cry to that memorable day in June, 1914, when Freddie Strange, then aged 14½, arrived at the R.E. Mounted Depot, Stanhope Lines, Aldershot, to make just one more R.E. Boy for training at the Army Signal School as a telegraphist. For the next few years his life followed the normal pattern of initial operating training followed by a period 'on 'K' Company.' This latter meant being posted to one of the stations of "K" Signal Company, the R.E. Signal Company distributed over certain of the Irish and English Post Offices. It was here that the boys continued their training and graduated to live experience on post office circuits. Freddie served in Cork and Liverpool.

On completion of this training, he was posted to the Signal Service Training Centre in 1916, which was spread over a good part of Buckinghamshire and Bedfordshire. Here he remained for a year, being under the age limit for active service. In 1917-18 he again served the G.P.O. at Salisbury, Bulford and finally London, E.C.1. In September, 1919, he joined the first regular draft of reliefs to R.E. (Signals) units in Egypt and Palestine. Quite early in this near-East tour Freddie gave a hint of things to come by transforming the Sergeants' Mess from a strictly utilitarian building into a comfortable and pleasing home. He was ever a man of worthwhile enthusiasms and was blessed with the ability always to see them to fruition.

After five years of wandering around Egypt and Palestine, including Damascus, Beirut, Haifa, Kantara and Cairo, he dropped 'telegraphing' and adopted 'clerking,' Freddie returned to the Home Establishment and eventually arrived at the School of Signals at Maresfield and later Catterick to take over the duties of Chief Clerk, serving under Lieutenant-Colonel (now Lieutenant-General) E. A. Osborne and the late Captain (later Lieutenant-Colonel) L. Y. Younie. During this tour he organised a number of extended "hikes" in the Lake District, as well as many week-ends in the local Dales—the forerunners of our modern Adventure Training.

There may be a number of people who, on reading this, will remember their labours under Freddie's direction, in the construction of a hard tennis court for the School of Signals Sergeants' Mess. Freddie's infectious enthusiasm for this "self-help" scheme inspired all the members to give their services voluntarily. The 'tennis court' still exists, but is now a tarmac car park. It was also during this tour that he married Cecily King, the sister of that well-known Corps personality, Major Victor King.

After a tour of duty at Aldershot, and another as R.S.M. with London Divisional Signals, where he served under Lieutenant-Colonel (now Brigadier) A. C. C. Willway and Captain (now Brigadier) Henry Firth, in 1938 he was posted to India, where he served at Quetta and as Superintending Clerk to the Signal Officer-in-Chief at Army H.Q., Delhi. During this Indian interlude Freddie became interested in embroidery, and took his first tentative steps towards the present proficiency in this art, which has brought him considerable fame in the embroidery world.

For the next nine years Freddie was stationed in London and Cheltenham, first at the War Office and later the Ministry of Supply. In 1949 he joined the 23rd (Southern) Corps Signal Regiment at Fulham as Q.M. This enabled him, in 1945, to commence evening classes at the Royal School of Needlework, and six years later he had the great honour of receiving the Final Certificate from the hands of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth (now the Queen Mother). In December, 1955, he was featured in an article, which also included Mr. Ernest Thesiger, in a quarterly journal prduced by Messrs. J. & P. Coates Ltd., and again in March, 1960, Winifred Carr, writing in the *Daily Telegraph*, mentioned having met, near Reading, "a retired Army Officer who was exhibiting his ecclesiastical embroidery, which he had worked most beautifully."

His last active list appointment was as Q.M. of H.Q., B.A.O.R. Signal Regiment at Herford, from 1952-54.

After joining the staff of Royal Signals Records on retirement in 1954, as a retired officer, despite the heavy volume of work with which 'Records' are burdened, Freddie has not only managed to produce some beautiful pieces of embroidery, but for some years has played a major part as Chairman in organising the annual ex-Boys' dinner, which has become a feature of the Signals' year.

This dinner has gone from success to success and it must have given Freddie great pleasure to see the results of his efforts so well established at the dinner recently held at the Victory ex-Services Club when some 140 ex-Boys and guests sat down to dine and where Freddie was presented with a cheque as a token of esteem from his many ex-Boy friends.

Freddie is soon to retire, and he does so in an aura of goodwill. One thing is certain, and that is that neither he nor his wife, Cecily, who has supported him so charmingly throughout their married life, will cease to work. For them retirement will merely mean a reduction of activities in one direction and an increase in another. Long may they continue to have a long and happy life.

Major G. R. Price, M.B.E.



Major G. R. Price, M.B.E.

At a small drinking session of the C.S.O.'s Staff and representatives of 10th Regiment, in the H.Q., Eastern Command Officers' Mess, on 21st July, a presentation was made by the C.S.O. to Ted Price, on behalf of Royal Signals, Eastern Command, in recognition of his 50 years' service.

Unfortunately, neither the Commander-in-Chief nor the Chief of Staff were able to come, but we were delighted to have with us the Chief Engineer of Eastern Command (Ted having originally been a Sapper).

The presentation took the form of a stainless steel salver and four pewter mugs, one each for his Boy's, Soldier's, Officer's and Retired Officer's service, all suitably inscribed, a teak garden table and chairs, and a dozen golf balls.

The opportunity was also taken to take the photograph of Ted, which he had prevented us from obtaining for last month's article in THE WIRE.

P.S.—Even the barman was discovered to have served under Sergeant-Major Price!

Presentation of the Freedom of Entry to the Borough of Richmond, Yorkshire, to the Royal Corps of Signals.

All will be interested to hear that the above ceremony took place on the 17th August when the Colonel-in-Chief, H.R.H. The Princess Royal, accepted the Freedom of Entry on behalf of the Corps.

Regrettably, but as so often happens, the Catterick weather produced a deluge of rain in honour of the occasion. A full account, with photographs, will appear in the October WIRE.

Obituary

COLONEL W. F. JACKSON, O.B.E., M.C., T.D.

As we go to Press, we regret to announce the death of Colonel Jackson, who was commissioned in 1912 in Northern Command Telegraph Companies, Army Troops, R.E. (T.F.), which was later to become 49th (West Riding) Divisional Signals, commanded that Regiment and was its Honorary Colonel from 1948-1957. A fuller tribute will appear in the next *Journal*.

Deaths

BARTLEY.—Signalman Robert Kenneth Bartley, on 16th August, of 4th Regiment at Hammersmith Barracks, Herford, Germany. He enlisted as a Regular member of the Corps on 5th February. He was a Life Member of the Association.

MYERS.—Lance-Corporal John Henry Myers, of 25th Regiment R.A. Signal Troop, B.A.O.R., on 26th August at the United States Hospital, Munich, as a result of injuries sustained in traffic accident. He was a Life Member of the Association.

GILLION.—Signalman Daniel of 606 Troop, killed as a result of a road accident in Borneo on 29th August. He was a Life Member of the Association.

First Winner of the Whistler Subaltern's Trophy

IN the February edition of "The Wire" this year we wrote about the presentation of a tankard to the Corps by Major-General A. M. W. Whistler, C.B., C.B.E., Assistant Chief of Defence Staff (Signals). This trophy, now known as the Whistler Subaltern's Trophy, is competed for annually by Subalterns and temporary Captains of the Corps and the winner is adjudged as the young officer who has best shown the qualities that are the hallmark of leadership—what he can GIVE to his Corps and the men under his command.

This year we congratulate Lieutenant K. B. S. Kent, 248 Gurkha Signal Squadron, on being the first winner of this trophy.

Lieutenant Kelvin Kent has been on active service in the Borneo operations during much of the period. In his citation mention is made of his drive and initiative in maintaining excellent communications. Also of his enthusiasm in every field of activity open to him and of his quick brain and speed off the mark as a tireless worker and leader of men. He is described as a champion improviser—prepared to try anything in the field of sport, adventure, work or entertainment.

Always ready to lend others a hand he did much towards developing the welfare and interests of the men under his command.

These are some of the qualities of the first winner of the Whistler Subaltern's Trophy. Lieutenant Kent has set a high standard and here lies an example and a challenge to all young officers of the Royal Corps.

Whose name, then, will be inscribed on the tankard as next year's winner?

The Empire Field of Remembrance

With the kind permission of the Rector of St. Margaret's and the support of the Dean and Chapter of Westminster, the Empire Field of Remembrance will be held from 5th to 11th November, 1964, inclusive.

The Field will be opened at twelve noon on Thursday, 5th November, with a short service conducted by Canon Stancliffe, assisted by the Dean of Westminster, 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 is, of course, possible at any time.

IMPORTANT

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother will plant the first cross, in commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the outbreak of the 1914-18 War and the 25th Anniversary of the 1939-45 War. In consequence of this, all access to Plots will be closed from **11.45** to **12.10.** It is essential, therefore, for those who wish to be present at the service to be at the Plot some minutes prior to 11.45.

The Royal Signals Plot is No. 203. The Chairman, assisted by Mr. A. E. Stead, of Association Headquarters, together with members of Home Counties Branches will be the official representatives of the Association at the opening.

If any other member of the Association is to be in London on Thursday, 5th November, and would like to attend the opening, he should notify this Headquarters.

The following are available from the British Legion Poppy Factory for the Memorial Plot, and, if ordered, will be planted on behalf of branches or individuals by the official representatives of the Association.

Badge Cross	21/-
Field Cross	15/-
Poppy Cross	10/-
Wreath Cross	5/-
Remembrance Crosses	6d. ea.

Correspondence and orders relating to the Field of Remembrance should be addressed DIRECT to: The Secretary, British Legion Poppy Factory, Petersham Road, Richmond, Surrey (with a copy to Association Headquarters). Cheques and Postal Orders should be made payable to the British Legion Poppy Factory Ltd., and should be crossed.

Please send in your orders as soon as possible.

Remembrance Day Parade and Service at the Cenotaph
Sunday 8th November, 1964

Any member wishing to parade with the Royal Signals Contingent should apply, at least a week prior to the date, through his/her Branch Secretary, who, in turn, should apply to this Headquarters for tickets. Corps tie, medals and decorations should be worn on this parade.

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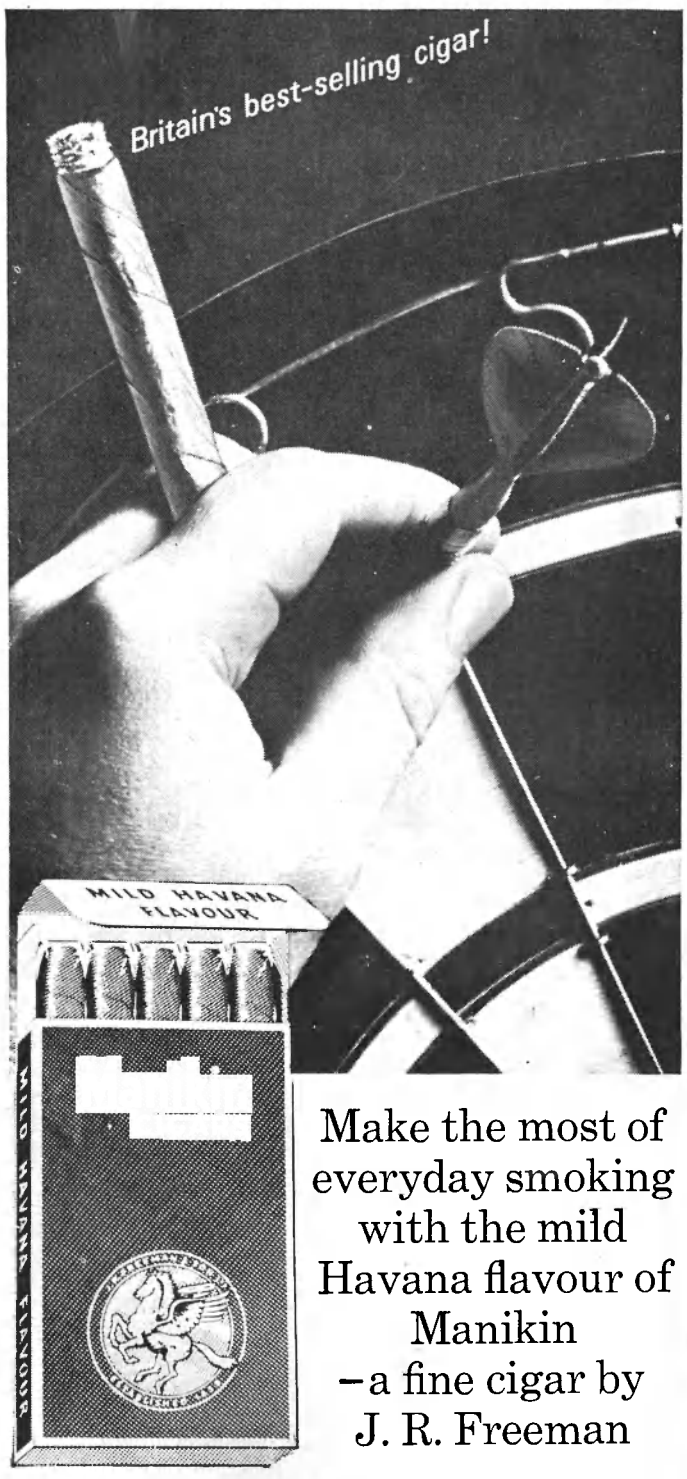
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SOEST (WESTPHALIA) Feldmann & Co. GmbH, Kungelmarkt, 5 Soest (Westphalia) Tel. 3842
or General Motors Continental, West German Sales Department, Antwerp, Belgium.

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Promotions for July, 1964

REGIMENTAL DUTY ROSTER

				New Sen. No.	Old Sen. No.	
To W.O.I	5127190	A/W.O.I	Redman, E. W.	480	370	
	2329497	A/W.O.I	Lord, B. T.	490	390	
	5349171	A/W.O.I	Cox, J. E.	500	270	
To W.O.II	22276087	S Sgt.	Palman, M. E. J.	2730	880	
	22563741	A/W.O.II	Cone, E. S.	2740	1020	
	22296455	A/W.O.II	Packwood, J.	2750	1000	
	22274194	S Sgt.	Cage, H. W.	2760	1090	
	22526498	S Sgt.	Finlayson, S.	2770	920	
	22019131	S Sgt.	Riddell, A. G.	2780	1110	
	14193789	A/W.O.II	Cracknell, B. E.	2790	930	
	22515176	S Sgt.	Rumsey, D. H. M.	2800	1450	
	22537303	A/W.O.II	Green, B. G.	2810	1440	
	22296200	S Sgt.	Hough, W. J.	2820	1360	
	22541017	S Sgt.	Campbell, J. B.	2830	1400	
	22466247	S Sgt.	Brice, S. A.	2840	1230	
	22477059	A/W.O.II	Cushen, T. J.	2850	1370	
	22076349	S Sgt.	Murray, N.	2860	1250	
	22306742	S Sgt.	Simpson, A. J.	2870	1460	
	22546033	S Sgt.	Armstrong, T. G.	2880	1510	
	22242455	A/W.O.II	Smith, R.	2890	1190	
	22771347	A/W.O.II	Simmons, R. W.	2900	1640	
	22515700	S Sgt.	Wilson, M. E.	2910	1324	
	22265014	S Sgt.	Meyer, R. C.	2920	1580	
	14798967	S Sgt.	McDonough, S.	2930	1140	
	22242140	S Sgt.	Rose, J. B.	2940	810	
	22308389	S Sgt.	Bramhall, A.	2950	1610	
	15002539	S Sgt.	Cave, A. E. W.	2900	1490	
	19093795	S Sgt.	Smith, D. V.	2970	1150	
	21022118	S Sgt.	Howie, B. S.	2980	1850	
To S Sgt.	22562446	Sgt.	Probert, D. C.	2810	3380	(Op)
	22242107	A/S Sgt.	Kent, K. D.	2820	3790	(Op)
	2548951	A/W.O.II	Smith, L.	2830	8100	(Op)
	22515552	Sgt.	McSorley J. A.	2840	830	(Fd)
	22526327	Sgt.	McGilvray, G.	2850	1600	(Tec)
	22186232	A/S Sgt.	Motion, W.	2860	4640	(Op)
	22539453	Sgt.	Dolan, T.	2870	820	(Fd)
	2549770	A/S Sgt.	Brewer, E. A.	2880	890	(Fd)
	2549747	A/S Sgt.	Youngjohns, G. H.	2890	4730	(Op)
	22265935	Sgt.	White, J. R.	2900	870	(Fd)
	2549269	Sgt.	Chiverton, J. F.	2910	620	(Op)
	2549012	A/S Sgt.	Leech, W. J.	2920	5010	(Op)
	22549305	A/S Sgt.	Marchant, W. L.	2930	4960	(Op)
	22546512	A/S Sgt.	Christie, G. A.	2940	960	(Fd)
	22465635	Sgt.	Boddington, D. V.	2950	4970	(Op)
	21038557	A/S Sgt.	Prescott, D. C.	2960	4900	(Op)
	22970606	Sgt.	Wood, J. T.	2970	1700	(Tec)
	21058261	Sgt.	Wilson, F. W.	2980	1152	(Tec)
	19034767	A/S Sgt.	Wade, D.	2990	940	(Fd)
	22827774	A/S Sgt.	Wheeler, D. N.	3000	4840	(Op)
	22296157	Sgt.	Aldous, R. W.	3010	1690	(Tec)
	22212057	Sgt.	Bell, H.	3020	5160	(Op)
	22229248	A/S Sgt.	Stowe, P. D.	3030	5070	(Op)
	22296887	Sgt.	Wilson, I. D.	3040	3470	(Op)
	22563868	Sgt.	Best, W. G.	3050	590	(Fd)
	22559048	Sgt.	Joyce, J. A. G.	3060	980	(Fd)
	2549690	A/S Sgt.	Ault, F. C.	3070	1380	(Ad)
	22820494	Sgt.	McKeever, A.	3080	5170	(Op)
	22563971	Sgt.	Brown, H. A.	3090	5590	(Op)
	22246064	A/S Sgt.	Cassling, R. N. L.	3100	5480	(Op)
	22307882	A/S Sgt.	Bunston, K.	3110	5420	(Op)
	21125754	Sgt.	Fewster, R. V.	3120	5350	(Op)
	22049267	Sgt.	Williams, C. H.	3130	5570	(Op)
	22212319	A/S Sgt.	Hutson, N.	3140	1434	(Ad)
	22242142	Sgt.	Walker, C.	3150	5450	(Op)

YEOMAN OF SIGNALS ROSTER

To W.O.I	2549570	A/W.O.I	Weir, W.	240	270
To W.O.II	2548194	S Sgt.	Glendinning, J. Y.	930	280
	21005835	S Sgt.	Howie, A. M. P.	940	360

CHIEF CLERKS ROSTER

To W.O.I	14474281	W.O.II	Dean, J.	310	480
To W.O.II	22709645	S Sgt.	Finch, T. A.	760	880

SIGNAL CENTRE SUPERVISOR ROSTER

To W.O.I	19031817	A/W.O.I	Kinch, N. L.	440	770
	14498891	W.O.II	Chater, J. F.	450	710
To W.O.II	2549017	S Sgt.	Iverson, P. H.	1430	610
	22449808	S Sgt.	Reid, I. A.	1440	1000

TECHNICAL ROSTER

To Sgt.	22996157	Cpl.	Webb, A. C.	4555	3830
	23546255	Cpl.	James, R. M.	4558	7270
	23546836	Cpl.	Callan, S. J.	4559	7760

OPERATING ROSTER

To Sgt.	23312844	Cpl.	Dicks. W. B.	11170	9250
	22569675	Cpl.	Wells, R. W.	11220	15710
	22289359	Cpl.	Kinsey, P.	11310	16880
	23443697	Cpl.	Langley, T. S.	11410	17310
	22562779	Cpl.	Walker, J. E.	11460	17450
	22787075	Cpl.	Ridley, C. A. J.	11510	18030
	23686346	A/Sgt.	Moulton, F. P.	11530	18770
	22296554	A/Sgt.	Burt, A. J. T.	11540	18820
	22569510	A/Sgt.	O'Mara, G. T.	11550	7520
	22549934	Cpl.	Dicker, L. J.	11560	8664
	23151473	Cpl.	Darbyshire, R.	11570	9960
	23676476	A/Sgt.	Copland, G. A.	11610	18620
	23482137	Cpl.	Mahoney, E. P.	11650	19640
	23142718	Cpl.	Green, P. H.	11660	19790
	23323211	A/Sgt.	Humphries, J. M.	11670	19810
	22542254	Cpl.	Blackmore, D. R.	11680	20040

FIELD ROSTER

To Sgt.	23251862	Cpl.	Alford, P. G.	3950	2350
	22199279	Cpl.	Moffatt, J.	3980	670
	22265148	Cpl.	Kirk, A. H.	4000	1320

ADMINISTRATIVE ROSTER

To Sgt.	23212725	Cpl.	Adey, H.	2680	614
	23313248	Cpl.	Shepherd, G.	2730	2980

DELETIONS

REGIMENTAL DUTY ROSTER

W.O.I	50	100		
W.O.II	1130	1910	2140	2340
S Sgt.	20	200		

CHIEF CLERKS ROSTER

W.O.I	230
S Sgt.	590

TECHNICAL ROSTER

W.O.I	110
Sgt.	2730

MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENT

OPERATING ROSTER

Sgt. Seniority No. 10210. Amend name to read Griffiths, K. W.

INSERTIONS

FIELD ROSTER

To Sgt.	22212767	S Sgt.	Rotherham, R. G.	92	270	(R.D.)

ADMINISTRATIVE ROSTER

To Sgt.	6215936	S Sgt.	Pegg, R. J.	12	590	(C.C.)

Forthcoming Events

Royal Signals Officers' Annual Reunion

Royal Signals Officers' Annual Reunion will be held on Friday, 27th November, 1964, in the Drill Hall of 47 Regiment (Middlesex Yeomanry) T.A., Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea, S.W.3 (7—11 p.m.).

1st and 2nd Air Formation Signals O.C.A.

The 17th Annual Reunion Dinner will be held on Saturday, 24th October, 1964, at The Chevrons Club, 3/5, Dorset Square, London, N.W.1, at 7 p.m. Tickets, price 12/6, may be obtained from Captain D. T. Hunneyball, 181, Pampisford Road, South Croydon, Surrey, or Mr. W. Cousins, 11, Consfield Avenue, New Malden, Surrey. Tickets, for male guests, may be obtained, but early application is requested, with remittance.

Royal Signals Officers' Golfing Society

21st September	Ironsides	Fleet
24th/25th September	Autumn Meeting	E. Berkshire (note change of venue and date)
3rd October	Staff College	Camberley Heath
13th October	R.A.M.C.	New Zealand

Rand Engagements

Touring Rand

20th Sept./4th Oct.	Eastbourne	Bandstand concerts

Corps Motor Cycle Display Team

13th Sept.-1st Oct.	Sydney, Australia	Trade Fair

Upgrading Courses in Catterick

Dates for courses scheduled to be held in the Training Brigade, starting in March, 1965, are as follows:

Radio Technician (Light) ...	Class II-I	30th March
Radio Technician (Light) ...	Class III-II	9th March
Radio Relay Man	Class II-I	23rd March
Lineman	Class II-I	23rd March
Lineman	Class III-II	23rd March

Employment

Modernised flat and £3 a week offered in return for 3½ hours work daily as gardener and handyman near Sherborne, Dorset. For full details apply Association H.Q.



(Photograph Courtesy Yorkshire Evening Post

The G.O.C.-in-C. visits a Civil Defence Rescue Team



(Photograph Courtesy Yorkshire Evening Post

A/T Sergeant Donnelly with the G.O.C.-in-C. during his visit to Senior Term Training

ARMY APPRENTICES SCHOOL, HARROGATE

HARROGATE

The Summer Term. Activities within the School are probably more varied during this term than any other, and it is thus even more difficult to select a few to mention in detail. In the military sphere, there have been visits and demonstrations, communications and adventure training exercises. Sport have included athletics, cricket, canoeing, sailing, tennis, hockey, cycling, basketball and badminton, while other activities have ranged from rock climbing and mountain rescue through archery to go-karting to pottery and bird-watching.

During the term we have been visited by the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Defence (Army), Mr. Peter Kirk, and the G O.C.-in-C. Northern Command, Lieutenant-General Sir Charles Richardson, K.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O. Both were taken on a comprehensive tour of the School, and were able to see at least a selection of the different activities in progress.

The Quadrangular Games—an annual competition between the four Army Apprentices Schools—was held at Aborfield this year, and, as last year's winners, our teams, nearly a hundred strong, set off with high hopes but met with only mixed success. We won the cricket and canoeing, but were beaten into second place in both the athletics and cycling. Beating "Retreat" by the massed bands of the four schools on the Saturday evening made an impressive and memorable finale to the games.

The three school bands have had an exceptionally busy term and have been away on an engagement almost every week of the term. Of particular interest was the attendance of the Brass Band at the last night of the Royal Tournament, while on the same day, the Drums and Bugles and the Pipes and Drums joined the Band of the Royal Engineers in beating "Retreat" at Ripon.

In the sporting world, we have had a number of successes. The School cricket team, which included seven Apprentices, won the Northern Command Inter-Unit Cricket Championships in the first season we have entered a team, by beating the School of Signals in the semi-final and 8th Signal Regiment in the final Credit must be given to the enthusiasm of the Officer-in-Charge (Major H. Campbell, R.A.) and the coaches, Captain P. A. Dally and S.Q.M.S. Loates.

Athletics. The term has seen a number of excellent individual performances, and School records have been broken in six events. A/T Fenge has undoubtedly been the outstanding athlete of the term. He is the Surrey Junior Pole Vault Champion, the Army and Inter-Services Pole Vault and 120-yard Hurdles Champion, has been awarded his Army Colours and been selected to represent the Combined Services. As a junior, his 12ft. 9in. in the pole vault is among the ten best performances by men in this country this year.

Canoeing. In the first Army Canoe Championships, held at Walton-on-Thames in June, canoeists representing the the School, gained two first, one second and two fourth places in the junior events and the team was placed second. In the senior events, by gaining two first and three second places, we won the team championship. The Canoe Club is now looking forward to the Army Sprint Championships, to be held at Pangbourne in October. We were delighted to hear that two ex-members of the club (Signalman Hall and Signalman Barber) now serving with 2nd Regiment, were placed fourth in the Rhine River Race.

Cycling. A/T Lance-Corporal Crittenden and A/T Walker were selected to represent the Army in the Inter-Services Championships and Lance-Corporal Crittenden was awarded his Army Colours.

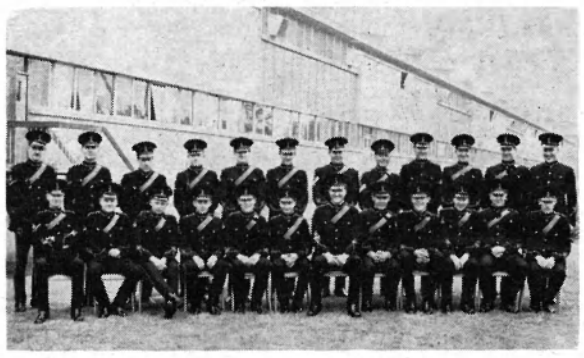
Tennis. A/T Lance-Corporal Clark won the Army Junior Singles Championship, and the Senior Team, in which Lance-Corporal Clarke also played, retained the Northern Command Inter-Unit Tennis Cup for the second year.

In all, a successful term. Intake 61B graduates this term—we wish them God speed and good luck wherever their service may take them in the future!

Corps Band Entertained by M. E. L. Equipment Co.

THE Corps Band recently performed in the Central Square at Crawley. They were afterwards kindly entertained to lunch in the restaurant of the M.E.L. Equipment Co. by one of the Directors Lieutenant Colonel R. R. C. Rankin, O.B.E., E.R.D., and a senior staff member Lieutenant Colonel M. J. Conway. Lieutenant Colonel Rankin is, of course, Honorary Colonel of the 85th Signal Regiment A.E.R. and Lieutenant Colonel Conway served for many years in the Corps as a regular officer. The Chief Signal Officer, London District, was also present.

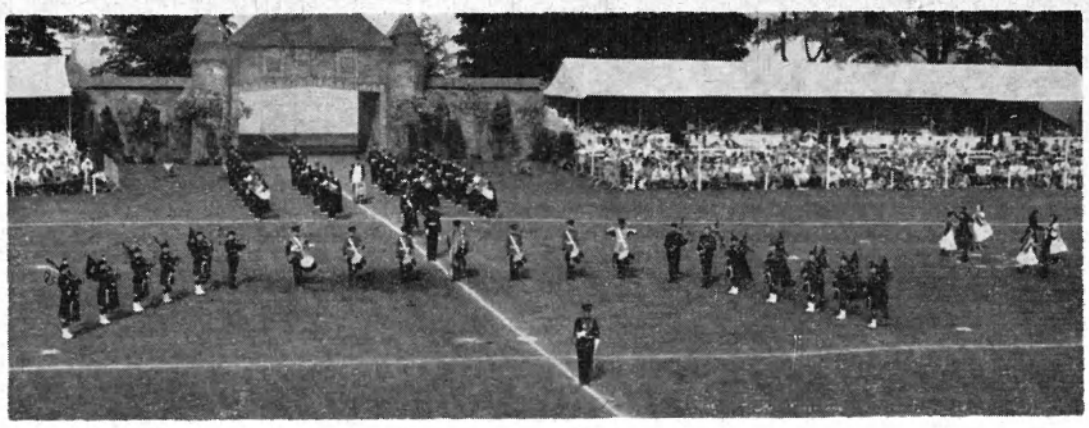
The photo of the Corps Band was taken at the Company's Crawley plant.



CORRIGENDA

Apologies to 208 Squadron, because on page 300 of the August WIRE the captions to the two pictures were transposed.

Junior Leaders Regiment at the Bath Tattoo



Pipers and Dancers of the Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Signals, with W.R.A.F. Dancers and the Band of Kings Own Scottish Borderers

JUNIOR LEADERS REGIMENT

Bath Tattoo. Is there ever a month, in any Army unit, which is not hectic? We are beginning to wonder. July was no exception! This year, at Bath Tattoo, one of the items was to have been a display of Scottish and Highland dancing by the 1st Battalion King's Own Scottish Borderers and the Women's Royal Air Force. However, at the last moment, for reasons beyond their control, the former were unable to take part, and the Secretary of the Tattoo suddenly remembered that we possessed piping and dancing groups. As a result, for many days at the beginning of the month we found that no matter where we went in the camp it was impossible to escape the skirl of the pipes as the teams prepared for their appearance at Bath. The pain was alleviated, to some extent, by the presence of 20 attractive W.R.A.F. girls who were to be partners to our dancers.

For a while peace descended on the camp, when the "Scots" went off to Bath. When they got there they found themselves doing a lot more than they expected. Not only did they perform in their own item of the Tattoo but, in addition, they played with the band of the K.O.S.B. and in the massed bands, and also acted as ushers when not actually performing. All who went to Bath thoroughly enjoyed the experience and, judging from the local Press and B.B.C. television, they gave a first-class performance.

Inter-Troop Competitions. Soon after the sound of the pipes faded from camp as the teams moved off to Bath, it was replaced by shouts from the drill square, shouts from the sports field and shouts from the obstacle course as drill instructors and members of Troops encouraged competitors in the inter-troop competitions to give of their best. For some time, Kukri Troop seemed hot favourites to sweep the board, but in the very last competition patrolling across the road, they were pipped at the post by Iron Troop for the Cobb Memorial Trophy, but even so, they held their own against Iron Troop for the S.O.-in-C.'s Trophy.

Graduation Day. The frenzy of the competition did not die away. It merely became a frenzy of preparing for the Graduation Day activities. This term we were faced with a mammoth task of entertaining approximately 500 parents and friends, of which well over 400 required accommodation. Programmes and wet weather programmes were produced and practised, but on the Big Day, the 1st August, the weather could not have been kinder. The Graduation Parade, which was inspected by Brigadier K. R. S. Trevor, C.B.E., D.S.O., Commander Devon and Cornwall Sub-District, was good enough to make everyone taking part feel proud of his efforts and to bring lumps to the throats of many parents watching.

After lunch, which followed the parade, visitors were able to witness many of the activities of Junior Leaders at display stands which were erected throughout the camp by the various training groups, hobbies and clubs of the Regiment. They saw boys operating radio sets and teleprinters, flying model airplanes, building canoes, maintaining sailing boats, throwing each other about on Judo mats, printing invitation cards, making articles of pottery and many other activities. At four o'clock, the Commanding Officer addressed all parents and Mrs. Higgins presented the prizes.

In the evening, having gained Tattoo experience at Bath, we ran our own little Tattoo, consisting of demonstrations by the Corps of Drums, pipers and dancers, gymnasts, choir and the newly arrived members of Junior Squadron, who gave a very good display of continuation drill. Finally, to round the day off, a dance was held in the unit cinema, with music provided by a guitar group of Junior Leaders.

The rush of Graduation Day was over! Next morning the quietness of Sunday descended on the camp and at ten o'clock instead of the usual morning service a Confirmation Service, attended by the Regiment and parents, was held and the Bishop of Exeter Confirmed 28 candidates from the Regiment and four visitors from nearby Ide.

Now that it is all over, it is safe to look back and realise that the many chores and hardships inflicted on all members of the Regiment were worthwhile. The many letters of thanks and congratulations received from visiting parents have been most rewarding.

We cannot relax, however. Now we are getting ready for summer camp and this undoubtedly will be covered by our next notes.

Junior Sergeant Hamer demonstrating at the Comcentre Display



Left to right: Brigadier K. R. S. Trevor, C.B.E., D.S.O. (Devon and Cornwall Sub District), Lieutenant-Colonel D. E. Higgins, M.B.E., Major D. J. Strong, Junior S.S.M. J. Turner, Montgomery Squadron. Captain J. W. Swindells



1966 and all that!

Submitted by the School of Signals

(In the May issue of THE WIRE *mention was made of a future change in location for the School of Signals. This article briefly develops the Blandford theme)*

ON 15th June, 1964, a site—at Blandford Camp—in the vicinity of Blandford Forum was officially handed over to the builders and demolition, preparatory to building commenced. This was the first outward sign that a new home for the School of Signals (among others) is under way.

The Locality and its past history. The town of Blandford Forum in the attractive county of Dorset lies some two miles to the south west of the Camp. The town has a population of about 3,500 and is a lively shopping centre.

The Camp area itself, is on record as being a Military Centre so long ago as 1676. The Duke of Wellington reviewed his troops there in 1815 prior to their participation in the Battle of Waterloo. During the First World War 1914 to 1918, the Royal Navy built a hutted complex and the Lines (which still exist) were named appropriately Anson, Benbow, Craddock, Drake and Evans. The Second World War saw thousands of troops, evacuated from Dunkirk, accommodated here. Later, the American Armed Forces converted part of the Camp into a hospital and a piece of ground given to them was, with due ceremony, converted into a memorial garden known as Roosevelt Park.

Until quite recently the occupants included R E.M.E. and R.A.S.C. Training Battalions.

The Present. The Camp has a perimeter of three miles and consists mainly of wooden huts all of which, apart from Drake Lines, are, in the long term, to be demolished.

Current occupants are Headquarters A.E.R. Royal Signals, 30th Regiment, the Blandford Project Liaison Staff and the Southern Command School of Physical Training. The last named already has its marching orders, the operative date of which may well coincide with the ultimate move-in of the School of Signals—which will make the Camp into a veritable stronghold of Royal Signals.

The small self-contained Liaison Unit, which is well established, was formed to handle all the problems associated with this large building project. The staff consists of Lieutenant-Colonel (Retd) J. W. Elston, Lieutenant (T.O.T.) D. Hazel, W.O.II (F. of S.) F. C. Williams, Staff Sergeant T. W. Gibson, Lance-Corporal F. Laverick and Mrs. B. E. Oldis. They are busily engaged in co-ordinating the users' requirements and work in close collaboration with the architect and civilian agencies involved.

The Ministry of Public Buildings and Works has commissioned the London firm of Architects' Co-Partnership to design and plan the new buildings, and a Cardiff firm, John Morgan (Builders Ltd.), has been given the initial building contract.

The Future. The rebuilding is to be divided into two phases.

Phase I for which Treasury approval has been given includes:

(a) One large building which will incorporate Headquarters School of Signals, Headquarters of the Administrative Wing, Instructional Wings, The Corps Museum, a Central Hall for Lectures and Demonstrations, and a Library.

(b) Headquarters Mess Royal Signals to accommodate 110 male Officers and 12 Officers of the W.R.A.C. (This will be adjacent to the Roosevelt Park already mentioned).

(c) Royal Signals Warrant Officers and Serjeants Blandford Mess which will accommodate 71 including three W.R.A.C.

(d) Transmitter and Receiver Halls with associated rhombic antenna arrays.

(e) NAAFI self-service grocery shop for families.

(f) A power house to provide heating for the new buildings.

All this is planned for completion by 10th July, 1966.

Phase II building is planned to commence nine months prior to the completion of Phase I and will provide accommodation for 481 Corporals and below. Built three and four storeys high it will include single rooms for a proportionate number of Corporals and rooms for three, four, or six men together with an adequate scale of sitting, drying and cleaning rooms, and storage space for personal kit.

The rank and file accommodation will be adjacent to the rank and file Mess which, with three serveries and two beverage rooms, is designed to seat 360, four to a table, at any one time.

Situated, for obvious reasons, some little distance from these accommodation Blocks will be the Band practice rooms specially designed to meet the requirements of the Corps Band.

A road width away from the accommodation area will be an Amenity Centre. This is to be built on a village green concept around which will be the NAAFI grocery shop for families (already referred to in Phase I), a civilian canteen providing a hot meal service for the 500 civilian employees, a Junior Ranks Club for Corporals and below designed on the family concept incorporating a central Restaurant, Lounge Bar, 'men only' Tavern with billiard room, two television rooms catering for both B.B C. and I.T.V. tastes and, for social activities, a large room from which there will be access to a veranda with a southern aspect. Also included within this environment will be a combined Medical and Dental Centre, a Married Quarter Administrative Office to deal with the allocation of quarters and hirings, a Married Quarter Exchange Shop for the exchange and issue of small barrack items, a C. of E. Church to seat 130, a Gymnasium with a Miniature Range alongside, an Education Centre which will include Crafts and Hobbies Rooms together with a Library and an AKC Cinema to seat 300. To complete the Amenity Centre it is hoped, and enquiries are in hand, that a number of civilian traders will build shops.

Permanent new buildings, including both office and training accommodation, for Headquarters AER Royal Signals and 30th Regiment, are to be erected as also are a central L.A.D., M.T. Garages and Hardstandings for all units. A Guard Room and Armoury, designed as a five-sided Lodge, in contrast to the usual rectangular building, will be built at the Blandford Road entrance to the Camp.

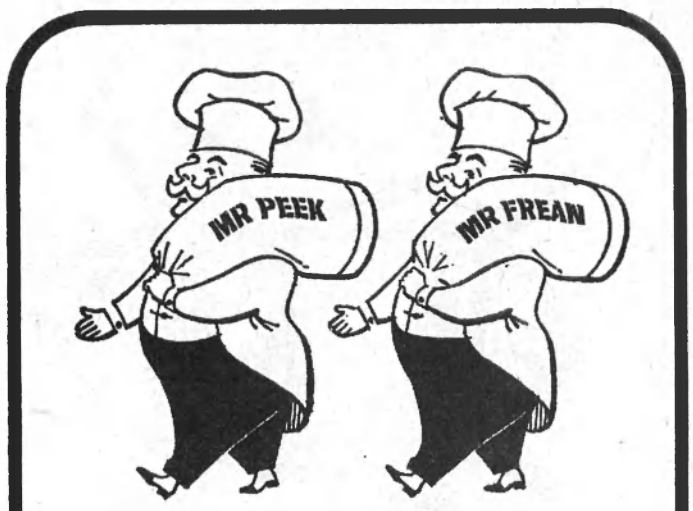
Hockey, soccer and rugger fields already exist but their number is to be supplemented by a new rugger ground, soccer ground and cricket table. Tennis and Squash Courts are also to be provided, plus a Sports Pavilion.

Already existing are some 250 married quarters. Concurrently with the Phase I and Phase II programmes a further 210 quarters will be constructed. The whole of the quarters will be situated on the Camp, in close proximity to the Amenity Centre and the existing Dorset County Council Primary School which has been enlarged to cater for the anticipated increased number of children.

The Target. The latter part of 1966 or early 1967—depending on the completion of the first stage in construction—is scheduled as the period when the School of Signals will take up residence. Indeed, based on modern features and ideas this Camp will provide a worthy home for the School and all other Royal Signals personnel who, in the future, have the good fortune to serve at Blandford.

Recently the following were presented with the L.S. and G.C. medal, by the Commandant, School of Signals, Captain (T.O.T.) E. R. Addington, W.O.I., J. A. Kelly and W.O.II. P. Harrison, It Is regretted that details of their Service are omitted owing to pressure of space.





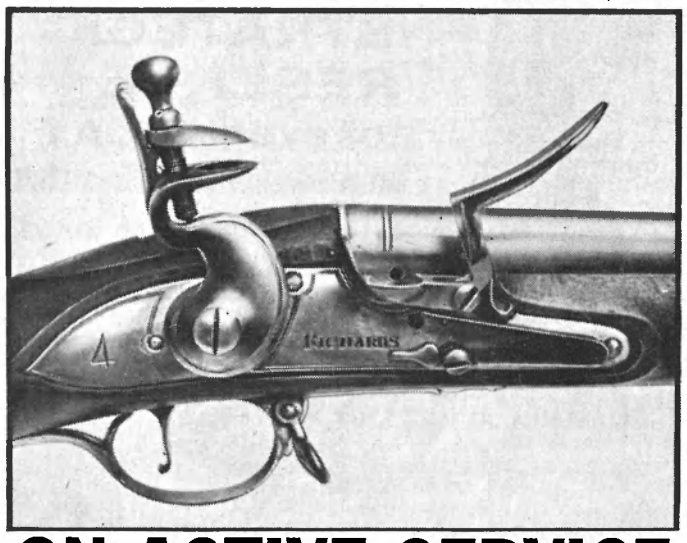
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2nd REGIMENT, B.F.P.O. 22

July has been a very full and busy month for the Regiment, with the Kohima Week-end looming largest among the whole host of activities. It is unfortunate that, with such a wealth of events to cover, we are forced, by restrictions of space, to limit our literary efforts.

Swimming. On 29th June, the Inter-Squadron Swimming Championship was contested by the three Squadrons of the Regiment, 206 and 212 Squadrons. The result was a well-deserved win for 206 Squadron.

The events of the afternoon were essentially the same as those laid down for the Divisional Championships, which were held at Sennelager on 17th July, and this enabled us to select and train a team for this competition.

Over the longer distances, our swimmers unfortunately lacked the stamina of some of the other teams and, after the first three events we lay fourth overall. In the sprint relays, however, the picture was rather different. The 4 x 50 metres free-style saw a tremendous third leg by Signalman Sharp of 206 Squadron, which paved the way to victory in that event. Victory was also ours in the 4 x 50 metres medley, the most exciting race of the meeting; Corporal Boase (1 Squadron) was about ten metres behind the leader when he hit the water at the start of the third leg, but his amazingly powerful butterfly enabled Lance-Corporal Newman (206 Squadron) to start the final freestyle length only a few feet in arrears. Newman rose to the occasion and, after 50 metres, in which his face never appeared to come out of the water, he stormed home well in the lead, to the accompaniment of ecstatic cheers from the spectators.

These two successes brought us, at the end of the meeting, to a total of 41½ points, and we finished second, only 3½ points behind the winners, 1st Bn. The Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment).

Athletics. The Royal Signals B.A.O.R. Inter-Unit Athletics Championships were held on 8th July at Herford. This year again we entered a team, having been unable to compete last year because of other commitments, and succeeded in taking first place in two events. The javelin was won by Second-Lieutenant Carr Smith and Lance-Corporal Newman with an excellent combined throw of 298 ft. 6in., a record for the meeting. The Regiment already held the high jump, set at 10 ft. 7 in. in 1962, and Corporal Fountain and Lieutenant Johnson hoped to be able to better this; however, conditions were extremely unfavourable and we had to be content with equalling our previous performance. The sprint team ran particularly well and were unlucky only to be awarded third place after a very close finish in the 4 × 100 metres relay, won by 1st Regiment in 46.8 seconds.

Cricket. The Regimental team flourishes, as expected, and has maintained an unbeaten record to date. Some of our closest and most exciting matches have been in the Divisional Knock-out Competition; nevertheless we won our semi-final and are looking forward to the chance of repeating our victory of last year in the final.

Much excitement and partisanship have been aroused by the Inter-Troop Knock-Out Competition, played, up to and including the semi-final round, as fifteen matches. The final will be between C1 Troop (1 Squadron) and "A" Troop (2 Squadron); if this game is not enjoyed by spectators, then world-wide hopes of "brighter cricket" are indeed merely pipe dreams.

Canoeing. It probably came as a surprise to many to learn that any active interest, let alone any talent, was being exercised in canoeing within the Regiment. In view of the difficulties of training—the Regiment possesses no canoes—it is all the more credit to Signalmen Hall and Barber that in a canoe borrowed from the Bunde Canoe Club (to whom, many thanks) they took fourth place out of 53 entries in the B A.O.R. Canoe Race. Canoeing is an activity to which the Regiment intends to devote more time and effort in the future, and it is hoped that the achievement of these two stalwarts will act as a pointer to others of the water-minded fraternity within the Unit.

Troop Camps. Two Troops have ventured forth to camp within the month; C1 Troop to the Harz and C2 to the Eiffel. Precise details of how they spent their time seem hard to come by; suffice it to say that the level of morale among those who returned indicates that it was spent profitably and enjoyably. This theory is supported by large numbers of photographs of 1 Squadron personnel engaged in a variety of bizarre activities. Rumours of riot and civil commotion in the areas involved are, we are assured, totally unfounded.

Kohima Weekend, 1964

Kohima Weekend is the major social event of the year in 2nd Regiment, and, like the weekend itself, the form of its celebration has become fixed by tradition over the years, dependent, as it is, upon the now varied aims of the event. This year's Kohima, celebrated between 23rd and 26th July saw no significant departure from tradition.

Many years ago the sole function of the weekend was to commemorate the Battle of Kohima, fought in 1944, which was the turning point of Allied fortunes in the Burma Campaign, and to remember all who fought in the battle, and particularly those who gave their lives. This is a celebration on behalf of Second Division, as the Regiment is the only Unit in the Division today which officially remembers Kohima, and it remains the most important aspect of the weekend. Accordingly, the climax of the four days is the Kohima Memorial Service, held this year on Sunday, 26th July, on the sports field in the barracks and followed by a march past of the Regiment on the Parade Square. As last year the salute was taken by the C.R.A., Brigadier M. C. Hall, M.C. The service was conducted by the senior Chaplain of the Division, the Reverend J. N. M. Davies, M.B.E., B.A., C.F., the few carefully chosen words of whose address acted as a fitting tail-piece to the weekend. In addition to members of the Regiment and their families the service was attended by a contingent of Headquarter Company and representatives of many of the Units in the Division.

A regimental durbar was held in the morning of Friday, 24th July, at which all ranks listened to a talk by the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel N. C. Porter, in which he described how the commemorative aspect of the weekend had become combined with its function as a regimental weekend and celebration of the birthday of H.R.H. The Princess Royal. This was followed by a talk, recorded some years ago by the Commanding Officer at the time of the battle, recalling memories of the Regiment during the fighting at Kohima. After the durbar there was a showing of the film "Burma Victory."

The Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess Summer Ball, on Thursday, 23rd July, was held this year in the Stadtgarten, Bünde, and not in the Mess as has previously been the case. By virtue of a great deal of effort on the part of the organisers and thanks, not least, to a magnificent buffet provided by Staff Sergeant Moran, A.C.C., the evening was an unqualified success.

The Kohima All Ranks' Ball was held, also in the Stadtgarten, on the following evening. For the first time ever the attendance at this function filled the building virtually to capacity, a large proportion of the increase being due to the numbers of local German civilians who came. We hope to have the same amount of outside support for all subsequent All Ranks' Balls.

Music for both the dance and for the Memorial Service was provided by the Band of 1st Bn. The Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment). This was the first time that this Band has played for us and we are grateful to their Commanding Officer and the officers of the Regiment for making their services available to us. For the All Ranks' Ball the Royal Fusiliers shared the musical toils with our group of musicians from the Regiment, "The Intruders," and their vocalist Chuck Wild of 4th Regiment.

"Beating Retreat." The Royal Fusiliers were doubtless glad of this chance to relax, for, earlier the same evening, they had provided us with an excellent Band Display and Beating of Retreat at Ennigloh Stadium.

The Beating of Retreat was preceded by a breath-taking display of helicopter stunt-flying by Captain F. Legg, M.C., Army Air Corps, of 654 Light Aircraft Squadron, who have recently moved into Birdwood Barracks with the Regiment.

Birdwood Fair

Captain Legg gave a similar demonstration over the sports field in the barracks on Saturday afternoon, 25th July, for the Birdwood Fair; in addition a helicopter of 654 Light Aircraft performed a "drop" of sweets and chocolate on to the centre of the fairground area, to the great delight of the many English and German children waiting below.

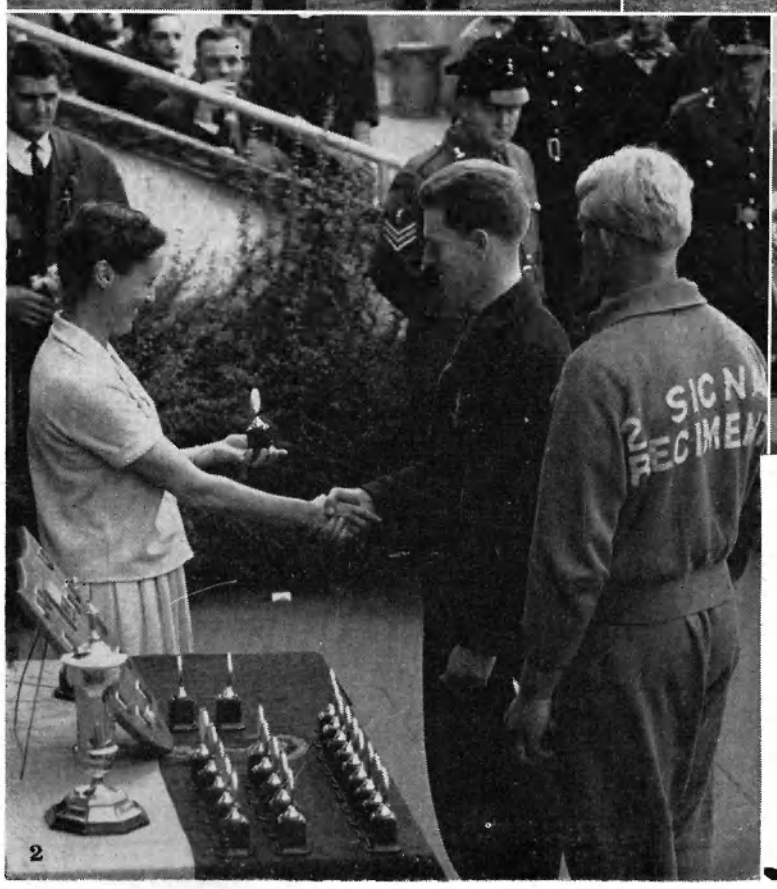
(*Pictures on next page*)

2nd Regiment. A host of activities caught by the camera











1. Birdwood Fair. S.S.I. Springall and his team of gymnasts.
2. Lieutenant R. R. Johnson and Corporal T. J. Fountain receive their trophy from Mrs. Hancock at the Royal Signals BAOR Sports Meeting.
3. Kohima Weekend. Beating of the Retreat. The Burgermeister of Bunde takes the Salute.
4. Judging of the Stalls at Birdwood Fair.
5. The Army Air Corps drop sweets to the children at the Birdwood Fair.

(2nd Regiment continued)

Other featured items of the programme were a march by the Corps of Drums of 1st Bn. The Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment) and a display of high box work by S.S.I. Springall and a team of gymnasts from the Regiment whose high standard of performance belied the short time at their disposal for practice. In addition the Band provided music throughout the afternoon. The stalls, provided by the various troops and departments of the Regiment, were inspected by the Commanding Officer before the opening of the Fair and the prize (liquid, we believe) for the best stall was awarded to Headquarter Squadron's hoop-la, which was decorated overall with representations of luscious females in such a way as to suggest that this was the nature of the prizes; whether this was so or not the writer never discovered, being insufficiently skilled to qualify for a prize. Second prize in the stalls competition went to C1 Troop's "smash-it" stall—a vast array of glass and crockery on which all comers could lose their inhibitions and a few even win prizes. "B" Troop's excellent "crazy golf" was given third place.

For the children there was a playground and a variety of things to ride, including a donkey cart, boats ¼-ton GS and trains ¼-ton GS with carriages ½-ton GS 2-wheeled; and, after a little initial encouragement from the gymnasts, many children discovered the joys of bouncing on a trampoline and this activity rapidly became very much in vogue. We dread to think what these enthusiasts will do to their beds at home.

As at the Ball the crowd of British visitors was augmented by a large admixture of German civilians and the cooks were kept busy until late in the evening providing sustenance, liquid and solid, in a large marquee on one side of the arena. Stronger beverages were available in a bar in the Fest Tent, opposite, which (complete with beer garden) was the major construction and focal point of the Fair. It was in this tent that the Grand Kohima Hop was held, to the music of the Royal Fusiliers Band and Chuck Wild and the Intruders, as the extension of the fair into the evening. It says much for the standard of the stalls and the salemanship of the stallholders that a large amount of business continued to be done even in the face of this competition and despite the approach of darkness.

A cocktail party was held in the Officers' Mess that evening, for many guests both military and civilian, at the conclusion of which several of those present returned to the Fest Tent to join the festivities.

A footnote to this Kohima weekend, in addition to the many compliments and congratulations received from our visitors, is the news that the profits from the Birdwood Fair—which are donated to benevolent funds of the various Corps represented in the Regiment—were more than double the profits of the entire Kohima weekend last year, a splendid reward for all those whose planning and energy made this year's Kohima celebrations such a marked success.

4th REGIMENT CANOEISTS TRIUMPH!

We are glad to report that as we go to press we hear that the 4th Regiment won both the team and the individual events in the B.A.O.R. Canoe Championships 1964.

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ROYAL SIGNALS, HONG KONG, B.F.P.O. 1

Despite the small numbers of the Corps in Hong Kong, a very successful Corps Week was held. This began in fine style with a Corps Reunion in the Headquarters Land Forces Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess on the Monday. Many were the tales told, especially by our T.O.T., Lieutenant Hooper, and ex-Sergeant "Digger" Tilley of 78 Division Signals fame when they met each other again after a break of fifteen years.

"Digger" was only one of many ex-Royal Signals now working in a civilian capacity in the Colony. Among others were Colin Beale, well-known in Corps swimming circles, ex-Foreman Jimmy Burton and Tim O'Connell, S.O.III (Lines) here at the end of the war. Altogether some twenty former Corps members joined us for the occasion. The reunion was followed by Squadron outings, a swimming gala, won by 252 Squadron, and ending with a Corps Church Service followed by curry lunches in the Messes.

Immediately after Corps Week, we said farewell to Major (T.O.T.) Bill Connett and Mrs. Connett. As S.O. (Works and Plans) he has done sterling work in the cause of SWS in the Colony. We all wish Major and Mrs. Connett well in their new posting to 30th Regiment and hope that it is not too far to the nearest golf course.

Lieutenant (T.O.T.) Cyril Hooper has now occupied the chair vacated by Major Connett. He and his wife are no strangers to us as he has been with 252 Squadron for the past year.

With the arrival of the new Blue Book there has been much rustling of pages and counting of "dead men's shoes" as seniority and promotion prospects were examined. It has come to our ears that the Chief Clerk, W.O.II Curtis, has been giving sales talks to and accepting orders for next year's edition from the frustrated R.A.S.C. clerks of Headquarters Land Forces. There is, however, no truth in the rumour that he is collecting ten per cent. commission in order to finance an "educational visit to Macao."

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3 H.Q. and Signal Regiment

Owing to postal delays, the first portion of 3rd Regiment's contribution arrived too late for the August number, and this included all the photographs. An edited version follows.—Editor.

CYPRUS

June has seen the return of more members of the Regiment from Cyprus and, at last, signs of the remainder being home shortly are in view. By the time these notes go to press, handing-over in Cyprus will have started, and the Regiment will be together again in the near future. It hardly seems possible that by the time we are re-formed again, some six months will have passed since that inevitable St. Valentine's Day in February, when so many took off for Cyprus. The completion of this operation must not be allowed to pass without a sincere word of thanks to our fellow Signalmen on the Island of Cyprus for their valued help; communications, welfare, sporting and leave facilities; and, for several chaps, the opportunities of upgrading courses, education and military proficiency courses, to mention but a few of the many things that have been done for us to make life as enjoyable and profitable as possible.

The following extract is taken from a memorandum from the United Nations Chief Financial Advisor, which was addressed to O.C. Divisional H.Q. Squadron (Camp Commandant)and reads as follows:

Subject: *U.N. Flagpole.*

"With reference to my memo of 23rd May on the above subject, I wish to inform you that early this morning ladies' wearing apparel was found hoisted on the flagpole.

I am sending a copy of this memo to the Military Assistant to the Commander for his information and such action as he may see fit."

The original is safely glued into the Regimental scrapbook! The Regiment is also the proud owner of what is believed to be the first United Nations Flag which replaced, of course, the Corps and Divisional flags when the official handing-over to U.N. took place. Perhaps any readers would care to challenge such a statement?

And so another operation ends for the Regiment, and we would wish our successors all good fortune in their task ahead. How long the Cyprus crisis will remain is yet another problem.

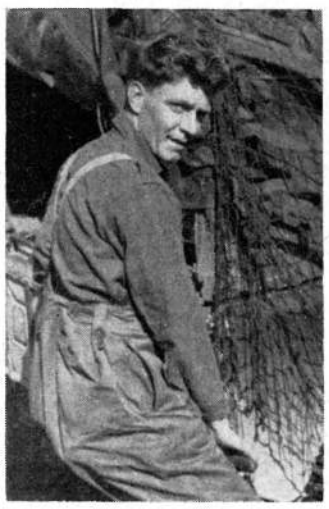
There is still no news from our men in the Radfan Mountains, nor Swaziland, nor British Guiana—so if you are reading, how about a few notes for us to include in our next contribution?

Exercise "Northern Express"

A.C.E. Mobile Force (Land) Troop reports:—

We are not exactly classed as ski-troops now, but we have seen a lot of Norway. The Troop was acting as a Battalion Signal Troop to the 2 Green Jacket Battalion Group, who form part of the NATO AMF(L) Force.

The Force was "launched" into Norway early in June, and after a week of consolidating (and sight-seeing) spent a week battling against a mixed enemy of Norwegians and Americans. As usual, the weather was fine until the exercise started and then turned wet, cold and miserable.



Sergeant Toll

Working to and alongside Belgians, Norwegians, Italians, Germans and Americans proved a new experience for most of us but after initial difficulties everything worked well. The 'foreigners' most difficult to understand on a radio link were the Americans! Perhaps a short glossary might illustrate the point:—

"O.K. Mac, you can leave this push now"—(You may close down). "What is the status of my query?"—(Have you an answer to my question?) "I have you four square"—(O.K., or you are strength 4).

We certainly enjoyed Norway, the scenery was quite breathtaking and the people very hospitable, and we now look forward to further exercises with the Force. Unfortunately Sergeant Toll is leaving us before then. Thank you, Sergeant Toll, for your loyalty and hard work and good luck in your new Squadron.

IRON TROOP

Iron Troop, of the Junior Leaders Regiment, who are affiliated to us, quite naturally, have been the Champion Troop for some time, and the winners of the Obstacle Course Championship for years! It seemed, therefore, that if any silver were to be given to the Regiment, it should be for the Obstacle Course. And so, on Saturday, 20th June, after a real obstacle course journey from Bulford to Denbury, during which nearly all the obstacles were on four wheels, the Commanding Officer presented to Lieutenant-Colonel J. Higgins, on behalf of the Regiment, a silver cup to be competed for by all the boys for—yes, you've guessed it—the Obstacle Course. It was a grand day and, of course, particularly pleasing for us to see Iron Troop receive the cup as its first holders. It does one's heart good to visit the Junior Leaders and to see such a splendid collection of boys—boys who we are confident will be the backbone of the Corps in years to come.



Lieutenant Dudley and Second Lieutenant Ingham chatting with Officers of the Belgian, Norewgian and Italian Units

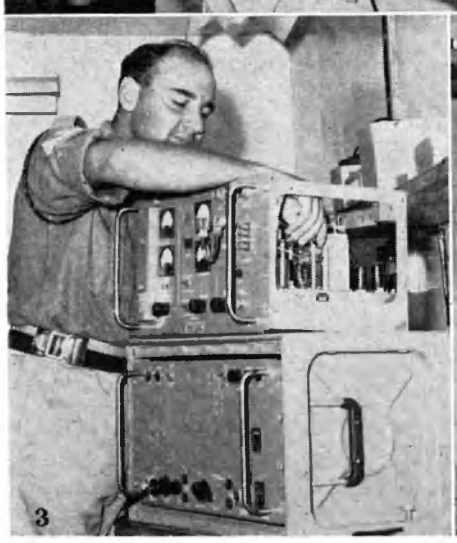


Lieutenant-Colonel G. Proudman, M.B.E., The Commanding Officer presenting "The Obstacle Course Cup" to Lieutenant-Colonel J. Higgins, M.B.E.

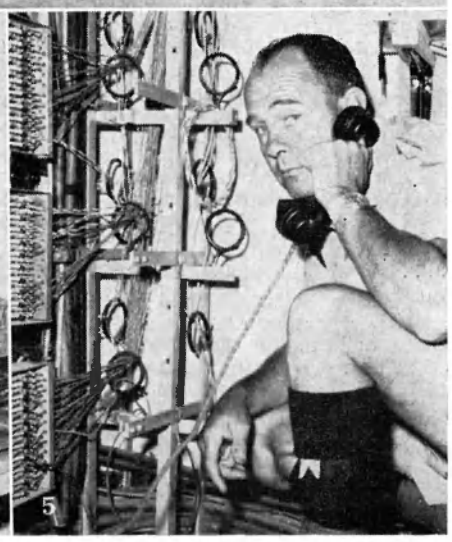
H.Q., UNICYP











1. Sergeant Phillips and Lance-Corporal Smales in the Radio Room. 2. Deputy Force Commander's Radio Operator—Lance-Corporal Stott. 3. Foreman of Signals Langford. 4. Lance-Corporal Goodchild working on a Siemens Teleprinter. 5. Corporal Phyal in the Frame Room.

INTEGRATION

The somewhat unusual title that has headed our notes for the past months has caused some concern to several readers of THE WIRE, and since the Regiment is on block leave this month, with therefore no particular items of Regimental interest to report on, it would appear an ideal opportunity to write a few brief notes on our title.

Integration at the Divisional Headquarters has been necessary for some time. Although there are other types of units invariably located near the Headquarters, none "latch" into the scene better than the Divisional Signal Regiment. Staff and Signals—being lost one without the other. It was therefore a natural motive which caused our Regiment to become integrated with the Headquarters of 3rd Division.

The establishment is composed of two parts. Part I being the Divisional Staff and Services, and Part II the Regiment proper.

A breakdown of the Regiment into its four Squadrons will help to explain each function.

1 and 2 Squadrons are essentially both Signal Squadrons, and provide the "bones" of any Signal Regiment—communications. No. 1 being the Radio Squadron, with "A" Troop subdivided into D11 components, receivers and transmitters. "B" Troop represents all tradesmen and provides communications at the Brigade Air Head, and finally Air Support Troop, furnishing the usual tentacles for such communications. The foregoing breakdown of 1 Squadron is based essentially on communications for the Joint Force Headquarters role. The Squadron is easily adapted for use in the conventional Division Headquarters role.

2 Squadron houses the operators—in the form of "C" Troop for lines, "O" Troop for the Signal Centre, and "R" Troop in their normal function of radio relay.

3 Squadron, and integration begins to take effect. Save for "M" Troop (who even now have the good fortune of an R.A.O.C. Stores Sergeant) which is, of course, 'Signals,' all the other components are fully integrated. Firstly, the R.H.Q., with its R.A.S.C. Chief Clerk, R.A.S.C. Records Office Sergeant and other Royal Signals Staff operators. At a recent count, no fewer than 34 different Corps and Regiments were found to make up this unit. One need hardly say what problems face the Records and Pay Staff of such a unit! An account of R.H.Q. Troop would be incomplete if no mention was made of the Regimental Police—especially in this unit, since no finer Provost surely exists in any Signal Regiment than one composed from N.C.O.s of the Black Watch?

"Q" Troop has the usual split, with an Infantry Q.M., R.Q.M.S. and staff on the accommodation side, and a Signals Q.M., T.Q.M.S., etc., on the technical side of the business. Each are masters in their own rights, and the services they provide are second to none.

"M.T." Troop sports more representatives of other Corps and Regiments than any other Troop, and the chances of a Signalman turning up for a detail are pretty remote. The service provided by representatives of the R.A.S.C., R.A.O.C., R.E.M.E., Argyl and Sutherland Highlanders, Black Watch, Royal Scots, Royal Highland Fusiliers, Queen's Own Highlanders, Sherwood Foresters, Queen's Surreys, to mention only a few, is still second to none, and the wheels still keep turning; possibly due to the L.A.D., R.E.M.E., attached, which is not unlike any other L.A.D., and completes No. 3 Squadron.

The fourth is known as Divisional Headquarter Squadron, and, as the name implies, houses all the clerks and staff operators from the Headquarters. Mention must be made, however, of those gallant cooks and washers who make up Employment Troop, and last, but not least, the Unit Paymaster and his N.C.O.s and men who pay us.

That completes the Regiment—except to say that although when integration was first introduced in August, 1962—not unnaturally, there were many teething troubles. It is pleasing to record that such are gone now, and ours is a fully integrated, happy and, we like to think, efficient, Headquarters and Signal Regiment.

7th REGIMENT, B.F.P.O. 15

We'll call this the silly season—one of them anyway. July is here, we said; major exercises over for the moment; next lot not due for a couple of months; we'll send everyone on leave — nothing to do here, we said.

Except summer camps, M.P.T. courses, trade courses, range classification, athletics and other sports, R.S.M. drill parades .... Oh, well, the thought of leave may have cheered us through those extra duties.

Summer camps: now there's a thought. Who but linemen would build themselves (voluntarily?) an obstacle course? And who else would actually break the greasy pole? But give them their due, they marched a lot, they survived a bout of their own cooking on Tommy burners, they read maps furiously, they tried to blow up bridges, they forced themselves to swim and go canoeing and they failed to let the weather get them down. (Although, as one lineman remarked: "The —— gong's going for another parade; it must have started to rain again").

The Regiment seems somewhat depleted these day (why don't they call B.A.O.R. a trouble spot, then we should get someone posted IN) but we still have people taking part in the slightly less obvious sports. Lance-Corporal Cairns was selected to go from B.A.O.R. to take part in the Army Judo Meeting at Aldershot; Signalman Ashworth came 13th in the Army Cycle Race in U.K.; and Corporal Timms did well in the Corps shooting at Bisley.

A small paragraph for the canoeists: Signalmen Minchen and Pullman formed one pair, Corporal Yates and Lance-Corporal Morris the other. They took part in the B.A.O.R. Canoe race on the Weser between Hameln and Hoxter, and their exertions put them 3rd in the team placings out of 25. Congratulations to 4th Regiment on winning, and a warning: we'll be out to win next time.

It's hard luck on our athletics opponents: Lieutenant Knox-Johnston didn't leave for Cyprus until after the Royal Signals (B.A.O.R.) athletics meeting (reported elsewhere). Even now, we're not quite sure either how he ran at that meeting or how he left here on the correct date; you see, the Herford Schützenfest was on at the time, and Knocker likes beer; he was so good at drinking it that they gave him a special medal (at 4 a.m. one Sunday morning) to commemorate his skill; his parting was sorrowful. Never mind, we send him our good wishes and congratulations on his engagement.

Incidentally, we hope we shall be able to continue our friendly relations with the Schützenbrüder (and Shützenschwestern); this is not the first time that several of us have taken part in the drinking, the processions and the shooting, and we hope it won't be the last. Prost! (Query: would a Lieutenant-Colonel be allowed to accept the honour of being Schützenkönig?).

It is almost taken for granted that Signals teams at Nijmegen are among those who complete the course without fault. Nevertheless, they have many miles and many hours of training behind them, as anyone knows who tries to catch them for normal duties. Our team once again did not disgrace us; congratulations in particular to C.S.M.I. Carpenter, and in general to all taking part.

Other farewells or congratulations, as appropriate, to: Lieutenants Saunders and Bye, who have left us, and Lieutenant Drew who has left to get married; Corporal W. Kay and Lance-Corporal K. G. Gregor on the birth of their sons, and Lance-Corporal J. S. Keighley, Signalman B. Ramsden and Corporal A. J. McDonald on the birth of daughters, Lance-Corporal D. F. Hall, Signalman O. G. Lee, Signalman A. C. Newman, Lance-Corporal W. J. Daglish and Lance-Corporal W. R. Mills who have all got married.

9th REGIMENT, B.F.P.O. 53.

August. High summer and bank holidays — pale faced children arriving by every plane — grapes hanging thickly on the vines and honey melons melting in the mouth — swimming in calm seas by the light of the moon. And for those old enough to remember, shades of another August, with press statements on air raid precautions, gun positions on beaches, conscripts in ill-fitting uniforms, rumours of war. Another August, another island, separated by a quarter of a century and 2,000 miles. Highlights of last month are the successes (and failure) of the Regiment's Water Polo team, the Army (Cadet) Individual Swimming Championships, the finals of our Unit Tennis Tournament, a visit by General Carver, and our use of *Cito*. The party that sailed to Beirut in Natanis (see last issue) returned unscathed, and an account of their adventures appears in a separate article.

Sailing. J.R. should have written (he left on posting to Canada before we could grab him):

The Regiment was allocated the use of *Cito* for a fortnight to run a number of short training cruises, and in consequence I took a crew of two Second-Lieutenants, two W.O.sII down to Episkopi to sail her round to Famagusta. My crew varied considerably in experience, and all that they had in common was a sense of humour. Second-Lieutenant J. B. had sailed before and possessed a current mate's certificate, while Second-Lieutenant N. F.'s experience was limited to sailing a small power craft in inland waters. The remaining crew were "first time out."

Our trip was interesting and full of incident, starting on a relatively high note when our two Second-Lieutenants capsized the dinghy in the calm of Episkopi harbour and culminating in our arrival off Famagusta too late at night to enter the harbour. A force 8 gale, shortly after we cleared Episkopi bay, was followed by a breathless calm, and the sunrise on the first morning was magnificent—made more so by the fact that some members of the crew had thought that they would never live to see it. The only real tragedy was the loss of the dinghy at the height of the gale. Having rescued it once in Episkopi bay, I committed the cardinal sin of sailing out towing it behind instead of storing it in board, and the inevitable happened. Large waves, strong winds, much noise, followed by the report that most of the dinghy had vanished and that all we were towing was a few inches of wood. We did put back to look for it—much to the horror of the crew, one of whom expressed the feelings of all by saying: For —— sake, John, leave it—leave it—I will buy you another one in Famagusta. (*I wonder if they did! Ed.*). Interviewed later by an independent reporter, Second-Lieutenant N. F. confessed that there were moments when he was not frightened—these were the ones when he was terrified.

During the fortnight *Cito* remained in Famagusta, she was fully used, and the Regiment will certainly bid for her again next year.

R.B. writes: Mountainous seas and a howling gale — water continuously washing into the cockpit, all my clothing soaked and even the spare gear stored in the cabin was anything but dry! Was this the "pleasant few days sail" I had been promised when volunteering to help crew the Corps yacht *Cito* from Episkopi to Famagusta? How naive can one get?

As a complete landlubber, I had looked forward to the trip as a pleasant change, but even our skipper was amazed when we

ran straight out of Episkopi Bay and caught the full blast of the weather rounding Akrotiri peninsula. When we lost our dinghy (sunk without trace) my apprehension increased as my pleasurable anticipation of the trip decreased. Could this bedraggled lunatic heaving frantically on the end of a rope amid waves twelve feet high and a wind of over 30 knots be me? and what did we get the first time we used our transistor radio—"The Navy Lark." However, the wind blew itself out, the seas quietened and the remainder of the trip was only eventful inasmuch as it lived up to all that was promised, calm seas, a steady breeze and a wonderful feeling of peace and freedom.

P.S.—The cooking gas ran out after two meals—have **you** ever eaten cold compo on the high seas?

Swimming. R.B. writes: The Army (Cyprus) Individual Swimming Championships were held at R.A.F. Nicosia on the evening of 22nd July, 1964. Despite local conditions the Regiment was well represented by a small band of fit and extremely keen swimmers. This fitness and keenness was soon apparent in the heats of the various events as each swimmer managed to claim a place in the final six.

In the 800 yards Corporal Chard was in a class of his own and finished winner in a new record time; he repeated his success in the 400 yards, again breaking the existing record. Corporal Roberts retained his own 200 yards title, bettering his own times of last year by three seconds. Corporal Ewart, Signalmen Webber, Docker, Petch and Corporal Kitson all swam extremely well but had to be content with final placings other than first. The standard of swimming augers well for the chances of the Regiment in the Inter Unit match on the 12th August, more of this next month.

Water Polo. G. W. E. writes: The Regimental Water Polo team has had a most satisfactory season, winning the Army (Cyprus) League and reaching the semi-final of the Army (Cyprus) Cup. In the Army Cup we were defeated 11 - 10 by R.A.S.C., a team we had beaten in the league, in what has been described in the local press as the most exciting match of the season. Top goal scorers during the season have been: Corporals Roberts 54, Ewart 50, Chard 17.

Continued at top of next column



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Tennis. J. McL. writes: The finals of the Unit Tennis Championships took place under the usual bright skies on 4th and 5th of August. From an organiser's point of view it is pleasant to be able to predict that it won't rain until December. Spectators who attended were rewarded with some excellent tennis, and Mrs. Fairman, wife of our Commanding Officer, presented the prizes at the end of each days play.

Results:

Men's Open Singles.—Winner: Major Maclean; Runner-up: Mr. Hicks.
Men's Open Doubles.—Winners: Mr. Hicks and Mr. Smith; Runners-up: Mr. Fullager and Mr. Wisher.
Men's Handicap Singles.—Winner: Major Maclean; Runner-up: Mr. Smith.
Ladies' Open Singles.—Winner: Mrs. O'Hara; Runner-up: Mrs. Wisher.
Mixed Doubles.—Winners: Mr. and Mrs. Wisher; Runners-up: Mrs. Maclean and Mrs. Fairman.

We regret that Arthur Hicks is leaving us shortly to return to U.K., and take the opportunity of thanking him for all that he has done to foster tennis and improve standards of play within the Regiment.

10th Regiment

On 1st June, 1964, after fourteen months of suspended animation, or as we prefer to call it "hibernation," the Berlin Bear "Bruno" awoke and commenced to re-vitalise himself on the following units:—

238 Signal Squadron (Army Department)
239 Signal Squadron (Eastern Command).
605 Signal Troop (London District).
624 Signal Troop (SWS).
625 Signal Troop (SWS).
626 Signal Troop (SWS).
600 Signal Troop (UKLF).

10th Regiment was re-forming. The new Regiment started to take shape under Major John Garlick until on 1st July Lieutenant-Colonel John Ellis arrived from 21 Signal Regiment. The other appointments at R.H.Q. are Adjutant Captain Tom Hipperson, Q.M. Captain J. F. McQuade, R.S.M. W.O.I A. A. J. Reed, O.R.Q.M.S. W.O.II A. L. Singer.

During the last two hectic months of moving offices, checking stores, etc., the Regiment has, of course, continued to provide all the communications originally provided by the independent units and includes, manning some thirty-four telephone exchanges and five communication centres, signal works services throughout Eastern Command, assistance to Cadet training and the Territorial Army, communications on State occasions in London District, Royal Signals recruiting in Eastern Command, and miscellaneous communications at officially sponsored shows, i.e. Tattoos, International Horse Shows, Royal Tournament, etc.

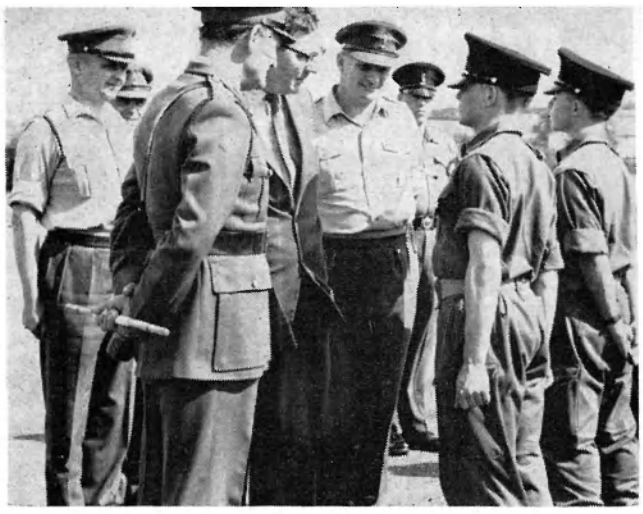
The postal strike gave Lieutenant-Colonel John Scott and his staff a real job and in some eleven working days they sorted and handled over 50,000 packages and his DR's covered an extra 10,000 miles. So much steam and enthusiasm was generated that the end of the strike was quite a disappointment.

The Warrant Officers and Sergeants, though not having a Mess of their own, are exceedingly active members of the Garrison Mess, and under the P.E.C. W.O.II Higgins, of the Regiment, organised a first-class Summer Ball on 24 July. The decorations were exceptional and their guests could not have been entertained better.

The Regiment congratulates Sergeant Yates on recently being awarded a Commendation by the A.O.C.-in-C. FARELF, for his excellent service in Christmas Island.

Eight of our D.R.s recently had a pleasant week-end at Brands Hatch for the British European Grand Prix organised by the R.A.C. Their task was to take part in a British Army Motorcade and to act as hosts in a Kape display.

The Regiment also entered two teams for the London District Motor Cycles trials who, encouraged and suitably refreshed by Major Ian McAnsh, put up a determined and spirited effort but unfortunately failed to get into the prize list.



Mr. Peter Kirk, M.P. accompanied by the Brigade Commander and Commanding Officer talking to recruits on Drill

11th REGIMENT (DEPOT)

Visit of Mr. Peter Kirk, M.P.—Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Defence for the Army, 30th July, 1964.

On 30th July we had a lightning visit by Mr. Peter Kirk, M.P., who was on a tour of Northern Command. He was conducted on a quick tour of Helles Barracks by the Brigade Commander, Brigadier A. C. Cox, O.B.E., and the Commanding Officer. He saw the current Assistant Instructors' Course in progress in the new Instructional Block and then watched recruits drilling on the Square. Mr. Peter Kirk may well have wondered if the troop was especially selected, at least sixty per cent of the recruits he spoke to had subjects in G.C.E.—It was not!

This has been another month of movement. The Regiment is now stretched right across Catterick with No. 3 Squadron firmly established in Bourlon Barracks which were vacated by the Duke of Wellington's Regiment earlier this year. The Weapon Training Staff continue to run their "outpost on the hill" in Kemmel Lines. No. 2 Squadron still occupy Baghdad Lines until such time that the "spiders" in Bourlon have been redecorated. When 2 Squadron move, Baghdad will be demolished having echoed to the studded boots of many thousands of Signalmen over the years. Many of the older soldiers of the Corps remark, when they pass through Baghdad from time to time on draft, on the times they spent there during their recruit days. The barber's shop that has been established in Baghdad for about thirty years will soon have to move as 8th Regiment who have replaced us in Vimy have their own barber and most of the hair cutting contracts for the other Regiments in Catterick are now taken up by N.A.A.F.I.

Our congratulations to Lieutenant R. A. C. Siderfin in reaching the finals of the Northern Command Tennis Singles Championships and to Major M. L. Willway and Lieutenant Siderfin in winning the Doubles. Unfortunately we are losing the "services" of Lieutenant Siderfin to the School, where he will be attending a "Q" Course. He is getting married shortly so perhaps his appearances on the tennis court may be somewhat restricted.

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Our Messing Officer, Lieutenant J. J. Bannister, A.C.C., is also making nesting noises. He is getting married in August and being an excellent cook himself one wonders whether his talent in this field will be allowed to lie fallow.

Despite the turmoil of movement there have been the usual fortnightly Pass Off Parade with the usual crop of Best Recruits.

Best Recruits



Signalman F. A. Robinson

Passing Off as Best Recruit on 4th July was Signalman Peter Albert Robinson, of 64, Orchard Croft, Harlow, Essex. He enlisted at Romford on 23rd April for training as Signal Technician. He enlisted because he considered that the Army would provide a good career for him and he liked the idea of the life. Prior to joining the Army he served with the St. John Ambulance Brigade, reaching the rank of Sergeant. In his spare time he enjoys pottering about on a scooter.



Signalman M. J. Grisdale

Signalman Michael John Grisdale, the Best Recruit on the 18th July Pass Off enlisted at Lincoln and joined the Regiment on 12th May. He gives as his reasons for enlisting, better prospects than in civvy street, learning a worthwhile trade, to travel and work with people of his own age. In the athletics field he shows particular prowess as a javelin thrower. Before joining the Army he was the Lincolnshire Schoolboy champion in 1960, and while he was with the Regiment here he represented us in the Northern Command Athletics Championships. He was a member of the Lincolnshire Association of Boys Clubs until he enlisted where he pursued his hobby of aircraft modelling. He goes forward for training as a Signal Technician.



Signalman A. King

The Best Recruit on the Pass Off parade held on 29th July was Signalman Alan King, of 43, Bicton Avenue, Ashton-under-Lyne. Before joining the Army he served as a private soldier for eight months with 9th Battalion The Manchester Regiment (T.A.) where he became a very good shot. He liked the life so much that he decided to become a Regular. He enlisted on the 9th June in Manchester. He is keen on rugby and basket ball in particular, though he enjoys most sports which take up much of his free time. He joined the Army for the security it offers and the chance of getting a worthwhile trade. He hopes to become a technician. He has a particular yen for service overseas.

18th REGIMENT, c/o G.P.O. SINGAPORE

Visit of the Minister of Defence (Army). Recently we were visited by the Rt. Hon. Mr. James Ramsden, P.C., M.P., Minister of Defence (Army). Many will probably recognise this appointment better under its old title of the Secretary of State for War.

The Minister's party for the visit was Lieutenant-Colonel J. H. Allason (Retired), O.B.E., M.P., Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Minister of Defence (Army), Mr. G. W. Wilson, Private Secretary to the Minister, and Major J. P. B. Haggatt, Grenadier Guards, Military Attache, also accompanying the party was the Commander Singapore Base Area, Brigadier R. F. B. Hensman, O.B.E. On arrival at Princess Mary Barracks at 4 p.m., Mr. Ramsden was greeted by the Commanding Officer of the 18th Regiment, Lieutenant-Colonel W. W. Cock.

A short discussion in the Commanding Officer's office was followed by a visit to the Junior Ranks Club to meet members of "C" Shift of 1 Squadron (Operating).

A brief word with 1 Squadron Commander, Captain J. A. Tonnison, Sigcen Troop Commander Lieutenant P. J. Brunton, and Exchange Troop Commander Lieutenant J. Tyler, W.R.A.C., and then Mr. Ramsden was introduced to Warrant Officer Class II (Y. of S. Q.M.S.) R. Ewens, the Duty Signal Officer of "C" Shift. Conducted by Yeoman Ewens the Minister was then invited to meet members of the shift, which was arranged in small groups, each representing a different department of the Signal Centre.

First to be presented was Sergeant Morrison, the Shift Superintendent, followed by Corporal O'Gorman and the staff of the Counter Room. From there to the Teleprinter room personnel, under the supervision of Corporal Middleton. Signalman Braithwaite was so excited about the whole affair that he twice managed to give the wrong answers to the right questions.

Mr. Ramsden next spoke to the operators who man the Radio Room, led by Corporal Othman, then to Corporal Benbow and the Signals Despatch Office. A word or two with Lance-Corporal Abbas and the operators of the Tanglin Telephone exchange, and finally to the Cipher Office, represented by Corporal Hancox and a comparative newcomer to cryptography Corporal Rayner.

During his visit Mr. Ramsden spoke to everyone individually, and by so doing met a cross section of all the trades which keep the wheels of the Sigcen turning. Of the 34 on parade, 20 were British Other Ranks, 5 Women's Royal Army Corps, and 9 Malayan Other Ranks. The various trades represented included Telegraph operators, Radio operators, Cipher operators, Exchange operators, Communication Centre operators, Drivers Royal Signals and Despatch Riders.



22nd REGIMENT, B.F.P.O. 16

Farewell Parade for Brigadier General Dr. H. Maultzsch, C.S.O. Northern Army Group

The outstanding event in the Regiment during July was the farewell parade and drive past in honour of Brigadier General Dr. H. Maultzsch, C.S.O. Northern Army Group. This took place on 9th July in Lippstadt when the Regiment was privileged to represent all Royal Signals Regiments of the 1 (British) Corps in giving this parade.

Almost inevitably the dawn brought rain and leaden skies; a depressing sight, and such was the feeling in the Regiment about "our parade" that every man became increasingly determined that no quantity of foul weather would be allowed to interfere. If need be the spectators could stand in the shelter of garages, but the parade would go on. Faced with such determination and spirit, Nature yielded.

It was at 1020 hours that the Guard of Honour accompanied by the Band of the 1st Battalion Royal Northumberland Fusiliers marched into their position opposite the Saluting Dais. At 1030 precisely the cars containing Brigadier General and Frau Maultzsch, C.C.R. Signals 1 (British) Corps, Brigadier M. S. Hancock, M.B.E., and Mrs. Hancock arrived in the unit lines where they were met by Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. Wythe and escorted to the parade ground. Brigadier General Maultzsch mounted the saluting dais, was given a General Salute and then, accompanied by the Guard Commander, Major J. A. King, inspected the Guard of Honour and the Band. It must be almost unheard of for an Inspecting Officer to be anything but complimentary about a Guard of Honour and General Maultzsch then moved to the Regimental Training Ground where the Regiment's radio vehicles and crews were drawn up in four Squadron Groups under the command of the Second-in-Command. It is our Regimental pride that our vehicles are always ready for battle; on this occasion they were equally



The Vehicle Inspection

Left to right: Brigadier General Dr. H. Maultzsch, Major J. L. Heard (OC 1 Squadron), Brigadier M. S. Hancock, M.B.E. (CCR Signals 1 Br Corps), Major A. J. Jackson (Second in Command), Lieutenant-Colonel A. R. Wythe (Commanding Officer) partly hidden, and R.S.M. P. W. H. Lafferty

ready for the most meticulous inspection, and General Maultzsch was clearly impressed. He spent some considerable time climbing into vehicles, and asked troop officers and detachment commanders many searching questions!

The inspection of vehicles over, the highlight of the Parade followed. Again Brigadier General Maultzsch mounted the saluting dais, and the Regiment drove past, with R.H.Q. and the Saracens of Recce Troop leading the four Squadron Groups. The drive past took place on a narrow road which permitted scarely a foot between the flanks of vehicles. A breath taking sight, and it seemed impossible that at least some of the vehicles could avoid brushing each other, but skill and training paid full dividends, and no vehicle was so much as scratched : a truly impressive performance.

As the last vehicle went by the Guard of Honour again emerged and, closely followed by the Band, marched past General Maultzsch to bring the parade to a triumphant end.

Apart from our own families and personal friends, the Regiment invited many official guests to the parade. In view of our strong connections with the town of Lippstadt (where the Regiment was formed on 1st December, 1959, and where it has been stationed ever since), such local dignitaries as the Burgermeister (Mayor), Stadt Direktor (Town Clerk), Ober Kreis Direktor (Clerk of the County Council), and Chief of Police were all invited. Again, since on this occasion we were representing all Royal Signals in 1 (British) Corps, the C.O.s of 1st, 2nd, 4th and 7th Regiments were also invited to attend, and their Regimental flags were flying on the parade ground.

30th Regiment

Blandford Rebuilding

Blandford Camp with its somewhat dismal face of dilapidated and unused buildings is now undergoing its long awaited face lift. In its place, is the roar of bulldozers and clouds of dust as yet another building is laid to rest. Already the foundations of the first building of the School is now apparent and members of the Blandford Project Staff who in the past have confined their efforts to drawing board and files, can now view with pride the materialisation of their efforts. (*See page 340.*)

On the 23rd July, Major J. H. W. Roake, Captain (1.O.T.) J. Potts, Captain (T.O.T.) Reece and Captain (T.O.T.) Miles were dined out. The former two are retiring to civilian life having served 37 years and 25 years respectively. We wish them all the best in their new environment. To Captains Reece and Miles, who are moving to Signals Research and Development Establishment and 7th Regiment respectively, we wish the best of luck in their new units.

Radio Show, Earls Court

This unit has been charged with the responsibility of presenting the Army Stand at the Thirtieth National Radio and Television Exhibition on behalf of the Corps. A variety of equipment in use today will be shown and demonstrated and a special feature will be a series of colour (slide) screens depicting Royal Signals at work and play in various parts of the world. A further highlight will be Signal Magnetron, a man-size six-foot Electronic Robot. Magnetron with no wires or string attached will answer the questions of visitors to the stand who, we hope, will avail themselves of this mine of information. Visitors who have members of their families serving overseas will be invited to use the Free Message Service available in the Communications Centre.

The above Exhibition is being held in Earls Court during the period 26th August–5th September, 1964. This stand has in fact proved a great success and aroused much public interest. It is hoped to publish further details in the October WIRE.—Editor.

3 Squadron returned to B.A.O.R. in July, and took part in Exercise "New Harpoon." A jammer, a VHF aerial system and a modulator, all built by the Squadron, were used with success. Several Special Operators were with us for the first time, and the Squadron is beginning to change over to its proper EW role.

Captain E. F. J. Bartlett and Lieutenant (T.O.T.) R. W. V. Hutley have joined and left since our last notes, both would be welcome back !

S.Q.M.S. Evans has left us for the Territorial Army, and S.S.M. Charlton to be R.Q.M.S. We welcome S.Q.M.S. Chiveton, who is valiantly coping with both jobs.

Our long promised new equipment is beginning to arrive, and the Autumn will be a busy training season for us all.

Blandford (640 Troop)

Whilst the majority of the Troop are overseas, the few of us left in Blandford have had a rather busy time. During June we sent detachments down to Devon to provide control communications for a GLO exercise, with Sergeant Moat in command. The Foreman of Signals has spent the whole month of June shooting, starting with the Southern Command Meeting, then the Corps meeting and finally the Army Meeting at Bisley. The Troop gained honours at the Regimental Shoot by winning the SMG Team Trophy.

Between 21st June and 4th July the whole of the troop moved down to the beach at Poole in Dorset, where we set up a camp to provide communications and assistance for the Olympic Sailing Trials. In this we were assisted by members of 3 Headquarter and Signal Regiment, and the Training Brigade at Catterick. On the final day a barbecue on the beach put the finishing touches to a very enjoyable two weeks.

Recent arrivals include Lieutenant A. W. de V. Hunt, who takes over as Second-in-Command, Sergeant Lynch and Corporal Springer. We wish them an interesting stay.

Sarawak (535 Troop)

Since arriving in our present location at Sibu in Sarawak we have established ourselves as rear link for 1st Battalion Royal Ulster Rifles on the Brigade Command net. The initial difficulties of working to Ghurka Signals were soon overcome (their morse speeds were faster than ours) and we are now running smoothly.

Life in Sibu town is pretty hum-drum, and the proverbial "all work and no play" make it pretty tough going. Living conditions are rather primitive and most of us are suffering from some sort of skin disease. Signalman Dickinson is in a bad way with ringworm in the feet and legs, and the rest have a rash of some form or other. However, apart from the usual soldiers' moans, everyone is reasonably happy. In fact, the quote of the year from Lance-Corporal Napper, our Editor, "I like it here and wish I could stay" seems to bear out the travel posters promises about the "sun soaked Orient."

Cyprus (537 Troop)

The past month or so has been rather hectic for members of the Troop, as we have been involved in getting 537 Troop on a permanent footing with 3rd Green Jackets. After three months in the field there has been rather a lot of work to catch up on, particularly in the Battery Charging department. At one stage it was considered "bad form" to be seen without a paint brush or a piece of oily rag in your hand, but this is now past and the results are beginning to show. In the Technical Maintenance and repair sphere our Radio Technician, Lance-Corporal Paice, has been working steadily at the battalion equipment, and no-one seems to be alarmed at the prospect of the impending Telecommunications Inspection.

In the near future, permanent replacements for us are to be posted in by Records, and we shall be returning to our parent

Founder members of 537 Troop





538 Troop—Cyprus

unit, 640 Troop at Blandford. As this will be our last appearance in THE WIRE under the 640 Troop heading, we hope the editor will find space to publish a photograph of the founder members of 537 Signal Troop. (*See page 350.*)

Cyprus (538 Troop)

To our readers who know Cyprus, due to the Cypriots' action of destroying the water pumping station at Dhekelia, this troop were turned out on Saturday, 30th May, to mount guard on the pumping station at Akrotiri. After arms and ammunition had been drawn the troop looked like a walking arsenal with gas grenades and bandoliers of ammunition all over the place. Nothing happened and the troop was stood down at 0600 hours on the 31st.

Due to being "Confined" to the SBA, as it were, we have little opportunity for exercises at present, although with luck three members of the troop will be on DS for a "Regimental Signallers" classification cadre exercise, which we hope will be island wide and covering a period of four days. But more of this next time.

On the 28th of May, 1st Glosters had their annual Rawson Cup Competition. This consists of a nine-mile forced march, followed immediately by a rapid shoot from 300m. Four members of this troop took part to make up numbers of the Signal Platoon Team. They put up a really good show, all coming in the first half-dozen or so. This year the march was cross-country and a time of two hours was the deadline. Much to the surprise of the Glosters three members of the Royal Signals came in in one hour fifty-nine minutes. A good effort indeed considering the difference in training between Royal Signals and the Infantry, who expected us to lag behind them.

The Wire visits Royal Signals in Borneo

WHEREVER the British Army is busy the Corps is fully involved. Communications have become increasingly vital for the skilful deployment of limited resources; also for close control from "higher up" even more necessary these days where operations and political repercussions go hand in hand. Finally, there is the sensible swing towards the integration of the conununication effort of all three services.

This survey of the Borneo scene illustrates how much the Corps is committed in this operational area.

Recent issues of THE WIRE show that once again the Army and thus the Corps is on active service worldwide. We have read with interest the admiration of the doings of our fellows in Cyprus, British Guiana, the Yemen and in East Africa. This short article is written to describe what the Corps is doing in Borneo, that large island some 400 miles east of Singapore in the South China Sea.

How it started

Borneo is in fact a slightly misleading name, for since September, 1963, North Borneo has been called Sabah and together with the State of Sarawak has become part of the

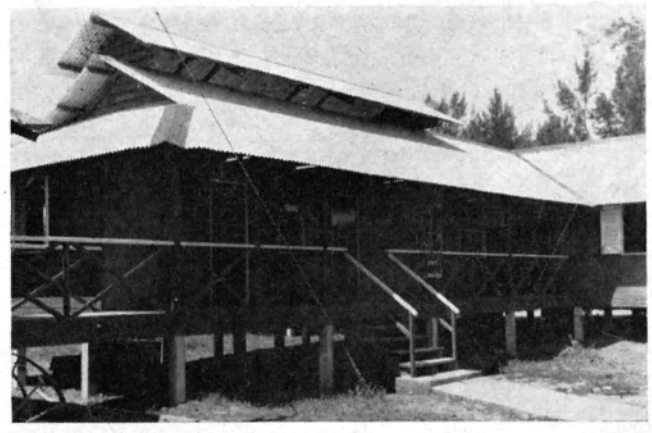


Signalling is very 'Joint' in Borneo

Federation of Malaysia. The idea of Malaysia was first propounded in 1961 and although welcomed by most Asian countries, and by the peoples of Sabah and Sarawak, has been opposed by the Philippines, who have a claim on Sabah, and more violently by Indonesia. Indeed Indonesia, which shares a 900-mile frontier with Sabah and Sarawak, has become increasingly hostile and covets both States and Malaya itself. This hostility has since September, 1963, included armed incursions by "volunteers" over the border. With the failure of the recent talks in Tokyo, Indonesia's confrontation of Malaysia has reverted once more to force. This aggression may well become more severe and will certainly continue for the foreseeable future. Malayan and Commonwealth troops were first in action in the area in December, 1962, at the time of the Brunei revolt and the build-up has continued in the face of Indonesia's confrontation policy. Today there are men of all three Services serving together here, including men from Malaysia, Australia and Britain and, of course, the Gurkhas.

The Corps Contribution

The story of the Brigade Squadrons from Gurkha Signals and the Federation Signals is not for telling here. Suffice to say that their responsibilities are widespread and cover all aspects of communications, including Joint Communications Centres, and all have Royal Signals and Royal Navy working with them and close dealings with the Royal Air Force. The Royal Signals' contribution to the forces in Borneo has grown steadily since January, 1963, and has been provided both from within FARELF and from U.K. and B.A.O.R. The two units mainly concerned have been 249 Squadron (FARELF) and 606 Troop (Borneo), which was specially formed in U.K. last year and has now relieved 249 Squadron and become the Force Signal Unit. **In the long process of building up**



Part of the Joint Comcentre

communications here, in a country where the Force H.Q. is 400 miles from its Brigades and 750 miles from its Main Base, the contribution by the whole Corps in FARELF has been immense. Almost every unit has sent men at one time or another, and men from 18 and 19 Regiments are still serving here. 249 Squadron have been in the thick of it from the beginning, culminating in setting up of the communications on the island of Labuan for the Joint Headquarters. 606 Troop, who have been in Brunei since September, 1963, have now moved across the water and taken over from 249 Squadron and, at last, come into its own. It is right that we should record here our thanks to Major Donne and his Squadron for preparing the way so well, and indeed to all those who came across the sea to help, names too numerous to mention, but not forgetting those who planned it all, from C.A F.S.O. and the Joint Signal Board downwards.

A Very Joint Affair

606 Troop is very much a Joint Signal Unit, we like to think the first of its kind on active service, and has a strength from all three Services of about 200 all ranks. Thus we have mixed shifts, with say a D.S.O. from the Royal Navy and Superintendents from the Army and the R.A.F., with a similar mixture throughout. Our Joint Communication Centre indeed is run by Flight-Lieutenant Taggersall, R.A.F., who is as Joint as they come! So too are our equipments, part R.A.F., part Army and the technicians who look after them. We will not deny we have our teething troubles; there is always much to learn about each other, but we all have one thing in common, we are all communicators. Major Charles Lewis has command of this mixed bag, and will no doubt tell his own story one day. From Brunei, his Troop brought many memories; of dogs by the score (the soldier's friend?), some of whom seem to have made the journey across the sea to here; of the day the teleprinter paper looked like running out and stern measures were contemplated to find an alternative source of paper rolls; of a Foreman of Signals who took to accompanying a D11 on the clarinet, and many more. A sense of humour still remains an essential part of every communicator's make-up. Without it the hot days on shift, the things that bite at night, and the many frustrations and discomforts would get us down.

However, they do not, and Royal Signals in Borneo, and their Navy and Air Force companions are in good heart. Our radio circuits work, most of the time, and the tapes in our Joint Tape Relay Centre spread their white streamers in an unceasing stream—our latest score is just over 2,000 messages a day—and we are expecting it to increase!

Records does its bit

One final mention must be made and that is of our first Commander Royal Signals, Lieutenant-Colonel T. Cunningham-Burley, who has borne the brunt of events for the past six months and is now on his way back to U.K. He has been succeeded by Lieutenant-Colonel P. A. M. Tighe, M.B.E., who is still trying on the several hats he is expected to wear. To ease the change-over, Officer-in-Charge Records has also posted in CR Signals driver—his name? Why, Signalman Tighe! We hope identities do not get too confused.

606 TROOP (BORNEO)

THE WIRE has already given some of the background story of the Corps in Borneo, and so 606 itself now feels the urge to speak. We do not propose to repeat the reasons for our being here, but in this article anyway, to write of the unit and some of its personalities. **Suffice it to say that last September we had an Army strength of two Officers and some 70 men, and now we are five Officers and 130 men. The Navy and Air Force bring us up to a total of six Officers and 230 men. We do not think many Troops surely can match this sort of performance.**

Communication Problems and their Solution

From September, 1963, to May, 1964, the Troop was, of course, in Brunei, but by April, 1964, stood poised ready to cross the water and to prepare for the build-up of the Joint Headquarters in Labuan. The actual move began on the 16th May, 1964. By 21st May 606 Troop, less rear party, was in Labuan with virtually no break in communications. The move entailed a change of country—Brunei to Sabah—and a change of operating procedures. From direct FSK links using end fed and dipole aerials we have changed to a Tape Relay Centre and teleprinter room working with equipments using rhombic, quadrant and log periodic aerials. Radio Relay (C41) with VF equipments is used to provide another of our links. All circuits are backed up by C11 CW circuits working over ranges of 35-800 miles.

With the climate, three shift working, indigenous pests in the form of mosquitos and sandfly, and "Gremlins," communicating in Borneo is a challenging yet satisfying job. The answer as to whether it is worth while is in the rapidly growing list of Troop members who are extending their tours to 2½ years—leading the way is W.O.II (R.Q.M.S.) R. Steadman. To those of you serving in softer climes and who consider yourself tough, we issue a challenge: Volunteer for service in 606 and prove you are!

Jungle Life

Blueberry Hill, to 606, is not just a popular song, it is an isolated peak miles from anywhere in the Ulu (jungle). Sitting on the peak is a C41 relay vehicle with a crew of five. They are jungle bound for six weeks. Typical of the "Tommy," a shower, with water and drainage by local stream, and a fridge have appeared, furniture is of the latest bamboo design and a garden is under way. The barter value of Army rice and compo rations is high with the local population.

One lesson learnt by two members of 249 Squadron attached to 606 Troop is: When in the jungle do not let the Gurkhas out of sight; these two did and were two days and two nights finding their way back.

W.O.II A. C. Lloyd, our Squadron Sergeant-Major, is finding it hard to keep pace with the dhobiing of his OG slacks. For four days he reported properly dressed at the airport for onward transmission to Kuching, on the fourth day he finally made it.

The Troop celebrated the birthday of the foundation of the Royal Corps of Signals in grand style. On the eve of our birthday we ran two stalls at the Labuan Red Cross fete and provided a beat quartet called the "Black Cats," complete with singer at the Red Cross dance in the evening. Sunday provided a morning of rest, unfortunately the Padre was away, followed by a Troop beach party, where the stalls were brought into use again. In the evening the Royal Signals Officers entertained the Officers of the Joint Headquarters to pre-dinner drinks.

Home Built TRC, JCC Labuan (606 Troop)



BLUEBERRY HILL C41 RELAY DET (606 TROOP)

Brigadier Blaker, Corporal Willby (RR Tech), Lance-Corporal Pollock (RR Man), Signalman Donnelly (Elec. Dvr.), Corporal Shah (Det Comd) (RR Man)



EXERCISE "SCOTFREE ONE"

or . . .

384 miles by Canoe in ten days and ten minutes

By W.O.1 (R.S.M.) C. W. Palmer

HERE is one of the best stories "The Wire" has published for many a day.

It is not often that an R.S.M. and a Signalman, together paddle a canoe for nearly four hundred miles over a period of ten days.

They were two of a splendid party of eight—"five in their teens, one nearly forty and two who were a 'pair of reprobates,'" who set out on this tough and adventurous journey, so amusingly described in this article.

It is a pleasure to see the old and bold and the younger members of the Royal Corps combining together on such a worthwhile undertaking.



At left is R.S.M. Palmer with Signalman Wooller leading off in his canoe



Staff Sergeant Walton and Signalman Phillips in their canoe, followed by Signalman Allison and Signalman Maddison

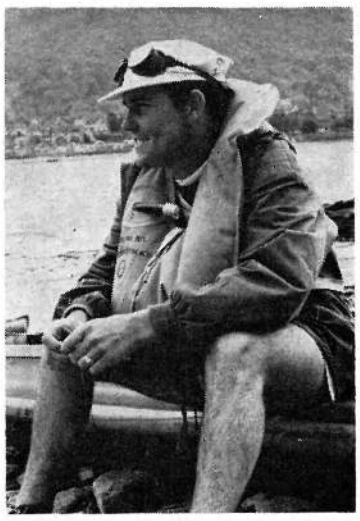
We Break Through the Language Barrier

On Friday, 26th June, 1964, a party of eight members of 13th Regiment were deposited on Dusseldorf railway station, loaded down with compo and a very small quantity of clean clothing. We were off to Basle, in Switzerland, with the intention of canoeing back to Krefeld, a distance of something between four and five-hundred miles—we really didn't care—one figure was as horrifying as the next!

At five-minute intervals we entrained for Amsterdam, Bloodyvostock and Moscow—in that order—and on each occasion entered into a slanging match with sleeping car attendants in basic German and even more basic English! We finally managed to get on to the right train and find our sleepers. The Italian Couchette Keeper showed his pernicious, warm-blooded nature by "flying off the handle" at the sight of our "hand baggage," which brought all movement in his tiny world to a halt. Eight hours and five-hundred "Mama-Miah's" later, we detrained at Basle, and our administrator of beds bid us farewell with the well-known "V" sign; this was taken in good faith by all members of the party, even though the charming gentleman moved his hand in a vertical sweeping movement when wishing us success in our efforts. From the platform we staggered off to the station exit, where we were given an ultimatum—passports or jail. Frontier passes and identity cards were of no use, gift vouchers from a well-known brand of cigarettes had little influence, and we found ourselves placed in the care of a large gendarme who covered his lack of English by unbuttoning his pistol holster. Our friend in the customs department left with our AFB 2603s, to return half-an-hour later and demand our identity cards. Smugly, we pointed to them in his hand; he carefully checked the photographs and then allowed us to depart.

Before leaving the Regiment, the crews of the canoes had been selected. R.S.M. Palmer and Signalman Wooller became canoe companions; Staff Sergeant Walton and Signalman

Phillips were paired together; Sergeant Grey and Signalman Bird cut a dash together, and the fourth canoe was to be propelled by Signalman Allison and Signalman Maddison. Only a small quantity of rations were carried, the plan being to live off our ration allowance with each canoe victualling for itself, and as the trip progressed, this was found to be an excellent arrangement. Sergeant Grey and Signalman Bird developed into a couple of gourmets, and the R.S.M. and his little partner fell into the type of eating habits reserved for the most exclusive residents of those institutions so well described by Mr. Charles Dickens in "Oliver Twist." The only pre-planning that had been made for the journey had been to divide up the daily distance into 30-mile stints.



Signalman Phillips

Portages, Locks, and Some 'Vin'

The morning of the 27th June was spent in erecting the canoes and taking a look around the town. The journey itself started at lunch time, and we set off in fine spirits down the river from Rheinfelden and through the city of Basle. On the way we were able to wish all the young ladies a very merry *bonjour*, etc. Five miles below Basle the difficulties started, and we discovered that during the night the fiendish French had constructed a vast set-up of hydro-electric dams, the river had been completely drained and the water fed down a canal which ran through France. As a result of this, portages of a mile each were made on three occasions that afternoon. Nightfall found us about twenty miles from Basle and ten miles behind schedule. Cursing our outdated maps, we bivvied near a small village, where we dined on vin rouge and vin blanc. Our camp site was at the foot of a 20ft. bank, and Signalman Wooller gave us an excellent demonstration of the value of the circuit training he had carried out before the exercise, by covering the whole 20 feet in one short, sharp pace of 30 inches—our first casualty!

At seven o'clock on Sunday, we set off in the hope that we would be abe to complete the planned distance and also be able to make up the miles we had lost the previous day. By ten o'clock we had reached Geisswasser, where we breakfasted on snails and petit de fois gras, or words to that effect. At 11.30 we moved off, and ten minutes later we were confronted with yet another portage. We vowed that this would be the last. The next lock appeared at four o'clock, and it was the largest of the lot. A Sunday afternoon crowd of French people helped us to persuade the lock keeper to give us a free ride down, the water level dropped about a hundred feet and the actual lock when closed was almost two hundred yards long. We entered to cries of "Vive Les Twisted Anglais." Within seconds we started to think that portages after all weren't so bad, the water dropped at about thirty feet a minute, and when we stopped going down it occurred to us that we had gone too far down and that when the gates were opened we would be swept back against the top pair of lock gates—joy all around when we floated out at the right level! Bon jours all round and we were on our way! At 8 o'clock that evening we reached the village of Shoenan. We discovered that the river was only about a mile away and, after a quick recce, did a portage to its bank. Before going to sleep we waded across the Rhine and didn't get wet above the knees. That night we were devoured by mosquitoes and they made such a nuisance of themselves that we left the area at 4 o'clock on Monday morning.

We Settle Into a Routine

Our third day out was to see us really underway, with a routine that we were to adopt for the rest of our time on the river. In spite of the shallowness of the water it was moving fairly fast, the river had dropped twenty or thirty feet in the first few miles, and we had some fun in a one mile stretch of reasonable "white" water. The canoes manned by the experts were beached and had to be lifted through the shallows, although Maddison and Allison managed to use the fast water and were able to take a twenty minutes rest while the remainder of the party caught them up. By 10 o'clock we had reached Rhinau, where the canal joined the river and we hit the fastest stretch of river in the whole trip. The duty housewives for the day went shopping in Rhinau village and we took our breakfast on the river bank. We stayed there for about ninety minutes and set out determined to catch up on our last mileage. Twenty minutes after starting, Staff Sergeant Walton's canoe was holed. Repairs were carried out amidst much abuse from the R.S.M., and nasty remarks about amateurs from Sergeant Grey. This didn't go down too well with Staff Walton, who managed to repair his canoe and get waterborne within ten minutes. Then came the R.S.M.'s turn to look a little sheepish, as his canoe was beached on an outcrop of rock and his paddle was torn from his grasp. Staff Walton's day was really made when Sergeant Grey also got into difficulties when trying to help the R.S.M. These three incidents may make it appear that our party had been badly selected, but this was not the case. The Rhine in this area was still fairly narrow and very fast, and there was a great deal of barge traffic which moved from side to side to make use of the deep water channel. It was not considered necessary for the canoeist to do this, and a passing barge had the effect of drawing the water towards it and then throwing it back against the bank. The drawing back of the water exposed rocks that could not be seen until the river became turbulent and even faster as a result of the barge wash. From the second mishap onwards we weaved from side to side with the remainder of the river traffic.

The river was now really moving, and when we reached Strasbourg at 2.30 p.m. we had covered twenty-five miles in about two hours of fairly easy canoeing. It was raining, we had high hopes of catching up on our time lag, and it was decided to take a half day. We bivvied three miles below Kehl on the German side of the river, and after a quick clean up we left Signalman Maddison in charge of the camp and set out for the lights of Strasbourg. This proved to be almost ten miles away from the bivvy area. The nautical term "Just around the bend" kept the foot sore soldiery moving and we finally managed to get to our French meal of "steak, egg and chips." A couple of beers and a quick visit to the cathedral and we started our trek back, the whole party being in bed and asleep by 9 o'clock.

The R.S.M. Does Billet Orderly

On Tuesday, 30th June, we all rose at six, struck camp and moved off at 7 o'clock. We were now working to a routine, and using the kilometer markings on the river bank, we canoed twenty "Ks" before breakfast, stopped for an hour, completed another forty Ks, had lunch and two hours rest, and then tackled twenty kilometres plus before stopping for the night. This system brought us to Karlsruhr by 6.30. R.S.M. Palmer was the billet orderly, so we picked a camp site miles from anywhere, such is the power of command! We were visited by the river police, who said that at 9 o'clock the following day a patrol boat would arrive to escort us through the docks at Karlsruhr. We were interested to hear that our progress had been reported since our departure from Basle.



W.O.I (R.S.M.) C. W. Palmer

An Unfortunate Episode with a Sewer Pipe

Wednesday at nine and our escort arrived. We were off at a rate of knots and by 12 noon we were forty-three kilometres further on at Speyer. The main event of the morning had been the christening of Staff Sergeant Walton and Signalman Phillips under the mouth of a pressurised sewer pipe; this had exploded its contents over the lucky winners' heads. They were ordered to take up positions twenty yards down wind of the remainder of the party. Everyone found Speyer interesting, Staffy liked the local brew, the gigolos the local girls and the intellectuals the fact that one of the Kaisers had been buried there—his shrine was as large as St. Paul's! We left at 3 o'clock and by 5.30 had reached Ludwigshafen-Amrhein. Here we were met by another patrol boat which guided us to the canoe club at Neckarau. This was a well named place, as during the evening the bivvy area was surrounded with sighing and whispering courting couples. The Germans must be a hardy race because the area was plagued with mosquitoes. We visited the club house where several beers were consumed and we were then given a guided tour around the canoe sheds. The club owned an eight-seater Canadian canoe that had covered the journey from Basel to Neckarau in under two days manned by 12-year-old children—this somewhat shattered our ego!

We had been ordered to pick up an escort at 8 o'clock in the morning to see us through Mannheim. This hadn't arrived by 8.30 so we set off without it. Our minds were now made up that we would complete the journey to Krefeld in ten days, and this could only be done by canoeing for eight hours a day and the first two hours always came before breakfast. After moving down the river for ten minutes we met the escort boat and he saw us through Mannheim—this time we kept well away from sewer pipes! Lunch was taken at Rhein Durkheim in the heat of the afternoon, and from four until six we canoed to Oppenheim for our night stop. The country was now getting a little more interesting! Oppenheim was very similar to a Cornish fishing village with sour Kraut. Admittedly the local girls didn't greet us with a pasty and "Hello me Luvers," although they did say "Come on baby, buy me a drink," our American comrades having evidently taken them under their wings. For some strange reason a couple of the local ladies took a fancy to our juvenile delinquent Signalman Wooller and for the next few days we were bored stiff with his moans that one of them would have proposed to him had she been given another ten minutes!

In the Centre of the Tourist Industry

The next day we went shopping in Oppenheim. We telephoned the Regiment, and arrangements were made for Major Painter, the Second-in-Command, to join us at a point between Boppard and Koblenz. All administration carried out, we left at 11 o'clock and canoed throughout the heat of the afternoon and early evening until we reached Rudesheim. It was decided to wait until early the next morning before the passage through the mountains was made to Boppard. We had heard about the Lorelie and were not sure exactly how dangerous the waters in the gorge might be. With this thought in mind we landed on the promenade at Rudesheim fully intending to buy food and collect water and then paddle across to an island in the centre of the river. This in fact did not happen. Unbeknown to us, Rudesheim was the centre of the Rhine tourist industry, and the town was full of English people on coach trips and also a number of Americans who had started getting warmed up for the biggest national holiday of them all next day—the fourth of July. In one wine cellar there were a large number of coloured couples clad in Bermuda shorts, a sensuous article of clothing which hangs down below the knees. We finally collected our water at midnight and returned to the canoes. Throughout the evening the billet orderly had been able to hear the festivities in the town, and had not taken very kindly to being left out. It was now too dark to venture on the river, the canoes were placed into position to form a wind break and the party crawled into its sleeping bags. We were awakened at two in the morning by a rather happy American who wanted to hire a canoe. Signalman Allison strained Anglo-American relationships to the maximum before he was able to send the chap on his way to try and get hold of a paddle-steamer!

Sundry Visitors

We were dismayed, at 4 o'clock in the morning, when we prepared to set off to see that the river was very busy. We set off cautiously and within minutes hit bad water below Bingen. We stopped in the rain at Bacharach and then moved off to meet the Second-in-Command, who hailed us from the bank just below Boppard. With him there was a television cameraman and Mrs. R.S.M. The TV man briefed us, and we were required to get back into the water and smile. A film was taken of us on the move and we were then required to pose for pictures of various activities normally undertaken when we bivvied up. The Mrs. Beaton of the team cooked a meal and two others repaired an undamaged canoe! We then moved down the river a couple of kilometres to Neiderspay, where three of the party fell in love with a pretty waitress in the cafe where we had our lunch. The R.S.M. received three fresh stiletto heel wounds from Mrs. "Tara," who objected to his open admiration of the local talent. First aid carried out we moved on to Koblenz and arrived at 7 o'clock. We went ashore in the grounds of the local municipal swimming pool, where some of the local civilians tried to move us on, but being British and soldiers to boot we told them to fall out. They then made a phone call to the police, who promptly told them that they were aware of our presence, and we could stay where we were. From our camp site we were able to watch an opera which was taking place on a floating stage in a tributary of the river. It sounded very good although our ignorant band was unable to identify what it was. During the night a number of our rations were eaten by rats, so maybe the people who had tried to move us on had the last laugh after all.

We Stagger On

Sunday, the 5th July, dawned, and we moved off at 7 o'clock. Our twenty kilometres were behind us when we reached Brohl for breakfast; this over we proceeded to Remagen, where most of the crews crossed the river for lunch. Only German food was available, and we didn't have a clue what we were ordering. As a result the Alsatian dog attached to the pub had its biggest meal in months. The final twenty-five kilometres of the day took us just below Bonn, and the bivvy area we chose was excellent although it later proved to be about ten miles from anywhere. However we still had sufficient energy to make our way in for a couple of pints. All members of the party were getting very tired by this time. Staff Sergeant Walton and Signalman Phillips were both suffering from bad burns, the former having mistaken his foot for a one pint mug which he tried to fill with boiling water. He was crippled and found it very painful to walk for just a few yards. Signalman Phillips had very bad sunburn on the upper arms, which had turned septic and was giving him a considerable amount of pain. He is to be admired for sticking at the daily drudgery of continually moving his arms about while canoeing. These were the two worst cases. Signalman Wooller had also turned septic and "Snakey" Grey had started to lose his skin. Everyone had large raw patches of flesh on their hands and other more sensitive parts of their body as a result of sitting down all day long.

The End

Monday, the 6th July, was to be our last full day on the river. We set off at seven in the morning and twelve hours and seventy kilometres later found ourselves ashore on private ground owned by the Dusseldorf Water Works. Our ignorance of German excused us from understanding what all the notices were about, and when the "powers that be" arrived on Tuesday morning it was too late, so with loads of "nix ferstains" we were on our way on the last forty kilometres to Krefeld. We arrived at ten minutes past twelve, ten minutes after the ETA we had planned on the third day out.

It is no great feat to paddle a canoe forty miles in a day, but to keep it up for ten days requires a certain amount of will power and self-discipline. Five members of our party were in their teens, one was almost forty years of age, and the other two were a pair of reprobates. In spite of this at no time were tempers strained and there was no need to enforce military type discipline. We may not have been the prettiest picture on the river, but without a doubt we were the happiest.

"The Wire" is written by the Corps . . . .

. . . . for the Corps

Support "The Wire" and you Support the Corps.

A Jungle Trek in British Guiana

By Corporal A. S. Griffiths, 607 Troop

A SHORT while ago the Troop was invited to send a party to the manganese mines at Matthew's Ridge to take part in a jungle trek. Having heard of the delights of Matthew's Ridge from members of the Troop who had been stationed there, I put my name in for consideration. I was fortunate to be selected as one of the party. Two weeks later I accompanied Lance-Corporals Crook and Eastland, and Signalman Simpson of the Troop, and Corporal Skinner of The Queen's Own Buffs on the 260-mile journey to the ridge.

On our arrival at Matthew's Ridge we were met by Mr. Wilson, who is the manager at the mines, and Corporal Webster, a member of our Troop who is on detachment there. The local people in the area were very excited by our arrival, as we were the largest number of soldiers to visit the area. They showed particular interest in our S.L.R.s, and later we were able to fire against the police in a match.

The next morning we were taken by Land Rover to a nearby village, where we were introduced to the Amerindians who were going to be our guides. They were named Mendosa and Jubai. The Amerindians are the indigenous people of British Guiana and are well versed in the ways of the jungle. As its name implies, Matthew's Ridge is a hill, and the area around it is like a switchback. As this was our first day, our guides gave us many useful tips about life in the jungle. Our next lesson was on the art of tracking, and when we started to practice this lesson, Lance-Corporal Eastland decided it was quicker to toboggan down the hillside on his back. Unfortunately, the method was too quick, and in an effort to stop himself, he caught hold of a tree covered with thorns about four inches long. The tree stopped him, but he got up looking like a porcupine. Lance-Corporal Crook was the next to decide there were quicker ways of going down hill than the ones our guides taught us. Forewarned by Eastland's act, he caught hold of a creeper. This was attached to a tree on the other side of a creek, and to our delight he did a beautiful "Tarzan" act across the creek, losing his camera in the process. Our guides were helpless with laughter and so were we. The only other incident of note on this day was when I shot a snake.

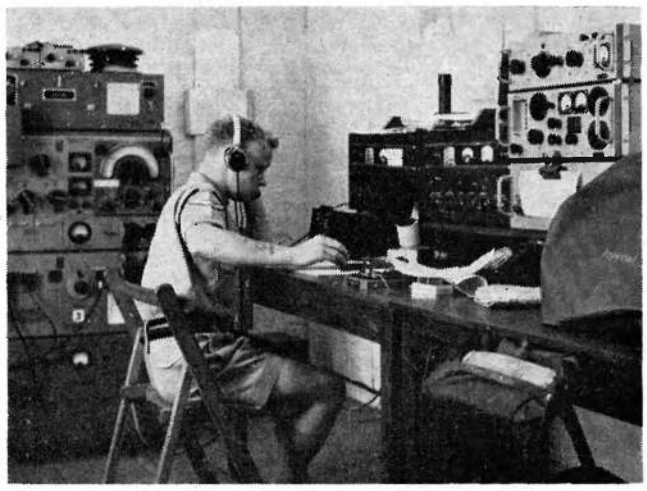
On the second day at the ridge we started our long trek, which was going to last for three days. We met our guides at their village. Mendosa and Jubai had been joined by a third man called Adam. At first the going was good, as we followed an old hunting track. When this finished we made slower progress and were soon drenched in sweat. We were very pleased when we reached the creek where we were going to stay for the night. Our first task was to build a 'long house' roofed with palm leaves. After this task, Crook and Simpson went on a hunting expedition with our guides Mendosa and Jubai, whilst the remainder of us prepared a meal. They returned with a rodent called "labba," which tastes like pork when it is cooked.

The next day Corporal Skinner and Lance-Corporal Crook went further into the jungle with Mendosa and Jubai. Unfortunately, I had trouble with my feet and had to remain behind with Simpson, who was working a radio back to the mines and Georgetown. Adam thought the operation of a pedal generator was easy until Simpson started to transmit, then he said he preferred tracking to pedalling. The trekkers returned in the evening, having spent most of their time cutting their way through the jungle and crawling on hands and knees.

When we returned to the mines we were invited to have a meal with Mr. Wilson and his wife. He collected us in his car and took us to his home, which is like a castle in the clouds. The meal was a fantastic curry, chicken and rice and many other dishes—I lost count at 37.

On our last morning the police and the security guards took us to a makeshift range, where we allowed them to fire our weapons. They were most impressed with our S.L.R.s and would have liked to have kept them.

During our stay the staff at the mines was most hospitable, and this pleasant interlude in our work was over too soon. Although it was a working holiday, I thoroughly enjoyed it, as did everyone else. We were very sorry to have to return to Georgetown.



Lance-Corporal Osprey at work on the Military Inter Command Net
The above picture appears to have little relevance to the preceding article. Suffice that both depict aspects of life in 607 Troop in British Guiana; yet another of the far away places, where the Corps works and sometimes plays.

205 SQUADRON, TIDWORTH

The Squadron has now returned, with H.Q., 5 Brigade, to serve the Strategic Reserve at Tidworth. I trust that this is noted, as some units still think, after our being here since April, that we are still in Germany.

The Move Back and Farewells. The move back from B.A.O.R. rather resembled the Retreat from Moscow; although we have only been formed as an independent squadron since 1960, a Royal Signals unit has always been attached to H.Q., 5 Brigade, which has spent the last 17 years in Iserlohn. After 17 years, skeletons do manage to accumulate. On the move, we managed to leave behind, among other less important things—one Quartermaster, one minibus and a few heartbroken Germans.

Before our leaving, the town of Iserlohn bade us and the Brigade Headquarters farewell by giving us, as they said, "an English type cocktail party." This event was televised on the German National Network. The Brigadier read a speech in German and the Burgermeister one in English, so honours were even. The Squadron and Brigade, in return, beat "Retreat" at the local sports stadium. By this time, however, most of the men had returned to U.K. on two weeks' block leave, so the brunt of this was borne by the Battalions under command.

Settling Down. After the first excitement of arriving back in the U.K., the Squadron has now settled down; this largely being due to the sterling efforts of the advance party, led by Captain Campbell. They arrived at the end of March and drew up all the stores and readied the barracks for our arrival in April. During this short period the advance party did rather well, especially those four who found Land Rovers do not shunt well when travelling on the main roads of England. Apart from that incident, traffic accidents were negligible, which showed that the change-over from left to right hand drive was not as difficult as first thought.

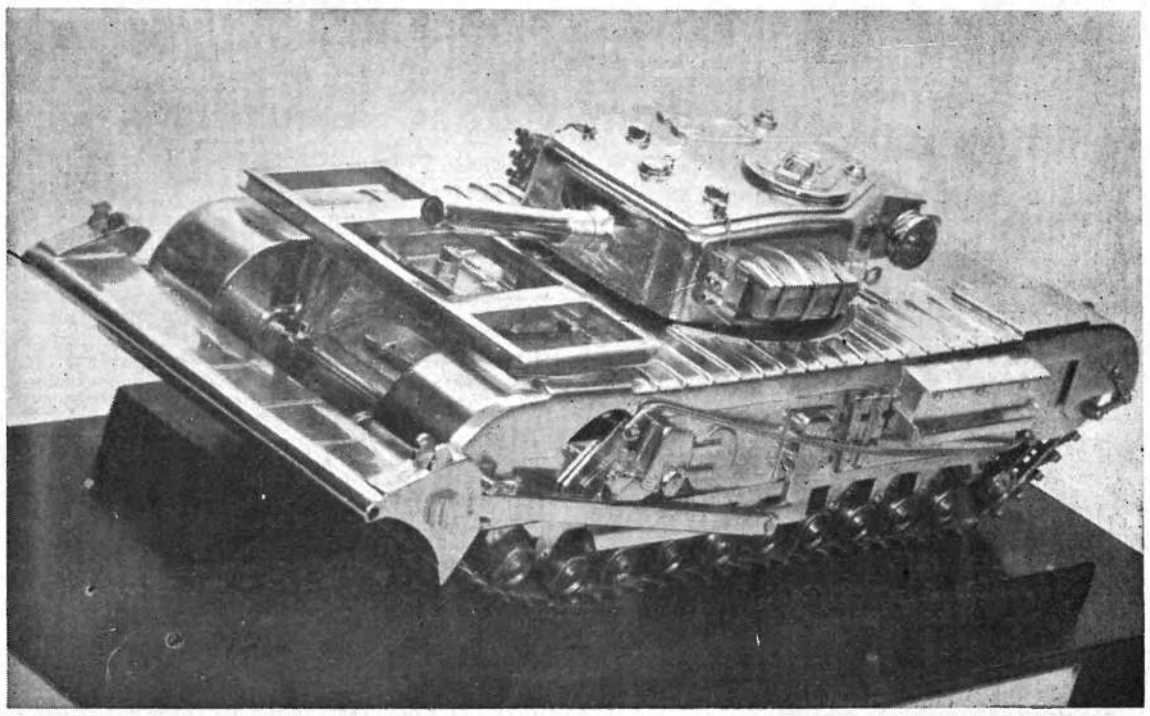
The main body of the Squadron started work at the beginning of May. We did not have much time to settle down, and now, two months later, we have completed four Brigade exercises, including one in which we moved to the exercise area by air. Now we have a rest, including block leave, until September, when we start again in earnest. In the meantime, we just keep our ears open, listening to the rumours, which have it we are going here today and there tomorrow.

Sport. We are having a fair success in the sporting world. The basketball team are continuing their success which they had in Iserlohn. They are still led by our Cook Sergeant, Sergeant Eatock, supported by Corporal Lilford, Lance-Corporals Spencer and Bell and Signalman Candon. Hockey

Continued on page 357

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is being played, more with an emphasis on fitness than on expertise. Surprisingly, however, under Lieutenant Cowan's guidance, a lot of talent has come to light; outstanding amongst those have been Corporals Mumford and Connor, and Signalman Kendall, a barnstorming centre-forward. Both the basketball and hockey teams, however, find difficulty in finding opposition in the Tidworth/Bulford area. If any other units in the area are interested, please contact R.S.M. Richings, his telephone number is Tidworth 3221, ext. 337. The most successful team, so far, has been the cricket team. We are now in the final of the 3rd Division minor units' cup, beating 1 O.F.P. by 125 runs. Signalman Chapman, No. 11, surprised everyone, including himself, in getting a swashbuckling 34 runs when the game seemed to be dying a slow death.

Corporals' Club. We have now formed a Corporals' Club, our first attempt, and this is going well, by all accounts, due mainly to the work of Corporals Tapp and Lilford. The Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess was entertained very successfully by the junior N.C.O.s on the opening night.

Now that we have settled down into the Southern Command routine of paper and returns, it is hoped we will again become regular contributors to THE WIRE.

207 SQUADRON, B.F.P.O. 30

In the fine weather at the beginning of the month the Brigade held Exercise "Wagon Wheels." This was the annual administrative exercise. In the field were the complete Field Ambulance, the R.A.S.C. Company, the O.F.P. and the R.E.M.E. Workshops; in fact, the whole administrative back up of the Brigade. During moves there were several hundred vehicles on the road, so communications had to be good to avoid a complete chaos. We are very happy to say that communications worked very well throughout the exercise.

No sooner had we returned from this than we were invited to Verden to take part in the 1st Regiment athletics on Princess Royal's day. There our athletes performed really well and gave us a convincing win over all our rivals. In the evening an All Ranks Dance was held and our squadron was very well entertained. As a reward for our performance in the afternoon, at least half of our team was chosen to represent 1st Regiment in the B.A.O.R. Royal Signals meeting. After an extremely hard fought contest we were narrowly beaten by one point by 7th Regiment.

The majority of the squadron then disappeared on leave, and those that did not can tell long stories of ten-mile march P.E. tests and well-earned marksmanship on the range; for now we have almost completed our range classification and P.E. tests.

During the month we said good-bye to W.O.II Harry Boyle, our S.S.M., who left for 28th Regiment, Sgt. Bill Scott who is "en route" for Singapore, and Staff Sergeant Bob Fewster who, by the time this is printed, will be with the Junior Leaders in Wales. Good luck to all of them in their new postings. Joining the squadron is Sergeant John Woodhouse, a keen rugger player, who promises to give a much needed boost to our rugger team.



Players on the stage from Left to right. Julie Toombs, Sergeant Roy Mayl, Corporal Ted Ward. Lying Sergeant "Flash" Boulter. Acting the popular ballad "Frankie and Johnnie."

"Jerboa Summer Revue"

At the end of the month some of the more gifted members of the squadron put on a very fine revue. This was completely sold out for two nights running. Plans are now well in hand for a Christmas pantomime, but there is no truth in the rumour that we now have a Foreman or rather Forewomen of Signals, W.R.A.C.

Some members of the squadron are busily hiding compasses and razor blades in their clothing in readiness for 7th Armoured Brigade's escape and evasion exercise in Bavaria—a full account of this next month.

216 SQUADRON (PARA)

Our tour in Cyprus, which we described in the July issue, came to an end in April. The change to U.N. Command was the beginning of the end for us, and the transfer of responsibility to the Signal Squadron of 2 Canadian Infantry Brigade Group was celebrated by suitable toasts in a semi-formal hand-over in the early hours of the 29th. After that, it was a matter of days before we were home on block leave, this time undisturbed.

Since then, we have been picking up the threads of U.K. military routine, and are now more or less back to normal. We entered for all the usual summer competitions, but had little success until the Brigade swimming meeting, when, to our delight, we managed to wrest the water polo trophy from 9 Parachute Squadron, R.E., who have held it continuously since 1957, though we again had to give them best in the swimming competition itself. Our victory owed much to the efforts and leadership of Lance-Corporal Davis, our Army player, though he would be the first to admit that he was well supported by the remainder of the team. Signalman Christie has represented the Corps and Aldershot Services at cricket, and been 12th man for the Army team on two occasions. Another of our individual stars, Signalman Sullivan, has unfortunately left us to play rugby league football for Hull.

Professionally, our activities have (for us) been fairly conventional. A month's better-than-average weather has allowed us to carry out regular parachute continuation training, and after our spell in a ground role in Cyprus, we have been concentrating on the airborne aspects of Signalling. **(We still need recruits incidentally—ACI 33/63 gives you the form, and we shall be delighted to see you here, particularly if you are an operator—but get fit first!).** In a more active capacity, Captain Willcox and the ten other members of the Squadron who form part of the Battalion Group in Bahrain, took part in the Radfan Operation, and have promised us some details shortly. Even further afield, Corporal Symonds and Corporal Rollings are with the Guards Independent Parachute Company in Borneo. At home, we can only record our detachment at Loch Ness, which has been getting in some useful skywave practice, and at the same time has provided some local communications for the Loch Ness Phenomena Observation Society.

Major-General P. H. Man, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., the G.O.C., Aldershot District, visited the Squadron recently, and during his time with us, presented the well-deserved British Empire Medal to our S.S M., W.O.II B. G. Green, and the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal to our R.Q.M.S., W.O.II W. Duke. (This reminds us that we were delighted to note the award of the M.B.E., in the Birthday Honours, to W.O.I E. Summers, a former S.S M. of the Squadron). Our other ceremonial activity has been the adoption by the Corps of the Pathfinders Youth Club in Slough. As the nearest regular unit, the Squadron has been chosen to represent the Corps in this association, and a ceremony to mark the occasion was held at the Community Centre, Slough, on 24th July, in the presence of the Mayor and members of the civic authorities. Brigadier C. H. Howarth, O.B.E., T.D., and the Squadron Commander presented plaques to signify the interest which the Corps and Squadron respectively take in this youth organisation, and received corresponding tokens in return. The presentations were followed by a very enthusiastic P.T. display by some of the boys, which earned admiring applause from all present.

Continued on page 358

Staff Sergeant Griffiths, who looked after our Orderly Room with such skill for so long, has now returned to Cyprus to join C.A.F S.O., H.Q., N.E.A.F. Sergeant Studd, an "old boy," has taken his place, and Sergeant Tasker is back again in the M.T. department. Second-Lieutenants Byrom and Eastburn, who joined us after their "Q" courses, have both passed the parachute selection tests, and by the time this appears in print, both should be fully qualified parachutists.

219 SQUADRON (TRIPOLITANIA) B.F.P.O. 51

Sport. The rugby season is now over and, having waved a very unsteady hand to our Royal Navy visitors, who have now steered a very irregular course back to Malta, we are endeavouring to find summer sports that will keep the Squadron active in their off-duty periods.

Swimming training, for all the non-swimmers of the Squadron, is now being vigorously enforced by the Squadron Commander. The reactions to this are various, as depicted by our Squadron artist, Signalman Neill, who is very talented in portraying the Squadron in their varied activities. The cricket team, under Sergeant Firth (late 24th Regiment) is now actually winning some of their matches, although it is rumoured that the iced beer consumption has something to do with the bribery of the umpires.

Promotion. Our very sincere congratulations are extended to Major (Q.M.) George Lynam on his promotion to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel. We all know that his 32 years' service have been correctly recognised, and we all wish him the very best of luck in his new appointment to U.K.

Sailing. The sailors of the Squadron are eagerly looking forward to the day when our very own Squadron boat arrives, as we have been fortunate in receiving a very kind grant from the Nuffield Trust to help us with such a purchase. At present Lieutenant-Colonel Lynam is the sailing instructor, and has been entrusted with the purchase of the new boat. We have heard rumours that he is investigating the necessity for an insurance policy that will preserve him from the enthusiasm of the learner sailors amongst the Squadron wives. There is a constant problem of how to hold on with both hands and yet still have use of the tiller.

Corps Birthday. On 26th June, in honour of our Corps Birthday, the Squadron gave an outdoor ball, and had as our guests all the serving and ex-serving members of the Royal Engineers who are serving in Tripoli. The dance was a formal one, with all our senior and junior N.C.O.s in mess kit. The results were most impressive, and well worth the endeavours of all those who helped. A wonderful buffet was provided by the Cook Sergeant-Major of The Green Howards, and our entertainments committee is now faced with the task of providing another equally good function without delay.



Work. In the field of exercises, we are very much committed, and our personnel are scattered (but not lost) in the desert, providing wireless communications for the Green Howards and the "Cyclops" Squadron, 2 RTR.

It is all very useful experience, although our new Yeoman, Staff Sergeant Peter Hayler, is learning that theory is a lot easier than practice, especially when digging vehicles out of the sand.

237 SQUADRON, c/o G.P.O. SINGAPORE

Subsequent to a previous contribution for this Journal, the Squadron has been honoured by a visit of the Army Commander, completed the new System Control Console and achieved fame at sport. We have lost old faces, welcomed new and congratulated those who have been promoted.

A visit by the Commander Far East Land Forces, Lieutenant-General A. Jolly, K.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., was much appreciated although like the recent curfew it was on and off until Thursday. 30th July, 1964.

At 10.00 hours the General was met at Tanglin by C.R. Signals Singapore, Colonel P. F. Yeatman, M.B.E., who conducted him on a tour of the Tape Relay Centre, the new Control Room, Traffic Hall, Electronic Workship, HST, VF and Microwave Rooms Continuing through the new Signal Centre and Teleprinter Room the General concluded his visit by a trip to the Transmitter Station at Chin Bee. At the Tape Relay Centre he was met by the Squadron Commander, Major J. B. Prince, and showed a keen interest in the new Console, the purpose of which was explained by the Chief Planning Officer, Mr. J. S. I. Glendenning.

Technical achievements by the Squadron include the new System Control Console, which after two years planning, building and installation is ready for the acceptance of live circuits. The change from the old to the new has commenced although one must not spurn its predecessor which has given satisfactory service for many years. Watch Controllers will welcome the improved conditions.

The Console, designed to facilitate "patching and routing" of radio and line circuits without use of the patching cord, is divided into three main sections, VF/DC send and receive and Circuit Control, giving maximum flexibility to cover all eventualities. The VF and DCPJF's utilise the Matrix System where shorting pegs are preferred to patching cords for the control and transfer of circuits. Flanked by the Quality and Liaison Controllers, the Watch Controller occupies the central position directing the entire testing and checking facilities, the control of circuit indication panel, internal and external telephone system, all of which are at his finger tips. Although unable to relax, his work will be less arduous. Mr. M. J. Durr who has spent much of his working hours building the Console will probably feel at a loss when he lays aside his soldering iron and wire strippers but will be amply rewarded by the achievement.

The Squadron, in addition to COMCAN circuits has absorbed numerous theatre "jobs" which required much attention. A prominent part was played in the Joint Communications Centre at Labuan and the increase in circuits have caused problems for the CSE and his Staff.

The O.C. Engineering Troop, Captain (T.O.T.) N. W. Merrifield, Mr. McInnes, Staff Sergeant H. J. Saxton, N.C O. I.C. H.S.T., and Sergeant B. A. Cumming, S.S.C., have all assisted in the initial engineering and setting up of the J.C.C. Labuan. Although not regarded practical under a 1,000 miles, Mr. Kift, A.M.I.E.E., of DSIR Singapore, designed a Rhombic aerial centred on 11 mcs. for use at 800 miles giving a daily coverage of 18 hours. The daily average availability to date of 20 hours has proved the effectiveness of the aerial. Using the "Kift" Rhombic, E 11's and R211/217's, the Labuan–Singapore SSB circuit provides a full six channel service for subscribers varying from the Royal Air Force to the Malaysian Federal Forces.

Squadron personnel, civilian and military are now well able to cope with the future and its promise of added responsibilities. We are grateful for the co-operation and hard work of our civilians who are rarely mentioned. Some are ex-Royal Signals who practice skills and knowledge acquired when serving. Liaison between the two elements undoubtedly plays an important part in the success of the Squadron.

237 has distinguished tself at sport and individual mention is shared by Staff Sergeant C. J. Courtenay and Corporal J. Turner. The former has evidence of his prowess with the rifle,

numerous cups and prizes are gradually filling his home. Corporal Turner played for the State cricket team against E. W. Swanton's side which visited Singapore recently. Our other achievements include winning the Inter-Squadron Athletics and having over 50 per cent. representation in the Regimental soccer and rugby teams.

August will see many changes in personnel. Leaving soon are Corporal Finn and Lance-Corporal Bowers, both on loan from 18th Regiment, and now due for the U.K. Staff Sergeant Saxton will go to Catterick and a Foreman of Signals Course whilst the C.S.E., W.O.II S. Barrett, will enjoy the refined but colder atmosphere of Droitwich Spa. We wish to express our appreciation for all which those departing have done and to welcome all newcomers warmly.

243 SQUADRON (SOUTHERN COMMAND)

The Squadron has, during the month of July,been re-organising following the assumption of command of Major J. L. McKellar, and during the month the normal functions of the Squadron, in its recruiting role, carried on and the team were present at the Christchurch Festival and the Bath Tattoo.

On 22nd July Major McKellar said farewell and presented a clock to Mr. Sidney Butt, the Superviser of the Bulford Exchange. The presentation was attended by members of the Bulford Camp Exchange and members of 628 Troop (Works). Mr. Butt has retired after over 40 years' service. He was born in Ryde, Isle of Wight, and on leaving school at the age of 13 years became a greengrocer's assistant in Ryde. He joined the Army in 1914 at the age of 15 in the 8th Hampshire Regiment T.A., and later saw service at Gallipoli, Egypt and Palestine. He was demobbed in 1919 and in the following year re-enlisted in R.E. Signals at Maresfield, Sussex. After his initial training he was posted, in 1921, to the Larkhill Military Exchange as a Signalman Operator. He was discharged from the Army in 1922.

In January, 1923, he became a civilian operator in the Larkhill Exchange and continued to serve there until 1934. He was made Superviser of the Exchange in 1927. In 1934 he became Superviser of the Bulford Camp Exchange, where he served for the next thirty years.

In recognition of his long and faithful service Mr. Butt was awarded the British Empire Medal in 1963 and this award was presented on 24th September, 1963, by the Commander-in-Chief, Southern Command.

Mr. Butt is a widower, and has retired to live with his eldest daughter, Dorothy, at Salisbury. All members of the Squadron wish him a long and enjoyable retirement.

The Squadron Chief Clerk, Corporal T. H. Southgate, was awarded the sum of five guineas by the War Office Awards Committee for his proposal for the revision of "Army, Other Rank, documentation." This is the second award that Corporal Southgate has received for his work on documentation.

The Foreman of Signals, Staff Sergeant J. Lawrence, has temporarily left the Squadron to proceed to the Far East on Signal Fields Trials. This absence has affected the strength of the Squadron Cricket team which has, however, continued to play at least once a week despite the ever diminishing numbers.

The Archaeological Club—this is the Royal Signals Club—and is now sponsored by this Squadron—has been carrying out work on research into the old Stone quarry workings at Chilmark, where stone has been excavated from both open cast and underground workings periodically, since the Roman occupation of Britain. The stone from these quarries was used in the construction of Salisbury Cathedral during the 13th and 14th Century. This project is is being carried out for the Salisbury, South Wilts and Blackmore Museum.



Major J. L. McKellar presenting Mr. Sidney Butt with a clock to mark his retirement after 40 years service

261 SQUADRON, B.F.P.O. 53

In spite of the strife that still exists on this so-called "Island of Love," the Squadron has managed to keep the work under control and compete in the numerous sporting activities that take place. One can always rely on the weather at this time of the year and conditions for swimming, cricket and most sports are ideal. However, due to the fact that the Squadron is deployed all over the island and one Troop is permanently based at El Adem, in North Africa, the strength of S.H.Q. is very limited. This makes it difficult to organise and train teams, indeed it can be very trying at times. In spite of this the Squadron has done extremely well in the events for which it has entered, especially the C.S.O.'s Cup competition.

The C.S.O.'s Champion Squadron Cup is awarded to one of the six Squadrons on the Island for prowess at sport, shooting, etc. Needless to say, competition is fierce and to win three major events, i.e. shooting, Rugby and cricket, is an achievement of a high order.

Cricket. The cricket season for this Squadron did not begin too brightly. In fact we suffered one or two crushing defeats. However, as the season progressed, a definite change in our fortune took place. By the time the C.S.O.'s cricket competition came round our team was in fine form and has remained so ever since.

Much to the relief of our team captain, Sergeant A. Waters, the Squadron received a bye in the first round and met 262 Squadron in the semi-final. This was a most exciting game, with Corporal S. D. Witheridge and Corporal A. J. Oldham making a fine stand and knocking fours all over the ground. At the close of the innings, with 146 runs on the board, we thought our position was impregnable. All too soon it was our turn to field and it soon became obvious that we were a little too optimistic, 262 fought every inch of the way. It was during this game that Signalman P. E. Villiers received a sever blow on the head which all but laid him out. W.O.II S. A. G. Hulse, of 262 Squadron, nobly stepped into the breach as a substitute and almost immediately caught out one of his own batsmen. Although he tried to trip himself up, it was such a "dolly"



Members of No. 261 Signal Squadron (Air Formation), Episkopi, Cyprus, who were the winners of the C.S.O. Champion Squadron cricket competition trophy. Left to right:
Front row: Corporal Cox, Corporal Evans, Major Allen, W.O.II (SSM) Timson, Sergeant Waters (Captain), Corporal Witheridge, Lance-Corporal Pearson
Back row: Corporal Tuplin, Corporal Oldham, Signalman Villiers, Signalman Simmonds, Signalman Naylor, Signalman Baines, Signalman Cooper



Runners-up of the C.S.O. Champion Squadron swimming competition in Cyprus were competitors from No. 261 Signal Squadron (Air Formation). Pictured here are left to right:
Front row: Corporal Ashford, Sergeant Richardson, Major Allen, Corporal Hazel Lance-Corporal Pearson
Back row: Signalman Telford, Lance-Corporal Marshall, Signalman Gallon, Signalman Brown, Lance-Corporal Plummer, Lance-Corporal Barker, Signalman Dunster, Mr. McLellan

that he had no option but to take it. This was sad indeed for S.S.M. Hulse and 262 Squadron, but much appreciated by 261 ! It was a first-class game and a pleasure to watch. Well done 261 !

We met 259 Squadron in the final at Happy Valley on 10th July. It was a most memorable day, with tension steadily mounting throughout the game. This match is always a local Derby and was consequently played with a great deal of caution. Nevertheless, it was a pleasure to watch the fine batting display by Sergeant Radford, of 259 Squadron, and the brilliant catches taken by Corporals S. D. Witheridge and A. J. Oldham, of 261.

The day was finally rounded off when Colonel T. H. C. Grigg, C.S.O. Cyprus District, agreed to present the cup to the winning team Needless to say, it now occupies a place of honour among other hard won trophies in the Squadron Commander's office.

Shooting. The C.S O.'s Shooting Competition was a two-day affair at Dhekelia Ranges, where Corporal R. W. Cox (R.E.M.E.) and Corporal A. J. Oldham distinguished themselves by winning the cup for the L.M.G. pairs—this in spite of the fact that they had to fire twice and lost five points for firing an extra burst. Our S.M.G. team also did well and won the S.M.G. Cup. Signalman J. Gallon achieved the highest individual score with the S.L.R. and Signalman D. Simmonds was runner-up. The rifle team lost the team event by two points to our well-known rivals, 262 Squadron.

Colonel T. H. C. Grigg, the C.S.O., again kindly agreed to present the trophies and rounded off a very successful shoot for 261.

Swimming. Again, in the C.S.O.'s Champion Squadron, we did well—this time in the swimming. As most of last year's team have left the Squadron new swimmers were hurriedly sought after. In spite of the almost ideal conditions that exist here for swimming, the competitive types seemed few in number. We were so badly off that at one time the necessary standard to get into the team was being able to keep afloat! We left for Dhekelia with very little hope, but to the surprise of everyone the team rose to the occasion and we came very close to 262, the winning Squadron.

No little credit for this must go to Miss Denise Ridlington, our young civilian clerk, who was the only girl swimmer in any of the six teams competing. She swam in four races, doing very well in each. The Squadrons supported the event in good numbers and chanted their swimmers home stroke by stroke.

The team has been depleted now by the departure of Lance-Corporal R. Marshall and Signalman J. Gallon returning to the U.K. after their six months with the Squadron. The remainder are now training hard for the Army Minor Units competition which takes place at Nicosia in 12th August. To them the best of British !

Nicosia Troop. Our Airfield Troop, at R.A.F., Nicosia, claim they have been kept extremely busy with the reshuffle of Squadrons on the station, and with the re-routing of so many UG cables Corporals E. E. Page and T. A. Baker do not wish to see another joint for some time to come. Sergeant J. B. Mackie, who has taken over the task of records genius, is still battling his way through the many changes and should manage to complete them by Christmas if no more work crops up. Even the shortage of transport in the Nicosia Troop does not stop Signalman B. Capel from repairing faults—he is often seen on the job with his scooter and sidecar (ladder attached).

We must give special mention to Flying Officer T. C. Jones, of the R.A.F. Signals, who has made the remarkable suggestion to MPBW that to ease the problem of opening trenches all the time they put zip fasteners on them all ! Even with all the work going on in the Troop they still find time to relax in the way of a hockey match against the R.A.F. Nicosia team, the result being a win for Nicosia by seven goals to two, the Troop, much to the astonishment of the R.A.F., scoring the first goal.

The Troop extends a welcome to the families of Sergeant B. Mackie and Signalmen M. R. Vaughan, who have now arrived and are finding the climate extremely warm.

News Snippets. At R.A.F., Akrotiri, Lieutenant K. G. Goulding has taken over command of the Airfield Troop from Captain R. Ping. Captain Ping is now busy keeping the paper work circulating at S.H.Q. so as to allow the Squadron Commander, Major M. Allen, a few hours off each day.

We were all sorry to see Signalman M. Duke leave the Squadron for the joys of civilian life. R.A.F. Akrotiri are also missing him, as he used to run their Judo Club.

We all breathed a big sigh of relief to see Sergeant G. Reynolds, back from his chief clerks' course and as a highly qualified N.B.C. Instructor. Congratulations on doing so well and obtaining a B Grading on this course.

As we go to press we are second to 259 Squadron in the C.S.O.'s Championship and there is only the tennis to play. Regardless of the result of the tennis we cannot catch 259 Squadron and we ourselves cannot be knocked out of second place.

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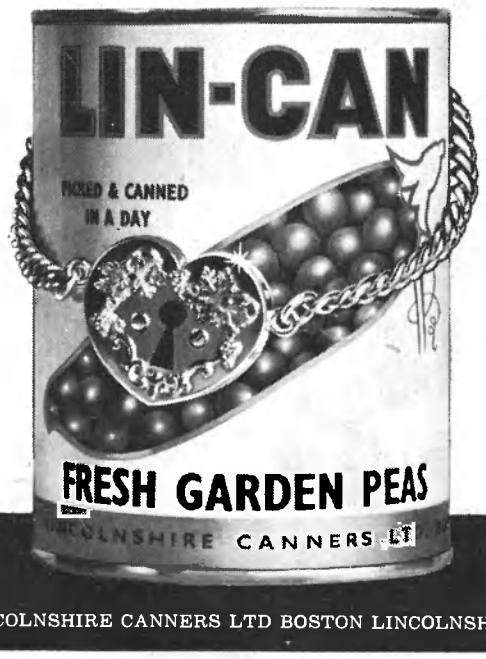
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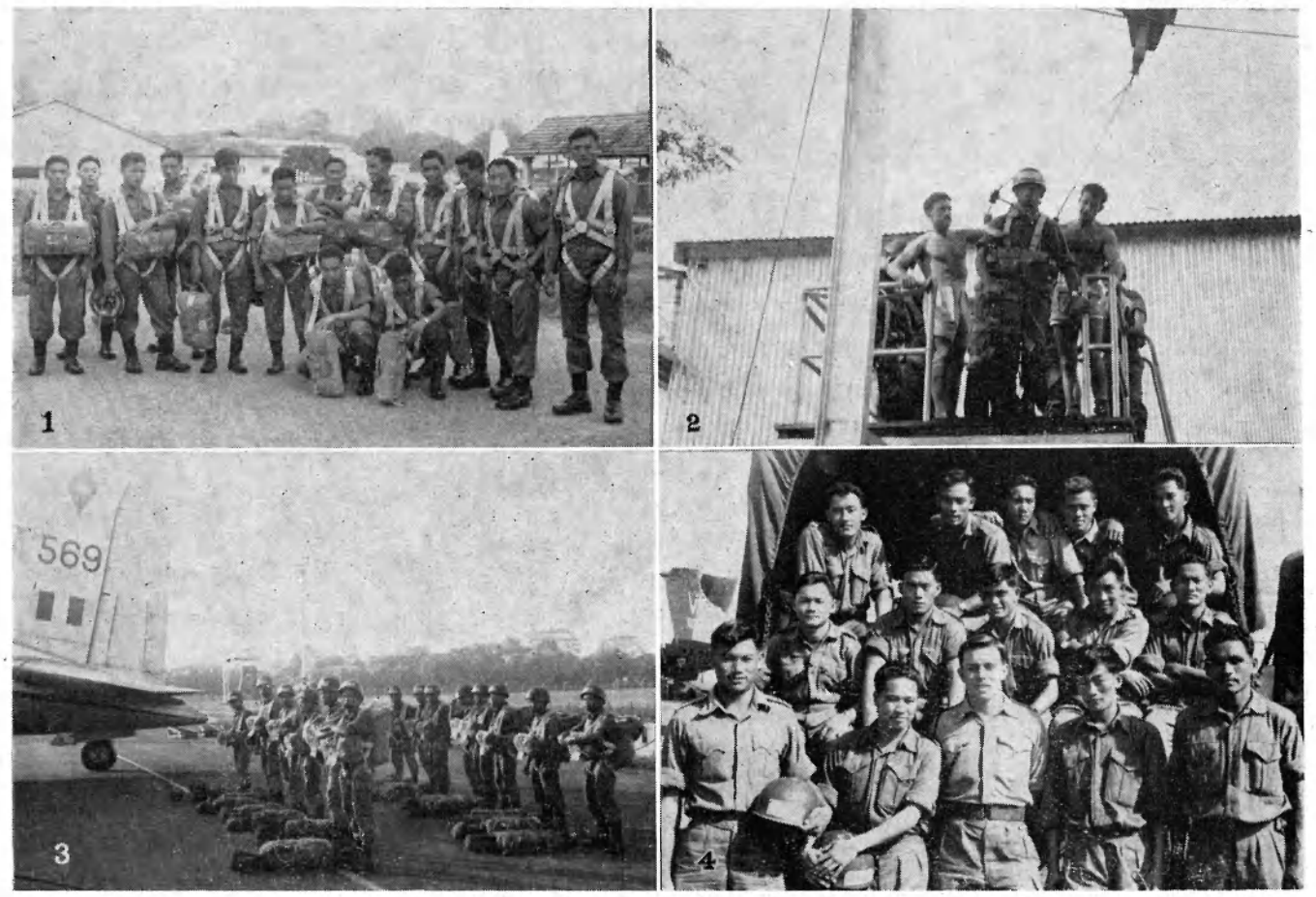
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GURKHA PARACHUTE SIGNAL TROOP

"Once more into the breach dear friends, etc. . . ." This aptly describes the latest commitment for the Regiment. The Independent Gurkha Parachute Company has recently been turned over to S.A.S. role operations in Borneo. As a result of this Gurkha Signals were asked to raise a Signal Troop to support the Company.

The provisional establishment for the Troop is as follows: One British Officer, one Queen's Gurkha Officer, one Sergeant Radio Operator, one Sergeant Radio Technician, one Corporal Radio Technician, one Corporal Clerk Technician, 24 Radio Operators.

Of the 24 radio operators 16 will be patrol operators and eight will be employed at Company H.Q. on the base stations.

Captain Paddy Verdon, having being enlisted as a volunteer, was given command of the Troop and ordered out on a recruiting campaign. After a lot of fast talk and a couple of tins of throat pastilles, the Troop is now complete. I gather the Squadron Commander's cry these days is, "But he is one of my best operators, I can't let him go." However, we must thank them all for their tremendous help in recruiting.

All the Troop will be parachute trained before we move to Borneo for S.A.S. training and operations. Fourteen members of the Troop, under Lieutenant Mike Walker, recently passed the basic parachute course and the remainder will go on a basic parachute course in August, under the Officer Commanding and Lieutenant (Q.G.O.) Khagbir Pun.

The rest of the time is spent on a mad round of morse, telegraph procedure, first-aid, map reading, weapon training, P.T. and marches through the jungle.

263 SQUADRON, c/o G.P.O. SINGAPORE

As these notes go to Press so this Squadron is looking forward to "block leave" for a period of two weeks from the 24th July. However to quote the all-embracing phrase "Due to the Exigencies of the Service" not all the instructors will be able to take their leave during this period. Courses on the D11 are much in demand and to try and satisfy all our customers 'X' Troop are taking a course for operators during the leave period.

S.S.M. Hall and Sergeant Charles are going to tow the Regimental boat up country a distance of approximately two hundred miles and sail it back to Singapore. We hope to be able to tell you in the next notes just how much cotton wool the Sergeant-Major used.

On Monday, the 20th July, the Squadron held a 'Social and Joget' evening which was a resounding success, credit to the organising committee on the excellent "Makan" provided and for the entertainment afterwards. Your scribe having recently arrived from a Regiment which has just completed integration trials, was left with the impression of having been given a lesson on how integration really does work with various races serving the same cause!

The new arrivals in the Squadron since our last notes are W.O I Harrison, Sergeant Nay and Signalman Abbot, to these the Squadron give a hearty welcome and a word of advice—get to know which is Port and which is Starboard! On the departure side we have said farewell to Captain Williams and Sergeant J. T. Wood.

Our R.Q.M.S. has returned to the fold, having spent a period with 18th Regiment as acting R.S.M. and then a spell at the

Continued on page 362

change of air station. No doubt all his "contacts" were glad to have a rest while he was away.

Our R.A.O.C. representative, Sergeant Brown (of R.A.O.C. boxing fame) has really settled in and is proving his worth on the stores side by direct liaison with the B.O.D. To quote R Q.M.S. Evis, "Our R.A.O.C. Bod produces the goods"—praise indeed.

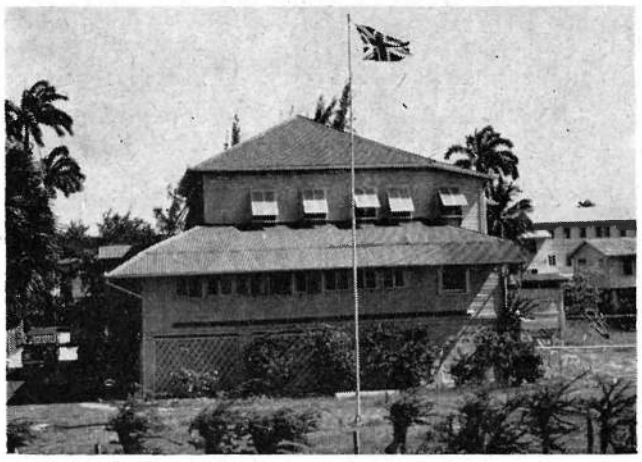
Jews Mail

From S.S.M. Hall to S.S.M. Alfred.—Am saving up to buy a stamp.

607 TROOP (BRITISH GUIANA) B.P.P.O. 9

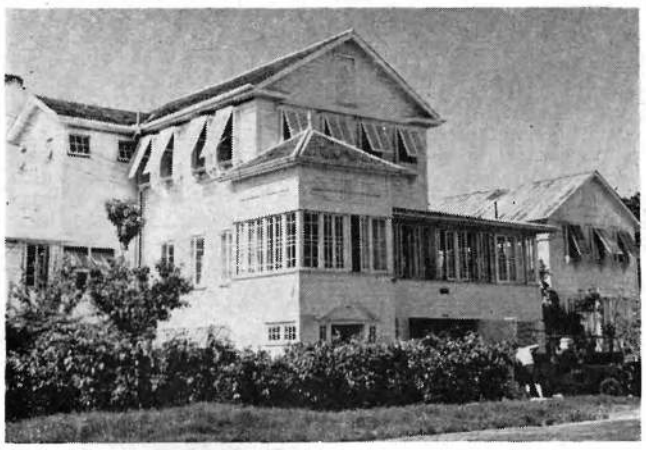
Since our last notes the strength of Royal Signals in British Guiana has almost doubled. This increase has been caused by the State of Emergency that was declared in British Guiana at the end of May. Apart from the Troop, there are Royal Signals personnel serving with the Garrison Headquarters, 1st Battalion The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment and 24 Flight Army Air Force.

To give an idea of life in British Guiana it was decided to include a few photographs with the notes. The Garrison Headquarters is situated in Camp House which overlooks the sea.



Camp House where some of 607 Troop work

The Troop has about half of the ground floor of Camp House for use as a transmitter and receiver room and cipher office. A second transmitter and receiver room is situated in the Police Headquarters compound at Eve Leary about a quarter of a mile away. The house occupied by the Troop as living accommodation is appropriately situated in Barrack Street, however, the Barracks to which the road is an approach, were handed over to the British Guiana Police Force several years ago. The house is typical of the many large houses used by the Army as offices and living accommodation.



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YEOMEN ABROAD—MIDDLESEX YEOMANRY ON OVERSEAS TRAINING

A large part of the Middlesex Yeomanry, having been one of the lucky TA units selected for "Overseas Training," spent their two weeks Annual Camp (during July) in France, camped just west of Paris.

Despite the intensity of the field training, which amply justified the Regimental slogan of "Tough and Technical," it wasn't all work—for under the sponsorship of their hosts SHAPE—they enjoyed a crowded programme of social and recreational activities, including a "Welcome Dance," conducted tours of general interest in Paris including the Palace and Gardens of Versailles and the Chateau at Chantilly.



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1. ON TOUR. The Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel S. J. Williams, M.B.E., T.D., in the centre of the large party of Yeomen, at the Tomb of the Unknown Warrior, in the Arc de Triomphe, the first stop on the SHAPE sponsored, cultural tour of Paris. 2. FIELD FARE. Could that really be fresh butter? 3. YEOMEN IN PARIS. Signalman Perry, Lance Corporal Thorogood, Signalmen Moore and Regan, on a sightseeing trip in Paris, with the Eiffel Tower in the background. 4. THE MOMENT OF TRUTH. When you know that a Signalman s pay is good—but not that good!

402 SQUADRON A.E.R.

After the months of planning during the winter and spring, came the crucial period in July when we left to complete our annual training in B.A.O.R. Certainly, a very happy group assembled at Gatwick, ready for the flight to Hannover and a pleasant drive to meet our hosts, 225 Squadron. We are still sufficiently young as a unit, to be doing some things for the first time and this was our first experience of camping in company of a Regular Squadron.

Thanks to some good work by the advance party, the settling in to accommodation and routine went very smoothly and the first phase of the programme commenced. This took the form of trade training for the first week and enthusiasm was very evident on the part of both instructors and reservists. We still found time to challenge 225 at football, a very good game which they won 3-2. The unit small bore shooting competition gave Captain B. J. Hordle the opportunity to have his name on the trophy as a reward for a "possible" of 50. A worthy second was Signalman A. Thornton with 49, and as he said "not bad for a bricklayer." A welcome visitor was Colonel G. W. Blackburne, who prised himself from his Blandford chair for a brief but concentrated inspection of unit activities.

Our first unit exercise took place during the second week. This proved to be the most valuable part of camp training. We made it the call for "everybody out"—except for two football casualties. Do not read into this that 225 gave us a rough game, it was really a clean one, but accidents will happen. At the exercise inquest it was clear that everyone had found this period of camp most rewarding—it was almost a case of ordering us back to barracks!

Fifteen days soon pass and the time soon came to make the return flight and face the rigours of civvy street. However, these notes would not be complete without an acknowledgment of the most generous and valuable assistance given to us by 13th Regiment and 225 Squadron. To complete annual training in such pleasant relationship with Regular units, is, we can only hope, an experience we would like to enjoy again.



LOST TO 225 SQUADRON 3-2 (AND PROUD OF IT)

Left to right (*back*) Signalman F. Freeman, Signalman W. Graham, Corporal B. Blackburn, Signalman R. Garnett, Lance Corporal S. Bell, Lance Corporal B. Andrews

Left to right (*Front*) Signalman J. Magarry, Signalman A. McMillan, Corporal J. Frith, Signalman S. Brown, Signalman G. Maxwell

Sports Results

Corps Tennis

Royal Signals v. R.A.P.C. at Roehampton Club on 10th August.

Colonel E. L. L. Vulliamy and Lieutenant M. A. Cornforth won 3, lost 0.

Major Chapman and Captain S. Gordon, won 1, with two unfinished.

Major Osbourne and Major Sellar, won 1, lost 2.

Royal Signals won by 5 matches to 2, with two unfinished.

Corps Cricket

Royal Signals v. **Royal Engineers**, played on 15th, 16th July. Royal Signals 310 and 191 for 6; Royal Engineers 369. Match drawn.

1st innings details: Lance-Corporal Mayes 70, Captain Moss 71, Signalman Butler 51. For R.E.s: Sapper Linton 110, Sapper Elsen 53, Sapper Wood 88. Royal Signals second innings: Lance-Corporal Mayes 50, Signalman Butler 61.

Royal Signals v. **R.A.O.C.**, played on 17th and 18th July.

Royal Signals 155 and 143; R.O.O.C. 134 and 88. Royal Signals won by 76 runs with 45 minutes left for play.

Corps Golf

Played on 14th July, unrepresentative match.

Royal Signals 3½; Royal Army Pay Corps 8½.

Athleties

Result of Singapore Base Area Athletics Major Units Championship, 1964 :—

1st, 18th Regiment; 2nd, 19th Regiment (Air Formation); 3rd, 30 Battalion R.A.O.C.

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Royal Signals (B.A.O.R.) Athletics Meeting, 1964

The B.A.O.R. teams taking part were from 1st, 2nd, 4th, 7th, 13th, 16th, 21st and 28th Regiments; 229 Squadron sent a team to try to maintain their eminence in the tug-of-war.

With only six tracks available at the Herford Stadium, heats were run in the morning to decide which four teams would go forward into Final A, in the afternoon, and which into Final B.

In the afternoon, events followed at five and ten-minute intervals, the spectator stand filled up, and interest and excitement started to mount.

13th beat 16th in the final of the 110 metre hurdle relay, followed by 4th and 2nd; in the 200 metre relay, 1st led 4th, 21st and 7th; in the 800 metre relay it was 21st, 4th, 7th and 16th. In the track events it looked as though 4th would have the edge, with 21st on their tails, but the field events were telling a different story. The hammer placings were 1st, 13th 2nd, and 16th, and for the shot they were 7th, 1st, 16th and 28th; 1st were obviously very much in the picture. The 100 metre relay also gave maximum points to 1st, followed by 4th, 2nd and 21st, and the 1,500 metre team race went to 7th, followed by 4th, 21st and 1st. The discus and the long jump went to 1st, the high jump to 2nd, and the pole vault to 28th.

Towards the end, with the javelin results to come in and the 400 metre relay finals to be run, 4th were leading with 98 points, then came 1st with 96½, 7th with 94½, 21st with 84½, 16th with 78½, 2nd with 72, 13th with 69 and 28th with 55.

The javelin results brought a critical change, the placings being 2nd, 7th, 1st, 13th, 16th, 28th, 21st and 4th. This left 1st with 102½ points and 7th with 101½; with 1st, 7th and 13th and 21st in Final A of the 400 metre relay, only 1st or 7th could win, and the fate of the cup depended entirely on this race.

The result was a win for 21st, with 7th second and 1st third, so 7th won the cup by one point: 115½ to 114½. There is unlikely to be such a close match for some time and, if there was disappointment in some quarters, at least it is certain that the result removed any thoughts that large regiments are invulnerable and will encourage some strenuous efforts next year.

Congratulations also to 229 Squadron on their tug-of-war victory over 21st Regiment.

At the end of the meeting, prizes were presented by Mrs. Hancock to each member of all the event-winning teams, and to Second-Lieutenant Knox-Johnston, who captained 7th Rgiment to victory. We thank Mrs. Hancock for kindly making the presentations.

It might not be out of place to thank also the staff of the Herford Stadium for providing us with the facilities for the meeting, and the officials from those Regiments within striking distance who helped to run everything so smoothly.

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A page of pictures of the Athletic Meeting


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1. Typical of all baton changing events is the determination and anxiety displayed at the crucial moment of change over. 2. With feet to spare an unrecognised competitor demonstrates the will to win. 3. Lance Corporal R. C. Baynes, 4th Regiment bursting away from Lieutenant Knox-Johnston to win the 1500m race. This was a case of a personal friendly rivalry developed with the Herford German sports club being continued on a Unit basis 4. Members of 1st, 2nd, 4th and 21st Regts teams assembled for prize giving with final results on the scoreboard.5. Mrs. Hancock presenting the Royal Signals (BAOR) Inter-Unit Athletics Challenge Trophy to Lieutenant Knox-Johnston, captain 7th Regiment team.

SHOOTING

National Rifle Association Meeting, Bisley 1964

The Captain of Corps shooting (Lieutenant-Colonel C. V. Walsh) reports: Our teams for the N.R.A. Meeting were as follows:

S.R. (a) (S.L.R. Rifle)—Major G. A. S. Exell (R.R.E., Malvern); Lieutenant D. H. Insall (21st Regiment); Sergeant E. R. R. Smith (14th Regiment); Sergeant T. Balch (4th Regiment).

S.R. (b) (No. 4 Rifle Modified)—Colonel M. J. R. Fletcher (H.Q., A.L.F.C.E.); Lieutenant-Colonel C. V. Walsh (H.Q., Southern Command); Major J. Cox (49th Regiment, T.A.); Major R. H. Gilbertson (School of Signals); Captain P. Carr (17 Recce Flight, A.A.C.); Lieutenant D. H. Insall (21st Regiment); W.O.II H. Haw (14th Regiment); Sergeant E. Smith (14th Regiment).

We did not win any cups this year, but the standard of shooting by both teams was good throughout the meeting. This is recognised by the Army Rifle Association, who now rely upon us as a Corps to produce the backbone of the Army XX team and members for the Long Range and Pistol Teams.

When we manage to get our best S.L.R. shots to Bisley, we will once again have at least one member with the Army VIII team.

In the team events our S.R. (a) team was placed seventh in the Canada, with an average score of 156 per member, under Methuen conditions. This was a very good average, but we did in fact hope to be placed higher. Sergeant E. R. R. Smith, who scored a brilliant 173 in this match, had a jam in his rapid which cost him two rounds; even so, he only dropped one point on the eight rounds fired in the practice. The team was placed eighth in the Hythe, a sitting and standing shoot, and put up a satisfactory performance in the other three team events. In the Cheylesmore, which we won last year, one member had a jam after two rounds and this ended our chances of winning the trophy.

Our S.R. (b) team, which won the Ranelagh last year, made a very brave effort to retain the trophy. The team's total was only one point less than last year's, and thus put us into fifth place.

The Ranelagh is shot concurrently with the first stage of the Queen's, and this year the standard was higher than ever before; competitors with scores of 98 out of 105 having to shoot off for places in the second stage.

Our S.M.G. team was placed tenth, out of 35 teams, in the S.M.G. Match.

In the individual S.R. (a) matches, Sergeant E. R. R. Smith had a very successful meeting, being placed in nearly every match. In the Stephens (10 rounds rapid at 200 yards) he was placed fifth, with a final score of 48 out of 50, and in the Wantage (10 rounds snap at 200 yards), he scored 49 out of 50 and was placed eighth; in the rapid aggregate, his total of 133 put him in twelfth place. In the Service Rifle Championship he was placed ninth and was the second best in the Regular Army.

Major G. A. S. Exell always shoots at an above-average level and was the backbone of the team. His best performance was in the Queen Mary, in which he scored 159 in both stages. This placed him 21st overall and sixth in the Regular Army and T.A. Cup.

Six members of our S.R. (b) Team, Colonel M. J. R. Fletcher, Lieutenant-Colonel C. V. Walsh, Major R. H. Gilbertson, Major J. Cox, Lieutenant D. H. Insall and W.O.II H. Haw were chosen to shoot for the Army in the Inter-Services XX Match, and Captain P. Carr was selected as reserve for the team.

Lieutenant-Colonel C. V. Walsh and Lieutenant D. H. Insall were selected for the Army XII Long Range Team, and both shot with distinction.

Lieutenant D. H. Insall was again awarded his Army VIII Pistol Colours.

Lieutenant-Colonel C. V. Walsh shot for Ireland in all three international matches, the Elcho, Mackinnon and National.

In the individual events, three of the team, Colonel Fletcher, Lieutenant-Colonel Walsh and Major Gilbertson, qualified for the second stage of the Queen's, and Lieutenant-Colonel Walsh went on to qualify for the final stage, in which he scored 272, which was nine points behind the winner.

Lieutenant D. H. Insall was the only member to reach the third stage of the St. George's; his score of 140, which was only two points behind the winner, placed him tenth. He also had a successful shoot of 48 and of 50 in the Stickledown (1,000 yards) which placed him third.

W.O.II H. Haw, in his first year of S.R. (b) shooting, shot exceptionally well. Few have been chosen for the Army XX at the first try. He also won the 200 yards Extras Competition with a possible (35/35) and 24 out of 25 in the tie-shoot.

Major Gilbertson won the Tyro Section of the Overseas Teams Fund Competition.

Colonel Fletcher won three bronze bars and a silver medal for scores of 49/50 in the *Daily Telegraph* (300 yards), 99/105 in the Queen's first stage and 169 out of 180 in the Donaldson, an aggregate match.

Lieutenant-Colonel Walsh completed, as usual, in the Match Rifle Competitions. This year 7.62 ammunition was used for the first time, and the lighter bullet gave alarming performances at the longer ranges, particularly 1,100 and 1,200 yards. The conditions are likely to be changed for next year. Lieutenant-Colonel Walsh was placed in five matches, his best results being in the Wimbledon and fourth in the Rankin.

Colonel H. J. Thompson, a leading light in Corps shooting until he retired in 1961, had a very successful meeting. He had two Highest Possible Score Bronze Crosses and shot for England in the National. He has also been chosen for the Great Britain team which is touring Canada in August, 1964.

Royal Signals Association and Benevolent Fund

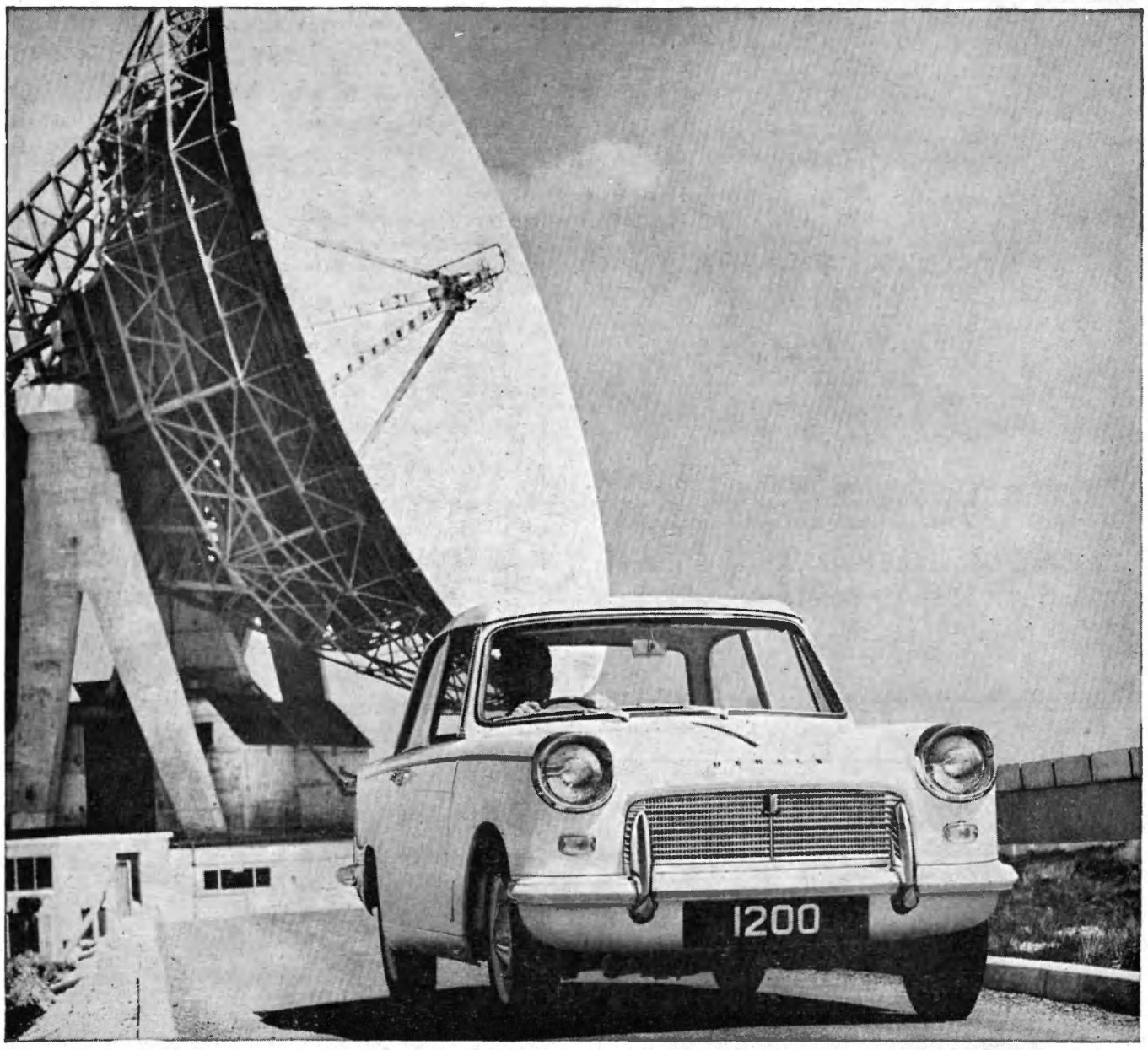
The following subscriptions were most gratefully received during July, 1964:

	£	s.	d.
8th Regiment	30	0	0
11th Regiment (26 Unit Branch)	1	0	0
School of Signals (bottle stall)	47	0	0
49th Regiment (T.A.)	5	18	6
14th Regiment (2 Squadron)	4	7	0
14th Regiment (3 Squadron)	4	13	0
638 Troop	2	15	0
Royal Signals attached 46 Squadron R.A.S.C. (L.C.T.)		10	0
Signals Wing, School of Artillery		12	0
Signals Wing, R.M.A., Sandhurst	1	10	0
57th Regiment (T.A.)	1	5	0
63rd Regiment (T.A.)		9	0
325 Squadron (T.A.)		3	0
327 Squadron (T.A.)		3	0
238 Squadron	3	0	0
Signal Wing, School of Infantry	1	10	0
47th Regiment (T.A.) (Warrant Officers & Sergeants)	2	0	0
54th Regiment (T.A.) (Church Collection at Annual Camp)	2	0	0
241 Squadron	11	6	7
61st Regiment (T.A.)	20	10	0
H.Q., Allied Forces, Northern Europe	1	0	0
7th Regiment	75	11	9
16th Regiment (Summer Fete)	260	11	4
235 Squadron (COMCAN)	13	9	11
4 R.T.R. Troop		14	0
259 Squadron (COMCAN)	51	2	0
Associated Television Limited	5	0	0
Various Individual Donations	10	5	6
Receipts	£558	6	7
Expenditure during July, 1964 (Includes: Rent and Rates; Beds and Bedding; Furniture; Cots and Prams; General Assistance).	£430	4	8

Clothing

Since early May, gifts of clothing, toys, books, etc., have been most gratefully received from the following:

Captain C. R. C. Bunce
Staff Sergeant and Mrs. G. Pickard
Mrs. P. Dibley
Mrs. P. Jepson
A. Stokes, Esq.
Colonel J. C. Christopher
U. Oliver, Esq.
Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. I. G. Swan
Captain Wainwright
C. R. Ward, Esq.
Brigadier C. G. Moore
Sergeant-Major R. A. Lawry
Wives' Club, 30th Regiment
Captain and Mrs. G. J. Malcolm
Royal Signals Association, Harrogate Branch
Captain P. W. Dale
Major F. E. Warner
Captain G. W. Penn
W. Mycroft, Esq.
Royal Signals Association, Croydon Branch
W.O.I and Mrs. F. Stockdale
Captain C. J. Bayfield
W.O.II F. P. J. Edge
Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Stead
C. C. Martin, Esq.
Major and Mrs. V. W. G. King
Staff Sergeant and Mrs. J. Halliday
Brigadier M. D. Price, O.B.E.
Major K. N. Smartt
Mrs. N. P. Robinson
H.Q., Training Brigade, R. Signals
Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, 11th Regiment
Major O. J. Peck
Mrs. D. St.J. Hoysted
Miss Rosemary Hoysted
14th Regiment
Mrs. B. Complin
Major-General L. de M. Thuillier, C.B., O.B.E.
Major M. D. Scott
J. Edwards, Esq.
Staff Sergeant and Mrs. J. H. Lawrence
R.S.M. and Mrs. D. G. Newton
Sergeant and Mrs. Perry



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A Trustee Department Manager of one of the Big Five Banks,

"I have studied it very carefully and I consider it a most ingenious scheme and well worth taking up . . . ."

A Parent,

"I have passed all this to my Uncle, a Scottish C.A. who actually deals with most of my income tax position. He incidentally is also very pleased with your scheme. I've passed on your brochure to two other members of my company . . . ."

A Major in the Royal Signals,

"Thank you very much for your two letters and the illustration drawn up for me. I found your answers to all my questions complete and very helpful and am now convinced that this is just what I need to help me with the cost of education for my younger boy Jonathan. I now regret that we had not been introduced when I was planning for my other son!"

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And, a senior General in the Army said he was told by his Bank Manager that the plan we sent to him was a "must."

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October 1964

The WIRE

The Royal Signals Magazine





THE WIRE

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

The Official Organ of the Signals Association

Editor:
BRIGADIER P. M. P. HOBSON, D.S.O.

Assistant Editor:
BRIGADIER H. R. FIRTH

All correspondence and matter for publication in THE WIRE, *should be addressed to* THE WIRE, **Royal Signals Association**, *Cheltenham Terrace, Chelsea, London, S.W.3. Tel. Nos. SLOane 4129 and SLOane 3477, Ext. 143.*

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OCTOBER • 1964

Vol. 18 *(New Series)* **No. 10**

Editorial

In November, 1963, we wrote about sales of THE WIRE and gave our reasons as to why we thought your Corps magazine was not only worthy of your support but, in fact, had a right to expect it.

We make no apology for returning to this theme and, indeed, it is one to which, no doubt, we will inevitably refer from time to time in the future.

Let us be quite clear that much of what appears in THE WIRE, quite rightly, concerns the Regular Corps in all its various activities. Therefore it is from the Regular Corps that we have the right to expect our main support. Yet only about a third of the Regular Corps buys THE WIRE. Quite bluntly we do not think this is a worthy measure of support for THE WIRE from a Corps such as ours.

For a start we suggest that, without any doubt, every Officer, Warrant Officer and Senior N.C.O. worthy of his salt should buy his Corps magazine if for no other reason than as an act of Corps loyalty. Do you agree? We would also hope that this outlook applied throughout all ranks of the Corps, although it is easier to understand why the Signalman in the barrack room does not always buy a WIRE when copies are easily available from some of the other occupants. Viewed from the strictly "What do I get out of it?" approach this is fair enough. Of course if all in the barrack room took this view then there would be no copies at all to look at.

THE WIRE now costs 1s. 6d. a month or 4½d. a week—a sum which might be put to a better purpose—a cup of tea in the NAAFI once a week? —a pint of beer once a month? But is this really a better purpose? Surely there is more to it than just "What do I get for my money?" It is your Corps magazine and if you are proud of your Corps you try and support the things it does—even if it means foregoing something from the personal point of view. Everything in THE WIRE may not be to your particular taste or interest—we have to try and please all ages and ranks both serving and retired. The point is that THE WIRE is YOUR Corps magazine and as such it should receive YOUR wholehearted support as a matter of principle.

Your loyalty is surely worth more than 4½d. a week!

22nd's 'Jimmy' Statuette

The winner of the bottle of champagne offered by 22nd Regiment for information about their 'Jimmy' Statuette (THE WIRE, August, 1964) is Major-General R. H. R. Steward, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C. We should add that the General said he enjoyed writing the letter, and did not want the champagne. However, having read the letter, the officers of 22nd decided they must send it.

In his letter, which was very amusing indeed, the General reminisced about the 1914-18 War officers who presented the Statuette to H.Q. Mess at Maresfield in 1921 just before they were demobilised. He was Adjutant at the time, and a rare old time they all had. 22nd are now waiting impatiently for further letters giving them information about the Adjutant.

Surprising what officers got up to in those days. Times have certainly changed—or have they? We hope not.



"... the right, title, privilege, honour and distinction of marching through the streets of the Borough of Richmond on all ceremonial occasions with swords drawn, bayonets fixed, drums beating and bands playing ..."

CORPS HISTORY IN THE MAKING AS THE FREEDOM OF ENTRY TO THE BOROUGH OF RICHMOND IS CONFERRED

In spite of a deluge of rain, it was a brave show, and a day long to be remembered by all those who were privileged to be present.

ON 30th April, 1964, the Borough Council of Richmond, Yorkshire, met in Special Session to hear and consider a proposal by the Mayor, Councillor R. W. Waldie, O.B.E., J.P., that the Freedom of Entry to the Borough should be conferred upon the Royal Corps of Signals.

The practice of conferring the honorary "Freedom of Entry" on Regiments is of fairly recent origin, and the earliest grant appears to have been by the Corporation of Sheffield, who conferred the honour upon the York and Lancaster Regiment in December, 1943. The historical connection, however, goes much further back and is a product of the power and influence of the old boroughs and cities in their relations with the Central Government. When the Army required more men, the custom was to send a recruiting officer and party to various towns and to attract public attention by the steady beat of a drum. In Edinburgh and London and in certain other towns, permission had to be obtained from the Corporation for the recruiting party to enter and "beat the drum." In course of time this permission came to be granted "in solemn form." It was also necessary to obtain the consent of the Corporation before troops could be marched through the town. From these early practices has evolved the present-day honour of being accorded the "Freedom of Entry."

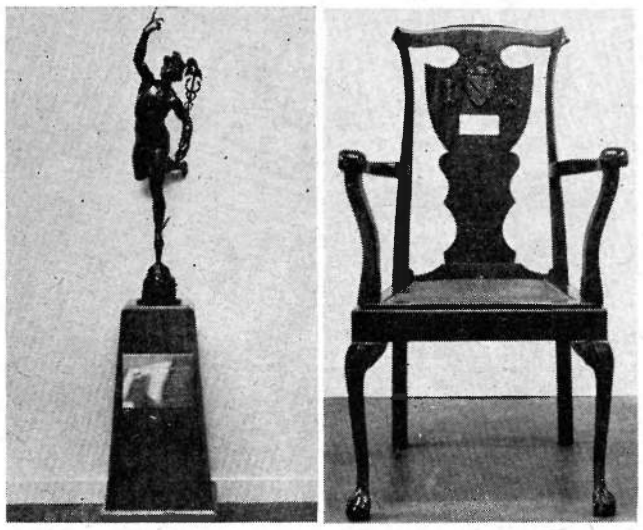
The proposition, having been made by the Mayor in the form "that this Borough of Richmond invites the Royal Corps of Signals to accept the Freedom of Entry to the Borough, with the right, title, privilege, honour and distinction of marching through the streets of the Borough of Richmond on all ceremonial occasions, with swords drawn, bayonets fixed, drums beating and bands playing" and seconded by Councillor Lieutenant-Colonel R. W. Atkinson, O.B.E., was put to the vote and agreed by the Council.

The invitation to accept the "Freedom of Entry" was then communicated to Her Royal Highness, The Princess Royal, our Colonel-in-Chief, who graciously expressed her wish to attend the ceremony, which was eventually fixed for Monday, 17th August, 1964.

Now began a period of intense activitiy in organising the whole ceremony. First it was necessary to decide where the parade should take place. Ideally, the quaint market place of Richmond would best suit the occasion, but it had several disadvantages. The shape, as well as the slope—even ignoring the cobbles—militated against any recognised form of a large parade, and it was eventually agreed, thanks to the willing co-operation of the Richmondshire Cricket Club, that the parade would be held on the Cricket Ground. Even so, this was not completely straightforward, as it was necessary to avoid trespassing on the cricket table, and there remained the matter of exercising the right of "marching through the Borough with swords drawn and bayonets fixed." Her Royal Highness, The Princess Royal expressed a desire to see the parade march through Richmond in this manner, and it was agreed that she would take the salute in the Market Place. Brigadier Cox decided that the parade should consist of a Royal Guard of Honour composed of recruits from 11th Training Regiment (Depot) supported by the 8th and 24th Regiments, each of three Squadrons, with the Corps Band under the Director of Music, Captain C. H. Pike—a total on parade of about 750 all ranks. Captain W. G. Robinson was appointed to command the Royal Guard of Honour, while Lieutenant-Colonels D. L. Swallow and G. Peat would command their own Regiments. Lieutenant-Colonel T. G. H. Jackson, M.B.E., was appointed Parade Adjutant and R.S.M. S. J. R. Dunlop Parade R.S.M. Brigadier A. C. Cox, O.B.E., would command the parade, while Major Leslie Prescot, D.A.A. and Q.M.G., H.Q., Training Brigade, was detailed by Brigadier Cox to act as Liaison Staff Officer for the Training Brigade for the many and varied arrangements connected with this great occasion. He counts himself fortun-

ate, however, in that the Mayor of Richmond appointed Councillor Lieutenant-Colonel (Retd.) R. W. Atkinson (late Royal Signals) to act as Liaison Councillor for the civic authorities. Colonel Reg Atkinson's experience of both the military and civic sides was a great help.

It is customary on these occasions to exchange gifts to mark the occasion, and the Corps chose a 3ft. high bronze statue of mercury, mounted on a 3ft. oak base and with a suitably inscribed plate. It is understood that this will stand in the



(*Left*) The "Jimmy" Statue presented by the Corps. (*Right*) The Mess President's Chair presented by the Borough Council of Richmond

Council Chamber in Richmond Town Hall. The Borough chose as a gift to the Corps a Mess President's chair in mahogany.

Eventually the great day dawned—very wet, and with a most depressing weather forecast from the B.B.C., upon which the Met. Office at the R.A.F. Station, Leeming, was unable to improve. Brigadier Cox was therefore faced with making a most difficult decision—whether to hold the parade or to order the wet weather programme. The occasion was too important to cancel the parade unless conditions were hopelessly bad. The decision was deferred twice, but the rain continued to fall. Meanwhile the troops embussed and moved into Richmond. It was necessary to start this operation fairly early as, owing to a shortage of buses, the troops had to be conveyed in two lifts.

Brigadier Cox resolved to make the final decision at 11.15 a.m., i.e., a quarter-of-an-hour before the troops were due to march on to the ground. When the time arrived it was still raining, but, after consulting the Police Superintendent and one or two others, Brigadier Cox made the difficult decision that the parade was "on." The Band immediately moved on to the field. They were in full dress, but protected by their dark blue cloaks which, of course, they continued to wear for the rest of the morning.

At 11.30 a.m. the troops marched on and formed up under the Parade Adjutant, Lieutenant-Colonel T. G. H. Jackson, who handed the parade over to the Parade Commander, Brigadier A. C. Cox at 11.42 a.m. At 11.43 a.m. the Borough Council, led by the Deputy Mayor (Councillor J. Todd, J.P.) entered the ground preceded by the Mace Bearers.

At 11.47 a.m., Major-General Le de M. Thuillier, C.B., O.B.E., the Representative Colonel Commandant, and Major-General F. J. Swainson, O.B.E., the Signal Officer-in-Chief, arrived. Three minutes later, Lieutenant-General Sir Charles Richardson, K.C.B., D.S.O., G.O.C.-in-C. Northern Command, accompanied by Major-General G. F. Upjohn, C.B.E., G O.C. Yorkshire District, entered the ground, the Army Commander being accorded a general salute before he took his seat on the dais.

The climax was reached when, at exactly 12 noon, our Colonel-in-Chief, Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal entered the parade ground. Her Royal Highness was attended by the Worshipful The Mayor of Richmond, Councillor R. W. Waldie, O.B.E., J.P., and the Master of Signals, Major-General Sir William Scott, K.C.M.G., C.B., C.B.E., and accompanied by Her Majesty's Lieutenant for the North Riding, Sir William Worsley, Bt., Captain R. B. Carroll, Royal Signals, who had been appointed A.D.C. for the visit, and the Town Clerk of Richmond, Mr. R. Lawrie; the whole Royal party being preceded by Yeoman Warder G. A. E. Gavey, late Royal Signals. Her Royal Highness proceded direct to the saluting base, where she was received with a Royal Salute and her personal standard was broken. Following this Her Royal Highness invited the Mayor and the Master of Signals to accompany her on the inspection of the Royal Guard of Honour. At the completion of this inspection Her Royal Highness, the Mayor and the Master of Signals moved to the dais for the main ceremony. The Mayor began by asking Her Royal Highness to accept a scroll conferring on the Royal Corps of Signals The Freedom of Entry to the Borough of Richmond on ceremonial occasions, with swords drawn, bayonets fixed, drums beating and bands playing.

The scroll was read aloud by the Town Clerk and the scroll and casket were then handed by the Mayor to Her Royal Highness, who accepted them on behalf of the Royal Corps of Signals.

Her Royal Highness then signed the following script entry in the Roll of Honorary Freeman of the Borough, her signature being witnessed by the Mayor and the Town Clerk:

"Freedom of Entry to the Borough for the Royal Corps of Signals.

I, Mary, Colonel-in-Chief of the Royal Corps of Signals, in accepting the Freedom of Entry to the Borough of Richmond on behalf of the Corps declare that the Corps, so far as it is within its power, will contribute and do every act and thing for the good government and well being of the Borough and inhabitants thereof, and will aid the Mayor for the time being in upholding and preserving the rights and privileges of the Borough."

Next followed an exchange of presents, the Mayor addressing Her Royal Highness, said: "Your Royal Highness, it is now my pleasant duty, on behalf of the citizens of Richmond, to present to you this Mess President's Chair to commemorate the occasion."

In accepting the chair, which is embellished on its back with a carving of the Borough Arms and two "Jimmies" and carries an engraved plate, which reads: "Presented to the Royal Corps of Signals by the Borough of Richmond to commemorate the Conferment of The Freedom of Entry to the Borough upon the Corps, 17th August, 1964." Her Royal Highness said:

"Mr. Mayor, on this historic occasion, it is a very great privilege to have received, on behalf of my Corps, the Freedom of this loyal and ancient Borough, and I am more than proud to have added my name, as Colonel-in-Chief, to its Roll of Honorary Freemen. And now it gives me great pleasure to accept this chair on behalf of my Corps to commemorate this historic occasion, and I thank you and the members of the Borough Council for such a handsome gift. It will be treasured by us and kept for all to see in the Headquarters Mess of my Corps.

In return, I would ask you, on behalf of the Borough of Richmond, to accept this statue of the figure of Mercury. As you will know, Mercury is the central figure of the badge of my Corps. The presence of this statue in your Town Hall and of your chair in our Headquarters Mess will be a never failing reminder of the closer ties that have now been established between the officers and men of my Corps and the Council and citizens of your ancient Borough."

The statue of Mercury bears the inscription in copperplate headed by the Corps Badge:

"Presented to the Borough of Richmond, Yorkshire, by Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal Colonel-in-Chief Royal Corps of Signals on behalf of the Officers Warrant Officers Non Commissioned Officers and Men of Her Corps on the occasion of the Grant to the Royal Corps of Signals of The Freedom of Entry to the Borough 17th August 1964."

The Mayor then called upon the citizens of Richmond to give three cheers for the Royal Corps of Signals, to which the parade replied with a general salute. The National Anthem

Scenes from the Freedom Ceremony



(*Top left*) **H.R.H. The Princess Royal arrives and is greeted by Sir William Worsley, Bt., Her Majesty's Lieutenant for the North Riding of Yorkshire.**

(*Top Centre*) **The Princess Royal's personal standard is broken.**

(*Top right*) **The Royal Guard is inspected. Yeoman Warder G. A. E. Gavey precedes Her Royal Highness.**

(*Centre left*) **After the presentation Her Royal Highness makes a short address.**

(*Centre right*) **In the market square prior to the March Past.**

(*Bottom left*) **The March Past.**

(*Bottom right* **A Royal Salute during the parade.**



General view of the parade from one side

was then played to signify the completion of the presentation ceremony and Her Royal Highness moved forward towards the saluting base, where she was again accorded a Royal Salute. Then, preceded by the Mace Bearers, attended by the Mayor and The Master of Signals, followed by Yeoman Warder Gavey, and accompanied by Her Majesty's Lieutenant, the A.D.C., the Town Clerk, Aldermen and Councillors, Her Royal Highness proceeded on foot to the Market Square to a position at a saluting base adjacent to the Market Cross. Meanwhile, the parade marched from the Cricket Ground with drawn swords, fixed bayonets and band playing, via Quaker Lane and Queen's Road to the Market Square and past Her Royal Highness, thus exercising the right and privilege newly conferred on the Corps.

Despite the inclement weather, the morale and bearing of all on parade was excellent. Every individual was obviously intensely proud to be taking part in this historic occasion and determined to be a credit to his Corps.

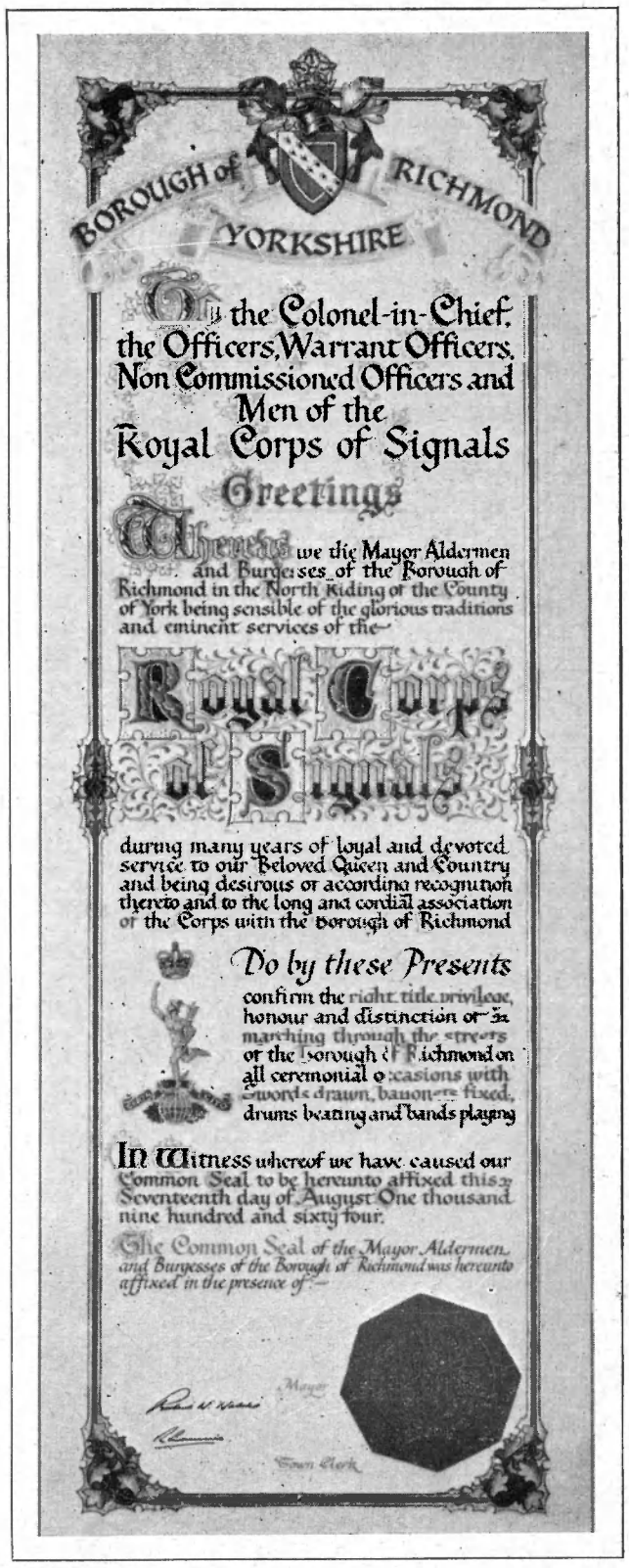
It was a great pleasure, not only to have Yeoman Warder Gavey taking part in the ceremony, but also to have six Chelsea Pensioners among the spectators. On all sides one heard expressions of appreciation that the parade had not been cancalled. Many of the citizens took it for granted that the parade would be "off" and so the number of spectators at the Cricket Ground was somewhat reduced, but the word got around that the parade was taking place and a goodly crowd had assembled in the Market Square in time for the March Past.

After the March Past through the square was completed, His Worship the Mayor conducted Her Royal Highness to the King's Head Hotel, where a formal luncheon had been arranged by the Mayor and Borough Council for the Royal Signals and other distinguished military and civilian guests. The Royal Signals guest list had been arranged with the Commander, Training Brigade, so as to include a representative of every rank in the Corps, from Signalman to Major-General, with their ladies. On the civilian side, there was a wide selection of guests from both town and country, including Her Majesty's Lieutenant for the North Riding, Sir William Worsley.

The luncheon proceedings commenced with the reception by the Mayor and the presentation to Her Royal Highness of some 130 hosts and guests, who were announced formally and individually by the Town Sergeant-at-Mace. Sherry was then served, after which all entered the banqueting hall for lunch.

The Town Clerk, Mr. R. Lawrie, then called upon the Mayor's Chaplain, the Rev. D. W. Sillar, Rector of the Church of St. Mary Richmond, to say grace, which was given in Latin. When this was completed, the assembled company sat down to a splendid lunch. The main course chosen on this occasion could only have been, of course, "the roast beef of old England with Yorkshire Pudding," and quite excellent it was. Rumour had it, in fact, that the whole of North Yorkshire had been scoured for a suitable young beast for the event and, indeed, it was a noble "Sir Loin."

As the meal proceeded, the Royal Signals String Orchestra played selections. At the end, when the port was served, there was a moment of quiet as the Royal Signals Fanfare Trumpeters, in scarlet full dress, marched in, took up their position at the end of the hall and sounded the "Loyal Fanfare." The Town Clerk then announced "Pray Silence for his Worship the Mayor," who arose and proposed the Loyal Toast to Her Majesty The Queen. This was followed shortly



afterwards by the appearance of the Fanfare Trumpeters again, who sounded the Royal Signals Fanfare and once again the Town Clerk announced "Pray silence for his Worship the Mayor." This time the Mayor arose and made a short speech in which he spoke of his and the Council's pleasure at being able to accord the Freedom given that day and at being able to entertain the assembled company. He went on to say how

impressed he was with the smartness and soldierliness of the officers and men involved in the outdoor ceremony, and how pleased he and the Council were that it had been decided to go through with the ceremony outdoors, despite the inclement weather. He made it clear that the Town of Richmond valued their association, which had been built up over the years with the Garrison of Catterick and with, in particular, the Royal Signals officers and men and their families who lived there, and how much he hoped that the association would continue to grow and prosper.

He then called upon the company, other than Royal Signals guests, to rise and drink a toast to "The Royal Corps of Signals."

There was a short pause and the Fanfare Trumpeters appeared once again and sounded yet another fanfare "The Richmond Fanfare" (based on the tune "Lass of Richmond Hill"). This time the Town Clerk announced "Mr. Mayor, Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen, pray silence for Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal.

Her Highness arose and addressed the company as follows:

Mr. Mayor, My Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen. I thank you, Mr. Mayor, for the toast you and your guests have drunk to the Royal Corps of Signals, and for the kind terms in which you have spoken about my Corps. This day has been a great one in our short history. We have been partakers in an ancient and honoured ceremony. You have granted us the right, title, privilege and honour of marching through the streets of your Borough on all cermonial occasions with bayonets fixed and bands playing. We regard this Freedom as a very special privilege and a clear indication of the extent to which your citizens have taken my Corps to their hearts. We are most conscious too that it is based on many years of lively association and close friendship that began when the School of Signals and Depot came to Catterick Camp as long ago as 1925.

You will appreciate that the welfare and good conduct of soldiers are much affected by the attitude of the civil population. The interest shown by all the local residents in this area in our affairs, their kindliness, hospitality and tolerance are known by all those who are now serving and remembered by the much larger numbers who have passed through Catterick Camp in both peace and war. Not many of them may have been born in Richmond or even in the North Riding, but because they have been happy here and have enjoyed what this lovely Dale countryside has to offer, they and their families may perhaps have come to regard themselves almost as Yorkshire men and women. I can pay you no higher tribute.

You may rest assured Mr. Mayor, that my Corps is proud of the honour that has been bestowed on it today and that we shall cherish it.

I now ask members of the Royal Corps of Signals who are present here today to rise and join with me in drinking the health of the Borough of Richmond."

Finally the company arose as Her Royal Highness and the senior guests departed from the Banqueting Hall and subsequently Her Royal Highness bade farewell to the Mayor and Mayoress, the Master of Signals and Lady Scott and Brigadier and Mrs. Cox. Her Royal Highness was then conducted to her car by Sir William Worsley, Her Majesty's Lieutenant for the North Riding, passing through the assembled distinguished guests and saying goodbye to them on her way to the car.

So ended a memorable day in our Corps history. All who were privileged to be present will remember with pride and affection this Royal occasion with its pomp and ceremony and yet, at the same time, an occasion that was warm and friendly and typically Yorkshire in its concept.

An Individual Impression of the Freedom Ceremony

THE following letter from Yeoman Warder G. A. E. Gavey summarises his impressions of the Freedom ceremony—a memorable day from his point of view during which his state hat was 'done to a turn' in an oven and his 'spear' (partizan in Tower of London circles) was nearly impaled in the cross beams of a Richmond public house.

May I first thank R.H.Q. for giving me the honour of attending and taking part in this most impressive ceremony at Richmond, Yorkshire. Thanks are due also to our hosts of the 8th and 11th Regiments for their generous hospitality to myself as well as to the six Chelsea Pensioners and Mr. J. F. Adkin's of H.M. Bodyguard of the Yeoman of the Guard.

Arrangements for travel, reception, accommodation, messing and return to London were faultless. The organisation of this Freedom Ceremony—for which I very much doubt if the Corps had a precedent as a guide—was outstandingly good. Everything seemed to go without a hitch despite the appalling weather conditions on the day. I believe that Major L. W. Prescot was responsible for all the preparation and general organisation—at any rate he collected me early on Sunday evening and then took me into Richmond to see the parade ground and gave me about ten minutes briefing of my duties at the ceremony the following day. He thoughtfully gave me a copy of the programme to read later at my leisure. I appreciated the confidence he had in me that this very short but adequate briefing was sufficient for my part of the ceremony to be carried out with dignity.

The decision by Brigadier A. C. Cox, O.B.E., for the ceremony to be carried out in full, despite the heavy rain, was a very right and happy one—in my opinion at any rate—and no doubt was the opinion of the great majority of all those on parade and of the many guests present. If Her Royal Highness was prepared to go through with the full ceremony I think we felt it was an honour to share any discomfort with her.

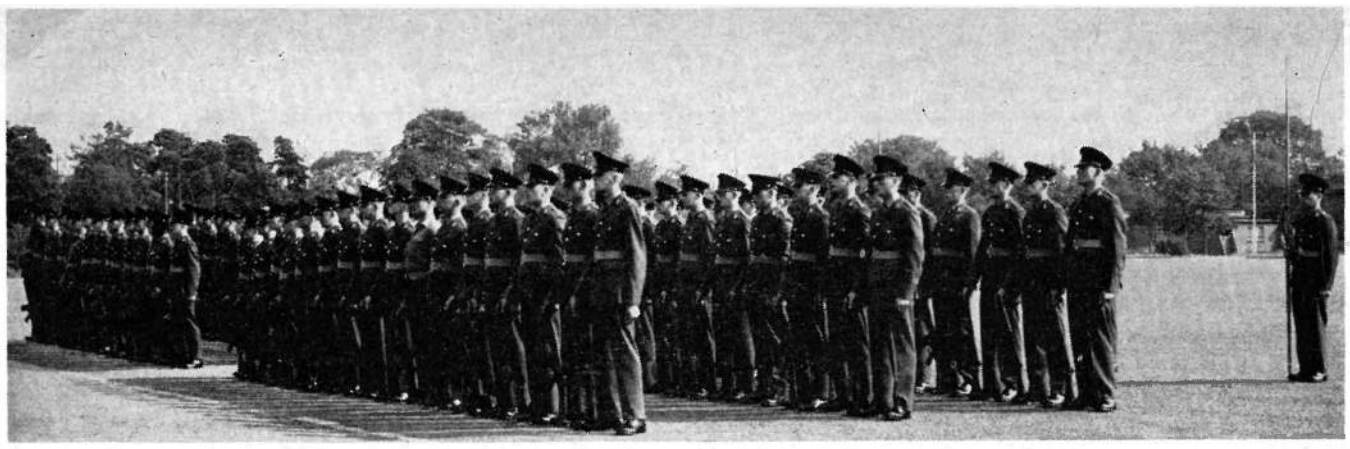
About the parade itself, I thought that the steadiness of the troops was absolutely marvellous—especially as by this time they were all thoroughly soaked. Uniforms which a couple of hours earlier had been immaculate were now sodden and brasses dulled. This obvious discomfort, however, did not appear to disturb the absolute steadiness of the troops taking part nor did it appear to upset the various arms drill movements. Very many of them, especially in the Royal Guard of Honour were, I understand, recruits of about six to eight weeks' training. During H.R.H.'s inspection of Her Guard of Honour, I was in an excellent position as we passed along the ranks to notice the young soldiers' bearing—and not a flicker of movement by any of them What a credit they were to their instructors!

The procession through the town from the parade ground to the saluting base at the Market Place, now led by the Mace-bearers, whilst I brought up the rear behind the Lieutenant of the County and the Town Clerk, was an impressive sight for the townsfolk and visitors. This fact I know because whilst waiting at Darlington railway station on the Tuesday morning to return to London, two ladies with two young girls, seeing me holding my partizan (the spear-like weapon carried by Yeoman Warders) spoke to me. They had seen the ceremony in Richmond and the procession through the town. I replied that they must have got very wet. "Oh yes," was the answer, "but wasn't it all very thrilling, especially for us visitors and the townspeople."

The actual March Past the Saluting Base was impressive and well executed. The parade now over and H.R.H. escorted by the Mayor to the King's Head Hotel for the luncheon, we could all relax. Mr. J. Dunlop (R.S.M. 11th Regiment) soon appeared to collect the six Chelsea Pensioners, Mr. Adkin and myself. Whilst awaiting for our transport he thoughtfully suggested we move to the nearest pub. We heartily agreed but my 8 ft. partizan certainly wanted some manoeuvring through the very low ceilinged lounge—in fact I almost put the blade point through the ceiling. However, Mr. Adkins came to my help in parking the lethal weapon in a corner, whilst we drank a toast to Mr. Dunlop.

Transport now being available we all returned to 11th Regiment Sergeants' Mess where we were royally entertained to a really marvellous buffet-lunch. By now my ruff felt like a wet dish cloth round my neck so it was more comfortable to take it off. It appeared to be ruined as many of the pleats had come apart. Later in the afternoon I was able to put the sodden pleats back into place and much to my surprise when the ruff dried out, all was ship-shape once again. My State Hat needed some attention also, so I asked the Chef of 8th Regiment Officers' Mess if it could be left in his kitchen to dry out.

(Continued at foot of Column 1 Page 376)



The Guard of Honour on parade prior to movement to France

UNIQUE HONOUR FOR THE CORPS

11th Regiment and the Corps Band represent the British Army at the 50th anniversary of the Battle of the Marne.

IT was late afternoon on Friday, 28th August, that the decision was made that the 11th Regiment and the Band of the Royal Corps of Signals would provide a contingent at a parade to be held in Rheims on Sunday, the 6th September, 1964. Fifty years before, the British Expeditionary Force in France was fighting alongside the Belgium and French Forces in defence of the French capital. The line of battle was the Marne. The German advance was held and the threat to Paris was averted.

It was to mark this 50th Anniversary that a parade was to be held before the President of France at Rheims.

This left six days to prepare the Guard before the move. Luckily about thirty per cent. of the Guard of Honour who had represented the Corps at the ceremony of the Freedom of Richmond were still in the Regiment and these were ably supported by two very good troops who had passed out shortly before. They were mindful of their great responsibility and so determined not to let down their Corps that they drilled and prepared their kit as they had never done before.

By Friday all was ready and the Guard moved off on an uneventful and perfectly organised move to Rheims by train, boat and coach. In Rheims accommodation was provided by the French Air Force who did everything possible to ensure that the British contingent were comfortable.

On Sunday a large and spectacular parade was drawn up in the main Boulevard of Rheims with the saluting dais on the steps of the Palais de Justice.

The troops were drawn up for inspection by the left (this is customary in the French Army) with the French Guard of Honour and Band first, then followed a detachment from the Belgian Services with their Band, the Corps Band was next in line and stood out being the only troops on parade not in khaki. Next came our Guard of Honour and then stretching half a mile in distance, company after company of French troops.

The arrival of General De Gaulle was heralded by a fanfare of trumpets, hundreds of veterans lowered their standards in salute and the General paid tribute to the Colour Parties. The National Anthem was played and the General began his drive of inspection. Then followed the march past, our Guard of Honour the only one with swords drawn and bayonets fixed stood out when compared to the other contingents on parade and the crowd were not slow to show their appreciation.

As our contingent entered the Square the Band struck up "Tipperary" and while the Guard saluted General De Gaulle, the French Standards were lowered in honour. Old men's eyes were damp and pretty girls sang "Tipperary" in a never-to-be-forgotten moment.

Later that night the Corps Band played in the Boulevard and was heard not only by many thousands of French citizens but also by our Guard of Honour. Later 150 very proud soldiers and bandsmen were busy trying out their French in numerous cafes where they very rapidly made friends both with the local population and the Belgian contingent, who were also "on the town."

At the official reception General Pin who comanded the parade praised our soldiers for their most impressive display and said that the French Army was proud to march behind such a magnificent Band.

The contingent returned to Catterick tired but prouder than ever before of their uniforms, yet very mindful of those who had died to prove this fact.

"Certainly, Sir," replied the Chef so the hat was handed over. Before retiring to my room that night I asked about the hat. The Chef returned it to me perfectly dry. It had been in one of the ovens for the past seven hours.

You may remember Mr. Editor that you, Lieutenant-Colonel Day and myself were the only diners that Monday evening as all the other guests had left earlier on their respective homeward journeys. It is just as well that we didn't know then that possibly my hat and our excellent dinner were all in the oven together!

I have made no attempt to describe the 'Freedom of Entry' ceremony as I feel certain this will be done, with illustrations, by a more able pen than mine. As an observer though and near Her Royal Highness the whole time until the end of the March Past, perhaps these impressions and observations of a memorable day may be of some interest to past and present members of our Corps.

G. A. E. GAVEY,

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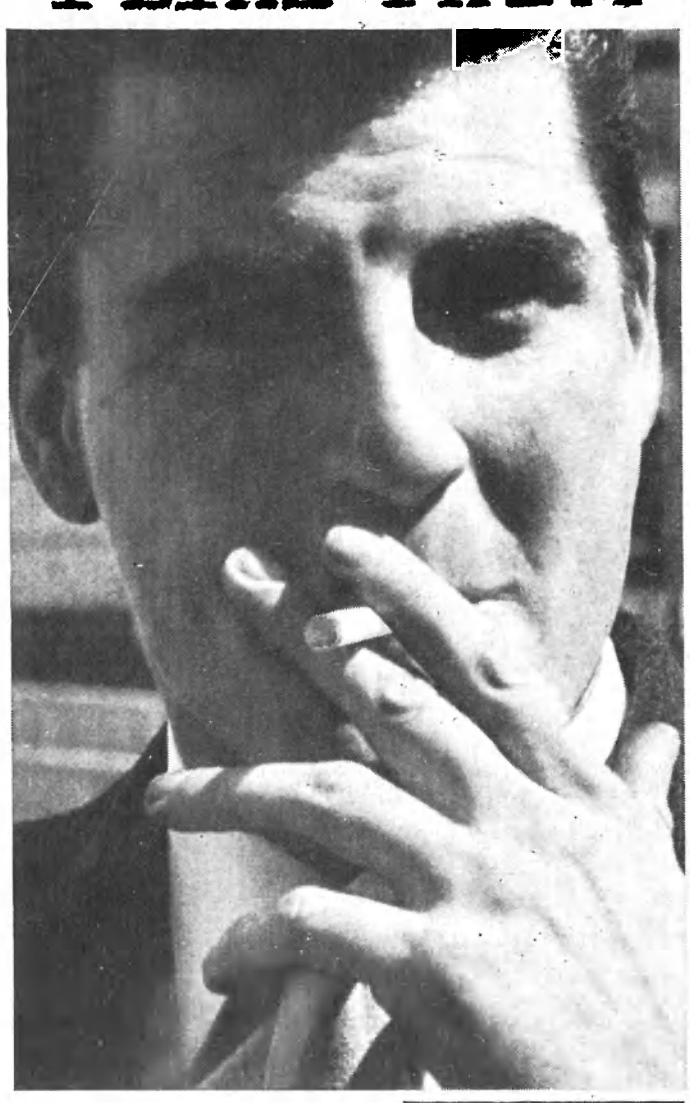
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From the Inspector of Trade Training

YEOMEN OF SIGNALS

THE Corps is still short of Yeomen. Against a requirement of 142 there are only 48 names on the roll. Opportunities on this supervisory role are therefore very bright, especially for those who qualify early.

All the operating trades are eligible for the Yeoman Course, provided the various requirements, as laid down in Corps Memorandum No. 20, are satisfied. It is perhaps heartening for those Signal Centre Supervisors who have not yet attended the course, to know that the success record for their roll is high. To those 50 or so Supervisors who have not yet taken the plunge, we would say this: the sooner you sit the qualifying examination and are nominated for a course, the better for your career. Although there is no target date by which you have to qualify for Yeoman, the longer you leave it, the greater the hurdle; and remember that you must have a minimum of three years still to serve on your current engagement, at the end of the Yeoman of Signals Course.

To other would-be aspirants, we would like to encourage the young Sergeants and those senior Corporals who are already fully qualified for promotion to the rank of Sergeant. Corporals with the requisite qualifications and recommendation are now eligible to sit the qualifying examination. The first Corporal (V. W. Raynor) has just been selected to attend a course (the one starting in March, 1965). It can be done! Why don't you have a try!

The aim of this article is to help. If you know where others have failed, you may be able to avoid the pitfalls yourself. So let us start with some statistics.

Yeoman training started in early 1962. The first three courses were only 15 weeks long, but the syllabus was then increased and subsequent courses have been lengthened to 26 weeks. A total of five courses have so far been completed, and the sixth is at the midway stage at the time of writing. 71 per cent of those who joined the longer courses have qualified successfully.

Results of the qualifying examinations are not so good. So far there have been eight examinations, and the success rate is only 33 per cent. An attempt will be made in the succeeding paragraphs to analyse the reasons for this.

The qualifying examination consists of two practical tests and three written papers. The overall failure rate, by subjects in the eight examinations so far held is in the order:

Keyboard Operating, 33% failure; Morse Operating, 22% failure; Tape Relay Procedure, 24% failure; Signal Centre and Switchboard, 15% failure; Voice and Tg. Procedure, 13% failure.

In the last examination, however, the maximum failures were in Tape Relay (32%) and Signal Centre and Switchboard (28%).

When it is realised that the two skills tests are at B Trade Class III level, (i.e., 12 w.p.m. morse and 25 w.p.m. keyboard) it cannot be disputed that the operating standard of applicants is desperately poor. Even though it is fully appreciated that facilities for extra practice in individual units is often difficult, it must be understood that if Yeomen are to be regarded as the Master operators of the Corps, then their operating must be completely accurate: the majority of candidates who failed in keyboard at the last examination, did so, not on account of speed or corrected errors, but because of uncorrected errors. So, as far as skills are concerned, therefore—

THE KEY TO SUCCESS IS ACCURACY

Dealing with written papers, a minority of candidates obviously just didn't know their subjects. Six of the Tape Relay papers in the last examination gained 30% or less, and of the 32% failures on this subject, the majority failed to qualify by over 10 per cent. Even in the other papers there were very few near misses, which all suggests that procedures are not well enough known, especially as the questions require purely factual answers demanding little more than quotation from the book.

Advice for the written papers is—

"KNOW YOUR PROCEDURES"

It has been discovered on the courses themselves that failure is not normally due to sheer lack of knowledge so much as inability to apply knowledge to the solving of communication problems in the logical and commonsense manner required of a supervisor. A mere paper qualification in your secondary trade is not a great help when you are called upon to supervise. You need some experience of junior supervisory duties in both your trades in order to be able to understand and appreciate the problems of a Yeoman of Signals.

Our suggestions for success are:

Before the qualifying examination: Make sure of accuracy at skills. Have a thorough knowledge of procedures.

At the qualifying examination: Read questions carefully and study the marks allotted to each. Make sure you devote more time to answering the questions for which most marks are allotted.

Before the Course: Keep up your skills (you will have to advance them on the course!). Get some experience in supervisory appointments in both your secondary trade and your primary trade. Your Squadron Commander will help you in this if you ask him.

To assist candidates, the School of Signals will in future be writing a critique of each examination. This will be widely distributed throughout the Corps and should be studied by all Yeoman **aspirants.**

Upgrading Courses in Catterick

Dates for courses scheduled to be held in the Training Brigade, starting in April, 1965, are as follows:

Line Technician	Class II - I	27th April
Lineman	Class II - I	6th April
Clerk Technician	Class II - I	27th April
Staff Operator	Class II - I	27th April
Comcen. Operator	Class II - I	13th April
Radio Operator	Class II - I	6th April
Electrician Driver	Class II - I	6th April
Telegraph Operator	Class II - I	6th April
Driver, Royal Signals	Class II - I	6th April
Line Technician	Class III-II	13th April
Telegraph Technician	Class III-II	20th April
Radio Technician (Heavy) ...	Class III-II	6th April
Lineman	Class III-II	6th April
Comcen. Operator	Class III-II	6th April
Radio Operator	Class III-II	13th April
Telegraph Operator	Class III-II	6th April

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Forthcoming Events

Royal Signals Officers' Annual Reunion

Royal Signals Officers' Annual Reunion will be held on Friday, 27th November, 1964, in the Drill Hall of 47 Regiment (Middlesex Yeomanry) T.A., Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea, S.W.3 (7—11 p.m.).

1st and 2nd Air Formation Signals O.C.A.

The 17th Annual Reunion Dinner will be held on Saturday, 24th October, 1964, at The Chevrons Club, 3/5, Dorset Square, London, N.W.1, at 7 p.m. Tickets, price 12/6, may be obtained from Captain D. T. Hunneyball, 181, Pampisford Road, South Croydon, Surrey, or Mr. W. Cousins, 11, Consfield Avenue, New Malden, Surrey. Tickets, for male guests, may be obtained, but early application is requested, with remittance.

Personal Column

London Gazette

Congratulations to the following who were Mentioned in Despatches in connection with operations in the Borneo Territories:—
Staff Sergeant F. A. Smith
Corporal P. H. M. Toovey
(London Gazette, 21st August, 1964).

REGULAR ARMY

Maj. A. R. McCreadie retires 1st Aug., 1964.
Lt. (Q.M.) E. R. C. Wall to be Capt., 12th Aug., 1964.
Lt. (Q.M.) D. Macgillivary to be Capt. (Q.M.), 18th Aug., 1964.
Maj. L. F. Ball from T.A. and Res. of Offrs is reinstated on the active list in the rank of Major, 31st July, 1964.
Maj. P. O. J. Nicholson, A.M.I.E.E., is placed in retired pay, 1st Sept., 1964.
Capt. J. B. Booth to be Major, 8th September, 1964.
Capt. A. J. Welch to be Major, 3rd August, 1964.

SHORT SERVICE COMMISSIONS

Maj. K. W. Jordan relinquishes his comm., 11th Aug., 1964.
2/Lt. A. K. Knight to be Lt., 11th Aug., 1964.
W.O.I R. E. Howard, B.E.M., to be Lt. (Q.M.), 13th July, 1964.
Capt. W. F. Fill from Active List to be Capt., 16th Aug., 1964, and is granted the hon. rank of Major.
W.O.I D. Haughney to be Lt. (Q.M.), 30th July, 1964.
W.O.I E. J. Ford to be Lt. (Q.M.), 30th July, 1964.
Capt. (T.O.T.) J. Potts relinquishes his comm., 1st Sept., 1964.
Maj. (Q.M.) J. H. W. Roake relinquishes his comm., 6th Sept., 1964.

Movement of Officers

15th September to 14th October, 1964.

Major (Q.M.) D. M. Banham ...	...	To H.Q. A.E.R. Royal Signals
Major P. A. C. Baldwin ...	...	„ 205 Squadron (Inf. Bde Gp)
Lieutenant-Colonel P. S. Banbury, M.B.E. ...	...	„ H.Q. AAFCE
Captain F. E. G. Barlow ...	...	„ 30th Regiment
Lieutenant-Colonel B. C. Bovey ...		„ SHAPE
Captain P. R. Buchanan ...	...	„ 1st Regiment
Lieutenant C. H. D. Cross ...	...	„ 8th Regiment
Lieutenant D. W. Cook ...	...	„ RMCS Shrivenham
Captain (T.O.T.) D. Crookes ...		„ 9th Regiment
Second-Lieutenant C. H. Dickinson		„ 11th Regiment (Cadre)
Major L. D. Edinger	...	„ 64th Regiment (T.A.)
Captain M. J. Flynn	...	„ 11th Regiment (H.S.) For course.
Captain (Q.M.) A. M. French, B.E.M.		„ Adm. Unit, Hong Kong
Major J. R. Garratt	...	„ 22nd Regiment
Captain P. D. E. Gregory ...	...	„ 4th Regiment
Major (T.O.T.) J. Harwood	...	„ 263 Squadron (Trg)
Major J. A. E. Hasell	...	„ 11th Regiment (H.S.) For FARELF)
Major A. M. Hewson	...	„ 18th Regiment
Lieutenant (Tfc Offr) G. E. Loudoun		„ 262 Squadron
Captain (Q.M.) H. B. S. MacMorran		„ 57th Regiment (T.A.)
Captain G. D. A. Mackay ...	...	„ Army Air Corps Centre
Captain (T.O.T.) G. B. Miles	...	„ 7th Regiment
Major F. W. Moseley	...	„ 14th Regiment
Major (Q.M.) G. W. Nation ...	...	„ H.Q. Trg Bde, Royal Signals
Major H. E. Roper	...	„ 30th Regiment
Major H. Rothwell	...	„ H.Q. FARELF
Captain P. J. Rowland	...	„ 216 Squadron (Para. Bde Gp)
Captain H. Scott	...	„ 259 Squadron (COMCAN)
Major D. Shaw	...	„ 24th Regiment
Captain (Q.M.) J. Woods ...	...	„ 22nd Regiment
Captain G. W. Young	...	„ School of Signals

Movements—Warrant Officers and Senior N.C.O.s

October, 1964

W.O.I E. J. Holloway ...	...	... To School of Signals
W.O.I T. C. O'Toole ...	...	... „ School of Signals
W.O.II J. S. P. Pilkington	...	... „ School of Signals
W.O.II F. Cooper ...	...	... „ School of Signals
W.O.II I. McLoughlin ...	...	... „ 8th Regiment
W.O.II C. Pinkney ...	...	... „ 200 Squadron
W.O.II J. A. Esson ...	...	... „ School of Signals
W.O.II P. J. Catton ...	...	... „ 42 Regiment T.A.
W.O.II L. A. Hoyes ...	...	... „ 43rd Regiment T.A.
W.O.II I. A. Reid ...	...	... „ School of Signals
S/Sgt. J. A. G. Joyce ...	...	... „ 18th Regiment
S/Sgt. A. McKeever ...	...	... „ 9th Regiment
S/Sgt. S. Finlayson ...	...	... „ 254 Squadron
S/Sgt. F. G. Gamble ...	...	... „ 205 Squadron
S/Sgt. D. B. Collins ...	...	... „ School of Signals
S/Sgt. H. J. Saxton ...	...	... „ School of Signals
Sgt. H. M. Allison ...	...	... „ School of Signals (Courses)
Sgt. J. K. Angus	...	... „ School of Signals (Courses)
Sgt. F. Boulton	...	... „ School of Signals (Courses)
Sgt. W. G. S. Cochrane	...	... „ School of Signals (Courses)
Sgt. N. C. Collier ...	...	... „ School of Signals (Courses)
Sgt. J. E. Fison	...	... „ School of Signals (Courses)
Sgt. E. C. Harriss ...	...	... „ School of Signals (Courses)
Sgt. C. D. Hatcher ...	...	... „ School of Signals (Courses)
Sgt. B. Holder ...	...	... „ School of Signals (Courses)
Sgt. A. J. E. Irons ...	...	... „ School of Signals (Courses)
Sgt. P. Jackson ...	...	... „ School of Signals (Courses)
Sgt. T. C. Jones ...	...	... „ School of Signals (Courses)
Sgt. R. M. Keasey ...	...	... „ School of Signals (Courses)
Sgt. M. L. Lloyd ...	...	... „ School of Signals (Courses)
Sgt. G. H. Nickson ...	...	.. „ School of Signals (Courses)
Sgt. D. H. Noden ...	...	... „ School of Signals (Courses)
Sgt. D. R. Sanders ...	...	... „ School of Signals (Courses)
Sgt. M. A. Walker ...	...	... „ School of Signals (Courses)
Sgt. A. C. Potts ...	...	... „ AAS Harrogate
Sgt. R. G. Mills ...	...	... „ Northern Rhodesia
Sgt. H. J. Whenman ...	...	... „ 259 Squadron
Sgt. W. Norrie ...	...	... „ 5 D.G. Troop
Sgt. P. C. A. Clifton ...	...	... „ 263 Squadron
Sgt. W. H. Elliott ...	...	... „ 1 RTR Troop
Sgt. L. Bemrose ...	...	... „ 210 Squadron
Sgt. R. Copland ...	...	... „ 207 Squadron
Sgt. J. Hughes ...	...	... „ 212 Squadron
Sgt. R. H. Suett ...	...	... „ 1st Regiment
Sgt. A. L. H. Feber ...	...	... „ 204 Squadron
Sgt. B. Fisher ...	...	... „ 7th Regiment
Sgt. J. W. Brand ...	...	... „ 4 RTR Troop
Sgt. D. Smith ...	...	... „ 30th Regiment
Sgt. W. B. Dick ...	...	... „ 640 Troop
Sgt. G. A. Adlington ...	...	... „ 255 Squadron
Sgt. G. A. Howie ...	...	... „ 17th (Gurkha) Regiment
Sgt. H. M. Aimable ...	...	... „ School of Signals
Sgt. E. C. H. Elcome ...	...	... „ 1st Regiment
Sgt. A. P. Waugh ...	...	... „ All Arms Junior Leaders' Regt.
Sgt. J. Low ...	...	... „ 7th Regiment
Sgt. R. T. Massey ...	...	... „ H.Q. 3 Div. & H.Q. and Signal Regiment
Sgt. P. W. F. Shirley ...	...	... „ School of Signals
Sgt. G. W. E. Hope ...	...	... „ 2nd Regiment
Sgt. T. B. Neal ...	...	... „ 7th Regiment
Sgt. J. E. S. Lewis ...	...	... „ 225 Squadron
A/Sgt. J. McGonagle ...	..	... „ 46 Squadron RASC (LCT)

Births

O'NEILL.—To Sergeant and Mrs. B. P. O'Neill of 234 Squadron on 1st October, at the R.N. Hospital, Mtarfa, Malta G.C., a daughter—Kathleen.

HUGHES.—At Catterick Military Hospital, on 8th August, to Captain (Hon. Major, 8th Regiment) and Mrs. E. P. Hughes, a son, Dominic Sebastian.

DURRANT.—(Adoption). By Ronnie (nee Kane) and W.O.II P. Durrant, a sister for Dominic (Susan Margaret), born 9th March, 1964.

Deaths

FINNEY.—Major (Hon. Lieutenant-Colonel) G. U. Finney, on 22nd May 1964.

HUXFORD.—Lieutenant (Honorary Captain) A. S. Huxford, on 19th August, 1964.

COOPER.—Ex C.Q.M.S. V. J. Cooper, M.M., on the 5th September, at 160, Essex Square, Harnham, Salisbury, Wilts. Mr. Cooper served with the Royal Corps from 1920 until 1945. He had been a member of the Salisbury Branch of the Association since 1949 and in 1956 he was granted Honorary Life Membership.

BARTLEY.—Signalman Robert Kenneth, on 16th August, in B.A.O.R.

MYERS.—Lance-Corporal John Henry Myers, on 24th August, at the U.S. Army Hospital, Munich, as the result of an accident.

YORKE.—Major A. M. Yorke (Q.M.) died on 21st September at the age of 63. He commenced his career in 1918 in the R.A.F. and served until July, 1919. In 1922 he joined Royal Signals. In 1942 he was granted an Emergency Commission as Lieutenant (Q.M.), and he was released in the rank of Major (Q.M.) in 1945. Later that year he came back into Royal Signals and served until he voluntarily resigned his commission in October, 1956. He leaves a widow to whom every sympathy is expressed. Mrs. Yorke's address is The Cottage, 2, Burdett Street, Ramsbury, Wilts.

GRIEVE.—Signalman Robert Crosby Grieve, of 256 Squadron, on the night of 22/23rd September as a result of a traffic accident in Herford, Germany. He was a Life Member of the Association.

PROUDFOOT.—Signalman Alistair Simpson Proudfoot, of 211 Squadron, B.A.O.R., on the 23rd September as a result of a traffic accident.

The Late Major Edward S. Whitaker

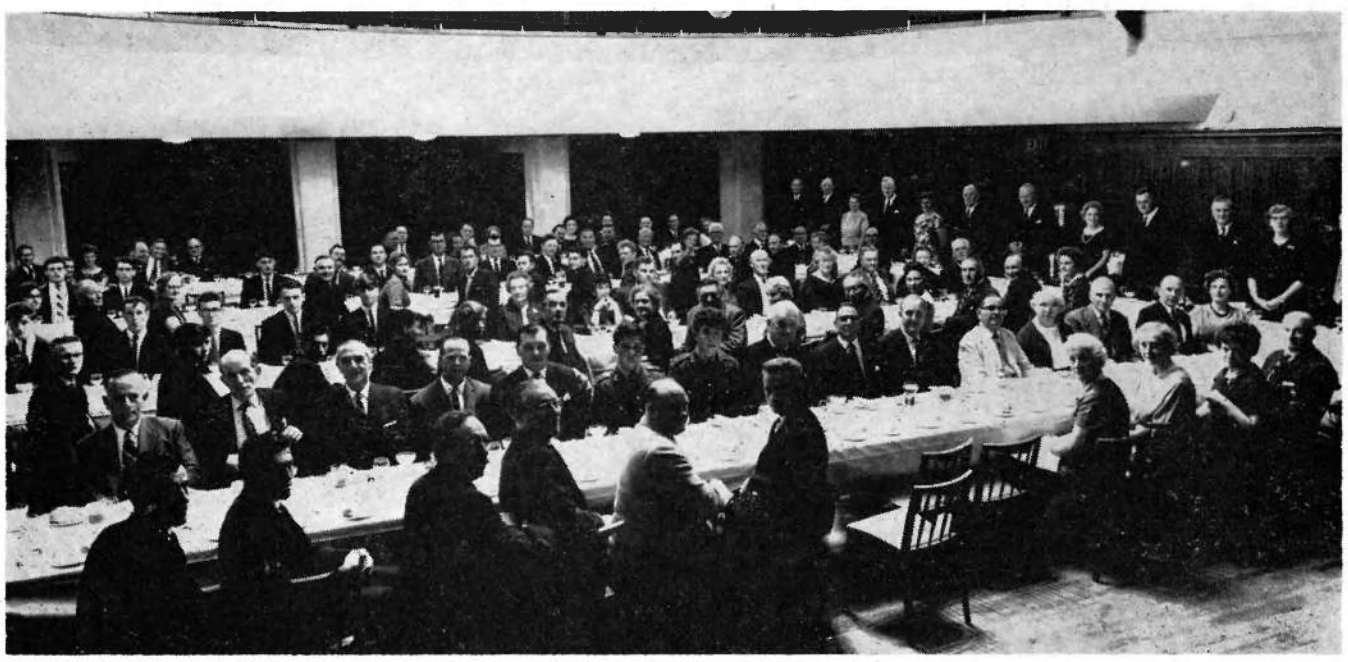
Mildred Alice Whitaker, wife of the late Major Edward S. Whitaker, died on August 1st, 1964, at Cheltenham. Mrs. Wainscott, the late Mrs. Whitaker's sister, wishes to express her regrets at being unable to write individually to all the members of the Corps who have kept in touch with Major and Mrs. Whitaker during recent years.

SITE CLERK OF WORKS (SIGNALS)

An immediate vacancy exists with Glovers (Electrical Consultants) for a Site Clerk of Works (Signals) for employment with the Blandford Planning Staff, Blandford Camp, Dorset.

Salary approximately £1,250 p.a.
Contract 3-4 years.
Suit ex-Foreman of Signals.

Royal Signals Ex-Boys hold their Annual Dinner at the Victory Ex-Services Club



PRESIDED over by Colonel Jack Piddington and efficiently organised by Major K. L. Uttley, some 140 sat down to the usual excellent dinner on the 5th September. Corps personalities too numerous to mention in detail were present but it was indeed pleasant to see the Signal Officer-in-Chief and Mrs. Swainson attending as guests along with Major-General Richard Moberly. Also present were such stalwarts as Brigadier Herbert Bloodworth, Colonel Tom Boileau, Majors Freddy Strange and George Flynn with their wives and, of course, "Jacques" Jacobs and that character who refuses to grow any older—Tommy Blades.

A feature of the evening was the increased number of younger ex-Boys who were present. They were very welcome and it is hoped that they will come in increasing numbers in the future.

Finally, to all ex-Boys who read this and who were NOT there make a point NOW of coming next year if it is at all possible. Held in September it is a good 'night out' and a grand chance to meet old friends—and, of course, it is YOUR DINNER.

Promotions

(For August)

REGIMENTAL DUTY ROSTER

				New Sen. No.	Old Sen. No.	
To W.O.I	21033799	S Sgt.	Kendrick, L.	2990	1880	
	22289336	S Sgt.	Mason, K.	3000	1690	
	22515566	S Sgt.	Markham, J. R.	3010	1650	
To S Sgt.	22265975	Sgt.	Smith, D.	2800	444	(Fd)
	2548985	Sgt.	Angell, J. A.	3014	5140	(Op)
	23231565	A/S Sgt.	Scott, I. H.	3084	4750	(Op)
	22329072	Sgt.	Harrison, M.	3160	5340	(Op)
	22212086	Sgt.	Aimable, H. M.	3170	5320	(Op)
	22515111	Sgt.	Beddingfield, W. J.	3180	5414	(Op)
	22639338	Sgt.	Dean, P. A.	3190	5680	(Op)

FOREMAN OF SIGNALS ROSTER

To W.O.I	14189590	W.O.II	Edge, M. R.	850	1360	
	2549499	W.O.II	Grigsby, J. E.	860	1000	

CHIEF CLERK'S ROSTER

To W.O.II	19188481	S Sgt.	Jones, R.	770	830	
	7012905	S Sgt.	Leach, W. P.	780	570	
	22003746	S Sgt.	Bennett, H. R.	790	850	
	22265193	S Sgt.	Beasley, E. A.	800	910	
	22459818	S Sgt.	Williams, P. A.	810	840	
To S Sgt.	23212723	Sgt.	Arrowsmith, L.	1030	1696	(Ad)

TECHNICAL ROSTER

To W.O.I	254777	W.O.II	Stanley, D. W.	170	270	
To W.O.II	2549631	S Sgt.	Smethurst,, J. D.	680	580	
	2549660	S Sgt.	Lane, D. J.	690	530	
To Sgt.	22715240	Cpl.	Sayer, I. M.	4538	6110	
	23505354	Cpl.	Tyler, A.	4557	7140	
	22776550	Cpl.	Wherry, R. J.	4565	7574	
	22524866	Cpl.	Braniff, W. J.	4580	10680	
	23482212	Cpl.	Ingleby, A.	4610	5740	
	23493490	Cpl.	Smith, F. J.	4630	7730	
	23514150	Cpl.	Ward, G. H. D.	4640	8280	
	22296030	Cpl.	Bemrose, R.	4645	7460	
	23673814	Cpl.	Rogers, F. R.	4650	8050	
	22997754	Cpl.	Howden, F. G.	4670	2910	
	23487167	Cpl.	Forman, C.	4680	7300	
	23487260	Cpl.	Rothwell, I. C.	4690	7820	
	23487279	Cpl.	Cooper, R.	4710	9046	
	23487163	Cpl.	Moore, C. J.	4720	9754	

FIELD ROSTER

To Sgt.	2381528	Cpl.	Gooding, J. A.	3780	700
	22953972	Cpl.	Logan, J. J. F.	3970	674
	22816207	Cpl.	Saxby, L. F.	3990	1230

INSERTIONS

TECHNICAL ROSTER

To Sgt.	22453909	Sgt.	Elliott	3595	3346

DELETIONS

REGIMENTAL DUTY ROSTER

W.O.I	60	90	110	130
S Sgt.	140	2510		

FOREMAN OF SIGNALS ROSTER

W.O.I	610
W.O.II	1370

Butchers : Grocers : Game Dealers

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CHAS. JACKSON & SONS

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DAILY DELIVERIES IN YOUR DISTRICT



The Army Gliding Team in the National and Inter-Services Gliding Competition, 1964—with Royal Signals support
After daily briefing, the turning point communications detachments of 3rd Signal Regiment prepare for departure.



Whilst being towed to the launch point, Brigadier A. J. Deane-Drummond, D.S.O., M.C., late R. Signals, confirms detail with Sergeant M. J. Blay of 3rd Signal Regiment, who was N.C.O. i/c Communications.

Gliding in the Royal Corps

Gliding is a well established and progressing Corps sport. Here is an excellent outlet for those who seek adventure, as the following notes by Major D. H. Scarfe, Secretary of the Army Gliding Association, and of the Royal Signals Flying Club show.

The Corps has long had members interested in gliding. Before the war Brigadier A. J. Deane-Drummond, D.S.O., M.C., was, and still is, an outstanding pilot, and others have since followed his footsteps. Some were spurred on by his example in becoming National Gliding Champion in 1957. Since then he has been a regular member of the national team and he has just been selected again to fly for U.K. in the next world championships, which are to be held at South Cerney, Gloucestershire, in June, 1965. He is Chairman of the Army Gliding Association.

1964 a Vintage Year. 1964 has been a remarkable year in the U.K. Service gliding world. The Army Gliding Association expanded from two to four clubs. These are: Aldershot District Gliding Club at Odiham R.A.F. Station, Hants; Southern Command Gliding Club at Neatheravon Airfield, Wilts; the Army Soaring Club (for experienced pilots) at Lasham Airfield, Hants; and Bovington Garrison Gliding Club in the R.A.C. Centre, Dorset. (You can have more particulars by writing to Secretary, Army Gliding Association, M.O.D. Signals 6 (Army), Whitehall, S.W.1.

The Inter-Service gliding competition was held concurrently with the national championships in May, and the resulting order was R.A.F., Army, Royal Navy. Then, for the first time, 1964 saw a Junior Inter-Service competition. This was held at Bicester, 1st-9th August, and although the resulting order was unchanged, several Army pilots benefitted from the competition experience and are now ready to go on to greater things. The sustained high standard of flying by Captains P. Goldney and J. H. Wheeler earned them third place in League 1, whilst Lieutenant L. S. Hood and Major D. H. Scarfe were well placed in the first half.

Gliding in the Corps. Regular readers will recall from the September, 1963, issue of THE WIRE that the Corps two-seater glider (a Ka 4-Rhönlerche) is based in Germany with R.A.F. Bruggen. 28th Regiment is the B.A.O.R. Gliding Regiment, and largely thanks to Lieutenant Hood, who instructs at Bruggen, some 15 soldiers from that Regiment fly there. These include three who have soloed and two who have attained "C" certificates. It gives great pleasure to be able to report this, because this, in every sense of the word, is an all ranks' sport, and we are most anxious to see the names of some of our junior ranks appearing amongst the competitors in future Inter-Service events.

All ranks are welcome at any of the clubs at home and overseas. This is a gripping sport, with great appeal to the intelligent outdoor type; it is small wonder therefore that it has taken so firm a hold in the Corps.

Royal Signals Gliding Club. In recognition of this, the formation of a Corps Gliding Club is now being considered in U.K. It is proposed that it should operate under the Presidency of Brigadier Dean-Drummond and the Secretaryship of Officer Commanding 3rd Regiment. Its aim is to encourage participation and proficiency in gliding and soaring among all ranks of the Corps. The proposal includes the purchase of a high performance glider and trailer to be stationed with the 3rd Regiment in co-operation with one of the Service Clubs. Terms of membership are not yet settled, but it is probable that regulars of all ranks will become members automatically on joining one of the clubs in the Army Association or on becoming Social or Overseas members of that Association. Training will be given in the service club's two seaters and solo aircraft; the advantage to Royal Signals Gliding Club members possibly being in terms of block membership and the use of the Corps high performance glider for competitions, expeditions and soaring flights, at reduced rates. In the language of the gliding movement, the Corps would become syndicate owners of the high performance machine just as we own the Ka 4 in Germany as a syndicate at present.

It will be appreciated that it is not possible to buy a glider and fly it just anywhere. A suitable site, a great deal of ground equipment—winches for launching, hangarage, workshops, repair facilities and know-how, to say nothing of team-work and labour, are required to get a glider into the air, and to maintain it in good condition. For these reasons we must lean heavily on the Army Gliding Association and abide by its rules—which can be read in the 1964/5 edition of "Games and Sports in the Army." One of the conditions is that Regulars who are members may continue in membership after retiring, but that T.A. or A.E.R. personnel cannot, unfortunately, join initially unless they are instructors in gliding or are able to play a prominent part in running one of the Army clubs.

B.A.O.R. members will be pleased to hear officially that there is no present intention to withdraw the Ka 4 from Germany. The machine is doing sterling work where it is, for the Corps, for the Army and also for the R.A.F., and we are delighted that this should be so.

Notice to All Ranks, Royal Signals. Do not let another week-end go past without paying a visit to your nearest Gliding Club. Learn to go solo **now**—this winter—and be ready for soaring in the Spring of 1965.

THE ARMY SIGNALS STAND AT THE 1964 RADIO SHOW

Sponsor Unit—30th Signal Regiment

THIS is the first time that the Corps has represented the Regular Army at the National Radio and Television Exhibition at Earls Court. The Regiment, in conjunction with the Exhibitions Division of the Central Office of Information, was made responsible for all arrangements and we were allocated 1,200 square feet on the ground floor of the Exhibition Building. The Army Signals Stand was to be produced within a cost of £5,000 and various designs were prepared and submitted to the Signal Officer-in-Chief for approval.

Once the design had been agreed the Central Office of Information invited contractors to tender for production of the stand and the Regiment completed the manufacture of special exhibits and the assembly of communication equipment.

A description of the stand is given later in this article but mention may be made here that the armoured fighting vehicle had to be placed in a precise position on the floor at Earls Court before any work on the exhibition stands could begin. This was achieved two weeks before the show was to open and gradually the Corps Stand took shape. The contractors finished work on the Thursday preceding opening day on Monday and we had access to the stand on Friday morning.

Encouraged by the promise of a free day on the Sunday if all was made ready on time, some thirty men completed the work by Saturday night and we were ready for the first open day.

The exhibition was opened to visitors from the Trade and Press at 11 o'clock on Monday and on Tuesday the Signal Officer-in-Chief held a Preview Day at the Army Signals Stand.

Amongst our distinguished visitors were the Representative Colonel Commandant Royal Signals, Major-General L. de M. Thuillier; the Assistant Chief of Defence Staff (Signals), Major-General A. M. W. Whistler; the Director of Communications, Foreign Office, Mr. E. F. Maltby; the Brigadier General Staff (Signals) Army, Brigadier C. H. Howarth; the Director of Telecommunications (Army), Brigadier R. H. E. Robinson; and the Chief Signal Officer COMCAN, Colonel G. West. There were also representatives from the Directorate of Public Relations (Army); the Directorate of Army Recruiting, and the Central Office of Information.

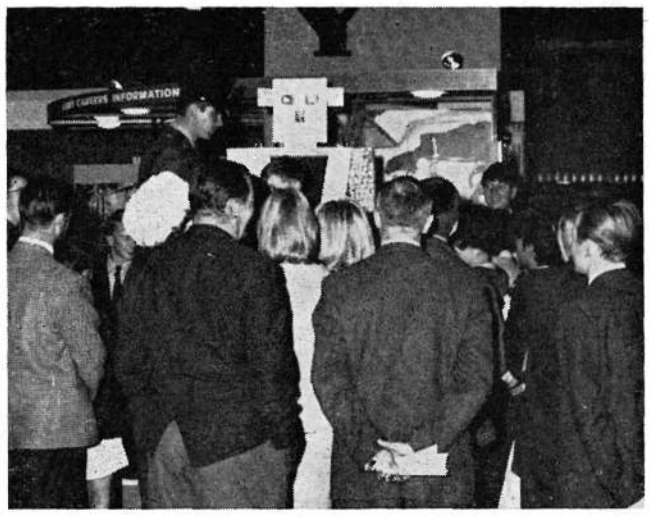
Many Royal Signals Units provided personnel and several men who had recently returned from overseas also joined the team to appear on the stand in tropical dress during the exhibition.

Units who provided Servicemen and Servicewomen are as follows: 3rd Regiment, 4th Regiment, 7th Regiment, 11th Regiment, 14th Regiment, 30th Regiment, 216 Squadron, 224 Squadron, 254 Squadron.

The stand was divided into the following sections:—



A view of the stand. The fair sex in an enquiring mood



Mr. Magnetron was, at all times, a popular attraction

1. A man-size aluminium metal-clad Robot called Magnetron which was operated by remote radio control. Visitors were invited to speak to Magnetron and obtain answers to questions. (There is little doubt that this proved to be the main attraction of the Show.)

2. A demonstration of the Commonwealth Communications Army Network Tape Relay System with a large illuminated diagram to illustrate the world-wide radio system developed by the Services to link the United Kingdom with the Commonwealth Army Overseas. A Communications Centre with teleprinters operated by W.R.A.C. Signals was established as a Free Message Service at which visitors could originate a message to members of their family serving overseas. Messages in course of transmission were shown on closed circuit television monitors.

3. An air operated Telescopic Mast 30 feet high with large relay antennas at the top was powered by an electrically driven compressor and remotely controlled by a special valve which permitted the mast to extend and retract automatically on a 5-minute cycle.

4. An Armoured Fighting Vehicle 432 was fitted with a variety of radio sets and shown as a Command Post.

5. A display of airborne signal equipment.

6. A working demonstration of facsimile equipment.

7. A pair of SIEMENS teleprinters on which visitors could prepare a personnal message tape.

8. A series of colour slide screens depicting Royal Signals overseas in Aden, Far East, Germany, Malaysia and the Mediterranean.

9. An automatic telephone exchange fitted with perspex doors was shown working to a row of extension telephones from which visitors could make test calls.

At the time of writing many thousands of people had attended the Radio Show and Magnetron the electronic robot had featured prominently in the B.B.C. 1 television programme called 'In and Around.'

Recruiting progressed well and there is no doubt that the enthusiasm and energy of those manning the stand presented an excellent image of the Army and in particular of the Corps.

We thank all those Servicemen and Servicewomen who manned the stand and a mention must be made of Captains Miller and Treseder, and Second-Lieutenant Waugh, of 3rd Regiment, who worked hard to make the stand a success and, we hope, encouraged a number of young men to consider seriously a career in the Corps.

(Continued on Page 382)

There is no doubt that the Army Signals Stand at the Radio Show of 1964 has been one of the highlights of the exhibition and an outstanding success. The decision to have a Corps Stand presented by experts and backed by a respectable budget was a right one and it is anticipated that we shall derive considerable benefit from this Radio Show of 1964.

Territorial Army Recruiting Stand Television and Radio Show Earls Court — 1964

By Colonel E. W. Milner, O.B.E., T.D., Chief Signal Officer, 53 (Welsh) Division, T.A.

A DIRECT personal invitation from the Radio Industry to provide a Stand at this year's Radio Show for the Territorial Army was too attractive an offer to resist. Although the idea was suggested to me early this year, pressure was not brought to bear until May when the opportunity was grasped after getting my wife (Lieutenant-Colonel Catherine H. M. Milner, O.B.E., W.R.A.C. (T.A.) to agree to come in with me on this project. This was important, for numerous reasons, but to mention two—we were anxious to stress W.R.A.C. (T.A.) recruiting—and I was about to leave the U.K. on a two months' business tour of the Far East and Australasia—two important months for preparing and organising the Stand. Fortunately my wife—who is CWRAC 54 (East Anglian) Div./District T.A. —felt she could find the very considerable amount of time required for all this preparatory work.

The organisers of the Exhibition soon found us a site—immediately opposite the Regular Army Stand—but although we were charged only a nominal rental this consumed more than 50 per cent. of our only official funds—£50 from the D.T.A.

Once again our many friends in the business world came to our assistance and donated various sums of money which added up to approximately 25 per cent. of our eventual costs. How to meet the rest of the bill? We decided to run a sixpenny draw. This was duly organised and at this point I must mention Mr. Harry Roberts, the head of the Roberts Radio Co. Ltd., and his magnificent staff. Mr. Roberts gave us his nationally known R500 and R300 transistor radios as prizes for our draw, persuaded Phillips to give us a television set, bustled Marconiphone, Ever-Ready and Dynatron to donate transistor radios, blatantly told all his business friends to buy our tickets by book, arranged for Mr. Jack Train to make our draw, and offered open house to the senior staff of our Stand and our guests on the Roberts Radio stand itself. What a splendid person Mr. Roberts is—the Territorial Army owes him much for all his generous help at the Radio Show. We also had excellent support and sets from Mr. Norman Twemlow of Pye, Mr. Woolf of Alba, Mr. Pitts of Decca and Mr. Bill Fleming of Garrard. With other gifts from business houses, we were able to produce 26 prizes for the draw on 5th September.

As time was short and space much smaller this year, we decided to concentrate on making our Stand an Information and Recruiting Centre for the Territorial Army without displaying a range of equipment. A hired caravan provided the offices. This was camouflaged by a facia announcing the Territorial Army and displaying photographs of various activities in the T.A.

It also provided the background for the many attractive prizes for our Draw. A magnificent large illuminated T.A. badge was on the roof, a Fidelity tape recorder broadcasted T.A. propaganda during the intervals when Magnetron was resting; Ferranti loaned us a television set for closed circuit programme viewing.

We were not short of Other Rank volunteers to staff the Stand. W.O.II McFarland, Sergeant Davies, Sergeant Rushton and Sergeant Driscoll, W.R.A.C./T.A.—all from 53rd (Welsh) Regiment—did outstanding work throughout the second week. Members of the W.R.A.C. Companies of 54th (East Anglian) Div./District T.A. toiled with distinction. 45th (Essex) Regiment and 47th Regiment (Middlesex Yeomanry)—including their Parachute Squadron—vied with each other to provide the best support from T.A. Signal Regiments in the Greater London area; staff also came froom 41st (Princess Louise Kensington Regiment) Regiment, 65th Regiment and 322 Squadron. Our thanks to the following T.A. Regiments and Units outside Royal Signals who sent along their members to help man the Stand:—H.A.C. (Infantry Battalion); Queen's Royal Rifles; Inns of Court and City Yeomanry; London Irish Rifles; 265 Regiment R.A.; H.Q. W.R.A.C. 54 (E.A) Div./District; 76 (County of London and Kent) Company W.R.A.C.; 79 (City of London) Company W.R.A.C.; 80 (Chelsea) Company W.R.A.C.; 81 (Essex) Company W.R.A.C.; 82 (Middlesex) Company W.R.A.C.

Visitors to the Stand included Lord Boothby, General Sir William Dobbie, Major-General A. M. W. Whistler, Major-General F. J. Swainson, Brigadier C. H. Howarth and a host of members of the Boards of Companies in the Radio Industry. Although the attendance was down, business on the Stand was brisk and serious enquiries were many. It was 12 days of hard work but a very successful period which confirmed once more how fertile a recruiting field the Radio Show is.

Our grand finale on the last day was Mr. Jack Train in his inimicable style drawing the lucky tickets in our Radio Show Raffle. And what a rare coincidence it was that from the many thousands of tickets he drew his own name for a Roberts Radio. This he generously put back into the raffle and at the end asked those present at the draw to put their tickets back in the hat. A youngster then drew the winning ticket which bore the name of a Staff Sergeant from the Regular Army Stand. A fitting end to a fortnight of co-operation from both sides of the gangway! The Draw resolved most of our financial problems.

Our main conclusions from providing a T.A. Stand at the Radio Show are:—

- A T.A. Stand is a "must" at the Radio Show.
- Where possible we must try to get the same staff covering each day.
- A larger staff and a larger stand would produce even better results.
- There is a great T.A. recruiting potential at the Radio Show. One W.R.A.C. Company alone had 14 new applicants arrive at their H.Q. on the second Thursday evening of the Radio Show.
- Locating the T.A. Stand close to the Regular Army Stand tends to confuse the public.

Finally my grateful thanks to the Radio Industry, to all Regiments and Units participating, to the many friends outside the T.A. who gave a helping hand and to my wife and son, David, for the many long hours they toiled before and during the Show.

Presentation to Cable Ship "Mercury"

CABLE and Wireless Ltd. have this year commissioned a new cable-laying ship which they have named *Mercury*. As a reminder of our working contacts with Cable and Wireless in many parts of the world, both in peace and war, the Corps



Left to Right: Sir John Macpherson, Major-General L. de M. Thuillier, Captain Reynolds, Brigadier C. H. Howarth, Mr. H. H. Eggers, Mr. E. G. L. Howitt

Committee decided it would be appropriate for the Corps to present a small silver figure of Mercury to the ship.

This gesture by the Corps was warmly welcomed by Sir John MacPherson, G.C.M.G., the Chairman of Cable and Wireless, who invited a party to a luncheon on board at Greenwich on 8th September. This was attended by Major-General L. de. M. Thuillier, C.B., O.B.E., Representative Colonel Commandant, and six officers nominated by the Signal Officer-in-Chief, who, unfortunately, was unable to attend himself. General Thuillier made the presentation to Captain G. H. C. Reynolds, Commander of C.S. *Mercury*, in the presence of Sir John MacPherson, Mr. H. H. Eggers, Managing Director, and a number of other staff of Cable and Wireless.

A most successful luncheon party followed.

Our picture shows General Thuillier and Brigadier C. H. Howarth, O.B.E., T.D., B.G.S. (Signals) with Captain Reynolds, Sir John MacPherson, Mr. H. H. Eggers and Mr. E. G. L. Howitt, a director.

Log Periodic Aerials for Amateur Use

By Major E. M. Fox

AERIAL problems have always interested the amateur fraternity, probably for the reason that most of them have the urge to obtain the maximum degree of efficiency under difficult conditions. They never cease looking for new ideas, and after long hours of experimental work, usually find the right answer, or one near enough. The members of Bampton Radio Club are no exception, for they have, in fact, produced, after many months of trial and error, a reasonably efficient Log Periodic aerial.

For quite some time the station had been using three or four single dipoles, enabling the operators to work practically every Continental station, including Russian and satellite states, with remarkable success, too. Then the urge came at last—they wanted to strike further afield, particularly towards the west. Their main problem to overcome was, how could those high-powered Russian transmitters be eliminated.

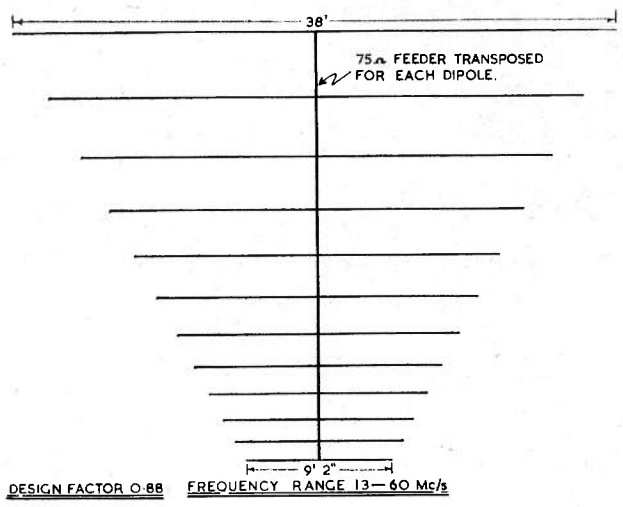
Ideally, uniform radiation in all directions is most desirable, particularly as the same aerial has often to work over several of the amateur bands. But where space seriously hampers one's ambitions, considerable thought has to be given to construction details. Therefore, the most universal type of aerial, to meet the needs, is usually designed. In our case, the essential requirement was to design and build an aerial capable of giving a good back to front ratio. After reading a short article on Log Periodic antennae, it was quickly appreciated that most of the problems could be overcome. Space could be saved, the required amateur bands could be covered and, above all, those unwanted signals would disappear.

There has been considerable research and development carried out by commercial organisations such as Collins Radio and Granger Associates, and log periodic aerials are now employed in everyday commercial radio links. Unfortunately, no technical data on design could be obtained, consequently, a lot of experimental work has had to be carried out.

Without going too deeply into the mathematics and design detail, it is hoped that the following information will help readers to understand the basic principles of the Log Periodic.

Briefly, it may be defined as an aerial comprising a number of dipoles arranged in such a way that all characteristics, i.e., spacing between dipoles, their length and element diameters, are related to each other in a logarithmic progression. To see how this is done, it will be necessary to refer to the accompanying diagram. This shows that the transverse wires and their relative position from the feed point form a geometric sequence. This is referred to as the design factor, and occurs when a number of half wave dipoles are arranged so that the impedance and resonance are repeated at a logarithmic period. Experienced technicians have stated that this factor can vary from 0.8 to 0.6, giving an impedance from 70 to 300 ohms.

The following simple step-by-step method may help in understanding the design details:



Schematic diagram of log periodic aerial.

(1) Decide frequency range required.

(2) Using the lowest frequency, apply the formula $\frac{468}{\text{fmc}}$ = length in feet.

(3) Multiply the result of (2) by the design factor, say 0.88 for an impedance of 75 ohms.

(4) By applying the formula

$$(l_1 - l_2) + (l_2 - l_3) = S_1$$

where l = element length
and S = Spacing

This will give the first space, then multiply by the design factor for consecutive spacing.

To explain this further. If the design factor was 1.0, then element of 2 of the aerial would be the same length as element 1, and so on, which would serve no useful purpose, since there would be no spacing between elements. The design factor must therefore be less than 1.0. On the other hand, if it becomes too small, then the spacing between elements will become so large, making the size of the aerial impractical, especially where low frequency coverage is required. The physical dimensions are therefore governed by the highest and lowest frequencies required, together with the design factor.

From the diagram, it will be noted that the changes in element length are comparatively small, making it ideal for use over a range of frequencies. Correctly constructed, the aerial will give a gain of 10 dB in the forward direction, with a back to front ratio of 12 dB.

After the Bampton aerial was finally erected, which, incidentally, took two men eight hours, it was tested with an aerial analyser. The information from the analyser proved conclusively that it was performing to its design features.

The aerial is now very much in use, covering the required range of frequencies from 14 to 60 mc/s, and has a constant impedance of 75 ohms. So far, nearly 200 amateur stations from the United States, the Falkland and Fiji Islands, Hawaii and Haiti have been worked with complete success, and, believe it or not, the Russian stations have completely disappeared on the back of the array.

The 'Signallers Cup'

A gold cup known as the 'Signallers Cup' which was presented by Lieutenant Cochrane in 1913 and which is used for the Golf Handicap Challenge Cup Competition, has been mislaid.

Anyone who has any information about this cup is requested to write to Major J. P. Durrant, 1 Squadron, 3 H.Q. and Regiment, Bulford Camp, Wilts.

THE SIGNAL OFFICER-IN-CHIEF VISITS B.A.O.R.

(The Editor regrets that owing to various delays these notes only reached him in time to publish in the current WIRE*)*

Major-General F. J. Swainson, O.B.E., accompanied by Mrs. Swainson, arrived in B.A.O.R. on the morning of the 18th June and, after lunching with the C.S.O., Brigadier J. E. Anderson and Mrs. Anderson, the S.O.-in-C. commenced his programme by visiting 16th Regiment.

16th Regiment

On such a short visit it was impossible to show the General even half the major activities in the Regiment. The programme therefore aimed at giving him a sight of places and things he had not seen on his previous visits.

The S.O.-in-C. was greeted by a guard of the Regiment's now traditional Lancemen, under command of Sergeant G. A. Howie. Having inspected the guard and signed the Visitors' Book, he was driven in an open Champ to a nearby training area, where elements of the mobile squadron, commanded by Captain B. C. Carpenter, were exercising. The Mobile Signal Centre, as well as Medium Radio and Radio Relay detachments were inspected, with the General insisting on having a word with almost everyone.

A visit to the Training Wing followed, where the first two Communication Centre Operator recruit courses were under training. Here some searching questions by the S O.-in-C. received frank replies from these young men of the Corps.

Deputising for Mrs. Swainson, who unfortunately was indisposed, the General finally met some of the wives of the Regiment over a cup of tea at the Commanding Officer's residence. Though naturally disappointed at the absence of the General's lady, the wives nevertheless welcomed the opportunity of meeting her husband.

The following morning the S.O.-in-C. visited H.Q. B.A.O.R. where he met Royal Signals officers and other ranks serving in the headquarters. After lunch he paid a visit to the 13th Regiment at Bergelin.

13th Regiment

It was planned that the visit should begin with a parade for the S.O.-in-C., to include presentations of Long Service and Good Conduct Medals. Prior to the visit, the Regiment had held several parade rehearsals in sweltering heat. Practice parades always include the inevitable 'clangers,' and we had our quota. There were those who believed that the Advance in Review Order required 12 paces followed by 'one, two' to halt, although the majority were glad to do the extra two paces! Under the gentle persuasive influence of our R.S.M., W.O.I Palmer, this difference of opinion was ironed out by THE DAY. The main problem during rehearsals was the intense heat and consequent faintings. Padre Bristow, our 'kindly light' took steps to arrange cooler weather, and our less conventional members put in some overtime on their prayer mats—but somebody overdid it. On the day, the parade formed up to await the arrival of the S.O.-in-C., the heavens opened. By the time the inspection was under way, the General was as soaked with rain as the rest of us. Nevertheless he spoke to many of those on parade, the downpour was ignored, and matters proceeded with the dignity fitting for such occasions.

By some miracle of time synchronism the rain stopped as the last man left the square. Needless to say, W.O.'s II Macdonald, Smith, Horne and Woodland had thoroughly wet their L.S. and G.C. medals long before they got to the bar of the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess.

The S.O.-in-C. then made a tour of our operational area, while Mrs. Swainson, meanwhile, had tea with the families in the gymnasium By this time all signs of rain had departed and we bade our visitors farewell at the end of an eventful afternoon.

On the afternoon of the 20th June, Mrs. Swainson kindly consented to open the fete, which had been arranged by 16th Regiment in aid of SSAFA and other charities. The fete was a great success and resulted in nearly £500 being raised.

On Monday, after a quiet weekend, the General and Mrs. Swainson left Rheindahlen for Bielefeld, to spend the rest of their stay in the 1 (B.R.) Corps area.

Over the next three days the S.O.-in-C. visited as many units as possible in the field as his visit coincided with Exercise "New Harpoon."

226 Squadron

The S.O.-in-C. arrived by helicopter at the Squadron site, accompanied by Lieutenant-Colonel J. E. D. Farr, on Tuesday morning. He toured the Unit, speaking with every man he met and renewing contact ith several old friends. When he reached the Kellar Bar, where off-duty shift workers had collected, he asked (with the authority of the S.O.-in-C.) that the bar should be opened and beer served all round, at the Squadron O.C.'s expense. After a very pleasant talk with the men, he visited the Corporals' Club and, because it was a hot, dry day, was again refreshed.

After lunching with the officers of the Squadron, the S.O.-in-C. left by helicopter to inspect the new camp site occupied by 225 Squadron at Scharfoldendorf.

22nd Regiment

General Swainson spent little more than an hour with the Regiment when he visited them on 24th June, but his own energy and the use of a helicopter ensured that he saw a great deal in that short time.

His visit started at the Regimental Command Post where he met the C.O., Lieutenant-Colonel A. R. Wythe, the Second-in-Command, Major A. J. Jackson, and the Adjutant, Captain D. F. B. Anthonisz. Subsequently he visited the ASSU Radio Control Group manned by 244 Squadron and a SL 42 VHF rebroadcast detachment manned by 1 Squadron. At the latter, he arrived in time to appreciate the very appetising aroma of the meal then being prepared but was, alas, unable to stay for lunch. While the visit was a short one, the S.O.-in-C. met and spoke to many members of the Regiment and, as ever, his keen eyes missed nothing.

7th Regiment

After visiting the 22nd Regiment, the S.O -in-C., accompanied by C.C. Royal Signals, Brigadier M. S. Hancock, M.B.E., was met at Diamond II in main Corps H.Q. by Lieutenant-Colonel E. H. Davies, the Commanding Officer, who gave him an initial briefing on the employment of the Regiment in the exercise. The General then looked at the complex of vehicles at Diamond II which provided the terminal operating facilities for Corps H.Q. While he was there he made a telephone call to his office in London The call was most successful thanks to good work by the switchboard supervisor, Corporal Chandler.

The S.O.-in-C. then travelled by Champ from Diamond II up to 'Square,' over a steep, rough route. At 'Square' is located the MCT housing the Radio Relay carrier equipment and a ring of Radio Relay terminals at varying distances away. The location in sweet smelling pine woods was reminiscent of a holiday camp at Troodos.

After being shown round the MCT, the S.O.-in-C. walked through the woods to see a Radio Relay Anchor detachment commanded by Lance-Corporal D. A. Gregory. He then paid a short visit to Rear Corps H.Q. where he met Major C. B. Ward, O.C. 4 Squadron, Second-Lieutenant P. Stanley and W.O.I (F. of S.) Sharp, and was shown the Signal Centre and communications complex of operating and radio relay vehicles. The S.O.-in-C. then had lunch, with those officers of the Regiment who were off duty, in a local Gasthof which was being used as an Officers' Mess.

207 Squadron

The S.O -in-C. visited H.Q. 7 Armoured Brigade on the afternoon of 24th June and saw the Brigade H.Q. in a most uncharacteristic role for the entire Brigade staff was working

(Continued on Page 386)

The S.O.-in-C. sees things for himself in B.A.O.R.











1. Inspecting a Parade at 13th Regiment. Left to right. Major R. P. D. Painter (Parade Command), Lieutenant J. J. Bally (O.C. B Sqn.), W.O. I (R.S.M.) Palmer, The S.O.-in-C. Lance Corporal Herstell, Signalman Hird, Lance Corporal Buxton, Corporal Slater.

2. Talking to a Comcen operator in the 16th Regiment.

3. Inspecting "Lancemen" at 16th Regiment.

4. Presentation of L.S. and G.C. Medal to W.O.II G. S. MacDonald, 13th Regiment. The medal received an early wetting!

5. Discussion with Captain Neilson, Commanding Danish Contingent, Jyske Telegraf Regiment with the 1st Regiment.

in one large marquee. In spite of this the General managed to have a few words with several members of the Squadron and was particularly interested in the problem of integration.

4th Regiment

The S.O.-in-C. visited the 4th Regiment on Thursday morning where he spent some time in the Group Operators' Complex at Main Division with the G.O.C. He then went to the Signal Control and Comcen Complex where he not only saw the hard-pressed Comcen Operators dealing with some of the 400 messages that passed through their hands that day, but also the R.A.S.C. driver who had been trained to operate the switchboard in addition to driving a vehicle. A good eample of integration at its best.

On to Rear Division and 2 Squadron where he met the officers and then, on looking through a small trap door into the exchange, remarked to the operator, "Are you all right in that Black Hole of Calcutta?" A beaming smile in the gloom and a chuckle was his response from Signalman Butler, our West Indian opening bat.

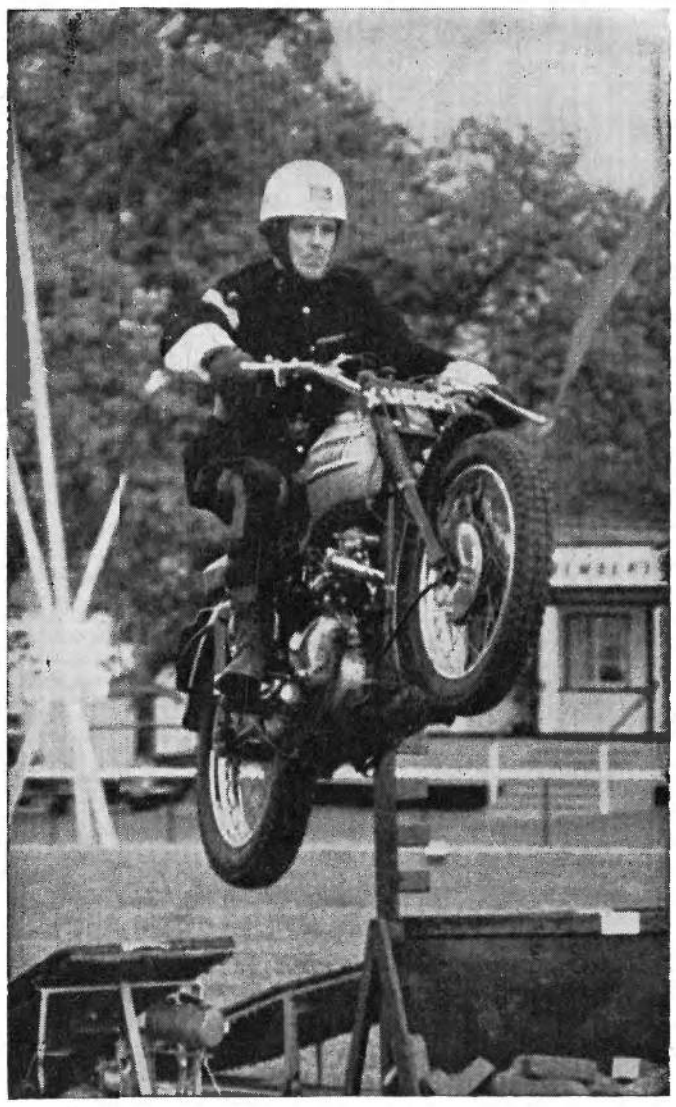
1st Regiment

The S.O.-in-C. paid a 'flying' visit to the Regiment in its last location during Exercise "New Harpoon." He was accompanied during his visit by C.C.R. Signals, H.Q. 1 (B.R.) Corps.

Thanks to the excellence of communications throughout the exercise the General could have chosen any time for his visit which in the event took place shortly after a change of command, needless to say 'Communications were solid.'

In the very short time available the S.O.-in-C. visited the Opscen (H.Q. 1 Division name for the G. Ops/Arty Ops/Int complex), where he was briefed on the up-to-the-minute operational situation. Then followed visits to the Comhead, Comcentre, Radio Control and detachments. He also met Captain Neilson and members of the Danish contingent of the Jyske Telegraf Regiment who were also taking part in the exercise.

The following day General and Mrs. Swainson left Bielefeld, by car, to commence a well earned holiday in Italy. We hope that they enjoyed their brief visit to B.A.O.R. and that it will not be too long before they visit us again.



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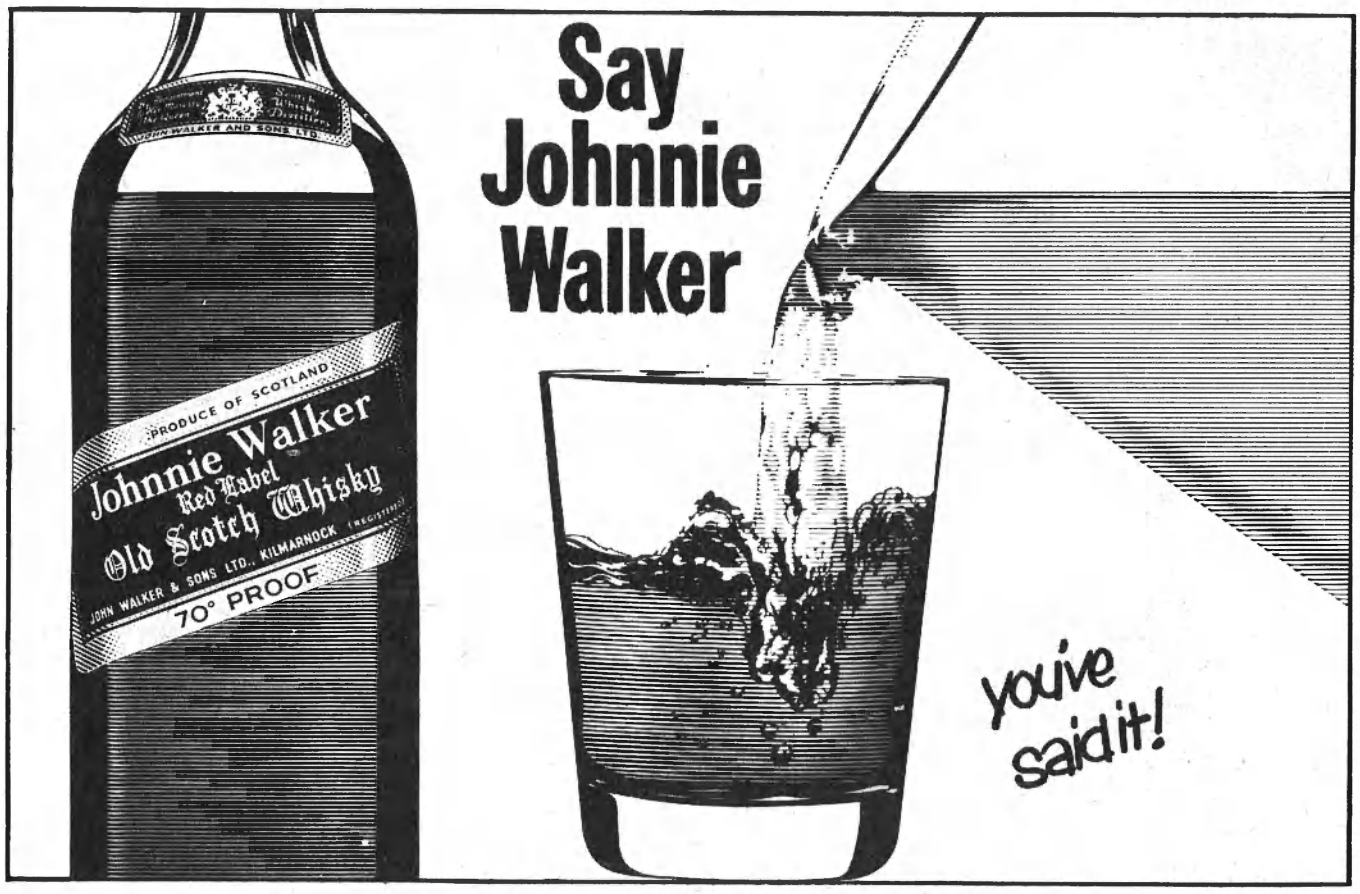
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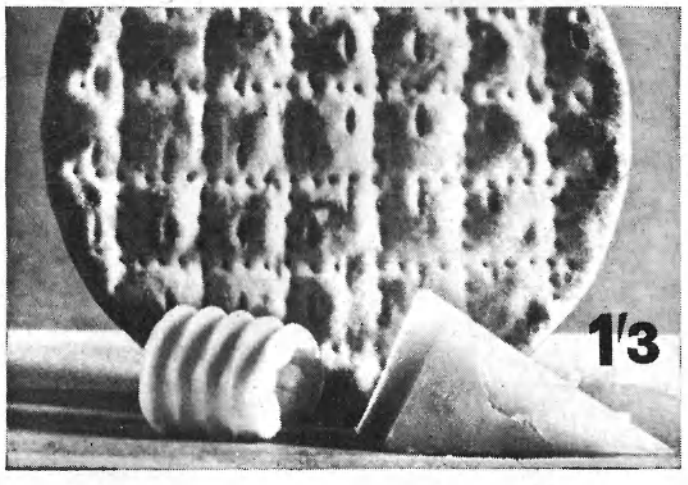




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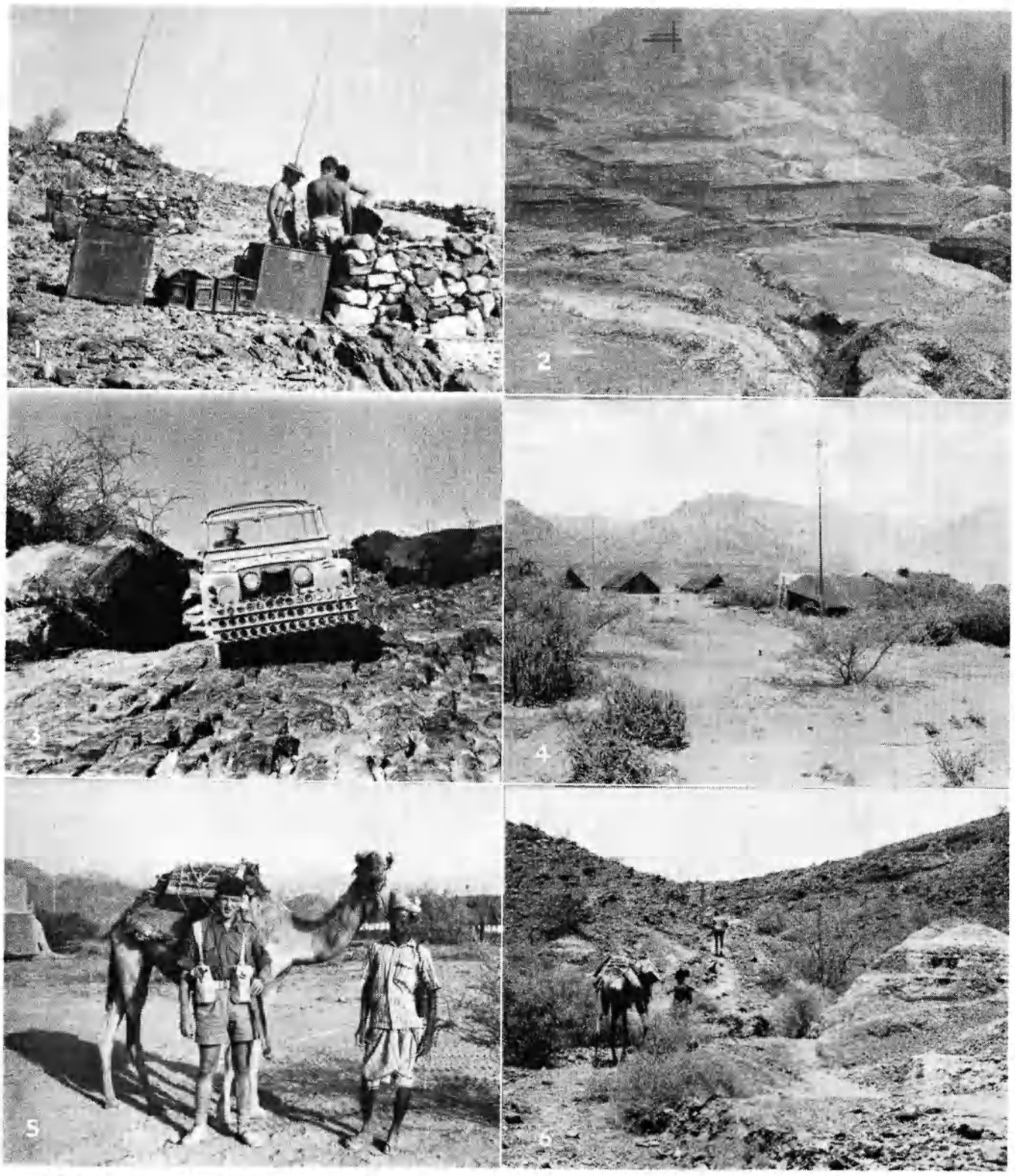


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THE 1st REGIMENT IN DENMARK

A composite Squadron from the 1st Regiment makes a return visit to Denmark. Colonel F. Worm-Leonhard of the Jyske Telegrafregiment takes the salute at a parade in Aarhus

Hound for Denmark

During a fortnight in June covering the Exercise "New Harpoon" period the Regiment had been visited by a Composite Company from 2 Telegrafbatalion of the Jyske Telegrafregiment. Now, during the relatively quiet period of August, it was time for a return visit.

On Monday, 10th August, at 10.00 hours a Composite Squadron consisting of two Officers, a Warrant Officer and seventy-two other ranks left Caithness Barracks on the first leg to the Danish border. Unfortunately one of the 1-ton armoured radio vehicles broke down and had to be back-loaded, but it speaks much for the endurance and determination of the crew commander, Corporal Adams, and his crew that within 36 hours he had rejoined the Squadron in Denmark with a fresh vehicle.

Arrival at the border was right on schedule and 23 of the 24 vehicles were Customs cleared without examination. The odd one out was the canteen vehicle which was really "loaded!" The Customs authority appeared to employ a small computor to check our figures against quantities but luckily we had got our arithmetic right.

Waiting at the border was our Danish Liaison Officer, Captain L. K. Neilson, who had also been in command of the Composite Company that had visited Verden. He soon led us to our camp site for the night which was a parking place adjacent to a recruit training centre at Padburg. This was a quiet night for most of the Squadron who were reasonably tired after the long convoy drive. However the two officers and the S.S.M. (W.O.II Pearsall) were whisked away to visit 2 Telegrafbatalion who happened to be on a NATO exercise in the area. It was anything but a quiet night for these three as in the Danish Army Mess life is at its most active during exercises.

Arrival at Aarhus

The second leg of the journey to our base camp with the Regiment in Aarhus went very smoothly. Within five minutes of the first vehicle arriving in the gates the Squadron had parked vehicles and formed up for inspection by the Regimental Commander, Colonel F. Worm-Leonhard. The Colonel gave us a very warm welcome indeed adding to this an apology that our actual hosts, 2 Telegrafbatalion, were not able to be present due to their exercise. We of course had known the situation long before hand and had made plans accordingly. We did not wish to embarrass our hosts (or so the theory goes) by being around when they weren't and so stopping only long enough to be inspected by our own Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel C. E. Page, and to play a football match against the Regiment (afraid we were just beaten again) we donned civilian clothes and visited Copenhagen for three glorious days. That is to say the whole Squadron visited Copenhagen except the O.C., Major G. A. Thompson, who had made plans to sail Petasus from Aarhus to Aalborg during the period. This is a saga all on its own as the weather was very rough indeed even for our experienced helmsman, Corporal Walker. It was with some relief that the O.C. eventually handed over charge of the boat to the Division's R.C. Padre, Father Holman, who had come up specially for this purpose.

The visit to Copenhagen was planned as a holiday and arrangements had been made by the Jutland Signal Regiment for the men to be accommodated with the local Light Air Defence Regiment at Avedorelejren Barracks, just on the outskirts of Copenhagen.

Wonderful Copenhagen

The Squadron arrived in Copenhagen at 1 o'clock, having travelled by ferry and train from Aarhus, and having settled quickly into some very fine accommodation the men were allowed to "go out" into the city.

It was a great relief to the Squadron Second-in-Command when, next morning, sixty-five tired but happy soldiers assembled together for a conducted tour of the legendary Carlsberg Breweries. The visit to the brewery was a great success and was much enjoyed by all ranks. All aspects of brewing were explained and all parts of the two brewery factories visited. The conclusion of the visit was a "free drink" of "all" the Carlsberg products. Needless to say, this part of the visit was also greatly appreciated. Our thanks to Mr. Hammer, our conducting guide, for not only his most excellent and entertaining tour but for his sincere welcome and approach to the Squadron.

Friday afternoon and Saturday were a complete holiday and all personnel were left to organise their own entertainment.

The Squadron finally returned to Aarhus early on Sunday evening, having seen much of Copenhagen.

Our thanks are due to Colonel Isaksen, the Camp Commandant at Avedorelejren, to all his officers and camp staff, who did so much to help make the visit a great success. Also a sincere thank you to First-Lieutenant Knudsen and his wife, who organised so many things for us and who gave up their own time to travel to Copenhagen with us. All ranks sincerely appreciate their unfailing good humour and hard work. Without them many things could never have been planned.

Some Work As Well as Play

Back from Copenhagen the Squadron was taken on a conducted tour of the old town of Aarhus which has been beautifully maintained as a living museum. So to preparation for our exercise with 2 Telegrafbatalion who by this time had returned from their NATO commitment. This was a short three-day exercise known as "Happy Hours." The atmosphere was relaxed and efficient, only the weather was at fault and this was ghastly. The Squadron simulated a Divisional headquarters

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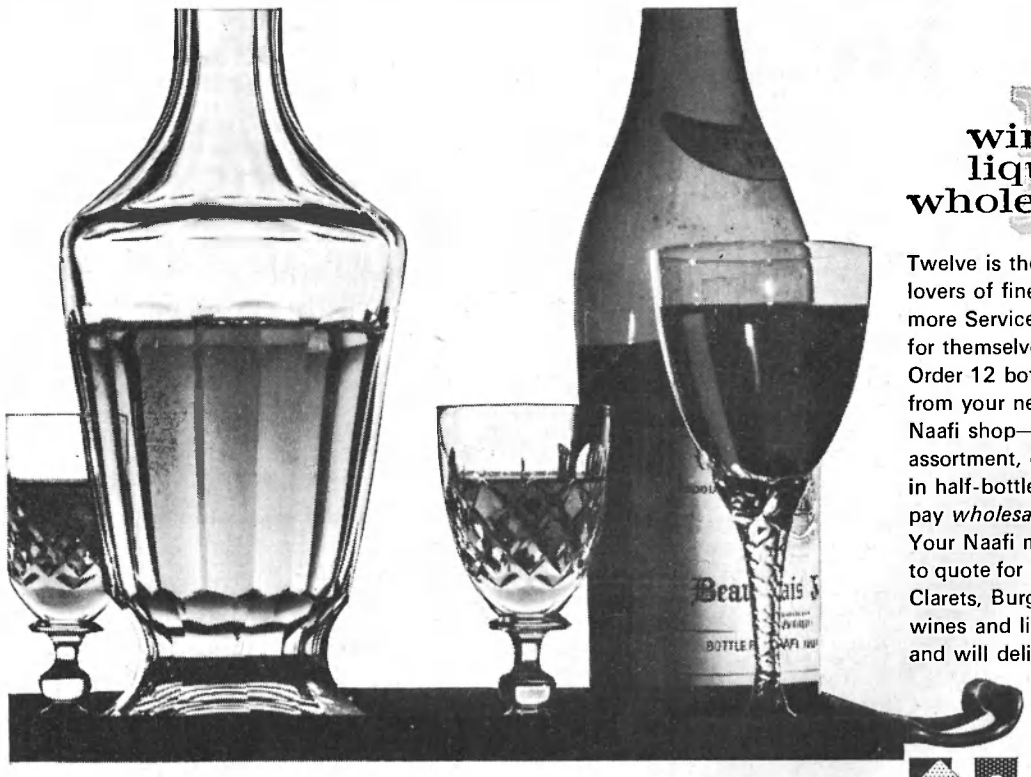
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Lance Corporal Taylor is briefed by Captain Neilsen of 2 Telegraph battalion

complete with a small Comcentre and exchange and provided line, radio relay and radio communications to two interments attached to the Danish element. A major recovery task was performed by our LAD party, Craftsmen Sanders and Wilson and a winch vehicle, when the sides of a dyke collapsed after one of the frequent periods of rain. The front axle of one of the line vehicles was out of commission for nearly four hours created a great deal of manual labour for both of the line detachments but in the end they completed their task without excessive delay. The two line detachments, as always cheerfully and efficiently commanded by Sergeant Barnes, really excelled themselves later in the day when they laid 7 Kms of D 10 in just under 40 minutes. The necessity for this arose because after much technical discussion by some who knew and many who didn't, we decided that our S+D output could not drive the Danish teleprinters (T.20) over the radio relays. A lesson has been learnt by both sides.

Farewell Parties

On the last evening of the exercise our Danish hosts staged a very efficiently prepared camp fire complete with stage and small band. Much to their credit they entertained us throughout in English and the cheerful evening passed almost without incident (certainly lessons were learnt by our side).

So back to Aarhus and a day's rest for the men but not for the Officers and Senior N.C.O.s who had their own entertaining of their Danish hosts to organise. No rest also for our cook, Corporal Harris, who had done a magnificent job throughout the whole period and on his rest day excelled himself in preparing delicious cocktail-snacks for the Officers' Party under the most difficult of cooking conditions.

So to the next morning and our farewell parade. Our hosts were most lavish in their praise of our visit and the goodwill from both sides was abundantly evident.

Back at the border we had our night stop in the now familiar Padborg Camp and next morning crossed back into Germany all complete and right on schedule. Few will forget their visit especially the wonderful opportunity of spending three days in Copenhagen for the basic cost of £1. As we crossed the border on everybody's lips was the same phrase, "Isn't it amazing the immediate difference!"

2nd REGIMENT, B.F.P.O. 22

Mainly Cricket. August has been a month of leave, preparation for the annual technical inspection and cricket. The latter has been particularly noteworthy.

In the final of the Divisional competition we played 25 Corps Engineer Regiment. Having got them out for 105 and being ourselves 101 for five, it seemed as good as over and the merits of our opponents in the next round were being discussed. But then Sapper Badenock started to bowl and after he had taken four wickets in five balls we had to struggle to achieve a tie. Phew! In the replay we made no mistakes and won by five wickets.

Thus to the semi-final of the B.A.O.R. competition, when we played 17/21 Lancers. Our batting did not match up to the brightness of the day and we only made 65. With the opposition at 32 for six, our hopes were raised again, only to be dashed by a slogger promoted from tenth in the batting order

No. 27 Military Proficiency Course held in the 2nd Regiment. Lance Corporal Hamilton, Lance Corporal Peterson, Signalman Kennedy, Corporal Munroe, Lance Corporal Wearing, Lance Corporal Graves, Lance Corporal Block, Corporal Sylvester, Lance Corporal Palmer, Corporal Willoughby, Lance Corporal Hagins, Lance Corporal Ingram.

who hit a depressing succession of fours to win the game for the Lancers.

Signalman Critchlow, the Army Triathlon, arrived in the Regiment two days later still.

3rd HEADQUARTERS AND SIGNAL REGIMENT

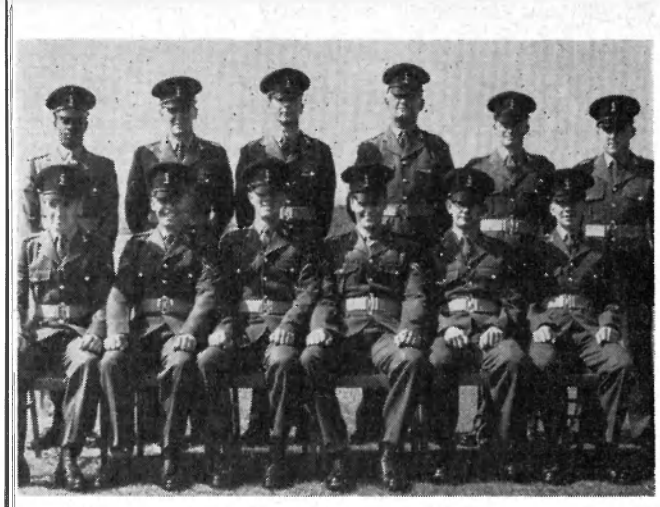
Reminiscing. In writing notes for THE WIRE, one often tends to forget recent events since by the time they are to be read, often almost two months has passed. And at this time almost a month has been spent on block leave during August so perhaps this is a good time to reminisce and look back over the past few months. As always they have been busy months but happy ones.

On the 7th July we were honoured by the visit of the Adjutant General to the Army, Lieutenant-General Sir James Cassels, G.B.E., K.B.E., D.S.O. It was a grand occasion and we know he enjoyed it as much as we did. The Adjutant General had the opportunity of meeting at their work more than half of the Regiment even though his stay was limited due to a heavy programme.

The second of our recent aerial erection competitions in 1 Squadron took place at the end of July. The cost was not as great as the first and at the end all aerials which had been erected were able to be dismantled and re-stored with no back-handers to the workshops for the odd AFG 1043. Signalman Ainsworth and his team were the winners, and the C.O. presented the usual cash awards and a bottle!

Official Holidays. Our official holiday this year was spent just outside Weymouth at a temporary camp, Chickerell. We were blessed with the kindest of weather and all in all the Camp was a great success. We managed to get through all our range courses, and of course everyone enjoyed the 10-mile Battle Efficiency Tests! A little incentive was added to the test to

The Adjutant General with Corporal Stacey of R Troop.





make it competitive, and congratulations along with £11 went to Captain Smith and his LAD team as the winners. S.S.M. Clark and his team composed mainly of drivers from 3 Squadron were very close runners-up and enjoyed the fruits of £5 10s. 0d. The Camp was most worthwhile even though lots of blisters were brought back to Bulford and the beer was expensive in Weymouth!

A Kindly Deed. Here's a good recipe for a spare Saturday afternoon for any Sergeants' Mess? Take about twelve members each with a car (no problem in this affluent society of wealth in the Sergeants' Mess). Add to it, about half as many of their ladies, and set off for the nearest Old People's Home. Fill the cars up with as many of the Old Folk as you have seats for, and take them off in convoy for a brief tour of the local countryside. Return to the Sergeants' Mess for afternoon tea where it is handy to have a few bachelors about, and after tea serve with a glass of something. Return to the home, and you will drop off about twenty-five of the most grateful and charming old people you have known in years, and you will come away with a feeling of great satisfaction. Why not try to organise it? We did on the 11th July with the Old People's Home of Merych Close in Salisbury and I don't think they have stopped talking about it yet.

Comings and Goings. No correspondent of the Regiment could fail to record the return to duty of Major Moss, O.C. 2 Squadron. What with absence in Cyprus and then a long spell in and out of Woolwich Hospital, he's almost like a newcomer to the Regiment! But it's nice to see him around again and already he is well into the chair wondering what to do with about 90 Junior Leaders when they visit us on the 23rd September. Welcome also to Lieutenant (Q.M.) and Mrs. Walker.

The 11th August saw the departure to Canada of our Adjutant, Captain Fender. Few people in any Regiment know the work and responsibilities of an Adjutant, and our good wishes and thanks go with Captain Fender.

The most important of our 'comings' and 'goings' must surely be though the return of all our chaps from their duties with the United Nations Force in Cyprus. After a well-earned disembarkation leave, the majority return to duty on the 16th September and we look forward to having them back. We have not forgotten our men in Aden, British Guiana, Swaziland and the three left behind in Cyprus and we wish them well and hope to see them soon.

Removal Jobs. Whilst the bulk of us were on block leave in August, a small team headed by Major Adams and the Q.M.s, started the big take-over bid of Carter Barracks! For those not initiated to Bulford Camp, Carter Barracks is the wooden hutted militia type barracks on the north-east side of the camp. One can realise the enormous tasks ahead, but already the camp looks to be 'lived-in' and in no time at all it will be 'Home-from-Home.'

And so to September—a busy month ahead with no less than four Generals, two Brigadiers and the Bishop of Maidstone to visit us. That must surely be a record, but we are proud to have them and will be reporting full details of each in subsequent issues.

4th REGIMENT, B.F.P.O. 15

Romeo Troop. July and August are months for exercises, leave, fetes and cricket. Romeo Troop displayed their customary versatility in exercises when they took over the running of the Officers' Mess and officer camp details for the Royal Military Academy summer camp in the Eiffel. No one actually saw them practising balancing soup plates and glasses and laying tables but the good chits at the end showed that they tackled the job with typical Romeo Troop cheerfulness and skill. They can do other things too. Signalman Etches has completed his free falling course, £15 worth of thrills, and is wondering how he can wangle his way on to the next course.

Leave and Fetes. Cars laden with tents and towing caravans have been moving in and out of Herford steadily for the past four weeks. We are not sure who went the furthest distance in Europe but Second-Lieutenant Steane wins the intercontinental prize with a quick trip to Malaya and back.

For once the sun shone on the Regimental Fete and business was brisk. Possibly the chaps who worked hardest for least return were Y.-of-S. McPherson and O.R.Q.M.S. Levins at the Bingo stall. It became such a success with the local population that the local Press man who came to report ended up behind the stall assisting. "All the series Clickerty Click" sounds odd in German.

Cricket. Perhaps the noblest effort of all however has been the Regimental cricket team who battled their way through to the finals of the Divisional competition only to be beaten by the 12/21 Lancers. Perhaps we should have had a steel band to cheer our West Indians on but final honours go to Major Jack Frost who, when the situation was desperate, threw his bat around to such good purpose that it was not an ignominious defeat.

We are sorry we did not meet 2nd Regiment in the Unit award but wish them the best of luck.

B.A.O.R. Canoe Championships, 1964

4th Regiment Show Their Mettle

4th Regiment have certainly shown their mettle in the B.A.O.R. Canoe Championships for 1964 with two wins in this highly competitive event.

The Regiment prepared for the championship with a canoe camp at Vlotho on the River Weser in order to get in as much practice as possible. In fact the training programme might have seemed rather a lazy one as one canoe was incomplete—but subsequent events proved that it worked. The team were assisted in their training by the local innkeeper who persuaded them that beer in large quantities was the best training aid and would turn them into real men!

On the 16th July the great day arrived and the canoes were checked in to the accompaniment of a slight panic when it was found that they were deficient of torches. This was eventually rectified by some deft borrowing, including one from the M.O. who was given a tip to put his money on The Fourth.

At 3 p.m. the start took place and Corporals Akehurst and Thomas were the first team from the 4th Regiment on the 9 km. sprint upstream. They were followed shortly afterwards by Signalmen Hope and Camille and Second-Lieutenant Alden and Lance-Corporal Wilby. A hard, dour paddle ensued, and 4th Regiment supporters were much encouraged to see that the two teams Thomas/Akehurst and Hope/Camille had scored 2nd and 3rd places and thus won the team event by a clear eleven minutes. The Alden/Wilby combination slightly in the rear but not disgraced came in about half-way down the field in the twenties. Success was all the sweeter in the light of a remark heard from another Regiment to the effect that "We'll show these Signals!"



Signalman Hope and Signalman Camille, Individual winners of the B.A.O.R. Command Championships, enjoying a well deserved after race reviver.



Individual winners being congratulated by supporters from 4th Regiment.

The next day found the teams staggering 400 yards carrying their canoes on their backs prior to the 65 km. downstream portion of the event. All were fairly close up at the start but the portage soon began to sort things out. The sleek lightweight S 2s began passing up and Corporals Thomas and Akehurst lost seven places on the portage alone. Paddling continued and by this time the two team canoes were getting near the leaders. After a long struggle with a K.2, and much frenzied shouting from 4th Regiment supporters, Signalmen Hope and Camille passed it. On the next 10 or 12 kms they managed to pull up ten minutes—a truly remarkable effort—to come to the finishing post first. There their supporters began drowning the victors in beer, much to the delight of Hope, who was later heard to say, "I felt hungry when I came in, but after a reception like that I only feel right." He was at the time eating the most immense lunch.

Very shortly after Corporals Thomas and Akehurst paddled in, their quarrelling (friendly?) being heard from the bank. "Pull you ******. I am, how about your share you ******." Again beer greeted them, Corporal Thomas, of course, managing the vastest quantities without turning a hair.

The results went up and were:—Team, 1st place: 4th Regiment; Individual, 1st place: Canoe No. 29, 4th Regiment.

Those Signals had done it and the M.O. had won his wager.

7th REGIMENT, B.F.P.O. 15

August is a popular month for leave and relaxing generally, but for those who are left behind, it becomes a busier time than ever. So we start this month's notes with a tribute to those who did twice as many duties as normal, and three jobs at the same time instead of two.

Summer Camp

For 1 and 4 Squadrons, the month started with their summer camp on the Baltic Coast near Eckernforde, for which they combined together. Organised and run on Infantry lines, with corporals acting as platoon commanders, this gave everyone a complete change from signalling. The indefatigable C.S.M.I. Carpenter came fresh from Nijmegan Marches to run the P.E. tests and organise sport, and Second-Lieutenant Stanley and Sergeant Crabtree urged their platoon attacks with copious supplies of thunderflashes. But the lighter side was not neglected, and by all accounts the highlight of this camp was the beach barbecue, with a whole roast pig. This event (so our reporter in 4 Squadron tells us) attracted a large crowd of local campers, who came with their lanterns and guitars and contributed their songs round the bonfire. There is a saying "First catch your hare," which might also read "First catch your pig," as W.O.I (F. of S.) G. A. Sharp and his merry men learnt, to their cost. The sight of the Foreman directing this operation, which finally came to so successful a conclusion, will long be remembered, for there is no doubt that as soon as the pig set eyes on Foreman Sharp it tried very hard to escape.

Closed Circuit TV Again

By mid-August we were on the ranges for the annual classification, and the month ended with a five-day regimental exercise, "Hot Spot." This exercise was notable because it was the first time that the new closed circuit TV system for Main H.Q. was tried out in the field in a complete form. An article in the June issue of THE WIRE referred to last year's trials using civilian equipment adapted for the purpose. This year we are equipped with a new system, trilon, made for the job, to be entirely operated and engineered by Royal Signals. The heart of the system is a 2-ton trailer housing the TV Control Centre. The whole is interconnected by a formidable network of cables, and this has presented a new challenge to the hard-pressed lineman. During the exercise a tactical move was carried out, and the system successfully re-established in the new location. But for the TV team, the testing time lies ahead on Exercise "Ground Zero 38" and "Fallex."



Staff Sergeant Slaughter of the 7th Regiment negotiating a hazard in the B.A.O.R. Motor Cycle Trials. He came 2nd as an individual, the Regiment winning the team event for the third year running.

Motor Cycling Victory

August also saw a victory for the Regiment in the B.A.O.R. Motor Cycle Trials, when the Regimental team won the team championship for the third year running. Staff Sergeant Slaughter, Staff Sergeant Sankey and Sergeant Spooner comprised the team, and their individual placings were second, third and fourth respectively. The team now goes to U.K. in September to represent B.A.O.R. in the Army Trials.

Finally, our personal column for this month: Farewells to Second-Lieutenant Easson, Sergeants Jackson, Driscoll and Tolley. Also to W.O.I Gill, R.E.M.E., and W.O.II Cook, A.C.C. Welcome to Major Donald Newman, our new Second-in-Command, Captain N. Moss, the Adjutant designate, W.O.II Ashton, Staff Sergeant Hunt, Sergeant Kinrade, Sergeant Meakings, W.O.II Machin, A.C.C., and W.O.II Gilbert, R.E.M.E. Congratulations to Signalman Bottoms, Lance-Corporal Carter, Signalman Hodgson, Lance-Corporal Jones, Lance-Corporal Morris and Lance-Corporal Ward, who have all got married; and to Corporal Cleator, R.E.M.E. and Lance-Corporal Smith (684) on the birth of their daughters.

9th REGIMENT, R.F.P.O. 53

September. No mists but much mellow fruitfulness—carobs gathered at the wayside, lemons being picked, oranges ripening on the trees. The nights are getting cooler and the seas less placid, all reminders that summer is slowly coming to an end. The highlight of the month was the excellent results achieved by our swimmers in the Army Cyprus Inter-Championships at Nicosia.

Tennis. With another five matches still to play, the Regiment lies fourth equal in the Army (Cyprus) Lawn Tennis Inter-Unit League and must now stand a good chance of ending the season in second place. Our old rivals, Ordnance Depot, have already defeated us twice and with all their matches played stand unassailable in first place. In a short informal ceremony the Commanding Officer awarded Regimental Colours for 1964 to Ron Smith and Arthur Hicks, civilian members of the Regiment, and to Major MacLean and Captain Brenchley for their services to Unit tennis.

(Continued on Page 395)

Saddle Club. Anon writes: July, August and September are always quiet months in Cyprus Saddle Club, since it is really too hot to ride much during the day. Nevertheless an encouraging number of members have still been hacking out early in the morning or in the evening, and the training classes run by Stan Saunders have been well attended. Three new stalls are in process of construction, roofs are being overhauled prior to the winter rains, and we are looking forward to a good season.

On October 1 responsibility for running the Saddle Club passes from 2 Squadron to 1 Squadron, and we take this opportunity for thanking O.C. 2, Don Davidson, his riding master, and S.S.M. "Chirpy" Finch for all they have done to put the club on a sound basis. Much of this credit must go to Corporal Hill and Signalman Edwards, who have worked long hours without losing their cheerfulness and who have given loyal support.

Water Ski-ing. P.J.B. writes: From small beginnings mighty oak trees grow, and the Regimental Water Ski-ing Club is progressing from strength to strength. Starting with one second hand boat, an 18 ft. h.p. engine and a nucleus of 40 members, the sport proved so popular that we were forced to purchase a further secondhand boat with a 40 h.p. engine in early August. At the same time we approached the Nuffield Trust for a grant to purchase a new boat and a much larger engine (75 h.p.). The sum of £710 was granted for this purpose (contrary to expectation), a firm order placed, and our new boat has now arrived on the island and is being unpacked as I write. Faced with the problem of naming them for insurance purposes, we christened them, in order of acquisition, *Faith, Hope* and *Charity*—the reasons should be obvious.

At last count, we numbered some 65 members, and their skill is ever increasing. From a tentative trip round the bay on two skis, carefully following the wake of the towing boat and clutching the rope with both hands, many members have progressed to ski-ing mono or on a disc. And at an inclusive membership fee of £2 per month, which includes as many skis as boats, weather and duties permit we must surely be one of the least expensive clubs of this kind in the Army.

Sub Aqua. E.W.P.A. writes: In spite of the restrictions, the Sub Aqua Club has been able to maintain a high level of activity. During the week most of the diving is done in Famagusta bay, but on Sundays we usually set off in our diving boat *Aphrodite* down the coast towards Cape Greco and establish a families' picnic base in one of the many pleasant little coves. The diving boat then takes out relays of divers to some part of the reef or along the coast to fish, look for shells or just explore. These outings are so popular that we often have to hire another boat to accommodate the numbers. We look forward to the lifting of the restrictions one day, so that we can put into effect our plans for expeditions farther afield. Meantime, training continues, and new members are clocking in. With a bit of luck, next season should offer us wider scope. We hope soon to have some underwater photographs to illustrate a longer article on our activities.

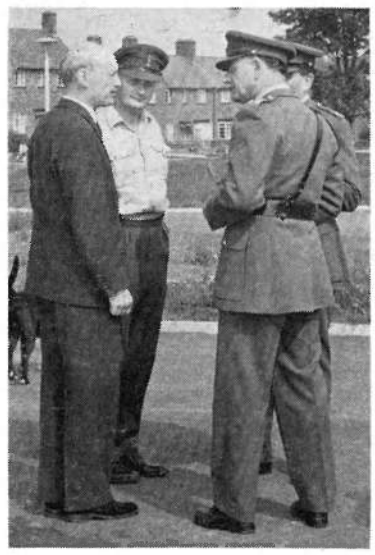
Swimming. D.H.R. writes: The Army (Cyprus) Inter-Unit Swimming Championships were held at the R.A.F. Nicosia pool on 2nd September, and the Regiment gained a clear victory over their nearest opponents, 1 Glosters. Though it is invidious to single out any particular member of a very strong Regimental team, mention must be made of Corporal Chard who swam very well indeed. The G.O.C. presented the cup to Corporal Ewart, who had been responsible for the organisation and strict training of the team, and who, earlier in the season, had led the Regimental water polo team to victory in the Army Cyprus Water Polo League.

(Continued from right-hand column)

11th Regiment Sergeants' Mess Notes

Our first social in the Helles "Hilton" Sergeants' Mess showed that the entertainments committee under Staff Sergeant Burnett had lost none of its talents in the move from Baghdad. The monthly whist drive celebrated its first birthday. R.S.M. and Mrs. Dunlop are keen exponents of this noble art of card sharping and with the two R.Q.M.S.s of the Regiment and their wives manage to total up tricks galore. Staff Sergeant Morrill has gone off with a smile on his drill course at Pirbright—this is noteworthy as the rest of the Mess members from Instructional Wing appear to have gone into hibernation.

11th REGIMENT



Mr. Montgomery, the C.O., the Commander Training Brigade and the G.O.C. in consultation. Note secret service agent disguised as black dog listening-in

August has been a month of quite uncanny weather conditions for Catterick — sunshine and warmth, with an unfortunate lapse which coincided with the Freedom of Richmond Parade on 17th August. Despite fervent efforts by the Padre it rained solidly from the time the troops marched on to the cricket field in Richmond and continued throughout the ceremony. The Padre claimed, however, that the weather was not really his pigeon and applications should have been made to the Chaplain General's Department. No doubt a fuller account of the parade will appear elsewhere in this month's issue. Suffice it to say that the Regiment provided a large slice of the Parade contingent including the Guard of Honour and a sizeable administrative 'tail.' Visitors to the parade were entertained to lunch at the various Messes in Catterick including our own.

The clamour had hardly died down when feverish preparations were set in motion to provide a Guard of Honour to go over to France to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Battle of The Marne at which General de Gaulle will be present. At the time of writing the main body of the Guard have departed to meet up, one hopes, with the advance party which left a few days ago.

During all this activity 2 Squadron have vacated Vimy and Baghdad Lines and are now settling into Bourlon Barracks on the opposite end of Catterick Camp. There are, of course, teething troubles inherent in moving into another barracks but these are gradually being sorted out. At the same time of course the constant state of flux of drafts arriving and departing, recruits arriving, training and passing-off continues.

Visits

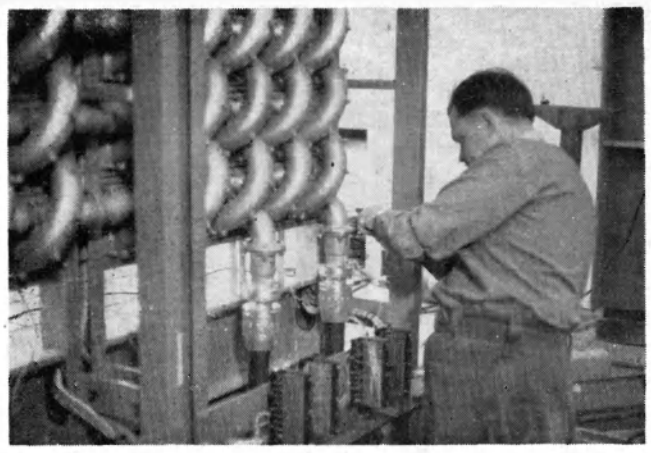
On 14th August, 1964, the Regiment was briefly visited by the Deputy Under Secretary of State (Army), Mr. Ian Montogomery, accompanied by the G.O.C. Yorkshire District, Major-General Upjohn and the Brigade Commander, Brigadier Cox. The visiting party was met outside R.H.Q. by the Commanding Officer and then shown round the living accommodation in the converted Helles Officers' Mess and thence to the Junior Ranks Club.

Officers' Mess Notes

Whatever else is said about the Officers' Mess of 11th Regiment it can certainly claim to produce the highest of marriage rates. There must be something about the Mess which fosters the mating instinct of the single officer. It can't be the food because the most recent addition to the ranks of the 'pads' was our Messing Officer, Lieutenant J. J. Bannister, who, in his relatively short stay in the Regiment, has built up a reputation of running an excellent cuisine. A couple of weeks before him Lieutenant Siderfin took the plunge before going off to the School to work for his living. In a week's time our acting Adjutant, Lieutenant Walden, forms up with his bride-to-be before our own Padre.

We say goodbye to Lieutenant Scarff who has recently gone to the School to do some bookkeeping. Our hopes that his leaving present of a silver tankard will help persuade him to carry on the good work he initiated in our cellar bar before he finally leaves Catterick.

(See previous column)



W.O.II. A. Morrison connecting one of the terminated coaxial cables onto the aerial exchange.

14th REGIMENT
An Aerial Exchange at Droitwich

One of the current tasks of Installation Troop is the installation of a Marconi HA 150 type Aerial Exchange at Droitwich.

The exchange when completed will make it possible to switch any transmitter to any aerial convenienttly and safely. To prevent the possibility of the same transmitter being connected to more than one aerial, or the same aerial being connected to more than one transmitter, a mechanical interlock is used. No switch can be moved until two keys have been inserted and turned in the barrel locks at the front of the switch. Once the switch has been operated the keys are trapped and cannot be used to free any other switch. Also built into the system is an electrical interlock which trips the main HT of a transmitter during aerial switching or if a fault develops on the aerial to which the transmitter is connected.

The transmitters are connected to the exchange by 2-inch diameter coaxial cable and the outlets from the exchange are taken clear of the building in the same way. Outside the 50 ohm coaxial cables are connected to the 600 ohm open wire feeders by means of matching transformers mounted on a gantry some 30 feet from the building.

To prevent any possible damage due to flash over, the coaxials will be pressurized to 5 lb. p.s.i. with dry nitrogen. It needs considerable care and skill when terminating the cables to make sure that no gas can escape.

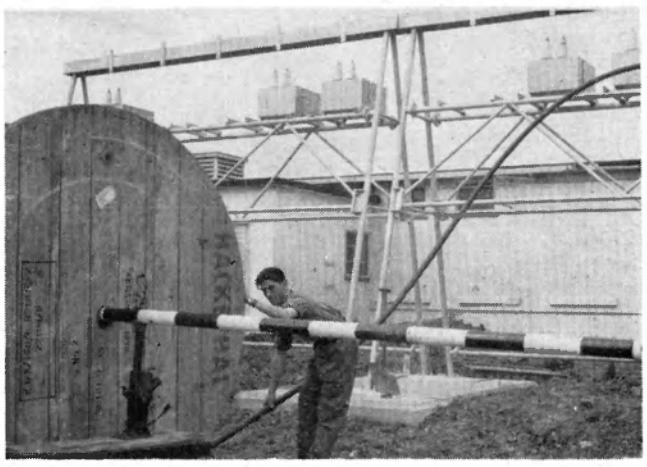
A REMOVAL JOB

On 4th July last, a train drew into Gloucester from Avonmouth docks carrying 120 tons (26 wagons) worth of radio transmitter E10—three transmitters in all, with associated gear. This was the end, or nearly so, of a 6,800-mile removal job by Installation Troop.

It all began last March when Major P. D. Mootham (O.C. Troop) and W.O.I (now Lieutenant Q.M.) R. E. Howard flew to Nairobi to dismantle the three E10s which it had been decided should be brought back to U.K. 236 Squadron, the owners, were in the final throes of disbandment and time was running out. Fifty-eight days remained before the Kenya government were due to take over the transmitter building. By working 12 hours a day and five on Sundays, the job was done in 53 days and the crates ready to move to the railhead at Kahawa.

Major Mootham's "shopping list" for packing materials included 64 tons timber; 4 tons wood wool; ¼-ton nails, screws, nuts and bolts; 5 miles waterproof paper; 2 cwt. silica gel.

The 10-mile move to Kahawa took three days, using a fleet of 20-ton and 10-ton trucks. From there, the journey to Mombasa was by single track railway—300 miles and a drop of 6,000 feet.



Signalman L. T. Hawes of 2 Squadron assisting to pay out co-axial cable. Behind him on the gantry are transformers for matching coax to open wire feeders.

At Mombasa, Major Mootham saw the consignment safely stowed aboard M.V. *City of Ottowa,* which sailed for Avonmouth on 26th May. (He and Mr. Howard returned to U.K. by air—or at least Mr. Howard did. The O.C. decided to pay a visit to Cyprus, nearly got incarcerated in Cairo, and spent a week-end in Beirut at the expense of United Arab Airlines—but that is another story!).

The job, of course, is far from finished yet, but it says a great deal for the packers and handlers that not a single component has been damaged en route—which is more than some removers we know can achieve!

16th REGIMENT, B.F.P.O. 35

August has been a quiet month on the whole, with the lucky ones enjoying the fine weather on their leave, whilst we less fortunate ones sweltered in the sun.

Taking advantage of the weather and relative quiet, we entered the knockout competition for the Cologne Cup—a six-a-side cricket competition, and emerged the winners. The cup is held by us for a year and then we have to defend it again.

The B.A.O.R. Motor Cycle Trials provided another outlet for our skill, and our team, consisting of W.O.II M. G. A.



W.O.II. M. G. A. Edwards, winner of the B.A.O.R. Motor Cycle trials, negotiates a tricks bend.

Welfare at Association Headquarters, Cheltenham Terrace, London, S.W.1, have a constant need for clothing of all sorts. Please send unwanted clothes.



Gurkha Sergeants get stuck into it at camp !

Edwards, Staff Sergeant J. White, Signalman D. Layton and Signalman Ashmore came second in the Championships. W.O.II Edwards emerged B.A.O.R. Champion and Staff Sergeant White won the award for the best novice and was placed fifth overall.

17th REGIMENT, SEREMBAN, MALAYSIA

A few weeks ago, 2 Squadron, which is responsible for the education and trade training of Gurkha Signals soldiers, received a number of recruits from the Training Depot and about thirty ex-Boys who had been on six months leave in Nepal after three years in Boys' Company.

Before getting down to the hard grind of trade training and, in the case of the recruits, as a relaxation after six months of very hard recruit training, the Squadron departed for the east coast of Malaya for a week under canvas. In a word, they enjoyed an old British custom, "a few days at the seaside."

We regret to announce the loss of the Malaya Area Major Units Football Cup 1964 to 1st Bn. K.O.Y.L.I. who defeated us in the final 4—1.

21st REGIMENT, B.F.P.O. 43

The Regiment has been pleased to see the new Commander Rhine Area, Brigadier J. D. King-Martin, D.S.O., M.C., who made a rapid tour of Squadrons and Troops during the month. By car and Beaver he managed to see all aspects of the Unit's work and exhaust the C.O. in the process.

No. 1 Squadron. The winds of change have blown strongly on 1 Squadron. In the short period of two months most of the "vital" people have changed.

Prior to the departure of Lieutenant Symonds, "C" Troop was loaned to 1 (B.R.) Corps for Exercise "New Harpoon" and earned a letter of thanks from that Unit for their work. No sooner were they back when they found themselves moving out for the Squadron Summer Camp where infantry section and platoon training was the order of the day and night. This camp was run at very high pressure and added more weight to "C" Troop's claim of being the fittest cable troop in Germany. They are forming the majority of the Unit team (all from 1 Squadron) now taking part in the Nijmegen marches.

All members of the Squadron most sincerely congratulate W.O.II (F.-of-S.) D. D. Clarke who earned for himself a C.-in-C. R.A.F. Germany Commendation Certificate which was presented to him by the Station Commander, R.A.F. Wildenrath, on 17th July. The wording of the Commendation is as follows:—

> "The Commander-in-Chief, Royal Air Force Germany (Second Tactical Air Force), has been pleased to commend the following person for outstanding work and devotion to duty whilst serving in this Command."

The current spare time project taken on by the Squadron is to rehabilitate the .22 Rifle Range on the station (defunct for two years). This will be done with the full backing of the R.A.F. and when completed shooting will become part of the routine training of the Squadron and they will run a Station shooting club and competition.



Lance Corporals Blundal and Hyett show their work to the Commander Rhine Area, Brigadier J. D. King-Martin, D.S.O., M.C. during his visit to 21st Regiment.

No. 2 Squadron. On 15th July, H.R.H. The Princess Margaret visited R.A.F. Bruggen to present Colours to the two R.A.F. Squadrons. Though not involved in the colourful military aspects of the presentations, "H" Troop provided a number of circuits for broadcasting and other purposes, and since the Royal plane was to land on the Station, kept their fingers crossed on all air traffic circuits. All went well and to some extent we must bless the fine weather because one operational cable continued to function after a 6-inch nail had been driven through it by an aircraftman, who has since received the blessing of the duty line party.

During July nearly all members of the Squadron spent one week in the field on military training. 1 Squadron occupied the site before us and kindly set up the camp. With a mixed bag of marching and map-reading, swimming and shooting, field craft and fire fighting amongst our activities everyone was kept well occupied from reveille to lights out. The nightly game of soft ball removed many ounces of weight and our own bar each evening guaranteed a suitable ending to each day—not to mention a useful profit. The hard work of Captain Harry Newsham and S.Q.M.S. "Ivor" Bowers both before and during the camp, in ensuring good administration and adequate rations, laid the basis for an enjoyable and very profitable period of military training.



W.O. II (F. of S.) D. D. Clarke receives his C. in C's Commendation from Group Captain J. D. Thirwell, O.B.E., D.F.C.

22nd REGIMENT, B.F.P.O. 16

Two days after giving the Farewell Parade for C.S.O. Northag which was described in last month's issue, the Regiment went to camp en masse. This is a simple statement which conceals a vast amount of work; only those who have done it before can appreciate the task. We travelled by road some 300 miles to a bay north-west of Kiel, near, but not in, tourist country (more of this later), the idea being that mainly military training would be carried out in the mornings and by night, and that the afternoons would be left free for games and swimming. After a few minor diversions by the Advance Party under Major Dunbar (it was found practically impossible to dig latrines due to sea-water seepage, and so Elsans had to be sent for hurriedly!) the main body arrived intact on 11th July.

Having settled in on a fine Bundeswehr camping site, military training began. This included weapon training, fieldcraft, map reading, and bird watching. This last was on an ad hoc basis, and depended on two factors:

(a) There was a suitable bird in view and (b) binoculars, being at a premium, were available.

There was one particularly flamboyant piece of plumage in a blue bikini.

In the afternoons, inter-Squadron and Troop games were played with a will, and surprisingly, one of the most popular was badminton, the only difficulty being a gusty wind to the man serving a shuttlecock into it! The Regimental soccer team played against two local teams. The game against the German Naval Barracks was won 3—0, and we lost 6—5 after a very close game against the nearby seaside town of Eckenforde. We also took on a local German Luftwaffe team at basketball and won.

The Regiment was helped considerably by the kindness and helpfulness of the C.O. of the local German Naval Barracks. We borrowed their range and spent two valuable days shooting and also toured one of their destroyers. Not only did they let us keep our frozen food in their 'fridges, but they also bashed our spuds mechanically which saved a great deal of time. One of the hardest worked men at camp was the driver of the water cart; there being no water on tap, he had to ferry it morning, noon and night so that the whole Regiment could wash, drink, and be fed.

On the second Sunday the Padre conducted morning service by the sea, followed by Holy Communion. We borrowed an organ from the German Naval Barracks. It was an impressive sight and sound even if the organist (the Second-in-Command) and choir under Major Lloyd did find it difficult to synchronize.

We were very pleased to have a visit from C.C. Royal Signals, Brigadier M. S. Hancock, M.B.E. A Regimental Guest Night was held during his visit and the C.O. of the German Naval Barracks, the Burgomeister, and local dignitaries were invited. The culmination of the military training took the form of two night exercises; each being an attack by three Squadrons (forming a Battalion) on a fourth (forming a defending Company). C.C. Royal Signals attended the first of these and obviously enjoyed some simple soldiering. The C.O. managed to immerse himself in an obnoxious marsh, of animal extraction (or excretion!).

The second attack went with a bang—(literally; the umpires thoroughly enjoyed themselves with thunderflashes, trip-flares, blank and Verey lights).

A fair share of good and bad weather was had; but everyone enjoyed themselves working and playing hard. After this "rest," the Regiment returned to barracks on 24th July, leaving behind a small Rear Party to strike the tents and two newly painted stones; one with a Regimental crest, and one noting that 244 Squadron (ASSU) had been present, with the Red Hand much in evidence.

28th REGIMENT, B.F.P.O. 35

Much Activity. About five miles from Krefeld is a German beauty spot—the Forstwald. A richly wooded area contrasting the smoke and bustle of the City of Krefeld.

If you should go down to the woods some day, you would find Francisca Barracks neatly tucked away in a state of semi-permanent camouflage; and in these woods there is quite a stir as 28th Regiment get into top gear for Exercise "Fallex."

It has been quite a summer in more ways than one for 28th Regiment. Nearly every week—when not out on exercise—Regimental Efficiency Courses have been taking place. On these courses, physical efficiency tests and weapon classification have been undertaken by groups of thirty at a time. The byways around Francisca have echoed with the sound of marching men, and visitors to the woods have heard in the distance the staccato noises of shots being fired; if not in anger, at least with considerable determination.

Then out of the gates in July rushed Lieutenant Doyle and his Francyclists, heading for the Dutch, Belgium, Luxemburg and French frontiers on bicycles. Self-appointed Cycling Officer, he rushed off again in August with another party, making one suspect that the camp sites en route held special, unpublicised attractions.

Cricket. On our sports ground, the Regimental cricket team has been "slogging" its way through the B.A.O.R. cricket competition. Mainstays of Regimental cricket have been "Mike" Troop, holders of the Inter-Troop Cricket Cup, providing such notables in the Regimental side as: F. of S. ("Have-a-Go") Howie, Corporals Wolff and "Flash" Davies, and Lance-Corporals Richards, Palmer and Collinson. These cricket "technicians," together with Sergeant Wood (1 Squadron), Corporal Walsh (2 Squadron) and ably captained, abetted and directed by the Second-in-Command (Major Parker) "engineered" the Regiment into becoming the Rhine Area champions and semi-finalists in the B.A.O.R. Cup. Unfortunately, we were knocked out in the semi-finals by the Queen's Dragoon Guards, but not without giving them a severe fright in an exciting high-scoring match. Put in to bat, the Regiment swept through to 168, in 26 overs, by powerful hitting from Corporal Walsh (48), Lance-Corporal Collinson (29) and C.S.M.I. Issit. C.S.M.I. Issit was in such a hurry to get back to the pavilion after an A.P.T.C. dinner, at Sennelager the previous evening, that he scored his 42 runs in 13 minutes!

This exhilarating batting display was not sufficient and, batting more slowly, but in a vigorous and determined fashion, the Q.D.G. passed our total in 31 overs—just over three overs to go.

Our Belgian Friends. The Belgian Squadron are intrepid sportsmen who, as fellow Franciscans, take part in *all* our activities. The emphasis is on ALL, for on another Regimental Week-end, the Belgian Squadron reached the semi-finals of our Wakefield Rules Cricket Competition. "Bravo" Troop (2 Squadron) emerged as the eventual winners, but not before the Belgians, slightly reinforced by British advisors, were heard to murmur "Zis fast bowling is not Creek-ket."

In return for the compliment of allowing them to play our "sacred" game of cricket, the Belgian Squadron invited various Troops to be beaten at Volley Ball, and afterwards a thirst-quencher of universal appeal.

NOTES from MID-EAST

C.R. Signals Brauch

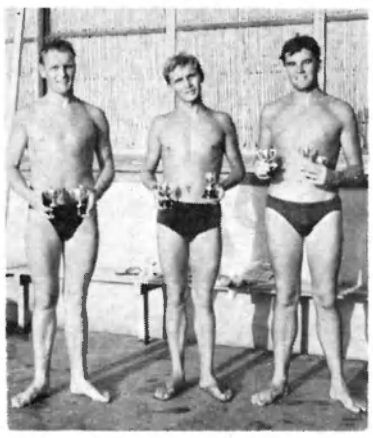
There has been a number of changes in the branch during the last few weeks. In chronological order we gained as G3 (S.D.) Captain M. S. Wilson-Brown who had a quick week's run round before his predecessor, Captain A. F. Seymour, finally got himself on an aeroplane back to U.K. (he had been trying for months!). We then gained Major M. W. Simms-Reeve, who joined us from 11th Regiment as S.O.2 (Tels) and whose predecessor, Major G. S. Symons, has now left for 30th Regiment. We also lost, alas, our typist Mrs. G. Eastwood (wife of W.O.II (R.Q.M.S.) F. Eastwood) who had been with us for nearly two years—how she put up with us we'll never know? Her replacement is Mrs. A. E. Boiling, wife of Staff Sergeant J. Boiling, who is here for the Auto Telephone Project. We hope that she will enjoy herself here. Corporal C. Mason, our draughtsman, has at last got his relief, Signalman J. B. Nixon, and he even manages to joke about the last few weeks of his "three year tour." Corporal J. Lyons was seen frantically typing last week; on closer inspection his work was seen to be a brief to his replacement (the fastest bit of typing he's been known to do since he got here!).

On 5th August, Captain L. P. Clayton was married in Darlington; we all wish him and Mrs. Clayton the best of luck, and are looking forward to seeing them both out here soon.



Inter Corps Swimming—Mideast
C. R. Signals with the winning Corps team

Royal Signals Swimming Gala 1964



Signalmen Greenwood, Mills and Dewar, all of 255 Squadron. Signalmen Greenwood and Dewar are ex-Junior Leaders

On 22nd July, Royal Signals held the annual swimming gala. Considering the small size of Royal Signals units here the attendance and participation was impressive. 222 and 254 Squadrons, both Aden based, were there in force. 4 RTR Signal Troop produced a good team and a trio of first class swimmers from 255 Squadron in Bahrain completed the entries.

After a splendid afternoon 254 Squadron "A" team won by 5 points from 222 Squadron. Mrs. J. W. Rayner then presented the prizes to the winners.

Inter-Corps Swimming Gala

Four Corps, Royal Signals, R.A.S.C., R.A.O.C. and R.E.M.E., sent their teams to this gala held on 30th June. The last two years the cup had been won by R,E.M.E. and we had decided to wrest it from them. It was a close contest and at the halfway mark we were a trifle worried! However, due to some magnificent swimming by the team we managed to beat R.E.M.E. by the narrow margin of five points. The final of the water polo was also played, which we lost by one goal, in extra time, to the R.A.O.C.

The prizes were presented by Brigadier G. C. S. Montanaro, D.S.O., M.E., the Brigadier A.Q. H.Q. MIDEAST.

255 Squadron Report

Air conditioning weather is again upon us, it is currently 105° in the shade and the humidity is 90 per cent., but nothing daunted Field Troop "en masse" went on exercise with the Amphibious Warware Squadron. Luckily the new Landing Ship Logistic, *Sir Lancelot,* was the main means of transport and the ship is air conditioned throughout!

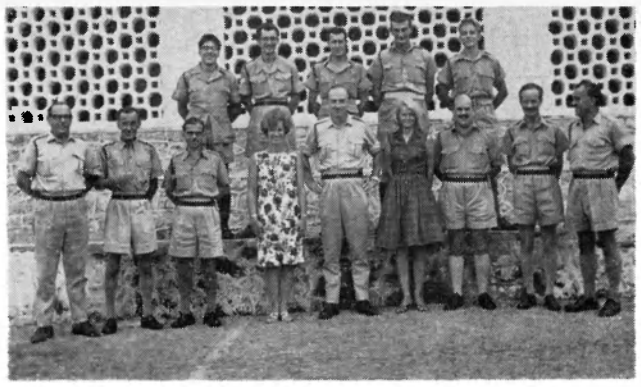
The *Sir Lancelot* detachment consisted of Corporal Baughan as N.C.O. I.C. and Signalmen Bates, Lynch and Taylor. Also aboard were Corporal Evans and Signalman Lawrence of 603 Troop.

The detachment operated from the LST to the beach parties ashore, H.M.S. *Meon* and the Gulf Armoured Squadron.

Changing shift or tuning the aerials involved either passing through the Captain's quarters or through the bridge, so that the detachment was well known to all the senior crew before long.

Families

With MOD conceding that it is normal for families to be married and Signalman Worsfold still recovering from the shock of getting a vacancy for his, we feel it prudent to again mention that the families situation is difficult in Bahrain and will probably remain so for a long time. It is not a question of houses—there are plenty—but that the background facilities, particularly schools, are restricted. It is a good family station,



C.R. Signals Branch—H.Q. Mideast Command
Back row: Signalman L. Kinealy, Corporal J. Lysons, .W.O.II. J. B. Morrison, Corporal C. Mason, Signalman D. Vockings.
Front row : Captain M. S. Wilson-Brown, Captain R. G. Mitchell, Major R. Holmes, Mrs. A. E. Boiling, Lieutenant Colonel J. W. Rayner, Miss A. White, Major G. S. Symons, Major M. W. Simms-Reeve, Captain L. P. Clayton.

but the calling forward process is governed by this 'one out—one in' rule and a married soldier with points in the twenty region must be prepared to be separated up to eight months.

Live Modern—Live Dangerousiy

The LFPG Officers' Mess recently moved to a new building. As it is a rented house a fair amount of alteration had to be done. During the course of this the electricians, as is locally common, used the water pipes as an earth. Unfortunately the plumbers omitted to mention that they had been using some plastic piping. The first person to notice the effects of this phenomenom was the G.S.O. 2 who was taking a shower at the time. He—well work it out for yourself, you're in a technical Corps!

H.Q., ROYAL SIGNALS, CYPRUS

Farewell to a much-liked Commander-in-Chief

IN September of this year, Air Chief Marshal Sir Denis Barnet, G.C.B., C.B.E., D.F.C., M.A., our Commander-in-Chief, retires from the Royal Air Force. Even in the piping days of peace we were very conscious of the interest he took in the activities of Corps Units in the Island both at work and play. Since the internal strife started in December of last year, we have, in common with all those who have worked for and with him, built up a tremendous admiration for the way in which he has dealt with the almost insuperable problems, and for the example he sets us by his calm and unshakeable demeanour. Professionally we have always been encouraged by his emphasis on the importance of communications, and the account he has taken of them in his consideration of any plan.



Air Chief Marshall Sir Denis Barnett, G.C.B., C.B.E., D.F.C., M.A., Commander-in-Chief Near East Air Force. Commander British Forces Cyprus

Feeling as we do, we could not allow him to leave without suitably marking the occasion. With the co-operation of his personal staff, we found a vacant lunch time date in his very crowded schedule. Sir Denis kindly accepted the invitation and so Monday, 24th August, saw a gathering of as many officers as we could muster from 9th Regiment, the three Squadrons, United Nations Signal Staff and H.Q. Staff, in the Officers' Club, Episkopi, to say goodbye over a drink, and a very satisfying cold menu.

At the instigation of the C.S.O., Colonel T. H. C. Grigg, we included in the party both Major-General P. G. F. Young, the District Commander, and Mr. Broadbent, the Chief Officer

of the Sovereign Base Area Administration, who have worked so closely and in such accord with the C.-in-C. over these last critical months, and who are themselves leaving us this year. In addition we invited Group Captain J. R. Burges, C.S.O. Near East Air Force, and his Senior Staff Officers and Unit Commanders.

Colonel Grigg, with a few very well chosen words, after lunch, emphasised our feelings and admiration for the C.-in-C. and spoke of the very great degree of integration we had achieved at all levels, largely due to the personal example of our seniors. The Air Chief Marshal made a moving reply. On this high note and equally high spirits, we dispersed. A great occasion indeed, the more so because in such times as these, it is so easy to forego pleasurable formality, and once missed the opportunity never again recurs.

H.Q. ROYAL SIGNALS, MALTA

Corps Week Celebrations. The Royal Signals (Malta) Corps Week took place from 28th June to 4th July, 1964.

The 'week' was opened with a Church Parade and we were fortunate in having the services of the Band of the 1st Bn. Royal Sussex. The salute at the march past was taken by Lieutenant-Colonel A. J. Clarke, C.R. Signals Malta and Libya. He also presented L.S. & G.C. medals to W.O.II D. G. O. White, B.E.M., 235 Squadron, and Corporal V. Farrugia, 234 Squadron.

Barbecue—Courtesy 234. On the evening of the 28th June, 234 Squadron organised an Other Ranks Barbecue at Mellieha Bay. This was a very popular event and approximately 120 people, including wives and girl friends, attended. Although a 234 Squadron affair it was very pleasing to see a fair sprinkling of representatives from the sister Squadron (235 Squadron Comcan). W.O.II Jepson and Corporal Melhuish deserve special mention for the hard work they had put in to ensure the evening's success, which it undoubtably was.

Dance—Courtesy 235. Not to be outdone, 235 Squadron held an Other Ranks' dance on 30th June. This was very ably organised by Captain (Q.M.) Douthwaite (affectionately referred to as Dad) and W.O.II (Y.-of-S.) "Paddy" Stringer (his favourite song at the moment is 'I'm the only one on the Island'). About a 180 people attended and judging from comments passed and an observance of the smiling faces it was a wonderful evening.

The Warrant Officers and Sergeants of 234 and 235 Celebrate. To keep the fun going the Warrant Officers and Sergeants of 234 Squadron were also in the groove and held their Corps Week Ball on Saturday, 4th July. By dint of hard work the Mess 'backyard' was turned into a veritable fairly land. R.Q.M.S. Dave Jones prepared his "Devils-Brew." This we understand went down very well. We wonder who was the Chief Clerk who, after trying all the varieties of cocktails ordered an early taxi and was seen no more. Judging by the state of the Mess the next morning and also of those who attended, a wonderful time was had by all.

As there is only one Saturday in a week 235 Squadron Warrant Officers and Sergeants beat the gun and had their dance on 27th July. As for all good dances organisation was the keynote. This was amply provided by W.O.II Rumsey and his willing gang of helpers. The dance was well attended and to put it mildly—a great success.

Malta Trade Fair. An addition to the festivities the Malta Trade Fair was held at Naxxar from 1st-15th July, 1964. At about 10 days notice the G.O.C. Malta and Libya directed that the Army would be represented. Accordingly 234 and 235 Squadron combined to produce a Royal Signals stand. Captain Griffiths, W.R.A.C., supervised the building and layout—the actual building being carried out by W.O.II Rumsey, Corporal Atherton, Signalman Miller and Corporal Stubbings. The material used was old recovered timber, packing cases and tea chests, etc. The finished product, however, was a work of art.

The equipment on display showed our normal day to day work and consisted of:—

A direct teleprinter link to North Africa, which on occasions was also switched to Reuter News flashes;

A "how high can you hear" effort: this was an oscillator which could be tuned to approximately 20,000 Kcs being fed into a racal digital counter frequency meter which gave out the hearing frequency by a visual means. The locals named this the Royal Signals fruit machine.



Signals Stand Malta Trade Fair 1-15 July, 1964.

As an additional attraction a 'cutaway' automatic telephone exchange was installed with four telephones. This was very popular and in constant use.

Two B44 sets were also available outside the stand, much to the great delight of the children—many returning a second and third time to have a go at the mike.

We were pleased to incorporate the British Forces Broadcasting Service into the Signals stand. They ran live interviews and a twice nightly 'Ask for another' programme. This also proved most popular.

Overall the Army section of the Malta Trade Fair was a great success. The Royal Signals easily held their own in competition with other Corps and Regiments in producing an interesting and attractive stand.

Next year if we are asked we will go bigger and better.

Notes from Borneo

Commander Royal Signals, B.F.P.O. 628

Careful readers of THE WIRE will by now have appreciated that there are a number of Signal Squadrons deployed in the Borneo Territories, including two with Gurkha Brigades, one Federation Signals and the newly christened 266 Squadron at the Joint Headquarters in Labuan. It was thought that this warrants, in introducing Borneo Notes, that passing mention should be made of Commander Royal Signals and his Staff, who are also at Joint Headquarters. The strength is seven, consisting of Lieutenant-Colonel P. A. M. Tighe, Major J. Ridge and Captain A. S. Cheal, with in support Sergeant Connery, Corporal Davies, Signalman Wright and Commander Royal Signals driver, Signalman Tighe.

We are all kept busy, for not only is the territory a large one, but we serve several masters; in Borneo, the Commanders Navy, Land and Air Forces and the Director of Borneo Operations, as well as the Chief Signal Officer FARELF and the Joint Signal Board at the H.Q., Far East, back in Singapore. Thus our journeys and our output of paper are quite considerable

However, it is the Squadrons who communicate, so here are some of them.

247 (Gurkha) Squadron

The Squadron returned to the East again six months ago after a memorable stay with 51 Brigade on Salisbury Plain and 4 Guards Brigade in Germany. It greatly appreciates the kindness of all those who made its stay in Europe so happy. All the Officers of those days have gone and many of the men are on long leave in the hills of Nepal, or are about to go. Many are the tales they will tell when they reach their villages.

They return to foot powder, old chickens, sweat, corned mutton jhakta, jungle boots, less pay, mosquitoes, idle wet sweepers, and all the other frustrations which they know so well. They find the Tiger beer just the same, but the concession rum a little more expensive.

They find the Squadron split between Seria and Brunei, two towns 50 miles apart, and accept the administrative problems involved. They move into three schools in Brunei town and wait for October, when they hope to be in a new camp and

together again. They know that their families will come to Seria in the autumn, and that their Officer Commanding will have administrative problems again.

Visitors come and go, some on "swans," some because they belong. They are given the usual treatment, a view of the Squadron at work, sweet and sour pork in the renowned O.K. Bar, a late night drink in the Royal Yacht Club, and if they are lucky, a glimpse of one of Brunei's rare lovelies. They rarely see the men in the forward isolated detachments, because aircraft never have enough flying hours. This is a pity, because it is in the forward detachments where one sees the soldier at his best, whether British or Gurkha. One detachment in Sabah has roses by the door, buys its own supple chickens, illegally distils its own brew and is attended on by Dyak bearers. It also communicates for the District Officer and others. Another, of one man, lives surrounded by the Highlanders of a famous regiment, whose bagpipers killed a handful of enemy recently.

There are still a handful of British ranks in the Squadron attached from other local units. They have done a good job and we thank them all. Two became lost on a jungle exercise and spent what must have been two very lonely days and nights before they were recovered. A Gurkha Signalman compared this to the time he became lost in Ireland last year, when he had to sleep the night in a shepherd's hut.

All in all, everyone is happy and accept their lot.

266 Squadron

We have finally settled down to working our own special combination of COMCAN back to Singapore with radio relay and HF radio down to the Brigades at Tawau, Brunei and Kuching. At the time of going to press our communications are going well under difficult working conditions. Here a special word of praise is due to all the shift workers who are working a 224-hour month against the recommended maximum of 120 hours. Any volunteers?

The Squadron would like to congratulate two former members, Staff Sergeant (Foreman of Signals) F. A. Smith and Corporal P. H. M. Toovey, on their well deserved Mention in Despatches for efforts during the initial stages of the Borneo Operations.

We have said farewell, with a great deal of regret, to Flight-Lieutenant F. W. Taggesell, who has been our Chief Duty Signal Officer for the last seven months. His very hard work, especially over the period of transition from Brunei to Labuan was invaluable. We take this opportunity of welcoming his successor, Flying Officer W. J. Bryan, and hope that he enjoys his tour with the Squadron.

Since we have settled down in Labuan we have been able to turn to more organised forms of recreation, more especially on the field of soccer and hockey. At the end of the Labuan soccer season we had a record of Played 7, Won 4, Drawn 2 and Lost 1, which is quite reasonable, considering one-third of the Squadron is always on duty. Main stalwarts of the side have been Sergeant F. C. MacLoughlin at centre-half and Corporal D. S. Berry at left-half.

Hockey has provided some evenly fought games with Headquarters 17 Division. We have won two of the three encounters to date. Our mainstays here have been our Officer Commanding, Major Charles Lewis, at centre-forward, Captain Brian Driskell at left-half, and R.Q.M.S. R. W. Steadman, who has given some heroic displays in goal.

On the 25th August our Squadron Sergeant-Major A. C. Lloyd and R.Q.M.S. R. W. Steadman took a party of 30 aboard the Commando ship *Bulwark*, which was showing the flag in the South China Sea. An enlightening tour of the ship was shortened by a "slight swell," which gave all concerned a very interesting three-mile return journey in a landing craft to Port Victoria.

We appreciate that most of you have your own problems, but we will leave you this month with one of ours. "Can anyone suggest a way of getting a halyard down from the top of a 78-foot mast, the base of which is embedded in concrete?"

It is with deep regret that we tell you of the death of Signalman Daniel Gillion, who was killed in a road accident on 29th August. He was a very popular member of the Squadron and will be missed by all. Our deepest sympathy has been expressed to his family on their tragic loss.

248 (Gurkha) Squadron

Since we last appeared in print we have said farewell to Major M. C. Deverill, our O.C., and to S.Q.M.S. Shaw. Both of them have returned to 17th Gurkha Regiment. We have also lost W.O II Kesarsing Gurung on a course in the U.K., and wish him the best of luck on his course.

New arrivals include Major G. L. Davies and S.Q.M.S. Markham from the Regiment. Clearly in the next few months there will be much coming and going due to long leave, courses, etc., but the day to day message rate which is quite heavy continues to be guided by Yeoman Gubler, while our technical side is well controlled by F.-of-S. Stather. In recent weeks we have been visited by C.S.O. FARELF, Brigadier E. C. R. Blaker, O.B.E., accompanied by C.R. Signals COMLANDBOR, Lieutenant-Colonel P. A. M. Tighe, M.B.E. We hope they enjoyed their stay which was spent at their request with the teeth arm units.

We have also had a welcome visit from the Commander Gurkha Signals, Lieutenant-Colonel J. C. Clinch, which, due to the none availability of aircraft, was all too short. We did, however, manage to hand on a few well thought out points. He was followed by our Gurkha Major, Major (Q.G.O.) Birbahadur Rawat, who was pleased with all he saw and went away as all other visitors with a few points. The Brigade Commander despite the pressure of work saw all the visitors and made it clear we have a full time job of work.

Saturday is the target date for our new camp, this will be a most welcome move when we go into Australian type Long houses after nine months in tents in Sarawak. We have already had a taste of the heavy rain and all the ensuant discomfort.

Our new aerial project keeps a fair number of us busy to say nothing of extra signal assistance sought by all and sundry but we are able to smile and see it through. The Unit hockey team has ended the season well having got out of the groove. The Mercurian football team under the guidance of Y.-of-S. Gubler have ended their season with a good run of success, ending up No. 2 in the local league.

News from New Zealand

Our friends of the Royal New Zealand Signal Corps establish communication with "The Wire"

The Editor was delighted to receive the following from Major R. E. Chambler, Officer Commanding, Southern Military District Signal Troop, Addington Barracks, New Zealand.

YOU may be pleased to know that you have a great number of fans for your excellent magazine down here in "Kiwiland." As soon as the latest issue arrives—generally three months old, by the way—(*this will be attended to—Editor*) it is pounced upon and read from cover to cover. This situation has been aggravated during the past year since New Zealand signallers made the news in your magazine when they were engaged in an exercise called "Dhanarajata," in Thailand, during 1963, when they had the opportunity of getting together with comrades from the old country.

Little has been said about the Royal New Zealand Signal Corps in THE WIRE over the years, and perhaps your readers would be interested in finding out a little more about their sister Corps. I would therefore take this opportunity to tell you something about my own unit and the work of the Corps in the South Island of New Zealand.

The Most Southerly Signal Unit in the Commonwealth

Our main task is to provide maintenance backing for other Corps in the island, and also to provide COMCAN terminals and tape relay facilities. We are, in fact, the most southerly Signal unit in the Commonwealth, and looking out of my office window today, I can assure you that this is well borne out by the weather. Just in case any of your readers visualise the South Island of New Zealand as some semi-tropical paradise, I would hasten to inform them that it covers an area as big as England, and we can get pretty close to English weather at times.

We have often come across people who seem to think that

OVERSEAS B.A.O.R. ENJOY

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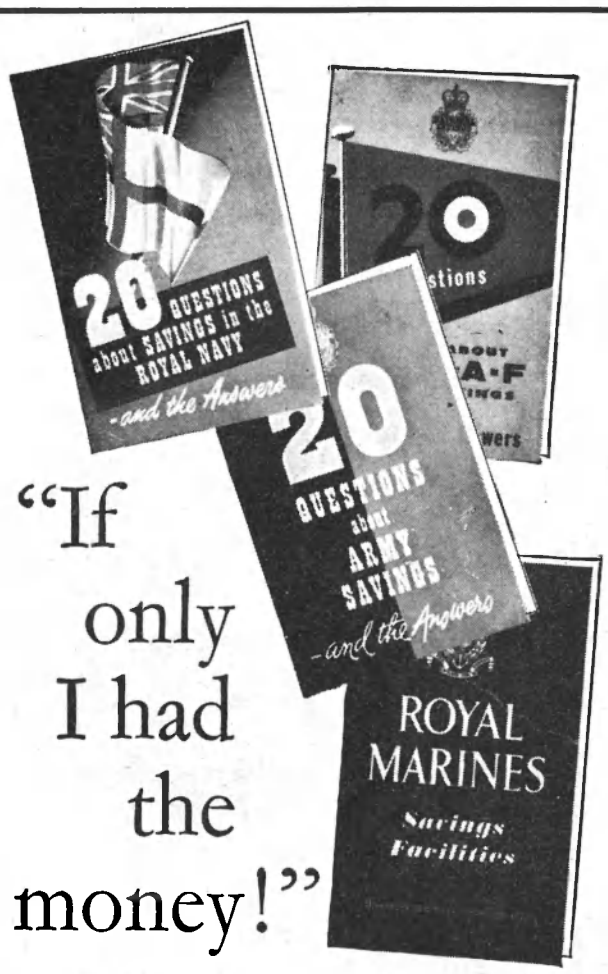
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Printed in Great Britain



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All the details of the scheme are in the leaflets illustrated here. Write to me personally, and I will send you a copy of the one that applies to your Service:

Air Chief Marshal Sir Hugh W. L. Saunders,
G.C.B., K.B.E., M.C., D.F.C., M.M.,
Chairman, H.M. Forces Savings Committee,
1, Princes Gate, London, S.W.7

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Printed in Great Britain

New Zealand is connected to Australia by the Sydney Harbour Bridge—this is not quite the case, and our Australian "big brother" is 1,200 miles away at its nearest point. Incidentally, the other day we were delighted to work a radio schedule with our friends in the Royal Australian Signal Corps at their training establishment near Melbourne with a C11/R210 equipment from the back of a Land Rover. This was part of a demonstration for new recruits joining the New Zealand Army under our National Service Scheme. It impressed the lads no end when the vehicle drove into the demonstration area and the crew piled out to establish communication with Australia in under 10 minutes.

Training the New Zealand Signaller

To get back to the unit, we employ the following trades: Radio technicians, telegraph operators, communication centre operators (both New Zealand W.R.A.C. and New Zealand Signals), electrician drivers and New Zealand W.R.A.C. exchange operators. Our Signal Centre Supervisor and Foreman of Signals are, in fact, both expatriates from the old country, of which more later. The trade structure in the Royal New Zealand Corps of Signals appears slightly different to that of Royal Signals, in that we use a system of Star Classification for levels of skill. For example, a recruit joining our Corps would firstly attend a Basic All Arms Course at the Army Depot in the North Island before being posted to the School of Signals to commence his trade training. The training he receives at the Depot is purely general soldier training, where he learns his basic soldier skills, and, of course, shoots for marksmanship ratings with most of the personal Infantry weapons. Our budding Signaller is then posted to a unit and is nominated for trade courses as they appear throughout the training year at the School of Signals. These technical upgrading courses are run progressively through the training year with the One Star Courses commencing in January or February and the Four Star Courses in September or October.

Compared to the Royal Signals Training Establishment at Catterick, the numbers of students on our courses would be very small, but we like to think that this allows more individual attention during training and a high standard being obtained.

Apprentice training is carried out progressively over a period of 10,000 hours (from four to five years). These young technicians sit certain civilian qualification examinations at the end of their apprenticeship, and therefore are well suited for rehabilitation into civilian life in the field of electronics when they leave the Service later. The governing body in New Zealand which issues licences to people engaged in electrical and electronic engineering is the New Zealand Electricians Registration Board. This is, of course, at the technician level and quite apart from the normal engineering degrees from our various universities. Our Foremen of Signals, therefore, need to become registered under the terms of the Electricians Registration Act as Radio Servicemen in order to supervise apprentice training in Royal New Zealand Signal Workshops. In point of fact, most radio apprentices within our Corps are from Boys' Service and are career soldiers. Thus, the fact that they obtain civilian qualifications for the electronics industry does not, in most cases, attract them away from the Army. Another point to consider in a smaller country like ours is that the electronics industry is infinitely smaller than that of Europe.

. . . pay is better in the Corps

The remuneration for a skilled technician serving in the Army is good, and generally better, than that offered by industry. I would think that our technicians are perhaps not as highly specialised as their opposite numbers in Royal Signals, but probably are trained in a wider sphere, but this is just a guess. We attempt to have our Foremen of Signals attend courses in Australia and the U.K., and readers may remember Sergeant Doug. Scott from this unit who attended the Foreman's Course at Catterick in 1957.

In the communicator trades—especially among the telegraph operators—many of our signallers are likely to gain valuable field experience as a result of serving with New Zealand Infantry units in F.A.R.E.L.F. A signaller may well be seconded to a battalion in a Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment and find himself working as a member of the Signal Platoon for a two-year period. This Infantry experience is most valuable when one considers the area of operations New Zealand is likely to be committed to should there be a major flare-up in the future.

Valuable experience was obtained by personnel from our Corps when we attached communicators to "Dhanarajata," in Thailand, during 1963. THE WIRE gave good coverage during this exercise, and we all reckon that Captain Ron Rutledge, of the Royal New Zealand Signals, must have had a very good publicity agent up there or else bought a lot of drinks in the Officers' Mess for whoever was writing to you.

A Sportsmnn's Paradise

The South Island of New Zealand is a sportsman's paradise, and it is a rare occasion when the Troop comes back from an exercise in the back country without a deer for the Mess. Deer-stalking is, in itself, excellent soldier training, and there are few signallers who do not enjoy getting away from the daily routine for a few days' in the mountains. In New Zealand the deer is considered a menace and is therefore listed as a pest. Not only can one shoot as many as one is able to, but the Government also pays a bounty for tails. There is a ready sale for deer-skins and antlers, and this is obtained from the shooting practice, stalking, the requirement for patience and the necessity to "rough it" in the back country under sometimes miserable conditions. Adventure training is therefore never a problem in this country, and with our heritage of infantry soldiering, we find that most soldiers really enjoy this type of thing.

We also get requests for assistance from many Government Departments, and rarely are we unable to help them in one way or another. Last year we provided VHF man-pack communications during the construction of an extension of the New Zealand Electricity Board's grid system, which was being installed over difficult mountain country. We have provided weather reporting stations from the mountains to aircraft in search and rescue operations, and have even assisted the Wild Life Division of the Internal Affairs Department in rounding up wild geese and swans for banding operations. All these activities go on in addition to our normal regimental life, which we enjoy at Addington Barracks, situated in the suburbs of the City of Christchurch. To uninformed readers, Christchurch is the capital of "pig island," a name given to the South Island by the biased North Islanders. There is no doubt which is the better island, depending, of course, which one you come from. "Variety is the spice of life," and you see we can at least offer this to any recruit wanting to join the Royal New Zealand Corps of Signals.

And so we send fraternal greetings to all members of our sisters Corps and assure you that should any Signalman be in this part of the world, or any ex-Signalman, for that matter, he will find a welcome from all ranks in this Unit.

208 (COMMONWEALTH) SQUADRON

Arrivals and Departnres and Some Sport

There are no exciting exercise exploits to relate, since we are at present in our individual training period. The Squadron in fact is looking a little deserted since we have exported most of it to the various training centres on up-grading courses. The remaining few, however, are doing sterling work, although there does seem to be a greater proportion of chiefs to Indians —as the Indians have quickly discovered! Having two Officers Commanding tends to confuse the issue slightly.

This month we say goodbye to Major A. M. Hewson, Royal Signals, who goes to 18th Regiment as Second-in-Command. Major Hewson has done so much for the Squadron that his influence will be apparent for many years to come. His experience in field units has been invaluable and we shall miss his very intimate knowledge of the working of the Brigade Signal Squadron. His wife, Kay, has been the main force behind our very flourishing Wives' Club and her work on behalf of the Squadron will be missed. We wish them both every happiness for the future.

Taking over is Major D. J. Commerford, Royal Australian Signals. We welcome him and his wife, Yvonne, and wish them a happy and succesful tour in the Brigade.

We also say goodbye to Captain Ian Godden, Royal Australian Signals, who goes back to Australia. He has done some impressive work on the training side, having at one time trained 140 men in a Squadron whose strength even on pay day was no more than 120. We wish him every luck in his new appointment and hope he is as successful as he was with us.

The highlight in the Squadron this month has been our winning double in the athletics championships. Both held in Terendak Camp, our athletic team won first the Brigade Minor Units and then the Malayan Area. A very pleasing reward for the amount of training we have done. Next? Swimming!

World affairs are coming a little closer to home these days with the appearance of Indonesians on our doorstep. It was rumoured that they were going to make a full scale invasion —until they heard that "J" Troop were having driving lessons in the area. Come to think of it, we are not sure ourselves which is more dangerous. A "Liney" in a Landrover can be a pretty formidable combination.

210 SQUADRON, B.F.P.O. 10

"Dead boring down our Squadron," might have been the Peter Sellars description of the month of August here in Nairobi.

No operations, no exercises, no excitement, not even a practice flyout. Of course as soon as it was realised that all was quiet, there came the cry from all directions, "How about some leave then?" and people began to disappear towards Mombassa at a most alarming rate. Even the officers jumped in smartly and, for a whole week, the O.C. was left by himself, to find out just what his Troop Commanders did with their time.

However, even with people departing on leave, the Unit lines did not empty. Drivers and Radio Operators from 222, 254 and 255 Squadrons arrived for BIII/BII upgrading courses and the "ether" was filled with new voices (even if the words were familiar!). Each course ended with a week-end exercise, either of which could have been called "Giant Swan."

Even in the sporting world all is quiet. The soccer season finished with the Squadron a very creditable third in the Minor Units League. Congratulations must go to Corporal O'Donnell who captained the Combined Services XI this year.

The hockey team did even better in *winning* their Minor Units League and suffering only one defeat throughout the season. Captain Hartnett and Lieutenant McLuckie have both played regularly in the Combined Services XI.

Rugby in the Squadron was not as strong as last season. However, the O.C. has been "hooking" for Combined Services and, in one of the Squadron games played, Signalman Jodrell managed to break a leg. Since his return from hospital, he has been banished to the Officers' Mess where, apparently, there is more room to manoeuvre his "gammy leg" than in the line stores.

At the moment there is a frenzy of activity in preparation for two major Adventure Training Expeditions, plus the move of the complete unit to Aden. Captain Hartnett is taking a party across the Serengeti Plains in Tanganyika in search for big game (cameras only of course). Major Butler, Lieutenant McLuckie and Lieutenant Higton propose to manpack a CII and batteries to the top of Mt. Kilimanjaro.

No doubt an account of these propjects will appear next month.

263 SQUADRON, C/O G.P.O., SINGAPORE

A Variety of Courses

This month of August marks a big corner stone in the history of this Squadron insomuch as we have started training a complete course of students from U.K. in the basic arts of being Communications Centre operators, no mean task when one considers our resources within the school. All sorts of problems arose, such as lecture room and living accommodation, not to mention equipment. The equipment problem became so acute that even our Officer Commanding, whilst out sailing and at the helm, instead of saying "Prepare to gibe" was heard to whisper "Prepare the T 1005."

However, the course is firmly launched and in time to come it is hoped to hear the voice of Yeoman of Signals Oakley from within the inner sanctuary at Tanglin saying, "You can tell they are from 263. They are good!"

This month we have said farewell to Sergeant Angus, who has left us for the School of Signals in an endeavour to become a Foreman of Signals. Our loss is Catterick's gain and although we all wish Sergeant Angus lots of luck we are confident he will pass his course without it.

"X" Troop is having a very busy time at the present in trying to give courses to both operators and technicians on the D11. For the moment success can only be measured by the fact that students are leaving this school full of enthusiasm in the wireless set and feeling that once you understand it, it is a fine piece of equipment.

Our Sergeant-Major duly left on his sailing trip as was forecast in the last notes; however, due to the local situation at the time his trip was curtailed somewhat. He did manage to sail up the Johore River and back, but as the trip was only for three days there was no need to go on a cotton wool diet.

Advantage was taken during our break in instructional duties to carry out military training for our M.O.R. staff. This was done at Puala Tekon Besar, a small island in the Johore Straits. Once again, due to the local situation, the time planned for this was curtailed and as a consequence a very full programme had to be arranged, so sporting activities and visits were almost non-existant. The efforts of W.O.II Adnan and Staff Sergeant Shahibullah were richly rewarded with everyone completing their P.E. tests without injury, and the poorest shot obtaining second class.

243 SQUADRON

Those who soldier in Bulford will find that "there is more to it than meets the eye"—as this article indicates.

In the July and August WIRE notes submitted by this Squadron, the composition and duties of the Squadron were described. It is proposed to devote the greater part of this month's notes to the area in which the Squadron is located. (*Regretfully, owing to pressure on space, a certain amount has had to be omitted.—Editor*).

To any person posted to the Squadron who has an interest in history or achaeology, this posting offers probably one of the best areas for work in those fields in Southern England. Bulford Camp is situated on the edge of Salisbury Plain in an area that is known to have been inhabited since the Bronze Age (1900 B.C. to 500 B.C.). It is two miles east of Amesbury and because of its close proximity to Amesbury, it has always been associated with this town.

Bronze Age barrows can be found on Bulford Down, east of Amesbury, and a Bronze Age axe-hammer has also been found on Bulford Down, confirming Bronze Age habitation of the area. ("The Bronze Age Round Barrow in Britain, by Paul Ashbee").

Amesbury was a sacred place in pre-Christian times and there are legends that a house of monks had been established there before the Norse invasions ("Victoria History of Wiltshire, Vol. 3"). In the last days of the Edgarian revival, Elfreda, relic of King Edgar, founded a Benedictine nunnery at Amesbury. It has been said that she founded this as a penance for her part in the murder of Edward the Martyr (although historians now claim that she was not personally responsible for this murder) and the date given for the foundation of this nunnery is 979 A.D.

Bulford was originally known as Boltintone. In the work "The Place Names of Wiltshire," however, Bulford has been spelt as Bultesford, Bulteford, Bolteford, Boltiford, Bulterford, Bultford, and its derivation is said to have come from the old English Bulut "ragged robin"—Bulutig an adjective descriptive of a ford with ragged robin growing by it, or old English Bulut-ieg "ragged robin island"—the river here is divided into more than one stream.

It was during mid-winter of 1085 A.D. at the Court of Gloucester that the Domesday (the grand inquest of all England) was projected and undertaken, when William, Duke of Normandy (King William I) held a great council for the purpose of enquiring into the state of his newly-won nation. This was to enable him to assess his resources for the defence against invasions which were threatened from Denmark. Also, he wished to ascertain what revenues he was entilted to. The Domesday entry for Bulford (which was then known as Boltintone) reads as follows: "The church of Ambresbury holds Boltintone. In the time of King Edward it paid geld for 12 hides. The land is 9 carucates. Of this land there are in demesne 6 hides, and there are 3 carucates and 13 serfs. There are 3 villans, 20 coscets and 3 cottars, with 5 carucates. There are 2 mills paying 65 shillings and 35 acres of meadow. The pasture is a mile long and half a mile broad. Of the same land Alward holds 3

hides. He who held them in the time of King Edward could not be separated from the church. The demesne for the Abbess is worth £13; what the Thanes held is worth 15 shillings." (Domesday for Wiltshire, by W. H. Jones, M.A., F.S.A.). The nunnery in 1086 continued to hold the manors and the adjacent villages of which Bulford was one, but in the year 1177, King Henry I is said to have expelled the nuns from Amesbury in consequence of their misconduct and to have bestowed the monastery on the Abbey of Fontevrault in Normandy.

Bulford is located within five miles of the well-known historical monument, Stone Henge, which is thought to have been commenced about 1800 B.C. and completed by about 1400 B.C.—this was some 1000 years prior to the advent of Druidism in this country, thus making the myth that Stone Henge was a Druid temple completely unfounded.

The population of Bulford has grown considerable since the purchase of Salisbury Plain by the War Office in 1895.

With the purchase of Salisbury Plain as a military training area, it was decided that an Army camp would be constructed at Bulford, and census records show that in 1901 the population had inceased to 1,386, of which 435 were employed in the construction of the military camp and 608 resident within the camp. By 1911, the population of Bulford Village and Camp had risen to 3,232 and continued to rise until the census in 1951, which shows the population as being 5,312, giving an increase in 150 years of almost 5,000 people.

The welfare of the forces in Bulford area was catered for by the diocesan board of Salisbury which founded a welfare branch for the "Imperial Forces" stationed at Bulford in 1898. This began with a marquee at Bulford Camp and the Board proceeded to establish Soldiers' Institutes at a time when official responsibility for such welfare work was not recognised by military authorities. The well-known feature of Bulford Camp is Beacon Hill which overshadows the camp to the east. This was first named on the Andrews & Dury map of 1773.

It would be appreciated if any reader who has old photographs or prints of Bulford Camp or groups of soldiers in Bulford Camp, could make them available to this Squadron for copying.

TERRITORIAL ARMY

46th (NORTH MIDLANDS) REGIMENT T.A.

On 18th July the Regiment moved to annual camp at Blandford. This was the first move south for five years, and we went in the hope of finding the sun. Our hopes were realised; we were blessed with excellent weather throughout the fifteen days.

The first week was devoted to trade training, and full use was made of the excellent facilities provided by H.Q., Army Emergency Reserve. The W.R.A.C. had to work particularly hard on their conversion course, not only during the first week, but also during the second, when the Regiment was mostly deployed on a three-day exercise. In compensation, the W.R.A.C., on the last Friday of Camp, made an educational visit to Portsmouth and also enjoyed a very pleasant excursion to the Isle of Wight, organised by our indefatigable Padre, the Rev. W. Speirs.

The exercise was successful. It enabled the Regiment to use most means of communication and to familiarise itself with the more modern type of equipment. In the course of the exercise the Regiment was visited by Major-General C. M. M. Man, O.B.E., M.C., General Officer Commanding 49th (West Riding and North Midlands) Division/District, and Major the Honourable V. V. Kitson, M.B.E., Commander, W.R.A.C.

Decorations Presented

On the occasion of the ceremonial parade on the middle Saturday, the Honorary Colonel, Colonel G. J. Underwood, C.B.E., T.D., D.L., presented the Territorial Decoration to Captain Michael Wood and Captain Sheila Tyler. At the conclusion of camp, the Commanding Officer presented to W.O.II Jones the Certificate of the Lord Lieutenant of Derbyshire for meritorious service with the Territorial Army.

The Chief Signal Officer, Northern Command, Brigadier M. A. Charlton, O.B.E., and Lieutenant-Colonel E. E. Mitchell, Assistant Director, W.R.A.C., Northern Command, visited the Regiment on Friday, 24th July, inspecting the training and attending the Regimental sports. Together with Colonel J. R. S. Grimwood-Taylor, T.D., D.L., the Chief Signal Officer, 49th (West Riding and North Midlands) Division/District, Colonel G. W. Blackburne, the Commander, H.Q., Army Emergency Reserve, and his staff, and Lieutenant-Colonel A. Burrows, of 30th Regiment, they attended the Regimental guest night.

The Regimental sports were very much enjoyed by all except, possibly, the tug-of-war teams, who found their strenuous exertion in the southern heat not a little trying! The two all ranks' dances were great social occasions, too. Visits to Poole, Bournemouth and Weymouth were enjoyed by many during off-duty periods.

We were very glad to have attached to us during camp Major J. Bealey and Major G. Swaab, of the Army Emergency Reserve, and Lieutenant Ian Pow, of 51st (Highland) Regiment (T.A.).

The success of the camp was due in no small measure to the very helpful co-operation given by the Commander and Staff of H.Q., Army Emergency Reserve, and the Regiment is very grateful to them.

47th REGIMENT MIDDLESEX YEOMANRY (The Duke of Cambridge's Russars)

Crack Squadron, 1964. Efficiency competitions, the key to keenness, are now in full swing. Winners, to date, are: Guard Mounting Competition, "C" Squadron; Line-Laying Competition, "C" Squadron; Message-Passing Competition, "C" Squadron; Inter-Squadron Sports Competition, R.H.Q./H.Q. Squadron.

Yes, its "C" Squadron, from Uxbridge, under their Squadron Leader, Major Edward A. Scarlett, B.E.M., T.D., that look as if they are going to sweep the board for the title "Crack Squadron, 1964."

News in Brief. "Super 'C'" in the news again, with their outstanding success in the recent Middlesex T.A. Rifle Meeting, having won six trophies, with Sergeant G. R. Nuthall gaining that for the highest individual score. They also cleared the board at our Regimental shoot.

Other projects that "C" Squadron have successfully carried out recently include a special recruiting drive, led by Lieutenant D. Manders, at Chalfont St. Peter, which embraced our standard theme "Cavalry to Communications," with Yeomen in full dress uniform of the Middlesex Yeomanry, together with demonstrations of modern weapons and communications. Special attention was created by using radio relay to provide a link between the commentator at the local charity fete that was being held and the patients re-broadcast system at the nearest hospital.

The Iver Fair project was another "C" Squadron success, which, under the direction of Lieutenant D. Manders, embraced a communications test programme by the provision of crowd control facilities at the Iver Fair, as a means of providing novelty traffic to test personnel and equipment. Prominent amongst those present was that ever-active figure, Corporal "Ubique" Spour.

The Middlesex Yeomanry Band, always busy, have, in addition to their hard practice for the forthcoming band competition, given public performances at Gerards Cross and the Royal Hospital, Chelsea.

"D" Squadron gave a dance at our Chelsea T.A.C. recently, which was under the direction of their Squadron Leader, Captain F. Ruthven, and proved most successful.

A Peep at Penhale. This year, for the first time, our annual camp was split into two groups, one on "Overseas Training" and the other to Penhale, in Cornwall.

It can be cool in Cornwall, but that was no deterrent to the Penhale contingent, under our Second-in-Command, Major W. H. H. Parkes, for the fortnight soon hotted up, with an intensive programme of trade training, trade boards and a recruits pass-off parade from "D" Squadron, our primary training unit, who really were at their best in the bracing Cornish air, to say nothing of their Guards-trained N.C.O.s, whose crisp commands carried miles.

48th (SM) REGIMENT (T.A.)

We regretfully have to say *au revoir* to our Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Brian Mason, T.D., who, for business reasons has to relinquish his command after having very successfully commanded the Regiment for almost three years. We all wish Colonel Brian and Pat a very happy tour in India and congratulate Lieutenant-Colonel R. K. W. Glover, D.F.C., T.D., on his promotion.

For the information of old sweats, wherever they may be scattered throughout the world, the Permanent Staff here consists of the following: Training Major, Major B. W. A. Collins; Quartermaster, Lieutenant (Q.M.) L. J. Taylor, M.B.E.; P.S.O., Captain W. B. House; R.S.M., W.O.I A. V. K. Ward; P.S.I.s, W.O.II W. Higgs, W.O.II R. Talbott, W.O.II J. McGuire, W.O.II M. Ford, Sergeant P. Bradley; Technicians, Corporal Harrison, Lance-Corporal J. Eaton, Lance-Corporal G. Knight.

Annual camp this year was spent at Crowborough, in Sussex, both our Brigade H.Q. and Brigade Signal Squadrons were with us and, in spite of the additional numbers, we just managed to cope administratively, thanks to the gallant efforts of our W.R.A.C., who worked like blacks to ensure that the Messes ran smoothly.

During July we provided communications for the National Festival of Boats and Arts at Stratford-on-Avon. The southern section of the Stratford-on-Avon Canal had been taken over by the National Trust, and after three years of hard work, largely carried out by volunteers, Servicemen and prisoners, the opening ceremony was performed by H.M. The Queen Mother on 11th July, 1964. Communications were provided between Lapworth and the basin at Stratford-on-Avon in order to control the 200-odd boats of all descriptions which were converging on Stratford and along the route that the Queen Mother travelled, to ensure that all went well with the boat that she travelled on.

In addition to the communications, the Regiment produced a Royal Signals Display and Recruiting Tent, which housed much up-to-date equipment, thanks to the S.R.D.E. and School of Signals.

It was a great thrill for many members of the Regiment when H.M. The Queen Mother spoke to them prior to her departure, and it was a very fitting reward for all the hard work and effort that had been put in to make the show a success.

The following is an extract from the *Festival Star*, published on 10th July, 1964:

The Royal Signals

"Remember the traffic jams up the cut last week-end? And your relief when some stranger came along the towing path on foot or by field car, complete with windlass or tow-rope?

How did they manage to know just where you were in trouble? The answer lies in the Royal Signals dual purpose marquee at the Festival site.

In the tent is an imposing array of radio equipment. Through that equipment came the calls for help and hour-by-hour movements of boats en route for Stratford. It was all in a day's work for them, and what a grand job they made of it.

There were radios based at Lapworth, Wootton Wawen, and the Bancroft Basin, with field telephone links between various strategic points. Tomorrow they will again play a key part in the smooth operation surrounding the Queen Mother's visit.

Four walkie-talkie sets will be operating at lock 53, 54/5, Banbury Road bridge and at the basin. The bridge point will be of great importance to watch the water level to prevent either boats going aground or hitting the bridge. There is a link with the Parish Church, adjoining the Festival site, to give the signal for the church bellringers as the Queen Mother cuts the tape at the River Lock."

In September, the Regiment provided communications for the Great Birmingham Show, and due to the hard work put in by Staff Sergeant Harris and his merry band of linemen, all the telephone extensions, etc., worked like a charm. In addition, the Display and Recruiting Tent was again in evidence, and as a result, already several recruits, both male and female, have signed on the dotted line.

At the moment, our recruiting organisation is working hard at the Birmingham Tattoo, where we are hoping to get some more recruits to enable us to reach our target of 500 by April next year. Captain Finerty, our U.P.M., is the commentator at this Tattoo, and has at least got his wish, to air his views in public.



Her Majesty The Queen Mother shaking hands with W.O.I (R.S.M.) A. V. K. Ward of 48th (SM) Regiment T.A. when she visited Stratford-Upon-Avon recently.

51st (H) REGIMENT (T.A.)

Our Regimental Headquarters is situated in Aberdeen, and surely no one can say they never heard of the city since our much-publicised typhoid epidemic in the early summer. So far as we were concerned training stopped completely for a fortnight, but still worse, arrangements for the whole Regiment to attend Annual Camp at Scarborough, where a Divisional exercise, which would have thoroughly tested our resources, was planned, had to be abandoned. Instead, R.H.Q. together with Headquarter Squadron and No. 1 Squadron had perforce to remain in Aberdeen while the Squadrons from Stirling, Dundee and Kirkcaldy attended Camp at Fort George. Camp at Aberdeen was necessarily somewhat unreal as regulations did not permit us to provide meals and the troops were of course living at home. It was rather like attending fifteen weekend training days in succession. Despite the handicaps, morale was high and the Camp was of good value. Radio Operators were hardly affected, engaging in small-side exercises in the area as well as maintaining daily radio contact with our colleagues at Fort George. The linemen were fully employed fitting a new telephone exchange in the TAC and wiring the buildings for its numerous extensions. This work would otherwise have taken a long time to complete but it is now almost finished and the system should be functioning within the next few weeks.

Reports from Fort George were of a very successful Camp, although there was disappointment that our first camp with all Squadrons together for many years had to be abandoned. The upset in the arrangements was particularly disappointing for our Commanding Officer whose first Camp this was since he assumed command at Easter. If no other benefit accrued, at least our Aberdeen element, like everyone else in the city is now very hygiene-conscious.

The Regimental Pipes and Drums have been in very good heart this year despite the cancellation of a heavy Scarborough programme. They participated, along with the Bands of 52nd (L) Regiment T.A. and 61st (City of Edinburgh) Regiment T.A., in Beating Retreat on the Edinburgh Castle esplanade in June. They took part in the Inverness Highland Games, where the Drum-Major won the Drum-Majors' Trophy, and the Band was placed third in Grade 2 at the Aberdeen Highland Games in September. The members are justly proud of this last win as they are meantime a Grade 3 Band. In addition the Band had the honour of leading the parade through Aberdeen which marked the start of "Bon-Accord Fortnight," the City's way of telling its holidaymakers and the outside world that it had come to life again after the enforced restrictions of the typhoid scare.

Captain Walter Forbes had a very successful couple of days at the Aberdeen and North-East Wapinschaw in August, winning the Lady Semphill Cup and the County Brooch in rifle competitions and the Navy Bowl for the revolver competition.

Recruiting Campaign. The Regiment is meantime conducting a full-scale recruiting campaign and the first of a series of "At Home" evenings was held at the Aberdeen TAC in early September. About 300 people attended and saw equipment, displays and demonstrations of the work we do. A very gratifying number of young men and women showed keen interest and recruiting is now in full swing. Similar events at the other TACs take place during the remainder of September.

On the domestic side, a Wives' Club was formed in the spring and although membership is not as high as we would

like, there is an encouraging response and many interesting meetings have been organised. The first Chairwoman was Mrs. Le Gassick, wife of our Training Major, but after a short term of office she has left to join her husband in Singapore.

During the summer we dined-out Major Le Gassick, to whom go our good wishes on his posting to one of the world's hot spots, and we welcome his successor, Major Derek Hall, who has just arrived from Singapore. W.O.I (R.S.M.) Jackson has just left us on commissioning and we welcome his successor W.O.I (R.S.M.) Hutchison. We offer our congratulations to Major B. K. Crookshanks on his recent promotion on taking over H.Q. Squadron, and to Captain Nina Davidson, W.R.A.C., on her recent marriage. Although her home is now in Glasgow she is to remain with the Regiment based on 2 Squadron at Stirling.

52nd (L) Regiment, T.A.
Visit of H.R.H. The Princess Royal

52nd (L) Regiment (T.A.) was honoured by a visit from Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal at Burniston Barracks, Scarborough, on 5th August, 1964. Her Royal Highness last visited the Regiment in Glasgow in 1948 when she presented her banner, carried on parade on this occasion by Pipe Major Matheson.

In preparing the programme two considerations were borne in mind. Firstly, it was desired to afford an opportunity for Her Royal Highness to see the Unit on parade and also on recreational and other related activities which are so essentially a part of the T.A. Secondly, it was realised that Her Royal Highness would be travelling some distance to visit us. For this reason the programme in camp was confined to the period 12.00–15.30 hours.

Events were placed in such an order as would make the maximum use of the time available and ensure the minimum movement from point to point.

Her Royal Highness arrived at noon on a beautiful sunlit day and was greeted by Major-General A. M. W. Whistler, C.B., C.B.E., Colonel Commandant Royal Signals, who presented Councillor and Mrs. W. C. Wilkinson, Mayor and Mayoress of Scarborough; Colonel T. M. Niven, C.B., T.D., D.L., Honorary Colonel of the Regiment and, in fact, Commanding Officer on The Princess Royal's previous visit sixteen years earlier, and the present Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel J. B. Johnston.

Her Royal Highness inspected the troops and presented Territorial Decorations to Major G. A. C. Currie, T.D., Major J. E. Blair, T.D., Major G. E. Blake, T.D., and Territorial Efficiency Medals to Staff Sergeant P. Gill, Sergeant N. MacMahon and Corporal M. Graham. W.O.II Cairns was presented with the bar to his Efficiency Medal.

After the march past, the guests of the Regiment were presented to Her Royal Highness. They were Brigadier M. A. Charlton, O.B.E., C.S.O. Northern Command; Colonel R. Linton, O.B.E., C.S.O. Scottish Command; Colonel H. E. Lang, O.B.E., T.D., C.S.O. (TA) 52 (L) Div./District; Lieutenant-Colonel G. E. M. Saunders-Davies, T.D., ADWRAC Scottish Command; and Lieutenant-Colonel E. E. Michell, W.R.A.C., ADWRAC Northern Command. Then followed the official photographs with the Officers and the Sergeants and a visit to the Sergeants' Mess before Her Royal Highness was escorted to the Officers' Mess for lunch.

Of the guests presented to the Princess Royal no fewer than three had previously been in command of the Regiment; Colonel T. M. Niven, C.B., T.D., D.L., from 1938 to 1940, Colonel R. Linton, O.B.E., from 1945 to 1946, and from 1956 to 1959, and Colonel H. E. Lang, O.B.E., T.D., from 1959 to 1963.

After such an arduous morning's programme, the afternoon was much more relaxing. Her Royal Highness was entertained by a short performance by the Pipe Band and a display of Scottish country dancing by members of the W.R.A.C. She was then conducted to the sports field where the finals of the inter-Squadron sports were being held. The final item was a football match which was watched by our Royal guest with great enthusiasm. Unfortunately, one item had to be omitted; the finals of the hockey match. After Herculean efforts, the last two teams to play off discovered among their team-mates the Commanding Officer, the C.S.O. (T.A.) and the Second-in-Command, all of whom had a few other things to do on that day.



Left to Right : Colonel R. Linton, O.B.E., C.S.O. Scottish Command, Councillor W. C. Wilkinson, Mayor of Scarborough, Brigadier M. A. Charlton, O.B.E., C.S.O. Northern Command, Mrs. W. C. Wilkinson, Mayoress of Scarborough, Major General A. M. W. Whistler, C.B., C.B.E., Colonel Commandant, Colonel H. E. Lang, O.B.E., T.D., C.S.O. (T.A.) 52 (L) Div/Dist, H. R. H. The Princess Royal, Lieutenant-Colonel J. B. Johnston, Commanding Officer 52 (L) Signal Regiment, Captain F. J. Fountain, Royal Signals (T.A.) A.D.C. and Colonel T. M. Niven, C.B., T.D., T.L., Hon. Col. 52 (L) Signal Regiment (T.A.).

It was with reluctance that we watched Her Royal Highness depart later that afternoon—her graciousness and charm had made the visit such a great pleasure for us all. No official arrangements had been made for the troops to line the square and cheer the Royal visitor as she left, but they were there—every man and woman of them. Although this visit was without doubt the highlight of our camp, there were many other occasions worthy of mention.

The four-day exercise held during the first week took place in brilliant sunshine and was an enormous success. One of the locations was in an old Boy Scouts camping site, and full use was made of the "swimming hole" they had created. Their "Be Prepared" motto was certainly borne in mind by the troops who all seemed to have had the foresight to bring their swimming gear along, and spent a large part of their off-duty time cooling off in the dammed-up river.

"Browned-off" and exceedingly happy about it, everyone returned to Burniston Barracks for the start of the next—and more social—part of the programme. Although training continued throughout working hours, the evenings became more lively with a Regimental dining-in night, an all-ranks dance and various knock-out games competitions. The Scarborough Entertainments Committee were also extremely generous to us and we were able to offer the troops concession tickets for the swimming pool and the Scarborough theatres.

In all, a memorable and a happy camp. One which will be remembered often when the days grow cold and the evenings grow dark. It will be difficult to follow it with a better one next year—but we will certainly try.

66th REGIMENT (T.A.)

Since the last appearance in THE WIRE, which was mainly concerned with our "C.B.B. System" (communications by balloon), we have recently reverted to using more orthodox means of communication at camp. This highlight of our training year was spent in the truly rural atmosphere of Ballykinler W.E.T.C. Ballykinler commands a breathtaking view of the Mountains of Mourne. The weather forecasting is simplified in this region: When one can see the Mournes it foretells rain; when one can't see the Mournes it is raining. Fortunately for us, the visibility of the mountains was about 75 per cent of the camp period.

The C.O., Lieutenant-Colonel J. R. Hamer, saw the culmination of camp in a three-day exercise, named in honour of the Adjutant, Captain J. H. Williams, "Zero" (who digs "rifle zeroing" the most). The exercise was spread over the six counties, and all our resources were employed to the full.

One detachment, under the command of A/Captain "Hank"

Lyster, provided untold excitement for a large area of South Antrim. He forewarned the local farmers to batten down their hen houses, as the Chief of Staff, Brigadier P. W. P. Green, was going to visit the detachment in the field by "chopper." Traffic jams spread, it is rumoured, over an area of five square miles, as the locals arrived by jaunting car, horse tram and automobile at the landing zone. The Brigadier arrived, carried out his inspection, and was given a great send-off by the locals as he returned to the sky.

The exercise was extremely successful, and a lot of valuable experience was gained by the Regiment. The W.R.A.C. personnel proved that they are not just pretty faces, by the capable manner in which they carried out their duties.

There is no truth in the rumour that O.C. 2 Squadron, Major George Brooke, is suffering from an ANTRAC mind, after the temperamental functioning of the equipment during the exercise. O.C. H.Q. Squadron, Major Dudley Farrar, and his band of "certified" cooks helped to make this the best camp the Regiment has had since it was formed, by the excellence of the food which was served throughout.

At the moment, the T.A. Centre is closed, and we are all looking forward to beginning a new training session at the end of September.

SPORT

R.A.-R.E.-Royal Signals Triangular Regatta Cyprus, 1964

This year the Triangular Regatta was held at the Inter Services' Yacht Club at Episkopi on 17th July. The result was a resounding win for the Corps with the R.E. second. The I.S.Y.C. kindly provided all their usual facilities and the boats, nine Albacores, and a Bridge Team.

The weather was excellent for racing, and at 10.30 hours the Albacores crossed the start line in a moderate wind to start the first race. Major I. Gram-Henson very quickly took a commanding lead and held it to beat Colonel J. A. Marchant, R.A., into first place. This put the Royal Signals team ahead of the Gunners, the previous holders of the trophy and the team most fancied as this year's winners.

Lunch was provided on the beach, and the second race started in a slightly freshening breeze at 14.30 hours. First place, this time, went to the Sappers, but with Royal Signals taking second and third places, the overall points again gave Royal Signals a slight lead.

The last race secured the trophy for Royal Signals with a resounding first and second, and Major I. Gram-Hansen, the team captain, received from Mrs. Young, wife of Major-General P. G. F. Young, C.B.E., G.O.C., Cyrpus District, the attractive and coveted silver trophy, a magnificent model of a sailing dinghy.

It was a most enjoyable day for both competitors and spectators and was made so by the efficient organisation of the I.S.Y.C. and the high standard of seamanship displayed by all competitors.

The Corps team consisted of Major I. Gram-Hansen (capt.), Major (Q.M.) E. Glover, Captain J. M. Newman.

Crews were drawn from Major F. C. Lockwood, Major J. Webber, Major (Tfc. Offr.) W. J. Thomas, W.O.II Howells, Staff Sergeant James and Sergeant Gwynne.

Footnote : Since these notes were written, Major Gram-Hansen won the island individual Albacore Championships.

Swimming

1st REGIMENT (B.F.P.O. 32) DOES WELL

1st Regiment Swimming Team won the 7 (Armoured) Brigade Inter-Unit Team Swimming Championships at Hohne on the 4th July, 1964.

The team went on to complete in the 1st Division Swimming Championships, again at Hohne, on the 7th July, 1964, and came a creditable third out of seven Regiments. The 1st and 2nd places were gained by 1 Kings and 1 P.W.O. who were B.A.O.R. winners and runners-up respectively last year.



Left to Right :—Standing, Signalman McKenzie, Lance Corporal Samways, Lance Corporal Edmonson, Lance Corporal Hall, Signalman Griffiths, Signalman Stewart, Lance Corporal Powell, Cratfsman Stanley.

Front Row : Signalman Smith, K. M., Signalman Irvin, Second-Lieutenant Pickford, Signalman Read, Lance Corporal Bailey.

"Ski Heil"

BY MAJOR PETER IRWIN

I have just been appointed Secretary of the Royal Signals Ski Club, and my aim, quite simply, is to produce a winning ski team that will make a name for the Corps. As you probably know, 1st Regiment has been chosen to take a special interest in this sport, but they have their problems. Good men are posted away, and money, as ever, is in short supply. I propose to try and concentrate as many Corps skiers in the right place at the right time and so achieve some continuity. To do this, I must know where all our trained skiers are and if they are still keen to compete in races. We need downhill men and langlaufers—young, fit men who are keen to learn, and those with experience to lead them. Many people think we should only concentrate on the Langlauf and Patrol races, as we have the best chance of winning these. This is true, because it is hard to compete in the Downhill and Slalom against fortunate young men who started ski-ing at the age of ten and have been on Swiss holidays every year since.

However, in any ski meeting, a Regiment's placing depends on team events and *not* on individuals. To produce four men who can all ski well is a much worthier aim, and by entering for every event and putting up good times, it is possible to finish high in the list of combined winners and champion units.

If we are to succeed I need your help. If you want to ski please write to me at the following address: Major Peter Irwin, Royal Signals, H.Q., Joint Warfare Establishment, Old Sarum, Salisbury, Wiltshire.

Let me have your number (last three), rank name, present unit, how much of your present tour you have left to do, age,



"Downhill man"

experience and type of ski-ing. From this I will compile a card index and get to work on my plan. I would also like any advice you may care to give. After all, there must be many more people who have slid down hills, slightly out of control, and fallen harder than me.

I don't promise anything. We can but try.

Corps in thrilling Cricket victory

ROYAL SIGNALS	ROYAL ARMOURED CORPS
261 for 6 declared	267 for 7 declared
219 for 6	210 all out

The R.A.C. batted first, scoring at a fast rate. They declared an hour after the lunch interval with their score at 269 for 7 wickets. Signalman L. Worrel, the off-spin bowler, took 3 wickets for 61 runs and Signalman S. Butler, the opening bowler, took 2 wickets for 76 runs.

When the Royal Signals batted, Lance-Corporal Mayes and Signalman J. Christie put on 104 runs for the first wicket. Lance-Corporal Mayes when on to complete his century (109) in 140 minutes, and Signalman Christie made 58 runs before being lbw. Signalman G. Williamson (43) and Major S. G. de Clive-Lowe (36) pushed the score along, and at the close of play on the first day the Royal Signals had made 261 for 6 wickets.

Before play started on the second day, Royal Signals declared 8 runs behind the R.A.C. total. The R.A.C. batted well, and at lunch had scored 165 for the loss of 5 wickets. After lunch the R.A.C. collapsed to 210 all out, due to some steady bowling by Captain J. Potts and good fielding by the Royal Signals team. Captain Potts captured the last 5 wickets for the cost of 21 runs. Signalman Worrel again bowled well, taking 3 wickets for 56 runs.

The Royal Signals now had the task of making 219 runs in 160 minutes to win. Royal Signals started badly, losing the first two wickets for only 8 runs and the third wicket fell at 40. Major S. G. de Clive-Lowe and Signalman S. Butler were now batting well and beginning to get on terms with the clock, but with the score at 105 Butler was well caught and bowled by the R.A.C. captain. Captain J. Potts joined Major de Clive-Lowe and started to get on top of the bowling, hitting the ball soundly to all parts of the ground. Captain Potts was caught when he had made a valuable 30 runs, and this meant that Royal Signals now needed 43 runs in 20 minutes. Signalman Worrel made 12 quick runs before he was caught when the score was 192. Lieutenant W. A. Price came in next and stayed with Major de Clive-Lowe, who had now completed a splendid century. It was fitting that the Royal Signals skipper should make the winning hit with only two minutes of playing time left. The result, therefore, a splendid win for Royal Signals by four wickets.

Royal Signals Association and Benevolent Fund

The following subscriptions were most gratefully received during August, 1954:—

	£	s.	d.
11th Regiment	22	2	7
24th Regiment (Officers' Mess)	1	2	0
School of Signals (Administration Wing)—Pistol Competition		4	11
3 H.Q. and Signal Regiment	5	15	0
30th Regiment	15	0	0
30th Regiment (Wives' Club)	45	0	0
243 Squadron	1	17	6
607 Troop	1	7	7
H.Q. A.E.R. Royal Signals	2	11	0
47th Regiment T.A.	12	10	0
53rd (W) Regiment T.A. Parade Service collection at camp	8	11	0
632 Troop (Hebrides)	1	6	5
51st (H) Regiment T.A.	1	1	0
52nd (L) Regiment T.A.	2	8	1
1st Regiment	73	17	3
16th Regiment (Daughters of W.O.II (R.Q.M.S.) Foster)	3	15	9
28th Regiment	2	18	5
257 Squadron	7	10	0
36 Heavy A.D. Regiment R.A. Signal Troop	1	10	7
16 Light A.D. Regiment R.A. Signal Troop	5	0	0
40 Field Regiment R.A. Signal Troop	8	7	6
Royal Signals attached 47 Army Missile Regiment R.A.	2	0	0
18th Regiment, 237 Squadron, 249 Squadron, 263 Squadron —Annual Fun Fair	220	0	0
208 (COMWEL) Squadron (Wives' Club)	7	1	0
Victoria Garrison Church, Hong Kong; 252 Squadron; 253 Squadron; 246 Squadron — Corps Week donations	34	8	4
H.Q. Royal Signals, Cyprus (Episkopi Theatre Club)	21	3	0
St. Martin's Garrison Church (Royal Signals 'At Home, 1954')	55	6	0
Milk Marketing Board (Tour of Britain Cycle Race)	25	0	0
Lieutenant-Colonel D. B. Emley	5	0	0
Various individual donations	1	8	6
RECEIPTS	£595	3	5

Expenditure during August, 1964 ... £309 11 11
(Includes: — Rent and Rates; Beds and Bedding; Furniture; Cots and Prams; General Assistance).

* * *

Corps Football

Played 15th September. Result:—Royal Signals 7, R.A.O.C. 3.

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at Government Communications Headquarters

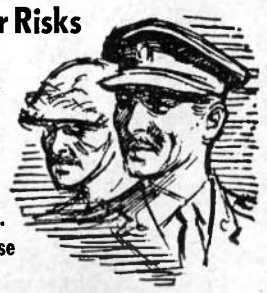
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November 1964

The WIRE

The Royal Signals Magazine







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THE WIRE

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

The Official Organ of the Signals Association

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BRIGADIER P. M. P. ROBSON, D.S.O.

Assistant Editor:
BRIGADIER H. R. FIRTH

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Editorial

In July, 1963, we wrote in this column on the subject of sport. At that time it seemed that our prowess in the world of sport had fallen away considerably. Gone were the many National Service games players who had brought much lustre to our various teams. We were finding our feet in the new Regular Corps. Manpower shortages, allied to heavy commitments—and other factors—were absorbing our energies, often at the expense of sport, or so it seemed.

It is, therefore, a pleasure indeed to note the progress that has been made in a little over a year. In nearly all games, there has been a marked improvement, and although we have not won any Army team championships, we have been near it on several occasions—notably in boxing, when the 11th Regiment acquitted themselves so well in the last Army finals. Better still is the fact that this improvement is not confined to one or two particular units or games, but is taking place in all theatres and in many different types of sport. This augurs well for the future.

There is, however, one black spot. Although we have many ski-ing enthusiasts, for some reason or other we seem to achieve little or no distinction in the various Army and B.A.O.R. ski-ing events. This deficiency is now being seriously tackled. In the October WIRE, Major Peter Irwin (now Corps Ski-ing Secretary) called for all those who had an interest or proficiency in this sport to get in touch with him so that he could take appropriate steps to get Corps ski-ing really under way. His address is c/o H.Q., Joint Warfare Establishment, Old Sarum, Salisbury, Wiltshire. May his efforts be crowned with success!

Whilst on the subject of sport, another up-and-coming Corps activity is gliding (see article in the October WIRE). For any young man looking for an outdoor vocation demanding skill, quick reactions and steady nerves, here is an ideal outlet. We strongly commend ski-ing and gliding as activities appropriate to a modern and forward-looking Corps.

* * *

CHRISTMAS APPEAL FOR TOYS AND CLOTHES

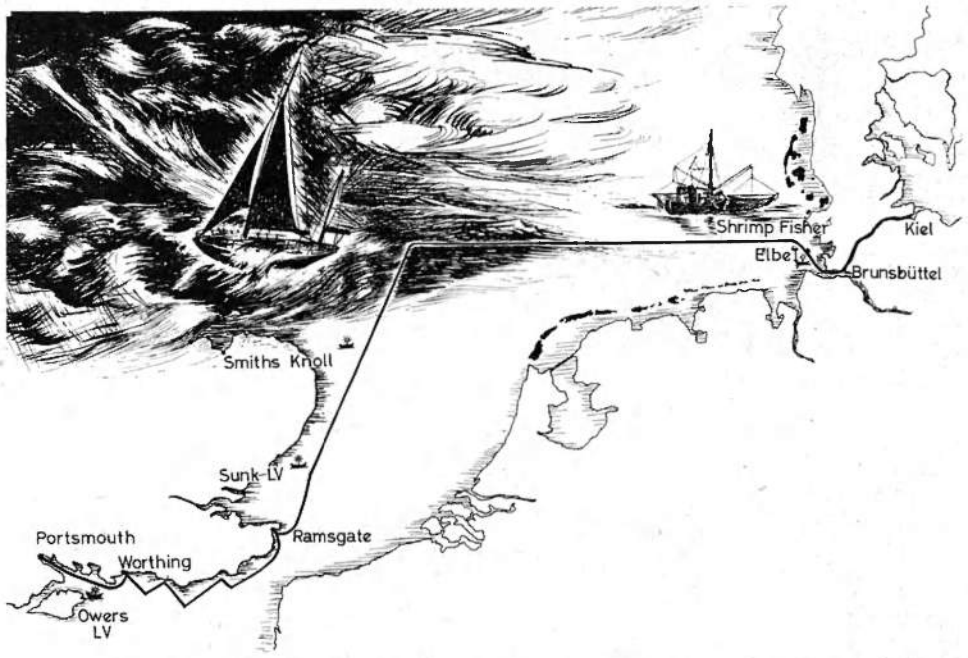
For several years the Corps has, at Christmas, provided some kind of gift for each member of the very poorest families known to the Association. If we are to do the same this year, we must have YOUR ASSISTANCE NOW. Gifts of toys, books, money and clothing from you will alone make this annual present from the Corps to its less fortunate members possible.

But to be effective, we must have your support EARLY. Unpacking, sorting, re-packing and posting before Christmas takes time.

PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY AND AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE

Exercise "Regal Favour"

We are much indebted to Lieutenant-Colonel Eric Bardell for the graphic description of a trip in the Royal Yacht so well told that one can smell the salt spray and hear the foaming seas as they go roaring by. Particularly good it is to read that of the six selected to crew the Royal Yacht two came from the Corps — and those two a Lieutenant-Colonel and a Lance-Corporal. This is just as it should be.



Passage of H.M.Y. Bloodhound—Kiel to Portsmouth 14th-20th September 1964

The Royal Yacht, "Bloodhound," had been cruising in the Baltic during the latter part of the summer, and a crew was required for the passage home from Keil to the Gosport yard of Camper & Nicholson's. Two signallers were among the six invited to join her—Lieutenant-Colonel Bardell, Commodore of the Rhine Area Sailing Club, and Lance-Corporal Alan Newman, of 13th Signal Regiment.

We joined ship at the British Kiel Yacht Club on Sunday, 13th September, and met our skipper and the permanent members of the crew. Lieutenant-Commander Merryn Fairbank, R.N., the sailing master; Francis Drake, a Dorset man and an ex-Chief Petty Officer, and John Capel. A delightful trio. With his beard curling to a point, the sailing master only required doublet and hose to turn him into one of the first Elizabeth's captains seconded for duty with Elizabeth the Second, five centuries later. He had been sailing in Her Majesty's ships since he was fourteen. We were soon aboard, unpacking our seabags, and within the hour were sitting down to supper in the saloon—roast chicken. But such was not to be the normal fare during the coming week, as September is the time of the equinoxial gales. We picked our watches over a nightcap and then retired to our bunks. My good fortune was to have the starboard cabin aft: H.R.H. Prince Philip's, when he is aboard.

Next morning it was sunny and clear as we motored under the White Ensign and the burgee of the Royal Yacht Squadron to the traffic lights at the entrance to the Old Lock on the Kiel Canal. We locked in and then motored down to Brunsbuttel, at the western end of the canal, some sixty miles distant. We spent the day getting to know the running rigging and the halliards, the layout of the sail locker and the rest of the boat.

Bloodhound is 34 tons, 63ft. overall and has a draft of 9ft. 6in. She has tiller steering and follows the unusual, but useful practice, for new crews, of coloured sheets and halliards. Blue for the jib, green for the staysail, with its halliards brought down to the starboard side of the mast, and red for the spinnaker.

At Brunsbuttel, we tied up in the Yacht Haven and had dinner aboard. The weather report for the morrow gave us south-westerly winds, force 5-6 and later 7. This was to change little during the rest of the week. Flocks of swallows were migrating south at sunset, and soon after, the barograph pen started its long downward movement to the accompaniment of much thunder and lightning. We were well sheltered in the Yacht Haven, however, and slept in comfort.

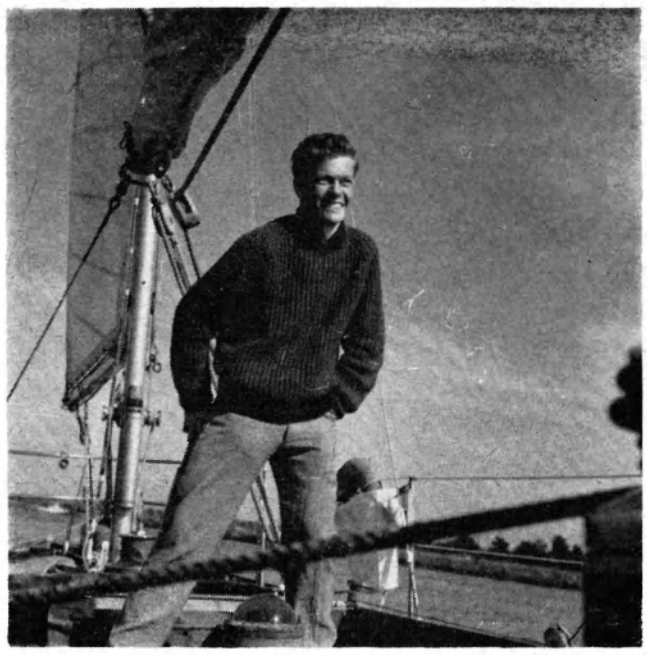
At 04.15 hours, the following day, we turned out and entered the main sea lock. The man from the United Baltic Corporation lowered fresh bread and milk to us from the dockside, twenty feet above. We put a reef in the mainsail, hoisted the yankee and staysail in stops and made all square on deck as the sun rose. A vast great oil tanker edged her way in and tied up astern; an awe-inspiring sight as her bows crept inexorably forward until they towered high over our counter. We could see the officer in the bows and could only hope that he was a little more skilled than his Army counterpart in saying "a bit more, a little bit more." All was well, he knew his business, and her hawsers were pulled ashore in good time.

The huge caisson gate slowly slid back into the wall and we had our first view of the cold grey waters of the River Elbe, leading to the North Sea. We had six hours of fair tide to make the lightship *Elbe I*, at the entrance to the estuary, 40 miles away. We hoisted the mainsail, broke out the yankee and staysail and were just able to lay the channel buoys of the river. A typical North Sea morning; grey and damp with a watery sun; flat, low-lying land to the south, shoals on either side, and a glass which was falling. The sooner we were clear of the land the better. I won the toss and took my watch below.

A good hard breeze, and at a steady ten knots we passed Scharhorn Island with the shrimp fishers working across the shoals. To the north were warnings to the unwary navigator. Clearly visible on the Grosser Vogelsand was a large passenger-cargo vessel lying on its side, the victim of a storm a couple of years ago. Further on was the bridge and upper works of a cargo vessel held firmly in the mud of the frequently shifting shoals. By mid morning we were abeam of *Elbe II* lightship and the commander called all hands to pull down another reef in the mainsail. Oilskins were the order of the day as we creamed through the water, assisted by the fast running river and tide. At *Elbe I* we set the log and met the North Sea swell and what was to be a 600-mile passage to windward, wearing our safety belts and oilskins for most of the time we were on deck.

We came on watch at noon after an excellent hot stew. Five German E boats overtook us at speed with their hulls out of the water almost to the forward gun; invisible at times as they crashed through the seas. Two of the watch lost their lunch. By late afternoon the wind eased a trifle, so we changed the staysail for a larger and shook the reefs out of the mainsail. This kept our speed up to 9 knots. We were hoping to visit Flushing at the mouth of the Schelde.

The wind returned at nightfall, so we reefed once again. There was no change in the forecast for the areas we were interested in, the German Bight, Humber and Thames and, by this time, sickness had reduced the watch to two, so we



Lance-Corporal Alan Newman takes us through the Kiel Canal

took half-hourly tricks at the helm and at each change took the log reading and entered the mean course we had steered. During this watch we lost our White Ensign; it blew off its staff at the head of the mizzen. With the Dutch Islands under our lee, the wind veering towards the west and the barograph still falling and promising harder weather, we decided against Flushing and put our efforts into getting more room for manoeuvre out in the North Sea.

Wednesday we changed down the headsails and put a second reef in the main sail. A brief note in the log, not more than half-a-dozen words, but for the four men on deck an hour's really hard work. Two in the pulpit forward, hanking on the new sail, pausing every so often to hang on tight as *Bloodhound* put her head down into a big sea, throwing it high in the air to be driven across the foredeck by the wind so that the men in the pulpit disappeared from sight beneath the water. Grappling with the yankee jib as it is lowered and the wind and seas try to tear it off the wire stay. A pause as one of the watch is sick into the thrashing canvas, and his companion holds on to him. A quick expeditious job and all is washed clean by the next wave coming aboard. The team gets back to work with scarcely a pause. The smaller headsails are hoisted and the others are sent below. Then the four men turn to the mainsail, an easier job in many ways, as they are working in the centre of the boat where the movement is less. The mainsail is lowered two or three feet and each man ties down six or eight reef pennants before it is re-hoisted. The wind and waves still have many tricks to play, and whilst the two men on the main halliard bend to get more leverage to hoist, a heavy sea breaks aboard and enters their oilskins from the bottom, forcing its way past sea boots and disregarding smocks tied hard down with cord. A gasp: "Ugh, it's cold!" It is then one realises how right was the senior member of the Royal Ocean Racing Club, when he said that the sport was one of the most expensive ways of being uncomfortable that he knew. With the sail change complete, he with the strongest stomach goes below and produces a mug of hot, steaming cocoa for each of those on deck. A four hour watch soon passes. Only a half-dozen words in the log!

I now had a completely new watch, which included Alan Newman and John Capel. Seasickness and a fall on the pitching foredeck had put the others below. Just before midnight we took off the jib and that eased things a little. At the same time the barograph took a sharp dip to read 980 millibars. On the television weather map it's that simple line denoting a trough of low pressure. By now there was a vicious whine in the wind and the wavetops were whipped off horizontally as they began to break. The mighty Posiedon had summoned the clouds and the winds and was stirring the seas with his trident. We small mortals were acutely aware of our frailty. Movement outside the cockpit was made with extreme care. The watch below at midnight, taking their tot and a dry biscuit before turning in, heard what the forecasters thought of the weather up top. Yes, the announcer agreed that it was a full gale from the west. Off came the mainsail and the mizzen, and we went about on a course of 190°, southward, towards the Straits of Dover and well clear of the land. Even with the smallest of staysails, more wire than canvas, we crashed along, gradually making up to windward.

By morning the wind had eased a little, but there was still a steep and confused sea. The only apparent damage seemed to be the loss of the burgee, which had disappeared into the blackness during the night. We hoisted the mizzen and a second headsail and in the strong breeze laid a course for the Smiths Knoll Lightship, off the Norfolk coast. But it was not to be peaceful. The tack of the staysail pulled away from the deck, a snap shackle had been wrenched off, but was quickly replaced. The mizzen then split along the seam, below the reef points, and had to be lowered. This unbalanced the boat and made her difficult to steer under headsails alone in the big confused seas following the gale. It took five hours with a palm needle to repair the seams and hoist it once again.

After several days of four hours on and four hours off, with the skipper on a diet of brandy and raw egg, and we lesser beings managing dry biscuits and water, one tends to lose track of the days. I see from the log that we spoke to the G P.O. cable ship by lamp, just before midnight on Thursday, and they passed our position to the Admiralty. We continued down the coast at a steady seven or eight knots, under our much reduced canvas, and in the early hours of Friday morning, the Sunk Light Vessel was abeam, with the tide setting in towards the Thames estuary. The Sunk L.V. has a very real meaning to Royal Signals, as it was on the sands from which the lightship takes her name that *Petasus* went aground during a hard blow on the Southsea/Harwich Race some years ago.

Off North Foreland we called up the radio station who told us that our transmitter was faulty. We then started the engine to charge the batteries, but the several days of rolling, tumbling seas had stirred up the sludge and blocked the feed pipe. With Ramsgate close at hand, the skipper decided to call in and see to them both. We hoisted new colours, the Royal Yachting Association burgee and the Red Ensign. As we entered the outer harbour we dropped the yankee jib and the harbourmaster shouted that we should lie against the south quay of the inner harbour. We sailed slowly through the lock to the inner basin and at the same time took off the staysail. Finally, with a quiet word, "back the mizzen," to reduce speed, we slid gently to our berth and passed lines ashore. Scarcely a word

(*Continued at foot of page 414*)



Beating down channel. The foaming seas roar past

Direct to You!

from

THE OFFICER IN CHARGE OF RECORDS

Is the Army, and Royal Signals, in particular, being unfair in regard to the career prospects offered to Technicians?

Introduction

Around the beginning of 1964, there was some spirited discussion in Cyprus about the way in which the Army, and in particular Royal Signals, provides the opportunity for technicians to advance their careers. A wide range of diverse views and suggestions, often vehemently expressed, were generated by officers, warrant officers and non-commissioned officers holding technical trades. It was perhaps overlooked that the organisation of the Corps and its trades has to be based on the needs of the Army for communications, rather than to suit individuals. The rules for time promotion for Technicians are laid down for the Army as a whole, and therefore apply to other Corps.

Aim

The aim of this article is to examine some of the views put forward and to offer some brief comments on certain suggestions made from a different but realistic viewpoint.

Is it possible to devise an arrangement acceptable to all?

The writer's experience leads him to doubt if general agreement on a matter as contentious as this can ever be unanimous but he would wish to correct the view of those who fairly crackled in their criticism of our present arrangements, that trade changes were made lightheartedly and without much deliberation. Nothing could be further from the truth; there is a committee in the M.O.D., set up by Signal Officer-in-Chief, and which meets almost every month and watches closely over the interests of soldiers in Royal Signals: very careful consideration is given before any change is recommended or agreed.

As one distinguished W.O.I (F. of S. S.M.) pointed out, the effect in 1957 of opening advancement to technicians in their trade above the rank of Sergeant, via the Senior Technicians Roster was, "for human nature, as for an electric current, to tend to take the path of least resistance." The result was that insufficient technicians aspired to become Foreman of Signals especially as the financial rewards were no greater for the latter. This did not meet the requirements of the Corps for Foremen.

It is of course easy to be wise by hindsight and to say this proved to be an unwise arrangement for a number of reasons. By 1961 this had become obvious and a decision was taken by the Signal Officer-in-Chief, in the best interests of the Corps, to have only one avenue of technical advancement above the rank of Sergeant, i.e., that of Foreman of Signals. Everyone regrets the effect on those who had taken the easy road to become senior technician and who have subsequently not adjusted themselves to taking the sterner course for advancement via the F. of S. roster. However, change is inevitable from time to time in all walks of life and any change affects some more than others!

Since the decision was taken, the strength of Foreman of Signals has risen steadily, and foreseeably the trend should continue: indeed, other things being equal, it is expected that we ought to meet the current manpower planning target for Foreman by 1970/71. It is of interest to note that of those senior technicians eligible to convert to F. of S., some 50 per cent. have either achieved the conversion to date or are in the positive process of so doing: about 5 per cent. have elected for and been accepted for the Regimental Duty Roster.

What are requirements for Top Technical People?

Ideally the Corps should have some 500 technician Sergeants and at present it actually has just 300. At the same time the Corps is allowed to have about 275 supervisory technicians (F. of S.) in the ranks of Staff Sergeant, W.O.II and W.O.I.

(*Continued on page 415*)

(*Continued from page 413*)

uttered and that not above a normal tone—five days had turned us into a reasonable crew.

The engine repairs cost us 8s. 6d. As for the radio telephone: working on the 'theory of ends,' we examined the aerial connection to the back stay, which acts as the aerial, and found that the constant working had broken the connecting lead. On arrival, the man from Marconi diagnosed a dry joint in the transmitter. Sounds better, I suppose!

A German coaster, delivering Volkswagens, damaged the lock gates as she left, so that they would not fully close. We made off our mast to a bollard on the quayside, so that we would not topple when the water went down: this made a good story for the press and television. One press cameraman was heard to say: "I'll wait a couple of hours until the water goes down, she's bound to fall over, and I'll be here to get the picture." We were delighted that he missed his lunch and the picture.

We cleaned ship and dried clothes in the warm sunshine and then left on the night tide by way of the inshore Ramsgate Channel. The North Sea still had its gale warnings, but we were only due for westerlies, strength five. It was a quiet night, a clear sky, with an almost full moon and a sharp nip in the air. Under the protection of the land, we felt our way down the unlit channel, two men on the foredeck keeping a lookout for the buoys. We broke out the jib, hoisted the mizzen, followed by the staysail and kept the engine running to help us over the foul tide to Dover. From now on there was need to keep a very sharp watch on deck as we entered the busy shipping lane off South Foreland, with tankers and ferries overtaking us on both quarters. We covered 165 miles between Ramsgate and Gosport at rarely less than eight knots; the westerlies were brisk, as advertised, and there were only a few sharp squalls to damp an otherwise fine day. The following evening was clear and crisp and what could be better than to listen to the last night of the Proms after supper. The boat, well-balanced and moving fast, with the occasional dip of the lee rail into a large sea, all thoughts of our North Sea gales were past. We went about off the pier at Worthing and decided that as wind and tide were right, we would save an hour or two by taking the Looe Channel across the sands inside the Owers Light Vessel. Once more we had a man in the bows, and a mighty sharp lookout he kept, too, for the unlit buoys marking the gap in the sands. They had not been moved. Finally, we passed the Nab Tower and were off the wind for the first time in 600 miles.

Bloodhound lengthened her stride and did the last few miles to Gosport at ten or eleven knots. It was as if she smelt her moorings. An exhilarating finish to our passage as we raced through the night towards the lights of Portsmouth. We picked up our moorings and it was 01.00 hours, Sunday, when we reached our bunks.

By ten that morning *Bloodhound* had been washed right down to the waterline with fresh water and finished off with chamois leathers, and at eight the same evening I was back in Rheindahlen on "Fallex 64," scarcely able to credit the good fortune which had been ours, to make a passage in the Royal Yacht.

Every post filled by a F. of S. has to be justified to the Establishment Committee for the responsibility warranting either a Staff Sergeant, W.O.II or W.O.I. It may not be appreciated either how carefully such justifications have to be thought out and presented or how rigorous is the consideration of such a Committee who relate, amongst other things, the reasons given with those for comparable responsibilities in other Arms and Corps.

It has to be accepted that there are practical limits to the numbers of technical Warrant Officers and Staff Sergeants which the Corps will be allowed to have though these limits have not necessarily yet been reached. How then do vacancies occur for technicians to advance above the rank of Sergeant in the technical field of employment? To answer this we need to see how many leave the F. of S. Roster each year. They leave for two main reasons; firstly by discharge (sickness, compassionate, retirement and even death!) but these are few, and secondly by W.O.I being commissioned to T.O.T., by far the greater number. Altogether we expect between 7 and 12 F. of S. vacancies to occur for these reasons each year and this may well increase in the 1970s to 15-25 a year.

The number of F. of S. posts have increased steadily since 1945 as our system of communications has developed, based on more sophisticated electronic equipment and increased commitments. Thus not only has the Corps a deficiency of Foremen against its requirements but there is a real expectation that supervisory technician appointments will in fact go on increasing in the foreseeable future.

What are the opportunities to train as a Foreman of Signals?

From the above we can foresee that, over the next five years, there should be at least 40 vacancies available on a competitive basis for aspirants to the F. of S. Roster: indeed, if we could get enough candidates of the high standard we desire, particularly in the period 1966-70 from those who enlisted in 1960-63 this figure could be increased to 60 to 70 vacancies in some years: subject only to our ability to allot the necessary training resources which have to meet many other priority commitments, particularly for officers.

It may be of interest to quote some statistics about the number of candidates who submitted themselves for the F. of S. qualifying examination in 1963 and in the early part of 1964.

In 1963 there were 81 candidates for the qualifying examination: of these 12 subsequently withdrew without sitting the examination, 21 failed (two failing twice) and 48 were successful (five at the second attempt and three passing twice, improving their results which may well have been on advice requested from Records on the second occasion). Of the actual 45 candidates, the Special Selection Board selected, on merit, 40 for Courses No. 19 and No. 20 and four out of the remaining five were selected for Course No. 21 in competition with those who qualified in March, 1964.

For the first qualifying examination in March, 1964, there were 45 candidates (five sitting for a second time), 10 regrettably threw in the towel before sitting the examination, 17 failed (one failing for the third time and two for the second time), and 18 were successful (two at the second attempt).

Of the 18 who passed, the Special Selection Board selected, on merit, 17 to attend Course No. 21.

Many of those who sat the examination enlisted in the late '50s/early '60s when the recruitment of technicians was at a very low ebb as regards numbers: however, we are just meeting our needs without quite the element of hot competition we hope for. We would undoubtedly like to see more qualified candidates coming forward *NOW* and possibly mainly from those who began their technician service in 1957-61. The opportunity is there and the prospects are excellent. Nothing ventured, nothing gained!

How does one qualify to become a Foreman of Signals?

Is the Qualifying Examination really such a mountain as some people make out?

For a proficient technician, who has gained class I of his trade and keeps himself up to date academically, the questions in the mathematics and physics papers (examples of which are given as Annex to Corps Memorandum No. 12), should not amount to more than a molehill!: and not even a molehill if the technician is studying for his City and Guilds 3rd year, possession of which gives exemption from the qualifying examination.

The harder part of the qualifying process is to satisfy the Special Selection Board that the candidate possesses the qualities of leadership and generally those other atributes, itemised at Boxes 16-26 of the Confidential Report form (AF B2048) to warrant giving him the expensive training leading to the appointment of Foreman of Signals. If he succeeds in these two hurdles he then has to absorb and apply the excellent instruction of the Foreman of Signals qualifying course itself. This is a high grade course by any standards, and requires interested and able students. Success thereon provides a good basis for security for the rest of a man's life, whether he advances to commissioned rank or later leaves the Service for employment in the civilian electronics field.

There is surely little difference here between military and civilian practice in the gaining of advancement into supervisory positions. Civilian employers do not give out goodly increases of money or status to employees who do not merit such benefits. Merit comes from their hard work, proven skill, ability, sense of responsibility and leadership; these attributes are, for civilians, obtained by application to their profession, and especially by studying, very often in their own time, for qualifications such as Higher National Certificates. Anyone, in any walk of life, who wants to make a success of his career and his life must make some personal effort; the extent of the success gained depends directly on the amount of personal effort made—though a dash of luck from time to time always helps!

Is the emphasis on "Military Attributes" overdone in respect of the Technician?

Some technicians obviously consider undue emphasis is placed on soldierly qualities and that the Corps tends to treat their technical skill as a bad second. This, in the writer's opinion, smacks of spherical sophistry! (the editor would not have published the one word the author had in mind).

Leadership, determination, and physical ability, are not the prerogative of those on the Regimental Duty Roster. Soldiering in war is a tough and uncomfortable business and any senior N.C.O. or Warrant Officer may have to command and deploy his men to fight to survive—in such circumstances minor tactical skill with the Bren gun is more apposite than ability to handle the oscilloscope with finesse! Of course, both are vital skills in the right place and at the right time, although in the piping days of peace the former may tend to be forgotten.

The Army, and particularly the Regular Army, is a profession bearing arms. It has its own special loyalties, its traditions and a code of discipline to which, voluntarily, the citizen submits himself. There is no pressgang and no discrimination between technician or field signalman; in this respect, we are all soldiers. However, because of his high intelligence, the technician is expected to be capable and indeed willing, since he himself voluntarily joined the Army, of developing his military attributes at a faster pace than the majority of other soldiers. Thus he has been placed in a preferential position in that, through his own efforts, he can gain the rank of Sergeant after five years reckonable technician service, uninhibited by the availability of promotion vacancies, whereas other soldiers have to wait for an establishment vacancy even though they have all the attributes and qualifications necessary. A Sergeant class I technician is a man who carries considerable responsibility: on his know-how, expertise and ability to command often depends the intercommunication affecting the success or otherwise of the efforts of thousands of other soldiers.

What are the prospects for technicians?

The Army Board expects an Army technician to advance his career faster than other tradesmen and the Army's rules and regulations are designed to make this possible. The Board wishes a technician to have the opportunity to become a W.O.II in a technical supervisory appointment when he has undertaken about 16 years' service.

Provided a technician becomes a Sergeant in his 6th or 7th year of service (and some can and indeed do achieve it in their 5th year of service) and qualifies successfully at the F. of S. Qualifying Examination in his 7th or 8th year of service, he can be promoted Staff Sergeant in his 9th or 10th year of service after the F. of S. Course and can achieve W.O.II (F. of S.) in his 15th or 16th year: exceptionally bright technicians have done and can do this even faster.

The key lies in qualifying early for the F. of S. course whilst

a technician is a junior Sergeant or senior Corporal. This means that he must not only be successful at the qualifying examination but must also prove to be at least a sound N.C.O. from the military point of view.

Technicians more so than others, can of course do anything with figures, but let us take an average batch of 100 soldiers who have successfully gained a class III technician rating, and see what happens to them over the period of the next eight years. This is based on current statistics:—

Of the 100 technicians, 10 never attempt to gain a class II technical rating (mainly due to wastage) ...	= 10
of the remaining 90, who do try for class II, 42% fail in the attempt	= 38
of the remaining 52, who succeed to class II, 15% never attempt to gain class I (again, mainly due to wastage)	= 8
of the remaining 44, who do try for class I, 32% fail	= 14
and thus, out of every 100 class III technicians, about 30% succeed to class I in their first 7-8 years' service	= 30

We will not expand on the many reasons which cause some 70% apparently to fall by the wayside but we would make the point that the method of advancement above Sergeant is obviously NOT a serious consideration for many! Of those who do achieve class I technical rating, we believe that at least 66% could qualify at the qualifying examination for F. of S. if they would but try and a majority would achieve promotion to Staff Sergeant in their 9th or 10th year of service. It does, however, seem that the arguments for advancing technicians in trade above the rank of Sergeant could only affect about 10 out of every 100 technicians (i.e., 33% of those who gain a class I) and, in all probability, some of these who do achieve a technical rating leave the service by their own choice at the 9- or 12-year option point.

There is no disputing the fact that there is a heavy wastage of technicians around the sixth to ninth year of service. This is, very often, why Records do not send a technician for upgrading to class I in trade where the soldier intimates he is preparing to leave the Service.

The Corps would indeed be glad if the majority of technicians continued serving at least until they had completed twelve years service, but if they all continued to serve after that time, it cannot be denied that they could NOT all reach the highest ranks. There is, in almost all professions, a time when a process of "distillation" takes place and it is not possible for all to advance to the higher pinnacles in their profession. This process in the technical corps of the Army tends to occur when Sergeants seek to advance to the rank of Staff Sergeant.

A review of the reasons why technicians opt for discharge shows that many do so for reasons other than lack of opportunity; these seem to be due mainly to the unsettling aspects of Service life, to domestic considerations, or to the fancied delights of civilian life.

These then are some of the facts of life. The Corps has much to offer to those who will but make the effort. Realistically our world is far from ideal, but this is, with respect, true of most professions. One has to make the best of the opportunities offered: if seized, the rewards can be appreciable: if not, disenchantment may lead a man to seek other pastures, and this the Army magnanimously allows at regular option points.

Technicians as a whole can rest assured that the very closest watch is kept both by the Army Department and by Officer in Charge of Records in particular, to ensure that no change is made in the policy of trade rosters or promotion prospects without very careful examination of its effects on the serving soldier. In the interests of efficiency, some change has to be made from time to time. Such a change was the introduction of the present trade rosters to meet the needs of an All-Regular Army. Some further changes in technician trades are already foreseeable to meet the challenge of the 1970s. If all change were to be deferred because of its possible effects on the soldier, we might still be fighting with bow and arrow and communications would be by "cleft stick or smoke signal"; the operation, adjustment and maintenance of which apparati would not have required the high-grade men who are the technicians in Royal Signals today.

Upgrading Courses in Catterick

The Training Brigade Upgrading Courses programme for May, 1965, is listed below:

Radio Technician (Light) ...	Class II - I	11th May
Lineman	Class II - I	25th May
Electrical Technician	Class III-II	18th May
Line Technician	Class III-II	25th May
Radio Technician (Light) ...	Class III-II	4th May
Radio Relay Man	Class III-II	11th May
Communication Centre Operator	Class III-II	18th May

A month at Sea aboard a new Landing Ship

Early in July the new Landing Ship Logistic (LSL), *Sir Lancelot*, arrived in Aden to commence its Middle East Trials. Two Operators from 603 Troop were selected to man the Army radio equipment on board during these trials. The lucky two, Corporal P. A. Evans and Signalman D. G. Lawrence, clearly enjoyed their month's working holiday as will be seen from the following report received from them:—

Sir Lancelot is a brand new ship having all the facilities of a first-class passenger liner. She is crewed by Merchant Navy officers and a Chinese crew (including the cook). The troops accommodation on board is well air conditioned (essential around Aden and Bahrain) and has a cafeteria.

There are two vehicle decks capable of carrying all types of armoured and wheeled vehicles. The ramps fore and aft allow the vehicles to be landed directly onto a beach or pontoons. There is a helicopter deck at the stern of the ship. It took a few days for us to get used to saying "fore" and "aft" instead of "front" and "back" and it took even longer to get used to "port" and "starboard."

Being flat bottomed the ship had one major disadvantage for landlubbers—it rolled! As a result there were quite a few green faces amongst the troops taking part in the trials until we reached the calmer water of the Persian Gulf.

On the third day at sea a realistic life boat practice was held. All the troops on board boarded the lifeboats which were lowered into the sea where, to everyone's surprise, the one we were in started to fill with water. Someone had forgotten to replace the bung. This was rectified by a somewhat flustered Second Officer encouraged by a few choice remarks from the troops. The lifeboat's engine was started and we pulled away from *Sir Lancelot*; we had to row back to the ship and the University boat race crews would have loved to have had us as opponents as after rowing for about three minutes we hadn't moved an inch. Once back on board we continued our journey.

As on all good cruise ships evening entertainment was available. On *Sir Lancelot* this involved nothing more strenuous than watching the films that were shown nightly over the ship's closed circuit television or playing cards, bingo, darts, etc., in the well equipped lounge.

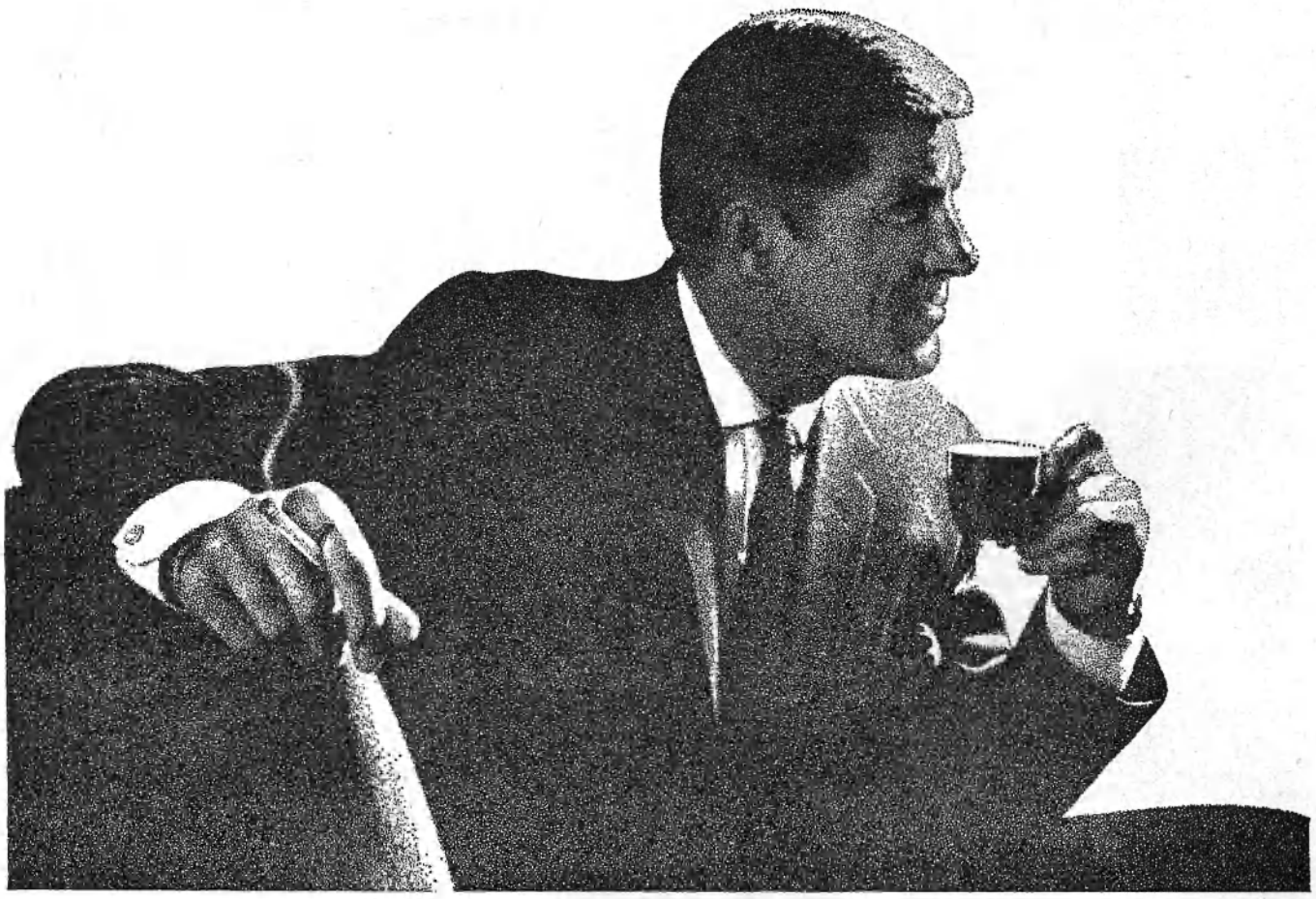
Throughout the six days' 1,700 miles voyage from Aden to Bahrain, communications were maintained with both Aden and Bahrain using an SR C11 with a twin V aerial mounted on the operations bridge. At no time during either the outward or return voyage were any communication difficulties encountered.

After spending a week at Bahrain the ship was made ready for an exercise with the Amphibious Warfare Squadron. This was to be a beach landing exercise on Gaz Island in the Persian Gulf. During the exercise we maintained communications with H.M.S. *Meon* and the units which had landed on the island. The majority of the traffic seemed to be requests from the medics for landing craft to take off heat exhaustion victims. As we were on duty at the time of the landing we watched it over the closed circuit television.

The return voyage to Aden was very rough at times and even the ship's crew were sea sick. After almost a month away we arrived back in Aden on 4th August after a very enjoyable period on board. We are both keeping an ear to the ground for future seaborne exercises on *Sir Lancelot;* another month's cruise, we mean exercise, would go down well.



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VAUXHALL VIVA

Printed in Great Britain

Soldiers of the Corps Represent Britain at the COMMEMORATION of the BATTLE OF THE MARNE

By Captain G. Smith, Public Relations, H.Q. 4 Div.



[Courtesy : Public Relations Photo Section H.Q. 4 Div.

President de Gaulle returns the salute of the Royal Signals Guard of Honour

Here is an outside observer's view of this occasion.

FIFTY years ago on the banks of the River Marne the combined forces of France, Britain and Belgium succeeded in applying the brake to the German steamroller that, despite guarantees of neutrality, had overrun Belgium and was within shelling distance of Paris.

The cathedral city of Rheims suffered tremendous damage from the battles of the war and it was thus appropriate that it should be chosen as the centre for the commemoration events. Special significance was given to the parade by the decision of President de Gaulle to inspect the troops and take the salute.

Britain was represented on the parade by a Guard of Honour drawn from the Royal Signals at Catterick. The Guard of about 100 was commanded by Captain W. G. Robinson and trained by R.S.M. S. J. R. Dunlop. They all belonged to 11th Regiment.

Sunday, the 6th September, was far from pleasant with thunderstorms and a humid atmosphere. President de Gaulle left Paris at 9 a.m. to undertake a series of engagements terminating with his arrival at Rheims at 5.15 p.m. As usual stringent security arrangements were in force and a huge crowd turned out to greet him. At the very minute when he was due to drive past the assembled parade the heavens opened and within seconds everyone was soaked to the skin. This did not deter the President and he stood erect in his open jeep as it drove slowly past the French, British and Belgian troops. He then made a return trip along the same route to acknowledge the cheers of the crowds before going to the saluting base. After decorating some of the local citizens with the Legion of Honour the President took the salute at the march past.

Each body of troops received a cheer from the crowd but the one for the young British soldiers was especially warm. This can be put down in part to the PR mindedness of the Director of Music of the Royal Signals Staff Band that headed the British contingent. As they approached the saluting base the band broke into "It's a long way to Tipperary." This delighted the crowd who decided to sing and whistle along with them and the President himself smiled in appreciation of this well chosen piece.

After the march past the President went on one of his by now famous handshaking tours of the crowd. These tours are always popular but must be a headache for his security men. He was then due to have a rest period but in fact took only five minutes to dry himself before proceeding to the steps of the cathedral where he delivered a twenty minute speech. His main theme was the debt that Europe owes to those who gave their lives at the Battle of the Marne and the spirit of co-operation that grew up there between the three nations. He finished his address by starting up "La Marseillaise" which was quickly taken up by the crowd.

Such an important occasion as this was a severe test for the stamina and training of the young soldiers of the Royal Signals. Before they went on parade they were told "Today you are representing not only your unit, the Royal Corps of Signals and the British Army but Britain itself. This great honour calls for a special effort." They certainly produced it.

And now W.O.1 S. J. R. Dunlop tells the story from the R.S.M.'s point of view

THE account below comes from the pen of the Parade R.S.M., W.O.I S. J. R. Dunlop, who did so much to make the Corps contribution one highly worthy of the occasion.

It was with mixed feelings that I greeted the news of the Guard of Honour for the President of France. Surely the C.O. must be having a quiet joke with me, trying to put off my leave, due to start in just twenty minutes' time! Then it dawned on me that it was a fact, and that the Royal Signals were to provide a Guard of Honour for President de Gaulle, forming part of the celebration of the 50th Anniversary for the Victory on the Marne, taking place in Rheims on Sunday, 5th September, 1964.

I received the news on Friday, 28th August, at 4.45 p.m. and that left just a week to pick, train, transport and mount the guard—a big task, but obviously now we were committed to it every effort would have to be made to ensure that a high standard was attained. A hurried conference followed, picking the team of officers, W.O.s and N.C.O.s and the men. Details about the parade were unknown, apart from the place, Rheims, so it was necessary to train the guard for any order of parade, which sounds rather simple, but we had to remember that the guard was composed of only nine-week-old soldiers, just returned from pass-off leave.

. . . . Full of drive and goodwill

Monday morning arrived and there they were, 118 men from which to choose the guard, and by 4 p.m. in the afternoon they were picked out, tailored in No. 2 dress, sized into two divisions and full of drive and good will. Tuesday came and still more drill and details for the guard and the news that the Guard

(*Continued overleaf*)

Commander, the Conducting Warrant Officer and the Band Sergeant-Major were to leave for Rheims next day, by air, to attend a conference Thursday morning. More hurried arrangements to hand over the training and transportation of the party to the Guard Lieutenant and the remainder of the N.C.O.s, still without any firm details about what was expected of us in France, apart from the timings of trains, ships and vehicles taking the main party. A kit inspection on Tuesday evening for the Guard, and hurried packing of our own kit for the journey the following day. A last look on Wednesday morning at the state of the Guards' training and then it was time for the advance party to be away, hoping that another forty-eight hours would be enough to produce the standard of the drill. The comforting thought was the exuberance shown by everyone on the Guard of Honour, and obvious fact that every soldier was putting his all into making the guard.

The General knew what he wanted

At the conference in Paris we found the G.S.O.1 from the Military Attachés office in Paris, Lieutenant-Colonel (retired) Landon, R.A., about forty French officers and Colonel Laurent of the Belgian Army— of whom more anon. A small man entered the room and it soon became obvious to us that here was the General in charge of the parade. We would have given a lot to understand his comments, for clearly he knew exactly what he wanted and how he was going to get it. Two hours later, with the knowledge that the parade was going to be easy with no complicated movements to perform, and with a set of plans for the parade with everything noted in crystal clear notation, we were invited to have lunch with the General and his staff at the Officers' Club. A very generous gesture on his part, and a wonderful meal. Underneath the military exterior it soon became clear that here was a soldier who understood soldiers no matter to what country they belonged; should you read this General Pin, thank you for your hospitality.

The French Air Force take us over

In the afternoon we moved our belongings to what was going to be our camp for the next few days, Base Aerienne 112. The French Air Force were to be our hosts. Greetings over, the Base Commander gave over a staff car for our use, and a 35-seater bus for the use of the Guard on their arrival and then we were directed to the Administration Company H.Q. who were going to be the real hosts. Meeting for the first time a French Sergeant-Major Trotin, immediately nicknamed 'Smiler'—he had a grin from ear to ear and though he couldn't speak a word of English, we soon got down to the business of sorting out barracks, armouries and the dining hall for the Guard of Honour and the dozens of other small details connected with settling in a hundred and fifty men. During the rest of the day and those following, we looked at the parade ground, the main street in Rheims, sorted out the facts about a band concert and then made contact with our French Liaison Officer who helped enormously with the technical details, with which our limited French could not cope, but it soon became apparent that we could carry on a good conversation with the residents, getting most of the necessaries of life, including 'Trois biers, s'il vous plait.'

Vin extraordinaire

At the Base, the 'sous-officers' Mess (a mess for all ranks from W.O.Is to Corporals) had been arranged for our messing, a large well-equipped cookhouse with four rooms seating nearly two hundred. The French N.C.O.s appeared to pay for all their meals on the lines of our casual meals system, though how this actually functioned we never really found out. The meals were good. Fruit juice and wine in large quantities were available at each meal, in the order of "Vin Horrible" for the O.R.s, "Vin Ordinaire" for the N.C.O.s and "Vin Superior" for the Officers' Mess—but it was all very much of a change and we enjoyed every minute of each meal. The one thing concerning meals which made us feel uneasy, was how the Guard of Honour would react to the wine and French food, when they arrived—but there was no need to worry, after the first curiosity they all became firm wine drinkers. As a special thought for the British soldiers the French cooks laid on a British breakfast—bacon and eggs and, of course, tea—though our preference was the French breakfast of 'croissants' and coffee but everyone enjoyed the food, especially the coffee after a night of entertainment.

Fine reception by French soldiers and civilians

Well then, all was ready for the arrival of the main body on Saturday evening, in coaches from Dunkerque. Two of us went to meet the coaches and guide them in—but a torrential rainstorm opened up—a very wet welcome after ten hours travelling, however all had arrived safely and it wasn't long before we were all sorted out. Then off to town about 9 p.m. for an evening out and about ten minutes after arrival, groups of British and French soldiers and civilians were together over glasses of beer, the barrier of language meaning nothing. The French soldiers could not have been more generous, giving us cigarettes and many other things, in fact later in barracks they would not even allow our men to clean up their rooms, or make their beds down—a wonderful reception, making the journey and preparation more than worth while.

The Great Day at last

Sunday and the day of the parade had arrived and with it *rain*. It rained all morning, cutting down the time for a final practice to just thirty minutes after lunch, during which the parade was explained in detail and minor modifications to the set piece guard of honour were explained, in order to fit the guard into the available space in the road.

Then into transport and into Rheims to join up for the march on parade. Once again down came the rain but luck was with us, and it only proved to be a heavy shower, stopping as we arrived at the barracks in Rheims.

Having formed up behind the Royal Signals Staff Band it was only a few minutes before the March On parade to some rousing marches and applause from the crowds. The March On took just fifteen minutes and then into our position on the right of the Belgian Guard of Honour and on the left of the French Army contingents. Approximately two thousand troops were on parade, along a frontage of about eight hundred yards, with spectators along the entire frontage on the pavement and on balconies. We had now about an hour and a quarter to wait for the President to arrive. The strongest security precautions were in force, with hundreds of security police and plain clothes men in evidence, with helicopters overhead, but everyone appeared to be in good spirits.

At the Present for 15 minutes

About 5 p.m. General Pin inspected the parade from a staff car and then another wait until 5.20 p.m. when the President of France arrived. With the whole parade presenting arms for the Belgian, French and British National Anthems and for the inspection. Just as President de Gaulle arrived a thunderstorm broke and rain poured down but all were steady as rocks feeling immensely proud at that moment to be representing Great Britain and the British Army before the French President, who certainly looked an imposing figure in his plain uniform as he passed on his armoured car taking the salute. The parade remained at the 'present' for about 15 minutes, and then we reformed into three ranks ready to march past. Never before had we heard such gasps of admiration from the people watching our arms drill and movements. Everyone in the guard was perfect and our drill constantly drew applause from the large crowds. **We didn't have long to wait before we started to move off for the march past, behind the Belgian guard and band. At the appropriate moment the Corps band started "It's a long way to Tipperary" and the whole crowd clapped and loved it. One could see old soldiers in the crowd doff their hats and shed a tear as we marched by, quite a moving sight, making us all proud of the Queen's uniform and the high standards set by the British Army. Heads were held erect and arms went higher with just an extra slice of swank.**

On reaching our embussing point, we were driven to the air base where just for the hell of it, we gave ourselves three cheers, everyone was in the highest spirits, forgetting the fact that we had been on parade for nearly thre hours and were saturated.

A night out on the town

Arms to the armoury, a quick change and a meal then back to town to support the band who were giving a concert at 9 p.m. The Band had never played better and had the large crowd of onlookers eating out of their hands. The French and Belgian Army had expressed their admiration for the way they had played on parade, but the concert was an even greater

success and no one wanted it to finish. However, all good things come to an end, and at 10.30 p.m. they retired for a well-earned glass of the best. Everyone was in good humour and parties were going on all over the town until the wee hours.

Back to Catterick with the 'entente cordiale' stronger than ever

After splendid hospitality we were all ready to leave Rheims on time—somehow everyone made it, no one lost or unaccounted for, though to look at some, one would have thought they had just joined up; uniforms stripped of "collar-dogs" and badges of ranks, by the French for souvenirs—but it was all in a good cause—and if nothing else, repaid them in some small measure for the kindness to us. A farewell to the Colonel of the air base, to "Smiler" (still beaming) and to all our new found friends and then it was off in the coaches for the boat and U.K., going through the famous villages of First World War fame.

After an uneventful journey made more comfortable by the wonderful supervision and organisation of Lieutenant Atkinson, R.E., "Q" Movement Eastern Command; his efficiency could not be rivalled anywhere, and should he read this, the thanks of one hundred and fifty Royal Signals personnel go to him for all he did for us. Back to Catterick, full of our own importance, with everyone enquiring "what had it been like" and "did you have a good time?" Well, what could one say, just 'Yes,' any other words would be superfluous—and anyway the welcome we received beggared description.

On reflection, should anyone state that Entente Cordiale is less cordiale, then we can all say this to be completely wrong, this visit proved that beyond measure, and though we went to mount a specific military parade, the visit did more good in France for the British Army in general, and the Royal Signals in particular than anything else in the last ten years.

Personal Column

London Gazette

REGULAR ARMY

Brigadier A. L. Atkinson, O.B.E., B.SC., A.M.I.E.E., retires 28th September. 1964.
Major (T.O.T.) T. Bennett to be Lt.-Col. (T.O.T.), 8th June.
Capt. M. A. T. Hartnett to be Major, 1st October.
Major (T.O.T.) T. F. Jenkinson retires 1st October.
Lt.-Col. J. H. Collins retires 11th September, and is granted hon. rank of Colonel.

SHORT SERVICE COMMISSIONS

Capt. (Q.M.) J. F. McQuade to be Major (Q.M.), 3rd October.
W.O.I W. G. Davis to be Lt. (T.O.T.), 4th August.
The undermentioned O/Cadets from Mons Officer Cadet School to be 2/Lts., 18th July, 1964:

P. A. Crane — L. R. J. Tilson
C. J. Witt — R. L. Windmill

TERRITORIAL ARMY

Lt.-Col. A. M. Booker, T.D., is granted the acting rank of Colonel, 1st April.

Births

EDGE.—To W.O.II (O.R.Q.M.S.) F. P. J. Edge and Mrs. Edge, on 24th September at West Middlesex Hospital, a daughter, Sussanah.

(All of 7th Regiment)

CLEATOR.—To Corporal and Mrs. Cleator (R.E.M.E.), a daughter, Yvonne, at B.M.H. Rinteln on 12th August.

SMITH.—To Lance-Corporal and Mrs. Smith, a daughter, Julie, born at B.M.H. Rinteln on 24th August.

CLARK.—To Lance-Corporal and Mrs. Clark, a son, Mark Austin, born at B.M.H. Rinteln on 3rd September.

Marriages

MORRIS—LARSEN.—Lance-Corporal Morris, of 7th Regiment, to Sonja Larsen, of St. Peter's Church, Naestved, Denmark, on 22nd August, 1964.

WARD—MAIRS.—Lance-Corporal Ward, of 7th Regiment, to Miss Wendy Mairs, at Kinver Methodist Church, on 15th August, 1964.

Deaths

FLAVELL.—Major E. C. L. Flavell, T.D., on the 13th September. Major Flavell had served in the Corps from 1942 and was a Life Member of the Association.

NICHOLLS.—Captain T. Nicholls, T.D., late of 325 Squadron T.A., on 27th September. Captain Nicholls transferred to the Corps from R.A. in 1961.

NIBBS.—Staff Sergeant A. C. Nibbs on 12th July. He was a member of the Chester Branch of the Association and had served in the Corps for 22 years.

BARBY.—Sergeant A. Barby, aged 75, on 26th September. Mr. W. A. Cotterall ("Joe") writes: "Sergeant Barby served with R.E. Signals during World War I with Major-General L. G. Phillips. He was an all-round sportsman and represented Royal Signals at athletics, soccer and cricket. He was outstanding at soccer at right-back and was in the Signals team when they won the Sussex Senior Cup in 1924 and also the League Championship. Sergeant Barby retired in 1926 and I have kept in touch with him since. He was always at the Uckfield Branch Reunion."

LYALL.—Major R. Lyall on 25th September, 1964, at the age of 48. He was the brother of Major David Lyall now retired.

Movements—Warrant Officers and Senior N.C.O.s

November, 1964

W.O.I	J. F. Chater	To H.Q. 3 Div. & Signal Regt.
W.O.I (F. of S.)	E. A. R. Harrington	14th Regiment, 1 Squadron
W.O.I. (F. of S.)	V. C. Brown	28th Regiment
W.O.II	A. F. Cottee	8th Regiment
W.O.II	A. Bramhall	7th Regiment
W.O.II	R. G. Coaker	17th Gurkha Signal Regiment
W.O.II	D. G. Boughton	612 Troop
W.O.II	W. A. Barnes	21st Regiment
W.O.II	S. Richings	209 Squadron
W.O.II	D. F. Leighton	234 Squadron
W.O.II	J. H. Cotton	228 Squadron
W.O.II	P. B. R. Kent	1 Squadron, Kenya Army
W.O.II	E. G. Longstaff	4th Regiment
W.O.II	P. F. Metcalfe	10th Regiment
W.O.II	R. Scrafton	Junior Leaders Regt., R. Signals
W.O.II	D. Greenbrook	263 Squadron
W.O.II	G. H. Waters	R.A.C. Centre
W.O.II	M. G. A. Edwards	11th Regiment
W.O.II	J. Smith	Junior Leaders Regt., R. Signals
Staff Sergeant	C. A. Berry	School of Signals
Staff Sergeant	J. Boiling	School of Signals
Staff Sergeant	P. J. Tomkins	School of Signals
Staff Sergeant	R. J. L. Harries	School of Signals
Staff Sergeant	F. H. Pemberton	H.Q. Land Forces, Hong Kong
Staff Sergeant	J. F. Chiverton	School of Signals
Staff Sergeant	D. V. Boddington	Army of the Federation of Malaysia
Staff Sergeant	R. N. L. Cassling	H.Q. 3 Div. & Sig. Regt.
Staff Sergeant	W. J. Leech	School of Signals
Staff Sergeant	A. R. Souter	Army Apprentices School
Staff Sergeant	R. N. Forster	School of Signals
Staff Sergeant	W. Motion	224 Squadron
Staff Sergeant	J. R. White	18th Regiment
Staff Sergeant	A. A. Piper	222 Squadron
Staff Sergeant	G. Penman	School of Signals
Sergeant	T. McEwan	H.Q. Training Brigade
Sergeant	J. Williams	28th Regiment
Sergeant	G. H. Jeannette	7th Regiment
Sergeant	W. H. Reeves	16th Regiment
Sergeant	D. Livermore	31st Regiment
Acting/Sergeant	R. S. Groves	252 Squadron
Sergeant	E. J. Kingman	222 Souadron
Sergeant	T. J. Stevens	8th Regiment
Sergeant	A. J. Stirling	7th Regiment
Sergeant	E. R. R. Smith	228 Squadron
Acting/Sergeant	W. R. D. Couperth-Waite	4th Regiment
Sergeant	K. H. Dewis	School of Signals
Sergeant	T. S. Jephcote	School of Signals
Sergeant	B. J. P. Travers	School of Signals
Sergeant	M. P. Enright	School of Signals
Sergeant	P. B. Cairns	211 Squadron
Sergeant	D. E. P. Cox	School of Signals
Sergeant	G. P. T. Raku	School of Signals
Sergeant	B. A. Boon	Junior Leaders Regt., R. Signals
Sergeant	F. Wilkinson	School of Signals
Sergeant	A. E. Cooley	School of Signals
Sergeant	F. T. Toole	11th Regiment, 2 Sqd. Attached Sig.Trg Wing (R. Marines)
Sergeant	C. A. J. Ridley	263 Squadron
Sergeant	W. G. Ayres	5 Dragoon Guards, Sig. Tp
Sergeant	J. A. Dunnett	RMA, Sandhurst
Sergeant	D. L. Bassett	School of Signals
Sergeant	E. P. Mahoney	H.Q. 3 Div. & Sig. Regt.
Sergeant	R. Harris	22nd Regiment
Sergeant	D. J. Thornton	School of Signals
Sergeant	D. G. M. Kirkham	School of Signals
Sergeant	N. J. Crowder	School of Signals
Sergeant	D. Hay	School of Signals
Sergeant	M. H. Webb	School of Signals
Sergeant	D. Brown	School of Signals
Sergeant	C. Baxter	School of Signals
Sergeant	J. B. T. Hill	School of Signals
Sergeant	J. D. G. Brown	School of Signals
Sergeant	W. Sawyer	School of Signals
Sergeant	D. G. Hunt	School of Signals
Sergeant	J. R. Moxton	Northern Rhodesia
Sergeant	B. Greatorex	14th Regiment, 1 Squadron
Sergeant	M. L. Lloyd	9/12 Lancers Sig. Troop
Sergeant	D. J. Antcliff	35 Corps Eng. Regt Sig. Troop

Promotions

September, 1964

REGIMENTAL DUTY ROSTER

				New Sen. No.	*Old Sen. No.*	
To W.O.I	14691765	A/W.O.I	Bingham, J. S.	510	480	
	14498268	A/W.O.I	Reed, A. A. J.	520	440	
	2393127	A/W.O.I	Crossley, N.	530	180	
	2325815	A/W.O.I	West, K. S.	540	230	
To W.O.II	2549558	S Sgt.	Shaw, R. C.	3020	1480	
	22274297	S Sgt.	Cleaver, B.	3030	1660	
	22296816	A/W.O.II	Harrison, P. L.	3040	1700	
	22356721	S Sgt.	Kingham, A. E.	3050	1730	
	22265073	S Sgt.	Turner, B.	3060	1890	
To S Sgt.	22080088	Sgt.	Forster, R. N.	3200	5620	(Op)
	22265997	Sgt.	Simmonds, P. F.	3210	1080	(Fd)
	22559051	A/S Sgt.	Martin, T. M.	3220	1090	(Fd)
	22539398	Sgt.	Moran, T.	3230	1160	(Fd)
	22515180	Sgt.	Sanderson, R. M.	3240	1100	(Fd)
	23030399	Sgt.	Penman, G.	3250	5850	(Op)

YEOMAN OF SIGNALS ROSTER

To W.O.	2548937	A/W.O.I	Smithard, R. E.	250	250

TECHNICAL ROSTER

To Sgt.	23682653	Cpl.	Crowe, L. R.	4740	8170
	23220372	Cpl.	Stanley, J. E.	4556	5260
	23487201	Cpl.	Pratt, P. A. J.	4700	8793
	23251408	Cpl.	Mellor, B. D.	4760	8389

FIELD ROSTER

To Sgt.	22338152	Cpl.	Taylor, G. M.	4040	1920

INSERTIONS

REGIMENTAL DUTY ROSTER

To W.O.II	22515168	W.O.II	Acott, R.	2084	1240 (Sig. Cen. Spvr.)
To S Sgt.	2549522	S Sgt.	Jones, F. W.	1384	1010 (Sig. Cen. Spvr.)

OPERATING ROSTER

To Sgt.	21005163	Sgt.	Robertson, R. A.	2530	1050 (Reg. Duty)

DELETIONS

REGIMENTAL DUTY ROSTER

W.O.II	40	90				
S Sgt.	190	220	430	720	1310	2580

FOREMAN OF SIGNALS ROSTER

W.O.II	800

SIGNAL CENTRE SUPERVISOR ROSTER

W.O.I	380
S Sgt.	820

OPERATING ROSTER

Sgt.	4560	6910	7450	7654	9770	10830
	10370					

FIELD ROSTER

Sgt.	1790	3580

MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENT

REGIMENTAL DUTY ROSTER

To W.O.II	(For W.O.I read to W.O.II)				
	21033799	S Sgt.	Kendrick, L.	2990	1880
	22289336	S Sgt.	Mason, K.	3000	1690
	22515566	S Sgt.	Markham, J. R.	3010	1650

Due to a typing error the designation 'To W.O.I' under Regimental Roster in the last issue of THE WIRE should have read 'To W.O.II.'

After 48 years Unbroken Service

Retirement of Lieutenant-Colonel (Retd.) E. H. Spindler



Lieutenant-Colonel E. H. Spindler

Lieutenant - Colonel (Retd.) Edgar Howard Spindler, late Royal Signals, who has lived at Broadway West, York, for the past thirteen years, retired for the second time on 10th October, after almost 48 years' unbroken service with the Army.

Colonel Spindler, who belies his 65 years, spent the greater part of his service in the Royal Corps of Signals. He retired from the Regular Army in 1953, but immediately took up a technical appointment on the Chief Signal Officer's Staff at Headquarters, Northern Command, York, where he has served ever since.

Joining the Infantry in 1917, he saw active service in France and Belgium and later served as a Signalman at Cologne for eight years in the post-war Army of Occupation. Between the wars he served for many years in the old India, and was stationed for a time on the frontier. He was eventually commissioned as an Inspector of Permanent Communications in 1938.

During the Second World War, Colonel Spindler played an active part in the restoration of vital operational Artillery communications along the South Coast of England, and from 1948-51, saw further active service in Malaya.

COLONEL SIR WILFRID MARTINEAU, Kt., M.C.
Lord Mayor of Birmingham, 1940-41

With the recent death of Colonel Sir Wilfrid Martineau, the Corps has lost a distinguished representative in Birmingham.

Sir Wilfrid born in 1889 and educated at Rugby and Trinity Hall, Cambridge, joined the 6th Bn. Royal Warwickshire Regiment in 1908, serving with them in the Great War during which he won the M.C. In 1921 he transferred to Royal Signals and commanded the various companies of 48th (South Midland) Divisional Signals in turn. He rose to command the Regiment from 1929-1933 when he was promoted to Brevet Colonel and assumed the oppointment of D.C.S.O. Southern Command. He retired as a Colonel in 1937.

He was a solicitor by profession. He was deeply interested in education and served on many bodies connected therewith, becoming Pro Chancellor of Birmingham University. He was a governor of many schools.

Sir Wilfrid served the community for many years as a councillor, alderman and finally Lord Mayor of Birmingham from 1940-41. He was knighted in 1946.

Forthcoming Events

Royal Signals Officers' Annual Reunion

Royal Signals Officers' Annual Reunion will be held on Friday, 27th November, 1964, in the Drill Hall of 47 Regiment (Middlesex Yeomanry) T.A., Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea, S.W.3 (7—11 p.m.).

Major T. Jenkinson

Major T. Jenkinson, Technical Officer, Telecommuncations, in command of 629 Troop (Works) has retired after 35 years' service with the Corps. He enlisted as a boy, and during the war, as a Staff Sergeant, he was captured in the desert and was a prisoner-of-war in Italy and Germany for three years. Later he served in India, Cyprus and Singapore. He was commissioned in 1950. His 16 year-old son, Thomas, is a Junior Leader at Denbury.

For Sale

New bungalow secluded in private wood, five rooms, central heated. Two miles from Shaftesbury. £6,500, or offer. Apply Colonel E. V. F. MacSwiney, Coombe Hollow, Shaftesbury (2700).

Corps History

Has anyone a copy of "Notes on the History of Signals," by Brigadier General E. G. Godfrey Faucett, C.B., C.M.G., published in 1923, at the price of 6d. The Royal Signals Institution would be very pleased to have a copy of this publication.

Pathfinders Adopted by the Corps: Studies by the Camera



[*Pictures courtesy Windsor Express.*

1. Brigadier C. H. Howarth, O.B.E., T.D., examining the Trophy of a Golden Eagle presented by the Boys Club to the Corps. Others in the photo. Left to right : Mr. and Mrs. K. T. Ruff (Mr. Ruff is President of the Pathfinders Club) and Staff Sergeant G. Pickard. 2. "BLESS MY SOUL, I NEVER GOT THAT ONE" says Colour Sergeant G. King, D.C.M., Chelsea Hospital to Devereux Emery a young Pathfinder, who proudly displays his Club's emblem. 3. Young "Purdyfoot," the Club's Mascot, shows off with a degree of pride the Trophy of a Golden Eagle presented to the Corps, to members of 216 Squadron. 4. WILL HE MAKE IT ? . . . One of the young Pathfinders who took part in the gymnastic displays after the adoption of the Club, shows something of the high standard of fitness expected and attained by the members

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THAT virile and enthusiastic Youth Club, the Pathfinders, of Slough, Bucks, have now been officially adopted by the Royal Corps of Signals—the first Youth Club of its kind to be adopted in such a way.

Brigadier C. H. Howarth, O.B.E., T.D., was present at the adoption ceremony held recently and with him were many representatives from the civic life of the Borough including the Mayor (Alderman Mrs. W. Watson). Royal Signal Association was represented by Mr. and Mrs. I. Ient (Chairman, Aldershot Branch) and Mr. V. Goodman (Secretary). Two in-pensioners from the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, were also among those invited.

Brigadier Howarth arrived at the Slough Community Centre where the ceremony took place to a fanfare of recorded trumpets and a Guard of Honour formed by 216 Squadron (Parachute Group) which is the Squadron directly responsible for taking the Pathfinders under its wing.

Brigadier Howarth, who presented the Club with a certificate of adoption and a shield, said there were three reasons why the Corps was interested in the Pathfinders. The first was that a club of that nature, which was doing so much towards good citizenship, deserved the support of H.M. Forces. Secondly there was an old military maxim, "Always reinforce success" —and there was no doubt the Pathfinders were a great success; and for the third reason the Brigadier made no apology—The Royal Corps of Signals was always interested in good, young men to join them.

Later in the evening the boys of the club gave a gymnastic display and bouquets were presented to the Mayor and to Mrs. Howarth, the latter by Michelle Pickard, daughter of Staff Sergeant Pickard, Royal Signals, Slough's senior recruiting N.C.O., who organised the evening and was largely responsible for the adoption of the Club.

Bullets in the Radfan!

(Old N.W. Frontier of India warriors will find something familiar here)

Captain A. M. Willcox, of the Royal Signals Detachment of the 3rd Battalion Group, the Parachute Regiment, in the course of a report writes:

The Radfan was obviously an ideal opportunity for the Battalion to mount a Battalion Group operation, and it was with this in mind that the Commanding Officer, I.O., and Captain Willcox, flew to Aden on 8th May.

On 9th May the recce party flew to Thumier to visit Force Headquarters, and then, by Scout, into the mountains to see "B" Company. Corporal Earl and Air Request link having left the C11 trailer in Aden had been acting as riflemen with the A.C.T.

Force communications were, at this time, being run by 254 Squadron. A D11 and a C11 were used on two rear links back to Middle East Command Headquarters in Aden. The Force command net was V.H.F. with an H.F. back-up (45 Commando were equipped with the BCC HF156, the only manpack H.F. set available).

On return to Aden we met the leading elements of H.Q. 39 Infantry Brigade, including Major Dacres Beadon, the signal squadron commander. Some very close signals liaising was possible as both present and future Force communicators were "ex 216"!

On 13th May the Battalion began to arrive and a tented transit camp was set up 10 miles from Aden. At this stage, "B" Company was withdrawn to take up duty at R.A.F. Muharraq (Bahrain), "D" Company remaining at Jebel Ali to train. Corporal Levinson, Lance-Corporal Kennington and Signalmen Maddison and Groves came down with the rear link to Aden and were joined by Corporal Earl and Signalmen Stallard, Wright and Hutchins, after they had had a well earned rest at 45 Commando camp in Little Aden.

The Battalion Group moved up to Thumier and beyond to the Wadi Rabwa, on 15th May. As rear link we had an F.F.R. landrover equipped with a C42 (borrowed from 16/5L) and a C11. In the Wadi Rabwa the Battalion Group was held in reserve for two days—two days spent in patrolling, cliff-scaling and fitness training.

On 17th May the advance began and Tac H.Q. and two Companies moved through the Rabwa Pass and onto the rocky plain beyond. It was obvious, then, that the transport had gone as far forward as was possible. Corporal Earl and Signalmen Stallard and Groves returned to Thumier with the rear link landrover. The "walking" rear link, now an A41 station, was shared between Captain Willcox, Corporal Levinson, Lance-Corporal Kennington and Signalman Maddison.

The Battalion Group advanced rapidly and at night. As much ammunition, water and rations as could be carried on G.S. manpack carriers was carried. Re-supply was by Belvedere, Wessex and Scout helicopters. Although rear link communicating was not always possible on the move, no difficulties were experienced when stationary and using a remoted aerial. There was now a C42 re-broadcast station operating on "Cap Badge."

Under Fire

On the night of 22nd May, Battalion H Q. came under fire; it was obviously from a long range and the bullets, by their odd sound, must have been home-made. It still seemed an exercise, but a little more exciting and realistic than most!

We were now approaching the Wadi Dhubsan—a long, deep, fertile Wadi, and the H.Q. of the dissident activity in the area.

On the afternoon of 23rd May, the leading Company advanced against stubborn enemy resistance, and by last night was secure on "Arnolds Spur." First light 24th May revealed an impressive view over the whole Radfan area—with the Wadi Dhubsan in the foreground, 2,000 feet below.

Corporal Earl and Signalman Stallard had now joined us from Thumier. We were now working two rear links—from a Battalion H.Q. almost on the cliff edge.

By first light 26th May 3 Para Group had descended the 2,000 feet into the Wadi Dhubsan. Battalion H.Q., in order to retain rear communications, stayed at the top, a small Tac H.Q. made the descent to the Wadi bottom. A sharp engagement followed in the Wadi; the Colonel was shot down in a Scout, the I.O. slightly injured. From the cliff top Captain Riddell (N.G.S.F.O. party) was controlling a succession of Hunter strikes—the aircraft often below him. The press, realising this was a grandstand view of a genuine battle, had hopped on helicopters from Thumier and were now stuck to the cliff top like flies. A C42 re-broadcast station was brought forward by Lieutenant Nunan of 39 Brigade Squadron, the Wessex helicopters landing on a rather crowded cliff top. Casualties were now being brought out of the Wadi by Scouts —making the difficult spiral descent to the Wadi bottom. The R.S.M. was one of the first, with painful knee and thigh wounds.

The Rebels Withdraw

At 14.00 hours the rebels withdrew and the Wadi Dhubsan was in our hands. We had lost one killed and 10 injured, killing six of the enemy and wounding an unknown number. A peaceful night was spent in the lush, green valley; it rained hard for much of the night. The wounded Scout, repaired by A.A.C. mechanics from Thumier, flew out at first light on 27th.

The Battalion marched out to Jebel Hagla the same morning, and were ferried back to Thumier by Fleet Air Arm Wessex helicopters.

It had been possible, whilst in the Wadi, to communicate direct with Brigade H.Q., a distance of some 15 miles, incorporating two re-broadcast stations. (Captain Willcox took an A41 down as soon as the re-broadcast station on the cliff was operating).

In conclusion. All the attached Royal Signals personnel, less Sergeant Stevens, served in the Radfan during the operations. Some were fired upon, some fired back; *all*, no doubt, will tell wild stories on return to Farnborough. The A.C.T. and Air Request link claim one Radfani shot during an earlier "B" Company battle. Gunner Andrews, the batman, appears to voice the strongest claim, although we maintain this is merely Corps pride!

Royal Signals Colours Ties

Royal Signals representative Colours Ties may now be purchased by all who have been awarded their Corps Colours in the past. They consist of the Corps Colours in diagonal stripes, sky blue ¾in. wide, dark green ¾in. wide, and dark blue ¼in. wide. Two patterns are available as follows:—

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Individuals eligible to wear this tie should write, stating date and particulars of their award of Corps Colours and enclosing a remittance for 22/- or 25/- as appropriate, to Major F. T. C. Williams, Royal Signals, Secretary Royal Signals Games Club, H.Q. Training Brigade, Catterick Camp, Yorkshire. (Cheques should be made payable to "The Royal Signals Games Club.")

Corps Sergeant is Army's Top Motor Cyclist

Sergeant Peter Lasota, an instructor at the Army M.T. School, won the 20 mile Army Motor Cycle cross country event by five clear points to gain the above distinction.

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The 13th Regiment try Norway for Adventure Training and run into real Adventure

Preparations

It was probably with some qualms that eight men of 13th Regiment, with energy to burn, stirred themselves one day and began preparations for a trip to the wilds of Southern Norway. All had heard of the Outward Bound School there, and one or two had attended courses at the school, so there was a general awareness that they were faced with ten days of somewhat rough living.

This trip was to be different from the normal courses, as the Regiment was to take advantage of the excellent facility, offered by the school, of using the training areas in the wild country of Norway for an expedition organised by the unit itself. Lieutenant Wright, an "Outward Bounder" of some experience, who was to lead the party, was to travel in advance to find out the "lie of the land," plan the expedition, and also take in some advanced canoe training. The rest of the party, seven souls all told, remained at the mercy of Major Painter, our Second-in-Command, and R.S.M. Palmer, and prepared themselves for the fray by compiling their kit lists, which included items varying from three yards of string to complete folding canoes. R.S.M. Palmer eyed this unprofessional preparation with a professional eye, and had a few grey hairs and an evil temper before he was satisfied all was ready.

A Choppy Crossing and an Unusual Bridge

At last the party set off. On the journey, with Sergeants Robertson and Haines, went Corporal McGrath and Signalmen Cunningham, Hardy, Thomas and Holwell. Night stops were made at Kiel, and Hirtsals, in Denmark, and it was at the latter town that a reportedly convivial evening resulted in sore heads and haggard looks when the party was met by Lieutenant Wright early next morning on the M.S. *Skagen,* which was to ship them across to Norway. Once equipment and personnel were on board, the ship set sail for Kristiansand. It was a choppy crossing, but our party claim that they were too busy admiring local talent and enjoying the tang of the sea air, to be seasick.



Signalman Hardy—always a late riser

Arriving at 14.30 hours, the party was whisked over bumpy roads to the Outward Bound School in one of the vivid blue 3-tonners belonging to that establishment.

Next day the party left for their start point at the southernmost tip of the Byglands Fjord. It was a rather hair-raising journey by truck, and included the crossing of a very dilapidated railway bridge—long since devoid of rails and, indeed, of most of its structure. All made ready to jump for their lives! The party made camp for the first night on a small peninsular facing north up the fjord, and began assembling the canoes. Two components of the canoes had been damaged in transit and were repaired with string binding and adhesive tape. Preparation of the first meal then took priority, and an English-type "Brews Army" was made.

Late in the night our party found that they were not the only hungry ones. Mosquitoes were in profusion, and most of the night was pretty hectic—one wonders whether this was a Norwegian Government plot to discourage tourists!

Next morning started with an early rise for tinned pilchards, oatmeal blocks and a cold wash and shave, and continued with practice of canoe drills and techniques, and a general sort-out to "ship-shape" order for the expedition. Everyone was baptised to the cold waters of the fjord—after this there was not much enthusiasm for swimming!

English Morris Dancers in the Norwegian Backwoods

At noon the party set off in canoes. The weather was pleasant, with some cross winds to add spice to the journey. By evening they had reached the first camp, and while Sergeant Robertson supervised shelter construction, Lieutenant Wright and Sergeant Haines paddled on to the village of Hornes for bread and information of the country to be crossed next day. The evening proved to be quite hilarious, when the two Sergeants taught the rest of the party a Morris Dance; any roving Norwegian must surely have thought his country had been invaded by very queer people—capering in ever-decreasing circles, waving handkerchiefs, around a blazing fire!

The next day included two portages, one of which, by pre-arrangement, was done with the aid of a 3-tonner, laid on by the Outward Bound Centre. The next camp was set beyond the final portage, and it was here that the budding fishermen of the party provided fish for breakfast. However, this proved, in the final analysis, to be sardines from a can!

Fairly stiff going and very varied waters greeted the party during the next day, and they noticed a drastic change of scenery—high mountain stretches and peaks. Camp on this night was made on an island abounding with driftwood and good shelter. Some Norwegian children visited the camp in a fishing boat—they seemed partial to the S.A.S. pack nuts and raisins—and were very popular until after they had gone, when it was discovered that not only were some cigarettes missing, but clouds of smoke were rising from a nearby island!

Suddenly a real live adventure turns up

The next day saw completed the first stretch of canoeing, which was to total, in all, about 140 kilometres. Plans were unexpectedly interrupted by the arrival of Sergeant "Doc" Bowden from the Outward Bound Centre. He drove up to the camp site in a 3-tonner, just as the canoes had been landed and unpacked, and explained that there was a requirement for mountain rescue.

It later transpired that the recovery of a dead body from a remote spot in the mountains was involved. The following Press release gives some idea of the activities of our party throughout this night, which followed immediately after a day of strenuous canoeing:

"BRITISH SOLDIERS RECOVER DEAD BODY"

"On Wednesday, 5th August, a group of British soldiers were involved in a real life adventure when they were asked by the Norwegian police to assist in the recovery of a Norwegian tourist from an inaccessible part of Sedesdal, some 20 km. from the road."

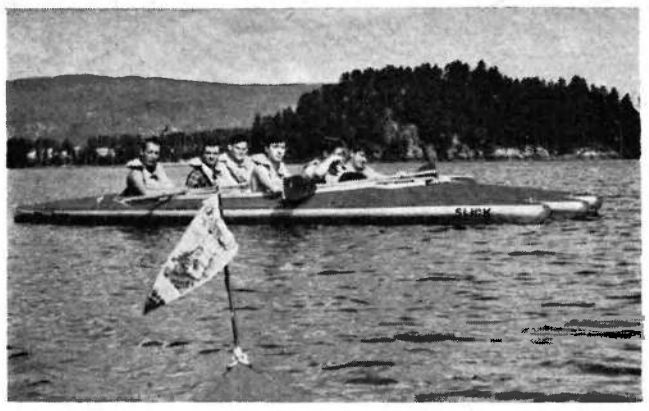
At 7 o'clock on the evening of the 5th, a British 3-tonner, containing instructors from the 1 (BR) Corps Outward Bound Centre and men from 13th Signal Regiment, was stopped at the village of Rysstad by a woman, who gave them to understand that they were required by the police for some rescue operation. The police confirmed this. There was a Norwegian, from Oslo, believed to be dead, at a tourist hut 20 km. east of the route 400, the other side of a 2,000ft. plateau. Needing a party of strong trekkers, skilled in the craft of mountain rescue, the police asked if the British Outward Boundsmen could help. Glad to be of service, they did not hesitate to meet the challenge.



Lieutenant Wright making up the log

In the driving rain, the party set out, a team of fourteen men — Sergeant Bowden, R.A.M.C. Mountain Rescue Instructor, Sergeant Stevenson, 22nd Regiment, R.A., and Lance-Corporal Morton, 14 Company, R.A.S.C., all from the Outward Bound Centre, Second-Lieutenant Wright and seven men from the 13th Signal Regiment, a Norwegian policeman, a mountain guide and a law student. For six hours they trekked inland, crossing

(*Continued on page 424*)



Rafting up for a breather

Left to right : Sergeant Haines, Sergeant Robertson, Corporal McGrath, Signalman Thomas, Signalman Hardy, Signalman Cunningham.

both land and water. Many obstacles were met and overcome: on one occasion 11 men had to carry a 12 foot motor launch 3 km. across mountainous country, there being no other means of crossing the next stretch of water: on another occasion members of the team had to row 15 km. against the heavy wind and undiminishing rain, in a small rowing boat. Up and over the plateau they reached their destination at two o'clock in the morning, there to collect the dead man, found with knife wounds in his head, the knife beside him.

Then began the arduous trek back, with the added burden of a 6ft. 2in., 17-stone man to carry through the pathless, desolate mountains, once more across the long lakes, and back to the road. Throughout this march, Second-Lieutenant Wright was a constant encouragement and driving force to his team of exhausted, but stout-hearted, men. During the last stages of the journey, initiative was displayed once more, when a horse and sledge was borrowed from a hill farmer to carry the body through the final stages to the road.

Exhausted, but content, the team took their leave and continued north, to where they proposed to start a four-day canoe expedition. A good job done."

In fact, "honour was satisfied," and the party were glad to return to their base camp and clean up. A planned trek was now abandoned, as time had been lost in recovering the dead Norwegian, and the party spent the next four days on their final canoeing expedition. Bad weather and very rough water in the fjords made this trip rather an ordeal—strong "seas" were running for most of the time—but our party enjoyed themselves and left Norway at the end of their 10-day expedition with many regrets.

The general opinion seems to be that the expedition was quite an event in their lives, and that Norway is definitely a "must" for a return visit.

Exercise Spoked Wheel

By Lieutenant G. W. Howard, Late of 22nd Regiment

The Plot Gets Under Way

WAY back in January a letter came round inviting all young officers in the Regiment to submit details of Adventure Training exercises. These were to be carried out in the month of August. I chuckled heartily, for by about this time I would be safely back in Catterick, but I decided to be on the safe side and to submit a scheme anyway.

The first problem was deciding what to do. In the end I decided to use the Regiment's Cycle Club bikes and do a cycle tour of Denmark. This done, an Esso Road Map of Denmark was obtained, a rough route marked out, and detailed planning settled down to. There was more to the planning than I had at first anticipated, but it was eventually finished and submitted. The idea is detailed below, taken from my original scheme plan:—

'A party of eighteen men will go from the Danish border at Krussa to Copenhagen via Kolding and Odense. The party will spend a day in Copenhagen and then go by ferry to Aarhus. From Aarhus the party will travel to Esbjerg, via Silkeborg and



AT NYBORG IN DENMARK

Left to right : Signalman Mackay, Lance Corporal Nicklin, Sergeant Stewart, Signalman Wilson, Signalman Williams, Lance Corporal Fortune, Corporal Leigh, Signalman Stokes

Herning, and then back down to the border. Fourteen men will ride daily. The other four will rest. These four will be responsible for the administration for that day. A grant was applied for and obtained. I decided to take ration money and buy food on the spot. Surplus food in the form of tea, sugar, potatoes, etc., was obtained from the ration stores.'

I told Sergeant Stewart, who had volunteered to come along, what kit was required for cooking and he sorted it out. Tents were available from the cycling club, so we used these.

In early March I had visited Denmark with the Regimental basketball team. Whilst in Aarhus I took the opportunity of visiting the Jutland Signal Regiment. They were very friendly, and we arranged to stay with them when we were in Aarhus and have a look at the life of our counterparts in the Danish Army. I also visited the shipping companies, and made tentative bookings for the trip from Copenhagen to Aarhus. The management of the firm we booked with were most friendly, and quoted us fares at less than half price. As the trip took shape my interest grew and I decided to try and carry it out before I left the Regiment. Then my posting was brought forward to June. By now I was determined to do the trip if possible. Firstly it looked like being good fun, and secondly, 'why should anyone reap the benefits of my hard work.' I wrote to the Colonel of my new Regiment, 8th Regiment, and asked for leave to do my Adventure Training. This leave was kindly granted. I asked for volunteers, and had no shortage. We also decided to take a R.E.M.E. Mechanic and a Technician from Maintenance Troop with us.

First day, and we are surrounded by Police and Guard Dogs

On the Monday we loaded the kit, and NAAFI supplies (beer). Yes, we took beer to Copenhagen although Carlsberg and Tuborg are brewed there. On my previous trip we found beer very expensive in the pubs. So we took a 'reasonable' supply of our own.

We were up at five the next morning, and away by seven. The men being distributed in the 1-ton G.S. which was to carry our stores in Denmark, the D11 radio vehicle which was for communications to base and the 3-ton vehicle. After a long ride of over 300 miles we arrived at the border at Krussa, near which we were to spend the night. We were met by the representative of the British Frontier Service. He showed us where to camp for the night, and enabled us to get through the border very easily the next morning. We awoke in the morning to find ourselves surrounded by German police with guard dogs. They didn't say a word, so after a while I went to find out what was going on. It transpired that they were frontier guards, who use the dogs for patrolling the border. We just happened to be camped where they met every morning to exercise their dogs. After a fairly hard first day's ride, we arrived at a camping place by the Lille Belt. The men were pestered by about eight little children, led by a cheeky little girl from London. Two of us got talking to a Danish family, and spent a most enjoyable evening drinking coffee and eating biscuits spread thickly with Danish butter.

Continued on page 425



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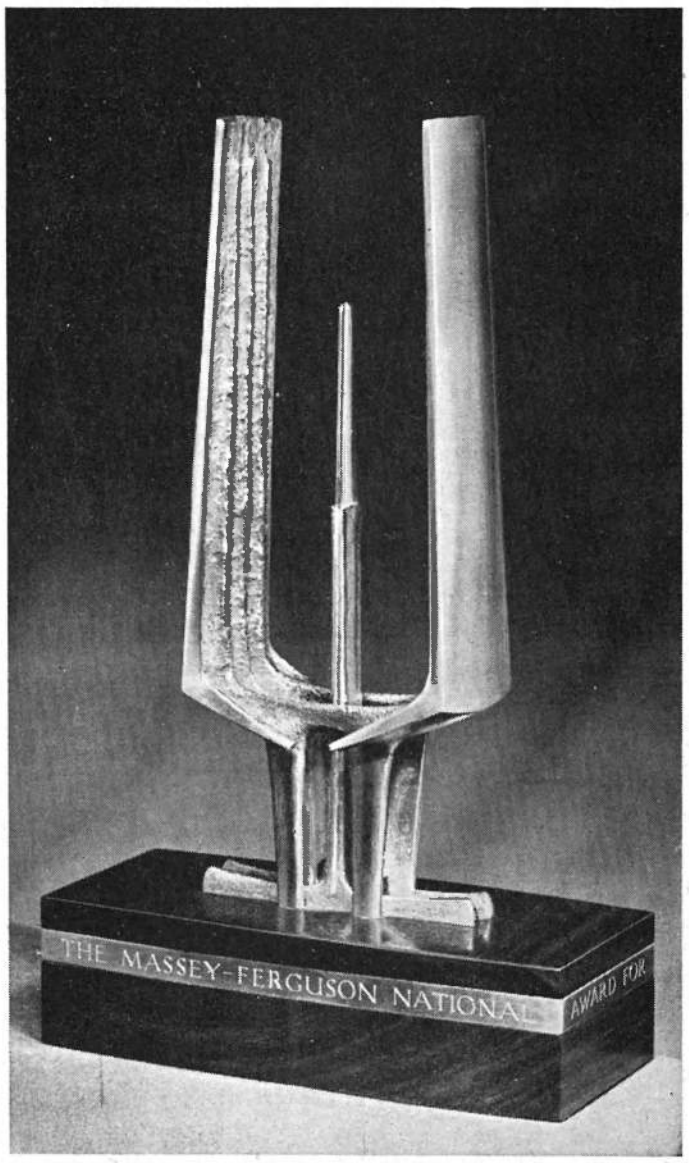
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Signalman Glazier Invades the Holy of Holies

We set off in the morning for Nyborg, hoping to take the ferry to Korsor, and spent the night there. We stayed for an hour in Odense, the birthplace of Hans Christian Anderson. On board the ferry, Signalman Glazier, in the way that soldiers have, wandered past a "No Entry" sign, obviously not understanding it, up on to the bridge. A man with lots of gold braid said strange words. Not understanding, Glazier said so. As soon as he realised that Glazier was English, the Captain said that he wasn't officially allowed on the bridge, but would he please stay. After a pleasant half-hour Glazier rejoined us, having taken a photo of the Captain at work on the bridge.

We 'visited' Korsor for the evening. Everyone enjoyed themselves; so much so, that only one person caught the return transport—myself!

Copenhagen Interlude

And so on to Copenhagen. After communicating with base, informing them that all was well, the administrative party set off. We soon passed the cyclists on the road. After a vain search for a camping site near the centre of Copenhagen, we finished up near Glostrup, about 10 km. outside. The owners of the site were most friendly. Once again the children gathered; one little Canadian girl should make a good footballer, she had two hours' tuition from Signalman Spry, our Regimental soccer captain.

Saturday was spent sightseeing. A certain pair visited the zoo in the afternoon, spending most of the time in the monkey house, where they were trapped by the rain. Came the evening, the lords vanished into the town, returning between midnight and about six in the morning. Lippstadt was contacted at nine, as usual, with no trouble. It is of interest to note that until someone lost our twin V adapter we worked a 16 twin V to Lippstadt, with excellent results.

We Meet the Danish Army

We said goodbye to the administrative party at about eleven. They were to go back to the border to collect petrol and meet us in Aarhus in the morning. After spending a very pleasant afternoon, we boarded the ferry for Halmstad and Aarhus. The boat proved to be most luxurious, and ourselves rather underdressed. We had a meal in the cafeteria and then stayed for the dancing. There was an excellent band and plenty of young ladies returning to Halmsted in Sweden. Because the boat touched Sweden, all goods on board, including the beer, were cheap. At Halmstad, most of the party went ashore—just to have been in Sweden.

We expected to be met at Aarhus by our administrative party, but they were conspicuous by their absence. We cycled to the barracks of the Jutland Signal Regiment. Here we were met by a couple of officers from their recruit company who were our hosts. Our meals for the next day were in the respective messes; they were rather different, but quite edible. During the day our eyes were opened. Danish soldiers had no hot water, and had to double everywhere for the first four months. Their lowest N.C.O. was a sergeant; one could attain this rank after only twelve months in the Army. We had a game of soccer against our hosts in the afternoon—unfortunately, we lost, 5—3, but everyone enjoyed the game. At about seven o'clock we were invaded by the opposing soccer team and taken along to their canteen. After a couple of hours we left camp, minus a few of their team who couldn't stand the pace, to visit the night spots of Aarhus.

Getting Round Denmark

The next morning we set off for Herning, after saying farewell to our hosts. This was the hardest day's cycling; we were cycling westwards into a strong westerly wind, and there were two hills, in particular, which never seemed to end! Rather more tired, and rather later than usual, we were pleased to see our next camp site. Not surprisingly, *most* of us had an early night.

Our next port of call was Esbjerg, the largest fishing port in Denmark. This was obvious from the smell of fish, which pervaded almost everywhere. The day's ride was easy, and very fast; the front men averaged getting on for 20 m.p.h. for quite long stretches. The smell of fish did not deter our wanderers, who found plenty to occupy their time. On to Haderslev, our last stop before the border.

The trip ends, but not without a slight administrative mishap

The last day's run was fairly short. We were back in our camp site of the first night by about three. The bikes were cleaned and stacked, waiting to be put on the 3-tonner, which was to meet us. The vehicle did not arrive, so I 'phoned Lippstadt. It had in fact left Lippstadt in the morning. So, leaving directions at the border post, we retired to the border pub to polish off what remained of our ration allowance. Up again at four, to be greeted by rain; this was the first and last time the rain bothered us. The vehicle had still not arrived, so I made another telephone call. It turned out that it had crashed on the way to us. Not only that; but the Regiment knew no details, as the M.P.s investigating our crash had had a crash, too! Another vehicle was, however, on the way. I decided to leave two men with the bikes and get the rest back to camp. Surprisingly enough, there were two volunteers to stay behind. After seeing them alright for food and ready cash, the rest of us set off. After an uneventful journey, we reached Lippstadt about tea-time.

It was agreed that everyone had thoroughly enjoyed themselves. The only trouble, it seemed, was that we had not taken enough personal cash. As that was the only complaint, I was highly satisfied with Exercise "Spoked Wheel."

Talking Turkey

By Sergeant R. T. Sampson, 11th Regiment

TIMES have indeed changed. No longer is it a few days at the seaside for modern N.C.O.s. Sergeant Sampson's sensible approach to holidaying is a trip to Turkey and back by car, complete with family.

Just as the lemming has a compulsive urge to journey to the sea, those who have undergone winter in Catterick have a similar desire to find some sunshine. Our winters, for the past two years, have been brightened with planning our lemming-like dash to the sun. In our planning, we have to consider several factors. Firstly, our two children (both under school age); secondly, they love the sea; thirdly, we hate our own kind, we dislike tourists and try to avoid the hackneyed resorts. We were very keen to visit Spain and Morocco, but as contributors to the theory that Franco would give up his claim to Gibraltar if we gave him back the Costa Brava, we decided against it and went firm on Turkey.

Yugoslavia Revisited

Our plans started to go somewhat "agley" when we found ourselves in fearful traffic jams in Germany, and the frontier crossings were a series of long waits. As we went south-east we gradually began to shake off the great majority of trippers. The Yugoslav frontier was the most peaceful we had seen since Lydd, and we slipped behind the Iron Curtain without any fuss. Our stay in Yugoslavia the previous year had been a great success. The cost of living is reasonable, the people were far from unfriendly, and the roads were wonderfully free of traffic. To our relief nothing had changed, and we purred happily down the Autoput to Belgrade. Here the children were able to get into their swim suits. Not to swim or paddle in the sea, but in the Danube. We were able to eat extremely well in the State restaurants, which are a sort of "People's Joe Lyons." The food was very good, and the prices even better. For 400 dinars (4/-) we could sit on the broad boulevarde cafe of the Hotel Moskva, eating the most enormous "Knickerbocker Glories" and watching the Communist world go by. Fortunately, this simple pleasure is not considered the act of a bloated capitalist tourist, and around us Slavs and Croatians would be sipping their coffees with the now familiar glass of water, which accompanies anything that is ordered from the menu.

A Foundation of Skulls

"Visit the Tower of Skulls" was the notice that attracted our attention as we drove into Nis. My wife said no, my daughter said she liked bones and wanted to go. It was obvious that my wife wouldn't cry if we didn't go and my daughter would if we didn't. Apparently there had been some trouble with the Turks at one time; the good men of Nis

had captured a number and decided that for a first-class foundation to the city walls you'd have to go far to find anything better than Turkish skulls. As this was a Holy War, it was also fitting that they should form part of the Church. That's where you see the skulls today, grinning a little sheepishly, as one grins just as sheepishly back at them.

It's not a long journey from Nis to Skopje. We were in Skopje last year just after the earthquake, and at that time were impressed by the atmosphere of sadness; this was still evident, and although tremendous strides have been made to re-house thousands, the city still has a "blitz" appearance and feeling about it. We were able, the same day, to cross into Greece, and arrived in Thessalonika just as it was getting dark. This, to us, really marked the start of the holiday. It had taken five days' steady driving to get us from the Channel to the Aegean. The sight of this remarkable Byzantine city alone would have been worth the trouble. It is a beautiful city, steeped in history and liberally scattered with buildings, towers and churches that have seen the rise and fall of men and empires.

We Meet a Grecian Shepherd Friend Again

Mount Olympus was our next destination. Last year we had made friends with a shepherd whose flock roams the plain at the foot of the "home of the Gods." Luck was with us again; we found him and his family in their primitive summer farm close to the sea. This is a near idyllic setting. A wonderous blue sea, miles of unspoiled silver sands, set with a backcloth of Olympus. It is not difficult to understand how mythology is associated with this mountain; it is spectacular in appearance and is never quite the same. The light plays strange tricks, and Olympus can look dark with rage or apparently beam with pleasure. We spent ten days in its shadow. Not a sign of a tourist, not one postcard stand, no hope of a pier or ice lollies; it was just what we had hoped for. Just as we had decided to drop the idea of going to Turkey and stay on a further week, the Turkish Air Force bombed Cyprus. Although all still seemed serene down on the farm, it seemed a good idea to be moving on. Therefore, a little regretfully, we set out for Turkey. Two days later found us in Istanbul, which to us was as exciting as it sounds. Although very warm, it was more bearable than, say, Athens. Many books have been written that tell the tale of Blue Mosques, Leanders Tower, Golden Horn, and the host of sights that must be seen and done in and around this incredible city. To try and condense Istanbul into a paragraph or so is to do it no credit at all.

From Catterick Helles to Turkish Helles

Having set off from Helles Barracks, it was not strange that we wanted to see the Helles Point. We had met one of the War Graves Commission who had told us of the area. It is still very much a battlefield; the litter of war still lies in evidence—helmets, bayonets, water bottles, and particularly on the Turkish side of the battle line, skeletons. We were told of the painstaking care lavished upon the cemeteries, drilling for water so that fresh flowers can be grown, despatching to Italy for carved headstones. We had the choice of two routes to Helles, some 300 miles around the Sea of Marmara, or to cross to the Helles Point, which was less than a hundred miles away, and covered part of our route out of Turkey. The roads were pretty awful, and it was with mixed feelings we were given the news that the ferry we were heading for was closed. We then turned north and set off for Bulgaria.

Bulgaria Bores a Bit

Entering Bulgaria proved to have its amusing moments. The road aproaching the frontier from Edirne was quite dreadful, and we were even more alarmed when we found ourselves nearing what appeared to be some sort of water splash. I wasn't very happy about going through this until I saw I was being furiously beckoned to by someone who looked very important, so we put the car at this water as one would a horse at a fence. It wasn't for some time and after much gesticulation that we found it was a disinfectant tank. All cars from Turkey must pass through this sheep-dip affair. Quite what would have been the drill on foot I'm not certain.

Bulgaria was our first real experience of a Communist State. Here we saw Kruschev smiling down from photographs and prints in much the same way as Vernon Ward and Peter Scott's birds fly through pictures in Britain. Great hoardings and bill

(*Continued at foot of next column*)



Boys at the All Arms Junior Leaders' Regiment, Tonfanau, study transistor circuitry. Junior Lance Corporal Stevenson (pointing) is not only a radio enthusiast but also holds the Duke of Edinburgh's Gold award

ALL ARMS JUNIOR LEADERS' REGIMENT

Over here in Wales we started our winter term in mid-September. We begin our notes from the term with a few words about our radio hobby.

This term membership of the hobby is entirely made up of Royal Signals boys, and it has been thought best therefore to concentrate now upon those aspects of operating which will be of most value to them in their future service.

The emphasis is upon morse instruction and telegraphy procedures, in which Sergeants McHugh and Cox are taking a leading part. By courtesy of O.C. Signals Wing we are able to have the use of the rooms equipped for this training, and it is possible to simulate nets on closed circuits. Later, it is hoped that operators will have reached the standard required for operating on the ACF/CCF network, under the Unit's call sign of 7B. The ageing 19 set, which is all that is available for this net, is scarcely up to the job and a more powerful set is required.

The club is affiliated to the Corps Radio Society, and a number of contacts with G3C10, the Corps Club Station, have been made by GW3JGM, the Officer I.C. the hobby. As an occasional relief to the more rigorous training, the boys listen in to ham Q.S.O.s and an attempt to improve the antenna layouts of the station. Operating with only 50 watts, GW3JGM has established communication with most of the western hemisphere, although the operating times necessarily exclude some of the best periods for Dx working. Gales also tend to wreak havoc on any but the simplest aerial arrays, although a 3-element rotary beam was quite successful so long as it could be kept in one piece!

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boards with rock-jawed, steely-eyed farm workers depicted striving to meet their quota, marked the entry to towns, where one would expect to see "XXX welcomes careful drivers." Once more prices were low, as long as it was Bulgarian goods, but any deviation to imported foodstuffs was very expensive. A night stop at a motel in Plovdiv (who could resist staying at a place called Plovdiv?) cost about £2 which bought a comfortable room, complete with toilet and shower. Sofia, the capital, was a bit of a disappointment to us; after Istanbul, just about everything would come as an anti-climax. We got a Sunday in Aberdeen impression of the city. It was spotlessly clean, its wide streets, however, were drab and dull. This, however, was our reaction; we have met others who raved about it.

And so to Catterick

One day took us from Sofia to Belgrade; the next north, and then west, to the Dalmation coast, where we spent two days in near fairy tale surroundings of coves, inlets, terraced fishing villages. The rest was a dash across Italy, then an expensive interlude crossing France from Chambery to Dieppe. The month had gone very quickly; the greater part of it had been just as we'd wished for. As we got nearer to Catterick the weather, of course, got worse. "What was the nicest place we visited?" my daughter was asked. "Saltburn," she replied.

Winter is starting to draw in again. Plans will soon have to be made. It's the 50th anniversary of the Helles landings next year. I wonder if . . . .?



Slim Squadron are joined by a Swiss Family on Day 3 at Katerbosch



Alexander Squadron team, tough and cheerful, as they march through Groesbeek on Day 3

Our Junior Leaders Shine in 100 mile Nijmegen Marches

And gain three more Team Medals

Off to Nijmegen Again

WHILST the majority of the Regiment was preparing for the Summer Graduation parade, a contingent of fifty was marching at Nijmegen. The contingent, led by Major J. W. Joyner, consisted of three teams representing Alexander Squadron (Sergeant Wilcox), Slim Squadron (Sergeant Lightfoot) and Montgomery Squadron (Sergeant Leslie). Junior Leaders from Denbury are no strangers at Nijmegen and this was the fifth occasion in the last six years that they have marched the 100-mile course.

The party arrived in Nijmegen by coach at midday on the Sunday and the boys soon learnt the value of wearing British uniform, even when off duty, a habit which only the Navy seem to prefer, in this country.

A friendly rivalry soon grew up between our teams and those of the other British Units, particularly the 7th and 21st Regiments and the Durham Light Infantry.

Junior/Sergeants Coates and Dockerty represented the Regiment as part of the British contingent in the march past at the Goffert Stadium on Monday evening. This ceremony was as impressive as ever.

The four days marches started on the Tuesday and the weather on the whole was unusually hot. Day one seemed long as we had a late start and day two was very much a blister day for many of the marchers including Sergeant Wilcox who was advised not to continue for the third day and handed over to Junior/Lance-Corporal McLean of Romulus Troop.

Day three has always been considered the worst. The route is somewhat hilly and rather over 25 miles. But by now the boys were really warmed up and the hills, after training in Devon, were hardly noticed.

Adopted by a Swiss Family

The third day will be remembered, however, for a number of reasons. Slim Squadron were joined by a Swiss family for much of the day who marched in their ranks with them.

Montgomery Squadron became known to all the Yanks who were dropping out in large numbers for a new version of a certain song which described their tendency to "fade away."

All will remember the ever-increasing rivalry with 7th Regiment which culminated in a round the camp cross-country run that evening. This was won by Junior/Signalman Temmen. There are some fit young men in Royal Signals, and, by the look of it, more to come !

The last day went quickly and all three teams threw the caution they had been struggling to keep up by marching "not too fast" to the winds and changed up to top gear.

A Race with Belgian Paratroopers !

Montgomery Squadron, with 20 kilometres to go, were inveigled into a race with some Belgian Paratroopers; they were determined to march past ahead of them in Cuijk and to cross the Meuse on the pontoon bridge ahead of them. They did. Slim Squadron arrived at the last rest point first, there were no Swiss families to distract them ! Alexander Squadron came in last but singing lustily as only they were able.

The whole contingent then formed up as one and marched the last 5 kilometres in No. 2 Dress to the applause of the packed crowds. t was a pleasant surprise to see an ex-R.Q.M.S. of the Regiment, R.S.M. Chilvers, in the crowd at Mook.

Three Team Medals are Won

Those last few miles, difficult and frustrating as they always are, seem to provide a great climax to the many miles marched in training and in Holland. When all was over, the individual medals pinned on and the three team medals carefully put away to join the other 25 back at Denbury, one sensed a feeling of relief, pride and regret. Relief that there were no more miles to march, pride that the task was successfully completed and yet regret that it was all over.

The contingent travelled back to Denbury just in time to go to their respective Squadron summer camps which involved them in a number of healthy outdoor activities which they soon discovered required them to march once more !

From time to time the Diplomatic Wireless Service has vacancies in their communications sections for Cypher Officers, Operator / Technicians and Engineer/Technicians.

Details of pay and conditions of service can be obtained from the Personnel Officer, Diplomatic Wireless Service, Hanslope Park, Wolverton, Bucks.

ARMY APPRENTICES SCHOOL HARROGATE

HARROGATE

Graduation Day, 13th August, 1964, was an historical milestone in the progress of the School. On this occasion the School had the honour of having as reviewing officer Air Chief Marshal Sir Alfred Earle, K.B.E., C.B., Vice Chief of Defence Staff. This was the first occasion that the School has had a reviewing officer from the Royal Air Force. Appropriately the Air Chief Marshal arrived by helicopter. The Apprentices formed a hollow square on the parade ground, in the centre of which the helicopter touched down. This somewhat unusual beginning to the parade was much appreciated by the Apprentices and the 800, or so, spectators.

Following the parade, the Air Chief Marshal presented the prizes, and in his speech gave some stirring words of encouragement addressed mainly to the sixty-five members of the Senior Squadron who have now gone to join their new units in Royal Signals at home and overseas. His Worship the Mayor of Harrogate presented the Borough of Harrogate Prize for the best essay on Local Government. This presentation each term indicates the close links that the School has with the Borough of Harrogate. Details of the principal prizewinners are as follows:—

Army Commander's Prize—A/T R.S.M. J. A. Cornforth; Commandant's Prize—A/T S.S.M. R. J. White; Signal Officer-in-Chief's Award—A/T D. J. Ray; Colonel Commandant's Award and Borough of Harrogate Prize—A/T D. J. Waterhouse.

The beginning of the winter term brought anxiously awaited news of successes (and unfortunately for some, failures) in Senior Test, City and Guilds and Ordinary National Certificate. To the delight of the majority, the pass rate was the highest ever. An appreciable number of Apprentices have the satisfaction of knowing that after only two years of their three year apprenticeship, they hold a civilian qualification which exempts them the necessity to sit the Principles papers of their Class II trade test. By the end of their apprenticeship, a number of these will have passed third-year City and Guilds subjects, exempting them from the Principles papers for their Class I Technician trade test. This qualification also exempts them from the necessity of sitting the Foreman of Signals Course entrance examination. They must, of course, first earn a recommendation for Foreman of Signals, but we are confident they will, within five or six years of leaving this School.



A/I Pawlow

WIRE notes appear incomplete without some mention of our canoeists —and justly proud they are of their recent successes. At Pangbourne, on 3rd October, the Army Paddle Racing Championships were held. The School teams swept the board. Of the fourteen Senior Races, they gained no fewer than nine first places, three second places and two third places. In the ten Junior Races, our team took eight firsts, four seconds and one third. An outstanding combined effort, which delighted us all, and in particular Captain Dennis Braund and Mr. Eric Hopper, who have done so much to encourage and coach the teams. Each member of each team gave a splendid performance, but perhaps A/T Pawlow's successes should receive special mention. He gained five firsts, paddling a single kayak, and was also a member of a "fours" crew, which won two firsts.

This season the cross-country team got off to a good start by winning the match against St. John's College, York, by 34 points to 57 points. Our rugby, soccer, boxing and shooting teams are training hard, also for our first 'Winter Games' encounter with Army Apprentices' School, Carlisle, on which we hope to report next month.



The Air Chief Marshal arriving for the Prize presentation with Colonel J. R. Piddington, O.B.E., M.C., and the Mayor of Harrogate

JUNIOR LEADERS REGIMENT

Summer Camp. This year from Tuesday, 4th August, to Wednesday, 12th August, was declared a summer camp period, and activities were organised on a Squadron basis for all except the output. They were engaged in practice at their trades at a number of sites scattered over South Devon. Supervision of this kept Captain Weiner and Yeoman of Signals Heard somewhat busier than they had anticipated. Alexander and Montgomery Squadrons based their activities on Denbury whilst Slim Squadron deciding that they had seen enough of Denbury during the previous 14 weeks disappeared to Penhale in North Cornwall. The next term's promotions were declared at the start and the period was an excellent opportunity for new badges to be "worn in" whilst the wearer obtained some practice in exercising the responsibility that went with them.

Alexander Squadron. The theme was "organised recreation ready for the rigours of leave!"—the sea and Dartmoor being the main stamping grounds. A very successful day was spent on Ripon Tor Ranges which produced six marksmen and 12 first class shots.

The most enjoyable exercise, named "Night Watch," for two troops at a time, resulted in a number of minor skirmishes by day and night as one troop attempted to outwit the other.

It proved, as was expected, that patrol cooking can be really tasty, or equally a burnt offering, also that though it is easy to be unseen at night, excited chatter invariably gives the game away. In the course of the exercise, which was organised by the boys themselves and umpired by troop staff, one side attempted to infiltrate through ground held by the other at night. Some sheep grazing in the area failed to appreciate the value of vigorous rugby tackles to which they were subjected by over keen Junior Leaders.

Another highlight concerned Lieutenant Atkinson who was unduly flattened when acting as an escaped convict, Romulus Troop captured and treated him as such.

Montgomery Squadron. Major J. W. Joyner, the O C. Montgomery Squadron, having had to march a number of miles in preparation for and at Nijmegen, seemed determined that the rest of the Squadron should also "enjoy" the pleasures of walking. At least it appeared so from the programme. Surprisingly enough, however, he seemed to forget Dartmoor and concentrated on getting to and from the sea as an alternative to going underground in one or more of the various caves in the neighbourhood. Getting thoroughly dirty crawling down the cavern at Pridhamsleigh proved to be an excitingly new experience for boys and staff alike.

The march along the sea wall from Teignmouth to Dawlish Warren proved to be somewhat disappointing, for although eyes were turned permanently right in the hope of seeing a "new look one piece," it seemed that none of the talent on display was sufficiently well educated or up-to-date in their dress. However a certain Junior Lance-Corporal in Iron Troop offered to lend his own one piece during a break period, but his generosity was declined.

The Squadron bivouacked at Churston (the only uncommercialised area left unspoilt in Torbay) in two halves for two nights each with a changeover on the Sunday.

The camp staff was well organised by S.S.M. Stuckey, Sergeant Batten and Junior S.S.M. Coates. Sergeant Batten spent most of his time cooking, S.S.M. Stuckey was never allowed to make the tea and Junior S.S.M. Coates spent most of his time trying to catch the wherewithall for a fish supper. At least that is what he told the O.C. Squadron to account for long periods on the beach.

This camp period was most enjoyable, the weather fairly kind and most of the time was occupied in fishing, swimming, canoeing or cliff walking. An inter-Patrol relay race involving teams of runners, canoeists and swimmers was the excuse for being on the beach for two of the afternoons.

Some of the civilian holiday makers on the beach may well have resented the invasion of their seclusion, though they should have appreciated the disappearance of litter left by others which the boys cleared up in two big sweeps at Churston and Fishcombe Cove. A tea stall proprietor was very pleased as there was no system other than sea and wind for effecting its removal.

Shades of Nijmegen perhaps, but the experience of wearing uniform, when walking out after duty, proved valuable as a reminder that the public even in this country take more interest in army uniforms and those wearing it than they used to. It often pays to go in uniform.

Slim Squadron. Those who do not serve in Slim Squadron may be excused, I hope, if they use such expressions as Private Army or John Heyes' Own. At any rate the Squadron seem to have had an enjoyable spell on the beaches and dunes abounding Penhale, even if they did return a little slimmer than when they set out.

Any excuse is good enough for an organised scrap, and it appears that when it comes to night patrolling Lions are not really a match for Swans, and the O.C. Lion Troop was badly pecked. His attempt to camouflage himself to look like an army cadet by letting his hair grow availed him nothing.

The same exercise when repeated by Kohima and White Spear Troops resulted in little contact. The O.C. White Spear detailed such a heavy bodyguard that the O.C. Kohima never even bothered to leave his bed and was able to dream up a new map-making project to encourage his troop to look at the literature pinned up on the barrack room walls.

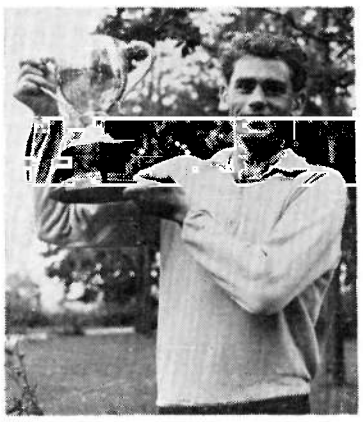
Alan Cooksley organised a number of climbing exercises using a railway viaduct. It is rumoured that Slim's next summer camp will be so planned that he can continue the good work on the Eiffel Tower.

Perhaps the most popular activity of all was fishing for mackerel from a hired boat. It proved a good method of supplementing the rations as White Spear discovered.

I suppose it is reasonable to expect Royal Signals Staff and boys to understand such scientific expressions as "pockets of resistance." Lieutenant Carl Pearce, R.A.E.C., should perhaps blame other members of the Academic Wing for teaching resistance so thoroughly that his attempts to organise a little P.T. and a swim at 06.00 hours each morning came to naught.

1st REGIMENT, B.F.P.O. 32

"Australia Cup 1964"



Signalman G. E. Stewart, winner of the Australia Cup, 1964

The Australia Cup was presented to 1st Regiment by the 1st Australian Divisional Signal Regiment in 1934.

Major-General R. E. Barker, C.B.E., the Commanding Officer of the Regiment at that time, directed that the trophy should be competed for annually in a competition to decide "the best all-round Officer, N.C.O. or Soldier in the Regiment." The competition to consist of a series of tests which, although within the capabilities of trained soldiers, sufficiently exacting to demand high standards of physical ability and individual skill.

The competition this year took place on the 7th, 8th and 9th of September and consisted of a cross-country run, shooting, various driving skills and a night navigation test, and swimming. The last mentioned was arranged to coincide with the Regimental Swimming Gala. All Squadrons of the Regiment put forward competitors for the competition, including the Brigade Signal Squadrons affiliated to the Regiment. The competition was exceedingly keen with the lead constantly changing throughout the three days. The eventual winner was Signalman G. E. Stewart of 2 Squadron, whose pleasure may be judged by his smile. Second place was taken by Lieutenant J. H. Lowe, of 1 Squadron, and joint third place was shared by Corporal B. T. McGilveray of 207 Squadron and Signalman T. O. Armstrong of 1 Squadron.

Exercise "Fallex 64"

Last Easter, Exercise "Fallex 64" was hardly going to involve the Regiment at all, just "C" and "O" Troops. By the beginning of September it was obvious that nearly all the Regiment was going out to do something, even if it was not connected with our normal task. At this point it must be said that this exercise was strictly non SOP. We were simulating three divisions acting as a lower control to Corps Headquarters.

"C" Troop and the T.O.T. moved into the field to wire up the site into a C.B. Exchange lent by 16th Regiment. The rest of the Regiment moved out later. This gave two days to get all the bugs ironed out by the time the Lower Control Staff arrived. By this time the site had been turned into a compound surrounded by barbed wire complete with perimeter lighting. The layout inside was very neat, with a complex of six marquees surrounded by about 20 staff vehicles. The credit for this must go to the M.S.O. attached to the Divisional Headquarters. A very senior commander was so impressed with the layout that he ordered two other subordinate commanders to visit our Lower Control to see how it ought to be done.

The messing and sleeping were all outside the compound. The men lived in a large barn with enough hay bales so that individuals could partition off their own bunks. The officers slept in the grounds of the village Schloss.

Sergeants' Mess

Amalgamation having been truly achieved, the Mess decided to hold its first function in its combined form, in the shape of an Autumn Ball. As the Mess building could not accommodate 500 people, the Ball was held in the gymnasium. A small committee, led by the P.M.C., W.O.II Cowe, spent many hours of blood and toil, tears and sweat in preparing the gym for the big night. At last, he (the R.S.M.) was satisfied with their efforts, and the committee fell out to visit their families—they hadn't seen them for a week!

Most of the credit for the decor must go to Sergeant Jeannette —he did an excellent job. At last the 12th September arrived, and our guests, the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Page and Mrs. Page, the officers and their ladies of the Regiment and Divisional Headquarters arrived, and were kind enough later, to say that they had thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

M.C. duties were split between W.O.II Morris (R.A.M.C.), S.Q.M.S. Jim Gittens (Signals) and Sergeant Pete Henshaw (R.A.S.C.), and a right good job they made of it.

Staff Sergeants Wolstenholme and Rodrigues produced an excellent buffet, and the bar was organised and run by Sergeant Edwards, assisted by Staff Sergeant H. E. Taylor and Sergeant E. Rawlins. The band of the 11th Hussars provided the music and a variety of tunes that enabled everyone to have at least one dance. Never have so many people performed the 'Madison' in our gymnasium—it is reckoned that the officers must spend all their spare time in practice.

We won't forget the Autumn Ball of 1964 for a long time (I'm going to frame my Mess bill).

The next milestone was passed when the Commanding Officer formally opened the new bar on the 19th September, 1964. (May we say in spite of the D.W.O.)



The Quarter Guard for General Whistler's visit



(*left*) A chat with Trooper Glendenning. (*right*) A serious discussion with Sergeant Henderson, "A" Troop

3rd HEADQUARTERS AND SIGNAL REGIMENT

Whistler Day . . . [illegible] the arrival of a me[illegible] when, just before 6 p.m. [illegible] to act as A.D.C., and [illegible] meet and escort [illegible] Whistler. They [illegible] earned break from [illegible]

The 23rd was to be [illegible] the sun shone brightly [illegible] inspecting the quarter-[illegible] Watkinson and N.C.O. [illegible] General had the opportunity of [illegible] sentatives of different [illegible] very much a part of [illegible] been with particular [illegible] representatives, since [illegible] a great deal to foster the ideals of integration.

After this "splash of colour" came the highlight of the day, the official opening of "The Whistler Room." The room, in fact, is a building of its own, and is designed as a briefing room for operations, exercises, and air portability needs, and was originally fostered by our last C.O., Colonel Baynes. It includes, amongst other things, a large sand model of a typical operations area, with electrically-operated systems of communication needs. Emphasis is placed on air transport and air portability problems, with an abundance of models, photographs and drawings. The library of colour transparencies is invaluable to the newly-joined, who have the opportunity of seeing, in full colour, the problems we have faced in the past.

And so it was, with very great pleasure, that the General accepted our invitation to name this room after him. It is also pleasing to record that the General's late cousin, General "Bolo" Whistler, commanded the Division from 1944 to 1946, and hence it was quite a unique occasion.

Thus, the great day had arrived, and, accepting the golden key from a velvet cushion, General Whistler performed the opening ceremony. Needless to say, he was delighted with the results he met on entering, and it would be amiss, if no mention were made of the two persons who had really made it all possible—Captain I. W. Dunkeld, Royal Sussex (General "Bolo" having once commanded the Royal Sussex)—and Yeoman Coaker, not forgetting the invaluable labour of Corporal Hallam, Lance-Corporal Excell, and the Technicians of "M" Troop.

After coffee, the General toured the barracks and saw a large cross-section of all activities of the Regiment.

Before lunch, the General found himself (in his own words) "amongst the backbone of the unit," the Warrant Officers and Sergeants, in their Mess. There he presented the Long Service and Good Conduct Medals to S.S.M. Leach and W.O.II Blake of the Intelligence Corps. After the presentation, the General stayed on to chat with old acquaintances and to meet the new.

Visits to basketball and rugger matches with 30th Regiment followed lunch, and to complete the afternoon, General and Mrs. Whistler had tea with several of the families in the J.R.C.

The second highlight of the day got away with a bang when, in the evening, the Trumpeters of the Junior Leaders Regiment, from Denbury, sounded their fanfare to announce the drums, bugles and pipes to beat "Retreat." Their performance was second to none, and on the evening, "Sunset" was a great pleasure to watch.

Cocktails followed "Retreat" in the Officers' Mess, and then it was home again to Astor House.

General and Mrs. Whistler left the following morning to return to the big city, but we know they left with some happy memories of his days of commanding the Regiment in Aldershot, and in the sure knowledge that any changes we may have to face will all be to the good, and that the Regiment is still in fine form. We like to think that those 48 hours or so spent in Bulford are the equivalent to a month's leave from the Ministry.

Even More Brass . . . September was indeed a busy month, and one would think that one Lieutenant-General, two Major-Generals, two Brigadiers and a Bishop, should almost cause a stir from an annual administrative inspection, but we have since found out it doesn't! Other visitors included our G.O.C.-in-C., Lieutenant-General Sir Kenneth Darling, Major-General C. H. Blacker, our new G.O.C., Brigadier D. R. Horsfield, on taking up his new appointment as C.S.O., Southern Command, Brigadier Pat Hobson, our Association's General Secretary, and finally, the Bishop of Maidstone.

BRASS, BRASS, BRASS, and even more than all that we have described, heralded the arrival, on 14th September, of the Director of Music and the Touring Band, who gave us the pleasure of a week of music. The Band served us well, with three dances, concerts and pop sessions, and we would like to hope that the outing we organised for them was taken as our appreciation for their hard work and the pleasure they brought with them.

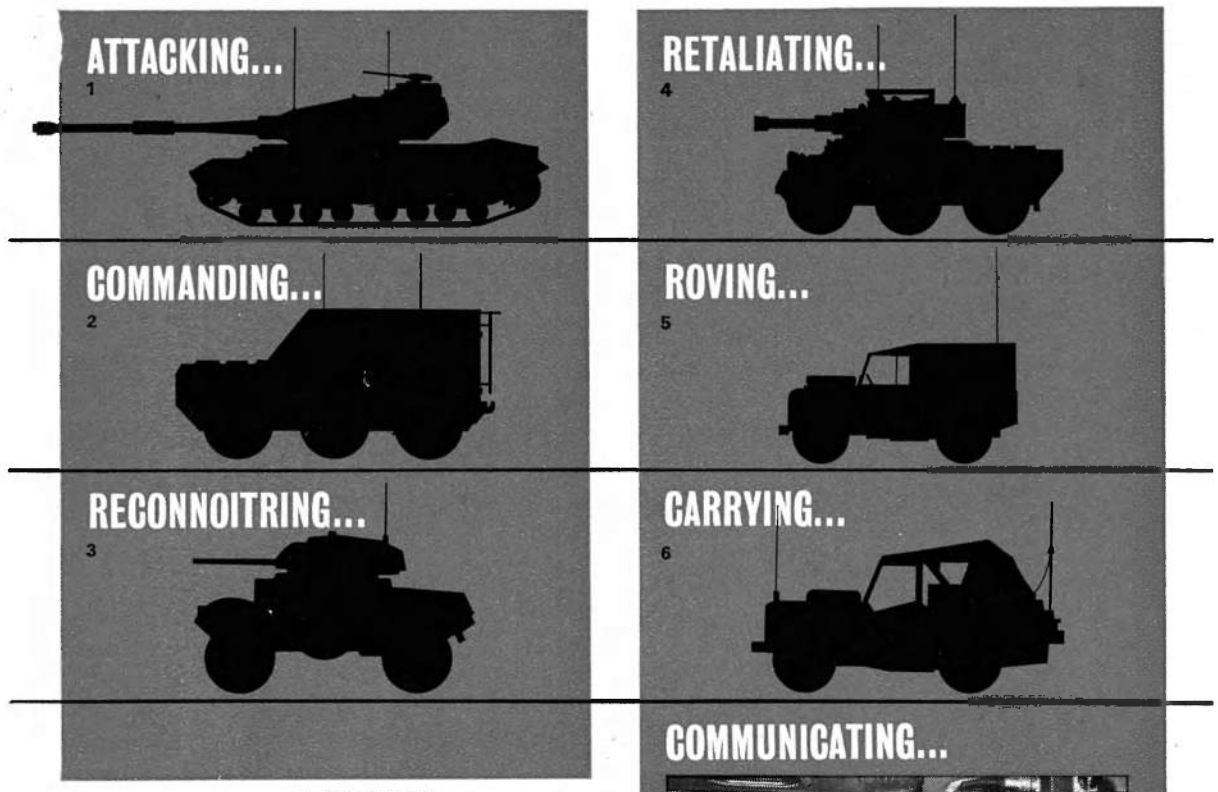
Our month should have ended with a visit by the Signal Officer-in-Chief and Mrs. Swainson, but it is sad to report that the General was compelled to postpone his visit. We had looked forward to it, and hope that the postponement will materialise in the New Year.

The move to Carter Barracks is now complete, and the camp is well and truly "lived-in." Even the gardens have taken on a new lease, though we are into autumn. The adjoining hay-fields have been reclaimed and now permit football and rugby. We are through the first round of the Army Rugby Cup, and promise nails in the local soccer league.

And now preparations are under way for our annual major exercise—over the way—and plans are well advanced for Christmas.

In closing, we would add that the final proof is on its way from the printers, of the Regimental History. Orders for copies will be accepted from now, and the price should work out at well under £5 a copy! Expensive? Yes, but there was so much to write, it made such a big book! Special reduced prices will be offered to ex-members of the Regiment on application.

Welfare needs Clothing!



1. CONQUEROR
2. SARACEN COMMAND VEHICLE
3. DAIMLER
4. SALADIN
5. LAND ROVER
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Visit of Commander 1 (BR) Corps to The 4th Regiment



Top Centre—General Sir Richard Goodwin inspects the Quarter Guard. *Top Left*—L.S. & G.C. Medal presented to W.O.I. Forbes, A.P.T.C. *Top Right*—. . . and to Staff Sergeant Nicholls Royal Signals. *Below Left*—The Corps Commander with Civilian Employees to whom meritorious service certificates had just been presented. *Below Centre*—General Goodwin meets Signalman Palfrey and Captain Rose. *Below Right*—Cable laying on the hoof! Sergeant Boon up.

"Now we'll just check through the programme for tomorrow shall we?" said the voice. "Yes," said the Adjuant, confidently. "The Corps Commander arrives at the main gate at 09.30 hours. Check?" "Er, by helicopter, on the main square, I believe," said the Adjudant, not quite so confidently. "Well," said the voice (it was unmistakably a "staff" voice by this time; "I *know* he's coming by car—I've just ordered it." Pause. "According to the branch letter that I received," began the Adjutant . . . but it was a forlorn hope and it didn't make all that much difference anyway. By why oh why do those sort of 'phone calls happen at 17.30 hours, when everyone else has gone home . . . ?

Visit by Corps Commander

The Corps Commander, Lieutenant-General Sir Richard Goodwin, duly arrived at the main gate at 09.30 hours on Wednesday, 16th September, to pay a short visit of inspection. He was met by the C.O. and inspected a guard of honour, commanded by Corporal Smart. This was followed by presentation of Long Service and Good Conduct medals to W.O.I Forbes, A.P.T.C., and Staff Sergeant Nicholls, Royal Signals, and no less than six meritorious service certificates to German civilians, including one from a divisional staff branch. The General was then taken on a tour round the Rear Division vehicles, provided by H.Q. and 2 Squadron, meeting and talking to soldiers of all trades in their normal field tasks, including clerks from staff branches.

At coffee, the Corps Commander was introduced to all the field officers and officers of arms, other than Royal Signals, serving with the Regiment. As these now include two Infantry, one R.A.S.C., and one Royal Malta Artillery officer, not to mention those of R.E.M.E. and R.A.P.C., it was a varied conversation that ensued for the next twenty minutes or so!

A quick visit to the Training School emphasised our increasing commitment of providing trade training for new recruits to the Corps. (As the training clerk put it—why don't they call us 24th and be done with it?). The General tried his hand at the key in the morse training room and then moved to a special saluting base to watch 1 Squadron

drive past. All who have served in Herford, at Hammersmith Barracks, will recall that the road past Block 7 is none too wide, and yet, with just the right amount of expertise and showmanship, the Squadron drove past two abreast, K9s, RLs and all. At the end—a little touch of times gone by—a demonstration of cable being laid from horseback, to remind the spectators of how things have changed (mounts by courtesy of The Blues, whose stables are in our lines). And so the Corps Commander departed, satisfied, we believe, with what he had seen.

Sport

Encouraged, no doubt, by the cricket team's sterling efforts this summer, our hockey team is now making considerable progress. So far, out of five matches played, forty-one goals have been scored, and we remain undefeated. The rugby and soccer teams are both beginning to emerge, and amongst the minor sports, basketball is coming well to the fore. But let Lance-Corporal Jones (yes, that *is* his name) wind up the summer sporting news with a resume of the tennis tournament:

"During the last two weeks of August, the Regiment held its annual tennis tournament for all ranks. A large number of entries were received for the singles. As we are an integrated Regiment, we had quite a large number of different cap badges in the tournament, two of which belonged to Major Medland, R.A.M.C., and Captain Ough-Dealey, R.E.M.E., who were favourites for the title.

However, a 'dark horse' sprang to light in the semi-finals, when Major Medland met Sergeant Addlington, Royal Signals. Major Medland, who was considered to have an easy match and must lob the ball higher than anyone else in the tournament, found the ambidexterous attacking tennis of Sergant Addlington too much for him. Sergeant Addlington then met Captain Ough-Dealey in a very good final, but once again Sergeant Addlington emerged the victor, winning by 6—4, 7—5, 6—3.

The doubles turned out to be a mere formality, the previous two named officers proved a very strong pair for their opponents. Well played, everyone!"

Our canoeists hoped to have made headline news with a successful double crossing of the Channel. Unfortunately, as many readers no doubt already know, the headlines, when they finally appeared, were of a very different sort, and at one time the venture was thought to have ended in disaster. The weather was not at all co-operative, and perhaps we had left it a little late in the year. But all the same it was good training for the next attempt, even if certain lifeboat coxswains will be on the lookout for us!

Work and Play

A noteable social occasion was a dinner night in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, at which R.S.M. Jenkins and W.O I Smith were dined out. Both are to be commissioned, R.S.M. Jenkins as a Quartermaster, and W.O.I as a Short Service Commission in 4th Light Regiment, R.A. As a result, their colleagues gave each a sword, which was presented to them by the C.O. and Major A. V. Claydon (Brigade Major, R.A.) respectively.

7th REGIMENT, B.F.P.O. 15

Exercise "Fallex" and Closed Circuit Television. This has been a busy month for the Regiment, as we have been heavily involved in Exercise "Fallex," which, apart from normal communications, included the introduction of closed circuit television at H.Q. 1 (BR) Corps as a fully operational "going concern." All the personnel for running television had to be found from within the Regiment, so, as usual, the project was run on the proverbial "shoe-string." Personalities involved were Major Paterson (O.C. 4 Squadron and project officer), W.O.II (F. of S.) Armitage (Chief Technician), Lieutenant Henning and W.O.II Bell (Controllers). Lance-Corporals Ambrose, Laing and Naidu (Technicians). There were, therefore, seven people allotted to run the TV control vehicle (including video and audio switching systems) together with six cameras and some 30 monitor sets in various vehicles about Corps H.Q. The cameras were operated by Staff Officers, who quickly adapted themselves to make full use of the new medium very successfully. There was also a great deal of video cable to be laid by 2 Squadron. The coaxial cable provided required careful handling and, in addition, a careful cable plan had to be made to avoid chaos, as there were some fifty or more coaxial cables coming into the TV control vehicle. However, all went well, and it appears that the Staff are "sold" on television, and now consider it an essential aid to their operational efficiency.

8th REGIMENT

In the latter half of July we said goodbye to Lieutenant-Colonel Clive Tonry and Mrs. Tonry and formally installed Lieutenant-Colonel Dennis Swallow as Commanding Officer. A Regimental handover parade was held and there were many more social functions including a Wives' Club Dinner, a Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess Cocktail Party and a Cocktail Party and a Ladies' Dinner Night in the Officers' Mess.

Before Lieutenant-Colonels Tonry and Swallow joined the Regiment in January, 1962, as Commanding Officer and Second-in-Command respectively they were working on guided weapons and never really lost the habit! In two and a half years they have guided and propelled some 4,000 soldiers through trade and military training courses, through weekend military and civilian exercises and through parades with aerial General Salutes, in addition to arranging for A.E.R. and T.A. units to visit us. To this also must be added support and encouragement to unit teams who have the following successes:

Winners: Northern Command Rugby Cup 1962 and 1964.
Winners: Northern Command Seven a Side Rugby 1964.
Winners: Northumbrian and Yorkshire District Basketball League and Knockout Cup 1962.
Winners: Yorkshire District Swimming Championships 1962.
Winners: Northern Command Athletic Championship 1963.
Winners: Training Brigade Athletic Championships 1963 and 1964.
Winners: Northern Command Cross Country Championships 1964.

We feel sure that all trainees and visitors will join us in wishing the Tonrys and Swallows success and good fortune in their new appointments.

We must also welcome direct from their Canadian tour Major Peter Gahan, who fills the Second-in-Command appointment, and, from the Ministry of Defence, Major Alastair McKinnon, who will take over 2 Squadron from Major Robert Barrett, to whom we wish a happy tour in Chester.

9th REGIMENT, B.F.P.O. 53

October. Definitely colder, with day temperatures in the upper sixties or lower seventies—blankets on beds at night. Though "winter dress" is not taken into use until November, summer wear and lightweight suits are less in evidence. Hockey, rugby and soccer teams are working up for the winter season, and tennis players have been seen in sweaters. How will we ever survive again in an English January.

Highlights of the month include our participation in the Army (Cyprus) Tennis Championships, our success in the Inter-Service Swimming Championships, and pleasing results in the Minor Units Cricket Championship.

Tennis. J.McL. writes.— Five members of the Regiment entered the Army (Cyprus) Tennis Championship, and of these, one reached the semi-finals of the Men's Singles and one pair the final of the Men's Doubles. The finals themselves took place at Dhekelia on 26th September, and the C.O. and O.C. 2 Squadron did well to take the eventual winners to three sets before being beaten. That was certainly their point of view, since the winning pair had the advantage of youth over their more aged opponents. Major MacLean was subsequently chosen to play for the Army against the R.A.F. in the annual Inter-Services Match at Episkopi. The final of the Officers' Mess Handicap Championship will be played in the next four days, and will be between Mr. R. Smith (a grandfather) and Captain G. Vincent, who claims 29 years' service. Who says that one is too old at 40!

Rugby. J.A.N. writes.—Another season has started with a series of training sessions, which were conducted by S.S.I. Foster 'PDQTS,' and will no doubt give us a flying start to the season.

Our club house had another "liquid" start to the season, when a meeting was presided over by Second-Lieutenant "Nick" Fowgies. A few weeks later the team assembled again in the club house to bid farewell to Second-Lieutenant Fowgies, who is leaving the island and the Army for good. We all wish him good luck, both in civilian life and on the green grass rugby pitches of U.K.

(Continued on page 424)



The Quarter Guard on the occasion of Air Chief Marshall Sir Denis Barnett's farewell visit

The new rugby officer is Second-Lieutenant Nicol, a new arrival to the unit, who hopes that the team will have a successful season under the new rules. There is a lot of interest this year, and as our rugby pitch has just been re-grassed, we should have a good season.

Sailing. R.N.H. writes—A successful regatta was held by the Famagusta Services' Sailing Club, ably assisted by the local Greek Sailing Club (NOA) on 3rd and 4th October. Competitors and their craft came from Episkopi, Akrotiri, Nicosia and Dhekelia, and in all, a total of 40 boats took part.

Though Saturday morning was a wash-out, in more ways than one, with high seas and winds up to 15 knots, which caused waves to break over the reef up to 12ft. high, the seas did moderate, and racing became possible at 2 p.m. Sunday was a complete contrast, with mill-pond seas and little wind. All the competitors enjoyed themselves, and Mrs. Fairman presented the prizes to the class winners at the end of two most successful days' racing.

Sub Aqua. Sub-editor writes.—*Watch this space.* The club continues to operate and has taken some underwater photographs to prove it. Unfortunately, they cannot be processed in time for this issue, but we are assured that they will be forwarded in time for the next issue.

Woman's Eye View. A.J.C. writes (she arrived on the island on 27th August, 1964).—My first view of Cyprus was not particularly inspiring; but then it was obtained through the the porthole of a circling Britannia, and it was 5 a.m., local time. In fact, the dry, brownish-yellow terrain was completely alien to my last glimpses of England.

Secondly, English radio and newspaper reports had given me a rather jaundiced impression of life on the island. However, in this respect, I have been pleasantly surprised—the "natives" *are* friendly in fact.

Thirdly, being a comparative newcomer to Army life, and never having before "soldiered" abroad, I was gratified to see that facilities are equal to, and in some cases better than, those I experienced in England — although a temperamental water supply in the flat nearly forced a rapid revision of opinion.

Restrictions on movement (contrary to civilian opinion) are not particularly irksome, but photography is not what one might term a "tactful" hobby. However, the climate, beach, abundant fruit and a generally slow, Mediterranean way of life, lead me to anticipate a happy and full tour in Cyprus—world politics permitting.

Miscellaneous Credits. To: Lieutenant-Colonel D. D. Fairman, O.B.E., who leaves us in mid-October to assume the appointment of C.S.O., Scottish Command. He will be succeeded in command of the Regiment by Lieutenant-Colonel O. J. Peck. We wish both these officers every success in their new appointments, and will include in our next issue of these notes a fuller account of the ensuing "ceremonies."

To: Lieutenant P.H., who, on being asked to open the boot of his car at a Republican Police check point, is reported to have said: "What's up then?—Lost Makarios." Funds for his 'egal defence will be welcomed.

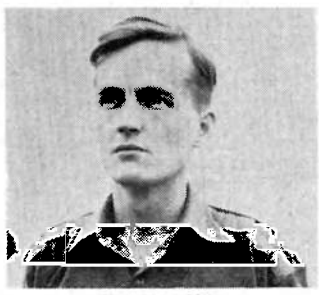
11th REGIMENT

The highlight of the month has been, without doubt, the great honour bestowed upon the Regiment to represent the Corps, and, indeed, the British Army, in providing a guard of honour for President de Gaulle of France, at the commemoration of the Battle of the Marne. Two reports of this parade are included in this WIRE—first by Captain G. Smith, Public Relations, H.Q., 4th Division, and the second by our own R.S.M., W.O.I S. J. R. Dunlop. Judging by impartial reports received, the Royal Signals can feel nothing but well-satisfied with the performance of their young recruits and the Royal Signals Staff Band, who represented them in Rheims on 5th September, 1964.

Our Adjutant, Captain E. Pickup, spent a week climbing in Wales with an ex-member of the Regiment, Lieutenant J. J. Cullen. (This will be reported in a later WIRE.—Ed.)

Our heartiest congratulations to Sergeant Sampson in passing his Regular Commissions Board. He has recently returned from a most interesting leave, and after much coercion, agreed to write an article for THE WIRE. (See 'Talking Turkey' elsewhere).

Best Recruits



Signalman Miln

The best recruit of the Troops passing-off on 21st August was Signalman Miln. To this soldier, Army life is nothing new. He had previously served with the Canadian Army in Canada and later with 1st Bn. Royal Canadian Regiment in B.A.O.R. In October, 1960, he left the Canadian Army and came over to England. His home now is at Talum, Chester. During his spare time he enjoys most sports, including football, cricket and tennis, and he hopes to be able to play ice hockey later on in the year. He goes forward for training as a Comcen Operator with 14th Regiment.

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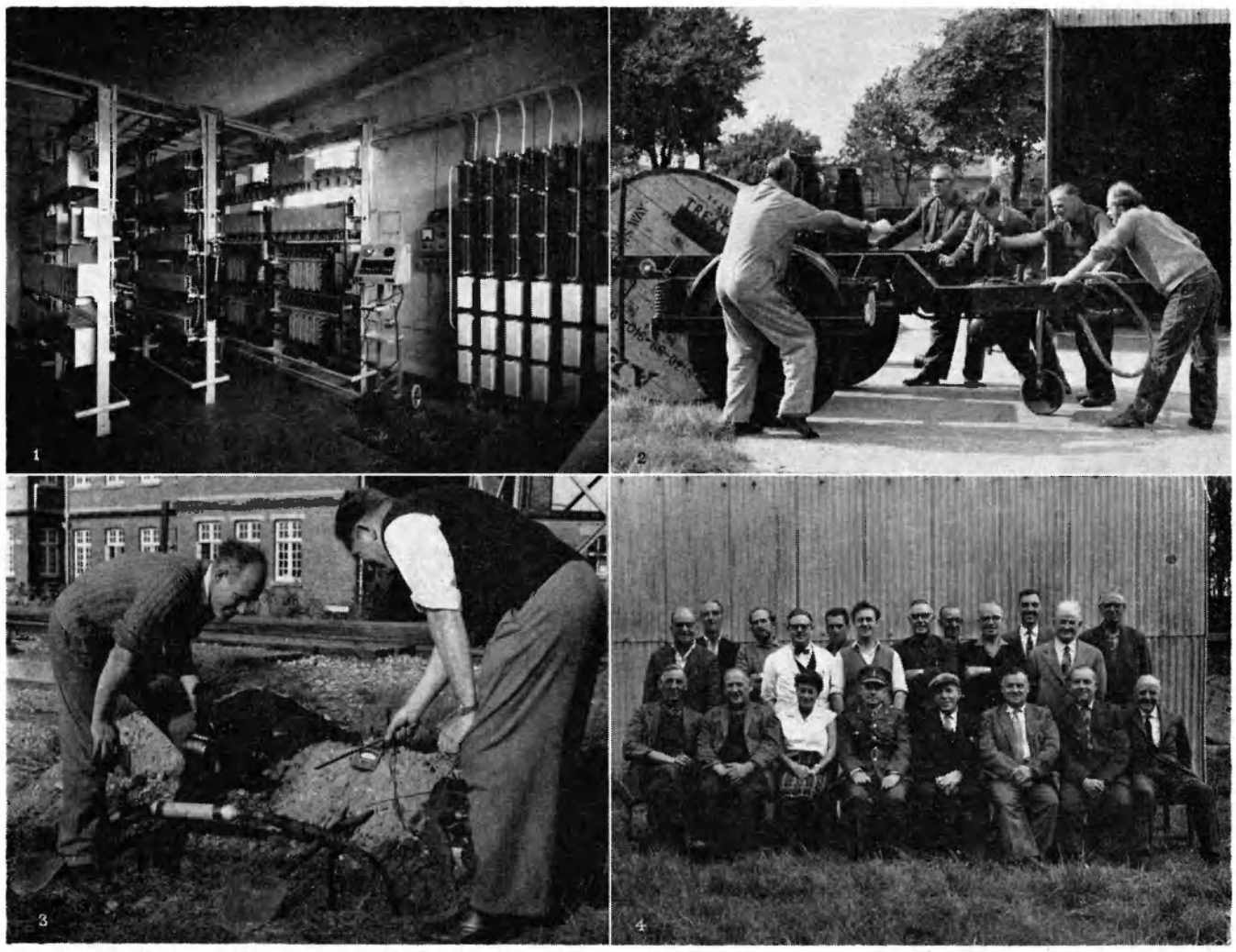
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CALOR GAS AGENTS

10th Regiment, Hounslow, Middlesex



1. Automatic Exchange—General View. 2. Members of staff preparing a drum of 50 pair cable for laying. 3. Mr. Johnston and Mr. Nevard completing a joint. 4. 620 Troop—many old timers here! *Front Row, Left to Right :* A. Barraclough, P. E. Rivers, Miss M. Colebrook, Major (T.O.T.) F. R. Cox, P. J. Chapman, C. H. Smith, J. G. Crocker, A. S. H. Barker. *Centre Row, Left to Right :* A. R. P. Kirby, J. P. Pollock, R. W. Fairhurst, J. J. Tillbrook, W. F. Pirie, F. J. C. Rice. *Back Row, Left to Right :* T. J. Griffin, R. W. Sanger, W. G. Kennedy, L. Cheek, R. J. Tillbrook, R. Cox.

R.H.Q.

Now that the Regiment is seeing the light of day through the dusts of reorganisation, we should like to remind the Corps that the Regimental Headquarters are situated very near to London Airport, and in emergencies can provide accommodation for other ranks (it is regretted that officer accommodation is impossible). In addition, should personal travel arrangements go awry, or sickness interfere, our telephone number is HOUNSLOW 2371 and the Adjutant, Captain Geoffrey Jenkins, is on Extension 411, and will always give any assistance possible.

Signal Troop (Works) (Shoeburyness)

This Troop has been commanded by Major (T.O.T.) "Freddy" Cox for the last five years.

The Troop has been in existence under a number of designations since September, 1939, when the responsibility of looking after the communications at Shoeburyness was handed over by the Royal Engineers to the Thames and Medway Signal Troop. Four of the original Troop, Messrs. Chapman, Barker, Smith and Richardson are still with us, and they are ably supported by the following, all ex-Signals, and whose names will ring a bell with the older soldiers:

Messrs. (ex-R.S.M.) Jim Barraclough, Germany, Egypt, Ceylon 1945; (ex-S.Q.M.S.) Reg Sanger, M.M. (ex-"B" Corps, India), France, Burma 1939-1945; (ex-Signalman) Harry Nevard, Maritime Forts Section, 1940-45; (ex-Corporal) Paddy Johnston, Africa, 1939-1944, taken prisoner; (ex-Signalman) Terry Griffin, France, Germany 1943-1945; (ex-Signalman) Bill Kennedy, Home Stations 1939-1945; (ex-Sergeant) John Cox, France, Africa, Italy 1939-1945; (ex-C.Q.M.S.) Arthur Kirby, Burma, India, 1942-1945; (ex-Sergeant) John Pollock (ex-"Gib" Squadron, and all that UG cable) France, Africa, Italy 1939-1952.

With such a formidable showing of old-timers, we feel it's no idle boast to say that communications are provided and maintained in the best traditions of the Corps.

Perhaps one of our more important tasks of recent years has been the planning and installation of a 300/400 line P.A.B.X. No. 3; together with two other Satellite P.A.B.X.s of small capacity. The main exchange was installed in a new and ultra-modern building, and the staff are to be congratulated on the manner in which the not inconsiderable number of UG cables were re-routed to the new building, with little or no interruption of service. The subscribers came into their respective officers on Monday morning to find the telephone service as usual, plus a little dial to play with.

16th REGIMENT, B.F.P.O. 35

(The Regimental notes this month consist of a report compiled from the log of an expedition by sea from Kiel to Copenhagen by members of the Unit)

Sailing continues to flourish under Major Sinclair, and his new disciple, Second-Lieutenant Peter Crane, who was inveigled into sailing within an hour of his arrival in the Regiment on first posting.

A crew recently made an expedition to the Baltic, consisting of Major Sinclair, Lieutenant Jeremey Bally, of 13th Regiment (kindly loaned to us as skipper), Second-Lieutenant Crane and Signalman Speakes. *Korsar,* sub-chartered from 1st Regiment, sailed at 10.15 hours on Sunday, 27th September, from Kiel, and had succeded in making about seven miles by 16.00 hours the same day. We then picked up a Force 3 breeze off Kiel Lightship and we started a long reach up to the Fehmarn Lightship, which we rounded at 21.00 hours. It was at this moment that all concerned realised how large a tanker is when it rushes past at 10 to 15 knots in pitch darkness, some 50 yards away!

We then bore away on a course of 110° magnetic on a long run down to the Gedser Lightship—very comfortable, with a quartering sea. Watches changed at 05.30 hours, with the Gedser in sight, and then followed a long reach up to Stevus Klint Point, which was abeam at mid-day. We made some fast close-hauled sailing across Fakse Bay to Rodvig, where we fetched up alongside at 16.00 hours. Hot baths, enjoyed by all, plus a little lubrication of the throat in company with His Danish Majesty's Customs Officer. Sailed at 07.00 hours on the 29th for Copenhagen, and after a very fast close reach, we entered the Yacht Harbour at Hellerup, next to the Tuborg Brewery, at 14.30 hours.

Here we were adopted at once by a most friendly Dane, Mr. Paul Bentzen, who helped make us fast alongside his 40ft. Staysail ketch, *Frisco III.* He produced coffee and then proceeded to place himself at our disposal, together with his Mercedes 190. A quick clean-up and into Copenhagen, where all concerned started on halves of bitter at "The Britannia," an English pub (complete with Dagenham Girl Piper selling *Evening Standard*), set up for British week. Hazy recollections of rest of evening, which ended in a "Trad Jazz Club," known to our Danish host, who deposited us back to the boat at 2 a.m. Next day Paul took us sightseeing and shopping and said "goodbye" at 17.00 hours. As he was not able to come out with us that evening, we decided to sail at midnight and start the return passage; the glass was very high and winds very light from the west and south-west.

Watches were set as soon as we cleared the harbour, and then followed a long and very slow reach, down to The Sound at Drogden Light (10 miles in six hours!). We then sailed onward, ever onward, reaching Gedser Lightship at 06.00 hours on the 2nd. We found a light breeze from the south-east and ran up the Fehmarn Belt, only to lie becalmed off the Fehmarn Lightship at 17.00 hours. Second-Lieutenant Crane was unanimously elected to try paddling, which he did nobly for an hour and ten minutes. Frequent libations of Teacher's Highland Cream stoked his boilers and kept him going until the wind arrived from the west.

We changed watches every four hours, and 02.00 saw us through the entrance of Kiel Harbour. The watchkeeper, Major Sinclair, apparently decided we ought to inspect the Kiel Canal Locks, as he fetched up there at 03.30, a mile from the club house; he now remembers that half-right turn is 45° and not 27½°. An irate skipper was called to the helm and swearing something 'orrid, brought us into our berth after some 52 hours at sea. A most enjoyable sail—the Baltic at its best.

17th REGIMENT, SEREMBAN, MALAYSIA

Those of us who can remember buying a packet of twenty cigarettes for 11½d. will doubtless recall to mind a song of that era which among other nostalgia referred to, "an airline ticket to romantic places." Almost certainly in years to come when his overalls are getting rather tight around the waist a now young officer of Gurkha Signals will be recounting to his juniors the story of a transport work ticket to romantic places.

An Adventurous Journey

Recently, Lieutenant Kelvin Kent, Gurkha Signals, Signal Officer and M.T.O. of the Headquarters, Brigade of Gurkhas L. of C. at Dharan, Nepal, took a Land Rover and a 3-ton Bedford truck to Khatmandu from his base in Dharan. His four and a half days journey involved passing through the worst floods in Bihar State in India that had been experienced in the area for a hundred years, spending two days with his trucks on an Indian Railways flat-car and climbing over 8,000 feet. On the return journey the 3-ton truck had to be pulled out of the muddy flood waters by two tractors, a six-ton truck and two hundred villagers. However, as Lieutenant Kent notes in his report "Our detachment at Khatmandu received their spare fuse."

Gurkha Signals are nothing if not versatile in the transportation methods they use to keep their equipment working. The problem of replacing a broken halyard at the top of a one hundred foot radio mast at Dharan was solved by our intrepid voyager to Khatmandu enlisting the aid of a United States' Aid Mission helicopter. The pilot hovered next to the mast top, K. Kent climbed onto the skid and, hey presto, we had the Gurkha Signals version of the Indian rope trick.

It is pleasant to record that the first officer to win General Whistler's coverted Subaltern's tankard is Lieutenant Kent. What a pity it wasn't waiting for him—filled—on his descent from the top of the radio mast.

18th REGIMENT, c/o G.P.O., SINGAPORE

Army Signal Centre. After several upheavals, from one temporary abode to another, the Army Signal Centre, or more correctly, that part of it comprising the Counter Room and Teleprinter Section, now occupies a permanent and habitable set of offices within the Tanglin Signal Complex.

After the somewhat drab surroundings of the temporary quarters, the many attractions of the new "home" are a striking contrast. These include the air-conditioning (this rates the highest!) which is certainly a luxury to the Comcen workers who, uncomplainingly, have literally "sweated it out" in the previous sub-standard accommodation. Other attractions are the spaciousness, the pastel shade decor, strip-lighting and the custom built furniture, designed both for comfort and working efficiency.

Dover Road Sports Arena Swimming Pool. Also recently opened is our new swimming pool, which was built by the Ministry of Public Buildings and Works, and is situated in very pleasant open country surroundings, overlooking the playing fields of the sports arena, of which it is part.

The main pool is 110 feet long by 42 feet wide, and is 11 feet deep under the diving boards, of which there are three—a 3 metre spring board, a 3 metre fixed board and a 1 metre spring board.

There is also a children's pool, which is a real delight, and at the times when the pool is open to families it is well packed.

NAAFI provides a kiosk service at the poolside, and tables, chairs, umbrellas, and other amenities are on the way. The changing rooms, showers and other offices are particularly modern, attractive and well furnished.

The 18th Signal Regiment administer this pool, and we and other units in the area were most appreciative of it during the recent troubles and resultant curfews, when the Commanding Officer decided to open the pool earlier than planned, so that it could be used by those who were living within the military complex and had access to it during curfew.

Cookery Competition. We congratulate the 18th Signal Regiment A.C.C. team, led so ably, as always, by W.O.II (S.Q.M.S.) H. L. Mitchell, B.E.M., A.C.C., on winning the recent Singapore Base Area Cookery Competition. Congratulations also go to the military and civilian staff of the Junior Ranks Mess, who form a first class team, maintaining an extremely high standard of catering most consistently.

237 Squadron point out that Signals are not all that simple. Most people take for granted the transmission and reception of telegraph messages over thousands of miles, and, no doubt, originators of Army signals in, say, London, give little thought to the complicated processes required to make those signals into printed copies, in, say, Singapore.

Perhaps the complications may be brought to light when some figures are presented; for instance, a signal arriving at Singapore from a transmitter some 4,000 miles away may have a power of 100 divided by a million million watts, which is incomprehensibly small when one thinks of a hundred watt lamp. This radio signal, which contains intelligence, is processed and

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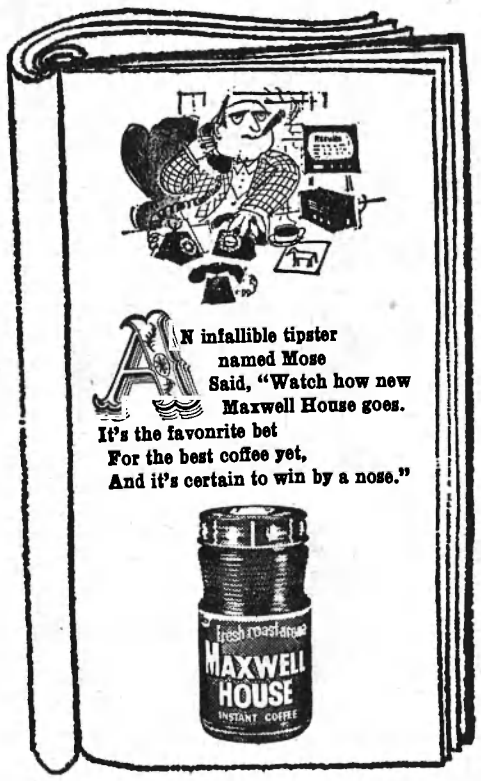
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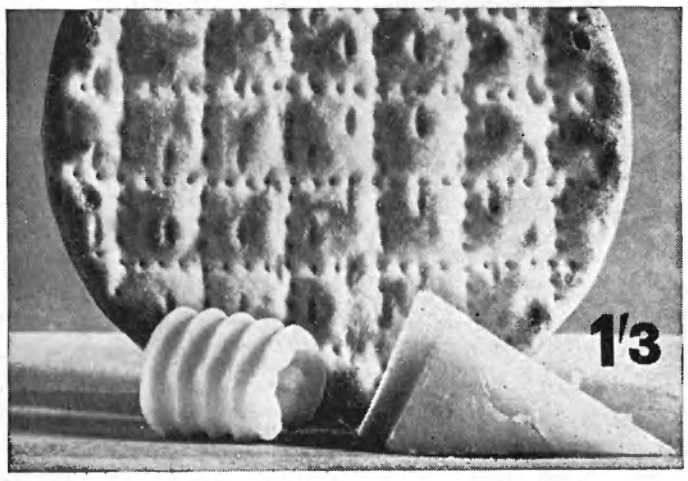


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The route a signal takes, and the equipment through which it passes, is quite familiar to most people concerned with signals, and when the system is considered overall, it is definitely very complicated. COMCAN is one system, and Amoy Quee is the COMCAN receiving station at Singapore for long-distance signals.

Now, a receiving station of this type is generally situated away from built-up areas and cities, due to the features of terrain and also the amount of land required for the large aerials, so the processed signal, now of a workable value, still has to travel 10 miles or so to the city signal centre.

In the "old days" which, in radio, means a few years ago, this part was done by landline, but nowadays, a micro-wave link is used, which adds to the technical complexity still further, but increases flexibility and efficiency.

Amoy Quee, therefore, is a very complex and very expensive piece of real estate, maintained by the British taxpayer so that the Army may have virtually instant communications from London to South East Asia and the Southern Hemisphere.

This station must run 24 hours a day, and preferably never break down, in order to justify the capital outlay, and to ensure this, a small staff of technicians maintain and repair the equipment as required. The staff is a mixture of British civilians and soldiers, which seems to be a fairly pleasant blend, as the station is run in a smooth and amicable fashion.

So, the next time you sit in your London office and make out a signal to points South and East, spare a thought for the hundreds of technicians along the way who ensure the minimum of delay on the engineering side. Your signal may pass through the quietly-humming equipment of Amoy Quee.

Transmitter Troop. It seems a long time since Transmitter Troop notes last appeared in THE WIRE. According to a letter from our S.H.Q., it is, in fact, quite a long time, so here are a few jottings as to who and what we are.

We live about 12 miles from the centre of Singapore City, in the middle of what, in a few years time, will be the centre of a new industrial area, complete with factories, shops and, no doubt, cafes and bars. Only one year ago, this area was a swamp, which some readers may well remember. The whole of Jurong River has now been reclaimed, local hills have been razed and, for a short period, we sat in the middle of a 16 square mile desert. Blocks of flats are now growing just outside the wire by the Transmitter Hall, and factories extend from the Administrative Site to the sea. The only swamp in the Jurong now is our Aerial Field. In time to come, however, we visualise ourselves living in the only spot of "greenery" in the midst of a concrete jungle. Rather strange for the Far East, but obviously a sign of the times.

Being a small Troop, our outside activities are rather few. We do, however, provide a reasonable proportion of rugger players, footballers and hockey players for 18th Regiment teams. We also play football against factory teams in Jurong. The Troop motor boat, although not frequently used, is still the vehicle of "fishy" stories. Apparently, according to F. of S. Spears, the particular types of fish caught locally tend to deflate and shrink when removed from the water.

Technically, things, I suppose, are very much the same as they always have been. The Line Party still disappears into the swamp maintaining feeder routes, although they have done most excellent work building routes and aerials over the past emergency. Lance-Corporal Zainal and Signalman Ghani, having returned from an Aerial Riggers' Course in the U.K., are obviously disappointed that towers do not require climbing every day. In the hall, our main problems, apart from maintenance, is the inability of the local power station to keep a steady voltage, which causes all the sets to "go down." This is possibly due to the rate of industrial expansion in the area.—*They've gone again!*

Traffic Troop. It is so long since our last contribution that perhaps we should begin by re-introducing ourselves. If you read the article on COMCAN in the July WIRE, you will know something about what we do here at T.R.C., Singapore. Modesty (and the demands of security) prevent our giving details of the traffic handled here. Let us say that we consider ourselves one of the hardest-worked stations in the network!

We are a mixed Troop of soldiers and civilians. C.D.S.O./O.C. T.R.C. is Mr. R. B. Handisyde, ex-Royal Signals and Old Boddingtonian. Our supervisors are Messrs. E. D. G. Catchpool, ex-R.N.; A. W. T. Hounsome, ex-R.A.F.; and M. S. G. Newman, ex-Royal Signals. Two Yeomen complete our supervisory staff: W.O.II D. H. A. Alborough, no stranger to COMCAN; and W.O.II M. J. Caplan, alias 9M4MK.

Our busiest sportsman is Lance-Corporal D. J. Elcox, who has represented 18th Regiment at soccer, rugby and cricket. Not content with field sports, Lance-Corporal Elcox took up water-ski-ing—with disastrous results. He fell foul of a boat's propeller and received injuries requiring several stitches, which kept him off the soccer field for at least three days.

Lance-Corporal E. G. Forester, another Troop soccer player, has earned our congratulations by his selection for the Corps XI.

In the world of "pop" music, one of our civilian operators, Wray Jervis, has been making a name for himself, leading a "rock" group. Not to be outdone, Signalmen Davey, Shaw, Wellington and Laming have armed themselves with guitars and amplifiers, and are presently "entertaining" the other members of the Troop at Chin Bee Camp with their rehearsals. The "Chin Bee-tles" are looking for a second-hand drum-kit.—Any offers? Shaw and Wellington were recently sent off to Labuan, on exchange visits, but that was just coincidence—so we are told.

Finally, a word about our locally-employed operators. Most of them are wives of Servicemen stationed on the island; they come to us with little or no experience and invariably serve us faithfully and well.

22nd REGIMENT, B.F.P.O. 16

An imaginative Adventure Training scheme gets many officers and soldiers out and about.

During July/August, 1964, 22nd Regiment carried out the most varied programme of adventure training planned by any Regiment at one time. No fewer than six schemes were undertaken simultaneously and included a climbing/exploration expedition in Northern Norway; a climbing expedition to Bavaria; a cycling trip to the Isle of Sylt; a route march in the Eifel district of West Germany; sailing in *Petasus,* off Kiel, and a cycling trip through Germany and Denmark.

The basis of each scheme was that a young officer, leading his Troop, should take a D11 and keep a daily communication schedule with base in Lippstadt. In the event this worked extremely well and tremendous interest was aroused at base in following the progress of the various parties as they moved around Europe.

Here are some of the stories that came out of these exercises.

Exercise "Langlauf"

This was commanded by Second-Lieutenant N. A. Horler. His party consisted of Staff Sergeant K. Bunsten and fifteen soldiers. They left barracks in Lippstadt and motored up to Fredrikshaven, on the northern shore of Denmark, where they embarked on the S.S. *Cort Adeler* for the 12-hour trip to Larvick, in Southern Norway.

Their first destination was the Norwegian School of Signals near Lillehammer, which is one of the biggest ski resorts in Norway.

The hospitality of the Norwegians was overwhelming, and much help and advice was received during the three-day stay. The party then left for the foot of the highest mountain in Norway, a destination which could only be reached by an extremely hazardous track. This track proved to be impassable some two miles from the goal, so, in very cold, wet weather, with a little snow, they pitched camp. Conditions were proving to be unexpectedly cold, with bad visibility, so an assault on the mountain was delayed. Instead, a day was spent climbing two smaller mountains, each with plenty of snow, but still in inclement weather.

As the weather remained bad, and since to remain in this location demanded more refined clothing and equipment than was at hand, camp was moved to a lower altitude at the side of a lake. Immediately the weather improved and eight enjoyable days' climbing were spent in some of the most beautiful surroundings in Norway. Three days were spent in covering 75 miles back to camp on bare rations and with no money—a journey which ensured maximum contact with the local inhabitants en route. As had already been found, Norwegians love the British soldier, and the hospitality received was unbelieveable in a lot of cases.

The party arrived back in Lillehammer in due course, and spent a less energetic week-end fostering relations with the local

inhabitants, and cleaning and repairing kit for the move back to Germany.

This was completed successfully and included a two-hour stop in Oslo. They arrived home with some unforgettable memories of a beautiful country, a friendly people, and an altogether worthwhile exercise.

Exercise "Sky High"

Second-Lieutenant R. T. Westerman commanded this scheme, which consisted of climbing expeditions in the Garmisch area of Bavaria. Although the party arrived in a downpour and got soaked in pitching their tents, the next morning was truly beautiful. The expressions Signalman Phair used when he first crawled, bleary-eyed, out of the tent and saw the Zug Spitze are usually reserved for something other than mountain scenery.

The next twenty days were absolutely marvellous. Communications back to Lippstadt were good, and this, of course, was one of the major parts of the exercise. It surprised us all that at the bottom of a valley we could get such a good signal with a rod antenna.

The mountains around us were soon climbed, except, of course, the Zug Spitz, which, from the north looked an impassive but impossible climb. Peace will remember his first climb for a long time, and so will those with him. While negotiating a particularly steep bit of rock he dropped his pack, which narrowly missed the climber behind, bounced about 400ft. down the rocky mountainside and finally disappeared. We all climbed a little more carefully after this warning.

The weather was mostly hot and sunny, and so trips to the Eilsee, with its soft, sandy beaches and warm water were very popular. However, when it was not sunny, we could have swum equally well in our camp. The vehicles limited the height of our camp above the major roads, so we were bound to be at the bottom of some mountain and, of course, we chose the highest mountain in Germany.

When the time finally came for us to leave Grainau, there were many farewells to be said and many promises made of a return next year. There is not one member of the party, despite leaving Grainau tired and a little sad, who is not hoping for, and looking forward to, this return.

Exercise "Pedal Thrust IV"

Second-Lieutenant A. F. Browne planned his detailed route in early spring; he was under the impression that at the time of the "adventure" he would be otherwise engaged and thus the considerable distance to be travelled did not worry him. However, this was not to be, so, on 10th August, Lieutenant Browne, Staff Sergeant Paxton and thirteen other ranks from "Y" Troop, were prepared to set off on their long bicycle trip to the Isle of Sylt and back.

They had with them eleven bicycles, one 3-ton vehicle and trailer and one D11 radio vehicle and generator. The system of travelling used was to send the vehicles on in the morning to set up a luncheon area where they could serve a light meal, and then in the afternoon they would continue on in advance and recce a camp site for the night and also cook an evening meal. The 3-ton vehicle housed for the day three persons who would buy food for that day, as they opted to take ration allowance with them and not 'compo'—an understandable decision! The D11 was opened each morning to report progress and relay back any problems incurred. Thus, in the evening the two individuals on the D11 would assist in the camp preparation. The truck crews were changed daily, giving everyone a chance to prove themselves a "Fanny Cradock" or not.

At 6.30 a.m. on the fateful day, ten cyclists were mounting their steeds which would carry them for the next fortnight. They cycled 200 kms. and travelled 50 kms. by truck in the first two days.

On the Saturday they finally reached their destination. They found a very nice camp site in the sand dunes, between one of the island's main towns (there are only about four). They were within easy reach of an excellent sandy beach. Before going to the island they heard it boasted several nudist colonies; in fact, it was widely rumoured that this destination was chosen for this reason. What truth there is in it has never been established! As luck would have it, the beach proved itself to be one of these said colonies, so the former cyclists turned themselves into naturists, spending three well-earned days of rest, sunbathing (when the sun appeared) and swimming in the North Sea.



Ex Westward Ho

Left to Right : Lance Corporal Iles, Corporal Marshall, Signalman McBarrow, Lance Corporal Higgins, Lance Corporal Walker (skipper)

One morning, early, Lieutenant Browne was woken at 5 a.m. and asked to sign for one of his "trippers," who somehow lost himself on the island, and the German Bundeswehr had taken him for a Russian spy. Lieutenant Browne's signature and recognition of this soldier sufficed to prove that he was a genuine British subject.

Three days' rest from cycling, and they were prepared to set off for their return trip. They allowed themselves a week for this.

The return route took them through Hamburg and Hannover and they returned to Lippstadt via Paderborn.

The seventh day saw a party of healthy, and more experienced cyclists arrive in Lippstadt. They had, without doubt, at times been exhausted, but in restrospect, it proved a most enjoyable fortnight, during which they viewed the varying panoramic scenery of Northern Germany. They had been wet, tired, and some had even been lost, but with mild surprise, it was noted that all wanted to repeat the experience.

Exercise "Westward Ho"

The aim of this exercise was to teach 20 men the basic skills of both dinghy and offshore sailing. With this in mind, a group of 20 soldiers under Captain J. M. Hincks and Lieutenant C. E. R. Storey went to Kiel for seventeen days.

The group set up a base camp at a small village called Strande, approximately 10 miles north-west of Kiel. It was an ideal camp site, being only 20 yards from the sea and 100 yards from the harbour. The group was split into three watches, and while one watch looked after camp chores, one of the other watches sailed the Regiment's Enterprise sailing dinghy in Kiel Fjord, and the third watch was offshore, sailing in the Baltic on the Corps yacht *Petasus*.

The dinghy sailing proved a success, and although the wind was very strong most of the time, several people, all with no previous knowledge of sailing, managed to get up to 3rd class helmsman standard.

The voyages of the *Petasus* did not go quite as planned, due to her being storm bound at Marstal for four days; however, everybody had at least one day of offshore sailing on the *Petasus* under her most capable skipper, Lance-Corporal Walker. Signalman Everett, the skipper of the *Korsair*, did some invaluable work on sailing instruction in the dinghy, and also let several of the group sail the *Korsair* while he was checking her rigging.

Radio communications were established back to Lippstadt every day. They also worked up to Norway on voice on two occasions, in spite of a naval transmitter nearby, which tended to swamp all frequencies.

The exercise ended all too soon, and they had to return to Lippstadt. However, many people are already making plans for next year, and it looks as if the Thrusters will soon be known all over the Baltic.

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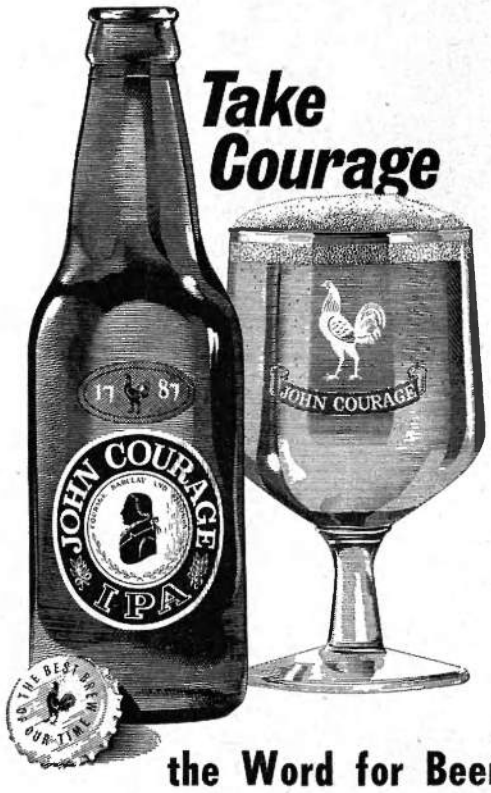
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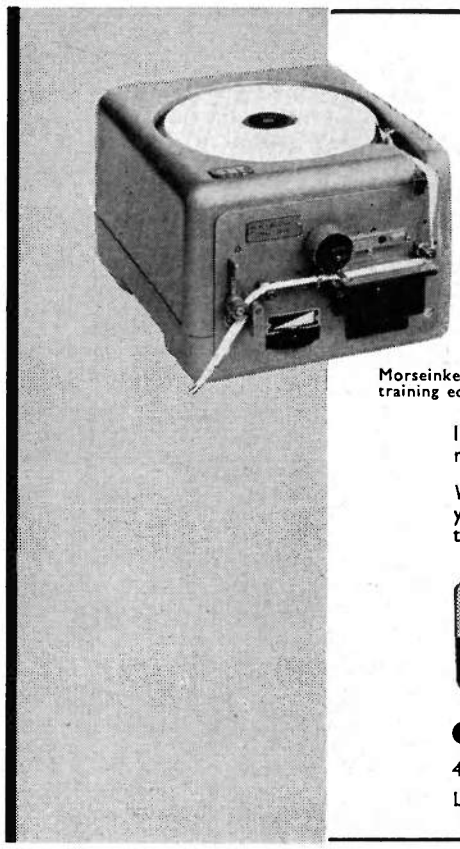
Another parent:
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A Major in the Royal Signals:
"Thank you very much for your two letters and the illustration drawn up for me. I found your "answer to all my questions complete and very helpful and am now convinced that this is just what "I need to help me with the cost of education for my younger boy . . . . I now regret that we "had not been introduced when I was planning for my other son!"

And, a senior General in the Army said he was told by his Bank Manager that the plan we sent to him was a "must."

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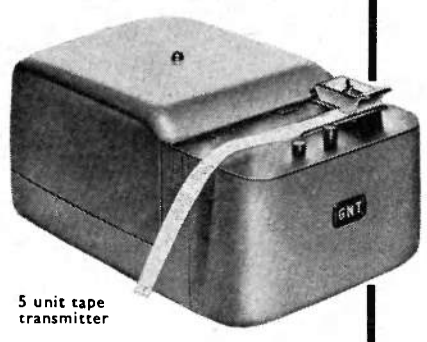


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30th Regiment

On the 20th August, 1964, this unit provided the Corps environment for the dining out of Brigadier A. L. Atkinson, O.B.E., prior to his retirement. The dinner was attended by some twenty-five Royal Signals officers from various units in Southern Command. To be the chosen unit for such an occasion was indeed an honour and we wish him an active and contented retirement.

During the same evening—or rather the early hours of the 21st—our imprest holder lost his safe. It was a surprised Lieutenant-Colonel (Retired) J. Lowans who arrived in his office to find his safe completely removed from its bricked-in position. The strength of the safe, however, presented too great a problem for the culprits, and its contents—a few shillings, so to speak—remained intact. This might well be long remembered by the Regimental Orderly Officer. It was the final duty for Captain (T.O.T.) G. B. Miles who is now serving with 7th Regiment. Who knows this may excuse him from such mundane tasks in his new unit.

Friday, 4th September, 1964, heralded the official opening of the soccer season with a six-a-side competition in which all Troops/Detachments of the Blandford Garrison took part. The competition was won by H Q. A.E.R. "A" team with Headquarters Squadron, 30th Regiment, runners-up. To those who think that such competitions are an easy way of taking exercise —ask Captain E. F. J. Bartlett! He anticipated ten minutes' play in one round only but ended up with seventy minutes' play and a few moments of excruciating pain in the final against H.Q. A.E.R.

On the 10th and 21st September respectively we were delighted to show off our contribution to the Corps to the Signal Officer-in-Chief of the Australian Army and the Signal Officer-in-Chief Indian Army respectively. Our own Signal Officer-in-Chief was scheduled to visit us on the 29th September, but his visit was unfortunately cancelled due to illness. We wish him a speedy recovery. Can any Regiment beat a programme including three Signal Officers-in-Chief in one month?

On the 30th September the cricket match of the season was held, 'to wit' Officers versus Warrant Officers and Sergeants. The Officers romped home to an easy victory, injuring R.Q.M.S. Norwood and Staff Sergeant Berry in the process. If you can't beat them, belt them!

Our serious cricketers (see photograph) have had a mixed season, winning six, losing nine and drawing one. The hardest fought match was that against 3rd Headquarters and Signal Regiment when our opponents were set to score 154 runs in 90 minutes. With only six minutes left they still required thirty-two and finally won.



30th REGIMENT CRICKET TEAM

Back row, left to right: Corporal Boyes, Corporal Turner, Signalman Angel, Lance-Corporal Kimble (R.A.P.C.), Signalman Radleigh, Lance-Corporal Crawford (A.C.C.), Sergeant Irons, Corporal Gray (Scorer)

Front row: Signalman Nibblett, Lance-Corporal Grounds, Sergeant Skimming, Corporal Hewitt (R.E.M.E.), Lance-Corporal Senior

640 Troop

In the two months since our last notes were published we have had few overseas commitments. Sergeant Moat and Lance-Corporal Brewin left at very short notice for British Guiana to join other members of the Troop for an emergency tour, closely followed by Corporal Pike, but otherwise we have been very busy at home.

Three detachments were out on Exercise "Storm King," and we have been running Radio Operator reclassification courses for the whole Regiment. A number of the Troop recently had a trip to London for the National Radio and Television Show at Earls Court, where they enjoyed a very interesting fortnight.

Our detachments in Swaziland, East Africa, Aden, Rhodesia, Cyprus, Borneo and British Guiana are still quietly getting on with their jobs.

Finally, there is absolutely no truth in the suggestion that our relatively quiet time is due to the absence of our Officer Commanding, Captain Hodgson, on his Squadron Commanders' Course at Catterick.

Notes from Hong Kong

H.Q., Royal Signals, in New Premises. These notes, from H.Q., Royal Signals, are the first from the new offices, and will perhaps be of particular interest to those who spent many hours in the formulation of plans, and in overcoming the many frustrations, unfortunately, but almost inevitably, associated with Works Services. Phase I of the building programme of the new Joint Communications Centre and H.Q., Royal Signals, was completed on 19th August, and the H.Q. Staff took up residence in their portion of the building on 24th August. After the years spent in old fashioned accommodation in the old Signal Centre buildings and in "D" Block, working in air-conditioned offices is bliss indeed, although some critics complain that it is now too cold!

Installation work is now in full swing on the communications centre portion of the building, and by the time these notes appear in print, the Army will have moved in, and we hope that the Navy will be following us in a very few weeks. The Message Centre and the T.R.C., fitted with modern and purpose-built equipments and fitments, are a joy to behold and are as modern as any to be found anywhere in the British Army. For this, much credit must go to Captain (Tfc. Offr.) Ted Barrett.

Demolition of the old fashioned and inconvenient Army Signal Centre buildings commenced on completion of the move into the new accommodation, and in the not-too-distant future we shall be reporting the installation of the new automatic telephone exchange and fault control centre as the next stage in the fully-integrated Joint Services Communications Centre.

Comings and Goings. Changes have not been confined to accommodation, and in recent months we have said goodbye to Major (T.O.T.) Bill Connett and Major Ken Ferguson, after very busy tours on the staff of C.R. Signals. To them must go much of the credit for the planning of the new concept. Their hard work and diligence in overcoming difficulties and frustrations in all aspects of the communications world in the Colony will undoubtedly be of great benefit to their successors, Lieutenant (T.O.T.) Cyril Hooper and Major Maurice Handsley. We wish them both well in their new appointments at 30th Regiment and the School of Signals respectively.

Typhoons add Adventure to the Daily Hound. To the majority of Servicemen and families, Hong Kong is the mecca of all postings; a tourist paradise, with wonderful beaches, climate and scenery; a free port, with luxury goods within financial range. It is all of this and with plenty of interesting and varied work, particularly for Signals, to occupy the mind during duty hours. Until this year it had the added attraction to small boys of the prospect of a bath every four days, such was the water shortage! This has changed, too, and for the first time for many years, the reservoirs are full to overflowing.

This happy state can be attributed directly to the many "wet" typhoons experienced this year, the most notorious of which, "Ruby," 5th/6th September, hit the headlines of the Press and television at home. From the end of May up to the 5th/6th September, we have had visitations from no less than seven typhoons.

"Ruby," however, was the pick of the bunch, and in deaths, damage and general disorder, rivalled in violence the notorious "Wanda," of 1962. The wind played havoc with what little overhead telephone routes now exist, to say nothing of lifting the roofs off many buildings and uprooting trees. Aerials were an obvious target, and even a log periodic, designed to withstand wind pressures of 120 m.p.h., became so much scrap metal. Cable and Wireless suffered equally with the Services and for a short time, late in the storm, Hong Kong was out of touch with the world. It says much to devotion to duty and courage of certain individuals that, within the hour, some communication links had been restored. Looking at the harbour, when one could see it through the rain squalls, from Force Headquarters, our admiration went out in full measure to the Naval tugs who stuck it out in mid-channel and went to the assistance of ships less expertly handled.

The rain—some eight inches fell in less than 24 hours—added to our difficulties. Landslides and flooding wrecked many cables and one of the many ships which eventually ended up ashore on Stonecutters Island, dragged her anchor and snapped one of the cross-harbour cables. The SWS Troops were kept busy, and great credit must be accorded to them in restoring all but a very few circuits within a few hours of the end of the storm.

A more factual account of "Ruby" is given in the following notes submitted by 246 Gurkha Signal Squadron.

246 GURKHA SQUADRON

Signals play a vital part in grappling with typhoon problems. Local Storm Warning No. 10 was hoisted at 11.35 hours, which meant that winds of hurricane force may be expected from any quarter. All preparations had been made and the Operations Room staff and Signal Squadron of 48 Gurkha Infantry Brigade Group sat and waited for the elements to do their worst.

During the typhoon season—May to October—any of the 15-20 tropical depressions, storms and typhoons that generate themselves in the Pacific may affect the Colony of Hong Kong to a greater or lesser degree. In 1962 the 'eye' of typhoon "Wanda" passed through the Colony leaving in its wake over a hundred dead and considerable damage. 1963 was a quiet year, but 1964 has proved a bumper year for typhoons, "Ruby" being the most severe and occasioning the announcement at the beginning of this article.

The storm warning system (Nos. 1 to 10) indicates the distance of the typhoon from Hong Kong, the expected speeds and their direction. Cones and lights are displayed from all police stations and the radio gives half-hourly reports from the Royal Observatory of the typhoon's progress. Experience gained in past typhoons has led to the establishing of a comprehensive system of Civil and Army Control Centres, and fulfilling its role of giving aid to the Civil Administration during natural emergencies, the Army, in part, parallels the Civil administrative effort, providing liaison officers at the H.Q. of the New Territories Administration and District Offices, and prepositioning troops in areas where assistance may be needed.

Within the 48 Gurkha Infantry Brigade Group area 246 Gurkha Signal Squadron provides the radio communications for the reporting of incidents and the control of assistance. At times radio is the only means of communication available as wind and rain slowly paralyse the telephone system. (It is fair to say that the Army lines tend to stay in longer than the civil.)

300 feet up in a Rebroadcast Station. The hub of the VHF typhoon net is the rebroadcast station 3,000 ft. up on Tai Mo Shan. Before use was made of an R.A.F. guard room on the approach road, the crew of the rebro had the unenviable task of staying battened down in a ¾-ton Land Rover, with winds of over 120 knots trying to pluck them and the vehicle off the mountain. They were also no doubt praying (at least the Squadron Commander was) that the aerials would not blow away—there was little they could have done at the height of a typhoon if they had. During "Viola" the crew had to remain in position for nearly 30 hours with no opportunity to prepare a meal or even a hot drink. Life is a little easier in the guard room, but as it is only about eight feet by five there is hardly room to move about when two C 42s plus spare, batteries, cooker and three men are established.

By pre-allocation of the sub stations to the primary and rebroadcast frequencies, the net also provides the lateral communications between Battalion H.Q.'s and their L.O.'s at the District Offices. In the Brigade control centre there are two sets, one on the primary and the other on the rebroadcast frequency so that contact may be maintained through the rebro with the stations working on the primary frequency with which direct control is impossible. This raises slight problems for the Staff Officer faced with two microphones and headsets working on the same net in deciding which one to use. It was thought that the answer might be to use split headset and commander's microphone, but this was vetoed as being too difficult—not to organise, but in deciding which ear and then which set to switch to.

On receipt of Storm Warning No. 3 the control centre is established, the rear links, VHF and Tg to H.Q.L.F., and the Brigade typhoon net tested. From Storm Warning No. 5 onwards the control centres are manned and the nets opened until the typhoon is over and Storm Warning No. 3 is hoisted again.

"'Martian' like Figures in Black Smocks." Movement at the height of "Ruby" was all but impossible. Apart from the wind, the air was full of very fast moving debris, but even so "Martian" like figures clad in black plastic 'Smocks Foul Weather' could be seen, in various attitudes approaching the horizontal, fighting to maintain an elevated aerial on a telescopic mast in a near vertical position. Although the telescopic masts remained more or less upright, they are no longer truly telescopic. The top section of one was bent through nearly 90 degrees and now refuses to slide in or out. During "Sally" six guys were used from the top of the mast and only five of the seven sections extended. Using six pickets this system was found to produce a much more stable platform for the elevated aerial, and there were no casualties.

Road movement is permitted up to Storm Warning No. 8 but, with the exception of radio vehicles, canopies have to be removed which makes travelling wet and uncomfortable. I.S. proofed vehicles are by far the safest means of transport, and it was the metal under the canopy of the Brigade Commander's Rover that saved the operator from a very sore head when a tree fell on the vehicle outside the District Office at Tai Po! Had the I.S. proofing been over the windscreen that would no doubt still be in one piece.

There are many typhoon tales—O.C. New Territories S.W.S. Troop complaining that the 16/5 Lancers L.A.D., which should have been 300 yards away, was now leaning against the telephone exchange—of 1,260 watt charging engines that produce electricity everywhere except at the terminals when the humidity is 100 per cent.—of the driver who left his vehicle for a few minutes and came back to find it had been blown sideways into a deep monsoon drain.

After so many typhoons we feel that we have now got the drill right. Another is now on the way, and with Storm Warning No. 1 hoisted during the night, we once again swing into action. Let us hope that this will be a mild one. At least it has come during the working week, and not on a holiday which has been the usual form.

252 SQUADRON GET OUT AND AROUT

An entertaining time was had by all during the visit to the Colony of H.M.S. *Ambush*, a submarine affiliated to the Squadron. The Captain invited 20 members of the unit to go on board for a trip out to sea. A technical hitch prevented the boat from diving at first but assurance was given that it was a routine and very minor "hitch"! The dive being completed, the soldiers were permitted to take over the balance controls of the boat but a very close watch was kept by nervous sailors. However, everything went smoothly much to the relief of the O.C. who was also on board. Unfortunately, the W.R.A.C. officer of the Squadron was not permitted to go on the trip because it is considered bad luck to dive with females on board!

A Security Patrol, led by Captain B. F. Strange, went off into the depths of Lamma Island for three days. The Royal Signals Sailing Club junk was used to transport the patrol from Tytam to Lamma Island. Communications were very success-

Typhoons, Patrols and a Submarine Trip highlight the Hong Kong daily round . . . . . .













1. For good sailors only. Typhoon scene in the harbour. 2 Aftermath of the storm. 3. Before going below on H.M. Submarine "Ambush" *(left to right)*: **Lance Corporals Brown, Ardeon, Russell, Norrie, W.O.II Chin. 4. A near miss. 5. Security patrol with village children. 6. 252 Squadron security patrol look wrecked (but are not) on the good ship "Marie Stella".**

ful between the patrol and its peacetime location mainly due to the fact that radio equipment had been installed in the junk. Lamma Island has no roads or vehicles and moving from one village to another across the mountainous terrain proved difficult. The junk, however, helped considerably by picking up the patrol at several points and moving it by sea to the nearest place to the next village.

208 (COMWEL) SQUADRON, c/o G.P.O., MALACCA, MALAYSIA

September was another month of sporting successes. This time it was the Brigade Minor Units Swimming and Water Polo. Because of operations in South Malaya, some units had to withdraw, but the chief contenders for the Minor Units Swimming Trophy managed to keep their stars away from the Indonesians. Only at one stage, when 3 Company, R.A.S.C., went into the lead, was there any doubt. Gradually the Squadron's lead increased until, in the end, we were 60 points ahead of our nearest rivals, 11th Independent Field Squadron, R.E.

The water polo was not quite so easy; after a 13—1 victory over 11th Field Squadron, R.E., in the semi-finals, the team met H.Q. Company in the finals and, in a very exciting game, just beat them by 4 goals to 3.

The arrival, from Australia, of our new Administrative Officer, Lieutenant D. J. Slade, brings the hierarchy up to strength. This gives the lead to Australia for the next two years, by three Australian to two British Officers.

They say that the winter is with us, although the temperature is still in the 80s and is unlikely to change. This means that we shall shortly be starting the round of religious festivals (with the usual holidays) that makes life in a multi-racial society such a "scive"—I mean hive—of activitiy.

222 SQUADRON, B.F.P.O. 69

The hot season is usually the quiet season when comparatively little happens. Or should be. That is if one ignores the annual R.E.M.E. Technical Inspection, the annual C.I.V. Inspection, Small Arms Inspections and visits by three V.I.P.s.

Just in case we wanted to relax, about three thousand boat loads (or it seemed like it) of G1098 stores arrived.

Questions from "B" and "K" Troops: "We haven't any room; where do we put 'em?" Sorry, the Editor would censor the reply from the Quartermaster, Staff Sergeant Ken Taylor. (*He probably would! — Editor*).

"B" Airfield Troop. "Who the —— are they?" Understandable comment. Even our oldest inhabitant, Lance-Corporal Bob Ford, cannot remember the Troop getting but the minimum mention in THE WIRE.

Here then, is the full story. The Troop was formed at R.A.F., Bahrain, after the Kuwait emergency, responsibility for the Persian Gulf airfields having previously been maintained from Squadron H.Q., in Steamer Point Aden. Since then all the stations have grown enormously, and the Troop with them. We now boast a posted strength of over thirty and hope springs eternal for more reinforcements. The Troop is responsible for all the landlines at R.A.F. Muharraq, R.A.F. Sharjah and R.A.F. Masirah.

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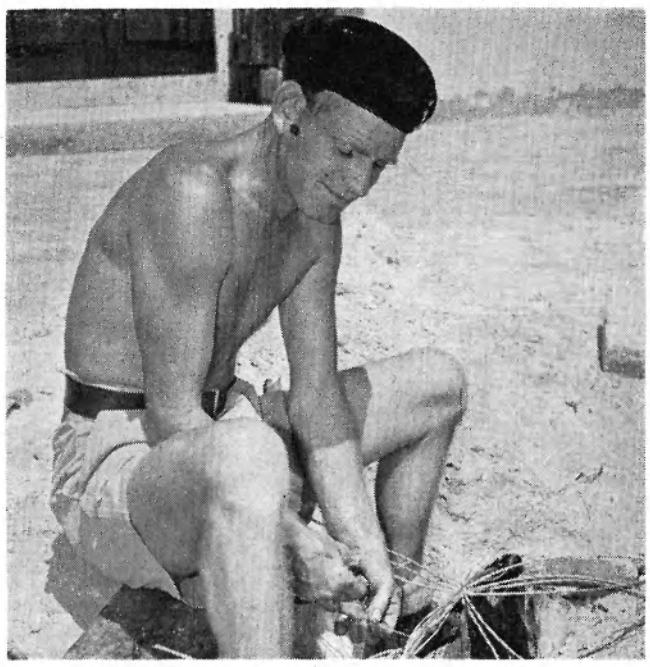


Pay Parade—In the field
Sergeant Bagwell explaining to Lance Corporal Burdes that Staff Operators cannot claim danger money for working on cables. Signalman Murphy agrees

R.A.F. Muharraq, formerly Bahrain, is situated on a small island attached to Bahrain by a narrow causeway. It is a thriving station and is attached to a new and flourishing civil airport, from which the VC-10s make their departures three times a week. In fact we will be going home by VC-10 very shortly.

Our work here is, as one might expect, concerned mainly with UG cables. But there is one more problem than normal. That is salt water. The water table is usually a foot below the surface (the highest point on the island is supposed to be only 3ft. above the high tide mark). Trenching almost qualifies the Troop for membership of the Sub-Aqua Club! In an effort to overcome this exposure to the elements, Sergeant Tony Bagwell, the Troop Sergeant, is thinking up a method of laying cable from a Beverley, using a high-speed plough!

At Sharjah, the detachment consists of Corporal West, Signalmen Peddie and Burns. Corporal West who has been there for almost two years, is renowned as a fisherman. He has been without a "hats horrible" since the visit of the D.D. Telecommunications, Colonel Williams, who carried it off as a trophy. It is hoped that it will be worn at all the Sussex cricket matches.



Signalman Brewer jointing

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Sharjah is, of course, well-known as the base of the Trucial Oman Scouts. Recently, having no linemen on strength, a cry of distress was raised for help with their cables. The Troop, always willing to help fellow members of the Corps, stepped in gladly. The detachment of three linemen, Signalmen Daly, Hall and Shepherd, had a most enjoyable stay, but did notice a tendency for their D10 to wander. Perhaps Frances, the Signal Squadron monkey, wants to become a linewoman.

The detachment at Masirah is not so lucky. They have no neighbours at all, the station being on an uninhabited island off the south-eastern corner of the Arabian Peninsula. To make up for this, the detachment are rather held in awe by the airmen there. They are shocked to find that it is possible, if a soldier is willing to do it, he can stay on Masirah for two years, as opposed to their one. Corporal Souley, the detachment commander, has nearly achieved this, and consequently appears to have "a finger in every pie" there. Signalman Grove, the next longest inhabitant, caused further shock when, there having been no barber available for nine weeks, he requested Signalman Brewer to cut his hair. Grove then appeared with a Yul Brynner-style, to the dismay of the long-haired Air Force types.

One of Masirahs claims to fame is that its surf beach is a breeding ground for turtles. On the Squadron Commander's last visit he was treated to a flashlight tour of the area and was heard to remark that the turtles were the first females he had seen on the island.

"K" Airfield Troop. Hello again from Khormaksar. Despite our absence from notes, we are still very much alive, and sweating our way through the dreaded hot season. At the beginning of the summer we had yet another visit from 638 Troop, and quite a few friendships were renewed or formed between Staff Sergeant Jones and his lads and ourselves. Their hard work in the Officers' Married Quarters was much appreciated by all, and in particular "B" Detachment, who rarely call there now on faults.

Our two up-country detachments at Riyan and Salalah have recently seen a change of faces as Signalmen Pete Day and Joe Joseph return to Khormaksar to pack their M.F.O. for B.A.O.R. Signalmen Stacey and "Scouse" Wright take over these popular posts and are continuing to keep their respective strips "on the ball."

Two more of our "Mersey beats," Corporal Garmory and Signalman Lees, have returned from a short detachment at Mukerius near the now infamous Yemen border, where they report having seen grass and rain whilst laying cable there—a rare experience here.

Sportwise, the Troop now boasts an international cricketer, the Troop O.C., Captain Jimmie Walmsley, having represented Aden State side against a touring Pakistani team. In the water the Troop is well represented both in Corps and R.A.F. swimming and water polo teams, and many matches take on an inter-Troop flavour when playing other R.A F. units, as we frequently find ourselves against members of Squadron H.Q. and S.W.S. Troops.

234 SQUADRON, B.F.P.O. 51

(An account of Malta Signal Squadron's participation in the recent Independence Celebrations).

On the 21st September, Malta officially became an Independent Member of the Commonwealth after over 150 years of Crown Colony status. The occasion was celebrated all over Malta by many different events, but in many ways the most spectacular and most moving was the military parade and display held on the Floriana parade ground on the evening of 20th September. Here, before a crowd estimated at well over fifty thousand people, the British Armed Forces paid their tribute to Malta with a parade and tattoo.

The parade formed up with a magnificent Royal Guard of Honour, provided by the three Services. The guard welcomed all the important guests with the appropriate salute, culminating in a crashing royal salute for H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh. The tattoo that followed was splendidly executed and included the massed bands of the Royal Marines, The Royal Sussex Regiment, and the R.M.A., a P.T. display by the Royal Navy, a display of gun drill by 2 Air Defence Regiment of the Royal Malta Artillery, a most colourful display of National Dancing (the Maltija) by Maltese dancers, and a series of tableaux depicting the history and military connection of Malta with the British Crown. These and many other items made a full and exciting evening for the spectators. Finally, towards midnight, the guard re-formed for the closing act, namely, the lowering of the Union Flag, to the strain of the National Anthem, and exactly at midnight, the raising of the new red and white flag, emblazoned with the George Cross of Malta. This was the signal for a magnificent firework display which, most fittingly, closed the proceedings.

Those who know this Squadron will realise that because of the proximity of our barracks to the Floriana parade ground, we had a built-in grand stand view; however, it was soon equally realised by our masters that we also owned the ideal assembly area for the parade, and so 234 Squadron acquired an onerous and somewhat responsible behind-the-scenes task of assembling, marshalling, feeding and generally keeping happy the thousand-odd soldiers, sailors and airmen taking part. This was quite an interesting little exercise in administration and traffic control, but we are pleased to report all appeared on parade at the right place and time. In addition, there was a small problem of control communications, tackled with enthusiasm by the linemen of SWS Troop and the T.O.T. and his technicians. Having met all the requirements of the Parade Marshal, he (the Marshal) was somewhat surprised, dismayed and alarmed to be confronted with a battery of numerous switches, microphones and telephones, so it became necessary to appoint him an assistant in the shape of W.O.II R. C. Meyer, to operate the console. Here, we should explain, that the control of the parade was exercised from the top of a tall, flimsy-looking, and very temporary tower. After two rehearsals and a dress rehearsal, W.O.II Meyer was unfortunately taken ill (some say with a form of altitude sickness) and his place was taken, very capably, at short notice, by Staff Sergeant



The "George Cross" Tableaux. Lance Corporal Cauchi, 234 Squadron is 3rd from left

(F. of S.) B. W. Thomas. Needless to say, he understudied without a hitch and, we are happy to add, our communications worked perfectly. Other communicators were in the area for the occasion, and we were able to render small assistance to the television companies, Rediffusion (Malta) and last, but not least, the Malta Electricity Board.

All this effort was not without its reward, for, by guile and crafty deception, the roof and verandah of the Junior Ranks' Club was kept clear of intruders and obstructions, which enabled most of those on duty to see some part, if not all, of the proceedings, with a view that was hardly bettered by the Royal Box. Our last act of administration was to issue to the Troops on parade two bottles of beer per man. This was a free gift kindly donated by the Malta Government—we are still trying to round up the empties. Has anybody got 46 dozen . . . . ! Finally, 234 Squadron did actually have one man on parade, in the shape of Lance-Corporal Cauchi, no less, who represented, very ably, the Corps in the Army Tableaux.



Lance Corporal "Chris" Turner and Signalman "Geoff" Lumley with the Husky in which they took first place in Class III on the "Harvester's Moon" Rally.

243 SQUADRON

The Squadron continues to provide the Southern Command Royal Signals Recruiting Display, and this has been seen during the summer months at such shows as the Southsea Flower Show, Shaftesbury and Gillingham Show and the Christchurch Regatta. Probably one of the most interesting shows attended was the Veteran Transport Display at Woodcote, near Reading. The convoy moving to this display site were involved in an amusing incident when trying to cross the toll bridge at Pangbourne. The convoy, consisting of two 3-ton G.S. lorries towing two 2-ton trailers, and a 1-ton lorry towing a trailer, was led by a Hillman Husky. Military vehicles are permitted to use the toll bridge free of charge, but the whole convoy was halted for at least ten minutes whilst the occupants of the Husky argued with the "dear old lady" who guards the bridge, as she maintained that a Hillman Husky, although painted khaki green and carrying formation signs, was not a military vehicle. In sheer desperation the fee was eventually paid and the convoy again moved off!

The Squadron entered a team of three vehicles in the Harvester's Moon Motor Rally, on the night of 5th/6th September, and the vehicle driven by Lance-Corporal Turner, and navigated by Signalman Lumley, with Signalman Walsh as third man, won the first prize for vehicles of Class III in this event.

245 SQUADRON (CYRENAICA), B.F.P.O. 55

The summer season on the North African coast is not the best time to arrive and your new scribe arrived to what he had read in foregoing notes, "Dusty and hot Benghazi with its typical summer climate."

We arrived to find a feverish activity for Corps Week well in hand. The principle activities for Corps Week which was highly successful were an all ranks' dance, very well attended, a cricket match versus R.A.S.C. which we won most convincingly. The Squadron outing to Long Beach followed by the officers' cocktail party were both highly successful functions, thanks to Lieutenant (Traffic) Duncan and S.S.M. Thornton. The Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' quiet drinks party is not to be omitted. A very successful and appreciated week.

Recently we were visited by the Deputy Commander Malta and Libya who was accompanied by the Deputy Commander designate, Brigadier The Lord Grimthorpe, O.B.E.; he was most impressed by our new-look signal centre and was introduced to all Officers and Warrant Officers by the C.O., Major J. W. Fyfe.

Exercise time is upon us and life in general is hectic. This Comcan and field role has to be seen to be believed and understood. In this connection ask our new F. of S., J. Weeks, who joined us on 16th July, 1964. Work, work and more work, is the order of the day in these difficult times.

Our Wives' Club is busy and thriving under the watchful eye of the C.O.'s wife, Mrs. Fyfe, in preparation for their annual sale, and it is whispered that our Christmas arrangements are well advanced in the planning stage.

The annual cricket match against the British Military Mission for the Allsopps Cup was again a good day for the Squadron, who in fact at the request of B.M.M. made all the arrangements. On the field we were successful. Major Richmond, 6 for 13, and Signalman Denton, 4 for 25, doing the bowling damage, and Signalman Denton and Corporal Downton got most of the runs needed very quickly. We were complimented on the excellent fare provided and B.M.M. were a happy if defeated body.

266 SQUADRON, B.F.P.O. 660



Readers will probably recall from our last notes that communications in Borneo were in a critical condition due to one end of a halyard being lodged at the top of a 78 ft. mast.

The accompanying photograph gives our solution to the problem. Equipped with a boat hook and weight a R.A.F. helicopter crew took off to recover the halyard. After two unsuccessful attempts at hooking the halyard from a distance of about eight feet, the pilot moved alongside the mast and a crew member leant out and grabbed the halyard, attached the weight and dropped it to the ground. There was an anxious moment as the pilot 'eased' his starboard wheel between the top stay wires.

We extend our gratitude to the crew, who, apart from recovering the halyard gave an excellent demonstration in the handling of a helicopter.

Saldema

"What is that bus doing out there in the sea?" said a member of the Officers' Mess.

"That," said the O.C., "is Saldema."

Now let the joint masters tell their own story.

Unregistered tonnage, 0.5 tons; draught, 2 ft.; length o/a, 12 ft.; max. speed, 2 knots; beam, 8 ft.; power, 5 h.p. British Anzani; joint masters: Lance-Corporal Budworth, Corporal Jolly, Lance-Corporal Bass, Corporal Drayton, Corporal Allen, Corporal Sigrist and "Kipper," the mate.

Our aim was to build a stable, mobile, sea-worthy platform for fishing and diving. Thus the raft 'Saldema' was conceived. After one week of frantic nefarious activity, 'Saldema' was unceremoniously launched into the South China Sea. A further month's work saw the cabin completed and the outboard bought (yes, bought) and installed.

'Saldema' is still undergoing sea trials which included a trip to the neighbouring island of Patu Daat, where we camped. The next day we set off for a day's fishing but, alas! after half an hour the outboard failed and 'Saldema' drifted with the tide towards the Sabah mainland. Two hundred yards from the coast, the engine leapt back into life and we set course back to Labuan. 'Saldema' proved her sea worthiness on the return voyage when a sudden squall hit us, whipping the sea into a frenzy of white capped waves crashing over our raft. We arrived back in Labuan satisfied with 'Saldema's' performance and having caught a shark and rather too much sun.

Turning to a more conventional form of sport, our detachment in Kuching, after a shaky start to the season, hit form at just the right time to win the Western Brigade Soccer League. Having beaten such formidable opposition as: Freddie and the Dreamers, Nohs Marauders, and the Madcaps, they met Bates Bashers in the final, whom they beat 2—0.

Apart from being very much a "joint" service squadron we are surely the most homogeneous mixture of Royal Signals personnel in the Corps. We now have attached personnel from twenty-one different units. To the O.C.s who have subscribed, our thanks, and we are sure that when your detachments return, all will have benefited from their experience in Borneo.

44th (H.C.) REGIMENT (CINQUE PORTS) (T.A.)

The officers of the Regiment held a cocktail party at the Regiment's Headquarters, Yeomanry House, Maidstone, on Saturday, 26th September.

The guests included Major-General A. M. W. Whistler (Assistant Chief of Defence Staff, Signals) and Mrs. Whistler, Brigadier M. D. Price (C.S.O., Eastern Command) and Mrs. Price, Colonel A. V. Brandle (former C.R. Signals), Colonel G. H. T. Shrimpton (C.S.O., 44th (H.C.) Division/District), Lieutenant-Colonel M. D. M. Humphery (D.D.W.R.A.C., Eastern Command),) Admiral Sir Henry Moore and Brigadier and Mrs. W. Magan. A civic flavour was provided by the Mayor of Maidstone, Alderman Robert Crispin, who was supported by Councillor A. J. Kingham, Mayor of New Romney, one of the Cinque Ports from which the Regiment takes its name.

An up-and-coming band

During the party, excellent music was provided by the Regimental Band under the baton of the Bandmaster, W.O.II Pedler.

In January, 1964, 44th (H.C.) Regiment (Cinque Ports) T.A., received authority to form its own band. In the years between the original application and the granting of authority, various plans had been made to take over an existing civilian band, but by January, these plans had evaporated and the band started with the enlistment of Signalman Pedler. Signalman (now W.O.II) Pedler is an interesting, as well as a remarkable, man. During the war he served in the Royal Navy.

He is now in local government and is the Bandmaster of the Medway Towns Silver Band. He has the natural love of music inherent in Welshmen, and has considerable musical professional attainments in his qualifications of Diploma, Brass Band College of Music. It was these professional qualifications that enabled the then War Office to agree to him being granted a Grade I trade rating without examination.

Since January, W.O.II Pedler has gathered round him some 18 qualified musicians, including four members of the Regiment whose musical talents were not known before, and a really high standard has been achieved. Fifteen strong by May, the band played at camp for parade and other functions most admirably. Since then the band strength has increased to 22, and thanks to the generosity of the Kent T. & A.F. Association, each man has his own instrument. Apart from the officers of the Regiment, financial help has been received from varied organisations and individuals, but further assistance is still needed to purchase all the accoutrements required.

Based on 2 (Medway) Squadron, at Chatham, the band would be interested to know of any ex-Corps bandsmen living in the area who would like to join, though there are very few vacancies left (phone Maidstone 4235 for information).

It is hoped that the Band will soon start entering for competitions in addition to playing for Regimental and Squadron functions, and will enter the T.A. Band Competition, which is held annually.

47th REGIMENT MIDDLESEX YEOMANRY (The Duke of Cambridge's Hussars)

Our Band Won.—A cup and £50 were the prizes won by the Middlesex Yeomary Band, as winners of the London T.A. Band Competition, one of the events sponsored by London T.A. Headquarters, as part of their Recruiting and Public Relations Campaign — "T.A. Fortnight in London," which was held during September.

Our Band, under its Bandmaster, W.O.I Tamplin, had strong competition to beat, but their efforts were rewarded. The chief judge, Captain T. L. Sharpe, Director of Music, Coldstream Guards, expressed himself as being very impressed by the high standards displayed, particularly in view of the obvious difficulties of rehearsal. Also won by the Middlesex Yeomanry, was the "Outstanding Musician" event, the winner being Bandsman F. Joyce, our E Flat Clarinet player.

T.A. Fortnight in London.—This campaign created a great deal of interest, and included an exhibition at Charing Cross Station. The Royal Signals aspect of which was under the direction of our own Major R. M. Lustig, T.D.

Another aspect of the T.A. Fortnight was a series of "At Homes," given by a variety of units during the period. Our contribution being an exhibition at our Chelsea T.A.C., also most successfully directed by Major R. M. Lustig, which included such exhibits as War Games demonstrations, working equipment, vehicle layouts, sand table layouts, drill demonstrations and a barbecued pig, prepared by our regimental cooks.

News in Brief.—At the Eastern Command Rifle Meeting we were not quite so successful as we have been previously, but we did come away winners of the S.M.G. Team event and the S.M.G. Permanent Staff event, won by W.O.II Waters. Recruiting continues apace; special credit going to our newly-formed Troop at Wealdstone, under their Troop Leader, Captain D. Reade, who are already 29 strong.

The Middlesex T.A. Association's Tourney takes place as we go to press—so reports of that next month. We are entering two teams, as well as providing the communications system for the whole event.

Congratulations to Staff Sergeant R. L. Miller, on his award of the T.A. Efficiency Medal and a sincere welcome to S S.M. Street, who joins us as Actiag P.S.I. (T.A.) at our Wealdstone T.A.C., on transfer from the Royal Engineers.

65th REGIMENT (T.A.)

Visit of the Worshipful Company of Skinners. The Master and Wardens of the Worshipful Company of Skinners visited the Regiment early this year. On arrival, they were received by the Honorary Colonel, the Rt. Hon. The Earl of Malmesbury, T.D., V.L., and the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel J. O. Hunter, M.B.E. They inspected the Skinners' Guard, which consisted, as customary, of two officers and twenty-five other ranks. This year the guard also included cadets from the City of London Army Cadet Force. The guard was commanded by Lieutenant C. G. Taylor. The rain held off, though the Orderly Officer was seen prancing around with an umbrella. The Master and Wardens visited the Regiment undergoing its annual training, showing great interest in the main technical aspects of our training. A demonstration of a traffic accident, organised by H.Q. Squadron attracted considerable attention, if only because of two very realistic casualties played by Privates Marley and Cakebread, members of the W.R.A.C. Driving School.

This year, the Master presented the Skinners' Awards to Corporal B. Stockdale, W.R.A.C. (daughter of R.S.M. F. Stockdale), and to Signalman C. J. Robinson. These awards are presented to the soldier and member of the W.R.A.C. who make the most progress during the previous year.

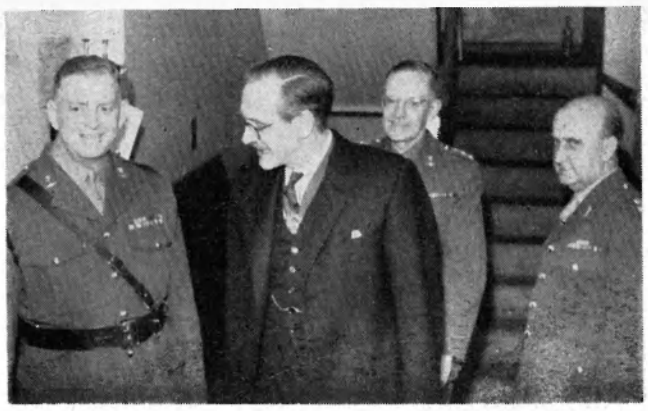
Corpus Christi. The Worshipful Company of Skinners held their election day service on Corpus Christi at the Church of St. Mary Aldermary in the City. The Regiment, as usual, provided the Guard of Honour outside the Church which, this year, consisted of one officer and twenty other ranks. The guard marched from Regimental Headquarters, down Moorgate and through the City to the Church. After the service the guard were entertained to tea at the Skinners' Hall.

Annual Camp, 1964. The camp took the form of a long-range radio exercise, with stations in Malta, Germany, Scotland, Wales and England. It proved to be one of the most successful communications exercises carried out by the Regiment for many years. More or less continuous traffic was passed over all links for the whole ten days. These good results proved to be a gratifying reward for all the hard training put in by the Regiment during the year.

The most eventful time was had by the Malta detachment. They were kindly looked after by 234 Squadron, who made their stay very happy. Having spent much of the training year learning about the efficiency of various aerials and their erection, Staff Sergeants G. Donkin and F. Young succeeded in working the U.K. on a piece of wire attached to a brick, dropped down the Sergeants' Mess chimney. Whilst the O.C., Major C. Burgess, and Lieutenant J. Pugh were retrieving this aerial, they were inadvertently locked on the roof, and only succeeded in summoning assistance by dangling a notice over the edge on the end of the aerial.

A radio training school was established in the old Military Hospital, at Penarth, North Wales, and our thanks must go

Continued with pictures on page 446.



An informal talk between Mr. G. P. Pirie-Gordon and R.S.M. F. Stockdale, B.E.M., with the Honorary Colonel, the Right Hon. The Earl of Malmesbury, T.D., V.L., and the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel J. O. Hunter, M.B.E.



Overlooking Floriana

Rear : Staff Sergeant Donkin, Lance Corporal Badrick, Sergeant Broughton, Private Todd, Corporal Edwards, Sergeant D. Wilson, and Sergeant Pepper

Front : Lance Corporal Donkin, Staff Sergeant Young, Corporal Priestley, Lance Corporal Bartholomew, Lance Corporal Davis, Private Harris, Sergeant Woodward, Corporal Dunbar, Lance Corporal Guinnessy

to the Junior Leaders Regiment at Towyn, who rendered great assistance on the "Q" side. A rumour was circulating at base that one visitor, on his way to lunch, was asked by Signalman R. Ellis: "How would you like your steak, sir?" The messing must have been good!

At Arbroath, Scotland, we were looked after by H.M.S. *Condor* and established excellent communications with all the other detachments.

The visit of the Honorary Colonel and Lady Malmesbury was the highlight of the B.A.O.R. detachment's camp. A helicopter was put at their disposal and visits made to our static and mobile groups. The men stayed with 17 R.V.D., R.A.O.C., and the W.R.A.C. with the 14th Battalion W.R.A.C. at Rheindahlen. The girls were particularly grateful at being lent khaki drill dresses in the hot weather. At the week-end most people visited Dusseldorf, and after a good time in the Altstadt, just managed to catch a coach leaving for Arnhem on the Sunday morning.

Through so many people being out on detachment those who remained at base were kept hard at work. Luckily, we were blessed with glorious weather, particularly at the weekend when several people went gliding at R.A.F., Bicester. On Saturday evening the Officers' Mess held a barbecue, using a range presented by our good friend, Frederick E. Glaser, who has recently returned to the U.S.A.

The exercise progressed so well that the Commanding Officer decided to introduce a "Saboteur Scare" one night during the second week. This had almost the desired effect as O.C. 7 Squadron was prevented from entering his own office by a new recruit who, naturally, did not recognise him.

The detached personnel returned to base on the Wednesday for Visitors' Day on the Thursday. Major-General P. B. Gillett, O.B.E., Chief of Staff, Eastern Command, was the chief visitor. Major-General P. H. Man, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., G.O.C. Aldershot District, also visited the Regiment on this day. Our visitors saw various aspects of our work; in particular they watched a M.T. display and a parachute drop at Weston-on-the-Green. The guests were entertained to dinner by the officers of the Regiment.

The annual parade was held on the Friday morning. As customary, the Regiment paraded with the Skinners Guard on the right. The parade was taken by the Honorary Colonel who presented the Territorial Army Efficiency Medal to Sergeant V. Martin, W.R.A.C.

80th REGIMENT, A.E.R.

Highlight of this year's annual training was the honour of a visit by the Master of Signals, Major-General Sir William Scott, K.C.M.G., C.B., C.B.E. Firstly, the officers were able to welcome him to their Regimental Guest Night, and the following morning he inspected the Regiment on parade, taking the salute at the march past. During the proceedings, Captain (T.O.T.) W. J. Harding was presented with the Emergency Reserve Decoration, and W.O.II (R.Q.M.S.) R. A. M. Rorison and Staff Sergeant V. J. Norris were each presented with the Emergency Reserve Efficiency Medal. R.S.M. T. J. Gorton and the Warrant Officers and Sergeants entertained the Master of Signals in the A.E.R. Sergeants' Mess before he left us. We are proud to have been the first Royal Signals A.E.R. Regiment to be visited by the Master of Signals.



[Photographs: S. Jardine, Blandford Foumr

Left). The Master of Signals presen the Emergency Reserve Efficiency Medal to W.O.11 (R.Q.M.S.) R.A.M. Rorison (Centre) Capt. (T.O.T.) W. J. Harding receives the E.R.D. from the Master of Signals (Right) The Master of Signals presents the Emergency Reserve Efficiency Medal to Staff Sergeant V. J. Norris.

We were very sorry that an injury prevented our Honorary Colonel, Colonel C. E. Calveley, O.B.E., E.R.D., from joining us during the camp period. We are glad to hear that he is now fit and well again.

At the start of our fortnight at Blandford our Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel L. Hancock, E.R.D., in his opening address told us that following the recent reorganisation we were now the largest A.E.R. unit in the Corps (and possibly in the Reserve Army). The amalgamation of elements from three former Regiments meant that the main objectives of Camp 1964 must be to fuse the component members together, and to re-learn the art of handling more soldiers than many of those in authority had been used to dealing with for a long time. These aims should perhaps receive more emphasis than the production of highly trained technicians during Camp.

The work of the first week was soon in full swing—individual trade training, interspersed with the many administrative details which have to be crowded into the two weeks. Queues at the stores were treated to the customary repartee of Lieutenant (Q.M.) W. Roscoe and his staff, while Major K. Thompson, R.A.M.C., A.E.R., our first—but not, we hope, last—Medical Officer, grappled with the large numbers requiring Pulheems.

Sports and entertainment are not easily organised on a scale of 500 plus persons, but this is not to say the aspect was overlooked. A number of very successful troop parties were arranged, and supposedly the various ten-pin bowling contests which took place can be counted as sport in the modern idiom. In the one official contest—a cricket match versus H.Q. A.E.R. Royal Signals' staff—the Regiment won by ten runs.

Refreshed by a weekend free of duties, the Regiment moved out on the second Monday to carry out a fairly comprehensive exercise set for us by Brigadier C. Vincent-Smith, T.D., J.P., Commander Communication Zone Signals, and his staff who camped with us this year. Colonel H. Oxborough, the Brigadier's successor and a former Commanding Officer of 80th Regiment, took over in the second week. The "war" at main headquarters was particularly rigorous as we shared a wood with some very persistent flies, and chose an area which both Army Air Corps helicopters and some tanks clearly felt was their exclusive domain. Captain (T.O.T.) Harding with Staff Sergeant Johnson and the T.E. Troop held a series of "at home" suppers which were well attended, and much appreciated by those fortunate enough to be on the invitations lists. Elsewhere, H.Q. 1 Squadron was established near Clouds Hill, the one-time home of T. E. Lawrence. Certainly the use of a few pillars might have given facilities, precariously perched on the side of a hill, offered to officers and senior N.C.O.s a more substantial air of stability.

Other smaller detachments were scattered far and wide, and Lieutenant Myhill, with his small band, were especially well set. Deliveries of newspapers and fresh rations from a nearby farm were quickly organised, and the locals even divulged the intricacies of deer poaching (the theory only, we hasten to add). The impact of the Troop on the villagers was so good that even a thrashing of the local darts team in the pub failed to strain friendly relations.

Good team work

The teamwork, which soon became evident during the exercise, showed that many of the immediate aims of the camp had been realised. A great deal of successful and rewarding work was accomplished, and at the end of the four days we returned to Blandford for the hectic period of clearing up.

We cannot let go unrecorded, our thanks to Captain V. F. Sharp, R.E.M.E., A.E.R., who, with his L.A.D., worked wonders to keep our hundred and twenty vehicles mobile. Their efforts exemplified the maxim of "completing the difficult at once, and the impossible with a minimum of delay." Unfortunately, we could not always give the statutory 24 hours' notice before asking miracles.

Our thanks are also due to 45th, 58th and 64th Signal Regiments (T.A.), without whose generous loans of radio relay vehicles our achievements would have been much less.

This was to be the last A.E.R. Camp for Lieutenant-Colonel Hancock, who will be taking up a T.A. C.S.O. appointment at the end of the year. We take this opportunity to thank him for so successfully launching the new 80th Regiment, also offering our congratulations on his impending promotion, with the hope that he will visit us in the years to come.

Shooting

London Middlesex Rifle Association S.R.(a) Meeting

The Captain of Corps shooting reports as follows:—

14th Regiment represented the Corps at the annual S.R.(a) Meeting of the London and Middlesex Association, held at Bisley on 19th/20th September, 1964.

The team won two of the three team events open to them, the "H.M.S. President Challenge Cup," an aggregate rifle match shot at 200 yards (Deliberate), 300 yards (Rapid and Snap) and 500 yards (Deliberate), and the "Small Arms Efficiency Trophy," an aggregate rifle and sub-machine gun match. The members of the team were W.O.II H. Haw, Sergeant E. R. R. Smith, W.O.II A. A. Copestake, Sergeant D. V. Hall, Corporal G. Williams and Corporal G. Cort. The team shot with the SLR rifle.

Sergeant E. R. R. Smith once again shot extremely well and won the principal individual match, "The Association Service Rifle Championship," with a score of 159 (Methuen Cup conditions). Corporal G. Cort came sixth (score 143) and W.O.II H. Haw ninth (score 141). All three were awarded silver spoons and cash prizes.

W.O.II A. A. Copestake came second in the "Elizabethan Bowl," an individual match shot at 200 and 500 yards.

Corps Golf

Winners of the various competitions at the Corps Autumn Meeting, held at the East Berkshire Golf Club, on 23rd/24th September, were as follows:

Open Championship Cup.—Lieutenant-Colonel S. Schofield

Handicap Championship Cup.—Lieutenant-Colonel W. E. Lyske.

Regular Officers' Cup.—Lieutenant-Colonel C. W. Walsh.

Veterans' Trophy.—Colonel (Retd.) J. F. Longfield.

Stableford Singles.—Major (Retd.) J. Carr and Mr. Baker shared.

Stableford Foursomes.—Colonel (Retd.) B. G. Rowley and Major S. J. Thompson.

Match v. the R.A.M.C. at New Zealand G.C., on 13th October

The Corps were represented by Lieutenant-Colonel S. Schofield, Colonel R. Linton, Colonel J. F. Longfield, Major A. B. Roderick, Major-General C. H. H. Vulliamy, Major-General A. E. Morrison, Brigadier P. M. P. Hobson and Colonel B. G. Rowley.

The Corps won by seven matches to five.

Corps Rugby

On 30th September, at Welbeck.

Royal Signals 30 points, Welbeck College 3 points.

From the start the game was fast. The Corps pack was stronger but did not gain great advantage in the earlier stages. After 20 minutes, however, the ball came out well and the Corps backs proved to be vastly superior to those of Welbeck and five tries resulted of which three were converted. Two penalty goals and a drop goal completed the score. Welbeck scored a penalty goal. The Welbeck boys played extremely well and were not deterred by the score at any stage.

Corps Hockey

RESULTS

On 14th October:—
Royal Signals 0, Newcastle University 4.

On 21st October:—
Royal Signals 2, R.M.A. Sandhurst 1.

On 22nd October:—
Royal Signals 1, R.E.M.E. 2.

Corps Sports Fixtures for the Month

Rugby
November 21st v. Cambridge University Fifteen at Cambridge.

Football
November 25th v. R.E.M.E. at Catterick.

Hockey
November 25th v. Durham University at Catterick.

SCARROROUGH BRANCH

Mr. R. Thornton writes: The Scarborough Branch is riding on the crest of a wave, thanks chiefly to the enthusiasm and organising ability of Lieutenant-Colonel Teal, recently elected Chairman of the Branch, and Major F. Mansfield, M.B.E. Credit is also due to Major Lunn, at Burniston Barracks, who has put a club room at the disposal of the branch; and also to his staff for their support, especially does this apply to Staff Sergeant Rigby. Social evenings have been held and members' wives and friends entertained—curry suppers and bingo proving very popular.

It is intended to hold a Christmas ball in the gymnasium at the barracks on 11th December, when all ex-Service organisations in Scarborough—the R.A.F.A., British Legion, Green Howards, Parachute Regiment and the Limbless Ex-Servicemen are to receive special invitations to attend. The York Branch are also to be invited, and if they can get a bus-load or two, we can assure them of an excellent evening's entertainment. A good band, capable of playing "mod" and "real" dancing, has been engaged, and there is to be a running buffet, with curry and hot-dog stalls, and a grand Christmas tree decorated with dozens of presents for those attending the function. The bar will be in the capable hands of Major Lunn's staff and taxis and cars will be laid on for transport home afterwards. The Christmas ball will not be open to the general public, but nevertheless, we are hoping for an attendance around 250 and 300.

CROYDON BRANCH

At the annual general meeting on 14th October, the following were elected as officers for the ensuing year:—

President, Captain D. T. Hunneyball; Vice-President, Brigadier H. R. Firth; Chairman, Mr. L. J. Rebbeck; Vice-Chairman, Mr. P. J. Tarrant; Secretary, Captain J. R. E. Way; Treasurer, Mrs. M. Jensen; Social Secretary, Miss A. A. Glover.

The Branch is to be represented at the Field of Remembrance on 5th November, and will attend the Parade in Croydon on Sunday, 8th November.

The Annual Dinner is on 6th February, 1965.

A donation of 3 guineas was made to Headquarters for Welfare, and efforts to provide gifts for Christmas are to be redoubled.

Congratulations to Mr. L. J. Rebbeck, probably the second Branch Chairman who served the Corps in National Service.

Royal Signals Association and Benevolent Fund

The following subscriptions were most gratefully received during September, 1964:

	£	s.	d.
24th Regiment	49	9	7
Army Apprentices School	6	3	6
64th Regiment (T.A.)	5	3	3
3 H.Q. and Signal Regiment	4	0	0
209 Squadron	10	0	0
Junior Leaders' Regiment ('Iron' Troop)	2	0	0
Junior Leaders' Regiment (L/Cpl F. G. Oliver)	1	0	0
326 Squadron (T.A.)	5	0	0
2nd Regiment (Kohima Regimental Weekend)	346	8	2
2nd Regiment (Officers' Mess)	3	0	9
4th Regiment (Annual Fete)	63	7	1
16th Regiment	21	9	3
229 Squadron	12	7	0
C.R. Signals Welfare Fund (Hong Kong) — "A" Squadron 16/5 Lancers	4	1	11
9th Regiment	33	11	1
Port Talbot Branch	10	0	0
Various Individual donations	4	2	7
Receipts	£641	9	2

Expenditure during September, 1964 ... £396 15 1
(Includes: Rent and Rates; Beds and Bedding; Furniture; Cots and Prams; General Assistance)

CLOTHING

Since early August, gifts of clothing, toys, books, etc., have been gratefully received from the following:

R.S.M. and Mrs. D. G. Newton; Sergeant Perry; Staff Sergeant and Mrs. J. H. Lawrence; Mrs. B. Complin; Brigadier M. D. Price, O.B.E.; Major M. D. Scott; Mrs. S. E. Ellis; "B" Squadron, 47th Regiment (Middlesex Yeomanry) T.A.; Major R. Lawrence; Mrs. W. R. Smijth-Windham; Mrs. Kirton; Mr. A. Stokes; Captain W. D. A. Poole; Lieutenant-Colonel A. R. Wythe; Captain G. W. Young; Mrs. B. M. Kenning; J. Edwards, Esq.; Mrs. R. S. Bresloff; C. C. Martin, Esq.; Brigadier H. R. Firth; Major T. Jenkinson; W.O.II M. E. Wilson; Royal Signals Association, Harrogate Branch; O.C. 2 Squadron, 13th Regiment; Major R. J. Savage; Major-General R. J. Moberly, C.B., O.B.E.; Mr. and Mrs. R. Goddard; W.O.II Wilkins; Corporal Upton; Lieutenant-Colonel G. M. Welsford, T.D.; Sergeants' Mess, 11th Regiment; U. Oliver, Esq.; R.Q.M.S. and Mrs. Barnes; Captain C. J. Bayfield; Mrs. R. Flanagan; Mrs. A. E. Stead; Major F. E. Warner, M.B.E.; Major E. C. W. Stagg; Brigadier and Mrs. F. W. P. Bradford; Lieutenant-Colonel R. B. S. Eraut; W.O.II R. A. Crampton.

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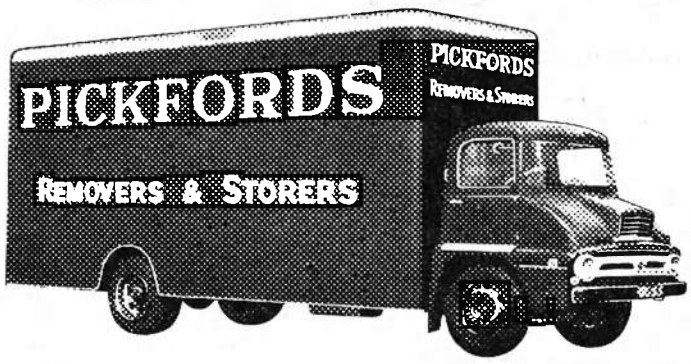
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December 1964

The WIRE

The Royal Signals Magazine







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THE WIRE

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

The Official Organ of the Signals Association

Editor:
BRIGADIER P. M. P. HOBSON, D.S.O.

Assistant Editor:
BRIGADIER H. R. FIRTH

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☆

DECEMBER • 1964

Vol. 18 *(New Series)* **No. 12**

Editorial

This is the last edition of THE WIRE for 1964 and, indeed, it will be 1965 by the time many receive this copy of THE WIRE.

Altogether we have had a year full of encouragement at Association H.Q. and this is due mainly to the support we have received throughout the year from our Corps—both serving and retired.

Very many have helped us in our work with donations and regular contributions to our welfare funds. Up-to-date this year the regular Corps has subscribed nearly £4,000 and the officers £1,000. The reserve Army has sent in over £150 and individuals and branches of the Association have donated about £400. Altogether a wonderful measure of voluntary support of which the Corps can be justly proud.

Over and above this has been the generous help given by numerous friends who have sent us gifts of clothing, toys and books. Throughout the year these gifts have been flowing in at a steady rate and the pleasure they give is amply reflected in the many letters of thanks we receive from the recipients. For all his splendid help to our Corps welfare we are most grateful.

THE WIRE has also been well supported and our sincere thanks go to the many unit correspondents who have had the somewhat thankless task each month of having to scratch their heads in order to produce unit notes.

Perhaps the best feature has been the increasing number of general interest articles sent in by officers and soldiers of the Corps about their day-to-day experiences and adventures. These have added life and zest to the pages of THE WIRE. We recall such excellent stories as "Journey to Tibesti" by Signalman J. E. Hurel and R.S.M. Palmer's amusing account of a 400-mile canoe trip down the Rhine with a party of senior N.C.O.s and Signalmen. Incidentally these real life stories have helped Corps' recruiting and we were pleased to hear from a senior officer responsible for recruiting in a U.K. Command that "THE WIRE must have contributed significantly to the large increase in recruiting for Royal Signals over the past two years." We hope our correspondents will keep up the good work in 1965.

As we have said all this adds up to a year full of encouragement and we at Association H.Q. are indeed privileged to be able to serve a Corps that supports its Association so well.

In conclusion we must thank our printers, Messrs. F. J. Parsons Ltd. They have served us faithfully for many years. Their patience with the problems we set them and the personal interest they take in THE WIRE is quite remarkable.

Christmas 1964

The Master of Signals sends his best wishes to all ranks of the Corps for Christmas and the New Year.

GURKHA SIGNALS CELEBRATE THEIR TENTH BIRTHDAY...

...AND PRESENT THE CORPS WITH A FINE SILVER CENTRE-PIECE

ON 3rd November, 1964, at a Regimental dinner night in Headquarters Mess, the officers of the Royal Corps of Signals were presented with a magnificent silver centre-piece to mark the 10th birthday of Gurkha Signals.

The centre-piece, a 16in. high replica of the Gurkha Signals cap badge, was commissioned by past and present British and Gurkha officers, many of whom had travelled considerable distances to see the centre-piece handed over to the Corps.

In making the presentation, the Colonel, Gurkha Signals, Brigadier W. G. Tucker, C.B.E., recalled that although the Tenth Birthday referred back to 1954 when Gurkha Signals emerged as a major unit of the Brigade of Gurkhas, it was in 1948 that, "a certain Major A. C. Cox" was charged with training and forming the first Gurkha Signal unit. Brigadier Tucker went on to say that due to the enthusiasm of Major Cox and the officers who followed him many difficulties and misunderstandings were overcome to reach the high standards of today. In 1964 Gurkha Signals produce men such as the technician at present on a class one upgrading course who had been selected as a potential pilot, and units such as the squadron which was sent to B.A.O.R. to provide communications for the Brigade of Guards.

Major-General Whistler deputising for the Master of Signals received the centre piece on behalf of the Corps. In thanking the officers of Gurkha Signals for their presentation General Whistler remarked that from his own experience in 1938 he appreciated the problems to be overcome in training Gurkhas as Signallers and in addition to the achievements recorded by the Colonel Gurkha Signals, mentioned that 1964 had seen the formation of a Gurkha S.A.S. Signal Troop and the appearance of the first Gurkha ever to attend a Foreman of Signals course.

The presentation ceremony which had been opened by a fanfare by the Corps Trumpeters was appropriately closed by a Gurkha Signals piper who, having piped around the table, returned to offer the officers of the Royal Corps of Signals the traditional toast of 'Peace, Long Life and Happiness.'

HISTORY OF GURKHA SIGNALS

Gurkhas first saw service as signallers when a limited number were trained in the Indian Army Signal Corps in the 1920s, these were allowed to waste out without replacement. In 1938 more Gurkhas were trained and these saw service in Brigade Signal Sections, but again were allowed to waste out at the end of the war.

On the partition of India and its great Army in 1947 eight Gurkha infantry battalions moved to Malaya and formed a British Army Brigade of Gurkhas. In 1948 each battalion was ordered to send an N.C.O. to join a cadre of Royal Signals' N.C.O.s in Kuala Lumpur and Gurkha Signals was born.

One hundred and ten recruits from Nepal commenced training in late 1948 with the aim of forming the first Gurkha Independent Brigade Signal Squadron; this moved out to Pahang in December, 1950, to join 48 Gurkha Brigade.

From 1951 to 1952 three more Troops were trained and moved out to 63, 26 and 99 Brigades in succession. A Training Squadron was established with the Gurkha Depot in Sungei Patani whilst the H.Q. element remained in Kuala Lumpur.

No. 1 Squadron was raised in 1953 and 17 Gurkha Signal Regiment became an important part of the Malayan Orbat. In the same year an affiliation was agreed with 51st Highland Signal Regiment (T.A.) and the Gurkha Major led a contingent to take part in the Coronation in the U.K.

A new badge incorporating Mercury, the Crown and crossed Kukris was formally approved and presented on 23rd September, 1954; this date henceforth became the Regimental Birthday.

In 1955 Gurkha Signals became a component part of the Brigade of Gurkhas making it unique amongst Signal Regiments in that it appears separately in the Army List and within the Corps of Infantry. During this year a Pipe and Drum Band was raised and within five months was trained and played its first Retreat in public. The Pipers wore the Grant Tartan and appurtenances of the affiliated Regiment and also adopted their Regimental March—'Scotland the Brave.'



The inscription reads as follows:

PRESENTED TO
THE OFFICERS ROYAL SIGNALS
BY
THE PAST AND PRESENT
BRITISH AND QUEEN'S GURKHA OFFICERS OF GURKHA SIGNALS
ON THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE FORMATION OF GURKHA SIGNALS
23 SEP. 1964

It was in 1954 that the Gurkha Infantry Brigade Independent Signal Squadron moved to Hong Kong, the first Gurkha Signal unit to leave Malaya.

In 1956 H.R.H. The Princess Royal presented the Regiment with her Royal Pipe Banner at St. James' Palace, London. The Earl of Scarborough took it with him to Katmandu and affixed it to the Pipe Major's pipes during the Coronation of the King of Nepal. In the same year Lieutenant (Q.G.O.) Maniratne Thapa did duty as Queen's Gurkha Orderly Officer to H.M. The Queen and was appointed a MVO on the conclusion of his duties.

In 1957 and 1958 the Regiment was required to provide communications for the Brigade of Gurkhas L. of C. within Nepal.

Brigadier W. G. Tucker was appointed to be the first Colonel of the Regiment in 1958 and at the same time H.M. The Queen approved an affiliation between The Corps and Gurkha Signals. In 1958 the Regiment was sent to the mountain kingdom of Nepal to provide the communications for the first ever democratic election held in the Gurkhas homeland. Also in 1958 it

won for the first time Gurkha Brigade's premier sporting trophy, the Nepal Cup, for soccer.

1959 saw the reorganisation of units of Gurkha Signals into three Independent Brigade Squadrons (246, 247 and 248) and 17th Gurkha Regiment. The Regiment won the Nepal Cup for the second successive year.

With the Malayan Emergency now ended, 1960 saw the Regiment getting down to training. Captain J. O. C. Alexander sailed his 22-foot sailing boat from Hong Kong to the U.K. In 1961 the first Gurkha Technician achieved his XI Trade Rating and 247 Squadron moved to the U.K. with 51 Brigade as part of the Strategic Reserve.

In 1963 elements of the Regiment were back on active service, this time in Brunei where 248 Squadron was providing communications throughout Borneo; 247 Squadron chalked up a remarkable record by being sent to B.A.O.R. to provide communications for the Guards Brigade for a six month period.

In 1964 247 Squadron moved back to the Far East to join 248 Squadron on active service in the Borneo territories of Malaysia: a number of officers and men received parachute training and formed a Signal Troop with the new Independent Parachute Company (SAS).

In 1964 the strength of Gurkha Signals had increased to the point at which R.H.Q. 17 Gurkha Signal Regiment could no longer discharge Commander Gurkha Signals' responsibilities to the wide variety of Gurkha Signals units and detachments now in existance. A separate Headquarters Gurkha Signals was therefore established with an Adjutant and orderly room staff and located alongside 17th Regiment.

COMMANDING OFFICERS

Gurkha Signal Training and Holding Wing

1948-51 Major A. C. Cox, O.B.E.
1951-52 Major L. H. M. Gregory

17th Gurkha Divisional Signal Regiment

1953-56 Lieutenant-Colonel L. H. M. Gregory, M.B.E.
1956-58 Lieutenant-Colonel A. N. Griffiths, O.B.E.
1958-60 Lieutenant-Colonel G. W. Blackburne

Gurkha Signals

1960-62 Lieutenant-Colonel G. H. Wotton, O.B.E.
1962-65 Lieutenant-Colonel J. C. Clinch

GURKHA MAJORS

Gurkha Signal Training and Holding Wing

1949-51 Major (KGO) Manilal Thapa, I.D.S.M.
1951-52 Major (QGC) Parsuram Gurung, M.B.E.

17th Gurkha Divisional Signal Regiment

1953-55 Major (QGO) Parsuram Gurung, M.B.E.
1955-61 (QGO) Dhanbamadur Gurung

Gurkha Signals

1961-64 Major (QGO) Birendrasing Gurung
1964- Major (QGO) Birbahadur Rawat

Royal Signals Glass Ashtrays

THE very attractive Corps ashtrays, produced by Gale and Polden, the Wellington Press, Aldershot, have been proving very popular as sales confirm. The trays are made of toughened glass and the Corps Badge is fully illuminated and reproduced on a dark blue background. They are very suitable for use in Unit Messes and make ideal gifts and prizes. Trays cost 7s. 6d. each. Orders for 25 to 49 carry a discount of 5 per cent. and for 50 and over a discount of 10 per cent. Six or more sent post free.

The purchase of these ashtrays helps Association funds which benefit by 6d. for each tray sold.

Please order direct from Gale and Polden. If required they will send a specimen tray on approval, payment being made if the tray is retained.

Lessons from the Army

What is found in a good Regiment

WHAT follows is a letter to the Editor of one of Scotland's leading newspapers. Comment is superfluous—the writer's very sensible sentiments speak for themselves.

"Having been abroad, I have only now read Mr. W. O. D. Jarvis's letter (18th September) on Army non-commissioned officers.

It was my experience (1939-46) in the ranks of a very good unit of Royal Signals that senior N.C.O.s are the product of their training and environment. If the commissioned officers of a unit are intelligent, dedicated men, then they are most unlikely to make a mistake in the selection of their lance-corporals, and provided the men to be handled are basically sound, the rest may be left to the R.S.M. Slowly but surely the influence of the R.S M. is reflected in the character training of the young N.C.O.s and when well done something creative is achieved.

As one of the late Hore-Belisha's conscrips, I was posted to a Territorial Signal unit located at Crieff Hydro in 1939. This unit consisted of over 1,000 men made up of 60 per cent. Territorials, 35 per cent. conscripts and 5 per cent. young Regulars fresh from "square-bashing" at the Signals Depot at Catterick.

The unit had very few experienced N.C.O.s but it had the good fortune to have an outstanding Regular Army R.S.M. and a first-class Territorial C.S.M. in the Headquarter Company. These gentlemen had an unexplainable gift of handling men. We learned to look for instant justice at their hands and we respected them. Soon the R.S.M. was to leave us on promotion and the Territorial C.S.M. took over.

Before the war ended it fell to my lot to serve with five other R.S.M.s, all Regular soldiers, but none excelled this quiet-spoken Territorial. Some of his methods were unorthodox by peace-time standards, but salutary. For example, I was told to report to the R.S.M. to be "ticked off" for a minor offence. He asked me if I was happy as a temporary soldier. I said I really was but that, needless to say, I would rather be at home.

He then said "Have you written to your mother lately?" I had to confess that I had been neglectful in this respect. His reply shook me. "Look here," he said, "folks at home are having in many cases a harder war than we have had so far," and pointing to his desk chair he said, "Sit down there and write home and give me the letter to post."

The modern Army demands high technical standards in all its branches, but it is a mistake to assume that in a highly skilled arm, such as Royal Signals have always been, discipline is less needed and there is no time for drill. This R.S.M. I write about taught us that there was a need for good discipline in the cookhouse as in a signal office or on a barrack square, and that a sense of loyalty was as important in the attitude of mind of the sanitary orderly as it was in that of the skilled technician.

I have no hesitation in saying that it would be good for us all if in civilian life we could cultivate the spirit of service and sense of belonging to be found in a good ship's company. Our best commissioned officers are dedicated men who would be outstanding in any walk of life, and generally speaking the cream of our warrant and non-commsisioned officers are a credit to the nation. In civilian life we tend to be smug in our thinking and are apt to forget that one can be a good employer or a bad one, a good tradesman or a man content with shoddy work."

* * *

The Regular R.S.M. referred to was Bill Price, a pre-war Corporal who finished as a Major and is now a Civil Servant in Edinburgh. The Territorial C.S.M. was James Ingram, a great T.A. man who finished as a Captain and is now living in Bridge of Allan, Stirlingshire. The unit at Crieff was the 9th (Highland) Divisional Signals, later to assume the title of the 51st (Highland) Divisional Signals when the first line unit along with its Division was isolated and overcome at St. Valery in 1940.

—EDITOR.

THE WELFARE SECTION STILL REQUIRES MORE CLOTHING

I TOO WAS THERE

Lieutenant-Colonel Eric Bardell has the habit of taking his entire family along when he gets that urge to "go down to the sea in ships." Read now of a trip in the good ship "Uomie," with Corporal Jock Thompson (mate), two sons, aged 12 and 15, and a young lady of 19 (crew) and a wife (the cook). The cook, Mrs. Bardell, tells the story of the voyage to Sweden from the point of view of the lower deck.

AFTER my husband's account of our 1963 cruise in the Baltic many of our friends asked, "Where were you?" This year I am making sure that they all know that I, too, was there.

Bonnd for Sweden

"We could reach Sweden this time," he said. I kept quiet, for I had no intention of deviating from the one condition that I had made before embarking on our first sailing holiday, that we should be firmly tied up to the quayside of some sheltered harbour by mid-afternoon each day. However, I left the route planning and all the technicalities to the expert. I concentrated on the food and the various supplies required. High on my list was seasick pills.

The crew this time was the skipper, my husband; mate, Corporal Jock Thompson of 1st Regiment; cook, myself; hands, Keren Dunkley aged 19, and the two boys Hugh 10 and Richard 5. We had chartered *Uomie* as *Petasus* was already booked for the dates of our leave. We knew that she was a class H ocean racer who had competed in the Bermuda and Sydney/Hobart races, but we hadn't seen her and I really couldn't imagine what size she would be. She had eight berths and as there were only going to be six of us, we would have plenty of space to spread ourselves in comfort.

A Tall Ship

We set off in high hopes on the long journey to Kiel, staging one night at one of the excellent autobahn resthouses. As we drove through the gates of the Advanced Watermanship Training Centre excitement rose. "Soon we will see *Uomie*." The children could hardly wait for their first view of the boat that would be their home for the next two weeks. We all dashed along the jetty, "Which one is it?" Then at the very end we saw her, "She's very big," said Richard gazing up at her tall mast. I didn't say anything but just looked at the thickness of the mainsheet and the size of her winches, and wondered how we would ever manage. "Gosh she's got a wheel!" said Hugh. He said it with joyful anticipation, but I looked at it warily, for a tiller is complicated enough for me to handle. "You'll manage it all right, Madam, just like driving a car," said Corporal Jock, who by then had appeared on the scene and introduced himself. That was all very well, but I am one of those strange creatures that still exist who do not drive. By now you will have gathered that I am no Mrs. Pye or Mrs. Hiscock, I go along to cook and look after my family and if the weather is pleasant and the sea favourable, I will take the helm.

Curiosity satisfied, we went back to the clubhouse to don our seafaring gear. Then we set about transferring everything from the car to the boat.

The crew are allocated their bunks

After a quick tea the boys were sent to the bath house for a last tub. They'd had an exciting time. Apart from the boat, frogmen had been swimming round the jetty clearing the seabed of the old beer cans and rubbish less tidier members of the club had thrown overboard. It was some time before they were settled and asleep in their pipecots; Richard above Keren's bunk and Hugh above mine. Women and children were in the main cabin, Jock made his quarters forward where there were two bunks, and the skipper claimed the two quarter berths, one for himself and one for his belongings. For the uninitiated I should explain that the quarter berths are the two bunks on either side of the cabin door, and they stretch under the cockpit. To climb into a quarter berth is quite a feat. It's like sleeping in a long box, not unlike a coffin; you insert yourself sideways at the top end, put your body through two right angled turns and you are in.

We had supper aboard, the Skipper and Jock gazed at the charts and conferred on the all-important subject from now on, the weather forecast. The skipper pronounced "Up at six tomorrow, we must cast off as early as possible, so early to bed everyone." Keren and I went along for a last bath, and wondered whether we would ever be up at six. We were soon tucked in our sleeping bags and the lights were out. We were almost off on our voyage, the lights of the jetty shone into the cabin, the sea lapped gently against the hull, and rain fell steadily on the deck above. Hugh was heaving and thumping in the bunk above me. He was to be my cross for the next fourteen days, for I am a light sleeper and he fights nightly battles with Indians or some such enemy.

Next day, or was it in the middle of the night, our relentless skipper arose and put on the kettle. Luckily for us he hadn't realised how long it took for that kettle to boil, so we kept our eyes firmly closed and had an extra half hour in bed. Later on he was to overcome this difficulty by filling two vacuum flasks with boiling water the night before. Once we'd had our tea we had no excuse to malinger in bed. We dressed, washed and stowed away the sleeping bags in one of the pipecots.

Into Big Seas

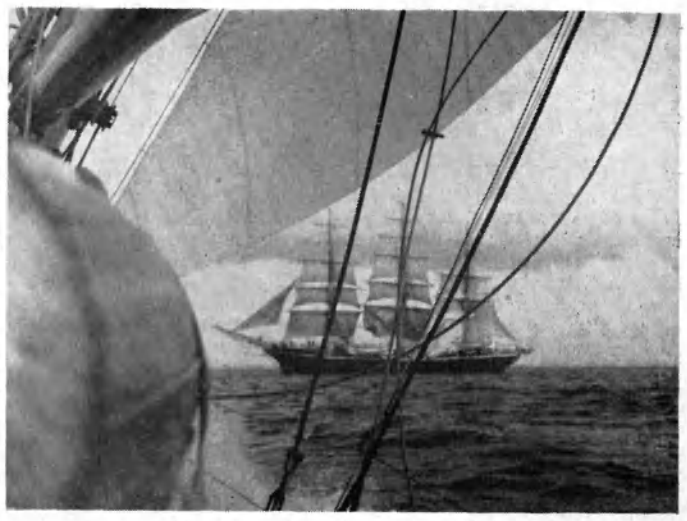
The weather forecast was gloomy so we all had a very good breakfast and I made a great pile of sandwiches for later on. The skipper and the mate made ready for sea up topsides and the hands saw that everything was secure below. Under our oilies we wore our warmest clothes, and the boys were bundled into their life jackets. We cast off at 8.30 a.m., not bad for the first morning on a strange boat; we would improve as time wore on. The skipper was at the helm and we all sat in the cockpit, as we sailed out of Kiel Fiord. A flotilla of MTBs passed us making our way ever more uncomfortable than it was already. Jock put two or three rolls in the main and got soaked doing it, but it made progress more easy. Hugh decided that he would be happier down below, and Richard retired to the quarter berth. Jock took the helm while the skipper went to consult his chart, Keren and I gritted our teeth. We were in Kiel Bay now, the skipper came up hurriedly from below and surrendered his breakfast to the sea. "Look out for a big one," called the helm and we clung to one another as a big sea swept over us. Everything disappeared from view, but as the water cleared Jock rapidly counted heads and was relieved to find the right number. The skipper arose from the scuppers with my spectacles in his hand, they had been washed off my face. A cry from the cabin called the skipper below, "A big drip fell on me," said Richard. The invading wave had wakened him with a start, poor mite. On being transferred to a drier place and divested of his wet clothes, he was violently but expediously sick in a bowl. All these exertions below were too much for the skipper and it was awhile before he was sufficiently recovered to take the helm. Meanwhile, Keren and I companionably shared the same scupper, laughing at ourselves between bouts. The wind eased and Jock went below to change, I drew his attention to the sandwiches in case he was hungry. When next I looked into the cabin, there was Hugh heaving on the bilge pump and at the same time chewing on a large ham sandwich. A little voice from a top bunk announced that he too would like a sandwich, and the skipper at the wheel decided that food was what his stomach needed. Keren and I sucked on a barley sugar. The family had got their sea legs and from that moment on, the whole crew seemed intent on seeing just how much they could cram into their tums.

At three o'clock in the afternoon we were tied up just inside the fish harbour at Spodjsborg. We were soon drinking hot soup, eating salad and what was left of the sandwiches. We went ashore and explored the shopping potential; provisioning the ship was to become one of the first priorities, especially with





"The Cook at the Wheel."



"The Georg Stage in Swedish Waters"

such a hungry crew. The boys had high tea aboard while we adults ate supper ashore. None of us needed much rocking to sleep after our early start and the exertions of our first day at sea.

The Skipper Gets Tough

Each day we followed much the same routine, rising early and speeding up our preparations for getting under way as the days went by. Weather conditions improved and Keren and I were able to try our hands at the wheel. At first the compass card swung crazily as we wove a pattern of dog's hind legs in our wake. "What's your course," called the skipper; a quick swing of the wheel and "40°" was the reply from the helm as the card moved over the point on its way to 50°. "Where are you taking us?" The skipper had an irritating habit of demanding that you steered a proper course. After the first few times we improved, we no longer gripped the wheel, as drowning men clutch at straws our eyes meanwhile glued to the compass. We became quite nonchalant and even sat down, steering with one hand. The boys too had their turn, Richard did ten minutes completely on his own. Hugh was set to making entries in the log and taking bearings. Everyone had a turn at scanning the horizon through the glasses for buoys. "Three brush buoy on the port bow," called one of the boys. "Upturned or down turned," asked the skipper. We had to be accurate!

So we sailed to Copenhagen calling at Agerso, Stubbekobing and Falkse. Enough wind to carry us on our way in comfort, enjoying the harbours and the fare of the local hotels in the evening The weather worsened as we approached Copenhagen and, at one point, Richard complained that the loo wouldn't let him spend a penny, it kept going away from him. Jock called him up on deck to the back end of the boat, but after a minute or two Richard sighed, "It's no good, it's too cold to operate."

It was grey and wet as we sailed past the little mermaid and then back again to tie up in the Royal Danish Yacht Club haven. We all treated ourselves to hot showers at the club, very pleasant after the cursory wipes with a damp flannel Teeth are the only things that get attention on a sailing holiday. We battened down the hatches to escape the pouring rain outside and lost our money to Hugh, who taught us how to play pontoon Is this what they learn at Prep School?

Ardour for sightseeing was dampened by the weather, but as it cleared in the evening we ventured out for a magnificent supper at the Langeline Pavilion, the restaurant above the yacht club. Afterwards, full of food, we sank into our bunks, deciding to start later the next day as it was a short haul to the next stop—our goal—Sweden.

The flags are out but not for us

We had tea at seven instead of six the next morning, and idled our way through breakfast as it was again a wet day. We went to the bank and shopped, but the rain put us off wandering too far away from the boat; anyway when there is wind and a boat to sail the skipper isn't keen on wasting too much time ashore. The cry is "We'll come again another time and have a proper look around." So off to sea once more, bundled in all our woollies and oilies. As we left the harbour Keren asked why a tug was dressed overall. The mere suggestion was pooh poohed but closer looks revealed that there was more than one with flags up and they couldn't all be sending messages to one another. We soon knew, the United States atomic ship *Savannah* was sailing past us; tugs hooted and fire floats threw up jets of water in the traditional welcome. Not an hour later we were to sail close under the stern of the *Georg Stage*, a square rigged Danish training ship. It's difficult to say which of the two thrilled the boys more.

Landfall in Sweden

Soon we were in Swedish waters, we changed our courtesy flag and sailed into the small fishing harbour of Raa. We were escorted in by two small boys sailing in tiny dinghies single-handed, they swooped across the water like water beetles unconcerned by the lumpy sea and strong wind. It was a clean windswept village and we wandered through the lanes picking big fat blackberries which were sour despite their size and colour. Richard marked his short visit to Sweden by tumbling into the harbour, but his lifejacket kept him afloat, and Hugh managed to yank him ashore. Stripped, dried and popped into his bunk he came to no harm; in fact, he was rather proud of his adventure.

Having reached our goal we now felt that we were on the return journey. We sailed fast to Hundested, the home of Knud Rasmusson the Arctic explorer, followed by an almost becalmed day to Ballen on the delightful island of Samso. By this time the reading material was running short, Jock was seen with Swallows and Amazons, and Keren read Little Grey Rabbit's adventures quite openly. It was pleasant to expose oneself to the sun for a change; we all had very brown hands and faces, but there the sun tan ended. We motored and sailed, ate and drank our way along. By now Keren, Jock and I were expert at preparing Danish sandwiches.

The courtesies of the sea scrupulously observed

Somewhere in this area we passed a small Swedish folkboat, and I asked out of curiosity "What's that chap doing with the flag at the back end of his boat?" No one took much notice, but then Jock looked up, both men glared at me as if to say, "Women sailors!" and Jock rushed to the stern to return the compliment by dipping our ensign. How was I to know, nobody had told me that it was the proper thing to do!

Once more to Kerteminde and then the next day a wet and windy sail down to Svendborg. Here Keren and I indulged in a bath, but not until after we had sat outside an empty bathroom for half an hour, thinking that there was someone inside. It was here too that my ego was uplifted by the ship's chandler presenting me with a bar of chocolate saying "Sweets for the sweet."

An ultimatum to the Skipper

The weather forecast was not so cheering, strong winds, and the menfolk were looking miserable at the prospect of being storm bound. Jock's fiancee was just across the water in Aeroskobing. By lunch the crew delivered an ultimatum to the skipper and his mate. They could sail to Aeroskobing, we would help them out of the harbour and help them in at the other end, but in between we would go to our bunks and read. Within minutes we were underway, and the men were smiling all over their faces. There were some anxious moments in the Svendborg channel by the piers of the new bridge, but once clear the crew retired. It was a short sail and to me uneventful, but I knew we were heeled quite a bit because I was lying on the side of the hull rather than on the bunk. "All hands on deck," was the call and Keren and I excelled ourselves when Jock let down the main. We swiftly folded the acres of threshing wet canvas and secured it to the boom; we'd had a lot of practice at this operation and a broken nail or two to prove it.

The crew have their hair done!

The sun shone in Aeroskobing, Jock with some trepidation I think, made hair appointments for Keren and me with the local hairdresser—his fiancee. We hired a car and Jock drove us to Marstal on the other side of the island to visit the sea museum.

There were only two more days to go, one of which we filled with a morning sail to Faaborg, and a late afternoon trip to Soby where we would be in a good place to start on the long haul back to Kiel on the following day. Seeing *Uomie* coming into harbour, the driver held up the bus for Jock, enabling him to get in one last quick trip over to Aeroskobing We wandered to the harbour end to look at a glorious sunset, and then returned to the boat to eat the last of the steak and kidney pies. We were to make a very early start the following morning.

Journey's End

Morning tea 5.30 a.m., the skipper's a madman, just doesn't understand the efficacy of sleep. We had a long sail ahead and the sea was like a mill pond. We cooked breakfast at sea, an enormous breakfast finishing up all the stores. We had to motor part of the way, then the wind which had rarely deserted us got up and we had a fine sail back from Schleimunde. All too soon it was coming to an end, Keren and I had a last stint at the wheel, then the skipper took us down Kiel Fiord to the BKYC. We furled the main for the last time and picked up our moorings like old salts. Corporal Walker was there to greet us, and over a glass of beer we told him of our adventures. Frenzied packing ensued and rather sadly we left *Uomie* ready for her next crew. Goodbyes to Jock and best wishes for his forthcoming marriage, then we were on the road for home.

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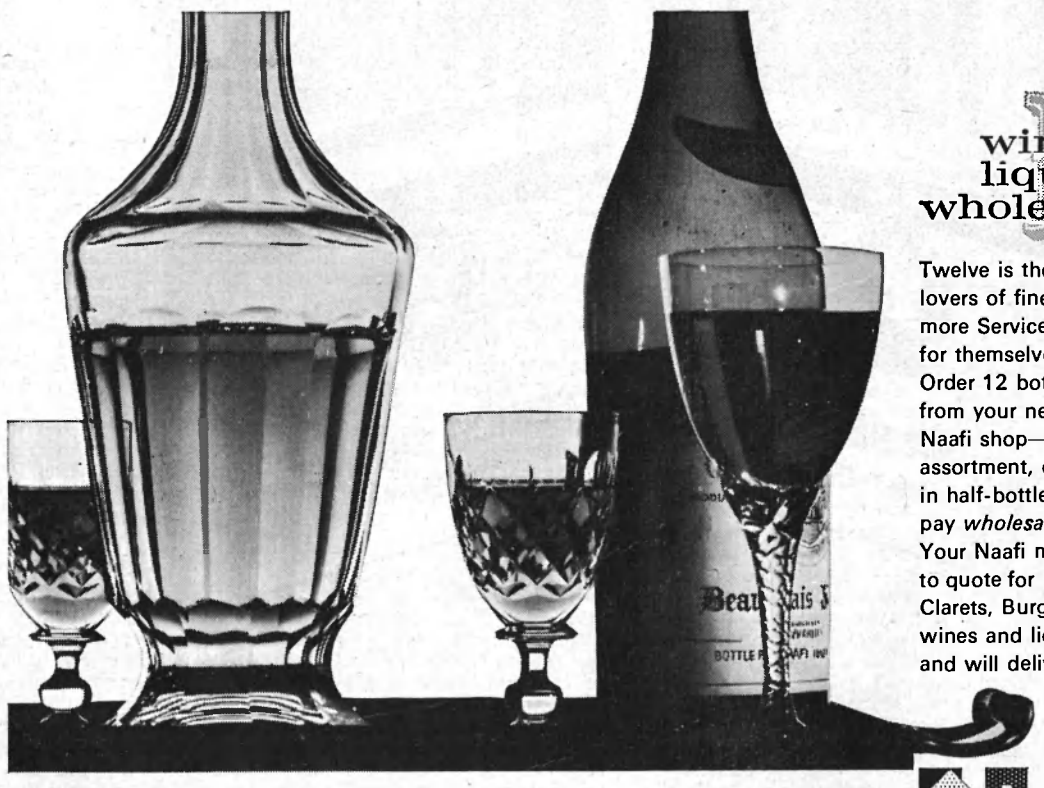
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Where one slip could mean disaster

ROCK CLIMBING IN WALES

By Captain E. Pickup 11th Regiment



Captain Pickup nearing the finish of climb

Climbing some six hundred feet vertically up the sheer rock face, always confronted with the possibility of rocks cascading from above, requires a good deal of tough courage and any amount of skill and experience. In this article Captain E. Pickup, who was accompanied by Lieutenant J. Cullen, describes their adventures on a rock climbing expedition in Wales, and the many tense moments and difficulties encountered in this, one of the toughest of all sports.

A climbing trip to Wales during our summer leave. This was something that Lieutenant Jimmy Cullen and I had discussed on many a dull winter's evening in Catterick. We had started climbing together soon after my arrival in the Depot, mostly on the local outcrops and occasionally in the Lake District. To make the most of a trip to Wales it became quite obvious that we would have to do quite an amount of preliminary training, and so, in April we started climbing every week-end. During Whitsun we climbed in Langdale, when the weather was perfect and the rock was warm to the touch. At other times we went to Borrowdale and climbed on what must be one of the most conveniently sited crags in England—Shepherd's Crag. Our preliminary training finished, we were now ready for our trip to Wales.

On 17th August, the day when the Corps was granted the Freedom of Richmond, we were in Capel Curig looking for a suitable camp site for the week. At last we found a farm in the shadow of Tryfan and set ourselves up in one of the barns. Everywhere we looked there was good climbing rock; to us this was tremendous, after the search for small outcrops in Yorkshire.

A "Winkle Pickered" Youth is Disdainful

After some preliminary climbing on the Idwal Slabs, we returned to them once again, but this time we wanted to have a look at the walls above the slabs. These were near vertical in contrast to the slabs below, and we had been told that the exposure to be experienced on them was of a high degree. We were about to scramble up the ordinary route on the slabs which led to the foot of the wall. Just before we started a "winkle-pickered" youth had appeared and started to climb up the route. We pointed out to him gently that it was about 500ft. high and, whilst presenting no real technical problem, it was not the sort of thing to be climbed free and dressed as he was. He looked at us rather disdainfully and said I'm used to leading "Severes" in the Lakes. Although doubting this somewhat, we couldn't be bothered to argue with him further. Anyway, we next met him about 400ft. up on the slabs, where he was immobile in a crack and showed little inclination to carry on up the next stage, which was a fairly open traverse to the right and up on small holds. He looked at us rather abashed and asked us would we pass him a top-rope down when we had crossed over his stretch. This we did, and it was a rather subdued youth who left us at the top of the climb. At the risk at labouring a point, I would emphasize the moral to this tale:

Don't climb unless properly equipped.

Don't indulge in free climbing unless certain that the climb is within your capabilities. Consider the inconvenience you might cause to others if they have to help you off the rocks, or worse still, pick you up at the foot of the rocks and try to patch you up.

Tough Going with a 570 foot Drop!

Three other climbers were starting just ahead of us. The first 50 feet presented no problem and the five of us shared the same ledge. We had a few minutes to enjoy the view as the other team set about tackling the remaining 70 feet. When their last man was safely out of sight, I started to climb. The route traversed out to the left on what could be described as delightful holds. The view, as the traverse progressed became exhilarating. The rock fell away sheer for about 70 feet to the slabs and these then fell sharply down for a further 500 feet. Deciding that there were better places to admire the view, my attention came back to the route. It now went up sharply and at the same time the holds became smaller. For about six feet I felt as if I was running up the rock; I couldn't hang around on the holds I was using. The angle then eased a little, and as I reached the top Jimmy called from below that I was running out of rope. There was enough left for a belay and then I was ready to bring Jimmy up. All went well for the first 20 feet and then the rope stopped moving and became taut. Jimmy was obviously having problems on the thin bit of rock. By shouting to each other, I soon found out that he was of the opinion that there was no route up where he was. The prospect of lowering his 14 stone down some 70 feet didn't appeal to me at all; it was enough to be holding him in his present position. Luckily, one of the other climbers appeared, and with his assistance, Jim was soon back on route and at the top of the climb, breathing rather heavily. What had happened was that he had traversed too far to the left and ended up looking up a blank wall and unable to reverse his traverse. However, with two of us on the rope at the top, he had been able to swing back on the rope and find the right route.



The writer and Lieutenant Jimmy Cullen on a summit. Tryfan is in the background

This has been an account of one of three of our climbs which had something out of the ordinary about them. There were many other climbs which made the whole week one to remember for a long time. I would emphasize we climb very much for our own enjoyment, neither of us claiming to be a Joe Brown in the making. Perhaps one of the most significant facts we noted during our week in Wales was the comradeship and friendliness of those other climbers we met. We lived for week in a converted barn, sharing our accommodation with a doctor, two schoolteachers, and five Cockneys who "hitched" every week-end from London, just to get in a few days' climbing.

We are now planning a week in Scotland in the New Year, when we hope to do some snow and ice climbing.

BOUND VOLUMES of "THE WIRE"

We have available material to bind in book form 20 copies of the 1964 "WIRE." Messes and individuals who require bound volumes should please let the Editor know as soon as possible.

PRICE IS £2/13/0

A Corporal Goes Parachuting with the German Army and . . .

DROPS IN ON THE GENERAL!

By Corporal A. Bell, 4th Regiment

Corporal Anthony Bell previously served with the 16th Parachute Brigade Signal Squadron—and that was thirteen years ago. But the spirit of adventure sometimes assumes unusual forms, and to recapture the thrills and fascination of "jumping," Corporal Bell, during a spell of leave, went parachuting, voluntarily, with the German Army. How he made out, after such a long absence, and his experiences, he describes below in this vivid article.

On arrival at the small railway station of Storzingen I was picked up and delivered to the Company's lines just outside the village of Stettin Akm (Amkalte Markt).

The Company Commander was Ober Lieutenant Angele, a six-footer with a perpetual grin, which literally spit his face in half. He has a very good reason to grin, as he is one of the few survivors of a descent from 1,400ft. with his 'chute wrapped round his body.



Corporal A. Bell, who writes this article. He is also an enthusiastic collector of weapons and the photo shows him with some of his collection

On the second day, in the company of a Far Junker (Officer Cadet) Bedious, we reported to the Air Landing Air Transport School. There, to our mutual surprise was Flight-Lieutenant Allen, from No. 1 Parachute Training School, R.A.F., Abingdon. It was during conversation with the Kommandant that I had what could have been my only disappointment of the visit. Flight-Lieutenant Allen said that owing to the long break in jumping (13 years) I should complete ground training. This is a course of four weeks, and I had but five days. The Kommandant, sensing my drop in morale, said that I should spend a whole day on the ground training apparatus, then jump the day after—if I was up to standard.

The next morning we reported to the synthetic training area in what would be normal dress for such occasions, denims, boots ankle, etc. Our "day's" training consisted of four rolls from a platform 2ft. high, then 10 minutes in the "Pedulum." This was a harness suspended from the roof of the hangar. Here we went through tree landing, water landing and high tension cable landing. The water landing is somewhat different to what we do, but the principle remains the same. The HT cable landing was new to us. Germany abounds with these cables and they can present a real risk; then on the dummy fuselage, where we learnt the German commands and exit technique.

First, the 39ft. Tower

We then went over to the tower. This is a 39ft. tower with a box on top. One is hooked up to a long cable and then one throws oneself off, adopting a good exit position and counting 1,000, 2,000, 3,000, 4,000. For myself, I think the tower is worse than 10 ordinary jumps, as the jerk on the body is very much harder than one would normally get. As I had never jumped using a reserve 'chute, I found my hands adopting the wrong position and, of course, I forgot to count. After two jumps from the "Bloody Tower," we were told to double to a helicopter, 200 yards away. The Flight-Lieutenant was very fit, but I found myself puffing like an old grumpus. Two dispatchers bundled us into 'chutes and, not knowing if they were correctly fitted, we went to the waiting helicopter. (Sikorsky H34).

The bottom of the door is about 3ft. 6in. from the ground and being out of breath and in a harness that was far too tight, I literally crawled into the helicopter. This crawling endeared me to the other German, and from that moment I was known to all ranks as "Opa" (Grandad) for the rest of my stay at the school.

The "chopper" did half a circuit then the Flight-Lieutenant sat on the door, a tap on the shoulder and he was away. Then came my turn. I sat in the door and got a tap on my shoulder. To me, in my mind, I sat waiting two or three seconds for the familiar shout of "Go" before I realised that the tap was "in lieu" (the dispatcher said I went immediately). There was no feeling of drop as I had expected, just a bumping of the body and a gentle swing. I looked up and there was the beautiful canopy just opening against a clear blue sky. Looking down, everything looked so very small, and I can remember being so surprised. What I had not realised was the German paratroops drop from 430m. (1,300ft.) almost double our height.

The Ploughed Field Came up Rapidly

As I was drifting backwards, I had difficulty in seeing the dropping zone, and we did seem to be passing over a lot of ploughed ground, so pulling down on the correct lift webs and looking over my shoulder, I attempted to steer in the correct direction. This was a dismal failure as the 'chutes we were using were an adaptation of the American T10 with a parabolic canopy as against our half-round canopy. The ploughed field seemed to be approaching me very fast, and looking again over my shoulder, I saw the Flight Lieutenant pulling on all the lift webs in turn very quickly, and no wonder, because he landed two yards from a very ugly-looking piece of farm equipment with some very big upward-pointing hooks. I landed in the true "Bell" style, a sack of potatoes disguised in a uniform, on the farmer's very stoney path, which divided the DZ from his fields.

With the luxury of leaving our 'chutes where they lay, we doubled for another jump. This time we landed in the centre of the DZ. By 10.30 we were back in the canteen. It was then that one of the dispatchers noticed my boots (ankle) and asked if I had my foot bandages on. I explained the position and so, next morning, reported in a very fine pair of German jumping boots and bandages.

This time we were to jump from Noraltas aircraft. I will not bore the reader with a description. It was the same as any other aircraft jump except the jump timing is different to ours and the "Nora" is a very noisy aircraft, but with a very nice observation window right in the tail, where one can watch jumpers as they whip past.

On Monday, again we did two more jumps. These, like all the others, were in "Hollywood style" or clean fatigue. There was nothing unusual about them. The next day the Flight-Lieutenant and myself received our German wings, a very imposing certificate and a jump log book. Flight-Lieutenant Allen was to remain at the School for a dispatcher's course, so I took my leave of Ober Feldweble Hands Klausan and Kurt Hock and went back to my host company.

Reserved for Hell!

I was then asked by the Company to take part in a special jump. The idea behind the jump was that the Divisional Commander, Major-General Mulle, had a birthday, and his home village (650 pop.) wanted to celebrate it. The Company was to jump into some large fields about half-a-mile outside the village. It was to consist of four Noratlas, 106 troops with equipment and arms, and faces blackened. The aircraft were to do one approach over the village, then, on the second approach, the 'Windspringer' (Drifters) were to jump, followed by two runs dropping the rest of the Company. I was to be a drifter from the second aircraft and was given a large smoke bomb to ignite for the amusement of the spectators. I tied this "thing" to a long bit of cord, so that when it got hot I could hang it below and not drop it on someone's head.

At 13.27 hours the aircraft took off, at 13.45 hours we jumped. Everything went well until I hung the smoke bomb below

me. All the smoke blew back up at me and I could not see where I was going. Being a drifter, I was not allowed to steer my 'chute and only in emergency could I slip or steer. The DZ was bounded on one side by a HT line and a small wood on the other. At one end was a very large oak tree. The Speiss (S.S.M.) said he had hung out a notice "Reserved for 'Bell'" on this tree.

As the German place the rifle, unpadded, along the left-hand side of the body, I prepared for a "backward right" landing, but at the last moment a gust of wind caught me and I did a forward left—the best landing I have ever made.

Two other drifters landed in the car park, but luckily suffered no damage to the jumpers or the cars. The rest of the Company landed all right, but the spectators helped some of the lads to carry their kit and held the reserve 'chute by the rip-cord handle, the result was 14 reserve 'chutes were blowing all over the DZ.

We marched down into the village and at 18.00 hours the party began. Some time during the ceremony I was introduced to the Divisional Commander, who said to me the same things that Generals say all over the world.

The Company had to go up on to the band platform and sing, I also had to go with them, but not knowing the words (or by this time caring) I just opened and closed my mouth in time to the music. Some time next morning we got into our sleeping bags. At what seemed an ungodly hour we were marched into church by the O.C. and then dismissed to the beer tent. The O.C. ordered me in the evening to accompany him to the Burgermiester's house for a meal.

Princess Royal Day
Celebrated behind the Iron Curtain

Readers of THE WIRE may be interested to learn that Princess Royal Day was celebrated behind the Iron Curtain in 1964. The British Military Attache in Warsaw, Colonel D. M. Haslehust, late Royal Signals, gave a special dinner on 29th June, 1964, to which American, British and Canadian Service Attaches accredited to Poland were invited. The guest of honour was Mr. Hugh Overton, Head of Chancery at the British Embassy, who served in 3rd Infantry Divisional Signals during the war. There is even a third late member of the Corps in Warsaw in the person of Mr. Brian Nicholas, manager of B.E.A., but unfortunately he was unable to attend the dinner.



Back Row: Colonel D. M. Haslehust (British M.A.), Colonel G. F. Carey (U.S. Air Attache), Colonel P. R. Bingham, D.S.O. (Canadian M.A.), Mr. Hugh Overton.
Front Row: Lieutenant-Colonel B. L. Parr (U.S. A.M.A.), Group Captain P. H. Halford, A.F.C. (British A.A.), Colonel B. B. Kercheval (U.S. M.A.)

Welfare needs Clothing!

Lieutenant-Colonel V. C. Holland, O.B.E.
A Tribute

MANY in the Corps will be sorry to hear of the sudden death of Victor C. Holland at Bakewell on the 6th November.

Victor joined the Army in 1916 and served with the Gunners before transferring into the Corps in 1926. He had an interesting and varied military career, highlights of which were, perhaps, his command of "F" Boys' Company (1932-35) and later his appointment as Commandant of the Army Signal School, India (1938-40). During the war he had an exciting time in the Western Desert, when the 10th Indian Divisional Signals, which he was commanding, was surrounded by the Germans. He subsequently commanded a P.O.W. Camp in Derbyshire, where he eventually settled down after retirement from the Army in 1948.

Victor was a keen traveller, and made a point of visiting a different foreign country every year. In earlier days he explored the Libyan Desert, Sinai and Trans-Jordan with that well-known personality Major (now Brigadier) Ralph Bagnold.

Victor had innumerable friends. He was a person of much kindness and human understanding. Both during his Army career and afterwards, he devoted himself to the service of others. His self dedication to this task is exemplified in his sterling work as County Secretary of SSAFA (Derbyshire), as well as his work with the British Red Cross and on the Bakewell Urban District Council. It was undoubtedly his services to the community that earned him a well-deserved O.B.E. in recent years.

Victor Christian Holland will be missed by many in all walks of life. He will be missed perhaps most of all by numerous ex-Boys of the Corps and students of the Army Signal School, India. For they, in particular, will have a lasting memory of his deep sincerity and warm, friendly nature.

He was indeed well named Victor *Christian* Holland.

Colonel G. H. T. Shrimpton, C.B.E., T.D., A.D.C.

Our congratulations go to Colonel George Shrimpton on his recent appointment as A.D.C. to H.M. The Queen.

George Shrimpton's services to the Corps as an A.E.R. and now T.A. Officer, are almost too numerous to mention. The Corps Committee, the Central Committee of the Association and the Council of the Institution have all benefited from his support and advice. He is also Chairman of the London Branch of the Association and frequently presides at the weekly Welfare Committee meetings at Association H.Q. Seldom has there been a more willing person ready to carry many loads!

Empire Field of Remembrance 1964

This year marked the 50th anniversary of the outbreak of World War I and the 25th anniversary of World War II—a special occasion graced by the presence of H.M. The Queen Mother at the Westminster Abbey Ceremony. After the usual short service and laying of wreaths, Her Majesty toured the Field of Remembrance, speaking with her well-known charm and friendliness to many who had come to pay honour to fallen comrades.

At the Royal Corps of Signals plot were gathered together Major-General Le de M. Thuillier (Chairman of the Association), Brigadier R. H. E. Robinson (representing the Signal Officer-in-Chief), Brigadier H. R. Firth, Major P. D. Warren, Captain M. J. Pickard Captain D. T. Hunneyball with four Cadets (Croydon Branch), Mr. L. J. Rebbeck and Mr. W. Cousins (also of Croydon Branch), Miss M. Archer and Mr. G. Penn (London Branch), Major D. Woodbridge with the R.S.M. and three Permanent Staff members (65th Regiment, T.A.), Mr. A. F. Stead and Brigadier P. M. P. Hobson.

Crosses were planted on behalf of: R.H.Q., Association H.Q., 3rd H.Q. and Signal Regiment, 7th Regiment, 47th Regiment (T.A.), 65th Regiment (T.A.), Catterick and District Branch, Croydon Branch, London Branch, London (North) Branch, Aldershot Branch, Chester Branch, and by numerous other Units and individuals.

MAJOR-GENERAL SIR W. RONALD CAMPBELL PENNEY, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., M.C.

It is with much regret that we record, as we go to press, the sad news just received of the death of Major-General Sir Ronald Penney. An outstanding corps figure and a staunch supporter of the Association, he will be greatly missed. A full tribute will be paid in the January WIRE, and the Spring issue of the Journal. Our deep sympathy goes to Lady Penney and his two daughters.

London Gazette

Colonel G. H. T. Shrimpton, C.B.E., T.D., T.A., is appointed Aide-de-Camp, Territorial Army, to The Queen, 12th October, 1964.

REGULAR ARMY

Lt. E. Mulley to be Capt., 8th October, 1964.
Capt. M. G. Panton to be Maj., 14th October, 1964.
2/Lt. R. J. M. Rumford from Short Serv. Com. to be 2/Lt., 19th Aug., 1954.
G. Meakin, University Cadetship, to be 2/Lt. (on probation).
R. L. Wilson, University Cadetship, to be 2/Lt. (on probation).
Major J. P. Harrison retires 3rd November, 1964.

SHORT SERVICE COMMISSIONS

W.O.I. G. E. Loudon to be Lt. (Tfc. Offr.) 1st September, 1964.
Major H. R. Woodger relinquishes his commission on completion of service, 28th October, 1964.

ARMY EMERGENCY RESERVE OF OFFICERS

Major W. A. Dalziel, T.D., to be Lt.-Col., 17th September.

Deaths

DAY.—Corporal A. W. Day, Trucial Oman Scouts Signal Squadron, on 10th November. He was accidentally drowned whilst sailing off Sharjah, Middle East. Corporal Day was a Life Member of the Association.

SMITH.—Lance-Corporal J. F. Smith, of 607 Signal Troop, British Guiana, on 12th October, at St. Joseph's Mercy Hospital, Georgetown, British Guiana, after a short illness.

LENNOX.—Signalman Robert Lennox, on 10th October, at the R.A.F. Hospital, Wroughton.

CURTIS.—Signalman Russel Curtis, whilst at home on leave from Queen Alexandra Military Hospital, Millbank, on 23rd October.

FROGGATT.—Corporal J. R. Froggatt, of 19th Regiment, at Labuan, Borneo, on 27th October.

TRUNKFIELD — HOLDEN — TYNAN. — Signalman C. V. Trunkfield, Signalman N. J. Holden, Signalman P. Tynan, all of 7th Regiment, who died as a result of a traffic accident at Bad Salzuflen, Germany, on 7th November.

SCOTT.—Signalman A. Y. Scott, of 7th Regiment, who died in B.A.O.R. on 20th November from injuries sustained as a result of a fall from a train.

CLUNESS.—G. McKenzie Cluness, of 56, Albion Street, Sydney, N.S.W., Australia, after a long illness. Mr. Cluness was a Life Member of the Association (No. 437). He was an ex-serving member of Royal Signals who kept up a lively interest in the affairs of the Corps and from Australia was a continuous letter-writer to the Association commenting on various aspects of Corps activities.

SIMMONS.—Signalman T. J. Simmons, of 13th Regiment, who died on 15th November in B.A.O.R. of injuries sustained in a traffic accident. He was a Life Member of the Association.

HUNTER.—Lieutenant (Q.M.) G. M. Hunter, who died on 20th November at Edgware General Hospital. He served in the Corps from 1920 to 1945. He was an Annual Member of the Association since 1945.

(THE WIRE *wishes to express its sincere sympathy to all the next-of-kin of the above in their sad bereavement*)

Births

HOLMES.—To Corporal T. Holmes, of 21st Regiment, and Mrs. Holmes, a son.

CAISLEY.—To Lance-Corporal Caisley, of 21st Regiment, and Mrs. Caisley, a son.

PILKINGTON.—To Signalman Pilkington, also of 21st Regiment, and Mrs. Pilkington, a daughter.

All of 2nd Regiment

WOODWARD.—To Signalman N. V. Woodward and Mrs. Woodward, on 6th October, a son, Darren Reed.

MAGNUM.—To Staff Sergeant R. A. C. Magnum and Mrs. Magnum, on 5th October, a daughter, Petra Evelyn Tania.

DERRICK.—To Corporal K. P. Derrick and Mrs. Derrick, on 20th September, a son, Paul Keith.

PERSUAD.—To Signalman D. R. Persuad and Mrs. Persuad, on 8th September, a son, David Anthony Kamnouth.

WEARING.—To Lance-Corporal R. Wearing and Mrs. Wearing, on 10th September, a daughter, Julie.

Of 10th Regiment

SMITH.—To Signalman R. Smith and Mrs. Smith, a son, Anthony Douglas.

DUNN.—Lance-Corporal Dunn and Mrs. Dunn, a son, Andrew.

STATE.—To Sergeant C. A. State, Royal Signals Special Recruiter of Army Information Office, Bournemouth, and Mrs. State, on 31st October, a daughter, Geraldine.

Movements—Officers

(*15th October to 14th November*, 1964)

Captain P. D. Alexander	...	To R.M.C.S., Shrivenham
Major G. M. Allan	...	,, 263 Squadron
Major J. L. Botterill	...	,, 21st Regiment
Major (Tfc. Offr.) R. Barrett	...	,, H.Q., Western Command
Major M. H. Broadway	...	,, Regular Commissions Board, Westbury
Lieutenant M. L. P. Brock	...	,, 1st Regiment
Second-Lieutenant A. F. Browne	...	,, No. 4 Army Youth Team
Captain T. A. Byrne	...	,, R.M.C.S., Shrivenham
Lieutenant C. R. Crew	...	,, 210 Squadron
Captain P. Carr	...	,, 3 H.Q. & Signal Regiment
Major K. W. E. Ferguson	...	,, School of Signals
Captain M. J. Flynn	...	,, R.M.C.S., Shrivenham
Lieutenant (T.O.T.) P. W. Foakes	...	,, A.A.S., Harrogate
Second-Lieutenant R. M. Goymour	...	,, 200 Squadron
Major I. Gram-Hansen	...	,, School of Signals
Major J. P. Hart	...	,, 204 Squadron
Major J. A. E. Hasell	...	,, 17th Gurkha Signal Regiment
Lieutenant (Q.M.) T. W. Jackson	...	,, 7th Regiment
Captain G. J. K. Mackintosh	...	,, 1st Regiment
Lieutenant-Colonel R. W. Millo	...	,, 18th Regiment
Captain J. D. Morris	...	,, Trucial Oman Scouts Sig. Sqn.
Captain J. H. T. Nealon	...	,, 11th Regiment
Captain C. K. Ottley	...	,, 18th Regiment
Captain F. H. Pedley	...	,, 11th Regiment (H.S.)
Captain F. V. B. Philp	...	,, H.Q. Selection of Personnel Staff, Catterick
Major D. A. Polley	...	,, School of Signals
Captain P. S. Reader	...	,, School of Signals
Major N. B. Robins	...	,, 30th Regiment
Major H. E. Roper	...	,, 30th Regiment
Captain J. Telfer	...	,, 11th Regiment
Lieutenant A. P. Thackray	...	,, 11th Regiment (H.S.)
Captain (Q.M.) W. A. Timbrell	...	,, 65th Regiment (T.A.)
Major (Q.M.) M. E. E. Truscott	...	,, H.Q., B.A.O.R.
Major R. O. Wilson	...	,, W.R.A.C. School of Instruction
Captain (T.O.T.) J. N. Wolfenden	...	,, A.W.R.E. (Army Element), Aldermaston.

Movements—Warrant Officers and Senior N.C.O.s

December, 1964

W.O.I P. Chilvers	...	To 48th Regiment (T.A.)
W.O.II F. A. Gibbs	...	,, 266 Squadron
W.O.II J. Packwood	...	,, 261 Squadron
W.O.II D. H. M. Rumsey	...	,, 209 Squadron
W.O.II A. R. Standen	...	,, Army Air Corps Centre
W.O.II J. E. Tent	...	,, 16th Regiment
W.O.II J. B. Campbell	...	,, 30th Regiment
W.O.II J. L. Holman	...	,, 64th Regiment (T.A.)
W.O.II P. J. Walls	...	,, 28th Regiment
W.O.II R. Marriott	...	,, 50th Regiment (T.A.)
W.O.II J. D. Heard	...	,, 9th Regiment
W.O.II F. Clarkson	...	,, 30th Regiment
W.O.II L. P. Shortman	...	,, H.Q., Eastern Command
A/W.O.II D. N. M. Eldridge	...	,, H.Q., 20 Armd. Bde. Gp. and H.Q. and Signal Squadron.
Staff Sergeant J. H. Chipling	...	,, 243 Squadron
Staff Sergeant W. Jones	...	,, H.Q., 4 Guards Bde. Gp. and H.Q. and Signal Squadron
Staff Sergeant C. J. E. Bearne	...	,, 4th Regiment
Staff Sergeant C. E. Stephens	...	,, 205 Squadron
Staff Sergeant A. J. Thomas	...	,, 45th Regiment (T.A.)
Staff Sergeant K. Burston	...	,, 236 Squadron
Staff Sergeant H. W. Leonard	...	,, 47th Regiment (T.A.)
Staff Sergeant E. S. Filder	...	,, 28th Regiment
Staff Sergeant D. Wade	...	,, 234 Squadron
Staff Sergeant L. C. Jeynes	...	,, 17th Gurkha Signal Regiment
Staff Sergeant G. James	...	,, Jun. Leaders Regt., Royal Signals
Sergeant I. J. Carruthers	...	,, 607 Troop
Sergeant E. E. Daines	...	,, 14th Regiment (1 Squadron)
Sergeant D. H. G. Snell	...	,, 249 Squadron
A/Sergeant W. Mowatt	...	,, 24th Regiment
Sergeant D. Jones	...	,, 205 Squadron
Sergeant R. Vasper	...	,, 210 Squadron
Sergeant G. T. Howse	...	,, 13th Regiment
Sergeant P. H. J. Watts	...	,, 226 Squadron
Sergeant M. Drugan	...	,, R.M.A., Sandhurst
Sergeant D. H. Owen	...	,, Oxford University O.T.C.
Sergeant M. A. H. Taylor	...	,, R.H.G. Signal Troop
Sergeant H. Ruff	...	,, 15th Regiment
Sergeant L. F. Saxby	...	,, 30th Regiment
Sergeant C. Snow	...	,, 632 Troop
Sergeant K. Rollings	...	,, 30th Regiment
Sergeant J. L. Gwynne	...	,, H.Q., 3 Div. & H.Q. & Signal Regiment
A/Sergeant F. C. Wheeler	...	,, 224 Squadron

Two Printer's Errors in November "Wire"

DIRECT TO YOU—PAGE 415

The second line of the paragraph headed "What are the opportunities to train as a Foreman of Signals" should read "at least 40 vacancies *a year*."

80th REGIMENT AER NOTES—PAGE 447

In the paragraph headed "Good Team Work" mention of the 59th Regiment T.A. in the third sub-paragraph was omitted. The 59th Regiment in fact loaned the greater proportion of the Radio Relay vehicles for the camp.

Our apologies for any misunderstanding caused by these omissions.

Promotions

October, 1964

REGIMENTAL DUTY ROSTER

				New Sen. No.	Old Sen. No.	
To W.O.I	15002529	U/A/W.O.I	Molony, M. J. L.	550	400	
	2378286	A/W.O.I	Knight, T. E.	560	290	
	21005370	A/W.O.I	Hutchison, J. D.	570	170	
	14185951	A/W.O.I	Summers, E.	580	640	
	22265304	A/W.O.I	Langston, D. F.	590	510	
	14190758	A/W.O.I	Kay, R. W.	600	490	
	14116539	A/W.O.I	Wright, K. G.	610	530	
	2547766	A/W.O.I	Peck, J. A.	620	650	
To S Sgt.	22771423	Sgt.	Ellis, P.	2904	4780	(Op)
	22242388	Sgt.	Livermore, D.	3044	1030	(Fd)
	22546387	Sgt.	Harding, C.	3254	1120	(Fd)
	22773431	Sgt.	Murray, A. A.	3260	1130	(Fd)
	22993073	A/S Sgt.	Nicholls, R. C.	3270	1200	(Fd)
	22515720	A/S Sgt.	Paine, P. S.	3280	1250	(Fd)
	22106088	Sgt.	Maher, J.	3290	1270	(Fd)
	22212569	Sgt.	Cox, R. D.	3300	1810	(Tec)

FOREMAN OF SIGNALS ROSTER

To W.O.I	2548924	W.O.II	Fairbairn, R. F.	870	940	

SIGNAL CENTRE SUPERVISOR ROSTER

To W.O.I	22168977	A/W.O.I	Wallis, D. K.	460	810	
To W.O.II	2551721	A/W.O.II	Agatsiotis, A.	1450	970	
	22309271	S Sgt.	Hitchcock, G. E. C.	1460	1070	

TECHNICAL ROSTER

To Sgt.	23487190	Cpl.	Rayner, M.	4725	7830	
	23532944	Cpl.	Rogers, J. N.	4750	11820	
	23683973	Cpl.	Antcliff, D. J.	4790	11948	
	23364156	Cpl.	Woodford, C. L.	4820	8962	

ADMINISTRATIVE ROSTER

To Sgt.	23351274	Cpl.	Drane, D.	2750	3354	
	22548788	Cpl.	Jackson, J. C.	2760	127	

INSERTIONS

YEOMAN OF SIGNALS ROSTER

To W.O.I	22294791	W.O.I	Hill, E. W. G.	70	300	(Sig. Cen. Spvr.)
	2549568	W.O.I	Kelly, J. A.	100	340	,,
	14498891	W.O.I	Chater, J. F.	230	450	,,
To W.O.II	19037995	W.O.II	Longstaff, E. G.	50	570	,,
	2549513	W.O.II	Cotton, J. H.	360	870	,,
	22523422	W.O.II	Metcalfe, P. F.	394	950	,,
	2549564	W.O.II	Kent, P. B. R.	610	1160	,,
	22983981	W.O.II	Scrafton, R.	620	1170	,,
	22265090	W.O.II	Johnstone, T.	760	1310	,,
To S Sgt.	22242661	S Sgt.	Souter, A. R.	480	1080	(Sig. Cen. Spvr.)
	2549012	S Sgt.	Leech, W. J.	1160	2920	(Reg. Duty)
	22465635	S Sgt.	Boddington, D. V.	1170	2950	(Reg. Duty)
	22246064	S Sgt.	Cassling, R. N. L.	1180	3100	(Reg. Duty)

DELETIONS

REGIMENTAL DUTY ROSTER

W.O.II	1280	
S Sgt.	460	

SIGNAL CENTRE SUPERVISOR ROSTER

W.O.II	850	

TECHNICAL ROSTER

W.O.II	280	
Sgt.	3700	3995

OPERATING ROSTER

Sgt.	6820	

FIELD ROSTER

Sgt.	150	

Upgrading Courses in Catterick

The Training Brigade upgrading course programme has recently been amended. The Lineman Course No. 33, Class III to II which was scheduled to start on 6th April, 1965, has been cancelled.

The Cipher Operator course No. 30, Class III to II, which was to have started on 18th May, 1965, will now start on 6th April, 1965.

A Cipher Operator course Class II to I will start on 18th May, 1965.

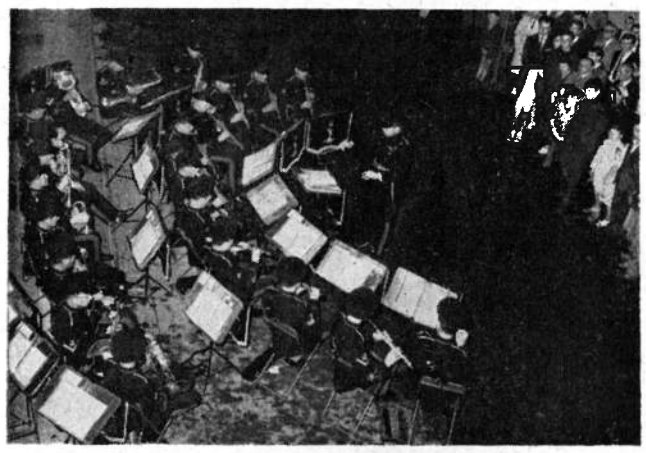
Starting dates for upgrading courses due to be held in June, 1965, are as follows:—

Radio Technician (Heavy)	Class II to I	15th June, 1965
Cable Jointer	Class III to II	29th June, 1965
Clerk Technical	Class III to II	29th June, 1965
Telegraph Operator	Class III to II	15th June, 1965 (two courses)
Switchboard Operator (W.R.A.C.)	Class III to II	28th June, 1965

Mr. P. A. Simmonds

Long and Devoted Service

Fifty Plus: In the middle of November, Mr. P. A. Simmonds retired from the Signals Directorate. Born in 1896, Philip Alfred Simmonds joined the Royal Engineers as a boy on 20th May, 1913. On reaching man's status in 1914 he served with "K" Company in Limerick. In 1915 he went to France with A.J. Cable Section and later served in Salonica. After attending No. 2 Foreman of Signals Course he served in Mauritius and he retired from the Army in 1935 with the rank of Q.M.S. (F. of S.). He then served for a year in C.I.E.M.E. Inspectorate in Woolwich Dockyard. The last 28 years Mr. Simmonds has spent in the Signals Directorate as draughtsman and he will be sadly missed in the Directorate where his knowledge and skill have made him so valuable for so long. We wish him a long and happy retirement.



The Corps Band plays while the citizens of Rheims listen. An incident during the visit of the Corps Guard of Honour to France (See November *Wire*)

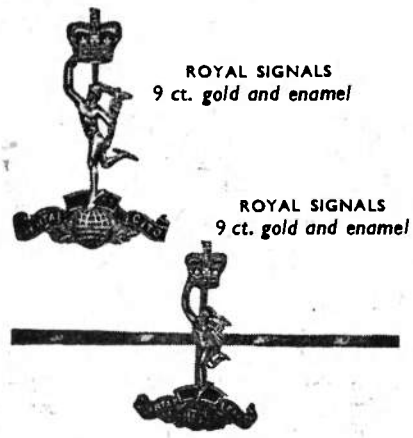
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Terylene	11/–	
Corps Scarves—Woollen	21/–	
Rayon Squares	21/–	
Cravats—Terylene	21/–	
Corps Cuff Links	9/–	
Association Buttonhole Badges or Brooches	3/–	Members only
Blazer Badges	35/–	
Blazer Buttons—Large (each)	2/3	
Small (each)	1/8	
Motor Car Badges (enamelled in Corps Colours)	35/–	
Motor Cycle Badges (enamelled in Corps Colours)	20/–	
Corps Plaques (plus 1/6 postage)	32/6	

Corps Diaries (available each year between November and February. Apply to Headquarters for Order Form).

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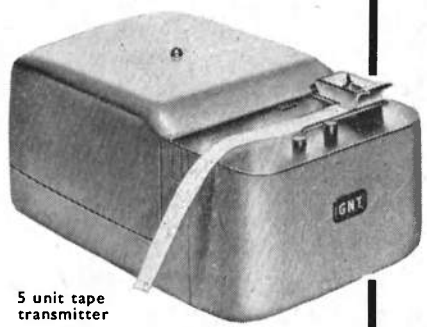


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ARMY APPRENTICES' SCHOOL, HARROGATE

HARROGATE

Rebuilding programme gets under way. To the bulk of the School's population, the rebuilding programme is a somewhat nebulous affair. Apart from the presence of strange civilians, and the increased frequency of unannounced inspection tours by the inhabitants of School H.Q., there has been little outward evidence of the considerable amount of work being done. However, on the 2nd November a major step forward was taken when the preliminary work began and contractors' offices were opened. They and their equipment will be more and more in evidence in the next few months, building a modern technical school, designed to meet the needs of the apprentices and staff. This is good news indeed for future apprentice tradesmen, and for those members of the staff fortunate enough to serve here in years to come.

On Wednesday, 28th October, the Inspector of Boys' Training, Brigadier J. B. Ashworth, C.B.E., D.S.O., A.D.C., paid a farewell visit to the school. In addition to touring the various departments, he saw very good demonstrations of Mountain Rescue and First Aid by Apprentice Tradesmen. It is of interest to note here that the school first aid team represented Harrogate in the Central Yorkshire First Aid Competition. They gained second place, their marks being only one per cent. less than those of the competition winners.

A good win against A.A.S. Carlisle. During the winter months, the highlights of the sporting scene are the winter games fixtures against other Army Apprentice Schools. On Saturday, 31st October, we were hosts to teams from the Army Apprentices School, Carlisle. Seven different events were contested, with the following results:—

		AAS HARROGATE	AAS CARLISLE
Association Football	lost	2 goals	5 goals
Rugby Football	draw	3 points	3 points
Hockey	won	2 goals	0
Basketball	won	57 points	19 points
.22 Shooting	won	1547	1534
Cross-Country	won	29 points	53 points
Boxing	lost	2 bouts	11 bouts

It is impossible in limited space to do full justice to the efforts of all the apprentice tradesmen who competed so well, and gave us a convincing overall win by four events to two, with one event drawn. Among the more notable individual achievements was that of A/T Sherlock who scored a total of 199 out of a possible 200 on his targets in the .22 match. The rugger match provided a most exciting finish to a fairly even game. With very little time to go, and Carlisle leading by 3 points, our team worked their way steadily down the touchline through a series of lineouts and scrums, and finally broke across the field for A/T Corporal Papworth to bulldoze his way over the line and even the scores.

Cross-Country Team Shine. Earlier in the month our cross-country team had already demonstrated their fine form by convincing wins over teams from Leeds Training College, Bede Training College (Durham), Durham University and St. John's Training College (York). Against Carlisle they excelled themselves, with a fine win by A/T Ross, and the remaining team members filling places 3, 4, 5, 6, 10, 11, 12. It is a tribute to a good team effort to note that the first and last men of the eight crossed the finishing line just over a minute apart.

A Successful Communication Exercise. During the week 18th-24th October, the senior term took part in their final communications exercise. "Petasus" is the big exercise of the term in which radio and radio relay communications are set up simulating a Divisional and three Brigade H.Q.s, together with a COMCEN. The senior term are to be congratulated on coping successfully with the most ambitious "Petasus" so far. The links were successfully engineered and a good flow of traffic was maintained, all of which augurs well for the future of the senior term as Royal Signals tradesmen. Like all exercises, it had its lighter moments. Amongst these was the occasion when a luckless Foreman of Signals, trying to sort out a "birds' nest" of wires, unfortunately connected himself between a very live wire and an earth lead. No damage was done beyond hurt feelings, and the apprentice tradesmen present were highly delighted with the "demonstration!"

Finally, our team in two little-publicised sports, did well during the month. Our cyclists won the Junior Team Prize in the Army Hill Climb, and A/T Corporal Crittenden was first home in the twenty-mile Individual Massed Start race. The School senior and junior judo teams won their classes in the Northern Command Judo Championships on 16th October.

JUNIOR LEADERS REGIMENT

The start of the Christmas term was noted by the arrival of the largest intake ever to this Unit. One hundred and twenty-seven recruits arrived at Denbury on 15th September, 1964, and what was more remarkable every single one joined on the right day, which was another record. Boys came from all over Great Britain and as usual it was raining on intake day. After some initial homesickness in a number of cases, the intake has settled extremely well and up to press not one boy has purchased his discharge. The merry team of Drill Sergeants Dobson, Loveday, Evans, Mathieson, Kelly and Batten, under the eagle eye of W.O.II Stuckey, have quickly put the boys through their paces and all promises well for a high standard at the end of their first term.

An enjoyable weekend camp was spent at Churston Cove near Brixham within two weeks of the start of term. Here the boys have their first taste of living under canvas, an event which is eagerly awaited. This intake promises a good all round standard of sport and all are now heavily engaged competing for the Squadron sports trophy.

Elsewhere in the Unit the Christmas term is in full swing with all boys striving towards their intermediate and senior exams at the end of term, whilst the output put in extra training to achieve their trade rating on leaving. There are outward and visible signs of improvement in the camp. The indoor heated swimming pool is well under construction and will be in full use next term. Each consignment brings more modern radio equipment and generally the twenty-five year old Militia Camp is being given a bit of a face lift.

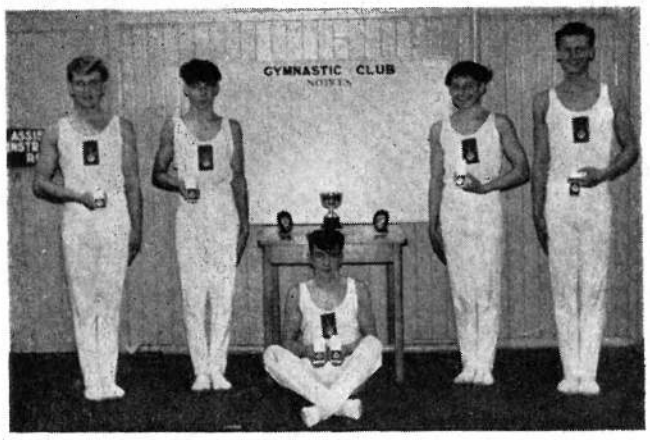
Much Physical Activity

The Unit boxing team were unfortunately 'knocked out' of the Junior Army Boxing Championships by the Infantry Junior Leaders at Oswestry, but not before an extremely close contest was concluded with the home team getting home by three points.

Rugby and hockey competitions have not yet started but active preparation is well under way for the Junior Army Cups. Both teams have achieved some notable successes in local 'friendlies.' There are, however, two sports in the Unit in which some headway has already been achieved in the 1964/65



"The Merry Team of Drill Sergeants"
. . . they have put the boys through their paces and all promises well for a high standard at the end of their first term . . .
From Left to right—Sergeant Loveday, Sergeant Evans, Sergeant Dobson, Sergeant Mathieson, Sergeant Batten, S.S.M. Stuckey, Sergeant Kelly



Southern Command Champion Junior Gymnastic Team

season. In the recent Southern Command Junior Gymnastics and Trampoline Championships held at the Army School of Physical Training at Aldershot the Regimental gymnasts swept the board in no uncertain fashion.

The gymnastic team, consisting of Junior Signalmen Norgrove, Rookes, Riddell and Kendall took the team championship with a most polished display in all of the compulsory and voluntary exercises. These consisted of work on the horizontal bar, the parallel bars, on the ground and on the long box. The Individual Gymnastics Award went to Norgrove who now feels justly rewarded for a lot of hard work put in at the gymnasium in his two years with the Unit. The runner-up in this event was Rookes, who shows much promise. In the Trampoline Competition the team of Junior Corporal Robertson and Norgrove won the plaque for the winning competition, whilst Robertson won the individual title with a sparkling and most accomplished exhibition. This was a fitting climax to many hours of practice. Work has now started in preparation for the full Army Championships which take place in the near future.

Regimental Soccer. After many weeks of 'juggling' with positions, the Regimental team is now playing at full strength and the players are now beginning to show their true capabilities. Whereas last season the team was playing in the South Devon Youth League and finding the opposition rather weak this year they have 'moved up' into Division II of the Junior League. This actually means that they are now opposing teams of much higher quality and ability, who are adults rather than youths and, of course, who are much more experienced. However, this formidable task has in no way deterred the Junior Leaders who, in fact, seem to produce greater attack and 'fire power' when up against this type of opposition than when their opponents are of their own vintage. If one considers the Army Cup as our primary aim, then playing in this class of football provides an excellent training ground for the team and this indeed is already producing the desired result.

On Wednesday, 21st October, we were 'at home' to the Junior Tradesmen's Regiment, A.C.C., in the first round of the Junior Leaders Challenge Cup. The final result of 5 goals to 2, in our favour, was a fair indication of the ability of both teams and we now look forward, in anticipation, to our semi-final draw against Junior Leaders' Regiment R.E. at Dover on Wednesday, 11th November, 1964.

ROYAL MILITARY ACADEMY

Signals Wing

Once again, our Winter Term of instruction nears its climax. Our Chief Instructor, Major W. G. Neilson, and five seniors are preparing to disappear into the deserts of Libya for the Academy overseas training period, on which some four hundred officer cadets receive field training. Although the training will be similar to that of last year it is certain there will be many surprises for our newly joined Instructors, some of whom are visiting Libya for the first time.

Signal Wing Prominent in France

Exercise "Tipperary," held between the French Academy St. Cyr and The R.M.A., Sandhurst, took place on 28th October, ending on 30th October, and was a complete success both in tactical and social fields. For the first time ever the Signals Wing sent three Mark 9 Land Rovers to France by air and the communication structure was built around these vehicles, producing some very interesting results. For instance, we were greatly amused by the way in which the French or English interpreter always translated their messages to their own advantages. The Signals team were ably led by W.O.II R. W. Simmons, B.E.M., and included Sergeant B. Styles, Sergeant J. Barton, Signalman J. McCluskey, Signalman S. Gedling and Signalman F. Atkinson. On the final evening of the exercise, the General commanding St. Cyr entertained the British Officers and Senior N.C.O s and the French and Sandhurst officer cadets to dinner. The guest of honour was Brigadier A. J. Deane-Drummond, D.S.O., M.C., late Royal Signals. The three Signals drivers were also included as guests. A tremendous time was had by all—but oh, the next morning!

A little nearer home, in fact in the beacons of South Wales, we chose to complete a recce for a cadet exercise coinciding with the first blizzard of the winter. The net result was one Signalman G. Scampion carrying his A41 radio set, paddling up a trickling river, suddenly finding himself waist deep in ice water! He has now recovered.

Fun with the Fireworks . . .

Socially, this is of course the season for festive activities and at Sandhurst the Wing are involved in the numerous parties, balls and fairs which take place between now and Christmas. One event which bears a "mention" was the fireworks display on 5th November, organised by W.O.II R. W. Simmons, assisted by the Wing seniors. Interest in the display reached new heights when it was announced in the Academy that fireworks would be fired from floating platforms on the lake. Curiosity brought large crowds to the lakeside, many hoping to see one of our team take the plunge. Some very powerful fireworks were let off and the firing team had to stand a maximum distance of four feet from some of the set pieces; others huddled in the bottom of a small boat. One humorous incident occurred—Y. of S. H. Brown was sited on a small island in the lake with a large selection of rockets and mortars. The first rocket he fired destroyed his firing instructions sheet! His final losses of the evening were his thermos flash, torch, and life jacket when a rocket exploded on the stand. He came away from the display muttering something about "active service."

The R.M.A. Sandhurst Band played to open the firework display and their music really helped to get the evening going. The Wing closed the evening by serving hot coffee and soup to the spectators. In all a very successful evening.

We would like to take this opportunity of welcoming newcomers to the Wing over the Christmas period. They include Major H. A. J. Sturge, our new Chief Instructor, Sergeant Dunnett, Sergeant Escott and Sergeant Webb. Also, congratulations to W.O.II K. Mason on his appointment as S.S.M. of the Signals Wing. We shall soon be saying farewell to Major W. G. Neilson, on his posting to 10th Regiment in January; to W.O.II (S.S.M.) R. W. Simmons, B.E.M., on posting to 1st Regiment; to Sergeant J. Barton who is going to Germany and, lastly, Sergeant G. Brooke, who takes up station as P.S.I. at 58th Regiment (T.A.) in January.

CAMDRIDGE UNIVERSITY O.T.C. ROYAL SIGNALS WING

The Wing is now reassembled after the long vacation and, despite those who maintain that the grey stone universities live in the past, it is a good time to review the year's activities.

After various schemes and exercises earlier in the year, the most fascinating training for five cadets was the O.T.C. course at the School of Signals. Our five arrived to find that students from other universities had not materialised, but nevertheless, the full teaching staff continued the course as planned. The course covered all groups at the School and was most absorbing. The five of us were very grateful to the School for this fortnight.

We celebrated 6th June with Exercise "Underdog," a night navigation and map-reading exercise, run by our two mad parachutists, Chris Gale and Tim Gravina. The successful few covered 15 miles from clue to clue. The unsuccessful were last seen running the wrong way across a disused airfield.

The Wing dinner was held in May Week in Caius College. The guests included Colonel D. R. Horsfield (University Liaison Officer, Royal Signals), the C.O. and Adjutant of the O.T.C., and our retiring, and untiring, P.S.I., Sergeant D. Jones.



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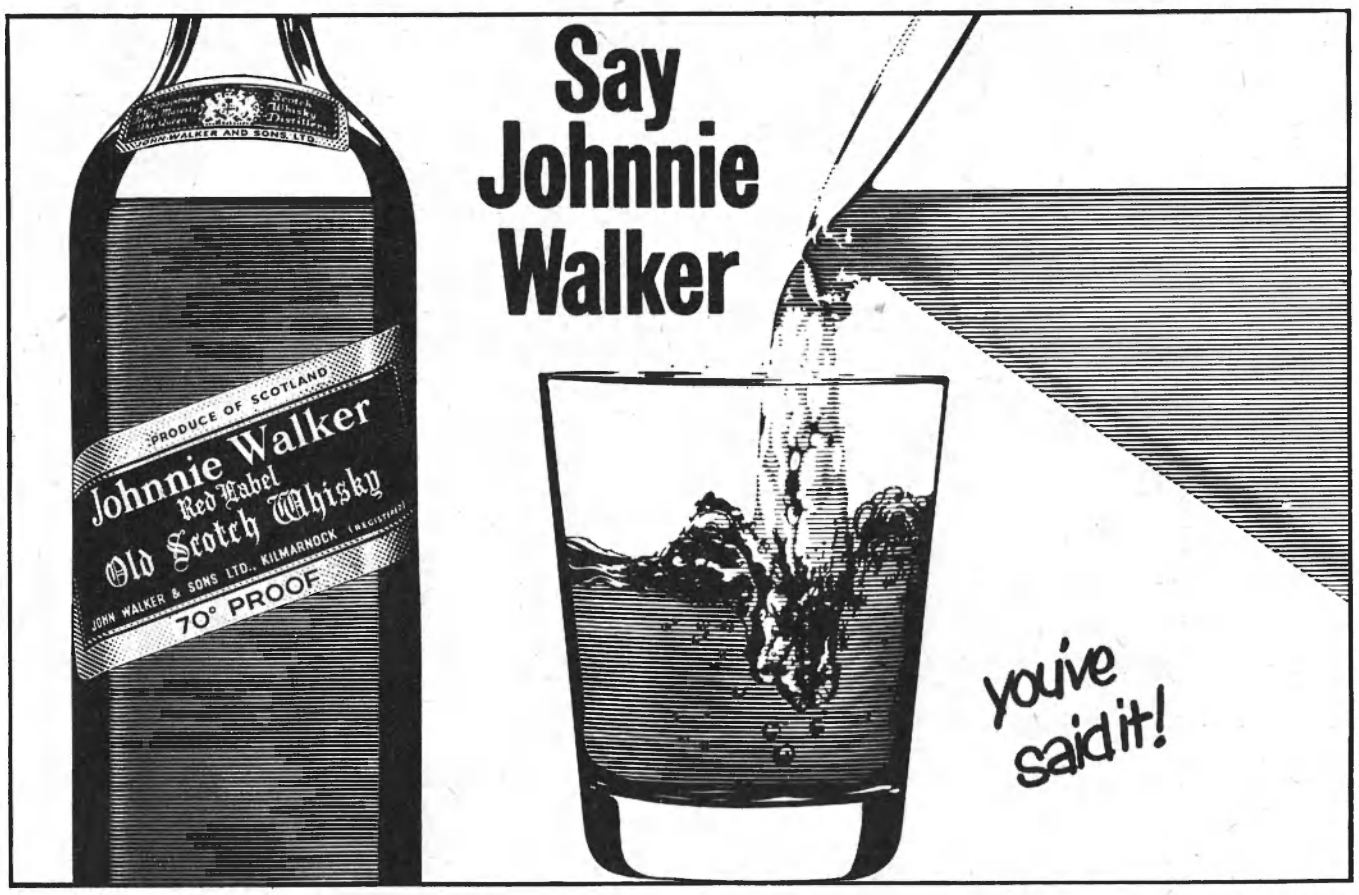
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Parents quite frequently introduce their friends to Student Funds Limited so that they too can benefit from the savings in money to be made out of fees payable.

Some parents have from time to time referred the company's recommended plans to their own professional advisers and in one instance a solicitor completed for his own three daughters ahead of his client. This is what some have said:—

A Trustee Department Manager of one of the Big Five Banks:
" *I have studied it very carefully and I consider it a most ingenious scheme and well worth taking up. . . .*"

A Parent:
" *I have passed all this to my Uncle, a Scottish C.A. who actually deals with most of my income tax position.*
" *He incidentally is also very pleased with your scheme. I've passed on your brochure to two other members*
" *of my company. . . .*"

Another Parent:
" *. . . I think it is an extremely good scheme as do the Bank Managers with whom I have discussed it.*"

A Major in the Royal Signals:
" *Thank you very much for your two letters and the illustration drawn up for me. I found your answers to*
" *all my questions complete and very helpful and am now convinced that this is just what I need to help me*
" *with the cost of education for my younger boy. . . . . I now regret that we had not been introduced when*
" *I was planning for my other son!*" .

And, a senior General in the Army said he was told by his Bank Manager that the plan we sent to him was a "must".

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Summer Camp

Summer camp was held at Otterburn. We justified our name by having eight officers and twelve cadets on the Wing strength. We were privileged to have a team led by W.O.I Rose, introducing us to radio relay equipment, and to the C11 and C45. His team were with us for a week in all, both at Otterburn and on a brief, but valuable visit to the School at Catterick. We had considerable fun sending a message between two men, ten yards apart, by channelling it four times over a three-mile link.

In the second week of camp we combined with the R.A.C. and Infantry Wings against the Inns of Court and City Yeomanry. Exercise "Hadrian's Wall" was a fast-moving and free-shooting three days spent between Northumberland and the Forth. Half the Wing formed monitoring and relay detachments for the R.A.C., while the other half were told to form a scout car troop of their own. Dick Paden, this year's O.C., proved again that O.T.C. stands for "off-the-cuff," as he led this troop of wolves in sheeps' clothing, organising ambushes for two days, with devastating success. The third day, with Peter Magill in command, we proved equally resourceful at springing them. The electronic warfare accolade for the year must got to Peter Hiner, who established himself as Troop Commander on the enemy net—why wait two hours in ambush if you know they are not coming until after breakfast? It is very satisfying to watch half an enemy troop retreating at your own orders!

Success in the Rallye Militaire

Dick Paden also captained the O.T.C. team in the Rallye Militaire, for which three Champs were entered as a team. His comment, on setting off: "If we can only finish, we should get a prize," was proved true, as we were the only Champ team to survive the 280-mile course intact, and gained the Military Team Prize. Dick's own vehicle, with Martin King as co-driver/navigator, and Andrew Martin as navigator, an all Signals team, came second in the class and 27th overall out of 78.

This term, the retiring O.C., Peter Magill, and Tim Gravina join T.A. units and David Gray and Martin King are on their "Q" course at Catterick, these being our only leavers, apart from our P.S.I., Sergeant D. Jones, who manfully stood the strain of two years' lost pliers and broken "F" sections. We wish him all the best on his return to the less irregular Army, and welcome in his place W.O.II Rowbottom, late of Cyprus.

2nd REGIMENT, B.F.P.O. 22

Autumn Exercises

We are now back in Birdwood Barracks after the Autumn exercises—which kept most of us on the top of a windy hill for five weeks and some of us for seven weeks. The site chosen for the Static Division Control H.Q. was ideal from a radio communications point of view and from our hill top we could see for miles around. A familiar landmark, six or seven miles from us, was a conical hill, said to be the only extinct volcano in Northern Europe. Our own hill top was also an unmistakable landmark itself; its little cluster of trees dominated the country side and is held as sacred by the locals who asked us on no account to touch the trees.

The camp itself nestled in a corner of a wood and consisted of nearly two hundred and fifty 160 lb. tents and about sixty marquees—all of them erected by the Regiment. Cookhouses, pathways, fences and toilets were all added to our task but the result was a first class camp which we could be well proud of. Mud was one of our chief antagonists, bravely fought with tons of chestnut paling and engineer boards. Another enemy was October's chill, but the Quartermaster with gritted teeth and anxious heart managed to distribute nearly four hundred paraffin heaters for the occasion.

Three of the highlights of the exercises had to be cancelled because of bad weather: the Parachute Drop, the visit of the Nato Chiefs of Staff Committee and the visit of the Master of Signals. The second two visits were to have taken place on the same day. The prospect of nearly forty general officers descending on us was so unnerving that relief was our only reaction on hearing of the cancellation, although so far as General Scott was concerned our relief was greatly tempered with genuine disappointment.

All in all we had a good exercise and a good camp, but we are glad to be back.

Boxing

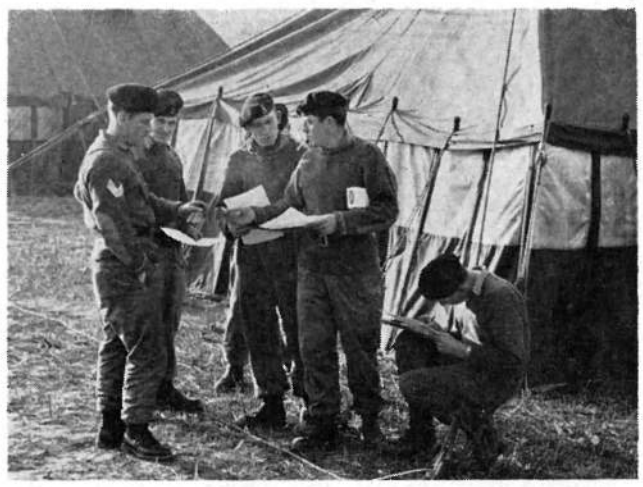
The Regiment is now entering the boxing season in earnest and our first main match will be against the combined Bünde and Melle German clubs in the Stadtgarten, Bünde. We then go on to the Divisional Competition and we look for great things from our buoyant and enthusiastic team.



Herr Bruno Cappteller, fondly known as "George"

George

One-time members of 2nd Regiment and of 6th Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment will be interested to learn that George, the German clerk in the Orderly Room, has now retired at the age of seventy-two. A retired schoolmaster, he has worked in Birdwood Barracks for the last twelve years. He is a dear old soul and we were all very sorry to see him go.



At Camp. A group of linemen filling in PR proforma as a prelude to having a photograph taken for their local newspapers. Left to right: Sergeant J. B. Morris, Signalmen P. Smith, A. Davis, T. Dugdale and V. Fahey

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The Minister of Defence (Army) discusses the intricacies of kit checking with Staff Sergeant W. K. Hammond-Haley. The C.O. and O.C. 2 Squadron listen in

3rd H.Q. AND SIGNAL REGIMENT, BULFORD CAMP

Visit of new Minister of Defence (Army)

The main event this month has been the visit of Mr. Mulley, newly appointed Minister of Defence (Army). We were delighted to entertain such a distinguished visitor to the Regiment and were impressed by the interest and knowledge which the Minister showed in our affairs.

The visit had all the informality which now tends to be given to these matters and caused little disruption to our normal work.

Mr. Mulley was accompanied by the G.O.C.-in-C. Southern Command, Lieutenant-General Sir Kenneth Darling, and by our own G.O.C., Major-General C. H. Blacker. The visit commenced in the Whistler Room with a briefing by the Second-in-Command on the organisation and role of the Regiment. The emphasis was then to show the Minister how the modern Army lives and works, and that not all accommodation is in £2,000,000 newly built barracks blocks. He was then shown the clothing store with its 27 different cap badges worn in the Regiment. Next, to our dining hall and cookhouse where Staff Sergeant Byrne displayed with justifiable pride his domain.

In the Technical Workshops the Minister saw a selection of equipments under repair and had pointed out to him forcibly by the T.O.T. and Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Langford some of the shortages of test equipment.

A visit to Romeo Troop saw a mundane but nevertheless necessary fact of life; a troop Commander supervising a kit check. And finally in Brigade Air Head Troop the Minister saw stores being unpacked and checked after an exercise.

The visit was very enjoyable and we felt honoured in being nominated to receive Mr. Mulley within a week of his assuming office. We were particularly impressed by the easy manner in which the Minister chatted with the soldiers he met and how he made us feel 'at home.'

Comings and Goings

We have of course had our usual flood of exercises during October—in fact three, and a part of the Regiment is, at the time of writing, on exercise abroad.

We welcome to the Regiment W.O.I (Y. of S.) J. Chater and Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) R. N. L. Cassling, both full of knowledge from their course. Also we welcome Captains P. Carr and G. MacKay to the Regiment, the former to take over as Adjutant, the latter as O.C. Air Support Signal Troop. We said farewell during the period to W.O.II (Y. of S.) R. Coaker and his family on leaving for Malaya to serve with the Gurkhas. We wish them well.

And finally congratulations to Mrs. Mulley on the birth of a daughter and Mrs. Barwick on the birth of twins, a boy and a girl.

Soon we shall enter the Christmas period. We wish all our readers and particularly former members of the Regiment a Very Happy Christmas and New Year.



Captain G. Street, Captain S. O. Smith, Captain P. Davies, Captain I. Dunkeld, Second Lieutenant A. Ingham ; Major N. B. Moss, Major H. G. M. Williams, Captain J. V. Harding, Major D. M. F. Barker, Major B. H. Adams, Lieutenant P. E. A. Chaddock ; Captain E. Mulley, Captain P. A. Treseder, Lieutenant A. Russell, Major E. A. Carn, Lieutenant K. Risby, Lieutenant R. Sutherland; Second Lieutenant D. Buckley, Major J. P. Durrant, Lieutenant Colonel G. Proudman, Major J. Evans, Second Lieutenant T. Waugh.

7th REGIMENT, B.F.P.O. 15

News of the Month. This month saw the end of the "silly season" and the start of the "quiet" winter period. We now quietly endure, in this and succeeding months, the usual "winter amusements"—C.I.V., tels inspection, trade training, military proficiency training, and, of course, education!

During October we provided a Spectator Camp for about 30 visitors to the first of the 2nd Division autumn exercises. It was quite a bit of a rush to provide a small camp of some two cookhouses, four marquees and twenty-five 160-pounders, only five days after Exercise "Fallex," but it went very well.

Also in October our rugby team travelled to Berlin for four days and played some very good games—including rugby. Our oponents were the S.C.L.I. and R.A.F., Gatow. We lost both matches, but were by no means disgraced.

Our hopes for the Army Motor Cycle Trials were not realised this month. Our team retired due to injuries, and only Staff Sergeant Slaughter gained a first class individual award. There is no depression, however, and preparations for next season are already in hand.

7th Regiment on Television. Since the re-numbering of Signal Regiments, it may have been forgotten what we do and where we live. We are one of the two Corps Signal Regiments, the other is 22nd Regiment, who are the wireless regiment. We provide radio relay communication forward, line communications at both Corps Headquarters and last, but not least, communication centres at both main and rear H.Q. We live in Herford, but more of this next month, because this month we want to highlight one of our latest acquisitions—television.

During the season we have been doing trials. A civil engineer has been attached to us, a Mr. Charles Parrot, and Officer-in-Charge Rear Signals (Circle Seven) was nominated as Officer-in-Charge TV. Trials. The Linemen laid thousands of yards of coax and 18-way cable, delicate kit and not at all "soldier-proof"!

(*A humorous account of how television came to the Corps has had to be omitted owing to pressure on space.—Editor*).

9th REGIMENT, B.F.P.O. 53

November

Guy Fawkes and fireworks and forty shopping days to Christmas—has this year really sped past so quickly. Oranges, grapefruit and mandarines are being gathered in the groves, some for export to U.K. And the first stirrings of the festive season are already apparent, with plans and dates for children's parties, ladies' guest nights and the annual Sergeants' Mess draw.

Highlight of the month was the departure of Lieutenant-Colonel D. D. Fairman, O.B.E., and the arrival of our new Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel O. J. Peck. We await without apprehension the inevitable winds of change, and welcome Colonel and Mrs. Peck to the Isle of Cyprus—may their stay here be a truly happy one.

Change of Command

J.McL. writes.—The popularity of Lieutenant-Colonel D. D. Fairman, our Commanding Officer for the past two and-a-half years, became evident when a large number of military and civilian personnel turned out to bid farewell to him and his wife on completion of their tour of duty with the Regiment. The route from the recently-opened Harewood Club to the guard room was lined with spectators as Officers, Warrant Officers and Senior N.C.O.s of the Regiment towed them out of Mercury Barracks in a Land Rover, "driven" by Sergeant Needs. At the guard room Colonel Fairman left the Land Rover to say a few words to an immaculate guard of honour, commanded by Staff Sergeant Kent, before leaving the unit lines for the last time.

The farewell ceremony had started some half-hour previously when those assembled at the Harewood Club heard a short and amusing farewell speech from our Second-in-Command, Major N. Baker. Speaking of Lieutenant-Colonel Fairman, Major Baker said that he had gained a reputation throughout the Regiment as a just master, and members of the civilian wing had suggested that his name be hyphenated as "Fair-man." Speaking of Mrs. Fairman, Major Baker said that though she had remained in the background as Commanding Officer's wife, she had been well to the foreground when it came to women's activities, had taken an active part in SSAFA, the Thrift Shop and the Wives' Club, and had been a regular visitor to patients in B.M.H.

Before concluding, he handed Mrs. Fairman an inscribed silver dish on behalf of all members of the Regiment. He then presented Colonel Fairman with two rubber squeaking dolls, dressed in Scottish tartan, saying: "As you are going to Edinburgh on posting, we think that these are most opportune. Should you ever get lost in one of those Scottish fogs, we suggest that you and Mrs. Fairman could devise some signalling system with these." In a short speech in reply, Colonel Fairman said how sorry he was to be leaving a Signal Regiment, where he had received at all times the most loyal support from both military and civilian wings.

Colonel Fairman will be remembered not only as a Commanding Officer of 9th Regiment, but also as a keen and enthusiastic sportsman. Besides taking a keen interest in tennis and cricket, he was a water-ski enthusiast, gave considerable backing to the construction of the new Dhekelia Golf Course, was Chairman of Golf (Cyprus) and Commodore of the Famagusta Services' Yacht Club.



Major N. Baker giving his short speech of farewell. Mrs. Fairman, Lieutenant Colonel Fairman and Lieutenant Colonel Peck enjoying the joke

Hockey

A.B. writes: The Cyprus Inter-Service (Major Units) Hockey League got away to a flying start as far as the Regiment was concerned. In our first match against Admin Unit Dhekelia, we won 6—1, largely due to the excellent play of Sergeant M. Hamilton, whose individual goals seemed to mesmerize the opposing defence. The second game was another good win, 6—1, against Ordnance Depot, Cyprus. The team travelled to R.A.F., Nicosia, for their third and most recent game and, although dominating the game for long periods of time, managed to lose 3—1. The excellent play by all teams so far augurs well for a really good hockey season.

Soccer

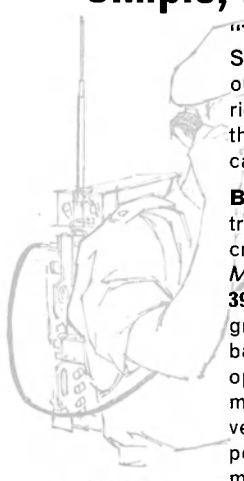
D.R.H. writes: Though the season only started in late October, the Regimental XI is really showing promise of good things to come. Two games have been played to date—goals for 14, against 5, points 4. Three teams have been entered in the Area Minor Units League, one from each Squadron (1, 2 and 3), 2 Squadron having an advantage in that six of the Regimental players are members of their side. The Regiment had three players selected to represent Combined Services, Cyprus, on a Malta tour, namely, Corporal A. Cooke, Signalman C. Burr and Signalman E. Newham, W.O.II D. Handley went along as Trainer/Manager.

"The Wire" is written by the Corps . . . .

. . . to be read by the Corps.

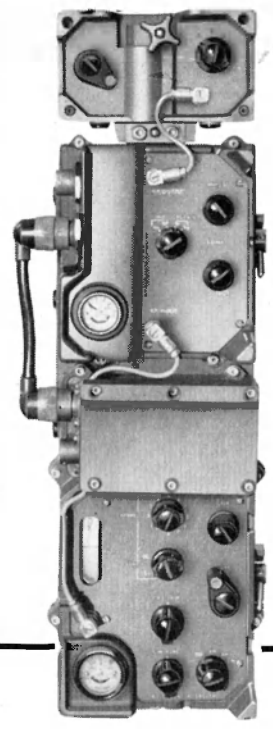


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STANFORD P.T.A. DETACHMENT
Major Allen, Mr. Grass, Mr. Doy, Mr. Bowers, Mr. Chilton, Mr. Bishop

10th Regiment, Hounslow

H.Q. The Regiment represented the Corps at the Horse of the Year Show, State Opening of Parliament and Remembrance Sunday Parade at the Cenotaph by providing the radio and line communications.

The Horse of the Year Show detachment thoroughly enjoyed themselves, and look forward to next year's performance. The Regiment was fortunate to receive a number of official tickets which were soon taken up by the families of the Regiment.

The State Opening of Parliament was covered by radio stations manned by personnel of the Regiment located at the Gun Positions in Hyde Park, the windswept and somewhat precarious posts located in the Victoria Tower, observer station Horse Guards, and the top of Chelsea Barracks tower.

Signal Troop (Works) (Bury St. Edmunds). The long title given above refers to a small Troop whose job it is to maintain communications on the Training Areas and Ranges of Norfolk, Suffolk, Hertfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Bedfordshire, Huntingdonshire and the greater part of Essex. In addition, it is responsible for giving assistance in the maintenance of signal equipment held by Cambridge University O.T.C., provision of public address equipment on suitable military occasions in East Anglia and many other commitments.

Except for the Troop Commander, all members of the Troop are civilians with Service experience, Naval and R.A.F. experience being included, but only two members are ex-Royal Signals.

Sport. The Regiment's hockey and soccer teams are beginning to take shape under the keen eye of Captain W. Farmery and Major McQuade, and the league results have been most promising.

Senior Arrivals and Departures. On Tuesday, 13th October, Major I. McAnsh left U.K. by air for New Zealand for discharge and retirement.

Some of us knew him in other times and other places. Most of us knew him as O.C. 238 Signal Squadron (War Office) and all of us knew him as O.C. 2 Squadron 10th Signal Regiment. His time in Hounslow covered a difficult period for not only did he have to pilot his Squadron through amalgamation with 10th Regiment, there was also the closing of the War Office Comcen and the opening of the Ministry of Defence Comcen to which we provide the Royal Signals element. None of this worried him. All eventualities were coped with in his inimitable 'down-under' manner. He did his job quietly and even laconically and with a disregard for what he considered frills. At the same time he never lost sight of the main points. Under his rugged exterior was a warm regard for the welfare of his troops and a very real concern for the efficiency of the Squadron. That this was appreciated was shown on his departure by an impromptu presentation to him of a magnificent clock by the men of the Squadron.

The Warrant Officers and Sergeants said farewell in the time-honoured way at a lunch time session in their Mess, and the Officers did likewise on his day of departure, when an inscribed tankard was presented. The tankard bore our Regimental sign of the Cable Bear, on this first occasion of a presentation since the Regiment was re-activated.

We wish Ian and Mrs. McAnsh prosperity and happiness in retirement and good fishing. Note for New Zealand trout—watch out!

The Regiment wish the following personnel and their families good luck in their new posting:

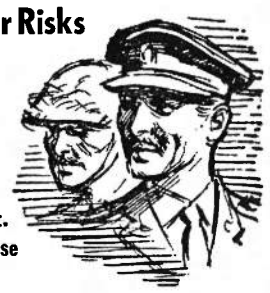
Lieutenant A. P. Thackray to the R.A.P.C. Depot; W.O.I D. K. Wallis to School of Signals; Sergeant F. A. W. Brock to 237 Squadron; and welcomes Major R. G. Dore from 18th Regiment.

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11th REGIMENT, CATTERICK CAMP

Signalman Peter John Bullous



The best recruit at the pass-off on Friday, 16th October, was Signalman Peter John Bullous, who enlisted at Exeter on 21st August, 1964.

Before joining the Army his main interests were playing the piano and the church organ, together with cross-country running for the South Devon Technical College and expeditions across Dartmoor.

On enlistment, his ambition was to learn an interesting trade and to travel abroad. He has now been found suitable for Officer Training and has entered the OR 1 Troop of this Regiment.

Signalman Brian Edward Murkin



Passing-off as best recruit on Friday, 30th October, was Signalman Brian Edward Murkin, who enlisted at Hastings on 1st September. His home is at Bank Side, Caldbec Hill, Battle, Sussex.

His purpose in enlisting was to obtain technical training coupled with travel and adventure. His hobbies are rifle shooting and scouting, and he is, in fact, a Queen's Scout.

When he leaves this Regiment he will undergo cipher operator training and hopes to make a good career in the Corps.

In view of recent upheavals in the Regiment, which have been reported in previous notes—Freedom of Richmond Parade, Guard of Honour for President de Gaulle, to mention but two—October has been a relatively quiet month. On 30th October, the clamour of the General Election having hardly had time to die down, we were visited by the new Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Defence (Army), Mr. Gerald Reynolds, who took the salute at the fortnightly recruits pass-off parade.

In the past, little mention has been made of the Instruction Wing, Weapon Training Pool. Apart from their normal commitments in the recruit training programme of weapon training instructing and range supervision, they have recently been examining the implications of the new Range Classification Course for Royal Signals units and promoting discussions as to how this longer course can best be fitted into the training programme. Their's is a hardy life, and with winter approaching, one should spare a thought for Captain B. C. Thomas, 2nd Royal Anglian, and his boys, as they prepare for battle on the windswept wastes of Whipperdale and Deerpark.

On Friday, 30th October, the salute at the pass-off parade was taken by the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Defence (Army) Mr. Gerald Reynolds, M.P. After the parade he addressed the recruits' relatives with a short, but very amusing speech during which he referred to his first parade in new uniform (his new bowler hat!). Afterwards he was conducted around the remainder of the Regiment, culminating



Mr. GERALD REYNOLDS, M.P., inspecting recruits on Pass Off Parade
Right to Left : Signalman Jenkins, Signalman Spittles, Signalman Blackgrove, Mr. G. Reynolds, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Defence (Army), Lieutenant Colonel T. G. H. Jackson, M.B.E., (Commanding Officer), Lieutenant M. Kelly, Major W. B. Foote, Lieutenant General G. F. Upjohn,C.B.E., General Officer Commanding Yorkshire District.

at the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. It is interesting to note that, although he met our worthy P.R.I., Lieutenant-Colonel (Retd.) R. W. Atkinson, O.B.E., he left the unit empty handed! Either the P.R.I. is slipping or the hat broke the bank!

Pass-off parades are always watched by both new recruits and cadre. From the old hands came the verdict: "The best parade in Helles Lines." From those parade-worn critics this is praise indeed!

Officers' Mess Notes

October has been a fairly active month in the Mess. On 16th October the annual Regimental cocktail party was held at which over 150 people were in attendance. When the guests had left, mess members could be seen disappearing beneath ground level, not to check the plumbing, but to celebrate the opening of the new Cellar Club—for the benefit of past members, this consists of two cellars which have been converted, with a certain amount of bribery and a great deal of self help, into a bar and small dance floor, both tastefully decorated and delightfully appointed.

During the month we said farewell to Major R. O. Wilson and Captain W. G. Robinson—the former somehow wangled himself a job with the W.R.A.C., down south somewhere, and

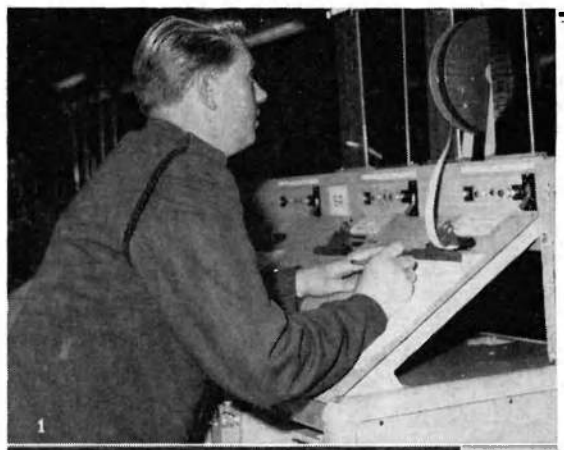


INSTRUCTIONAL WING WEAPON TRAINING POOL
Back Row—Corporal Pope, Corporal Lindsey, Corporal Chinnery, Corporal Bell, W. G., Lance Corporal Williams, Corporal Alexander.
Front Row—Corporal Bell, T. J., Corporal Neille, Captain B. C. Thomas, 3 East Anglian, Sergeant Daniels, Corporal Baker, Corporal Walker.
Absent on Course—Sergeant Tambling

(*Continued at foot of page 474*)

14th Regiment

Apart from the activities of the human element, pictured here, read below of what automation is achieving in this "up-to-the-minute" Regiment.











1. At one of the last torn tape positions in T.R.C. Boddington is Signalman K. Salmon logging traffic.

2. At the temporary control desk, Lance Corporal C. Featherstone and, behind her, Private Maidment in the Radio Transfer Section, T.R.C., Boddington.

3. Lance Corporal W. Taylor scaling the scrambling net on the Assault Course.

4. Sergeant E. Smith, one of the Regimental Shooting team, at practice on the 30-yard range.

5. Corporal C. Langtson (R.E.M.E.) working on an E10 transmitter which is being reconnected at Robinswood Barracks by Installation Troop.

SOME readers may not realise that Tape Relay Centre, Boddington, has been working on the new Telegraphic Automatic Equipment (STRAD) since 17th August, 1964. It is noteworthy for three things:

●

SPEED OF OPERATION: It does, in seconds, what used to take minutes and even hours. It has, for example, accepted and cleared 120 user messages in 15 minutes.

●

QUIETNESS: The traffic hall is virtually empty and almost silent. Where 42 operators once worked, 12 handle the same volume of traffic.

●

ACCURACY: It does exactly what it is told, at the fantastic speed of 66,000 words per minute, and never makes a mistake. "If STRAD says so, it must be right."

(*Continued from page* 473)

the latter, after a spot of leave, goes to the other boxing Regiment in the corps. They take with them our very best wishes. In their place we welcome Major J. Telfer, from H.Q., Training Brigade, and Capt. Nealon from Singapore.

Sergeants' Mess Notes

Once again it has been a very busy month in the Mess. We held our first formal dinner in the new Mess, which proved very successful. On this occasion we were saying farwell to our Supervisory Officer, Major R. O. Wilson, and also to R.Q.M.S. Barnes, who leaves us for an R.S.M. appointment.

At the moment, certain members of the Mess are embroiled in P.E. tests, and consequently, our A.P.T.C. Seniors are not enjoying prime place in the popularity polls.

A final word of advice to all units. When you send prospective candidates for Staff Sergeants' Courses, please ensure that they have reached a reasonably high standard at darts; No. 4 Staff Sergeants' Course know, to their cost, that they arrived unprepared in this aspect of military training.

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24th REGIMENT, CATTERICK CAMP

Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess



Brigadier A. C. Cox, O.B.E., presenting the L.S. and G.C. Medal to R.Q.M.S. Aitken on October 17th, 1964. (Note the Catterick sunshine).

Being the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess of a Training Regiment probably means that our Mess is known to more Warrant Officers and Sergeants in the Corps than most other Messes. We thought, therefore, it would be an idea to let our past members know what has, and is happening.

Since 1950, anyone who has passed through our Mess, whether Cadre or course personnel, must know "Mr. Mac." That is Mr. McLaven, our bar steward, who has kept the bar whilst the Mess was in Ypres Lines and, since 1956, in its present location. Mr. McLaven is an ex-R.S.M. of the Corps and since leaving it in 1949 has worked as a barman for H.Q. School of Signals and our own regiment. A worthy record. He can still produce, with amazing dexterity, his pile of "Blue Books" to settle any argument about seniority, sometimes to the acute embarrassment of some young "old soldiers."

For those who know our Mess they must remember the limited space in the bar. This is soon to be resolved. Sergeant D. Palmer, ably assisted by his labourers Sergeant W. Rees and O.R.Q.M.S. Pearse, plus numerous advisors, is at present building a new bar on the "self help" principle in what was the billiard room. Since this venture started, strange things have happened in the Unit lines. Pieces of timber, hardboard and other sundry items have suddenly up rooted themselves and re-appeared in stranger places, looking completely different, and very much like a bar.

A new annexe is also to be built in the near future which will double the available space in the Mess and will make it one of the best in Catterick. Students accommodation will, however, have to remain in "McKee's Mansions's" immediately behind the Mess. No doubt students who have resided in them remember them well.

All things considered, we can assure past members who have enjoyed life in the Mess here, that we do still enjoy ourselves, and, if ever past members are in Catterick they will be welcome to visit us.

On 17th October, 1964, R.Q.M.S. "Bob" Aitken was presented with his L.S. and G.C. by Commander Training Brigade, Brigadier A. C. Cox, O.B.E. Many of your ex-India "wallahs" (Boy Service Mhow '44) will probably remember Bob, but it's doubtful whether you would recognise him now, he's grown in more than one sense of the word. All members retired to the Mess after the parade, where the 'Gong' was ceremoniously soaked.

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MILITARY PROFICIENCY COURSE—7 SEPTEMBER, 1964

Standing—Lance Corporal Johnston, Corporal Lawless, Lance Corporal Overend, Lance Corporal Forrester, Corporal Fagan, Lance Corporal Gilbert, Craftsman Coomber, Corporal Lecs, Lance Corporal McMahon

Sitting—Corporal Teasdale, Sergeant Deans, Sergeant Purnell, R.S.M. T. J. Licence, Lieutenant Colonel G. Peat, Staff Sergeant Nicholls, Sergeant Phillipson, Corporal Harbord, Corporal Duncan

It is three years since any mention of our Mess was made in THE WIRE but it is hoped to improve matters in future, and again past members may be able to say "I remember . . ."

Adventure Training and the Reasons Behind It

No one nowadays is going to be surprised to hear that a Regiment is doing Adventure Training. In terms of originality and novelty our efforts are "old hat."

But we did not enter the ring to rival the daring and expertise of others. This is a training Regiment. Our lads are very nearly "straight-off-the-trees" and it is neither convenient nor practical to send them on long, expensive and extravagant sorties in far off lands.

We send twenty-five trainees with their own training staff to spend three days in the Lake District. Moreover, we do this fifty times a year. This means that all trainees attend Exercise "Lakeland" as part of their routine training. It also means that well over a thousand young Signalmen get a taste of the wide outdoors each year.

Now there are still many who would ask why this is done. The answer could be a complicated, controversial harangue about self-confidence, mutual dependence, teamwork, leadership qualities, battling with nature and so forth. We have serious ideas about these things, but our particular creed and quick answer is much simpler.

We believe that when a soldier leaves the Training Brigade to join a working unit, he should be beyond asking his troop Sergeant how to open a tin of compo, he should know that a sleeping bag is to sleep in and not on: he should have learnt that changes of boots and underclothes are more valuable in war than his favourite guitar! Further, we know that certain exciting and worthwhile sports like sailing, canoeing and climbing are frequently available to troops around the world, but not taken full advantage of. These are the type of pursuits that chaps often never take up unless initially forced to participate. We do the forcing.

Over the past four years we have made continuous use of the Ullswater area of the Lake District. Amongst the many who have climbed Helvellyn, crossed the Lake, been flooded out, dangled from a rope on Gowbarrow Fell or crawled across an icy Striding Edge, there must be a few who have been inspired to take up these activities later, and go on to enjoy elaborate and ambitious adventures. What's more, our Adventure Training Officer would be delighted to hear of any such exploits—either directly or through the pages of this magazine.

Briefly then, our aim is to give young trainees a taste of excitement, fear and physical hardship. This, we hope, will make them just a little more useful and at home when they begin their post-Catterick soldiering.

Post Script. There must be many in the Corps who have known Corporal J. Warburton. They will be interested to know that he is our permanent Adventure Training instructor His life is spent instructing, supervising and generally "nursing"

trainees through their three-day expeditions. At forty he remains the same good-hearted rough diamond; and if all our trainees were as tough as him we should not grumble!

Sports—Recent Results

Gymnastics — Northern Command Individual Champion: Corporal Robinson.

Motor cycling: Winners ACU National Rally 1964 (Army Entry); Winners Northern Command M.C. Trial 1964 (Team and Individual): Sergeant Deans and Signalman Watton; Army Championship 1964—Winner of Best Young Soldier's Shield: Signalman Watton.

Pentathlon — Northern Command Individual and Team Champion 1964—Individual winner: S.S.I. B. L. Edwards, A.P.T.C.; Team: S.S.I. B. L. Edwards, A.P.T.C., Corporal Robinson, Royal Signals, Lance-Corporal Overend, Royal Signals.



Corporal Robinson, 24th Regiment, Winner Northern Command Individual Gymnastic Competition, 1964

Rounders (W.R.A.C.): Army champions.

Swimming: Northern Command Champions 1964; 4th in Army Championships.

Boxing: Northern Command Champions 1964. **No-one will take us on!)**

21st REGIMENT, B.F.P.O. 43



Lieutenant Bob Middleton tries to indoctrinate the C.S.O. on the finer points of a square hole. The C.S.O. and Corporal Stalgis look doubtful!—perhaps it should have been round!

The major annual exercise is now well behind us, so perhaps a few observations would not go amiss.

Major Cross, who was demonstrating his agility on the first day and landed up in hospital, was obviously taking "Fallex" too seriously. The persistent faults on two Officers' Mess telephones might well have been influenced by the prevailing wind. The C.O. was heard to remark, perhaps unkindly, when told that a fire extinguisher had "gone off" in a station switchboard—"that should clean it up a bit."

In visiting all his detachments at least once during the exercise, the C.O. put over 1,100 miles on his new staff car. The previous one lasted 30,000 miles, and, at this rate, perhaps we ought to have a standing order for a new one every year.

Visitors during the month have included the Master of Signals, whose tour report is being written separately, and the C.S.O. as inspecting officer on the Administrative Inspection. The weather played its part and we believe all went well. At the end of the day the C.S.O. presented the cup to "H" Troop, the winners of this year's Inter-Troop Cross-Country, who were ably led round the course by Lieutenant D. Insall; and to 3 Squadron, winners of the Inter-Squadron Swimming Proficiency.

The football team has not got off to such a good start this season, losing the first three league games. The turning point has come, we hope, for in their last two games they won against 1st Grenadier Guards and 1st Regiment, R.M.A. Newcomers to the team are Signalman McCreadie, Jardine and Lynch, who are supporting the "old lags," represented by Corporal Cosshall, Signalman Rowlands, Glendinning and Woods. More power to their boots.

We should like to record our thanks for a job well done to the R.A.F. technicians who have been assisting the Regiment for well over a year. They have now returned to their normal duties with the R.A.F. and we hope will look back on their tour with us as both pleasant and instructive.



C.S.O. B.A.O.R. Brigadier J. E. Anderson, C.B.E. presents a swimming trophy to Staff Sergeant T. W. Martin

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22nd REGIMENT, B.F.P.O. 16

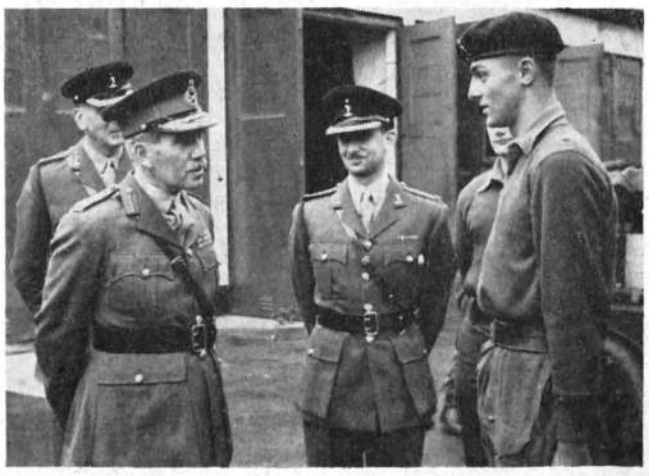
A Good Exercise—Communications Solid

The Regiment ended the collective training season with Exercise "Fallex." The weather was fine, communications were solid throughout, and the numerous visitors to the Regiment during the exercise were impressed with what they saw. These included the C.S.O. of the Belgian Corps, our own C.C. Royal Signals, Brigadier M. S. Hancock, M.B.E., and we were also very pleased to welcome Lieutenant-Colonel A. Holifield, M.C., who is now G.S.O.1 at H.Q., Royal Signals, 1 (BR) Corps. Congratulations to Signalman Carling (2 Squadron) and Signalman Boag (1 Squadron) who, after good work as detachment commanders throughout the summer, were promoted to Lance-Corporal during the exercise. Also a special word of praise for Lance-Corporal Guest. His detachment, which was well camouflaged on the edge of a wood, surprised a party of "parachutists' who were moving into the area to mount an attack on Corps H.Q. R.Q.M.S. Jackson happened to be visiting the detachment at the time, and with the help of Signalman Warnette (18 stones) captured the leader—a young officer who was rather surprised to find himself in the hands of the R.M.P. with his mission unaccomplished.

After "Fallex," we settled down to individual training. It is now almost a month since Lippstadt heard the roar of packets crashing out of barracks on to yet another Rapid Trust! 42 Medium Regiment, our next door neighbours, are even whispering about it. 2 Squadron has temporarily left its Regimental role to become a training Squadron for telegraph and radio operators. The M.T.O. is also running a drivers/ED course, and the M.P.C. Course No. 7, under Sergeant Taylor, passed off at the end of the month.

The Corps Commander Visits and says "Well Done!"

We have had three important visits during the month. The visit of the Master of Signals and Lady Scott will be recorded elsewhere. On 16th October, Lieutenant--General Sir Richard Goodwin, the Corps Commander, visited the Regiment. On arrival, he was met by the C.O., and was then given a presentation on the role of the Regiment by the Second-in-Command. After the presentation, he met the Squadron Commanders of the three antenna Squadrons and congratulated them on their signalling during Exercise "Fallex." W.O.II Agatsiotis was introduced to the General and produced a photograph showing the two of them in Nairobi in 1957. The General asked if a copy of this photograph could be made, whereupon W.O.II Agatsiotis presented the original to him saying he had two more! A special word of thanks also to Corporal Pratt, who made a vufoil showing the state of the parties at 15-minute intervals (the election results were coming through thick and fast at this time) which was flashed on the screen after the presentation. The General showed great interest in this, as he had spent the previous night "in the field," and so we kept him in the picture during the rest of his visit.



Left to Right: Major A. J. Jackson (2.I.C.) The Corps Commander, Major J. L. Heard (O.C. 1 Sqn.), Second Lieutenant R. F. Brooks (hidden), Signalman Bates (1 Sqn.)

After lunching with the officers, General Goodwin spent a good part of the afternoon with the men at their daily tasks. He climbed in and out of radio vehicles and spoke to everyone possible. Later he was shown training by Major Lloyd and Sergeant Canale and visited three courses. At one stage he demonstrated his knowledge of signalling by asserting that the morse he heard being transmitted was 15 w.p.m. and not 12 w.p.m., as he had been told; furthermore, he could read it! Finally, General Goodwin was driven by Lance-Corporal Martin to his helicopter, on the Regimental training ground, and left after a most successful visit.

Officer-in-Charge Records—A Welcome Visitor

On 30th October, Colonel P. E. S. Mansergh, O.B.E., Officer-in-Charge Royal Signals Records visited the Regiment. After lunching with the officers, Colonel Mansergh gave a most interesting and, at times, amusing talk to the officers and senior N.C.O.s on his work at Records. We were glad to welcome W.O.I Peck, Sergeant Kay, Staff Sergeant Kurton, Sergeant Bates, Sergeant O'Brien, Sergeant Gooding, Sergeant Parry, from 204 Squadron, W.O.II Williams 15/19 Hussars, and Sergeant Slater, Royal Horse Guards, for this talk.

28th REGIMENT, B.F.P.O. 35

Background

The Regiment was 'Natoised' three years ago and had to change its role, its habits and its allegiance. Through the columns of THE WIRE, scattered fragments of its new career have from time to time been shown to those of you who have cared to read about us. We believe that we are now old enough to tell the full story so far. Here it is:—

Story

In 1961 an elderly gentleman, much previously married, with many children, but still of great capacity took unto himself a child bride. His name was B. A. Or, Esq. Her christian name was Northagnes. (We never have discovered her surname.) We are their children.

Although we think we are old enough to start to take an objective look at our parents we are not really sure how it all began. We have heard stories of what old gentlemen are like, and we did hear Mamma, when having an argument with Papa one day, say something about a young impressionable girl being taken for a ride by an old Daddyo. However, one of our many grown up step-brothers called Britcorps (and like all elder brothers he is a bit of a knowall and rather conscious of his appearance) did tell us that Mamma and Papa were very anxious to have children because they had a very important job for them to do.

Like good children we love our Mamma and Papa very much and we hope that their early union was a source of much joy and satisfaction to them because we are old enough to appreciate now, that after we started to come along, things in the garden became anything but rosy. (Relations became distinctly 'Northagerous.')

Our period of gestation was one of much pain, discomfort and worry to Mamma (frankly she was too young to be having us). Father, on the other hand, had seen it all before and too often. He was distinctly aloof and seemingly not over interested.

We must also admit that we have been rather nasty children. Our main source of enjoyment was to play Mamma off against Papa. We were thoroughly disobedient and not averse to telling tales to Papa about Mamma and vice versa. We displayed all the symptoms of deprived children and that, of course, was the root of the trouble. Mamma and Papa, although they wanted very much a family, did not bargain on producing the lot they did. They just could not cope with us and so from an early age we were rather left to our own devices and sent out into the woods to play.

However, as we got older and more capable of looking after ourselves Mamma and Papa started to take an increased interest in us. Last year, in September 1963, Mamma herself actually took us out into the woods to play. The woods, if we remember correctly, were called Lion Vert or Green Lion or something like that. Now we only knew two games, and they were Sig, and Slap and Tickle. We had not in fact got the tackle for slap and tickle and Mamma claimed that she did not know how to play it, so we had to play Sig (Mamma did not seem to know much about that either). Because Mamma was so vague in her

instructions, we got into a lot of tangles, and Papa was too far away to hear our anguished cries for help. We did not like that game very much and we came home a bit bruised and bewildered.

However we all got together and decided that we were jolly well going to learn all about this game called Sig. Mamma and Papa became interested too. They read up the rules and explained them to us, and they actually gave in to our vociferous demands and acquired some equipment for the game. They were a bit short of cash so Mamma persuaded a brother of hers called Uncle Twoataf to give us some of his children's cast offs.

So once again this year in the Fall (ex) Mamma took us out into the woods to play. This time we knew the form and we had a lovely game of Sig. Mamma had put on all her jewellery and when the sun filtered through the leaves she sparkled with flashes which we caught and threw around, and bounced about, but never dropped. (Well actually we did drop one!)

Mamma was very pleased and she gave us all a big hug and said that she really believed that we were not such bad children after all. Now that we are starting to master this game called Sig, and as we are growing up, we are thinking that we might turn our attention to the other game. Has anybody got the tackle . . .

Grown up

We may be young as a British Regiment assigned to NATO but actually we are a big bunch of grown-up lusty boys much given to over intakes of German beer in a nearby establishment euphemistically called "Black Annie's" and we are not averse to whistling at (very politely of course) the frauleins in the strasse.



"A study in concentration, or studied indifference."
Front Row: Sergeant Elliot of Line Troop
Middle Row: An unidentified Franciscan
Background: Who knows?

We take part with enthusiasm in all routine Army games and can probably at this moment claim to hold more current cups than any other Signal Regiment. In addition, with distinction, we glide and golf and sail and ski. Passing reference was made in last month's notes to our latest activity, long distance cycling. To prove it, see the two photographs. The young men in the group are about to embark on a journey of 500 miles in 10 days. Perhaps, and with apologies to the American Marine Corps, we, who call ourselves Franciscans after the Northern Army Group sign and the name of our barracks, might also qualify for the title "Leather Bottoms."



EXERCISE FRANCYCLE—"THE LEATHER BOTTOMS"
Back row, left to right: Signalman Shea, Sergeant Elliott, Corporal McDonnell, A.C.C., W.O.II Smith
Front row, left to right: Signalmen McKay, Coulson, Wilson, Timmons, Stephenson, Paton, Graysham, Gadd, McIntyre
Photo by: Signalman Ross

30th Regiment
BLANDFORD CAMP



Sailing the "Stella Lyra," much used by 30th Regiment during the summer. Sergeant Thompson (now an 'A' helm in the A.S.A. Poole Group) and Sergeant Stickley

General

The last, for the time being, of an abnormal number of departures from the Regiment, occurred when we said farewell to the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel A. T. Burrows, M.B.E., E.R.D. It was fitting that he and Mrs. Burrows should make their final appearance in October at a dance given by the Pimpernel Beagles (Royal Signals), in which they have both taken a great interest. Their departure from the dance was also their departure from the Regiment and we are told that the "Ice Cream Van" was so laden with flowers that an attendant at the garage where they stopped to refuel congratulated them as newly-weds. We wish them both a happy "honeymoon."

We now welcome our new Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel H. E. Roper, who arrived from Germany during the small hours of the morning of 9th October. We wish him every success in his new appointment.

Demonstration Team

Much to the delight of the Post N.C.O. and the Paymaster, the Corps Mobile Display Quicksilver has now returned from its wanderings, into winter quarters.

Although the last five and-a-half months has at times been pretty gruelling, it cannot be denied that we have enjoyed ourselves (especially at places such at Seaton Carew) and it is hoped that our various hosts throughout the country will soon recover.

This year's tour included shows in almost every corner of the land, from Plymouth to Aberdeen, finishing with a three-week stint in Northern Ireland. Here, among other places, we appeared at the Northern Ireland Radio, Television and Electronics Exhibition in the King's Hall, Belfast. This exhibition was the first of its kind to be held in the province, and we



Back Row L to R—Signalman Evison, Signalman Luckett, Lance Corporal Robertson, Lance Corporal Kett
Middle Row, L to R—Signalman Rivett, Corporal Parker, Signalman Coates, Signalman Adams, Lance Corporal Archer, Signalman Perrett.
Front Row L to R—Lance Corporal Coulter, Corporal Crosby, Private Blakeway, Staff Sergeant Keeler, Lieutenant R. C. Hood (O.C.), Lance Corporal Rouse, Private Ince, Signalman Stait, Signalman Carman.



The Pimpernel Beagles at their opening meet outside the Officers' Mes

were very well receiv[illegible] ... [illegible] so many visitors that we had [illegible] after four days because the other was wom[illegible]

We believe [illegible] **recruits, the** [illegible] **would be very** [illegible] **know of any** [illegible] **figures.**

We are now preparing for the "Teens and Twenties" Exhibition in Manchester, between 2nd and 12th December, 1964, and the Staff College Demonstration in January of next year.

The Pimpernel Beagles

During the off-season of 1964 the Pimpernel Beagles (Royal Signals) made their debut in the show rings of the South of England and their success was greater than we expected. At the Aldershot Hound Show, a group of two couple (four hounds) obtained third prize in the military class. At the Honiton Hound Show, Venus obtained a third prize for the best bitch hound shown. The pack hope to do even better in 1965.

The opening meet of the season was on Saturday, 3rd October, at the Officers' Mess. The day was hot and the scent poor, but there was a good turnout (see photograph) and the hutsman had a chance to judge the new entry, which were two and-a-half couple of the Pimpernell puppies and two couple of drafted hounds from the School of Infantry, Warminster. Others meets have been more successful and the pack, hunted by Staff Sergeant Hills and Whipper-In, Corporal Anderson, have so far accounted for three hares.

640 Troop

After almost a year full of emergency commitments, things have been ominously quiet at Blandford. A large number of wanderers have recently returned; among them our detachments from Borneo, Swaziland, Cyprus, Aden and Rhodesia. At the time of writing, most of them are enjoying a well-earned leave, but, with the exception of our men in East Africa and British Guiana, we shall shortly have a full Troop, for the first time since we were formed. Movements are sometimes so rapid that Troop Headquarters doesn't quite know where everyone is, and this raises problems! An extract from the orderly officer's report for 30th October illustrates the point.

"The following signal was received by 'phone at 22.10 hrs.:

From 615 Signal Troop

To 640 Signal Troop

Unclas K2 Sergeant Croad-Brangwyn to forward ASP combination for High Commissioner's safe."

Unfortunately, as far as we knew, Sergeant Croad-Branwyn was still in Brunei. He was finally located, after some hectic telephoning, at a place called "World's End," in Hambledon, Hants. We feel it is very aptly named!

535 Troop

This Troop was formed by 640 Troop in Blandford on 1st January, 1964. Its members are Sergeant Walton (O.C.), Corporals Taylor, Mackey and Jones, Lance-Corporal Napper, Signalman Dickinson, Power, Balmen and Myock.

On 17th January, 1964, the Troop joined the 1st Bn. The Royal Ulster Rifles for three months' tour in Hong Kong. Here it was equipped to war scale and underwent very strenuous work-up exercises, including training in watermanship and helicopter drills. It even beat the Battalion at shooting!

In May the Troop moved to Borneo as part of the West Brigade in Sarawak. Here it established a communications centre, handling a vast amount of both military (including Naval) and civil traffic.

The technicians had their work cut out to keep equipment [illegible] despite lack of spares. [illegible] had been aggravated by the [illegible] passage to Borneo.

In Ju[illegible] replacements arrived and the members of the Troop [illegible] returned to Blandford and [illegible] Troop, where they are [illegible] and where the next assignment will be.

Do You Know?

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H.Q., 7th ARMOURED BRIGADE SQUADRON
B.F.P.O. 30

August saw most of the Squadron in Southern Bavaria for Exercise "Mail Train" (or "Male Training," as the NAAFI insisted putting on the bills). In fact, it was an escape and evasion exercise for the Brigade, over ground which both the American and German forces use for the same purpose. The Squadron was providing communications and administrative back-up for the Control H.Q., as well as taking part in the exercise itself.

After four days' work-up in another area some forty miles away, evaders were dropped in small groups on the edge of the exercise area. To reach a rendezvous, they had to cross thirty-five miles of varied country which included two sizeable rivers. Here they were safe from a large agressor force which was deployed to catch them. The penalty for being caught was an interrogation at a centre where the guards wore foreign uniforms. The prospect of this proved too much for one of our teams who, after capture, escaped without their boots and eventually made one of the RVs. It was left to the escapers to decide what they should bring; most travelled light, but a few had difficulty getting off the start line until they had eaten the contents of some of the many tins they were carrying.

Quite a number of the Squadron were providing communications to the agressor force; back to our peacetime location we had an FSK link. The latter link carried a lot of traffic. The teleprinters also provided up-to-date news sheets as well.

We enjoyed the change of scenery from our North German plain and learnt a lot, in particular our Second-in-Command, Captain John Stevens, who is now an expert on German fishing laws.

A fortnight after our Bavarian exercise 300 Soltau citizens and children were invited to the Headquarters, 7th Armoured Brigade "Open Day" on 9th September. The aim of the day, which was held in our barracks in Soltau, was to show some of the equipment with which the Brigade carries out its NATO tasks in West Germany, and also to reinforce the goodwill between the townspeople and all ranks in the Soltau garrison. All units in the Brigade had contributed to the displays, and at each stand there was an interpreter who was well briefed to answer any questions. The day was a great success, well rewarding all the preparation and hard work which had gone into it.

Very soon afterwards we were launched into the autumn training. This largely consisted of Regimental and Brigade Group exercises.

We also provided the umpire communications in the 4th Division exercise "Open Glove"; we were very grateful for the kind hospitality shown to our Squadron by the 4th Signal Regiment, and those taking part thoroughly enjoyed the five days.



AUTUMN TRAINING

Lance Corporal Colin Dingley putting in one of the many telephones. Left background Lance Corporal 'Rick' Windor, right Signalman Joe Ellis



AUTUMN TRAINING

The village pump had not been in so great a demand for many a year. (Left Signalman Joe Ellis, centre Signalman Dave Ledger, right Lance Corporal Steven Hardy)

224 SQUADRON, LOUGHBOROUGH

New Camp Fully Occupied. The Squadron is now comfortably installed in all the buildings of the new camp. The last notable building to be made available to us was the new NAAFI, which we promptly called "The Beacon Club" and opened in style by giving away £40 worth of free beer on the first night.

This pleasant gesture from the P.R.I. has set the tone in the club and it is now a happy and congenial meeting place for the junior ranks of the Squadron; dance nights and bingo nights being held once a month with great success.

Another focal point for all ranks in the Squadron is our new gymnasium, which has given a great boost to indoor sports. We now have a Judo Club meeting once a week under the leadership of a Black Belt instructor. In addition to this, badminton and basketball is also flourishing, and we hope to develop these particular two games in the coming months. There is also our new £150 trampoline for budding acrobats to perfect their technique.

One sad departure last month was our popular S.S.M., W.O.II McLoughlin, gone as R.Q.M.S. to 8th Regiment. We wish him success and welcome his successor, W.O.II Orme.

Cricket. It may not be the appropriate time to write about this particular game, but we feel we must record the success of our cricket team in winning the 49 (W.R. & N.M.) Division/District Cricket Cup, on a cold, windy, wet, late September afternoon. The last time the unit won this particular trophy was 1950, so it gives us particular pleasure to win. On our way to the final we beat 19 Company R.A.S.C. and 6th Battalion R.A.O.C., and in the final we met the Depot of the Royal Pioneer Corps. It was a twenty over-a-side game, and after losing the toss we were put in to bat.

This proved to be the Pioneers' undoing, as our opening bats, Second-Lieutenant S. Cowan and W.O.II Harrison, proceeded to hit 50 runs in the first six overs without loss. We eventually finished up with 125 for 5 after Corporal Richardson and Lance-Corporal Emmott had also added some quick runs.

The Pioneers were bowled out for 78, Second-Lieutenant Cowan and W.O.II Brice taking four wickets each, and we ran out worthy winners by 47 runs.

Soccer. The Squadron team have had a successful start to the season, and at the moment we are unbeaten in the Leicestershire Thursday League. In the first round of the Army Soccer Cup we played 24th Signal Regiment and gave

them a game to remember. At half-time we were leading by 1—0 and it tooked as if we were going to cause quite a surprise. However, 24th Regiment got two goals in the second half and finished winner by 2—1. We wish them all success in the subsequent rounds.

The nucleus of the team this year is an outstanding goalkeeper in Signalman Buchanan; Corporal Aitken, toiling at left-back; Signalman Barker at centre-half; and outside-left, Signalman Kirk.

Rugby. Under the leadership of Sergeant Storey, recently posted from 9th Regiment, the Rugby team are starting to settle down. Last week we had a good win over R.A.F. Cottesmore by 13—12 and this has provided confidence for the future. Signalman McCready and Signalman Kermode are two strong backs and in the forwards we have bags of beef with Sergeant Storey and Corporal Dawe the two props.

Hockey. The teams are having an up and down season so far, with the posting of W.O.II Brice to the School of Signals on a Yeoman of Signals Course. However, we are hoping that when the important matches come along later in the season we will be able to produce the goods.

Cross-Country. We have once again entered a team in the Lincolnshire Services Cross-Country League, defending the championship we won last year. We have finished third in the first two outings and the Sports Officer has started to pray for another Lance-Corporal Gue (posted to 13th Regiment during the summer) to come along and revive the team's fortunes.

235 SQUADRON (COMCAN) B.F.P.O. 51

On 21st September, Malta became Independent, with ceremonies and festivities. Little change has been noticed, except that now there is a duty-free ration of beer, spirits and cigarettes. Life and work within the Squadron goes on as usual.

Staff Sergeant R. Sanderson recently organised some adventure training. This involved marching 13 miles from Squadron Headquarters to Zonker (transmitter station) then defending the station from an attacking force who were to swim ashore under cover of darkness. This was rounded off by swimming and a barbecue. The intention was to march back the next day, but no one can remember if this did in fact happen. I suspect not. This training was thoroughly enjoyed by evervone, although Lance-Corporal J Preston can still be seen hobbling about and muttering to himself.

Swimming this year has been very good. In the Army championships, against very strong opposition, Signalman F. Phillips did well to come second in both of his events and Private S. Hart, W.R.A.C., came away with three cups. The water polo team, although they tried hard, were no match for their opponents. The cricket team won the Minor Unit Cricket League for the second time. Now swimming is finished, the Squadron is turning to other sports. Hockey has just started, and in the first game of the season we were beaten 2—1 by 234 Squadron (never mind, we meet them again later on). Basketball is thriving under the direction of W.O.II (Y. of S.) A. Stringer, and indications point to a good team this year. The football team is in full training and if enthusiasm is anything to go by they should do well.

We must not forget the Wives' Club; winter sessions are well under way and they have netball, hockey, badminton and keep-fit classes; if this keeps up, husbands will have to be very careful what they say to their wives in the future. These notes would not be complete without the mention of the Bingemma Ghost. In the past few months extensive alterations have been made to Fort Bingemma, which houses the T.R.C., and it appears that a ghost has been disturbed. A number of operators have complained of queer noises and of being followed, although when they look over their shoulder no one is there. An all-out effort is being made to catch the ghost, so that once caught it can be taken on strength and issued with a ration card.

243 SQUADRON, BULFORD CAMP

In a recent issue of THE WIRE, the notes for 243 Squadron was, as many will have no doubt realised, written by the Secretary of the Royal Signals Archaeological Society.

The present set of notes is being written by a person with no claim to knowledge of ancient history or indeed to any knowledge (*sic*) at all. However, here are some interesting facts for students of modern history. (When it gets written). The "Stones" which stand on the plain, celebrated and venerated place of ancient worshippers, were "rocked" the other night when crowds of modern worshippers gathered round the "Stones" ("Rolling")—(pop stars par excellence) in the ABC Cinema in Salisbury. No Druids ever awaited the first ray of dawning sun with such nail-biting anxiety as did these bizarre dressed "cultees" await the coming of *their* "gods."

One member of the unit, stationed at Wilton, was heard to remark, after having read the last sets of notes, that, "whilst not greatly caring about the fact that Ethelred the Ready had once also been stationed there, he often wished that his Ethel was not quite so ready sometimes." Another, on arriving there fresh from the Far East fleshpots of Singapore, simply said "Cor, what a . . . .!

The fact that Bulford has been spelt differently through the ages has also intrigued quite a few members of the Squadron who are quite sure that the letter "L" is in the wrong place and certain other letters are missing from its modern graphology. (Could one of them be "D"?).

To the large numbers of "squaddies" who have spent some of their time in or around Salisbury, the news that the NAAFI Club has been closed down will no doubt come as a distinct shock.

There was a certain vehicle that had got itself scratched and it was decided that this could be rubbed down and touched up by the MT Section. Someone told someone to rub it down. Someone told someone else to rub it down. Someone else told someone else to rub it down! Anyone want a brightly-polished metal vehicle on their MT park? Then they decided they could still do it so they sprayed it. Someone told someone to spray it. Someone else told someone else to spray it. Someone told someone else to spray it. Somebody came along and PAINTED IT with a brush! So they decided it could still be rubbed down and sprayed within the MT Park! Help! If 618 Troop want to go zebra-hunting we can supply a perfectly-camouflaged vehicle to blend with the herd.

The Age in which we Live!

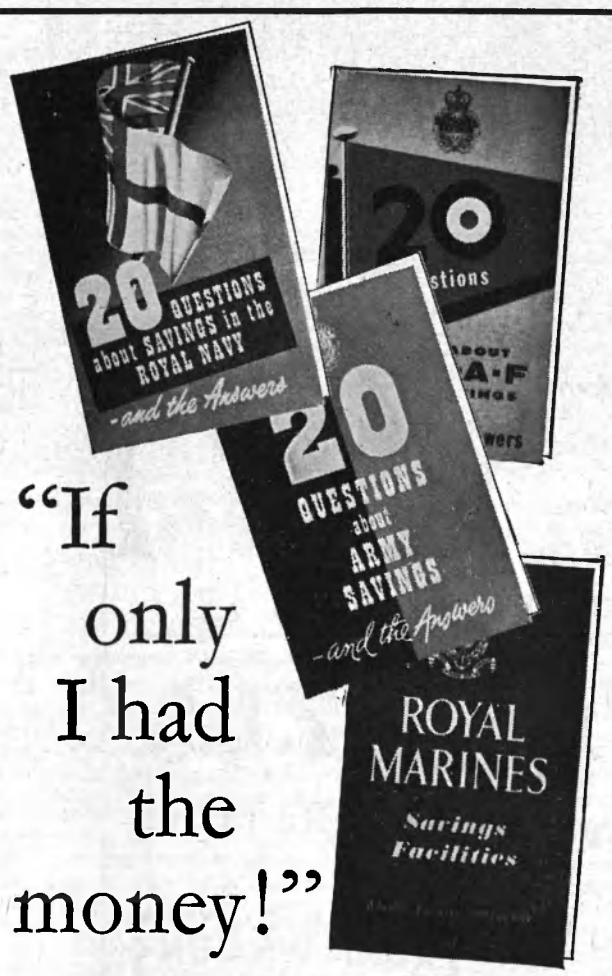
I went into a store in Salisbury last week, shopping, and requiring something I could not see on the shelves. I decided to ask one of the assistants with lovely long blonde wavy hair if (she) could get it for me. (She) had (her) back to me and was wearing a long overall and high-heeled bootees. "Excuse me, miss," I said, "could you"—and HE turned round and, well, you should have seen the look she/he gave me! This is, of course, an urgent plea to R.S.M.s to wear dark glasses when out in towns. We cannot afford to lose you through attacks, either cardical or apoplexial.

Our F. of S., Staff Sergeant Jim Lawrence, has just returned to the fold after a swan around the fleshpots of the Far and Middle East. He says they were doing trials on a new radio! An article on his visits is in the process of being written and will no doubt appear in a later issue of THE WIRE.

Congratulations to Staff Sergeant and Mrs. Jim Lawrence on the birth of a daughter on 3rd September, and to Signalman Lumley, Lance-Corporal Shreef and Signalman McLeod on their marriages. Lance-Corporal Shreef is the only man I know who has spent his honeymoon in barracks whilst his wife was in another country—threw the office staff into a rare old tizz. How does one publish a wedding by proxy in Part II Orders?

WELFARE AND CLOTHING

The wonderful generosity of those who gave part-worn clothing for Christmas is deeply appreciated by the recipients BUT hard work by the Association Staff in packing parcels has emptied the cupboards. The need in January and February will be as great as in December. Have you a part-worn overcoat?



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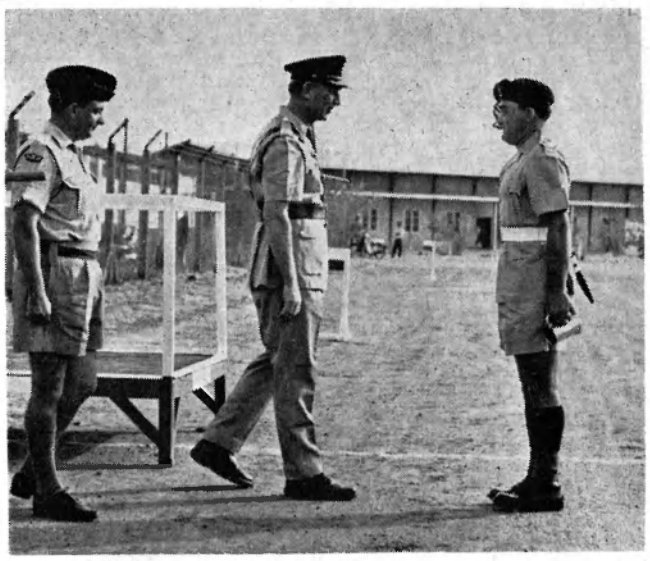


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Lance Corporal G. Cook having just received the Winners tankard from Lieutenant Colonel J. W. Rayner. OC 254 Signal Squadron Major S. G. Walker looks anxiously on!

254 SQUADRON

Notes on our M.P.T. Course

Saturday, 3rd October, saw the closing stages of 254 Squadron's classic event, MPTC III to II. This was the final lap of a gruelling 3-week contest in which Lance-Corporal George Cook of Maintenance Troop drove his 7.62 SLR into a comfortable first place. Competitors began the lap of honour at 07.30 hours in brilliant sunshine and were led into the straight by the Chief Marshall, Staff Sergeant Easter, who had been their shepherd for the three weeks. As they passed the stands they were given an ovation by Lieutenant-Colonel J. W. Rayner, C.R. Signals, who waved his hand in salute until they rounded the left-hander at the end of the straight. The winner was presented with a tankard which was promptly christened in alcohol, his 21st birthday having overtaken him the previous day

An incident occurred ten minutes before the start which had two of the organisers, O.C. 254, Major S. G. Walker, and R.S.M. C. T. A. Hughes, airborne. The Corporal (anon) detailed to run up the flag managed to wrap it around the fence of 52 Command Workshops compound. To free it the Corporal (anon) gave a graceful imitation of a champanzee climbing a flag pole in ammo boots. His second imitation was that of a hawk (kite type) when he found that on returning to earth he was accompanied by the flag pole. Three people engaged in furious activity to re-erect the pole in time. Happily they were successful and Lieutenant-Colonel Rayner was blissfully unaware that during his appearance on stage he was in danger of having a flag pole embedded in his best hat.

601 TROOP

A Visit to n Refinery

The highlight of the recent month's activities on our "Island in the Sun" was a visit to B.A.P.C. (Bahrain Petroleum Company), on which we were accompanied by several members of the Royal Naval Communications Staff of the Amphibious Warfare Squadron This was organised on the 13th June by Lieutenant Dorrell in an effort to assuage the hunger for learning on the part of the Troop.

On our arrival at Awali which is the site of the refinery we were immediately thrown into a quandary. A huge sign proclaimed "Awali welcomes careful drivers." As we had in our midst the Troop driver, Signalman Birchall, the only man with a licence to kill, we decided to evade the issue and keep quiet about him and trust he would pass in the crowd. We had a very comprehensive tour of the refinery during which we saw the first well sunk in the Persian Gulf in 1931. This is now dry but between 1931 and 1955 it was producing 200 barrels an hour. The older hands who had done the trip before showed their enthusiasm with a well turned Arabic phrase which sounded rather like, "When do we nosh?" The tour ended with lunch in the luxurious air conditioned restaurant and it was then that I realised where the hunger for learning came in. We were given an excellent four course meal, the main course comprising steaks which were virtually the whole steer less hooves and hide. The Troop of course did full justice to this and in some cases almost removed the glaze from the plates. Our return journey to camp was well interspersed with burps which as all seasoned travellers know is a quaint old Middle Eastern custom designed to convey complete satisfaction.

Other Happenings

On the June exercise Corporal Manley decided to make his swan song with the Troop a comfortable one. He contracted heat exhaustion and had himself evacuated to the air-conditioned sick bay of H.M.S. *Striker*. Unfortunately before he could enjoy this, his delicate constitution betrayed him, he caught tonsilitis due, no doubt, to being subjected to too much cold air too soon. On his return to Bahrain he made a lightning recovery no doubt assisted by the imminence of his R.H.E. date.

On H.M.S. *Meon*, Lance-Corporal Hunt and Signalman Jordan went on a conducted tour of the engine room. The crew are still talking of Jordan's feat—he made the fastest exit ever recorded from the engine room, deciding that the heat down there was suitable only for stokers and E.R.A.s. Mention of the incident only leaves him muttering something about "Where there's no sense there's no feeling." Lance-Corporal Hunt had a more prolonged visit, but has not expressed any desire to repeat the experience.

Chasing Smugglers

During July H.M.S. *Meon* went down to Muscat on a dhow patrol, searching for arms smugglers and illegal immigrants. Lance-Corporal Hunt and a detachment from the Troop accompanied them on this trip as a part of the Troop training; alas, they have no blood-thirsty tales to tell. They were using naval radio equipment to work to a C11/R210 in Bahrain. Unfortunately, the day frequency in use proved to be unsuitable, but we got good results on the night frequencies, finally working over 700 miles to Muscat with a first-class signal. Muscat is the farthest point the Troop can accompany ships, as our role ties us down to the Persian Gulf. These trips, however, do lend a touch of variety to our training programme.

Keeping Cool

On the July exercise, the O.C. evolved a new and novel method of disembarking from the Gemni, an inflated boat driven by an outboard motor. This consists of leaping enthusiastically over the side as soon as the beach is reached and adopting a prone position in about 12 inches of water. Whilst this manoeuvre is certainly spectacular, it has received a very cool reception and is not recommended if armed. He avows it is also a first-class system of keeping cool, which is brought about by the evaporation of water. This has been agreed in principle, but the disadvantages of sticky clothes and discomfort appear to far outweigh the advantages. Like all true pioneers, we fear that he has little chance of being appreciated.

Signalman Marsh found that the Ship Signal Troop has a shore element on exercise in which he dug far too often to appreciate. He took over as Troop driver and found that this also entails driving a shovel every time he hit soft sand. He obviously was not put off by his experience, as he is now busy modifying the new FFR to take his electric razor; this he assures us will give him greater operating range.

Sport

In the world of sport we have had to combine with the Army Beach Troop, R.E., in order to produce teams. This has been a fairly successful venture, as we have yet to be beaten at cricket, and our basketball team is doing well in the Bahrain Services League. We have, on occasions, been known to turn out our own hockey and football teams, but the less said about the results the better. A few of our number do turn out for 255 Squadron's football and hockey sides, and we like to feel that they have contributed to their successes in recent months.

This is only a small Troop, but we do see life. Anyone interested in joining has only to apply to that well-known tourist bureau, "Royal Signals Records," to arrange a comprehensive tour of the Persian Gulf.

253 SQUADRON, B.F.P.O. 1

It seems necessary to record the mundane things in the Squadron before we move on to the eye-witness accounts from two of the Squadron reporters. The mundane matter is that we have won the Royal Signals Rifle Meeting again his year by a comforable margin, though you will not be surprised to learn that a typhoon caused the programme to be condensed.

Now to our first eye-witness account!

Visit to H.M.S. *Kent*

Sergeant David Perry reports from the deck of H.M.S. *Kent* as follows: On 22nd October, a party from the Squadron visited the missile ship, H.M.S. *Kent*, during her first visit to the Colony. Embarking at 10.00 hours (and having duly saluted the Quarterdeck!) we were first of all given a short talk about the peculiarities and role of the vessel.

H.M.S. *Kent* was laid down in Harland & Wolfes yard at Belfast in 1961 and commissioned in mid-1963. She is armed with Seaslug and Seacat missiles, her conventional armament being four 4.5in. guns. She also carries a helicopter—the landing of which, on a deck about 30 square feet, is no mean job in a rough sea!

At 10.30 H.M.S. *Kent* sailed from Hong Kong. We soldiers were given the privilege of lining the ship's side together with the R.N. crew whilst the ship left harbour. This consisted of standing to attention every few minutes while various R.N. and U.S. Navy ships paid compliments. After coffee in the various messes, the party was shown around the ship (endless climbing up and down ladders). One passageway is called the "Old Kent Road, S.E.1" and even has a street nameboard presented by the London County Council!

After a delicious lunch (how do the Navy do it?) we arrived at Port Shelter, a naval gunnery range to the east of the Kowloon Peninsula, where *Kent* was to fire her 4.5 guns. Being new to the game, and also very inquisitive, we Signals people leaned outboard whilst the guns fired—to find ourselves wrapped in clinging cordite smelling smoke and deafened by the noise!

Leaving the upper decks, we visited the operations centre (as quiet as the grave after the uproar upstairs). This compartment appeared to be filled with radar screens for guns and missiles and showed almost everything made of metal within 10 miles of the ship!

Alas, at 14.30 filled with happy memories (and Navy rum?), we disembarked from *Kent* on to an R.A.S.C. L.C.M., kindly supplied by 56 Company R.A.S.C. (WT), arriving back in Kowloon at 16.30 slightly seasick, but contented.

Typhoon "Dot"

Our second reporter, W.O.II (F. of S.) Clive King, reports from a manhole in Nathan Road as follows:

When I first came to the Colony, there was water once every four days. In the space of six months the Colony's rainfall has exceeded the record, all the reservoirs are overflowing and England has had a dry summer . . . We have seen about six female typhoons, including "Ruby" and "Sally" within one week. The latest was "Dot," a very near "miss." This typhoon passed within 25 miles of us, and left a trail of blocked roads, fallen scaffolding and telephone faults. In our area we had about 15, the local telephone company had about 5,000. (It is only fair to point out that they have a few more subscribers than us).

The build-up to Typhoon "Dot" followed a familiar pattern. Buses stopped, then cross-harbour ferries. All the small craft hurried to the typhoon shelter; only a few brave ships weather the storm at anchor. Many put to sea; this has caused a very serious bottleneck in the harbour this year. Ships are queuing up to come into Hong Kong to load or unload. We had little trouble until the winds reached the 70 knot mark; then the driving rain began to wet telephones in exposed places. We began to log "PGs" (permanent glow or calling indication on the switchboard) at the same time, driving rain began to flood Fault Control. We were forced to swab or sink! Meanwhile the radio weather reports got grimmer and grimmer, wind speeds increasing all the time. Then, quite suddenly, the crisis was over and the typhoon passed inland. Faults were still accumulating, but no cables were lost and I could go home to bed. Getting home was a problem. Many roads had local flooding or were covered with thick mud washed down from high ground. The main road in Kowloon (Nathan Road) is a forest of neon signs projecting right over the road. Several of these had fallen, as well as bamboo scaffolding. I eventually found a way home, where all was well. We are luckier than some in being well protected from winds. People on Hong Kong island have wonderful views across the harbour from their quarters, but get the full force of typhoons and suffer heavy flooding.

Although we are now used to typhoons and storms, we still have to brace ourselves for squalls; the Admin is coming . . .

263 SQUADRON
c/o G.P.O., SINGAPORE

Although a rather unorthodox way to start notes for THE WIRE, congratulations to R.Q.M.S. Evis is a worthy first on his promotion to R.S.M. Although the Squadron will be very sorry to say farewell to an R.Q.M.S. whom the R.A.O.C. must classify as the "Raffles of the 'Q' side," our loss will be COMCAN'S (Gloucester) gain. It is very noticeable when one goes into his store that the blue book is missing from his pending tray and has been replaced by a box which obviously holds a "big hat."

Life for all members of the cadre has become an extremely busy affair in the last few months with the number of students attending courses ever increasing. The operating side is particularly hard-pressed, and although sympathy does not produce teleprinters, particularly of the mythological T100 brand, we do offer a proportion of it to Staff Sergeant Clarke, who has had to face many problems. However, they have mostly been overcome and his moustache hasn't turned white yet.

The Staff Sergeants' Course 64/46 was completed this month; a small pass-off parade and a closing address was taken by the C.R. Signals, Singapore, Colonel P. F. Yeatman. As a slight digression from the normal curriculum, the course had been given an afternoon's lecture on the Hobart Plan by Colonel D. T. W. Gibson (C.A.F.S.O., H.Q., F.E.A F.). This proved most interesting and put BRUIN and HOBART in their correct proportion. All the students voiced the opinion that this slight Signals flavour made the *hors d'oeuvres* more palatable, and we hope to include this lecture for future courses.

To celebrate either the end of the course or the "cessation of hostilities," a dinner was held in the Tangle Inn. It is fair comment that more liquid matter than solid was consumed. An excellent night was had by all and it was a very nice gesture on the part of the course to invite, as guests, the members of 263 who had some part in the running of the course. Also W.O.II (Staff Sergeant as he was then) Kingham, the weapon training instructor from the highly numbered Regiment up the road.

On the sporting side of life, the football team finished the season by winning the Inter-Squadron League and were duly presented with the cup by Lieutenant-Colonel W. W. Cook, the Commanding Officer of 18th Regiment.

The Squadron extends a warm welcome to Major (T.O.T.) J. Harwood and Sergeant Clifton—may your stay with us be a pleasant one.



No. 64/66 Staff Sergeant's Course let their hair down at the Tangle Inn, Singapore, on the conclusion of the Course

One of the Corps' many Outposts

A week with 603 Signal Troop Detachment in Mudia

By Lieutenant R. Dorrell

We Start By Appearing On TV

It all started towards the end of September when I was told that I was to relieve Captain G. J. H. Grist in Mudia. Early one morning, like many people during their tour in Aden have found themselves, I was at Khormaksar airfield. After waiting in vain for two passengers who never turned up—I later found they had both cancelled their trip—we went to board our aircraft, a Twin Pioneer. As we were walking towards the aircraft a voice suddenly yelled, "Hold it a minute, O.K., now walk towards the plane." While we chatted, waiting to board the aircraft we were told that a Scottish TV team were filming us. On learning this fact Lance-Corporal Rowe turned to me and whispered, "I know we think Colonel Rayner important but I did not think he was such a V.I.P., even though he is now C.S.O. M.E L.F. and not C.R. Signals." Lieutenant-Colonel J. W. Rayner was paying a quick visit to the detachment, in his new role. What was even more amusing than Lance-Corporal Rowe's remark, was the aircraft we were filmed boarding was the wrong one. I wonder if we ever did appear on TV?

Unusual Dress

An hour after taking off we touched down on what can only be described as a gravel strip. On alighting from the aircraft, as strange a bunch of Royal Signals soldiery as I have ever seen confronted me. Although smartly dressed in KD slacks and shirts they were wearing leather cartridge belts, with cartridges, and Arab headdress with the Federal National Guard (FNG) badge. Obviously well-in with the local troops, I thought; it was not until later that I learnt one pair of Army socks could be exchanged for headdress and badge.

Everywhere It's Bullet Holes

After half an hour's rough and dusty drive we arrived at a small Arab village, the only difference from the ones we had previously passed was a small fort at the end manned by the F.N.G. While Colonel Rayner was talking to the local ruler I was conducted on a tour of our location. Not without a little pride, Corporal Creedy, Corporal Bailey and Signalman Aiker showed me around. The comments went something like this: "See those holes there, sir," pointing to the wall of the building housing our radio sets, "Well that's from when they fired at us." Then while being shown where the detachment used to sleep, I asked what the large holes in the wall were, "Oh that's when they fired 'bazookas' at us one night." By this time I was walking around with one hand on my revolver and an eye on the hills outside. But Corporals Creedy, Bailey and Signalman Aiker only laughed and assured me that the firing was only at night now. When a much needed mug of steaming tea was put in my hands it was with a sigh of relief that I sat down. By the time we went to take a walk round the fort I had caught on to this quiet air of calmness. On going on to the roof and seeing a large number of small holes on the fort wall, I casually remarked to by guide, "I suppose that's from dissidents rifles as well?" Back came the reply, "That's right, sir, how did you guess?" For the rest of the tour round I kept my mouth shut.

Plenty To Do

After this joking, but what turned out to be a very true introduction to Mudia, I began to learn what we were doing there. It all started at the end of July when a group of dissidents started an uprising in the area. The F.N.G., an all Arab force, already occupied the fort. They were strengthened and requested R.A.F. support to ferret out the dissidents in the hills. It then fell to us to supply the T.A.R. link and tentacles for the F.A.C S. At first it was pretty rugged with attacks by the dissidents nearly every night, but lately these attacks have petered and now there is only the occasional one.

But a stay in Mudia is not all hard work and it certainly has its compensations. In the evening I would find Lance-Corporal Porter and Signalman Helliwell surrounded by a group of Arabs, pointing to various objects, giving the English for them and getting the Arabic in return. No doubt they will return to Aden budding linguists. Even collecting water was a pleasant chore, it involves a five-minute drive to the well. The well is situated in the middle of a beautiful orange grove with sheep and goats grazing. For a few tins of compo one returns laden with oranges and other local fruit.

No Recruiting Problems

One of the most amazing sights I saw during my week was when we paid a visit to Loadar to collect some stores. On pulling up at the FRA fort, I saw a group of about 150 Arabs. I found out that they had all come from local villages to recruit in the FRA. The fact that only 25 would be chosen did not worry them one bit. All recruiting officers please note. Our visit to Loadar was made all the more pleasant by a quick chat with Doc Anderson who provided suitable refreshment for slaking our sand covered throats. We also have to thank him for innumerable novels which have helped us pass away the quieter hours.

The day before I left our small detachment combined with five soldiers from the FNG and played the village at football. Signalman Helliwell playing in goal will tell anyone interested that Merseyside has got nothing to compare with Arab children. They seem to think it great fun to throw small stones at the goalkeeper, despite risking a beating with sticks by the adults. It was a pretty good game and despite losing 3—0 we believe that local relations have been greatly improved.

It was with mixed feeling that eight days after arriving at Mudia I left to return to the sticky heat of Aden.

The detachment in Mudia have been doing sterling work and keeping the Corps flag flying high. Although they are miles from civilization they do have occasional visitors. The C.S.O. M.E.L.F., Lieutenant-Colonel J. W. Rayner, I have already mentioned and the C.-in-C, Lieutenant-General Sir Charles Harington paid them a visit a few weeks ago.

Good luck to this Corps outpost.

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247 GURKHA SIGNAL SQUADRON

Annual Party

In Brunei another Dasahra has been and gone, the Brigade staff have recovered, and the P.R.I. is out singing for money. The annual party went well, with a record slow start, and with the Gurkha trying to persuade a brandy tonic on the Brigade Commander's wife. She thought that the brandy was rum and the men thought that the tonic was water. All this augured well, for everything climaxed at three in the morning in quite the wildest Gurkha affair one has seen, with a far away Highland D.A.A. and Q.M.G. leading the dance, reeling to the sound of bagpipes and medals, and surrounded by other very lively hillsmen attempting to do the Highland Fling.

A quarter of the Squadron have left for their well-deserved six months in Nepal, and Gurkha families have arrived to stay at Seria, 60 or so miles away. The Squadron has moved into the newest camp in Brunei and at long last are together again. Certain stores are still on the other side of the globe, in British Guiana, and this is the subject of much correspondence and little headway.

Signalling goes on. The Director of Borneo Operations has moved elsewhere and so the traffic commitment has lessened. A 150ft. mast has been erected for the radio relay antennas, and is now the habitat of an extrovert lineman. The handful of linemen never stop, and will soon be recovering much of the cable which was strewn about when the Brunei rebellion broke out. Detachment operators continue to work long hours and earn themselves much praise.

Comings and Goings

Personalities change little. Harkabir Gurung and Tanghang Limbu, both VHF experts from Hong Kong, are now the Gurkha Officers. The former comes as Gurkha Captain and, as such, Senior Q.G.O., and replaces Birkhabahadur Gurung, who has gone to train recruits.

Mrs. Harvey, the wife of our British S.Q.M.S., arrived recently after a very unpleasant experience in the trooper which crashed in Istanbul, and she is now settling down amongst Shell families in Seria.

248 (GURKHA) SIGNAL SQUADRON

In Kuching we, too, had a very enjoyable, if somewhat curtailed Dashera party, well organised by Lieutenant (Q G.O.) Chandraparsed Rana, O.C. "A" Troop.

We were able to get away a number of our family men to Singapore to enjoy a few days with their families. No sooner had they returned, than our Nepal leave party also left, and, like our brother Squadron in Brunei, our ranks have been thinned.

The Squadron has been visited by the Commander, Royal Signals, Lieutenant-Colonel P. A. M. Tighe, M.B.E., and later by Major John Ridge, the S.O.2 Signals. The radio set A13 demonstration team also came for about two weeks, visiting Battalions and Brigade H.Q., under the direction of Major K. E. P. Andrews, M.B.E., Gurkha Signals, and showed off their "wares" to almost everyone's satisfaction. To make our month complete, we had a visit from Lieutenant-Colonel Line and Mr. Buchan from the Ministry of Defence, the Fleet Communications Officer and several Royal Air Force visitors. We can never complain that we are forgotten.

266 SQUADRON

The monsoon season is with us again and, in addition to the mud, there comes the usual batch of problems met when working HF and VHF radio during tropical thunderstorms. We can expect the present conditions to last until well into January.

Sport

Despite the heavy rain, the sports field is in good shape and we have settled doyn to produce a good sporting record. We field two soccer teams and a hockey XI. These teams have performed with distinction in local matches. This sporting activity may not sound much to many of you sitting amid the acres of sports fields in Germany, but when you take into account that one third of our number is always on duty and another tenth is away on leave, the production of three active teams is no mean feat. In their last match, the Squadron first soccer eleven were beaten 5—3 by H.Q., 7th Division, in the first round of the North Borneo Chinese Association Shield. The team rallied from 3—0 down to 3—3, in the last ten minutes, and then threw everything into attack. 17th Division, however, scored a well-taken goal from a breakaway on the left wing and followed this with another, just before the final whistle. The following morning the game was headlined on the sports page of the *Sabah Times*, the local English language newspaper.

Of the more sedentary pastimes, darts competitions are the most keenly contested. Sixteen teams have entered for the Squadron 501 Postal Championship. Rumour has it that the S.S.M., W.O.II A. C. Lloyd, is giving the Sergeants' Mess Team extra practice after their recent crushing defeat by the officers of the Squadron.

. . . The Inspecting Officer was well pleased . . .

Our official visitors this month included the Commander, Royal Signals (Borneo), Lieutenant-Colonel P. A. M. Tighe, M.B.E., who carried out an inspection of the administration. Accompanied by the Officer Commanding, Major C. F. Lewis, he visited all the major departments of the Squadron. The visit proved a success and the inspecting officer was well pleased when he left us later than evening.

We have said farewell to Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) R. White, Corporal D. S. Berry (on promotion) Corporal L. G. Drayton and Lance-Corporal K. F. Gordon. We thank them for their hard work in helping transform 606 Troop into 266 Squadron, and we wish them continued success in their present units.

In their place we welcome W.O.II (F. of S.) P. Johnson and Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) G. H. Wright, both straight from Germany. We hope their stay with the Squadron is an enjoyable one.

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47th REGIMENT
MIDDLESEX YEOMANRY
(The Duke of Cambridge's Hussars)

Lafone Day. The Middlesex Yeomanry's annual Remembrance Day parade and memorial service to the fallen of three wars, is commemorated each year on the nearest Sunday to 27th October—Lafone Day.

To mark the valour of one of its proudest sons, Major A. M. Lafone, V.C., who, with the majority of his men of "B" Squadron, Middlesex Yeomanry, gave their lives in the heroic defence of Point 720, a hill fort near Karm, in Palestine, against repeated attacks from the Turkish Cavalry, on 27th October, 1917. In recognition of his bravery, Major Lafone was awarded a posthumous Victoria Cross.

Opening the day's events was a parade and inspection of the Regiment by Major-General L. de M. Thuillier, C.B., O.B.E., Representative Colonel Commandant, at the Duke of York's Headquarters, followed by the presentation of a ceremonial sword to our Bandmaster, W.O.I E. Tamplin, and medals (Territorial Decorations and Territorial Efficiency Medals) to several members of the Regiment.

Following the parade was the unveiling of a Memorial Tablet bearing the names of those members of the Middlesex Yeomanry killed in the 1914-18 War. This tablet had previously been housed in the Parish Church of the Rev. R. E. Young, Chaplain to the Regiment in World War I, but with the demolition of the church in view, the tablet has been rescued for posterity just in time—which was a story in itself. The ceremony was a moving one, the Rev. Young speaking of the Regiment's achievements in World War I, together with words from our Honorary Colonel, Colonel The Viscount Malden, followed by the actual unveiling.

In the afternoon the Middlesex Yeomanry and "E" Squadron (the Regiment's Old Comrades' Association) marched from St. Clements Danes, Fleet Street, to the annual memorial service, held for the first time in St. Paul's Cathedral, in which our Regimental War Memorial is housed. This service was taken by the Dean of St. Paul's, assisted by Lieutenant-Colonel the Rev. J. M. Pickering, of Supreme Headquarters, Allied Powers, Europe, and our Regimental Chaplain, Captain the Rev. John Nicholls, Sheriff's Chaplain of the City of London. During this service, a representative party placed wreaths on the Middlesex Yeomanry War Memorial, in tribute to the fallen of three wars.

News in Brief. The new training year has opened with a bang. Reappraisal of our Regimental development programme. Management changes (our special congratulations to Major Edward A. Scarlett, B.E.M., T.D., on his appointment as Second-in Command). The creation of a Training Wing to deal with training and development for all ranks, following the completion of recruit training with "D" Squadron, our primary training unit. Last, but no means least, the Halloween Dance, held at R.H.Q., Chelsea, in aid of funds for St. Giles' Church, Camberwell—that of our Padre.

Personal Colnmn. With regret, we say goodbve to our Padre, Captain the Rev. John Nicholls, Captain (T.O.T.) J. Simpkins, and W.O.IIs Water and Alexander, who leave us with our thanks for their services to the Middlesex Yeomanry and our best wishes for their future.

Employment Vacancies

The following vacancies, existing or impending, have been notified to Association Headquarters, from where further details can be obtained:

Laboratory Steward (Physics), College of Technology, Southend-on-Sea. Salary £655/£835 per annum. Suitable for ex-Corps technician.

Range Electrician and Handyman, National Rifle Association Ranges, Bisley Camp, Surrey. Salary £12/12/- a week (considerable overtime greatly increases earnings. Suitable for ex-Corps technician or possibly lineman.

Adjutant 45th (Essex) Signal Regiment, T.A., Selsden Road, Wanstead, London, E.1. Consolidated rates of pay. Apply Unit.

63rd REGIMENT (T.A.), SALISBURY

At Annual Camp our Honorary Colonel—much in the form of a valid hint—mentioned that it was some time since the 63rd Regiment had informed THE WIRE of its activities. Modesty has stayed my pen ere now, lest I should blot the path of some more venerable member of the Unit, but, as the October issue bore naught of our doings, let me submit a few notes.

A New Commanding Officer

It is with great pleasure that we, through these pages (not that we haven't done so elsewhere) welcome Lieutenant-Colonel Frank Parker to the head of our ranks as C.O. In May, we duly saw to it that the former incumbent, Colonel Harold Shorter, was elevated in a befitting maner to the District "C.S.O.-ship," a post graduate position, it seems, for our recent commanders. And into his place, there came to us Lieutenant-Colonel Parker, a regular on promotion, fresh from the Training Brigade at Catterick. He brings with him a high degree of technical know-how, and plenty of practical experience in training techniques. It is reliably forecast that, during his tenure of office, trade ratings are going to receive an upward fillup, as indeed many already have.

Other Changes

The passage of time, likewise, brings changes amongst the T.A. members and we now have a new flush of Squadron Commanders, all of extremely diverse backgrounds. 1 Squadron is in the hands of Major Donald Hawkins, who graduated to Royal Signals from the Royal Marines by way of the R.E.s; 2 Squadron is Captain Ivor Whitworth's and he was formerly a foot soldier, while Captain Denis Colbourne of 3 Squadron admits of a gunner origin.

Each year we seem to dine out a few more of our older members of long and valued service but some of these keep coming back. In fact, recently one tried to complain that this was his third send-off. However, it is pleasing to report that as these gentlemen and ladies pass from the head of the table, there is no lack of fresh scrubbed faces moving in to take the seats near the servery, even if we do let in an antipodean colonial. In the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, it strikes me that there are a lot fewer close to striking the retirement barrier and, happily, with the recent promotions, we are building up quite a talented backbone.

Recruiting still continues well, it would seem. Not only are there young people coming forward all the time, but we are also welcoming some older men and women who have already had service experience—a good leavening of new enthusiasm and tried quality. **And here we must make mention of Signalman Burton of 1 Squadron who, in the six months since he joined the Unit, has produced 12 more recruits—a very commendable effort.**

Annual Camp

Our annual camp this year took place at Blandford in mid-September. A trifle late, perhaps, one might think, but, apart from the period of the exercise (and it had to be the period of the exercise), the weather did us well. There was no time for the customary shake-out period on arrival. The scheme in the first week followed, on a reduced scale, the pattern that we could expect to obtain in our mobilization role.

Military-wise, the Squadrons had radio-relay and carrier, wireless and line commitments, whilst our W.R.A.C. personnel established and operated their comcens and switchboards.

The second week of the camp was devoted to intensive trade training and this was all directed towards satisfying the demands of the final trade board. During this period we were all able to make good and full use of all the facilities available from H.Q. A.E.R.

Fnn and Vislters

Interspersed between our periods of feverish activity, we found time for inter-Squadron football for the men and basketball for the women, potted sports for both sexes and Squadron outings to resorts on the Dorset coast. Even Berks-and-Hantsmen will agree that the countryside and seaside down there is very attractive.

There was time also to be hosts to a goodly selection of visitors, commanders, staff and signals and we were especially delighted that so many of our loyal friends, including our

Honorary Colonel, Major-General R. J. Moberly, were able to spend so much time with us. Nor must we overlook those attached to us for the camp, members of other Regiments of the Corps who had a first hand picture of a top line mixed Unit at work.

Pageantry-wise, one of the highlights of the camp was the ceremony of Beating Retreat performed for us by our own W.R.A.C. Bugle and Drum Band from 3 Squadron. They all looked most attractive in their greens and acquitted themselves very well even though performing in front of their own kin—a nervous ordeal! The girls practice hard, so we are told—that is between their bouts of comcen operating—and it is not surprising to learn that they are much in demand for functions in our own local area.

Corps Soccer Results

v. STOCKTON/BILLINGHAM TECHNICAL COLLEGES
Played at Catterick on 24th October—Corps won 15-nil.

v. MANCHESTER UNIVERSITY
Played at Manchester on 28th October—Corps won 6-5.

v. HULL UNIVERSITY
Played at Hull on 31st October—Corps lost 2-1.

Corps Hockey

v. R.E.M.E., on 22nd October—Corps lost 2-1.

v. R.M.A., Sandhurst, on 21st October—Corps won 2-1.

v. NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY, on 14th October—Corps lost 4-0.

Corps Sports Fixtures

Winter Programme

Rugby Football

Mar.	17	v.	R.M.A., Sandhurst	at Camberley

Association Football

Jan.	13	v.	Manchester University	at Catterick
	23	v.	Newcastle University	at Newcastle
	30	v.	Sheffield University	at Catterick
Feb.	20	v.	R.A.S.C.	at Aldershot
Mar.	3	v.	R.E.	at Catterick
	*27	v.	Stockton & Billingham Tech. Col.	at Billingham
Apr.	10	v.	R.A.P.C.	at Worthy Down

Hockey

Feb.	10	v.	R.M.C., Shrivenham	at Aldershot
	11	v.	R.A.S.C.	at Aldershot
	12	v.	R.A.M.C.	at Aldershot
Mar.	*24	v.	Welbeck College	at Welbeck
	*31	v.	Welbeck College	at Catterick
Apr.	*16-19		Scarborough Festival	at Scarborough

* Denotes a non-representative match.

Association Notes

Death of Mr. George Tibble

Signals Association Loses a Fine Old Man

The Aldershot Branch of the Royal Signals Association has lost a fine personality in the death, recently, of Mr. George Tibble, at the age of 84. His Service life stretched back to 1896—and his career brought him much distinction. In 1949, at the age of 70, he joined the Aldershot Branch of the Association when the branch was re-opened, and he was a most regular attender at meetings, almost up to the time of his death. His great sincerity and ardent enthusiasm; his readiness to help and advise, and his great sense of rendering personal service, were characteristics which quickly and spontaneously endeared him to a large circle of friends. His passing leaves a void which it will not be easy to fill.

His Service career had been long and varied. He was in the Royal Engineers in both the Boer War and the First World War. He moved to Farnborough in 1921 and continued his associations by working as a civilian with the Royal Signals Line Squadron, maintaining military telephone communications in the Aldershot and Camberley areas. At the outbreak of the Second World War, at the age of 59, he re-enlisted into Royal Signals and served in Aldershot until late 1949, when he finally retired at the age of 70. In addition to the campaign and service medals for the three wars, he was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal in 1914, the Medaille Militaire in 1915, and the British Empire Medal in 1946.

LOUGHBOROUGH BRANCH

The Hon. Secretary writes:

I was struck by the paucity of news from the branches (four items in the past six months) but, before casting the first stone, a little research unearthed the fact that Loughborough had not made any contribution to THE WIRE for well over a year. (*Branch Secretaries, please note.—Editor*).

Let me, therefore, assure anyone else who may have noted this that the branch is still on the active list, albeit just recovering from a wee spell in the doldrums. Membership remains around the 200 mark and 1964 has seen a re-awakening of the social spirit with a successful garden party and a variety of evening entertainments ranging from cheese and wine parties to dances and social evenings—with even a "Kebab" Night. Additionally, we have had one or two well-attended film shows, put on by a few cine enthusiasts in our membership. The Secretary has a project in mind—that of recording on film the multifarious activities of the branch, right through from committee meetings, normal functions, Christmas festivities, to garden party and Regimental Weekend, with its accompanying parade to church. Might prove an eye-opener to some of our own members!

30th October was the date for our annual dinner and dance, the venue being a local hotel. Sixty-two members and their ladies sat down to a fair meal—certainly Maxim's has nothing to worry about—and enjoyed the speeches by our President, Brigadier Duvivier, and our guests of honour, Brigadier Hobson and the Mayor of Loughborough, who was accompanied by the Mayoress. Other guests included our oldest member, Ted Newmarch, with his wife, and the widows of two late members of the branch. The dance, which followed the meal, went on until 12.30 a.m., and the whole evening proved a most pleasant and friendly affair.

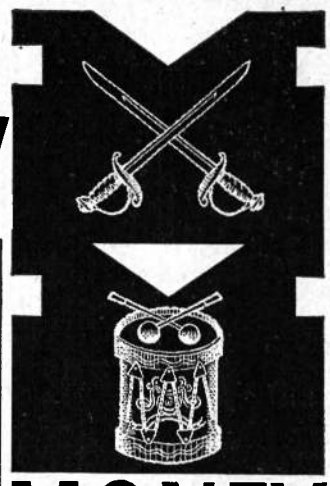
Our next major function is the Hogmanay Party/Dance at Beaumanor. To add colour and variety to the occasion, we are making it a fancy dress affair, and with the expected ticket sell-out, we hope to see 150 people seeing 1964 out and welcoming 1965 in traditional Beaumanor style.

Royal Signals Association and Benevolent Fund

The following subscriptions were most gratefully received during October, 1964:—

	£	s.	d.
8th Regiment	30	0	0
24th Regiment (Officers' Mess)	2	4	0
24th Regiment (Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess)	7	10	0
School of Signals (Administration Wing)	20	0	0
224 Squadron	23	8	6
50th Regiment T.A.	1	4	0
14th Regiment (1 Squadron)	10	0	0
14th Regiment (2 Squadron)	4	7	0
14th Regiment (3 Squadron)	4	5	6
216 Squadron	2	11	0
638 Troop	1	17	6
Junior Leaders Regiment	31	1	0
Signals Wing, School of Artillery		13	6
Signals Wing, R.M.A. Sandhurst	1	10	0
43rd Regiment T.A.	6	19	0
57th Regiment T.A.	3	7	0
63rd Regiment T.A.	3	9	0
325 Squadron		3	0
327 Squadron		3	0
47th Regiment T.A. (Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess)	2	0	0
3/343 Squadrons, 42 (Lancs) Regiment T.A.	2	12	6
13th Regiment	44	0	0
C.S.O.s Branch, R.A.R.E.L.F.	5	0	0
235 Squadron (COMCAN)	3	9	4
245 Squadron (Cyrenaica)	20	0	0
Federal Regular Army Squadron	3	0	0
Garrison Chaplain, St. Martin's Church, B.F.P.O. 69 (Collection at Special Service)	8	12	6
9th Regiment	38	17	0
261 Squadron	12	10	6
Various individual donations	15	17	6
Receipts	£310	12	4
Expenditure during October, 1964 (Includes:—Rent and Rates; Beds and Bedding; Furniture; Cots and Prams; General Assistance).	£510	5	3

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